

The Saanich Urban Forest Strategy Will:

1. Protect trees and forests



The Tree Preservation Bylaw protects large trees. Smaller trees and those just emerging out of the ground are not protected. The Bylaw may be updated to preserve a broader range of trees. The Strategy will respond to residents' changing views concerning tree protection.

2. Respond to the changing environment



Threats to the urban forest include urban sprawl, climate change, attitudes/ conflicting values, invasive species, natural decline (pest/ disease problems) and lack of education and awareness of the urban forest. The urban forest's contextual environment will be addressed in Strategy recommendations.

3. Engage the community



Residents are concerned about forest ecosystem health, view sightlines, tree debris, and hazard trees. Attitudes regarding the urban forest vary by community within Saanich. Community stewardship will be fostered through education, tree planting and invasives removal initiatives.

4. Promote effective management



Tree placement must be coordinated with other infrastructure including streets, sidewalks and underground utilities. A clear policy will be developed that allows space for healthy tree development.

5. Regulate arboricultural practices



There are few black and white answers when dealing with the urban forest - professional judgement is involved, and there is a need for flexibility. Arboricultural practices will be defined in order to ensure a healthy forest.