

SIDNEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INPUT ON SIDNEY'S URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

Comments from a workshop held October 21, 2018

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2. Current concerns and hopes/Goals

Lynda	Preservation of boulevard trees and home owners planted trees
Barbara	10, 20, or 30 year consequences should dictate the types of trees planted and their impact on maintenance required such as roads, curbs and sidewalks
Pat	Experience with neighbours Pin Oak and Ginkgo trees and new owners of property removing said trees
Peter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background with the Town plan for boulevard trees. There will be tough decisions about the implementation of a plan an not have it become obsolete in x number of years • Tree preservation bylaw review is important but is also a sensitive topic. A balance needs to be struck between property owners rights, the community at large in addition to guidelines for developers. Canopy goals will help. The OCP engagement will determine guidelines for trees in both the ESA’s and through specific tree language. • Stewardship is also important. Can the broad objectives in an OCP be effective?
Bill	Setting a target canopy may be less useful than a holistic approach which may include carbon based objectives which might also include ground cover
Jocelyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESA at Allbay should be expanded to capture adjacent habitat • Review subdivision applications regarding tree cover and loss of greenspace • Should consider using the Town’s staff or an arborist appointed from a list to avoid the developer selecting his own supportive arborist in dealing with trees within Development Permit Areas. • Should all beaches be included in an ESA?
Steve	Sustainable, stewardship and forest should take priority in planning for our future community.

Michael	Trees should also be viewed as shade blocking gardens or root growth as a problem to be dealt with in the future. A stronger plan for trees is necessary including varied sizing and prepare for future generations dealing with any problems. See the example of Broadmead’s having to relocate trees.
Jane	Inventory of current canopy and comprehensive tree plan. Think about having a tree preservation day or arbor day to bring awareness to the use of trees in a healthy community
Valerie/Bruce	Forest strategy should not be limited to trees but also include habitat, ecology and sustainability. UFS should recognize other contributing elements such as permeable soil targets. A healthy community includes green corridors with substantial flora and fauna but avoid the deer problem.
Laura	Consider elementary school’s project in forest protection. Also, consider the Healing Forest concept. Developers and homeowners should consider the economics and other difficulties in saving all old trees.

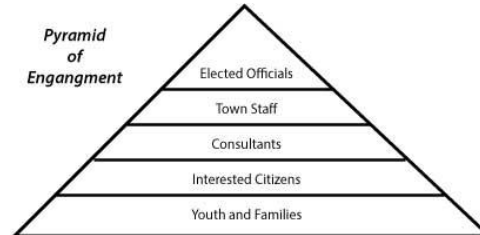
3. Vision for future of Sidney’s Urban Forest in 2050 (30 years)

- Naturehood, rich flora and fauna
- Sidney is in top 10 of communities of our size for % urban forest cover
- A web of green space in concert w our parks master plan
- Protected habitat
- Lots more tree cover, w appropriate species
- Town planning to account for the cooling effect on streets and in neighbouring buildings of tree = energy saving infrastructure
- Welcoming green space i.e. Beacon Hill, Stanley Park
- Designated nature preserves i.e. Reay Creek, Mermaid Canal, Roberts Bay, Sidney Waterfront
- Tree planting campaign now – public areas, home owners; in 50 yr it will be visible due to its meaningful scale, sustained care for new plantings and civic engagement ongoing
- Employ urban planners to get an overall look at the whole picture including community and horticulture
- Canopy cover up from 14% to 25% over next 5-10 years; Preserve and Plant
- Citizens proud and appreciative of their green town and participating in its sustainability
- Linkages w neighbours – eg. North Saanich
- Simple, cost-effective, environmentally-friendly solution for storm water woes = strategically planted trees
- Sustainably native planting
- Urban forests and green space that is functional (works), supports fish, life, carbon neutrality, play, etc. not just pretty

How to make it happen? Goals, features, conditions to pursue:

- Site specific protection of functional forests

- Clearly articulate (educate) the benefit of UF Strategy
- Understand why we have an UFS
- Highlight benefits – the richness, cite best examples, best practices thru a broad lens
- Engagement at all levels of the community



- Neighbourhood scale tree plans
- Define / embrace why our habitat
- Some folks may need help to keep trees (picking fruit, raking leaves...)
- Developers should be required to landscape not build to the property line – give back to the community

4. Tree canopy coverage goals

- Get rid of this goal
- Soil preparation/preservation key
- We need to develop and adopt “measures” and indicators, bee-friendly, native species
- Need big, old trees, dead/wildlife trees, permeable green ground, hedgerows, shrubbery, streams, a variety of seed and fruits on **healthy soil** (developers dump cement, paint, in compacted crap soil)
- Hold back enough deposit until greenspace and healthy soil and trees are proven (22 years (?)) after with impartial inspection and testing
- Development Permit Areas as tools, guidelines,
- Landscaping soil quality and prep.
- Bees, Carbon
- Goals for individual neighbourhoods
- Measurable
- Carrots (positive incentives for property owners)

5. ESA’s – comments on current re. Tree Protection/enhancement

- Put in requirement for the Town to protect
- Need good interpretive signage
- OCP requires an objective to be identified for each ESA.

6. Notable Stands of Trees in Need of Protection

- Resthaven Island
- Eden Place
- Allbay – Harbour Road
- Brethour Park
- Reay Creek
- Any significant heritage trees

7. Areas to add trees or places where trees are lacking now

- Rathdown Park
- Sidney Elementary
- Iroquois Park
- Peter Grant Park
- Foreshore or back beach areas
- New Sidney community safety building parking lot
- West Sidney