

City of Edmonds
Community Forestry Objectives & Strategies
August 2014 DRAFT

1. Achieve a climate-appropriate amount of tree cover, community-wide.

Short-term strategies

- 🌳 Update Tree Code for better retention on private property.
- 🌳 Develop reasonable replacement standards for trees to be removed.
- 🌳 Develop a tree list to ensure better retention of appropriate trees contributing to the canopy.

Long-term strategies

- 🌳 Develop a GIS layer of the existing tree canopy and compare to impervious surface (unavailable space) and other vegetative cover to determine current level.
- 🌳 Identify potential planting spaces in publicly-owned and managed areas.

2. Establish a diverse tree population suitable for the urban [built] environment and adapted to the region.

Short-term strategies

- 🌳 Develop a comprehensive Edmonds' community tree list of suitable and appropriate species and utilize with development, redevelopment, and replacement opportunities.
- 🌳 Establish a public tree policy that considers the appropriateness of a species when managing trees in the right-of-way (ROW).

Long-term strategies

- 🌳 Use tree inventory information to work toward a more diverse tree population.

3. Acquire a comprehensive understanding of the tree resource to direct its management.

- Detailed understanding of the condition and risk potential of publicly-managed trees.
- Detailed understanding of the ecological structure and function of all natural areas.

Short-term strategies

- 🌳 Collect information about private trees on "tree plans" submitted for development and tree removal permits (under new code).
- 🌳 Compile all known information about the park, ROW, and street (downtown) trees into a basic inventory program.

Long-term strategies

- 🌳 Conduct a tree inventory (includes condition and risk) of downtown trees and ROW trees on major arterials.
- 🌳 Conduct plant studies in the City natural areas (UW or ECC students).

4. Develop and implement a comprehensive urban forest management plan for the community.
 - All public trees are managed with safety as a high priority.
 - Urban forest renewal is ensured through a tree establishment program driven by canopy cover and diversity objectives (1 & 2).
 - The benefits derived from large-stature/mature trees are ensured by the implementation and enforcement of municipal-wide policies and regulations.

Short-term strategies

- 🌳 Support the Tree Board in establishing a Heritage Tree Program.
- 🌳 Update private tree code to safely and reasonably retain significant trees.

Long-term strategies

- 🌳 Develop a management work plan from inventory and plant studies that will include risk management, appropriate replacement, and successful establishment.

5. Develop and maintain adequate funding and resources to implement a community forestry program.

Short-term strategies

- 🌳 Retain a contract qualified professional to administer updated private tree code; consider assistance for Public Works and Parks as well.
- 🌳 Seek initial funding through permit fees, fee-in-lieu options.

Long-term strategies

- 🌳 Establish at least one certified arborist for each department (Parks, Public Works, Planning); budget ongoing training.

6. The community recognizes the role of the urban forest as vital to Edmonds' environmental, social, and economic well-being.
 - Ensure all city departments, other public agencies, green industry, local businesses, and large private landholders cooperate with common community forestry goals and objectives.

Short-term strategies

- 🌳 Create an informal "Tree Team" within the city to meet and discuss community tree issues; cooperate with agencies, large landholders.
- 🌳 Utilize the Tree Board to engage the community with Fall Arbor Day, Community Tree Walk, Heritage Tree program, etc.
- 🌳 Set city standards for pruning, protection and tree selection to disseminate to citizens and green industry.
- 🌳 Develop an educational component to connect the community value of trees with the purpose and intent of private tree regulations.