

Urban Forest Strategy Actions - Implementation

Action	Time Frame	Lead Responsibility For implementation
<p>Theme 1: Inspire</p> <p>Guiding Principle: Engage and inspire the community with a bold vision for Hamilton’s urban forest.</p>		
<p>1. Develop and implement an inspiring urban forest communications strategy.</p>	<p>Short term (1-2 years)</p>	<p>Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department</p>
<p>2. Create a new permanent staff position in the Public Works Department dedicated solely to outreach, communications, education and partnership development.</p>	<p>Short term (1-2 years)</p>	<p>Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department</p>
<p>3. Work directly with Hamilton’s development community to improve awareness, identify urban forest allies, and recognize best practices and innovation.</p>	<p>Short term (1-2 years)</p>	<p>Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section, Planning and Economic Development Department</p>
<p>4. Partner with organizations that support the City’s urban forestry program.</p>	<p>Short term (1-2 years)</p>	<p>Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department</p>
<p>5. Present regular ‘State of the Forest’ reports to City Council.</p>	<p>Short term (1-2 years)</p>	<p>Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department and Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section, Planning and Economic Development Department</p>
<p>6. Carry out an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement strategies.</p>	<p>Short term (1-2 years)</p>	<p>Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department</p>

Theme 2: Act		
Guiding Principle: “Goals are good. Action is better.”		
1. Establish an inter-departmental working group to support UFS implementation.	Short term (1-2 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department and Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section, Planning and Economic Development Department
2. Improve implementation of Tree Protection / Management Plans and Landscape Plans required through development application review.	Short term (1-2 years)	Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section, Planning and Economic Development Department
3. Complete land cover and canopy cover mapping for the City of Hamilton urban area.	Short term (1-2 years)	Development Planning Division,, Planning and Economic Development Department and Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
4. Apply standardized tree planting details and specifications in all city tree planting projects.	Short term (1-2 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
5. Develop and apply minimum canopy cover targets to new development proposals.	Short term (1-2 years)	Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section, Planning and Economic Development Department and Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department

6. Identify and complete priority amendments to improve the integration of trees through applicable policies, plans, and guidelines.	Medium term (3-5 years)	Development Planning Division, Planning and Economic Development Department and Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
7. Determine the main drivers of canopy change in Hamilton.	Medium term (3-5 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
8. Review current management structures and identify resources required to achieve the City's urban forest vision. Consolidating responsibility for urban forest management under one city department may present opportunities to achieve cost efficiencies and improved forest management.	Medium term (3-5 years)	Planning and Economic Development Department, and Public Works Department

Theme 3: Protect		
Guiding Principle: Trees are a valued city asset and an essential part of Hamilton’s infrastructure.		
1. Identify options for increasing the preservation of healthy trees in Hamilton.	Short term (1-2 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department and Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section, Planning and Economic Development Department
2. Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment for Hamilton’s natural systems, including the urban forest.	Short term (1-2 years)	Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section, Planning and Economic Development Department and Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
3. Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Strategy.	Medium term (3-5 years)	Parks/Cemeteries Section, Public Works Department
4. Develop service standards and emergency response plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard trees and other forestry service requests. • Severe weather events. 	Medium term (3-5 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department

Theme 4: Grow		
Guiding Principle: Regular investment in tree planting and maintenance programs will optimize long-term benefits and reduce risk to people, property and the health of the urban forest.		
1. Increase the level of tree planting and/or natural forest regeneration in the City over the next five years.	Short term (1-2 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
2. Develop a best practices manual for tree protection, planting and preservation to share with all City departments and utilities whose activities affect trees.	Short term (1-2 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
3. Complete a tree planting priority analysis to guide a city-wide tree planting strategy.	Short term (1-2 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
4. Fund regular, active management of natural areas in Hamilton to support native biodiversity and forest health.	Medium term (3-5 years)	Parks/Cemeteries Section, Public Works Department and , Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section, Planning and Economic Development Department

Theme 5: Adapt		
Guiding Principle: Urban forest management is evidence-based and responsive to change.		
1. Implement a forest health monitoring program in Hamilton, including natural areas.	Short term (1-2 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
2. Implement a forestry asset management system.	Medium term (3-5 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department
3. Update urban forest inventories and studies every 10 years or in response to significant environmental change.	Long term (5-10 years)	Forestry and Horticulture Section, Public Works Department