

The Saanich Urban Forest Vision

Framework

“Develop and implement an Urban Forest Strategy that retains where possible existing tree cover, promotes additional tree planting, and acknowledges the importance of contiguous tree cover.”

District of Saanich Official Community Plan, July, 2008

The **District of Saanich Official Community Plan** states:

“Retain and plant trees along boulevards and municipal properties, in parks and on private lands, to expand the urban forest and act as a mitigative measure in regard to climate change.

Promote and encourage the protection and designation of indigenous, significant trees and wildlife trees.

Review and amend the “Tree Preservation Bylaw” to include measures to support climate change initiatives and improve the retention of our urban forest.”

July 2008



The District of Saanich **Rural Plan** states:

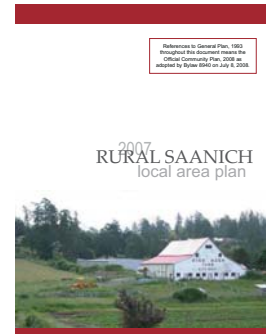
“The preservation of vegetation, particularly trees, is important to the residents of Rural Saanich.”

“Protect and restore trees and understory vegetation.”

“Preserving vegetation in a watershed, particularly trees, is important to water quality.”

“Improve the effectiveness of the Tree Preservation Bylaw to limit unnecessary tree removal on rural land.”

June 2008



The **District of Saanich 2009 - 2013 Strategic Plan** states:

“A healthy environment is an essential component of a socially progressive and economically vibrant community.”

“An Urban Forest Strategy will be developed in 2009 to establish a comprehensive and coordinated municipal approach to the retention and planting of trees and the urban forest. The strategy will also aim to improve community aesthetics, ground water balance, biodiversity and increase carbon retention/ sequestration.”

Feb. 2009



Values

What we've heard so far...

“We choose to live in Saanich for the livability of the community. The established and clearly defined urban and rural areas create a wealth of human/wildlife environments (Mystic Vale, Swan Lake, Blenkinsop Valley, Christmas Hill, Cuthbert Holmes, Mt Doug Park) within a few kilometers from downtown Victoria.”

(From Saanich Urban Forest online survey, 2009)



WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT SAANICH'S URBAN FOREST?

“Remnants of the original landscape of Garry Oak and Camas ecosystems. Bird habitat.”

“Trees lend stature to any area. Without them the landscape would be harsh, yards would be uninteresting, there'd be no wildlife to speak of, life would be bland, the air would be heavy in summer. (Native) trees make a neighbourhood or city something you want to live in.”

“The public services trees provide the community: such as air & water purification, carbon sequestration, shade which cuts cooling costs, soil stability/storm-water retention, wildlife food & habitat, and of course the esthetics!”

“Primarily native species except in a botanical garden type setting - healthy and abundant, well cared for and properly placed for public safety as well as to beautify the landscape”

“Greenspace in a sea of concrete and pavement - A more peaceful, quiet, tranquil environment - Contributes to community health (incl. air/water) - Habitat for creatures big and small - Screens human development (buildings) - Increases property values.”

(From Saanich Urban Forest Strategy on-line survey, 2009)

As part of the Urban Forest Strategy, we are encouraging residents to express their view on forest and tree issues. We would also like to know your “VISION” for the District's forest and tree landscapes as we manage into the future.

Please help this process by completing the online survey.

For more details please see www.saanich.ca

Draft Vision Statement:

“In Saanich, the Urban Forest is a highly valued asset comprised of a rich, diverse forest recognized for its contribution to a healthy community and a sustainable environment.”