

## **Public Information Centre for Hamilton's Urban Forest Strategy - Summary**

City staff held a Public Information Centre on the evening of May 29, 2018 at the David Braley Centre in downtown Hamilton to introduce the Urban Forest Strategy project. Approximately 30 people attended the event.

There were a number of panels which provided opportunities for resident input on values, vision, and recommended actions to improve the urban forest. The responses have been grouped by staff and are shown below.

### What is your vision for Hamilton's urban forest?

- Multi-layered, naturalized, native trees (5)
- Enhanced canopy in the downtown (3)
- Promote the Niagara Escarpment – it identifies Hamilton (2)
- Green neighbourhoods – lots of street and yard trees (2)
- Tree-lined streets to enhance active transportation (1)
- Right tree in right place (1)
- Pesticide free forest (1)
- Increase canopy goal to 50% (1)
- More trees at Bayfront Park (1)
- Trees of different ages (1)
- Reduce climate change impacts through tree planting (1)
- Include fruit trees in street tree program and integrate with not-for-profit food organizations (1)

### What do you value about Hamilton's urban forest?

- Nature in the city (9)
- Shade and cooling (5)
- Better air quality (5)
- The escarpment and green, lush views, beauty (3)
- Calms traffic (2)
- Health benefits (2)
- Sense of place (1)

### What can the City do to improve the urban forest?

- Education and awareness; promote stewardship (10)
- Develop and enforce private tree by-law (7)
- Improve methods for street tree planting (6)
  - Improve survival rates

- Site plan guidelines (5)
  - Mandate minimum tree coverage for parking lots, malls, etc.
  - Minimum soil volumes
  - New road cross sections must have full height for future tree canopy
- Urban design (4)
  - Less concrete, more trees
  - Plan space for trees
- Increase tree compensation requirements (4)
  - Every developer should be obliged to plant trees to get to the 30% target and replace trees they need to cut
  - Plant more based on the equivalent diameter at breast height (dbh) or more
  - Development of new subdivisions should include cost of CO<sub>2</sub> reductions
  - Plant the LRT replacement trees now, not after construction.
- Strategic tree planting; prioritize tree planting (4)
- Parks management of invasive trees and naturalization (4)
- Tree management (3)
- School tree plantings (2)
- Miscellaneous
  - Subsidize backyard plantings in targeted areas (1)
  - Use inventory to inform urban forest strategy (1)
  - The urban forest strategy needs a Council champion (1)
  - Why is a strategy necessary? – just do it (1)