

Appendix C: Online Survey

From January 23, 2025, to February 21, 2025, the City of Pickering hosted an online survey on Let's Talk Pickering. Survey questions sought community input on key priorities for the protection and enhancement of, as well as risks to natural environmental features, the integration of development with nature, the removal of a few isolated trees in exchange for expanding a nearby forest, increasing the number of trees planted throughout Pickering, reducing the risk of flooding, implementing changes to support the creation of sustainable neighbourhoods, and increasing sustainable development in new as well as existing neighbourhoods. Sixty-nine (69) people responded to the online survey, providing their comments, thoughts, and preferences to inform the Natural Heritage, Hazards and Sustainability section of the Official Plan review.

Input from the online survey is found below and is broken down by each question.

Natural Heritage

Pickering's natural environment is one of its greatest resources. It cleans the air and water and provides a home for native plants, animals, and pollinators. Protecting and improving the natural environment in Pickering enhances the city's quality of life and benefits the interconnected natural systems across the region.

Q1. What natural environmental features are being well protected in Pickering? (choose all that apply).

- Woodlots (forests)
- Wetlands (marshes)
- Slopes and ravines
- Creeks and tributaries (rivers or streams)
- Animal habitat
- Pollinator habitat
- Groundwater
- Lake Ontario shoreline
- Meadows and natural open spaces
- Other (please specify): ____

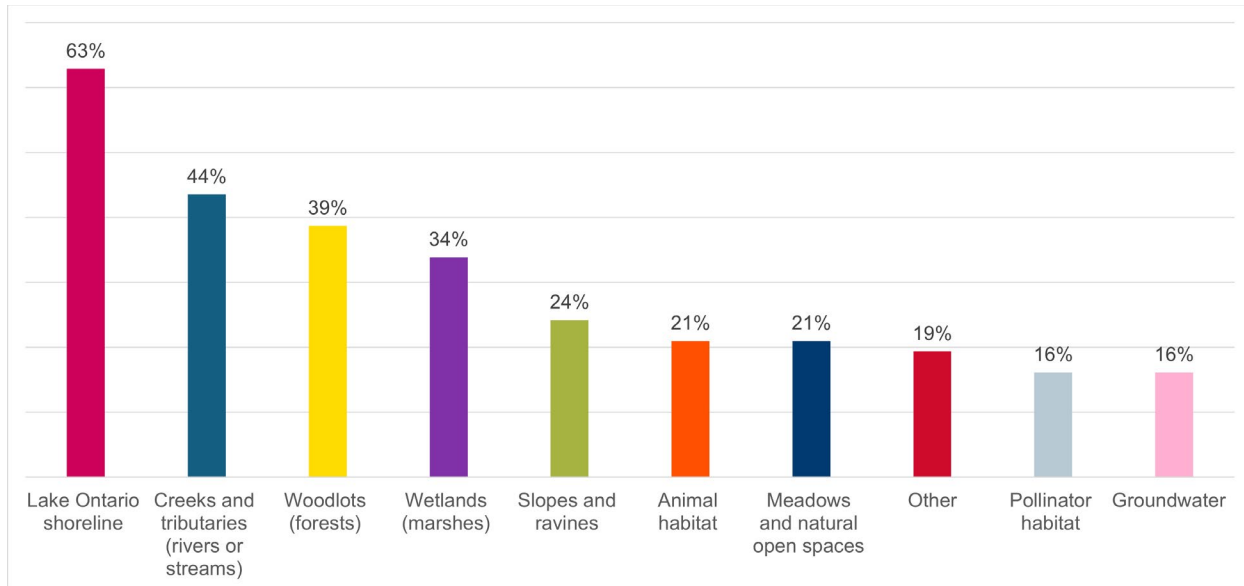


Figure 1 - Summary of natural environmental features participants think are well protected in Pickering.
 N = 62

Other (please specify):

- Not 100% sure, to be honest. Ford's MZOs running roughshod over wetlands sure do suck. And I think we could do a lot more with the lake shore. Look what Barrie did, for instance.
- None. You're all ruining the city and taking away most natural habitats.
- Pickering DOESN'T appear to be protecting or doing a good job of protecting all the environmental (as above) areas.
- All seems to be pretty well protected.
- Nothing is being protected, the mayor and his yes men are destroying all of the natural environment to put up ugly condo towers for their developer friends who donated to their election campaigns. We don't have the resources for all these new families/individuals that will move here.
- Though Pickering has a wealth of natural heritage; it is not clear how the City is protecting them. For example, what is the role of the City in protecting the rouge park, the green belt, conservation areas or the shoreline? There have been several recent proposals to develop over the natural heritage. Thankfully, some of them have been withdrawn after community protest.
- I find that none of them are really maintained. Ex. I called the City a few times to get dead trees removed and they threatened my neighbours to get them a fine in a quite unpolished way and they pointed at a tree forgetting the worst ones about to fall that ended falling on their own and break the fences! Pretty bad experience.
- Do not know the details enough to say.
- None.

- I don't believe that Pickering is prioritizing the protection of environmental features... Pickering is prioritizing Development and meeting provincial housing target... there has not been significant cooperation between the City of Pickering and environmental agencies to promote large-scale improvements.
- Assigning a higher priority to Pickering's population growth and economic development over the natural environment threatens all aspects of the natural environment. Additionally, population growth and economic development will increase the use of fossil fuels, thereby increasing carbon emission, which will further exacerbate climate change and result in more environmental destruction. Thus, none of Pickering's environmental features are being adequately protected now or will be in the future.

Q2. What natural environmental features are most at risk of being impacted by development in Pickering? (choose all that apply).

- Woodlots (forests)
- Wetlands (marshes)
- Slopes and ravines
- Creeks and tributaries (rivers or streams)
- Animal habitat
- Pollinator habitat
- Groundwater
- Lake Ontario shoreline
- Meadows and natural open spaces
- Other (please specify): ____

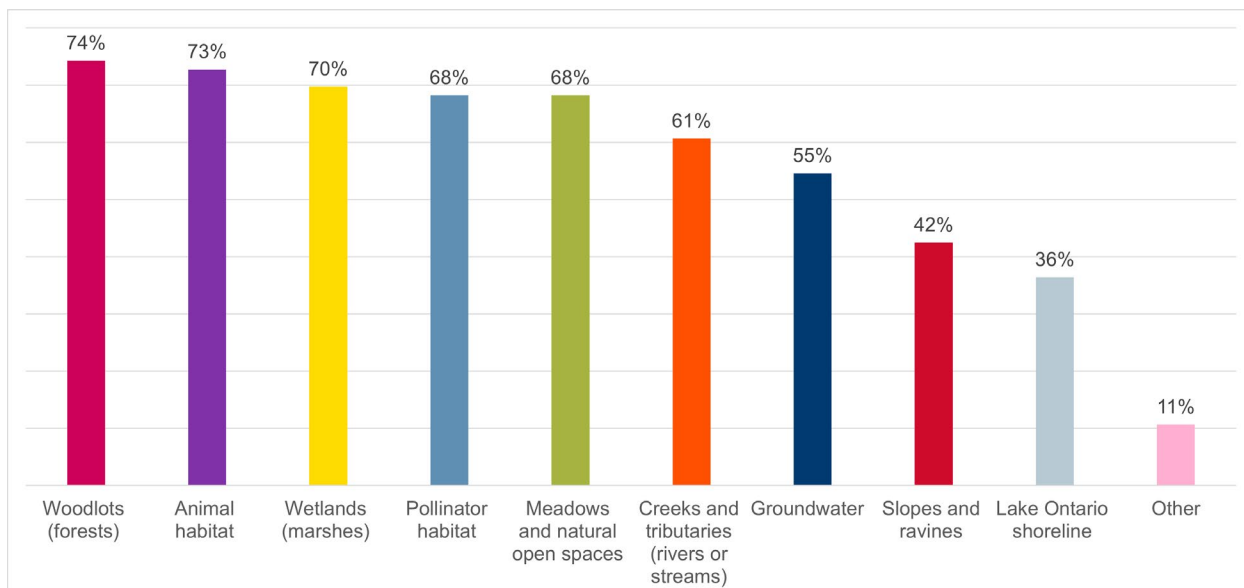


Figure 2 -Summary of natural environmental features participants think are most at risk of being impacted by development in Pickering. N = 66

Other (please specify):

- Not sure as I think when in the planning stages these concerns are taken into account, and appropriate actions are built into the build.
- Frenchman's Bay.
- None.
- Every green space, pollinators and animals are at risk because the elected officials are destroying anything natural and green and putting up condos we don't have the infrastructure to support.
- Do not know the details enough to say.
- Species at Risk are vulnerable because of Pickering development plans.
- Each site is very different and has different constraints, as such, each site needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis when development applications come forward.

Q3. Where have you seen good examples, from Pickering or other places, where development has successfully integrated with nature?

- Not sure anyone has; the 2 things are pretty disparate.
- The trails by Pickering Village. The trails by the northern dog park. The waterfront trail. It would be nice to have more walking trails with mature trees and biodiversity. We really like Princess Diana Park because of the fruit trees and community garden.
- I think we incorporate sports quite well into outside space with walking trails, snowshoeing, pickleball courts, soccer fields.
- Protection of lake Ontario shoreline by Toronto Regional Conservation Authority.
- Millennium Square.
- I haven't.
- Oshawa, Whitby and Ajax have lovely waterfront areas where you can swim, fish, play, walk trails etc and our lakefront is an abomination. We have gone YEARS without a proper waterfront development for residents to use in a variety of ways.
- Absolutely none. Pickering is turning into a parking lot thanks to over development.
- Muskoka.
- Lakeshore, Seaton area.
- Ernie Stroud Park - This park is large enough to support larger, diverse habitats that can support wildlife, including pollinators and also serve as an educational resource for the community to inform people about the imperative of natural open spaces.
- Europe does a fantastic job of integrating nature and development and should be the example we strive to emulate.
- Rouge National Urban Park, High Park, Riverdale Park, Singapore: Gardens by the Bay, Portland, Oregon: Green Streets Initiative, Netherlands: Room for the River Program.
- In Europe.
- Ajax lakeshore, ravines, woodlands.
- Pickering Beach, bottom of Liverpool.
- Rouge area incorporated new parkland.

- Glendale and Maple Ridge and enclaves of Maple Ridge.
- Never.
- Waterfront area.
- Neither.
- Waterfront.
- Petticoke Creek, Seaton, Frenchman's Bay.
- None.
- Westshore housing.
- The new port lands project in Toronto. Groningen, in the north of the Netherlands, does a really good job with nature conservation and sustainability within the city. It only has a population of about 250,00 is a good comparison to what Pickering can do.
- Pickering Shore at the foot of Liverpool.
- Oakville has a robust Urban Forest Management Plan and Natural Heritage System. Toronto has by-laws to effectively protect their ravine system.
- The lower Don River in the City of Toronto.
- Nature protected through legislation that does not change to allow developers to carve it up is what is needed.
- Sweden.
- Seaton development.
- The river systems in Toronto are good examples of integrating nature with nearby development. Pickering has some of this too, but not as much. Likewise, there is a good mix on Toronto islands.
- In Pickering none. There is a clear divide between our nature spaces and the rest of it which is paved suburbia. We need more trees, we need green roofs, we need to be able to walk around in the summer without ever being too far from the shade of a tree.
- Ajax Lakeside community and Audley South. 14 estates in Pickering north of Ajax.
- Areas along local waterways where TRCA has imposed restrictions.
- Markham.
- Under bridges.
- Right now, with the way city's and communities are trying to mass build homes to meet the provincial government's housing targets, I don't see good examples anywhere.
- No good examples. The human race is out of control and causing massive environmental degradation and destruction worldwide, even to the point of threatening the existence of the human race.
- Milton, Oshawa have both allow for realignments of watercourses and enhancements of wetlands, which resulted in a better system and ecosystem.
- Switzerland.
- The United Kingdom.
- Garden City Movement.
- Japan. BC.

- In so many other cities, development has integrated walking paths and parks around neighbourhoods; waterfronts have large trees (i.e. Ajax). Shops and businesses are created with green spaces, fountains, & gardens. Pickering is missing this.

Q4. In addition to ongoing protection, how can we enhance the natural environment in Pickering as the City continues to grow?

- Leave it alone, stay out of it.
- Plan for green spaces with all new housing and apartment builds. The new apartments where blue sky is a good example. There will be a large green park. The Pickering town centre should consider something similar.
- Bay Ridges was built from a forest. There are still original trees surrounding the properties. Consider building bungalows with yard space instead of 3 level homes in row house fashion.
- Protection of the Greenbelt.
- Increased efforts to mitigate Lake Ontario shoreline erosion.
- More tree-lined main streets. Stop vehicles parking over sidewalks. Weed control. More public garbage cans, so people have a place to dispose of their coffee cup, water bottle, or dog crap.
- Better stormwater controls, particularly in older neighbourhoods. Buy back, restore and provide access to Petticoat Creek.
- It doesn't need to keep growing at the rate you are proposing. Ruining and destroying what was once a wonderful, safe suburban area surrounded by woodlands, farmland and waterways/lake. Fix the roads, transit, invest in more parks/splashpads.
- You can stop low-density housing and condo developments. Put in more bike lanes, less traffic and more pedestrian and public transit access. The car and mega-developments are killing our city.
- Ensure that there isn't overcrowding. Too much development and not enough sales as jobs are disappearing too.
- The City is doing a good enough job.
- Long-range planning, sustainable design, reduce, reuse, recycle, rooftop gardens, bike lanes, sustainable transport, sustainable business.
- Expand existing roads.
- In new development areas (e.g. proposed Northeast Pickering Secondary Plan area), maximize the width of setbacks from riparian areas and natural features, and ensure road and infrastructure design does not segment nor fracture natural systems such as rivers, creeks.
- Stop building unnecessary condos and towers that we don't have the infrastructure to support. We need to start putting the environment first and construction last. We need to stop paving over green spaces and enhance what we have left.
- Position Pickering as a leader in the Agriculture and Natural Heritage sectors. COVID-19, Trump tariffs, climate crisis show the importance of having local food production. This can be incorporated with education, tourism and recreation.

- The design of new houses is really poor and not enforced. A huge house was built next to mine (mine is lower than the street level) and the house built was raised over street level to get the water toward the street but now water is going toward my house.
- Stop "filling in the spaces" in urban areas - there's no soil or plant life left, only concret and asphalt.
- Stop housing that encroaches on woodland – Seaton.
- Leave more natural habitat when building.
- Stop building close to shore, marshes, animal habitats.
- There is too much already, open up the Greenbelt more north of the railway.
- Stop building on Farmland in the North, and Northwest.
- Plant trees, stop erosion, protect sensitive areas.
- Use natural and sustainable materials in construction.
- Plant new trees in deforested areas after a controlled development has taken place.
- No enhancement, stop building anywhere close, nature doesn't need to be enhanced.
- Leave farmer's fields alone.
- Keep the development close to the 401; don't impinge on Greenbelt space, protect water tables.
- Don't segregate the natural and built spaces. Make it easy for residents to engage with nature so that it becomes an important part of our lives and that we value the protection of these natural spaces.
- Offer programs for homeowners to plant trees on private property for example pollinator garden grants, tree giveaways.
- Make sure that the hydrology of creeks and river does not change because of development... ensure that post-development hydrology matches pre-development hydrology... Also adopt a minimum standard of 120 meter buffer width around natural heritage features.
- Stop building houses.
- Pretend like you care until you actually do. You don't NEED to grow, you need to manage what you have. What good is this growth for Pickering? There's still no affordable housing, we have homeless on the streets, this growth serves developers.
- Set aside natural areas and make them off limits for development. At the same, time make sure these areas are not small, or overpowered by nearby development.
- Protect the most important and impactful areas from harm. Maximize "green" initiatives for new builds.
- Reign in the development along Bayley from Church St. west to Brock Rd. I don't see that the natural environment is being protected with this development.
- Leave greenspace alone. Way too many condos being built in every single open space.
- Limit the amount of clear-cut forests for development. Use strategic planning for a %age of forest/wetlands/habitats for non-predatory animals can be maintained. Do not allow deviations to that plan.
- Leave abutting greenspace untouched around developments.

- Doing something about the garbage being dumped in natural areas. The pond on Altona and Finch area always has garbage dumped.
- Stop building homes in said natural environment, which sadly will not happen.
- 1) Mandatory compliance with Canadian Standards Association A460:19 Bird-friendly Building Design for all new development, renovations, retrofits 2) Implement biological controls to eradicate dog-strangling vine in Pickering parks & natural areas.
- Follow the environmental goals and policies of the existing Pickering Official Plan and consider the incremental and cumulative impact of each decision.
- By having strict bylaws, working with environmental consultants and non-profit groups and collaborating WITH TRCA.
- Work with developers to assess each site on a case by case basis and allow for flexibility to enhance and redesign the natural environment when the opportunity presents itself.
- Keep planting and encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic without cars.
- More parks, trails, protected spaces. Rooftop gardens and carbon-neutral facilities.
- Reduce immigration. Increase efforts to stop illegal dumping.
- Protect tree lines when building new homes and neighbourhoods, add more trees, gardens, fountains, walking paths to all new developments - business or residential. Pickering residents need more places to walk in nature other than the waterfront.

Q5. Do you support removing small, isolated natural features if it is compensated by planting more and creating stronger natural systems nearby? For example, removing a few isolated trees in exchange for expanding a nearby forest. (choose one and tell us why).

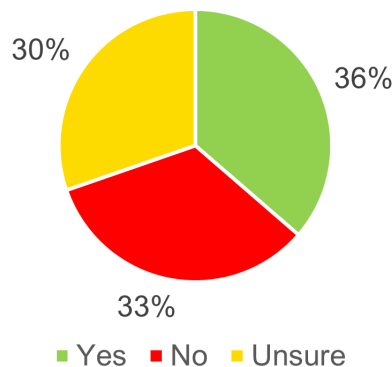


Figure 3 - Summary of support for removing small, isolated natural features if it is compensated by planting more and creating stronger natural systems nearby. N = 66

Yes:

- If you get more for less it's a no-brainer.
- Isolated trees will not make an impact but growing a lot more trees in a wood will.
- As long as the removal ensures new possibilities elsewhere, it seems like a fair exchange.

- If there is a net increase in sustainability.
- Only if it is done with a plan and accountability.
- Increase forests in dense forested areas, and accommodate housing in sparsely forested areas to enhance population growth and provide affordable housing.
- Most natural features in Pickering are overrun with invasive species. This gives the opportunity to create higher quality habitat. Isolated natural features are often islands that aren't usable by wildlife.
- Ok if it is truly a few isolated trees, clear-cutting of an existing wood lot should be addressed with a strategic plan for equivalent coverage within the development area.
- If it's done responsibly, then yes, the benefit outweighs the loss, given the current housing and governing circumstances.
- Small isolated natural features put unnecessary constraints on the development proposal and do not serve much purpose to the natural environment. Removal of these small features should be permitted.

No:

- Removing natural features will only isolate animal life and remove the ability to travel.
- The landscape does not require manipulation - keep it natural.
- **ABSOLUTELY NOT.** Replanting trees results in weak tree growth - if you take out a natural feature that includes trees you are **KILLING** the fungal network that holds that habitat together. **PLEASE STOP KILLING ESTABLISHED TREE NETWORKS!**
- Natural systems help sustain a good ecosystem, reduce pollution, assist air quality.
- Does not benefit that immediate neighborhood.
- No, all the natural elements are important. It doesn't "equalize" the natural environment if you remove one feature and replace it with something different.
- Often the exchange ends up not working, just provides more room for large expensive houses.
- 30% of the land should be left as natural habitat.
- Government is untrustworthy and will always lie about what they are going to do.
- By removing trees for exchange is being in the builders' pockets as the mayor is. Look at the mess on Taunton Road. Are you..... kidding.
- An existing forest with a thriving mix of wildlife is always preferable to eradicating an existing one to rebuild a new one somewhere else. Better that we move our developments around natural features rather than the other way around. It does damage.
- If I cut down an old-growth tree, I potentially remove a habitat. I potentially remove a migration space. I potentially destroy a home. You can't put up a sign that says "oh, animals, we've moved you to a new home". It doesn't work, it hasn't worked.
- Growth occurs over time so removing it disrupts the natural progression of an ecosystem as well as disrupting animal habitats.
- Way too much development already.

- Stop cutting down trees. Pickering allows too much of this destructive practice. I do not trust developers or Pickering to enforce a better natural system outcome after destroying native natural features.
- The compensation is usually grossly inadequate, especially when the time factor to restore the tree canopy is considered.
- This could open the way to abusing this system. It is rarely possible to recreate a natural habitat.
- Many are rare trees or wildlife that cannot be replaced.
- Nature is best left alone.
- Please don't get rid of all the little green spaces that are needed to balance the massive development we are experiencing. Incorporate gardens and greenery instead of just adding to a forest so that we don't turn into a dull city of housing blocks.

Unsure:

- Completely depends on each individual situation.
- As long as there are still thoughtful placements of plants, particularly native plants, and promotion of biodiversity. I think the best cities are the ones that integrate both nature and infrastructure and choose infrastructure and designs that allow for it.
- There would have to be a concept drawing before answering. If the few isolated trees are isolated from the plan and can be maintained naturally, why remove them? If they are isolated but would hinder safety, they would have to be removed.
- I would need better information.
- Depends on the quality and character of what is being removed. The question is very simplistic and rarely happens.
- Not sure if there is enough information to make a conclusion. Some environmental features are extremely important and planting a few trees doesn't offset this. There is also value in mixed-use spaces and having pockets of nature integrated in all neighborhoods.
- Would need to know where and why before making a decision.
- It depends on the nature of the isolated natural feature. Ideally, there should not be an either-or consideration. I would hope that even isolated natural features can be protected through sustainable design. They can be important ecologically.
- It would depend on where and what is being removed and why.
- Often, granting small exceptions can be exploited by interest groups. While some flexibility may benefit a growing city, past experience has shown this approach to be problematic.
- Creating large concrete and asphalt zones pushes water in certain areas and overflows/floods, so it is important to keep small untouched areas here and there.
- Too many restrictions already.
- Long-term.
- Please give example areas.

- Only if the replacement truly increases/creates a larger/stronger natural system nearby. Not sure if changing nature is justified.
- I prefer to have trees spread out. The city forests should be protected and expanded, but trees also help city spaces keep temperatures cool during the summers, carbon capture and oxygen production, and it adds to the overall beauty of city spaces.
- Depends on the criteria used to quantify existing and compensatory habitat and this should be administered by a third party, not the city or development industry.
- It all depends on how the replacement trees are planted, positioned, and looked after. It makes no sense to take down a few isolated trees and replace them with trees that we have in neighborhoods. These new trees don't have the same life expectancy.
- If an area is too small for anyone to enjoy or would deter nearby worthwhile commercial development, it makes sense to increase the size of larger facilities elsewhere.
- This can't be a blanket statement for all scenarios. A small natural area in one place may have little impact overall, but in another, it could play an integral role in supporting natural cycles, ecosystems, or specific at-risk species. Trust the experts.
- Trees should be made more abundant even in areas where there are buildings. Houses are too close that there is no room for trees.
- Continue to plant without removing existing plants, and encourage biodiversity.
- Somewhat agree with simple replanting of trees, but depends on any animal habitat displacement. Would not agree for anything that impacts natural watersheds.

Q6. How can the City increase the number of trees planted throughout Pickering (i.e., along rural roads, at commercial sites, on residential properties)?

- Offer cheap or free trees, have planting days, and incentivize developers to plant more and/or remove less. We need WAY more pollinator habitat as well.
- Please integrate diverse plants that are native and support both human and animal interaction. Run a community event to support planting. Provide subsidy programs to places of business. Plan for sustainable care of plants.
- Give incentives like property tax discounts.
- Obtain some plots of land from cemeteries to allow more memorial trees to be placed.
- Plant more!
- Commercial sites and parks.
- **MORE TREE PLANTING!!!**
- Plant more trees obviously. Can we focus on expanding services residents need such as community centre's, parks, splashpads, waterfront, walking trails, roads instead of selling out and only worrying about lining your pockets with developers money.
- It's simple. **STOP BUILDING CONDOS AND BULDOZING OUR NATURAL HABITAT.**
- Any housing, e.g. towers, should be required to plant a treed area.
- It's fine the way it is. Why increase it?
- Provide free trees for residents to plant in their backyards! Plant trees at commercial sites, parks, and along rural roads.

- Rural roads, commercial sites, residential properties, free for residential properties, native shrubs too, free tree/shrubs program for residential properties, highways, roads, parks, beaches, businesses, everywhere possible.
- Explain why this is needed and then decide where and which type of trees.
- City should make sure there is a good number of trees included in that project. Also figure out the neighborhood wherever there's lack of trees we've to fill it. Put a law people should take care of trees.
- Yes, yes and yes. And alongside riparian areas in our park system (e.g. Greenwood Park, Ernie Stroud Park, waterfront parks as examples), on farmland edges and non-arable portions of farms, former aggregate sites.
- They can stop approving every development application that comes to them and think about what the residents are saying and asking for. The taxpayers are tired of being ignored by council and the mayor, we don't want all these condo towers.
- Education/campaign about what trees can be planted and where. For example, would planting trees on the front lawn accepted? Plant more trees on public lands/parking lots/setbacks, etc. Require developers to have green spaces/trees. Free Tree Programs.
- Could use some trees for shade along the future BRT sidewalk and bike lanes.
- All of the above, with consideration to developing "wildlife corridors".
- Rooftop gardens, centralized small woodlots.
- All of the above.
- Plant a tree at every new build with 30 % of land left around condos.
- Residential, offer for a nominal fee to homeowners who have space.
- Dig a small hole, plant a tree in it.
- Tree planting initiatives.
- Get more youth groups and other organizations involved. I believe there used to be an organization called Trees for Canada, run by Scouts Canada?
- Increase budget to pay for this initiative.
- Control the number of trees being cut on private property and ensure new construction has a plan to plant new trees on both public and private land around the construction.
- Add tree planting along major roads, and sparsely populated rural corridors.
- The question is lame or poorly written... How, its Where, such as in the Rouge, remove dead trees, along many of the subdivision streets where the trees are actually dying or dead, boulevards, even on people's tax paid properties, if they allow it.
- DON'T touch existing green space.
- Control the number of condo buildings being built.
- Mandate that trees cut down must be replaced on the properties. Designate green spaces on new construction sites for trees to be planted.
- All of these examples plus owners of lots left empty should be encouraged to plant trees. There are several of these on the south side of Baley between Liverpool and Sandy Beach.

- Undertaken a comprehensive tree inventory to identify locations for tree plantings - there are many boulevards in Pickering that would benefit from more trees or native plant gardens. Create an urban forest management plan.
- Adopt a watershed-prioritized approach that identifies and quantifies planting locations based on a bio-physical approach.
- More tree planting programs and awareness/incentives for participation.
- Developers should be FORCED to plant a certain number of trees within a new development. These new home sites in the Seaton area are just asphalt and concrete desolation. We killed the Seaton and replaced it with what...nothing. That will come to haunt us.
- We need to plant trees with a long life, not the ones planted today that live for 15 to 20 years.
- The City can partner with local groups (Scouts, Rotary Club, churches, schools, businesses, etc.) to fund and provide 'sweat equity' for planting projects. The City could provide saplings and the partners do the planting.
- The next time you need to repave roads through poorly designed 1960 era neighbourhoods reduce lane sizes add sidewalks and put trees along the sidewalks. Alternatively you can work with private companies to help homeowners add native trees.
- Offer them at a reduced price and provide help for seniors to plant them.
- I don't think new trees need to be planted. Disrupting natural ecosystems is the problem.
- Leaving existing forests and stop developments clear -cutting sites.
- Preserve existing coverage, offer incentives for planting to residents for new and replacement coverage, offer leaf removal from curb for loose leaves.
- City-owned boulevards.
- I think commercial and residential sites should have a requirement to grow a minimum number of trees.
- More trees along roads for sure, as well as around residential areas.
- Plant urban microforests. Work with Ontario Nature organization. See Ontario Nature magazine, Pg 7. <https://catalog.ontarionature.org/winter-2024/page/6-7>.
- Increase annual targets supported by budget programs. Participate fully in all external programs. Increase public awareness.
- Offer incentives for residents to have a tree planted on their property. Have a tree naming competition.
- Organizing planting days, making them available to properties owners, workshops on taking care of trees, campaigns on why urban trees are important.
- City planting programs.
- Offer free trees for residents to purchase, or use trees as dedication/memorial for people to remember loved ones. Plant them around every school and plant more densely in parks.
- Stop allowing builders to clear-cut existing trees when planning a development. The trees are already there, fully grown.
- Partner with tree companies. There is a company in Barrie who gives out free trees.

- More parkettes, courtyards, increased tree coverage on rural roads. Create more pollinator gardens.
- Offer incentives to plant and care for trees. Offer benefits to property owners that tend to treed lots.
- Run a donate a tree or a tree memorial campaign so residents buy a tree for planting locally. Create a digital landscape layout of where you want to plant them ; the types you want to plant, then sell them in memory, with a plaque. You could match the sale.

Natural Hazards

Parts of the natural environment, like river valleys, slopes, and floodplains, can be hazardous and risky areas. These places change over time because of natural processes and changes in climate. As Pickering grows, it is important to keep people safe and avoid damage to property from extreme weather, especially with climate change making these weather events more common.

Q7. What should Pickering do to reduce the potential risk of flooding? (choose all that apply).

- Limiting the amount of hard surfaces (i.e. roofs and driveways) on all residential lots to allow more rainwater to absorb into the ground
- Reducing road widths to include bioswales (green areas that manage water) in the boulevards
- Building larger stormwater systems to handle more frequent and intense storms
- Seeking funding to upgrade existing storm sewer pipes in older neighbourhoods that may be more prone to flooding
- Other (please specify) ____

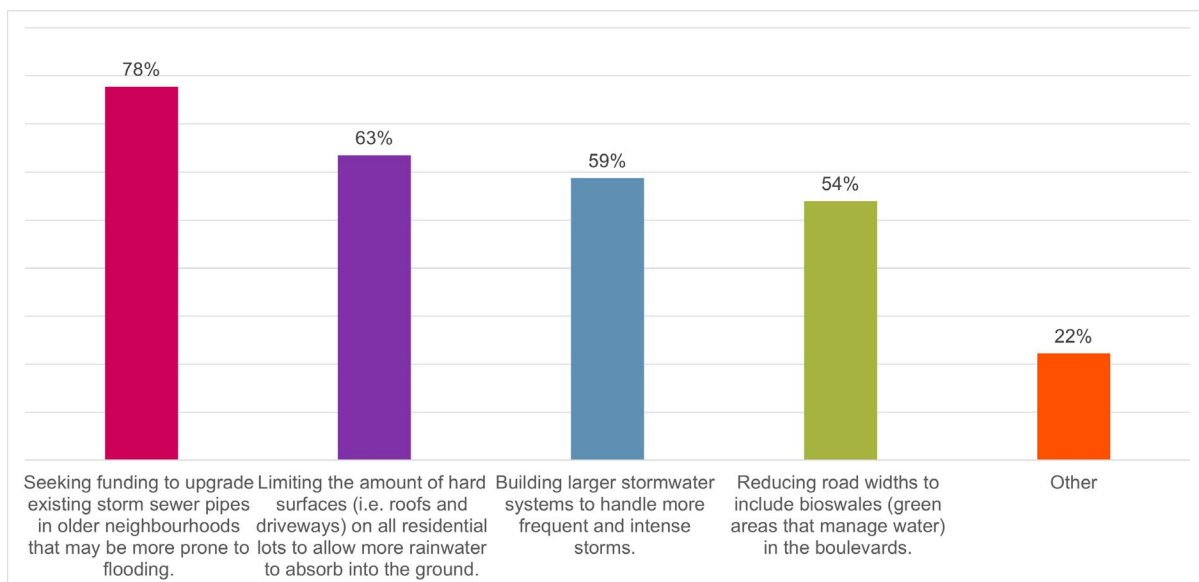


Figure 4 - Summary of options participants think Pickering should consider to reduce the potential risk of flooding.
 N = 63

Other (please specify):

- Add green roofs and/or permeable paving to municipal zoning.
- STOP cutting down trees, destroying natural environments, find ways to collect water sustainably and return it to nature ie) watering plants, keeping ponds topped up, storm water ponds.
- Nothing, it's fine.
- Always make sure the sewage are removed from existing pipes and some water drain holes are covered with grass and mud, clean all those and mud on road edges too.
- Plant more trees/shrubs/plants that are native to our environment so they can help absorb water. Residential roofs and driveways are NOT the problem, all the condo towers have taken away the natural landscape and have left us with these problems.
- As mentioned my neighbour is directing all his water toward my house and his driveway drain is not connected and overflows toward me. Builder never finished so not compliant.
- Cleaning out phragmites from creeks on a seasonal basis allows better water flow.
- Most of the ground in Pickering is clay. It will not absorb much rain and thus cause flooding... No more funding, Pickering is in debt, the debt hidden to the taxpayer.. cut service to provide funding for any more capital projects. Stop spending my money, it's mine, not yours.
- Encourage the use of green roofs and more permeable paving surfaces such as paving stones.
- Naturalize buffer areas and drainage features.
- We need to protect our green spaces, these are the proven "sponges" that prevent and absorb flood waters. Look at Toronto where they decimated green spaces, and now they have flooding with every rainfall.
- Discourage or ban development that is overly close to rivers and Lake Ontario.
- Don't allow development of important wetlands.
- Stop developing the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Sustainability

In addition to protecting the natural environment and avoiding natural hazards, new development and infrastructure outside of these areas need to be sustainable. This will help make Pickering a stronger and better place to live. The City's Official Plan will guide how Pickering will adapt to climate change and make progress toward a more resilient future.

Q8. Which of the following changes would most support the creation of more sustainable neighbourhoods? (choose all that apply).

- Building denser communities in both new and existing neighbourhoods
- Expanding transit services
- Improving pedestrian connectivity (i.e. trails and sidewalks) to promote walking and cycling
- Allowing shops and services in all neighbourhoods to improve walkability and reduce the use of cars
- Expanding current roads instead of building new ones

- Other (please specify) _____

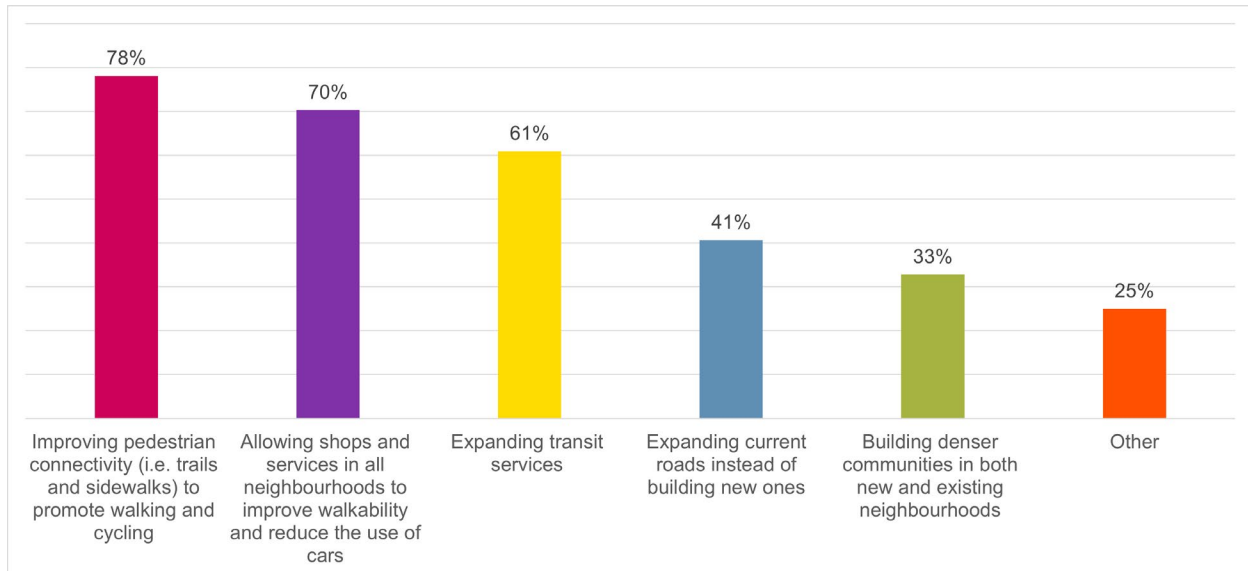


Figure 5 – Summary of changes participants think would most support the creation of more sustainable neighbourhoods.
 N = 64

Other (please specify):

- It would be great if Pickering focused on supporting independent and unique businesses that are walkable. A great test is the coffee shop test. Does each community have a walkable coffee shop.? Are those coffee shops chains or independent bringing both community spaces and options for community goods.
- Sustainability includes economic...there needs to be a plan in place to densify Kingston Road corridor without losing businesses. Redevelopment must be phased and opportunities need to be facilitated to allow local businesses to relocate within neighbourhoods.
- Please don't allow shops and services in neighborhoods. That will destroy our neighborhoods.
- Have the government or Durham region or City of Pickering extend the solar electricity rebate to net metering (meaning ability to get credits for excess of electricity generated) to have more residents going solar.
- Leave more open land around New buildings.
- Allowing 2nd suites in areas served by septic systems as they are on larger properties.
- Stop building more houses therefore less people therefore less traffic and pollution
- None of the above.
- Stop building on Farmland.
- Shops can't be pot shops and seek convenience stores. shop must be bank, small grocery, drug stores(shoppers), small retail (beer/wine, no liquor), smart retailers which can survive in local neighbourhood, no bars, small mechanic shop. this can't be integrated into existing neighbourhoods, unless parks are remove, this is a non-starter.

In 80% of the current neighbourhoods this is simply not possible now, too late. The question becomes, how to buy out (without budget increases and taxpayer increases) homes, 10 lots, to do this.

- Adopt aggressive stormwater. Management innovative to lessen the hydrological impacts of our existing and proposed communities.
- Provide more parkland than currently required by Province in higher density communities.
- Decrease migration from Toronto.
- 1) Prohibit giant condo towers, clusters of giant condo towers. Limit the height of all buildings to 6 stories. 2) Absolutely no new roads 3) Restrict population growth and economic development in Pickering.
- Decrease taxes the older your home is. Increase taxes on new homes.
- I.e.: reduce traffic by expanding roads like Rosebank over the 401 and adding a pedestrian bridge connecting the waterfront walkway at Frenchman's Bay to the bottom of Liverpool Road.

Q9. What can Pickering do to increase sustainable development in NEW neighbourhoods?

- Make multiplexes as of right, assistance with garden suites, tax breaks for new/infill multi-unit homes, disallow 40-storey condos in favour of multiple smaller buildings, green the building code, tax breaks for green development.
- Build homes that families can live in long-term. Please no more shoebox homes. Provide access to green spaces. Build spaces for community connections so everyone isn't just living in their home but connecting with neighbours.
- Make home more self-sustainable.
- We cannot support all the planned high rises. Major upgrades to all infrastructure will be needed.
- Allow ground pumps and mandate solar panels; include multi-use trails EVERYWHERE.
- Increase transit, allow only high density housing, pedestrian paths and bike routes. reduce access available by car and create walk to neighbourhoods.
- Not build them.
- Like I pointed out above, right now you're only building residential buildings but nothing else (especially up north in the Seaton area). Please diversify and don't turn this into another Brampton.
- Walkable neighbourhoods, tax the new neighbourhoods more to reflect the true cost of new developments, increase density, trees, thoughtful planning, integration to city and metro hubs, bike lanes, large outdoor spaces.
- Add another 401 exit. Make sure roads are available that will reduce congestion.
- Intensification and higher densities to reduce the overall development footprint (e.g. Northeast Secondary Plan area), do not impact natural systems such as forests, wetlands, valley, creek and river systems. Design for and plant trees, shrubs and native plants.
- Stop building new neighbourhoods until we fix the current ones and make them sustainable.



- Ensure new neighbourhoods are walkable mixed neighbourhoods (e.g shops, schools, playgrounds are nearby). Include parks/forests/trees. Support public transport. Plan for emerging transportation technologies such as electric scooters.
- Same about solar rebate. Have \$5000 incentive to go solar INCLUDING net metering.
- Mandate more green space. At present, building lots permitted are too small and minor variances allow new construction that almost completely covers the lots.
- Walkability. Set % of shopping. Parks planned and included.
- 1) build walkable villages with shops 2)increase public transit - there is minimal public transit.
- More parks.
- Increase parking for cars, i.e. longer driveways especially townhouse development areas, city focus on density not on pushing wider roadways within complex, to developer/tax base focussed.
- Don't build houses.
- Lower taxes.
- Stop allowing people to pave over lawns, allow proper and sufficient size properties for parking of vehicles. Cannot park a car on a 25ft size house lot.
- Legislate the use of sustainable robust materials in new construction and have incentives for older neighborhoods to do the same.
- Connect neighborhoods, via rapid rail transits to major hubs.
- Have competent town planners, have you seen the garbage along Taunton Road.. who did this mess.
- Keep existing green space green.
- Make them walkable. Build low rise mixed-use buildings so people can shop, get groceries and go out to eat in their own neighbourhoods. Create protected bikes lanes that take user to places of interest.
- Ensure hydrological conditions in new communities are similar to pre development communities.
- We don't need any more neighborhoods. We are suburban enough. Stop building.
- A new "neighbourhood" should be self-sustaining. It should have a Dr, a grocer, a source of clean energy, a source of clean water. What we are seeing in Seaton is a car community, unconnected to anything around it. No stores, no walking, no jobs.
- Increase the amount of green space in new neighborhoods.
- Make sure transit serves new neighbourhoods. Make sure that new neighbourhoods have recreational, educational and commercial services close enough to encourage walking or cycling. Allocate a minimum amount of space for recreational use.
- Plan for each neighborhood to be walkable. Meaning sidewalks and local amenities.
- Build along the GO line.
- Have stores on lower levels of condo developments - grocery and pharma.
- Provide more parkland than currently required by the Province in higher density communities.
- Environmental assessment.

- Have community gardens as the houses don't have enough garden space and parks where kids can walk/ ride to.
- The biggest thing needed would be proper infrastructure. Proper road ways, transit connections, and power that doesn't conk out often.
- Mandatory compliance with Canadian Standards Association A460:19 Bird-friendly Building Design for all new development, renovations, retrofits, etc.
- More green spaces within the new neighbourhood, limit paved areas on individual properties.
- See above, plus planting trees, preserving pockets of natural areas and linking them.
- Encourage developers to include sustainable infrastructure, by incentivizing them (ie. development charge reduction/credit for sustainable infrastructure).
- Bike lanes and sidewalks now, look at intersection 401/Whites Rd by plaza, there's literally no sidewalk to cross over to and it's very dangerous!
- Stop building high rises they create ghettos.
- Work with sustainable developers that specialize in zero or low-carbon builds. Increase or encourage developers to build in various parkettes in new subdivisions. Preserve existing trails, rivers, and ravines in North Pickering / Seaton and build around.
- Hike up taxes on NEW neighborhoods. Decrease taxes on older ones.
- Bigger green lots, less blocks of townhouses, more detached homes, improved walkability, paths, and commercial businesses to avoid needing to drive further distances

Q10. How can Pickering promote sustainability in EXISTING neighbourhoods?

- Property tax breaks for green additions (solar, grey water, permeable paving, etc.) to existing homes, grants or rebates for same, more bike lanes and sidewalks.
- Provide incentives for property maintenance, upgrades, run community street events, before and after photos following community clean up initiatives. Working with neighbourhoods to identify what sustainability means to them.
- Build in north Pickering vs southeast.
- Minimize and enforce driveway widths NOT to exceed the overall width of a garage (inclusive of brick, wood, or vinyl siding).
- Fix stormwater problems; add multi-use trails; facilitate use of green energy technologies.
- Allow 4 plexes in suburbs to encourage density. Allow business closer to residential to permit for walkable and 15 minute city.
- Ensure smart land use, e.g. the gardens that are around the power lines bases.
- First of all, get rid of these horrible recycling bins that allow garbage to scatter everywhere on a windy day, instead start using bins with lids like how it's done in Peel Region.
- More sidewalks- walkable neighbourhoods, libraries, outdoor spaces big, reno playgrounds to include multigenerational enjoyment like adult gyms and community

gardens, mixed use spaces like including living spaces on top of industrial or commercial building.

- Blue bins with lids to stop litter blowing as currently they are open. Continue to upgrade existing roads.
- Promote community-based native plantings on private and public properties through a subsidy program and facilitation by staff with community and business associations.
- Provide grants, financial assistance to existing homeowners to make their houses more environmentally sustainable. In older neighbourhoods residents could be assisted with learning how to plant fruits/vegetables and trees that would thrive in our areas.
- Education and capacity building: waste reduction and recycling, solar systems, rainwater harvesting, home gardening, wastewater recycling, buying local, etc.
- By enforcing the above on all new construction in existing neighbourhoods. I suggest simply adhering to existing bylaws instead of granting minor variances to every new construction request.
- Walkability - walking trails amongst built up areas.
- Promote shops and grocers in neighbourhoods, build public transit.
- Leave more land for parks and natural habitat with walking trails.
- Allow triplets, duplexes.
- Give people discounted tax breaks for more eco friendly yards. More narrow vegetation.
- Lower taxes.
- Better tree planting and green space.
- Encourage tree planting, restrict activities which work against sustainability.
- Incentives to install sustainable climate resistant materials to older construction.
- Allow for increased adu on properties with large lots, and improve water and sewer in already existing communities.
- Great question, what could be done but no will, remove some of the high-density housing in the neighbourhoods to build conveniences. Shops...
- Maintain neighborhood parks gardens forests.
- Any new builds on main roads i.e. Altona, Finch, Whites, Fairport, Dixie, Liverpool, etc, should be required to be low rise mixed use. Narrow street lanes and use reclaimed spaces for bike lanes and greenery.
- By -not- jamming huge numbers of residential buildings into existing neighbourhoods that don't have the infrastructure to service them! Like roads, hospitals and fire services.
- Focus on walkability.
- Adopt an aggressive campaign to educate residents about the unique ecological features of our community and how sustainability practices carried out by our residents can improve the environment.
- Infrastructure including sidewalks for pedestrians and better connected transit. Also, widening other east/west roads to reduce congestion on Kingston Rd.

- Multi-unit dwellings such as town homes should have access to organics pick-up. Homes should have solar panels. Stop permitting extending driveways on lawns. Stop "big box" retail that encourages driving and literally have no safe walkability.
- Stop residents from paving over front lawns. Promote using their garages to park cars.
- Traffic calming devices to reduce traffic; infill with services that would reduce the need to drive somewhere.
- Add sidewalks to all roadways. Promote local businesses so people can walk to the store instead of driving.
- Allow natural ecosystems to grow. Plant more wildflowers. Clear the brush along the train tracks along Bayley and in front of the old Pickering Markets.
- Stop removing all plazas in existing neighbourhoods. All are being developed into condos leaving people only choices of driving to stores elsewhere. Seems like all available land is being developed into condos now. Traffic is horrible!
- Ensure infilling of existing neighbourhoods provides for the increased density including adequate parking and provisions for pedestrian traffic.
- Cap occupancy in single family homes.
- Protect green spaces. Provide playing fields that kids can walk/ ride to.
- Allowing ppl to build new homes and allow division of large lots.
- Seeing as how I am in an existing neighbourhood (Brock and Taunton), we need additional road ways to access the city when there's a disruption on Brock. Power cuts out far too often as well and that needs to be addressed.
- Mandatory compliance with Canadian Standards Association A460:19 Bird-friendly Building Design for all new development, renovations, retrofits, etc.
- Extend tree preservation bylaw to entire Pickering urban area. Limit lot coverage and increase use of permeable paving and landscaping products.
- Limit the paving over of front and back yards on individual properties.
- See above, replacing trees, protecting existing natural areas.
- Encourage sustainable infrastructure when upgrading services.
- Build sidewalks that actually connect. Make walking and cycling paths stand out in every neighborhood and intersection.
- Upgrade water systems/ sewage systems to reduce the possibility of flooding especially in the Bay Ridges area.
- Various programs more education.
- Offer carbon retrofits, zoning amendments to allow for denser redevelopment on larger lots, increase bike lanes and bike safety infrastructure.
- Lower taxes the older your home is.
- Connect them with paths, bring more business to the existing business areas (restaurants, shops) to improve access to things nearby.

Q11. Is there anything else you would like to share on these topics?

Yes:

- I think Pickering is in an exciting place where we can build a community that we can love and appreciate for generations. Let's be thoughtful about how we go about creating spaces that promotes and even enables community connection, appreciation for nature and pride in our spaces.
- **STOP THE DEVELOPMENTS!** Focus on the residents here now, not bringing in new residents when we need improved roads, transit, community centre's and parks/splashpads etc., to encourage residents to spend time outside. Provide **CURRENT** residents with the stores/roads/transit/recreation we need **BEFORE** ripping everything down and jamming every square km with housing. **FOCUS ON THOSE WHO ARE HERE NOW. WE ARE SUFFERING FOR THE COMFORT AND HAPPINESS OF GREEDY POLITICIANS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT EVEN RESIDENTS YET!**
- It's mentioned before but there are too many residential homes being built with no shops or malls built around it. This means for the residents up north, you have to drive far to reach anywhere. This is not good city planning and this was how brampton was designed. Have a good mixture of commercial and residential properties and make it accessible. I'm looking at future plans for the area and everywhere all you see is just future residential land for developers, no malls, schools, parks.
- In considering sustainability priorities, Pickering needs to also address the impact of invasive plant species into our parks and natural landscapes, roadsides and corridors. The assault even into our residential areas and roadsides by buckthorn, dog strangling vine, and phragmites, to name a few, is degrading natural environments and wildlife habitats, creating valueless monocultures, and potentially requiring major interventions where some species (e.g. phragmites) can damage infrastructure. such as stormwater systems or impact sightlines on municipal roadways.
- We don't need any more condo towers destroying our little green space that's left. Please start listening to the residents and taxpayers and not the developers who donate to election campaigns.
- As noted above, as a city located in a naturally gifted area, Pickering has a responsibility to protect it. Protect and integrate the Pickering Airport Lands, Greenwood Conservation Area so that all can benefit.
- There are far too many condos in the plans. 75 condo buildings is ridiculous. There is little accommodation for green space and none for schools and schoolyards for children.
- Canada is not in good shape financially, lots of people living on th edge, not a good time to be spending taxes on any frills.
- Pay the debt down, then determine how to raise the capital to do all this without raising my taxes.. there is no more money honey.
- I would live to see smaller walkable neighbourhoods thought Pickering not just in the downtown but in other areas like Whites, Altona, Finch. Similar to neighborhoods like the Danforth.
- I'm not against new development but it should be done with a little more common sense. Our roads are already full to bursting. Traffic is going to be a nightmare after all the high-

rises are occupied. The Tim Horton's at Liverpool & Baley is a perfect example. It should never have been allowed.

- I'm an ISA Certified Arborist and Registered Professional Forester who has resided in Pickering for 30 years. I'd love to be involved in the NHS and urban forestry planning process. Please reach out if needed christen@redfoxforestry.ca.
- There needs to be an Acknowledgement of the Rouge National Park and it's significant contribution to the City of Pickering...likewise Pickering should acknowledge opportunities to contribute to the health and well being of Rouge National Park.
- Stop the insane amount of development!!! Enough is enough. No more building. Use the money to improve existing community services and environmental awareness programs.
- We seem, as a city, to be bent on growth for growth sake. What is the benefit of paving over areas like the Seaton? Higher traffic congestion? Higher demand on already overtaxed services? Over-filled urgent-care clinics? We are ruining this city in the name of "growth". How many of these new homes are truly "affordable"? How many of these condo's and apartments will serve the underhoused? I'll answer for you, ZERO. There's no push for affordable housing, there's no push for well paying jobs, there's no push for more doctors, or better clinics. Just build more houses and condos. Build more towers. Pack in as many people as you can, and forget about where they will work, how they will drive, what impact they will have on the environment. WE ARE THE HAZARD.
- Residents need to be educated on the negative effects of their actions like increasing their driveway widths, not planting trees, not recycling properly (I see this in their blue boxes) and trying to eliminate waste.
- Have frequent bus service from PTC and GO to the Liverpool Beach and Seabreeze (Frenchman's Bay) beach to avoid car travel and limited parking. Also more frequent bus service into Petticoat Creek in the summer. Shorter buses, more frequent trips throughout the city.
- Too many high-rise condos being put up in Pickering with no thoughts on the addition of thousands of people on traffic congestion or taking away retail space. This is very poor planning. People cannot walk to get what they need - bus service is so so and in the car you just sit in endless traffic. Even our waterfront is being more and more developed and inaccessible to people. Pickering was beautiful at one point, but now it's becoming a concrete jungle.
- Mandatory compliance with Canadian Standards Association A460:19 Bird-friendly Building Design for all new development, renovations, retrofits, etc.
- Pickering should become a "Bird Friendly" community. -Pickering should adopt a biodiversity and pollinator strategy similar to Toronto -The Ontario Government and Pickering should implement the Natural Heritage System Policies for the Seaton Community. Pickering should implement the natural trail policies of the City of Toronto.
- Protect the Duffins Agricultural Preserve, the river valleys, improve the Seaton trail and use it as a living school to teach sustainability and environmental preservation to the public, protect the natural areas around Whitevale and lin them to the Rouge Park. Make the whole city pedestrian and bike-friendly, from North Pickering to the lakeshore.



- Healthy living is key. Pickering neighbours for the most part live sedentary lifestyles. If active fitness and health became part of the city's culture it would make life more sustainable overall.
- Preserve the old Whitevale Gravel pit. There are lot's of rare plants that live there
- Rural communities are being forgotten and bullied. Increase awareness that rural communities take care of large treed lots that help with air pollution. Rural communities only lose when development happens close to them. There is a reason we choose to live further from others.