

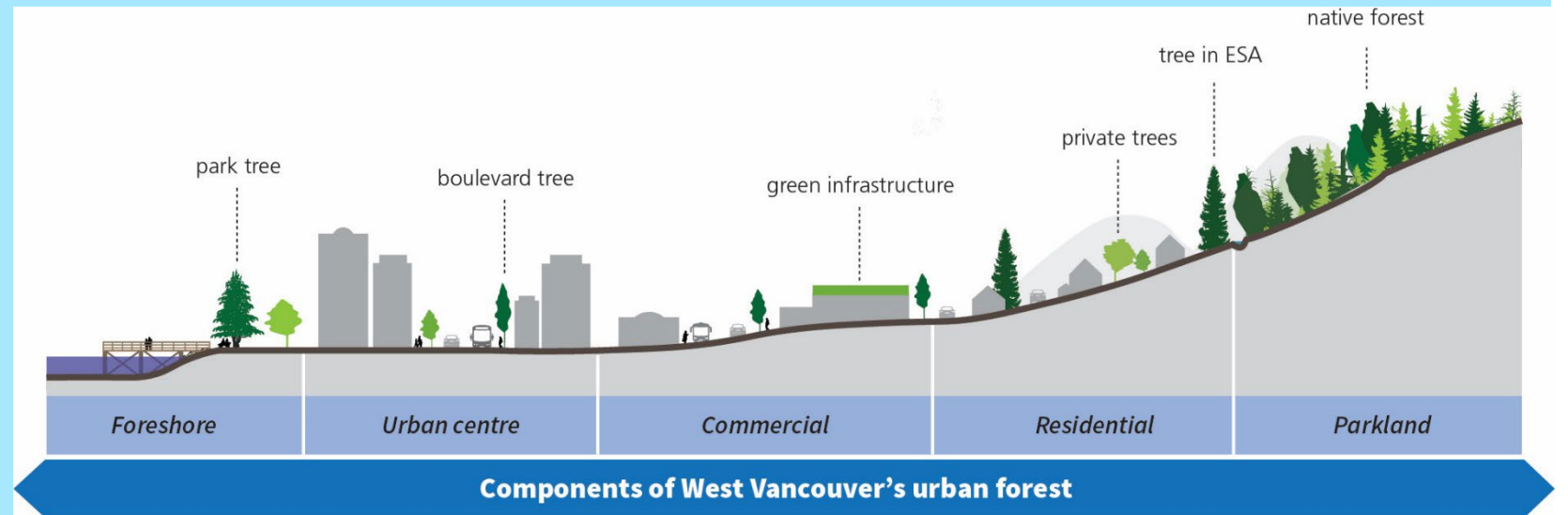
# Urban Forest Management Plan

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September 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole Session

# Presentation Outline

1. UFMP Overview
2. Implementation Progress
3. Public Work Sessions
4. Next Steps



# 1 UFMP Overview

# Overview



- Goal 1** **PLAN** for a biodiverse and resilient network of trees and forests that connects natural areas and communities.
- Goal 2** **PROTECT** more trees and natural ecosystems during development with a focus on mature and native trees.
- Goal 3** **PLANT** healthy trees that enhance biodiversity and deliver benefits equitably across the District.
- Goal 4** **MANAGE** trees to maximize their benefits to the community and minimize risk.
- Goal 5** **PARTNER** with community members to increase community understanding and stewardship of the urban forest.

# Update

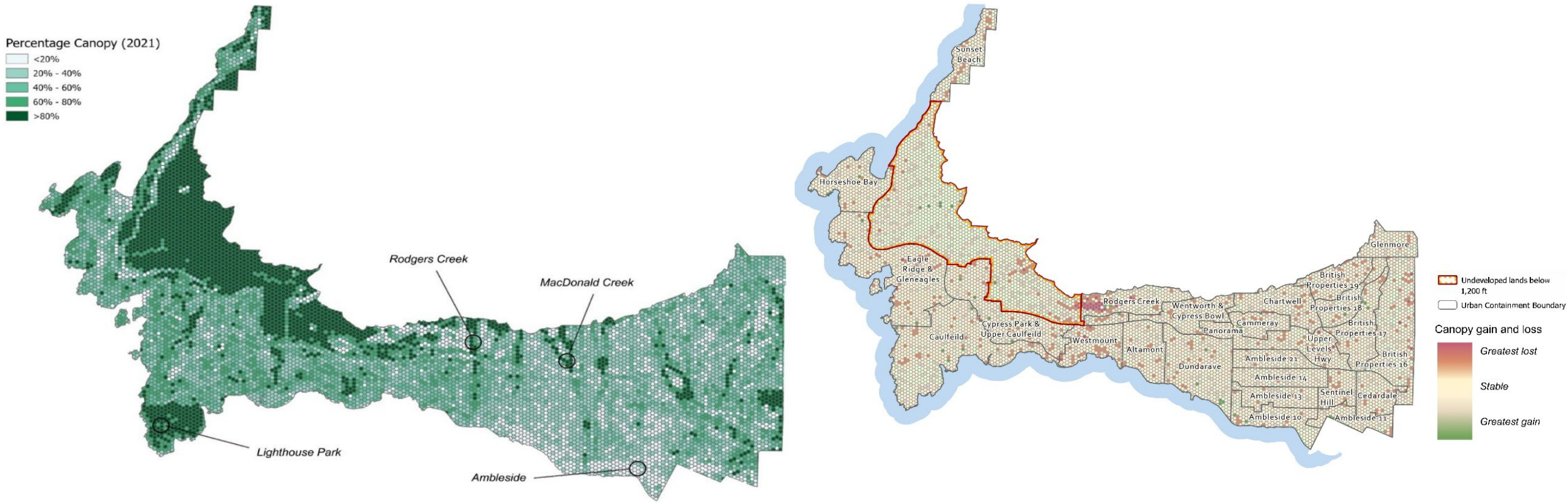
- Council approved UFMP on March 11, 2024.
- Council provided following direction:  
*THAT staff be directed to incorporate the recommendations in the Urban Forest Management Plan into annual workplans and request supportive funding as part of the annual budget process for the next fifteen years, as well as move ahead with planning a public work session for further community discussion.*
- Public sessions (June) – to discuss with community members which actions should be prioritized first.
- Today’s session – to report back on public sessions and discuss priority actions and next steps on implementation.



# Key Issues

Primary impacts to the urban forest:

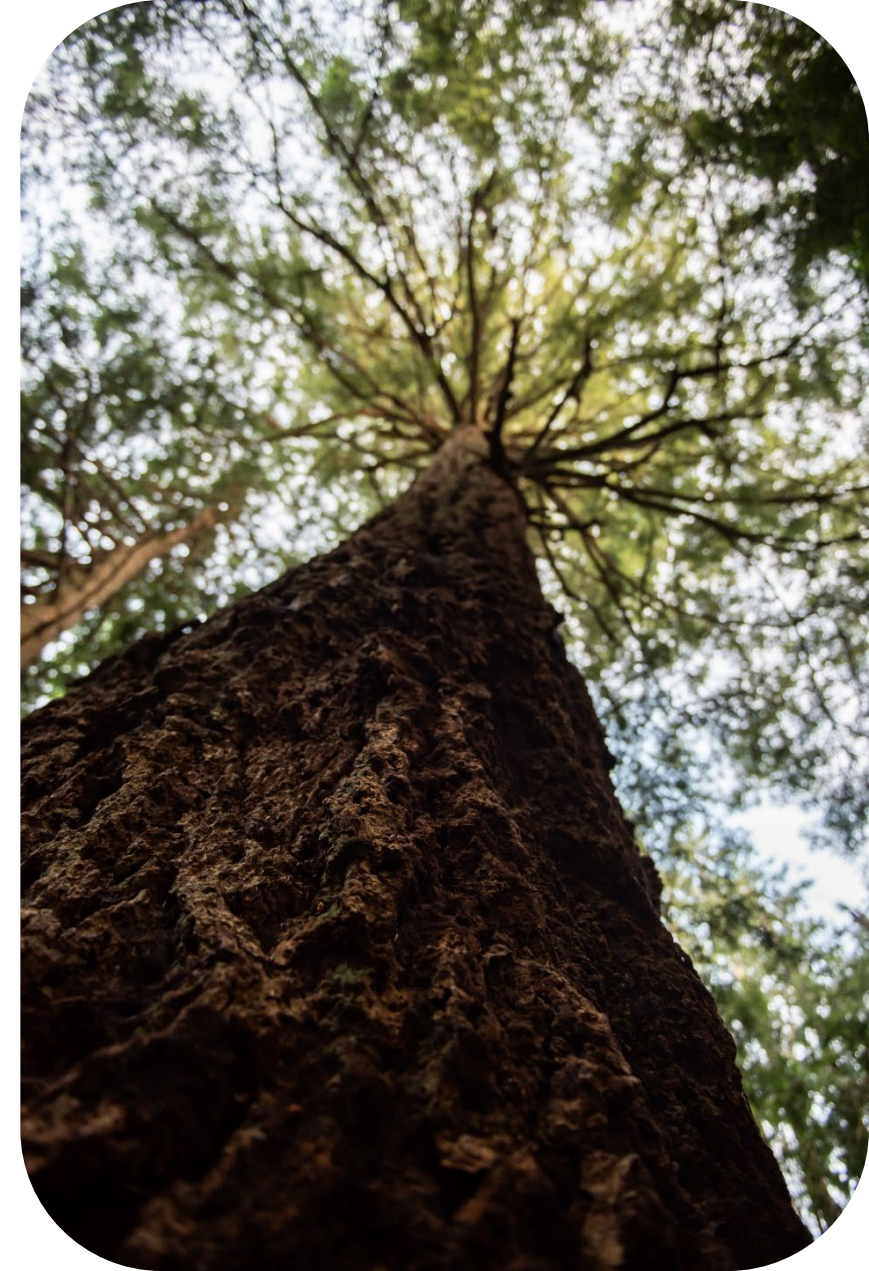
- Canopy cover loss due to land clearing for private property redevelopment and new subdivisions.
- Loss of mature trees from development, disease/pests, drought, fire, illegal tree work.
- Areas with lower canopy cover.



# Actions for Consideration

External experts identified actions that could address these issues for the District to consider:

- Private property – redevelopment impacts on urban forest:
  - Lowering tree protection size
  - Maintaining tree density from before to after redevelopment
  - Increasing replacement tree/landscaping requirements
  - Improving how trees are protected during construction
- Public lands – loss of mature trees:
  - Increasing successional tree planting
  - Proactively maintaining public trees in high-use areas/trails



# 2 Implementation Progress



# Completed Actions

- Adoption of a 52% canopy cover target by 2036
- Replacement tree lists for climate suitability, wildfire risk, and resiliency
- Developed new resources for residents:
  - soil conservation and management guidelines
  - best practice guides for soil volume, tree spacing, permeability
  - educational information to help residents choose, plant, and maintain the right tree for their yard
- Plant-a-Tree program with schools
- Public tree inventory

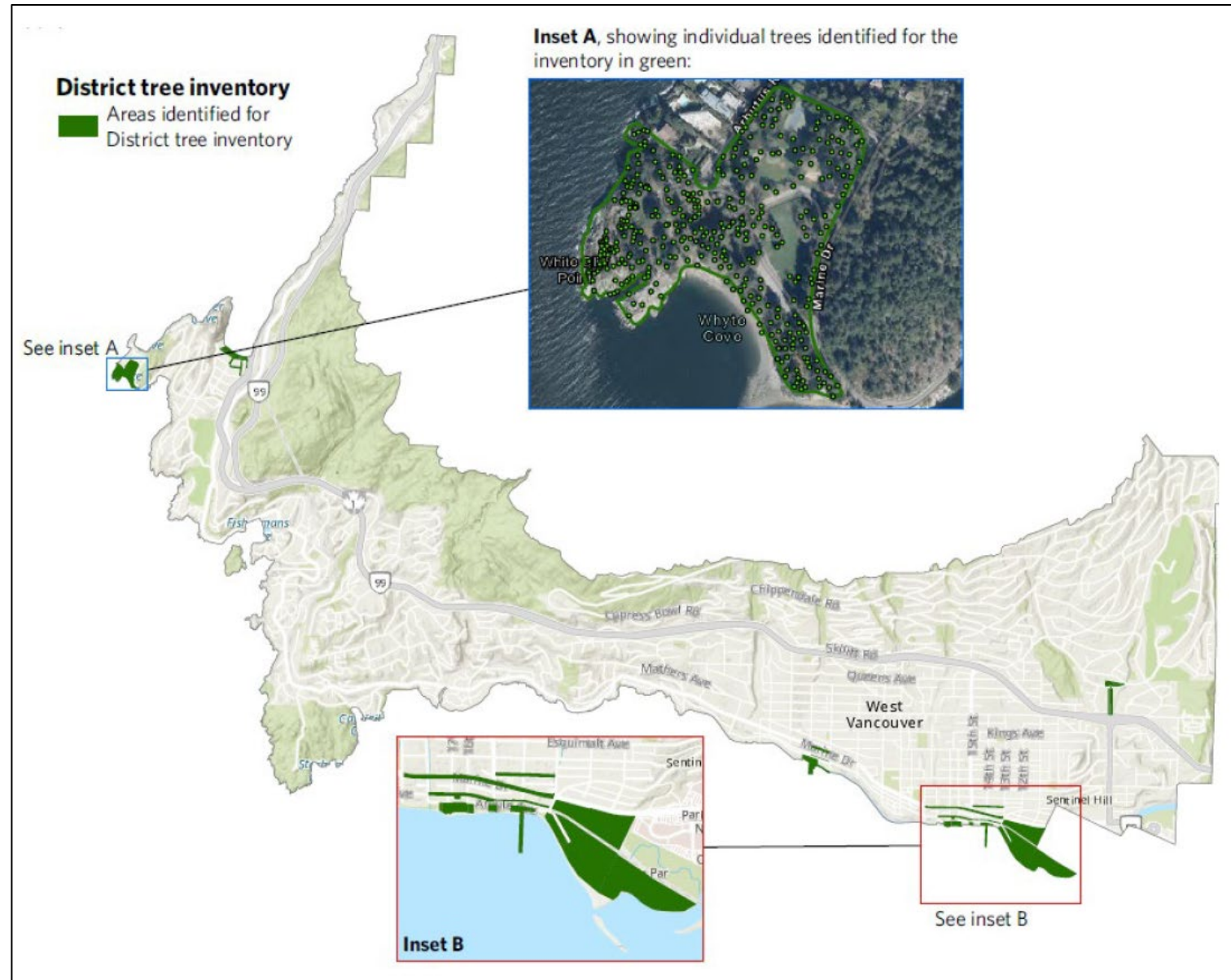
# Ongoing Actions

- Increasing tree planting on public lands
- Continuing to encourage wildfire risk reduction treatments that minimize protected tree removals
- Tracking annual tree planting
- Working with tree nurseries to grow tree species suited for West Vancouver
- Pursuing external funding for tree planting/maintenance
- Providing opportunities for community participation in planting and restoration events



# Public Tree Inventory

- Condition assessment of individual trees
- High use areas/trails, planted trees, heritage trees, business areas
- Database to manage tree inventory



# 3 Public Work Sessions

# What We Asked

- Rank implementation priority of actions from UFMP for both private and public lands.
- Help staff determine what the community feels is most important to protect and grow the urban forest.
- Communicate impacts and benefits of actions.



**Help us prioritize actions from the Urban Forest Management Plan**

We want your input on which actions from the Urban Forest Management Plan should be prioritized to maintain and enhance West Vancouver's urban forest and tree canopy cover.

Attend a drop-in engagement session or share your input online.


1. Tuesday, June 18, 1-3 p.m.  
West Vancouver Memorial Library
2. Thursday, June 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Gleneagles Community Centre


Learn more: [westvancouver.ca/forest](http://westvancouver.ca/forest)




## HELP US RANK PRIORITIES IN THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The priorities below are focused on short-term items to protect our **private property** urban forest. Please help us rank their priority to help guide the next five years using stickers.

 High Priority (year one)

 Medium Priority (year two-three)

 Low Priority (year four-five)

POTENTIAL TREE BYLAW UPDATES	DISTRICT COSTS	ADDITIONAL CAPACITY DEMANDS	COMMUNITY CO-BENEFITS	PRIORITY
Protect all trees greater than 20 cm diameter for properties undergoing development/redevelopment	\$\$\$ Two additional staff (1 arborist, 1 bylaw officer) (recurring annual cost)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase in permit applications</li> <li>increase in enforcement files</li> <li>increase in general tree inquiries</li> </ul>	Increase in tree canopy coverage potential, provides urban cooling, air purification, and biodiversity	
Take security to prevent tree damage on construction sites and neighbour properties	\$ Additional staff time to implement and carryout process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>security collection, inspection and follow up post project completion</li> </ul>	Raises awareness for importance of tree services, prioritizes biodiversity as part of community development, reduces conflict between construction sites and neighbours	
Require more replacement trees per Protected Tree removed, if replacement species is small at maturity	\$ Additional staff time to review landscape plans and complete inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>landscape plan review</li> <li>tree replacement inspections</li> </ul>	Supports 52% canopy cover target over 15 years, expands community cooling and soil erosion and flood prevention, expands biodiverse habitat	
If replacement tree cannot be planted on site, collect cash-in-lieu for planting trees off-site	\$ Additional staff time to implement and carry out process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review of requests to pay cash-in-lieu</li> <li>collection of cash-in-lieu</li> <li>reallocation of funds to new planting initiatives to ensure planting completed annually</li> </ul>	Helps to ensure community tree succession and support for 52% canopy cover target	
Strengthen staff's ability to require design modifications to structures to retain Protected Trees	\$ Additional staff time to review and communicate with applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>building permit application review</li> <li>communication with applicant</li> <li>increase permit time review</li> </ul>	Creates a cohesive community vision that supports integration of natural assets that offer benefits and balance with increasing density on properties	
Provide incentives to retain healthy trees during redevelopment such as replacement tree credits or reduced fees and securities	\$ Additional staff time to review and inspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase review during permit application process</li> <li>inspection and follow up post project completion</li> </ul>	Protects maturing trees that offer high value cooling, air filtration, rain dissipation, soil erosion protection and habitat	

# Who We Reached

Community Groups	Business & Resident Associations	Stakeholder Groups	Engagement Tools/ Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Altamont Community Association</li> <li>Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society</li> <li>Lighthouse Park Preservation Society</li> <li>Old Growth Conservancy Society</li> <li>Streamkeepers</li> <li>Urban Tree Alliance</li> <li>West Vancouver School Board</li> <li>District Environment Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambleside Dundarave Business Improvement Association</li> <li>Ambleside Dundarave Residents Association</li> <li>British Properties Area Homeowners' Association</li> <li>Cedardale Residents Association</li> <li>Eagle Island Residents Association/Strata</li> <li>Hollyburn Ridge Association</li> <li>Horseshoe Bay Business Association</li> <li>West Vancouver Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>Western Residents Association</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>246</b> arborists, builders, developers, architects, designers etc.</li> <li><b>303</b> westvancouverite project subscribers</li> <li>Community members (posters, social media, Enhance West Van)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 18, 1-3pm at West Vancouver Library (<b>9</b> attendees)</li> <li>June 20, 10–12pm at Gleneagles Community Centre (<b>20</b> attendees)</li> <li>Online Survey, June 10 to July 15 (<b>97</b> respondents)</li> </ul>

# What We Heard – Highest Priorities

## Private Property (require bylaw amendments to implement):

- Take security to prevent tree damage on construction sites and neighbour properties.
- Provide incentives to retain healthy trees during redevelopment such as reduced fees and securities.
- Require minimum density of trees after development (retained, new, or replacement trees).
- Increase landscaping requirements for new builds – number/type/siting of trees to be planted.
- Protect all trees greater than 20 cm diameter for properties undergoing redevelopment (+\$).

## Public Lands:

- Replace every inventoried public tree removed in high use areas (+\$).
- Develop planting plan to ensure tree canopy succession in areas of lower canopy cover (+\$).
- Preventative maintenance and risk management program for trees in high use areas (+\$).

# 4 Next Steps

# Next Steps

- Continue implementation of actions that are already funded or can be done through existing resources, Environmental Reserve Fund, grants:
  - Funding requests from Environmental Reserve Fund to complete one-time action items in implementation plan will require Council approval.
- Ongoing programs developed from UFMP will require additional funding for resources and would be requested through annual budget cycle.
- Evaluate and bring forward Bylaw amendments for Council consideration to address key issues related to tree loss on private properties, which will also include:
  - Required resource (staffing, budget) requests to maintain community expected service levels.
  - Or anticipated impacts to service levels if no additional resources are approved.



# Implementation Impacts

## Service Levels:

- Increased number of permit applications (with lower protected tree size).
- Longer permit review times (tree permits and building permits).
- New inspections and landscaping plan reviews.
- Increased volume of administrative duties for collecting and refunding security deposits.
- Increased volume of illegal tree work reporting (with lower protected tree size).

## Operating Budget:

- Additional budget to maintain public trees (on a cycle) and keep up with successional tree planting.
- Additional staff to manage new work/tree regulations to maintain expected service levels.

# Opportunities to Manage Impacts

- Require QP sign-off on landscaping/tree replacements to reduce inspections and plan reviews (shift workload to applicant team).
- Use Environmental Reserve Fund:
  - Fund incremental increase to public tree maintenance and planting programs until steady level determined then should be funded in operating budget.
  - Hire temporary staff/contractors to manage increased permitting (until community understands new regulations and compliance is generally attained) which will then allow for better understanding of resource requirements needed on a permanent basis.
  - **Risks** – deferral of other climate action priorities; sustained availability of reserve funds if levy not increased; continued long-term need for permanent staff.
- Implement phased approach to bylaw amendments to manage volume of work:
  - Introduce bylaw amendments that will not impact current service levels and monitor.
  - Focus on education with building community and residents.
  - **Risk** – may not entirely address issues related to land clearing.

**Thank You!**  
**Questions?**

# Tree Density – How it Works

- Tree that is medium sized at maturity (mature crown spread 5-<10 m) will provide approximately 65 m<sup>2</sup> in canopy area.
- Area would achieve 52% canopy cover once it reaches a density of 80 medium-sized trees per hectare.

How to use a tree density measure:

1. Existing Properties - cap replacement requirements in the tree bylaw for properties retaining the desired tree density (regardless of a tree being removed):
  - As a result, properties retaining many trees would have smaller or no replacement requirements (already at desired density).
2. Developing Properties - plant or retain trees to achieve the desired tree density:
  - As a result, developing properties with few or no trees would need to plant more trees.

## Example



**Small lot:**  
0.1 ha (0.2 acres)

Tree minimum at 50 trees/ha = 5  
Trees on site = 5 trees



**Small lot:**  
0.15 ha (0.4 acres)

Tree minimum at 50 trees/ha = 8  
Trees on site = 9 trees



**Medium lot:**  
0.3 ha (0.7 acres)

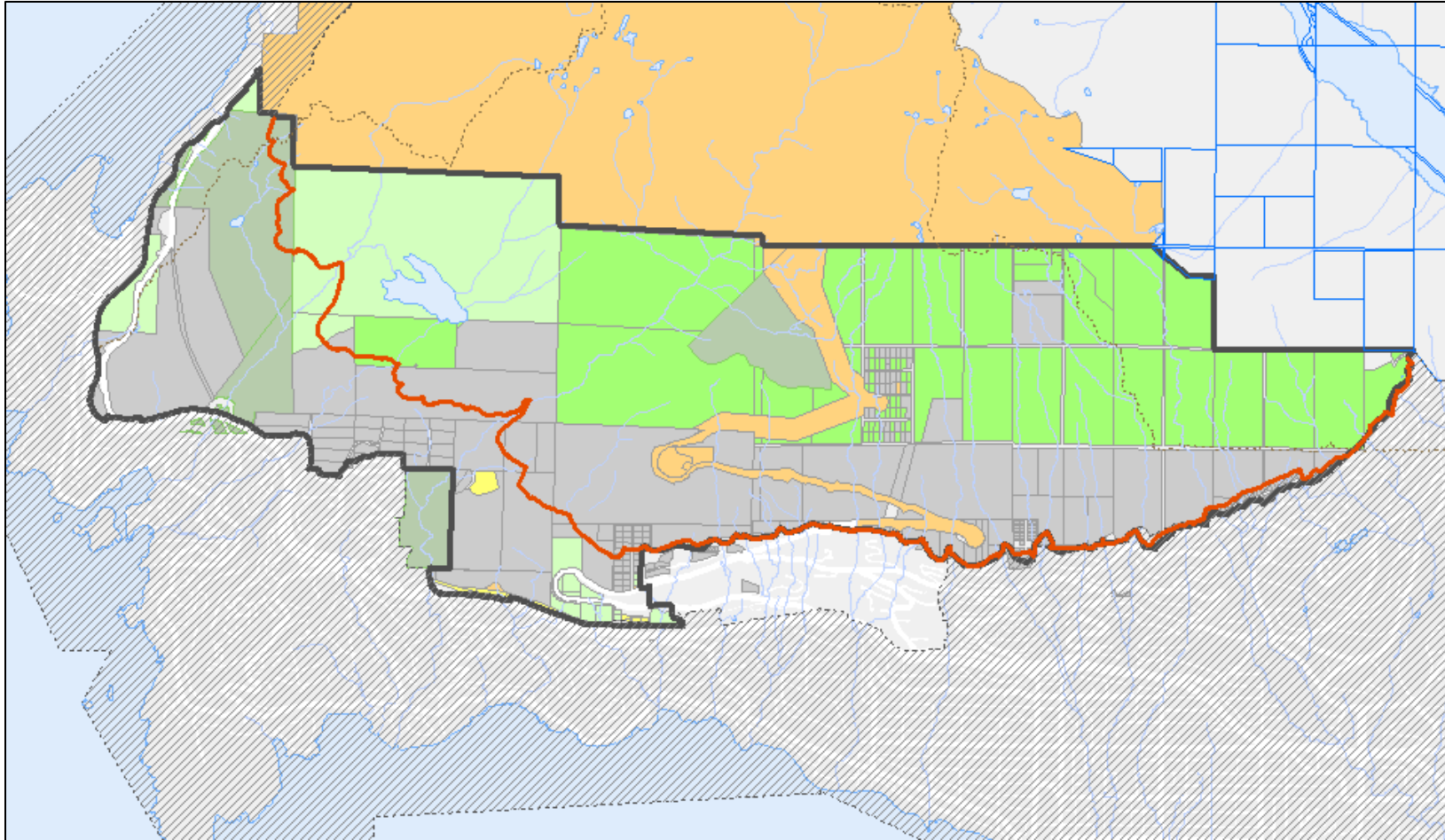
Tree minimum at 50 trees/ha = 15  
Trees on site = 18 trees



**Large lot:**  
0.44 ha (1.1 acres)

Tree minimum at 50 trees/ha = 22  
Trees on site = 24 trees

# UCB compared to Dedicated Park Land



- Hatched = Urban Containment Boundary
- Red = 1,200 ft contour
- Bright Green = New Dedicated Park Land