



Virtual information meeting: Urban Forest Management Plan

Tuesday, May 3, 2–3 p.m.

Q: The LiDAR data from the period 2018–2021 suggests that there was a 2% tree canopy cover loss in West Vancouver. Staff have characterized this as a “stable” situation, but a 2% loss over a 3-year period, when development—the main driver of tree canopy cover loss in the District—was relatively slow, appears to many of us to be a troubling decline. For the District, what percentage of tree canopy loss would trigger an urgent response? Also, is the Urban Forest Management Plan to be considered a living document, to be added to and adjusted, or does it set a rigid course for the next 15 years? What percentage of West Vancouver's tree canopy is protected under the District's current tree bylaws?

A: We are setting a baseline action plan to respond to the trend of canopy loss identified in the report. We will be recommending to revisit the canopy cover data on a regular basis. The District will continue to monitor the situation as per best management practices. As things change over time (e.g., looper moth or other pest/disease outbreaks), it is difficult hard to predict what major issues may arise. As we get more data, we can learn how to best adapt to changes and update the plan as needed.

Q: Cypress Village is a concern for canopy cover loss. How will development address concerns for canopy cover?

A: The plan accounts for anticipated loss through development when developing a District canopy cover target and making recommendations for tree planting and enhancements to the urban forest. Cypress Village has been designed to concentrate development in one area to maintain and protect the forest in other areas. This plan will also provide recommendations to maintain or enhance the canopy cover that can be considered for all development projects.

Q: It appears there isn't any room for Squamish Nation to be involved in this consultation and we are just asking residents. We are on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation. I'm very concerned this has not been taken into account.

A: Squamish Nation has been consulted and contacted separately to discuss the UFMP. We will continue to engage with Squamish Nation as we develop this plan and with any implementation of the plan to ensure they are able to provide meaningful input.

Q: Climate change and carbon sequestration is very important. We need to take canopy loss seriously. It's most efficient to protect trees versus replanting since the replanted trees don't always survive.

4828857v1

A: Carbon sequestration is an important benefit of trees and was included in the graphic on the slide but not explicitly stated. This and other climate mitigation and adaptation benefits will be highlighted in the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Q: Increased understating from residents of the role of trees in our ability to live and create oxygen. We need more education on the value of urban forests.

A: Education is an important component in this initiative and strategies to provide further education is a component of the plan.

Q: What percentage of West Vancouver's tree canopy is protected under the District's current tree bylaws?

A: This is difficult to interpret from the tree canopy cover data that have been collected to answer this question. The data only provide the total canopy cover at various heights but not the canopy cover contributed by trees of a certain height. Future recommendations on the analysis of canopy cover could include segmenting canopy on an individual tree basis to be able to determine the proportion of canopy cover that is protected under the Tree Bylaw.

Q: Why use a report card system?

A: The report card helps us assess how the District's urban forest management program is performing in relation to best management practices. It allows the consultant to identify specific areas where the municipal program is underperforming and will inform recommendations made in the Urban Forest Management Plan to improve the program. The report card could also be used in the future to track progress in the implementation of the plan.

Q: What does the 45 metre-plus tree category represent?

A: Approximately 1% of the total tree canopy is represented by canopy cover that is 45 metres or higher. However, this estimate does not represent the total canopy contribution of trees 45 metres or taller, but rather the proportion of total canopy cover that is higher than 45 metres. In the future, the District could look at other types of analysis that segment canopy cover into individual trees to get a more specific estimate of how much of the canopy cover comes from very tall trees.

Q: Is a tree's value and benefits only calculated width-wise, but also vertically?

A: There are methodologies that calculate benefits based on area and also some that account for vertical values (or three dimensional). The benefits provided in the State of the Urban Forest report come from the District's Natural Capital Inventory and were based on canopy area. Other commonly used tools to estimate the benefits of trees include the USDA Forest Service i-Tree canopy which calculates benefits based on canopy area and i-Tree Eco which integrates more three dimensional details about tree size and biomass to estimate the benefits provided.