

# Urban Forest Strategy

Prepared for:  
**District of Saanich**  
Parks and Recreation Department



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This report has been prepared by LEES + Associates Landscape Architects in cooperation with Dunster & Associates Environmental Consultants Ltd.

The contribution made by District Staff, council members/ council committees and community associations have been invaluable in the development of this report.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Saanich Urban Forest Strategy is divided into two parts: Part 1 provides an overview of the purpose, process, consultation, benefits, vision, goal, strategies, and the relationship between this strategy, the Sustainable Saanich Official Community Plan and the Saanich Strategic Plan 2010-2014. Part 2 details action items for the strategies identified in Part 1 and ends with a resources section that identifies the necessary resources and suggested timelines to see the Urban Forest Strategy implemented.

### **Purpose of the Strategy**

The Urban Forest Strategy provides a long-term plan for achieving a sustainable urban forest in Saanich. It is one of the tools that Council, staff and the community will be able to use in conjunction with the Sustainable Saanich Official Community Plan 2008 (OCP), Saanich Strategic Plan 2010, other municipal bylaws, plans and policies.

### **Definition**

Saanich's urban forest is the sum total of all trees and their associated ecosystems within the municipality. It is the entire collection of trees growing in parks and private lands, on commercial and institutional lands, along highways, roads, trails and paths, as well as throughout open spaces in the community. The urban forest is a critical component of the functional green infrastructure system in Saanich, within both the Urban Containment Boundary and in Rural Saanich. The urban forest is more than just individual trees, it is part of a series of intact and fragmented ecosystems.

### **Benefits**

There are numerous benefits of a healthy urban forest, relating directly to policy outlined in the Sustainable Saanich OCP (2008). Urban forests play an important role in contributing to the environmental integrity of Saanich – they filter air and water, create shade, provide habitat, and slow wind and stormwater. Urban forests contribute to the social well-being of Saanich by providing healthy and enjoyable recreation opportunities, moderating local climate, shading homes and businesses to conserve energy, and are critical in mitigating the urban heat island effect. Urban forests contribute to the economic vibrancy of Saanich through increased property values and encouraging business on tree-lined streets.

### **Saanich Urban Forest Setting**

In 2008 the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFSI) mapped the patterns of changing tree canopies and impervious surfaces that occurred in the Capital Regional District between 1986 and 2005. The UFSI identified the critical state of the urban forest in the Capital Regional District and the need for urban forest strategies. The UFSI identified Saanich as having a 36% tree canopy cover over the municipality in 2005 – that included

both rural Saanich and land within the Urban Containment Boundary. The UFSI study highlighted an overall canopy cover decrease of 12.6 percent from 1986 – 2005.

The protection and enhancement of the urban forest in Saanich warrants immediate action, based on the UFSI results, concerns over climate change, population and development pressures, and policies outlined in the OCP.

## **Process**

The Urban Forest Strategy is the result of extensive consultation with Council Committees, staff and the community. It is based on a review of existing applicable policies, research and bylaws in Saanich, recent urban forest initiatives in the City of Victoria and other municipalities, the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFSI), and the professional judgment of staff in the Parks and Recreation Department.

An online public questionnaire was completed by over 200 residents, and provided valuable information regarding the community's opinion of the state and future of the urban forest. A framework of preliminary strategies covering urban forest policy, management, regulation and practice was presented at a public open house that was held at the Pacific Forestry Centre in June 2009.

## **Consultation Key Findings**

Key findings of the consultations were that the community views the urban forest as more than just “trees” – it encompasses a much greater ecosystem component. There is a general concern in the community over net loss of the canopy cover in Saanich. Threats to the urban forest were expressed as development within the Urban Containment Boundary, land clearing in Rural Saanich, efficacy of the Tree Preservation Bylaw, invasive species and climate change. Conflicts between the urban forest and other infrastructure requirements such as hydro lines and stormwater regulations were also expressed. Ongoing care for trees including tree planting, preserving soil quality and quantity, tree maintenance, hazard tree risk assessment and mitigation, food security and quality of life were also seen as important by those that participated in the consultations and the web survey.

## **Saanich Urban Forest Vision**

The Saanich Urban Forest Vision is:

***“The urban forest in Saanich is a highly valued asset comprised of a rich and diverse forest that is widely recognized and appreciated for the contribution that it makes to our community and to our sustainable environment.”***

## **Goal**

One overarching goal emerged during the development of this Strategy. This goal supports the OCP and related plans and bylaws that Council has adopted. It also

supports related management and planning initiatives anticipated within the next 5 years such as the Climate Action and Adaptation Plans, Natural Areas Action Plan in Parks, the Parks Priorities Guide and the Saanich Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The following goal underpins the Urban Forest Strategy:

***“Protect Trees and Enhance the Urban Forest”***

**Strategies**

Seven strategies have been developed that support the Saanich urban forest goal:

- Adopt a “No Net Loss” Canopy Policy;
- Amend the Tree Preservation Bylaw;
- Develop Urban Forest Design Guidelines;
- Integrate the UFS with other Saanich Initiatives;
- Inventory the Urban Forest;
- Develop an Urban Forest Operations Program, and
- Engage the Community.

**Action items**

Incorporating the following action items into Sustainable Saanich plans will help attain Saanich’s goals of Environmental Integrity, Social Well-Being and Economic Vibrancy:

**Adopt a “No Net Loss” Canopy Policy**

Action - Develop a Green Infrastructure Contribution Fund

Action - Develop a Comprehensive Tree Planting Program

**Amend the Tree Preservation Bylaw**

Action - Engage the Community in a public process to amend the Tree Preservation Bylaw

**Develop Urban Forest Design Guidelines**

Action - Formulate and implement Design Guidelines

Action - Collaborate with other Municipal Departments, BC Hydro and Ministry of Transportation & Highways in the formulation of Design Guidelines

**Integrate the UFS with other Saanich initiatives**

Action - Form an inter-departmental working group to address tree-related issues

Action - Establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the urban

forest-related departments within the District

### **Inventory the Urban Forest**

Action - Following measurement of the extent of canopy cover in Saanich, establish canopy cover targets based on typologies

Action - Invest in a comprehensive urban forest inventory of individual trees in Saanich

### **Develop Urban Forest Operations Program**

Action - Develop Urban Forest “Best Practices” Maintenance Manual

Action - Train/ educate District staff and the public

### **Engage the Community**

Action - Maximize public awareness about the urban forest

Action - Foster community partners’ involvement in the urban forest

### **Next Steps**

The resource requirements and timing will establish urban forest program priorities in terms of budget, staff resources and capital funding allowances.

Appendices are attached to this Strategy. They include:

- Benefits of urban forests;
- Consultation key issues, and
- A summary of the online questionnaire.



# ***PART 1 – URBAN FOREST VISION***

## Purpose of the Strategy

The Urban Forest Strategy is one of the mechanisms available to Council, staff and the community that enhances the long term viability of individual trees, groves, forested areas and distinct ecosystems. It provides a long-term plan for achieving a sustainable urban forest in Saanich.

*“Urban forestry is the art, science, and technology of planning for, planting, managing and maintaining trees, in partnership with the community.”*

The purpose of the Urban Forest Strategy is to provide a comprehensive suite of policy recommendations – supported by the public - that will enhance the urban forest over time, and address the risk management and design issues that face the community. These policies provide a framework within which planning, design, budget and risk management decisions can be made.

Tree management and care is integrally linked to the Sustainable Saanich OCP, as it is critical to plan, regulate, protect and enhance the urban forest in order to address climate changes issues and ensure a healthy green infrastructure.

From the Sustainable Saanich OCP:

The Urban Forest Strategy should “retain where possible existing tree cover, promote additional tree planting, and acknowledge the importance of contiguous tree cover.

Additionally, the OCP gives direction to:

“Retain and plant trees along boulevards and municipal properties, in parks and on private lands, to expand the urban forest and act as a mitigation measure in regards to climate change.”

“Promote and encourage the protection and designation of indigenous, significant trees and wildlife trees.”

“Review and amend the “Tree Preservation Bylaw” to include measures to support climate change initiatives and improve the retention of our urban forest.

The urban forest is a key element of green infrastructure. Without a healthy urban forest, Saanich would not achieve its sustainable goals of environmental integrity, social well-being and economic vibrancy.

**Green infrastructure** – the ecological processes, both natural and engineered, that act as the natural infrastructure. It includes ditches, creeks, wetlands, parks, open space, trees, green roofs, gardens, working lands, aquifers and watersheds that supply drinking water.

*(From: West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation)*

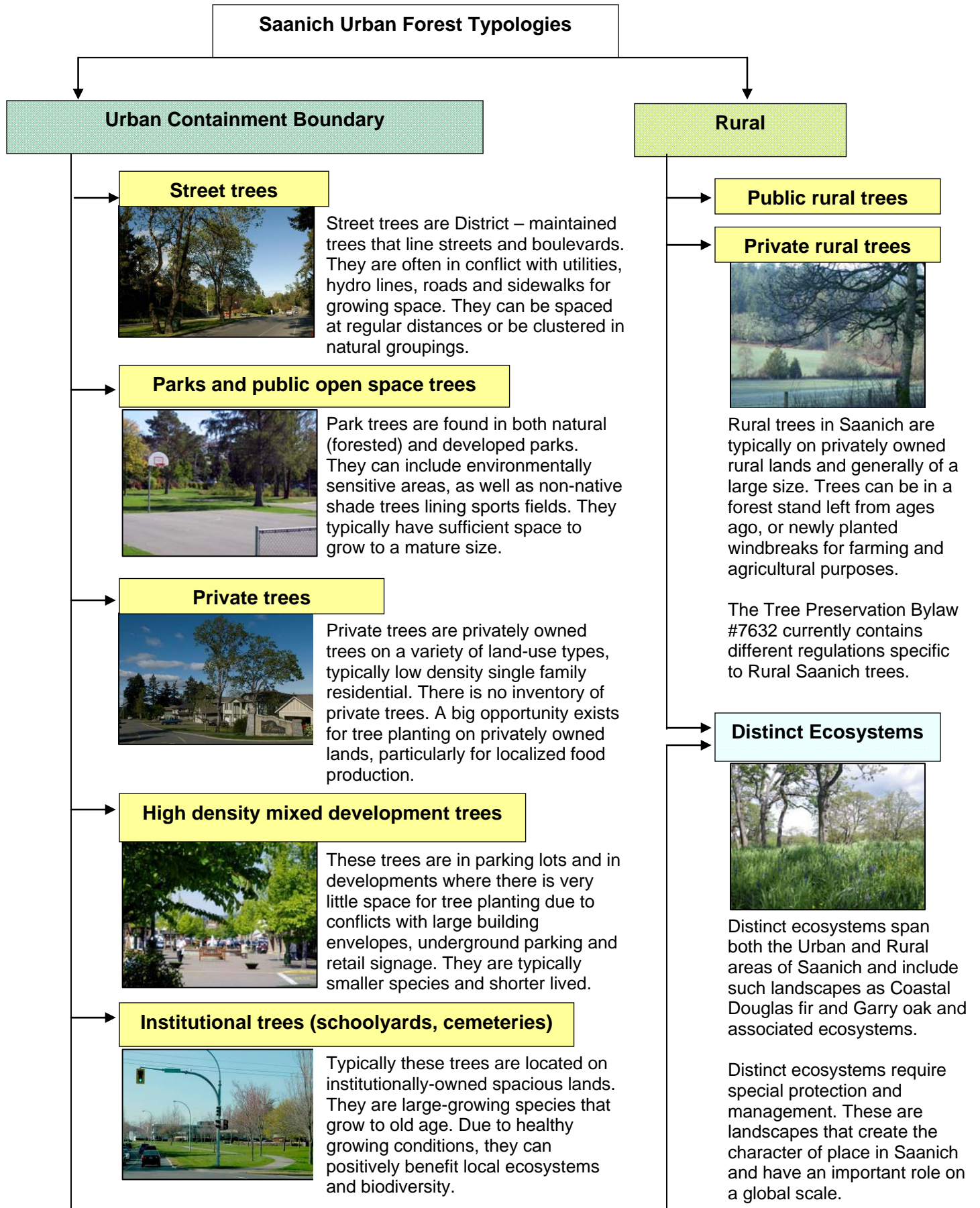
## Urban Forest Definition

*Saanich's urban forest is the sum total of all trees and their associated ecosystems within the municipality. It is the entire collection of trees growing on parks and private lands, on commercial and institutional lands, along highways, roads, trails and paths, as well as throughout open spaces in the community.*

The following types of trees and associated ecosystems are part of the urban forest:

- Distinct ecosystems such as Garry oak and Coastal Douglas fir;
- Native and non-native trees (all tree species);
- Single trees, trees in small groves and trees in the larger forests;
- Trees on private lands: residential, commercial and institutional;
- Habitat (Wildlife) trees;
- Riparian area trees and forest;
- Trees on both rural and urban lands, and
- Trees in both natural and developed parks.

Treed landscapes are grouped together for planning purposes into typologies. The typologies in Saanich that have emerged during the creation of this strategy are shown on the following page. These typologies are helpful in determining canopy cover, aesthetic goals and maintenance regimes.



## Related Saanich Ecosystem Policy

Larger environmental issues that relate to the urban forest include Environmentally Sensitive Areas, riparian landscapes, species at risk, habitat, natural areas, and parks. These issues are addressed in this strategy and are also addressed in the following Saanich policy documents:

- Sustainable Saanich Official Community Plan, 2008;
- Stormwater Bylaw;
- Saanich Strategic Plan, 2010;
- Regional Green/ Blue Spaces Strategy, CRD, 1997;
- Saanich Environmentally Significant Areas Atlas and Inventory, DOS, 1999;
- Recovery Strategy for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems
- Species at Risk in Canada, GOERT, 2002;
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan, 2001;
- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan for Saanich, 2010;
- Parks Priorities Guide, DOS, 2010;
- Schedule B Watercourse, Floodplains, Steep Slope Areas, and
- Rural Saanich Local Area Plan, 2007.

## Urban Forest Benefits

There are numerous benefits of a healthy urban forest, relating directly to policy outlined in the Sustainable Saanich OCP (2008). Urban forests play an important role in contributing to the environmental integrity of Saanich – they filter air and water, create shade, provide habitat, and slow wind and stormwater. Urban forests contribute to the social well-being of Saanich by providing healthy and enjoyable recreation opportunities, moderating local climate, shading homes and businesses to conserve energy, and are critical in mitigating the urban heat island effect. Urban forests contribute to the economic vibrancy of Saanich through increased property values and encouraging business on tree-lined streets.

### Environmental Benefits

A healthy urban forest will:

- Improve air quality;

- Create and store carbon;
- Conserve energy – produce shade in summer, shelter buildings from winds in winter, and cool urban heat islands;
- Minimize stormwater runoff and control erosion;
- Improve water quality;
- Cool the air through transpiration, and
- Provide habitat and connectivity for wildlife.

### **Social Benefits**

A healthy urban forest will:

- Reduce stress and mental fatigue;
- Enhance recuperation rates (from injury to improved mental health);
- Enhance community pride;
- Heal and restore communities;
- Increase recreational opportunities;
- Contribute to First Nations culture. Mature trees and by-products of the west coast forest and remnants within Saanich's urban forest are significant First Nations cultural features;
- Add beauty to spaces, particularly in the urban environment, and contribute to local community character;
- Screen unwanted views of commercial and industrial areas, and
- Contribute to local food production.

### **Economic Benefits**

A healthy urban forest will:

- Reduce costly investments in public infrastructure by reducing the amount of runoff and therefore creating less of a need for stormwater piping;
- Increase residential and business property values;
- Increase tax base for the community by attracting tourists, business and residential property owners;
- Increase rental of apartments and offices, therefore reducing vacancy rates;
- Encourage shoppers to linger longer at retail establishments;
- Defer maintenance of materials that are degraded by heat (e.g. pavement), and
- Create useful by-products (e.g. signs, benches).

Primary source that includes many of these benefits: *Municipal Specialist Certification Study Guide-ISA 2008*

## The Saanich Setting

The District of Saanich is characterized by a landscape setting where Garry oak meadows and west coast rainforest meet the ocean shore. A network of forests and ocean edges forms a fabric of open space across the region and within the Coastal Douglas Fir Biogeoclimatic zone ecosystem - one of the mildest and most productive ecosystems in Canada.

In order to manage growth in Saanich, preserve farmland and the unique sense of place that occurs as a result of the interwoven mix of rural and urban landscapes, the Urban Containment Boundary was created. Roughly half of the District of Saanich lies outside of the Urban Containment Boundary.

In 2008 the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFSI) mapped the patterns of changing tree canopies and impervious surfaces that occurred in the Capital Regional District between 1986 and 2005. The UFSI identified the critical state of the urban forest in the Capital Regional District and the need for urban forest strategies to be developed to address the situation. Maps produced in the study were used in the development of this strategy and others of its kind in the region. The change in tree cover density and the change in impervious surface density in Saanich are highlighted in the two tables below:

“In Canada, Garry oak ecosystems are only found on southeastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and two small patches in the lower Fraser Valley.”  
*(Garry oak Restoration Project)*

“Saanich, meaning “place of fertile soil” in the language of the [Coast Salish First Nation]. The Saanich complex includes seaside parkland, dry forest, rock outcrop, and wetland habitats and contains many rare plants...”

Garry oak parkland is perhaps the most unusual ecosystem in the Saanich group. In dry sites with deep soils, Garry oaks form an open tree cover above a carpet of grasses and colourful spring flowers, including blue Camas, shooting star, Easter lily, chocolate lily, and satin flower. These habitats may also harbour rare, endangered plants such as golden Indian paintbrush and deltoid balsamroot.”

*(BC Ministry of Forests, 1999, Ecology of the Coastal Douglas Fir Zone)*

Table E3. Change in Tree Cover Density by Municipality – 1986 and 2005

Municipality	Area of the Municipality (ha)	1986 Tree cover density >50% (ha)	2005 Tree cover density >50% (ha)	Change (ha)*	% Change from 1986	Change as a % of the municipality
Saanich	11,136	4,620	4,037	-583	-12.6%	-5.2%

Table E5. Change in Impervious Surface Density by Municipality – 1986 and 2005

Municipality	Area of the Municipality (ha)	1986 Impervious >50% (ha)	2005 Impervious >50% (ha)	Change (ha)	% Change from 1986	Change as a % of the municipality
Saanich	11,136	911	1,023	112	12.3%	1.0%

*Change in tree cover density and impervious surface density in Saanich from 1986 to 2005 (Source: Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative)*

According to the UFSI study, the Saanich 2005 tree canopy cover was 4,037 hectares of trees, or 36% of cover over the municipality – including both rural Saanich and land within the Urban Containment Boundary. 9% of the community consists of impervious surfaces according to the UFSI mapping.

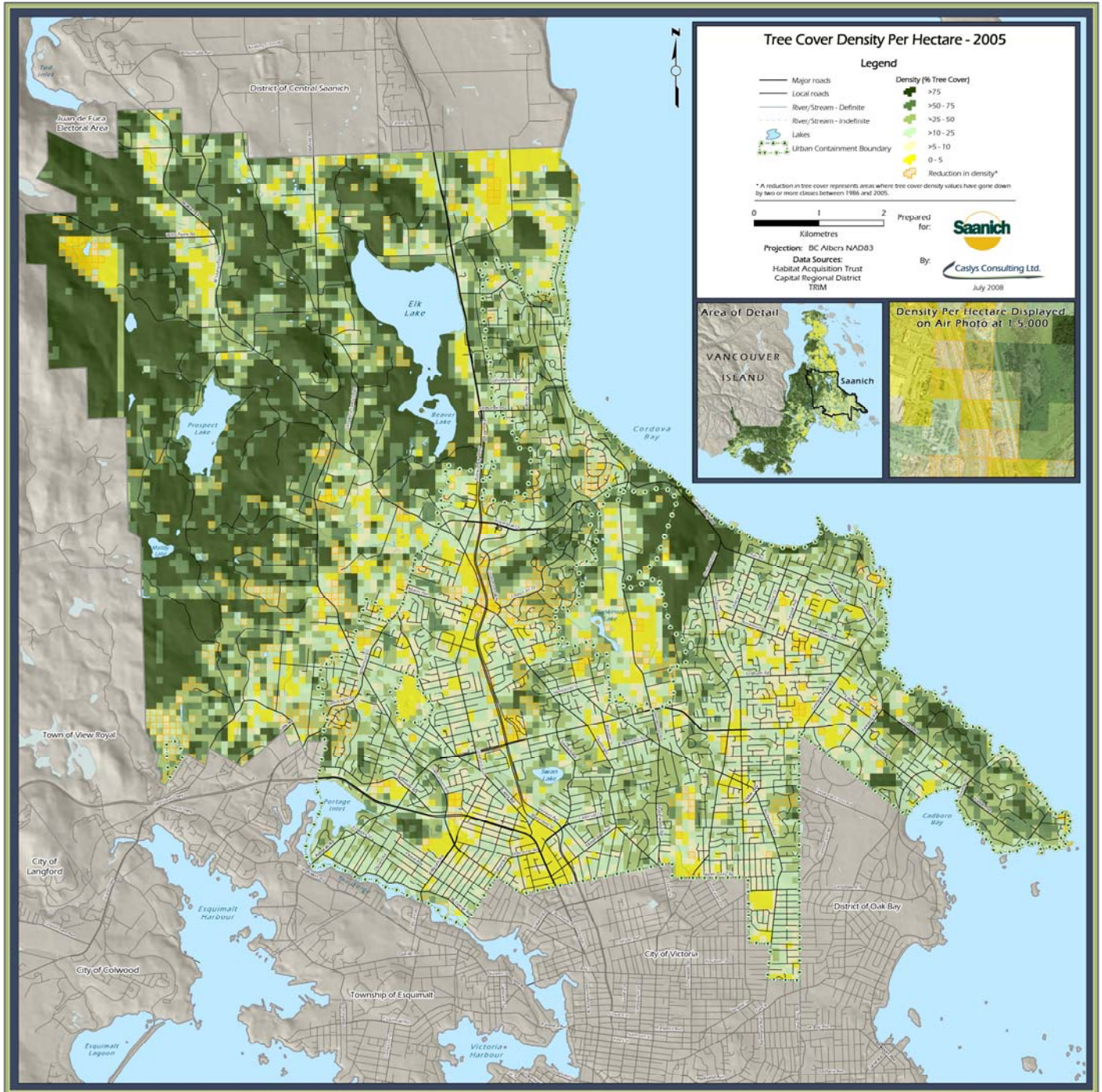


Image of tree cover density per hectare in Saanich showing that canopy cover is greatest in Rural Saanich and decreases towards the urban centres. (Image: Caslys Consulting)



The urban forest is a critical component of the functional green infrastructure system. With planning, protection and site preparation, trees contribute significant benefits to the environmental, social and economic aspects of Sustainable Saanich. The urban forest is more than just individual trees, it is part of a series of fragmented ecosystems. Therefore, its management needs to be synchronized with other Saanich initiatives that address other ecosystem elements such as habitat and ecosystem planning of public and private landscapes in both the Urban Containment Boundary and in Rural Saanich.



*Saanich's urban forest from the summit of Mt. Doug. (Photo: District of Saanich)*

The District of Saanich is already engaged in a number of actions related to urban forest management. Beyond using the Tree Preservation Bylaw and covenants to protect groups of trees, supporting Saanich's Tree Appreciation Day and supporting the role of the Significant Tree Committee in identifying and protecting trees of significance in the community, the District presently:

- Creates regulations at the time of Development Permit and/ or Rezoning that protect and enhance the urban forest, such as tree covenants or natural state covenants;
- Reduces impervious surfaces during re-development, construction of new

- infrastructure and other activities that disturb or compact the soil and roots around trees;
- Works with the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT) and the Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP) to optimize their knowledge and advocacy;
  - Educates the public in managing and eradicating invasive species and the alternate use of native species through community partners and educational information, e.g. nursery programs; workshops at gardening centres;
  - Participates with invasives control, tree planting, and other activities in community programs, such as: Naturescape, Evergreen Canada, GEEK (Garry oak Ecosystems Educational Kit), Native Plant Salvage Program, Corporate Invasive Species Strategy, Our Backyard Newsletter, Staff Training Programs, Natural State Covenants, ecological restoration programs, Parks Volunteer Program and Saanich Environmental Protocol;
  - Engages the public in land-use planning and policy development that impact the urban forest, such as Local Area Plans, and
  - Meets and strategizes regularly with District schools, GORP, SCAN, Friends of Mount Douglas, Provincial agencies, businesses, nonprofits, the media, and others that derive benefit and have a role in the urban forest.

The UFSI study highlighted an emerging pattern of urban forest canopy decline in Saanich. It is clear from the results of the UFSI, concerns over climate change, population and development pressures, and the policy outlined in the Sustainable Saanich OCP that protecting and enhancing the urban forest in Saanich warrants immediate and ongoing action.

## Process

The Urban Forest Strategy is the result of extensive consultation with Council Committees, the community and staff. It is based on a review of existing applicable policies, research and bylaws in Saanich, recent urban forest initiatives by the City of Victoria and other municipalities, the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFSI), and the professional judgment of staff in the Parks and Recreation Department.

The UFSI study was the impetus for the creation of the Saanich Urban Forest Strategy, and was used extensively in the development of this Strategy.

### WHO WAS INVOLVED?

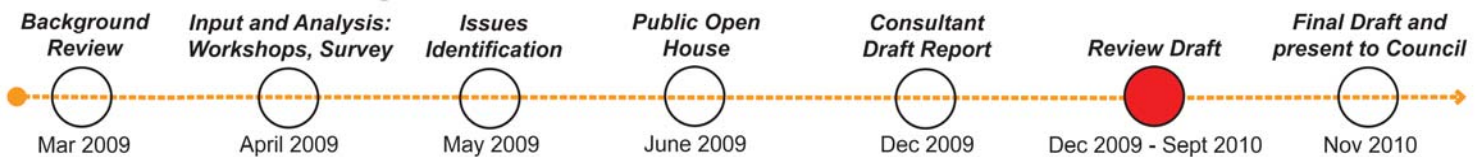
Advisory Committees of Council  
 Technical Review Committee  
 Park Operations Staff  
 Tree Care companies  
 Urban development representatives  
 Community Associations/ NGOs  
 Environmental Educators Network  
 Students  
 The community in a Public Survey and Open House  
 BC Hydro

Consultation with District Staff, the general community and a range of stakeholders resulted in the identification of issues and opportunities related to planning and management of the urban forest. Individual consultation sessions were held with Staff (professional and operational staff from Parks, Engineering, Planning), Council committees, Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN) and other N.G.O.s with interests in the urban forest.

An online public questionnaire was completed by over 200 residents, and provided information regarding the community's opinion of the state and future of the urban forest.

A framework of preliminary strategies covering urban forest policy, management, regulation and practice was presented at a public open house that was held at the Pacific Forestry Centre in June 2009. In December 2009 the first draft of the UFS was reviewed by Council Committees and staff and was placed on a web site for public review and comment.

The survey text and survey results are included in Appendix B. Issues identified in the consultations are included in Appendix C.



## Consultation Key Findings

During the consultations with Council Committees, staff and the public, recurring issues were heard and common threats to the urban forest in Saanich were identified. The online survey conducted as part of this strategy revealed that respondents felt that growth and development, concerns for climate change, and competition with underground and overhead utilities threaten the health of Saanich's urban forest. It was also clear from the consultations that the health of ecosystems, community character, invasive species threats, food security, and recreation created by trees and forests in Saanich were considered highly important.

The following is a list of the common issues that were expressed regarding the current state of the urban forest in Saanich. These are not shown in order of priority.

- The urban forest is more than just the “trees” – it encompasses a much larger ecosystem component that supports wildlife habitat;
- The value of the urban forest as a municipal asset needs to be established. There is a lack of detailed inventory data. Planning for the urban forest is difficult without knowledge of what Saanich has. There is no monetary value of this asset;
- The ratio of trees being removed to those successfully established each year is not equal, resulting in a continuous depletion of the urban forest. This is largely due to increased urbanization and development both in the Urban Containment Boundary and in Rural Saanich;
- There is generally a lack of importance of trees and associated ecosystems within the overall infrastructure due to conflicting demands for limited space. The retention of mature trees and the planting of trees in relation to layout of roads, bike lanes, and sidewalks needs to be made a priority in order to reduce conflict for space with underground utilities and overhead power lines;
- The Tree Preservation Bylaw, 1997, No. 7632 is not protecting a sufficient number and quality of trees. In particular, it is not protecting the young or semi-mature trees which are the backbone of future succession. Insufficient age and species diversity can leave the urban forest vulnerable to pests and

*What do you value most about the urban forest in Saanich?*

“The public services trees provide the community: such as air and water purification, carbon sequestration, shade which cuts cooling costs, soil stability/ stormwater retention, wildlife food and habitat, and of course the aesthetics!”

*(community member feedback from Saanich on-line urban forest questionnaire, 2009)*

*What do you value most about the urban forest in Saanich?*

“Trees create beauty and quiet, shade, carbon sink, shelter for animals, prevent erosion, increase habitat for deer. Bird shelters, keep balance of nature, encourage water falling gently to the ground, instead of a deluge.”

*(community member feedback from Saanich on-line urban forest questionnaire, 2009)*

diseases;

- Climate change and other environmental changes are expected to change the geographical distribution and hardiness zones for species currently on the edge of a distribution or hardiness boundary. Invasive species will become more evident;
- Distinct ecosystems such as Garry oak and Coastal Douglas fir and their associated ecosystems are under threat. Loss of local ecosystem biomass is leading to increased fragmentation of these distinct landscapes;
- Risk abatement for trees in parks can compromise the park experience;
- Coordination and communication between municipal departments and throughout municipalities in CRD is crucial in urban forest management on a municipal and regional scale;
- There is a lack of a formalized District-wide tree planting plan, and formalized maintenance guidelines and procedures for the care of young or mature trees, and
- Many residents want to be involved in managing their environment and undertaking gardening and other practices that affect the urban forest, but don't always know how. Public education regarding the importance of the urban forest is critical in enhancing the canopy cover on privately owned land.

*What do you value most about the Urban forest in Saanich?*

“They provide opportunities for ‘back to our roots’ contact with nature and an escape from the frenetic pace of modern life.”

*(community member feedback from Saanich on-line urban forest questionnaire, 2009)*

*What do you value most about the Urban forest in Saanich?*

“It is a great place for all sorts of activities, from walking dogs to mountain biking.”

*(community member feedback from Saanich on-line urban forest questionnaire, 2009)*

The urban forest needs to be planned, managed and designed to mitigate long term threats due to climate change and shorter term threats that arise due to disease or insect infestations. The land base upon which the existing and future urban forest grows needs to accommodate edible products as well as meet environmental, aesthetic and economic needs.

*(general feedback from public consultation process, 2009)*

## Saanich Urban Forest Vision

The following vision of the urban forest in Saanich emerged during the consultation process:

***“The urban forest in Saanich is a highly valued asset comprised of a rich and diverse forest that is widely recognized and appreciated for the contribution that it makes to our community and to our sustainable environment.”***

As the urban forest grows over the years we will see:

- A variety of tree species that spans a range of age classes, with a native species focus;
- Habitat connections of treed corridors and links to larger parks and environmentally sensitive areas emerge throughout the district (especially for songbirds and other small species);
- Evidence of species chosen to tolerate changing climates - some of these may be non native species;
- Trees planted for agriculture and food purposes on public and private land;
- Community understanding of the values and benefits of trees and forests;
- A forest planned and integrated with neighbourhood and urban development and transportation systems that is formalized in plans, bylaws and policies;
- Loss of forest canopy steadily decreasing to the point of no net loss, and evidence of an increase in biomass over the next 10 years;
- Tree planting and forest management practices that are fully integrated with the road and piping infrastructure;
- A high survival rate of newly planted trees that reflects the application of best forest tending and protection practices, and
- Evidence of fewer invasive plant species, which enhances tree-based habitats and the entire urban forest ecosystem.

## Urban Forest Goal

The urban forest goal was identified and discussed with participants and Staff at the open house and during the consultation process. This goal supports the OCP and related plans and bylaws that Council has adopted. It is also intended to support related management and planning initiatives anticipated within the next 5 years such as the Natural Areas Action Plan in Parks, the Parks Priorities Guide and the Saanich Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The following goal underpins the Urban Forest Strategy:

### ***“Protect Trees and Enhance the Urban Forest”***

The urban forest should be protected from loss due to cumulative affects of tree removal during development, tree mortality (disease and old age) and land clearing. Trees should be planted and tended with a long-term vision of tree and ecosystem survival and a thriving population of established trees.

The District of Saanich **Official Community Plan** states:

“Review and amend the Tree Preservation Bylaw No. 7632 to include measures to support climate change initiatives and improve the retention of our urban forest.”  
*(Sustainable Saanich OCP, July 2008, p. 4-7)*

The District of Saanich **Rural Plan** states:

“The preservation of vegetation, particularly trees, is important to the residents of Rural Saanich.”  
*(Saanich Rural Plan, June 2008, p. 22)*

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- Canopy cover expansion as measured in 5 year increments based on the results of an urban forest inventory process;
- The ratio of area of distinct ecosystems protected and enhanced compared to area disturbed;
- Reduced inventory of invasive species within the urban forest;
- Increased number of trees planted and established on private property;
- Increased participation in volunteer programs including invasive species removal, habitat restoration, natural areas restoration, Tree Appreciation Day, and other local planting and preservation programs;
- Increased survival rate of newly planted trees, and
- Reduced number of tree related complaints and calls-for-service to city staff.

**Strategies** to protect trees and enhance the Urban Forest are:

- Adopt a “No Net Loss” Canopy Policy;
- Amend the Tree Preservation Bylaw;
- Develop Urban Forest Design Guidelines;
- Integrate the UFS with other Saanich Initiatives;
- Inventory the Urban Forest;
- Develop an Urban Forest Operations Program, and
- Engage the Community.





## **Outline of Strategies**

Seven strategies have been identified to support the urban forest goal. Detailed actions are presented in the implementation section of this document.

### **Adopt a “No Net Loss” Canopy Policy**

The 2008 Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative demonstrated a continuous decline in Saanich’s urban forest since 1986. Actions are required to stem that decline and set in motion bylaws, policies, planting, maintenance and community engagements that strengthen the critical role of the urban forest in the District’s green infrastructure system. When trees are not preserved and planted, wildlife habitat is threatened and community character suffers. Ensuring a “no net loss” canopy policy requires that an equal number (or more) of trees are planted than those lost.

### **Amend the Tree Preservation Bylaw**

The Tree Preservation Bylaw protects trees on private lands in Saanich, and includes requirements regarding tree size and species. It relates to both rural and urban Saanich. If the Tree Preservation Bylaw were to be amended to protect trees of a smaller size, a greater number of trees in Saanich would be retained, and it would encourage urban forest succession (ensuring that the smaller trees eventually grow into large trees without being cut or removed prematurely).

### **Develop Urban Forest Design Guidelines**

Development and construction processes need to be reviewed to maximize tree preservation and creation of long term urban forest cover. These guidelines should provide criteria for determining species, tree sizes and planting locations, integration of road, sidewalk and overhead/ underground infrastructure requirements as well as aesthetic, sun, shade and habitat criteria. Urban forest typologies and the targets arising from the inventory should form the basis of the design guidelines.

### **Integrate the UFS with other Saanich Initiatives**

Urban forest management practices should be adaptable and integrate best/ next practices and science related to climate change, invasive species control, diseases, food production and wildlife needs. Existing policies and documents that focus on or relate to urban forest issues need to be reviewed and amended to synchronize with this Strategy.

“For trees, climate change means that climate may change faster than species natural ability to adapt. It is reasonable to anticipate increased disturbances from wildfire, flooding, wind and storm damage, insect damage, and invasive species. Plants will likely face increased seasonal drought stress.”

*From Oregon Wild website.*

### **Inventory the Urban Forest**

It is impossible to establish tree canopy targets in the absence of a sound understanding of the current canopy cover or number of trees in Saanich. While the UFSI study provided an overview of canopy cover levels in the Capital Regional District, it was not sufficiently detailed. An inventory of canopy cover and individual trees (located on streets, boulevards, park frontages, medians and developed parks within Saanich) is required. A detailed inventory will allow staff to develop a long term maintenance plan to ensure adequate maintenance of the managed trees.

### **Develop an Urban Forest Operations Program**

Arboriculture, as practiced by Saanich staff and private tree care companies, should be based on consistent, high standards of tree planting, aftercare and long term maintenance and risk management. Trees that are properly maintained increase the tree canopy cover, optimize the initial investment in the tree purchase and planting, lead to long term structural strength and address disease, insect and other management issues in a timely manner.

### **Engage the Community**

Saanich is regarded as a leader in citizen engagement for its parks and environmental services. As one of the first municipalities with a tree bylaw covering private land, Saanich has neighbourhoods where forests are integral to the area's character. Saanich also has large areas of forested parkland throughout the municipality. Opportunities currently exist for community members to engage in the urban forest's development. Extending further opportunities for community involvement would enhance the quality of the urban forest as a community benefit.



## ***PART 2 – URBAN FOREST IMPLEMENTATION***

Part One of this Strategy established the overarching Goal of “Protecting and Enhancing the Urban Forest.” Part Two details the seven strategies with individual actions to support and achieve the Goal. Next steps, addressing required resources and funding, are identified at the end of Part Two.

### **Adopt a “No Net Loss” Canopy Policy**

Ensuring that trees removed are replaced will result in a long term “no net loss” tree canopy for the District of Saanich. Protection of the urban forest and the establishment and maintenance of trees is enhanced when utility infrastructure and green infrastructure criteria are aligned and when high quality inventory data is available to urban foresters. Two mechanisms to achieve this strategy include the creation of a Green Infrastructure Contribution Fund, and the development of a Comprehensive Tree Planting Program.

#### **Action - Develop a Green Infrastructure Contribution Fund**

Establish a Green Infrastructure Contribution Fund to create an ongoing revenue stream that funds the protection and planting of trees. Contributions to this fund could occur in lieu of tree planting, when penalties for tree policy and tree bylaw accrue, and by donation or bequests. The Fund will be used for the planting, establishment, tending and management of the urban forest.

Potential sources of funds include:

- Amenity contributions up to and including the Appraised Value for Public and Tree Preservation Bylaw protected trees that are removed as a result of development. Many communities, including Victoria, have language in their bylaws that allow the Municipality to charge a fee at the Building Permit stage equal to the appraised value of a public boulevard tree that requires removal for development. (Under the Local Government Act / Community Charter, Green Infrastructure is a category of Development Cost Charge);
- Sureties forfeited by property owners to the municipality when required replacement trees under Tree Preservation Bylaw cannot be planted on lot, and
- Grants or bequests.

#### **Action - Develop a Comprehensive Tree Planting Program**

Develop a tree planting program that aims at planting a minimum of one replacement tree for every tree removed on public lands and protected trees on private lands. The principle of the “Right Tree, Right Place” should prevail. Tight, difficult growing sites are best for small trees. Larger, more open sites are best for trees that have the potential to become the significant trees of the future. Determine appropriate planting

locations based on best management practices and industry standards. A comprehensive tree planting program will include:

- Create a data base of suitable planting sites and areas that is linked to the urban forest inventory. The data base should be based on gap analyses obtained through the tree inventory and on individual tree and canopy cover goals;
- Follow design guidelines to be developed as Priority Strategy 4 in order to balance tree requirements with other infrastructure requirements;
- Minimize invasive species, insects and disease damage to newly planted trees by diversifying the species mix in the urban forest using the results of the tree inventory to identify over and under represented species and, in partnership with educational institutions and the urban forest advocates, develop long term urban forest diversity goals;
- Initiate 'greening projects' in designated Town Centres and Villages, along street boulevards, on municipal properties, in parks and on private lands;
- Provide design professionals with design and planting guidelines and apply best practices in terms of suitable soil types, volumes and technologies. Guidelines will be dictated by tree locations;
- Nurture existing community partnerships and promote new partnerships with NGO's, Community Groups and homeowners to partner in the planting and maintenance of newly planted boulevard trees;
- Identify planting locations where distinct ecosystems could be established on public lands and integrate those landscapes in parks, boulevard, municipal land and related site plans;
- Explore financial incentives in the form of tax relief, or other means to help manage individual significant distinct ecosystems that are on private property;
- Enhance the supply of Garry oak seedlings by collaborating with local nurseries, considering use of District nursery space as a growing centre and collaborating with educational institutes, and
- Introduce a native seed distribution program to stimulate planting of native species. Provide native species sources, listing sources of native trees and plants to accompany the list of invasives that is found on the District web-site.

## **Amend the Tree Preservation Bylaw**

The comments heard during consultations included specific recommendations for amendments to the Tree Preservation Bylaw. The revisions will require a public involvement and review process supported by sound data and rationale for changes. Streets and Traffic, Rezoning, Subdivision and Development Permit bylaws may require revision based on revisions to the Tree Preservation Bylaw. Adherence to the Tree Preservation Bylaw should be encouraged via education and community support.

### **Action - Engage the community in a public process to amend the Tree Preservation Bylaw.**

Form a committee to develop an internal and public process to review proposed changes to the Tree Preservation Bylaw. This committee, or special working group, should consist of staff from the Parks Division, members of the appropriate Council Advisory Committees, other affected municipal departments, including planning and legal Staff. Stakeholders such as the development community and private arboriculture consultants and practitioners should be consulted.

The process should consider the relevance, effect, and the implementation costs of the proposed changes. Consider comments heard during the consultation process for this Urban Forest Strategy review. Those comments included specific recommendations for amendments to the Tree Preservation Bylaw, including:

- Explore incentives for tree protection that tie urban forest objectives to other benefits, concessions and infrastructure / amenity contributions such as density transfers. For example, retention of a protected private tree or ecosystem that could otherwise be removed should be viewed as an asset to the community just as a public tree would. In this way, increased density on a smaller portion of the land will allow a developer to realize the profit potential for the land while retaining valuable canopy cover;
- Prohibit the removal of Distinct Ecosystem trees such as Arbutus, Garry Oak, Pacific Yew, and Pacific Dogwood as seedlings;
- Western Red Cedar, Douglas fir, and Big Leaf Maple should be protected at 30 cm DBH to ensure succession;
- Require 1:1 replacement of protected trees requiring removal that are inside the building envelope of properties in the Urban Containment Boundary. Require 2:1 replacement for any protected tree removed outside of the building envelope;
- Create defined building envelopes when rural properties are developed;
- In monitoring compliance, continue the use of stop-work orders as a legitimate part of the District Arborist's range of appropriate

actions. This action needs to be vetted with the Building Permits and Licenses office and the Municipal Solicitor to ensure proper protocols are met, and

- Address greater flexibility to retain trees.

### ***Develop Urban Forest Design Guidelines***

The development of Urban Forest Design Guidelines will relate primarily to new development in the Urban Containment Boundary. Design of new or re-designed residential, commercial and industrial developments, roads, sidewalks and bike paths, trails and parks should be adapted for tree retention and planting. Collaboration with agencies such as BC Hydro and Ministry of Highways will be a crucial element in developing the design guidelines.

#### **Action - Formulate and implement Design Guidelines**

The ongoing pattern of planning, design and management decisions should be informed by the targets arising from a comprehensive inventory. Guidelines should be developed with planning and engineering staff to ensure both aesthetic and infrastructure criteria are matched with best urban forest practices. Planting opportunities during sidewalk, road and utility installations should be maximized. Recognize that goals for tree age, size, species and life expectancy differ within the Urban Containment Area, where trees and habitat are balanced with other urban land-uses.

- Develop and apply 'made for Saanich' standards for street tree installation and tree well construction that will ensure healthy soil and space for best tree growing conditions, create sufficient soil capacity that matches the desired ultimate size of the tree and use continuous tree pits, structural soils, soil cell technology and other mechanisms;
- Protect soil integrity and drainage patterns to optimize soil for healthy tree development;
- Adopt criteria for species selection including appropriate understory species that maintain ecosystems and address the impact of climate change on the urban forest, and
- Integrate stormwater drainage, sidewalk design and adjacent site drainage to create sufficient space and optimal water regimens.

**Action - Collaborate with BC Hydro and Ministry of Transportation & Highways in the formulation of Design Guidelines**

Design common utility trenching and roadside tree planting guidelines to minimize tree root and canopy damage during construction or maintenance of underground infrastructure.

- Refine the tree planting guidelines to ensure the right trees are planted in the right places in or near BC Hydro Rights of Way in order to optimize these corridors. This could mean using some Rights of Way as plantations, more frequent “rotations” of trees, or using these areas for fruit producing trees;
- Establish and implement standards and protocols with BC Hydro to ensure the integrity of the Saanich Urban forest is sustained when trees are pruned by BC Hydro contractors, and
- Explore the feasibility of underground power-line installation along designated streets and green corridors, as the opportunity arises.



*Saanich Road is an example of incorporating a treed boulevard into the streetscape. (Photo: District of Saanich)*



## ***Integrate the UFS with other Saanich Initiatives***

It is critical that clear lines of communication exist for the planning and on-the-ground issues related to the urban forest. This strategy seeks to establish coordinated direction by the departments within Saanich that have impacts on the urban forest. Clear direction and shared intentions across all Departments will result in a viable urban forest, reduced costs and liability and enhanced benefits.

### **Action - Form an inter-departmental working group to synchronize tree-related initiatives**

Many of the actions in the Saanich Urban Forest Strategy will require the successful interaction within the departments to research, review and implement. An inter-departmental urban forest working group should be established to address tree-related issues. Urban forestry staff or a consultant should chair a committee of Department representatives including:

- Planning (including Subdivision, Sustainability Coordinator and Environmental Services);
- Development;
- Engineering, including Public Works;
- Legal Services;
- Risk Management;
- Finance;
- Parks and Recreation, and
- Fire/ Police.

Enhanced management of the urban forest through effective inter-departmental communication should encompass the following:

- Coordinate bylaws, policies and regulations so that the urban forest is consistently referenced, planned, enhanced and maintained. Coordinate the following Saanich initiatives:

- Stormwater management;
- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan;
- Natural Areas Action Plan;
- Program to Respond to Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds;
- Integrated Pest Management Policy;
- Food Security;
- Subdivision Bylaw;

- Boulevard Management Bylaw;
- Boulevard Tree Policy;
- Park Tree Policy;
- Tree Preservation Bylaw, and
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Coordination of specific Saanich initiatives includes:

- District stormwater management plans need to reflect urban forest strategies to provide more consideration to trees and flexibility in applying alternate stormwater conveyance, detention and retention installations;
  - Distinct ecosystems, including Garry oak and Coastal Douglas fir, are managed through a number of policies and procedures. These policies should be synchronized with the Saanich Urban Forest Strategy;
  - Invasive species are addressed in the Natural Areas Action Plan and 2010 Strategic Plan whereby the Parks and Recreation Department will lead the development of a program to address invasive species and noxious weeds on both public and private lands;
  - Address the impact of climate change on the urban forest. As recommended in the Climate Action and Climate Adaptation Plan, support and initiate additional education opportunities in the community regarding climate change and energy reduction initiatives, particularly determination of trees species suited to reflect the current science on climate-change resilient species, and
  - Incorporate food production opportunities in the District. As with other planting initiatives in this strategy, the planting of edible fruit and nut trees should occur deliberately and according to a District wide plan.
- 
- Engage other jurisdictions within the CRD to harmonize Tree Bylaws, Design Guidelines, canopy cover benchmarks and other policies identified in the Urban Forest Strategy;
  - Circulate an urban forest Annual Work Plan to other Departments to keep staff informed of operations and capital works in the planning stages or to be undertaken in the coming year;
  - Collaborate with the Saanich Fire Department and other Emergency Response Centre planners to devise procedures to maximize public safety

within the urban forest “Interface Zone” during significant storm or fire emergencies;

- Maintain habitats for birds and insects in the urban forest. Incorporate habitat aspects of the Urban forest as part of the Development Review Process. Wildlife habitat impacts should be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact requirement;
- Integrate principles and standards in the Design Guidelines with Local Area Plans as they are updated;
- Integrate the urban forest as an asset in the Municipal Asset Management program. Determine the value of the urban forest as a tangible asset using established appraisal methods. Include green infrastructure values of the urban forest. Refine the full cost of planting, establishing and maintaining trees from year 1 to 10 and from year 10 onwards. Integrate with replacement costs and depreciation/ appreciation values. Use this information to inform annual capital and operating budgets, and
- Promote and encourage the protection and designation of Significant Trees. Incorporate the Significant Tree program into walking tours and tree awareness issues.

**Action - Establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the urban forest-related departments within the District**

An integrated urban forest management delivery service should be established, including inter departmental liaison. The MOU between Planning, Parks and Engineering will enable a common focus on the value of trees as part of the full realm of municipal infrastructure. The Memorandum of Understanding should be used to update ongoing responsibilities and articulate lines of communication and coordination.

- Define roles and responsibilities across departments that detail planning, management and maintenance and reporting functions in annual Work Plans, and
- Develop a Tree Operations Protocol for Parks, Engineering and Planning to utilize when addressing tree issues in the field, and during the development process.

## ***Inventory the Urban Forest***

A tree inventory is not an end but rather a means to effective urban forest management. The inventory will support management of the urban forest by allowing quick access to information as well as timely updates. The urban forest inventory should include two parts: canopy cover and individual trees. Targets for future tree canopy hinge on the outcome of the inventory and the community, neighbourhood and biodiversity goals that have yet to be defined.

Gap analyses from the tree inventory will result in identification of viable tree planting locations and areas that will accommodate a range of tree species. Once up to date, integrate urban forest inventory information in the District's Natural Areas Action Plan and Climate Action Plan initiatives (2010) in order that all are supported by the Urban Forest Strategy.

### **Action - Following measurement of the extent of canopy cover in Saanich, establish canopy cover targets.**

Develop an accurate baseline of current canopy cover for each Saanich typology identified in Part 1 (e.g. street trees, private trees, parks and open space trees, rural, etc.), and decide upon what type of canopy is appropriate for each typology. Following this, establish canopy cover targets.

- Form a working group to research how other jurisdictions have inventoried portions of the urban forest and engage providers of software to determine the scope of this action item and budgetary requirements for various models;

### **Action - Invest in a comprehensive urban forest inventory of individual trees in Saanich.**

Within the Urban Containment Boundary, invest in a comprehensive urban forest data program that can be updated, analyzed, maintained and shared in order to conduct an inventory of individual trees located on streets, boulevards, park frontages, medians and developed parks within Saanich.

Design a sampling system that is commensurate with the District's ability to pay for both the inventory and the management of the data arising. Cities such as Kelowna, Kamloops and North Vancouver have gone through this process and should be contacted for further information. Integrate existing tree data, Significant Tree lists, other regional and provincial sources, and Rural Saanich tree data. Link the urban forest inventory with existing GIS data, the CRD's Natural Areas Atlas, and aerial photographs to provide comprehensive analysis opportunities. Monitor inventory change over time. Ensure that the software package will fully integrate with all other District applications.

The inventory should include the trees identified in the tree typologies in Part 1. The inventory should focus on providing detailed data to address the following issues:

- Species distribution;
- Age class structure;
- Tree diameter;
- Health factors (present condition, any structural issues);
- Ownership (land use);
- Ecosystems and tree cover implications;
- Site conditions;
- Location by coordinates and street address;
- A risk assessment component, and
- Maintenance requirements.

In addition, the inventory will become a powerful management tool if the following data and records input are included:

- Safety – evaluate risk associated with trees, hazardous trees, methods of abatement, and a system to prioritize treatment;
- Maintenance assessment – allows for maintenance plans to be developed and budgeted, and allows for effective work scheduling;
- Work history – tracking service requests and regular tree maintenance work for risk management, and
- Urban forest value of each tree – this can then be linked into the municipal asset management program.

Within the forested parks and rural stands, forest cover mapping (from air photo interpretation) should suffice, although significant trees in parks should be inventoried on a stem by stem basis.

## ***Develop an Urban Forest Operations Program***

Equally important to planting trees and increasing the number of preserved trees is the ongoing care for trees. In addition to species selection and ongoing maintenance of trees, the structural training of young trees is one of the most cost effective actions that the District can undertake in increasing/ maintaining canopy cover. As the District models Best Management Practices, residents and tree care companies are more likely to follow suit. The Urban Forest Operations Program should include an Urban Forest Maintenance Manual and urban forest education for staff and the public.

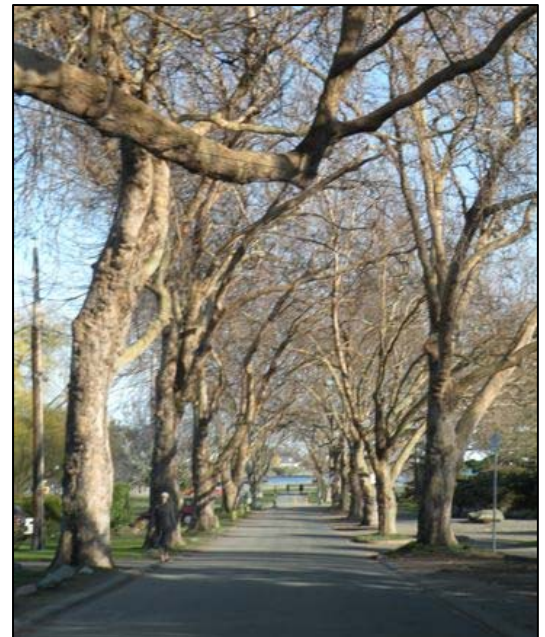
### **Action - Develop Urban forest “Best Practices” Maintenance Manual**

Formulate an Urban Forest Maintenance Procedures Manual to improve aftercare of trees. Ensure long-term success of newly planted trees by building on existing specifications that guide all planting. Standardize maintenance practices across all municipal departments with responsibility for the urban forest. Make municipal maintenance practices consistent with ANSI or ISA standards and BMPs.

- Emphasize conservation of canopy cover in District forestry operational practices by incorporating a regular, frequent maintenance cycle to prevent hazards and improve tree health (eg. watering for the first five summers, mulching, fertilizing, cabling, bracing).
  
- Develop urban forest risk assessment criteria:
  - Comply with WorkSafe BC requirements regarding work with, in and around hazardous trees;
  - Undertake a review of Wildlife Tree assessment and management approach that builds on criteria contained in the “Wildlife/ Danger Tree Assessment Course module Developed for Parks and Recreation Sites” (August 2008), and that balances the goal of protecting staff and the public with preserving trees for wildlife habitat;
  - Create a hazard tree reporting system as per the ISA/ Worksafe BC Certified Tree Risk Assessors protocols. Ensure that staff can overrule and retain trees if they determine that they are not a risk;
  - Develop and implement records input and management for hazardous tree and regular tree maintenance works, including documenting work that is done and reassessment intervals;
  - Decide upon areas of risk priority within all municipal lands - integrate a program of risk assessment of trees near playgrounds and high occupancy areas;
  - Consult with the municipal solicitor to integrate the District's wider municipal risk management objectives in this strategy, and

- Create a brochure outlining the actions above and place it on the Saanich website for public knowledge.
- Develop criteria for species selection. Develop a tree selection database for recommending and selecting species appropriate for given conditions. Species selection criteria, including, but not limited to the following, should be considered:

- Available space;
- Pedestrian traffic;
- Conflicts with utilities;
- Microclimate;
- Aesthetics;
- Horticultural criteria;
- Immediate context;
- Suitability for the Urban Containment Boundary and / or Rural Saanich, as well as other land uses;
- Desired habitat characteristics;
- Watering, maintenance, pruning needs that match the ability (via the District, private homeowner or NGO) to provide that work, and
- Opportunity to enhance food security.



*Tree lined street in Cadboro Bay  
(Photo: District of Saanich)*

- Identify best practices that optimize soil for healthy tree development:
- Consider the inclusion of subsurface and planting soil quality, irrigation and drainage standards during the development approval process;
  - Update the Tree Preservation Bylaw, 1997, No. 7632, and design guidelines to reflect best/ emerging practices around protecting tree roots both during construction but also during establishment and for trees that will be affected by nearby disturbance (parking on tree roots, placing a sidewalk or walkway; playground or tennis court etc);
  - Introduce requirements for irrigation of notable trees prior to, during and post development;
  - Saanich arborists should host a workshop on the use of enhanced

rooting environment techniques to bring together forestry and engineering professionals from the CRD to share knowledge and techniques.

- Utilize Best Practices for Pruning as per PNW ISA Standards. Base best practices on industry standards ISA, ANSI, TCIA, or similar. Emphasize structural pruning of young trees, and
- Use updated best available research to refine best management practices for work in and around distinct ecosystems on public lands.

**Action - Train/ educate District staff and the public**

Train staff in best planting, maintenance and removal practices per ISA Best Management Practices manuals and ANSI standards. Research and provide ongoing training and education for environmental best management practices.

- Incorporate Certified Tree Risk Assessor requirements in appropriate parks job descriptions. Provide on-going tree risk assessment and hazard tree abatement training to operations staff using current Worksafe BC/ PNW ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor standards coupled with Wildlife/ Danger Tree Assessment standards;
- Establish private tree care companies operating requirements. In order to enhance the quality of tree care across the District, regularize arboricultural work on public land and minimize risk to the District, it is recommended that tree care companies, providing services to trees on public lands, possess:
  - A District of Saanich Business License;
  - Proof of comprehensive and general liability insurance, with the District as a named insured, to limits of \$2 million Comprehensive General Liability (or at the appropriate amount as determined by District policy) and
  - Proof of certification including at a minimum: ISA Certified Arborist to be supervising professional; PNW ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor and submission of CE documentation annually.
- Provide a short seminar each year for tree care companies intending to offer arboricultural services for trees on public land that:
  - Orients operators to the above requirements;
  - Explains the District's Tree Preservation Bylaw, 1997, No. 7632, this Urban Forest Strategy and related District bylaws and policies, and



- Provides emergency contact phone numbers.
- Participate in the apprenticeship program for Municipal arborists when that program becomes available.

## ***Engage the Community***

Sustaining the quality and quantity of urban forests in Saanich requires ongoing involvement across the community. Urban forest stewardship needs to be fostered by engaging residents, businesses, builders and homeowners to plant trees and to care for their growth and development. Public education needs to focus on why trees are needed, where, when, and how they are planted, established and tended.

### **Action - Maximize public awareness about the urban forest**

Increase public awareness about threats to the urban forest, best forest management practices, the forest ecosystem and tree conservation. A multi-pronged strategic approach for promoting Saanich's Urban Forest Strategy should highlight its objectives, initiatives, key concepts and community benefits.

- Print media, web media, schools, recreation programs, Community Associations and other educational institutions such as Camosun College, UVIC and Royal Roads should be enlisted in the campaign;
- Integrate educational information about the benefits of the urban forest, issues (e.g. invasive species), threats, and related projects into public programs;
- Provide incentives that encourage homeowners to plant trees, preserve existing trees and implement best urban forest management practices in tree care:
  - Expand current Environmental Awards categories to include recognition of properties that have achieved success in conserving / protecting / restoring the urban forest;
  - Offer tax incentives for homeowners to have portions of their property established (possibly under covenant) in order to protect native plants and ecosystems on private property, (e.g. Garry oak settings);
  - Create planting incentive programs (e.g. trees from the District nursery or discounts on trees at local nurseries), and
  - Consider Permit "credits" when owners go over-and-above protection measures for trees on private lands during

development.

- Create an online atlas of volunteer activities:
  - Planting trees and providing maintenance for the post-planting period;
  - Teaching citizens proper tree planting, watering and maintenance skills;
  - Assisting in the removal of invasive species, and
  - Maintaining an up-to-date list of volunteer opportunities related to urban forest programs.

**Action - Foster community partners' involvement in the urban forest**

Nurture existing community partnerships and promote new ones. Encourage community partners to remain/ become engaged in urban forest stewardship by formulating outreach and educational programs regarding the environmental, economic and social benefits of the urban forest.

- Work with representatives from local First Nations to facilitate cultural use of Saanich urban forest materials and to engage the Nation in urban forest resource management initiatives wherever possible;
- Encourage the development community to actively steward the urban forest:
  - Revise brochures and other District communications for building associations and developers to explain their roles in protecting and enhancing the urban forest through best development & construction practices. Outline the importance of the urban forest;
  - Provide tangible incentives or rewards to the associations (e.g. profit, sell-ability of projects, or incentives), and
  - Meet with realtors and agents to extend community education regarding urban forest benefits and best management expectations.
- Continue to collaborate with advocates, volunteers and scientists in the care, planning and management of distinct ecosystems, including supporting their work with educational efforts, brochures and web based information distribution. Incorporate Parks Department initiatives such as the Natural Areas Program and the Garry Oak Restoration Program (G.O.R.P.);

- Budget for staff and materials to accommodate academics, advocates and others that bring forward urban forest public awareness initiatives, and
- Engage local Service Clubs in reforestation projects. Identify additional funding (possibly through the Green Infrastructure Contribution Fund) to ensure their viability.



*Shelbourne War Memorial Tree Planting, 2010 (Photo: District of Saanich)*

## **NEXT STEPS**

To date, the District of Saanich has paid close attention to its tree resource and has provided operating and capital funds to the arboriculture program as part of annual budgets. Staffing levels have been maintained, thus providing a good quality of service to the residents of Saanich - Community Satisfaction Surveys rank the work of Saanich Parks as high.

Dependable resources (funding, staffing, volunteer capacity and equipment) are necessary to ensure sustainability of the urban forest. Recognizing that the competition for resources will increase over time, it is important that the urban forest program adapts and becomes more self-supporting. This will mean the engagement of corporate partners, ENGO's, individual citizens and others to supplement the resources necessary

to realize the long-term vision for the urban forest. It also means the consideration of additional regulations and fees to reduce the municipal subsidy.

Incorporating the inventory of municipal trees into the municipal tangible asset management system will benefit planning, permits and bylaw activities by establishing a reasonable monetary value to the urban forest. As well, knowing the value of the resource - and of program activities that support the urban forest - can help set funding priorities during budget discussions. Perhaps most importantly, establishing a monetary value of trees helps raise public consciousness of the urban forest and develops appreciation of trees as an important community resource.

In order to leverage the investment of taxation funded urban forest initiatives and to optimize the good will and enthusiasm of urban forest advocates in the community, it will be important to explore financing mechanisms that will supplement existing funding for urban forest programs. These include:

- The use of increased Tree Permit fees and – as appropriate: penalties and security deposits for urban forest projects;
- Establishment of a Green Infrastructure Fund, a DCC (development cost charge) category to be used to fund programs that benefit the urban forest;
- Financial partnerships with local and regional agencies, foundations, service clubs and businesses to fund urban forest-related projects, and
- Maximizing funding opportunities through Infrastructure Grants, Forests for Tomorrow grants, Climate Action Grants and others that emerge through inter-governmental or private agencies.

Adequate resourcing of the urban forest program will lead to a system of sustainable protection, management and arboricultural practices - within an engaged community - that are responsive to climate change and the evolving community in the coming years and decades. The action items in the Urban Forest Strategy provide direction to establish urban forest program priorities as budgets and resources allow.

## APPENDIX A - Urban Forest Benefits

The 2008 Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative *Urban Forest Canopy Cover Mapping and Analysis in the CRD 1986 – 2005* included benefits of the urban forest in Saanich that were determined using the CITYgreen software. CITYgreen assesses how urban forest cover manages stormwater runoff, water quality, air quality, and carbon storage and sequestration. The following are Saanich findings from the CITYgreen analysis:

- Lbs. of air pollution removed per year: 1,159,026
- Dollar value of air pollution removed each year: \$2,606,305
- Total tons of carbon stored: 559,503
- Total tons of carbon sequestered (annually): 4356
- Stormwater water quantity (runoff) total savings: \$192,333,068
- Annual stormwater costs based on payments over 20 years at 6% interest (per year): \$16,768,473
- Water quality (contaminant loading) was also assessed, with a range of improvements to a variety of contaminants.

The numbers above highlight quantified benefits that Saanich receives from the urban forest. The environmental, social and economic benefits are a result of the rural woodlands, upland groves, avenues of street trees and other treed landscapes in Saanich. A number of benefits relate directly to policy in the OCP:

### Environmental Benefits

1. Improve air quality - Vegetation improves air quality by intercepting particulate matter and absorbing gaseous contaminants through the stomata in leaves  
Includes: Sulfur dioxide, Nitrogen oxides, Ozone, smog and particulates.

*A healthy urban forest will support OCP policy 4.1.2.14 regarding Sustainable Ecosystems to “initiate and support actions that improve air quality, such as ... increasing our urban forest cover...”*

2. Carbon uptake and storage – This occurs through photosynthesis (storing carbon as sugar) and later carbon is accumulated as wood and as such is sequestered. Carbon is not released until the wood decomposes.

*A robust urban forest will help the District reach the goal of being carbon neutral in respect of municipal operations by 2008 (OCP policy 4.1.1), through carbon sequestration, a natural process of tree growth.*

*The urban forest will benefit OCP policy 4.1.2.8 by encouraging the use of native species and climate change resistant plants for landscaping on both public and private lands.*

3. Energy conservation (direct benefits) - Properly locating trees in the landscape produces shade in the summer and shelters buildings in the winter from winds, thereby reducing heating costs.
4. Energy conservation (indirect benefits) - Urban Heat Islands – Urban areas are known to be up to 5.5 degrees celsius warmer than adjacent rural areas. This is due to increase in smog and the heating of the asphalt and concrete surfaces in urban areas. Properly placed trees along roads and in parking lots will produce shade and thereby reduce the temperature reducing cooling costs in the summer months. This cooling of impervious surfaces and reducing direct sunlight also prolongs the life of the paved surfaces and reduces pollution. The more extensive the tree canopy the greater the benefit.

*A healthy urban forest will benefit OCP policy 4.1.1 of creating complete, compact and more energy efficient communities by creating more aesthetically pleasing and enjoyable landscapes and street environments that would encourage shopping (retail) and general high quality of life enabling people to work and shop near to where they live.*

5. Stormwater runoff and erosion control – Tree canopies intercept rain, snow and other forms of precipitation. They reduce the velocity of rain hitting the ground. Leaf litter on the bare soil has the same effect. This reduces the amount of rainfall entering the stormwater system during periods of moderate rainfall thereby reducing the capacity requirements of the stormwater system.

*The urban forest will contribute to OCP policy 4.1.2.16 regarding aquatic habitat and water quality by managing surface water, drainage and groundwater.*

6. Improve water quality.
7. Cool the air through transpiration.
8. Provide habitat [and connectivity] for wildlife – Groups of trees and their under story provide habitat for wildlife, including amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds.

*Urban forest policy will assist in OCP policy 4.1.2.3 regarding Environmentally Sensitive Areas by protecting and restoring habitats that support native species of plants and animals and address threats to biodiversity such as invasive species.*

*Urban forest policy supports OCP policy 4.1.2.4 to protect and restore rare and endangered species habitat and ecosystems, particularly those associated with Garry oak and associated ecosystems.*

*Urban forest policy will support OCP policy: 4.1.2.5 to preserve “micro-ecosystems” as part of proposed development applications, where possible.*

## **Social Benefits**

1. Reduce stress and mental fatigue - Many people have a strong emotional attachment to trees. Mental fatigue is relieved by green space.

*The urban forest supports OCP Policy 4.2.4.1 regarding Neighbourhoods by “ensuring adequate green space, including play areas, meeting places, tree cover and natural areas.”*

2. Enhance mental health - Humans respond positively to nature, green space and landscape plantings. Additionally, well treed areas are shown to create greater job satisfaction.

*The urban forest supports OCP Policy 4.2.3.2 regarding Centres and Villages by providing “publicly accessible open space that complements the public realm, and creates identifiable focal points within each Centre/Village; setting aside land for public open space in the form of natural areas, parks; create or enhance the node’s unique “sense of place.”*

*The urban forest supports OCP Policy 4.2.3.3 regarding Centres and Villages by “considering use of ... covenants... to secure public amenities such as; open space... landmarks, focal points.”*

3. Enhance recuperation rates - This includes quicker recovery time from injury to improved mental health.
4. Reduce psychological precursors to crime.

5. Enhance community pride.

*The urban forest supports OCP Policy 4.1.2.24 regarding Environmental stewardship through education that would “foster and support public awareness, engagement, and participation in community environmental stewardship initiatives.”*

*Urban forest initiatives enhance OCP Policy 4.1.2.27 to “work with the community to build awareness on the impact of invasive species; mitigation measures; and opportunities to participate in volunteer eradication programs”.*

6. Heal and restore communities - Leaders of volunteer based tree groups add that restoration extends beyond the individual and encompasses the neighbourhood and the community.

7. Increase recreational opportunities.

8. Cultural uses - Mature trees and by-products of the west coast forest and remnants within Saanich’s urban forest are significant First Nations cultural features.

9. Add beauty to spaces, particularly in the urban environment, and contribute to local community character. The edges of the forest and clearings in the woods are just two forest conditions of many that are enjoyed for rest and recreation, and enjoyment of natural ecosystems.

*The urban forest supports OCP Policy 4.1.10.36 regarding utilities by “working with BC Hydro to support the retention and planting of large scale street trees within public right of ways.”*

10. Screen unwanted views of commercial and industrial areas.

11. Fruit and nut trees contribute to local food production.

*The urban forest supports OCP Policy 4.2.5.2 regarding Rural Saanich through “maintaining farming, food production, and large lot residential as the predominant land use on rural lands.”*

## **Economic Benefits**

1. Reduce costly investments in public infrastructure - Reducing the amount of runoff creates less of a need for stormwater piping.



*The urban forest supports OCP Policy 4.2.10.7 regarding public infrastructure by encouraging the use of sustainable servicing practices, green infrastructure, and energy and resource recovery”.*

2. Increase residential and business property values - Well treed residential properties are estimated to have a 5% higher value than properties that are not treed.

*Protection and enhancement of the urban forest supports OCP Policy 4.2.2.1 re: Urban Design that: ... works with the topography and protects the natural environment; reflects our west coast setting; enhances a “Sense of Place”; respects local history and heritage structures and landscapes...”*

3. Increase tax base for the community by attracting tourists, business and residential property owners - A healthy, attractive urban forest enhances the economic stability of a community by attracting visitors, businesses, and new residents.

*The urban forest supports OCP policy 4.1.2.25 because many urban forest trees are on private lands, tying in with “work with private land owners to encourage stewardship that protects, preserves, and enhances natural systems and, where appropriate, enter into conservation covenants or provide incentives to protect riparian or environmentally significant areas.”*

4. Increase rental of apartments and offices and reduce vacancy rates - Apartments that are surrounded by trees tend to rent quicker and have lower vacancy rates.
5. Encourage shoppers to linger and spend more - Research has shown that people tend to linger and shop longer on streets that are shaded by trees.
6. Defer maintenance of materials that are degraded by heat such as pavement.
7. Create useful by-products - Food, construction material, firewood, craft and art supplies, garden mulch, and compost are useful products that arise during the management of the urban forest.

Primary source that includes many of these benefits: *Municipal Specialist Certification Study Guide-ISA 2008*

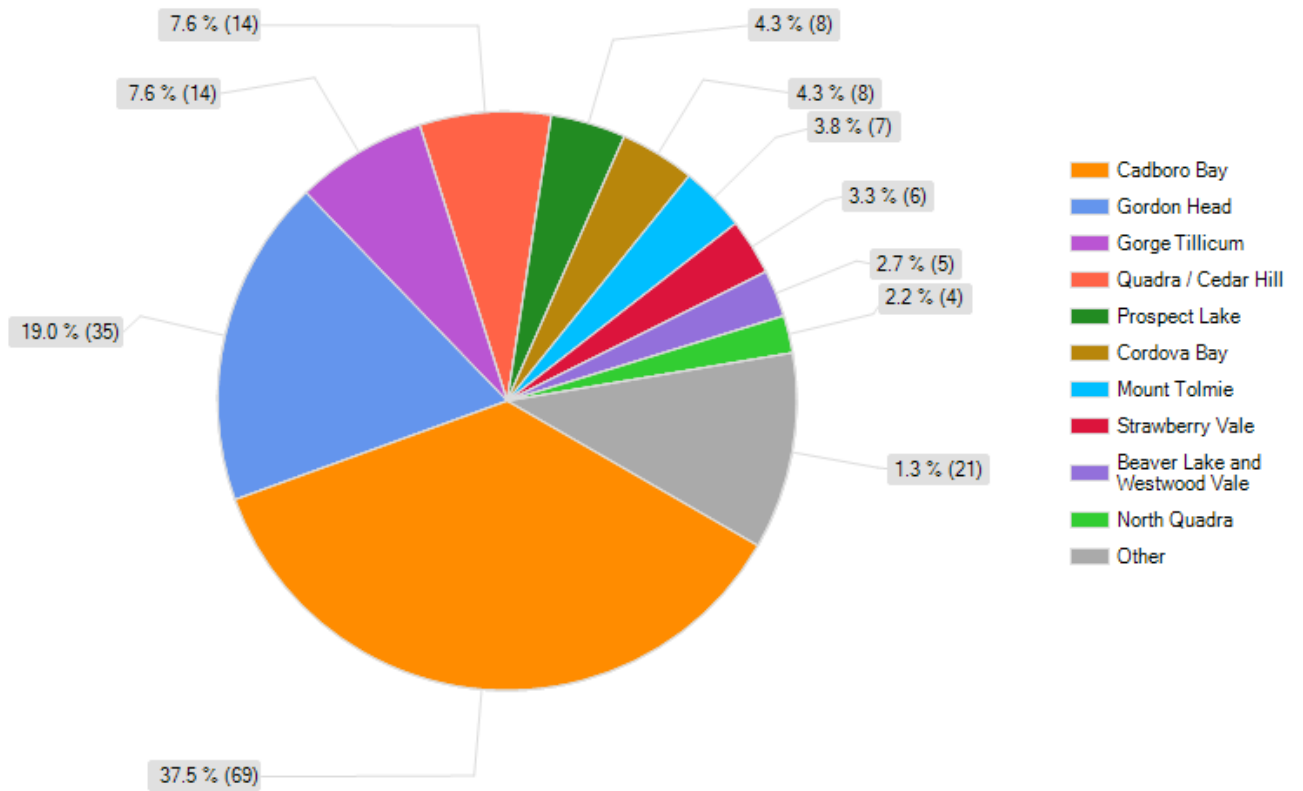
## APPENDIX B – Consultations Key Issues

	KEY DISCLOSURES	
<b>PHILOSOPHICAL</b>	1	In planning the Urban Forest, the whole ecosystem must be considered, not just the trees.
	2	There is a need to define the value of private trees as a public resource.
	3	The value of the Urban Forest includes environmental benefits (carbon sequestration, rainwater management, and ecosystem health), economic benefits and social benefits.
	4	Threats to a healthy Urban Forest include urbanization, climate change, competition with utilities, homeowner attitudes and invasive species.
	5	Quantitative and qualitative Performance Measurement Indicators are required (eg. tree canopy cover and ecosystem health) to assess goal achievement.
<b>POLICY</b>	6	The planning of the Urban Forest is integrally linked with development patterns, increased density, the Urban Containment Boundary and designated Rural areas.
	7	The importance of Saanich's Garry oaks and associated ecosystems is critical.
	8	There is concern over a reduction in forest biomass (the ratio of trees being removed to those planted each year is not equal).
	9	Site coverage requirements (incl. sub-surface) in development infill sites leaves little space for planting trees.
	10	Guidelines are required for planting trees in relation to layout of roads, bike lanes, and utilities.
<b>REGULATIONS</b>	11	Forest succession (protection of young trees along with the old trees) is not being addressed in the present Tree Preservation Bylaw.
	12	There is little flexibility in current regulations to save trees that are within building footprint / driveway layout.
	13	Invasive species are of particular concern in Saanich.
	14	The Schedule F Bylaw - Standards for Storm-water Collection Systems - gives little consideration to trees and offers limited flexibility in trying alternative designs.
	15	The Surety Fund is a potential source of funding for care of the urban forest.
	16	Farm Tax Credits do not favour or encourage tree protection in rural areas.
<b>PRACTICE</b>	17	There is a limited level of communication between municipal departments regarding tree protection and management.
	18	Proper tree planting aftercare in a healthy growing medium is critical to tree survival.
	19	Risk management practices need to be finessed, including storm risk abatement and hazard trees in proximity to park assets.
	20	The role of community stewardship is undefined (role of homeowner, continuation of volunteerism into the future).

## **APPENDIX C - Survey Summary**

## Question 2

What COMMUNITY AREA do you live in?



Other (please specify)		
1	Northridge	Apr 30, 2009 4:09 AM
2	Highlands / Langford	May 4, 2009 8:12 PM
3	Core/ Quadra/ Cedar Hill	May 26, 2009 6:58 PM
4	fairfield	Jun 4, 2009 12:24 AM
5	Oak Bay	Jun 4, 2009 12:37 AM
6	South Oak Bay	Jun 4, 2009 1:37 AM
7	Rockland	Jun 4, 2009 1:39 AM
8	Ten Mile Point	Jun 4, 2009 2:10 AM
9	Oak Bay	Jun 4, 2009 3:18 AM
10	Oak Bay	Jun 4, 2009 3:21 AM
11	Quarea and McKenzie	Jun 4, 2009 3:50 AM
12	View Royal	Jun 4, 2009 4:11 AM
13	Fernwood	Jun 4, 2009 10:55 PM
14	former Victorian	Jun 4, 2009 11:02 PM
15	Colwood	Jun 8, 2009 3:48 AM
16	West side of Elk Lake overlooking Lake ????????	Jun 10, 2009 2:51 AM
17	near Glendale gardens	Jun 11, 2009 10:41 AM
18	Maplewood	Jun 12, 2009 2:53 AM
19	Arbutus, Queenswood	Jun 15, 2009 3:34 AM
20	victoria	Jun 15, 2009 2:03 PM
21	Mt. Douglas Park	Jun 17, 2009 8:31 PM
22	Ten Mile Point	Jul 28, 2009 7:55 PM
23	Telegraph Bay	Jul 28, 2009 10:48 PM
24	Arbutus (Gordon Head-Cadboro Bay)	Jul 30, 2009 5:45 PM
25	Ten Mile Point	Aug 1, 2009 10:35 PM
26	Queenswood area part of Cadboro Bay	Aug 4, 2009 3:54 AM

**Question 3**

**What DO YOU VALUE MOST about the Urban Forest in Saanich?:**

# Saanich Urban Forest Strategy

What DO YOU VALUE MOST about the Urban Forest in Saanich?:		
		Response Count
		193
		<b>answered question</b>
		<b>193</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>
		<b>10</b>

Response Text		
1	The "sight/view" value. Trees are much nicer to look at than buildings. However, the value of trees to combat climate change is also important to me.	Apr 22, 2009 4:44 AM
2	Accessibility to the public	Apr 28, 2009 3:27 PM
3	Native conifer/hardwood or mixed forests	Apr 29, 2009 8:43 PM
4	Carbon dioxide sink is primary value at this time. Many other reasons to preserve the Urban Forest.	Apr 29, 2009 9:36 PM
5	The public services trees provide the community: such as air & water purification, carbon sequestration, shade which cuts cooling costs, soil stability/storm-water retention, wildlife food & habitat, and of course the esthetics!	Apr 30, 2009 2:52 AM
6	Greenscape offering quiet, wildlife habitat, areas for quiet recreation, clean air, carbon sequestration, trail corridors.	Apr 30, 2009 4:09 AM
7	A sense of landscape maturity for our community. The knowledge that important habitat is being provided. The inherent green values of heat island reduction and carbon sequestering.	Apr 30, 2009 4:53 AM
8	native vegetation	Apr 30, 2009 5:12 AM
9	shade/cooling; carbon sink; variety in landscape. All of these are immensely important to me.	Apr 30, 2009 6:49 AM
10	Primarily native species except in a botanical garden type setting - healthy and abundant, well cared for and properly placed for public safety as well as to beautify the landscape	Apr 30, 2009 8:07 PM
11	peace and quiet - getting near and experiencing the natural world.	Apr 30, 2009 8:55 PM
12	Trees lend stature to any area. Without them the landscape would be harsh, yards would be uninteresting, there'd be no wildlife to speak of, life would be bland, the air would be heavy in summer. (Native) trees make a neighbourhood or city something you want to live in.	May 1, 2009 1:15 AM
13	Gives sense of cleaner air and the shade it provides.	May 1, 2009 1:31 AM
14	Ease of access, safety	May 1, 2009 2:08 AM
15	I appreciate the visual benefits that trees provide including but not limited to privacy and the environmental benefits (i.e., air quality impacts and storm water impacts).	May 1, 2009 2:13 AM
16	The diversity and number of tree species	May 1, 2009 3:52 AM
17	sense of green, the aesthetic feeling of being close to nature	May 1, 2009 9:22 PM
18	Their ability to provide healthy ecosystems and proper function conditions of waterways.	May 3, 2009 6:11 PM
19	Aesthetic beauty , shade , wildlife habitat , renewable timber resource timber	May 4, 2009 8:12 PM

Response Text		
20	Remnants of the original landscape of Garry Oak and Camas ecosystems. Bird habitat.	May 5, 2009 3:24 AM
21	the trees, they are beautiful to look at and serve an invaluable roll as carbon sinks and as habitat for birds and mammals (excluding the grey invasive squirrels!)	May 5, 2009 9:22 PM
22	tall native trees that provide shade, protection of wildlife and a place for recreation	May 6, 2009 8:09 PM
23	greenness and tranquility	May 8, 2009 8:01 PM
24	Peace and quiet, trails away from roads, mature trees.	May 10, 2009 2:28 AM
25	Aesthetic value plus support for the related vegetation and animal habitation.	May 12, 2009 11:36 PM
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greenspace in a sea of concrete and pavement</li> <li>- A more peaceful, quiet, tranquill environment</li> <li>- Contributes to community health (incl. air/water)</li> <li>- Habitat for creatures big and small</li> <li>- Screens human development (buildings)</li> <li>- Increases property values</li> </ul>	May 13, 2009 10:28 PM
27	We choose to live in Saanich for the livability of the community. The established and clearly defined urban and rural areas create a wealth of human/wildlife environments (Mystic Vale, Swan Lake, Blenkinsop Valley, Christmas Hill, Cuthbert Holmes, Mt Doug Park) within a few kilometers from downtown Victoria.	May 16, 2009 4:53 AM
28	<p>The skyline around my house is alive with fir, cedar, garry oak (very important). I value this wonderful sense of integration of woodland and buildings. Intensely built up areas should be small so that this integration is present visually everywhere. It goes without saying that the value is not only aesthetic.</p> <p>All that said, I come from a country, The Netherlands, where "urban forest" has a much smaller presence. because of the density of population. Even so it is possible to have a green presence in road plantings and (small) parks. By comparison, areas like (parts of) Broadmead seem overly forested and a waste of space.</p> <p>I guess the bottom line for me is that tree retention and planting are prime consideration in development, even if that shows up in increased taxes.</p>	May 16, 2009 2:16 PM
29	the diversity of life it sustains	May 21, 2009 9:19 PM
30	Its part of the important overall system that sustains life on this planet for all creatures to live.	May 26, 2009 6:58 PM
31	climate change mitigation; habitat for owls, herons, etc; restorative psychological effects for humans; recreational activities	May 31, 2009 2:23 AM
32	The aesthetics of the communities.	Jun 1, 2009 7:08 PM
33	Arbored Streets. Trees on streets and in culdesacs. Parks and shore line trees.	Jun 1, 2009 11:26 PM
34	the trees	Jun 2, 2009 6:23 PM
35	The trees themselves. What price can you put on a living, functioning Urban Forest?	Jun 2, 2009 6:37 PM
36	Legacy of green space for the future.	Jun 2, 2009 11:50 PM
37	peaceful walks in non-industiralized urban forests (Haro Woods)	Jun 3, 2009 3:59 AM
38	the recreational uses	Jun 3, 2009 6:22 PM
39	The Tree Canopy, Treescapes. Trees enhance our quality of life & give humans, animals & birds protection. There should not be a dual standard between Parks & Private Residents. Parks Dept are permitting cutting down 25 protected, mostly healthy trees that would not be permitted by private resident e.g. Tyndall Avenue. Remove ivy to allow young trees to grow & to protect the established trees.	Jun 3, 2009 8:36 PM
40	It provides a buffer zone for the public.	Jun 3, 2009 11:22 PM



Response Text		
41	The ability for so many animals and wildlife to have a safe place to live. I value the fact that on a day to day basis I am constantly surrounded by amazing wildlife (deer and rabbits) as it is becoming such a rare thing in our world as pollution and waste is rapidly increasing. I could not ask to live in a better place.	Jun 3, 2009 11:41 PM
42	the peace, serenity, and trees. Just being able to get away from the road and cars and houses and people. SAVE THE FORREST!	Jun 3, 2009 11:46 PM
43	The trees and environment it creates for the surrounding area.	Jun 3, 2009 11:54 PM
44	The ecosystems they are able to support	Jun 4, 2009 12:05 AM
45	the oxygen and ecosystem it provides	Jun 4, 2009 12:07 AM
46	the lovely woods, they're beautiful! Don't kill them!	Jun 4, 2009 12:24 AM
47	It's a Memorial site to a friend of mine who passed away at 16 years old. We visit it every year to pay our respects. I've also grown up around Haro Woods my whole life, I used to play in there as a child. And I still frequent it for walks, especially during the summer when it's baking hot, and the forest is nice and cool.	Jun 4, 2009 12:32 AM
48	they are a nice place to get away from the city	Jun 4, 2009 12:32 AM
49	the beauty of it, it adds a lot of value to our area and just generally makes it nicer to live in. Victoria has always been my favorite city I've lived in, because of how beautiful and not over developed it is.	Jun 4, 2009 12:37 AM
50	The trees.	Jun 4, 2009 12:37 AM
51	The fact we HAVE them. I moved from Calgary and this city is absolutely beautiful.	Jun 4, 2009 12:45 AM
52	My fond memories there, and the fact that the children of today and tomorrow will have fond memories of that beautiful place as well.	Jun 4, 2009 12:49 AM
53	the darkness/	Jun 4, 2009 1:39 AM
54	The natural habitat of Haro Woods is one of the best examples of an urban forest in Saanich	Jun 4, 2009 2:05 AM
55	It is one of the few forests near where I live.	Jun 4, 2009 2:10 AM
56	A good place to escape the city and just be with nature. Also it's better to walk through than just down Arbutus road.	Jun 4, 2009 2:27 AM
57	The diversity of life, a place for my friends and I to explore nature, we need trees to survive. A sewage plant would be disgusting in place of such a beautiful forest. Please reconsider.	Jun 4, 2009 2:37 AM
58	the quietness it has to offer and the wildlife; as well as reduced traffic	Jun 4, 2009 2:55 AM
59	the beauty, nature, trees	Jun 4, 2009 3:18 AM
60	The time I can spend in it. Such a valuable area to just hang out and I would miss it extremely if it were gone.	Jun 4, 2009 3:21 AM
61	Nature is ESSENTIAL, the more the better.	Jun 4, 2009 3:50 AM
62	That we are fortunate to have an Urban Forest in our neighbourhood. Most model communities are built around a natural Green Space. We have a mature Douglas Fir forest with Arbutus Trees and indigenous plants that flourish. Grateful for the Habitat it provides to four legged animals and the birds.	Jun 4, 2009 4:01 AM
63	Beautiful, peaceful, habitat for many species	Jun 4, 2009 4:11 AM
64	A place for children to grow up, a great natural influence in a world where our younger generations are losing touch with the outdoors. If places like Haro woods go, then who can blame the children for only wanting to watch television and become obese.	Jun 4, 2009 4:47 AM
65	If you have experienced the peace of mind and tranquility of being close to an urban forest on a continual basis you would know that trees out vote all else.	Jun 4, 2009 5:04 AM
66	being able to walk just five mins from my house and to be in a beautiful forest. I have lots of memories not of Haro Woods: we should cherish the forests and parks that we have in our city. It's what helps make this island more peaceful and diverse.	Jun 4, 2009 5:25 AM

Response Text		
67	That it is wild. All of Europe is tame, but here there is a fresh freedom because of our wilderness areas. These are our national treasures and should be protected at all costs. There is something clean, fresh and alive about wilderness. Please save Haro woods!!!	Jun 4, 2009 5:44 AM
68	I really enjoy having a forest and some real nature around our community.	Jun 4, 2009 5:51 AM
69	The raw beauty of our forests on the island	Jun 4, 2009 6:10 AM
70	The land itself, undeveloped, is almost a get-away from the housing expanses of the suburbs. They provide an oasis of a more natural environment to for all the enjoy.	Jun 4, 2009 6:15 AM
71	the forests in our area make cadboro bay what it is. It is a beautiful area filled with natural wonders.	Jun 4, 2009 3:58 PM
72	sem-rural feeling	Jun 4, 2009 4:10 PM
73	I love being able to see even small amounts of the natural world as I go about my day. Parks, particularly wooded ones provide an enjoyable leisure space especially on a hot day. Communities can also put positive energy into parks in many ways including physical exercise and education.	Jun 4, 2009 8:59 PM
74	It creates a refuge for wildlife, and is a very enriching part of the comunity both for students and for seniors, it shows that we dont have to knock down every tree possible just so we can over develop our citys	Jun 4, 2009 10:55 PM
75	There for all..	Jun 4, 2009 11:02 PM
76	Having a leash optional place to take my dog and enjoy the beauty of the south island region	Jun 5, 2009 12:45 AM
77	The Nature. The freedom to explore, and get away from technology.	Jun 5, 2009 4:47 AM
78	It's so peaceful, and it is a place to relax. If it wasn't there I don't know what I would do.	Jun 5, 2009 5:01 AM
79	the ambiance and enhanced quality of life.	Jun 5, 2009 5:36 PM
80	That we are lucky enough to live in a beautiful city that values wild life and diversity.	Jun 5, 2009 9:23 PM
81	It is a great place for all sorts of activities, from walking dogs to mountain biking	Jun 5, 2009 9:49 PM
82	Trees create beauty and quiet, shade, carbon sink, shelter for animals, prevent erosion, increase habitat for deer. Bird shelters, keep balance of nature, encourage water falling gently to the ground, instead of a deluge	Jun 5, 2009 10:22 PM
83	Habitats.	Jun 5, 2009 10:46 PM
84	I value the trees for their environmental services as well as their aesthetic qualities	Jun 6, 2009 3:17 AM
85	beauty, wind protection, wildlife	Jun 6, 2009 3:56 PM
86	I have a closeness with it as it is where I grew up.	Jun 6, 2009 4:37 PM
87	The extent of trees and treed areas are a large part of the word "neighborhood",in the sense I choose to live in a well treed area whereas others may prefer a less treed downtown neighborhood.Clearly urban forest areas are a positive asset re GHG reduction.Uf,s provide recreational,educational and safeways for children as well as habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna.I value UFs and trees because they are there and if removed either never or take a long time to regenerate,yes even in Victoria.	Jun 6, 2009 4:48 PM
88	The history, the permanance. They are some of the best places to play for children, we will gain nothing from losing these forests, just the loss of history.	Jun 6, 2009 10:58 PM
89	It sucks up CO2 and other environmental benefits.	Jun 7, 2009 1:24 AM
90	the tall trees and trailes	Jun 7, 2009 5:21 AM
91	The fact that children who live in the city can still have a place to breathe fresh air and appreciate the incredible world we have.	Jun 8, 2009 3:48 AM
92	One of the soul reminders of what Saanich used to be like before over-population.	Jun 8, 2009 11:38 PM

Response Text		
93	The life that thrives there	Jun 9, 2009 5:21 AM
94	trails, wild flowers, birds, peace and quiet	Jun 10, 2009 2:51 AM
95	the natural beauty and the habitat provided by the forest which creates it own micro climate	Jun 10, 2009 2:57 PM
96	Our unique Gary Oak/ Arbutus ecology; vary rare and very endangered.	Jun 10, 2009 8:25 PM
97	green beauty in spring/summer. Ghostly shapes of Garry oak in winter. Large forest canopy over and along many roadways. Native vegetation.	Jun 11, 2009 1:27 AM
98	preservation	Jun 11, 2009 10:41 AM
99	the fact that some of the old growth trees are still standing in areas such as Logan Park, and the private land at the end of Excelsior over to Viaduct. Please protect that land. It has beautiful trails, trees, and flora and is habitat to many species of birds, including owls (Barred and Great Horned), hawks, many varieties of woodpeckers, and numerous other wildlife.	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
100	the fact that some of the old growth trees are still standing in areas such as Logan Park, and the private land at the end of Excelsior over to Viaduct. Please protect that land. It has beautiful trails, trees, and flora and is habitat to many species of birds, including owls (Barred and Great Horned), hawks, many varieties of woodpeckers, and numerous other wildlife.	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
101	Mature native species, esp Garry oaks	Jun 11, 2009 11:21 PM
102	Large private lots and the opportunity to save big areas for future generations.	Jun 12, 2009 2:53 AM
103	Recreation, wildlife, shaded areas for a future of a warmer climate, forests are good for our environment in many ways and make our living spaces more comfortable.	Jun 12, 2009 4:17 AM
104	Environmental benefits (habitat, air quality, cooling, runoff slowing, etc.)	Jun 12, 2009 4:18 AM
105	the protection of oak and arbutus trees	Jun 12, 2009 4:51 AM
106	The Visual Impact and ambiance	Jun 12, 2009 5:19 PM
107	Trees soften the livng space and help keep the air clean.	Jun 12, 2009 6:05 PM
108	Habitat for wildlife, CO2 sink, shade, potential for food production	Jun 12, 2009 7:27 PM
109	Well maintained trails through public lands that allow access for all to enjoy those parks. Regular garbage can pickup. Sturdy steps down steep embankments that are in constant use by the public, liability issues aside. Beach access through forests, benches around the base of big trees for sitting midway through hikes, picnic tables that are placed to take advantage of pretty views, open sunny grassed areas for running and jumping play and dog training, playgrounds, community gathering spots, lake access docks in public parks for swimming. Swings, both dare devilish, toddler and more sedate swing chairs like they used to have in Beacon Hill Park.	Jun 12, 2009 7:35 PM
110	The fact that there are trees at all. This helps not only with microclimate but also with air filtering and climate change mitigation.	Jun 12, 2009 8:32 PM
111	Diversity, food contribution, natural and aesthetic capital, air quality contribution, softens the built environment	Jun 12, 2009 8:53 PM
112	variety. animal habitat. the occasional food tree. shade-producers. water-conservers.	Jun 12, 2009 9:05 PM
113	The beauty and generosity of trees. Their health and plenitude are necessary for us and all creatures.	Jun 12, 2009 9:32 PM
114	Trees are beautiful but, of course, they help mitigate the carbon we're releasing and provide food (if they are fruit or nut trees).	Jun 12, 2009 10:30 PM
115	the need for then to continue	Jun 12, 2009 10:55 PM
116	Being able to walk in the forest at any season. To enjoy the peace and silence away from this noisy world we live in, and to enjoy those creatures who call the forest home.	Jun 12, 2009 11:04 PM
117	That there are boulevard and park trees available for shade.	Jun 13, 2009 3:25 AM

Response Text		
118	Wildlife and native plants, peace and quiet.	Jun 13, 2009 3:39 AM
119	That they are there. In many cases before us.	Jun 13, 2009 4:21 PM
120	They provide opportunities for 'back to our roots' contact with nature and an escape from the frenetic pace of modern life.	Jun 13, 2009 6:10 PM
121	natural habitat preservation and creation of greenspace for community use	Jun 13, 2009 11:23 PM
122	The pockets of Garry Oak forest.	Jun 15, 2009 2:35 AM
123	The fact that we still have some and I do feel we should preserve what we have left.	Jun 15, 2009 3:34 AM
124	That large areas, such as Mt Doug Park, exist so close to urban areas. Places such as this are places to get away from the noise and rush of our modern lifestyle.	Jun 15, 2009 4:01 AM
125	I value it for its ecological values - clean air, water retention, nesting area for birds, etc.	Jun 15, 2009 4:58 AM
126	Off leash natural nature	Jun 15, 2009 2:03 PM
127	Value the trees b/c they will save humanity.	Jun 15, 2009 3:41 PM
128	Public access to nature	Jun 15, 2009 3:48 PM
129	for food and aesthetic value	Jun 15, 2009 4:42 PM
130	- the opportunity for nature (native plants) to have a place in our community	Jun 15, 2009 6:09 PM
131	Beauty	Jun 15, 2009 7:31 PM
132	That we have many trees of all kinds in Saanich and that this is a value that has been supported for the most part. It is a huge part of what makes this a great municipality to live in.	Jun 15, 2009 7:38 PM
133	The opportunity to take advantage of the special places in Saanich. To teach our children and grandchildren how important these places are to us and to our native wildlife and never ot take them for granted.	Jun 15, 2009 10:15 PM
134	Environmental quality, diversity and beauty, recreation and defense against climate warming	Jun 16, 2009 12:29 AM
135	The Natural Feel of green spaces. The coolness in the summer and the wind break in winter.	Jun 16, 2009 3:55 PM
136	The Natural Feel of green spaces. The coolness in the summer and the wind break in winter.	Jun 16, 2009 3:55 PM
137	I value most having natural spaces in reach of walking which are maintained with native plants and encourage wild life, even in the city. I value have spaces to walk free from cars, bicycles, which are restorative. i will value spaces which are accessible, when I age, but are not too "manufactured" to value human need over nature.	Jun 16, 2009 10:32 PM
138	Ecosystem services trees provide: shade, rain water processing, making deep soil nutrients and minerals available through litterfall, structure for creatures (birds, mammals, insects and reptiles) and aesthetics.	Jun 17, 2009 12:39 AM
139	I walk every day in the small park near my house. It is mostly in its natural state, which is what I like. It is an extremely important part of my life and is a major reason I live in this location. Cleaner air, quiet, wildlife -- everything about our green spaces is important to me.	Jun 17, 2009 5:42 AM
140	The natural beauty, the green space, the peace and quiet, and the natural ability to produce oxyden / reduce carbon.	Jun 17, 2009 6:53 PM
141	Fresh air, water conservation (shade), sound buffer from traffic, soil protection, wildlife habitat protection	Jun 17, 2009 8:31 PM
142	Visual aspects of tree canopy, shading, bird and wioldlife habitat, sense of disconnection from a fully urban environment	Jun 18, 2009 4:19 AM
143	Natural beauty and protection of native trees	Jun 21, 2009 4:33 AM

Response Text		
144	Aside from the health benefits trees provide, they beautify our surroundings. In this part of the country, trees grow readily and are not ravaged as much by snow and frost as in other parts of Canada. We appreciate the protection of certain species of trees, as the Arbutus, Gerry Oak and certain cedars.	Jun 21, 2009 11:35 PM
145	The biological potential in this novel ecosystem to be knit together into a functional unit.	Jul 8, 2009 10:58 PM
146	The tree's, wild life, and open space really what is there not to value?	Jul 9, 2009 3:46 PM
147	its a very nice walk through the woods and its a community forest that does not need to be destroyed if society keeps destroying woodlands then think in the years to come how less of a green world we will have the quality of life will change derastically	Jul 12, 2009 9:13 PM
148	Their beauty and contribution to the environment	Jul 14, 2009 10:05 PM
149	a place that is natural and a person can walk, contemplate and forget the busy world that is all around us.	Jul 15, 2009 3:41 AM
150	Wildlife habitate and a natural rural border	Jul 16, 2009 1:48 AM
151	Lots of trees of different ages and different species, preferably native species. Mature trees improve the value of local real estate, and provide shade and coolness in the summer. Trees provide a host of ecosystem services: generate oxygen, store carbon, lessen topsoil erosion, contribute to topsoil generation, lessen flooding, allow stream flow during dry periods, provide habitat for birds, mammals and invertebrates.	Jul 18, 2009 11:45 PM
152	Environmental/ecological benefits	Jul 27, 2009 8:35 PM
153	trees	Jul 28, 2009 3:17 AM
154	air temp is cooler, sounds are quieter, soil is moister, air is cleaner in treed areas	Jul 28, 2009 3:17 AM
155	Haro Woods	Jul 28, 2009 3:44 AM
156	Aesthetics and habitat for flora and fauna	Jul 28, 2009 4:05 AM
157	the coolness from the shade and the beauty	Jul 28, 2009 4:29 AM
158	They provide a habitat for urban wildlife. They provide beauty in an urban landscape. They help clean the air. They provide shade, natrual air conditioning.	Jul 28, 2009 5:09 AM
159	Ecological Value	Jul 28, 2009 5:20 AM
160	Wildlife and birds that live there. Keeping it natural.	Jul 28, 2009 7:27 AM
161	Privacy for my own property	Jul 28, 2009 2:03 PM
162	birds, visual beauty, peaceful sounds, good smells, buffer zones between buildings and light pollution, native trees (especially arbutus)	Jul 28, 2009 4:19 PM
163	We have a limited supply of Urban Forest in developed areas and Saanich Municipal policies must preserve what we have for future generations. Urban Forests are invaluable for our well being.	Jul 28, 2009 4:21 PM
164	The fact that some fragments of forest (not the same as "trees", despite your definition above) still exist, and that the community has invested considerable effort to restore their ecological integrity, particularly through invasive species removal.	Jul 28, 2009 5:20 PM
165	We live in the Queenswood area and I value the closeness of the forest for walking and living. We are so fortunate to have a few pockets of these forests left.	Jul 28, 2009 6:28 PM
166	There is so much to value: ecosystem to birds (some rare and in need of dense woods to survive), deer, other wildlife, the sheer beauty of the woods, the improved air quality, the natural cooling effect in the summer, a place to walk in nature still close to home, an oasis from urban sprawl and density, sense of touch with the land (that is quickly fading all around us in urban centres). Also, the forests prevent erosion. This is a real issue on Van. Island	Jul 28, 2009 6:35 PM

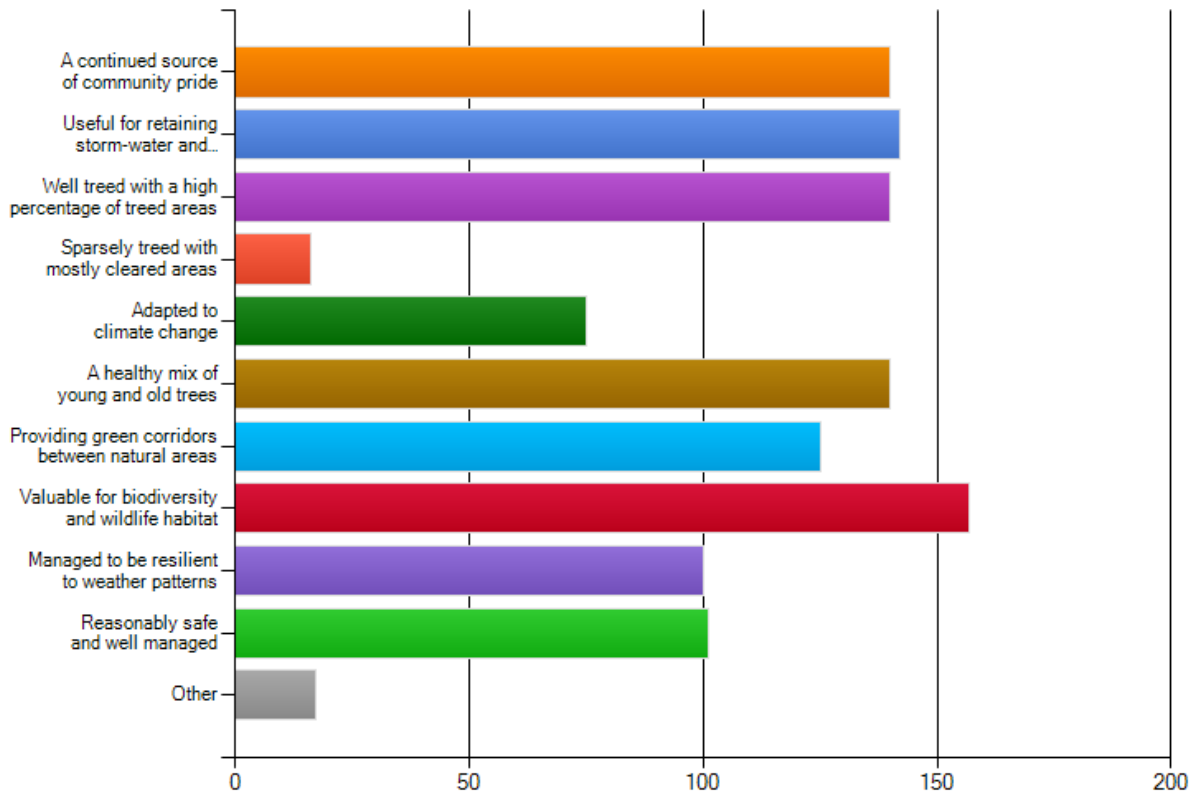
Response Text		
167	The trees reduce the visual impact of the developed homes. However they also reduce outlook from former view lots. Tree plantings should be restricted to certain maximum growing heights.	Jul 28, 2009 6:36 PM
168	Large, old growth trees as well as well kept boulevards (which could stand some small trees in them).	Jul 28, 2009 6:47 PM
169	Shady walking routes giving exposure to nature, and giving clean air access to most parts of my community	Jul 28, 2009 6:52 PM
170	The sense of peace, serenity, stability and well being that results from any area being in a well balanced Urban Forest (complete with shrubs and the other naturally associated vegetation).  Living in 'Forested' areas is a real pleasure, but for balance some sun light seems essential. Also we do benefit from views whether near or distant.	Jul 28, 2009 7:17 PM
171	Walking...the enriched environment	Jul 28, 2009 7:55 PM
172	greenness, biodiversity and associated wildlife	Jul 28, 2009 10:48 PM
173	Habitat for birds and wildlife. Relief from pavement and buildings. The Urban Forest is a piece of the biodiversity puzzle. Aesthetically pleasing, its coolness, a place to walk, the quiet.	Jul 29, 2009 1:18 AM
174	They help to keep Saanich a suburban and beautiful district	Jul 29, 2009 6:58 PM
175	a firm policy to protect and sustain the forests in this area	Jul 29, 2009 9:30 PM
176	A safe place for wildlife, quiet place for human life	Jul 30, 2009 5:45 PM
177	The trees - that was easy. More specifically, the forested open space that lessens a wide range of negative urbanization impacts - from reduced air quality and increased noise to wildlife reduction and aesthetic impoverishment.	Jul 31, 2009 6:33 PM
178	It makes the area more beautiful and of course makes the air fresher	Aug 1, 2009 10:35 PM
179	The serenity and positive contribution to the environment and community that the forest and trees provide.	Aug 1, 2009 10:54 PM
180	Their intrinsic beauty and their softening effect and greening of the urban landscape.	Aug 4, 2009 3:54 AM
181	The accessibility to nature. Providing habitat for birds, animals, insects and native plants.	Aug 4, 2009 11:49 PM
182	wild life, water tables, air carbon dioxide, children's lives and balance coexist	Aug 7, 2009 5:06 PM
183	ecological importance visual habitat millions of reasons--all important	Aug 7, 2009 7:18 PM
184	Lovely walks through nature, that is, forests in near natural state, with mature Douglas fir, shrubs and decadent trees offering habitat for numerous birds, including eagles, owls, woodpeckers, etc.	Aug 7, 2009 11:15 PM
185	Habitat for birds	Aug 11, 2009 2:17 AM
186	I value both the cool shade of the trees in the summer and the good smells of the trees.	Aug 11, 2009 5:16 AM
187	Oxygen, shade, protection	Aug 22, 2009 6:57 PM
188	shading-moderating temperature; increase property value by creating a luxurious neighbourhood feel	Aug 25, 2009 8:44 PM
189	That they exist	Aug 30, 2009 11:33 PM
190	the beauty, the natural aspect, the environmental contribution of the trees, the recreational contribution, home for wildlife	Sep 7, 2009 5:19 PM
191	Ability to enjoy the forest/nature in a safe environment	Sep 8, 2009 2:25 AM
192	Do not have to get in my car and drive to be able to enjoy the serene peaceful, abundant sound of the forest, I can walk and stay as long as I like.	Sep 18, 2009 5:25 AM

Response Text		
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193	Good forest areas around parks	Sep 21, 2009 3:19 PM
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## Question 4

Now, please take a moment to imagine your community THIRTY (30) years into the future. IN YOUR OPINION, which of the following statements will describe the Urban Forest AT THAT TIME?:(select all that apply)





Other (please specify)		
2	<p>Wouldnt it be great if Saanich was one of those regions you read about as models of sustainability, forward-thinking in their environmental planning and not afraid to take huge leaps of faith?</p> <p>In 30 years I wish we could all commute to work by public transport, by bicycle, by foot or even by horse! I'd like to see a more extensive network for travel based on the Galloping Goose and Lochside Trail routes EVERYWHERE so that cars were pushed to a single artery and taxed according to thier actual costs to society. I'm not suggesting we go back to horse &amp; buggy days, however extensive green, leafy corridors linking people with their destinations throughout the region creating safe, healthy and environmentally-friendly travel patterns and a better functioning and more beautiful place to live and work.</p>	Apr 30, 2009 2:52 AM
3	This is a wish list. I have no reason to assume that it will in fact be true.	Apr 30, 2009 4:09 AM
4	<p>beauty</p> <p>constrained invasive alien spp (we'll never be able to eradicate them all)</p>	Apr 30, 2009 5:12 AM
5	The above answers is rather a wish list.	Apr 30, 2009 8:55 PM
6	I think you might ask what we'd like to see vs what we think we will see. That's how I've answered but I only see this if we "WAKE UP". Newcomers to this region need to be educated in what's here and that there's an expectation they will participate in caring for what we have. No free rides.	May 1, 2009 1:15 AM
7	<p>A renewable , healthy source of specialty wood and lumber .</p> <p>A source of employment .</p> <p>Fruit and nut trees would be a source of healthy food .</p>	May 4, 2009 8:12 PM
8	I do not support wholesale forestation in the wrong locations. Much of this area was traditionally camas ecosystem, with fringes of conifers along the original waterways, floodplains, etc. In many areas it isn't realistic to plant large thirsty trees, better suited to the west coast of the island.	May 5, 2009 3:24 AM
9	if the current trend of developing every bit of green space available continues, the urban forest will be a thing of the past; we need to protect and care for it	May 5, 2009 9:22 PM
10	At least I hope so.	May 10, 2009 2:28 AM
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All carefully managed to be a sustainable asset</li> <li>- Forests replacing some buildings (land conversion)</li> <li>- 30M+ trees planted; tended by neighbourhoods</li> <li>- Private lands growing many more trees</li> </ul>	May 13, 2009 10:28 PM
12	Breaks up the larger urban landscape into smaller more human scale boroughs - reminiscent of Auckland, NZ and the many hillocks/forest areas.	May 16, 2009 4:53 AM
13	Arial view would be continuous green corridors following the main streams that drain our watersheds from ocean to head waters to provide needed function while providing a recreational greenway to create interaction with the urban forest.	May 26, 2009 6:58 PM
14	Saanich's forward thinking about the urban forest I believe will ensure all of the above.	Jun 1, 2009 11:26 PM
15	<p>I need trees in order to be happy, healthy and content.</p> <p>We all do.</p>	Jun 2, 2009 6:23 PM
16	Haro woods retained with no unnecessary industrial/sewage plant development unless environmental assessment indicates that there are credible significant benefits for additional treatment	Jun 3, 2009 3:59 AM
17	There will be no urban forest if the ivy, periwinkle & other invasive species are left to take over.	Jun 3, 2009 8:36 PM
18	SAVE THE FORREST!	Jun 3, 2009 11:46 PM
19	It will remain where it is, as I'm sure most of the community would think.	Jun 4, 2009 12:32 AM
20	A park made by local bikers so they have somewhere to ride.	Jun 4, 2009 1:37 AM
21	Destroyed by short-sighted planning for sewage treatment	Jun 4, 2009 2:05 AM
22	<p>Continuing to add to the beauty and tranquility of the semi rural community.</p> <p>A community the Tourists remember when they leave the island.</p>	Jun 4, 2009 4:01 AM

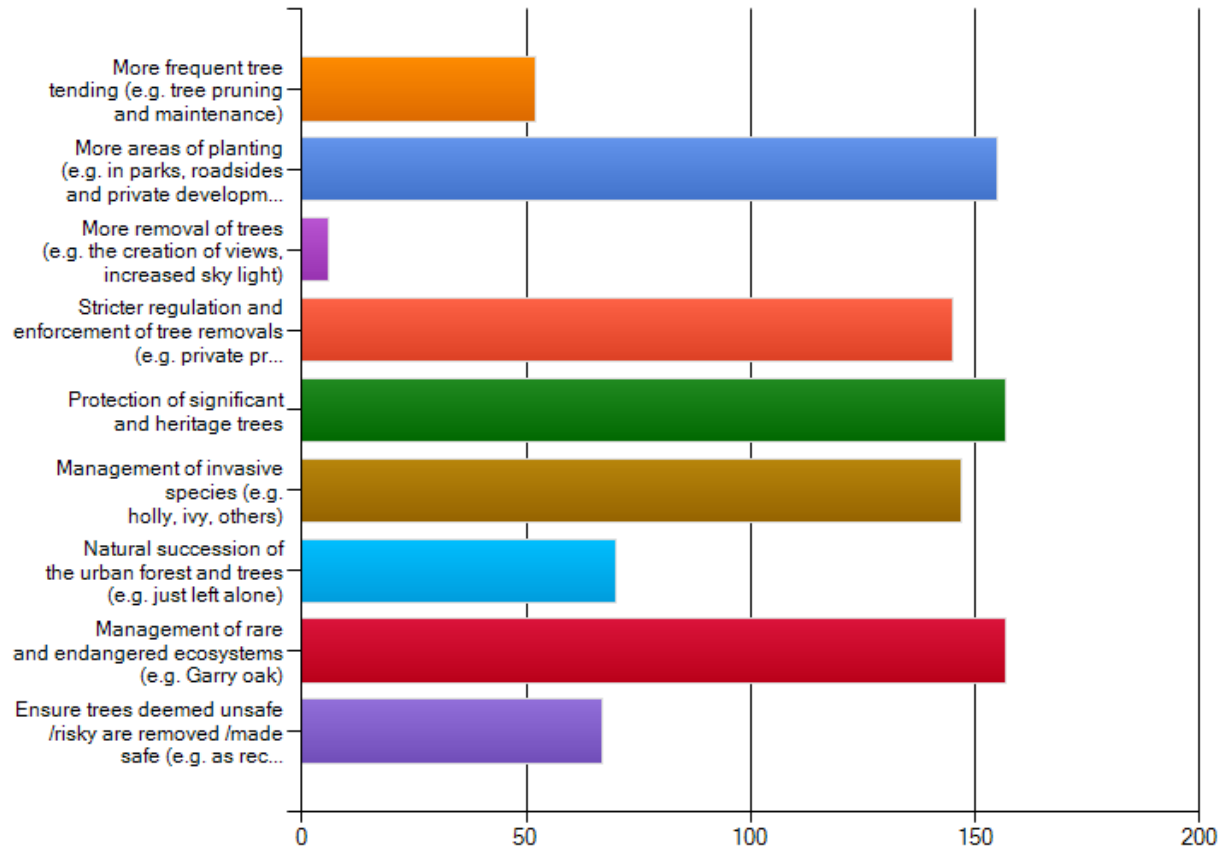
Other (please specify)		
23	Please save the Haro Woods from development.	Jun 4, 2009 5:04 AM
24	hundreds of different kinds of animals live in our forests, and if they're all gonna be taken down then where are these creatures gonna live? well either way its going to be really shitty. either they're gonna die or move into our back yards.....	Jun 4, 2009 5:25 AM
25	I have hope here that the common person can see the value of our wilderness before it is too late. We have so much to learn from (Europe, the east coast, etc). We must be vigilant, educate, value, manage, and protect these spaces. In high density urban areas, mental illness increases significantly. Even if we do it for selfish reasons, it is necessary. People must not be allowed to profit off the destruction of wilderness areas and green spaces or we are doomed.	Jun 4, 2009 5:44 AM
26	I can't look that far into the future currently but I hope the Urban Forest is still in strong existence.	Jun 4, 2009 8:59 PM
27	A place where all community members feel welcome year-round	Jun 5, 2009 12:45 AM
28	This is what I WISH/HOPE it will be like.	Jun 5, 2009 4:47 AM
29	An increase in native species (phase out any invasive species) as well as an increase in canopy cover. In addition, no net loss or a net gain of trees on new development sites with the emphasis on preserving existing trees.	Jun 6, 2009 3:17 AM
30	A source of pleasure to a wider community as if forecast we have a large % population growth. I would also add to your list "Maintains a mix of neighborhoods within the municipality" In the sense you are not going to attract residents if all you offer is continuous urban sprawl.	Jun 6, 2009 4:48 PM
31	If we can keep it the same as it is now, we would all be eternally grateful.	Jun 6, 2009 10:58 PM
32	good recreational areas	Jun 10, 2009 2:51 AM
33	A local awareness and pride in our indigenous Gary Oak and Arbutus habitats.	Jun 10, 2009 8:25 PM
34	This is a hope and a wish. Let's be responsible.	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
35	This is a hope and a wish. Let's be responsible.	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
36	Please note - this is what I'd like, not what it will necessarily be. You may end up misinterpreting the responses if others are confused.	Jun 11, 2009 11:21 PM
37	A source of food! (Let's plant food producing trees on our boulevards - why not edible chestnuts, figs, or other low maintenance food source trees?)	Jun 12, 2009 4:18 AM
38	your question doesn't separate reality from what we would like to see. With councils that are development oriented we have little real hope to maintain our mature trees.	Jun 12, 2009 4:51 AM
39	Continuing in-fill of trees as residential areas mature	Jun 12, 2009 5:19 PM
40	A MAJOR source of food!	Jun 12, 2009 6:05 PM
41	Really need to think ahead to be a food resource...why plant ornamental trees when you can plant fruit and nut trees and have a food source... We are on the downside of oil... better start thinking about that... time to be Proactive...and if people are worried about messiness they need better education and with the overall plan an infrastructure for harvest would be required.	Jun 12, 2009 7:27 PM
42	This question was poorly worded. None of us knows what thirty years will bring. If you want to know what we want, then word the question that way. I have filled it in as if you had.	Jun 12, 2009 7:35 PM
43	Full of FOOD. Trees grow food (fruits and nuts), and growing food in public spaces is going to be absolutely essential even sooner than 30 years in the future. Also, the idea of "green corridors between natural areas" is totally confused. We need to be creating functioning, healthy ecological systems throughout human-settled areas, not in little pockets in between urban spaces. It ALL needs to be green space, including the spaces we live and travel in.	Jun 12, 2009 8:32 PM
44	Contribution to food security	Jun 12, 2009 8:53 PM
45	Given present food security concerns, I hope that in 30 years time we will have mature fruit and nut trees growing, that people are encouraged to harvest.	Jun 12, 2009 9:05 PM

Other (please specify)		
46	Good heavens - we not only need to protect the trees we have now but to plant lots more! Climate change and peak oil is upon us and if we are to survive, we need to act NOW!	Jun 12, 2009 10:30 PM
47	FOOD!	Jun 12, 2009 10:55 PM
48	Food source and wood source. Ex. Walnut wood and nuts, Hazelnuts, apples plums pears, chestnuts.	Jun 13, 2009 3:25 AM
49	You must become better custodians of our forests, by keeping alien invasive species in check, except those that will naturally migrate here as a result of climate change.	Jun 13, 2009 6:10 PM
50	including food bearing trees (eg fruit and nuts)	Jun 13, 2009 11:23 PM
51	I am very optimistic preservation over our left wooded areas will make it through human greed.	Jun 15, 2009 3:34 AM
52	supply of local fruit	Jun 15, 2009 4:42 PM
53	Boulevards and parks having fruit and nut trees where fitting to provide food for our communities needs. Right plant, right place. Large tree copses (like evergreen forest), mid sized and deciduous trees for areas where view and water saving is important. Prioritizing planting trees to species that provide food, or bank stabilization or are filter trees for pollution in water run-off swales.	Jun 15, 2009 7:38 PM
54	Where forests still exist, they will be dominated by invasive plants.	Jun 16, 2009 12:29 AM
55	Saanich policies seen a bit bi-polar as far as enviromental policies go. There obivously an awareness of how important an urban forest is and yet we still see huge monster houses surrounded by cement pads going up. We wouldn't allow a homeowner to keep a derlict building on their property but will allow them to have ivy choked trees that will be eventually brought down.	Jun 16, 2009 3:55 PM
56	Saanich policies seen a bit bi-polar as far as enviromental policies go. There obivously an awareness of how important an urban forest is and yet we still see huge monster houses surrounded by cement pads going up. We wouldn't allow a homeowner to keep a derlict building on their property but will allow them to have ivy choked trees that will be eventually brought down.	Jun 16, 2009 3:55 PM
57	protect threatened or endangered species over human need for access. Have removed invasive species and maintained native ones. Have biodiversity over uniformness. Have resisted the need to be neat and tidy, despite public demand. Spaces which can be messy, dried out, and non-uniform if that is how they are naturally. It isd important to me that our Parks priorities are to protect that which is natural and native, to remove invasive species and to educate us to know the difference.	Jun 16, 2009 10:32 PM
58	A connection to the past with heritage plantings and designations	Jun 17, 2009 12:39 AM
59	The urban forest must be well managed and protected, legally, from development, i.e. designated as parkland, for eternity.	Jun 17, 2009 6:53 PM
60	Seven responses are the way I hope it will be, two are the way I believe it will be if Saanich contines with its ad hoc development instead of implementing comprehenisve community planning.	Jun 21, 2009 4:33 AM
61	An example to other municipalities of what is possible	Jul 14, 2009 10:05 PM
62	The urban forest remains a significant factor in linking residents to the natural environment	Jul 27, 2009 8:35 PM
63	are you asking what I WANT to see, or what I think I WILL see?	Jul 28, 2009 3:17 AM
64	no sewage treatment in any portion of the Haro Woods.	Jul 28, 2009 3:44 AM
65	I am answering with my hopes, not my fears.	Jul 28, 2009 4:19 PM
66	Without wanting be pessimistic, as the above comments are, I am basing this futuristic scenario on the destruction of forested land that has been rampant in most urban centres all over the country (and the world) and the suburbs too.	Jul 28, 2009 6:35 PM

Other (please specify)		
67	Urban forests should contain a variety of species that contribute in a major way to food security. Species should be selected that require little water, if they are primarily grown only for ornamental purposes. Avoid species that might become invasive.	Jul 28, 2009 6:52 PM
68	I think that it should be made very clear that the term "Urban Forest" includes shrubs as well as other naturally associated vegetation and that the preference be given to native species that suit the site .	Jul 28, 2009 7:17 PM
69	I described what I hope to see, but in reality the urban forest pockets are being eliminated too fast. They will be a thing of the past.	Jul 30, 2009 5:45 PM
70	Promotion of creative use of a variety trees in private and public landscaping. More mini parks, more treed boulevards, protected clumps of key tree species	Aug 2, 2009 5:44 AM
71	education study children seniors peace and tranquility	Aug 7, 2009 5:06 PM
72	The few paths would be covered with forest duff or hog fuel. The "Zamboni" path sweeper would be banned from woodland trails, and, for those who remember, would be a source of embarrassment and shame. The current chainsaw gang would be retired and the forests would be left in a more natural state. That is, decadent trees would be allowed to shed limbs and topple on their own, without the chainsaw gang. Volunteers would continue to remove broom and ivy and the municipality would assist by removing the debris piled by the volunteers.	Aug 7, 2009 11:15 PM
73	I am hoping that the trees will be encouraged and promoted in the future.	Aug 11, 2009 5:16 AM
74	welcoming to visitors of the area	Aug 25, 2009 8:44 PM
75	Urbanization is slowly eating up our forests. Sadly, it seems inevitable as the value of land developed is becoming more important than preservation.	Sep 18, 2009 5:25 AM

## Question 5

In order to create that future Vision of our community trees and forest, WHAT TOP 5 PRIORITIES would you select for managing trees and forests in the District today? (please select 5)



Other (please specify)		
1	Encouragement of the planting of native tree species whenever possible.	Apr 22, 2009 4:44 AM
2	Use of appropriate species for given site conditions (I.e. soil/moisture conditions, proximity of development, use of the area etc.)	Apr 29, 2009 8:43 PM
3	Leave wildlife trees to stand. See the WITS program of the provincial government.	Apr 30, 2009 4:09 AM
4	hard to pick only 5	Apr 30, 2009 4:53 AM
5	More emphasis on sustainable retention of trees. Not single trees but larger areas representative of the natural environment	May 1, 2009 1:31 AM
6	Establish a communication network of value -added wood processors to obtain top economic value for trees removed or harvested timber . Develop / encourage local value -added wood culture with clean , green , eco-industrial practices . [ I.e., industrial ecology ] Establish a pellet making facility to augment recycling and composting system . Sustainably manage the urban forest with a long range { 100 year } , ongoing harvesting program . Grow high value , exotic wood . Design and manage the forest to generate revenue or break even and use a full cost / benefit , triple bottom line accounting method . Apply for " Green Municipal Fund " funding to establish a sustainable urban forest plan .	May 4, 2009 8:12 PM
7	Protection and management of "ecosystems" that are valued by the community.	May 4, 2009 10:19 PM
8	All of these need to be done with informed and considered planning that takes into account the topography and soil conditions, hydrology, local input, climate change and available resources. The risk assessment criteria for dangerous trees is overly risk averse and unsuitable for very small parks. The harsh application of these criteria has unnecessarily diminished our urban forest landscape.	May 5, 2009 3:24 AM
9	"Management" often involves changing the environment for the worse. Lets not over-manage the parks and destroy any resemblance to a natural environment. We don't need a bigger back yard. We need more natural space.	May 10, 2009 2:28 AM
10	- Management plans for all urban forests	May 13, 2009 10:28 PM
11	Assistance to homeowners in managing significant and heritage trees on their property	May 21, 2009 9:19 PM
12	By providing the elements for creating natural succession of the urban forest / trees and under story ( e.g. we can rehabilitate and restore areas back to there natural state, but there needs to be ongoing maintenance through community stewardship not just left alone as we are do now with tree appreciation day plantings )	May 26, 2009 6:58 PM
13	Stricter regulation of trees cut on public boulevards even under pressures from BC Hyrdo, other provincial bodies and Developers. I've notice in my neighbourhood that developers typically get permission to cut trees that interfere w/ easy construction access.	Jun 1, 2009 11:26 PM
14	I have chosen 6 and if you have to remove 1, remove the holly and ivy removal but include it with mangement and protection somehow.	Jun 2, 2009 6:23 PM
15	Protect our remnant community forests from destruction for unnecessary sewage plants - like at HARO WOODS!!	Jun 2, 2009 11:50 PM
16	Stop removal of trees on boulevards for irresponsible reasons e.g. people don't like trees/fir cones or don't like the look of them. e.g. Tyndall Avenue	Jun 3, 2009 8:36 PM
17	make more green public spaces!	Jun 4, 2009 12:24 AM
18	More small forests like Haro woods should be planted, for future generations.	Jun 4, 2009 12:32 AM
19	Please protect the bird nesting area habitat's in our urban forest from encroachment from development.	Jun 4, 2009 5:04 AM
20	if we're gona want to have these forests around, which of course we do, then the we all have to play our part/ as does the city be responsible an look after these habitats. so we can enjoy them and fiture generations.	Jun 4, 2009 5:25 AM
21	Whatever it takes.	Jun 4, 2009 5:44 AM
22	NOT building sewage treatment plants in Haro Woods.	Jun 5, 2009 4:47 AM

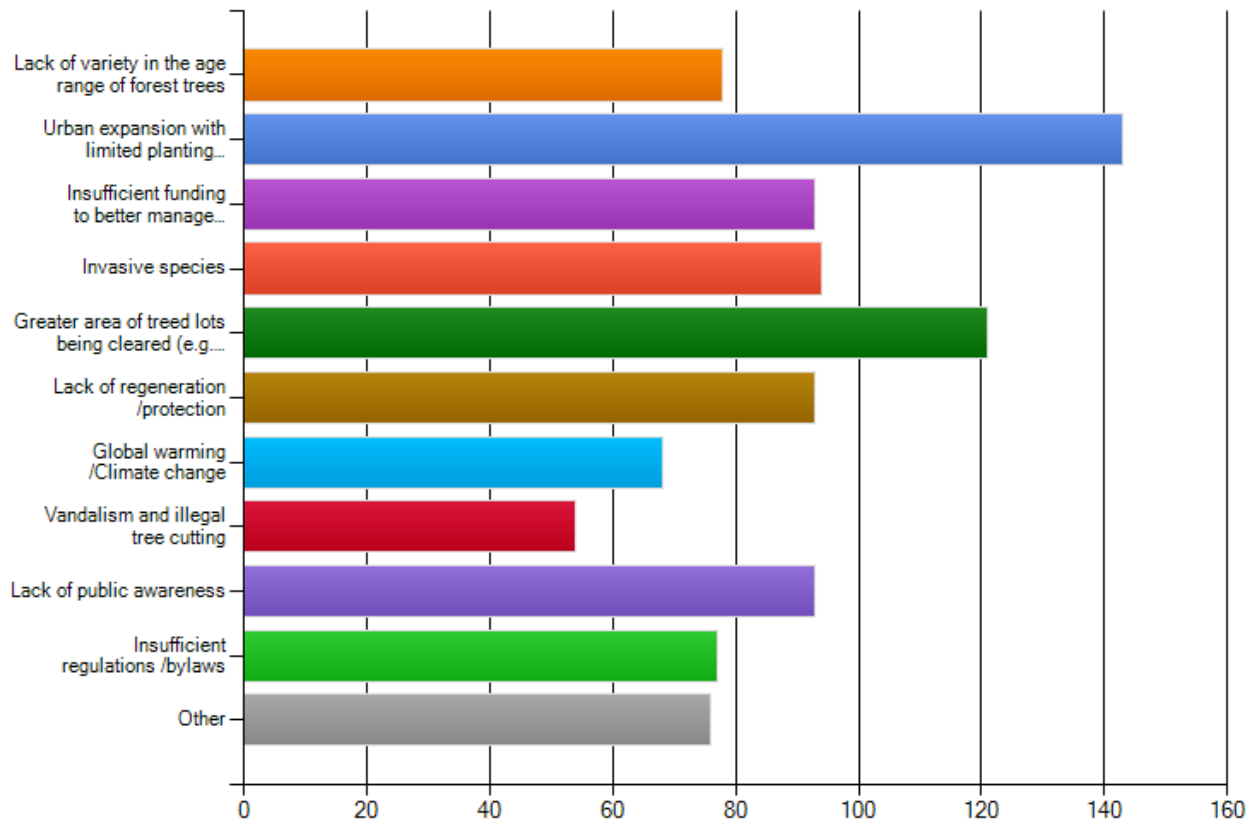
Other (please specify)		
23	Working with the necessary parties to ensure the right tree is planted in the right spot in terms of overhead and underground utilities etc.	Jun 6, 2009 3:17 AM
24	reforestation. trees need to be replaced as our forests are getting thinner.	Jun 6, 2009 3:56 PM
25	There is no contradiction between choice 1 and 7,choice 1 refers to private and bulevard trees Choice 7 refers to urban forest areas(ie small woods and parkland trees off trail)	Jun 6, 2009 4:48 PM
26	Regular garbage clean up. As well as better legal protection.	Jun 6, 2009 10:58 PM
27	The last is a good practice, as long as they are removed from the forest. Otherwise, they become trap trees for insects and pests, exacerbating the problems of an ageing and overmature forest.	Jun 10, 2009 2:51 AM
28	Control passage of bikes and motorized vehicles in sensitive areas.	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
29	Control passage of bikes and motorized vehicles in sensitive areas.	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
30	More balanced planning so that the decision of the planning officer can be challenged without going all the way to Supreme Court. Stricter controls on subdivisions.	Jun 12, 2009 2:53 AM
31	Plant food trees, and trees that will best suit a changing climate. NOTE re. "Management of rare and endangered ecosystems" above -- only if the ecosystem still makes sense in a changing climate and doesn't become too unreasonable or resource intensive (e.g. water) to maintain.	Jun 12, 2009 4:18 AM
32	give tree owner carbon credits that would have a monetary value.	Jun 12, 2009 4:51 AM
33	Encourage landowners to plant trees that are appropriate to their specific situations.	Jun 12, 2009 5:19 PM
34	Gradual replacement of most ornamental trees with USEFULL fruit and nut bearing trees that are suitable to this area and the new climate realities.	Jun 12, 2009 6:05 PM
35	Plant trees with multipurpose...i.e. food producing...	Jun 12, 2009 7:27 PM
36	While a green forest is pleasant and healthy for a city, sunlight is necessary to a well balanced urban environment as well. Broadmead is an example of lack of balance. The real estate values have dropped as sunlight diminished. Sunnymead was developed and called that name by a developer in direct response to the NEED by Saanich residents for a more balanced approach. The Parks Dept has ongoing issues with residents because the municipality is too strict with limits to tree pruning and cutting on private land.	Jun 12, 2009 7:35 PM
37	Planting food trees, surrounded by healthy ecosystems, in every possible space. I can't emphasize the importance of this enough.	Jun 12, 2009 8:32 PM
38	more fruit trees planted more nut trees planted more fruit bushes planted in conjunction with food trees trees with edible leaves, e.g. lime edible perennials planted in conjunction with bushes and trees	Jun 12, 2009 9:05 PM
39	Of course safety is necessary, but some trees are felled supposedly for "safety" reasons, when all that was desired was a better view, more sun on that area, etc. A gorgeous large healthy plum tree was taken out by my next door neighbour because of "root rot". There had been no tree expert called, just suddenly the chain saw was going.	Jun 12, 2009 9:32 PM
40	Protect our trees and plant more (immediately and long-term). And food is good (fruit and nut trees).	Jun 12, 2009 10:30 PM
41	Addition of more trees, not enough being planted at present for the future.	Jun 13, 2009 3:25 AM
42	Plant fruit and berry orchards on public boulevards and replace the alien trees accordingly. We are approaching a food crisis.	Jun 13, 2009 6:10 PM
43	promotion of food trees	Jun 15, 2009 4:42 PM
44	Planting fruit, nut and trees and others that are good for climate change issues (water, air quality, water filtration)	Jun 15, 2009 7:38 PM

Other (please specify)		
45	need to educate the public starting with children, young adults and developers of importance of urban forests. Make urban forests an economic advantage because it creates/maintains urban environmental quality.	Jun 16, 2009 12:29 AM
46	We need to protect what little spaces of biodiversity we have. Instead of spending large sums on spectacular floral beds, Saanich should developing a native plant nursery and landscaping accordingly.	Jun 16, 2009 3:55 PM
47	We need to protect what little spaces of biodiversity we have. Instead of spending large sums on spectacular floral beds, Saanich should developing a native plant nursery and landscaping accordingly.	Jun 16, 2009 3:55 PM
48	more public education programs to encourage greater planting of native species, removal of ivy and broom from private property, and subsidized programs to encourage homeowners to do so.	Jun 16, 2009 10:32 PM
49	The trees and forests must be protected legally, i.e. by zoning forested areas as parkland that is not available for development.	Jun 17, 2009 6:53 PM
50	forest restoration (attention paid to soils, coarse woody debris, understory etc.)	Jul 8, 2009 10:58 PM
51	I would liked to have included 'Protection of significant and heritage trees' but the limit was 5 items	Jul 14, 2009 10:05 PM
52	A higher degree of protecting of the urban forests presently and eleminate the trading off with developer's which destroy's what urban forests remain.	Jul 16, 2009 1:48 AM
53	Promote and support public tree/greenspace stewardship activities; regulate mandatory compensation/mitigation for building envelope tree removal	Jul 27, 2009 8:35 PM
54	proactive protection and caretaking	Jul 28, 2009 3:17 AM
55	Place some requirements on homeowners to control ivy on their property and trees would make sense. Provide tax incentives to homeowners who keep part of their property in native species or at least not in lawns.	Jul 28, 2009 4:19 PM
56	urban forests should be designated parkland or official "urban forest", greenspace for public use, so as to be out of reach of developers, CRD, municipal planning, etc.	Jul 28, 2009 6:35 PM
57	Replace alien boulevard trees with nut and fruit trees, and berry patches for local residents to utilize.	Jul 28, 2009 6:52 PM
58	incentives for property owners to create greenspaces	Jul 28, 2009 10:48 PM
59	The current heritage tree designation is too weak. Also, the municipality itself should be encompassed within the bylaws as its own employees are often the worst transgressors, especially as concerns heritage trees located along road right of ways.	Jul 31, 2009 6:33 PM
60	Recognition that new trees are required as the old growth will ultimately die out.	Aug 2, 2009 5:44 AM
61	moratorium granfathered in	Aug 7, 2009 5:06 PM
62	Less removal, less management and less paranoia about potentially unsafe trees. Let nature do its thing. In final analysis, any tree could be unsafe. Despite this, we love them and despise the opposite extreme of Astro Turf.	Aug 7, 2009 11:15 PM
63	more support and education for residents planting and tending for street trees	Aug 25, 2009 8:44 PM
64	heavy fines for people cutting trees on public and private property	Sep 7, 2009 5:19 PM



## Question 6

Many things can affect the quality of urban trees and forest, both today and in the future. IN YOUR OPINION, which of the following are /will become THREATS to your Vision of the urban forest in Saanich?

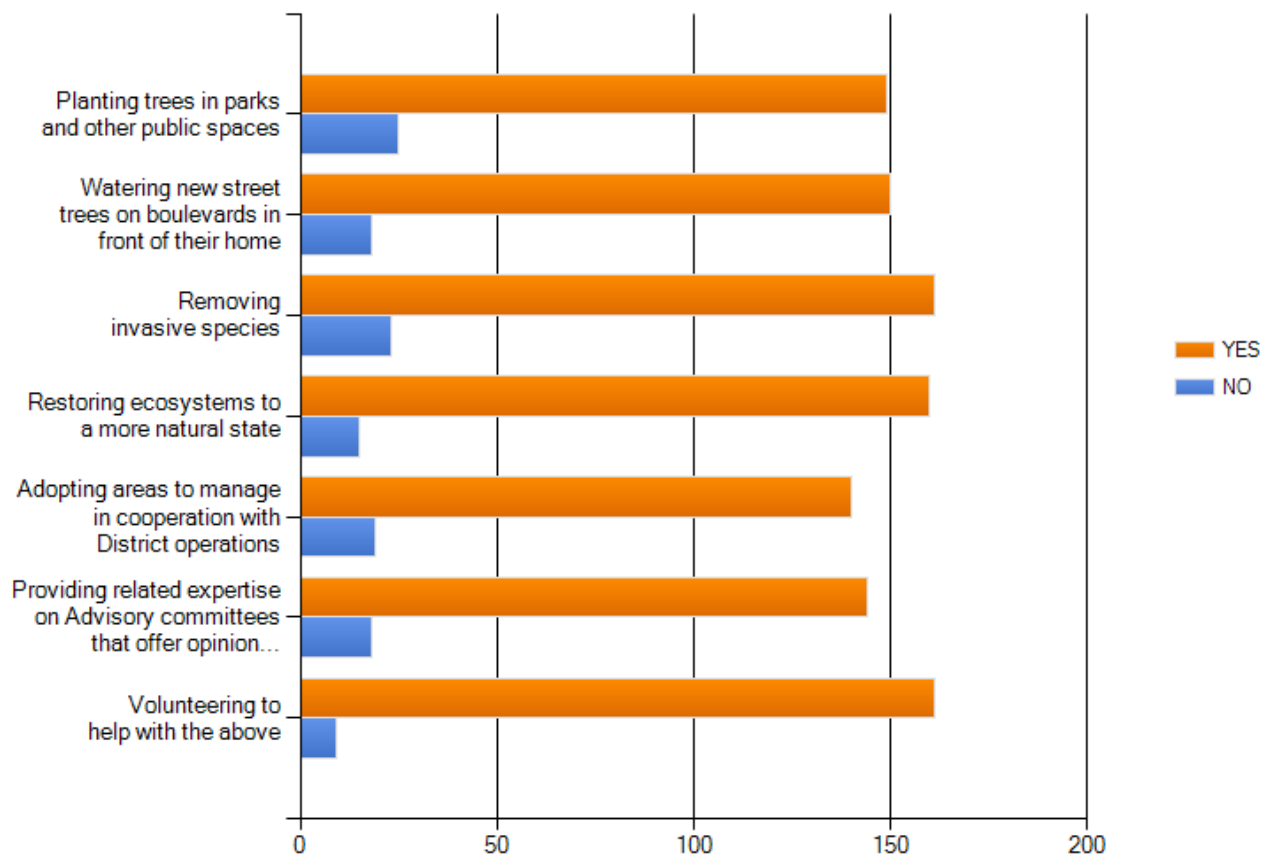


Other (please specify)		
2	Climate change has already been felt in the province with the mountain pine beetle infestation. I anticipate further effects that will likewise decimate our trees. The increase in temperature and changing rainfall averages will also threaten the ongoing sustainability of our forests. Natural ecosystems are also at risk from inappropriate use by the uneducated public and their sometimes damaging activities such as cycling, motocross, dirt bikes, ATVs, geo-caching, tree climbing, treehouse building, rope swings, bonfires, unrestrained dog walking, horses, garden waste dumping, etc.	May 5, 2009 3:24 AM
3	- Inappropriate species being planted - Lack of public participation in management plans	May 13, 2009 10:28 PM
4	lack of educating all of us so that the trees are protected and thrive.	Jun 2, 2009 6:23 PM
5	The biggest threats to our community greenspaces is that they can be seen as ripe for so-called "environmental" projects - example is HARO WOODS!!	Jun 2, 2009 11:50 PM
6	the proposed sewage treatment plant	Jun 3, 2009 6:22 PM
7	Municipalities permitting tree removal and having zero budget to remove invasive species is a threat. The bylaws that exist need to be enforced & there should be a bylaw to prevent the planting & growing ivy on private lands. Ivy should not be sold in our stores.	Jun 3, 2009 8:36 PM
8	fear of building a sewerage plant at Haro Woods	Jun 3, 2009 11:22 PM
9	Leave it the same!	Jun 4, 2009 1:37 AM
10	Some care and attention must be assumed by the municipality of their 'natural woodlands' even if they are not deemed 'parks'.	Jun 4, 2009 5:04 AM
11	they are all major problems but 1 of the ones that stick out the most is forests being cleared for development/ housing.	Jun 4, 2009 5:25 AM
12	Pollution.	Jun 4, 2009 5:44 AM
13	Building sewage treatment plants in Haro Woods.	Jun 5, 2009 4:47 AM
14	Having lived in less environmentally blessed areas I would say public awareness/inaction? in the larger picture is the primary concern.	Jun 6, 2009 4:48 PM
15	The biggest threat is us caring more about damn money making and privatization than protection.	Jun 6, 2009 10:58 PM
16	catastrophic fires; invasive species are the second highest risk area; come and walk the service road between Elk Lake fisherman's launch and fishing dock - two very healthy stands of stramium or lamium, a silvery nettle-like basket plant, are now well established; there should be some control over what hort. nurseries are allowed to sell (e.g. ivy? - come on!), as we know next to nothing about the exotic species that they sell.	Jun 10, 2009 2:51 AM
17	Developers being greedy....cramming in as dense housing as possible (eg. Royal Oak and Wilkinson along West Saanich Road..., Elk Lake Rd. unbelievable dense development in the past 2 yrs)	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
18	Developers being greedy....cramming in as dense housing as possible (eg. Royal Oak and Wilkinson along West Saanich Road..., Elk Lake Rd. unbelievable dense development in the past 2 yrs)	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
19	Peak oil and energy shortages will lead to firewood theft.	Jun 12, 2009 6:05 PM
20	Not having a future oriented vision... talk to Scientists at U-Vic... check into Transtion Town movement UK... Think outside the Box	Jun 12, 2009 7:27 PM
21	Rules regarding pruning or removal of trees on private lands are so draconian and unbalanced that few people plant new trees on their property, fearing that they will not be able to control them as those rules tighten in coming years. Bylaws affecting a property should remain in force until that property is sold, at which time they can be updated and the new owner informed, before an offer of purchase is made. Mid owner changes, particularly without consultation nor notice, are not a fair way to treat taxpayers.	Jun 12, 2009 7:35 PM

Other (please specify)		
22	Ignorance on the part of planners of the degree of change that is required to protect and regenerate healthy ecosystems; ignorance of the importance of planting food trees in public as well as private spaces	Jun 12, 2009 8:32 PM
23	unless we make food security a priority at all levels, and in all manners possible, there might not be too many people around to enjoy the decorative, inedible trees.	Jun 12, 2009 9:05 PM
24	Destruction of trees on private property. Of course safety is necessary, but some trees are felled supposedly for "safety" reasons, when all that was desired was a better view, more sun on that area, etc. A gorgeous large healthy plum tree was taken out by my next door neighbour because of "root rot". There had been no tree expert called, just suddenly the chain saw was going.	Jun 12, 2009 9:32 PM
25	Climate Change and Peak Oil likely will have a catastrophic affect on our forests. We can only hope that our efforts are in time - but they must be gigantic and long-term. Public education is a necessity - particularly among public officials so they can lead the way!	Jun 12, 2009 10:30 PM
26	Food and wood production.	Jun 13, 2009 3:25 AM
27	It is my impression that Saanich is neglecting the severity and implications of climate change, and that experts and the public need greater involvement.	Jun 13, 2009 6:10 PM
28	losing Garry Oak ecosystems to housing, invasive species (plants and animals) and competition from other species out competing them and not constrained by natural fire. Too much planting of exotics,	Jun 15, 2009 2:35 AM
29	Climate change should be top priority!	Jun 15, 2009 7:38 PM
30	Inadequate numbers of volunteers to clear invasive plants & trees in urban forests. Recruitment, support and management of these volunteers should be funded & used more effectively. Can also use them as informed advocates for Saanich Parks Dept. pro-urban forest program	Jun 16, 2009 12:29 AM
31	I would emphasize invasive species as the most threat now and in the future.	Jun 16, 2009 10:32 PM
32	Lack of legal protection of mtrees and forested areas, i.e. make these areas parks which are not available for development.	Jun 17, 2009 6:53 PM
33	Don't know about available funding.	Jun 17, 2009 8:31 PM
34	lack of identification and mapping of important "patches" of urban forest on both private and public land	Jun 18, 2009 4:19 AM
35	The single largest threat to the remaing urban forest is Saanich Planning.	Jul 16, 2009 1:48 AM
36	Replacing "habitats" with lawns	Jul 28, 2009 4:19 PM
37	In Saanich there has not been the political will or clout or vision to designate, ie, Haro Woods, as parkland. Also, at this time, it is INCONCEIVABLE that the CRD or anyone is being allowed to "develop" (ie. destroy the woods) in an urban forest.	Jul 28, 2009 6:35 PM
38	The spread of invasive species that rob natural forest species of light, water, soil nutrients and the capacity of their seeds to germinate, do far more harm to urban forests than solid stands of old trees. Let the winds of climate change do the tree thinning, in the ways that nature always has.	Jul 28, 2009 6:52 PM
39	nature we need to help all animals insects birds others such as feilds bird habitats wet lands	Aug 7, 2009 5:06 PM
40	Over management: Going overboard on risk reduction.	Aug 7, 2009 11:15 PM

## Question 7

Residents have expressed an interest in being more involved in urban forest management within Saanich. IN WHAT WAYS should residents have a larger role in urban forest management?



# Saanich Urban Forest Strategy

<b>Residents have expressed an interest in being more involved in urban forest management within Saanich. IN WHAT WAYS should residents have a larger role in urban forest management?</b>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Planting trees in parks and other public spaces	<b>85.6% (149)</b>	14.4% (25)	174
Watering new street trees on boulevards in front of their home	<b>89.8% (150)</b>	10.8% (18)	167
Removing invasive species	<b>87.5% (161)</b>	12.5% (23)	184
Restoring ecosystems to a more natural state	<b>91.4% (160)</b>	8.6% (15)	175
Adopting areas to manage in cooperation with District operations	<b>88.1% (140)</b>	11.9% (19)	159
Providing related expertise on Advisory committees that offer opinion to Council & staff	<b>88.9% (144)</b>	11.1% (18)	162
Volunteering to help with the above	<b>94.7% (161)</b>	5.3% (9)	170
		Other (please specify)	39
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>199</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>4</b>

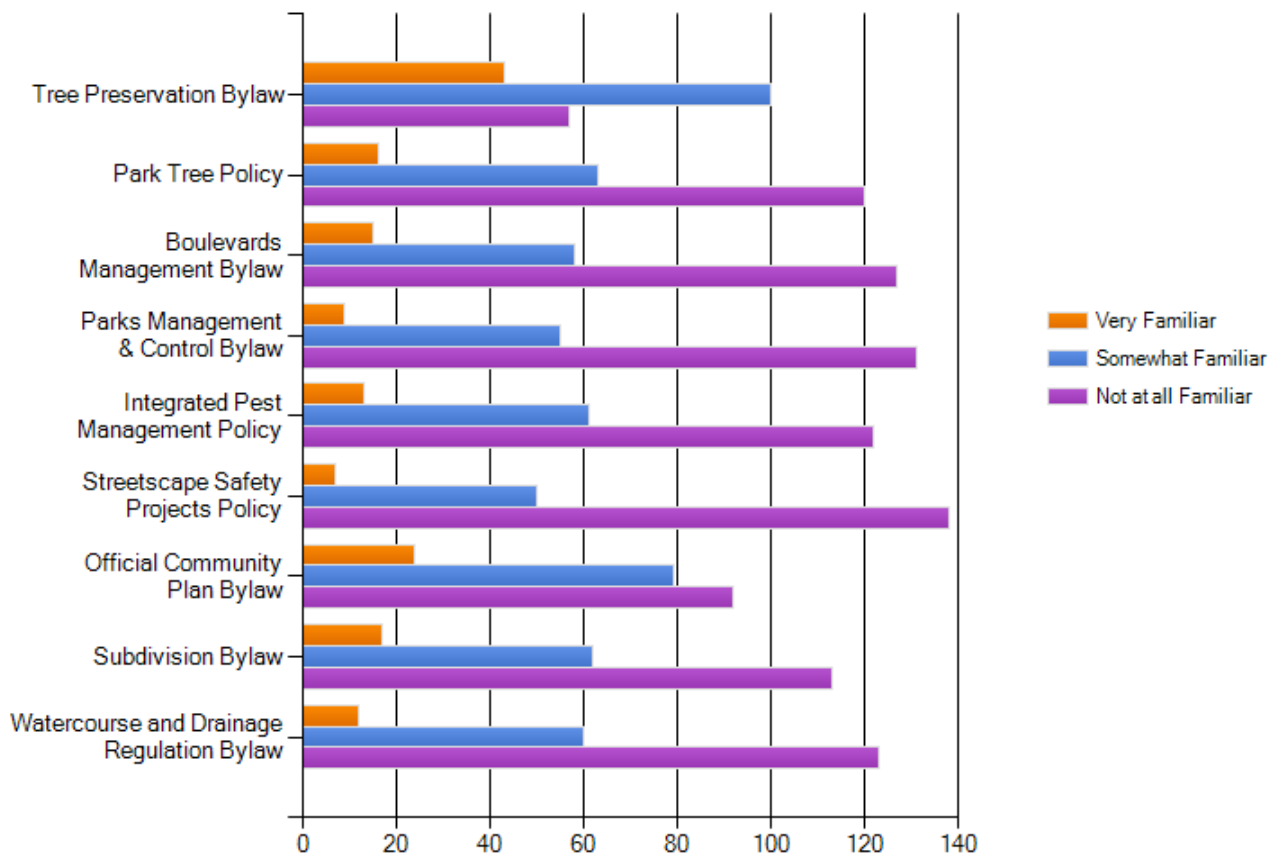
<b>Other (please specify)</b>		
1	Relying on residents to water street trees is tricky. Great idea but not sure you would get full participation. Perhaps some incentives could be offered.	Apr 30, 2009 4:53 AM
2	The more volunteering the better.	Apr 30, 2009 8:55 PM
3	public watering of nearby trees should be by choice and via an appropriate agreement between municipality and property owner	May 1, 2009 2:13 AM
4	"Should" above might better be replace by "could" as there is no absolute to these; all situational.	May 4, 2009 10:19 PM
5	- Assign co-steward responsibilities to local citizens - Have them prepare plans/proposals/budgets - Set up networks for the stewards @ Saanich staff - Aim for 5000 formal volunteers	May 13, 2009 10:28 PM
6	Planting trees on private land, the \$ value of trees	May 26, 2009 6:58 PM
7	The little plants need us also. I weep as I watch others dig up the Camas lilies and throw them away. Why do they do it?	Jun 2, 2009 6:23 PM

Other (please specify)		
8	The municipality should also help...	Jun 2, 2009 6:37 PM
9	Saanich residents need to be able to say NO to useless projects like that sewage treatment monster that is going to kill Haro Woods.	Jun 2, 2009 11:50 PM
10	Residents have to be more proactive & vigilant with respect to unnecessary removal of healthy trees.	Jun 3, 2009 8:36 PM
11	pay them	Jun 3, 2009 11:46 PM
12	like ive said before if we want these forests around then we're gona have to play our part.	Jun 4, 2009 5:25 AM
13	Let's be inclusive and use everyone to the best of their skills and knowledge. Anything that can help.	Jun 4, 2009 5:44 AM
14	rock the vote!	Jun 4, 2009 8:59 PM
15	removing downed and hazardous trees advisory committees are great as long as they represent all interests, and are not simply a foil for special interest groups or public parks employees.	Jun 10, 2009 2:51 AM
16	Much better awareness of planning policy so that neighbourhoods can see which areas are to become denser and challenge the loss of urban forest by slow infill in other areas.	Jun 12, 2009 2:53 AM
17	Again there is a age factor, we see most volunteers like the trees as either very young or old, the middle age group has other priorities	Jun 12, 2009 4:51 AM
18	Conflict resolution committee to deal with replacement of ornamentals with food trees, and trees that block sunlight from solar collectors and food gardens.	Jun 12, 2009 6:05 PM
19	Harvest fruit and nut trees that should be planted	Jun 12, 2009 7:27 PM
20	The absolute right of landowners to manage trees on private land. If Saanich wants a particular tree protected they should purchase the land it sits upon. I am a law abiding citizen who wishes to work in conjunction with the overall plans for my community but when the municipality takes away my right to grow fruit and vegetables in my previously sunny back yard to protect a tree that is much too close to my dwelling according to the local Fire Dept and my home insurance agent, then something is out of balance. It forces people like to me to plant ivy to thin the tree canopy despite knowledge of the negative aspects of that action. Moderation in all things please and a healthy BALANCE of shade and sunlight. Both are necessary to a pleasant place to live. I am now weighing my options - move out of Saanich or pay the fine for cutting down trees invading my smaller and smaller patch of back yard sunlight. Ivy is not the only thing that can be invasive!!!!	Jun 12, 2009 7:35 PM
21	Designing, installing and maintaining permaculture food forests on public land.	Jun 12, 2009 8:32 PM
22	Great ideas - will you implement them? Perhaps each neighbourhood association can participate in a concerted effort to protect and grow more trees.	Jun 12, 2009 10:30 PM
23	I have already being taking care of the boulevard (Sorbus) in front of my house as well as removing all of the wild blackberry that was in my yard and in the neighbours yard. I am an expert P.Ag. in Fruit tree production, too bad you do not want to produce food.	Jun 13, 2009 3:25 AM
24	We need to think and plan ahead in 100 year intervals and we need Saanich Council to do the same.	Jun 13, 2009 6:10 PM
25	parks dept. should spend more time looking after the parks	Jun 15, 2009 2:03 PM
26	growing trees for urban agriculture	Jun 15, 2009 4:42 PM
27	1. Helping to train and educate uninformed public 2. Arranging & leading recreational activities in urban forests which will acquaint the public with their beauty and worth 3. Identifying vandals & neighbors who misuse/mistreat the forest 4. Helping to change strata organizations so that natural gardens with more trees are implemented.	Jun 16, 2009 12:29 AM

Other (please specify)		
28	Area residents should have a say in how their neighbourhoods are developed rather than being told - no variance should go through without a majority of neighbours agreeing and no cutting down of rare and endangered species unless for safety reasons	Jun 17, 2009 12:39 AM
29	An urban forest stewardship program..to encourage and enable the stewardship of privately held areas of urban forest	Jun 18, 2009 4:19 AM
30	Residents with the expertise could help with inventory on public and private lands; monitoring, compliance and enforcement with respect to tree preservation is important and there may be a role residents or community groups could play in this (similar to Block Watch but with a focus on trees)	Jul 27, 2009 8:35 PM
31	Even very small tax incentives can make a huge difference to publicize the desire for community involvement. Look at the number of people bringing their own bags to stores now. It just required a bit of publicity.	Jul 28, 2009 4:19 PM
32	Being listened to by politicians and the CRD relative to the undesirability of destroying existing first and second growth forests when alternative areas are available for such initiatives as the impending sewage treatment plant which can be installed off Cedar Hill Crossroad without destroying our valuable forest along Arbutus Road.	Jul 28, 2009 4:21 PM
33	Information, properly disseminated, ie. to everyone, is essential to get the momentum and interest going forward.	Jul 28, 2009 6:35 PM
34	We are entering a period of grave food insecurity, so do not preclude land use for growing food. Don't just discard this thought, as you may not have to live much longer, to experience hunger.	Jul 28, 2009 6:52 PM
35	The degree and nature of " Foresting " that occurs throughout Saanich varies greatly .Some areas are already blessed others not . If Saanich is to embark upon a municipality wide Forest , and I would heartily support such a move , it seems logical that plans be developed for each area with Saanich setting municipality wide standards as well as leading in coorinding local groups in the development of plans for each area .	Jul 28, 2009 7:17 PM
36	We feel that Saanich already enables resident involvement in the above ways. The issue is the extent to which residents come forward.	Aug 4, 2009 3:54 AM
37	Street trees on boulevards in front of homes should be drought tolerant. The boulevard in Juan de Fuca Terrace is a good example of a low maintenance boulevard requiring no watering. With very little more attention, it could look even better. The boulevard on Arbutus Rd, above Telegraph Bay Rd. is a prime example of BAD planning and execution. It cost about \$0.5Million to tear out a low maintenance boulevard and replace it with a less attractive, high maintenance boulevard requiring irrigation and growing deer food. An area that was paved with rocks and cement has grass coming through the cracks and looks unkempt. And, one large area planted with annuals looks great 2 out of 12 months of the year.	Aug 7, 2009 11:15 PM
38	Make an affordable way to sponsor tree planting.	Aug 11, 2009 5:16 AM
39	better outreach and information to help residents get involved.	Aug 25, 2009 8:44 PM

## Question 8

Management policies, most often approved in regulations and bylaws, provide for the protection and maintenance of trees and the urban forest in our community. HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU with the following municipal bylaws and regulations AS THEY AFFECT TREES AND URBAN FORESTS in our community?





# Saanich Urban Forest Strategy

<b>Management policies, most often approved in regulations and bylaws, provide for the protection and maintenance of trees and the urban forest in our community. HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU with the following municipal bylaws and regulations AS THEY AFFECT TREES AND URBAN FORESTS in our community?</b>				
	<b>Very Familiar</b>	<b>Somewhat Familiar</b>	<b>Not at all Familiar</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Tree Preservation Bylaw	21.5% (43)	<b>50.0% (100)</b>	28.5% (57)	200
Park Tree Policy	8.1% (16)	31.8% (63)	<b>60.6% (120)</b>	198
Boulevards Management Bylaw	7.5% (15)	29.1% (58)	<b>63.8% (127)</b>	199
Parks Management & Control Bylaw	4.6% (9)	28.2% (55)	<b>67.2% (131)</b>	195
Integrated Pest Management Policy	6.6% (13)	31.1% (61)	<b>62.2% (122)</b>	196
Streetscape Safety Projects Policy	3.6% (7)	25.6% (50)	<b>70.8% (138)</b>	195
Official Community Plan Bylaw	12.3% (24)	40.5% (79)	<b>47.2% (92)</b>	195
Subdivision Bylaw	8.9% (17)	32.3% (62)	<b>58.9% (113)</b>	192
Watercourse and Drainage Regulation Bylaw	6.2% (12)	30.8% (60)	<b>63.1% (123)</b>	195
Do you have ANY COMMENTS about the tree management bylaws & regulations that you are familiar with?				61
<i>answered question</i>				<b>201</b>
<i>skipped question</i>				<b>2</b>

<b>Do you have ANY COMMENTS about the tree management bylaws &amp; regulations that you are familiar with?</b>		
1	not at this time	Apr 30, 2009 2:52 AM
2	In rural areas the protection of trees on larger lots seems to be less stringently monitored. We have a neighbour on our street who lives adjacent to our largest park and has essentially been allowed to (or has just expanded her vision) clear cut the majority of her property. That is absolutely nuts. Where is the vision?	Apr 30, 2009 4:53 AM
3	Generally tree management seems fairly good so I have not bothered to review the various bylaws.	Apr 30, 2009 8:55 PM
4	Protection of non-native, invasive trees of any size should be rescinded. Protection of native trees should extend to young trees to provide for forest succession. The bylaw should be tightened up to protect parks trees and their root systems from activities occurring on adjacent/abutting private properties. Developers should be required to do more regarding a proposed building envelope to save trees vs allowing all trees within a proposed envelope to be removed. Maybe it's time builders went back to building homes with a smaller footprint by including basements, (which would also help conserve energy and reduce heating costs).	May 1, 2009 1:15 AM

**Do you have ANY COMMENTS about the tree management bylaws & regulations that you are familiar with?**

5	need to protect smaller trees, which have not yet reached 80 cm. Many owners are cutting these trees for fear they will become protected.	May 1, 2009 9:22 PM
6	Obviously the Tree Preservation Bylaw does not work for rural Saanich and is not enforced. We need to have a way of recognizing and valuing areas left in natural forest.	May 3, 2009 6:11 PM
7	Tree bylaw needs to include smaller caliber trees to protect the younger trees. No protection for newly planted trees.	May 12, 2009 11:36 PM
8	- Time for a public revisiting and reworking	May 13, 2009 10:28 PM
9	I've read a little on the pest control but would not call myself "familiar" with any of them	May 21, 2009 9:19 PM
10	They don't provide protection of small diameter trees or under storey and provide no incentives for planting on private land	May 26, 2009 6:58 PM
11	Community Education should be a focus.	Jun 1, 2009 11:26 PM
12	I do not understand how and why so many of the Garry Oaks in my area have been removed in the last 35 years!	Jun 2, 2009 6:23 PM
13	Is there a tree management bylaw and/or regulation that will protect Haro Woods from destruction for a sewage plant?	Jun 2, 2009 11:50 PM
14	Saanich Parks appears to be contravening Saanich's Official Community Plan and have a dual standard of operation. They are not respecting so-called "protected" healthy Douglas Firs & other trees on Tyndall Ave. & instead arranging for them to be cut down. Who is to say if a tree is ugly or not? 150 signatures to save A FURTHER approx 16 trees on Tyndall Ave. is being ignored.	Jun 3, 2009 8:36 PM
15	Saanich bylaws do not have sufficient weight in the face of decisions made by the CRD, including the BC expropriation act for use of land for sewage treatment and other purposes that are outside the mandate of municipal bylaws	Jun 4, 2009 2:05 AM
16	I have not been informed about any of these by laws, but I am very interested and will begin research promptly.	Jun 4, 2009 2:37 AM
17	They need to be more effectively communicated and promoted in the public eye.	Jun 4, 2009 3:50 AM
18	I believe if an owner chooses to cut down Arbutus trees on their property, there should be a fine levied. This includes the CRD properties.	Jun 4, 2009 4:01 AM
19	No but please don't cut down the remaining few trees that we have in Saanich, especially the Haro Woods.	Jun 4, 2009 5:04 AM
20	If they were working then we wouldn't be needing this survey and green spaces/wilderness would be doing better.	Jun 4, 2009 5:44 AM
21	stop being "complaint-driven" instead of your standard "pro-active"!  Increase penalties for residents who continue to cut down trees for their DAMN VIEW!	Jun 4, 2009 4:10 PM
22	educate me?	Jun 4, 2009 8:59 PM
23	Why am I not familiar with these bylaws?	Jun 5, 2009 4:47 AM
24	the bylaws & regulations are not working in my area because saanich parks are using them as an excuse to remove the trees rather than preserve them.	Jun 5, 2009 5:36 PM
25	I'm not too familiar yet, but I will be.	Jun 6, 2009 10:58 PM
26	We are new to the area.	Jun 7, 2009 1:24 AM
27	Reduce them to a bare minimum; the fewer the better. You can regulate all you want, but at the end of the day nature will run its course. Tree removal in itself is far less destructive than the unregulated sale of exotic species or the potential damage from fires.	Jun 10, 2009 2:51 AM
28	the tree preservation bylaw seems to give a lot of leeway in determining what is a dangerous tree and that one can shop around to find an arborist to support the position that one wants thus, trees are not protected	Jun 10, 2009 2:57 PM
29	where is information available?	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM

Do you have ANY COMMENTS about the tree management bylaws & regulations that you are familiar with?		
30	where is information available?	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
31	bylaw is weak as per size of trees protected and limited protection in rural Saanich (incl ALR land)	Jun 11, 2009 11:21 PM
32	<p>The subdivision bylaw is too lax and the planning officer's decision is final (bar an appeal to Supreme Court). Other jurisdictions have created APPEAL bodies for subdivisions. This is absolutely necessary in BC - this is not just a need for Saanich.</p> <p>The fact that PROTECTED trees cease to be protected once they are in the building envelope is a nonsense in many circumstances. Only in the most exceptional cases should protected trees be lost, and certainly not for subdivisions of smaller properties.</p>	Jun 12, 2009 2:53 AM
33	need to have saanich involved in tree covenants	Jun 12, 2009 4:51 AM
34	They are archaic and provide nothing for the monumental social upheaval that is coming with the climate crisis, food security and energy shortages.	Jun 12, 2009 6:05 PM
35	Would like a summarized "cole's notes" version of these bylaws if possible.	Jun 12, 2009 7:27 PM
36	Please remove the right of a committee of strangers to involve themselves in any fashion other than as consultants in the management or cutting of trees on privately owned land. Its an invasion of property owner rights and has led to an imbalance in shade vs sunlight in our community, reducing property values and desirability of living in this municipality.	Jun 12, 2009 7:35 PM
37	hmmm. No. I have only recently chosen to live in Victoria, and am still getting educated. This task requires a lot of self-motivation, and I haven't been offered any help from anyone who knows more than I know.	Jun 12, 2009 9:05 PM
38	Unfortunately, i have little knowledge of the bylaws until I need to know something and then I find out. Perhaps if each neighbourhood association could have a condensed version of the most important points (from a local homeowner point of view), this information could be more readily shared. Even having a top 10 list of the most useful items to know would be helpful. Info can be shared through schools, environmental associations, posters,fridge magnets, etc...	Jun 12, 2009 10:30 PM
39	Fruit trees are not high maintenance, people not familiar with them just think they are. if they can get over the fact that there will be a few bug marks on the fruit or a few caterpillars on the leaves, then they could be used as boulevard trees. Effective IPM monitoring, careful selection of trees (local races from leconteau) and good site selection would be easy to accomplish in Saanich.	Jun 13, 2009 3:25 AM
40	Assume future high population densities around village cores and transit stations, and assume we will need a variety of greenways and urban forests close to and linking them.	Jun 13, 2009 6:10 PM
41	No - I am relatively new to Saanich from Victoria where I knew more of the by-laws.	Jun 15, 2009 2:35 AM
42	Just want to see as much treed green space kept in as much of a natural state as possible.	Jun 15, 2009 4:01 AM
43	WCB safety policies in natural parks need relaxation to allow machinery to work within a shorter distance from trees, where machinery is absolutely necessary.	Jun 15, 2009 7:31 PM
44	Sending out to all homeowners a clear and simple outline of what bylaws and policies exists and how people can be part of visioning and creating a healthy urban forest for the future. This could be done through community associations.	Jun 15, 2009 7:38 PM

Do you have ANY COMMENTS about the tree management bylaws & regulations that you are familiar with?		
45	Need to have provision for trimming, topping and preventative maintenance of trees which can/do block major ocean or other views. At present there is no apparent preventative management practice. If there was an up front strategy worked out between the Parks Dept and strata and/or individual property owner, we could preserve many more trees and reduce conflicts. If a property is purchased with an ocean view and this is lost, the value of that property is drastically reduced. But an ocean view in a natural environment with trees is desirable.  2.	Jun 16, 2009 12:29 AM
46	Watercourse and Drainage Regulation Bylaw is inadequate for the purpose of ecological management of stormwater; Official Community Plan Bylaw needs to be followed instead of varied; Park Tree Policy should put trees before people by putting dangerous areas out of bounds; Tree Preservation Bylaw needs to be enhanced to include more private/public owned trees.	Jun 17, 2009 12:39 AM
47	People in the various communities generally have no idea what the habitat bylaws are. They have not been involved or educated or encouraged to be active in this area.  I volunteer at Mt. Douglas and surrounding parks for invasive species removal and replanting and I know only what information is passed to me through the team supervisor and the meetings we have with the Municipal Parks coordinator. Prior to this.....I have not been provided with any information and I have lived in the same house at the base of one of Victoria's largest forest tracts for 36 years.	Jun 17, 2009 8:31 PM
48	I just care. Also that we as a community have to do everything we can to preserve, what we have.	Jul 9, 2009 3:46 PM
49	What management?? If planning deems a subdivision to go forward any bylaws or regulations are thrown to the curb. Practise what you preach otherwise don't waste the tax payer's dollar with a department that has no teeth.	Jul 16, 2009 1:48 AM
50	Tree Preservation Bylaw requires a comprehensive overhaul/update	Jul 27, 2009 8:35 PM
51	Should know more	Jul 28, 2009 3:17 AM
52	Please don't destroy any portion of the Haro Woods. All the trees are important and in particular the deciduous trees in the Saanich portion of the Haro Woods. They offer a greater diversity for animal species to thrive in.	Jul 28, 2009 3:44 AM
53	Too much bureaucratic interference with private property owners. Saanich has gone overboard by hiring too many municipal employees in this environmental field. This current initiative is a prime example of bureaucracy gone wild.	Jul 28, 2009 2:03 PM
54	In Cadboro Bay, there is a lack of cohesive, understandable communication about many of the green areas. The zoning confuses many residents who live near Haro Woods, the Queen Alexandra property, and other coastal wooded areas. Also, the term "covenant", ie. land and woods preserved for posterity, is apparently meaningless (according to municipal planning office staff)	Jul 28, 2009 6:35 PM
55	Yes, they have been used by Parks staff to prevent the removal of large Holy trees, by volunteer invasive species removal workers. Insane!	Jul 28, 2009 6:52 PM
56	increase fines for illegal tree cutting	Jul 28, 2009 10:48 PM
57	There should be enforced protection of nesting and roosting trees on private property for birds such as eagles and herons. This protection should include a significant buffer of natural vegetation around each tree. The significant trees should be maintained. The removal of invasive species such as English ivy on these trees should take place (by Saanich staff?) to ensure their health and survival.	Jul 29, 2009 1:18 AM
58	I see far too many violations, both by Saanich of its own bylaws and by private owners.	Jul 30, 2009 5:45 PM
59	Only that if we want to cut down a tree on our property, we need permission. Arbutus and Garry Oaks are protected.	Aug 1, 2009 10:35 PM

**Do you have ANY COMMENTS about the tree management bylaws & regulations that you are familiar with?**

60	The forest cover in our area is primarily Douglas Fir (approx 100 year old second growth). A high percentage of these trees is in the 18 - 24 inch dbh range and are currently not protected. The current Tree Preservation Bylaw should be changed to protect D-Fir 18 inches + rather than 24 inches +.	Aug 4, 2009 3:54 AM
61	i think the boulevard initiatives are the most important	Aug 25, 2009 8:44 PM

**Question 9**

**Do you have OTHER IDEAS OR COMMENTS regarding the District of Saanich Urban Forest?**

# Saanich Urban Forest Strategy

Do you have OTHER IDEAS OR COMMENTS regarding the District of Saanich Urban Forest?		
		Response Count
		122
<i>answered question</i>		<b>122</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>81</b>

Response Text		
1	<p>This survey should have included more demographic information; this would allow the survey authors to better tailor education to specific groups of people, and to understand if there are any demographic trends.</p> <p>I think that there should be a stronger boulevard tree policy. It really makes a difference to have boulevard trees along each street. Our street has boulevard trees at one end only; and that end is certainly more aesthetically pleasing than the rest of the street. More Garry oak boulevard trees, please! And less nasty pruning - it makes them look terrible, and I believe it weakens the entire tree, making it more susceptible to blow-down.</p> <p>As well, there are a few areas in Saanich that belong to the BC Ministry of Transportation (e.g. Saanich and Blanshard/Douglas, McKenzie and highway). These are some of the few undisturbed areas of Garry oak habitat left, and as such, they should be restored; this would include planting of more Garry oaks where needed, as well as herbaceous plants such as camas, shooting stars, chocolate lilies, and other native plants which inhabit these habitats.</p>	Apr 22, 2009 4:44 AM
2	<p>Trees adapt to the conditions present in their immediate area. Changes to these conditions can have a variety of negative affects on trees the severity of which depends on their type/age/exposure to the changes. If the proper offsets between the potentially affected trees and the cause of the changes can not be maintained I feel that it is often better to remove the affected tree and start anew with the installation of a native plant community suited to the new site conditions.</p>	Apr 29, 2009 8:43 PM
3	<p>The provincial carbon tax was designed to help decrease CO2 dumping to the atmosphere. Those of us maintaining urban forest (we have ~ 7 acres of mixed forest trees) should receive tax relief because our trees are CO2 sinks. This might help decrease logging efforts in Saanich, particularly since our bylaws against tree cutting appear to be ignored.</p>	Apr 29, 2009 9:36 PM

Response Text		
4	<p>Residents and developers within Saanich need incentives, regulatory and fiscal policy tools to live and operate within a region that values its urban forests. They must be both encouraged to work around and preserve trees where possible as well as be required to pay dearly for the replacement and maintenance of those trees removed from private property. It must be first made difficult and then expensive to remove trees in Saanich. Hefty fines need to be enforced for non-compliance with these regulations and the public must be encouraged to report such non-compliance.</p> <p>In addition to the regulatory and fiscal policies, homeowners and developers must be given incentives and be rewarded for adding to the urban forest of their own initiative.</p> <p>For instance, a homeowner could submit a landscaping receipt specifying the planting of a tree on an 'approved list' and receive a set amount back from Saanich or an amount deducted from their property taxes for the year.</p> <p>Developers creating an 'urban forest oasis' could be rewarded in a similar manner. These 'refunds' or tax-breaks need to be of a significant amount, not a small token of gratitude for the future services the new trees will provide, but a genuine THANK YOU for your hard work, ecological interest and community pride!</p> <p>In order to make this fly you need to do exactly what you're planning - get the community excited about a vision for the future, bring ideas together in workshops on developing an urban forest strategy and target schools and 'friends-of' groups to initiate the 'green-up' work in the community.</p>	Apr 30, 2009 2:52 AM
5	<p>Include native species whenever possible.</p> <p>Plant trees suitable to cope with climate change.</p> <p>Identify and leave wildlife trees - do not cut them down.</p>	Apr 30, 2009 4:09 AM
6	<p>Saanich has always been a leader within the CRD and it is wonderful to see this initiative being undertaken. Kudos to you. I look forward to seeing where this goes. Perhaps more funding for monitoring, more funding for new trees to be grown, more education so people understand the value that trees provide to their incredible community.</p>	Apr 30, 2009 4:53 AM
7	<p>glad this is moving forward. thanks.</p>	Apr 30, 2009 5:12 AM
8	<p>Imperatave that it is preserved and improved, though it seems fairly well handeled at the moment.</p>	Apr 30, 2009 8:55 PM
9	<p>Language in the policy must be clear enough that it does not lend itself to manipulation by those intent on circumventing it. It must be defensible so time is not spent trying to rationalize with those who refuse to understand/comply. Words like "recommend, suggest, encourage" are a waste of time as they have no teeth. The Urban Forest Strategy will need a full set of "choppers" to function effectively in today's world. Thank you.</p>	May 1, 2009 1:15 AM
10	<p>Public education will affect the outcome of the future urban forest in Saanich. We cannot start too soon educating our children and homeowners as to what each of us can do to contribute to sustainability and even growth of the urban forest in Saanich</p>	May 1, 2009 1:31 AM
11	<p>When doing community mapping or OCP work , ensure that existing or potential , prime tree growing sites are recognized and evaluated . Much like agricultural land is recoginzed , given special status and protected .</p>	May 4, 2009 8:12 PM
12	<p>Please keep me informed and try to connect with the many "Friends of" societies, not just the community associations. For instance, the Friends of Knockan Hill Park as well as the Strawberry Vale Residents Association.</p> <p>Please take into account our study for a Park Management Plan completed last year by a team from Royal Roads University.</p>	May 5, 2009 3:24 AM
13	<p>please protect what we have and try to plant more and prevent trees from being taken out, for example, for more parking at Mt. Douglas park.</p>	May 5, 2009 9:22 PM



Response Text		
14	It should be easy for residents to find out where it is acceptable/what trees are acceptable to plant for important occasions (birth, marriage, in memory of a loved one etc). The city could provide a program whereby residents can donate a tree to the city that will be planted in an area that the city deems appropriate. There could be a small plaque or a marking on the tree that indicates for whom and why it was planted.	May 6, 2009 8:09 PM
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Redefine UF term not to be too narrow: "all trees"</li> <li>- Much wider than just trees: shrubs, low plants</li> <li>- Be prepared to remove some trees for reason (open up canopy, damaged, invasive, fire; horse logging opportunity?)</li> <li>- Public information and education needed</li> </ul>	May 13, 2009 10:28 PM
16	The commitment to forest areas, wildlife corridors, preserving trees, improving urban walking/biking trails have longer term value than building a few big box stores.	May 16, 2009 4:53 AM
17	Restore nature's function as it is what allows all creatures to exist on this planet. The more concrete jungles we build will only limit that ability to exist.	May 26, 2009 6:58 PM
18	manage for improvement of local ecology as well as for pleasing aesthetic values	May 31, 2009 2:23 AM
19	<p>I'm concerned that other provincial bodies such as BC Hydro significantly impact the character and maintenance of our trees, particularly under hydro lines. Every street has one side of hydro lines so if BC Hydro does not wish to prune the trees under its lines, hydro can insist that they be cut down, even trees that are significant or that form an arbored street.</p> <p>Giving home owners an opinion and a say in what trees are cut down is detrimental to the ambiance of neighborhood tree scapes and is happening in Saanich. Additionally homes change ownership, trees do not.</p>	Jun 1, 2009 11:26 PM
20	<p>How can the situation be improved?</p> <p>How can I as a retired 70 year old be of assistance.?</p> <p>How can Bowker Creek in Saanich come alive again?</p>	Jun 2, 2009 6:23 PM
21	Trees should also *not* be cut down because they're deemed "ugly", like that 80+ year old Douglas Fir that was at the corner on Midgard & Palo Alto.	Jun 2, 2009 6:37 PM
22	Saanich Urban Forests are a vital part of our community, but the latest threat to one of our urban forests, Haro Woods, suggests strongly that our Saanich politicians will not rise to protect them in the face of competing projects, such as the unnecessary sewage plant that will kill Haro Woods.	Jun 2, 2009 11:50 PM
23	I want to see Haro Woods turned into a park	Jun 3, 2009 6:22 PM
24	There should be a permanent moratorium on cutting our urban forest on Tyndall Avenue. More HEALTHY trees are scheduled by Saanich Parks to be removed in July 2009.	Jun 3, 2009 8:36 PM
25	SAVE HARO WOODS. or at least turn it into a park	Jun 3, 2009 11:46 PM
26	Make it a city park.	Jun 3, 2009 11:54 PM
27	don't take away the trees	Jun 4, 2009 12:05 AM
28	Awareness must be spread	Jun 4, 2009 12:07 AM
29	turn Haro Woods into a park for everyone to enjoy! it is a lovely beautiful green space and should be marveled at by everyone!	Jun 4, 2009 12:24 AM
30	Please don't cut down our forest. It's used daily by hundreds of people for recreational activities. And besides, think of how much a sewage treatment plant actually stinks... My father works in one, I've spent many hours in and around them.. it's disgusting, find somewhere else. The \$\$\$ value of all the properties in and around the area will decrease hugely.	Jun 4, 2009 12:32 AM
31	I think Haro Woods should NOT be turned into a sewage treatment plant but into a park	Jun 4, 2009 12:32 AM
32	Don't make it a sewage treatment plant.	Jun 4, 2009 12:37 AM

Response Text		
33	Protect Haro Woods from being turned into a sewage plant. Protect what is left from the project and turn it into a park. There are plenty of us willing to help keep it clean	Jun 4, 2009 12:45 AM
34	please save haro woods!	Jun 4, 2009 12:49 AM
35	Please make the forest somewhere for bikers to ride because we have no where	Jun 4, 2009 1:37 AM
36	As much effort as can be asserted is needed in order to protect Haro Woods, including the NW section just purchased by the CRD from destruction, in particular when there are other "brown areas" at the University of Victoria that can be used by the CRD for sewage treatment.	Jun 4, 2009 2:05 AM
37	Haro forest to be a park; protected.	Jun 4, 2009 2:10 AM
38	Please keep these places of nature as they are. We need these spaces to help improve the overall quality of life in humans and in animals	Jun 4, 2009 2:37 AM
39	turn haro woods into a park	Jun 4, 2009 2:55 AM
40	I believe this area should be changed to a park	Jun 4, 2009 3:18 AM
41	Nope. Let Haro Woods stay. It's a good area, perhaps turn it into a park?	Jun 4, 2009 3:21 AM
42	Think with your hearts.	Jun 4, 2009 3:50 AM
43	After All the years the residents in this community have been lobbying to have their neighbourhood forest preserved into perpetuity, just as the UVic protects their portion of this sensitive ecosystem. And the fact that our Local Area Plan states that Haro Woods is not longer a consideration for a sewage treatment plant. It is high time this mature Urban forest was paid the respect of having a P4 designation. There is no valid reason for the destruction of this functioning system to be disturbed. It adds to the quality of life. Residents have been trying to protect this forest for 40 years. It's been made very clear, time and time again that the taxpayers do not want this forested area disturbed.	Jun 4, 2009 4:01 AM
44	Hard work needed to help make unused private property into public property to avoid the clearing of trees for commercial and retail value.	Jun 4, 2009 4:11 AM
45	How can the CRD say that the best place for a sewage treatment plant in East Saanich is the Haro Woods. Nobody ever asked me for advise and I live bordering the Haro Wood's forest. Where was the local consultation with the effected residents..? There wasn't any. Because there wasn't a huge outcry concerning the Haro Woods the CRD assumed that it was OK to buy the QA property which comprises the top half of the Haro Woods and use it for sewage treatment. The whole process has been an embarrassing sham and the residents are now very upset..	Jun 4, 2009 5:04 AM
46	Maybe tree service costs should be tax deductible to encourage people to care for their trees. Hefty fees to cut down trees of a certain size. Tax breaks to homes with lots of trees. Turn areas into parks. Educate people to how important trees/urban forests are to us in so many ways. Educate and advocate to bring pride to our communities for our success in saving our green space and ourselves.	Jun 4, 2009 5:44 AM
47	Turning Haro Woods into a park - instead of killing the forest, killing the habitat, killing the beauty, with a Sewage Treatment Plant.	Jun 4, 2009 6:10 AM
48	As a resident of Cadboro Bay, the current development plans of a sewage treatment plant have been brought to my attention. One such possible location is Haro Woods. I feel that this development would be tragic for the Cadboro Bay community. This property is a source of pride within the neighborhood, and a mere block away from a children's daycare, children's hospital, middle school, and many residents. I believe this land would become most beneficial to the community as maintenanced parkland.	Jun 4, 2009 6:15 AM

Response Text		
49	Haro Woods is a beautiful area that benefits the community by providing lovely green space as well as lots of great animal habitat. Our green spaces are part of the reason cadboro bay is such a sought after neighborhood! It would be very upsetting to see this forest turned into a sewage treatment facility! Haro woods should be a source of pride to the community, not a point of disgrace! If our politicians are trying to do whats best for the community, then turning it into a park would be a much better solution!	Jun 4, 2009 3:58 PM
50	MAKE THIS A PRIORITY!  INCREASE BYLAW ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES!  Have a continuous add in the Saanich News warning people of penalties for illegally cutting down trees!  Saanich Planning should inform all prospective home buyers and people who subdivide that they cannot cut down trees for their private and selfish views.	Jun 4, 2009 4:10 PM
51	Please don't remove Haro woods in the Arbutus/Cadboro Bay Area. I don't know who will read this survey but that forest is a great place. With two public schools and a large townhouse complex bordering it, a lot of people find enjoyment and use in the paths and environment it provides. A green space of such size is too rare in many cities and to deplete or shrink that forest would be tragic.	Jun 4, 2009 8:59 PM
52	This would be an awfull shame to tear down such a wonderfull and very needed ecosystem in our comunity, why not find a parcel of land that is has no such natural significance to it, as opposed to ruining the lives of so much wildlife	Jun 4, 2009 10:55 PM
53	You should turn Haro Woods into a Park!	Jun 5, 2009 4:47 AM
54	saanich parks should do much much more to preserve the urban forest. saanich parks should not greenwash in order to hide the facts. saanich parks has aggressively pursued a campaign to remove trees in my area of gordon head. it is simple - all saanich parks has to do is stop cutting down the trees. I believe the urban forest could manage itself if saanich parks would just stop cutting down the trees. many residents in my neighborhood do not trust the saanich parks department because they talk about saving trees but in reality they appear to have a hidden agenda to remove them. if you check out the saanich gis website for my area (tyndall avenue), this would be the obvious conclusion!	Jun 5, 2009 5:36 PM
55	We are "Beautiful British Columbia", and Victoria, "Garden City". Trees, wildlife and lush gardens are our proudest asset. There are thousands of 'pavement cities', but Victoria is not one of those places. So we should dedicate time and money towards parks, gardens and wild life rehabilitation. Victoria is a very special city BECAUSE of its trees.	Jun 5, 2009 9:23 PM
56	SAVE HARO WOODS!	Jun 5, 2009 9:49 PM
57	Turn Haro woods into a protected park.	Jun 5, 2009 10:46 PM
58	My perception is that municipalities do not have the funds for activities such as invasives clearing and greater effort should be made to involve the greater (like the 99+%) who are either uninformed or apathetic.I am involved and I would like to thank Saanich Parks who have been really great.  I would stress again that "neighborhoods" are primarily not about the people that live in them,though of course people are part of the equation,but rather there natural surroundings.In the vast majority of cases people choose to live in a particular neighborhood because of its natural surroundings.	Jun 6, 2009 4:48 PM
59	I would just like to say that being only 17, I have a deep interest in keeping the integrity of our forests at a good enough level that MY children can enjoy it the way I have. And for god sakes, please dont put a sewage treatment plant in haro woods. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE!!!! There must be other feasible locations that would not turn a beautifully kept forest into a smelly waste dump. Thank you for doing this survey, I hope you guys listen, we all care about this.	Jun 6, 2009 10:58 PM
60	I would like to see more fruit trees, particularly dwarf fruit trees.	Jun 7, 2009 1:24 AM

Response Text		
61	leave the forest as it its	Jun 7, 2009 5:21 AM
62	I believe that the little we have left must be kept untouched. Our children deserve that; a life full of the same wonder we take for granted daily. Try, when you can remember, to open your eyes and see this world for what it is, then think of what could be. We can do so much, even with the smallest amount of responsibility set upon each of us, and using simple common sense.	Jun 8, 2009 3:48 AM
63	Make Haro Woods into a protected park not a sewage treatment sight	Jun 9, 2009 5:21 AM
64	Why are blowdown or hazardous trees that are dropped (sometimes into the lake) not removed - with horses, if necessary? Catastrophic fires are a disaster waiting to happen, and yet it is hardly touched upon in this survey or anywhere. If climate change is real, as projected, the incipient fire risks will only increase. The District should consider providing tax incentives and other assistance to help rural property owners make their properties more fireproof in the interest of their own and surrounding properties. The District itself should do much more to fireproof the parks under its jurisdiction and encourage the CRD to do likewise, but I realize the latter is long shot. A collaborative approach rather than a regulatory/punitive approach will yield better results in the long term. And, as we all know, forest management is a long-term proposition.	Jun 10, 2009 2:51 AM
65	I recommend that the Saanich Parks Trails and Recreation committee (I am a member) continue to be very involved in this strategy.	Jun 10, 2009 8:25 PM
66	thank you for including the community in this survey and for using it to protect the urban forests. I believe our greatest threat is development for housing and developers being able to do whatever they want to a property. Even single family dwellings such as the new home at the west end of Quayle Road...which is an example of a huge footprint on a rural lot. That is clearly inappropriate for this rural landscape.	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
67	thank you for including the community in this survey and for using it to protect the urban forests. I believe our greatest threat is development for housing and developers being able to do whatever they want to a property. Even single family dwellings such as the new home at the west end of Quayle Road...which is an example of a huge footprint on a rural lot. That is clearly inappropriate for this rural landscape.	Jun 11, 2009 4:27 PM
68	We are in the middle of endangered Garry oak ecosystem and it defines character of Saanich and Greater Victoria. Needs much more protection and proactive management.  Significant Tree Program could be a much more effective educational component of urban forest - it currently falls far short of potential	Jun 11, 2009 11:21 PM
69	Loss of urban forest occurs because density increases slowly. We need to make the process of subdivision take into account urban forest impact in a systematic way. An assessment should be included in the fee for subdivision application, and the planning officer must be challengeable.	Jun 12, 2009 2:53 AM
70	Stop rezoning and splitting up existing properties. Councils actions create value at the expense of our quality of life and the trees.	Jun 12, 2009 4:51 AM
71	I think we should protect our heritage trees, such as Garry Oaks at all cost and should not be removed to allow construction. We should build up not out whenever possible. protecting the Urban Forest should have top priority.	Jun 12, 2009 5:18 PM
72	All Saanich politicians and staff should become more familiar with Permaculture principles, the carrying capacity limitations of this Island, and the thoroughly unsustainable bubble we live in! Everything I saw on this page and and at the public forum fits into the self-deluding reality that most people live in - believing that slight tweaking of business-as-usual practices will serve us well. The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) is hoping to offer education sessions in the fall. Watch for them. They will burst your bubble!	Jun 12, 2009 6:05 PM

Response Text		
73	I've visited cities with no trees, on public or private lands. I appreciate the green canopy in Saanich, particularly where I live. It adds immeasurably to my life and I have subsequently planted 12 new trees on my property in the nine years I have lived here. I am not anti-tree. I am, however, strongly opposed to management of trees on private lands by municipalities. It is fundamentally wrong in so many ways and leads to confrontation and illegal cutting of trees. I do support the role of municipalities of coming up with plans for urban forests on public land, and inviting landowners to join in the vision, providing expert advice on how best to manage privately owned trees and offering rewards for those who strive to follow that vision. (Possible tax cuts of 1 or 2%) Possibly even scheduling a tree consult with each new homeowner upon the sale of a property in the municipality. I have often turned to the Parks Dept staff in the past for advice on how to manage growth on my property. They have been most helpful and cooperative. But when they approve tree cuttings or prunings only to have their decisions overridden by committees of non experts with no knowledge of the particular property, then we are in a state of mis-management by the municipality.	Jun 12, 2009 7:35 PM
74	Please look ahead and recognize that the changes needed to Saanich's Urban Forest are not just cosmetic or a matter of maintenance. We need a wholesale shift in thinking to recognize the absolutely vital functions of trees in cleaning our air and water, sequestering carbon, and growing food. We also need to recognize that trees need healthy ecosystems around them; "Forest" needs to be taken more literally when considering how to manage the trees in the district of Saanich, and food forests throughout urban areas is the way of the future.	Jun 12, 2009 8:32 PM
75	I am shocked that there is no mention (thought? dream? imagination?) in this survey about forest as food. In the one year that I have lived in Saanich i have come across many people and projects associated with urban food forests, in their backyards or neighbourhood spaces.	Jun 12, 2009 9:05 PM
76	With Climate Change and Peak Oil suggesting a dismal future, especially if we do "too little, too late", we need to act quickly, decisively and massively. We all need to become aware of the issues and act on the best proposed solutions. What is more important than this? If our spaceship (Earth) goes down, we all go down with it.	Jun 12, 2009 10:30 PM
77	Fruit and nut trees to be added to the current planting.	Jun 12, 2009 10:55 PM
78	Have you considered implementing a boulevard enhancement program involving residents? Some of the trees could be fruit bearing.	Jun 12, 2009 11:04 PM
79	Plant other boulevard trees other than sorbus and hawthorn. The apple trees that are on wascana boulevard and other apple trees in the area left over from 40 to 60 years ago are still producing and the whole community shares the fruit come fall. Grocery bags are places on front lawns and everyone swaps varieties. That cannot be said for newer richer neighbourhoods like Broadmead. Areas along the goose could easily be planted more with food producing trees, the friends I know already use the goose to collect blackberries, rosehips, ryegrass and crabapples for their own personal use.	Jun 13, 2009 3:25 AM
80	How to encourage residents to plant trees on the boulevards and take care of them? the best time to plant a tree is 'twenty years ago'...OR, today!	Jun 13, 2009 3:39 AM
81	If we continue to remove our forests. Than we are as bad as the south americans who have and are removing the forests at an alarming rate.	Jun 13, 2009 4:21 PM
82	Yes, we are approaching a food security crisis, and must make ample provisions for food production very close to where we live (hence, ample orchard boulevards and allotment gardens). We must remain aware of what climate change will allow to grow here as components in urban forests, as we encounter those changes. Don't look back for advise, look forward.	Jun 13, 2009 6:10 PM

Response Text		
83	<p>1. Closing Churchill Drive road in Mt Doug Park a wonderful step for the walkers and nature lovers.</p> <p>2. I understand safety of people must come first, but resist the urge to cut all the old trees down.</p> <p>3. Preserve natural areas that don't consist of just manicured grass and flower beds. Preserve natural areas as oases of peace and quiet that are getting harder to find all the time.</p>	Jun 15, 2009 4:01 AM
84	All of the muniscpalitys have neglected invasive plants to the point a lot of peoples health are being seriously affected ie broom. There should be a massive cleanup with the Parks dept and if need be volunTERS. With the taxes we all pay the Parks dept should be doing their job.	Jun 15, 2009 2:03 PM
85	More swales and nature gardens, small or big, for boulevards are needed	Jun 15, 2009 7:31 PM
86	To start with every last employee of Saanich should be briefed about enviromental issues. Yes there will always be residents who don't care about these things but good government should be educated.	Jun 16, 2009 3:55 PM
87	To start with every last employee of Saanich should be briefed about enviromental issues. Yes there will always be residents who don't care about these things but good government should be educated.	Jun 16, 2009 3:55 PM
88	<p>Staffing:</p> <p>There appears to be inadequate staffing to manage our urban forests. In the past jobs have been part-time or shared in this most important portfolio. I would recommend to Saanich Council that the budget be increased to hire more staff to promote better parks management, to be able to supervise volunteer work in the park and to develop a consistent and ongoing public education program to promote better public care of parks and private trees.</p>	Jun 16, 2009 10:32 PM
89	Thanks for 'listening' to my 'voice': get out there and protect those trees!	Jun 17, 2009 12:39 AM
90	Our trees, forested areas and parks in Saanich are a treasure that must be preserved and enhanced for this and future generations, protected from development and decay. Once trees and forested areas are developed, the forest area is gone, FOREVER. I don't know of a single person who thinks Stanley Park in Vancouver or Beacon Hill Park in Victoria were a mistake to establish. We must protect and enhance these green spaces for eternity, for the enjoyment of all and for the wildlife within.	Jun 17, 2009 6:53 PM
91	If you want public participation, start in the elementary school system so that the children gain an appreciation. They can understand silviculture just as well as adults. Take them out or add assignments to the education which involve tree type recognition, flora and fauna. Be proactive in the communities in tree planting and care...perhaps a tax credit for those properties which will "adopt" a tree for their boulevard (will include mandatory maintenance). Government and corporate retirement human resource offices could be encouraged to recommend volunteering in the parks for those retirees who are in good health and want exercise. These people could be referred to groups within their own community where they may meet old friends and/or make new ones. The hook is that they need to be given a specific contact.	Jun 17, 2009 8:31 PM
92	Our neighbourhood holds important pockets of urban forest that are not identified or shown on any communitiij plans. The primary threat to these areas is subdivision and infilling. While increased density in the urban areas of Saanich is desirable for many reasons, these areas should be considered differently....for example restrictions on subdividing which are possibly offset by permitted suites or duplex/triplex development on existing or slightly larger building footprints. The unintended consequence of infilling these areas is the cumulative loss of significant areas of urban forest	Jun 18, 2009 4:19 AM
93	We use, enjoy and appreciate Saanich's Urban Forests with its well kept walk ways. Thank you.	Jun 21, 2009 11:35 PM

Response Text		
94	<p>I live on the corner of Barrie Rd and Tyndall I have numerous trees on my property which are looked after by an arborist.</p> <p>On the Tyndall side we have douglas firs which are located under the hydro wire corridor. These trees have been mutilated from continued pruning and are dying , a tree replacement program has been in place since 2003 to remove these trees and to replant with trees more suited to being under hydro wires.</p> <p>Every one in who is effected by these trees has been consulted, a vote was take for removing the trees which was carried. Some trees have been removed but each time the work begins a few irate individuals have the project stopped because they only like the democratic process when it goes the way the like. Thousand of tax dollars have been spent on this project, Saanich brought in UMA Engineering Ltd to do a survey for a tree removal and replacement plan which was voted on and agreed to.</p> <p>And so it happen again, all the assurance that the work will go ahead was hijacked by a few individuals who do not live anywhere close to our neighborhood. It was agreed by Saanich parks that they would plant new trees before removing the severley disfigured trees, this work was carried out in the month of May this year and we were told that the trees would be removed in June. This has come and gone after talking to C Manton Manager of Urban Forestry he has informed me that they will not be removing the trees till another survey is carried out by Eric Lees Ass Ltd.</p> <p>What is so frustrating is that decisions properly arrived at with the appropriate community input and approval, is suspended because of certain individuals. This project has been in the works for over 7 years how long will it take for this work to be completed</p>	Jul 6, 2009 5:49 PM
95	Tap into local expertise from: foresters, loggers, biology students, UVIC RNS students, local gardeners, etc.	Jul 8, 2009 10:58 PM
96	Planned regular park clean ups of all problems and not just once a year. I would suggest once every season (4 times a year)	Jul 9, 2009 3:46 PM
97	dont destroy our natural habitats	Jul 12, 2009 9:13 PM
98	Saanich trees add quality to my daily life, health to the environment, and even value to my property. Thank you for the work you already are doing.	Jul 14, 2009 10:05 PM
99	Please don't ruin Haro Woods and the surrounding areas	Jul 15, 2009 3:41 AM
100	See the comment above.	Jul 16, 2009 1:48 AM
101	Saanich Parks sends men with chainsaws into Mount Doug Park a couple of times a year to cut down what seems to me to be healthy trees. I would prefer that living trees remain standing.	Jul 18, 2009 11:45 PM
102	Realtors/neighbourhood welcome wagons/community associations/stewardship groups etc? could promote the tree bylaws and values of existing trees to prospective buyers/newcomers who often have different views of trees based on cultural or city values acquired elsewhere (ie prairie people, Albertans, etc) All types of incentives should be explored to support owners of large treed properties who wish to keep their treed properties intact in perpetuity.	Jul 27, 2009 8:35 PM
103	Vital to communtiy	Jul 28, 2009 3:17 AM
104	question #4 is very unclear. Please specify whether you are looking for what we hope to see, or what we think will really happen. Thanks	Jul 28, 2009 3:17 AM
105	Lombardy Poplars are not suitable for residential areas and should be removed from the Tree Preservation Bylaw. They continually shed leaves, twigs and branches and pose a serious threat to homes and the people in them. Removal of these mature trees should allowed as long as juvenile replacement trees are planted.	Jul 28, 2009 4:41 AM
106	I think preserving our trees and forests should be given a much higher priority. Our green space is what makes Greater Victoria so much different and more beautiful than many cities of its size	Jul 28, 2009 7:27 AM

Response Text		
107	Pay more attention to reducing fire hazard by clearing the kindling out of urban forested areas You have neglected draining waterlogged areas for example the park next to my house. You concentrate on the wrong priorities. More work for ratepayers is what we want for our tax dollar and less airy fairy strategizing.	Jul 28, 2009 2:03 PM
108	Please aggressively support the preservation and management of our existing forested areas and expand, where possible, forests rather than entertaining proposals for destroying existing forested ecosystems such as the forest along Arbutus Road which the CRD is strongly promoting as one of the sites for the sewage treatment plant.  It would be a tragedy to destroy the existing forested area along Arbutus Road when a more than acceptable non forested area exists along Cedar Hill Crossroad.	Jul 28, 2009 4:21 PM
109	If Saanich really means to protect urban forests, it should not choose the Haro Woods option as the site for sewage treatment. To do so would contradict the apparent intent of this survey. Saanich (and other municipalities) need to find a method of valuating (putting a \$ number to) Haro Woods (and other urban forests) such that its true value (ecosystem function, green space aesthetic, recreational and educational amenity, and hundreds of volunteer hours) are recognized in the inevitable "cost" comparison of alternatives. The UVIC site options will not (or need not) involve removal of urban forest.	Jul 28, 2009 5:20 PM
110	It is important that we preserve all forest areas in Victoria and environs. We should no longer allow forested areas to be developed. PERIOD.	Jul 28, 2009 6:35 PM
111	Protecting the older trees we have is vital, while at the same time planting new trees. Also, less lawn and more xeriscaping type areas by Saanich would make a difference. This may not be related, but do we need street lights lit up that close together? If every third street light was on (except at pedestrian crossings), this would save a significant amount of energy as well as giving us more of the dark and starry sky!	Jul 28, 2009 6:47 PM
112	Get advice from climate change experts and professional arborists and foresters, about what tree/shrub species to plant that can yield food and require very little water. The days of trees, purely for ornamentation, must give way to trees for a mix of purposes. I think Saanich must quickly adapt to this new paradigm. I suspect the old paradigm is very firmly embedded and people may need a jolt about co-existing in a better way with nature.	Jul 28, 2009 6:52 PM
113	Saanich fire roads and access roads which are currently used by residents as trails should be converted to official linear parks. The treed pathways provide a wonderful relief from vehicular traffic for pedestrians, dog walkers, and the urban wildlife.	Jul 29, 2009 1:18 AM
114	ensure the public is reasonably informed about policies relating to these issues	Jul 29, 2009 9:30 PM
115	Congratulations on forming this regulatory and protective policy, and I wish you great success in caring for Saanich's remaining urban forests.	Jul 30, 2009 5:45 PM
116	It is very worthwhile to use direct e-mail correspondence with survey responders as a means of soliciting ongoing input into the process. Newspapers, advisory committees and even residents associations are not all that effective for all tend to target a select, overlapping and very small minority of the region's population.	Jul 31, 2009 6:33 PM
117	Watering of trees on boulevards would be supported if Saanich covers the increased water & sewage cost to the resident.	Aug 1, 2009 10:54 PM
118	We need to recognize that with population increases it will be necessary to have more homes and this development may mean loss of some trees/forested areas. As long as we have a plan to replace lost trees and parts of the "urban forest" which is affected by the need for more dwellings, we can still have the same number of trees( or more). We can create treed boulevards, etc. Planning is key.	Aug 2, 2009 5:44 AM
119	The Queenswood area is a unique area, in large measure because of its forest cover. We would like to see increased priority and attention to having this forest better managed and protected. Thank you.	Aug 4, 2009 3:54 AM



Response Text		
120	<p>Cut grass along paths BEFORE it goes to seed.</p> <p>Cut the grass so it falls by the side of the paths and not on the paths. This will save the extra work of vacuuming up the dead grass and the resulting damage to the paths (loss of natural forest duff cover).</p>	Aug 7, 2009 11:15 PM
121	<p>we should really encourage a maximization of boulevard trees - if for no other reason it would dramatically reduce water consumption of lawns. personally, I have a tree in my front yard and the temperature moderation means I have a nice lawn under it with no watering while the rest is brown.</p>	Aug 25, 2009 8:44 PM
122	<p>Yes, SAVE HARO WOODS.. well, at least the Saanich owned portion, as the CRD has gobbled up the Queen E. Portion for the Sewage treatment plant. My children and I walk through this forest every day. We have seen owls, racoons, deer and Osprey. We look at the diversity of trees, flora and fauna. We watch the seasons come and go. Sometimes we hug a tree because its size is so humbling. The eduction my children get from this is gold. We don't have to get in our car to find this. Saanich owned portion of Haro woods should be embraced and revitalized into an urban forest learning center/park. After all it is surrounded by 3 preschools, an elementary school and nursing home, also the Queen E. Hospital proximity. Please, don't destroy it because the CRD bullies you into it. They have done enough of that lately.</p>	Sep 18, 2009 5:25 AM