



SARNIA URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Phase 1 Consultation – Public Information Centre (PIC)
Sarnia, ON · April 18, 2023

Philip van Wassenaer, MFC
Principal

Alexander L. Satel, MFC
Sr. Urban Forestry Consultant

Urban Forest Innovations Inc. · Mississauga, ON





Agenda

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

1. Poster viewing (6 – 6:30 p.m.)
2. Opening remarks (City)
3. Presentation (consulting team)
4. Q&A
5. Discussion





Opening remarks

Cory King

Supervisor, Forestry and Horticulture Services

Image credit: thesarniajournal.ca



In the spirit of peace and friendship, we honour the Anishinaabek of the Three Fires Confederacy on whose traditional territory we are gathered.

The City of Sarnia has resolved to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.





Project team

City of Sarnia

- Community Services division, Parks & Facility Operations dept.
 - Forestry and Horticulture Services

Consultants

- Urban Forest Innovations Inc. (Mississauga, ON)
- PlanIT Geo (Arvada, CO, USA)





Engagement objectives

- **Inform you:** about Sarnia's urban forest and the UFMP project
- **Gain understanding:** about community values and the urban forest
- **Obtain input:** on urban forest vision, challenges, opportunities, goals, etc.

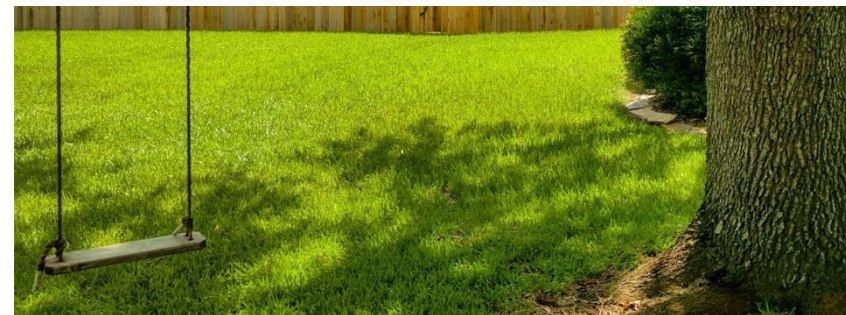




Sarnia's urban forest

TREES AND THEIR GROWING ENVIRONMENTS

- Streets
- Parks
- Natural areas
- Private lands
- Industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI)





About Sarnia's urban forest

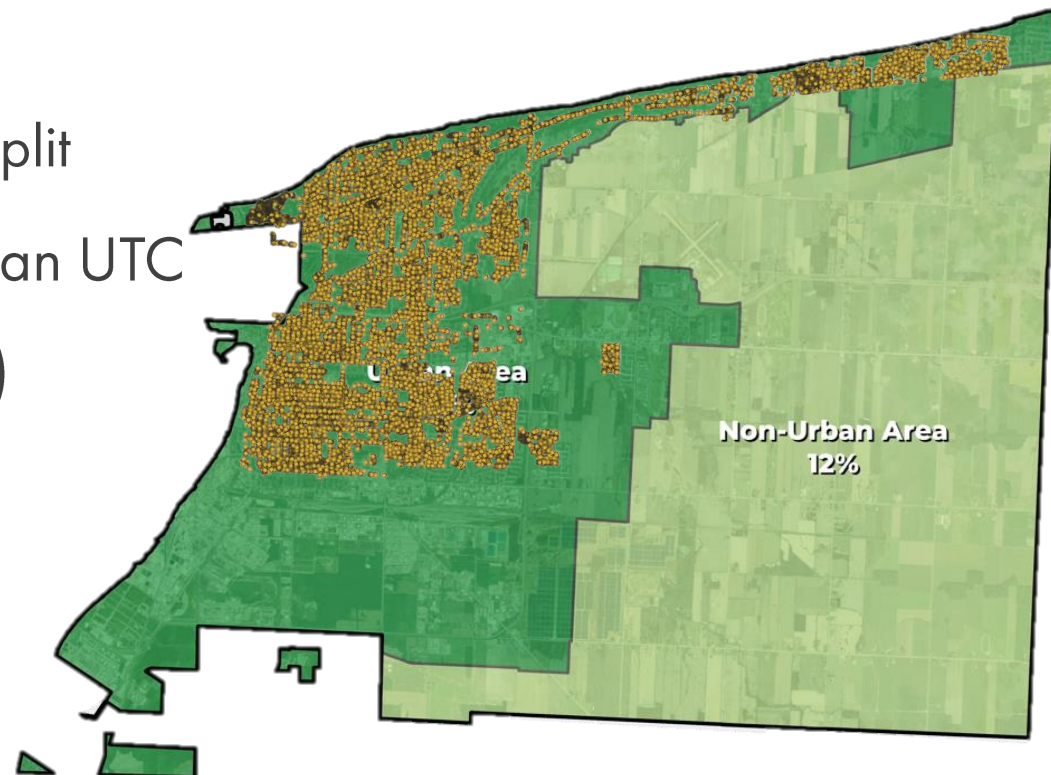
- 2,726 hectares (17%) UTC
Urban Tree Cover ←
- 60:40 urban/non-urban split
- 22% urban, 12% non-urban UTC
- 24,498 street trees (urban)
 - >90% in good health
 - >80% in good structure
 - Moderate level of diversity





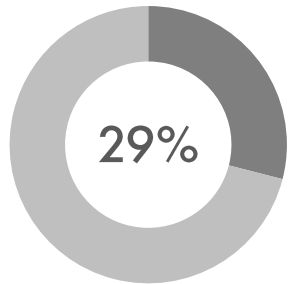
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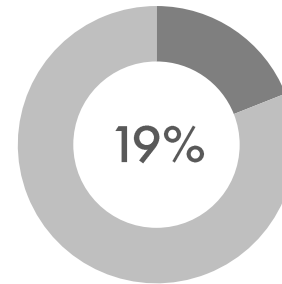




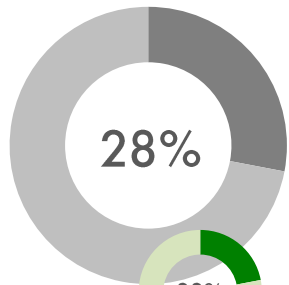
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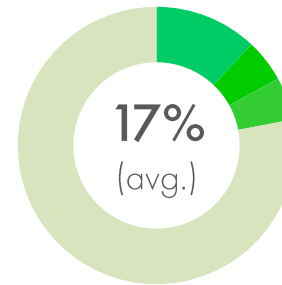
Guelph (2015)
Richmond Hill (2017)



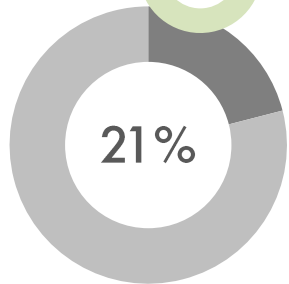
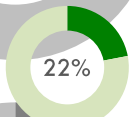
Mississauga (2014)
Windsor (2020)



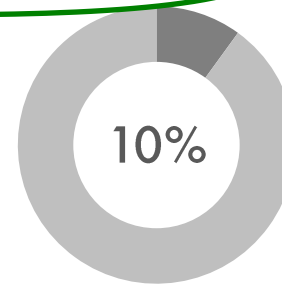
Oakville (2015)
Toronto (2018)



Sarnia (2019)
22% urban • 12% non-urban



Hamilton (2018)
Kingston (2021)

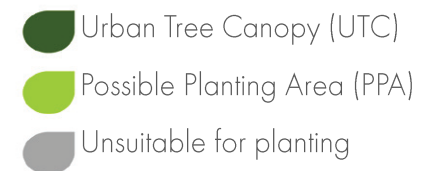
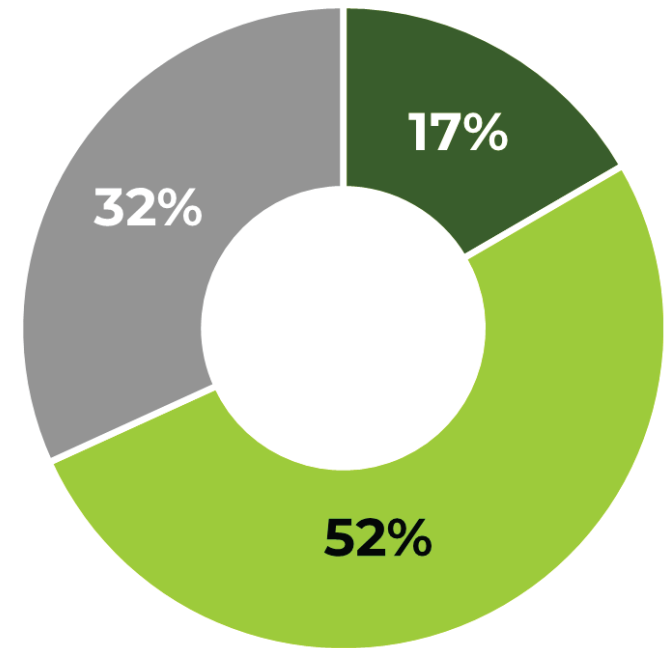


Saskatoon, SK (2017)



About Sarnia's urban forest

- 87% of UTC is on private property
- 52% of land is **PPA**
↳ Possible Planting Area
- 90% of PPA is on private property
- Opportunities to plant in road right-of-way (500 ha) and other City lands (300 ha), but so much more PPA on private lands (7,600 ha)!



Air quality

\$373,321/yr.

95,901 kg of pollutants removed

Stormwater

\$97,505/yr.

31 million litres of runoff avoided

Carbon sequestration

\$603,541/yr.

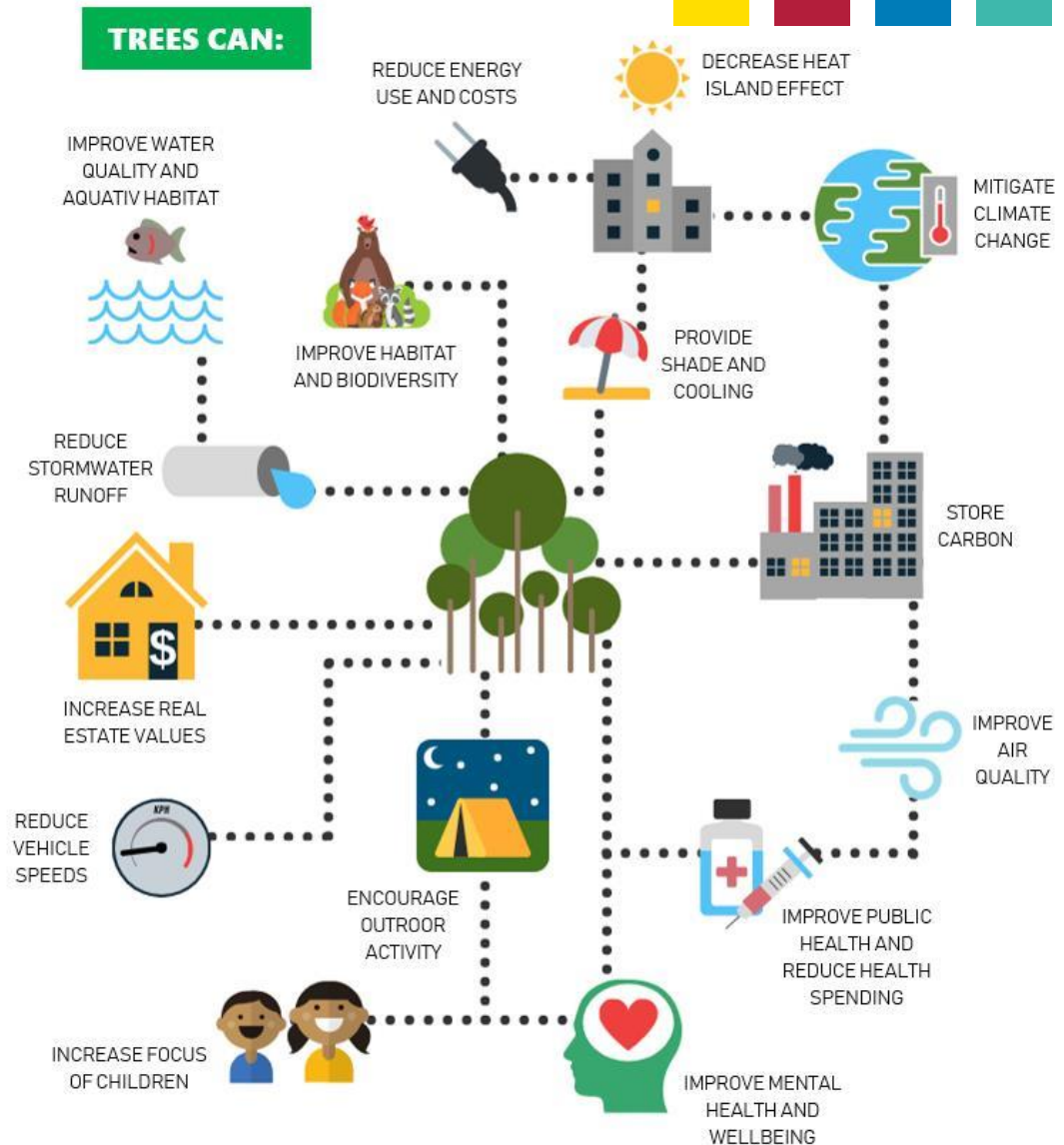
2,399 metric tonnes sequestered

Carbon storage

\$21.6 million (value)

85,959 metric tonnes

... energy savings, avoided emissions, public health, recreation, etc.





Challenges

FACING SARNIA'S URBAN FOREST

- Difficult growing conditions
- Pests, diseases, invasive species
- Resource limitations
- Large share in private ownership
- Climate change

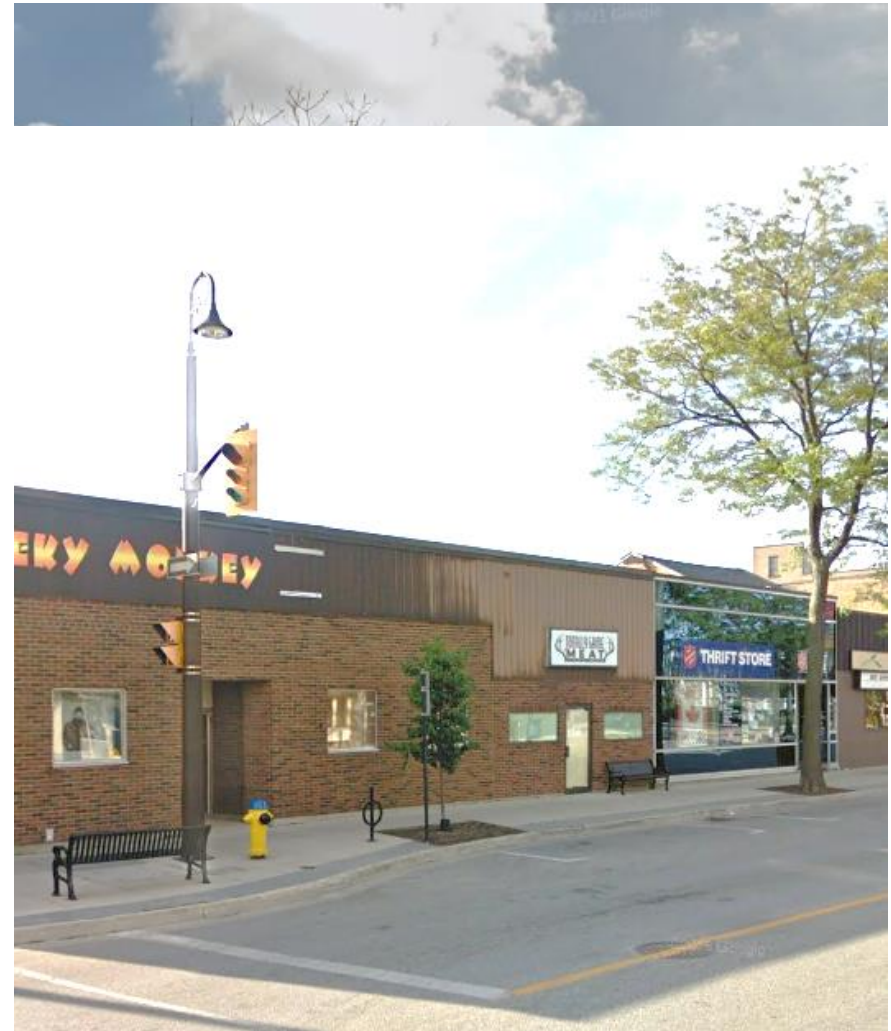




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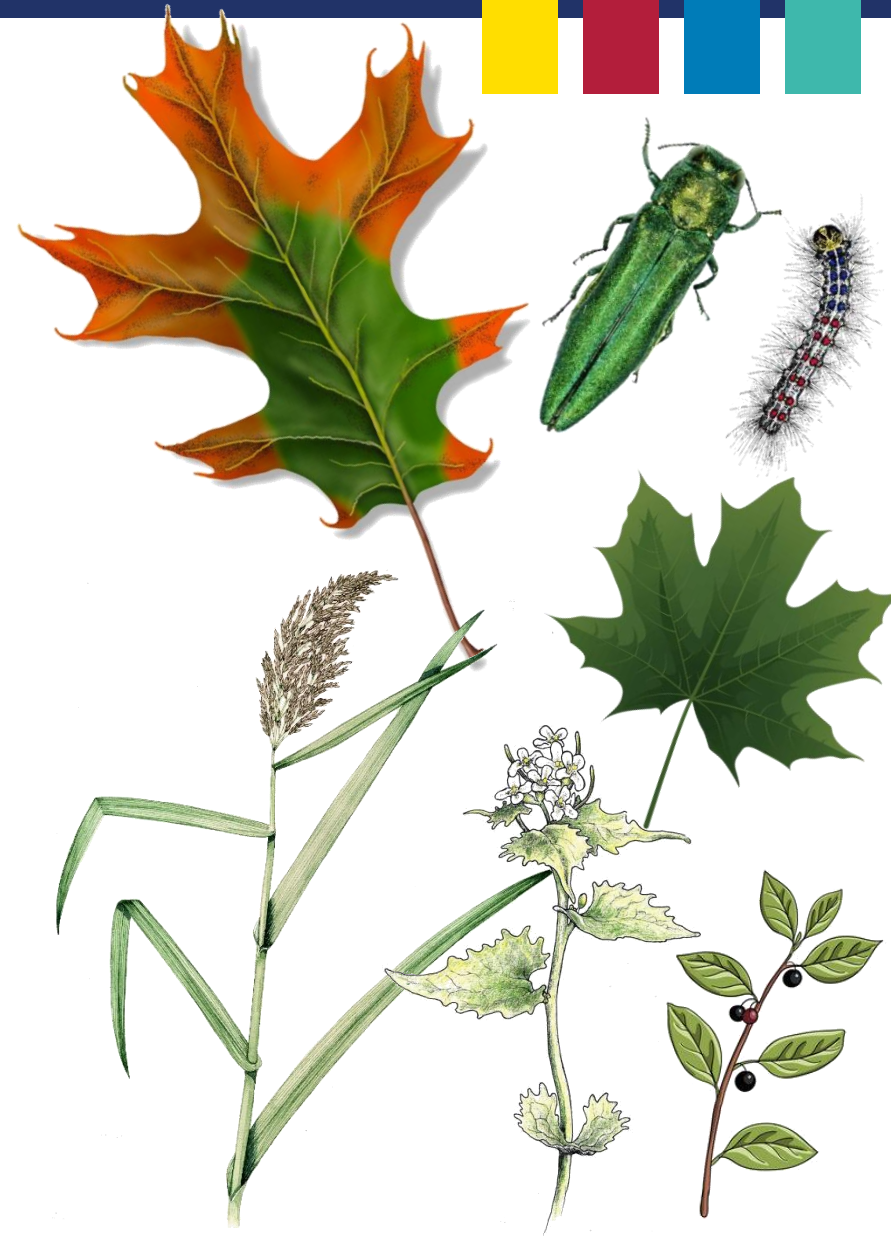




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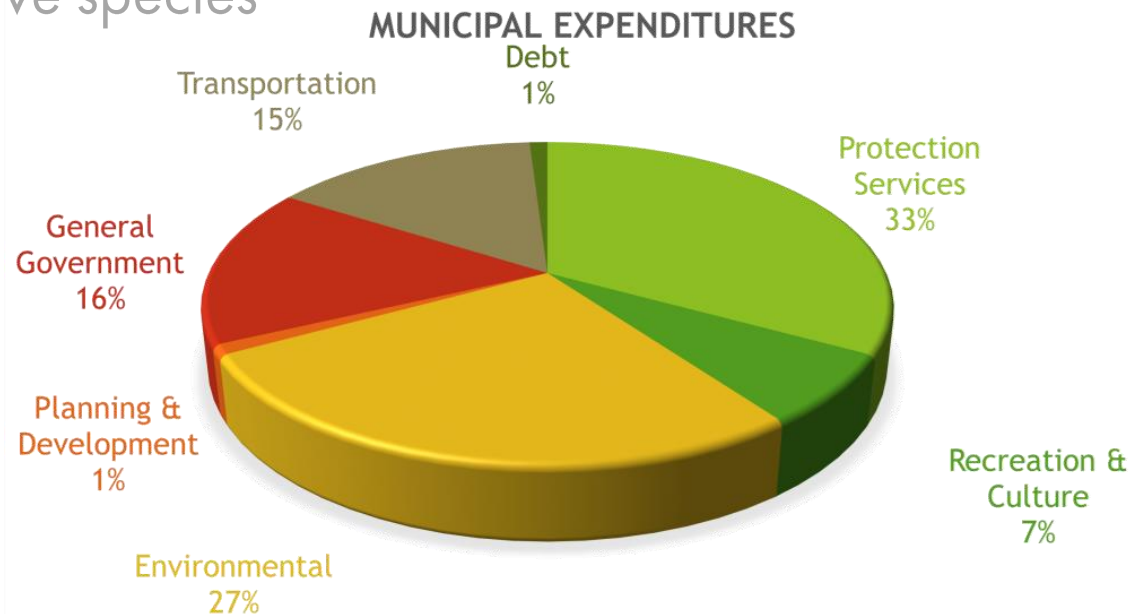




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Current programs and initiatives

- Urban forestry
 - Tree care and maintenance
 - Tree planting (operations and community partnerships)
 - Trees of Distinction and Commemorative Asset (tree) programs
 - 'Edible Trees'
- Tree Canopy Protection and Enhancement Policy (2021)
- By-law 34 (Tree by-law)
- Stewardship plans (with SUWC)
- Planning guidelines and application review
- Official Plan urban forest policies (Draft Official Plan, 2022)
- Sarnia Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and Implementation Strategy



Responding to the challenges

THROUGH THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN



Supporting + building

Support and build upon good policies, programs, and practices already in place in Sarnia.



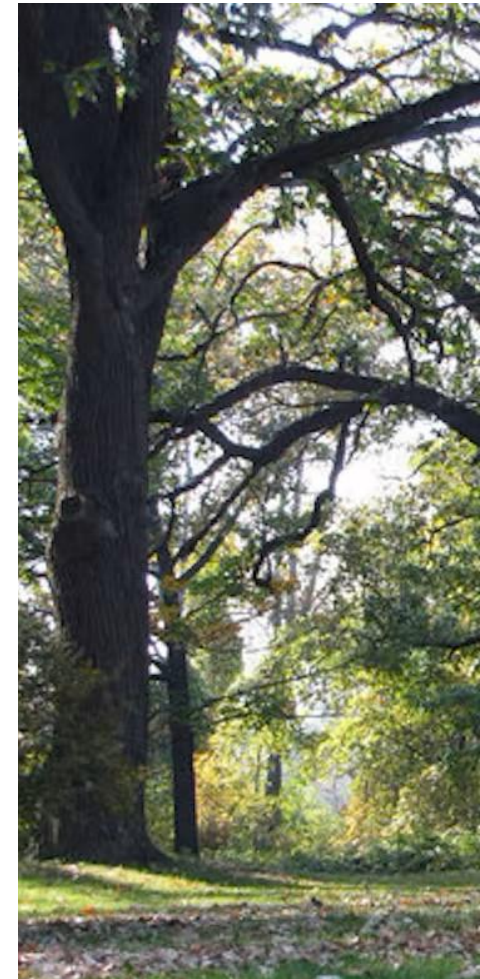
Best practices

Provide guidance for the adoption of appropriate best practices for all aspects of urban forestry.



Goals, objectives and targets

Establish strategic goals and measurable objectives and targets, supported by monitoring to track progress and improve outcomes.





About the UFMP

Broad in scope

- 20-year plan horizon
- Public and private lands
- City and partners

Strategic guidance

- Vision for the urban forest
- Guiding principles
- Goals, objectives, and targets
- Prioritized action items + resourcing
- Monitoring to track progress (adaptive mgmt.)



Image credit: bluewatertrails.com

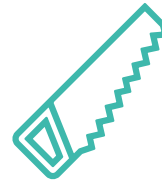


UFMP organization



THE URBAN FOREST

The urban forest as a biological asset (e.g., diversity, UTC, condition, etc.)



MAINTAINING

Tree care and maintenance operations



GROWING

Tree planting programs and establishment practices



PROTECTING

Trees in planning policies and development practices



ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Engaging with the community and other partners in urban forest stewardship



Strategic Directions

FOR THE UFMP

These strategic directions will inform the UFMP's...

- goals
- objectives
- targets
- action items





Strategic Directions

THE URBAN FOREST



Enhance diversity

By various metrics and at different scales.



Targets

Establish and pursue targets for urban forest structure and values.



Monitoring

Benchmarking, status tracking, and applying monitoring tools periodically and as-needed.



Tree inventory

Complete, maintain, enhance and use the tree inventory and other decision-support tools.



Climate change

Support climate change commitments and strengthen community and UF resilience.



Adaptive management

Periodic plan review and updating, using Criteria and Indicators.



Strategic Directions

MAINTAINING THE URBAN FOREST



Coordination

Strengthen coordination and cooperation between departments around UF mgmt.



Support + enhance

Support and enhance existing maintenance programs, practices, and workflows.



Levels of Service

Enhance Levels of Service (LoS) for UF maintenance operations.



Plans + policies

Develop issue-specific plans and policies where necessary.



Asset management

Integrate urban forestry assets with broader AM frameworks to enhance service delivery.



Engagement

Engage the community in 'low stakes' tree maintenance.



Strategic Directions

GROWING THE URBAN FOREST



Better guidance

Enhance and consolidate tree establishment guidelines and standards.



Establish targets

Pursue aspirational targets for tree establishment.



Environmental justice

Pursue 'tree equity' through tree planting programs.



More planting

Improve and expand tree establishment operations and programs.



Growing environments

Adopt standards and practices to improve tree growing sites.



Private lands

Encourage and support tree establishment on private lands.



Strategic Directions

PROTECTING THE URBAN FOREST



Guidelines + standards

Strengthen planning guidelines to better protect trees through the development process.



Regional coordination

Work with Lambton County, SCRCA, and other regional partners on regional UF issues.



Official Plan

Expand and enhance Official Plan policies to strengthen urban forest protection.



Tree by-laws

Enhance education about and enforcement of existing tree by-law, consider new by-laws.



Planning processes

Enhance development plan and building permit application processes related to trees.



Strategic Directions

ENGAGEMENT + PARTNERSHIPS



Outreach + education

Improve resources and programs to build awareness and appreciation of the UF.



Leverage resources

Make better use of existing resources available through external partnerships.



Resource opportunities

Pursue innovative resourcing opportunities to support urban forest management.



Partnerships

Strengthen existing, and develop new, partnerships for urban forest management.



Engagement

Provide residents opportunities for meaningful, hands-on engagement in UF stewardship.

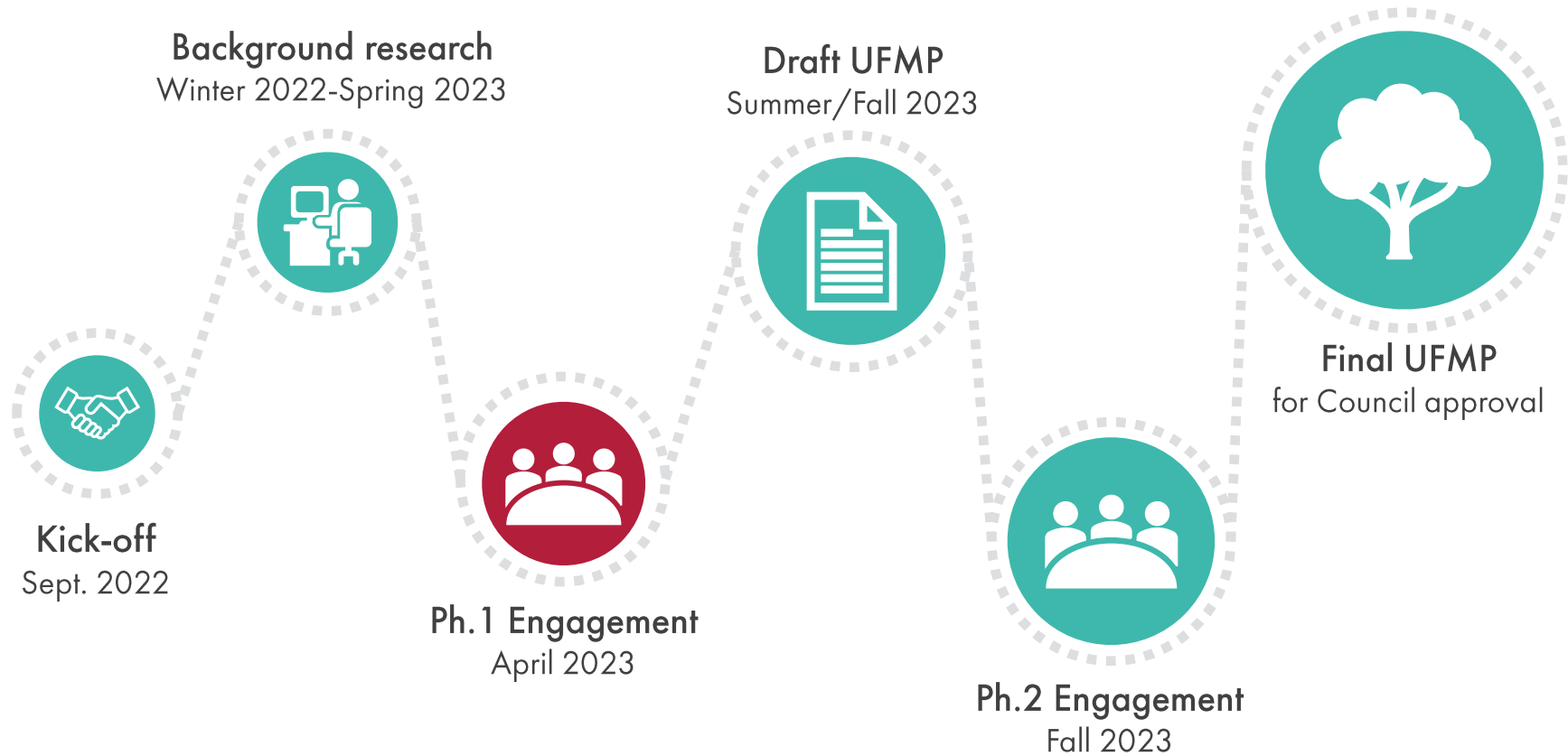


Invest

Support community and partner-led urban forest initiatives on non-City lands.



Next steps





Thank you!

Please visit
speakupsarnia.ca/UFMP
for project updates and more!

**URBAN FOREST
MANAGEMENT
PLAN DEVELOPMENT**



Protecting, maintaining,
and enhancing our
urban forest





Questions?

Cory King

Supervisor, Forestry and Horticulture Services · City of Sarnia

cory.king@sarnia.ca

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Principal

philip@urbanforestinnovations.com

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alex@urbanforestinnovations.com

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Discussion questions



Challenges to Sarnia's urban forest

What do you see as the most pressing challenges facing Sarnia's urban forest today and in the future? How can these challenges be addressed?



Goals and guiding principles

What are you most looking forward to as an outcome of the UFMP?

What principles should guide the UFMP vision and urban forest management?



Getting involved

What would be the most rewarding and effective way for you to get involved in stewardship of Sarnia's urban forest?





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