STATE OF THE URBAN FOREST REPORT (2026)

CITY OF HAMILTON

FEBRUARY 2026

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississauga's. This land is covered by the 'Dish With One Spoon' Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation.

We are mindful that Urban Forest impacts the traditional territories and affirm our responsibility to engage in meaningful consultation and collaboration regarding the management of the Urban Forest.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hamilton's urban forest consists of all trees, both single trees and trees in woodlands that are located on private and public land within the urban boundary. Trees form part of our city's natural assets and provide environmental, social and economic benefits, such as habitat, watershed function support, long-term storage of carbon, public health benefits, and the urban forest adds to the natural beauty of Hamilton's urban landscape.

> **City of Hamilton's Urban Forest Vision**
>
> **Hamilton's Urban Forest is resilient, contributes to the well-being of all neighbourhoods, and is valued as a shared asset.**

Since last collecting canopy cover data in 2021, Hamilton's canopy cover, as of 2024 has remained steady at 18% within the urban boundary, and for the first time, canopy cover within the rural areas was measured and is 26.3%. Canopy cover distribution remains uneven across the city, with the central and east wards trending lower than the city's 18% average and the wards located to the west of central Hamilton trending higher than the city's 18% average.

The canopy cover in Hamilton's city-owned parks and open spaces continues to support canopy cover percentages above 30% overall across the urban boundary, though distribution across the city is uneven. Private lands and rights-of-way hover around 16-17% canopy cover within the urban boundary with certain private land uses trending as low as 4.5% canopy cover.

The overall good health and condition of Hamilton's public tree assets is a testament to the existing operations programs the city administers, while the expansion of the city's asset management systems into the city's natural areas will be the next challenge to preserve and enhance the ecological integrity of the city's natural systems.

Environmental stressors and the impacts of climate change to the stress response of trees and the prevalence of known and emerging pests and diseases continue to be monitored. Early detection and rapid response, along with collaboration with other partner organizations, is key to controlling pest population and disease spread within the city's urban forest.

Collaboration and outreach beyond pest management, continues to be a priority for city staff to engage with members of the community about the importance of the urban forest, and what the city is doing, as well as forming key partnerships to leverage and extend the city's reach and capacity.

Other challenges include addressing the uneven distribution of canopy cover across Hamilton and the gap in canopy between public and private lands. Forthcoming strategic plans, such as the Tree Planting Strategy which includes an equity review, will help support the city in addressing and actioning the equity distribution on public land. However, larger systemic policy changes and pivoting or expanding program offerings may be required and will need to be reviewed to address the canopy cover gaps.

2026 will be an influential year as some key policies and plans, such as the Private Tree By-law review, will be brought forward to Council to deliberate, as the lack of canopy cover change between 2021 and 2024 suggests that the city must continue to evolve and put into motion the action items identified in the Urban Forest Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Background

In June 2023, the City of Hamilton's Council approved the Hamilton Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) and adopted a tree canopy cover target rate of 40% by 2050 for the urban boundary. The UFS is a high-level roadmap that sets the direction for the management of Hamilton's urban forest to achieve its ultimate vision of 40% canopy cover. The UFS includes actions for city staff to implement to achieve the shared vision, and a State of the Urban Forest Report is one of those action items (Appendix D to Report PED20173(a)).

Image: Community Planting Event in Hamilton

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the State of the Forest Urban Report (2026) is to provide an update to Council and the public on the progress made to fulfil the action items of the UFS and towards achieving the city's vision of 40% canopy cover. The report provides updates on the City's overall canopy cover, the state of public trees and woodlands within the urban boundary, management structures for the urban forest, success stories and challenges, and forecasted funding and resource requests.

The focus of the State of the Urban Forest Report (2026) is the urban boundary, which defines the area in Hamilton where all urban development will occur, and whose trees have the potential to provide benefits to the greatest number of Hamiltonians. However, for the first time, canopy cover in the rural areas of Hamilton was measured and is presented in report.

DISTRIBUTION OF CANOPY COVER

Achieving a canopy cover target of 40% is the overarching goal of the UFS and is a target that helps support a framework for consistent measurement that is critical to understanding the progress of the UFS.

Since the initiation of the 2017 UFS report that established a baseline canopy cover, city staff have collected tree canopy data to monitor and measure changes. The methodology used to collect the tree canopy cover data, and the results are explored in the section below.

Canopy Cover Definition

Canopy cover represents the amount of land area covered by individual trees and woodlands as seen from above.

Groups of trees and individual trees, located on both private and public property, are included in the canopy cover calculation.

Methodology

In 2017, i-Tree Canopy was the methodology used to generate the tree canopy cover percentage for the UFS report. Developed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Services, i-Tree uses statistical algorithms to randomly lay points within a defined area over Google Earth Imagery to determine the relative amount of urban forest canopy cover in a percentage over a large area. I-Tree relies on a user to examine each point and classify it, and the user must be able to interpret the satellite imagery accurately. In comparison to LiDAR, i-Tree is not as accurate, but is more cost-effective.

In 2024, city staff retained a contractor to collect airborne Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data to measure canopy cover within the urban boundary and rural area. LiDAR was the selected methodology as it is cost-effective within a reasonable scale, repeatable and an accurate way to estimate tree canopy cover. LiDAR is one of the most powerful tools available for studying landscapes and the high resolution and precise measurements allow for accurate three-dimensional modelling of the forest structure.

LiDAR data was also used to assess the 2021 tree canopy cover and continuity with the selected method will allow for accurate and reliable comparison into the future. One notable difference between the 2021 and 2024 data is collection season; the 2021 LiDAR data was collected in May (leaf-off) and the 2024 data was collected in September (leaf-on). In future, LiDAR data will be collected between June and September during leaf-on season to ensure tree canopy cover estimates can be even more reliably compared.

Manual clean-up of the LiDAR data is required to isolate canopy from other features within the relevant height range, for example, the point cloud does capture "noise", such as powerlines which are removed, so they are not included in the canopy cover estimate. Staff processed the data using exclusion layers to ensure that any powerlines, buildings, etc. were removed from the canopy cover calculation. The same exclusion layer was applied to the 2021 and 2024 LiDAR data to assess change, and can be re-applied on future LiDAR datasets to standardize the comparison framework.

While LiDAR methodology is an effective tool to monitor distributional changes of canopy cover over time, it has limitations in that it does not provide information on the biological or physical state of individual trees. Another limitation is that height parameters also need to be specified, and a range of 4.0m to 45.0m was selected as a reasonable range to capture established trees and omit most large shrubs to ensure an accurate representation of tree canopy cover.

Data on the biological and physical state of individual trees and woodlands are collected by city staff each time a public tree is assessed, and through asset management deliverables for city-owned assets. For example, city staff collect data for street trees within the urban boundary and have a robust tree inventory, and collection of data on city-owned woodlands within the urban boundary began in 2025 and will be complete by early 2026.

Results

Since the last LiDAR data was collected in 2021, the tree canopy cover in 2024 for the urban boundary has remained consistent at 18%. In rural areas, the tree canopy cover sits at 26.3% and was not previously measured to provide a comparison. Most city Wards saw a slight (less than 1%) decrease in canopy cover since 2021, except for Ward 13, which saw the largest decrease in canopy cover at 1.7%. Ward 1 and Ward 15 saw the largest increases in canopy cover at 1.7% and 1.3% respectively.

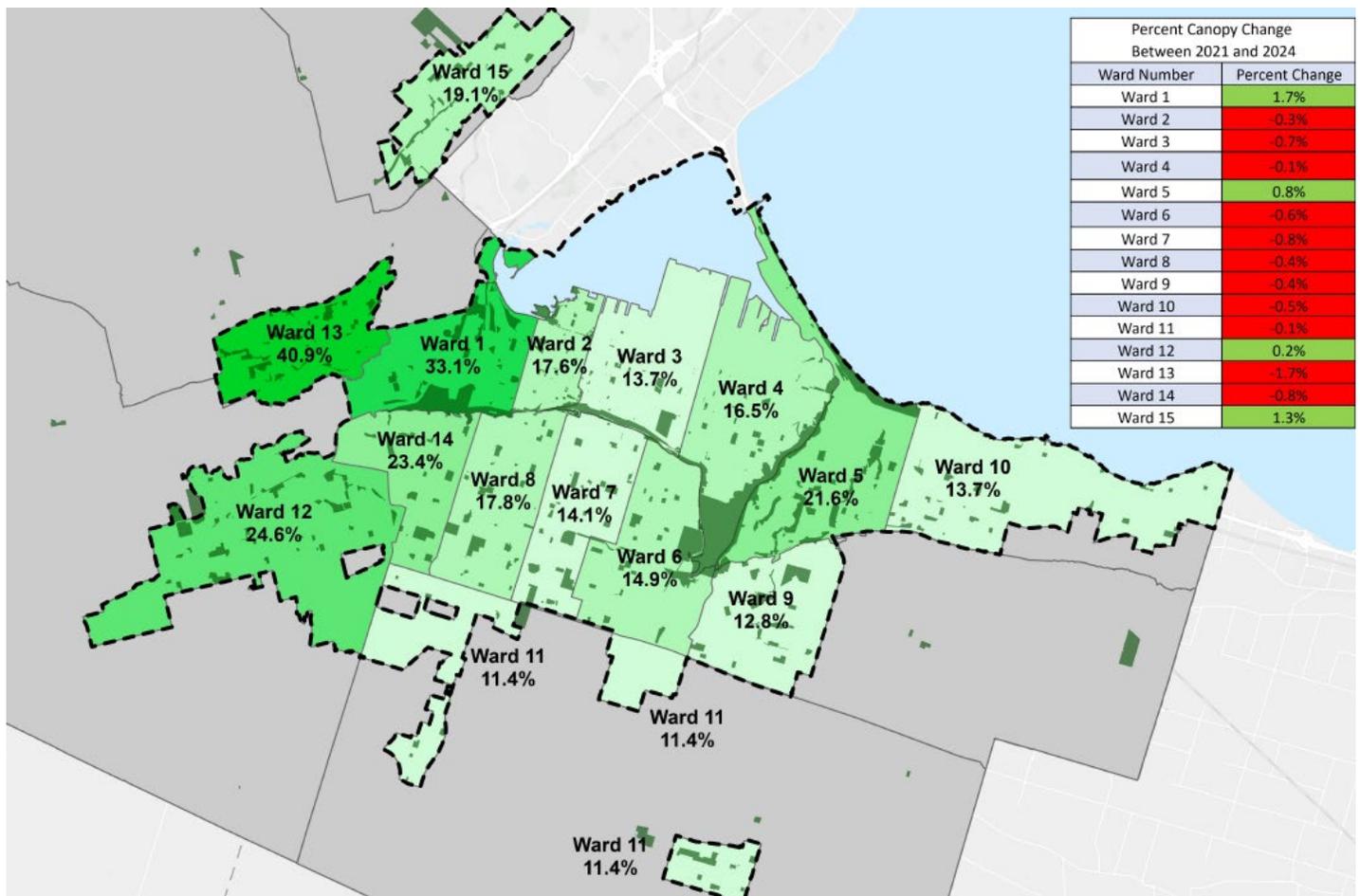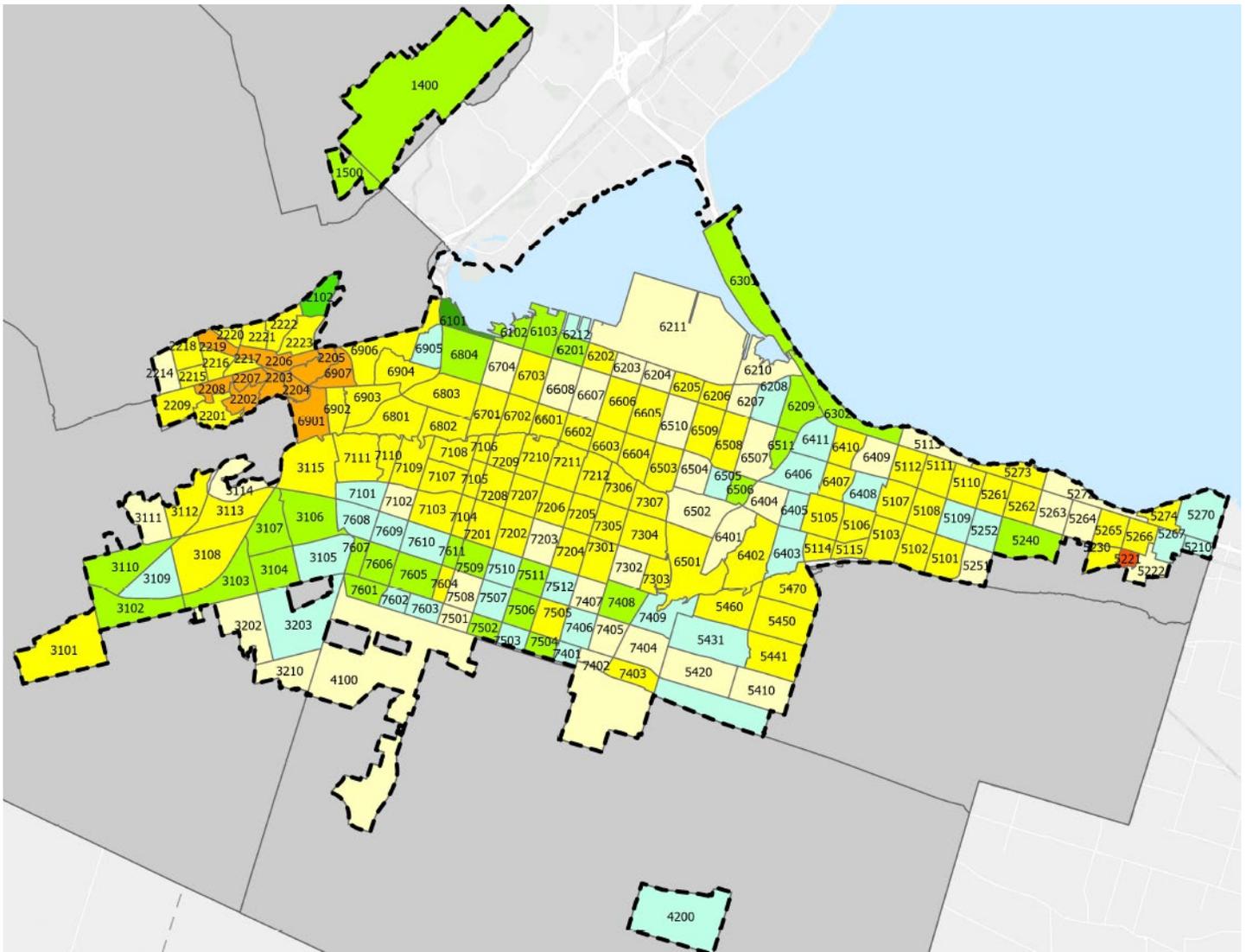| Percent Canopy Change Between 2021 and 2024	
Ward Number	Percent Change
Ward 1	1.7%
Ward 2	-0.3%
Ward 3	-0.7%
Ward 4	-0.1%
Ward 5	0.8%
Ward 6	-0.6%
Ward 7	-0.8%
Ward 8	-0.4%
Ward 9	-0.4%
Ward 10	-0.5%
Ward 11	-0.1%
Ward 12	0.2%
Ward 13	-1.7%
Ward 14	-0.8%
Ward 15	1.3%

Image: Canopy cover results shown by ward. The percentages under each ward represent current canopy cover as of 2024, while the table identified the change in canopy cover by ward between 2021 and 2024.

By neighbourhood unit, most neighbourhoods saw a slight decrease in canopy cover, particularly across central Hamilton and Stoney Creek, with neighbourhoods around the Dundas Business Improvement Areas seeing the greatest decrease. Waterdown increased in canopy cover, as did portions of Ancaster, and the areas surrounding the waterfront trail systems.

However, despite the increase, Waterdown is still one of the areas with canopy covers below the city's 18% average, as is Stoney Creek and the Hamilton Mountain. Dundas, including the area around the Dundas Business Improvement Area, still sits higher than the city's average, but needs to be monitored if the downward trend continues, as do all other neighbourhoods that continue to track downwards.

Legend:

-10.6% - -6.0%	0.1% - 0.5%	Rural Hamilton
-5.9% - -3.0%	0.6% - 3.0%	Urban Boundary
-2.9% - -0.5%	3.1% - 6.0%	
-0.4% - 0.0%	6.1% - 8.7%	

Image: Canopy cover changes shown by neighbourhood. Most neighbourhoods saw a slight decrease in canopy cover between 2021 and 2024.

By land ownership, city-owned lands (excluding rights-of-way), such as parks and open space, recreational facilities, etc. saw an increase in canopy cover of 1.6% overall across the urban boundary, while rights-of-way saw the largest decreases in canopy cover, with some Wards seeing a decrease of as much as 2 percentage points, those being Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 7, Ward 8, Ward 11, and Ward 14. Private lands saw mostly a decrease in canopy cover, but not as significant as rights-of-way.

By land use type, residential (low-, medium- and high-), office and industrial (though nominal) all saw decreases in canopy cover, with parks and open space land use type tracking the greatest increase in canopy cover at 1.1%. All other land use types (agricultural, commercial, institutional, transportation / utilities, vacant lands) increased only slightly in canopy cover (0.9% or less).

Refer to the appendices for a visual representation of the canopy changes and distribution discussed.

In comparison to other municipalities, such as Guelph, Oakville, Cambridge, Toronto, London, Burlington, and Mississauga, Hamilton's canopy cover is the lowest by as little as 1% and as great as 10%. While benchmarking is useful, it should be used with some caution as canopy cover results that are calculated with LiDAR data, may not be analyzed using the same height formula as Hamilton (4.0 metres to 45.0 metres) and there is no current recognized industry standard.

For example, some municipalities use a starting height threshold as low as 2.0 metres and as high as 4.5 metres. When the height threshold is lowered more shrubs and general "noise" is captured in the canopy cover results which can lead to a higher reported overall 'tree' canopy cover.

It should also be noted that in 2017, using i-Tree, Hamilton's canopy cover was reported at 21%, however, going forward, this figure will no longer be used and compared against since LiDAR is the selected and preferred methodology to track canopy cover over time to ensure accuracy and repeatability.

Next Steps

The LiDAR data collected in 2024 is being used to undertake further projects and studies. In 2025, the data was used to undertake a planting priority analysis called the Tree Planting Strategy, to determine where the city has plant-able space that can be targeted to achieve our canopy targets, and the data will be used again in 2026 to conduct an analysis of drivers of canopy change, both negative and positive to develop potential solutions that may drive policy change.

LiDAR data will be collected again in 5 years, and the same exclusions and parameters will be applied to the data to track canopy cover change and compare it to the 2021 LiDAR and 2024 LiDAR data. A five-year interval is recommended to ensure that a measurable change can be detected, while also ensuring that data collection is frequent enough to use as a performance monitoring tool while balancing cost with outcome. Another State of the Urban Forest Report will be presented in 2031.

URBAN STREET TREES

The city's Forestry section is responsible for maintaining public trees (e.g. street trees, park trees, cemetery trees, and, more recently, woodland trees) within the urban boundary. Street trees are the most intensively managed trees within the urban forest and represent approximately 24% of the total forest value even though street trees make up only 3.2% of Hamilton's total tree population. Street trees provide some of the most tangible benefits to residents and increase the livability of neighbourhoods.

To effectively manage, monitor and protect the urban street tree population, the city's Forestry section updates the city's tree inventories on a planned 10-year cycle. The most recent urban street tree inventory update occurred in 2023-2024 and data collected includes tree trunk diameter measured at diameter at breast height (DBH), which is a standard arboricultural measurement taken at 1.4m above ground level. The inventory update also included the collection of tree species and trees species abundance, and a condition analysis. The data presented on the urban street tree population in the UFS was based on the 2006 street tree inventory data.

Results

87% of Hamilton's urban street tree population are in good physiological health, which highlights the effectiveness and importance of Hamilton's tree maintenance program. The average tree diameter of the urban street tree population is 27.5m DBH and the top five (5) most abundant species account for 38% of the total urban street tree population, with the top one (1) most abundant species accounting for 18% of the population (see Table 2).

Condition of Hamilton's Urban Street Trees

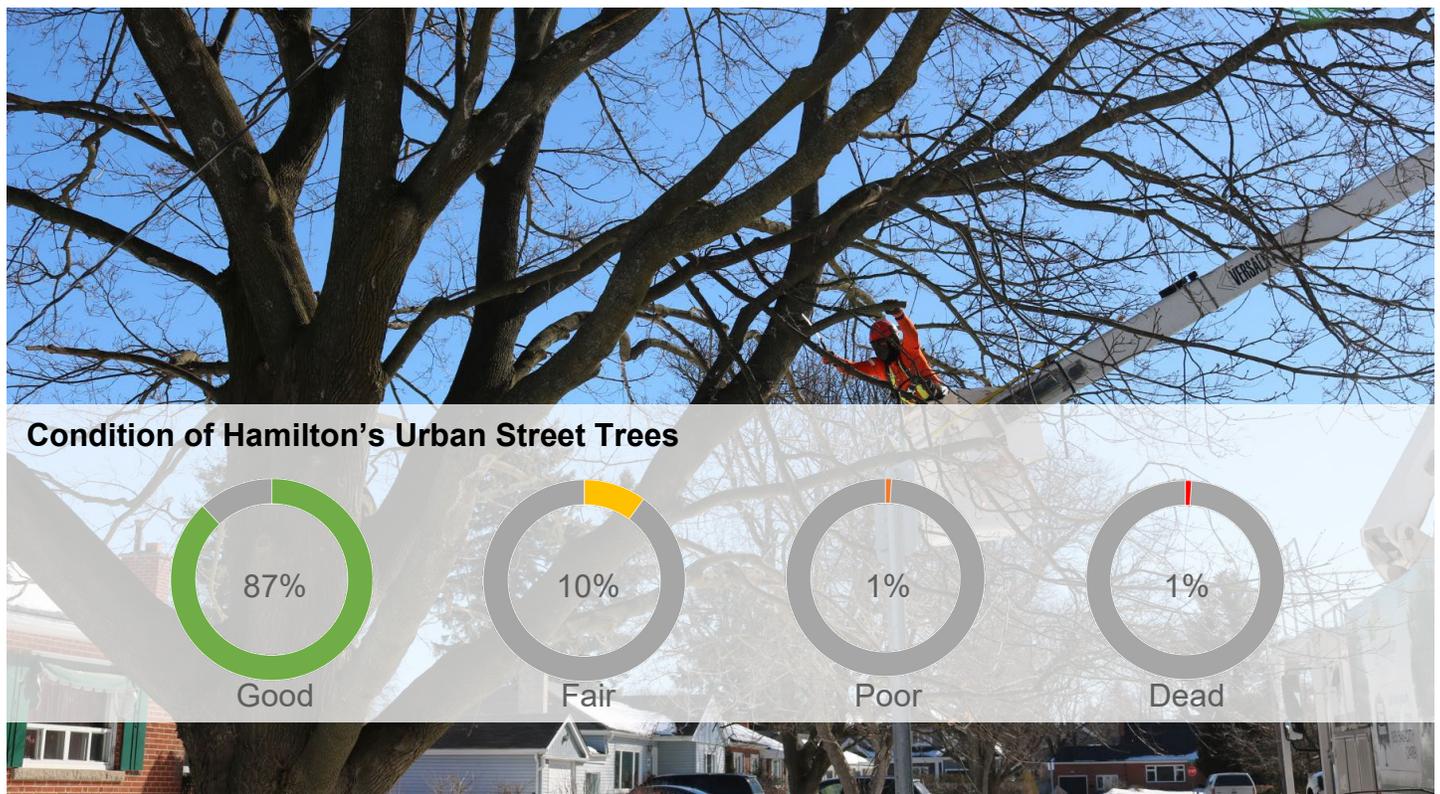| 87%	10%	1%	1%
Good	Fair	Poor	Dead

Image: Forestry Operations staff maintaining an urban street tree.

Overall, the results from the 2023 – 2024 tree inventory for urban street tree condition and tree diameter are comparable to those presented in the UFS which reported 87% of urban street trees being in good condition and 25.1cm DBH as the average trunk diameter size. This indicates that the physiological condition of the urban street tree population has remained stable and average trunk diameter has grown slightly since the 2006 tree inventory data.

Distribution of diameter class size has remained relatively stable in the largest diameter class size (> 61cm) since the release of the UFS and increased by 5% amongst Hamilton's young street tree population (trees with a DBH of 20cm or less). The city's Forestry section has increased its tree planting targets over the past 5 years, and if protected, these young trees will help to grow and support the urban tree canopy in the future.

This also highlights the importance of the city's mulching and watering programs to help support young trees to ensure that they can grow and help bolster the larger diameter class sizes that continue to be under-represented. This also highlights the importance of the city's Public Tree Bylaw which helps to protect all public trees from impacts of development.

Table 1. Distribution of diameter class size according to the 2023-2024 tree inventory results.

Diameter Class (cm)	% of Total Urban Street Tree Population (Current)	% of Total Urban Street Tree Population Reported from UFS	Suggested Ideal Class Distribution[1]
0 to 20 cm	56%	51%	40%
21 to 40 cm	24%	28%	30%
41 to 60 cm	13%	14%	20%
> 61 cm	7%	7%	10%

In terms of species, the UFS identified, in order of prevalence, Norway maple, eastern white cedar and honeylocust as the top three most abundant urban street tree species. All three species were reflected again in the 2023-2024 street tree inventory, with Norway maple still being the most predominant. Norway maples represent a significant percentage of the street tree population, and while they do provide significant contributions to urban canopy cover, they are non-native species that have the potential to be invasive within naturalized areas.

Table 2. Most abundant urban street tree species according to the 2023-2024 tree inventory results.

Tree Species (Common Name, *Latin Name*)	% of Total Urban Street Tree Population
Norway Maple, *Acer Platanus*	18%
Honeylocust, *Gleditsia triacanthos (typically var.inermis)*	7%
Littleleaf Linden, *Tilia cordata*	5%
Colorado Blue Spruce, *Picea pungens*	4%
Eastern White Cedar, *Thuja occidentalis*	4%

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[1] This ideal street tree distribution is being utilized by other Canadian municipalities, such as Toronto, Cambridge and Fredericton, and comes from Richards, N.A., 1983. Modeling survival and consequent replacement needs in a street tree population. J. Arboric. 5.11:251-255

The City of Hamilton no longer plants Norway maples or any of its cultivars, such as the 'Crimson King' cultivar, and the goal is to slowly phase out their prominence within the urban street tree population. However, it should be noted, that there are several Norway maple cultivars still readily available at nurseries that can be bought by members of the public. The city, and partner organizations, will continue to build awareness through education campaigns and outreach to the public to highlight species of concern, such as Norway maple and promote native alternatives.

Overall, the data indicates that while the city's maintenance practices are proving effective at keeping a significant portion of the urban street tree population in good health, Hamilton needs to continue to focus on increasing the diversity of its urban street tree population to maximize ecological benefits and limit the susceptibility of the street tree population to disease and pests. Hamilton also needs to ensure that trees planted continue to survive, and to review mechanisms to bolster the diameter class size in the larger diameter class sizes.

Another area of focus for the City of Hamilton's Forestry section, is to continue planting urban street trees that provide a large shade canopy to help the city reach its target of 40% canopy cover and to support other climate goals, like increased stormwater infiltration and reducing urban heat temperatures through natural cooling provided by shade trees. Colorado blue spruce and eastern white cedar, while providing some ecological benefit, will not make a significant impact in increasing the city's urban forest canopy and the city is striving to plant more large shade trees along its rights-of-way, particularly where there are no conflicts, such as overhead utilities.

FOREST HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

A continued challenge to protecting and growing Hamilton's urban tree canopy is the management of pests, diseases, and environmental factors, such as prolonged periods of drought and heat, and the prevalence of extreme weather events.

Tree Health

In collaboration with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the city's Forestry section monitors for known and emerging pests and diseases and, when necessary, conducts management activities to protect the tree canopy.

Spongy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) are known pests that, in the case of EAB, have had devastating impacts on Hamilton's tree population, and the communities that benefit from them. The city's Forestry section monitors, manages and reports to Council the management activities conducted to control these pest populations. Table 3 provides a high-level overview of some of the management activities conducted over the past 3-years.

Table 3. Overview of management activities for known pests.

Common Name of Known Pest	Overview of Management Activities
Spongy Moth	Monitor each year and select management activities based on pest population size. In 2023, conducted egg scraping and ground sprays; in 2024, population levels were low and no management activities, other than monitoring occurred; in 2025 conducted egg scraping with volunteers from Redeemer University.
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)	EAB population monitoring occurs each year using prism traps. Injections to over 100-high value ash trees located in parks and on city-streets occur on a 2-year cycle. Ash trees are no longer planted, as there are no known hybrids or cultivars that are resistant to EAB. Infected ash tree removals still occur, as does public outreach.
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)	In 2024, a baseline dataset of city-owned Hemlock trees was conducted in parks and along streets due to an HWA sighting. Only one known area adjacent to Royal Botanical Garden (RBG) lands contains city-owned Hemlocks that are infected with HWA. City staff have treated a total of nine (9) trees and are collaborating with the RBG to coordinate treatments.

Image: LDD moth on a tree trunk in Hamilton. LDD moth causes tree defoliation, and in severe cases tree mortality.

Oak Wilt Disease, which, in June of 2023, was confirmed in Niagara Falls and Spotted Lanternfly, which exists in Buffalo, New York near the Canadian border are examples of emerging pests and diseases that the city, in collaboration with the CFIA actively monitors for. The city sets traps each year to monitor for Oak Wilt to capture beetles to send to the CFIA who tests for the fungus that causes Oak Wilt. There have been positive cases of beetles that carry the known fungus; however, there has been no spread to-date of the fungus to oak trees.

It's critical that the city continues its health monitoring programs to ensure early detection of pests and diseases to allow the city to rapidly respond. Anticipating the impacts of emerging pests and diseases is a challenge as some pests and diseases have no known effective treatments if identified, other than the removal of infected trees to contain the spread. Awareness and education campaigns are a key part of the city's health monitoring strategy to ensure that all residents are aware of potentially impactful pests and diseases and know where to report suspected invasive pests and diseases on their property.

Biodiversity and Invasive Species

Diversity among trees within the city's canopy protects the urban forest against canopy loss from pests and diseases, and extreme weather events. The UFS identifies a good diversity rating of 5% to one species, 10% to one genus, and 15% to one family, city-wide. In looking strictly at the city's urban street tree population, Norway maple and honeylocust trees exceed the 5% target for species, with Norway maple being dually problematic in that they can be aggressive spreaders within natural areas, though the species is not classified as an invasive species through the *Invasive Species Act*.

To promote diversity, and select the right species for the right location, the city's Forestry section reviewed and updated its urban street tree planting list to be proactive in planting species to mitigate risks against canopy losses from current and emerging pests and diseases, and forecasted impacts from climate change, like increased frequency of extreme weather events. Staff are also reviewing the existing guidelines that dictate compensation plantings for private development subject to *Planning Act* approvals, to ensure species selected contribute to the city's biodiversity and to prohibit the planting of trees that are known to be aggressive and harmful to the environment.

In 2025, staff initiated the Invasive Species Management Strategy that will provide the city with a framework for mitigating, monitoring, and controlling invasive species, including pests, diseases, and plants within Hamilton's publicly owned woodlands and for select species, like tree-of-heaven, that are located within the city's streets, parks, and public spaces.

Environmental Stressors

Air pollution, smog, extreme temperatures, and the frequency and intensity of storms, are all forecasted to increase, as well as concerns with soil compaction and quality as development increases. While trees help to mitigate these effects for human health and well-being, these stressors impact a trees ability to survive and thrive.

Image: A couple stays cool under the shade of a tree along Hamilton's Waterfront Trail during a heat wave in the summer of 2025. As of August 2025, Hamilton recorded a total of 6 heat waves *(Photo Credit: Hamilton Spectator)*.

Mulching trees is one of the most effective ways to support trees by countering some of these environmental stressors. Mulch helps to regulate soil temperature, retain moisture in soil, enhance soil fertility and counter weed competition. The city's Forestry section mulches all newly planted

trees, and existing trees up to 25cm DBH within the city's parks and along main thoroughfares in non-residential areas, as these are some of the city's most vulnerable trees to urban stressors and mechanical damage.

The city's Forestry section also waters newly planted trees on a bi-weekly basis during the first two-years of establishment to help trees develop strong root systems and adapt to their new environment. Established hard surface trees are also watered during the summer months, as they are subject to some of the most difficult growing conditions in the city, due to heat, pollution, and soil compaction, and these locations tend to have limited soil volume, which impacts the availability of soil water storage.

For trees that have been subject to over-compaction, the city's Forestry section recently implemented an air spading program to increase pore space within soils, which directly contributes to the availability of oxygen and increases the soil's water storage capacity.

Another recent update was the release of improved hard surface tree construction details and specifications that are available to consultants and internal staff working within the city's rights-of-way. The details provide different design options with the goal of increasing soil volume and water storage capabilities in constricted urban settings. This move aligns both with the UFS and the city's Watershed Action Strategy, which aims to increase storage capacity for surface water run-off, particularly within the downtown core and where the city still relies on combined sewer infrastructure.

Collaboration between city sections is paramount in ensuring that the construction details are used in new capital projects, such as road rehabilitations, to ensure that new street trees planted through the project are provided with adequate soil volume and quality. The intent is to provide trees with a growing environment where they can reach a maturity level to cast shade and offset environmental conditions that have negative health impacts, such as the urban heat island effect.

Collaboration is also critical given that our rights-of-way are where we are seeing the greatest loss in canopy.

> **Urban Heat Island Effect Definition**
>
> Occurs when heat is retained by materials and surfaces and then radiated into the surrounding area causing the city to experience much warmer temperatures than surrounding rural areas or areas with higher tree canopy.
>
> Cities around the world are trying to counter the effect by planting shade trees and reducing asphalt and other hard surfaces.

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT

To optimize the benefits of the urban forest, it requires planning and proactive management. The objective is to maintain current canopy through operations management and policy and plant a diversity of new trees in appropriate locations to benefit future generations and grow the city's tree canopy cover. To achieve this and run cost-effective programs, the city needs up-to-date inventories of assets and strategic plans to guide the city's actions, as well as staff to implement programs and projects, and tree-knowledgeable contractors.

Current Management Programs and Services

The city runs programs and services to maintain and grow the tree canopy. Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy sets a goal of 50,000 trees planted annually in Hamilton by the community. The city's Forestry section supports this goal with a tree planting target of 20,000 trees annually, which, since 2021 the tree planting target has increased by 89% from 10,500 trees annually. Other city programs are focused on tree maintenance and health to maintain the current tree canopy and ensure that existing trees can remain healthy and continue to grow.

The city's asset management tracking system which includes trees and natural areas support the city in making data-driven decisions. City policies and strategic documents also support the city in making data-driven decisions and help direct staff workplans and actions over the long-term. The following is a quick snapshot of our programs and services:

Tree Maintenance Programs

Grids Program – the city prunes publicly-owned trees within the urban boundary along rights-of-ways to maintain clearances, encourage tree health, and maintain structural stability. The city prunes its trees on an 8-to-9-year cycle and aims to achieve a 7-year cycle over the next 5 years.

Storm Response and Request Based Pruning – the city prunes trees upon request based on priority sequencing and responds to storm-based requests within a set timeframe to mitigate risk.

Watering Program – newly planted trees and community plantings are watered for 2-years post planting and hard surface trees are watered during drought periods.

Tree Maintenance Programs Continued

Mulching Program – the city mulches all newly planted trees and existing public trees in parks and along non-residential rights-of-way that are maintained by contractors to support tree growth and reduce incidents of equipment damage.

Air Spading Program – where trees are not growing or performing as expected or in areas where there is known soil compaction, the city air spades the soil around existing trees to increase pore space within the soil to improve water and nutrient absorption by tree roots.

Tree Planting Programs

Community Planting Program – the city engages residents and community partners to plant trees across our city by hosting tree planting events. Number of trees planted from 2021 to 2025: 21,259

Naturalized Tree Planting Program – the city plants native trees in city-owned natural areas to expand urban forests. Number of trees planted from 2021 to 2025: 9,197

Street Tree Program – the city plants trees within rights-of-way, parks, facilities, and cemeteries. The city's Forestry section plants trees in spaces identified by staff, requested by residents, and through internal and external development. Number of trees planted from 2021 to 2025: 34,413

Tree Giveaway – every year, the city offers small native trees for residents to plant on their private property in Hamilton. Number of trees provided to residents from 2021 to 2025: 18,583

Recent Capital Projects and Grant Funding

Stormwater Plantings – in collaboration with Hamilton Water, the city's Forestry section planted 1,700 trees at two stormwater ponds.

Depave Projects – impervious surface was removed in a section of Rennie Street and Colbourne Street to create a boulevard with 9 new trees planted.

Mini Forests – planted a mini forest at a stormwater pond in collaboration with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority that was funded through the 2 Billion Trees Program.

Trees Can Talk Pilot Project – received Climate Change Reserve grant funding in 2025 to collect tree stress response data to environmental conditions using a dendrometer.

Policy and Strategy

Communication Strategy – a logo for the UFS was selected with input from the public, and branding created. Staff also identified key events to attend.

Private Tree Bylaw and Tree Protection Guidelines Update – review of these documents began in 2025. Anticipated completion year: 2026.

Forestry and Horticulture Design and Preservation Manual for Assets on Public Property – created construction details and specifications for hard surface trees for use by external consultants and internal staff and held information sessions.

Policy and Strategy Continued

Invasive Species Management Strategy – strategy will direct staff on how to manage invasive species in publicly-owned woodlands to preserve and enhance biodiversity. Anticipated completion year: 2026.

Tree Planting Strategy – creation of an action plan to achieve the city's 40% canopy target by leveraging current resources, identifying new programs and policies, and optimizing support. Strategy includes an equity lens to support with prioritization framework and implementation timelines. Anticipated completion year: 2026.

Asset Management

Woodlands – through the Natural Asset Management Plan, woodlands have been assigned to the city's Forestry section to inventory and manage. As of 2025, two-thirds of city-owned woodlands have been inventoried using Geographic Information System (GIS), with the remaining inventories expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

The inventories will support the city's Forestry section in managing its woodland assets and direct efforts related to enhancement, invasive species management, risk, and liability.

Trees – as directed through the Forestry and Horticulture Asset Management Plan, trees are managed by the city's Forestry section with the aid of GIS and management software. The city's tree inventory of public trees is updated during day-to-day operations when trees are reviewed, and supplemental updates occur every 10-years.

Forest Health Programs

Forest Pests and Diseases – the city's Forestry section, in collaboration with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency monitors for known pests and diseases, such as Spongy Moth, and Beech Leaf Disease, and conducts management activities, as required, to control population levels and limit their spread.

Monitoring also occurs for emerging pests and diseases that are not yet known in Hamilton, but have been identified in proximity to the city, such as Spotted Lanternfly and Oak Wilt to enable the city to detect early and rapidly respond, if required.

Future Initiatives

Tree Risk Management Strategy – a formal strategy to document, draft and update the city's standard practices related to managing the risk posed by trees and woodlands to people and property, while balancing environmental, social, legal, and economic obligations and values.
Target start year: 2026

Woodland Naturalization Plantings – strategic planting to restore and enhance select publicly-owned woodlands.
Target start year: 2026

Backyard Tree Planting Program Pilot – received Climate Change Reserve funding to pilot a 3-year backyard tree planting program in a select low-canopy neighbourhood.
Target start year: 2026

Hard Surface Tree Enhancements – systematically improve growing conditions for hard surface trees to extend their life and growth capacity.
Target start year: 2026

Soil Cell Maintenance Program – develop a maintenance program to ensure soil cell systems are maintained and monitored.
Target start year: 2026

Drivers of Canopy Change – analysis of LiDAR data and other metrics, such as storm events, building permits, etc. to determine key drivers of canopy change and propose solutions.
Target start year: 2026

Organizational Structure and Responsibilities

Public trees and woodlands are managed by the city's Forestry and Horticulture section within the Public Works department. The Forestry group delivers most of the programs and services listed above and manages over 209,664 public trees within the urban boundary along the city's streets, in the city's parks, and in the city's cemeteries.

Key roles and functions within this section include:

* Project Managers: oversee contract development and management, run programs, such as the forest health program, and develop strategic documents.
* Urban Forest Health Technicians: administer the Public Tree Bylaw and oversee internal and external development impacts to existing trees and opportunities for new tree plantings.
* Arborists: prune public trees to keep them healthy, and to mitigate risk and maintain the necessary clearances for buildings, vehicles and pedestrians. Plant and water new public trees. Remove public trees and grind stumps, when necessary, and conduct storm clean-ups.
* Supervisors: oversee maintenance contracts for watering, mulching, and air spading, and ensure arborist crews remain safe and have the necessary equipment and training to perform their work.

The Heritage and Urban Design section within the Planning and Economic Development department oversees the policies and guidelines that protect private trees and woodlands that may be impacted by development subject to *Planning Act* approvals, along with supporting Official Plan updates that relate to the natural heritage system.

The Enforcement section within the Planning and Economic Development department administers and enforces the existing Private Tree Bylaws that existed prior to amalgamation and are still in effect for Dundas, Stoney Creek and Ancaster, as well as Hamilton's Regional and Urban Woodland Bylaws. The Enforcement section enforces the Public Tree Bylaw, while the Forestry and Horticulture section administers it.

Image: City of Hamilton staff present at a booth in collaboration with Green Venture at an Air Quality Day event.

Partnerships and Collaboration

The city continues to partner and collaborate with community groups, conservation authorities and organizations such as the Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Green Venture, CityLab, the Conservation Authorities with jurisdiction in Hamilton, and the Royal Botanical Gardens, on initiatives and programs related to tree planting, and forest health and woodland monitoring. Detailed information regarding the partnership information can be found in the funding section of this report.

Image: City of Hamilton arborist practices an aerial rescue at a Rescue Day event.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

One of the actions items of the UFS was to develop an engaging and inspiring communication strategy to create public awareness and appreciation for Hamilton's urban forest.

In 2025, city staff collaborated to brand the UFS with a distinctive and recognizable logo and brand style that has since been applied to promotional and educational materials related to the UFS.

The public was engaged through an online survey to select a preferred logo and slogan that will represent the UFS and be applied to all UFS related programs, projects, and strategies.

The branding materials comply with City of Hamilton standards and is compliant with accessibility requirements.

Image: Urban Forest Strategy logo and slogan.

Public Involvement and Outreach

City staff created a communications calendar to deliver frequent and positive communications to the public regarding UFS related programs, strategies, and projects. Outreach methods include attendance at events like the Dundas Cactus Festival, social media campaigns during weeks of significance, such as Invasive Species Awareness week, webpage updates, meet and greets, etc. Key performance indicators, such as visits to booths, were tracked to inform communication activities for 2026, and to refine promotional materials and timing of communication campaigns. See Table 4 for the list of communication activities undertaken in 2025.

Table 4. List of communication events and activities conducted in 2025.

Types of Engagement Activities	Details
Events attended by staff to promote the UFS, its goals and related actions items and programs	Spring Tide Bulb Show, Dundas Cactus Festival, Fall Garden and Mum Show
Webpages updated and new webpages created to clarify and provide relevant information regarding UFS related programs and strategies, and forestry standards for the development community, including the ability to apply for a public tree permit online	Updates to webpages: Street Tree Planting Program, Community Tree Planting, Urban Forest Strategy, Tree Health, Tree Giveaway Program New webpages: Public Tree Permitting with access to forestry standards, the ability to apply for a public tree permit online and the contact information to appropriate staff, Tree Ownership and Responsibilities with link to public tree inventory on Open Data

Types of Engagement Activities	Details
Recognized weeks and days that relate to the UFS as an opportunity to engage the community on the importance of the urban forest	Arbor Week, International Forest Week, Clean Air Day, Earth Day, Safety Day, Invasive Species Awareness Week, National Forest Week
Communication campaigns related to existing programs	Tree Giveaway, Street Tree Program, Community Planting Program, Urban Forest Strategy, Public Tree Permitting, Trees Can Talk Campaign

Image: Urban Forest Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan information booth at the Dundas Cactus Festival.

Pledges and Support

The City of Hamilton is committed to protecting, maintaining , planting, and growing the urban forest to benefit the community, and a to show its commitment is through pledges and letters of support to community groups. The City of Hamilton is recognized as a Tree City of the World by the Arbor Day Foundation and is one of 21 Canadian cities to receive this designation. The program recognizes cities and towns internationally that use the urban forest to enhance the livability and sustainability of their local area, and it is Hamilton's third year achieving this recognition.

Hamilton is also one of 90 cities from around the world who joined the UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge. The Trees in Cities Challenge is a global campaign of mayors who have pledged to make their cities greener and more resilient to the impacts of climate change by committing to tree planting targets.

The city has also signed letters of support for the RBG, Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA), Conservation Halton and Green Venture to support these organizations to conduct enhancement and conservation efforts. For example, the HCA was able to receive $150,000 in grant funding through the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant to support the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project designed to help control flooding and erosion in the Stoney Creek area.

The RBG received grant funding through the Invasive Species Action Fund to manage HWA in Hamilton and support the preservation of Hemlock trees and forests. Often these organizations require letters of support from the city in which the work is taking place to access and receive grant funding. The City of Hamilton is an active partner in coordinating works and providing letters of support to continue the joint effort in preserving and enhancing the urban canopy.

CHALLENGES FACING THE URBAN FOREST

In addition to managing tree health, addressing the threat of invasive species, and mitigating the impacts of climate change, urbanization and development pose significant challenges. Protecting and enhancing the urban tree canopy on private land, along with the city's ability to offer programs that meet key community needs, will continue to affect the city's ability to achieve the 40% canopy target. These challenges are some of the main assumptions of canopy change, which will be confirmed through an analysis of our LiDAR data in 2026 and presented in a Drivers of Canopy Change study.

Urban Development and Densification

The City of Hamilton is projected to increase its population to nearly 820,000 by 2051 and at the same time, we are trying to increase the urban canopy to 40% by 2050. Population growth is anticipated to occur within the existing urban boundary through densification and infill development. Often, when infill or new development occurs, road updates and widening follow, often leading to the loss of mature trees. Limited space for replanting trees – due to infrastructure conflicts, increased hard surface areas, and the push to maximize number of units and building footprints – further restricts canopy restoration in both public and private realms. The city also has limited tools to protect private trees or require new trees to be planted on private property when development occurs.

The upcoming Private Tree Bylaw review, and updates to the city's existing Tree Protection Guidelines will review the possibility of triggering a more robust review mechanism when development on private land will impact existing mature trees and provide the opportunity to request compensation plantings for the loss. Reviewing and updating the city's mechanisms, and potentially providing a new tool through the introduction of a Bylaw, will assist the city in mitigating some impacts from infill and new development by providing tools and policies to drive behavioral change.

Education needs to be a key component of any Bylaw and policy change, to provide residents and developers the tools they need to make informed decisions when considering the removal of trees, which trees to replant to support the city's canopy target and diversity targets, and how to ensure that sufficient soil volume is provided.

The city is also reviewing its design standard requirements within the existing subdivision agreement to ensure sufficient plant-able space is provided within the rights-of-way and to mitigate effects of soil compaction and quality issues that impact tree health and limit a trees' ability to grow.

Program Opportunities

Reviewing opportunities to diversify our program offerings to support private landowners to plant on their private property and exploring the root cause of why urban canopy on private property is lower than on publicly property, will be key in helping the city to achieve its 40% canopy target. Diversifying city programs will help the city and community to achieve its tree planting target of 50,000 trees.

City staff will be piloting a Backyard Tree Planting Program in 2026 in partnership with the Hamilton Naturalists' Club and through the Private Tree Bylaw review and Tree Planting Strategy, city staff will bring forward to Council programs and policies that could be implemented or updated to support canopy cover.

It is important to highlight, that private tree plantings have occurred on institutional lands through motions brought forward and funded by ward Councillors, however there is no dedicated program or funding source to support these initiatives into the long-term.

The city's current programs focus on public tree plantings on public lands, except for the Tree Giveaway Program which allows residents to pick up a tree to plant on their private property within Hamilton. The city does not have a funding source that can be used to fund tree plantings on private lands. This work is largely supported by private landowners and conservation authorities. Both the UFS, and during engagement conducted in 2025 for the Private Tree Bylaw review, residents, community groups, and local organizations identified that more programs dedicated to private tree plantings, and helping residents care for their existing trees were of interest.

Table 5. Distribution of canopy cover by land use.

Land Use	2024 Percent Canopy Cover	Percent Change in Canopy Cover between 2021 and 2024
Agricultural	14.5%	0.4%
Commercial	5.5%	0.1%
Industrial	4.5%	-0.1%
Institutional	16.9%	0.1%
Office	9.3%	-0.6%
Parks/Open Space	46.0%	1.1%
Residential Low	21.1%	-0.2%
Residential Medium	15.0%	-0.1%
Residential High	18.3%	-0.9%
Transportation/Utilities	13.4%	0.3%
Vacant Lands	17.0%	0.9%

Canopy cover in Hamilton is lowest on private property, while many of the city's publicly owned spaces, except our rights-of-ways, have a much higher canopy cover. The UFS highlights that the city's greatest opportunity for increasing canopy cover is in the Low-Density Residential land use type and identified that the city should be encouraging private landowners to preserve trees and plant trees on their property. The Tree Planting Strategy currently underway will further help inform and highlight the city's greatest planting opportunities and will also apply an equity lens to distribution and how planting should be prioritized.

Image: Trees offered to City of Hamilton residents through the Tree Giveaway Program to plant on their private property. The Tree Giveaway Program is the only program that provides trees for residents to plant on their private property, all other programs run by the city focus on public tree plantings on public property.

ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Twenty-six (26) action items are identified in Appendix D to Report PED20173(a), and an additional seven (7) action items were identified through Planning Committee Report 23-010.

Overall, of the twenty-six (26) action items listed in the UFS, 31% of actions items are complete, 65% are in progress and 4% have not yet started. Many of the action items listed as complete will need to be continuously monitored and periodically updated based on industry standards, lessons learned, updates in technology and feedback received.

Complete	In Progress	Not Started
31% of the action items are complete (8 items)	65% of the action items are in progress (17 items)	4% of the action items have not started (1 item)

Table 6 provides a breakdown of the action items identified through the UFS, the lead department responsible, a snapshot of the progress made by city staff and stakeholders in implementing the action items, and comments from the lead department responsible. Table 7 identifies the action items identified through the Council Follow Up Notice to Planning Committee Report 23-010.

Table 6. Overview of action item progress from the UFS.

Action Item	Lead Department Responsible	Progress (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)	Comments
1. Develop and implement an inspiring urban forest communications strategy.	Communications	Complete	Development of readily identifiable UFS brand logo and taglines complete, development of targeted communications strategy complete using select mediums and channels, update to forestry webpage with Urban Forest Strategy related content complete.
2. Create a permanent new staff position in Public Works Department to implement UFS implementation (e.g., monitoring, outreach, partnership, development, data maintenance).	Public Works (Forestry)	Complete	Senior Project Manager of Policy and Preservation and Project Manager of Forest Health hired to start implementing action items of the UFS.

3. Work directly with Hamilton's development community to improve awareness, identify urban forest allies, and recognize best practices and innovation.	PED (Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE), Planning, Growth Management)	In Progress	MLE working in collaboration with other departments to develop a Private Tree Bylaw; draft Green Building Standards brought forward to Council for endorsement and is being re-reviewed based on Council feedback.
4. Work with the Indigenous community and local First Nations to understand and respect the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical connection that Indigenous peoples have to land.	Healthy and Safe Communities (Indigenous Relations outreach and advisory role), Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	First tree planting engagement with Niwasa Youth and HPS at Mt Albion Open Space in September of 2024 and again in 2025 as part of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Incorporate cultural teachings on significance of trees by a Traditional Helper / Knowledge Keeper. Indigenous community engaged through Private Tree Bylaw and Tree Protection Guidelines review.
5. Partner with organizations that support the City's urban forestry program.	Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	On-going; the city continues to partner with organizations to undertake community plantings, tree giveaways, de-pave projects, mini forests, etc. The city increased its annual free tree giveaway numbers from 3,000 in 2022 to 5,000 in 2024.
6. Carry out an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement strategies.	The department or section leading the engagement	In Progress	To be actioned on a project-by-project basis with data collected by interdepartmental working group.
7. Establish an inter-departmental working group to support UFS implementation.	Public Works (Forestry)	Complete	Interdepartmental working group formed and meeting quarterly.
8. Improve implementation of Tree Protection / Management Plans and Landscape Plans required through development application review.	PED (Planning)	In Progress	Underway as part of the Private Tree By-law review.
9. Complete land cover and canopy cover mapping for the City of Hamilton urban area.	PED (GIS)	Complete	LiDAR mapping data collected in September 2024 and results are presented within this State of the Forest Report. Will continue to collect LiDAR data on a 5-year cycle.

10. Apply standardized tree planting details and specifications in all city tree planting projects.	Public Works (Forestry)	Complete	The Forestry and Horticulture section created the Design and Preservation Manual for Assets within Public Property which includes standard details and specifications. The manual will continue to get updated on a 3-to-5-year basis and has been made available online.
11. Develop and apply minimum canopy cover targets to new development proposals.	See Items 8, 9 and 12	Not Started	
12. Identify and complete priority amendments to improve integration of trees through applicable policies, plans, and guidelines.	PED	In Progress	Urban Design Guidelines underway; review of Subdivision Agreement underway; review of Tree Protection Guidelines underway.
13. Determine the main drivers of canopy change in Hamilton.	See item 9	In Progress	Capital budget sheet submitted for 2026 budget year to complete study.
14. Present regular 'State of the Forest' reports to City Council and the public	Public Works (Forestry)	Complete	Report prepared and presented in 2026. Will complete on a 5-year cycle to align with collection of LiDAR data.
15. Review current urban forest management structures and identify resources required to achieve the City's urban forest vision.	Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	Review and inventory of tree assets not currently managed by Forestry section underway to consolidate management of public tree assets to Forestry.
16. Identify and implement options for increasing the preservation of healthy trees in Hamilton.	PED	In Progress	MLE working in collaboration with other departments to develop a Private Tree Bylaw.
17. Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment for Hamilton's natural systems, including the urban forest.	PED (Climate Change)	In Progress	OCCI and Forestry staff have engaged with CityLAB Hamilton to engage Mohawk College students through the 2026 Higher Education Analytics Data Competition.
18. Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Strategy	Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	Initial inventory of city-owned woodlands underway. Inventory will be used to create the city's invasive species strategy and inform management approach. Partnerships with Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton Conservation Authority and Hamilton Naturalist Club to strategize and collaborate for current Hemlock Woolly Adelgid control.

19. Develop service standards and emergency response plans for: Hazard trees and other forestry service requests, and severe weather events.	Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	Developed procedure for Risk Assessments and storm related procedures to define process for Forestry Operations to ensure public safety related to trees that pose a risk to the public realm within parks, cemeteries, and the rights-of-way. Next steps will be to devise service standards for current services that involve public trees and to complete a Tree Risk Management Strategy.
20. Increase the level of tree planting and/or natural forest regeneration in the city over the next five years.	Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	In 2024, the Forestry section increased its tree planting target to 20,000 from approximately 12,500 in 2023. The Climate Change Office will help support in increasing tree planting numbers. Community tree plantings have increased to 6,655 (17 planting events) in 2024 from 3,927 in 2023. Naturalization program planted 821 trees at former landfill sites and in stormwater ponds.
21. Develop a best practices manual for tree protection, planting, and preservation to share with all City departments and utilities whose activities affect trees.	Public Works (Forestry)	Complete	Design and Preservation Manual for Assets within Public Property created and will continue to be reviewed and updated on a 3-to-5-year cycle.
22. Complete a tree planting priority analysis to guide city-wide tree planting strategy.	Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	LiDAR data collected in 2024, and results being overlaid with other relevant and available data.
23. Fund regular, active management of natural areas in Hamilton to support native biodiversity and forest health.	Public Works (Parks)	In Progress	Biodiversity Action Plan was received by Council in June 2024, and 2 staff positions in Park Operations and a position in PED were approved and filled.
24. Implement a forest health monitoring program in Hamilton, including natural areas.	Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	Forestry monitors pests and diseases, in coordination with information received from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Examples of control programs within the last two years include the LDD moth control program, EAB tree injections, etc.

| 25. Implement a forestry asset management system. | Public Works (Forestry) | Complete | Forestry and Horticulture Asset Management Plan and Natural Asset Management Plans were adopted in 2024. |
| 26. Update urban forest inventories and studies every 10 years or in response to significant environmental change. | See Items 9, 14 and 15 | In Progress | Inventory of trees in streets, parks, and cemeteries within urban boundary complete in 2024 and procedure for updates for 10-year cycle in progress. Woodland inventories to be complete in 2026. Gaps remain for rural street trees and public facilities. |

Table 7. Review of action item progress from the Council Follow Up Notice to Planning Committee Report 23-010.

Action Item	Lead Department Responsible	Progress (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)	Comments
1. That staff be directed to refer to the 2024 budget process two Full Time Employee enhancements as follows: an enhancement of one Full-Time Employee within the Forestry Section of Public Works to undertake the ongoing monitoring, reporting and facilitation of the implementation of the UFS including prioritizing those areas with the greatest need for tree canopy; an enhancement of one Full-Time Employee within the Forestry Section of Public Works to supplement the City's tree planting program, with a goal of increasing the annual target for City-led tree planting from 12,000 to 20,000 trees per year and increasing the annual free tree giveaway from 3,000 to 5,000 tree per year.	Public Works (Forestry)	Complete	Two staff retained and directed to complete work per the action item identified through the Council follow up notice.

2. That staff be directed to refer to the 2024 budget process a capital budget allocation of up to $100,000 to purchase Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging of other appropriate data to accurately measure the city's tree canopy city-wide and by ward.	PED	Complete	LiDAR purchased to capture canopy data at the city-wide level and by ward.
3. That staff be directed to explore the feasibility of using carbon credits as a possible means to fund tree planting initiatives as per of their review of the Tree Protection Guidelines and policies.	PED	Not Started	
4. That as one action to respond to food insecurity and to increase biodiversity, that the Forestry Section of Public Works include opportunities for increased planting of fruit and nut trees in the urban area as part of the City's expanded tree planning initiatives.	Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	Reviewing appropriate locations that can support food producing trees.
5. That staff be directed to include in their 2024 workplan, the development of a City-wide tree protection by-law on private property within the urban area as defined in the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and lands removed from the Greenbelt Plan.	PED, Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	Review of Private Tree Bylaw underway, alongside Tree Protection Guidelines and review of Hamilton's existing woodland by-laws.
6. That staff be directed to report back with recommendations to revise the Tree Protection Guidelines and policies for private property to require compensation for the removal of existing trees to accommodate new development through replanting or payment to the city based on caliper and species as per the current policies for City property.	PED, Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	See item 5.

7. That up to $150,000.00 be provided from the Woodland protection Strategy Capital ID Account No. 81217755700 to fund any necessary consulting, research, or related costs to prepare options and recommendations regarding a City-wide tree protection by-law, City0wide woodlot protection by-law and revisions to the Tree Protection Guidelines and Policies.	PED, Public Works (Forestry)	In Progress	See item 5.

Future State of the Urban Forest Reporting

The State of the Urban Forest Report will be presented on a five-year interval to align with the LiDAR data collection timeline which is our key mechanism for tracking and monitoring canopy change across the city. Council will still receive separate updates within that five-year reporting cycle on individual strategies, policies, guidelines, etc., that are action items of the UFS and require Council approval.

The proposed five-year reporting cycle also aligns with, or in certain cases exceeds, the reporting timeframes of other local municipalities that have robust urban forest management plans. For example, the City of Burlington and Region of York present a State of the Urban Forest Report on a five-year cycle, as does the City of Cambridge, and the City of Toronto reports its LiDAR data on a ten-year cycle. Some other municipalities that have Urban Forest Strategies, such as the City of Kitchener, do not provide reporting updates to their municipal Councils through formal State of the Urban Forest Reports.

Municipalities that report a State of the Urban Forest Report to Council on a four-year cycle include the City of Mississauga and the City of London as they collect their LiDAR data on a four-year cycle to inform the report, and the City of London specifically intends to align the four-year reporting cycle to the terms of Council. City of London has indicated that the four-year reporting cycle is dependent on the continued availability of funding to collect LiDAR data. The LiDAR data is critical to monitoring canopy change and measuring the success of policies and programs.

FUNDING

Table 8 identifies the 5-year funding forecast for projects and programs to procure goods and services to implement the UFS action items. The figures presented are estimates only and final funding figures will be put forward as part of the city's formal budget process.

Please note that funding requests for action items being completed by internal staff and absorbed within approved staff operating costs, will not be shown in the table below. Action items resulting in the request for operating costs related to new staff personnel will be addressed through separate recommendation reports to Council.

Table 8. Review of anticipated future capital funding requests for projects and programs.

Related Action Item #	Project / Program Title	$Asks ($000's)					Funding Source
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
#5, #20	Tree Planting Programs (includes Free Tree Giveaway and Community Planting)	3,400	919	2,419	2,419	2,419	Block (Tax)
#5, #20	Pilot Backyard Tree Planting Program		33	43	55		Reserve
#9	LiDAR Data					200	Capital (Tax)
#13	Drivers of Canopy Change Study		110				Capital (Tax)
#18	Invasive Species Management Strategy (future funding requests may be required to implement the plan)	150					Capital (Tax)
#15	Tree Risk Management Strategy		150				Capital (Tax)
#16, #20	Hard Surface Tree Revitalization and Enhancement Program		160	668	680	685	Capital (Tax)
#20	Naturalized Tree Planting		110	110	110	110	Capital (Tax)
#24	Forest Health Monitoring	281	281	281	281	281	Operation (Tax)

Rationale

Certain programs are reoccurring block funding requests, such as the tree planting programs, or reoccurring operationally funded programs, such as the forest health monitoring program, and are required to maintain current service levels or expand service levels in response to the UFS. Other funding requests listed in Table 8 are one-time capital funding requests, such as the Invasive Species Management Strategy, that may generate further funding needs.

Staffing Impacts

The Forestry section has hired two additional staff and the Heritage and Urban Design section will be hiring one staff person approved by Council through the UFS. Future staffing impacts may be identified through the Invasive Species Management Strategy and a review of the urban forest management structures. Any staffing impacts will be brought forward to Council, and an acknowledgement of changes will be summarized in future State of the Urban Forest Reports.

External Funding Opportunities and Partnerships

In 2024, Forestry staff received three one-time grants for a tree planting project, a Trees Can Talk Pilot project and an invasive species monitoring and management project. The tree planting project was funded through the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program in partnership with the City of Hamilton's Forestry section and Watershed Management section, and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation to plant trees at a stormwater facility in Glanbrook.

The Trees Can Talk Pilot project was funded through the Climate Change Reserve and will be used to collect data through a dendrometer to monitor two trees in Hamilton and how they respond to fluctuations in environmental conditions such as rainfall and drought. The project is in partnership with the Office of Climate Change Initiatives, Digital Innovations Office, CityLab and OpenData Hamilton and the goal is to engage the community on how climate change in Hamilton is impacting the urban forest.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid monitoring was funded through the Invasive Species Action Fund to monitor and manage HWA within important ecological corridors where Eastern Hemlocks play a vital role. The project is in partnership with the Royal Botanical Gardens, Nature at McMaster (McMaster University), the Hamilton Naturalist Club and the Hamilton Conservation Authority since each agency owns properties that are connected via ecological corridors.

City staff are also monitoring multiple programs for upcoming grant opportunities, such as the Ontario Community Environment Fund offered the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for habitat restoration and tree planting projects, and the Green Municipal Fund for tree planting grants.

In 2024, City staff have also partnered with McMaster University students to develop a criterion for inventorying city-owned woodlands and may be partnering with CityLAB Hamilton in future to identify options for increasing tree planting where green space is limited.

Staff will continue to explore external funding and partnership opportunities as they become available.

Image: Child plays in shade cast by a large tree in a City of Hamilton Park.

OUTLOOK

We are at the beginning stages of implementing the Urban Forest Strategy and working to build momentum to drive change forward to achieve the city's vision of 40% canopy cover in the City of Hamilton by 2050. Over the next 24 years, we have exciting and impactful work to act on to ensure that Hamilton is adapting to the changing environmental and social climate to protect and grow the city's urban canopy for the benefit of current and future generations.

Over the next 5 years, important initiatives, such as the Private Tree Bylaw review, the Tree Planting Strategy, the Invasive Species Strategy, and the review of our Tree Protection Guidelines, will provide city staff with direction, tools and policies to protect and grow the urban canopy and positively influence behavioral changes of the public and development community.

Image: Sign to inform the members of the public of future planting site

Existing initiatives and programs will continue, and staff will seek opportunities to improve results, broaden their reach and diversify program offerings to respond to the community's needs. For example, staff are actively seeking ways to improve tree maintenance practices for existing and newly planted trees to ensure that trees planted have the best possible opportunity to thrive and grow into mature trees. Community outreach programs, like depave projects, and community tree plantings, have expanded and staff will continue to conduct outreach to members of the public and external partners to inspire and engage the community around the city's shared vision.

Engaging the public to understand which programs they want the city to deliver will continue and staff will review sustainable funding mechanisms to support plantings beyond current program offerings, such as on private land.

Performance will be measured for each project and program, and their overall, collective impacts on canopy change will be measured through the collection of LiDAR data on a five-year basis. A five-year interval is recommended to ensure that a measurable change can be detected, while also ensuring that data collection is frequent enough to use as a performance monitoring tool.

Implementing the action items of the Urban Forest Strategy will require on-going effort, education, engagement, collaboration, planning, enforcement and monitoring, and the results of these efforts will be presented in future State of the Urban Forest Reports, along with individual presentations to Council on key strategies as they are completed and for Council to deliberate.

Oakville
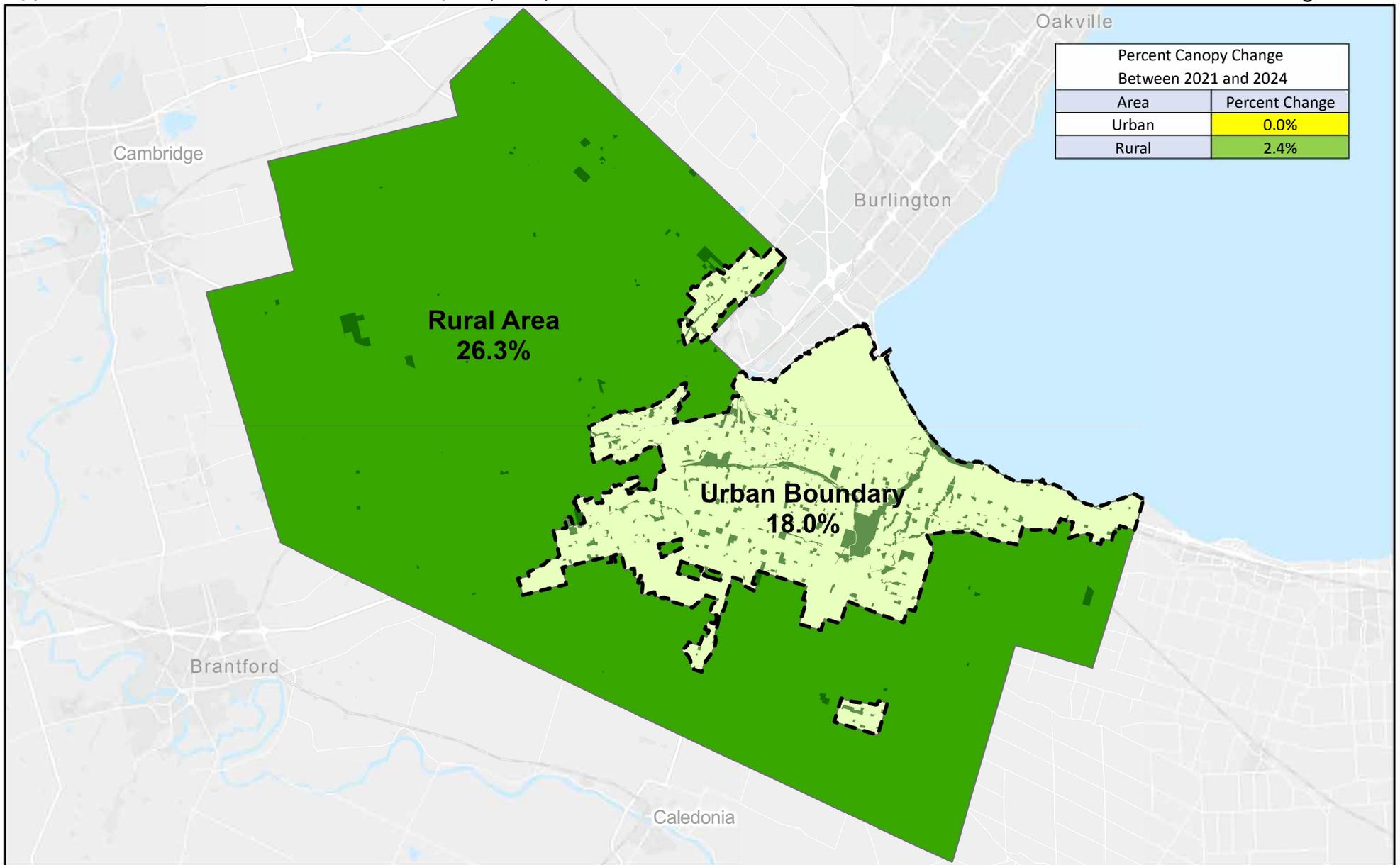
Percent Canopy Change Between 2021 and 2024	
Area	Percent Change
Urban	0.0%
Rural	2.4%

Cambridge

Burlington

**Rural Area
26.3%**

**Urban Boundary
18.0%**

Brantford

Caledonia

Legend

Rural

Urban

Urban Boundary

**Rural and Urban
Tree Canopy Cover**

Date:
December 4, 2025

N

Hamilton

Urban Tree Canopy Cover By Ward

Percent Canopy Change Between 2021 and 2024

Ward Number	Percent Change
Ward 1	1.7%
Ward 2	-0.3%
Ward 3	-0.7%
Ward 4	-0.1%
Ward 5	0.8%
Ward 6	-0.6%
Ward 7	-0.8%
Ward 8	-0.4%
Ward 9	-0.4%
Ward 10	-0.5%
Ward 11	-0.1%
Ward 12	0.2%
Ward 13	-1.7%
Ward 14	-0.8%
Ward 15	1.3%

Legend

11.5% - 15.1%	25.1% - 30.0%
15.1% - 20.0%	30.1% - 35.0%
20.1% - 25.0%	35.1% - 42.2%

Rural Hamilton
Parks
Urban Boundary

Date: December 4, 2025

N

Hamilton

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Ward 15 — 19.1%
Ward 13 — 40.9%
Ward 1 — 33.1%
Ward 2 — 17.6%
Ward 3 — 13.7%
Ward 4 — 16.5%
Ward 14 — 23.4%
Ward 12 — 24.6%
Ward 8 — 17.8%
Ward 7 — 14.1%
Ward 5 — 21.6%
Ward 10 — 13.7%
Ward 6 — 14.9%
Ward 9 — 12.8%
Ward 11 — 11.4%
Ward 11 — 11.4%
Ward 11 — 11.4%

Percent Canopy Cover Change between 2021 and 2024 By Land Use			
Area	City Owned Land	Right of Way	Private
Ward 1	6.7%	-2.6%	1.0%
Ward 2	0.9%	-2.3%	0.1%
Ward 3	-1.3%	-2.4%	-0.1%
Ward 4	1.1%	-1.9%	0.1%
Ward 5	1.1%	-0.9%	1.1%
Ward 6	0.3%	-1.5%	-0.5%
Ward 7	0.5%	-2.5%	-0.3%
Ward 8	2.3%	-2.0%	-0.2%
Ward 9	0.0%	-1.3%	-0.3%
Ward 10	0.2%	-1.9%	-0.2%
Ward 11	0.2%	-2.0%	-0.1%
Ward 12	2.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Ward 13	-0.5%	-2.4%	-1.8%
Ward 14	2.3%	-0.7%	-1.1%
Ward 15	4.2%	0.9%	0.8%
Urban Hamilton	1.6%	-1.4%	-0.1%

2024 Percent Canopy Cover By Land Use			
Area	City Owned Land	Right of Way	Private
Ward 1	45.2%	27.5%	27.0%
Ward 2	13.0%	15.4%	18.1%
Ward 3	42.1%	9.1%	16.4%
Ward 4	39.4%	8.3%	14.7%
Ward 5	44.2%	15.2%	13.9%
Ward 6	23.7%	12.7%	14.4%
Ward 7	11.8%	14.2%	14.5%
Ward 8	31.0%	17.0%	16.1%
Ward 9	20.8%	12.2%	13.6%
Ward 10	31.0%	12.8%	11.6%
Ward 11	13.6%	11.4%	8.4%
Ward 12	37.2%	24.6%	19.3%
Ward 13	46.5%	43.6%	27.9%
Ward 14	27.8%	25.0%	19.0%
Ward 15	32.6%	18.3%	12.0%
Urban Hamilton	33.3%	16.2%	17.5%

Legend

- Private Lands
- Right of Way & City Owned Lands
- Parks
- Rural Hamilton
- Urban Boundary

Urban Boundary Canopy Cover By Ownership

Land Use	2024 Percent Canopy Cover	Percent Change in Canopy Cover between 2021 and 2024
Agricultural	14.5%	0.4%
Commercial	5.5%	0.1%
Industrial	4.5%	-0.1%
Institutional	16.9%	0.1%
Office	9.3%	-0.6%
Parks/Open Space	46.0%	1.1%
Residential Low	21.1%	-0.2%
Residential Medium	15.0%	-0.1%
Residential High	18.3%	-0.9%
Transportation/Utilities	13.4%	0.3%
Vacant Lands	17.0%	0.9%

Legend

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Office
- Parks/Open Space
- Residential Low Density
- Residential Medium Density
- Residential High Density
- Transportation/Utilities
- Vacant Lands
- Rural Hamilton
- Urban Boundary

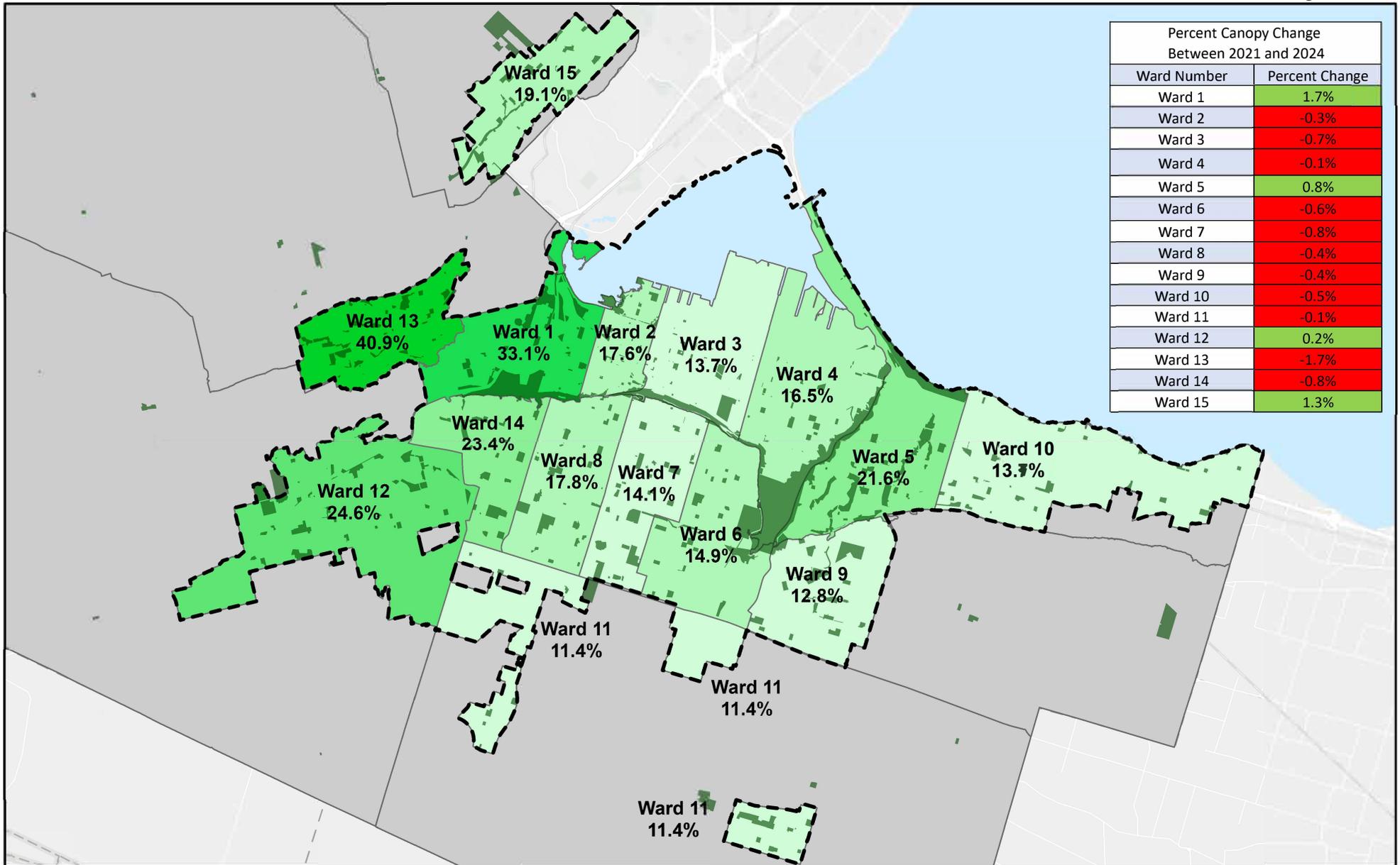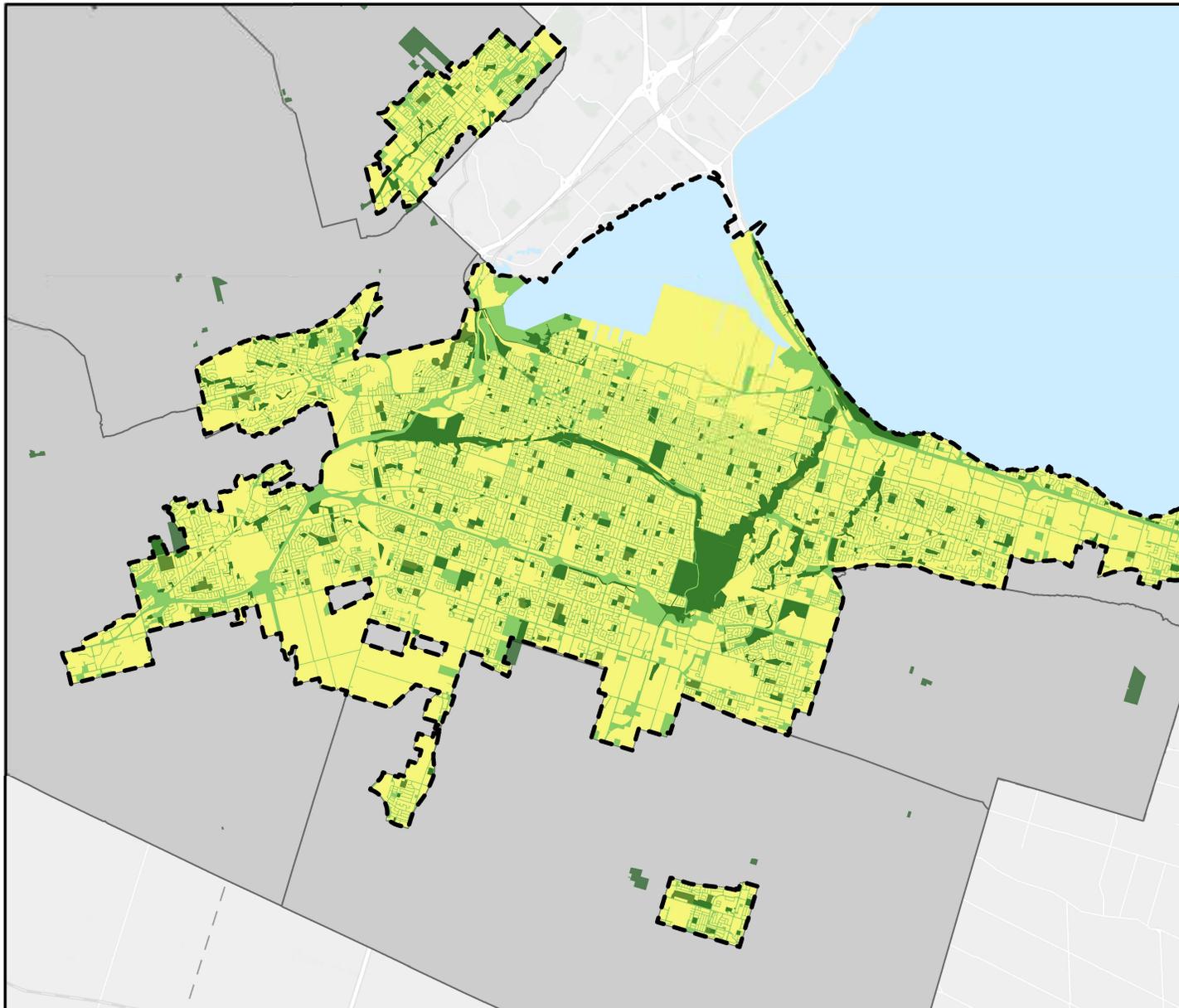**Tree Canopy Cover By Land Use**

Date: December 4, 2025

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Hamilton

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2024 Tree Canopy Cover By Neighbourhood

Legend

- 2.6% - 10.0%
- 10.1% - 20.0%
- 20.1% - 30.0%
- 30.1% - 40.0%
- 40.1% - 50.0%
- 50.1% - 62.6%
- Rural Hamilton
- Urban Boundary

Date: December 4, 2025

N

Hamilton

Legend

- ▮ -10.6% - -6.0%
- ▮ -5.9% - -3.0%
- ▮ -2.9% - -0.5%
- ▮ -0.4% - 0.0%
- ▮ 0.1% - 0.5%
- ▮ 0.6% - 3.0%
- ▮ 3.1% - 6.0%
- ▮ 6.1% - 8.7%
- ▮ Rural Hamilton
- ⬚ Urban Boundary

Percent Change in Canopy Cover between 2021 and 2024 by Neighbourhood
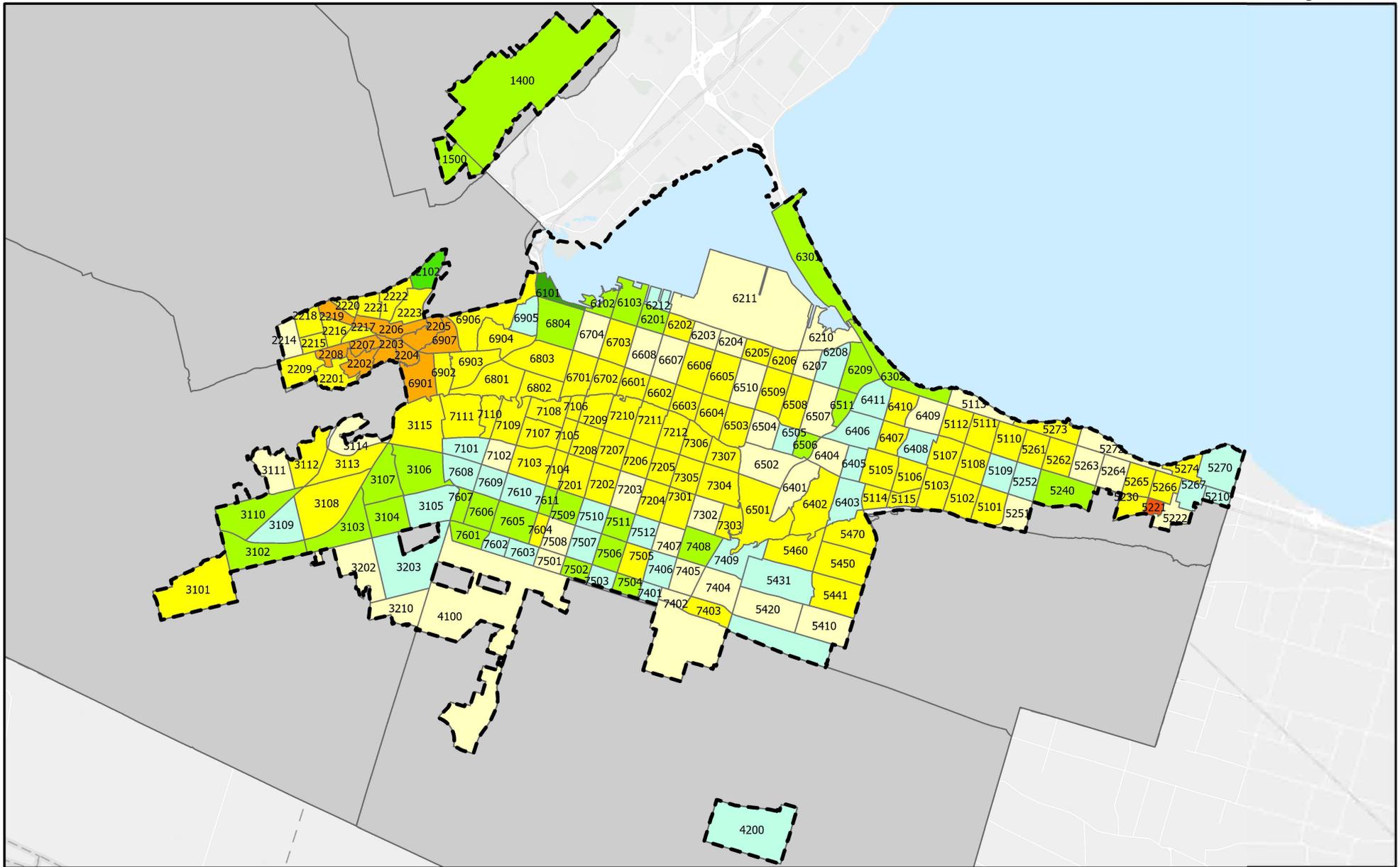
Date: December 4, 2025

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Hamilton

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Table of Canopy Cover by Neighbourhood Planning Unit

COMMUNITY	NEIGHBOURHOOD	PLANNING UNIT (Unique Identifier)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2024 (%)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2021 (%)	Percent Canopy Cover Change between 2021 and 2024
Flamborough	1400	1400	20.3	19.0	1.3
Flamborough	1500	1500	6.9	5.6	1.3
Dundas	York Road	2102	62.6	58.7	3.9
Dundas	Pleasant Valley West	2201	52.4	55.0	-2.6
Dundas	Pleasant Valley East	2202	48.0	51.1	-3.2
Dundas	Dundana West	2203	46.7	50.0	-3.3
Dundas	Dundana East	2204	40.0	44.5	-4.5
Dundas	University Gardens	2205	34.5	37.9	-3.4
Dundas	Central Business District	2206	34.5	39.0	-4.5
Dundas	Highland Hills East	2207	49.5	54.1	-4.6
Dundas	Highland Hills West	2208	36.3	39.6	-3.3
Dundas	Turnball	2209	52.1	54.2	-2.1
Dundas	Morden	2214	24.0	24.4	-0.4
Dundas	Sobel	2215	31.8	32.8	-1.0
Dundas	Creighton West	2216	40.1	42.6	-2.5
Dundas	Creighton East	2217	47.2	49.3	-2.1
Dundas	Golf Course	2218	31.4	33.1	-1.8
Dundas	Spencer Creek	2219	29.2	32.5	-3.3
Dundas	Colborne	2220	37.6	40.6	-3.0
Dundas	Sydenham	2221	42.2	44.5	-2.3
Dundas	York Heights	2222	40.1	41.5	-1.3
Dundas	Hunter	2223	36.6	37.9	-1.3
Ancaster	Duff's Corner	3101	5.8	6.6	-0.8
Ancaster	Shaver	3102	29.8	27.0	2.7
Ancaster	Garner	3103	25.8	24.9	0.9
Ancaster	Marritt	3104	16.2	15.1	1.1
Ancaster	Lampman	3105	21.5	21.1	0.4
Ancaster	Horning	3106	20.8	19.9	0.9
Ancaster	Oakes	3107	13.0	12.3	0.8
Ancaster	Hamilton Golf & Club	3108	33.9	35.2	-1.3
Ancaster	Leeming	3109	26.0	25.7	0.3
Ancaster	Spring Valley	3110	33.2	31.7	1.5
Ancaster	Clearview	3111	35.4	35.6	-0.2
Ancaster	Old Mill	3112	55.4	57.3	-1.9
Ancaster	St. John's	3113	35.7	36.6	-0.9
Ancaster	Lime Kiln	3114	40.4	40.7	-0.3
Ancaster	Scenic Woods	3115	39.2	42.1	-2.9
Ancaster	Book	3202	15.1	15.4	-0.3
Ancaster	Bowman	3203	20.8	20.5	0.3
Ancaster	Carluke	3210	9.4	9.8	-0.4
Glanbrook	4100	4100	11.4	11.8	-0.4
Glanbrook	4200	4200	7.4	7.2	0.2
Stoney Creek	Highway Valley	5101	28.2	28.9	-0.8
Stoney Creek	South Meadow	5102	28.6	29.8	-1.2

COMMUNITY	NEIGHBOURHOOD	PLANNING UNIT (Unique Identifier)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2024 (%)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2021 (%)	Percent Canopy Cover Change between 2021 and 2024
Stoney Creek	Corman	5103	25.9	26.6	-0.7
Stoney Creek	Battlefield	5105	20.7	22.3	-1.6
Stoney Creek	Stoney Creek	5106	18.4	20.2	-1.8
Stoney Creek	Eastdale	5107	14.8	15.7	-0.9
Stoney Creek	Poplar Park	5108	12.3	12.8	-0.5
Stoney Creek	Guernsey	5109	14.9	14.7	0.2
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5110	5.4	6.3	-0.9
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5111	6.7	7.5	-0.8
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5112	5.5	6.7	-1.2
Stoney Creek	Lakeshore	5113	19.8	20.0	-0.3
Stoney Creek	Battlefield	5114	31.1	32.6	-1.6
Stoney Creek	Stoney Creek	5115	30.7	31.6	-0.9
Stoney Creek	Fruitland	5210	5.9	5.6	0.3
Stoney Creek	Fruitland	5221	5.3	15.9	-10.6
Stoney Creek	Winona South	5222	14.5	14.7	-0.2
Stoney Creek	Fruitland	5230	8.9	10.2	-1.3
Stoney Creek	Fruitland	5240	14.8	14.1	0.7
Stoney Creek	Dewitt	5251	32.2	32.2	-0.1
Stoney Creek	Westmeria	5252	13.6	13.5	0.0
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5261	5.6	6.8	-1.2
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5262	8.6	9.2	-0.7
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5263	7.1	7.5	-0.5
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5264	6.9	7.2	-0.3
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5265	5.3	7.3	-2.0
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5266	4.8	5.3	-0.6
Stoney Creek	Industrial	5267	3.1	2.8	0.3
Stoney Creek	Fifty Point	5270	16.8	16.5	0.2
Stoney Creek	Trillium	5272	11.8	12.0	-0.2
Stoney Creek	Bayview	5273	12.5	13.0	-0.5
Stoney Creek	Winona North	5274	14.4	15.3	-0.9
Stoney Creek	Highland	5410	11.4	11.6	-0.1
Stoney Creek	Trinity	5420	21.1	21.5	-0.4
Stoney Creek	Valley Park	5431	12.9	12.5	0.4
Stoney Creek	Felker	5441	11.3	12.3	-1.0
Stoney Creek	Nash South	5450	3.3	3.9	-0.6
Stoney Creek	Albion	5460	27.6	28.7	-1.1
Stoney Creek	Nash North	5470	17.1	17.9	-0.8
Hamilton	Dundurn	6101	25.1	16.4	8.7
Hamilton	North End West	6102	21.8	19.5	2.3
Hamilton	North End East	6103	13.2	12.2	1.0
Hamilton	Industrial Sector A And Keith	6201	10.7	10.1	0.5
Hamilton	Industrial Sector B	6202	6.3	7.7	-1.4
Hamilton	Industrial Sector C	6203	7.0	7.4	-0.5
Hamilton	Industrial Sector D	6204	5.3	5.7	-0.4
Hamilton	Industrial Sector E	6205	8.4	8.9	-0.6
Hamilton	Industrial Sector F	6206	2.7	3.3	-0.6
Hamilton	Industrial Sector G	6207	2.6	3.0	-0.4

COMMUNITY	NEIGHBOURHOOD	PLANNING UNIT (Unique Identifier)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2024 (%)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2021 (%)	Percent Canopy Cover Change between 2021 and 2024
Hamilton	Parkview West	6208	9.1	9.1	0.1
Hamilton	Parkview East	6209	9.3	8.3	1.0
Hamilton	Industrial Sector J	6210	5.2	5.2	-0.1
Hamilton	Industrial Sector K	6211	3.0	3.3	-0.3
Hamilton	Industrial Sector	6212	4.1	3.8	0.3
Hamilton	Hamilton Beach	6301	8.5	7.9	0.6
Hamilton	Confederation Park	6302	20.7	18.2	2.6
Hamilton	Red Hill	6401	27.4	27.8	-0.4
Hamilton	Vincent	6402	40.0	41.6	-1.6
Hamilton	Gersholme	6403	26.9	26.9	0.0
Hamilton	Corman	6404	19.3	19.5	-0.3
Hamilton	Greenford	6405	10.4	10.3	0.1
Hamilton	Kentley	6406	13.0	12.8	0.3
Hamilton	Riverdale West	6407	21.2	21.8	-0.6
Hamilton	Riverdale East	6408	22.2	22.0	0.2
Hamilton	Grayside	6409	11.6	12.0	-0.5
Hamilton	Lakeley	6410	3.7	4.4	-0.7
Hamilton	Nashdale	6411	7.2	7.1	0.0
Hamilton	Lower King's Forest	6501	52.1	53.7	-1.7
Hamilton	Rosedale	6502	31.6	31.8	-0.2
Hamilton	Delta East	6503	25.2	26.2	-1.1
Hamilton	Bartonville	6504	14.2	14.3	-0.2
Hamilton	Glenview West	6505	15.2	15.1	0.2
Hamilton	Glenview East	6506	30.5	28.5	2.0
Hamilton	Mcquesten West	6507	15.0	15.2	-0.2
Hamilton	Normanhurst	6508	10.3	10.8	-0.6
Hamilton	Homeside	6509	13.4	14.1	-0.6
Hamilton	Crown Point East	6510	10.7	11.0	-0.3
Hamilton	Mcquesten East	6511	22.0	20.1	1.9
Hamilton	Stinson	6601	34.2	35.1	-0.9
Hamilton	St. Clair	6602	39.7	40.5	-0.8
Hamilton	Blakeley	6603	35.4	36.1	-0.7
Hamilton	Delta West	6604	34.7	36.5	-1.7
Hamilton	Crown Point West	6605	12.0	13.2	-1.2
Hamilton	Stipeley	6606	11.9	12.5	-0.6
Hamilton	Gibson	6607	12.0	12.2	-0.2
Hamilton	Landsdale	6608	12.1	12.2	-0.2
Hamilton	Durand	6701	29.9	31.7	-1.8
Hamilton	Corktown	6702	22.5	24.6	-2.1
Hamilton	Beasley	6703	10.4	11.4	-0.9
Hamilton	Central	6704	10.5	10.6	-0.1
Hamilton	Chedoke Park	6801	39.8	40.4	-0.6
Hamilton	Kirkendall South	6802	50.2	53.0	-2.8
Hamilton	Kirkendall North	6803	18.1	19.2	-1.1
Hamilton	Strathcona	6804	25.0	24.0	1.0
Hamilton	Ainslie Wood West	6901	36.8	40.2	-3.4
Hamilton	Ainslie Wood	6902	24.1	26.0	-1.9

COMMUNITY	NEIGHBOURHOOD	PLANNING UNIT (Unique Identifier)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2024 (%)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2021 (%)	Percent Canopy Cover Change between 2021 and 2024
Hamilton	Ainslie Wood East	6903	31.8	33.8	-2.0
Hamilton	Westdale South	6904	31.4	33.3	-1.9
Hamilton	Westdale North	6905	32.5	32.4	0.1
Hamilton	Cootes Paradise	6906	38.9	39.6	-0.7
Hamilton	Ainslie Wood North	6907	36.3	39.4	-3.1
Hamilton	Fessenden	7101	19.1	19.0	0.0
Hamilton	Gilbert	7102	17.3	17.3	-0.1
Hamilton	Rolston	7103	21.7	22.2	-0.5
Hamilton	Yeoville	7104	14.2	15.4	-1.1
Hamilton	Bonnington	7105	19.3	21.4	-2.1
Hamilton	Southam	7106	31.8	33.9	-2.1
Hamilton	Buchanan	7107	22.9	24.1	-1.1
Hamilton	Mohawk	7108	16.5	17.5	-1.1
Hamilton	Westcliffe East	7109	27.6	29.7	-2.1
Hamilton	Westcliffe West	7110	28.3	30.7	-2.5
Hamilton	Mountview	7111	19.8	20.5	-0.7
Hamilton	Greeningdon	7201	14.0	14.9	-0.8
Hamilton	Bruleville	7202	17.2	18.2	-0.9
Hamilton	Thorner	7203	7.8	8.2	-0.4
Hamilton	Lawfield	7204	13.3	14.1	-0.8
Hamilton	Macassa	7205	17.1	19.1	-1.9
Hamilton	Burkholme	7206	14.7	16.0	-1.3
Hamilton	Hill Park	7207	15.1	17.1	-1.9
Hamilton	Balfour	7208	15.0	16.9	-1.9
Hamilton	Centremount	7209	23.2	25.7	-2.5
Hamilton	Inch Park	7210	18.7	20.7	-2.0
Hamilton	Eastmount	7211	18.5	20.1	-1.6
Hamilton	Raleigh	7212	16.5	18.0	-1.5
Hamilton	Berrisfield	7301	16.5	17.3	-0.8
Hamilton	Lisgar	7302	11.4	11.9	-0.5
Hamilton	Upper King's Forest	7303	17.9	19.1	-1.2
Hamilton	Huntington	7304	18.0	19.8	-1.8
Hamilton	Hampton Heights	7305	16.3	17.8	-1.4
Hamilton	Sunninghill	7306	19.3	21.5	-2.1
Hamilton	Sherwood	7307	23.5	25.3	-1.8
Hamilton	Broughton East	7401	13.8	13.3	0.5
Hamilton	West Hannon	7402	5.0	5.3	-0.3
Hamilton	South Hannon	7403	12.0	12.7	-0.7
Hamilton	North Hannon	7404	13.1	13.2	-0.2
Hamilton	Rymal	7405	4.4	4.5	-0.1
Hamilton	Templemead	7406	12.8	12.7	0.0
Hamilton	Quinndale	7407	14.6	15.0	-0.4
Hamilton	Trenholme	7408	21.2	20.6	0.6
Hamilton	Albion Falls	7409	22.6	22.4	0.2
Hamilton	Allison	7501	20.7	20.7	0.0
Hamilton	Chappel West	7502	8.7	8.2	0.5
Hamilton	Chappel East	7503	6.5	6.3	0.2

COMMUNITY	NEIGHBOURHOOD	PLANNING UNIT (Unique Identifier)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2024 (%)	Tree Canopy Percent Coverage in 2021 (%)	Percent Canopy Cover Change between 2021 and 2024
Hamilton	Broughton West	7504	14.6	12.5	2.1
Hamilton	Eleanor	7505	9.2	9.9	-0.7
Hamilton	Butler	7506	9.8	9.3	0.5
Hamilton	Barnstown	7507	13.8	13.7	0.1
Hamilton	Ryckmans	7508	8.0	8.4	-0.3
Hamilton	Jerome	7509	14.2	13.2	0.9
Hamilton	Crerar	7510	14.6	14.2	0.4
Hamilton	Rushdale	7511	10.0	9.5	0.5
Hamilton	Randall	7512	14.1	13.7	0.4
Hamilton	Carpenter	7601	10.0	9.0	1.0
Hamilton	Kennedy West	7602	18.4	18.1	0.3
Hamilton	Kennedy East	7603	19.2	19.1	0.1
Hamilton	Mewburn	7604	6.0	7.1	-1.1
Hamilton	Sheldon	7605	20.1	17.2	2.8
Hamilton	Falkirk East	7606	15.8	14.5	1.3
Hamilton	Falkirk West	7607	24.4	23.1	1.4
Hamilton	Gurnett	7608	15.4	15.1	0.4
Hamilton	Gilkson	7609	18.0	17.9	0.1
Hamilton	Gourley	7610	20.8	20.4	0.4
Hamilton	Kernighan	7611	10.8	9.6	1.3