



## **Virtual information meeting: Urban Forest Management Plan**

Thursday, May 5, 6–7 p.m.

**Q: I am concerned about the new WHDPA and its clear cutting. How is the Urban Management plan going to address this?**

A: This is an item that will be addressed within the plan by providing guidance on alternatives to full removal of trees for wildfire mitigation such as pruning and crown raising but also guidance on replanting to ensure that trees in these areas will not contribute to the spread of wildfire.

**Q: Can the District provide trees for free for homeowners to plant?**

A: This could be one option, however, it is important to select species that would survive. Education would also need to be provided. It is something we have discussed to assist with a replanting program as it has been done in other municipalities. Staff would like to get feedback on success from these municipalities.

**Q: In terms of replanting, what is our expectation for the percentage of trees that will survive past a year or two? (I think that the Vancouver Parks Board has estimated that at least 20% of their replants have failed, or will fail.) If drought conditions prevail through parts of the year, will the chances of successful tree planting be reduced even further?**

A: Impacts of climate change is evident and when we look at developing the plan and recommending replanting, the guidance will reflect climate change with respect to species and location. In addition, the plan will also recommend associated budget and resource requirements for not only replanting but maintenance to ensure successful survival.

**Q: A classification hierarchy was created for Metro Vancouver by the Faculty at UBC Forestry. (I think it was in 2012 or 2014.) It categorized shrubs as woody, leafy, and generally shorter than trees, but taller than grass with a height up to 4m in height. The authors also stressed the importance of accurate mapping and classification in our urban areas. I realize that in this case you inherited the height classifications for the LiDAR –they were probably already set, but I'm curious, is this the usual approach to tree height classifications and if so why is it approached this way. And why is the classification hierarchy created for Metro being ignored.**

A: In Diamond Head's experience analyzing tree canopy, when only considering vegetation four metres and above, will eliminate smaller, newly planted trees. Doing two meters may bring in other types of vegetation that are not considered trees such as shrubs but it ensures you are looking at the full canopy. Both scenarios have

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advantages and disadvantages.

**Q: How can the issue of preserving views be addressed? At what point will the right to have a view get factored in?**

A: Some tree bylaws do have details about removal of trees for views (like the City of White Rock). This is something we have to think about more closely when it comes to the recommendations in the plan. There are currently no legal rights to views in West Vancouver (as far as staff know) but there are a lot of view corridors that were created a long time ago that continue to be maintained through pruning. Staff generally do not support full removal of trees to create views but it is something that needs to be addressed as it is mentioned in the Official Community Plan.