

# What is the “Urban Forest”?

“In Saanich, the Urban Forest comprises the sum total of all trees and their associated growing environments within the municipality.”

It is the entire collection of trees and their associated ecosystems growing in public parks and private yards, on commercial and institutional lands, along highways, roadways, trails and paths, as well as throughout open spaces of the community.



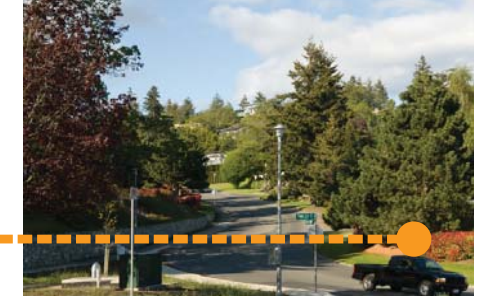
NATIVE TREES



NON-NATIVE TREES



TREES ON PUBLIC LAND



TREES ON PRIVATE LAND

# What is an Urban Forest Strategy?

Even though urban and semi-urban settings rarely present an optimal environment for the growth of large trees, with careful planning, protection and site preparation, urban trees can and do create a significant community statement.

The quality and quantity of urban forest declines with advancing urban and suburban sprawl. Increased paving, rooftops and other hard surfaces can escalate problems associated with urban heat islands and with storm water runoff.

Today we are experiencing a fundamental change in how the urban forest is perceived. Those living in our community are not only recognizing important local benefits of the urban forest - such as community character, aesthetics and wildlife habitat - but also global benefits like slowing the rate of climate change.

This is leading to a realization that the urban forest is a critical component of our functional “green” infrastructure system. It’s not hard to see how maintaining the green infrastructure system can be both economical and sustainable over time, thus returning multiple benefits to Saanich.



The Urban Forestry program managed by the District of Saanich is considered to be “the art, science, and technology of managing trees, forests, and natural systems in and around the municipality for the health and well being of communities”. The strategic planning tool that enables this is the Urban Forest Strategy.

## PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS

- Vision & Role of the Urban forest (env /soc /econ)
- Existing plans, policies, regulations (OCP, Local plans, bylaws)
- Current policy & practice (permits, BMPs)
- Important issues (plans, discussions)
- Community opinion (surveys, meetings)
- Resource gaps /needs (measures)



## WHO IS INVOLVED?

- Advisory Committees
- Technical Review Committee
- Park Operations
- Tree Care companies
- Urban development representatives
- Community Associations/Friends of Environmental Educators Network
- Students
- Public Survey/ Open House

## CONTACTS:

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# Timeline - Next Steps:

