HAMILTON URBAN FOREST STRATEGY WORKSHOP

May 17, 2018, 6:00 – 8:30pm
David Braley Health Sciences Centre, Room 2035-2036
**Agenda**

- **6:00** Welcome and Introductions
- **6:10** Presentation: An Urban Forest Strategy for Hamilton
  - Context and Possibilities
  - Mentimeter - Exercise
- **6:30** Questions and Discussion
- **6:40** Break
- **6:50** Strengthening our Urban Forest - Exercise
- **8:05** “Vision” Discussion
- **8:25** Next Steps and Closing
What do YOU value about Hamilton’s Urban Forest?
Urban Forest: The urban forest includes all of the trees and woodlands growing on public and private lands, including parks and cemeteries, natural areas, streets, and in residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional areas.

Purpose: To develop a VISION and prepare a plan that outlines the necessary steps that must be taken to protect, maintain, enhance, and monitor the trees and forests in the urban area of Hamilton over the next 20 years and beyond.
Urban Forest Strategy for Hamilton

Strategy Framework:

- Vision
- Inventories & Assessments
- Strategic Plan: Goals, Objectives & Actions
- Implementation Plan
- Monitoring Plan

Source: Dillon Consulting Limited
Current Forest Canopy Cover: 17%

- Hamilton’s Forestry and Horticulture Section has set a goal to increase its current forest canopy cover in urban areas of the City and in parklands to **35%** by 2030

- The current urban forest canopy cover target in the City’s Urban Official Plan is **30%**
Overview of Hamilton’s Urban Forest

• Diverse Natural Heritage System
• Patchy forest cover
• High proportion of urban forest is on private land
• Size class distribution – high number of small trees (e.g., newer residential developments)
# Urban Forest Program - Structure

## Urban Forest Management:

| City - Forestry & Horticulture | • Oversees public tree planting, maintenance & removal (street trees)  
                                 | • May do occasional planting in natural areas  
                                 | • Has select public outreach programs |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| City - Planning & Development  | • Reviews applications involving private trees in site plan development process |
| City - Parks & Recreation and Conservation Authorities | • Oversee management of most natural areas |
Overview of Hamilton’s Urban Forest

• Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) removals have had big impact on tree cover in recent years
• Increasing % invasive species (e.g., black locust)
Urban Forest Strategy for Hamilton

i-Tree Eco Analysis:

• Provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools
• Quantifies the structure of community trees and the environmental services that trees provide
• Describes the condition of Hamilton’s urban forest
Urban Forest Program - Structure

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# Urban Forest Program - Framework

## Existing Policies, By-laws and Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reforestation Policy – Municipally Owned Lands</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Hamilton Public Tree By-law (No. 15-125)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth Woodlands Conservation By-law (R00-054)</td>
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<td>Tree Protection Guidelines for Development Sites</td>
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<td>By-law to Promote the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Woodlands on Private Property with the Urban Boundary of the City of Hamilton (No. 14-212)</td>
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<td>The Corporation of the Town of Ancaster Tree Protection By-Law (No. 2000-118)</td>
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<td>Town of Dundas Tree Protection By-law (No. 4513-99)</td>
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<td>City of Stoney Creek Tree By-law (No. 4401-96)</td>
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Urban Forest Program - Framework

Protection and Maintenance

Under the Municipal Act, municipalities with a population of greater than 10,000 can regulate tree cutting through tree by-laws

• **Public Tree By-law:** covers entire City of Hamilton
• **Private Tree By-laws:** a patchwork of coverage under different by-laws
• **Woodland By-laws:** Regional Woodland By-law and Urban Private Woodland By-law
From your perspective, what is your perception of how the urban forest is currently managed?
What City policies will have the most significant impact on sustaining and enhancing the urban forest?
Urban Forestry Trends
(State of the Infrastructure Report, 2016)

Net gain in streets & parks (urban areas)
Net gain in natural areas (rural areas)
Net loss of trees on rural roadways
No positive trends in tree condition forecast
Which land uses offer the best opportunity to improve the urban forest?
What Can Hamilton Learn From Other Municipalities?

• City of London Urban Forestry Strategy – Enhancing the Forest City (2014)
• City of Mississauga Urban Forest Management Plan (2014)
• City of New Westminster Urban Forest Management Strategy (2016)
• Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Urban Forest Master Plan (2013)
• North Oakville Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan (2011)
What Can Hamilton Learn From Other Municipalities?

• Based on 28 targets
• Represent a key objective for developing a sustainable urban forest & includes performance indicators
• Three broad categories of targets:
  – Trees and Forest
  – Community Framework
  – Resource Management Approach
Example of a target and performance indicator:

### Trees and Forest

**Target T1:** Relative Tree Canopy Cover

**Key objective:** Achieve desired degree of tree cover, based on potential or according to goals set for entire municipality and for each neighborhood or land use.

**Performance indicators:**

- **Low** — The existing canopy cover for entire municipality is <50% of the desired canopy.
- **Fair** — The existing canopy is 50%-75% of desired.
- **Good** — The existing canopy is >75%-100% of desired.
- **Optimal** — The existing canopy is >75%-100% of desired – at individual neighborhood level as well as overall municipality.
Current Trends in Urban Forestry Practices

How does the City of Hamilton compare?

- City currently addresses only 7 of the 28 USDA targets to at least a low to moderate performance level
- City addresses another 6 additional targets partially, but comprehensive plans/policies/programs do not exist
- City would benefit from including city-specific targets in Urban Forest Strategy
Current Trends in Urban Forestry Practices

Most common targets adopted by reviewed municipalities relate to:
- canopy cover
- inventories
- species diversity and native species
- management and cooperation and collaboration

Additional targets adopted in Urban Forest Plans include:
- green infrastructure
- stormwater management
- standards
- climate change mitigation/adaptation
Q&A / DISCUSSION
BREAK – 15 minutes
STRENGTHENING OUR URBAN FOREST

What can WE do to increase the urban forests in Hamilton?
“VISION” DISCUSSION
Next Steps and Closing

Project Timeline

January 2018 – November 2018
Data Collection and Background Information Review

October 2018 - March 2019
Drafting the Urban Forest Strategy

December 2019
Final Urban Forest Strategy

We Are Here
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https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/strategies-actions/urban-forest-strategy

Thank You for Attending!