

Guelph's Strategic

Urban Forest Management Plan Update

What is the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)?

The UFMP is a 20 year long-term plan with nested short-term management and operating plans. The plan has twenty-two recommendations, which address gaps and opportunities in four key areas:

Management and monitoring

- Inventory, maintenance, inspections

Legislation, policies and guidelines

- Policies, tree bylaw, development

Protect, enhance, plant

- Protection, retention, establishment, species

Outreach, stewardship and partnerships

- Outreach, stewardship, partnerships, funding

Vision



Protect

- The urban forest and its benefits to the community

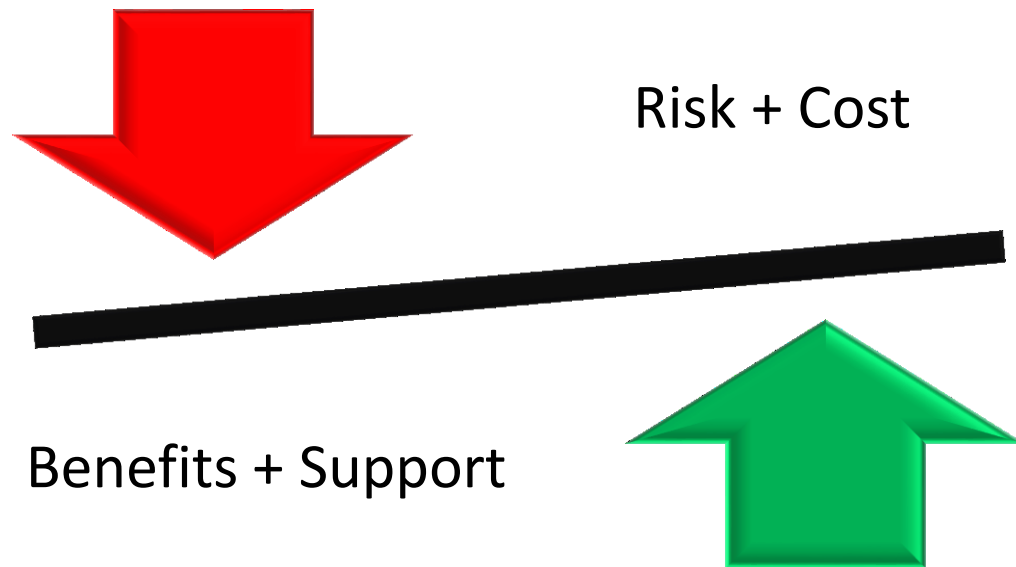
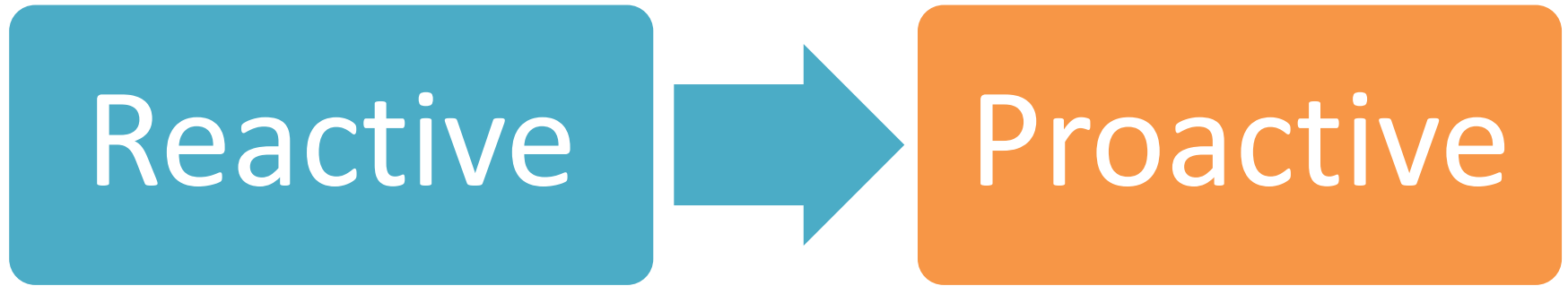
Enhance

- All aspects of management

Engage

- All stakeholders

Goals



Alignment with Strategic Plan

Sustaining our future

- Create and execute an ambitious and achievable climate adaptation plan;
- Plan and design an increasingly sustainable city as Guelph grows; and
- Mitigate climate change by reducing Guelph's carbon footprint.

Powering our future

- Help businesses to succeed and add value to the community.

Building our future

- Maintain existing community assets and secure new ones.

Implementation

Key achievements since approval

- Increased technical and professional urban forestry and natural area management capacity via 5 new positions;
- Increased collaboration through the Urban Forest Working Group of external stakeholders and internal Tree Team;
- Implemented Emerald Ash Borer Plan;
- Developed and implemented new and updated tree related plans, policies and guidelines;
- Increased management of natural areas;
- Completed urban forest study and report;
- Substantially advanced urban forest inventory; and
- Increased capacity for community engagement and coordination of community stewardship activities.

Highlight - 2020

Tree Cities of the World designation – 1 of 9 Canadian cities



A programme of:



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Arbor Day Foundation™

Adaptive management

ACT

- Implement plan

MONITOR

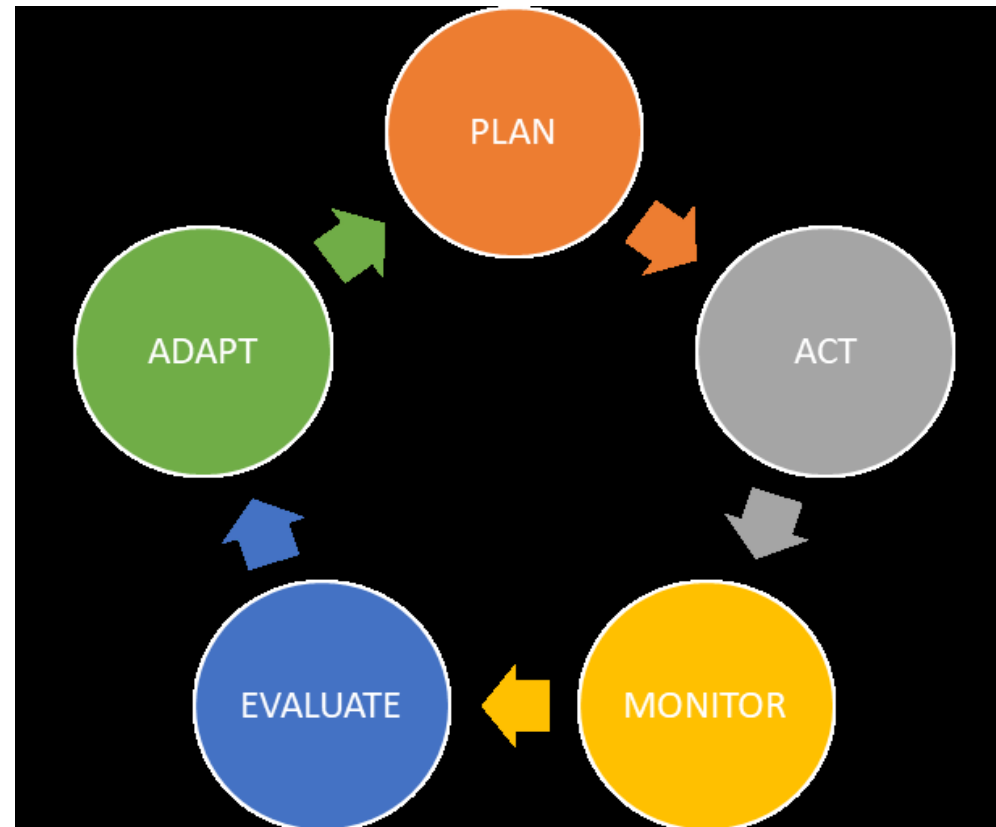
- Sustainability criteria (including key performance measures)
- Status of implementation
- Engage

EVALUATE

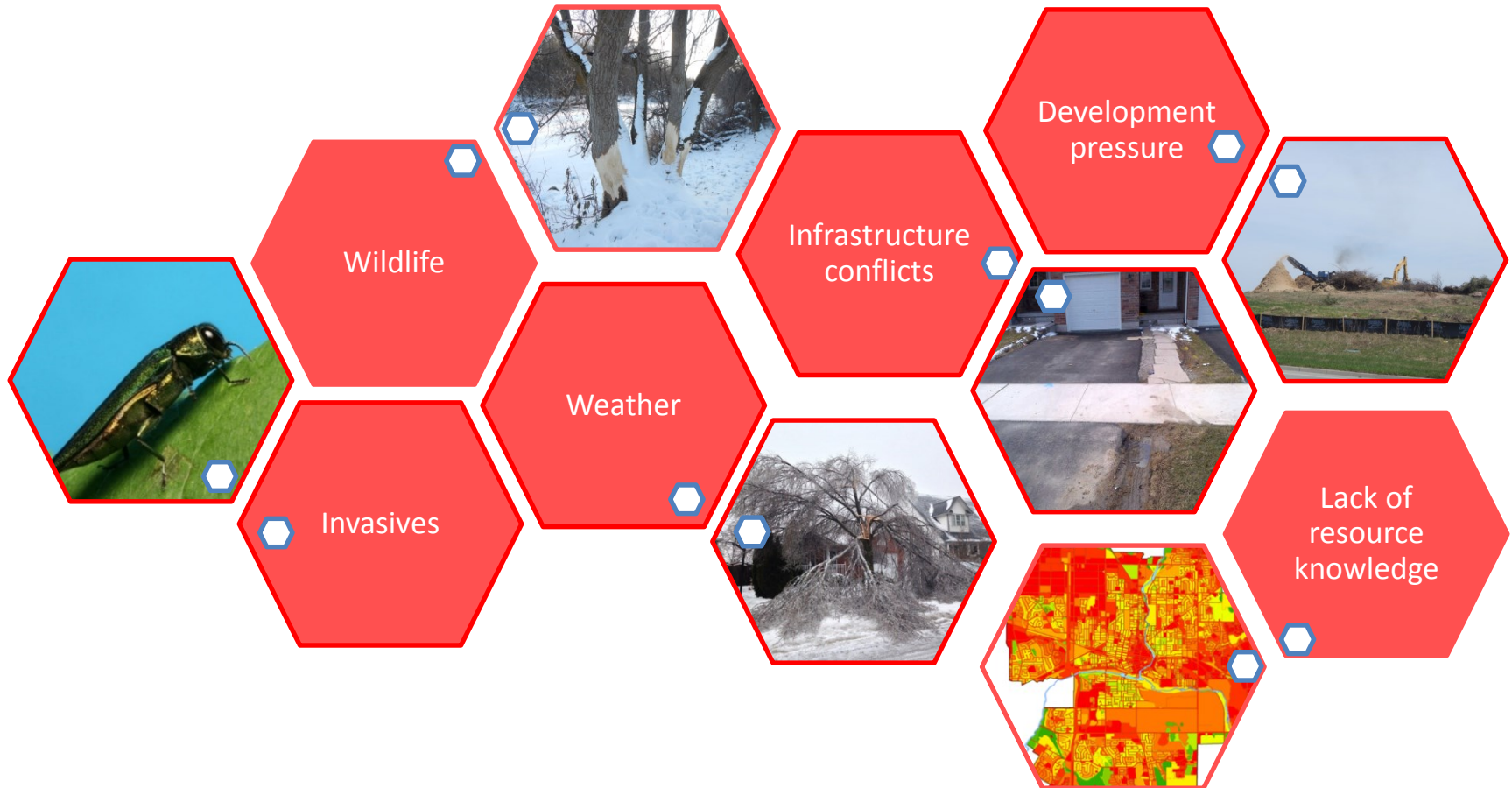
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Gap analysis
- Engage

ADAPT

- Prioritize
- Develop new actions



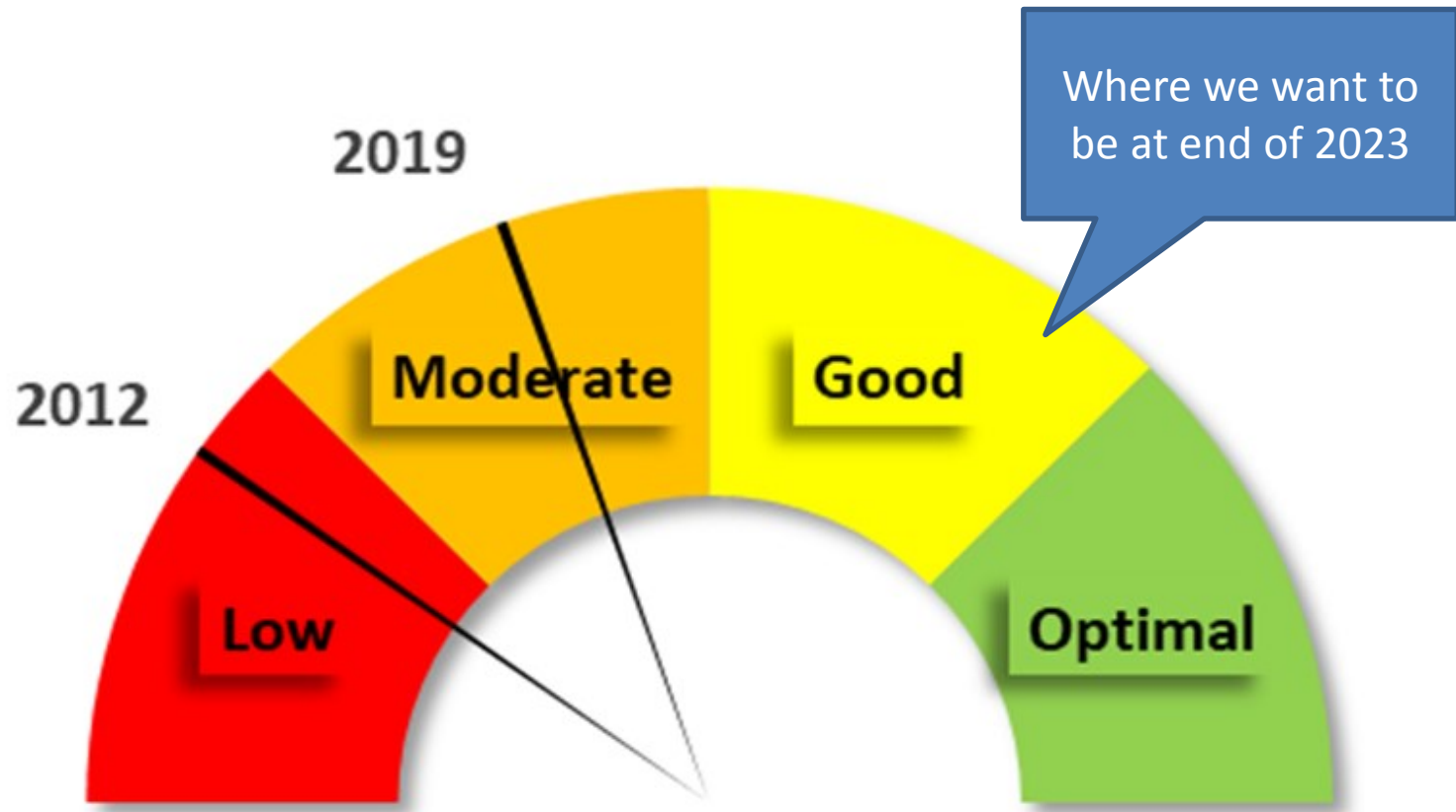
Challenges



Opportunities



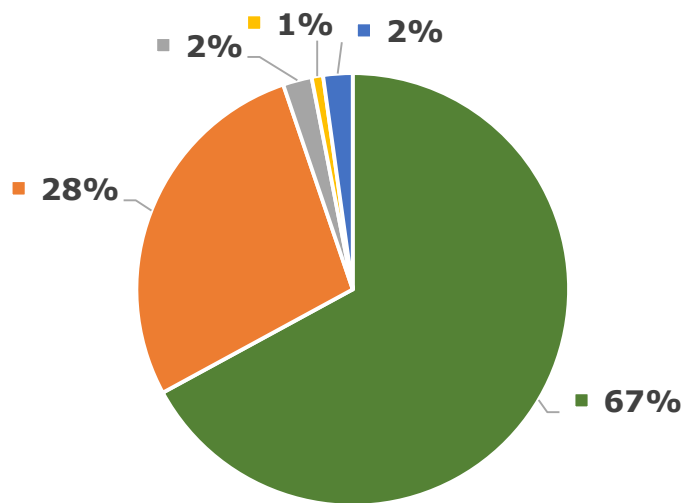
Monitoring our performance



Engagement

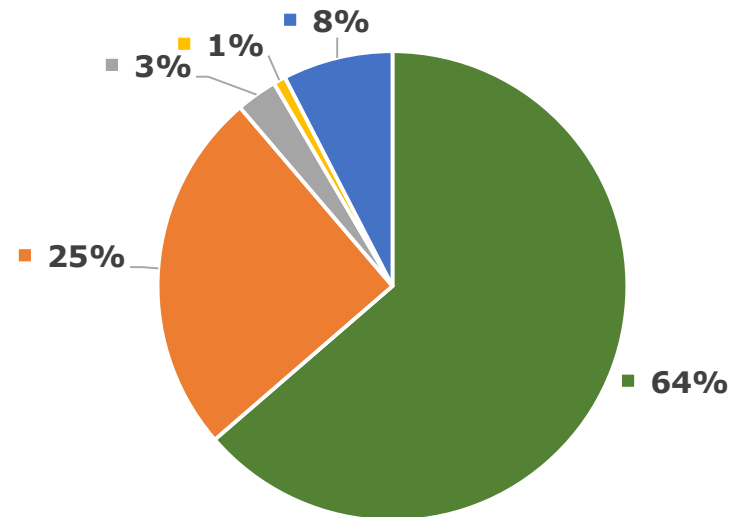
Survey results support sustainable, healthy communities

Level of support for the UFMP vision, strategic goals, ongoing initiatives and long-term investment in the urban forest



- Strongly support
- Support
- Don't support
- Definitely don't support
- I don't know

Level of Agreement for UFMP vision and benefits of current management approaches



- Definitely agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Definitely disagree
- I don't know

Second phase of UFMP

Priorities aligned with community needs and UFMP strategic goals

- Alignment with the Strategic Plan;
- Support implementation of Natural Heritage Action Plan;
- Review the Private Tree By-law;
- Explore need for Public Tree By-law;
- Implement Tree Technical Manual;
- Develop a planting strategy to meet canopy cover goals;
- Increase staff capacity in Parks Operations and Forestry needed to implement actions;
- Develop proactive management strategies; and
- Develop a communications and engagement strategy for the UFMP.

Highlight - 2020

Urban Forest Study – State of the Urban Forest

Key findings

The urban forest is vital part of Guelph's green infrastructure

- Guelph's urban forest canopy cover is **23.3** per cent
- Total number of trees in Guelph is estimated to at **2,973,000**
- The replacement value of Guelph's healthy urban forest is **\$803 million**

Urban forest assets provide valuable benefits

- Guelph's tree canopy provides an estimated **\$9.7 million** in environmental benefits each year such as. Specifically, trees:
 - provide home energy savings of approximately \$1.9 million
 - remove 156 tonnes of pollutants and 6,455 tonnes of carbon dioxide
 - prevent nearly 400,000 cubic metres of runoff

The urban forest is vulnerable

- Guelph's urban forest is under threat from climate change, extreme weather events, pests, diseases and pressure from development and urbanization

Finance

The capital requirements identified in the UFMP for the next phase are the same as presented in the 2021 capital budget.

Capital Budget:

- 2021 - \$14,000
- 2022 - \$657,000
- 2023 - \$833,000
- 2024 - \$1,081,000

Operating budget:

- 2021 - \$0
- 2022 - \$90,000
- 2023 - \$255,000
- 2024 - \$420,000

Council approved capital spending of \$ 2,653,336 between 2013-2019, the first phase of the UFMP

This total of **\$765,000** increase in operating expenditures equates to approximately a **0.30** per cent increase in the tax-based budget.

Thank you