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## Urban Forest Strategic Plan

### Draft Vegetative Resource Criteria and Indicators

Green = Desired Level

Orange = Top Objective

Criteria	Performance Indicator Spectrum				Key Objective	
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal		
<b>1. Relative Canopy Cover</b>	The existing canopy cover equals 0-25% of the <u>potential</u> - available planting space.	The existing canopy cover equals 25-50% of the potential.	The existing canopy cover equals 50-75% of the potential.	The existing canopy cover equals 75-100% of the potential.	Achieve climate-appropriate degree of tree cover, community-wide	*
<b>2. Age distribution of trees in the community</b>	Any diameter class (size range equating to age) represents more than 75% of the tree population.	Any diameter class represents between 50% and 75% of the tree population.	No diameter class represents more than 50% of the tree population.	25% of the tree population is in each of four diameter classes.	Provide for uneven-aged distribution city-wide as well as at the neighborhood level.	
<b>3. Species suitability</b>	Less than 50% of trees are of species considered suitable for the area.	50% to 75% of trees are of species considered suitable for the area.	More than 75% of trees are of species considered suitable for the area.	All trees are of species considered suitable for the area.	Establish a tree population suitable for the urban environment and adapted to the regional environment.	*
<b>4. Species distribution</b>	Fewer than 5 species dominate the entire tree population city-wide.	No species represents more than 20% of the entire tree population city-wide.	No species represents more than 10% of the entire tree population city-wide.	No species represents more than 10% of the entire tree population at the neighbourhood level.	Establish a genetically diverse tree population city-wide as well as at the neighborhood level.	
<b>5. Condition of Publicly-managed Trees (including ROW trees)</b>	No tree maintenance or risk assessment. Request based/reactive system. The condition of the urban forest is unknown	Sample-based inventory indicating tree condition and risk level is in place.	Complete tree inventory which includes detailed tree condition ratings.	Complete tree inventory which includes detailed tree condition and risk ratings.	Detailed understanding of the condition and risk potential of all publicly-managed trees	

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<p><b>6. Publicly-owned natural areas (e.g. woodlands, sensitive areas, etc.)</b></p>	<p>No information about publicly-owned natural areas.</p>	<p>Publicly-owned natural areas identified in a “natural areas survey” or similar document [PROS plan].</p>	<p>The level and type of public use in publicly-owned natural areas is documented</p>	<p>The ecological structure and function of all publicly-owned natural areas are documented through an Ecosystem Analysis and included in the city-wide GIS</p>	<p>Detailed understanding of the ecological structure and function of all publicly-owned natural areas.</p>	
<p><b>7. Native vegetation</b></p>	<p>No program of integration</p>	<p>Voluntary use of native species on publicly and privately-owned lands; invasive species are recognized.</p>	<p>The use of native species is encouraged on a project-appropriate basis in actively managed areas; invasive species are recognized and discouraged; some planned eradication.</p>	<p>Native species are specified where appropriate in publicly managed areas; invasive species are aggressively eradicated.</p>	<p>Preservation and enhancement of local natural biodiversity, where appropriate.</p>	

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### Draft Resource Management Criteria and Indicators

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Criteria	Performance Indicator Spectrum				Key Objective	
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal		
<b>1. Tree Inventory</b>	No inventory	Complete or sample-based inventory of publicly-owned trees	Complete inventory of publicly-owned trees AND sample-based inventory of privately-owned trees.	Complete inventory of publicly-owned trees [AND sample-based inventory of privately-owned trees] included in city-wide GIS	Comprehensive inventory of the tree resource to direct its management. This includes: age distribution, species mix, tree condition, risk assessment.	*
<b>2. Canopy Cover Assessment</b>	No inventory	Visual assessment	Sampling of tree cover using aerial photographs or satellite imagery; I-Tree;	Mapped urban tree cover using aerial photographs or satellite imagery included in city-wide GIS	High resolution assessments of the existing and potential canopy cover for the entire community.	
<b>3. City-wide management plan</b>	No plan	Existing plan limited in scope and implementation	Comprehensive plan for publicly-owned, intensively- and extensively-managed forest resources accepted and implemented	Strategic multi-tiered plan for public and private intensively- and extensively-managed forest resources accepted and implemented with adaptive management mechanisms.	Develop and implement a comprehensive urban forest management plan for private and public property.	*
<b>4. Municipality-wide funding</b>	Funding for only emergency reactive management	Funding for some proactive management to improve the public portion of urban forest.	Funding to provide for a measurable increase in urban forest benefits.	Adequate private and public funding to sustain maximum urban forest benefits.	Develop and maintain adequate funding to implement a city-wide urban forest management plan	*

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<b>5. City staffing</b>	No staff.	Limited trained or certified staff.	Certified arborists and professional foresters on staff with regular professional development.	Multi-disciplinary team within an urban forestry program.	Employ and train adequate staff to implement city-wide urban forestry plan	*
<b>6. Tree establishment, planning and implementation</b>	Tree establishment is ad hoc (no plan or budget)	Limited tree establishment occurs on an annual basis with minimal budget.	Tree establishment is directed by needs derived from a tree inventory or strategy	Tree establishment is directed by needs derived from a tree inventory and is sufficient to meet canopy cover objectives (see Canopy Cover criterion in Table 1)	Urban Forest renewal is ensured through a comprehensive tree establishment program driven by canopy cover, species diversity, and species distribution objectives	*
<b>7. Maintenance of publicly-owned, intensively managed trees (not open space)</b>	No maintenance of publicly-owned trees	Publicly-owned trees are maintained on a request/reactive basis. No systematic (block) pruning.	All publicly-owned trees are systematically maintained on a cycle longer than five years; <i>all immature trees are structurally pruned.</i>	All mature publicly-owned trees are maintained on a 5-year cycle. All immature trees are structurally pruned.	All publicly-owned, intensively managed trees are maintained to maximize current and future benefits. Tree health and condition ensure maximum longevity.	
<b>8. Tree Risk Management</b>	No tree risk assessment/remediation program. The condition of the urban forest is unknown	Sample-based tree inventory which includes general tree risk information; Request based/reactive risk abatement system.	Complete tree inventory which includes detailed tree failure risk ratings; risk abatement program is in effect eliminating hazards within a maximum of one month from confirmation of hazard potential.	Complete tree inventory which includes detailed tree failure risk ratings; risk abatement program is in effect eliminating hazards within a maximum of one week from confirmation of hazard potential.	All publicly-owned trees are managed with safety as a high priority.	

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<p><b>9. Tree Protection Policy Development and Enforcement</b></p>	<p>No tree protection policy</p>	<p>Policies in place to protect public trees.</p>	<p>Policies in place to protect public and private trees with enforcement desired.</p>	<p>Integrated municipal wide policies that ensure the protection of trees on public and private land are consistently enforced and supported by significant deterrents; <i>education component included in process</i></p>	<p>The benefits derived from large-stature/mature trees are ensured by the enforcement of municipal wide policies.</p>	
<p><b>10. Publicly-owned natural areas management planning and implementation</b></p>	<p>No stewardship plans or implementation in effect.</p>	<p>Reactionary stewardship in effect to facilitate public use (e.g. hazard abatement, trail maintenance, etc.)</p>	<p>Stewardship plan in effect for each publicly-owned natural area to facilitate public use (e.g. hazard abatement, trail maintenance, etc.)</p>	<p>Stewardship plan in effect for each publicly-owned natural area focused on sustaining the ecological structure and function of the feature.</p>	<p>The ecological structure and function of allpublicly-owned natural areas are protected and, where appropriate, enhanced.</p>	<p>*</p>

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<b>1. Public agency cooperation (inter-departmental and with utilities)</b>	No communication or conflicting goals among departments and or agencies.	Common goals but no coordination or cooperation among departments and/or agencies.	Informal teams among departments and or agencies are functioning and implementing common goals on a project-specific basis.	Municipal policy implemented by formal interdepartmental/interagency teams on ALL municipal projects.	Ensure all city department cooperate with common goals and objectives	*
<b>2. Involvement of large institutional land holders (ex. hospitals, campuses, utility corridors)</b>	No awareness of issues	Educational materials and advice available to landholders.	Clear goals for tree resource by landholders. Incentives for preservation of private trees.	Landholders develop comprehensive tree management plans (including funding).	Large private landholders embrace city-wide goals and objectives through specific resource management plans.	
<b>3. Green industry cooperation</b>	No cooperation among segments of the green industry (nurseries, tree care companies, etc.) No adherence to industry standards.	General cooperation among nurseries, tree care companies, etc.	Specific cooperative arrangements such as purchase certificates for “right tree in the right place”	Shared vision and goals including the use of professional standards.	The green industry operates with high professional standards and commits to city-wide goals and objectives.	
<b>4. Neighborhood action</b>	No action	Neighborhood associations/HOA's exist but are minimally engaged or a limited number are engaged.	City-wide coverage and interaction; <i>Neighborhood associations are engaged with the program (education, advocacy, stewardship)</i>	All neighborhoods/HOA's organized and cooperating.	At the neighborhood level, citizens understand and cooperate in urban forest management.	*

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<b>5. Citizen-municipality-business interaction</b>	Conflicting goals among constituencies	No interaction among constituencies.	Informal and/or general cooperation <i>with focus to improve relationship with businesses.</i>	Formal interaction e.g. Tree board with staff coordination.	All constituencies in the community interact for the benefit of the urban forest.	
<b>6. General awareness of trees as a community resource</b>	Trees not seen as an asset, a drain on budgets.	Trees seen as important to the community.	Trees acknowledged as providing environmental, social and economic services.	Urban forest recognized as vital to Shoreline's environmental, social and economic well-being.	The general public understanding the role of the urban forest <i>through education and participation</i>	*
<b>7. Regional cooperation</b>	Communities independent.	Communities share similar policy vehicles.	Regional planning is in effect	Regional planning, coordination and /or management plans	Provide for cooperation and interaction among neighboring communities and regional groups.	