

	CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE URBAN FOREST STRATEGY (as compiled from inputs to date)	PRINCIPLES	POLICY & PLANNING	REGULATIONS & BYLAWS	PRACTICE & PROCEDURES
			Suggested Strategies	Suggested Strategies	Suggested Strategies
6	Planning actions as presented in various municipal plans and strategies need to be coordinated better with Sustainability initiatives and management of the Urban Forest.	Planning for the Urban Forest is integrally linked with the OCP, Local Area Plans, increased density, the Urban Containment Boundary and designated Rural areas.	Integrate UF objectives with OCP sustainability directives and greening projects in designated Villages and along major street boulevards. Recognize that tree ages, size, species and life expectancy goals will differ between the Urban Containment Area and the Rural Area.	Coordinate all regulations affecting the Urban Forest in one reference guidebook for residents and developers.	Ensure that large trees are retained /planted where there is room to grow; plan shorter rotations of small & medium sized trees elsewhere. Formulate a list of preferred tree species for both Urban Containment and Rural Areas. Formulate design guidelines for elements of the Urban Forest in community Town Centres and Villages (street trees, character trees, boulevard statements)
7	The Garry Oak Ecosystem in Saanich is a critical component of the Urban Forest with provincial conservation significance.		Seek to improve all elements of the Garry Oak ecosystem in Urban Forest renewal projects.		Consider offering up Nursery space as a growing centre to support provincial Garry Oak restoration programs. Formulate operational guidelines to address such activities as mowing and other site disturbances in and around Garry Oak meadows.
8	It is reported that the forest biomass in Saanich is decreasing, i.e. the ratio of trees being removed to those planted each year is not equal.		Use opportunities available through local universities and institutes for forest research in canopy cover and biomass analysis.	Amend the current Tree Preservation Bylaw to protect smaller diameter native & non-native tree species.	
9	Building site coverage requirements (incl. sub-surface), particularly on in-fill development lots, leaves little space for planting trees.			Consider financial incentives for developers to retain /protect existing trees on development sites (e.g. reduced Permit costs).	
10	Planting trees within the mosaic of District roads, bike lanes, and utilities presents a formidable challenge.		Review policies with respect to undergrounding of utilities to preserve /protect /plant street trees.		Ensure UF planting initiatives and projects are informed by, and integrate with, approved Local Area Plans.
11	Forest succession (the replacement of veteran trees with young trees) is not adequately addressed in the current Tree Preservation Bylaw.	The Urban Forest is healthy when it contains a wide diversity of age classes and species representative of the ecosystem.		Continue to enforce the Tree Preservation Bylaw. Amend the current Tree Preservation Bylaw to protect younger trees.	A range of tree ages will promote sustainability of the Urban Forest. Undertake more tree planting throughout the District. Ensure District compliance with its own policies and bylaws.
12	Current building site configuration requirements can impact tree retention and replanting opportunities.	Flexibility in planning and design guidelines will offer more opportunity to save trees and important urban forest environments.	Give higher priority to avoid /replace trees within building envelopes. Consider Amenity contribution as a means to mitigate tree loss when necessary for development.		Transplant trees from within the building envelope whenever practical.
13	Invasive non-native vegetation species are of particular concern to forest sustainability in Saanich			Consider by-laws to restrict the sale of invasive vegetation species.	Continue to work with local horticultural suppliers to inform consumers about known invasive species. Engage developers in the eradication of invasive species on both greenfield and brownfield sites.
14	Current municipal regulations, guidelines, and other agency policies do not always favour retention of the Urban Forest. e.g. Schedule F Bylaw - Standards for Storm-water Collection Systems - gives little consideration to trees and offers limited flexibility in trying alternative designs. e.g. Farm Tax Credits do not favour or encourage tree protection in rural areas.	Forest management strategies need to consider the unique characteristic of the Saanich rural area.		Review enforcement practices for covenants in place to protect the Urban Forest.	Adopt guidelines for operations in and around the Urban Forest (e.g. trenching, utility placement).
15	Various financial sources are available from the District and other sources that offer potential to fund the Urban Forest program.	A long-term Funding strategy for the Urban Forest is necessary to ensure its sustainability.	Finalize internal decisions regarding the use of Surety Funds for Urban Forest projects. Explore creative financing mechanisms to obtain funding for Urban Forest programs. Rationalize budget allocations for urban forestry management that is based on the Urban Forest Strategy.		Revise Tree Replacement Fee to cover full cost of small tree maintenance.