

# URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

December 13, 2021 Clean Air Hamilton Meeting

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# Urban Forest Strategy



# UFS Timeline

## PHASE ONE

January to December 2018

Background Information Review

Data Collection and Analysis

## PHASE TWO

May 2018 to December 2019

Public Engagement

Activities:

May 17, 2018 – Stage 1 Internal and External Stakeholder Workshops

May 29, 2018 – Public Open House

June – September 2018 – Online Survey

April 17, 2019 – Stage 2 Internal and External Stakeholder Workshops

June 5, 19, and 24, 2019 – Public Workshops

## PHASE THREE

January 2019 to October 2020

Draft Report Preparation

## PHASE FOUR

Fall and Winter 2020-2021

Draft Report Review and Public Engagement

2021

Final Report and Council Approval

## THE URBAN FOREST STRATEGY SUPPORTS OTHER STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IN THE CITY OF HAMILTON

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT	TRANSPORTATION AND GROWTH PLANNING	CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE	PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH	ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY
Stormwater Management Master Plan	Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS 2)	Hamilton Community Climate Change Action Plan	Healthy Schools Approach	Natural Heritage System Official Plan Policies
Flooding and Drainage Master Servicing Study	Official Plan and Zoning By-laws	Hamilton Community Energy and Emissions Plan	Clean Air Hamilton	
			Neighbourhood Development	Biodiversity Action Plan
			Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy	



IF A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST—  
DO YOU CARE?  
**We think so.**

**A DRAFT URBAN FOREST  
STRATEGY REPORT  
IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW.**

**LEARN MORE**

- [www.hamilton.ca/urban-forest-strategy](http://www.hamilton.ca/urban-forest-strategy)
- [engage.hamilton.ca/urban-forest-strategy](http://engage.hamilton.ca/urban-forest-strategy)



## Public Engagement

- Staff, stakeholder and public workshops
- Online surveys, poll, and virtual meeting
- Tree walks, public events and forums
- Meetings with stakeholders, Councillors, Committees

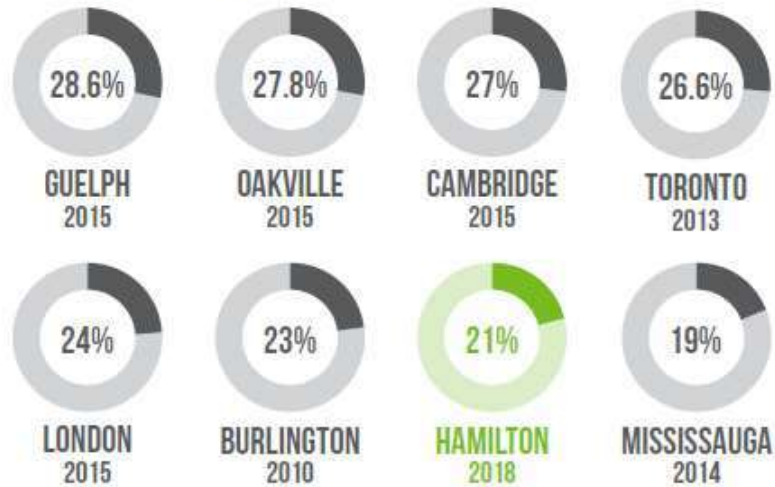
**CITY OF HAMILTON URBAN FOREST VISION**  
HAMILTON'S URBAN FOREST IS RESILIENT,  
CONTRIBUTES TO THE WELL-BEING  
OF ALL NEIGHBOURHOODS, AND IS VALUED  
AS A SHARED ASSET.

**Canopy cover target: 30%**

**Key Themes:**

- Equity
- Green infrastructure
- Private tree protection
- Communication/partnerships
- Natural areas management
- Monitoring forest health.

**CANOPY COVER IN NEARBY CITIES**



*Source: Available canopy studies (online)*





# 5 Themes 26 Actions

## An Urban Forest Strategy for Hamilton

**INSPIRE**  
(7)

**ACT**  
(8)

**PROTECT**  
(4)

**GROW**  
(4)

**ADAPT**  
(3)





# INSPIRE

**Guiding Principle: To engage and inspire the community with a bold vision for Hamilton's urban forest.**

## 1-2 years

1. **Develop & implement a communications strategy.**
2. **Create a new Forestry staff position to implement.**
3. **Work with the development community (recognize best practices & innovation).**
4. **Work with the Indigenous community and local First Nations to understand and respect the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical connection that Indigenous peoples have to land.**
5. **Partnerships.**
6. **Annually evaluate communications strategy.**





# ACT

**Guiding Principle: “Goals are good. Action is better.”  
(Vibrant Cities Lab)**

## 1-2 years

7. **Establish an inter-departmental working group to support implementation.**
8. **Improve implementation of Tree Protection Plans and Landscape Plans.**
9. **Complete land cover and canopy cover mapping.**
10. **Apply standardized tree planting details and specifications in all city tree planting projects.**
11. **Develop and apply minimum canopy cover targets to new development proposals.**



# ACT

**Guiding Principle: “Goals are good. Action is better.”  
(Vibrant Cities Lab)**

**3-5 years**

- 12. Identify and complete priority amendments to applicable policies, plans, and guidelines.**
- 13. Determine the main drivers of canopy change in Hamilton.**
- 14. Present regular ‘State of the Forest’ reports.**
- 15. Review current urban forest management structures.**



# PROTECT



**Guiding Principle: Trees are a valued city asset and an essential part of Hamilton's infrastructure.**

## 1-2 years

- 16. Identify and implement options for increasing the preservation of healthy trees in Hamilton.**
- 17. Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment.**

## 5-10 years

- 18. Develop and Implement an Invasive Species Management Strategy.**
- 19. Develop service standards and emergency response plans for:**
  - **Hazard trees and other forestry service requests.**
  - **Severe weather events.**



# GROW



Source: Giuliana Casimirri

**Guiding Principle: Regular investments in tree planting and maintenance programs will optimize long-term benefits and reduce risk to people, property and the health of the urban forest.**

## 1-2 years

- 20. Increase the level of tree planting and/or natural forest regeneration in the City over the next five years.**
- 21. Develop a best practices manual for tree protection, planting, and preservation to share with all City departments and utilities whose activities affect trees.**

## 3-5 years

- 22. Complete a tree planting priority analysis.**
- 23. Fund regular, active management of natural areas in Hamilton to support native biodiversity and forest health.**



# ADAPT

**Guiding Principle: Urban forest management is evidence-based and responsive to change.**

## 1-2 years

**24. Implement a forest health monitoring program in Hamilton, including natural areas.**

## 3-5 years

**25. Implement a forestry asset management system.**

**26. Update urban forest inventories and studies every 10 years or in response to significant environmental change.**

*Source: Carolyn Zanchetta*



**Questions?**

