

# Cobourg Urban Forest Management Plan

*Final Draft*  
Presentation to Council  
July 23, 2018



## Agenda

1. Plan Purpose
2. Approach / Methodology
3. Cobourg's Urban Forest
4. Recommended Plan Directions
5. Workplan - 9 Programs
6. Accomplishing the Plan over the next 20 years
7. Business Case for Managing Cobourg's Urban Forest
8. Next Steps



## Plan Purpose

- To accomplish a healthy and sustainable urban forest that contributes to the economic, environmental and social vitality of Cobourg
- Plan focus is on public lands - effectively manage the urban forest as a community asset
- Directions for improving urban forest health and cover on private lands



## Building of the Plan


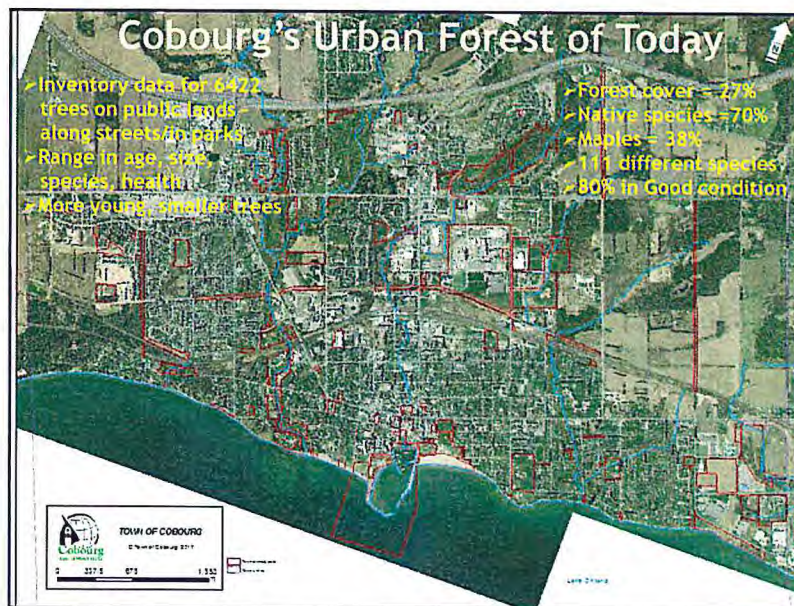
1. Review current Town management practices
2. Compare current approach to industry best practices
3. Obtain input from urban forest stakeholders & community
4. Recommend strategies for:
  - tree care / management standards
  - inventory
  - inspections
  - planting
  - risk management
  - partnership opportunities
  - integration with other Town policies, strategies and programs
5. Refine Plan through stakeholder and community feedback
6. Develop operational plans, business case and final draft management plan
7. Review of Final Draft Plan by Town management and Council





## Community & Stakeholder Input

<p><b>Vision &amp; Principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A lush forest across the Town, diversity</li> <li>➤ Tree-lined streets, enclosed canopies</li> <li>➤ Proactively manage trees over their life</li> <li>➤ Natural area and people connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ↑ cover, +trees on public &amp; private lands</li> <li>➤ A healthy, sustainable &amp; thriving forest</li> <li>➤ Town, partners &amp; community collaborate</li> <li>➤ Manage in a landscape context</li> <li>➤ Longer term view fits with life expectancy of trees, i.e. up to 150 years</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals &amp; Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Plant trees where feasible - in hubs, along streets, areas without trees, replacement</li> <li>➤ Cost-effective &amp; proactive management</li> <li>➤ Support private landowners in tree care</li> <li>➤ Improve natural area protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Be a leader!</li> <li>➤ Set aggressive canopy target, 35-40%</li> <li>➤ Maximize access to funding options</li> <li>➤ ↑ tree protection - existing, heritage</li> <li>➤ Trees provide community benefits</li> <li>➤ Add trees to Town entrances</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Risk management program</li> <li>➤ Clear roles and responsibilities</li> <li>➤ Explore opportunities for ↑private trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Involve all ages, children, volunteers</li> <li>➤ Ensure adequate resources to deliver plan</li> <li>➤ Tree planting &amp; maintenance plans</li> <li>➤ Community Education - many ideas</li> <li>➤ Task prioritization is important</li> </ul>



### 2037 Vision & Supporting Principles

**Cobourg will be a community in the Forest**

**Principles:**

- Proactive and active management of the urban forest
- Cost-effective management program
- The urban forest provides connections and corridors for people & wildlife
- Community outreach and engagement are essential to achieve this vision
- Partnerships will be an important method of managing Cobourg's forest
- Right tree in the right place to maximize tree growth, health and longevity and to reduce conflicts
- All trees, shrubs and plants comprise the urban forest
- Establish a balance between human uses & the urban forest ecological needs
- Management of the urban forest will consider the entire landscape and an ecosystem context



## Urban Forest Goals & Objectives

**Goal 1: The urban forest will be lush, diverse, healthy & resilient**

- native species, more diversity, expanded tree canopy, target of 35-40%, resilient,

**Goal 2: The urban forest will contribute to community sustainability**

- vitality, shade, connected to history, natural heritage & people connections, welcoming environment, destination, community benefits, quality of life

**Goal 3: The Town of Cobourg community will understand the urban forest's importance and will be actively involved in its care**

- tree values and benefits are known, managed through partnerships, contributes to local food security

**Goal 4: The Town's approach to management of trees on public lands will meet urban forest & community needs**

- right tree in the right place, tree life cycle management, management of tree needs and risks, efficient approach, adequate resources, regular reporting, work towards sustainable tree maintenance, integrate wildlife needs

**Goal 5: The Town will support residents and businesses in the stewardship of trees on private property**

- support tree planting on private property, increase number of trees and compensation for removed trees in development review process, encourage tree oases

## The Workplan = 9 Programs

1. Establish a **Tree Planting Plan** to increase forest cover on a Neighbourhood Basis and across the Town - Target of 35%
2. Enhance the **Tree Maintenance Program** to include regular tree inspections, pruning, data update, tree care standards, reporting
3. **Proactively Manage Tree Risks** (i.e. pests, invasive species, poor tree conditions, climatic effects) through up-to-date inventory, tree health assessment & program to address prioritized risks
4. Establish **Community Stewardship Program** to inform & involve residents and businesses in care and expansion of the urban forest
5. Implement a **Funding Strategy** (grants, sponsorships, bequests, volunteers, compensation for removal of trees) that enables the Town to well manage trees
6. **Regulatory:** Update **Tree Protection By-Law** to maintain & improve forest cover & health, increase funds for tree planting and removal associated with development
7. Establish a **Town Heritage Tree Program** to recognize and conserve important cultural heritage landscapes & trees
8. **Clear Governance:** Forestry leads urban forest management and works closely with Partners to access available resources for efficient management through the CAO's shared initiatives, Advisory Committees, County, GRCA, Utility Companies, & Community Groups
9. **Integration with Other Town Initiatives:** Link to other initiatives, i.e. Cultural & Natural Heritage, Parks, Planning, Public Works, Asset Management, Design, Risk Management, Waterfront, Invasive Spp.



Workplan Priorities - Next Five Years					
Program/Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1. Tree Planting	Planting Plan, Guide	Continue tree planting		Continue + tree nursery	Continue planting
2. Tree Maintenance	↑Program, ↑Data Year 1 Report	Ongoing; Hire Tech/Arborist	Tree maintenance continued and updated		
3. Risk Management	Inspections, Develop Program	Implement program	Ongoing		
4. Community Stewardship	Hire Coordinator Develop Program	Continue, Memorial trees	Continue; Expand work with groups/businesses/schools		
5. Resourcing Strategy	Develop & Start Funding Strategy	Continue to implement funding strategy, include new opportunities as they arise			
6. Regulatory	By-Law Update	Implement/Report on By-Law Effectiveness			
7. Heritage Trees	Promote known heritage trees	Develop/Begin Program	Implement Heritage Tree Program		
8. Governance	Confirm Lead Engage Partners	Continue to build and work with partners			
9. Integration: Other Programs	Alignment with other programs is established & continues	Continue + connectivity	Continue alignment of urban forest program with others		

Urban Forest Priorities for 2023 to 2037			
Program/Year	2023-2027	2028-2032	2033-2037
1. Tree Planting	Increase ~5% cover (reach 35%) ↑ private planting	Transition to maintenance status	Maintenance planting - replaced of lost trees
2. Tree Maintenance	Complete second half of maintenance program	Implement next 10-year program	Maintenance continues
3. Risk Management	Continued monitoring of emerging issues & management of tree risks		
4. Community Stewardship	↑Community participation private tree inventory	Continue program & extension of reach	Continue/refine program to fit with others
5. Funding Strategy	Develop bequest, sponsorship & C credit programs	Continue existing / Develop new programs as opportunities arise	
6. Regulatory	Monitor & research needs for 5-year review	By-law review prep/ consider private trees?	Monitor & research needs for 5-year review
7. Heritage Trees	Heritage trees on private lands, cultural landscapes	Continue and promote Town Heritage Trees and treed cultural landscapes	
8. Governance	Maintain/expand partner projects; UF connectivity	Maintain & develop partnership projects	
9. Integration: Other Programs	Monitor federal, provincial, County legislative & policy changes, community & environmental developments for potential impact/support re: urban forest		



## Business Case

- Town Mandate & Commitment to the Urban Forest- Official Plan, Urban Design and Landscape Guidelines, Parks Master Plan, Sustainability
- Current Urban Forest Investment - 6400 public trees in inventory (streets & parks) + natural areas; unmaintained urban trees ⇒ shorter lived, more risk
- Community Expectations & Benefits - Strong connection with and support for the urban forest; Significant benefits ⇒ *i-Tree* estimate of \$70 M
- Comprehensively Designed Management Program - Builds on current strong management, integrating best practice, adaptation, community stewardship, linked to cultural heritage and natural heritage system



## Urban Forest Community Benefits

- An investment in environmental and human health
- Contribute to community well-being and overall quality of life in urban areas
- Provide wildlife habitat, support biodiversity
- Ecological services of stormwater management, air & water quality improvement, energy savings, carbon storage
- Increase property values and retail visits
- Community identity
- Encourage outdoor activity
- Attract visitors
- Potential source of food



## Results Associated with Plan Approval

- Formalized program and increased support for urban forest management
- Commitment to achieving a healthier and expanded urban forest (move from 27% to 35% cover)
- Allocation of additional resources to management of the urban forest - forest technician/arborist & community stewardship coordinator
  - Sourced from combination of Town budget (shorter term) and mid-term delivery of the Resourcing Strategy
- Increase in community benefits obtained from Cobourg's urban forest



## Plan Finalization

- July 9<sup>th</sup>: Urban Forest Management Plan posted on Town website
- July 23: Receipt of Plan by Council
- July 9 to August 6: Opportunity for Community Review and Comment
- Feedback summarized and integrated into final Urban Forest Management Plan
- August 13, 2018: Council Consideration of Plan for Approval
- 2018 to 2037: Plan Implementation





Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

