



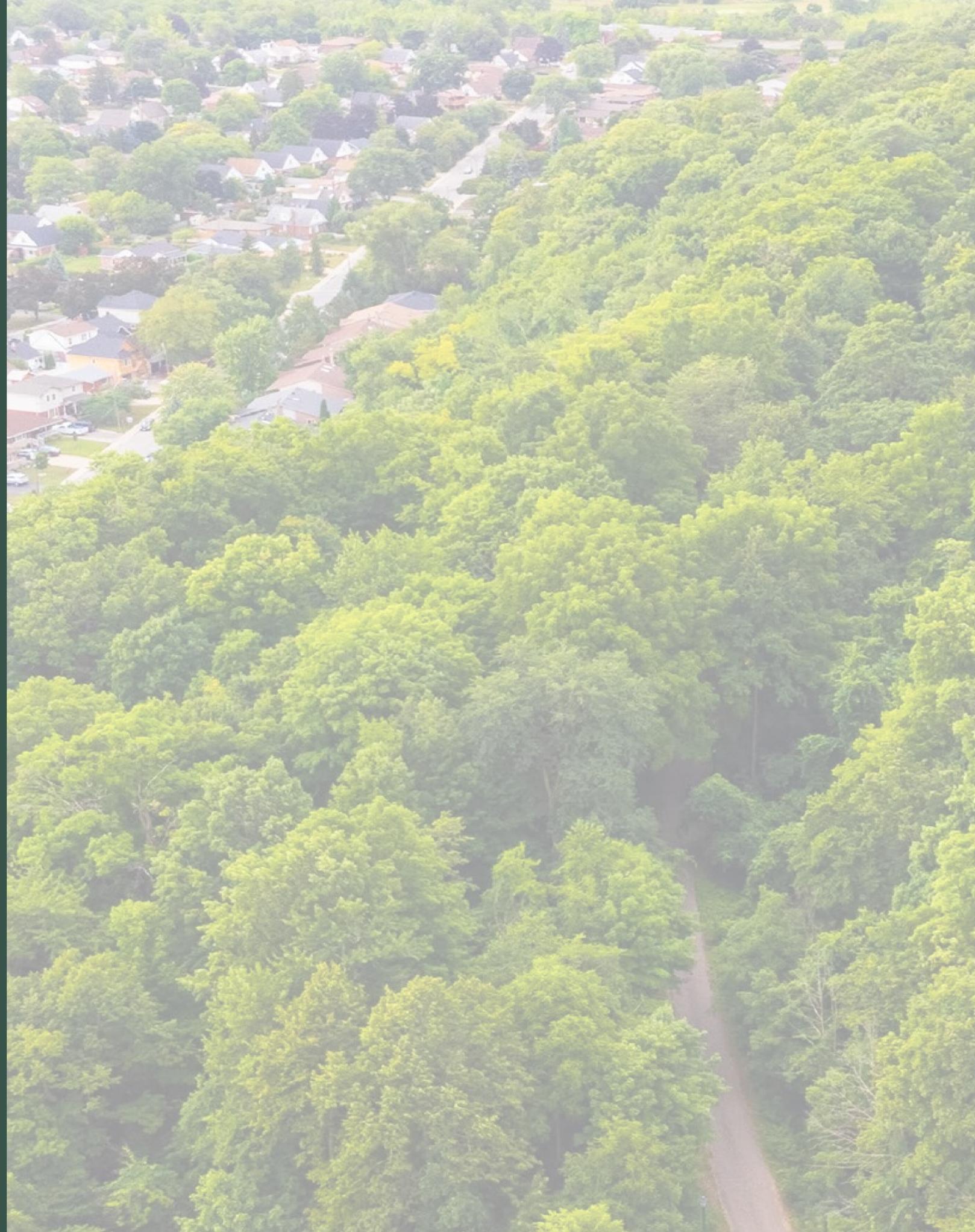
Hamilton

**Private Tree Bylaw Review  
Updates to Tree Protection Guidelines  
and Woodland Bylaws  
Public Open House**

March - April 2026  
Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

**Please sign-in at the registration table**

Thank you for participating in the Public Open House. Members of the Project Team are available to answer questions and receive feedback.



# Project Overview



## Project Background



The **Urban Forest Strategy**, approved in June 2023, aims to increase canopy cover to **40% by 2050** in the urban boundary

To achieve the target of 40% and enhance tree canopy cover, staff were directed to:

Develop a bylaw for trees on private land (“Private Tree Bylaw”) with input from the public for the city’s urban boundary that updates and consolidates the existing three (3) bylaws that serve specific areas of Stoney Creek, Dundas and Ancaster.

Review and update the existing regional and urban woodland bylaws

Review and update the existing Tree Protection Guidelines that apply to development subject to Planning Act approvals (e.g. site plan control, subdivisions, etc.) and Niagara Escarpment Plan approval

## Where We Are Now

### Phase 1

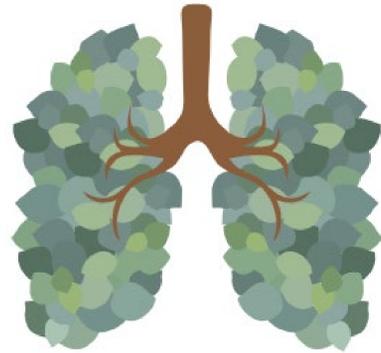
- Background review
- Municipal review
- Initial engagement
- Prepare draft bylaws and revised tree protection guidelines
- Notify Council of upcoming engagement

### Phase 2

- **Public consultation (we are here)**
- Update bylaws and Tree Protection Guidelines based on public feedback
- Finalize bylaws and guidelines
  - Seek Council approval



# Why Trees are Important



Improved local air and water quality through air pollution removal and interception of surface runoff



Habitat for wildlife



Reduced storm water runoff and improved flood mitigation



Increased residential property values



Mental and physical health benefits include reduced stress and more chances for activities like hiking, walking, jogging, and biking



More attractive and liveable neighbourhoods and commercial areas

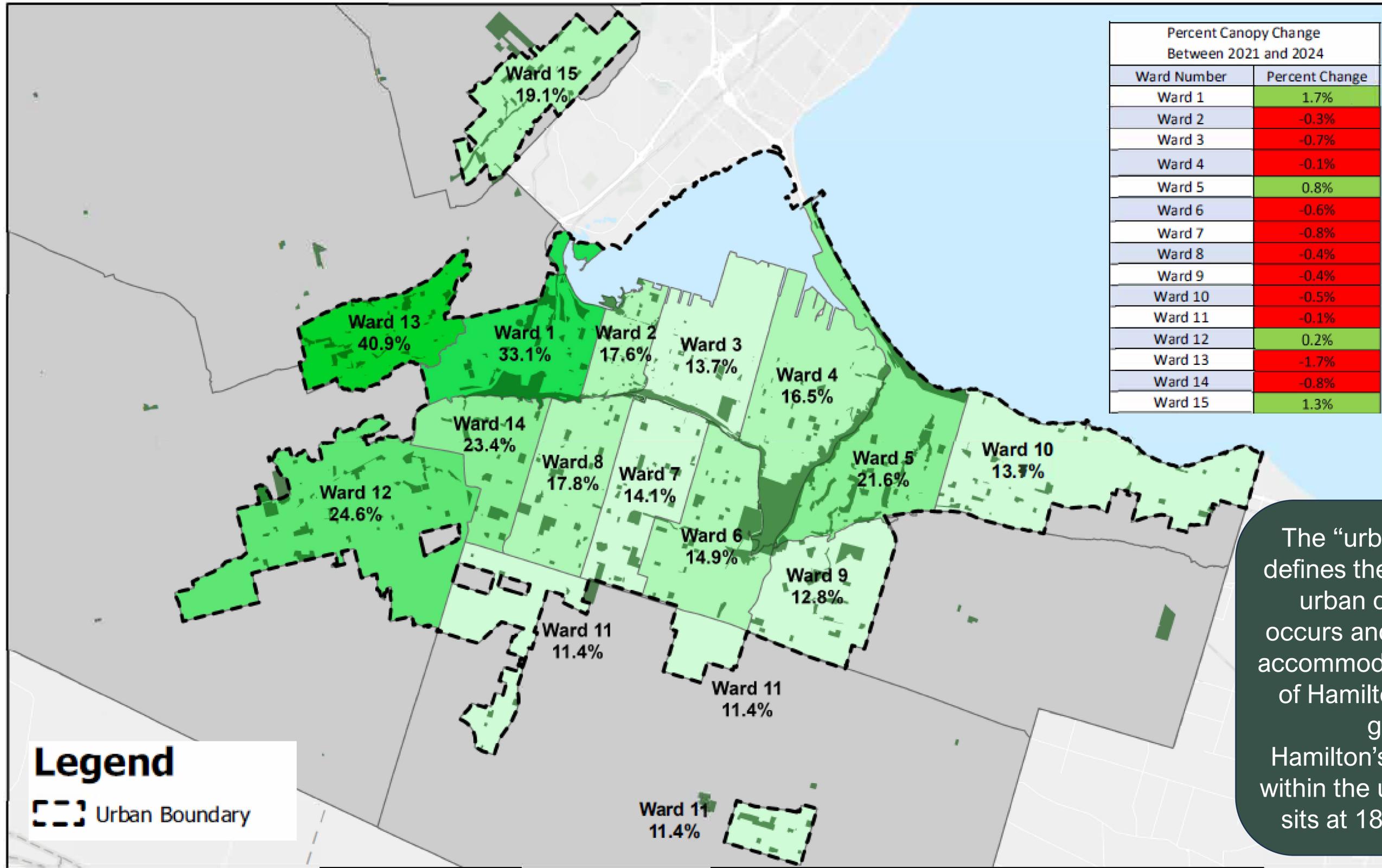


Lower energy costs for heating and cooling



Shared responsibility to actively care for, protect and manage our urban forest for the benefit of current and future generations

# Canopy Coverage by Ward



The “urban boundary” defines the area where all urban development occurs and is intended to accommodate the majority of Hamilton’s projected growth. Hamilton’s canopy cover within the urban boundary sits at 18% as of 2024.

# About the Private Tree Bylaw

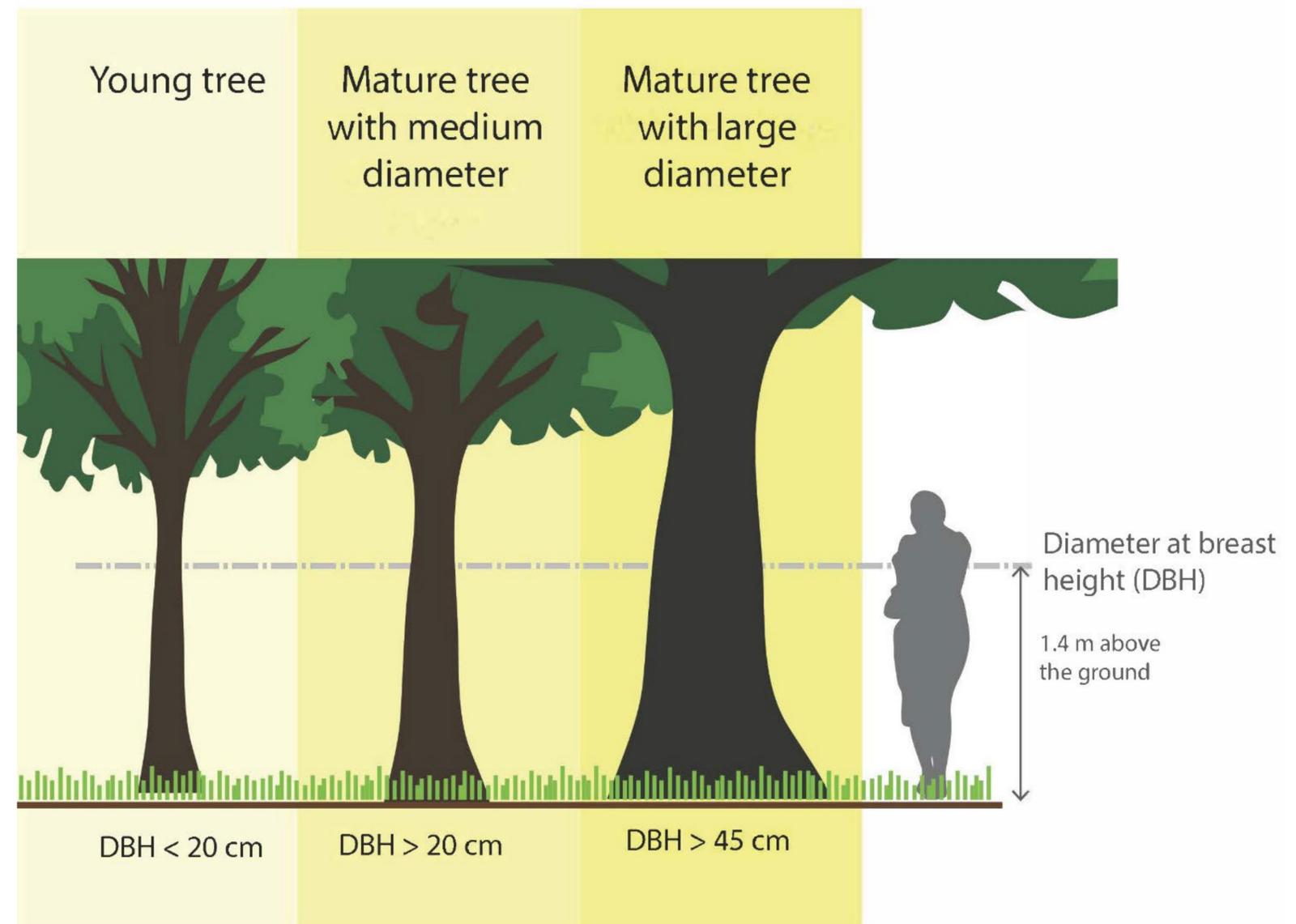


URBAN  
FOREST  
STRATEGY  
LEGACY STARTS AT THE ROOTS

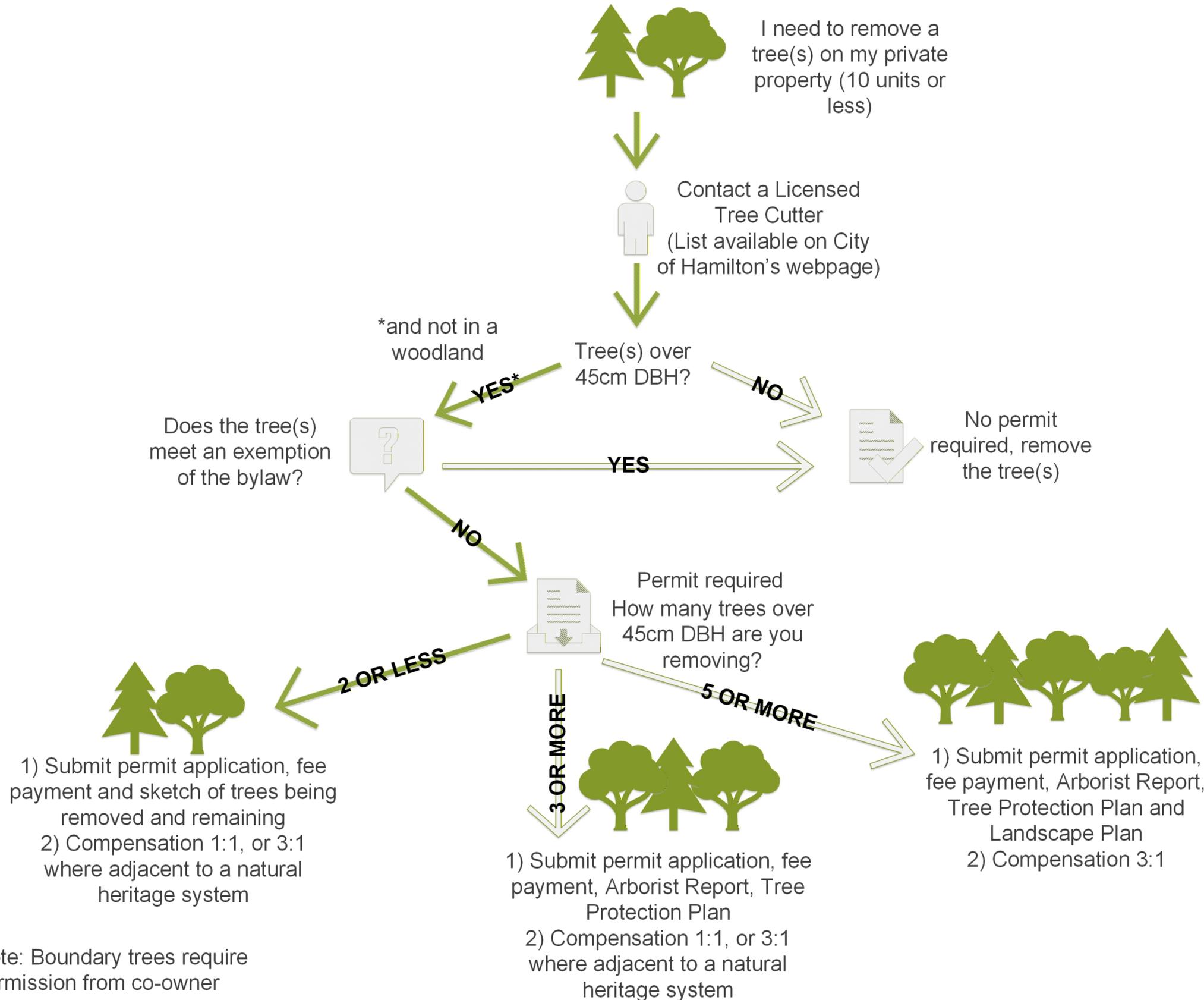


You need a permit if the tree has a diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than 45-centimetres (and not in a woodland), and if the property is located within Hamilton's **Urban Boundary**.

A permit is granted if the application is complete, meets all criteria, and does not harm flood control, erosion, or slope stability. A permit may be denied or revoked if the application is incomplete or contains false information.



# Private Tree Bylaw Process



## Exemptions:

- The tree's diameter at breast height (DBH) measures less than 45 cm
- The tree is identified as hazardous or is dead
- The tree must be removed to facilitate emergency work
- The tree is located within 2 meters of an occupied building
- The tree is found in a nursery, orchard, or plantation
- The tree grows on a rooftop garden, inside a building, or within an interior courtyard or solarium
- The tree's removal is required by an order under the City's Property Standards By-law 23-162
- The tree is considered invasive under the Invasive Species Act (Tree of Heaven only)

Note: Boundary trees require permission from co-owner

# Tree Protection Guidelines



## Purpose and Function of Guidelines

- Provide guidance to landowners and developers subject to Planning Act approvals on how to identify and protect trees on private lands and requirements for replanting
- Types of Planning Act applications include:
  - Draft plans of subdivision or condominium, site plan control, consent applications, part lot control
- The guidelines apply to all trees over 10cm DBH and trees in woodlands on private property
- The guidelines were last revised in 2010

### 5.8.1. Tree Protection Zones

Trunk Diameter	Minimum Tree Protection Zone distance required (Private Trees) - measured from the outside edge of the trunk at breast height
<10cm	1.2m
10 to 20cm	1.8m
21 to 30cm	2.4m
31 to 40cm	3.0m
41 to 50cm	3.6m
51 to 60cm	4.2m
61 to 70cm	4.8m
71 to 80cm	5.4m
81 to 90cm	6.0m
91 to 100cm	6.6m
>100cm	6.6cm protection for each 1cm of diameter

## Key Updates to the Tree Protection Guidelines

### Compensation

- Original:
  - 1:1 for each tree removed 10cm DBH or greater
- **Proposed changes:**
  - 1:1 for each tree removed 10cm to 29cm DBH
  - 3:1 for each tree removed that is 30cm DBH or greater
  - 10:1 for each tree removed that is 10cm or greater within a natural area
- Reason: ensure canopy lost is compensated for and directly benefits the affected community

### Tree Protection Zones

- Original: Dripline +1m
- **Proposed changes:** based on tree size (industry standard)
- Reason: provides flexibility to allow opportunity to protect more existing trees

# Share your thoughts!



## Private Tree Bylaw



## Tree Protection Guidelines



# Urban Woodland Bylaw



The current **Urban Woodland Bylaw** has undergone only slight changes, keeping the overall regulation largely unchanged. These updates are mainly administrative, with the original intent remaining intact.

## Important updates or revisions to the Bylaw include:

- Added new definitions for clarity, e.g. “Hazard”, “Licensed Tree Cutter”, etc.
- Expanded permit application to allow for submission of a Silvicultural Prescription or a Forest Management Plan (**Original bylaw** only allowed for submission of a Forest Management Plan)
- Added automatic conditions for all permits, e.g. requirement to abide by Good Forestry Practices and that work be performed by a Licensed Tree Cutter, etc. (**Original bylaw** only had “may” conditions, which are still included)



Share **your** thoughts below!

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a green border, intended for users to share their thoughts or feedback.

# Regional Woodland Bylaw



The current **Regional Woodland Bylaw** has undergone moderate changes, keeping the overall regulation largely unchanged. These updates are mainly administrative, with the original intent remaining intact.

## Important updates or revisions to the Bylaw include:



Share **your** thoughts below!

- Added new definitions for clarity, e.g. “Licensed Tree Cutter”, “Agricultural Operation”, “Good Forestry Practices”, “Hedge Row” etc.
- Expanded personal use exception through definition and cut limits (**Original bylaw:** only referred to years of land ownership)
- Clarified permitting requirements (**Original bylaw:** notice of intent to destroy trees and minor exception)
- Exemptions updated in accordance with Municipal Act and new exemptions added
- Kept minor exception and prescribed species list
- Clarity on permit issuance and conditions, including tree replacements (**Original bylaw:** silent, except for minor exception process)

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