

Urban Forestry Short Term Implementation

Priority Action and 5 Year Implementation Plans

The recommended action items reflect years 1 to 5 of the Urban Forest Strategy.

To achieve a canopy cover target that approaches 40% over the next 15 to 20 years, Oak Bay will require a serious commitment to both staff and financial resources for the goals and targets are to be meet. Additionally, the plan will require ongoing commitments from all District departments; each will need to consider the urban forest as the unique and valuable municipal asset it is. Full implementation of the plan will require Parks staff to encourage participation from Oak Bay citizens and community organizations.

To achieve success, the focus for the short term implementation work must aim at stabilizing and rebuilding the current canopy cover. The objective is enhancement of forest health and protection of the existing tree inventory from both development and environmental disturbances (disease, insects, construction, infrastructure repair damage and weather events like drought and storms). This can be achieved through strong support for canopy cover targets as they relate to zonings and a revised bylaw and enforcement.

The Manager of Parks Services and the District Arborist will be responsible for establishing and guiding the corporate philosophy, where trees are managed as infrastructure assets, using consistent concepts of “green infrastructure and related terminologies. This will include the administrative responsibilities as well as the specific work requirements. In addition, the Urban Forestry section will provide leadership in policy and protection, planting, maintenance and monitoring and the engagement of the public which will include education and communication.

As part of the implementation plan, Diamondhead/Parks have identified specific actions that can be implemented with no additional funding support and those actions where additional funding will be required. These actions have been split into operational and policy funding categories and each funding requirement is classified as either a one-time budget item or requiring continued budget items at annual or other intervals. Two main funding sources are proposed for consideration to cover implementation of the plan.

These funding sources consist of:

1. Identify internal and tax base options to increase current budget for staffing and maintenance.
2. Cash in lieu paid through the development process tracked for urban forest spending on public tree planting, ecosystem restoration projects, citizen forester projects and private tree planting or maintenance rebates.

Consideration of additional funding sources to supplement the program should include:

1. Private donations to sponsor the urban forest.
2. Grants from organizations such as Tree Canada / BC Hydro.

Received BC Hydro/Tree Canada Grants over the last few years of between 5 and \$9,000

Budget Year	Recommendation	Budget Increase or Staff Allocation
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update tree protection bylaw - Completed	Parks Manager District Arborist
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase tree purchase budget by \$10,000 to begin to meet municipal tree canopy cover targets on roads and in parks.	\$10,000 annually (Covered)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New tree purchase costs are covered for the next five years from the \$45,000 bequeathed tree planting fund and forfeited tree bonds related to construction projects. Approximately 100 new trees a year. 	
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the District website to educate the public, developers and the tree care industry about by-law changes. Ongoing 	Parks Manager District Arborist
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop natural area management framework to address native ecosystem conservation, invasive species management, fire loads and recreational usage in parks. Completed 	Parks Manager District Arborist FOUP Wylie Thomas \$10,000 (One time)
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to establish a community engagement program to build stewardship of the urban forest and natural areas. i.e: identifying significant trees. Ongoing 	Parks Manager District Arborist FOUP Community
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with colleagues in Engineering, Public Works and Building and Planning to review internal capital projects, development and rezoning applications. Make recommendations regarding tree management, including protection and enhancement of community's green infrastructure on private and district property. Read and interpret detailed architectural drawings and make recommendations related to all parks assets and infrastructure. Review and approve utility and construction permit applications related to tree conservation. Represent the Parks Department at various internal meetings and respond to enquiries from other departments, architects, engineers and developers regarding information on tree conservation and development issues. Ongoing 	\$6000 Parks Manager Municipal Arborist
2018	Additional tree waterer/ small tree pruner (4 month auxiliary) Completed	\$25,000
Possible Budget Increase for 2018		\$41,000

Budget Year	Recommendations	Budget Increase or Staff Allocation
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand tree planting program from 11 to 18 weeks. (Jan to April) Completed 	\$18,000
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand proactive tree maintenance program (Small and large trees) Completed 	\$25,000
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to establish a community engagement program to build stewardship of the urban forest and natural areas. Ongoing 	Parks Manager District Arborist FOUP Community
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work closely with Public Works, Engineering and Building and Planning. Ongoing 	Park Manager District Arborist
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with residents/community to plant approximately 266 trees a year on private lands. This continues for duration of UFS to meet targets. Ongoing 	Park Manager District Arborist Community

2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with land managers (Uvic, Golf Course, and School District) to plant 66 trees a year on private lands. This continues for duration of UFS to meet targets. Ongoing 	Park Manager District Arborist Land Managers
2019	Possible annual increase to Natural Area Restoration Budget depending on HSP funding. \$101,000 Money Revived From Federal Government over 3 years	\$35,000
Budget Increase for 2019 - excluding possible HSP funding		\$43,000

Budget Year 2020	Recommendations	Budget Increase or Staff Allocation
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with residents/community to plant approximately 266 trees a year on private lands. This continues for duration of UFS. Ongoing 	Park Manager District Arborist Community
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with land managers (Uvic, Golf Course, and School District) to plant 66 trees a year on private lands. This continues for duration of UFS. 	Park Manager District Arborist Community
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand proactive tree maintenance program (Small and large trees) Will happen Fall 2020 	\$35,000
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure GIS based mobile data collection inventory. Under Review 	\$8 to \$15,000
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to establish a community engagement program to build stewardship of the urban forest and natural areas. Ongoing 	Parks Manager District Arborist FOUP Community
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work closely with Public Works, Engineering and Building and Planning. Ongoing 	Parks Manager District Arborist FOUP Community
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify planting space opportunities and prepare a tree planting strategy for the District. Ongoing 	District Arborist
Possible Budget Increase for 2020		\$50,000

Budget Year 2021	Recommendations	Budget Increase or Staff Allocation
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to collect tree inventory data that includes species, date planted, dbh, height, condition, and size class at maturity, safe useful life expectancy and track dates removed for trees in Oak Bay. 	\$20,000
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory Garry oak and associated ecosystems, rare and endangered plant species (building on existing data set and invasive species throughout the Districts natural areas. 	\$25,000 Contract (One time)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with residents/community to plant approximately 266 trees a year on private lands. This continues for duration of UFS. 	Park Manager District Arborist Community
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with land managers (Uvic, Golf Course, and School District) to plant 66 trees a year on private lands. This continues for duration of UFS. 	Park Manager District Arborist Community

2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to establish a community engagement program to build stewardship of the urban forest and natural areas. 	Parks Manager District Arborist FOUP Community
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work closely with Public Works, Engineering and Building and Planning. 	Parks Manager District Arborist
Possible Budget Increase for 2021		\$45,000

Budget Year 2022	Recommendations	Budget Increase or Staff Allocation
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collect tree inventory data that includes species, date planted, dbh, height, condition, and size class at maturity, safe useful life expectancy and track dates removed for trees in Oak Bay. 	\$20,000
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with residents/community to plant approximately 266 trees a year on private lands. This continues for duration of UFS. 	Park Manager District Arborist Community
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with land managers (Uvic, Golf Course, and School District) to plant 66 trees a year on private lands. This continues for duration of UFS. 	Park Manager District Arborist Community
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to establish a community engagement program to build stewardship of the urban forest and natural areas. 	Parks Manager District Arborist FOUP Community
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work closely with Public Works, Engineering and Building and Planning. 	Parks Manager District Arborist
Possible Budget Increase for 2021		\$20,000

The progress will be measured against the performance indicators laid out in the Urban Forest Strategy and will be assessed at 5 year intervals. The management actions resulting from this review can be modified to achieve targets.