



# It's a Tree's Life: Kitchener's Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy 2019-2028

This document presents Kitchener's first long-term strategy for its urban forest, an asset valued by its residents, which also provides important economic, environmental and social benefits to the community.





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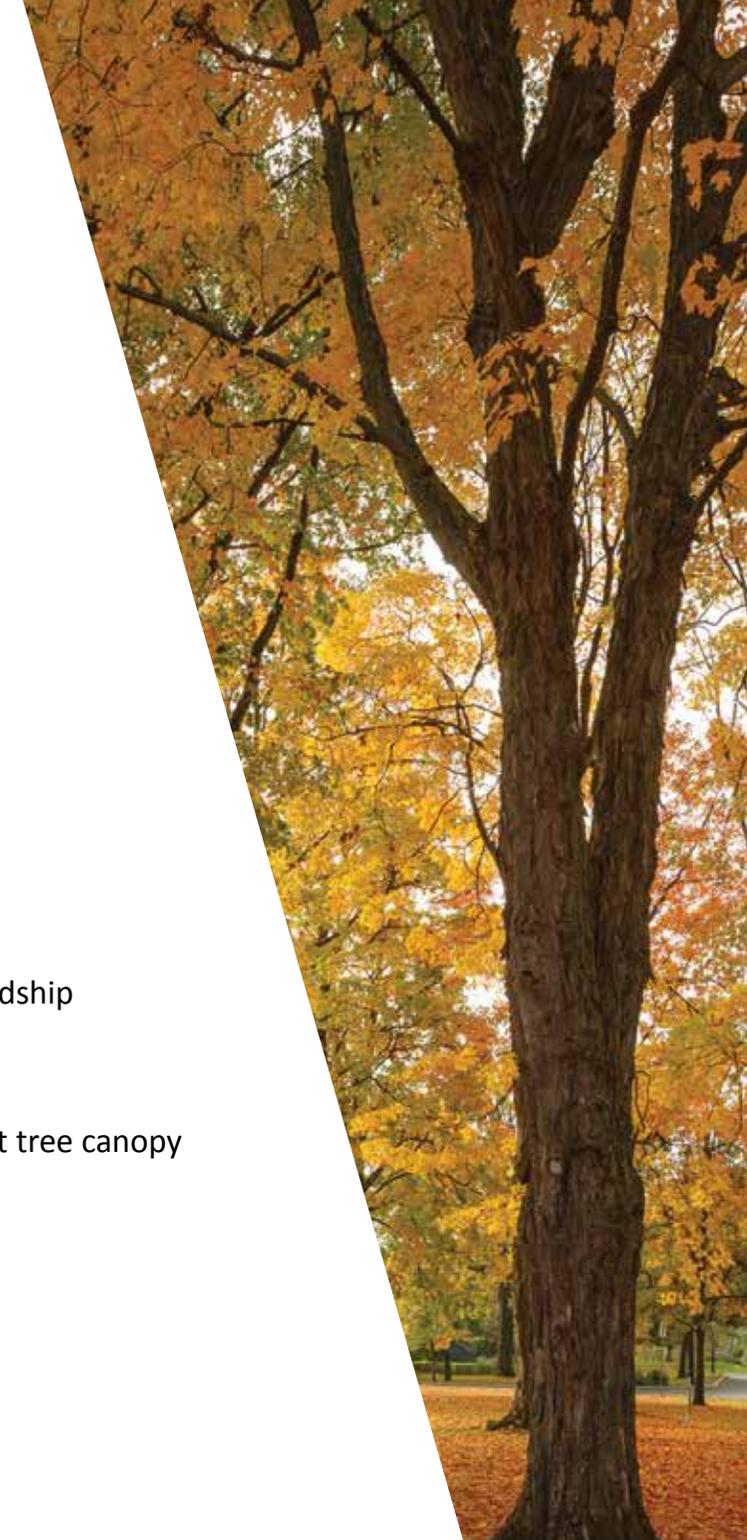
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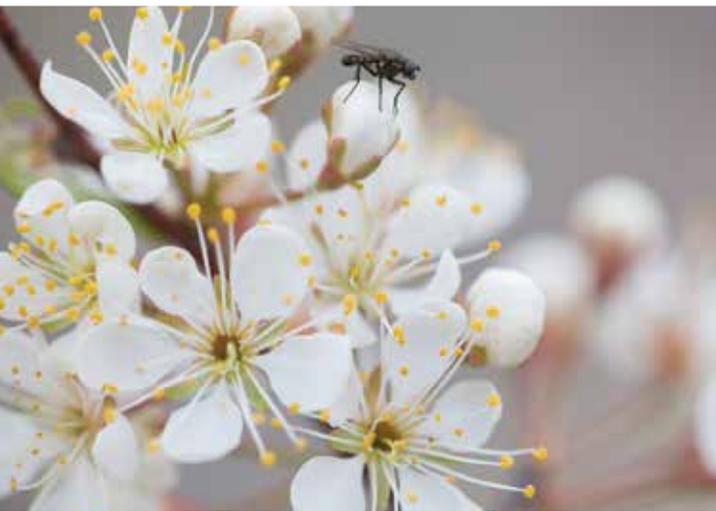
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# Introduction

It's hard to imagine a vibrant, caring and innovative city without picturing trees. Trees are a key element of the living city, whether they play a role in filtering the air, enhancing public spaces, providing shade on a sunny day, or creating habitat for birds and other creatures. While we are fortunate to have 26 per cent tree canopy across the city today, we often take this living asset for granted, assuming it will always be here. If our city did not have trees, we know that our health, community wellbeing, property values, air and water quality, biodiversity and wildlife would be harmed, and our city would not be as resilient to a changing climate. This strategy, a first for Kitchener, intends to set us on the right track so that current and future citizens will continue to benefit from the urban forest, a key part of the city's green infrastructure.

This strategy provides our vision for a sustainable urban forest as well as a framework (Plan, Engage, Protect, Maintain, Plant) for what actions we would need to take to achieve this. Kitchener's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan directed the development of this strategy to "manage and enhance the urban forest so that it will continue to make a long-term contribution to the livability of Kitchener."

This work builds on the Background Document – Developing a Sustainable Urban Forest Program

(March 17, 2017); Kitchener's 2017 Sustainable Urban Forest Report Card; extensive community engagement during 2017, and a detailed assessment of the current state of our urban forest and the ability of our current programs/practices to achieve the urban forest visions identified by the community.

Using the principles of a sustainable urban forest program and the results of the community engagement processes, this strategy presents:

- our vision for a sustainable urban forest,
- our goal,
- the five branches of a sustainable urban forest, and
- fifteen actions that the city and community can work collaboratively on to move towards a sustainable urban forest.

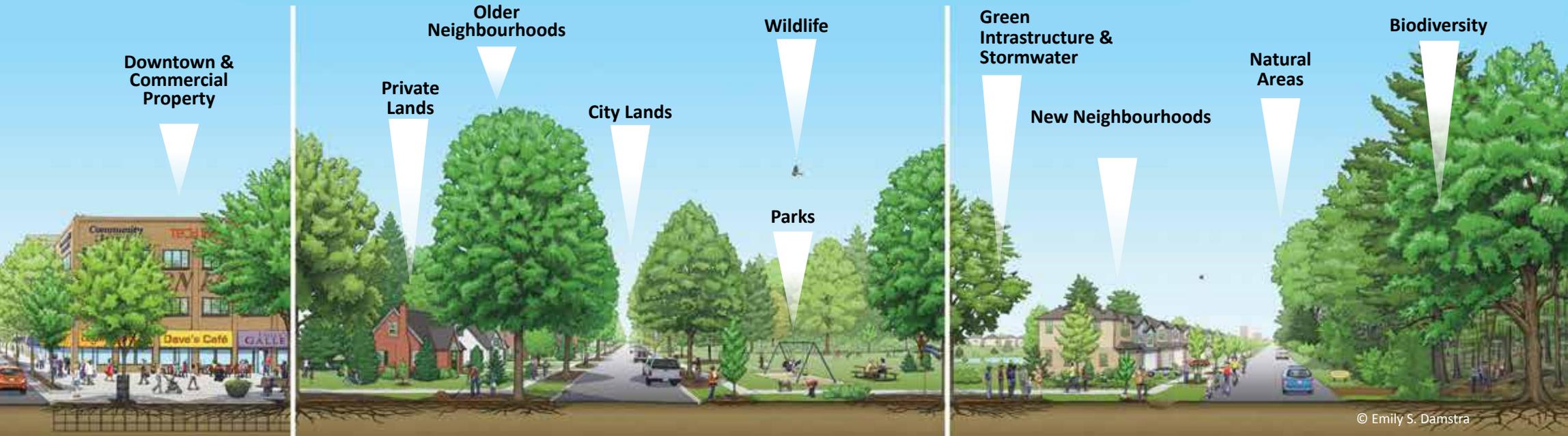


# What is the urban forest?

People often think forests are only found outside the city; however, they also occur in cities. The urban forest consists of all of the trees growing on public and private lands, including trees in the downtown, old and new neighbourhoods, commercial and institutional lands, city parks, and natural areas. When viewed from above,

Kitchener’s urban forest covers about 26 per cent of the city’s land base. While trees are the most visible part of the urban forest, it also includes the soil required to support and grow trees, and all of the associated biodiversity (e.g. insects, birds, animals, plants) that trees support and to which they are connected.

The Province of Ontario recognizes trees as green infrastructure. Consequently, the urban forest is a dominant part of the city’s green infrastructure, providing valuable ecological and hydrological functions and processes to the community.



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Figure 2 - The Urban Forest - a collection of trees and its associated parts

## How is the urban forest important to our community?

Residents have told us, during this and other community engagements (e.g. Love My Hood, City Strategic Plan), they think trees in the city are important. In addition to trees being important, residents often associated trees directly to the benefits they provide (e.g. shade, biodiversity, air quality).

The body of scientific work on the economic, environmental and social benefits of trees continues to grow, and is widely recognized. Today, there is growing recognition of the vital role trees play in terms of public health (e.g. air quality, heat island effect), community well-being (e.g. stress reduction, crime prevention) and a healthy environment (e.g. carbon sequestration, green infrastructure).

As part of this project, to increase community awareness on all of the ways trees make our city better, we promoted the “10 ways trees help us” (see Figure 3).

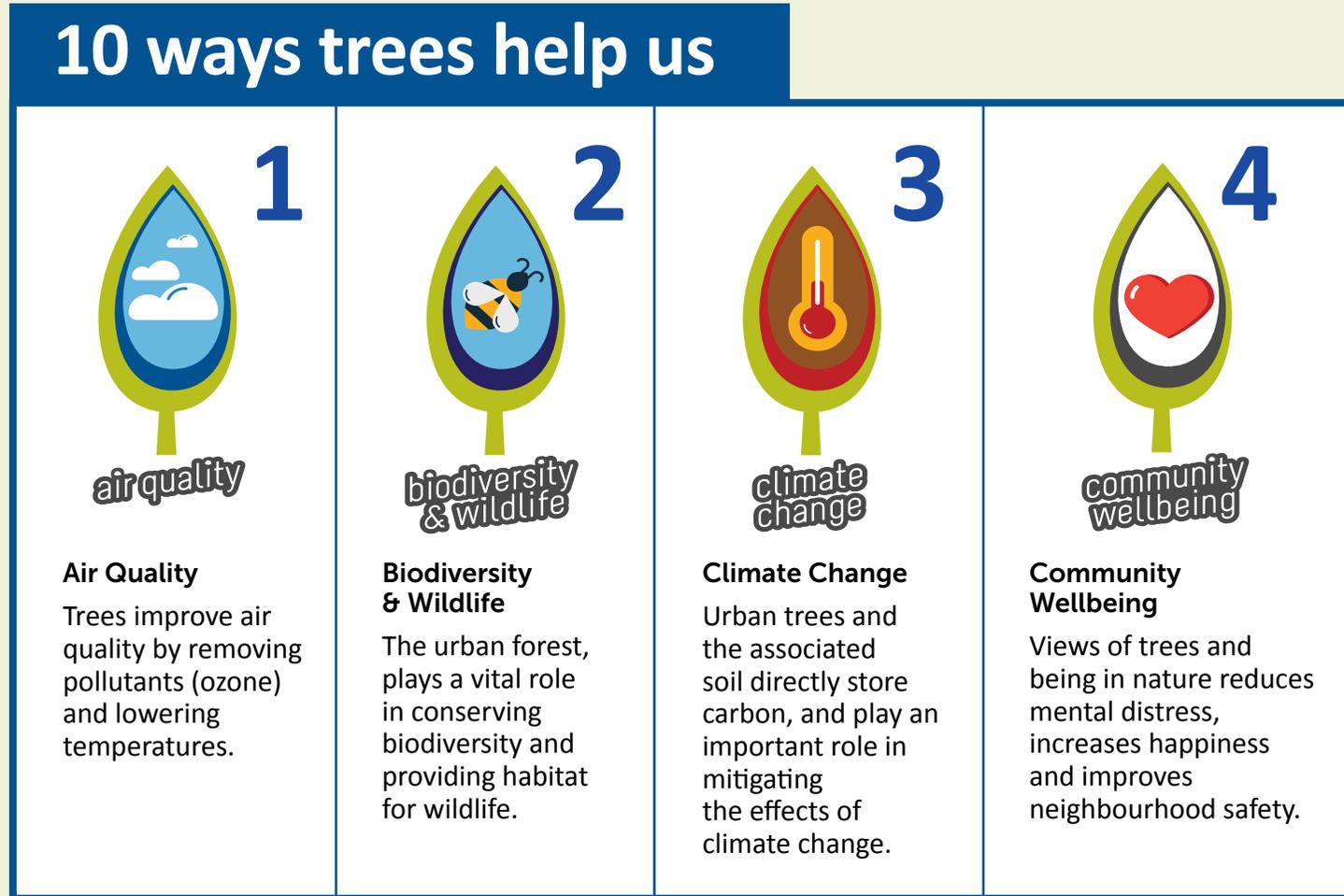


Figure 3 - 10 ways trees help us



5

cooling  
the air**Cooling the Air**

By releasing moisture (transpiration) and providing shade, trees cool the city reducing the urban heat island.



6

food &amp; wood

**Food & Wood**

With the growing interest in local sources and sustainability trees in cities can be sources of food (e.g. fruit forests) and wood products.



7

public health

**Public Health**

The presence of trees and natural areas increases physical activity, along with increasing the health and well-being of children.



8

real estate

**Real Estate**

Large trees can increase property values by up to 15per cent and the presence of healthy trees increases the value of commercial areas.



9

soil quality

**Soil Quality**

Trees play an important role in improving the biological and physical qualities of soil, and reducing soil erosion.



10

stormwater

**Stormwater**

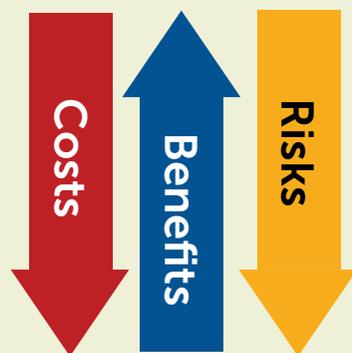
Trees slow, intercept and retain rainfall, improve water quality and reduce the need for costly infrastructure.

What do you like about Kitchener's urban forest?  
**“For me, trees provide needed shade in public spaces.”**

## What exactly is a sustainable urban forest program?

A sustainable urban forest program is one that:

- the community can afford now, and in the future;
- maximizes the benefits of the urban forest;
- minimizes the associated risks and costs, and
- has a supportive and active community.



There is often the misconception that, to maximize benefits, communities should focus on planting more trees. Though a key part of a sustainable program, tree planting alone does not ensure a sustainable urban forest and can actually increase long-term costs and risks when not planned nor maintained.

In contrast to traditional assets (e.g. roads, buildings), trees provide their greatest value during their latter life stages (semi-mature, mature). Recognizing this, a key objective of a sustainable program is to maintain optimal tree health and longevity to maximize these benefits (see Figure 4). This starts by: focusing on planting trees that have long lifespans (40, 60, 80, 100 plus years); planting them correctly; ensuring there is the required soil quality/quantity; providing the necessary establishment care (e.g. watering); ensuring the tree and soil habitat are protected, and carrying out the essential proactive maintenance (e.g. structural pruning).

## Benefits, cost and life stages of a large stature tree

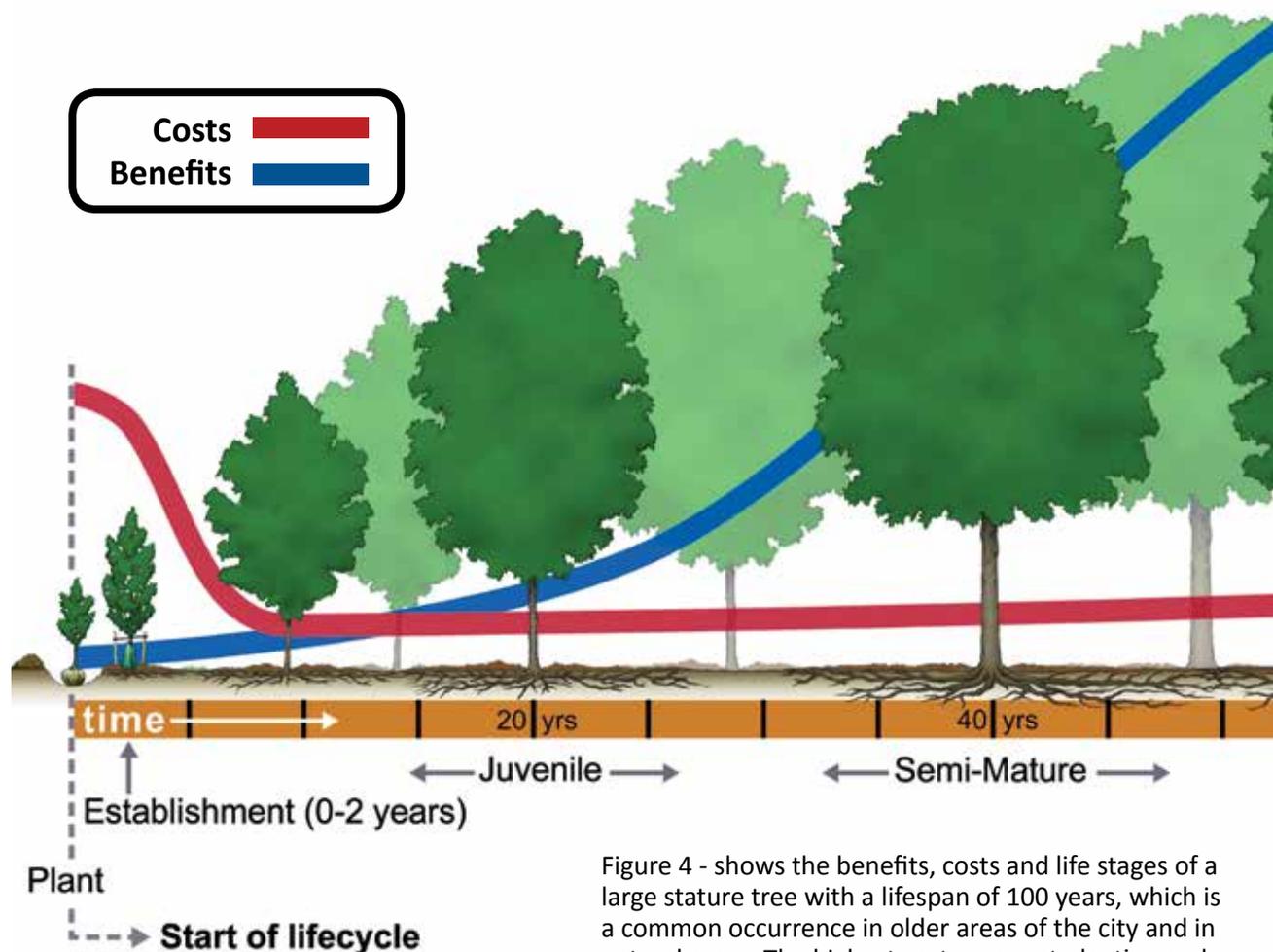
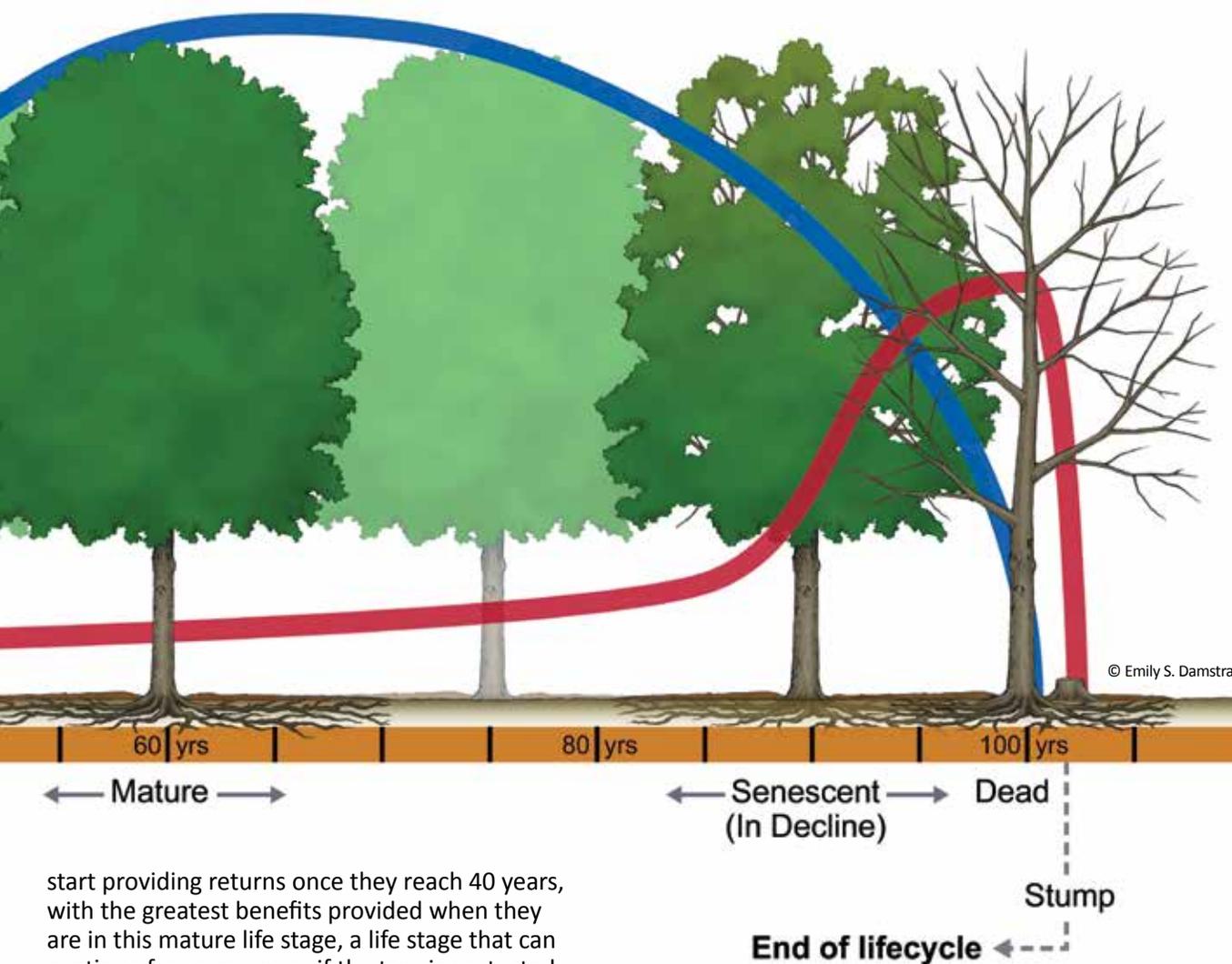


Figure 4 - shows the benefits, costs and life stages of a large stature tree with a lifespan of 100 years, which is a common occurrence in older areas of the city and in natural areas. The highest costs occur at planting and tree removal. Benefits directly relate to tree size. Trees



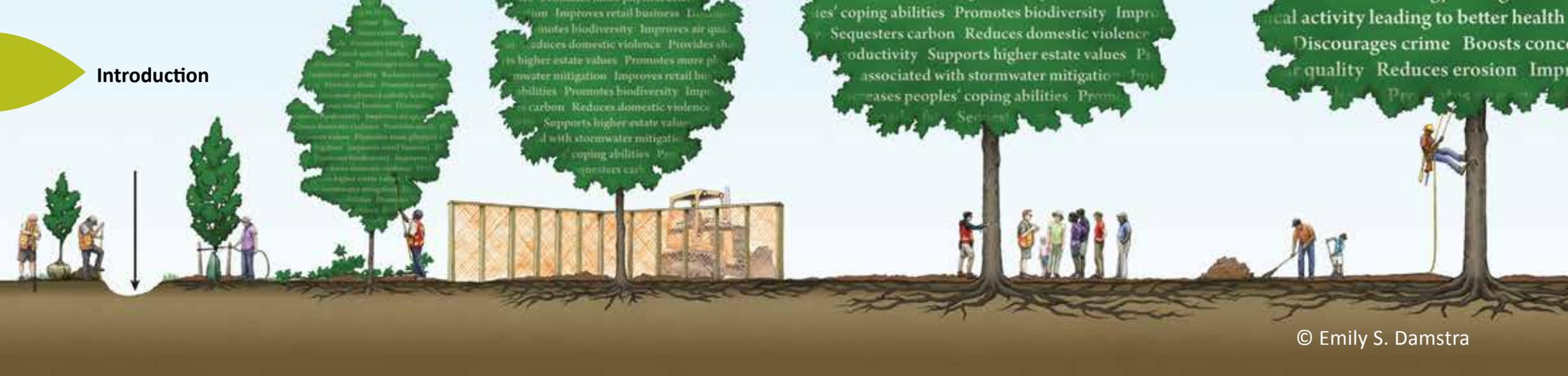
start providing returns once they reach 40 years, with the greatest benefits provided when they are in this mature life stage, a life stage that can continue for many years, if the tree is protected and maintained.

Implementing a sustainable urban forest program will require new investments; however, research shows the returns on such investments can be significant. Conversely, not investing in the urban forest considerably reduces the potential benefits (e.g. property values, air quality, shade, energy savings) to the community, while increasing long-term costs/risks (e.g. increased tree failure during storms/extreme weather). Recognizing that most of the urban forest is on private lands, an engaged community is a key part of a sustainable urban forest program.

### A shared corporate asset and vision

Trees can be found growing on all city lands including streets, parks, lane ways, cemeteries, golf courses, creeks, storm water ponds, city facilities, etc. While different divisions at the City of Kitchener are responsible for managing these lands, this urban forest strategy will be a collaborative effort across all divisions, providing one vision and one approach for how trees on city lands are planned, protected, maintained and planted. This collaborative approach will also be applied to how we engage and inform our customers ensuring a clear and consistent message.

## Introduction



## Kitchener’s 2017 sustainable urban forest report card

### How we are doing today

One of the first steps in developing a sustainable urban forest strategy is to determine the state of the existing program. Since 1997, municipalities in Ontario (e.g. Cambridge, London, Oakville, and Ottawa), Canada and the United States have been using an evolving urban forest sustainability model to identify existing strengths and weaknesses. Using this industry-accepted tool, which standardizes the evaluation of current and future programs, staff assessed the existing program and created Kitchener’s first Sustainable Urban Forest Report Card. Going forward, this report card allows the city to:

- establish a baseline position of where we are today;
- identify the key components of a sustainable program and existing gaps;
- identify priority actions and initiatives;
- replicate the report card in the future to measure performance\achievements, and
- compare the city’s program to other cities.

Not surprisingly, with no sustainable urban forestry strategy plan in place, the overall rating for Kitchener’s existing reactive program is low to fair.



**You can view the full report card and the result of all 28 targets on the city’s website at [www.kitchener.ca/trees](http://www.kitchener.ca/trees).**

# Community Engagement – What We Heard

A key part of this project included an extensive community engagement process occurring during the summer and fall of 2017. During that time, staff connected with more than 1,800 people by attending or hosting:

- special events (e.g. Cherry Park Festival);
- neighborhood association meetings;
- city facilities (e.g. Kitchener Market);
- citizen committees;
- public tree walks (Mansion Greens Forest Garden) and talks (Kitchener Public Library);
- non-profit group meetings (e.g. REEP);
- community centre displays;



- two online surveys, and
- two public workshops at Forest Heights Community Centre and Victoria Park Pavilion.

Interviews with the mayor and councillors identified their own concerns and those expressed by the community.

## In 10 years, what kind of partnerships do you see?

“I think the city should work with residents and nonprofit organizations to educate and run incentive programs to build community engagement and encourage contributions to the city’s urban forest.”



**Five themes, listed below, emerged out of the extensive community engagement process.**

- 1 Recognize the value of our trees**
  - Strong awareness of the value and benefits trees provide.
- 2 Sustain our existing urban forest**
  - Address service levels and reduce customer complaints (e.g. low tree limbs over sidewalks/roads);
  - Need for active management (e.g. controlling invasive species);
  - Protect trees during and after development.
- 3 Grow the urban forest**
  - Address the length of time it takes to replace a tree once removed;
  - Provide incentive programs to plant trees on private property;
  - Plant trees for shade, fruit, wildlife and biodiversity.
- 4 Communicate and provide information**
  - Improve communication and information to residents;
  - Provide information about how to plant and care for trees.
- 5 Involve neighbourhoods**
  - Include residents in decisions and the process;
  - Focus and create opportunities in neighbourhoods and parks;
  - Recognize city/ community must work together for a sustainable urban forest.



**In 10 years what kind of partnerships do you see?  
“Since Kitchener already has a strong community centre and neighbourhood association network already in place, it would be a natural place to start to build our tree infrastructure network and partnerships.”**

# Kitchener's Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy

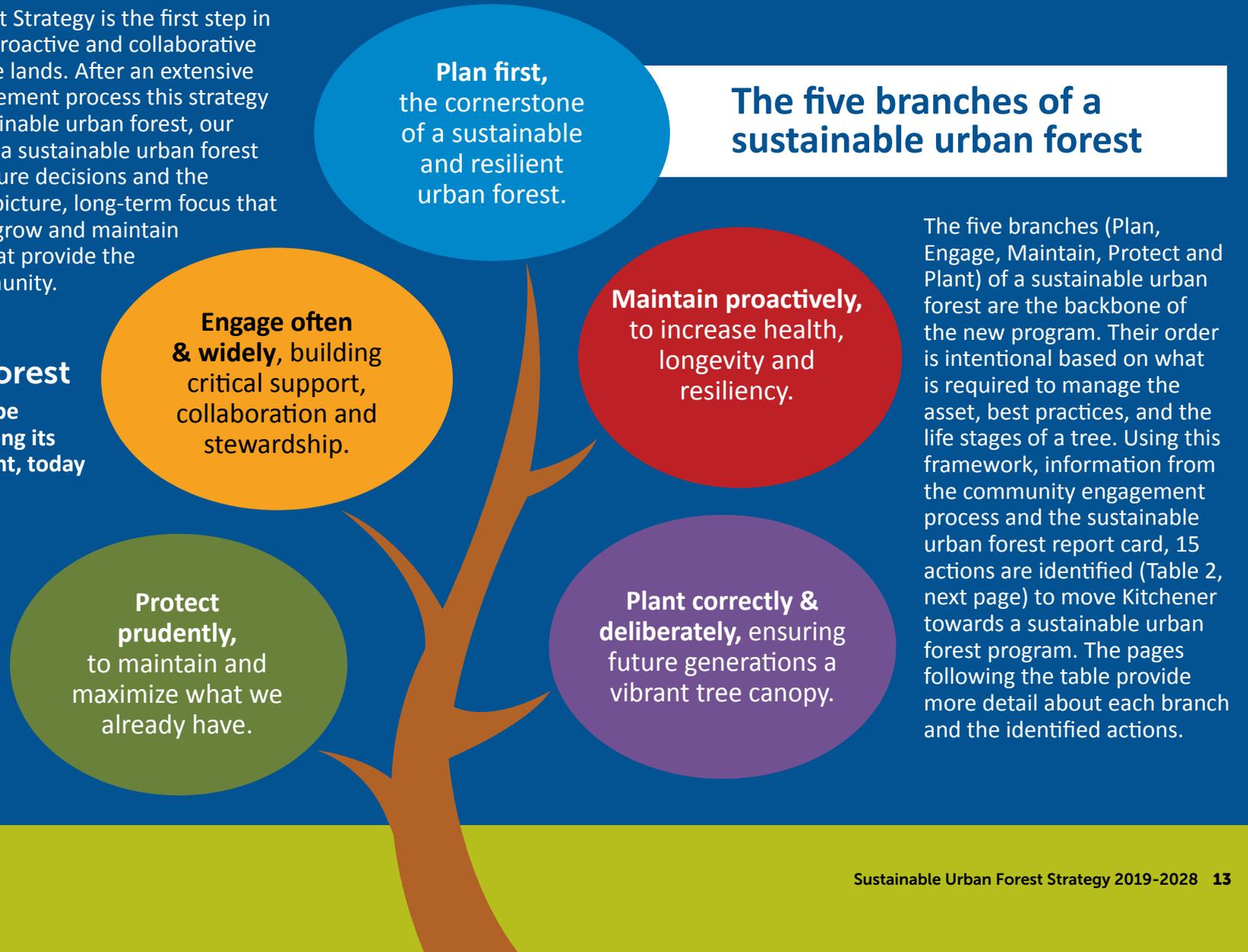
Kitchener's first Urban Forest Strategy is the first step in developing a sustainable, proactive and collaborative program for public and private lands. After an extensive review and community engagement process this strategy presents our vision for a sustainable urban forest, our goal, and the five branches of a sustainable urban forest that are intended to guide future decisions and the setting of priorities. It's a big-picture, long-term focus that identifies what is required to grow and maintain big, healthy trees the trees that provide the greatest benefits to the community.

## Our vision for a sustainable urban forest

Kitchener's urban forest will be healthy and resilient, benefiting its residents and the environment, today and into the future.

## Our goal

Maximize the economic, environmental and social benefits of the urban forest while minimizing the associated costs and risks.



## The five branches of a sustainable urban forest

The five branches (Plan, Engage, Maintain, Protect and Plant) of a sustainable urban forest are the backbone of the new program. Their order is intentional based on what is required to manage the asset, best practices, and the life stages of a tree. Using this framework, information from the community engagement process and the sustainable urban forest report card, 15 actions are identified (Table 2, next page) to move Kitchener towards a sustainable urban forest program. The pages following the table provide more detail about each branch and the identified actions.

## Vision, goal and five branches of a sustainable urban forest



**Plan first, the cornerstone of a sustainable and resilient urban forest.**

- 1 Plan for a sustainable urban forest** by setting, supporting, developing and monitoring identified priorities and targets.
- 2 Address key gaps** required to reduce risk and support implementation of key program components.
- 3 Manage the urban forest on city lands as a corporate asset** to develop defined service levels, optimize life cycle management plans and long-range funding requirements.
- 4 Develop a sustainable natural area management plan for all city owned natural areas** that strives to conserve their natural history and biodiversity, while minimizing the associated risks and costs.



**Engage often & widely, building critical support, collaboration and stewardship.**

- 5 Increase community awareness and stewardship** building community support, participation and ownership.
- 6 Embrace Love My Hood** helping people to connect and work together to do great things in their neighbourhood.
- 7 Increase communication and build collaboration** with citizens, land owners, organizations, agencies, other cities and city departments.



**Maintain proactively, to increase health, longevity and resiliency.**

- 8 Improve customer service** by providing better and timely information while always looking for ways to improve service.
- 9 Create a proactive maintenance program for city trees** to improve customer service, tree health, resiliency, and reduce costs / risks.
- 10 Create an urban forest emergency response and recovery plan** ensuring the city has the ability and resiliency to respond to a changing climate.

**In 25 years what do you want Kitchener's urban forest to look like?**  
“... a healthy legacy for generations to enjoy and care for.”

**Table 2 – Actions identified to support developing a sustainable urban forest program**





## Protect

**Protect prudently, to maintain and maximize what we already have.**

- 11** Conserve and protect the urban forest prudently on public and private lands to maximize current and future benefits while minimizing costs and risks.
- 12** Monitor and assess destructive tree pests and invasive species to protect the urban forest and conserve biodiversity.



## Plant

**Plant correctly & deliberately, ensuring future generations a vibrant and resilient tree canopy.**

- 13** Set a tree canopy target and develop a long-term plan ensuring a vibrant and resilient tree canopy for future generations.
- 14** Work with the community to develop a non-profit tree planting and stewardship program to maintain and/or increase the tree canopy on private and public lands.
- 15** Develop a tree planting and soil management plan for city lands, planting trees sustainably with the focus on growing big, long living trees. 

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 Identifies actions that applies to trees growing on all city lands.





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## PLAN first, the cornerstone of a sustainable and resilient urban forest

Planning is the cornerstone and first step to a sustainable urban forest that maximizes the benefits while minimizing the costs and risks, planning includes:

- data collection and long-term planning;
- asset management and operational plans;
- program administration/structure;
- risk/financial management;
- monitoring and adaptive management.

Objectives, priorities and service levels are achieved through a data-driven process that supports effective and efficient management, while balancing service-level expectations. When objectives are not being met, adaptive management is used to facilitate quick and responsible change. The planning branch has four actions identified for a sustainable urban forest.

### 1 Plan for a sustainable urban forest by setting, supporting, developing and monitoring identified priorities and targets.

This action includes: monitoring and updating the strategy, developing multi-year implementation plans, and yearly operational plans; ensures the program has the required capacity, administration and organizational structure to support the approved program objectives and timelines; and pursues public and private funding opportunities to support the program.

### 2 Continue to monitor and address key gaps required to support the development of a sustainable program and its identified priorities.

This action ensures the program is adaptive and responsive with ongoing monitoring; key gaps and new issues can be identified and addressed in a timely manner based on their importance. Current gaps include data collection, developing the required plans and policies, risk, climate change, and council/community priorities.

### 3 Manage the urban forest on city lands as a corporate asset to develop defined service levels, optimize life cycle management plans and long-range funding requirements.

Trees on city property are identified as one of the city's corporate assets. All corporate assets are required to develop an asset management plan. This action includes collecting and analyzing the required data to optimize the management of the asset, developing life cycle management plans, long range funding requirements, best practices, and defined levels of service.

## Customer service

Each year staff receives about 1,500 services requests concerning city trees, mostly those in front of residential properties. The majority of these complaints are about low limbs blocking sidewalks/roads, requests for a new or replacement tree, and the length of time it takes to get work completed. Improving customer service and communication is a key outcome of this strategy.

## 4 Develop a sustainable natural area management plan for all city owned natural areas that strives to conserve their natural history and biodiversity, while minimizing the associated risks and costs.

This action identifies the need to develop a city wide plan that identifies the core services and priorities for city natural areas. The plan will also address; natural area management, maintenance, inspections, risk management, stewardship, and education, in the context of asset management and the goals of this strategy.



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## ENGAGE often and widely: building critical community support, collaboration and stewardship

Engaging the community often and widely is a vital part of a sustainable program; it recognizes that:

- Residents have told us they want to be involved and provided with more information;
- Most of the urban forest is on lands not owned by the city;
- The biggest opportunity to increase the urban forest is on private lands;
- The city cannot achieve a sustainable urban forest on its own, and
- A sustainable urban forest can only be achieved with collaboration and stewardship.

Kitchener's successful neighbourhood strategy initiative, Love My Hood, demonstrates that the community wants to be heard and involved in ways that go beyond traditional approaches. During the city's largest and most inclusive engagement initiative (Love My Hood), we heard that residents want to be involved in the urban forest and are ready to take action to support greening initiatives in the city and in their neighbourhoods. Through a resident-led, city-supported approach, there is a unique opportunity to build strong neighbourhood stewardship of the city's urban forest. For Kitchener to achieve a sustainable urban forest, it will require the support, energy and creativity of residents, staff and the community all working together. The engage branch has four actions identified for a sustainable urban forest.

### 5 Increase community awareness and stewardship building community support, participation and ownership.

To address the community desire for more information about the urban forest and how to care for it, this action will be achieved primary through developing and implementing a long term communication plan that promotes the benefits of the urban forest, provides information on the care of trees, the services the city provides, increasing community awareness, participation and stewardship.

### 6 Embrace Love My Hood - helping people connect and work together to do great things in their neighbourhood.

The engagement processes for both the Love My Hood strategy and the urban forest strategy revealed that residents want to be involved and have choices to support the urban forest, especially at the neighbourhood and park level. This action will facilitate and support opportunities for residents to plant and care for trees on private and public lands, and could include supporting incentive based tree planting programs on private lands, community driven and funded park tree planting along with tree watering and stewardship.



### **The critical role of the private urban forest**

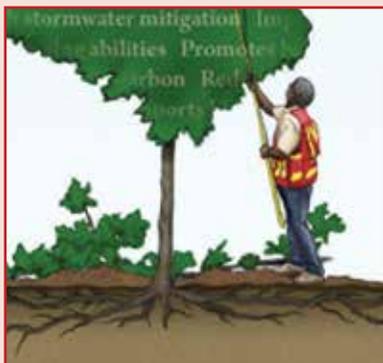
About 54 per cent of the urban forest is found on private lands. The greatest opportunity to increase the canopy is also on private lands. This strategy recognizes that trees on private lands play a key role, and recommends a number of actions to plan, maintain, protect and plant the private urban forest. Engaging the community by increasing awareness, appreciation, support and stewardship are also important components.

### **7 Increase communication and build collaboration with citizens, land owners, organizations, agencies, other cities and city departments.**

Since most of the urban forest is on private lands, and recognizing the wide range of stakeholders that have a role to play, this action identifies the importance to collaborate and communicate with stakeholders (i.e. citizens, community groups, organizations, schools, agencies, businesses, etc.) seeking to build partnerships and synergies.

### **What could the city do to help support trees on private property?**

“Tree give-away days combined with public training sessions on where and how to plant them, how to care for them, and resources that are available to help maintain healthy trees.”



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## MAINTAIN proactively: increasing health, longevity and resiliency

Maintaining trees proactively increases their health, longevity and resiliency, and can significantly reduce customer complaints (e.g. low-hanging limbs, dead wood in trees). Proactive maintenance extends the lifespan of trees, which maximizes current and future benefits. Maintenance of individual trees (e.g. street, parks, cemeteries, golf courses) includes: pruning; tree removal; stump removal, and emergency tree response. Natural area maintenance activities include tree felling; trail closures; invasive species control; habitat restoration, and wildlife management.

The overall objective is to move from a reactive program (driven by resident complaints) to a proactive program (driven by a priority-based, cyclical proactive maintenance program). Work is planned in advance and completed based on short and long-term priorities. While, over the long term, the number of customer complaints received each year will decline, responding to customer complaints will continue to be a priority. The initial focus of this new program will be to reduce risk; reduce resident complaints; address the existing backlog of work; ensure the city has the ability to respond to extreme weather events, and initiate a proactive structural pruning program. The maintain branch has three actions identified for a sustainable urban forest.

**8 Improve customer service by providing more information at the right time.**  
During the community engagement process, one of the top messages was the need to provide better customer service. This action will address the inspection, scheduling and response times for complaints and requests, along with expanding and improving the information provided to residents.

**9 Create a proactive maintenance program for city trees to improve customer service, tree health, resiliency, and reduce costs / risks.**  
Implementing a proactive, cyclical structural tree pruning program is one of the most important steps that can be taken to develop a sustainable program. In addition to reducing customer complaints (e.g. low tree limbs), it reduces long-term costs, increases resiliency to storms along with increasing tree longevity and health. While this type of program does provide important long-term benefits, significant resources are required to implement it.

**10 Create an urban forest emergency response and recovery plan ensuring the city has the ability and resiliency to respond to a changing climate.**  
Recognizing the impact of past extreme weather events (for example the 2013 wind & ice storms) and the projection that these events will increase, developing an urban forest emergency response plan is an important action. This plan will ensure the city has the preparedness and resources to respond when required. When significant damage occurs a recovery plan for maintenance and planting is also required.

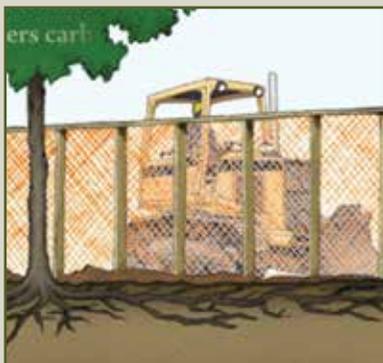
## Climate change and the urban forest

Kitchener's urban forest is already changing and being affected by climate change. Future projections tell us that our local climate will continue to change with; extreme summer heat/droughts, more intense rain and storms, and warmer winters. As the climate continues to change, the impacts on the urban forest will become more pronounced, costly and challenging. However, at the same time we know that with better planning and maintenance we can increase the resiliency of the urban forest so that the benefits (e.g. public health, air quality, carbon storage, cooling the air, stormwater) of the urban forest that help to mitigate climate change will continue. Actions that need to be taken to address climate change and its impact on the urban forest include:

- long-term planning that addresses and adapts to a changing climate;
- proactive maintenance to build resiliency;
- emergency tree response plans that ensure we are prepared and have the required resources when extreme weather strikes;
- developing and implementing remediation plans to restore the urban forest after extreme weather;
- planting trees that will continue to be healthy as the climate changes, along with focusing on planting big trees with the required soil to grow long living trees that will mitigate climate change.

**In 25 years, what do you want  
Kitchener's urban forest to look like?**  
"... better maintenance of young trees  
so that they survive to maturity."





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## PROTECT prudently: maintaining and maximizing what we already have

Protecting individual trees and the urban forest was a common theme heard during the community engagement process. Prudently protecting the urban forest to maintain and maximize what we already have is an ongoing process that needs to occur at all life stages of trees. It includes protecting the existing mature and semi-mature trees that currently provide benefits, while also ensuring that the city's young trees (e.g. future canopy) are healthy and have the ability to be long-lived. Protecting the urban forest includes;

- Protecting young trees from structural damage (e.g. lawn mower damage);
- Protecting trees from development and other impacts (e.g. climate change);
- Protecting the required soil habitat to grow big trees;
- Monitoring and responding to destructive tree pests (e.g. emerald ash borer);
- Protecting the city's natural areas from human impacts (e.g. encroachments), and
- Developing and implementing best practices for a sustainable urban forest.

The protect branch has two actions identified for a sustainable urban forest.

### 11 Conserve and protect the urban forest prudently on public and private lands to maximize current and future benefits while minimizing costs and risks.

The first action required to conserve and protect the urban forest is to increase community awareness on this issue through education. A review and potential update of existing bylaws and policies that protect city trees, their soil habitat natural areas, and private trees is required.

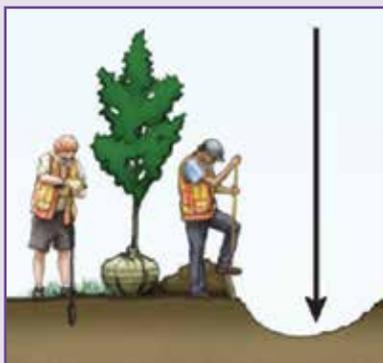
### 12 Monitor and assess destructive tree pests and invasive species to protect the urban forest and conserve biodiversity.

Destructive tree pests (e.g. emerald ash borer) and invasive species (e.g. buckthorn) can have a significant impact on the urban forest. The city continues to manage the impact of EAB with the focus recently being shifted to city natural areas and trails. Ongoing monitoring, adaptation and the setting of priorities is required to address the most damaging pests and species.

## In 25 years, what do you want Kitchener's urban forest to look like?

"In 25 years, I hope that we have areas where urban forests are protected and thriving."





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## PLANT correctly and deliberately: ensuring future generations have a vibrant and resilient tree canopy

Planting correctly and deliberately ensures that future generations will have a healthy, vibrant and resilient urban forest. Historically, tree planting was relatively easy; trees were harvested from local natural areas, planted in soils that were relatively undisturbed, and there was adequate rainfall.

Today, trees are often planted in heavily disturbed soils, resulting in poor health/stunted growth. Poor-quality nursery stock and a changing climate (e.g. increased droughts) further add to the challenges. Tree planting is a long-term investment (40+ years). To ensure it is sustainable and provides the desired long-term benefits, six key issues need to be addressed, including:

- planning first;
- ensuring the required soil (quantity and quality) is available;
- obtaining quality planting stock;
- planting the tree correctly;
- providing the required aftercare (e.g. tree watering, pruning), and
- providing the required information to support effective community stewardship.

The plant branch has three actions identified for a sustainable urban forest.

### 13 Set a tree canopy target and develop a long-term plan ensuring a vibrant and resilient tree canopy for future generations.

Setting a canopy cover target is an important step in moving towards a sustainable urban forest. With 26 per cent existing canopy, the community has the choice to set a goal to maintain or increase the existing canopy. Before a specific target is set, additional work is required to identify realistic options and the level of effort and cost required, and set targets for neighbourhoods.

### 14 Work with the community to develop a non-profit tree planting and stewardship program to maintain and/or increase the tree canopy on private and public lands.

Developing a community tree-planting and stewardship program is a key ingredient of a sustainable urban forest program. Many cities have succeeded in this area by establishing a non-profit organization (e.g. London, Oakville, Toronto, Mississauga, LEAF). Building on the work already done through this strategy, the city will continue to explore and develop this action through ongoing community collaboration.

## In 25 years, what do you want Kitchener's urban forest to look like?

"I want to see areas that are designated for urban forest planting, hopefully to bring the canopy to 28 or 30%.

I want to see the city maintain urban forests. No trees means no clean air."

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### **Develop a tree planting and soil management plan for city lands, planting trees sustainably with the focus on growing big, long living trees.**

Ensuring that the trees planted on city lands will be healthy, reach their mature size and have a long life requires thoughtful planning based on best practices. The tree planting and soil management plan will set minimum standards (e.g. species diversity, soil volumes) and practices (e.g. soil management and restoration) for all planting locations on city lands. In the shorter term, there is also the need to address the large backlog of tree planting required to address all of the ash trees removed due to emerald ash borer.



## Moving Forward

Warren Buffett once said, “Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” But it is not just the planting that brings the benefits trees provide to the community. It is a sustained effort by the city, the community and partners. This strategy takes the first step towards building a healthy and resilient urban forest, one that brings benefits to the community and the environment not just for now, but for the future.







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