

**Type:** Open Session

**Report To:** Community Services Standing Committee

**Meeting Date:** March 24, 2026

**Subject:** Annual Green Initiatives Report

### **Recommendation(s)**

1. That report DCS-26-12, Annual Green Initiatives Report, March 24, 2026 be received for information.

### **Purpose**

The Annual Green Initiatives Report will provide Council with a concise overview of the municipality's environmental initiatives, sustainability actions, and progress toward climate and environmental goals over the past year. The report highlights key achievements, ongoing challenges, and performance trends to support informed decision-making, accountability, and continuous improvement in municipal environmental stewardship.

### **Executive Summary/Report Highlights**

This report highlights green initiatives implemented across municipal departments categorized into the following themes:

- Climate Action & GHG Reduction
- Energy & Municipal Operations
- Natural Environment & Biodiversity
- Waste, Water, and Resource Management
- Climate Resilience & Adaptation
- Community Engagement & Partnerships

### **Background**

Over the past year, the Town has undertaken significant and impactful work to advance climate action through a variety of initiatives across multiple municipal departments. Throughout conversations with Town staff, it was identified that while many climate-related initiatives and projects have been implemented over time, the Town has not had a formal, consistent mechanism to track, document, and report on this work. As a result,

progress, outcomes, and collaborative efforts have not always been captured in a way that allows for year-to-year comparison or public communication.

Establishing an Annual Green Initiatives Report will address this gap by providing a structure and transparent way to track progress on climate and environmental initiatives moving forward. The report will serve as a tool to inform Council on annual achievements and emerging trends, educate the public on ongoing sustainability efforts, and celebrate successful partnerships between municipal departments, community groups, conservation authorities, research organizations, and other stakeholders. This approach supports accountability, continuous improvement, and a shared understanding of the Town's climate action efforts.

## **Climate Action & GHG Reduction**

### **Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan**

Over this past year, the Town worked with consultants to develop an Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (CDM Plan). The Plan complies with Regulation 25/23 Broader Public Sector: Energy Reporting and Conservation and Demand Management Plans. This regulation falls under the Electricity Act, 1998 that requires public agencies to prepare, publish, and implement energy conservation and demand management plans.

The CDM Plan documents annual energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from municipal facilities, and describe previous, current and proposed measures for conserving and reducing the amount of energy consumed. The Plan manages municipal demand for energy and includes a forecast of the expected results of current and proposed measures. The [CDM plan](#) has been posted to the Town website on our [Climate Change and Energy](#) page.

### **Partners for Climate Protection Five-Milestone Framework**

To build off the work done for the CDM plan, Grimsby joined the Partners in Climate Protection (PCP) Program, a five-step Milestone framework that guides municipalities in setting emission reduction targets. The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program, funded by ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), supports municipalities in taking climate action. The program consists of a five-step Milestone Framework that guides members through the process of reducing corporate and/or community emissions. This will help promote transparency, accountability and immediate and ambitious action in relation to achieving targets, that support reaching net-zero emissions in Canada by 2050.



Milestone 1: creating a greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory and Milestone 2: setting emission targets have been completed. The work for Milestone 3: developing a local action plan is currently underway. The comprehensive plan will lay out a clear course for Grimsby to build community resilience and meet the target of A 30% reduction in 2023 emissions by 2035. This includes a technical review of current emissions, extensive community consultation, a climate change risk assessment, and a cleantech sector assessment. The mitigation and adaptation actions identified will be assigned to specific Town departments including the required costs, staff time, and resources required for completion. Tools for tracking, monitoring, and analysis will also be included to track the Town’s progress over the years and adjust to changing technologies and conditions.

### Active Transportation

#### In-Park Pathways

Two new in-park pathways have been installed over this past year at Kingsway Park and Bell Park (recommended by the Recreational Trails Master Plan). These new pathways make it easier for people to choose modes of active transportation (walking, biking, etc.) instead of driving. This supports lower greenhouse gas emissions,

healthier, more active communities, and reduces traffic impacts near parks. Clear, stable pathways can mitigate the need for people to walk on sensitive areas or widen trails unintentionally. This can lower maintenance impacts over time, habitat disturbance, spread of invasive species through unmanaged trampling.

### Kingsway Park



### Bell Park



### Nelles Road South and Dorchester Drive Active Transportation Improvements

In 2025, the Town completed about 1km of new sidewalk along Nelles Road South and Dorchester Drive, creating a safer and more comfortable route for pedestrians, and therefore encourage more active transportation. The project was designed to minimize environmental impacts by maintaining the existing ditches and natural drainage patterns, while improving grading for a smoother and more accessible pathway. New tree plantings will further enhance the streetscape and support local sustainability efforts. This sidewalk now provides a continuous connection between Main Street East and the Dorchester neighbourhood.

### Transportation Master Plan Active Transportation Planning

A Transportation Master Plan developed by Public Works staff, which is working to create a more cohesive active transportation network that strengthens connections and improves accessibility for residents of the community. The plan also seeks to enhance links between parks, trails, and key points of interest, making active travel easier and more appealing for residents. In addition, the TMP recommends improvements to local transit, supporting a broader range of sustainable travel options and encouraging residents to choose walking, cycling, or transit for more of their daily trips.

## **Energy & Municipal Operations**

### **Energy Efficiency**

Through asset management planning and projects, the Town has made improvements to the efficiency of municipal operations including:

- Upgraded existing lighting at the Pumphouse, Library and Art Gallery, Museum, Town Hall, the Operations Centre, Oakes Road Baseball Field, and Fire Station 1 from fluorescent to LED technology reducing approximately 40-50% of lighting electricity demand and consumption. All facilities are now retrofitted with LED lighting.
- Upgraded the HVAC system at the Major Refrigeration Peach King Centre from the older rooftop unit to new heat pumps with electric reheat. This will reduce the need for natural gas.
- The Elizabeth Street Pumphouse HVAC has been updated from a tube heater to a more efficient forced air system.

## **Sustainable Facilities**

- Installed 4 new EV chargers at the MRPKC
- Public Works is developing planning guidelines and an operational policy for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in municipal parking lots. This work is being completed as part of Phase 3 of the Towns' Strategic Parking Management Study

## **Fleet Initiatives**

The Town of Grimsby continues to advance its Fleet Replacement Program by upgrading municipal vehicles with more fuel-efficient and lower-emission models. As part of the latest phase, the Town replaced several small and medium-sized vehicles with three hybrid pickup trucks, one hybrid mid-sized SUV, and one fully electric mid-sized SUV. In addition to introducing hybrid and electric technology, the Town is also focusing on right-sizing vehicles and equipment to ensure that each unit matches operational needs while minimizing fuel consumption. Fuel efficiency and environmental performance are now key considerations in the Town's procurement and fleet replacement process. For example, all new tractor purchases are green diesel units. These efforts help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower fuel use, and support Grimsby's commitment to more sustainable municipal operations.

## **Natural Environment & Biodiversity**

### **Urban Forestry**

#### Street Trees

The Town of Grimsby continues to invest in its Street Tree Planting Program as part of its commitment to enhancing the local urban forest and supporting environmental sustainability. In 2025, the Town planted 108 new and replacement street trees throughout the community. The program also focuses on diversifying tree species, with an increased emphasis on planting native species that are well suited to the local environment.

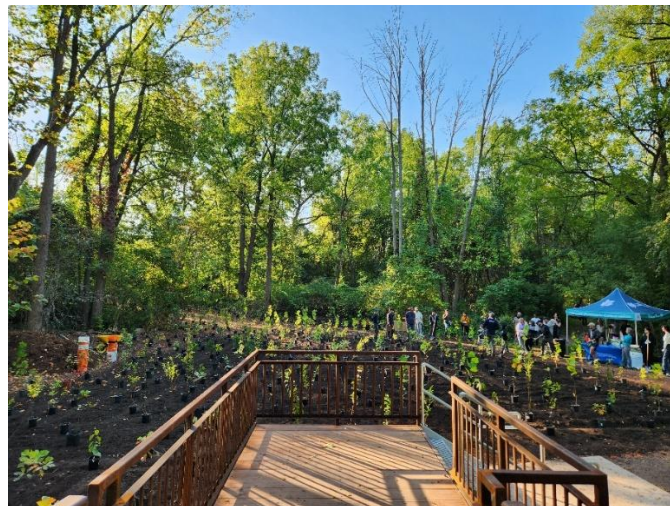
#### Park Tree Plantings

Over the past year, 797 trees were planted in Town Parks through collaborative partnerships with local conservation authorities and federal sponsors. Two community planting events were held; The first event was held on September 27th, in collaboration with TD through the TD Tree Days Program. A total of 230 native trees and shrubs were planted at Southward Park by TD employees, volunteers, and Town staff. This planting

helps reduce maintenance, support local biodiversity, enhance aesthetics, and creates a natural border between public and private property. This is the eighth year that the Town of Grimsby has held a TD Tree Days planting event at Southward.



The second event was held on October 4th, where 500 native trees and shrubs were planted at Forty Mile Creek in collaboration with TD and the NPCA through the TD Tree Days Program. These trees were planted in the area that was cleared for the replacement of the pedestrian bridge to help re-establish the forest canopy.

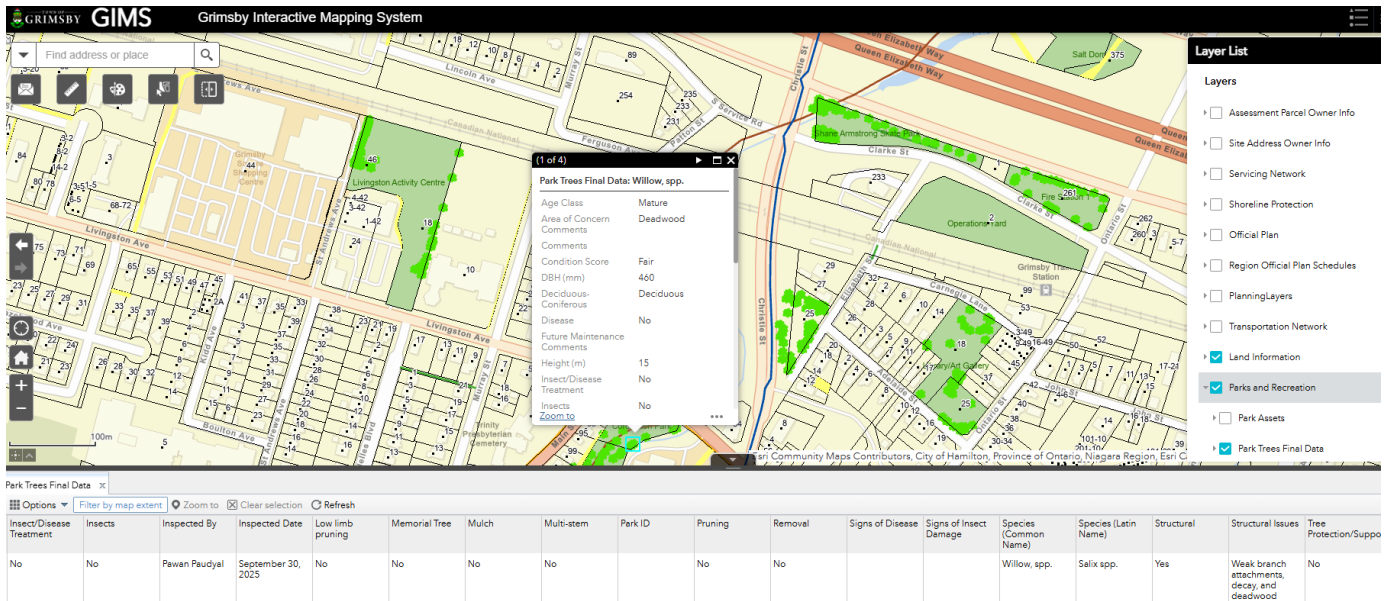


Internally, our Parks staff planted 67 trees in 11 parks that were identified by the Grimsby Green Advisory Committee and Town residents as having a low canopy cover. The trees and planting materials were funded by CN EcoConnexions program through Tree Canada's Community Tree Grants.

Organization	Program/Grant	Location	# of Trees
ToG/TD	TD Tree Days	Southward Park	230
ToG/TD/NPCA	TD Tree Days	Forty Mile Creek Park	500
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Denick Park	7
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Kingsway Park	2
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Pinewood Park	10
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Chereidale Park	11
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Victoria Terrace	6
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Steve McDonnell Leash Free Dog Park	7
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Town Hall	16
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Casblanca Waterfront Park	2
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Elizabeth Street Pumphouse	1
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Murray Street Park	3
ToG	Treemendous Communities	Boundary Park	2
<b>Total</b>			<b>797</b>

**Park Tree Inventory and Condition Assessment**

The Town has recently completed a tree inventory and condition assessment on Park Trees. This work included completing condition assessments on all trees inventoried to quickly flag trees with obvious defects (hanging limbs, severe leans, visible decay, etc.) for a follow-up and more thorough evaluation. All of the trees that were inventoried were located within Town Park’s and any tree either fully or partially within a 1m buffer of the property line.



**GRIMSBY GIMS** Grimsby Interactive Mapping System

Find address or place

**Layer List**

- Assessment Parcel Owner Info
- Site Address Owner Info
- Servicing Network
- Shoreline Protection
- Official Plan
- Region Official Plan Schedules
- PlanningLayers
- Transportation Network
- Land Information
- Parks and Recreation
- Park Assets
- Park Trees Final Data

**Park Trees Final Data: Willow, spp.**

- Age Class: Mature
- Area of Concern: Deadwood
- Comments:
- Condition Score: Fair
- DBH (mm): 400
- Deciduous-Coniferous: Deciduous
- Disease: No
- Future Maintenance Comments:
- Height (m): 15
- Insect/Disease Treatment: No
- Insects: No
- Zoom to:

Insect/Disease Treatment	Insects	Inspected By	Inspected Date	Low limb pruning	Memorial Tree	Mulch	Multi-stem	Park ID	Pruning	Removal	Signs of Disease	Signs of Insect Damage	Species (Common Name)	Species (Latin Name)	Structural	Structural Issues	Tree Protection/Suppo
No	No	Pawan Paudyal	September 30, 2025	No	No	No	No		No	No			Willow, spp.	Salix spp.	Yes	Weak branch attachments, decay, and deadwood	No

The data collected for each tree has been uploaded to the Town's Geographical Information Management System (GIMS) where a dashboard will be created for maintenance tracking purposes. The attributes of this layer include but are not limited to tree location, species, height, diameter, age class, condition, areas of concern (i.e. insects, disease, structural issues) and future maintenance requirements (i.e. pruning, mulch, tree protection/support). This inventory provides us with vital information regarding our urban tree canopy that can help guide future plantings and maintenance.

### **Invasive Species Management**

The Town has recently applied to the funding opportunities listed below for support on invasive species management.

1. Invasive Species Action Fund
  - a. Applied to Stream 3: Transformative Action
  - b. Project Description: The purpose of the Town of Grimsby Invasive Species Management Strategy is to establish a targeted approach to managing terrestrial invasive species in a feasible and timely manner, while enhancing native biodiversity and overall ecological integrity of Grimsby's natural areas.
2. Ontario Community Environment Fund
  - a. Project Description: The aim of the Elizabeth St. Pumphouse Waterfront Cleanup and Trail Expansion is to enhance the connectivity throughout the park area by continuing the Waterfront Trail to the west and restoring the shoreline along it. This will involve the removal of large debris, invasive species, and performing maintenance or removal on trees that have been affected by the changes in microclimate and pose a risk to public safety. Climate conditions, site use, and past planting success to inform the selection of native species that will be replanted in these areas.
3. Niagara Community Foundation-Environmental Grants
  - a. Project Description: The Town of Grimsby' Phragmites Removal and Management Plan will focus on developing a strategy to manage and control Invasive Phragmites on Town property. This will include the treatment of a pilot site to identify and trial best management practices for removal and disposal.

### **Protection of Natural Assets**

#### Climate Ready Infrastructure Service Program

The Town has been accepted to the Climate Ready Infrastructure Service Program and will receive up to \$20,000 of free tailored support. The project seeks support from a CRIS Roster Expert to identify effective, affordable, and climate-resilient options for strengthening the Town's shoreline against erosion and other climate change hazards relevant to Lake Ontario. Three priority sites were identified for shoreline protection: Nelles Beach, Whittaker Park, and the Elizabeth Pier (the project sites). The project sites are highly valued for recreation, tourism, and ecological function, but may be increasingly vulnerable to climate change hazards of concern, particularly erosion. The natural hazards considered for this assessment included the dynamic beach hazard, the erosion hazard and the flood hazard as defined in the Natural Hazards Policies (3.1) of the Provincial Policy Statement of the Planning Act (PPS).

## **Waste, Water & Resource Management**

### **Waste reduction and diversion**

#### Town Hall

Town staff have been working to develop a strategy to reduce waste consumption in the municipal offices at Town Hall. It was identified during the Town Hall renovation that each cubicle had its own garbage can but no recycling bin; often resulting in overproduction of waste from a reduction in recycling and an overuse of plastic bags as most days these bins were not used daily. To resolve this, individual garbage bins have gradually been removed from desks, with the goal of having one centralized waste system in the lunchroom and a few additional stations in common areas like the printer room, meeting rooms, and council chambers.

### **Water Conservation**

#### Water Meter Upgrade Program

The Town of Grimsby continued its Water Meter Upgrade Program, which replaced approximately 2,100 aging residential water meters with modern units across the community in 2025. The new meters work along with the newly installed Advanced Metering Infrastructure to improve the accuracy and efficiency of water monitoring while enabling remote data collection and readings. In addition to modernizing infrastructure, the program supports the Town's environmental goals by helping residents track their water use more closely and identify potential leaks earlier, reducing unnecessary water loss. By promoting conservation and making better use of existing water resources, the upgrade program represents an important step in Grimsby's ongoing commitment to sustainable and responsible water management.

## **Stormwater Management**

The Public Works Department leads the inspection and maintenance of the numerous stormwater facilities throughout the Town. Regular inspections and maintenance will ensure that these facilities operate as designed to provide both quality and quantity control of stormwater.

### Ditching Program

The Town of Grimsby continues to implement its ditching program as part of its ongoing efforts to maintain effective and sustainable stormwater infrastructure. By maintaining natural roadside ditches rather than relying solely on underground storm sewer systems, the Town supports natural drainage, groundwater recharge, and the filtration of runoff before it enters local waterways. Proper ditch maintenance also improves both the quantity and quality control of stormwater, helping manage water flow during heavy rainfall while allowing sediments and pollutants to settle out naturally. This work supports healthier waterways and strengthens Grimsby's long-term approach to responsible stormwater management.

### Catch Basin and OGS Cleaning

The Town of Grimsby continues to carry out its catch basin and oil-grit separator cleaning program as part of its commitment to responsible stormwater management. Regular cleaning removes sediment, debris, and pollutants that accumulate in the stormwater system, helping maintain proper drainage and prevent blockages during heavy rainfall. Oil-grit separators are specifically designed to capture oils, grit, and other contaminants from roadway runoff before they reach local creeks and Lake Ontario. By maintaining this infrastructure, the Town helps protect water quality, support healthier aquatic ecosystems, and reduce pollutants entering the natural environment, making the program an important part of Grimsby's broader environmental and sustainability efforts.

### Sanitary System Upgrades

The Town of Grimsby is advancing its Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Reduction Program to improve the performance and sustainability of the sanitary sewer system. The Town received approximately \$7.4 million in funding through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (Intake 2) from the Province of Ontario to support this important infrastructure initiative. Project planning and scope development were completed in 2025, with initial construction and rehabilitation works beginning in 2026.

The program focuses on reducing excess stormwater and groundwater entering the sanitary sewer system, which helps improve system capacity, reduce the risk of sewer overflows, and lower the energy required for wastewater treatment. By keeping clean water out of the sanitary system and improving overall efficiency, the program supports environmental protection and represents an important step toward more sustainable wastewater management in Grimsby.

## **Climate Resilience & Adaptation**

### **Planning & Policy**

The Grimsby Draft Official Plan was released on October 24, 2025. Resiliency and sustainability policies are woven throughout the Draft OP and are identified in the Section 2.4.5 (Greening Grimsby and Adapting to Climate Change). Staff anticipate that a revised version of the Draft Official Plan will be available in April 2026. For more information about the Official Plan Review Project, please visit <https://www.letstalkgrimsby.ca/officialplan>.

### **Climate Risk Reduction**

#### Shoreline Inventory and Assessment

The Public Works department lead the preparation of a Shoreline Inventory and Assessment of all Town owned property fronting Lake Ontario. The purpose of this study was to assess the condition of existing shoreline protection orks and identify any rehabilitation needs. Additionally unprotected shoreline was assessed and recommendations for protection and priority were provided. This study will be used as a master planning document for the Town informing future shoreline protection capital programs.

#### Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project-Technical Advisory Committee

The Town has joined the Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project (LOCRPP), a partnership-driven initiative focused on helping communities along the Lake Ontario shoreline better for flooding, erosion, and extreme weather. Through knowledge sharing, research, and best practices, the project will identify practical short-and long-term actions to reduce risks to people, property, and infrastructure along roughly 100 kms of shoreline. The project brings together conservation authorities, coastal municipalities, Indigenous communities, Parks Canada, the St. Lawrence Seaway, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority, and Brock University.



The main objectives of the project are:

- Assessing and modeling shoreline conditions to understand risks like erosion, flooding, and climate impacts.
- Mapping shoreline hazards and vulnerable areas under current conditions (only NPCA and CH shoreline) and future climate scenarios (all areas).
- Conducting risk and socio-economic assessments for infrastructure and natural assets.
- Identifying mitigation options, including nature-based solutions, for high-risk areas.
- Developing a Coastal Resilience Management Plan with policy recommendations and an implementation roadmap.

### **Enhance Infrastructure Resilience**

#### Forty Mile Creek Pedestrian Bridge

Multiple improvements have been made to Forty Mile Creek Park including the replacement of the pedestrian bridge. The existing bridge that was made out of wood had become unsafe due to the toll of the environmental conditions overtime. The new steel bridge will not only improve connectivity but will enhance recreational opportunities for the whole community. The areas that were cleared for equipment were replanted with native species in the Fall. The was a community planting event held in collaboration with the NPCA and TD as part of the TD Tree Days Program.

The new bridge was designed to ensure the structure was above the projected 100 year creek flood elevation. This will ensure that the bridge structure does not impede the flow

in the creek during large wet weather events and maximize the structure life with it not being impacted by the creek flow.



### Grimsby Beach Stairs

New stairs have been installed to provide safe access to the beach area at Grimsby Beach, replacing the previous set, that due to increasing levels of runoff and erosion, had become a safety hazard and had been closed for some time. The project was designed with safety as the top priority, with the size and placement carefully determined based on the stability of the existing slope. A durable steel railing has also been included to provide additional support and long-term reliability for users accessing the shoreline.



## Community Engagement & Partnerships

### Education & Outreach

#### Seedy Saturday

The Grimsby Public Library, the West Lincoln Public Library and the Lincoln Pelham Public Library are dedicated to organizing and hosting a Niagara West Seedy Saturday free event for the public with a focus on heritage seeds, organic gardening, native plants, and environmental concerns.

#### Grimsby Energy Summit

The Grimsby Energy Summit, hosted by the Grimsby Economic Development Advisory Committee, in collaboration with Enbridge Gas, Grimsby Power Inc., Niagara Economic Development, 360 Energy Inc., convened government leaders, industry executives, and innovators to address the future of energy and its impact on business competitiveness. With rising costs, climate pressures, and disruptive technologies reshaping markets, this summit offered business leaders practical insights into managing risk, harnessing technology, and staying competitive in a complex global energy economy. Two expert panels covered technology, AI, agriculture, residential growth, climate change, and energy evaluation programs, equipping participants with strategies to prepare now for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

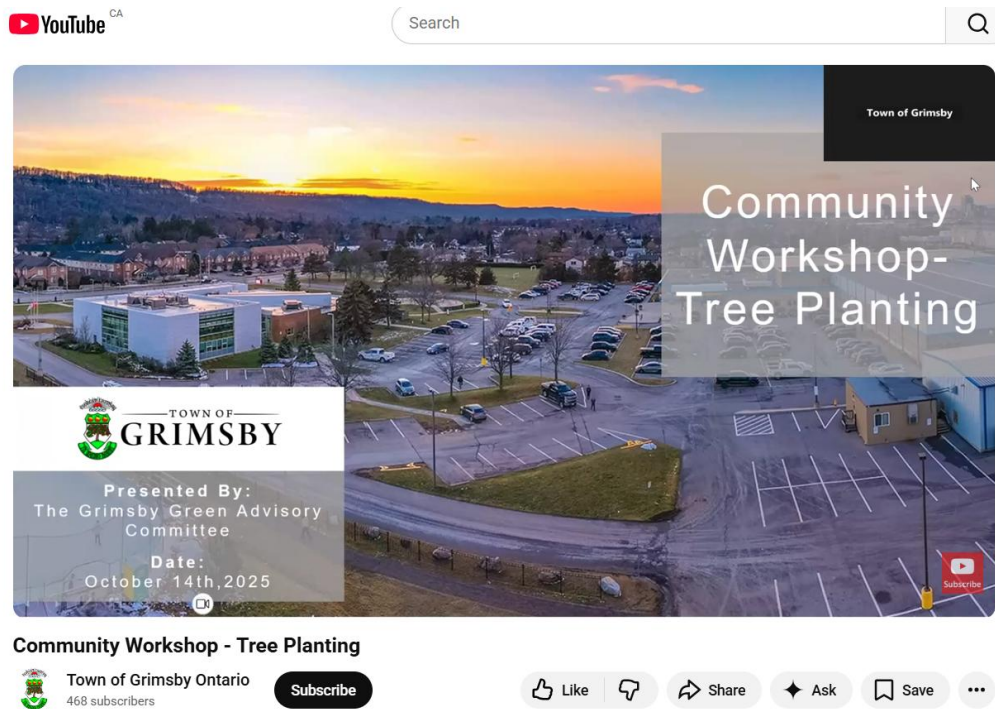
#### **Key Themes**

- Advancements in technology and artificial intelligence for energy efficiency and management
- The impact of climate change on business operations and risk planning
- Opportunities across industrial/commercial sectors residential, and agriculture
- Strategies to manage rising energy costs and strengthen competitiveness

#### Grimsby Green Tree Planting Workshop

This past Fall, the Town supported the Grimsby Green Advisory Committee's first public education workshop on Tree Planting. The workshop focused on strengthening our urban tree canopy, an important step toward a more sustainable and resilient community. Experts from the Vineland Research Innovation Centre and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) shared insights on soil health, native species, and how we can all help our trees thrive. The workshop was live streamed from Council Chambers and posted on the Town's YouTube channel for residents to see if they could

not attend the in-person event.



## Collaboration & Partnerships

### Trees for all

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), in collaboration with local community groups, municipalities, environmental agencies, and government organizations, has established the Niagara Peninsula Tree Planting Partnership. The collective mission is to contribute significantly to Canada's goal of planting 2 billion trees, enhancing the ecological health of the Niagara Peninsula watershed. The Town of Grimsby signed an MOU in 2025, agreeing to use the NPCA services listed below if Town Staff identified suitable planting opportunities.

For a subsidized cost the NPCA will provide a full suite of planting services including:

- Creating a planting plan with suitable species
- Planting Materials (i.e., stock, cardboard, compost)
- Site preparation
- Planting (e.g. staff and volunteers)

### Invasive Species Strategy Working Group

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), in collaboration with local community groups, municipalities, environmental agencies, and government organizations, has established the Invasive Species Strategy Working Group. The group will work together to develop an integrated landscape-scale approach to the successful management of invasive species, the Niagara Peninsula watershed. The goals of this strategy are to 1) protect and manage healthy ecosystems and 2) ensure public health and safety. Grimsby joined this group in 2025 as it will be a great resource for Town staff during the development of the Town's Invasive Species Management Plan.

### Phragmites Working Group

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) recently signed an agreement with the Invasive Species Centre to become the Phragmites Management Area (PMA) lead in the Niagara Peninsula watershed and have established a Phragmites Management Area Collaborative to determine how to best manage the plant in the area. As a part of this work, the NPCA's GIS team is working with Dr. Marilyne Carrey from Brock University's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre on a multi-collaborative approach to mapping and analyzing the spatial extent of Phragmites across the watershed and begin implementation of Phragmites control in priority areas. Grimsby joined this group in 2025 as there are multiple sites throughout the Town that have Invasive Phragmites present.

### Community of practice

The Town has joined multiple Community's of Practice this year to share knowledge and best practices with other municipalities that have had similar experiences.

#### 1. Niagara Climate Change Municipal Community of Practice (NCCMCP)

- The Niagara Region is wanting to take a more significant role in bringing all Local Area Municipalities (LAM) together and had a climate change emergency resolution in 2021. This community of practice was created to learn from one another and combine our experience and resources to work on climate action together.
- Led by: Niagara Region

#### 2. Native Seed Collection Community of Practice-Niagara Peninsula watershed

- Established to address critical gaps in native tree seed and seedling availability within the Niagara Peninsula watershed.
- Led by: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

- Facilitated by: Vineland Research and Innovation Centre

### 3. Invasive Species Municipal Community of Practice

- Provides an online peer-to-peer space to encourage collaboration of those municipalities, conservation authorities, and Indigenous Communities involved in invasive species management at a local level
- Led by: Invasive Species Centre

### 4. Building Net-Zero (BNZ) Community of Practice (CoP)

- The Canada-wide BNZ CoP supports municipalities across the country as they advance building energy performance in their communities.
- Led by: ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

### 5. Mini Forest Community of Practice

- b. Supports local partner organization and municipalities through our Mini Forest program to transform under-natured sites into thriving urban forests, using an innovative tree-planting method modelled after the Miyawaki forest technique.
- c. Led by: Green Communities Canada and Network of Nature

### Greening the Landscape Research Consortium

The Town is participating in 2 case studies with Vineland's Greening the Landscape Research Consortium.

#### Case Study 1: Soil Health and Mapping

The focus of this case study is to identify and evaluate soil amendments and bio stimulants available to case study members that can be used to restore soil health. This case study builds off the results from the Best Practices for Tree Establishment (Phase 1) and aims to identify solutions for soil restoration to improve tree establishment with the commercial products available to members. Town staff are working together to identify 4 soil sampling locations, 2 roadside planting locations and 2 park planting locations. Sites with poor soil quality will be selected as this is where we experience challenges with tree establishment. Vineland will develop a soil sampling plan, analyze the soil, and develop a soil restoration plan for the site including suitable tree species. The goal of this project will be to expand tree planting list diversity – by improving soil

quality to the point where not just 'bullet proof' trees could survive. Soil to be tested in the Spring 2025. Trees to be planted in the Fall 2025.

### Case Study 2: Tree Inventory

The focus on this case study is to evaluate technology solutions for canopy scanning to help municipalities achieve tree canopy and urban forest equity goals. Through tool assessments, municipal consultations, and field testing, Vineland has provided recommendations for effective and accessible mapping applications. From these recommendations, Vineland will develop a protocol for creating a canopy assessment for Grimsby based on current available mapping data. The goal is to develop a town-wide canopy cover map with high accuracy that can easily be replicated to monitor canopy changes over time and inform future urban forestry efforts.

### Garden club

The Town has continued to support the Grimsby Garden Club and the Trillium Awards Partnership in 2025 by reposting social media posts and announcing winners on our website. In addition, the Town accepted nominations for the Trillium awards at Town Hall and the Livingston Activity Centre. The program began in June, posting a Trillium Winner each week until the end of August.

### Grand Oak Volunteers

The Town has continued to collaborate with the Grimsby Environmental Network, Ontario Green Conservation, and Sean James Consulting and Design to maintain Grand Old Oak Park. To help build the capacity of Town Staff, Sean James visited the park three times throughout the maintenance season (beginning, middle, and end) to provide training on pollinators and what invasive species to look out for. Outside of these visits, volunteers continued to maintain the park once a month, or as often as they saw fit. This year the team has successfully completed a Garlic Mustard Pull, re-mulched the garden and pathway, installed a new obelisk, and continued their regular monthly maintenance of weeding/watering. Photos were taken at each visit to monitor and share the progress of these efforts.



## Conclusion

This report highlights the municipality's ongoing efforts to advance environmental sustainability through a range of green initiatives delivered across multiple departments. The progress achieved reflects strong collaboration among municipal staff and continued partnership with the community, positioning the municipality to further strengthen and expand these efforts in the years ahead.

Respectfully prepared by,



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