

## Presentations

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### Request for Decision

### Living Landscape – A Biodiversity Action Plan for Greater Sudbury

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|---------------|-------------------------|
| Presented To: | Policy Committee        |
| Presented:    | Wednesday, Jan 20, 2010 |
| Report Date   | Wednesday, Jan 06, 2010 |
| Type:         | Presentations           |

### Recommendation

WHEREAS the Ecological Risk Assessment of the Sudbury Soils Study found that terrestrial plant communities and wildlife habitat in large areas of Greater Sudbury have been and continue to be impacted by the presence of certain metals in the soil; and

WHEREAS a Biodiversity Action Plan provides a comprehensive way to address the risks to plant communities and wildlife habitat identified by the Ecological Risk Assessment; and

WHEREAS the Biodiversity Action Plan for Greater Sudbury was developed with the help of community members for the benefit of our shared community; and

WHEREAS Vale Inco and Xstrata Nickel, as involved members of this community, have committed to the long-term support of ecological recovery efforts, starting with a combined budget of \$2.25 million over the next five years.

THEREFORE be it resolved that Council approves the Biodiversity Action Plan for Greater Sudbury dated December 23, 2009.

### Finance Implications

The City of Greater Sudbury will assess the funding of its Regreening Program as part of the annual municipal budget process.

### Background

On March 31st, 2009, the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) portion of the Sudbury Soils Study was released. One of the most comprehensive studies of its kind ever undertaken in North America, the ERA evaluated the ecological risks associated with seven Chemicals of Concern (COCs): arsenic, cadmium,

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cobalt, copper, lead, nickel, and selenium. While the COCs occur naturally in the area, their levels in the soil have increased over the years through particle deposition from smelter emissions.

The ERA found that terrestrial plant communities in large areas of Greater Sudbury have been and continue to be impacted by the COCs in soil. The study also found that local plant communities are affected by other factors, such as soil erosion, low nutrient levels, lack of soil organic matter, and soil acidity.

As for wildlife, the ERA concluded that the COCs are not exerting a direct effect on local wildlife populations. The COCs' impact on area plant communities, however, has affected habitat quality and therefore is likely having an indirect influence on birds and mammals in Greater Sudbury.

A Biodiversity Action Plan provides a comprehensive way to address the risks to plant communities and wildlife habitat identified by the ERA.

*Living Landscape – A Biodiversity Action Plan for Greater Sudbury* was distributed to the Mayor, Councillors and the Senior Management Team under separate cover prior to the January 20th, 2010, Policy Committee meeting. The Action Plan is accessible from [www.greatersudbury.ca/biodiversity](http://www.greatersudbury.ca/biodiversity) and all Greater Sudbury public libraries.