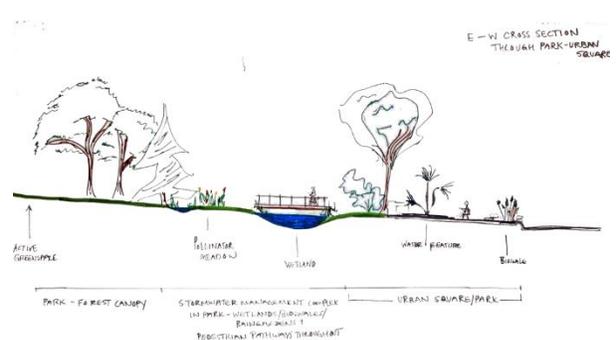
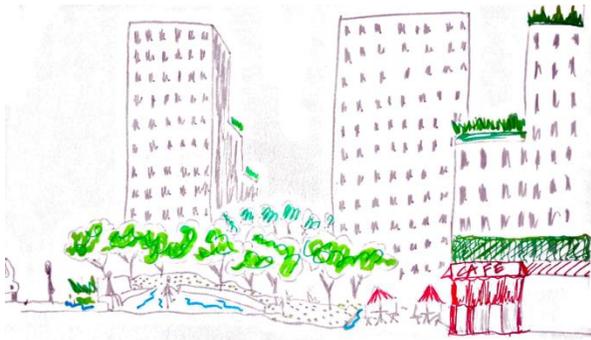




## Media Release

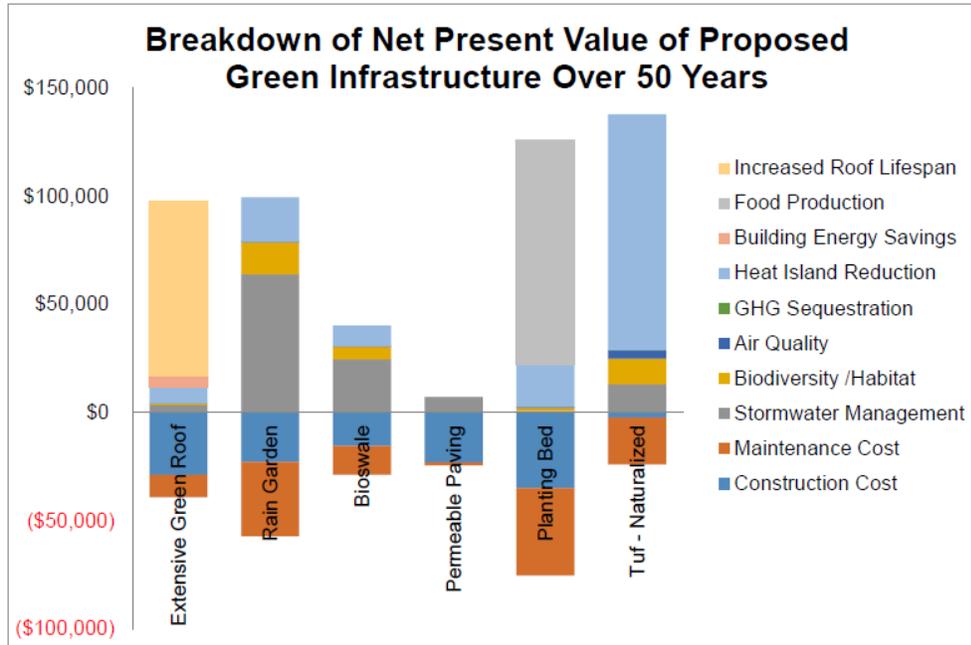
### ***Green Infrastructure Engagement, Valuation, and Training Program Comes to Richmond Hill***

**Richmond Hill, Ontario, October 26, 2017** - The Ontario Parks Association and the Green Infrastructure Foundation are pleased to announce the next phase of the Green Infrastructure Engagement, Valuation, and Training Program will take place in Richmond Hill. Green infrastructure – like trees, rain gardens, and green roofs - offers many benefits, including improved water quality, reduced flood risk, improved access to recreational space, reduced urban heat island effect, and carbon sequestration. This program is being generously funded with a \$74,500 Seed grant awarded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in late 2016, and aims to engage stakeholders in Ontario and provide the knowledge, tools, and resources to value, protect, and incorporate green infrastructure into their policies and practices so that they can take advantage of these many benefits.



#### ***Example of visuals produced from charrette in Mississauga***

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, public and private stakeholders, including staff from the Town of Richmond Hill, gathered for a workshop to reimagine two sites in Richmond Hill using green infrastructure. The two sites are centrally located along Yonge Street in areas that will face development pressures in the future and will require parks and green infrastructure to improve the quality of life for residents. Following the redesign, a customized cost-benefit analysis will be conducted based on the types of green infrastructure proposed. The combination of visuals produced from the workshop and cost-benefit analysis will serve as a compelling argument for future green infrastructure investment.



*Example cost-benefit analysis from a Charrette in New Bedford, Massachusetts*

This project is poised to continue to the green infrastructure movement in Ontario by educating municipal officials and decision makers and helping them visualize green infrastructure in Richmond Hill and beyond. This educational and team-building exercise allows for stronger interdepartmental relationships, helping staff break out of silos and collaborate on ways to increase the use of green infrastructure. Previous phases of this project have engaged stakeholders in Mississauga and Toronto. By combining visuals and economics in Richmond Hill, this project will educate and engage stakeholders on using green infrastructure to contribute to a more sustainable, healthy, and resilient Ontario.

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada’s largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities. [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca).

For more information on this program please contact:  
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