

Urban Forest Management Plan

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October 28, 2024 Committee of the Whole Session

Presentation Outline

1. Session Purpose
2. UFMP Review
3. Focus Areas and Recommendation



1 Session Purpose

Timeline

- Council approved UFMP on March 11, 2024.
- Council provided following direction:

THAT staff be directed to incorporate the recommendations in the Urban Forest Management Plan into annual workplans and request supportive funding as part of the annual budget process for the next fifteen years, as well as move ahead with planning a public work session for further community discussion.

- Public sessions (June) – to discuss with community members prioritization of actions.
- Sept 9 COW Session – report back on public sessions, discuss key issues and actions to address issues.
- Today's session – to continue the discussion and seek input from the Committee on short-term areas of focus in the implementation of the UFMP, particularly for private property tree management.

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN



Phased Implementation

- Not all actions can be implemented at once due to budget, capacity, and complexity of UFMP.
- Actions divided into short (0-5 years), medium (5-10 years), and long (10-15 years) term.
- Short-term actions were defined as critical to consider for maintaining and growing tree canopy cover:
 - Focused on private property given the amount of land that is privately-owned (60%) and where tree canopy loss is primarily observed.
- Focus of today is on short-term actions that require regulatory and operational changes, additional budget, and/or additional staff.

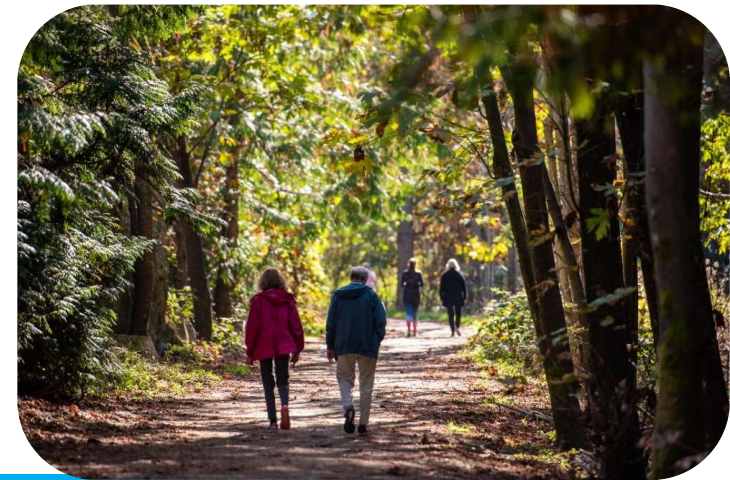
Recommendation

- Seeking Committee direction on focus areas to bring forward for Council consideration.

THAT:

The Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that staff focus efforts on actions from the Urban Forest Management Plan in the areas of:

1. [...]
2. [...]
3. [...]



Next Steps for Implementation

- Prepare and bring forward Bylaw amendments or new programs for Council consideration under the focus areas, which will also include:
 - Potential funding source (e.g., Environmental Reserve Fund for initial program development).
 - Required resource (staffing, budget) requests through annual budget cycle to maintain community expected service levels (where applicable).
 - Or anticipated impacts to service levels if no additional resources are approved (where applicable).

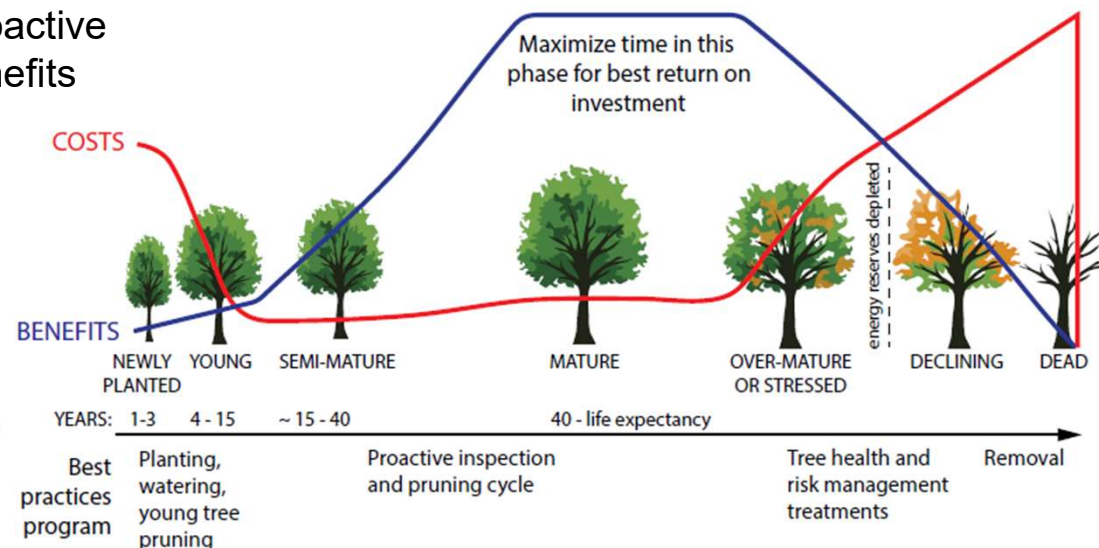


2 UFMP Review

Why Do We Want to Manage the Urban Forest?

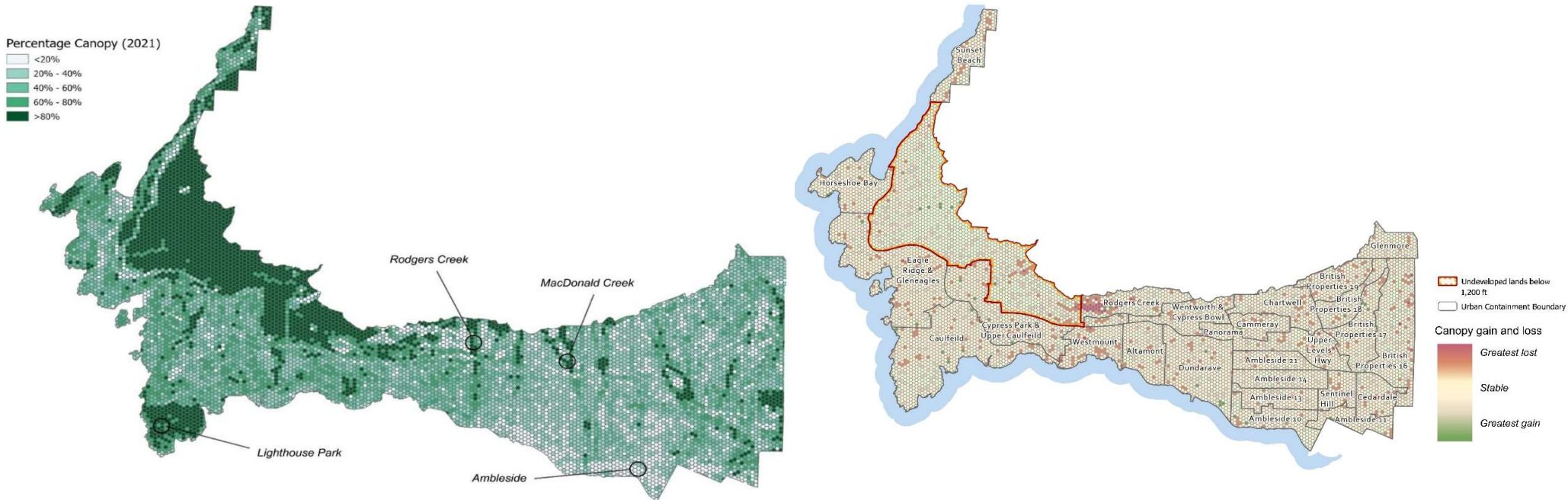
- Trees provide services to community – stormwater management (winter storms), cooling (hotter summers), carbon sequestration (emissions targets), air quality (wildfire smoke, pollutants)...etc.
- Trees are a natural asset that appreciate in value as they grow, unlike traditional assets like sidewalks and pipes.
- Trees can have disservices - trees in urban interface can increase wildfire risk or lead to falling trees or branches during storm events, and sometimes conflict with recreational use, views, infrastructure.
- Under increasing pressure from climate change impacts (drought, storms, wind, heat, pests).

➤ By managing the urban forest through a more proactive and informed approach, we can help balance benefits and disservices by targeting risk reduction and maximizing tree health and lifespan.

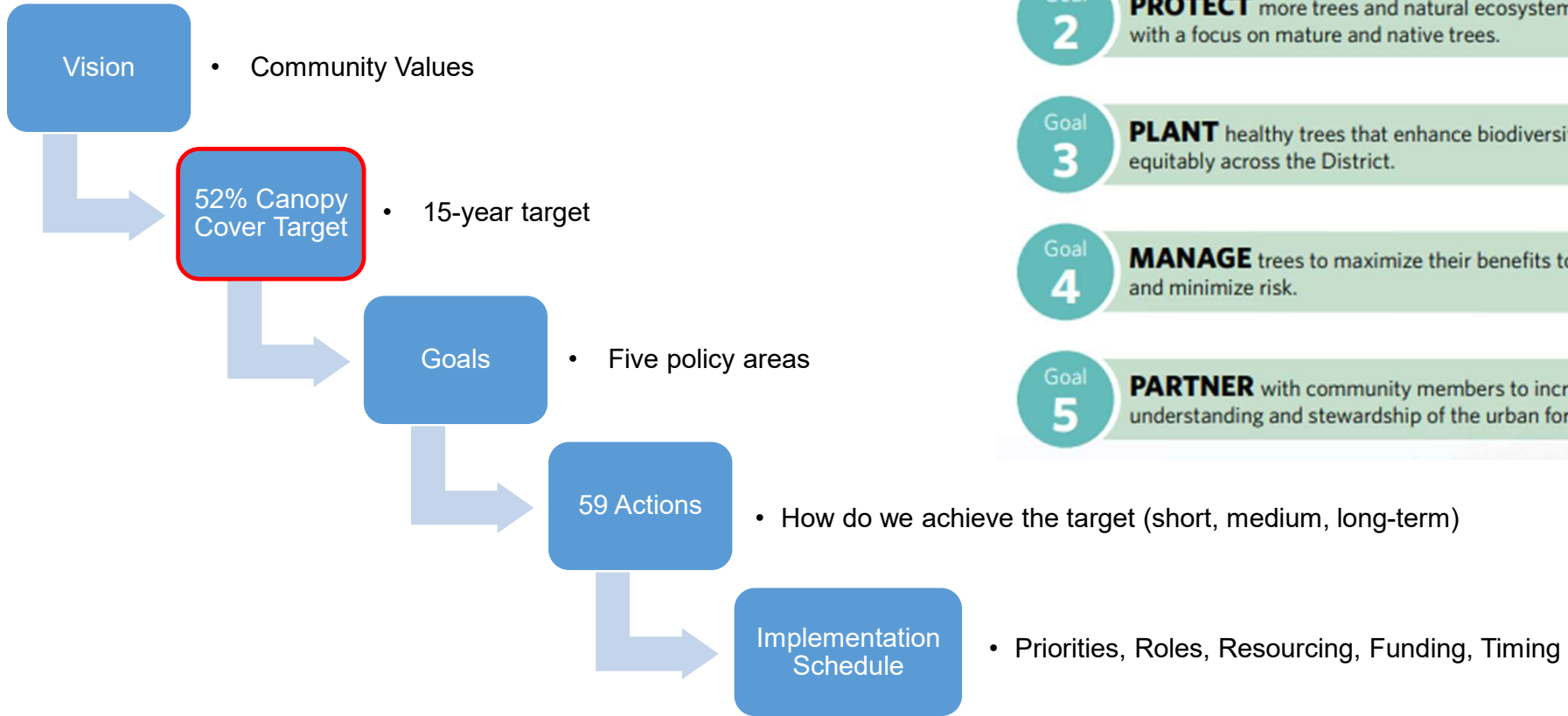


State of the Forest

- 2021 Tree canopy cover = 51%, loss of 2% from 2018.
- Primary impacts to urban forest:
 - Canopy cover loss due to private property redevelopment and new subdivisions.
 - Loss of mature trees from development, disease/pests, drought, fire, illegal tree work.
 - Areas with lower canopy cover.



UFMP Overview

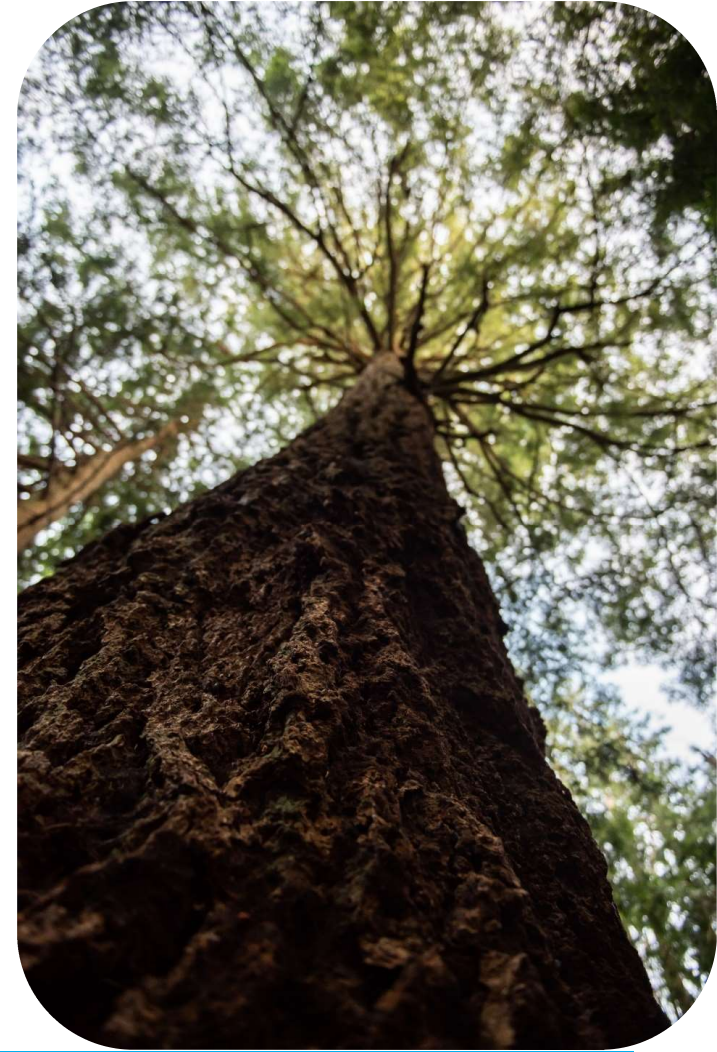


- Goal 1** **PLAN** for a biodiverse and resilient network of trees and forests that connects natural areas and communities.
- Goal 2** **PROTECT** more trees and natural ecosystems during development with a focus on mature and native trees.
- Goal 3** **PLANT** healthy trees that enhance biodiversity and deliver benefits equitably across the District.
- Goal 4** **MANAGE** trees to maximize their benefits to the community and minimize risk.
- Goal 5** **PARTNER** with community members to increase community understanding and stewardship of the urban forest.

Actions for Consideration

UFMP identified actions that could address issues for the District to consider:

- Private property – redevelopment impacts on urban forest:
 - Lower tree protection size.
 - Maintain tree density pre/post redevelopment.
 - Increase replacement tree/landscaping requirements.
 - Improve how trees are protected during construction.
- Public lands – loss of mature trees:
 - Proactively maintain public trees in high-use areas.
 - Increase successional tree planting.



Previous Discussions

Items raised in previous Committee of the Whole session:

- Concerns about dying/dead trees (particularly in upper lands).
- Clarification on Tree Bylaw regulations and comparison to other municipalities.
- Need for tree replacement and planting to maintain canopy cover.
- How hazard trees are assessed on private property.
- Funding sources for the implementation of the UFMP.
- How to support residents in planting trees.
- Further discussion is needed on private property tree management.



3 Focus Areas and Recommendation

Focus Areas – For Discussion

Managing Existing Trees:

- Lower protected tree size (private property)
- Improve tree protection during construction
- Incentivize tree retention during development
- Proactive tree maintenance (public trees)

Growing Urban Forest:

- Increase tree replacement and planting requirements
- Maintain tree density pre/post construction
- Improve landscaping/permeable area requirements

Recommendation

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to bring forward for Council consideration.