

Intro to the Urban Forest Strategy

AAC Update

February 15, 2024

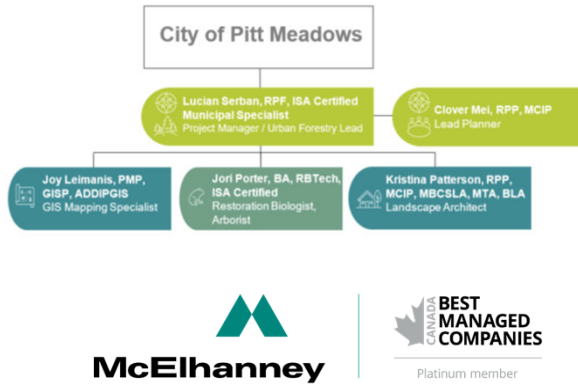


Intent of the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS):

- SWOT analysis
- Comparative Review with other municipalities
- Inventory of existing canopy cover
- Community's priorities and goals
- Short, medium, and long-term actions



Project Team:

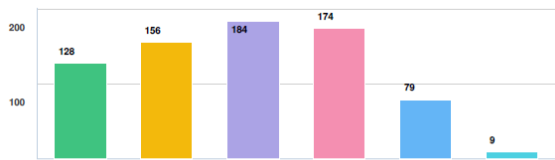


Public Engagement Events:



Online Survey and Mapping:

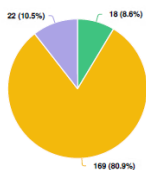
Q1 What do you value most about Pitt Meadows' Urban Forest? Select all that apply.



Question options

- Recreation and social activities
- Mental and physical well-being
- Environmental benefits like habitat, pollinator support, biodiversity
- Climate change benefits like temperature control, air quality improvements, stormwater run-off, carbon storage
- Financial benefits like increasing property value and reducing costs of heating/cooling
- Other (please specify)

Q7 Do you feel that the current tree canopy cover in Pitt Meadows is:



Question options

- Unsure
- Inadequate
- Adequate

IN01	Would love to see slower traffic and more access options (pathway/cycling infrastructure/bus stops) so that ALL citizens can access & support farmers & farmland safety.
IN02	This stretch of McElynn needs a lot more tree coverage. The west end of McElynn is nice and shaded but once you approach Shoppers there is no shade until you cross Harris. This is hard for families walking with young kids and pets who rely on the shade for safety and comfort.
IN03	More tree coverage to shade the footpath through the park would be great for families heading to the pool / water park / playground.

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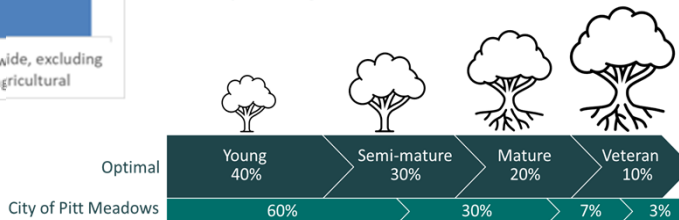


Preliminary Findings:

Percent Tree Canopy Cover: City-wide and Urban Containment Boundary (UCB)-wide



Diversity of Tree Age Classes



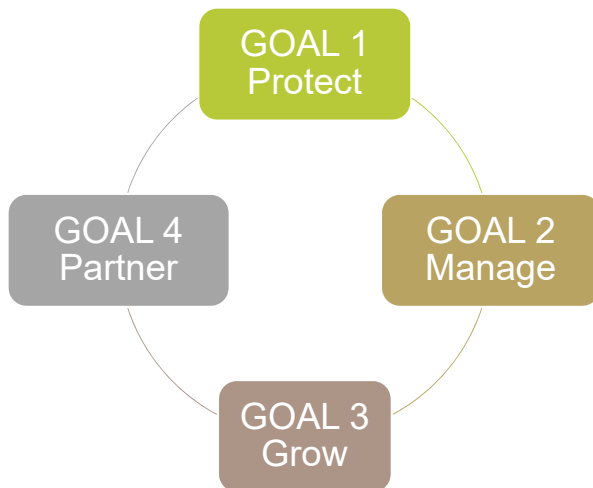
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Priority Locations:

- Challenges and opportunities
- Publicly-owned lands and partnerships



Goals and Actions:



1. Protect the existing urban forest from further decline.
2. Improve the management of the existing urban forest in parks and on publicly-owned lands.
3. Grow the urban forest canopy cover.
4. Partner with the community to foster stewardship and ownership over the shared urban forest.



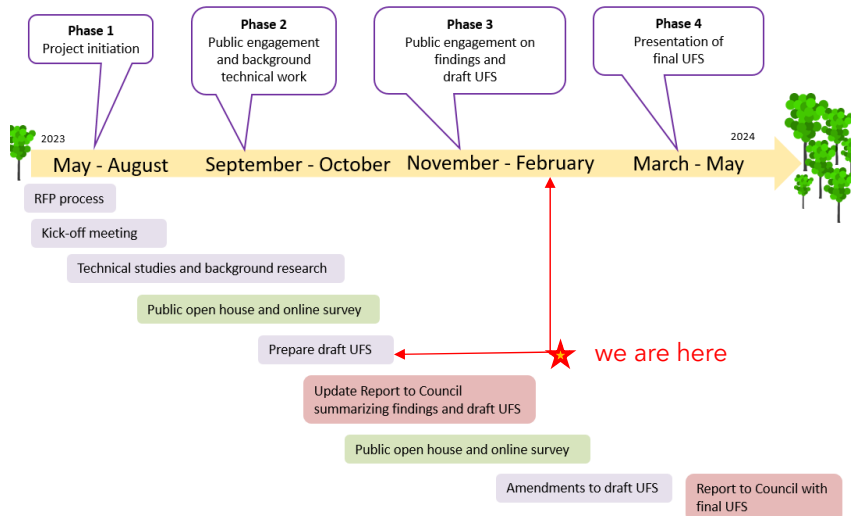
DRAFT Actions:

Action 4.4 – Partner with agricultural and rural communities to increase tree canopy cover on areas outside of the UCB.

- Balance the agricultural needs and protection under the *Right to Farm Act* to allow the space for crops without overly shading farm land with trees.
- Partner with the agricultural community, landowners, and interested parties to explore riparian restoration and planting along the drainage systems to help manage invasive species and improve water quality. Priority areas could be those that would benefit from shading to reduce invasive species, such as Parrott’s feather.
- Consider providing a payment for ecosystem services program for land that is conserved for riparian or habitat conservation rather than cleared for farming.
- Assist in exploring and promoting agri-silviculture, integrating trees and other large woody perennials into farming systems, where possible and beneficial to the farm and the environment.

Short-term actions (1-to-5 years)	
Protect--Action-1.1 ^o	Develop and adopt a Tree Protection Bylaw. ^o
Protect--Action-1.2 ^o	Review and update plan for mitigation or removal and replacement for known problem locations where street trees are damaging infrastructure or lifting sidewalks. ^o
Manage--Action-2.1 ^o	Review and update the Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw. ^o
Manage--Action-2.2 ^o	Review and update the Parks Maintenance Policy. ^o
Manage--Action-2.4 ^o	Update the street tree inventory to better manage assets and include new public planting locations. ^o
Grow--Action-3.1 ^o	Increase tree canopy cover with a focus on public parks. ^o
Partner--Action-4.1 ^o	Educate the community on the importance of the urban forest and how they can help to protect it. ^o
Medium-to-long-term actions (6-to-10 years)	
Manage--Action-2.7 ^o	Re-assess the Urban Forest Strategy after 5 years for an update on the current status of the forest canopy coverage and review prioritization of action items. ^o
Protect--Action-1.3 ^o	Review Tree Preservation Policy on Municipally Owned Lands. ^o
Manage--Action-2.3 ^o	Review and update the Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw for maintenance of trees on public property. ^o
Manage--Action-2.5 ^o	Review and update the Zoning Bylaw. ^o
Grow--Action-3.2 ^o	Increase tree canopy cover with a focus on public boulevards. ^o
Manage--Action-2.6 ^o	Develop green infrastructure guidelines to incorporate into development and capital projects. ^o
Grow--Action-3.3 ^o	Increase tree canopy cover with a focus on school properties. ^o
Grow--Action-3.4 ^o	Increase tree canopy cover with a focus on private properties. ^o
Partner--Action-4.2 ^o	Partner with post-secondary school institutions for planting, surveying, and/or monitoring projects. ^o
Partner--Action-4.3 ^o	Partner with non-profit organizations and the q̓c̓b̓y̓ Katzie First Nation to increase planting in riparian areas on public lands through restoration events. ^o
Partner--Action-4.4 ^o	Partner with agricultural and rural communities to increase tree canopy cover on areas outside of the UCB. ^o

Timeline:



Review of Draft UFS:

Internal affected parties include:

- PRC Advisory Committee
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Active Transportation Committee
- Advisory Design Panel
- Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Community Organizations
- Council
- Staff

External affected parties include:

- Agricultural Land Commission
- Urban Development Institute
- Metro Vancouver
- Ministry of Environment
- q̓ičəy̓ (Katzie) First Nation
- Local arborist contractors
- Alouette River Management Society
- Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership
- Maple Ridge Climate Hub
- Pitt Meadows Community Garden Society
- Lower Mainland Green Team

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Next Steps:

- Update Report to Council on February 27
- Refer out draft UFS to groups as noted, and the general public, with a follow-up survey and Open House event
- Amendments and Final UFS



Thank You!

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