

Litter Reduction Action Plan (2024-2026)

In 2023, the City of Vaughan conducted its first-ever litter audit. The findings from that report have informed the following action plan to reduce litter in the community using a data-driven approach.

COMMITMENT 1

Enhance Education and Community Engagement

- Tailor the annual year-long communications plan to emphasize findings from the audit¹
- Proclaim the Provincial Day of Action on Litter (May) and World Litter Day (September) to raise community awareness
- Explore opportunities to increase the number of community-led clean-up days, events and initiatives²
- Consider school partnerships for litter pickups to fulfill community service hours
- Collaborate with Canada Post to define maintenance responsibilities near community mailboxes and update City website with appropriate contact information



COMMITMENT 2

Continue Enforcement Efforts³

- Review existing enforcement processes to improve how property-related violations are handled
- Ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of existing penalties to enhance deterrence
- Increase fines for repeat offenders



COMMITMENT 3

Modernize Litter Infrastructure

- Review and consider increasing the number of garbage bins in high-traffic areas, hot spots and remote locations
- Continue to implement the garbage bin replacement program to combat illegal dumping in City parks
- Expand the SmartParks initiative to additional City parks



COMMITMENT 4

Optimize the Operations Approach

- Review existing garbage can collection schedules in City parks and leverage route optimization software to further enhance rotation
- Explore options to increase funding for seasonal staff to collect litter
- Continue conducting litter audits for continuous improvement



¹in partnership with the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department

²in partnership with the Policy Planning and Special Programs department

³in partnership with the By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services department