

Potential Urban Forest Strategy Solutions to the Identified Issues:

	CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE URBAN FOREST STRATEGY (as compiled from inputs to date)	PRINCIPLES	POLICY & PLANNING Suggested Strategies	REGULATIONS & BYLAWS Suggested Strategies	PRACTICE & PROCEDURES Suggested Strategies
1	In planning the Urban Forest, the whole ecosystem must be considered, not just the trees.	Strive to see the "Urban Forest beyond the Trees"... share the focus on individual trees with the values and functions of the entire Urban Forest ecosystem.	Integrate Saanich Green /Blue Spaces Plan objectives within the context of what corridors, nodes and linkages can be provided by the Urban Forest.		Promote a thorough forest inventory program that can be updated, analyzed and maintained. Include understory species in revegetation plans that increase species diversity and a multi-tiered canopy. Enhance wildlife habitat by grouping planting vs. evenly spaced trees.
2	There is a need to align private interest in the Urban Forest with the public good.	Incentives and regulations for trees on private lands are effective ways to encourage private tree preservation and new planting as a community benefit.	Review planting incentives programs that the District may offer to property owners as part of community sustainability. Review the benefits of "certifying" tree care companies for Permit work on both private and public trees in Saanich. Coordinate bylaws, policies and regulations across the Region.	Continue to protect heritage / landmark trees as per Significant Tree Bylaw. Review fees for Tree Cutting Permits on private land. Fees to be used specifically for UF programs.	Encourage property owners to plant new trees, preserve existing ones and implement best urban forest management practices. Inventory street trees, trees in parks, trees on boulevards and private land trees. Identify opportunity sites for tree planting on Institutional lands, Cemetery, Golf courses.
3	The value of the Urban Forest can include many Environmental, Economic and Social benefits that require good coordination with other District programs and initiatives.	Community benefits increase as the Urban Forest expands in a Healthy state. Valuating benefits of the Urban Forest in financial terms can help to inform political decision-making and to increase community appreciation for trees and their environments.	Include sustainability benefits of the urban forest in Climate Action planning currently being undertaken in the Municipality (e.g. carbon sequestration). Explore salvage wood supply for value-added cottage industry use. Include opportunities for First Nation ceremonial use of the Urban Forest. Ensure that there are adequate resources (budget, staffing) to achieve Urban Forest management goals and the Vision.	Assign an appraised dollar value to trees on development sites, collecting deposits in order to safeguard tree survival.	Consider what impacts canopy cover has on views, solar access, property values in various neighbourhoods. Measure value-added environmental benefits from Urban Forest management; storm water management, ecosystem health.
4	Threats to a healthy Urban Forest include urbanization, climate change, competition with utilities, homeowner attitudes and invasive species.	The District is in a prime position to model Best Management Practices with respect to the Urban Forest and its community benefits that accrue to Saanich residents.	Introduce more dry-extreme species into Urban Forest regeneration planning.		Diversify species mix in the Urban Forest to protect against catastrophic effects of single pathogen /insect invasions.
5	Quantitative and qualitative Performance Measurement Indicators are required to assess goal achievement (e.g.. tree canopy cover and ecosystem health).	Without thorough knowledge of the Urban Forest resource, it is hard to formulate detailed management strategies. Urban Forest inventory and analysis information need to be comprehensive and available to all applicable District departments and resource managers. Any Canopy Cover target formulated for the District must consider the differences of various land-use categories. (urban / rural / less dense / more dense / park)	Focus policies to slow down the rate of canopy cover loss throughout the District, recognizing that it is not the intent of the UFS to restrict development. Strive to achieve various tree canopy coverage goals within all land-use zones across the Urban Containment and Rural areas.		Link the UF inventory with existing GIS data to provide comprehensive analysis opportunities. Ensure that District operational practices emphasize conservation of Canopy Cover where ever possible. Tree species, ages, sizes and life expectancies need to be considered for any Performance Measure. Formulate performance measures for UF maintenance operations.