Urban Forestry Management Plan
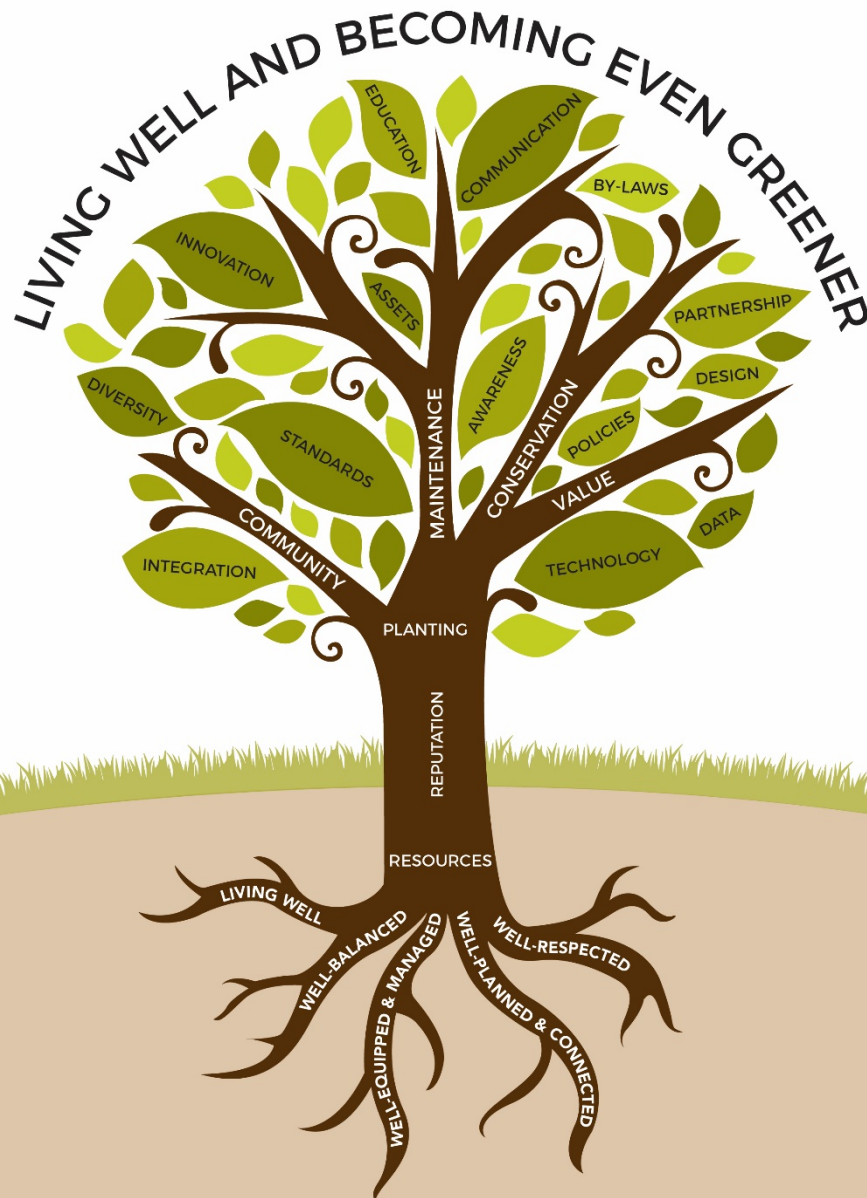
September 23, 2019

Agenda

- What we have

- Value of trees

- The Plan

- Recommendations

What we have

- 2004: Tree Preservation, Protection, Replacement and Enhancement Policy (revised 2018)

- 2007: Town Woodlot by-law

- 2016: York Region Forest Management Plan adopted Newmarket Urban Forest Study completed

- 2017: Public Tree Protection by-law

Value of Trees

Trees provide many shared benefits:

1. **Environmental benefits are:**
   - Temperature and energy use
   - Air quality
   - Hydrology
   - Noise abatement
   - Glare reduction
   - Animal habitat

2. **Economic/ Social/ Psychological benefits are:**
   - Economic stability
   - Property values
   - Product production
   - Aesthetic Preferences
   - Visual Screening
   - Recreation
   - Health
   - Human Social Interaction

Value of Trees

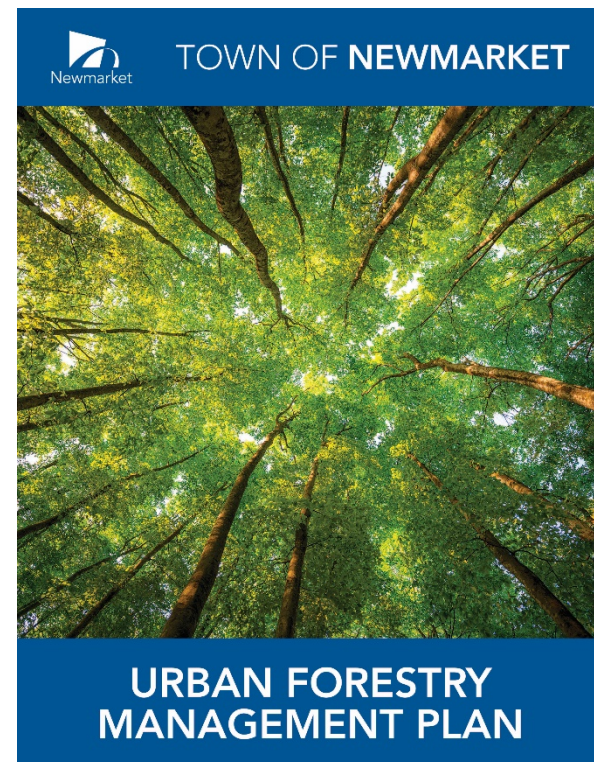Newmarket's trees save the municipality approximately $1.32 million per year

Benefit	Annual Value
Air Pollution (CO, NO_2, O_3, $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2)	$321,564
Carbon sequestering	$120,408
Energy Savings	$334,533
Avoided CO emissions due Energy savings	$35,371
Hydrologic Effect (stormwater management)	$499,950
Total	$1,311,826

The Plan

Guiding principles:

1. Recognizing the urban forest as a critical municipal asset and green infrastructure

2. Managing tree biodiversity to increase ecological resilience and minimize the impacts of climate change

3. Sustainably managing the urban forest through continuous improvement, adaptation and innovation

4. Increasing tree canopy cover by setting target for total canopy cover of 35 per cent by 2031

Newmarket

TOWN OF **NEWMARKET**

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
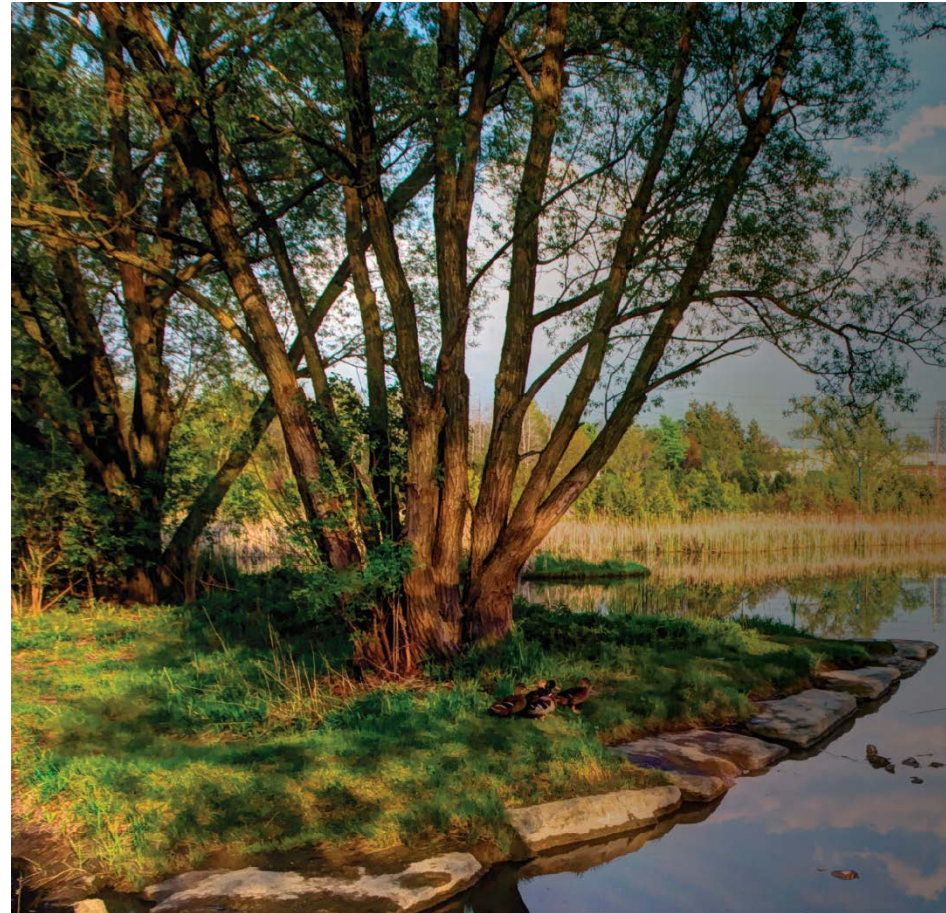
The Plan

5 year goals:

1. Develop municipal guidelines and regulations for sustainable streetscape and subdivision design, that ensure adequate soil quality and quantity for tree establishment and reduce conflict between natural and grey infrastructure

2. Create a Forestry Operational Manual

3. Conduct proactive tree risk assessments on municipal lands and reduce the need for emergency responses

4. Create a Master Planting Design Plan

The Plan

5 year goals continued…

5. Create a Pollinator Strategy (required by our Bee City designation)

6. Increase public awareness and appreciation of the value of trees and woodlands

Recommendations

14 Recommendations with three main categories:

- Staffing
- Operational
- Seeking Alliances

Recommendations

Staffing:

- Expand Natural Heritage Coordinator position

- Dedicate staff to forestry related work 12 months of the year.

- Consider future growth and a future business unit structure

- Consider a new position in conjunction with Planning and Engineering Services to replace the Town's Consulting Arborist who reviews and comments on development application

Recommendations

Operational:

- Obtain software to manage workflow and maintain history on work performed on trees in Town;

- Recognize trees in a Town asset management program (Green Infrastructure).

- Create a Forestry Operational Manual

- Develop an Encroachment Policy/By-law onto Town owned Natural Heritage lands.

Recommendations

Operational continued:

- Develop a Master Planting Plan utilizing the Urban Soil Index approach

- Coordination of tree planting with stormwater management and LID measures implemented by the Town

- Develop an overarching strategy with all levels of government to deal with all invasive species

- Develop a public outreach and engagement program to increase public awareness and visibility of the UFMP and the natural environment.

Recommendations

Seeking alliances:

- Foster alliances with internal departments: Engineering, Planning, Public Works (Water and Roads), Legal, Finance, Customer Service, etc. in regards to tree related topics

- Foster alliances with outside organizations in regards to tree and invasive species related topics

Budget Impact

The implementation of the recommendations of the UFMP that require funding will be requested through future budget requests

Thank you