

# Urban Forest Strategy

Environment Committee Update  
January 20, 2025

# Agenda

- Overview
- Alignments
- UFS Framework
- Goals & Strategies
- Key Actions
- Timeline/updates

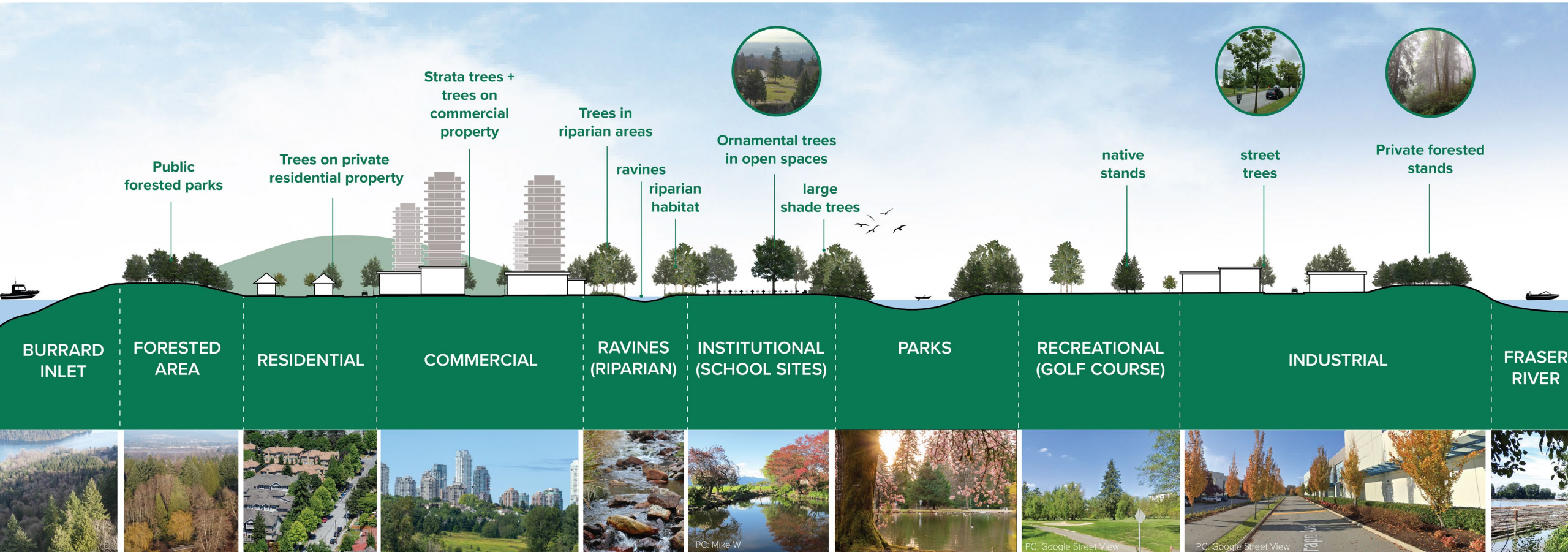


*Scan the QR code to access the Draft Urban Forest Strategy or click the link: [Burnaby.ca/UrbanForest](https://Burnaby.ca/UrbanForest)*

# Project Overview

## The Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) will:

- ✓ Provide an urban forest vision and management objectives to 2040
- ✓ Address challenges and opportunities
- ✓ Identify and prioritize actions
- ✓ Provide targets and performance measures for implementation



# Alignments

**Council's  
Strategic Plan  
2023-2026**

**Official  
Community  
Plan**

**Climate  
Action  
Framework**

**Urban  
Forest  
Strategy**

**Environmental  
Sustainability  
Strategy**

**City tree policy,  
Tree bylaw and  
regulatory  
framework**

**Design and  
Operations**

**Social  
Sustainability  
Strategy**

**Allied plans and  
commitments – e.g.  
Environmentally Sensitive  
Areas Strategy**

# UFS Framework

## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR BURNABY'S URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

40% canopy cover target

1 VISION

What we want

5 GOALS

14 STRATEGIES

How we get it

68 ACTIONS



5 QUICK STARTS

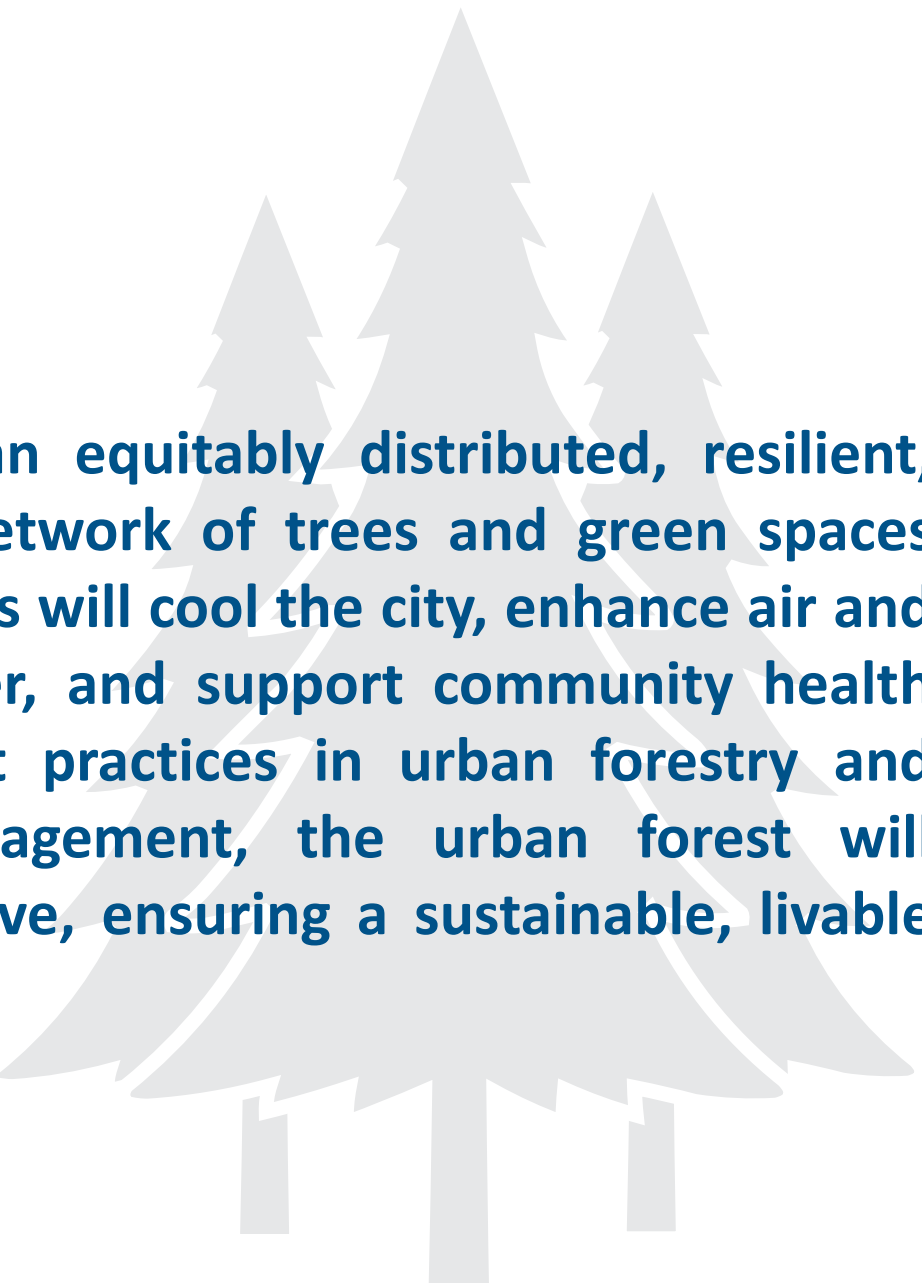


6 BIG MOVES

Reaching 40% canopy cover will require significant investments. It is likely unfeasible to achieve the planting rates required to achieve 40% by 2040. The Strategy recommends a target to achieve 40% by 2075.

# Vision

**Burnaby's urban forest will be an equitably distributed, resilient, biodiverse, and interconnected network of trees and green spaces across the city. These natural assets will cool the city, enhance air and water quality, manage stormwater, and support community health and well-being. By applying best practices in urban forestry and fostering active community engagement, the urban forest will continue to grow, adapt, and thrive, ensuring a sustainable, livable future for all community members.**

Three stylized evergreen trees are positioned in the background, behind the main text. They are rendered in a light gray color and have a simple, geometric design with triangular foliage and rectangular trunks. The trees are of varying heights and are arranged in a slightly overlapping manner, with the tallest one in the center and two shorter ones on either side.

# Goals & Strategies



## **PLAN: Strengthen governance, monitoring and resourcing to achieve the long-term vision**

1. Improve urban forest governance through interdepartmental collaboration and asset management integration.
2. Monitor implementation and adapt management to achieve adopted targets and maintain service standards.
3. Provide sufficient resourcing to implement the Urban Forest Strategy and align with best practices.



## **GROW: Expand the urban forest in alignment with community planning goals**

4. Improve policy, regulations, processes and standards for integrating trees and forests into the built environment.
5. Integrate equity considerations into decision-making about urban forest investment.
6. Restore forests and enhance biodiversity.



## **PROTECT: Protect urban forest resources and increase the climate resilience of urban landscapes**

7. Protect trees and soil when possible and compensate for losses when necessary.
8. Develop a coordinated approach for managing and resolving issues of park encroachment.
9. Increase the climate resilience of Burnaby's urban landscapes and urban forest.



## **MANAGE: Maintain a healthy and safe urban forest**

10. Maintain healthy and resilient trees using best management practices.
11. Maintain safe trees and forests to a reasonable standard of care.



## **ENGAGE: Involve the community in urban forest management**

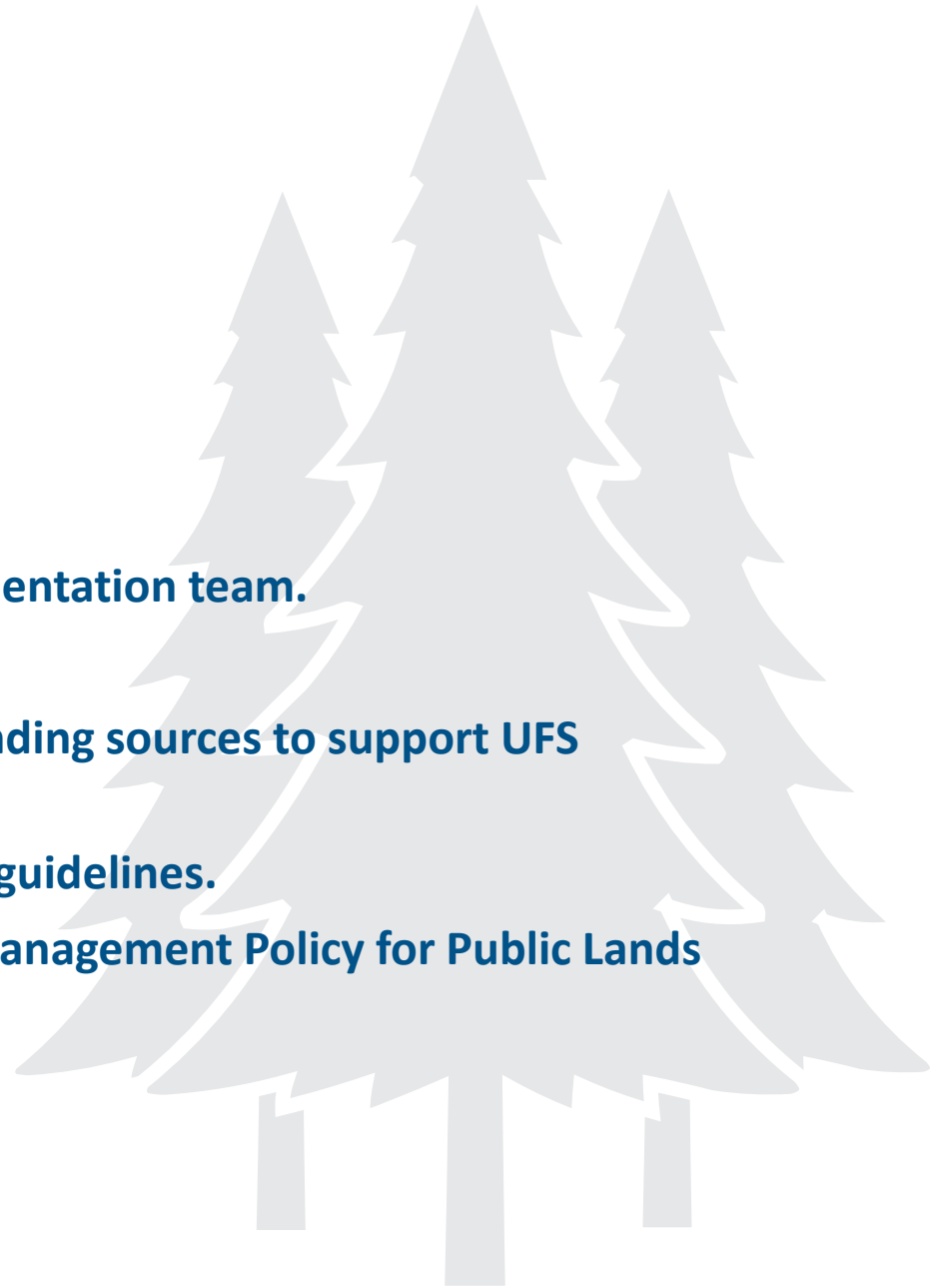
12. Enhance and build relationships with community partners to protect and enhance the urban forest.
13. Build relationships with host Nations and Indigenous Peoples living in Burnaby to integrate Indigenous perspectives with urban forest management.
14. Build community knowledge of and participation in urban forest management.

# Key Actions



## 5 QUICK STARTS

- Establish an interdepartmental implementation team.
- Review the Civic Tree Reserve Fund.
- Explore new (external and internal) funding sources to support UFS implementation.
- Update landscaping requirements and guidelines.
- Update the Tree Bylaw and City Tree Management Policy for Public Lands to strengthen protection.



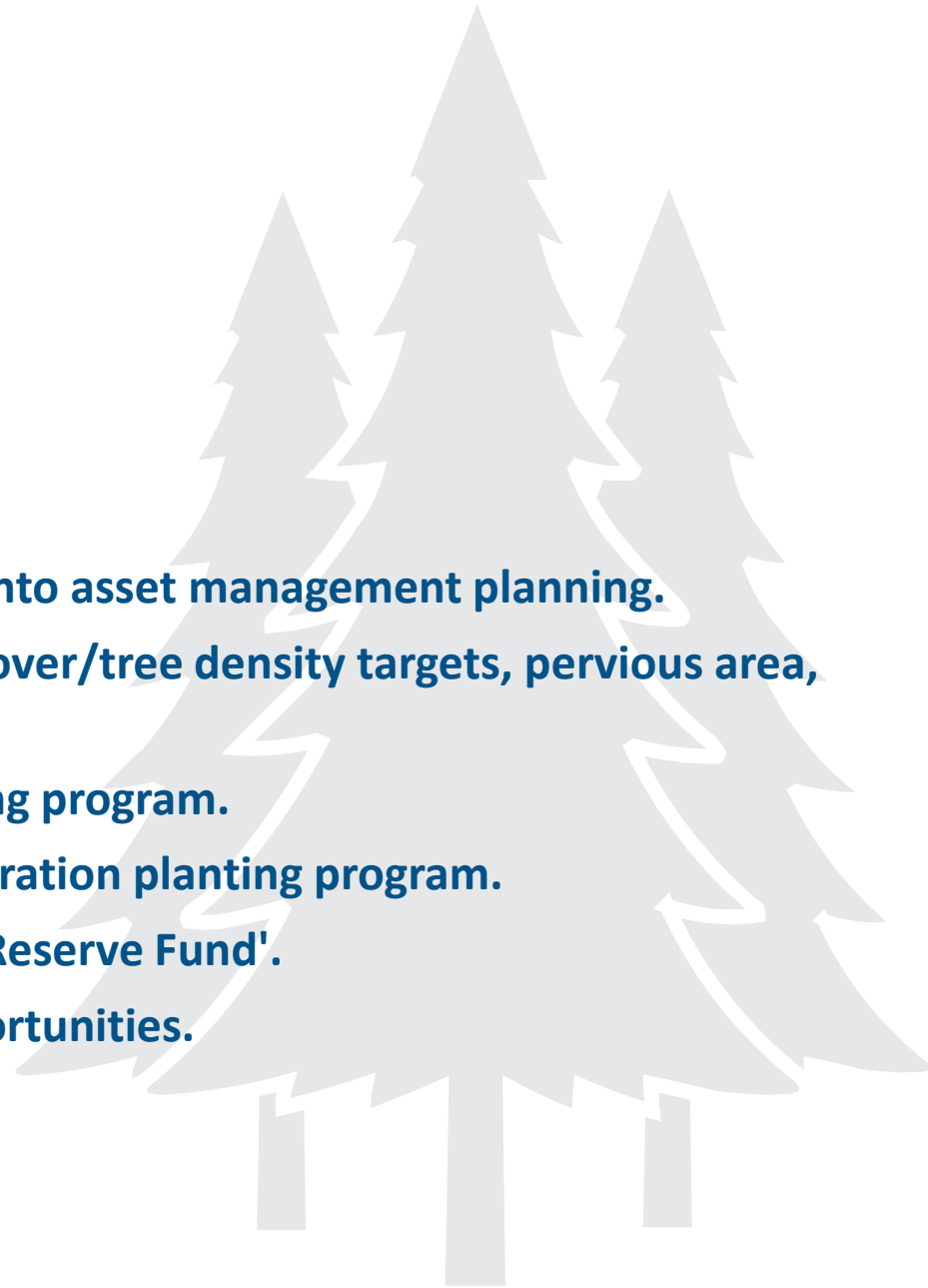


# Key Actions



## 6 BIG MOVES

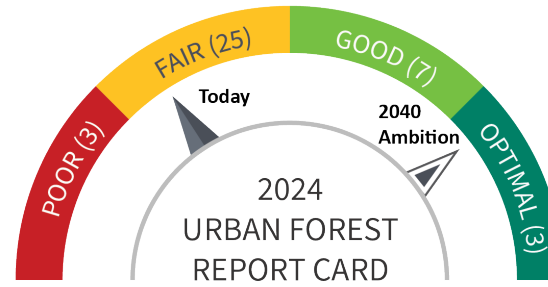
- **Embed City-managed natural assets into asset management planning.**
- **Consider standardizing tree canopy cover/tree density targets, pervious area, and landscaped areas by land use.**
- **Develop a ten-year urban tree planting program.**
- **Develop a ten-year natural area restoration planting program.**
- **Explore the creation of a 'Parks Tree Reserve Fund'.**
- **Expand community stewardship opportunities.**



# Report Card

The Strategy will seek to improve Burnaby's urban forest management

This 'report card' highlights where current service levels could be improved to manage the urban forest more sustainably.



## Urban Forest Report Card

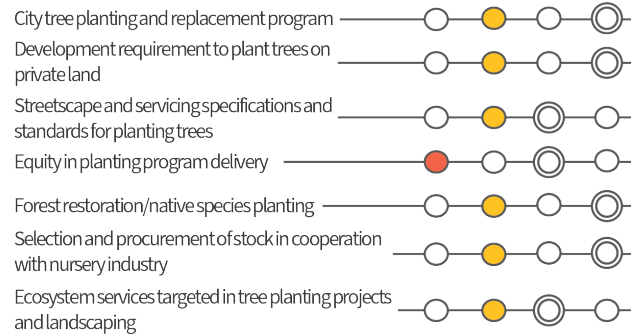
●●●● 2024 program grade (in colour)

⊙ 2040 ambition (if advanced from 2024)

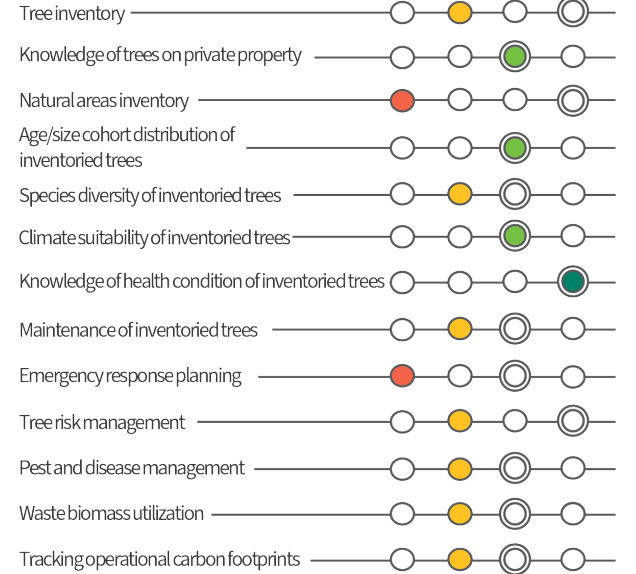
### PLANNING



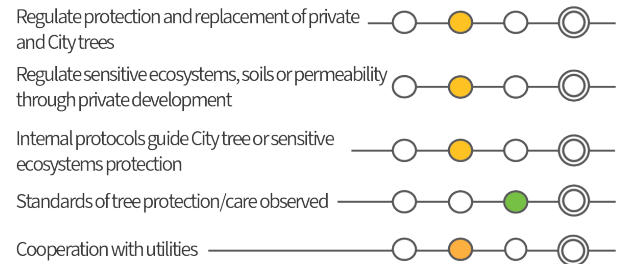
### GROW



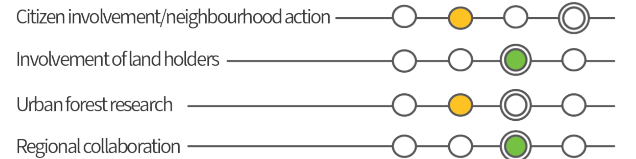
### MANAGE



### PROTECT



### ENGAGE



# Project Timeline

WE ARE HERE



FALL 2023

## STATE OF THE URBAN FOREST

- BACKGROUND RESEARCH
- BENCHMARK ANALYSIS
- KEY FINDINGS

## INTERNAL ENGAGEMENT:

- STAFF INTERVIEWS & WORKSHOP #1
- COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS



WINTER/SPRING 2024

## INTERNAL ENGAGEMENT:

- STAFF WORKSHOP #2
- COUNCIL PRESENTATION

## EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT:

- ENGAGEMENT ROUND 1



SUMMER/FALL 2024

## INTERNAL ENGAGEMENT:

- STAFF WORKSHOP #3
- COUNCIL PRESENTATION
- COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS



WINTER 2024/2025

## INTERNAL ENGAGEMENT:

- STAFF MEETINGS
- COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS
- COUNCIL REPORT

## EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT:

- ENGAGEMENT ROUND 2



2025

# Next Steps

January - February

February – March

April

- ✓ Engage Community, Staff and City Leadership
- ✓ Refine Urban Forest Strategy based on engagement feedback
- ✓ Submit Final Report

## Community Engagement *How to Get Involved?*

*Take the online survey by February 10, 2025*



*Visit the project webpage.*

### *Attend an Open House:*

- *Online via Zoom  
February 4 | 5:30-7:30 pm*
- *Christine Sinclair Community Centre  
February 5 | 5:30-7:30 pm*

# Discussion

- Is there anything missing from the Quick Starts or Big Moves?
- What other potential opportunities can the City leverage to help carry out the UFS Action Plan?

**THANK YOU!**

