Greenspace & Ecohealth Toolkit

GTA Clean Air Council Meeting

Presented by Helen Doyle

York Region Public Health

April 28, 2017

Overview

1. Context & Background - EcoHealth Ontario
2. Project Overview (Consultations, Timing & Deliverables)
3. Toolkit Overview
4. Next Steps

Context & Background

Information About EcoHealth Ontario & The Project

EcoHealth Ontario

- A collaborative of professionals in diverse fields (public health, medicine, education, parks, planning, environment)

- We are working to bring about policy and program changes that foster improved health and wellbeing outcomes through the provision of better ecosystem quality, increased greenspace and enhanced access to nature

- Supported by Ontario Trillium Foundation, Forests Ontario and our Steering Committee members
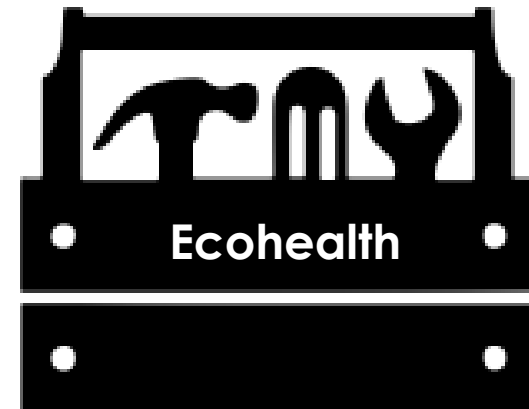
EHO Steering Committee

Plus a growing network of professionals and groups who share our goals

Key EcoHealth Objective

○ The "adoption of policies at local and provincial levels of government that reflect and support healthy ecosystems for healthy communities."

○ The Toolkit is intended to support this objective…

What is the Toolkit?

- Evolving compendium of good policies, practices and programs that facilitate community health outcomes through greenspace provision, access and design.

- Working with an Advisory Group of experts in various sectors

Why Do We Need It?

"Two roads diverged in a wood and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.
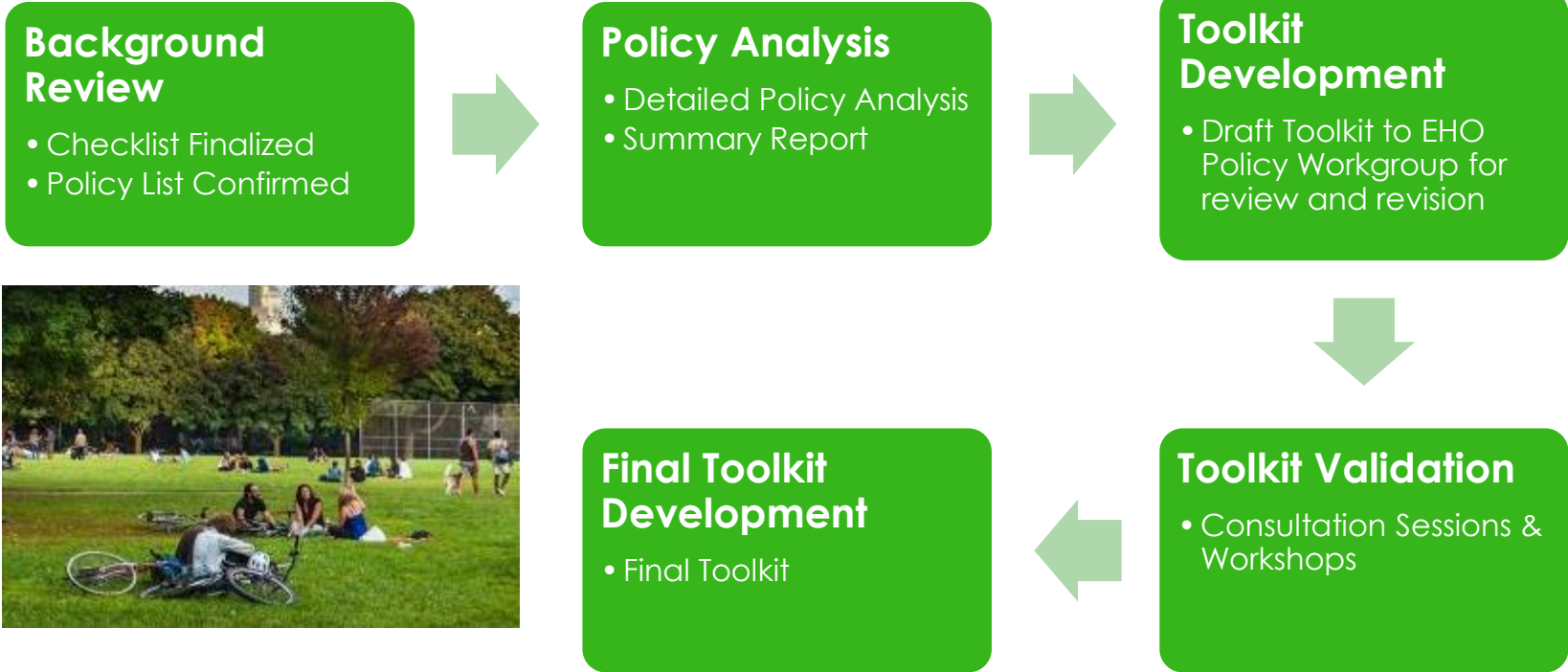
Robert Frost

COMMUNICATE

SHOWCASE

PROMOTE

Project Overview

Consulting Team, Project Process, Methodology, Deliverables, Timeframe

The Consulting Team

![EcoHealth ONTARIO logo]

Workplan

Background Review
- Checklist Finalized
- Policy List Confirmed

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Policy Analysis
- Detailed Policy Analysis
- Summary Report

→

Toolkit Development
- Draft Toolkit to EHO Policy Workgroup for review and revision

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Final Toolkit Development
- Final Toolkit

←

Toolkit Validation
- Consultation Sessions & Workshops

We Are Here ⌐

Toolkit - Timing

- Advisory Group Meetings (May – Sept 2016)
- Spring – Fall 2016: Selection of Case Studies
- Presentations at Conferences /Input – Fall 2016
- December 2016: Refined Draft Toolkit
- January 2017: Webinar & Feedback
- February 2017: Further Toolkit Revisions
- March 2017: Toolkit Finalized
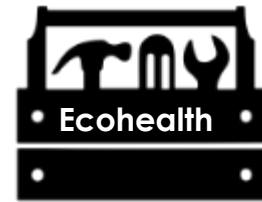- Next: Post on EHO Website and Promote!

Toolkit Overview

Structure, Format & Organization

Greenspace & EcoHealth Toolkit Overview

1. Introduction

2. Drawing the Connections between Health & Greenspace

3. Public Health & Municipal Planning Tools

4. Case Studies – Effective Connections between Community Health and Greenspace (18 Case Studies)

5. Playbook – Advancing Ecohealth through Greenspace

6. Conclusions
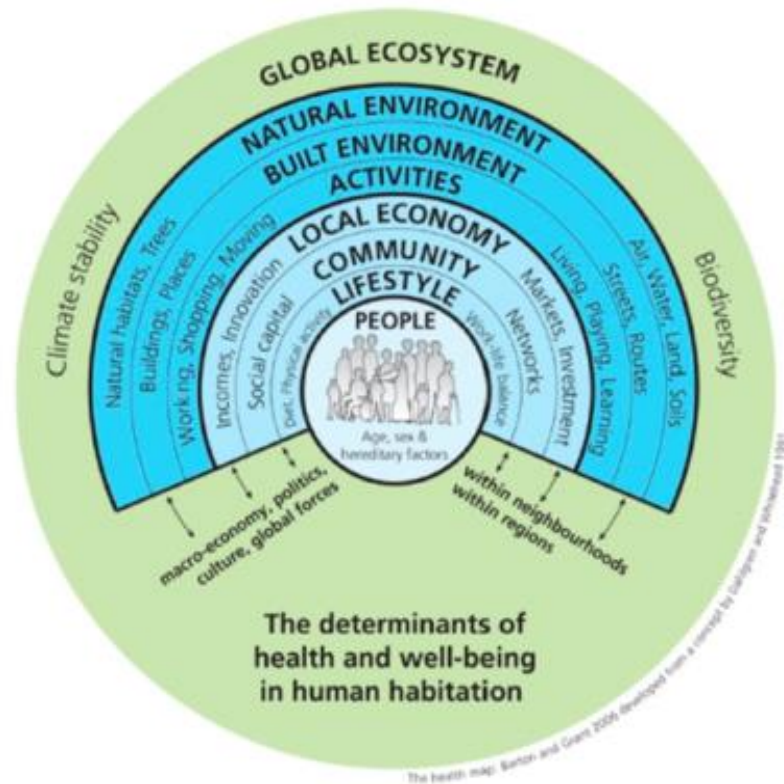
1: Introduction

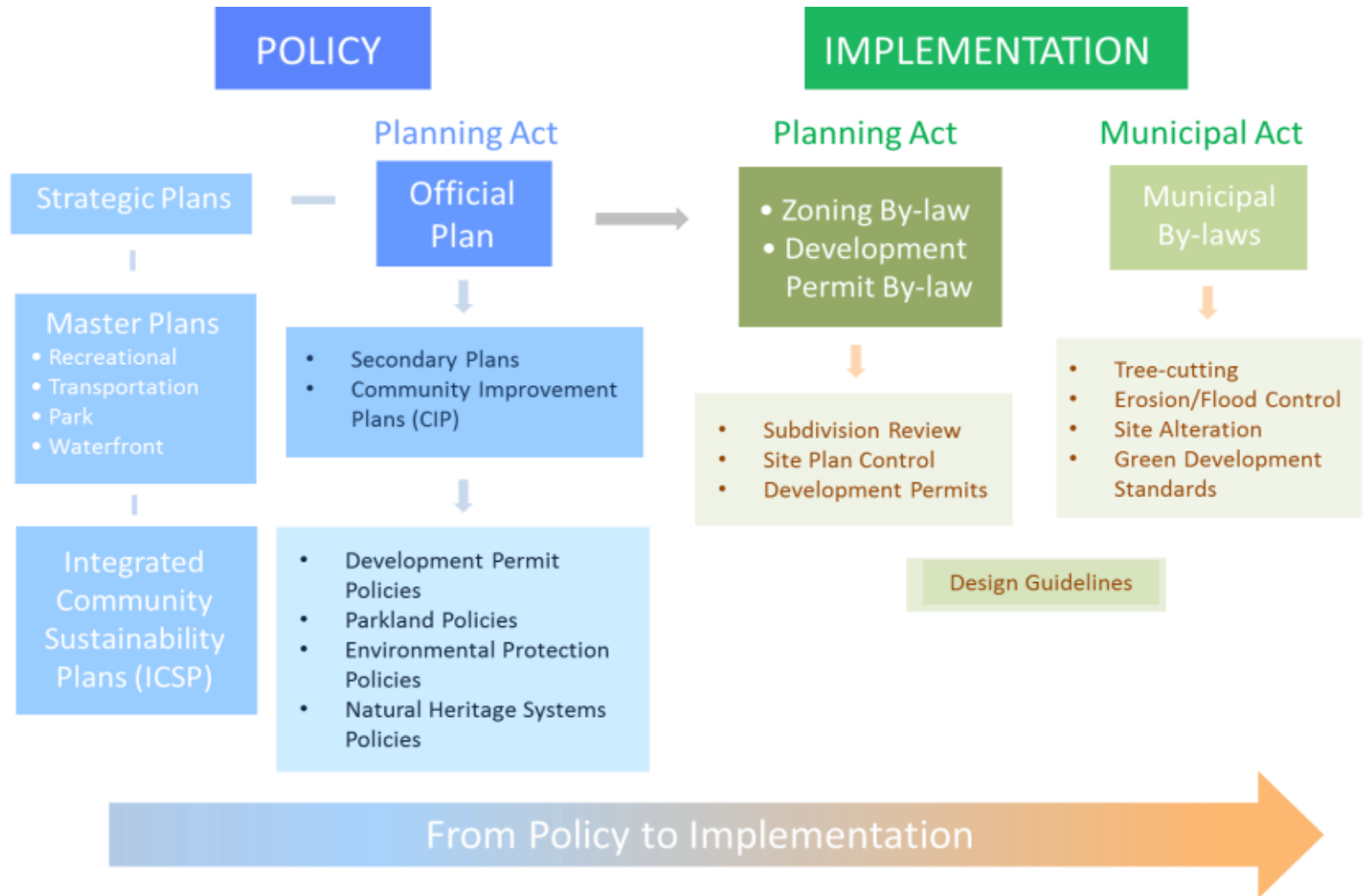Ecosystem + Benefits = Healthy People

2: Drawing the Connection between Health & Greenspace

- The Benefits of Greenspace
- The Key Determinants of Health

The determinants of health and well-being in human habitation

3: Tools

Municipal Planning Tools

EcoHealth ONTARIO

POLICY

IMPLEMENTATION

Planning Act

Strategic Plans

Official Plan

Planning Act

- Zoning By-law
- Development Permit By-law

Municipal Act

Municipal By-laws

Master Plans
- Recreational
- Transportation
- Park
- Waterfront

- Secondary Plans
- Community Improvement Plans (CIP)

- Subdivision Review
- Site Plan Control
- Development Permits

- Tree-cutting
- Erosion/Flood Control
- Site Alteration
- Green Development Standards

Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSP)

- Development Permit Policies
- Parkland Policies
- Environmental Protection Policies
- Natural Heritage Systems Policies

Design Guidelines

From Policy to Implementation

Public Health Tools

Legislation/Mandate

Supporting Tools

Health Protection & Promotion Act

Climate Change & Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Guidelines

Ontario Public Health Standards

- Health Hazard Prevention & Management

- Chronic Disease Prevention

Health Equity Impact Assessment

4: Case Studies

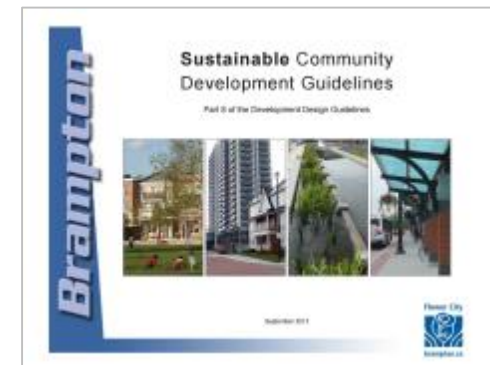|		
Region of Peel	City of Kingston	Simcoe Muskoka District HU
York Region	City of London	Prince Edward & Hastings HU
County of Huron	City of Ottawa	Credit Valley Conservation
City of Brampton	City of Toronto	Toronto & Region Conservation
Town of Aurora	City of Thunder Bay	Stockholm
Town of East Gwillimbury	Municipality of Chatham-Kent	City of Vancouver

Case Study Example: York Region

- Strategic documents work together to advance the concept of health greenspaces and population health benefits

- Broad vision and goals found in Vision 2051 are reinforced through policies in other plans

  - Regional Official Plan
  - New Community Guidelines
  - Greening Strategy
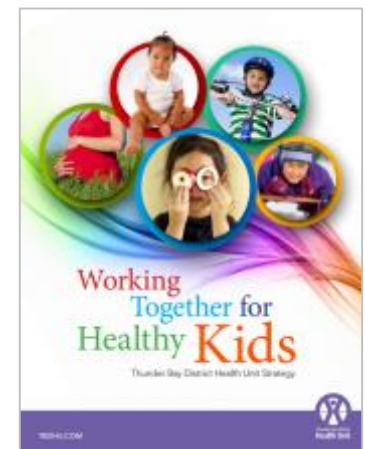 - Forest Management Plan

Case Study Example: Brampton

- A multi-faceted approach is used to guide land use planning and decision-making through local plans, guidelines and strategies.
  - Official Plan
  - Strategic Plan
  - Sustainable Community Development Guidelines
  - Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Strategy

Case Study Example: Thunder Bay

- Adopted a multi-pronged approach to advance community health, community design and natural areas priorities using a variety of strategic documents and implementation tools:

  - Corporate Strategic Plan

  - Implementation Plan

  - Working Together for Healthy Kids Strategy

  - Urban Design and Landscape Design Guidelines

Case Study Example: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

- Developed a useful tool to connect community health to land use.

- The tool provides short, medium and long-term implementation options

- Policy Statement example:

  - "Design standards … that require the use of natural landscapes to improve air and water quality throughout the community"

HEALTHY COMMUNITY DESIGN

Policy Statements for Official Plans

5: Playbook: Advancing Health through Greenspace

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Common Agenda

Multi-Sectoral Actions

5 Keys to Success

Leadership and Coordination

Monitoring and Evaluation

Communications and Engagement

Collective Impact Elements

Assessing Municipal Readiness

Playbook provides insight based on municipal readiness for advancing Ecohealth through greenspace

Well On Our Way

On Our Way

Just Starting

Toolkit Conclusions

- Greenspace policy, programs and practices provide important leverage to support health outcomes
- Case Studies offer a snapshot of some innovations underway at the community level
- A 'health through greenspace' effort is beginning to emerge across the Ontario landscape
- Various agencies (public health, municipalities, conservation authorities) play an important role in achieving optimal health outcomes through greenspace

Next Steps

- Posting Toolkit on EcoHealth Ontario website
- Promoting use of the toolkit
- Collecting feedback on how toolkit was used
  - Policy documents created
  - Policies updated

Questions? Comments?

Contact Suzanne Barrett, EHO Coordinator
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Thank You!

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