



**2025**  
**Annual**  
**Report**

# Regreening Program



## 2025 Regreening Program Partnerships

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### Partners

Canadian Forest Service  
City of Greater Sudbury  
Collège Boréal  
Employment and Social Development Canada  
Natural Resources Canada  
Sudbury earthdancers  
Tree Canada  
veritree

### Major partners

Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations,  
a Glencore Company  
Vale Base Metals

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## 2025 Highlights

The annual Regreening Program operated from the first week of May to the second week of October in 2025. The implementation of the 5 Year Plan 2021-2025 continued this year resulting in 29 temporary employment opportunities. By season’s end, the crew limed over five hectares (ha) of barren land off the east end of Lasalle Blvd. and planted more than 150,000 tree, shrub and understory tree seedlings throughout Greater Sudbury.

The large-scale forest floor transplant project proceeded again in 2025 with 17 forest floor plots established on three sites. The total area covered by forest floor transplants is 2.32 ha since 2010.

The Regreening Educator began in-class presentations early in 2025 and has spread the regreening message to 2,203 students throughout Greater Sudbury.

Regreening Component	2025	To Date (since 1978)
Tree Seedlings Planted	105,619	10,429,179
Shrubs and Understory Tree Seedlings Planted	46,946	646,936
Area Limed	5.5 ha	3,517 ha
Area Fertilized	14 ha	3,285 ha
Area Seeded	14 ha	3,213 ha
Forest Floor Transplants	0.04 ha	2.32 ha
Program Cost	\$1,155,196	\$39,556,021
Temporary Employment Opportunities	29	4,952
Awards	---	15
Regreening Classroom Presentations	2,203 students	7,482 students
Volunteer Tree Planters	209	13,600
Trees Planted by Volunteers	1,034*	394,383*
Trees Provided for Residential Plantings	425*	432,914*

\*Values are included in the Tree, Shrubs and Understory Tree Seedlings Planted.



# The Regreening Process

## Crushed Limestone, Fertilizer and Seed

The manual application of crushed dolomitic limestone on barren land occurred on 5.5 ha at the east end of Lasalle Blvd. as a continuation of work performed since 2023. Fertilizer and seed were applied to 14 ha of that nearly 20 ha area. This year, the seed mixture composition was modified slightly.

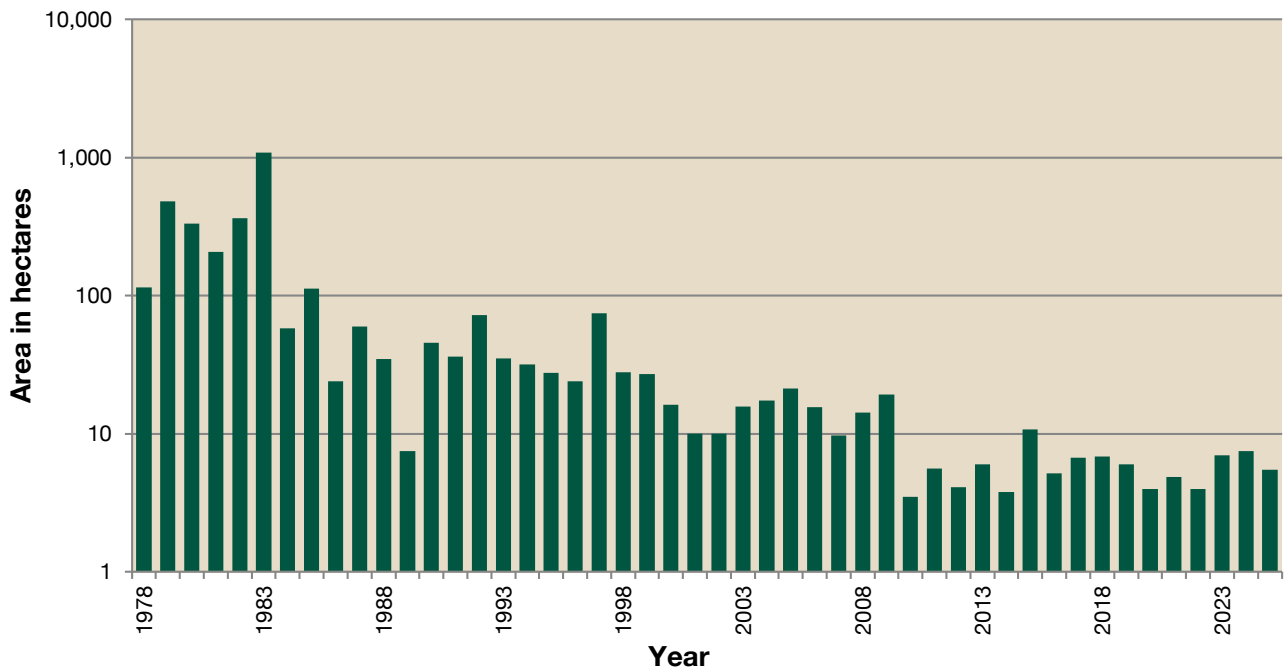
### Seed mixture composition:

- 40% fall rye (*Secale cereale*)
- 10% Canada wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*)
- 10% little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- 30% slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*)
- 10% alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*)

Refer to the following page for a map of the location of liming activities. To date, the Program has manually treated 3,517 ha of barren land with crushed dolomitic limestone.

## Area Limed (1978 to 2025)

The bar graph below indicates the area in hectares limed per year by the municipal Regreening Program since 1978 with a total of 3,517 ha limed to date.



## Vale Base Metals Aerial Seeding Program

Although not part of the municipal program, Vale Base Metals aerially seeded approximately 100 ha of barren land east of Wahnapiatae using pelletized dolomitic limestone, fertilizer, and seed mixture.

This activity is part of Vale Base Metals' ongoing collaboration with the City of Greater Sudbury's Regreening Program.

Vale Base Metals used the following seed mix:

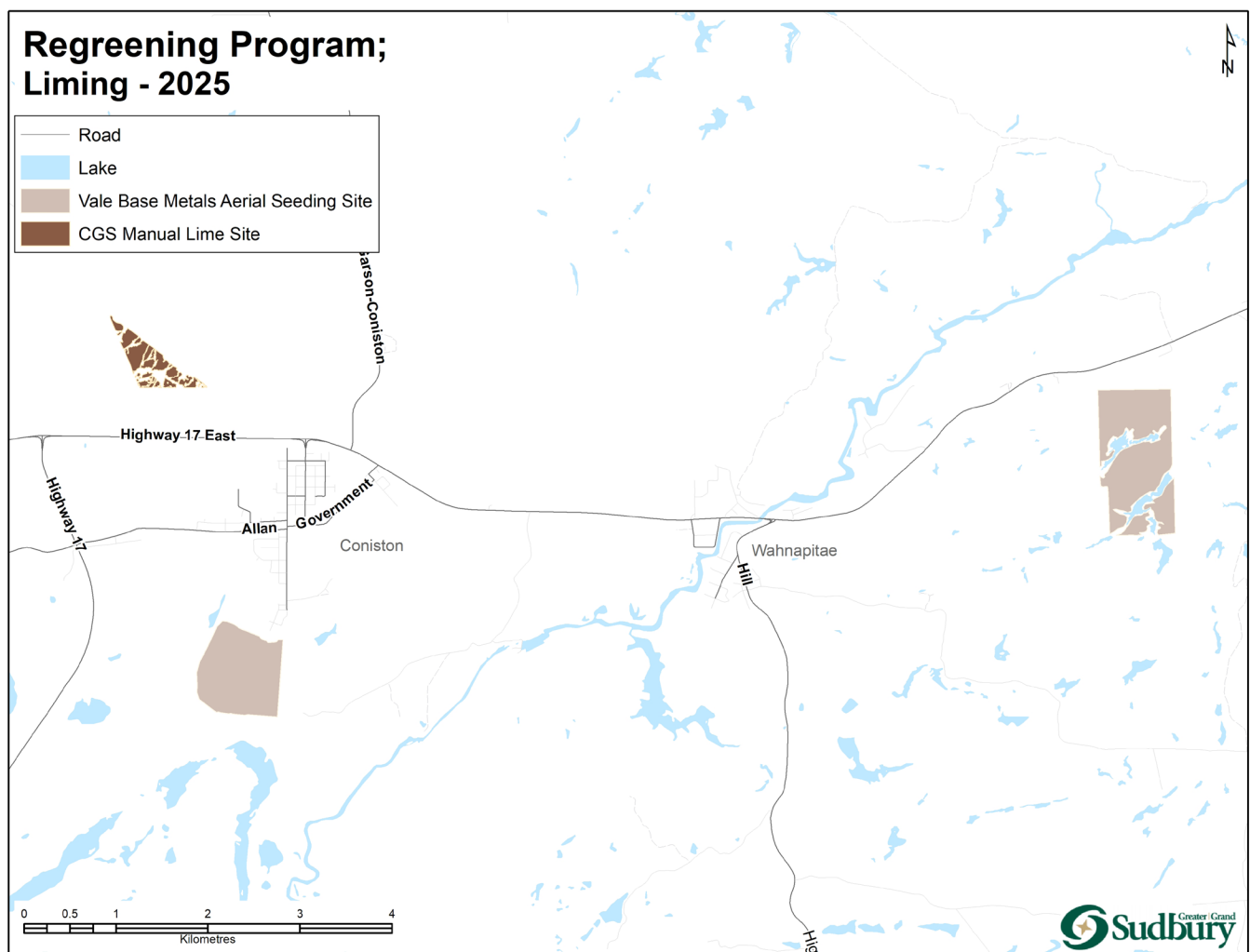
- 40% fall rye (*Secale cereale*)
- 20% Canada wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*)
- 20% little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- 10% slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*)
- 10% alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*)

The area seeded by Vale Base Metals in 2025 will be planted with tree/shrub seedlings in 2026 by the City's Regreening Program.

A second site covering an area of 75 ha on the south-east corner of the historic Coniston Smelter facility north of the Daisy Lake-Alice Lake area was targeted with 1 metric tonne/ha of non-pelletized dolomitic limestone to improve water quality in tributaries of the slag pile as part of Vale Base Metals' water quality management plan.

Refer to the map below for the location of the aerial seeding activities.

## Map – Lime Site 2025



## Tree Planting

A total of 105,619 tree seedlings and 46,946 shrub/understory tree seedlings were planted at various locations in Greater Sudbury through the spring and fall. Since 1978, the Program has planted a total of 10,429,179 trees and 646,936 shrub/understory trees.

The success of this year's tree planting is attributed to sponsors and donations. Conifer seedlings were provided by Vale Base Metals (90,833), funds for other seedling purchases were supported by Tree Canada (\$114,000), and labour and logistics for the planting of the seedlings were supported by the 2 Billion Tree program (\$50,000) and veritree (\$81,000). Costs for tree planting include the labour cost of tree planters and the costs of transportation, storage and watering.

The 60,000 seedlings funded through Tree Canada were planted north of Wahnapiatae to increase the plant diversity of an area that had been aerially seeded by Vale Base Metals back in 2002.

Barren land aerially seeded by Vale Base Metals, located south of Wahnapiatae, was selected for the 2 Billion Tree program funding where trees were planted more densely in certain areas to increase carbon sequestration capability. In all, 99,669

seedlings were planted consisting of the typical first phase planting mix of jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), red pine (*Pinus resinosa*), and green alder (*Alnus alnobetula* ssp. *crispa*), with one new species added to the mix this year: red spruce (*Picea rubens*). Vale Base Metals' seedling contribution was instrumental in securing the 2 Billion Tree program funding.

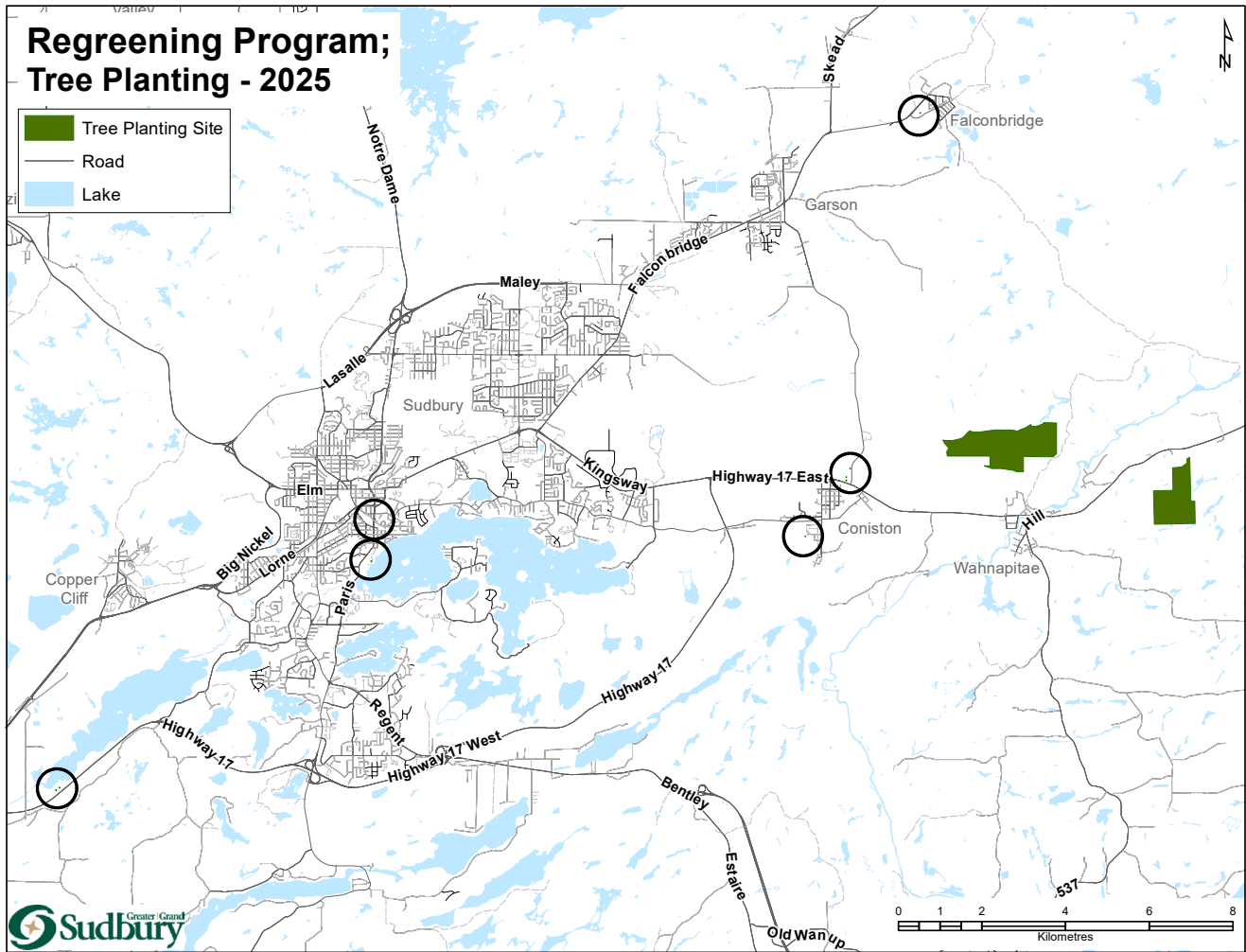
Refer to the tree planting map on the next page for locations of the planting sites.

Eight species of canopy trees (conifer and deciduous), seven species of deciduous understory trees, and 23 shrub species were planted in 2025. Of the 38 species planted this year, four were new to the planting mix: mountain juneberry (*Amelanchier bartramiana*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), and red spruce (*Picea rubens*).

To date, 87 different tree and shrub species have been part of the Regreening 'recipe'. In total, 30 species of canopy trees (14 conifer and 16 deciduous), 11 species of understory trees and 46 species of shrubs have been planted. Refer to page 7 for a complete list of species planted as part of the Regreening Program since 1979.



## Map – Tree Planted Areas 2025



NOTE: Up-to-date mapping is available on the [Regreening App](#).



## Species List

The tables below outline the scientific and common names of the species of canopy trees, understory trees and shrubs that have been planted by the Program. Those species with an “\*” are non-native. Those species followed by a “+” were planted in 2025.

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Trees</b>	
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir
<i>Acer (rubrum, saccharinum, saccharum)</i>	Maple (Red, Silver, Sugar)
<i>Betula alleghaniensis+</i>	Yellow Birch+
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech
<i>Fraxinus (americana, nigra, pennsylvanica)</i>	Ash (White, Black, Red)
<i>Larix (decidua*, kaempferi*)</i>	Larch (European*, Japanese*)
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack
<i>Ostrya virginiana+</i>	Ironwood+
<i>Picea (abies*, glauca, mariana, rubens+)</i>	Spruce (Norway*, White, Black, Red+)
<i>Pinus (banksiana+, nigra*, resinosa+, strobus)</i>	Pine (Jack+, Austrian*, Red+, White)
<i>Quercus (alba, macrocarpa, rubra+, velutina)</i>	Oak (White, Bur, Red+, Black)
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia*</i>	Black Locust*
<i>Thuja occidentalis+</i>	Eastern White Cedar+
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood
<i>Tsuga canadensis+</i>	Eastern Hemlock+

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Understory Trees</b>	
<i>Acer (pensylvanicum, spicatum+)</i>	Maple (Striped, Mountain+)
<i>Alnus alnobetula ssp. crispa+</i>	Green Alder+
<i>Amelanchier (laevis+, sanguinea+)</i>	Serviceberry (Smooth+, Roundleaf+)
<i>Cornus alternifolia+</i>	Alternate-leaf Dogwood+
<i>Prunus nigra</i>	Canada Plum
<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	Pincherry
<i>Sambucus canadensis+</i>	Common Elderberry+
<i>Sorbus (americana+, decora)</i>	Mountain-ash (American+, Showy)

## Species List (Continued...)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Shrubs</b>	
<i>Amelanchier (bartramiana+, canadensis, spp., stolonifera+)</i>	Serviceberry (Mountain Juneberry+, Canadian, spp., Running+)
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi+</i>	Bearberry+
<i>Aronia (arbutifolia, melanocarpa+, melanocarpa "Viking")</i>	Chokeberry (Purple, Black+, "Viking")
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian Peashrub
<i>Ceanothus americanus+</i>	New Jersey Tea+
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virgin's Bower
<i>Comptonia peregrina+</i>	Sweet-fern+
<i>Cornus (rugosa+, sericea+)</i>	Dogwood (Roundleaf+, Red Osier+)
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American Hazelnut
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Northern Bush-honeysuckle
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia*</i>	Russian Olive*
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Eastern Wintergreen
<i>Ilex (mucronata+, verticillata+)</i>	Holly (Mountain+, Common Winterberry+)
<i>Juniperus (communis+, horizontalis)</i>	Juniper (Common+, Creeping)
<i>Lonicera canadensis+</i>	Fly Honeysuckle+
<i>Myrica gale+</i>	Sweetgale+
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark
<i>Pinus mugo*</i>	Mugo Pine*
<i>Prunus (pumila, virginiana)</i>	Cherry (Dwarf Sand, Choke)
<i>Rhus typhina+</i>	Staghorn Sumac+
<i>Ribes hudsonianum</i>	Wild Black Currant
<i>Rosa (acicularis+, blanda+, palustris+)</i>	Rose (Prickly Wild+, Smooth Wild+, Swamp+)
<i>Rubus odoratus</i>	Flowering Raspberry
<i>Sambucus pubens+</i>	Red Elderberry+
<i>Shepherdia canadensis+</i>	Canada Buffaloberry+
<i>Spiraea (alba, alba var. latifolia)</i>	Meadowsweet (White, Broad-leaved)
<i>Spiraea tomentosa+</i>	Steeplebush+
<i>Symphoricarpos alba+</i>	Snowberry+
<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	Canada Yew

## Species List (Continued...)

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Shrubs (continued...)</b>	
<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>	Hobblebush
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry
<i>Viburnum nudum var.cassinoides+</i>	Wild Raisin+
<i>Viburnum trilobum+</i>	Highbush-cranberry+

## Quality and Survival Assessments

As part of the veritree funding received for three sites in 2022 and two sites in 2023, survival assessments were conducted by staff. Over 3,700 seedlings (2% of total seedlings planted) were assessed, with survival rates ranging from 92.8% (staghorn sumac) to 100% (white spruce, red pine, and red oak). Overall, a 99.2% survival rate was recorded on all five sites combined with 98.8% survival in three-year-old sites and 99.6% survival in two-year-old sites.

Tree Canada requires that current year funded plantations be evaluated for planting quality (correct depth, spacing, etc.) and employed a certified assessor to evaluate both spring and fall plantations. Overall, a 93% quality assessment was achieved with most common violation being spacing (64%) and root depth (26%).

Tree Canada also assesses plantations after one, two and five years. This year's assessments found a 77% survival rate in a one-year-old plantation, an 83% survival in the two-year-old site, and species in the five-year-old site ranged from 30% to 80% depending on species. The variability in survivorship depends greatly on species type and herbivory.

## Volunteer Tree Planting Events

The Regreening Program offers seedlings, planting equipment and guidance to local groups wanting to participate in the regreening effort. Volunteer participation provides an educational opportunity to address environmental issues, learn about the City's Regreening Program, gain tree planting experience, and instill a sense of community pride and ownership of the natural environment.

Group planting activities were undertaken by Lockerby Composite School, Princess Anne Public School, and the Kukagami Lake Stewardship Group. Tree Canada's Partners in Planting funding supported the planning, purchase, and planting of 250 potted trees and shrubs along Drinkwater Street where over 20 volunteers from a local business were instrumental in planting the trees.

Together, about 209 volunteers planted 1,034 seedlings this year. Since the volunteer program began, 13,600 volunteers have planted 394,383 seedlings.



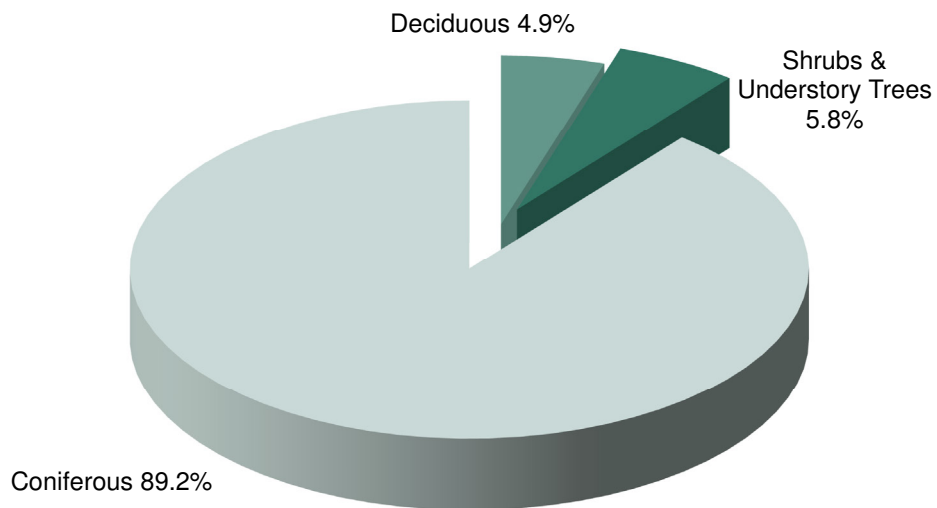
## Number of Trees Planted 1979 to 2025

The bar graph below indicates the number of trees planted each year since 1979 totaling 10,419,179 trees.



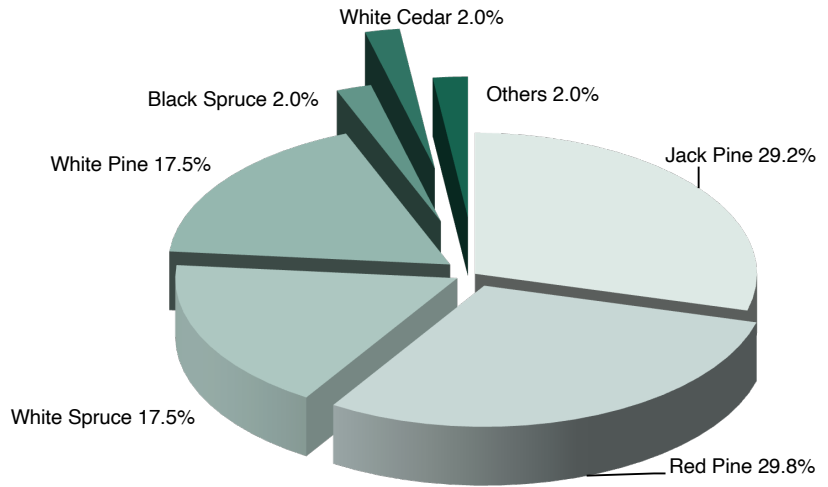
## Percent of Species Planted 1979 to 2025

The pie graph (below) illustrates the percentage of each type of species planted since 1979 totaling 10,923,550 plants.



## Percent Coniferous Species Planted 1979 to 2025

The pie graph below illustrates the percentage of each type of species planted since 1979 totaling 11,066,121 plants.

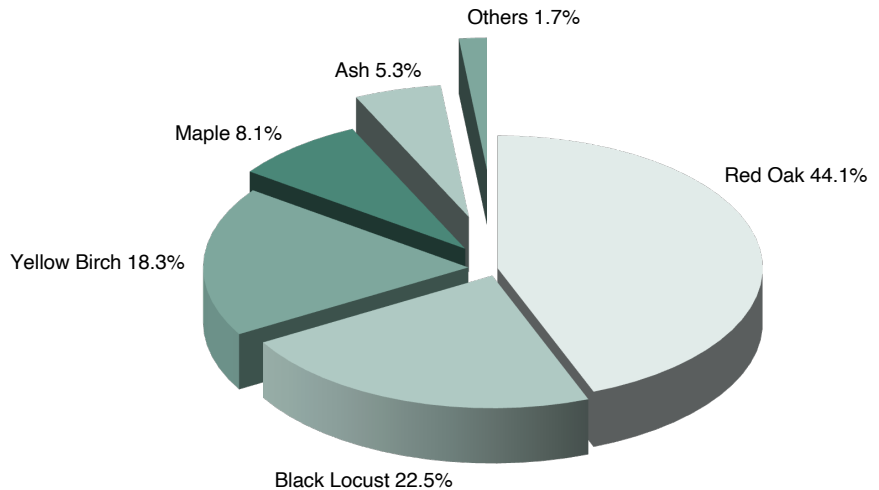


Others Include:

Tamarack 1.4%, Balsam Fir <0.3%, Norway Spruce 0.2%, Larch <0.2%, Hemlock 0.1%, and Austrian Pine <0.05%.

## Percent Deciduous Species Planted 1979 to 2025

The pie graph below illustrates the percentage of each deciduous tree species planted since 1979 totaling 545,614 deciduous trees.

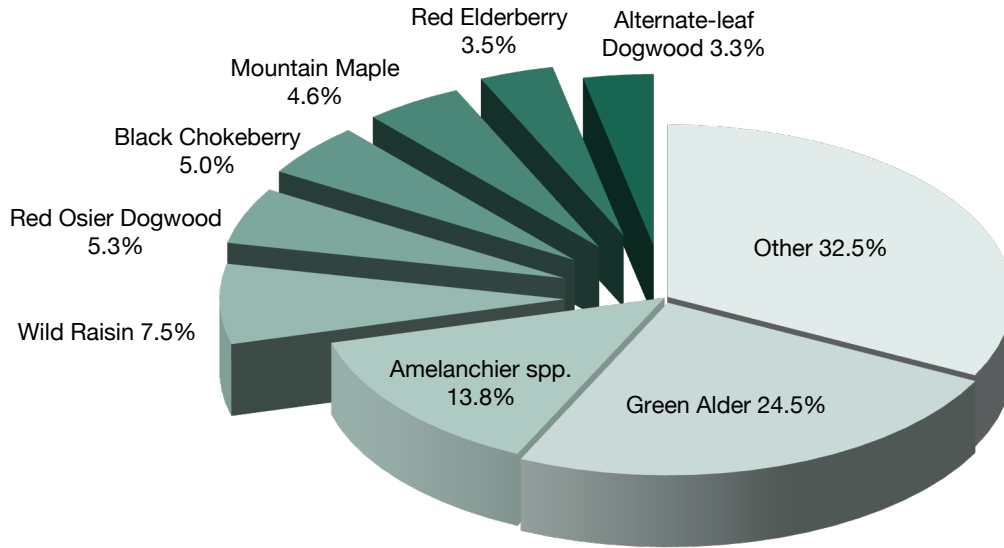


Others Include:

Bur Oak 0.7%, Ironwood 0.7%, American Beech 0.1%, Basswood <0.1%, Bitternut Hickory <0.1%, White Oak <0.1% and Black Oak <0.1%.

## Percent Shrubs and Understory Trees Planted 1979 to 2025

The pie graph below illustrates the percentage of each type of shrub or understory tree species planted since 1979 totaling 646,936 plants.



### Others include:

Striped Maple 2.9%	Common Juniper 0.8%	Hobblebush 0.1%
Common Elderberry 2.9%	Prickly Wild Rose 0.8%	Buttonbush 0.1%
Roundleaf Dogwood 2.5%	Ninebark 0.7%	Pincherry 0.1%
Staghorn Sumac 2.3%	Swamp Rose 0.7%	Wild Black Currant 0.1%
Mountain-holly 1.9%	Showy Mountain-ash 0.6%	Black Chokeberry 'Viking' 0.1%
Bearberry 1.7%	High-bush Cranberry 0.6%	Flowering Raspberry 0.1%
Steeplebush 1.7%	Snowberry 0.6%	Sweet Gale 0.1%
American Mountain-ash 1.6%	Chokecherry 0.5%	Canada Plum <0.05%
Common Winterberry 1.3%	Virgin's Bower 0.4%	Fly Honeysuckle <0.05%
Siberian Pea Shrub 1.1%	White Meadowsweet 0.3%	Eastern Wintergreen <0.05%
Smooth Wild Rose 1.1%	Mugo Pine 0.3%	Purple Chokeberry <0.05%
Northern Bush-honeysuckle 1.0%	Nannyberry 0.2%	American Hazelnut <0.05%
Russian Olive 0.8%	Canada Yew 0.2%	Dwarf Sand Cherry <0.05%
Canada Buffaloberry 0.8%	Broad-leaved Meadowsweet 0.1%	Creeping Juniper <0.05%

## Seed Collecting

Crew and staff collected over 100 kilograms of acorns and delivered them to Collège Boréal to grow for the 2026 season. These acorns have the potential to yield 25,000 red oak seedlings, but not all acorns will be viable. The crew also collected roughly 450 litres of uncleaned (including stems) poverty oat grass seed,

thanks to Hanmer business OCL Trucking and Custom Crushing, which permitted the crews access to their property. Seeds for these native grasses are not readily available commercially and therefore are collected manually from local sources. Seeds were sown directly on several sites within the manual lime site in the fall.

## Biodiversity

According to The Convention on Biological Diversity's website (<https://www.cbd.int/restoration>), "Ecosystems and their biodiversity underpin economic growth, sustainable development, and human wellbeing. Yet the loss of biodiversity continues, resulting in serious reductions in ecosystem goods and services, negatively impacting economic prosperity and environmental sustainability."

Locally, this trend has been reversed thanks to the efforts of VETAC, City Council's advisory panel on regreening, over the past 50+ years, coupled with reclamation activities through the City of Greater Sudbury's Regreening Program. With the creation and implementation of the local Biodiversity Action Plan 2009, former impacted areas are becoming inhabited over time by an increasing number of plant and animal species, in addition to the 87 species of trees and shrubs planted and the 190 species introduced through forest floor transplants.

## Forest Floor Transplants

The practice of transplanting forest floor plants has occurred yearly since 2010 as a technique for re-introducing species, improving habitat, creating a seed bank, and increasing the diversity of older reclamation sites. In 2025, forest floor from Crown land north of Capreol was harvested from mid-June to August.

The Regreening crews hand dug the top 10 centimetres of soil containing plants, seeds, microorganisms, and invertebrates from the donor site. The vegetation was watered overnight and transported to regreened (receptor) sites in Greater Sudbury for transplanting. The focus this year was to introduce shade tolerant species in appropriately shaded sites.

Criteria for selecting receptor sites for the understory transplants include the following: adequate canopy cover, low understory species diversity, sufficient soil depth and organic layer (less than five centimetres), and surrounding areas that are large enough to allow the species to spread. This year, 694 trays of plant material were transplanted covering an area of approximately 0.022 ha. There were two sites, representing 14 plots (each plot measures approximately 4 metres x 4 metres) and over 30 species re-introduced to the regreening sites.

Each tray of plant material covers an area of 0.32 square metres. On average, 50 trays of plant material are required to cover a 4 metre x 4 metre plot.



More open/exposed sites are suitable habitats for drought tolerant species. This year 800 trays of exposed floor mats (mainly reindeer lichen) were transplanted in three plots within the manual lime site, covering an area of 0.026 ha. Transplants were not established in the usual 4 metre x 4 metre plots, but rather conformed to the rocky habitat, in small fissures and pockets of soil. One of the sites received the addition of pale corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*) seed and another poverty oat grass seed from seed collected by staff throughout the season.

Over the 15 years of this initiative, 1,523 plots have received 66,149 trays of understory transplants covering a total area of 2.117 ha, and 147 plots have received 6,634 trays of exposed transplants covering a total area of 0.212 ha with approximately 190 different species being introduced. This work involved the digging and transplanting of 72,783 trays of forest floor material (understory and exposed transplants) into 1,670 plots. The area covered by forest floor transplants (2.329 ha) is now the equivalent of almost 3 football fields in size.

NOTE: Up-to-date mapping is available on the [Regreening App](#). 13

## Long-Term Monitoring

### Understory Floor Mats (UFMs)

The original transplanting of UFMs occurred in 2010, at which time 10 long-term monitoring plots were established. Since that time, one site has been destroyed and is now removed from the list. After 15 years the remaining sites have more species now than the original planting year with 130 species found across all sites combined, representing a 30-60% increase in species richness as species are emerging from the seed bank and/or migrating in to plots from surroundings. The most abundant group of species are shrubs and herbs with 43 species observed spreading from original plots, mainly by rhizomes or small easily dispersed seed. Those spreading the most (10 to 14 metres) include Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), cow wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*), and starflower (*Trientalis borealis*).

### Pink Lady's Slipper Monitoring

Monitoring efforts continue in plots of pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) established early in the forest floor mat transplant exercise (2010). The largest native orchid in the area, this species is typical of dry upland conifer mixedwood stands. The presence of multiple pink lady's slipper individuals 15 years after transplant indicates that this species is surviving and thriving. Of note, it generally takes 10 years from germination to flowering stage.

All eight long-term monitoring sites were visited this year. All sites in the semi-barren area had a higher number of individuals and individuals in flower than barren sites with a flowering rate of 39-71%. Observed spread ranged from 6.2 to 8.4 metres with the furthest spread and highest number of individuals spreading in the barren sites. More spread could be potentially seen now that some individuals are over the 10-year mark.



## Shrub Transect Plots

Transect plots for the four new species added this year were established in three different locations with baseline measurements compiled. Within the first few weeks, 54% of New Jersey tea and 43% mountain juneberry experienced clipping by herbivores.

Seventeen of the long-term monitoring transects recorded high survival rate of between 84-97% for 14 species and 57-70% for three species. White oak and striped maple in the oldest transects have increased in average height by three to four times taller. Species planted in 2019 to 2022 have either slightly increased or decreased in average height, likely due to herbivory, habitat selection and damage.



## Seed Collection Experiment

Seeds from pale corydalis, wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), and bristly sarsaparilla (*Aralia hispida*), which prefer exposed sites, were collected in small quantities and used in small scale 1 metre x 1 metre experimental plots at five sites in the barrens and five sites in the semi-barren zones. If successful, it may prove to be another way to establish species in reclamation sites that are less suitable for planting seedlings.

## Requirement of Further Regreening Treatments

22 past reclamation sites were examined within the Coniston Barren Ring for further examination of stages of completeness or requirement of further regreening treatments. Species present, habitat types and past regreening activities were documented with species missing through comparison with the Ontario Ecological Land Classification (OELC) noted. For sites to be considered “complete” according to the OELC, they must achieve a 70-75% presence of indicator species from habitat. With 11 of the 22 sites examined having some degree of shrub planting, none of the sites examined measured greater than 65% presence of indicator species. This work will continue to inventory areas where regreening treatments can be captured in operational plans.

## Dark Diversity Approach to Restoration

Since 2016, researchers from the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) have been exploring the use of a plant functional trait approach to improve restoration practices used in this region. Plant functional traits are measurable characteristics of plants that influence their growth, survival, reproduction, and ecological roles. Studies in this region will continue as researchers explore if newer progressive restoration methods that focus on bolstering local plant biodiversity can accelerate restoration in comparison to traditional restoration methods used in the region. VETAC and municipal staff have supported CFS fieldwork since this study began, by collecting data and providing information on restoration treatments conducted through the Regreening Program.

CFS also examined the “Dark Diversity” of recovering sites, which is determined by identifying the set of species that are absent from a study site but could live in this specific habitat. So far, this Dark Diversity approach to restoration has explored how forests recover after damage from copper nickel smelter pollution. Researchers studied polluted forests and compared them to healthy forests near Sudbury, Ontario. They used a Community Completeness Index to measure how close each recovering site was to a healthy plant community. The Deschênes et al. 2024 study identified several groups of plants that are less likely to return on their own including tall plants, large seeded species, bird-dispersed species, and ferns and allies with small spores requiring suitable microhabitats for their germination. Recovery patterns were also linked to distance from the smelter.

In 2025, using plant data provided by the city, a few sites within the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area were assessed using the dark diversity approach and it was determined sites had a general 80% completeness index. This work demonstrates that combining dark diversity and plant traits helps identify environmental barriers preventing natural recovery. This approach also supports more effective restoration practices by guiding the selection of missing species that may need assistance to return.

For more information refer to: Deschênes, É., Santala, K.R., Lavigne, J. and Aubin, I., 2024. [\*Using a trait-based dark diversity approach to evaluate natural recovery potential in forests.\*](#) Restoration Ecology, 32(8), p.e14251, or view this informational video: [\*Dark Diversity: A New Tool for Restoration.\*](#)



## Educating Youth

As part of a strategic visioning session held by VETAC in early 2024, participants agreed that although the Ugliest Schoolyard Contest did great work over the years engaging local schools in regreening efforts, it was time to adopt a new approach. Given that today's youth are growing up in a recovering environment the true devastation of the past is unknown to them, and they would benefit from learning about Sudbury's history through the regreening story.

A Regreening Educator was hired by the City in September 2024 for a two-year period to prepare and deliver an in-class regreening presentation and activity (game) for local schools and develop several follow-up activities to keep the students engaged in the regreening efforts.

The program rolled out in early 2025 and from January to June, the first school year of the program, 50 classrooms from 24 schools representing 1,078 students were provided with a regreening presentation followed by an in-class game. A second visit with outdoor activities was provided to 463 of those students, with nine classes going on a tour of the Jane Goodall Reclamation Trail, nine classes participating in tree planting activities, four classes engaged in some limestone art and six classes conducting biodiversity surveys in their schoolyards.

The Regreening Educator also participated in the Rainbow District School Board's Annual EcoSummit on May 8, 2025, which focused on student environmental action, providing a presentation to 19 participants. Over the summer, one daycare was provided with three presentations to 54 youths in total. Trail tours were provided to 46 youth involved in Building Understanding, Resilience and Strength Together (BURST) program, hosted by the Greater Sudbury Police Service. This youth initiative focused on building positive police-youth relationships and developing leadership/life skills. As part of the guided tours of some inner-city trails, students participated in activities helping them understand the history of the area and what regreening efforts had taken place.

From September to December, 2025, 20 schools, including 47 classes and 1,125 students received the classroom presentation. A new in-class game was also developed for high school students.

The Regreening Educator also assisted with communicating with the broader community about the regreening program through social media posts and a Green Living Magazine article. A presentation was also provided to the Sudbury Horticultural Society during a general meeting.

Over the 2025 calendar year, 97 classrooms received the regreening story presentation involving 2,203 local students from 35 different schools.

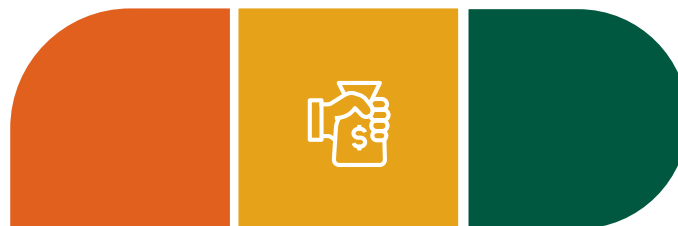


## Labour

Regreening Program staff included a foreperson, 4 crew leaders, 12 workers and 9 students involved in regular regreening activities. Two Biodiversity Research Assistants were engaged in monitoring activities associated with regreening work and a Regreening Educator delivered the Regreening Story to local classrooms. In total, 29 temporary positions were created in 2025.

The table below outlines the temporary positions created and the number of weeks worked, with 29 positions created in 2025.

Position Title	# Positions	# Weeks	Activity
Foreperson	1	31	Supervision
Crew Leader	1	28	Supervision
	3	27	
Regreening Worker	12	24	Tree planting, liming, transplanting, fertilizing, seeding, seed collection
Student	8	17	
	1	4	
Biodiversity Research Assistant	2	31	Field data collection and analysis, seed collection
Regreening Educator	1	52	Prepare educational materials to be delivered to local schools
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>29</b>		



## Funding

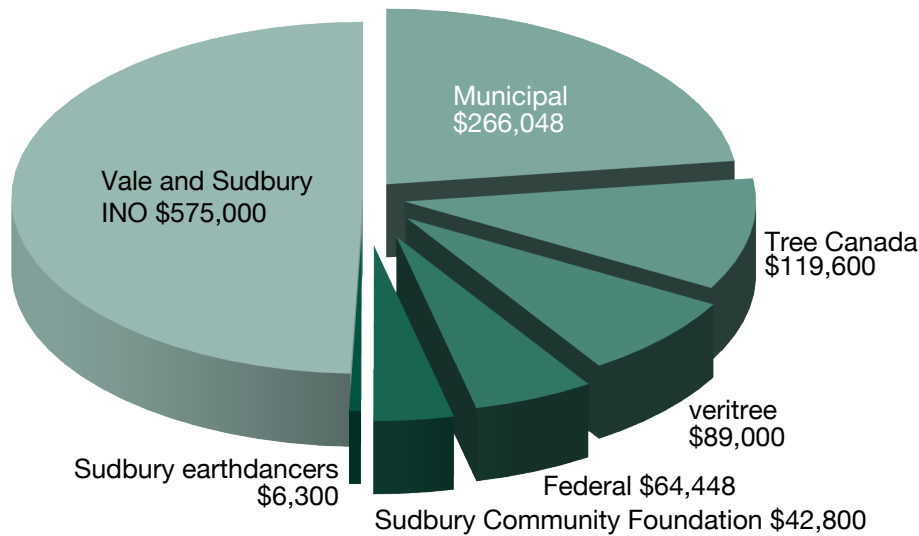
The Regreening Program relies on donations to operate the yearly program. Many successful partnerships have been developed over time and new opportunities are always being sought. Funding from Natural Resources Canada for the 2 Billion Tree Campaign continued again this year. Vale Base Metals and Sudbury INO continued with their significant support of all aspects of the Program.

The table below outlines the program contributors, and the dollar amount associated with their contributions in 2025 for a total of \$1,155,196.

Program Contributor	Description	Source	Amount
<b>Labour</b>			
Employment and Social Development Canada	Canada Summer Jobs Program for six students over eight weeks	Federal	\$14,448
<b>Cash</b>			
Sudbury earthdancers	Financial contribution	Private	\$6,300
Sudbury Community Foundation	Financial contribution	Private	\$42,800
Natural Resources Canada	2 Billion Tree Campaign	Federal	\$50,000
veritree	Financial support to have 90,000 seedlings planted	Private	\$81,000
Sudbury INO	Financial contribution	Mining Co.	\$250,000
Vale Base Metals	Financial contribution	Mining Co.	\$300,000
<b>Materials</b>			
Tree Canada	Funding to plant 250 potted trees/ shrubs	Private	\$5,600
Vale Base Metals	Donation of 90,833 seedlings	Mining Co.	\$25,000
Tree Canada	Funding to purchase 60,000 seedlings	Private	\$114,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	Sum of external funding sources	Various	\$889,148
City of Greater Sudbury	Financial contribution	Municipal	\$266,048
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Sum of all funding sources</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>\$1,155,196</b>

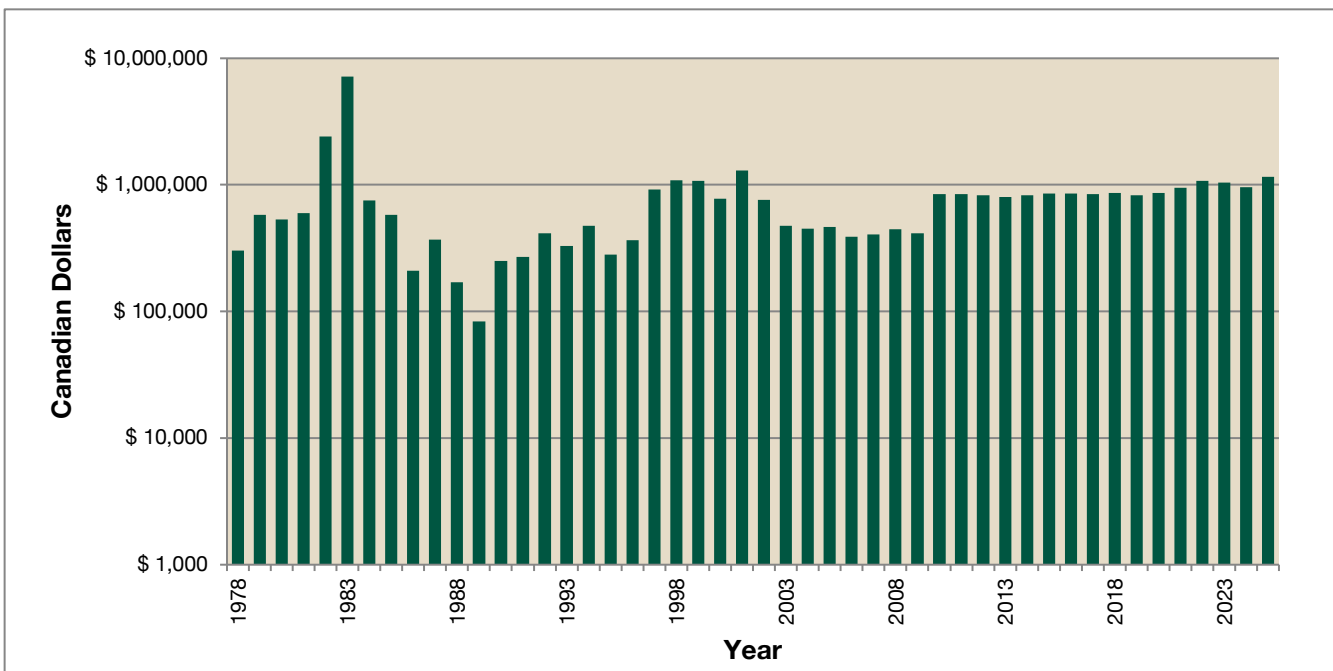
## Funding Contributions by Source 2025

The graph below illustrates 2025 funding contributions by source, totaling \$1,155,196.



## Yearly Program Costs 1978 to 2025

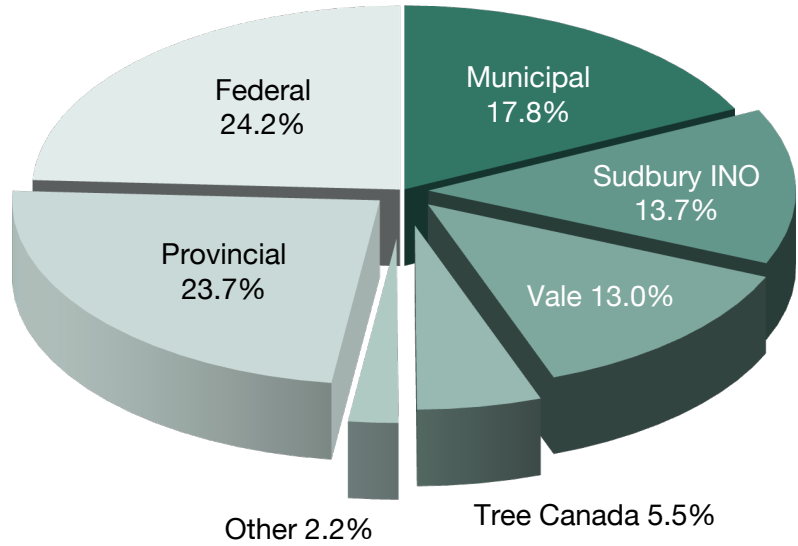
The bar graph below indicates yearly program costs from 1978 to 2025 with a grand total of \$39,556,021. Since 2010, yearly funding has consistently hovered near the \$1M mark.



## Percent Funding Contributions by Source 1978 to 2025

The graph below illustrates funding contributions in percentages by source from 1978 to 2025.

Since 1978, the City's contribution to the Program has averaged 17.8% of the total costs with 82.2% coming from external sources. To date, the Program costs exceed \$39.5 million.



## Community Engagement

### Tree Giveaway

The Sudbury Horticultural Society partnered with the Sudbury Market to host their annual Gardener’s Day and Spring Plant Sale which took place on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Elm Place Mall. VETAC held their annual Tree Giveaway at the event, providing 200 smooth serviceberry and 225 smooth wild rose seedlings to local citizens to encourage gardening with native species. Many VETAC members were in attendance to pass out seedlings, which was a great opportunity to meet with the public and discuss urban gardening successes and challenges.



### Children’s Water Festival

On September 23 and 24, 2025, the Sudbury Children’s Water Festival was held at the Anderson Farm Museum in Lively. Aside from assisting with logistics, Regreening staff hosted a tree planting/regreening booth. This event, designed for grade three students, attracted 350 English and 337 French students from all four local school boards. The students enjoyed dressing up like a tree planter and practicing planting tree seedlings.



### Sudbury INO Open House

Sudbury INO hosted a Community Open House on September 25, 2025, at Levack Public School where Regreening staff hosted a booth providing information and swag to community members, students, and parents. A large TV screen displayed the regreening video loop (<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/live/environment-and-sustainability1/regreening-program/the-sudbury-story/>) which sparked great conversations among the visitors.



## Events

### King Charles III Coronation Medal

Congratulations to Dr. Peter Beckett, for receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal, in recognition of his contributions to the community. Dr. Beckett is a longtime member of VETAC and has been a key player in Greater Sudbury's greening journey. He has been a professor at Laurentian University for close to 50 years.

The medals were being issued to honour individuals who have made a significant contribution to Canada, or specific regions, in celebration of King Charles III's coronation.



## Tours and Presentations

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### February 25, 2025

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During Research Week (February 24-28) at Laurentian University (LU), Dr. Peter Beckett provided an overview of 50+ years of greening in Sudbury. The event brought together students, faculty, and the community who gathered to celebrate the research impact of LU, which highlighted innovation and discovery across multiple disciplines.

### February 26, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett provided a presentation on Sudbury Landscape Restoration (regreening and wetlands) to 75 students in the ARCH 2526 Architecture and Ecology class at the LU McEwen School of Architecture.

### March 5, 2025

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During the 50th Anniversary Meeting (March 4-7) of The Canadian Land Reclamation Conference in Edmonton, AB, Dr. Peter Beckett participated in the Opening Plenary Session discussing the status of Reclamation in Ontario including Sudbury.

### March 20, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett delivered his annual regreening presentation at Cambrian College to 24 students from the College's Environmental Monitoring and Impact Assessment and Environmental Technicians Programs.

### May 18, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett provided an introductory presentation regarding upland and wetland restoration in Sudbury during a Peatland Forum with 40 participations at the Vale Living with Lakes Centre.

### June 6, 2025

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During the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Reclamation Sciences in Butte, Montana, Dr. Peter Beckett talked about 'The Potential for Peatland Reclamation in the Smelter-Impacted Landscape of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada' to 65 delegates.

### July 3, 2025

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During the 12th INTECOL (International Association for Ecology) Wetlands Conference (June 29 - July 4) in Tartu, Estonia, Dr. Peter Beckett spoke on 'Upland Restoration and Potential Peatland Restoration in the Smelter-Impacted Landscape of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada' to 165 delegates.

### July 7, 2025

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For 25 graduate students enrolled in the NASER 2025 Summer School on Nature-Based Solutions for Ecosystem Restoration at Université Laval, Quebec City, QC, Dr. Peter Beckett provided a virtual presentation on the current state of restoration activities in Sudbury.

### July 24, 2025

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Drs. Peter Beckett and Graeme Spiers informed seven graduate students from the University of Aachen, Germany, participating in the European Economic Community (EEC) Immersive Virtual Tours on Critical Minerals for Clean Energy Transition (Immerse) Project about Sudbury regreening in a presentation and field trip. See <https://immerse-project.org/Sudbury/> for the outcomes.

### August 2, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett, on behalf of VETAC and in conjunction with Rainbow Routes Association, led a Regreening Walk for 45 people to highlight the 50 years of green transition in Coniston. In particular, the Jane Goodall Reclamation Trail was enjoyed.

### August 6, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett provided a regreening discussion in Capreol for the judges of the 2025 Communities in Bloom. The small town was later awarded the national title in the "population up to 5,000" category.

### August 25, 2025

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Drs. Peter Beckett and Graeme Spiers delivered a presentation and led a field visit on 'What is Special about Sudbury' to a visiting delegation from Peru.

## Tours and Presentations

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### August 27, 2025

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Tina McCaffrey participated as an expert panelist in Science North's 50+ Cinema Social which featured the screening of the film *Planting Hope: A Regreening Story*.

### September 13, 2025

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The Sudbury Naturalists led a day session on 'The Changing Environment in Sudbury' accompanied by members from The Manitoulin Nature Club and Nipissing Naturalists Clubs. Dr. Peter Beckett provided a summary on 50 years of change and led a field trip to Copper Cliff and nearby Regreened sites.

### September 17, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett was an invited keynote speaker at the Northern Event of BeSpatial Ontario, a geospatial and information community in Ontario, held at Science North in Sudbury. He spoke on '50 years of the Landscape Regreening Program in Sudbury' highlighting the use of GIS in the [Regreening App](#) as a tool to record regreening efforts over time.

### September 25, 2025

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[\*Are newly available soil amendments helpful to the 50 years of practices in restoring woody landscapes in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada?\*](#) was presented by Dr. Peter Beckett on behalf of Jonathan Lavigne, Marc Hebert, Olivia Baudet, Graeme Spiers, Nathan Basiliko and Tina McCaffrey (DOI: 10.36487/ACG\_repo/2515\_100) during Mine Closure 2025, the 18th International Conference on Mine Closure in Lulea, Sweden from September 23-25 to 240 participants.

### September 30 and October 3, 2025

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Dr. Graeme Spiers provided two brief tours highlighting various aspects of Sudbury with Mrs. Ntabana who was here visiting her daughter doing a thesis in Sudbury. Mrs. Ntabana has a B.Sc. degree in Agriculture and an M.Sc. in Agroforestry, and has about 30 years of experience in Agroforestry and Wetland restoration in Rwanda. She was very impressed with the regreening program as a role model to highlight globally. Tour locations included the Jane Goodall Reclamation Trail, Kelly Lake Trail, Kingsway 'relict', Copper Cliff and regreened sites as part of the daughter's thesis sites.

### October 13, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett helped Rainbow Routes host their 45th Annual Thanksgiving Hike along the Minnow Lake Oak Forest Trail. There was a great turnout, and participants learned about the natural oak forest, the regreening work done in planting native white pines and the history of the trail building.

### October 25, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett delivered an invited presentation to 15 participants on Sudbury's regreening with an emphasis on seed collection at the Trent Ecological Restoration Conference 2025, Trent University, Peterborough, ON.

### November 11, 2025

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Dr. Peter Beckett participated in the American Society of Reclamation Sciences Webinar where he discussed the success of landscape reclamation in Sudbury to 70 participants.

### December 12, 2025

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As the invited Canadian participant in the International Mire Research Group's Field Symposium in Patagonia, Chile, November 30 to December 9, Dr. Peter Beckett presented information about successful upland restoration and peatland restoration challenges in Sudbury to 100 participants at the University of Magallanes Workshop in Puerto Arenas.

## Scientific Field Work

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June 9, 2025

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Dr. Graeme Spiers worked with Dr. Michael Schindler, Geology, University of Manitoba, and four of his colleagues including 1 M.Sc. student from Sri Lanka, 1 Ph.D. student from Sri Lanka, 1 PDF from China, and 1 Research Scientist from Brazil. Together they sampled surface soils (10 samples) from paired limed-unlimed sites near Kelly and Hannah Lakes. The samples were shipped to Manitoba and will form the focus of an M.Sc. thesis examining the nature of mineral-organic-metal nanoparticles in Sudbury soils, and on the impact of liming on these mobile nanoparticles.

## Communication

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### Publications

Canadian Reclamation, Fall/Winter 2025

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[Celebrating Success: Glencore's Sudbury INO Wins 2024 Tom Peters Memorial Mine Reclamation Award](#)

[Two Laurentian Faculty Honoured with King Charles III Coronation Medal for Outstanding Contributions: Dr. Peter Beckett and Dr. Nadia Mykytczuk recognized for their impact in environmental restoration and mining research](#)

## Web News

March 4, 2025

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[Sudbury MP announces Coronation Medal Recipients](#), by Staff, sudbury.com

March 5, 2025

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[Exceptional Sudburians to receive King Charles III Coronation Medal](#), by Star Staff, thesudburystar.com

June 3, 2025

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[À la découverte d'un paysage en voie de rétablissement](#), levoyageur.ca

August 25, 2025

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[Science North hosting regreening event for those age 50+](#), Sudbury.com Staff, sudbury.com

September 14, 2025

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[Sudbury's regreening story returns to the classroom with VETAC](#), by Star Staff, thesudburystar.com

September 22, 2025

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[We need broader view of Sudbury's environmental transformation](#), by Dieter K. Buse, Professor Emeritus, History, Laurentian University, thesudburystar.com



October 3, 2025

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[Born decades into the city's greening efforts, youngsters learn how things were](#), by Tyler Clarke, Sudbury.com

October 4, 2025

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[Vale launches annual aerial seeding program in Sudbury area to support land reclamation](#), by Sudbury Star Staff, thesudburystar.com

October 5, 2025

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[Vale begins annual reclamation with aerial seeding Oct. 6](#), by Sudbury.com Staff, Sudbury.com

October 8, 2025

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[Sudbury, Ont., greening project at the halfway mark, says mining company Vale](#), by Jonathan Migneault, cbc.ca

October 8, 2025

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[The Forest That Proves It: How Sudbury Reclaimed a Moonscape](#), by Stewart Mior, Ground Truth, Evidence-Based Forest News

December 10, 2025

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[Green Living: Boosting biodiversity](#), Sponsored Content, Sudbury.com

December 12, 2025

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[Dark Diversity: A New Tool for Restoration, by Simply Science on YouTube](#). This video was released by the Canadian Forest Service explaining how dark diversity can be used to help restoration efforts in Sudbury.

## Radio Interviews

October 8, 2025

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[Mining company Vale continues its efforts to help re-green Sudbury](#), Morning North with Markus Schwabe, CBS Listen Live Radio.

## Podcast

December 3, 2025

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[Sudbury's Green Revolution and the People Behind It](#), The Backroads Bill Podcast, North Bay Echo Community Podcast Network. Sarah Woods and Peter Beckett interviewed by Backroads Bill Steer and Ben Sargent.

## Facebook Posts

April 1, 2025

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[King Charles III Coronation Medal](#), City of Greater Sudbury Facebook page

December 9, 2025

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[Introduction to #TreeTuesday](#), EarthCare Facebook page

December 23, 2025

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[Happy #TreeTuesday - Mountain Holly](#), EarthCare Facebook page



## VETAC Members 2025

### Chair

- **Dr. Peter Beckett**  
Laurentian University

### Co-Vice Chairs

- **Ben Vaanholt**  
Citizen
- **Sarah Woods**  
Citizen

### Members

- **Olivia Baudet**  
Collège Boréal
- **Katherine Benkovich**  
Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations, a Glencore Company
- **Jaimee Bergeron**  
Conservation Sudbury
- **Jennifer Braun**  
Blue Heron Environmental
- **Mathieu Cayen**  
Wahnapiatae First Nation
- **Tony Fasciano**  
Citizen
- **Vanessa Felix**  
Pioneer Construction
- **Enzo Floreani**  
Citizen
- **Marc Hébert**  
Collège Boréal
- **Wayne Hugli**  
Sudbury Horticultural Society
- **Diane Jeffery**  
Sudbury Horticultural Society
- **Bill Lautenbach**  
Citizen
- **Tim Lehman**  
Citizen
- **Derrick Luetchford**  
Ministry of Natural Resources
- **Franco Mariotti**  
Citizen
- **Tina McCaffrey**  
City of Greater Sudbury, Regreening Program
- **Samantha McGarry**  
Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations, a Glencore Company
- **Dr. Stephen Monet**  
City of Greater Sudbury, Strategic and Environmental Planning
- **John Negusanti**  
Citizen
- **Robert Paishegwon**  
Whitefish Lake First Nation
- **Roger Pennarun**  
Wahnapiatae First Nation
- **Mike Peters**  
Citizen
- **Kierann Santala**  
Canadian Forest Service
- **Quentin Smith**  
Vale Base Metals
- **Dr. Graeme Spiers**  
Laurentian University





**Accessible version available upon request.**

**For further information,  
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