

# **IDE-2020-242 Attachment-6: Urban Forest Management Plan progress summary**

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## **Urban Forest Management Plan**

### **Q1 2013 – Q4 2032; Plan 100% complete, implementation ongoing**

Guelph's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) is a 20-year renewable roadmap for understanding and improving the management of Guelph's urban forest, particularly that which is owned by or under management agreement with the City. The plan is currently in the second phase of implementation (2019 – 2023), which prioritizes the next set of recommendations based on available resources, alignment with other City plans and strategies, community priorities, continuing efforts on ongoing projects, and developing comprehensive management strategies.

### **Recent progress/achievements to date**

- Addition of technical and professional urban forestry capacity through five new positions
- Implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> year of Guelph's 10-year Emerald Ash Borer Plan
- Completion of the Urban Forest Study and state of the urban forest
- Increased management of natural areas
- Creation of the Urban Forest Working Group of external stakeholders
- Creation of a Tree Team comprised of internal stakeholders
- Completion of point and sample based forest inventory
- Increased communication, collaboration and alignment with other regional departments and municipalities, private industry, academia and other partners
- Increased capacity for community engagement and coordination of community stewardship activities
- Increased management of invasives (e.g. buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, EAB)
- Implementation of the Tree Technical Manual
- Recognition of Guelph as a Tree City of the World 2019
- Approval of the Urban Forest Management Plan Implementation Update and Second Phase Plan

### **New opportunities or challenges**

- Operational impacts associated with COVID-19 have caused a pause in the implementation of the UFMP;
- Engagement of recommendations within the UFMP remains a staff priority as we continue to monitor and manage the situation closely and recommend implementation actions as appropriate
- Alignment with the City of Guelph Strategic Plan; Investing in green infrastructure and protecting, maintaining and increasing Guelph's tree canopy to prepare for the effects of climate change
- Increased funding requirements, both capital and operating impacts, for the implementation of the second phase of the UFMP
- Increase proactive risk management and tree maintenance
- Increase invasives species management

- Improve tree establishment and maintenance practices

**Next steps**

- Develop a tree planting strategy: growing Guelph's urban forest canopy
- Develop urban forest performance metrics to align with the City's sustainability initiatives
- Review and update UFMP related guidelines, policy and best practices
- Develop UFMP specific communications and engagement plan
- Develop invasives species management strategy
- Develop Corporate Natural Asset Management plan