

Urban Forest Strategy Implementation Chart

Urban Forest Strategy Recommended Action	Implementation	Lead Department(s) Responsible	Partners	Resources	Timeline
1. Develop and implement an inspiring urban forest communications strategy.	Incorporate into the City’s existing communications channels, information related to the importance and value of the urban forest	Communication	Public Works (Forestry) PED (Climate Change) Public Health	Existing	ongoing
2. Create a permanent new staff position in Public Works Department to implement UFS implementation (e.g. monitoring, outreach, partnership development, data maintenance)	Create a permanent new staff position within the Forestry Section of the Public Works Department to oversee the community-wide implementation of the UFS (e.g. monitoring, outreach, partnership development, data maintenance)	Public Works (Forestry)		New FTE (Public Works) As per recommendation of this report.	2024
3. Work directly with Hamilton’s development community to improve awareness, identify urban forest allies, and recognize best practices and innovation.	Work is underway to develop new Green Building Standards, Low Impact Design Guidelines and updated Urban Design Guidelines in addition to a proposed tree protection by-law (as per recommendation of this report)	PED (Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE), Planning, Growth Management)	Public Works (Forestry, Landscape Architectural Services (LAS)) Development Industry Liaison Group (DILG)	Existing staff Tree protect By-law resources to be identified in future report as per recommendation in this report.	2024

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<p>4. Work with the Indigenous community and local First Nations to understand and respect the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical connection that Indigenous peoples have to land</p>	<p>Work with the Indigenous community and local First Nations to understand and respect the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical connection that Indigenous peoples have to land including exploring the potential for Indigenous led tree planting initiatives.</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities (Indigenous Relations outreach and advisory role) Public Works (Forestry)</p>	<p>Public Works, (Landscape Architectural Services, LAS) PED (Climate Change, Planning)</p>	<p>New FTE (Public Works) As per recommendation of this report.</p>	<p>2024</p>
<p>5. Partner with organizations that support the City’s urban forestry program.</p>	<p>Partner with and actively explore ways to support community organizations and other stakeholders that are working to enhance Hamilton’s urban forest, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increasing the City’s existing annual free tree giveaway program; b) Support de-paving and urban greening initiatives utilizing an equity lens to prioritize those areas with greatest need for tree canopy; and c) Identify and implement opportunities to utilize creative planting methods such as expanding the current initiatives to install 	<p>Public Works (Forestry)</p>	<p>PED (Climate Change)</p>	<p>New FTE (Public Works) As per recommendation of this report.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

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	mini forests, which plant concentrations of larger numbers of trees in compact spaces in the urban area.				
6. Carry out an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement strategies.	Evaluation of engagement completed as part of standard practice on a project by project basis and in Departmental KPIs and reports	The department or section leading the engagement	Communications	Existing	Ongoing
7. Establish an inter-departmental working group to support UFS implementation.	To be reviewed for feasibility and effectiveness by Public Works (Forestry)	Public Works (Forestry)	To be determined	New FTE (Public Works) As per recommendation of this report.	2024
8. Improve implementation of Tree Protection / Management Plans and Landscape Plans required through development application review.	Prepare updated terms of Reference for Tree Protection/Management Plans and Landscape plans that are required as part of development applications. Currently Under review for Bills 23 and 109.	PED (Planning)	Public Works (Forestry)	Existing	2023
9. Complete land cover and canopy cover mapping for the City of Hamilton urban area.	Procure laser imaging, detection, and ranging (LIDAR) or other appropriate data of the urban area in June 2025 to accurately measure the tree Canopy. Set the standards	PED (GIS)	Public Works (Forestry) Public Health	Consultant and data costs (\$100,000) as per recommendation in this report	2025

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	and procedures to allow for comparison data in future		Corporate Services (IT/GIS Services)	Existing staff to manage project	
10. Apply standardized tree planting details and specifications in all city tree planting projects.	Develop standardized tree planting details and specifications and share with affected city departments and divisions,	Public Works (Forestry)	PED (Growth Management, Engineering, Development PED) Public Works (Parks, LAS	Existing staff	Complete
11. Develop and apply minimum canopy cover targets to new development proposals.	See Items 8, 9 and 12				
12. Identify and complete priority amendments to improve integration of trees through applicable policies, plans, and guidelines.	Work is underway to develop new Green Building Standards, Low Impact Design Guidelines and updated Urban Design Guidelines in addition to a proposed tree protection by-law and guidelines (as per recommendation of this report)	PED	Public Works (Forestry Parks, LAS)	Existing Staff	2023-24
13. Determine the main drivers of canopy change in Hamilton.	See Item 9				
14. Present regular ‘State of the Forest’ reports to City Council and the public	Present regular ‘State of the Forest’ reports to City Council and the public that include results of forest inventories undertaken every ten years or as data becomes available as per Action 9	Public Works (Forestry, Parks, LAS)	Public Health PED (GIS)	New FTE (Public Works) As per recommendation of this report.	2025

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15. Review current urban forest management structures and identify resources required to achieve the City’s urban forest vision.	Part of ongoing review.	Public Works (Forestry)	Public Works (Parks, LAS)	New FTE (Public Works) As per recommendation of this report.	Ongoing
16. Identify and implement options for increasing the preservation of healthy trees in Hamilton.	Work is underway to develop new Green Building Standards, Low Impact Design Guidelines and updated Urban Design Guidelines in addition to a proposed tree protection by-law (as per recommendation of this report)	PED	Public Works (Forestry, Parks)	Existing Staff	2023-24
17. Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment for Hamilton’s natural systems, including the urban forest.	Hire a consultant to complete.	PED (Climate Change)	Public Health Public Works (Forestry, Parks and Cemeteries) PED (Planning)	Consultant cost of approximately \$100,000. To be requested in future report.	2023
18. Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Strategy	Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Strategy in consultation with (and potentially in partnership with) community partners already actively engaged in this work on city property.	Public Works (Forestry)	Public Works (Parks)	Consultant cost to develop Strategy (approximately \$80,000). Funds for the development of the strategy and any resources	2024

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				required for implementation to be requested in future report.	
<p>19. Develop service standards and emergency response plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard trees and other forestry service requests • Severe weather events. 	Development of Standard Operating Procedures and service levels.	Public Works (Forestry)	Public Works	Existing staff	2024-25
<p>20. Increase the level of tree planting and/or natural forest regeneration in the City over the next five years.</p>	Increase the level of tree planting by the City from the current rate of 10,000 to 12,000 trees per year to 20,000 trees per year, and achieve a City-wide tree planting target, including tree planting by all community partners, of 50,000 trees per year	Public Works (Forestry)	Public Works (Parks Operations and Maintenance, LAS) PED (Planning, Climate Change)	<p>New FTE (Public Works) As per recommendation of this report.</p> <p>In the future, Public Works (Forestry) may require funding for implementing an increase in tree planting if current capital budget and reserves are not adequate. If</p>	2024-50

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				required will report back to Council	
21. Develop a best practices manual for tree protection, planting, and preservation to share with all City departments and utilities whose activities affect trees.	<p>Develop a Forestry and Horticulture Design and Preservation Manual for Assets within Public Property to ensure public trees are protected, planned and preserved. Update bi-annually or as required</p> <p>Ensure the manual is available online</p> <p>Train other City staff in how to use manual.</p>	Public Works (Forestry)	Public Works (Utility Coordination Committee, UCC) PED (Planning, Growth Management, Engineering)	Existing Staff	Complete
22. Complete a tree planting priority analysis to guide city-wide tree planting strategy.	Complete a tree planting priority analysis, based on Neighbourhood Tree Equity Scores, to prioritize tree planting in neighbourhoods with the greatest need for increased tree canopy cover	Public Works (Forestry)	Public Works (Parks Operations and Maintenance, LAS) Public Health PED (GIS, Planning)	New FTE (Public Works) As per recommendation of this report.	2024
23. Fund regular, active management of natural areas in Hamilton to support native biodiversity and forest health.	To be reviewed for feasibility, effectiveness and cost. Coordinate with Biodiversity Action Plan.	Public Works (Parks)	Public Works (Forestry, LAS) PED (Planning, Climate Change)	New FTE (Parks Operations and Maintenance)	ongoing

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24. Implement a forest health monitoring program in Hamilton, including natural areas.	Review expansion of existing monitoring program in partnership with other City Sections.	Public Works (Forestry)	PED Public Works (Parks Operations and Maintenance) Public Health	Existing staff	2025
25. Implement a forestry asset management system.	As part of the City’s asset management program, implement an asset management system for the City’s urban forest. Review enhancement of existing programs in Forestry (Emerald Ash Borer project and the City tree inventory).	Public Works (Forestry)		Existing staff	2025
26. Update urban forest inventories and studies every 10 years or in response to significant environmental change.	See Items 9, 14 and 15				