



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Planning Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	June 4, 2019
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Hamilton Urban Forest Strategy Update (PD02229(h)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Catherine Plosz (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1231
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Steve Robichaud Director, Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

Planning Committee, at its meeting of April 30, 2019, approved the following Motion: “That the appropriate staff from Planning and Economic Development provide a verbal update on the Urban Forest Strategy to the Planning Committee before the June, 2019 public consultation on the Urban Forest Strategy; and that the update include ways we may better protect trees on private property”.

This Information Report has been prepared, along with the verbal update to be given at the June 4, 2019 Planning Committee, to provide information to Council and residents on progress on the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) and upcoming public consultation events.

## INFORMATION

### What is the Urban Forest Strategy?

The UFS will be a staff and community-developed vision and plan that outlines the necessary steps that must be taken to protect, enhance, maintain and monitor the trees and forests in the urban area of Hamilton over the next 20 years and beyond.

The urban forest is defined as all trees and woodlands on public and private lands within the urban area, as defined in the Urban Hamilton Official Plan.

### Commented [WU1]:

In this section include the Committee or Council direction which gave rise to the report coming forward. For example: Public Works Committee at its meeting of September 1, 2018 approved the following: “That staff be directed to report back on ....

If there is no Committee or Council direction, then note “Not Applicable” in this section

### Commented [WU2]:

In the Information Section provide all the pertinent details of the report

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The UFS will include:

- a vision for the desired future state of the urban forest;
- background research on existing policies, by-laws, programs, and activities;
- identification of challenges and opportunities; and,
- programs, policies and implementation tools to better manage tree planting, maintenance, protection, public education and awareness, and monitoring.

Development Planning, Heritage and Design Section staff coordinate the project, with guidance from a Staff Project Team consisting of staff from Forestry, Parks Planning and Operations and Maintenance, Planning, Risk Management, and Public Health. It is anticipated that the strategy will be completed by the end of 2019.

Project Progress

The following project activities have taken place:

- A capital budget of \$150,000 was approved by Council for the UFS on December 14, 2016;
- The work plan was approved by Council on February 14, 2017;
- A consultant team (Bioforest, KBM Resources Group, and Dillon Consulting) were retained in February, 2018 through a RFP process;
- Background information and data review were completed from February, 2018 to March, 2019;
- Data collection – random sample data collection carried out across the urban area to measure street trees, urban trees and woodlands, and canopy cover from May, 2018 to September, 2018;
- Public engagement to introduce the project and gather background information (online survey, stakeholder workshops, public information centre, meetings with stakeholder groups and committees) occurred from May, 2018 to November, 2018;
- Data and background information analysis were completed from November, 2018 to March, 2019; and,
- A draft vision statement, goals, and actions were prepared for review and comment by staff, residents, and stakeholders in April, 2019.

Next Steps

The City is currently seeking public input on the draft vision, goals, and actions through the following activities:

- Internal Staff Workshop (held on April 17, 2019);
- External Stakeholders Workshop (held on April 17, 2019);

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- Two Public Workshops (June 5, 2019 at Westmount Recreation Centre and June 19, 2019 at Huntington Park Recreation Centre);
- Online survey (June, 2019 to July, 2019); and,
- Meetings with stakeholders and committees (June, 2019 to July, 2019).

The draft vision, goals and actions will be revised based on input received and will form the basis of the recommendations in a draft UFS report, which will be available for review in August, 2019.

Additional public engagement events will be held in September, to obtain feedback on the draft UFS report. It is anticipated that the final UFS report will be completed by the end of 2019.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A

**Commented [WU3]:**  
Include a listing of all appendices referenced in and attached to your report labelled as follows:  
  
Appendix "A" to Report PED19001 -  
Location Map