



Developing a Biodiversity Action Plan for Greater Sudbury

WHY develop a Biodiversity Action Plan?

A Biodiversity Action Plan for Greater Sudbury is to be developed by the end of 2009 to address findings from the **Sudbury Soils Study Ecological Risk Assessment**. The Plan will provide the framework for ecological recovery in Greater Sudbury that builds on past greening successes. It will follow the best international examples of biodiversity action plans and will include community involvement and participation in its development.

WHAT is Biodiversity?

Biological diversity (or biodiversity) refers to the variety of life on Earth. It encompasses the wide array of ecosystems, ecological processes and species that are essential to human existence.

WHAT is Biodiversity Recovery?

Biodiversity recovery is about helping nature heal. In Greater Sudbury it is the process of restoring plant and animal species, communities and habitats into effectively functioning ecosystems.

WHAT are the benefits of Biodiversity Recovery?

Restoring biodiversity in damaged areas of Greater Sudbury improves habitat for plants, animals, birds and insects and creates healthier forests and wetlands. Biodiversity improvements in watersheds result in improved quality of fish habitat within lakes and streams.

Biodiversity supports a number of natural ecosystem processes that benefit society such as prevention of soil erosion, improved air quality, water purification, moderation of climate change and control of pest and disease organisms. Biodiversity has social and cultural benefits including aesthetic value, leisure and recreation and contributes to economic resilience.

WHAT exactly do we want to achieve from the Plan?

The Biodiversity Action Plan will define the vision and priorities for biodiversity recovery, considering current community needs and those of future generations. It will address intervention activities, monitoring and research needed in both the short and long term.

WHO will develop the Plan?

The Biodiversity Action Plan will be developed in a cooperative and collaborative effort under the leadership of the City of Greater Sudbury's Environmental Planning Initiatives Section. Oversight will be provided by VETAC, the City's greening advisory panel. Both VETAC and the City's Regreening Program have over 30 years experience in community-based environmental action. Development of the Plan will involve members of the community, university researchers, biodiversity stakeholder groups and funding partners.

WHO will finance development of the Plan and subsequent biodiversity recovery efforts?

Both Vale Inco and Xstrata Nickel have issued letters outlining their commitments to support the City in preparing the Biodiversity Action Plan. The companies have also committed to providing ongoing financial and technical support for biodiversity intervention activities, monitoring and research.



WHAT guiding principles will be used for developing the Plan?

The following guiding principles will assist in developing the Biodiversity Action Plan for Greater Sudbury. These guiding principles cover ecological, sociological and educational considerations.

- Build on what has already been accomplished in the greening of Greater Sudbury.
- Ensure that the needs and aspirations of the Greater Sudbury community are considered in biodiversity recovery efforts.
- Develop and promote educational opportunities associated with recovery actions.
- Create stable soil conditions that will minimize soil erosion, dust generation, and the bioavailability of metals.
- Restore plant and animal species, communities and habitats in Greater Sudbury into effectively functioning ecosystems.
- Develop resilience within ecosystems so that they can adapt to climate change or other environmental stresses.
- Include monitoring and reporting processes that ensure continuous improvement.
- Ensure that the Biodiversity Action Plan remains a “living document” and one that adapts to changing community values, interests and priorities and incorporates evolving knowledge about local biodiversity recovery.
- Ensure Greater Sudbury remains a world leader in land reclamation and biodiversity recovery.

HOW will the public be engaged in developing the Plan?

There will be ample opportunity throughout 2009 for community participation and involvement in developing the Biodiversity Action Plan. Stakeholder Involvement Sessions will be held to gain direct input from a broad spectrum of community members. These facilitated sessions will help identify our community’s biodiversity priorities and future actions. They will ensure the Biodiversity Action Plan is aligned with community needs.

‘Have Your Say Workshops’, telephone surveys and other dialogue meetings will provide opportunity for input from interested organizations and community groups. In addition, there is already a great deal of knowledge and action occurring in Greater Sudbury regarding biodiversity through the efforts of groups and agencies in the community. The City of Greater Sudbury proposes to bring these groups together to create the Greater Sudbury Biodiversity Partnership. Although not directly linked to the Biodiversity Action Plan process, the Biodiversity Partnership will be complementary to it.

We encourage you to get involved and take advantage of this opportunity to be part of making our community an even better place to live and play.