

2020-63 Attachment-7: Urban Forest Management Plan progress summary

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. While the plan is complete, staff have been taking active steps to engage associated recommendations. It is a long-term plan with nested short-term management and operating plans (phases). The overall plan has 22 recommendations, which address gaps and opportunities in four key areas:

- Management and monitoring;
- Planning;
- Protection, enhancement, and planting; and
- Outreach, stewardship, and partnerships.

Recent progress/achievements to date

- Addition of technical and professional urban forestry capacity via five new positions;
- Implementation of Guelph's Emerald Ash Borer Plan;
- Completion of the Urban Forest Study;
- Development and implementation of new and updated tree related plans, policies and guidelines;
- 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 forest inventory; and
- Increased capacity for community engagement and coordination of community stewardship activities.

New opportunities or relevant challenges

- Operational impacts associated with COVID 19 have paused the implementation of the UFMP. Staff will continue to monitor and manage the situation closely and make/recommend implementation actions as appropriate.
- Alignment with the City of Guelph Strategic Plan and engagement of recommendations within the UFMP remain a priority for staff.

Next steps

At a yet to be determined committee of the whole meeting (originally schedule for April, 2020) City staff will provide Council with a staff report offering a UFMP implementation update (phase 1) and second phase plan for approval. The staff report and accompanying presentation will provide appropriate context and information.