THE CITY OF HAMILTON IS DEVELOPING AN URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

Help us shape Hamilton’s urban forest!
Tonight’s first Public Open House provides an introduction to the project and seeks your input on the community’s vision for managing the urban forest. Please fill out a comment sheet before you go.

Other ways you can comment:
Visit the web page at: www.hamilton.ca/urbanforeststrategy
Take the online survey on the web page.
WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT HAMILTON’S URBAN FOREST?
WHAT IS THE URBAN FOREST?

An urban forest includes all of the trees and woodlands growing on both public and private lands including parks, street and yard trees, in addition to natural areas and ravines within the urban and suburban areas of Hamilton.

WHY DO WE NEED AN URBAN FOREST STRATEGY?

Hamilton is fortunate to have many natural features (Cootes Paradise, Dundas Valley, Hamilton Harbour, and the Niagara Escarpment) which contribute to a beautiful and healthy environment. There are also many trees growing in parks, backyards, and along streets. All of these trees contribute to the health of the community and the beauty of the neighbourhoods in Hamilton. However, pressures on trees are increasing, especially in the urban area, including:

- Invasive non-native tree species which compete with native trees and reduce biodiversity;
- Pests and diseases (e.g. Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, Butternut canker, Oak wilt, Dutch Elm Disease);
- Impacts of climate change (drought, flooding, storm damage) which stress trees;
- Difficult growing conditions in the urban area (poor soil, soil compaction, road salt, and limited space to plant); and,
- Development pressures which reduce the space available for trees and increase the conflicts with other infrastructure

Today, we face a slow and subtle loss in the urban tree canopy associated with these pressures. This means that Hamilton needs to proactively manage its urban forest.
OUR GOAL?

The Urban Forest Strategy will guide the protection, care and planting of the City’s trees and forests on public and privately-owned land in the urban area. We want a healthy urban forest.

Trees live a long time, so we need to carefully plan for them!

The Urban Forest Strategy will include:

- A sample inventory of trees within the urban area to describe the condition of Hamilton’s urban forest
- A community-developed vision for the urban forest
- Research on the existing policies, by-laws, programs, and activities in Hamilton
- Identifying challenges and opportunities for improving the urban forest
- Actions and recommendations for improving the urban forest
- Monitoring plan to determine if the UFS is meeting its vision

URBAN FOREST STRATEGY TIMELINE

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<td>JAN to DEC 2018</td>
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<td>Mar 2019</td>
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WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR HAMILTON’S URBAN FOREST?
WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE THE URBAN FOREST?
WHAT DOES THE URBAN FOREST DO FOR ME?

Trees are often called “green infrastructure” because they provide many services, including improving water quality, reducing air pollution, conserving energy, storm water management, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving public health.

Trees are vitally important to our quality of life.

Trees have many benefits, including:

**Environmental Benefits**
- Reduce greenhouse gases
- Improve air quality
- Reduce urban “heat island” effect
- Improve water quality
- Reduce flooding
- Increase biodiversity

**Economic Benefits**
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Save energy
- Improve water quality
- Reduce storm water management costs
- Increase property values
- Provide resources (wood, nuts, fruit)
- Revitalize commercial areas

**Social Benefits**
- Promote public health and well-being
- Revitalize neighborhoods
- Provide solace and a sense of place
- Encourage physical activity
- Strengthen community engagement
- Help with mental health and well-being
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Thank you for attending the first public open house and for providing input. Your input will help in the next stages of strategy development for:

- Creating a community vision for the Hamilton’s urban forest
- Developing recommendations to include in the Strategy.

Please visit our web page at:

www.hamilton.ca/urbanforeststrategy

Between now and the next open house...

- The second and final open house, scheduled for the spring of 2019, will allow you to review and provide input on the draft Urban Forest Strategy.
- Please take our online survey.
  It will be on the City’s web page during the summer of 2018.
- All materials from this open house will be available on the City web page.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT

Catherine Plosz
Natural Heritage Planner
905-546-2424 Ext. 1231
Catherine.Plosz@hamilton.ca