

Urban Forest Master Plan Implementation Update

Committee of the Whole

December 12, 2019



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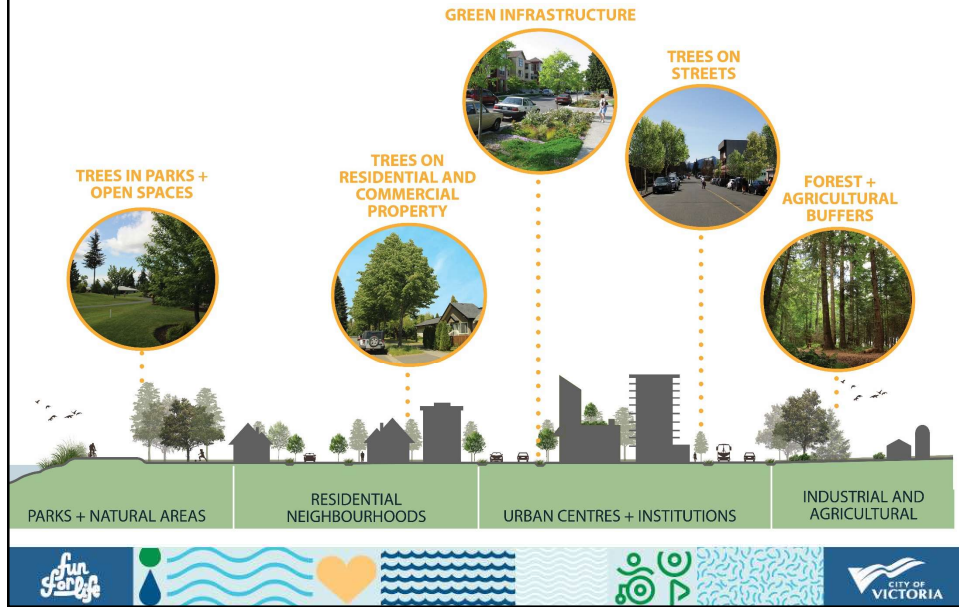
Purpose

To provide a summary of progress made and actions planned on the implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan



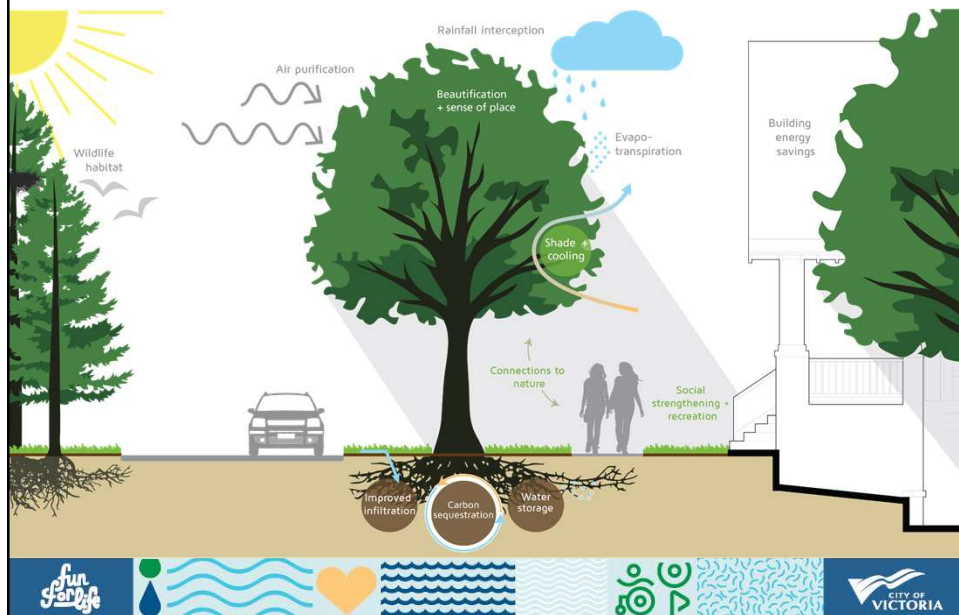
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What is the urban forest?



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Benefits of the urban forest



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Responding to the Climate Emergency



COOLING

Tree canopy >40% significantly lowers temperature on hot days



CARBON

Trees + soil sequester and store carbon



RAINWATER

Trees store rainwater in their canopies



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Urban Forest Master Plan

Goals

1. Develop and maintain strong community-wide support for the urban forest;
2. Protect, enhance and expand Victoria's urban forest;
3. Design and manage the urban forest to maximize watershed health, biodiversity, and the conservation of sensitive ecosystems; and,
4. Maximize community benefits from the urban forest in all neighbourhoods.



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2019 Actions

- Expanded the Urban Forest Services team
- Developed a five-year implementation plan
- Updated the Tree Preservation Bylaw
- Engaged with community advocates
- Hosted the 14th annual Tree Appreciation Day
- Participating in the Trees in Cities Challenge



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Updating Canopy Cover Estimates

Purpose

- Establish accurate baseline across the city
- Establish method that can be repeated accurately to effectively assess changes over time
- Identify hotspots of loss/gain
- Assess 3D canopy characteristics to better inform ecosystem services



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Canopy Cover Assessment

Air photo



LiDAR

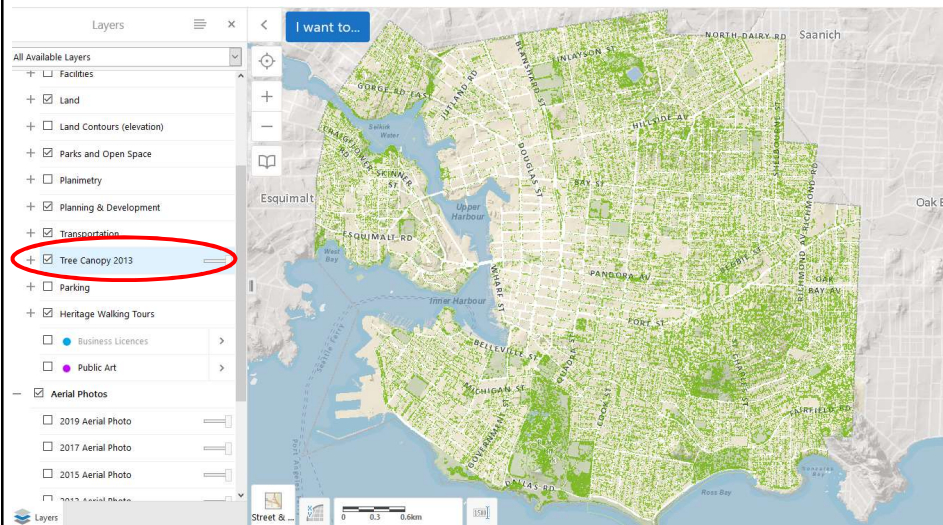


LiDAR technology accurately captures actual tree canopy



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New LiDAR Data in VicMap



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Implementation Plan Priorities

1. **Resourcing:** building staff and financial capacity
2. **Tree Protection:** strengthening the protection of trees
3. **Monitoring:** acquiring data on the status and condition of the urban forest
4. **Tree Planting:** planting new trees and evaluating growing conditions
5. **Management:** maintaining the urban forest
6. **Stewardship:** involving citizens



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Resourcing

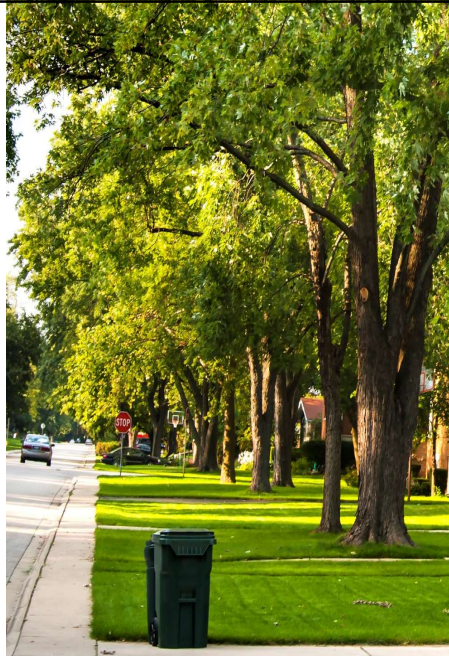
- Urban Forest Services Team Recruitment
- Equipment
- Consultant Support



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Tree Protection

- Comprehensive review and update of the Tree Preservation Bylaw
- Development of tree protection protocols



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Monitoring

- Develop city-wide and neighbourhood tree canopy cover targets
- Acquire data on ecosystem services delivered by the urban forest



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Tree Planting

- Develop Neighborhood Planting Plans to guide City planning and investment over the next 10 years



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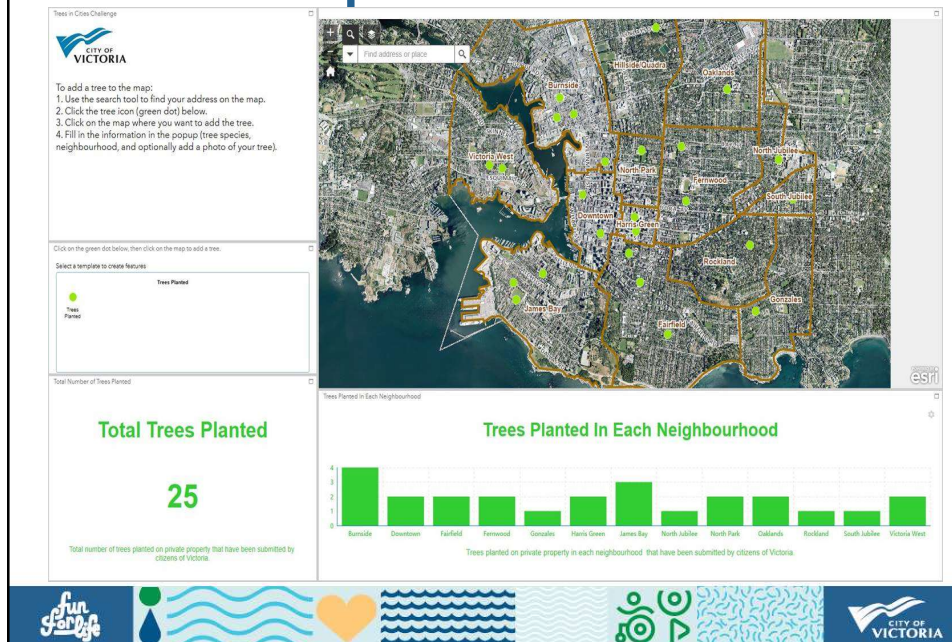
Stewardship

- Develop a Citizen Stewardship Plan
- Advance coordination of environmental stewardship activities
- UN Trees In Cities Challenge



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Stewardship



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Recommendation

That Council;

1. Approve the reallocation of \$110,000 from the Tree Preservation Bylaw project to the priority Urban Forest Master Plan actions outlined in this report and;
2. Direct staff to amend the Urban Forest Master Plan to reflect the updated canopy cover estimates, shown in Attachment A.

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