



GYE & ASSOCIATES LTD

Consultants in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture

City of Victoria Urban Forest Master Plan Report on Public Consultations January 2009



Gye and Associates Urban Forestry Consultants Ltd. with
Judith Cullington & Associates

Executive Summary

The City of Victoria hosted two public workshops in January 2009, in order to gather public input on the proposed Urban Forest Master Plan. At least 80 people attended each of the workshops. In addition, 160 provided feedback through an online or hard copy survey.

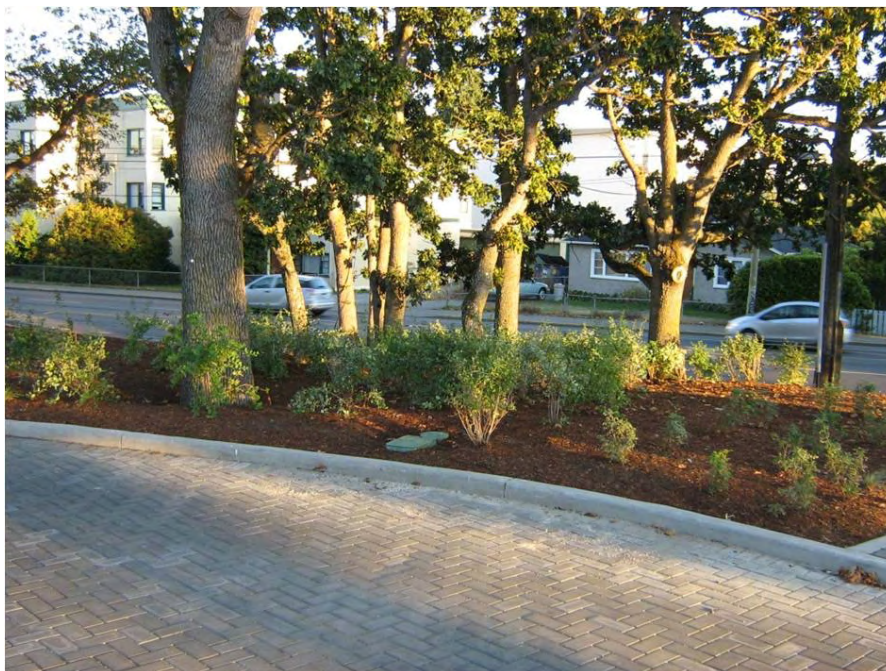
Results of the public consultation indicated that the participants care deeply about the urban forest, and place a high value on its maintenance and enhancement. The most important issues identified were planting and care of trees, managing/restoring/enhancing natural areas, and preparing for climate change.

Participants indicated that the urban forest should be an important part of the City's quality of life, and fulfill many functions include shading, stormwater management and food production. The areas identified as highest priority for restoration and enhancement were natural areas (including Garry oak, upland coniferous, riparian and shoreline ecosystems), boulevards and open areas (e.g., parks, school grounds, and playing fields).

Participants overwhelmingly felt that residents should have a greater say in urban forest stewardship, likely reflecting the high level of commitment and engagement of the respondents themselves. Suggested ways to involve residents more included encouraging homeowners to 'host' a boulevard tree in their front yard, removing invasive species, restoring ecosystems to a more natural state, and watering new street trees close to their homes.

Participants were appreciative of the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan, and expressed an interest in learning of future opportunities to provide input.

The next step will be the development of a draft Urban Forest Master Plan, with input from the project Steering Committee and Inter-departmental Committee. This draft plan will be presented to the public for comment before taking it to Council.



Contents

Executive Summary	2
Introduction	1
Opportunities for Input	2
Public Workshops	2
Online Survey.....	2
Workshop Presentations	3
Dan Marzocco, City of Victoria	3
Ludo Bertsch, Ryan Street Greenway Project	3
Sylvia von Schuckmann, Maddison Lane Urban Forest.....	3
Jeremy Gye, Gye and Associates Urban Forest Consultants	3
Survey Responses	4
What neighbourhood do you live in?	4
Values	5
What do you value most about Victoria’s urban forest?	5
What do you dislike or consider a nuisance about Victoria’s urban forest?.....	5
What would you like to change about Victoria’s urban forest?.....	5
Issues	6
What do you feel are the three most important issues that Victoria’s Urban Forest Master Plan should address?.....	6
Vision	7
Which of the following phrases matches your VISION for Victoria’s urban forest in 2058?	7
Priorities	8
The City has to balance many different priorities. How important to you is Victoria’s urban forest?	8
Where should the City place greatest priority in restoring and enhancing the urban forest?	8
Do you think residents should have a greater role in the stewardship of urban forest?	9
Do you have any other ideas or comments that you would like to share with us?	10
Workshops.....	11
Did you attend one of the Urban Forest Master Plan workshops?.....	11
How did you hear about this workshop?	11
Was the location and time of workshop convenient?	11
Did you find the workshop information helpful?	11
Issues and Challenges	13
Communication and Education	13
Collaboration	13
Safety.....	13
Natural Areas and Biodiversity	14
Protection of Heritage and Wildlife Trees.....	14
Trees and Development	14

Tree-related Concerns	15
Tree Removal and Replacement.....	15
Tree Health	15
Climate Change.....	16
Vision for 2058.....	17
The City in 2058	17
The ‘Ideal’ Urban Forest	17
Appendix 1: Presentations.....	19
Appendix 2: Survey	46
Appendix 3: Survey Results	50
Respondents	50
Values	50
What do you value most about Victoria’s urban forest?	50
What do you dislike or consider a nuisance about Victoria’s urban forest?.....	56
What would you like to change about Victoria’s urban forest?.....	62
The City has to balance many different priorities. How important to you is Victoria’s urban forest?	68
Issues	69
What do you feel are the three most important issues that Victoria’s Urban Forest Master Plan should address?.....	69
Vision	74
Which of the following phrases matches your VISION for Victoria’s urban forest in 2058?	74
Priorities	78
Where should the City place greatest priority in restoring and enhancing the urban forest?	78
Do you think residents should have a greater role in the stewardship of urban forest?	82
Do you have any other ideas or comments that you would like to share with us?	87
Workshops.....	92
Did you attend one of the Urban Forest Master Plan workshops?.....	92
How did you hear about this workshop?	92
Was the location and time of workshop convenient?	92
Did you find the workshop information helpful?	92
Other comments.....	94
Appendix 4: Issues and Challenges.....	98
Communication and Education	98
Collaboration	98
Safety.....	99
Natural Areas and Biodiversity.....	100
Protection of Heritage and Wildlife Trees.....	101
Trees and Development	102
Tree-related Concerns.....	102
Tree Removal and Replacement.....	104

Tree Health	105
Climate Change.....	105
Appendix 5: Vision 2058	107

Thank You!

A great many people provided input to this public consultation, through the surveys, public meetings and through participation in the Steering Committee and Inter-departmental Committee. We deeply appreciate your commitment and caring for the urban forest!

Introduction

An urban forest includes all of a community's trees, shrubs and groundcover, the soils in which they grow and plants and wildlife they support, both on public and private property. Trees in parks and natural areas, boulevards and downtown streetscapes, as well as residential yards and community gardens, all make up Victoria's urban forest.

The City of Victoria manages over 40,000 trees within its parks and boulevards and many of Victoria's street trees are nearing the end of their expected life cycle. The City is keeping close tabs on its valuable tree inventory to prevent property damage and injury. At the same time, it needs to think about how best to invest in and ensure Victoria's urban forest is healthy, safe and abundant in the future.

The City has hired Gye and Associates Urban Forestry Consultants Ltd. to conduct a systematic review of Victoria's urban forest over the next coming months and to develop an Urban Forest Master Plan. This plan will present strategies on how best to invest in and maintain Victoria's urban forest over the next 20 years and beyond. The draft plan is expected to be ready for public input in the spring.

A steering committee has been formed to help guide this process, and consists of representatives from community associations, the development and design communities, environmental organizations, and the City of Victoria.

The public's input is also key to developing an Urban Forest Master Plan. Two workshops held in January were well-attended and enabled the public to learn more about Victoria's urban forest and share their vision for its future. In addition, many people provided input through an online survey. This report provides a summary of the results of this public consultation.

More information about the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan can be found at www.victoria.ca/urbanforest



Opportunities for Input

Public Workshops

I appreciate this workshop opportunity very much in order to learn how to promote urban forest. Please continue to involve residents and to use imagination and sense of fun to promote our precious urban forest

Two public workshops were held at Victoria City Hall on Tuesday, January 20, and Saturday January 24, 2009. These workshops provided an opportunity for people to:

- ◆ View a presentation on the values of the urban forest;
- ◆ Provide written comments on a draft list of issues and challenges;
- ◆ Hear presentations from City staff, the consultant, and a community representative;
- ◆ Participate in discussions with other attendees regarding their vision for the future urban forest; and
- ◆ Fill out and hand in surveys.

Workshops were advertised in the Times Colonist newspaper, and through a variety of email lists and listserves. In addition, they were given considerable advance media coverage through the Times Colonist and CFAX radio.

Online Survey

As not everyone wishes to (or is able to) attend public workshops, the consultants also made the survey available online through the City of Victoria website. This survey was virtually identical to the hardcopy version that was provided at the workshops.



Workshop Presentations

Workshop participants had an opportunity to listen to three presentations including a perspective from City of Victoria staff, experiences from neighbourhood groups working to improve their local urban forest, and some additional background from the consultant on Victoria’s urban forest and the Urban Forest Master Plan process. Copies of the PowerPoint presentations are provided in Appendix 1.

Dan Marzocco, City of Victoria

Dan noted how the City’s urban forest had evolved over the years, and spoke about the challenges of managing Victoria’s urban forest. Some of the challenges come from past practices (such as pruning decisions), some relate to managing trees in a harsh environment where tree failure can lead to property (and potential personal) damage. He noted how tree management practices are changing, and how the City are working to engage neighbourhoods more.

Ludo Bertsch, Ryan Street Greenway Project

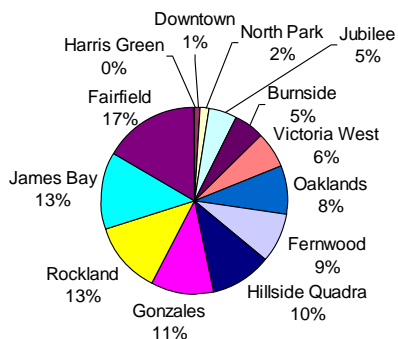
Ludo spoke about how he and his neighbours had transformed Ryan Street from a car-dominated area to an urban greenway that was much more pedestrian and ecologically friendly.

Sylvia von Schuckmann, Maddison Lane Urban Forest

Sylvia spoke about how she and her neighbours had become stewards of and advocates for the Garry oak ecosystem in their neighbourhood.

Jeremy Gye, Gye and Associates Urban Forest Consultants

**Urban Forest Canopy Contribution
By Neighbourhood**



Jeremy talked about the process to develop an Urban Forest Master Plan, and showed some of the good (and not-so-good) tree management practices in the City. He also showed how the tree canopy density varies between Victoria neighbourhoods.

Survey Responses

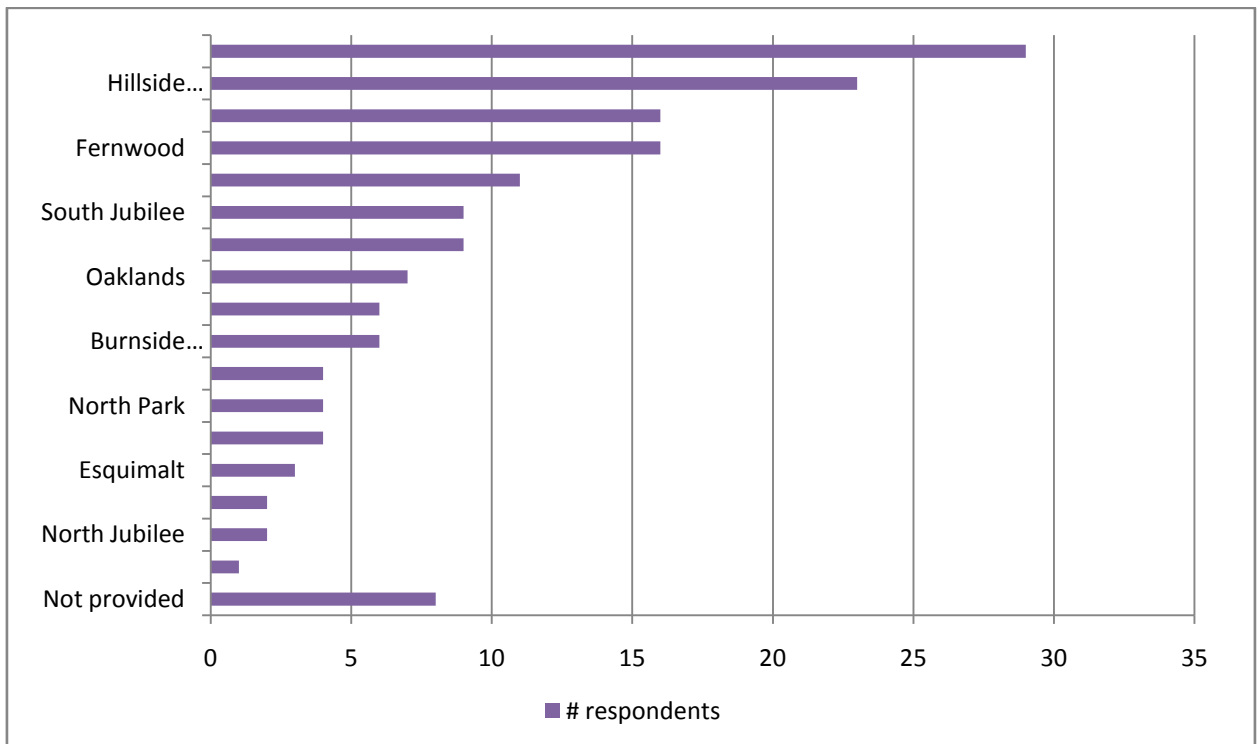
A total of 160 people responded to the surveys. Eighty-four people responded using the online survey, and 76 people handed in a hardcopy survey at one of the workshops or directly to City staff. A copy of the survey is provided in *Appendix 2: Survey*. Detailed responses from all participants are provided in *Appendix 3: Survey Results*.

It should be noted that this is not an impartial, statistically-valid survey. The people who chose to respond to the survey were overwhelmingly those who feel passionate about the urban forest and the need to retain and expand it. As one respondent noted, *“I doubt you will have many people filling out this survey who would consider it ‘not at all important’. The ones who don’t care are out watching NASCAR racing.”* Nonetheless, the survey results provide valuable information about the wishes and preferences of people who chose to participate in this process.

What neighbourhood do you live in?

There was representation from all Victoria neighbourhoods (**Figure 1**). The greatest numbers of respondents came from Fairfield, Hillside-Quadra, James Bay and Fernwood. Several people from neighbouring municipalities also chose to participate.

Figure 1: Respondents by neighbourhood



Values

What do you value most about Victoria's urban forest?

"The urban forest is 'living infrastructure' for the city, a source of beauty, relaxation, natural cooling in summer, warming in winter, food, buffering noise and dust, contributing to the health of soil and people, oxygenating the air etc. ... The urban forest is capable and willing to take on many of the services we rely on the industrial infrastructure for while contributing to the ongoing health and diversity of our biosphere."

Many people (more than a quarter of respondents) mentioned the 'beauty' of the urban forest as one of the things they valued most. Other values that were noted by multiple respondents included:

- ◆ Greenspace and the natural environment;
- ◆ Habitat and species;
- ◆ Diversity (of species, age, of neighbourhood character);
- ◆ Ecosystem services (such as shade, oxygen, air quality, carbon sequestration, and stormwater management); and
- ◆ Creating a sense of livability and community.

What do you dislike or consider a nuisance about Victoria's urban forest?

"What's not to like? There should be more green space, if anything."

Many respondents said that there was 'nothing' that they considered a nuisance about the urban forest, and some seemed offended that the survey even suggested that there might be any negatives. Others did identify aspects of the urban forest that they did not like, including:

- ◆ Not enough urban forest;
- ◆ Leaf litter (including inadequacy of residential pickup, and lack of understanding that leaf litter should be left for the soil);
- ◆ Pitch and 'honeydew' (aphid droppings);
- ◆ Damage from roots;
- ◆ Lack of diversity (of species, age class);
- ◆ Poor choice of species;
- ◆ Tree management practices (e.g., pruning practices, cutting of 'healthy' trees, and trees cut on private property);
- ◆ Conflicts with hydro (power outages, misshapen trees);
- ◆ Loss of wildlife habitat, invasive species; and
- ◆ Not enough food-producing trees.

"Poor pruning practices and not often enough"

What would you like to change about Victoria's urban forest?

"More canopy plantings, more food trees in urban parks and boulevards, more understorey plantings, less concrete and asphalt under trees"

Most responses to this question focused on planting more trees, replacing trees, and planting a greater variety of species (making sure that the right species is chosen for the right place). Other responses included:

- ◆ Protection and enhancement during development;
- ◆ Planting more food-producing trees;
- ◆ Changes to maintenance practices (better pruning, watering, removal of invasive species);

- ◆ Preparing for climate change (choice of species); and
- ◆ Better public education on urban forest values and how to care for trees.

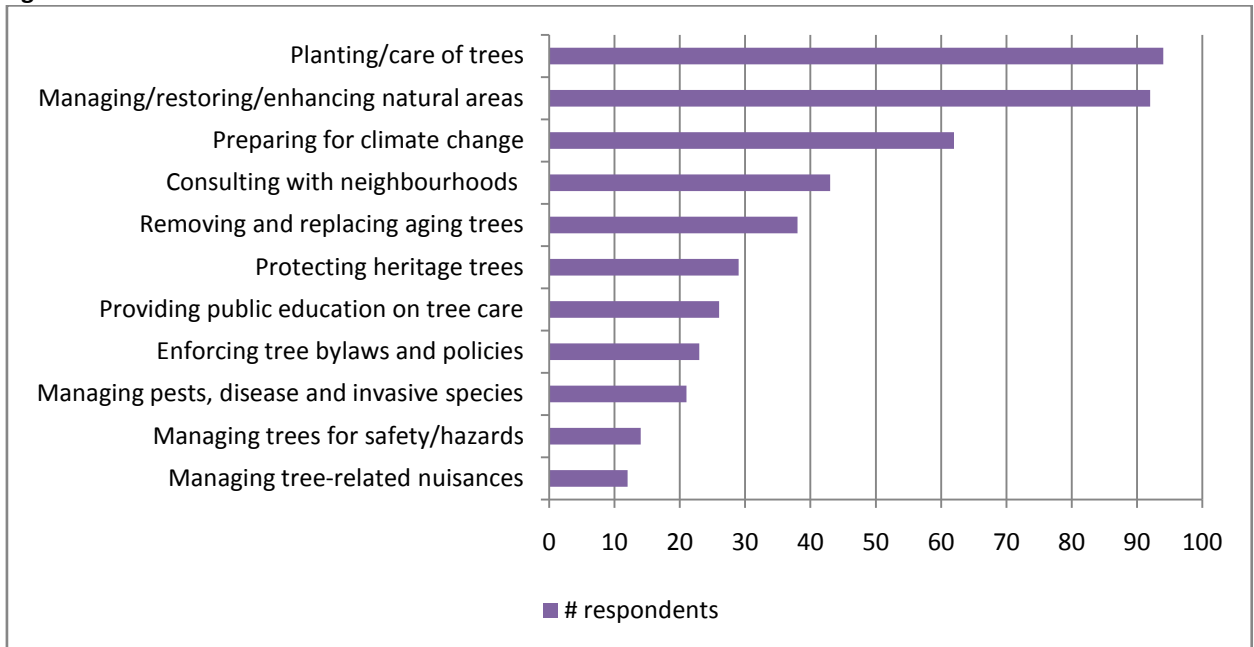
Issues

What do you feel are the three most important issues that Victoria’s Urban Forest Master Plan should address?

The survey provided a list of issues and asked respondents to identify the three issues most important to them.

The most important issues identified by respondents were ‘planting and care of trees’, and ‘managing/restoring/enhancing natural areas’ (over 90 responses each). ‘Preparing for climate change’ was identified by more than 60 respondents.

Figure 2: Issues



Additional comments and suggestions included:

- ◆ Engage the community in planting (on public and private land) and maintenance, and involve them in urban forest decisions;
- ◆ Educate children and adults, let people know what they can do to help;
- ◆ Protect existing trees and replant as needed;
- ◆ Work towards healthy ecosystems, including the understorey layers;
- ◆ Plan for climate change;
- ◆ Plant for food;
- ◆ Enact bylaws (and enforce them); and

“This is such a simple thing, to involve young kids in the planting and tending of trees, learning about their crucial role in the life of our communities and our home planet.”

- ◆ Provide adequate resources for urban forest management.

Several people commented that all of the issues identified were important, and that it was hard to pick just three.

Vision

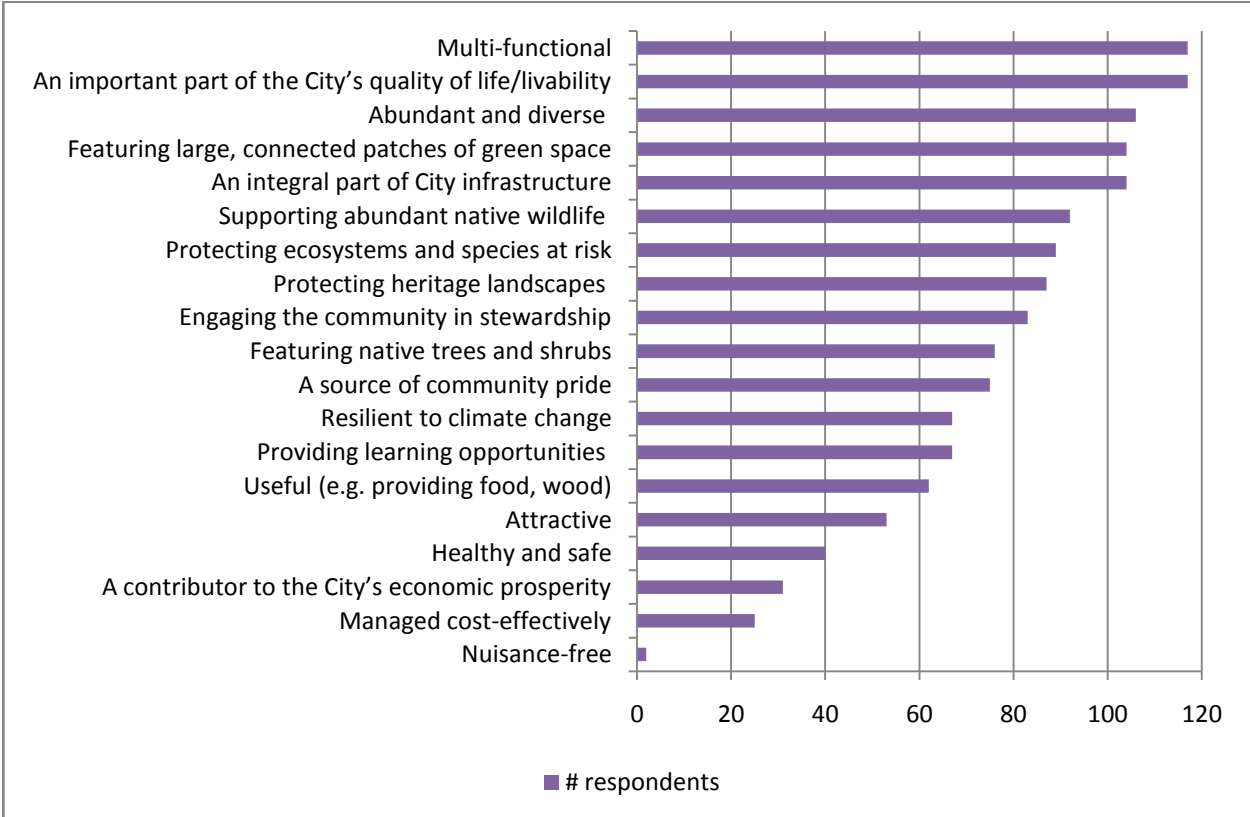
Which of the following phrases matches your VISION for Victoria’s urban forest in 2058?

The survey provided a list of statements and asked respondents to identify the three that most closely matched their vision for Victoria’s urban forest.

The most common responses were ‘Multi-functional (e.g., managing stormwater, reducing air and water pollution, providing shade, and buffering noise)’ and ‘An important part of the City’s quality of life/livability’, closely followed by ‘Abundant and diverse (character, age, species, etc.)’, ‘Featuring large connected patches of greenspace’ and ‘An integral part of City infrastructure (along with roads, sidewalks, sewers, and utilities)’.

“I like all these!”

Figure 3: Vision



"I think an important key towards improving the Urban Forest is promoting and encouraging partnership."

Several respondents felt that all of the statements were important to the vision. Some commented that 'nuisance-free' was not appropriate, as there will always be some level of nuisance, but that these are outweighed by the benefits. Other suggestions included:

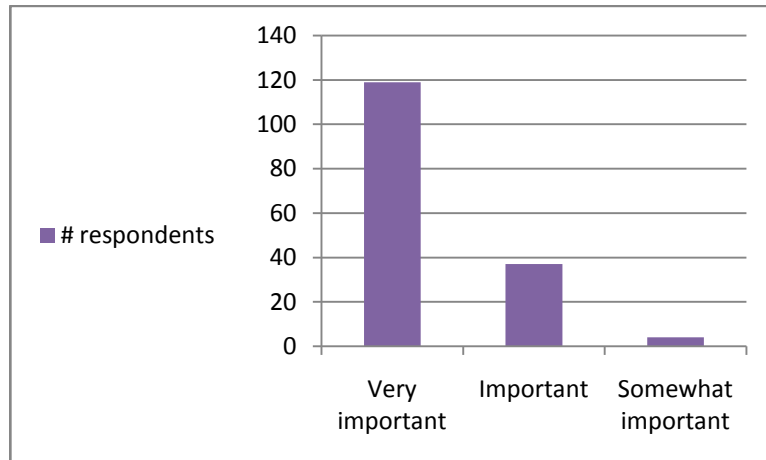
- ◆ Involve the community (neighbourhoods) in urban forest management;
- ◆ Create fiscal and legal 'carrots and sticks';
- ◆ Focus on quality rather than quantity;
- ◆ Have native trees and shrubs, but not to the exclusion of other species;
- ◆ 'Softening the concrete jungle'; and
- ◆ Providing opportunities for education and demonstration.

Priorities

The City has to balance many different priorities. How important to you is Victoria's urban forest?

More than 97% of respondents rated the urban forest as 'very important' or 'important' to them (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Importance of urban forest



"I think an important key towards improving the Urban Forest is promoting and encouraging partnership."

Where should the City place greatest priority in restoring and enhancing the urban forest?

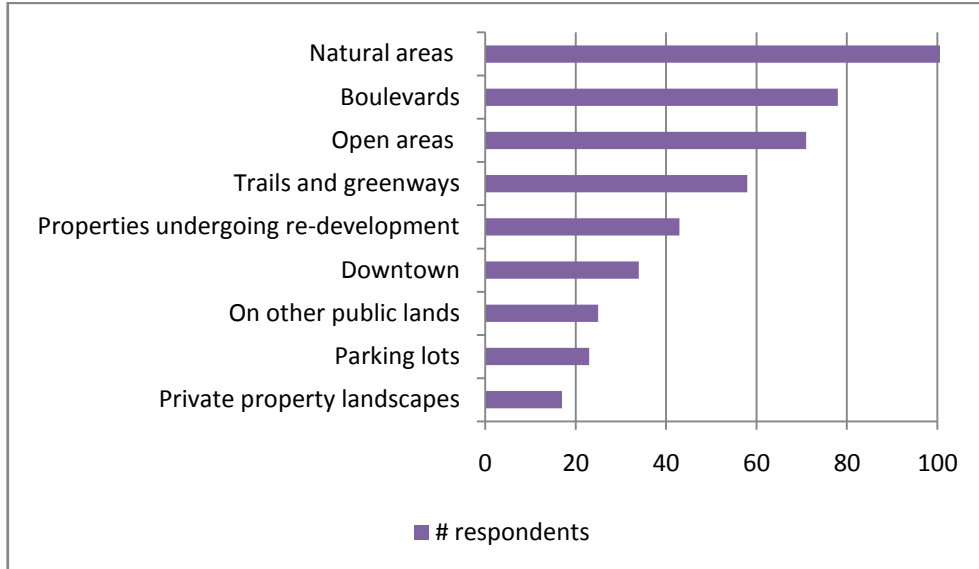
The survey provided a list of priority areas and asked respondents to identify the three most important to them.

'Natural areas (including Garry oak, upland coniferous, riparian and shoreline ecosystems)' was the most common response (over 100 responses), with

"Victoria is rightly regarded as a garden city - now let's show the world the next stage of what is possible in a green urban landscape."

‘Boulevards’ and ‘Open areas (e.g., parks, school grounds, playing fields)’ also popular choices with almost half of the respondents (**Figure 5**). A few respondents felt that all of the areas identified were important.

Figure 5: Priorities



Other priorities identified by respondents included:

- ◆ Areas that have fewer trees at present (e.g., Burnside Gorge, Downtown, James Bay, parking lots);
- ◆ Planting trees (and shrubs) for food (integrated with the urban agriculture policy);
- ◆ Providing incentives and requirements for tree retention and maintenance on private lands, including during development;
- ◆ Taking a planned and coordinated approach, looking at connectivity;
- ◆ Working with developers and community groups;
- ◆ Encouraging green roofs and green walls as part of development; and
- ◆ Providing education for the public.

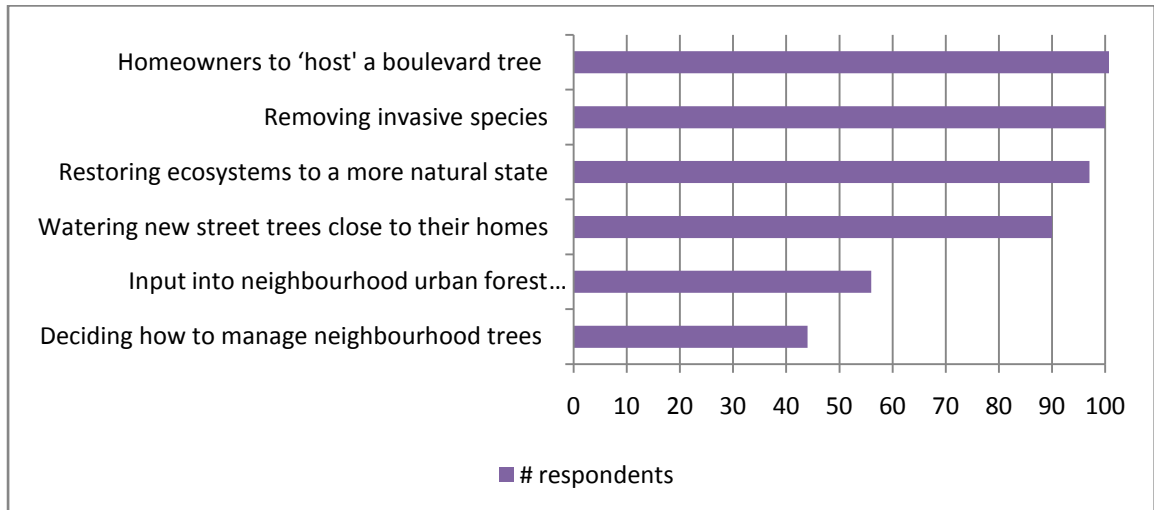
Do you think residents should have a greater role in the stewardship of urban forest?

“Participation should be invited and encouraged, but not required.”

Respondents overwhelmingly felt that residents should have a greater say in urban forest stewardship (134 ‘yes’ to 10 ‘no’), likely reflecting the high level of commitment and engagement of the respondents themselves.

More than half the respondents identified ‘Encouraging homeowners to host a boulevard tree in their front yard’, ‘Removing invasive species’, ‘Restoring ecosystems to a more natural state’, and ‘Watering new street trees close to their homes’ as ways that residents could become involved (**Figure 6**).

Figure 6: Role for residents



Other comments and suggestions included:

- ◆ Provide education and information so that people feel empowered and know what to do;
- ◆ Engage people in planting and harvesting food from trees (encourage food security, consider 'adopt-a-tree' programs, etc.);
- ◆ Where people wish, they could play a role in boulevard maintenance, but they need to know how;
- ◆ Incentives could play a role in encouraging tree care on both public and private land; and
- ◆ Residents have an important role as advocates for their neighbourhood.

Some respondents noted that residents come and go, while City departments provide ongoing professional care, and that the public role should be oversight rather than direct involvement.

Do you have any other ideas or comments that you would like to share with us?

"Tree planting and replacement needs to be planned in perpetuity and needs an ongoing budget commitment that isn't subject to the foibles of councils of the day"

There were many, many other ideas arising from the surveys, all of which are captured in *Appendix 3: Survey Results*. In addition to the surveys, a few people sent emails and written reports for the consultants' consideration. All of these comments have been carefully reviewed and will help to frame the draft Urban Forest Master Plan.



Workshops

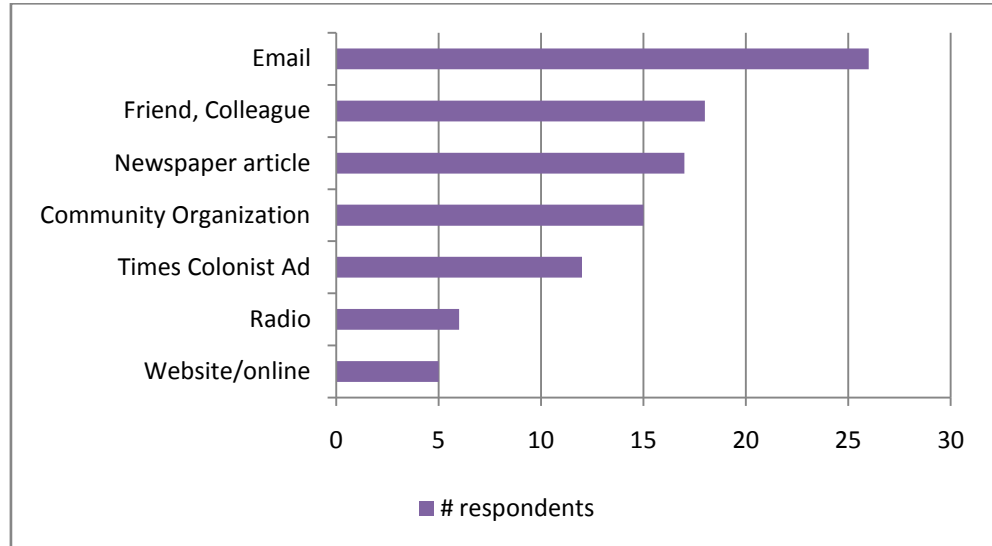
Did you attend one of the Urban Forest Master Plan workshops?

Of the 160 survey respondents, 99 attended one of the two workshops. The following questions were asked only of workshop participants.

How did you hear about this workshop?

Most workshop participants heard about the workshops by email. Information from a 'friend/colleague', the 'article in the Times Colonist', and 'through a community organization' were also common responses.

Figure 7: Workshop information



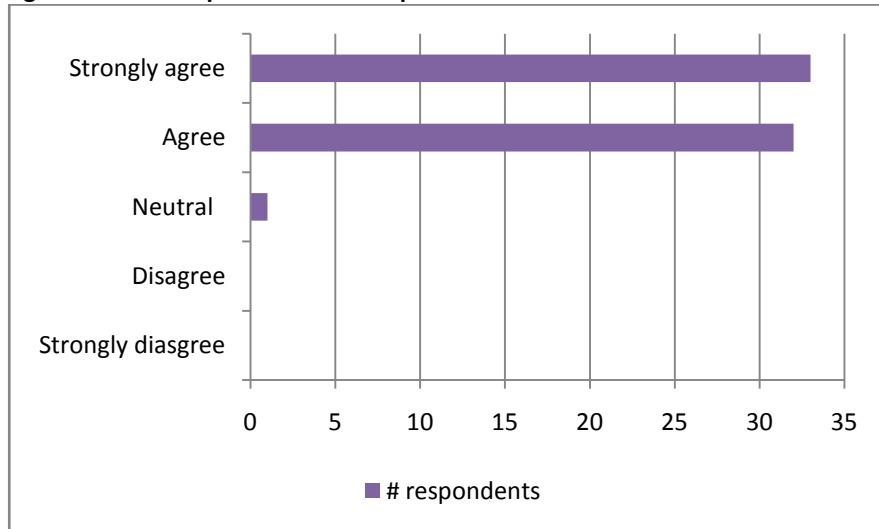
Was the location and time of workshop convenient?

Not surprisingly, most respondents (who were at the workshop) reported that the timing worked for them.

Did you find the workshop information helpful?

Almost all participants 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the workshop was helpful (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Workshop information helpful



Comments from participants indicated that they liked the workshop format, and were very pleased to have been consulted on the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan.



Issues and Challenges

At the workshop, participants had the opportunity to view lists of issues and challenges, that had been identified by the project Steering Committee and Inter-departmental Committee. Participants were encouraged to indicate which ones they felt were particularly important, and to add their own ideas and comments to this list. *Appendix 4: Issues and Challenges* provides a complete list of all of the issues and comments. A summary of this input is captured below.

Communication and Education

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ The City of Victoria does not currently have a program to encourage tree planting on private lands (5 responses).
- ◆ Homeowners need better information (e.g., how best to care for trees in their yard).

Collaboration

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ There is a need to ensure that urban forest planning is linked to planning for parks, development, sidewalks, infrastructure, neighbourhoods, etc. (12 responses).

Safety

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ Liability needs a reality check – what happened to personal responsibility and common sense?
- ◆ Balance these fears with the risks implied by ‘nature deficit disorder’.
- ◆ We need armies of garden/tree workers instead of military, have youth groups and educational courses.



Natural Areas and Biodiversity

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ Sustainable communities require highly functional ecosystems, so we need to focus on enhancing whole ecosystems and not just trees (13 responses).
- ◆ Trees on boulevards, in parks, and in residential gardens are lacking in species- and age-diversity (8 responses).
- ◆ Treed areas are needed in public spaces (7 responses)
- ◆ Many treed areas have little or no understorey (shrubs and groundcover), making them less attractive for wildlife (6 responses).
- ◆ Many natural ecosystems have been degraded by human activities (5 responses).
- ◆ Rare Garry oak ecosystems continue to be fragmented, degraded or lost (5 responses).
- ◆ More community gardens integrated with parks and schools and sports fields any public property (5 responses).
- ◆ Incentives for residents to maintain natural areas on private property – tax breaks, education, etc. (5 responses).
- ◆ Many treed areas are small and isolated from each other, so wildlife cannot move between the different patches of habitat.

Protection of Heritage and Wildlife Trees

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ The City of Victoria does not currently have a program to identify or protect heritage or wildlife trees (beyond the Tree Preservation Bylaw) (5 responses).
- ◆ Garry oak protection bylaw – Saanich has one.

Trees and Development

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ Mature trees provide the community with valuable services (e.g., shading, stormwater detention, air pollution removal). These services may be undervalued in the development approval process (12 responses).
- ◆ Two days ago Douglas St. near South Park School, developers severely damaged a magnificent street tree. They should pay damages (9 responses).
- ◆ Construction activity can damage trees (e.g., digging, spillage of cement or paint) (6 responses).
- ◆ Lower building footprint, increase adequate greenspace for root systems.
- ◆ The soils needed to grow trees may be destroyed during land development. Good growing soils take hundreds of years to develop naturally.



- ◆ Responsible building practices must be supervised by City Engineering Department (that's scary!)

Tree-related Concerns

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ Bury power lines where possible.
- ◆ Reduce building envelope to the footprint size, thus adjust location as above.
- ◆ Perhaps it is the buses and trucks we need to control.

Tree Removal and Replacement

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ The current rate of tree replacement throughout Victoria may not be sufficient to sustain the urban forest.
- ◆ Many street trees are nearing the end of their safe, useful life expectancy.
- ◆ Set up a program of rear yard planting of native species – on private land, not city interference, largest foot print of lot (like L.E.A.F. in Toronto).
- ◆ Plant young trees under older trees 10–20 years before cutting old trees.
- ◆ Graft ornamental cherries, plums, apples, etc. over to edible varieties so as to mimic a natural forest and make replacement less traumatic.
- ◆ When replacing existing trees, we need to take food security issues into consideration by planting diverse varieties of native and non-native food producing trees.
- ◆ Or can the street environment design change to accept more native species.

Tree Health

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ Plant multiple types of trees on one street to increase biodiversity and reduce tree illnesses (12 responses).
- ◆ Use permeable surfaces (7 responses).
- ◆ No grass, more diverse understory (5 responses).
- ◆ Ban/eradicate English ivy/broom/daphne.
- ◆ Streets are harsh locations for trees, shortening their life-spans.
- ◆ Past planting and pruning practices have made some trees vulnerable to pests and disease.
- ◆ Trees common to Victoria (e.g., flowering cherry and birch) are highly susceptible to pests and diseases.
- ◆ Construction machinery can compact growing soils and damage tree roots.

- ◆ Provide incentive to homeowners to promote the health of trees.
- ◆ Educate staff on sustainable methods (permaculture).
- ◆ Think outside the box, i.e., successional plantings, use nitrogen-fixing plants, and beneficial insect attracting plants in the understory.

Climate Change

Comments supported by three or more individuals included:

- ◆ A sustainable urban forest is needed to help soak up the carbon produced by burning fossil fuels (6 responses).
- ◆ Garry oaks are adapted to summer droughts as climate change progresses—what does ‘native’ mean? (6 responses).
- ◆ What about downtown water catchments we have a lot of cement—all drainage goes to ocean—can we shift some of this water to our gardens, trees, etc. (5 responses).
- ◆ Drought, more frequent and violent wind storms, and warmer temperatures will stress many trees.
- ◆ Lack of local food and medicines—plant trees with edible fruits and nuts with understoreys of medicinal plants.
- ◆ Plant lots – not far apart!
- ◆ B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range Research Branch is undertaking research to plant which tree species are best suited to the future climatic conditions.
- ◆ And other food plants, e.g., Italian (edible) chestnut trees for food.



Vision for 2058

Following the workshop presentations, attendees were invited to respond to two questions:

- ◆ Think about what the City might look like in 2058 – what will be different (how will we get around, will the population be older/younger/a different ethnic mix, what are some of the factors driving this change)? and
- ◆ Describe your ‘ideal’ urban forest in 2058: what does it look like, how does it function, what values does it provide?

The many ideas generated are included in *Appendix 5: Vision 2058*, and a summary is presented below.

The City in 2058

Workshop participants thought that the City of Victoria would look somewhat different in 50 years time:

- ◆ Density of people and housing will have increased;
- ◆ There will be fewer cars (but more electric vehicles), and much greater use of biking, walking and scooters to get around;
- ◆ There will be fewer roads (some roads will have been ‘de-paved’ and this area will become greenspace);
- ◆ There will be much greater use of renewable sources of energy;
- ◆ The population will have changed (more older people, but perhaps also more younger); and
- ◆ Services (e.g., hydro) will be underground.

The ‘Ideal’ Urban Forest

The City will feature:

- ◆ Streams that have been daylighted;
- ◆ Capture and re-use of rainwater, more permeable surfaces to minimize stormwater runoff;
- ◆ Former roads that have been de-paved and are now greenspace;
- ◆ More walking paths in natural settings;
- ◆ Gathering spaces for arts and culture; and
- ◆ Green roofs and living walls on buildings.

Workshop participants envisaged the urban forest as having:

- ◆ A large canopy;
- ◆ More understorey plantings;
- ◆ A variety of species—mostly but not all native;



- ◆ Species that are well adapted to the future climates (including drought and windstorms);
- ◆ A 'shaggier' look (reflecting a more natural ecosystem condition);
- ◆ More greenspaces throughout the City, especially in areas currently lacking greenspace; and
- ◆ More urban forest on schoolgrounds and other public lands.

This urban forest will fulfill many functions:

- ◆ Multiple ecosystem services (resilience to climate change, shade, air and water cleansing, etc.);
- ◆ It will be useful, providing food for many, wood will be harvested and used;
- ◆ It will provide habitat for wildlife, and corridors for wildlife movement;
- ◆ It will provide places for children to play; and
- ◆ It will be an inspiration to others (in this region and beyond).



This will be achieved (in part) through:

- ◆ Greater public engagement, including involvement from neighbourhood action groups;
- ◆ More education, and a greater sense of personal responsibility (individual action and stewardship);
- ◆ Appropriate levels of funding and support; and
- ◆ Bylaws and incentives.

Next Steps

The next steps in developing the Urban Forest Management Plan include development of a vision and goals, together with strategies to achieve these goals. This work will be done with significant input from the project Steering Committee and Inter-departmental Committee.

Once a draft plan has been prepared, there will be a second round of public consultation to review and critique the draft. Interested individuals are advised to check the project website www.victoria.ca/urbanforest for updates.

Appendix 1: Presentations

Challenges and Opportunities: Dan Marzocco, City of Victoria (presented January 20 and 24, 2009)

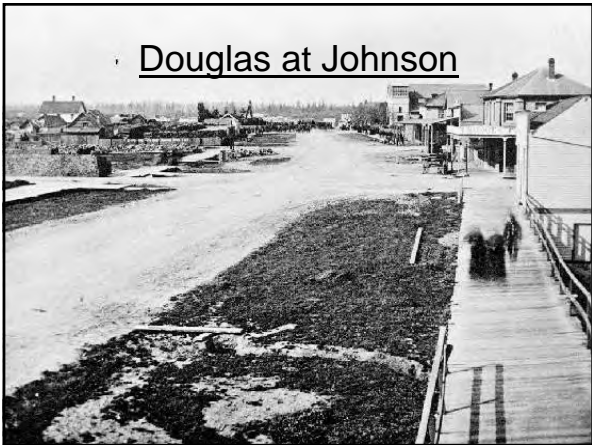
Ryan Street Greenway: Ludo Bertsch, Oaklands Community (presented January 20, 2009)

Maddison Lane Urban Forest: Sylvia von Schuckmann, Maddison Lane Community (presented January 24, 2009)

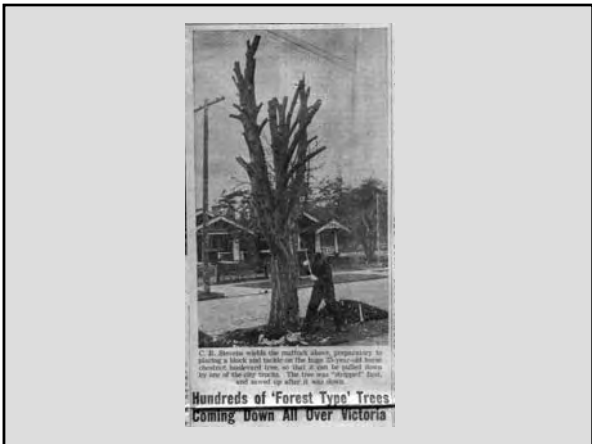
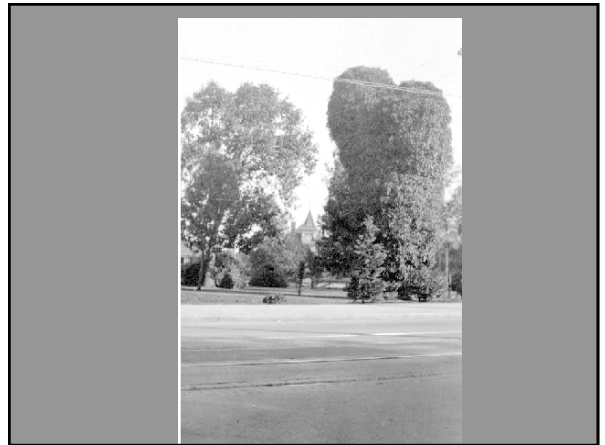
City of Victoria Urban Forest Master Plan: Jeremy Gye, Gye and Associates Urban Forest Consulting (presented January 20 and 24, 2009)



Title: "Victoriat situated on Vancouver Island - affords ..."



Douglas at Johnson

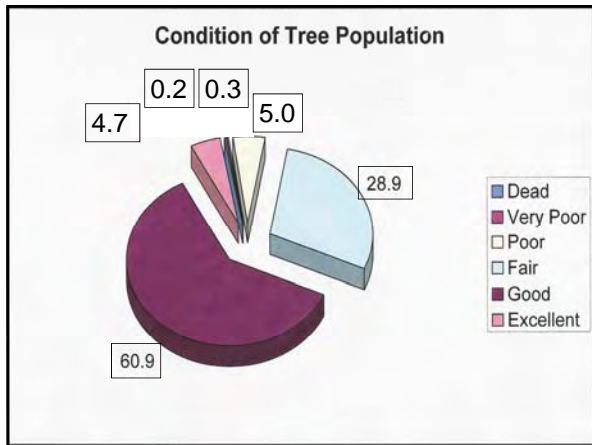
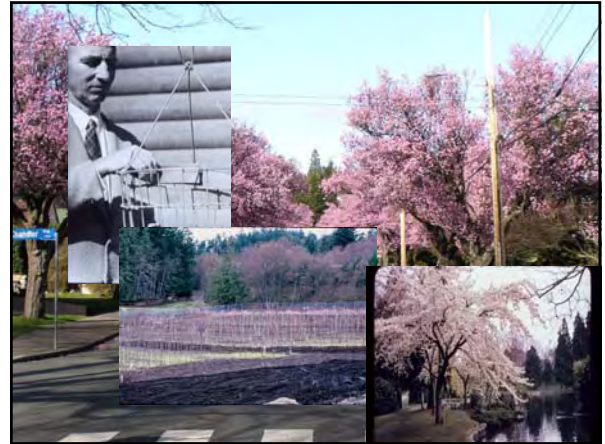


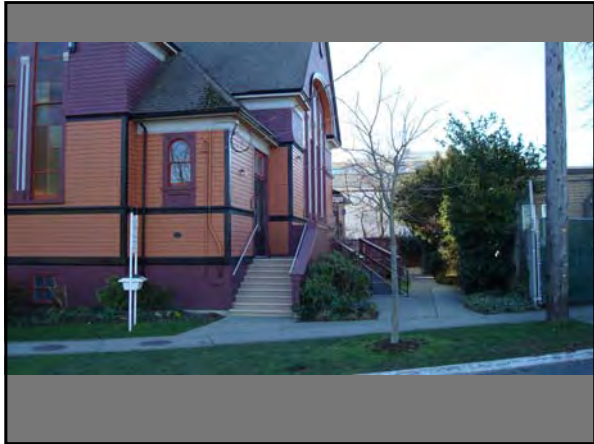
Hundreds of "Forest Type" Trees
Coming Down All Over Victoria



Oversize Trees Cut On City Boulevard


Last step in the destruction of one of the magnificent horse chestnut trees that formerly shaded Dupont Street is seen above as F. Cox (left), and H. S. Beattie city park employees, on either end of the cross-cut saw, cut the trunk into chunks that can be easily hauled. Residents of the district are taking the wood for their fires and the roots are being taken and dumped at Clover Point to join hundreds of others put there in the past few weeks.









 **CITY OF VICTORIA**

WORKSHOP
Victoria's Urban Forest Master Plan Project
January 2009
www.victoria.ca/urbanforest

An urban forest includes all of a community's trees, shrubs and groundcover, the soils in which they grow and associated plants and wildlife on public and private property. Trees in parks and natural areas, boulevards and downtown streetscapes, city squares, school grounds, cemeteries, as well as residential yards and community gardens all make up Victoria's urban forest. The tree canopy – the extent of the trees and their leaves – covers nearly 30% of the municipality.

The City of Victoria is developing an Urban Forest Master Plan that will identify strategies to help ensure that the city's urban forest remains healthy, safe and abundant for the next 20 years and beyond. For more information see www.victoria.ca/urbanforest

Public input is key to developing the plan, which is why two public workshops are being offered in January for citizens to learn more about Victoria's urban forest and share their vision for its future.

Please take a moment to share your vision for Victoria's urban forest by filling out this survey. Copies of the survey will also be available at the public workshops.

Name: _____

E-mail address (if you want to receive updates about the Urban Forest Master Plan): _____

Ryan Street Greenway

Presentation for City of Victoria
Urban Forests Workshop – Jan 20, 2008

by: Ludo Bertsch
Oaklands Community, south of Hillside Mall

www.blockcommunities.com
greenways@blockcommunities.com

Asquith Street (neighbours)



Asquith Street (neighbours)




Asquith Street (neighbours)

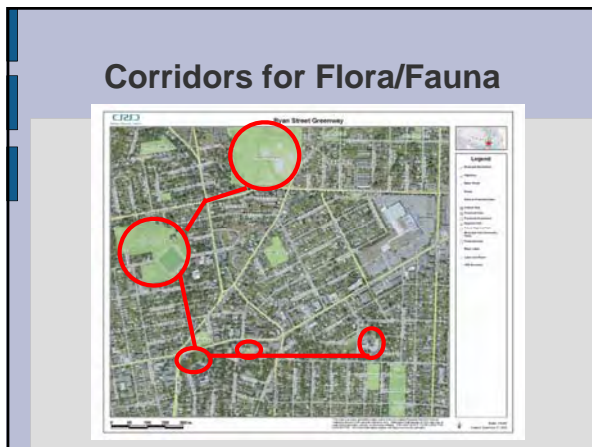
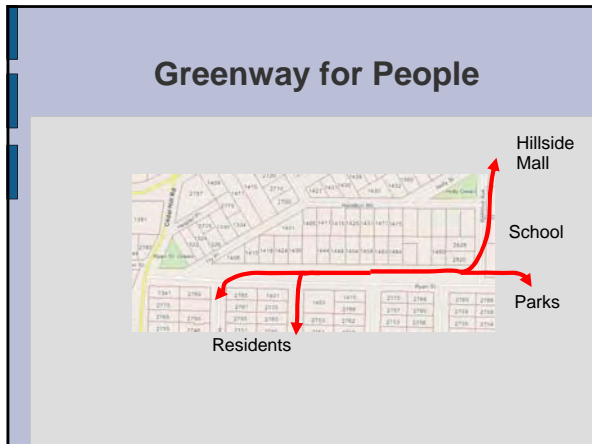


Ryan Hill (threatened)



Road Allowance






Ryan Street (Early 2007)

- Not a pleasant place to walk
- Dust problem in summer
- Rocks and gravel thrown up by cars
- Cars race through open area

Ryan Street (Early 2007)


- No definition for use of space

Ryan Street (Early 2007)




- No definition for use of space
- This means cars are king!

Ryan Street (Early 2007)




- No definition for use of space
- This means cars are king!
- Cars too close to large Garry Oaks
- Confusion

Ryan Street (Early 2007)



- Hard packed gravel
- Poor drainage
- No plants can grow, other than large Garry Oaks
- Eye sore, barren

Ryan Street (Early 2007)



- City of Victoria property double wide
- Patches of extra pavement

Ryan Street Greenway First Phase (June 2007)

- First City of Victoria Greenway grant
- Introduce vehicle access definition for cars in front of hall
- Split rail fence to move cars back from Garry Oaks
- Provide pedestrian access from cars to hall

Ryan Street Greenway (June 2007)



Ryan Street Greenway (June 2007)



Ryan Street Greenway (June 2007)



- First fence completed June 2007
- Attempt to pull cars back from Garry Oaks
- Parking issues

Ryan Street Greenway (June 2007)



- Some cars did pull back from the trees

Ryan Street Greenway (June 2007)



- But other cars continued to park next to trees

Ryan Street Greenway (June 2007)



**Ryan Street Greenway
Phase 2 – Prepare Soil (Nov 2007)**

- Remove old asphalt and compacted gravel
- Add soil and mulch
- Define vehicle access and parking via split rail fences and berms
- Chip Trail for walking

Ryan Street Greenway (Nov 2007)



- Plans developed
- Signoff for construction

Ryan Street Greenway (Nov 2007)



Ryan Street Greenway (Nov 2007)



Ryan Street Greenway (Nov 2007)



Ryan Street Greenway (Nov 2007)



Ryan Street Greenway (Nov 2007)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway
Phase 3 – Planting (Early 2008)

- Native Plants
 - Re-establishes historical selection
 - Low maintenance
 - Low watering requirements
 - Educational component
- Open; not dense thickets
- Variety of plants

Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Early 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Summer 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Aug/Sept 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Aug/Sept 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Aug/Sept 2008)



Ryan Street Greenway (Aug/Sept 2008)

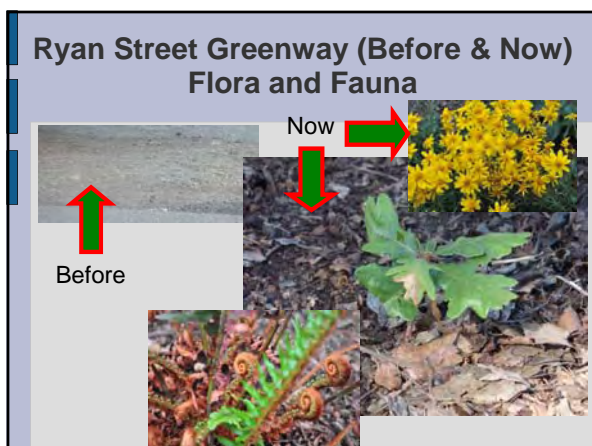


Ryan Street Greenway (Aug/Sept 2008)





- ### Ryan Street Greenway (Education & Communications)
- On-site talking and showcasing
 - Link with plant & Garry Oak groups
 - Website: www.blackcommunities.com
 - Sign and banner projects, flyer
 - Part of NevPan and eco-system corridors



- ### Suggestions
- Meet your neighbours
 - Listen and involve community
 - Create a vision plan that fits
 - Work with and help establishment
 - Use different communication tools

Ryan Street Greenway

Thank you. (*watch Shaw Cable ch 11*)

Questions?

Ludo Bertsch

*www.blockcommunities.com
greenways@blockcommunities.com*

Maddison Lane Urban Forest Stewardship:

Neighbours, Planning & Planting

Where is it?

- The south end of -



Where is Maddison Lane

Between -



Maddison Green (0.03 ha)

- Also known as Margaret's Grove
- Donated by Margaret Perry to the City of Victoria (1996)
- City was encouraged to pass a bylaw to make it a Park.



Wilmer Green (0.02 ha)

- Neighbours encourage creation of another of the City's smallest parks
- Bylaw passes to make it a City Park in 2002



The Neighbours

- Here's one of many neighbourhood celebrations in the lane
- Neighbours care enough to get involved in stewardship



Why we care

- A remnant of the Garry oak Ecosystem
 - One of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada
- Neighbours like the Green space
- Many of us moved there because of it
- We love the trees, shrubs & wildflowers!



Our corner of Urban Forest ...

- Has more than Garry oaks and wildflowers including:
 - A very large willow (non-native)
 - A grove of Vancouver Island poplar (native)
 - Snow berry and wild rose (native)
 - Himalayan Blackberries **managed** for kids' berry picking (non-native)

The Maddison Lane Stewardship Group

- Protection
- Planning
- Planting
- Maintenance

Protection

- Working with the City of Victoria
 - obtained park status for Wilmer Green & Margaret's Grove
 - worked with private landowners to encourage protection of Garry oak trees
 - collaborate on mowing schedule to protect wildflowers & other native plants
 - Inform the city of potential violations of the City tree protection bylaw

Planning

- Vision for what neighbourhood wants from Green space
- Input to Gonzales Neighbourhood plan
 - Provides framework for stewardship
- Survey of neighbours to set out objectives for management of parks and lane
- Lane formally designated as part of City of Victoria Greenways Plan
- Working on a Park Management Plan with City

Maintenance

- We pick up Litter
- Invasive weed control
- Public education about value of Garry oak ecosystem
- Alert the City to tree pruning needs
- Recommend measures to the City to protect trees & other plants from damage e.g.
 - Fences (permanent & temporary around sensitive areas)
 - Bylaws for No Parking areas
- We keep records

Planting

- We love our old trees
- We had room for more native plants
- More Garry oak trees & native shrubs & wildflowers were planted
 - Young Trees & shrubs provided by the City
 - Shrubs and wildflowers provided by Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) & private donors
- Planting and watering by Neighbours. Some planting by City and HAT.

Planted in 1997

- Garry oak shown in 2002 & 2009



The Mayor's Tree

- Aim High – Plant with Lowe !
 - Garry oak planted in 2002 to celebrate formal designation of Wilmer Green Park



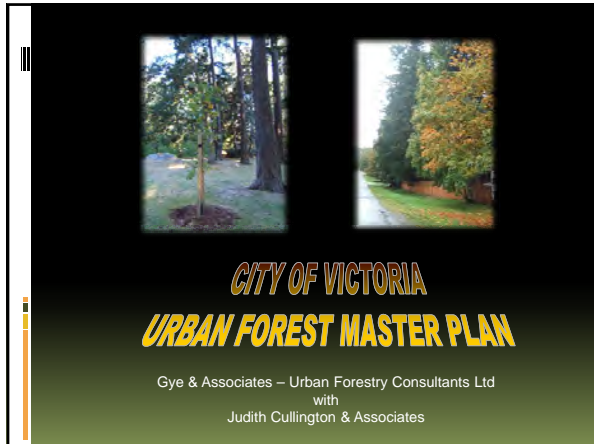
Planning for the future

- More Garry oak Planted 2004



Photo credits:
 Manu Ronse
 Amanda Harby
 Sylvia von Schuckmann

Reference:
 A Stewardship Success Story by Sylvia von Schuckmann.
 Published 2002 in "Hanging on to Paradise: An Illustrated Anthology of Community Visions in Prose and Poetry" by the Fairfield Community Association. Ed. B. Julian



The Urban Forest

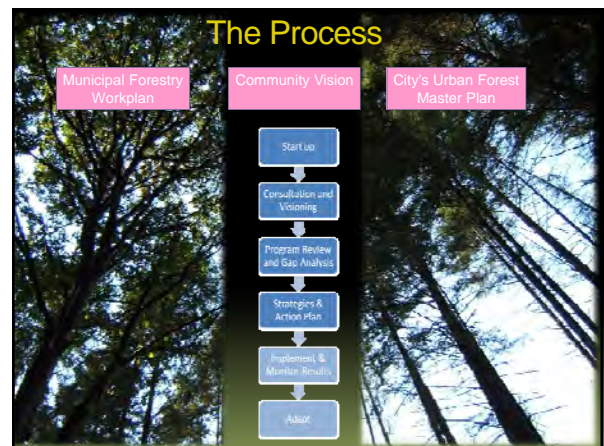
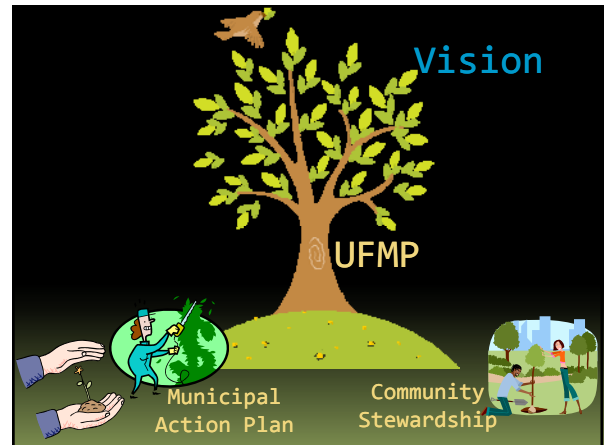
- All treed environments within the city
 - public and private
 - natural and cultivated.
- All components of those environments
 - human (land-use, built forms)
 - natural (trees, soils, other biota, natural processes).

The urban forest is an ecosystem dominated by human activity.

Three distinct but interrelated parts:



- **A Community Vision** (to 2058)...that directs the...
- **Urban Forest Master Plan** (to 2020)
 - Whole city, public and private lands
 - Goals, Strategies and Policy framework
 - ...that incorporates a...
- **Municipal Forest Action Plan** (to 2013 and beyond)
 - Focused work plan, for city lands



Guiding Principles & Assumptions

- **A COMMUNITY RESOURCE**—partially managed by the city—requiring public stewardship and planning input.
- **MULTIPLE SCALES** to consider
 - administrative (site, neighbourhood, land-use designation, city, region)
 - Ecological (site, watersheds, biogeoclimatic zone)
- Manage for **MULTIPLE CLASSES OF BENEFITS**
 - Biological
 - Green Infrastructural
 - Social/Psychological
 - Economic

Guiding Principles & Assumptions

- **INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT APPROACH**
 - Natural and Built Environments
 - Public and Private lands
 - Inter-departmental Collaboration
 - Collaborative Stewardship (Local Government ~ Community.)
- Support the development of **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES** with **HIGH ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION**.
- Recognize that **LOCAL LAND-USE DESIGNATIONS** drive the **FORM AND CHARACTER** of **LOCAL TREED ENVIRONMENTS**

OLD THINKING



Worst Practice!



How much function do we get from this tree?



Not bad... for tree planters!



European Hornbeam: good choice for this location and function.



Tree grates: maintenance? Risk?
What's going on below ground?



Mature street boulevard



Large campus-like settings
(cemetaries, colleges,
parliament lands...)



Seamless lane frontage



The challenge of building
around trees



Infill Development:
A mixed blessing for greenspace



Best practice - Infill



Trees & Overhead Utilities
Best Practice



BEST PRACTICE
Separating vehicle traffic,
pedestrians and cycle paths



Best practice



REDEVELOPMENT THAT WORKS FOR TREES

Bigger house footprint, but...



Rear yard has been maximized, integrated with adjacent properties and shared natural ecosystem preserved and enhanced.

RBCM: showing us how its done!



Exotic species also serve



Heritage Trees



Invasive species: a real pest



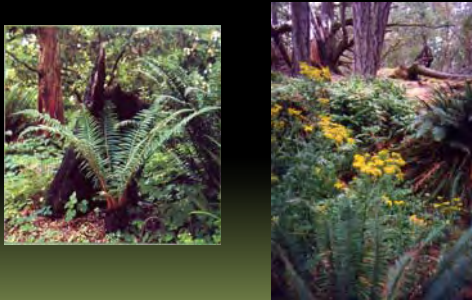
Restoration of Natural Areas



Restoration projects in Beacon Hill Park



What our woodlands are supposed to look like



Trees as integral parts of view sheds



Coastal Bluffs



Garry oak Savannah



Garry oak wildflower meadow



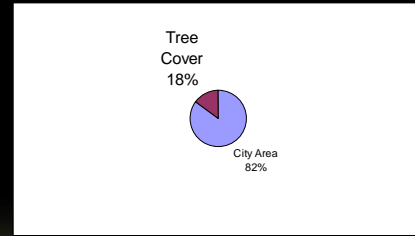
Healthy riparian buffers



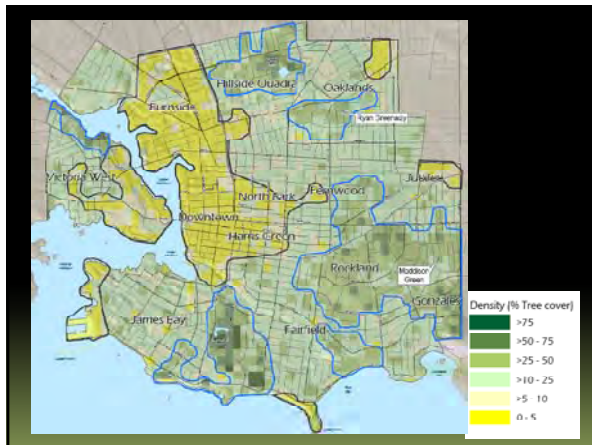
To every season, a purpose...



City of Victoria - 2005 Urban Forest Cover



(60% of Victoria's land-base is impervious)



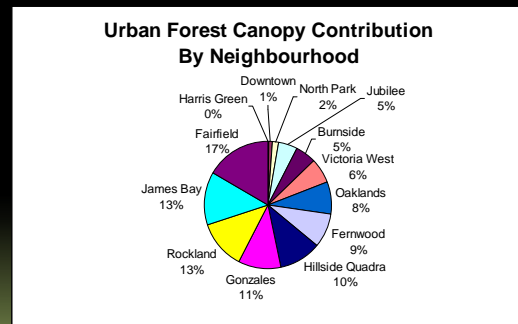
Tree Cover Density

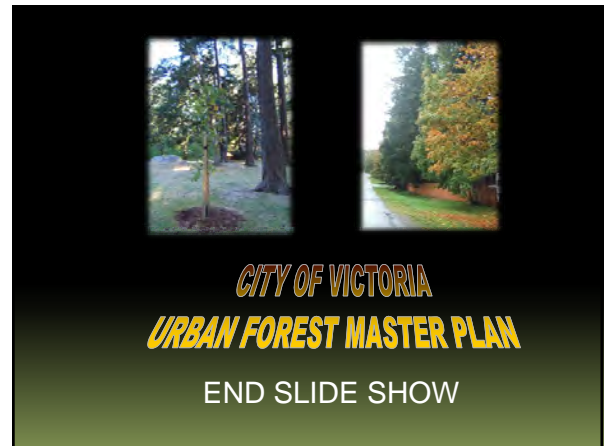
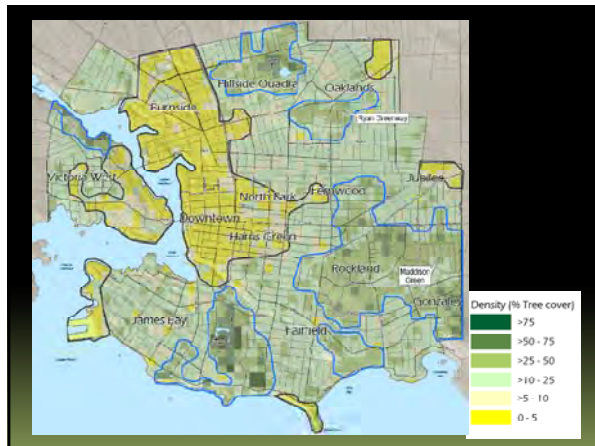
- 46% of Victoria has little to no tree cover (0 – 10% density)
- 40% of Victoria is lightly treed (10 – 25%)
- 11% is well-treed (25 – 50%)
- 3% is heavily treed (50 – 100%) *(Half of this forest cover is located in Beacon Hill and Summit Parks)*

City of Victoria - 2005 Tree Cover by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood Area (ha)	Tree Cover (ha)	Percent of Neighbourhood
Downtown	77.0	2.6	3.4%
Harris Green	23.9	1.4	5.9%
Burnside	236.9	18.2	7.7%
North Park	55.8	5.4	9.7%
Victoria West	157.0	22.2	14.1%
Jubilee	100.0	15.7	15.7%
Oaklands	173.3	27.7	16.0%
Fernwood	174.9	30.2	17.3%
James Bay	235.9	45.1	19.1%
Fairfield	267.4	57.0	21.3%
Hillside Quadra	165.6	35.5	21.5%
Gonzales	135.8	36.6	26.9%
Rockland	128.0	43.2	33.8%
City of Victoria	1,931.6	341	n/a

City of Victoria - 2005 Urban Forest Cover by Neighbourhood







Appendix 2: Survey

WORKSHOP
Victoria's Urban Forest Master Plan Project
January 2009
www.victoria.ca/urbanforest

SURVEY

Victoria, the City of Gardens, lies nestled beneath a protective canopy of trees – our urban forest.

An urban forest includes all of a community's trees, shrubs and groundcover, the soils in which they grow and plants and wildlife on public and private property. Trees in parks and natural areas, boulevards and downtown streetscapes, as well as residential yards and community gardens, all make up Victoria's urban forest.

The City of Victoria is developing an Urban Forest Master Plan that will identify strategies to help ensure that the city's urban forest remains healthy, safe and abundant for the next 20 years and beyond. For more information see www.victoria.ca/urbanforest

Public input is key to developing the plan, which is why two public workshops are being offered in January for citizens to learn more about Victoria's urban forest and share their vision for its future.

Please take a moment to **share your vision** for Victoria's urban forest by filling out this survey.

Name (*optional*):

E-mail address (*if you want to receive updates about the Urban Forest Master Plan*):

1. How did you hear about this workshop? Please circle all those that apply:

E-mail Radio Newspaper Article Times Colonist Advertisement Community Organization

Friend, Colleague Website/online Television Other

2. Did you find the information presented helpful? (Please circle.)

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Comments:

3. Was the location and time of the workshop convenient? Yes No

4. What neighbourhood do you live in?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burnside Gorge | <input type="checkbox"/> James Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> South Jubilee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown | <input type="checkbox"/> North Jubilee | <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria West |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfield | <input type="checkbox"/> North Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fernwood | <input type="checkbox"/> Oaklands | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hillside-Quadra | <input type="checkbox"/> Rockland | |

5. What do you value most about Victoria's urban forest?

6. What do you dislike or consider a nuisance about Victoria's urban forest?

7. What would you like to change about Victoria's urban forest?

8. The City has to balance many different priorities. How important to you is Victoria's urban forest? (Please circle.)

Not at all important Somewhat important Important Very important

9. What do you feel are the THREE most important issues that Victoria's Urban Forest Master Plan should address?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing for climate change | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing trees for safety/hazards (e.g., falling branches, wildfire) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planting/care of trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing pests, disease and invasive species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Removing and replacing aging trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting with neighbourhoods on their local urban forest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Managing tree-related nuisances (e.g., leaf litter, root problems, shade, view restrictions) | <input type="checkbox"/> Providing public education on tree care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcing tree bylaws and policies | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting heritage trees | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Managing/restoring/enhancing natural areas | |

Other comments and suggestions:

10. Which of the following phrases matches your VISION for Victoria's urban forest in 2058?
(please check the ones most important to you)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy and safe | <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting ecosystems and species at risk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abundant and diverse (character, age, species, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting heritage landscapes (e.g., Garry oak ecosystems) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attractive | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Useful (e.g., providing food, wood) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance-free | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-functional (e.g., managing stormwater, reducing air and water pollution, providing shade, and buffering noise) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An integral part of City infrastructure (along with roads, sidewalks, sewers, and utilities) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resilient to climate change | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Managed cost-effectively | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A source of community pride | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A contributor to the City's economic prosperity | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An important part of the City's quality of life/livability | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging the community in stewardship | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting abundant native wildlife (appropriate to an urban environment) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Featuring native trees and shrubs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Featuring large, connected patches of greenspace | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Providing learning opportunities for children and adults | |

Other comments and suggestions:

**11. Where should the City place greatest priority in restoring and enhancing the urban forest?
(please check no more than three)**

- Natural areas (including Garry oak, upland coniferous, riparian and shoreline ecosystems)
- Open areas (e.g., parks, school grounds, playing fields)
- Trails and greenways
- Boulevards
- Parking lots
- Downtown core
- Private property landscapes: Residential Multi-family Commercial/industrial
- Properties undergoing re-development
- On other public lands (e.g., Government House, Legislature, Provincial Capital Commission properties, St. Ann's Academy), working in cooperation with other government agencies

Other comments and suggestions:

12. Do you think residents should have a greater role in the stewardship of urban forests?

- Yes No

If yes, please check all ideas that you agree with:

- Watering new street trees close to their homes
- Deciding how to manage trees in their neighbourhood
- Encouraging homeowners to 'host' a boulevard tree in their front yard
- Restoring ecosystems to a more natural state
- Removing invasive species

Other suggestions for public stewardship:

13. Please add any other comments

Appendix 3: Survey Results

Respondents

A total of 160 people responded to the surveys. Eighty-four people responded using the online survey, and 76 people handed in a hardcopy survey at one of the workshops or directly to City staff.

Values

What do you value most about Victoria's urban forest?

(Note that many people's responses include multiple categories)

Beauty, aesthetics

- ◆ The cherry trees lining streets.
- ◆ Spring flowering. The variety of trees
- ◆ Beauty
- ◆ I am particularly fond of seeing the Japanese cherry trees in bloom in early spring. Spring "is" my favorite time of the year and the cherry blooms just add that beauty to an already lovely time of the year where the days are longer & new life is springing out of the ground and buds out of naked branches.
- ◆ Color, shade canopy, beauty (blossoms), and oxygen
- ◆ The beauty of the trees / CO2 filter / storm water abatement / wildlife home
- ◆ I value the aesthetics and the health benefits of living with plants (and the animal that go with them) in the Beauty, shade, and habitat
- ◆ Beautiful tree-lined street. Garry Oak meadows
- ◆ Beauty, CO2 sequestering, food
- ◆ Beauty. Value of canopy such as shade, noise reduction, green benefit
- ◆ The canopy. On hill tops or flying over, you can really see the beauty of the city and its trees.
- ◆ The aesthetics, the shade, and the environmental advantages
- ◆ The magnificent Garry oaks stand out to me for their beauty, role in our ecological & cultural history, shade and wildlife habitat values.
- ◆ Aesthetic
- ◆ Beauty, fresh air, shade, scent
- ◆ Scenery, birds, fresh air, nature
- ◆ The aesthetic quality that trees lend to neighbourhoods. Trees can make an otherwise architecturally boring or even ugly street seem pleasing. One only need look at the stretch of Shelbourne St. that has the large (May??) trees and compare it to other sections of Shelbourne to realize this. Without these trees it is a visually boring street, but the trees draw the eyes.
- ◆ I appreciate the aesthetic beauty of the large nut trees in the neighbourhoods of Fairfield (and others, I'm sure). The large trees give the neighbourhoods an historic feeling.
- ◆ Flowering cherry and plum trees; Garry Oak meadow in Summit Park; Garry Oak throughout the City; Boulevard and median plantings

- ◆ Trees are the most important factor in beautifying streets and neighborhoods. Also clean the air and absorb CO2.
- ◆ Its aesthetic, environmental and humanizing effects
- ◆ Its beauty and function mainly by the large mature tree canopy we enjoy being under and looking down on the forest that softens the hard surfaces
- ◆ Its visual beauty, health, and civilizing effects. Shade, bird habitat, and cleansing effect
- ◆ Comfort and beauty of trees. I have a garden that gives me great pleasure and exercise and community
- ◆ The aesthetics – the beauty of the ever-changing ever- blooming boulevards full of flowering trees. The green space engendering calm, peacefulness, attracting honeybees, giving shade, adding the livability and the quality of life of our neighbourhoods. Along with this crucially, is the health enhancing aspects of the urban forest.
- ◆ Beauty, trees provide valuable services such as stormwater absorption, reduction of CO2, and birds and wildlife
- ◆ Beautiful large trees, Japanese cherry blossoms, greenery all year around, and wild life in my street (hawks, etc.)
- ◆ Beauty, environmental sustainability, walk ability, urban agriculture opportunities, and educational opportunity
- ◆ The beauty, all seasons too, the quiet it creates
- ◆ Its beauty, shade, birds, spring blossoms
- ◆ Beautiful ambiance of trees. Much higher quality of life on those streets graced with trees. Cleaner air. The connectivity of urban greenways, even along sidewalks under canopies of green. A park like setting in close proximity to residents and narrow streets with trees results in traffic calming.
- ◆ The beauty, the shade, and the clean air
- ◆ Aesthetics, environmental and social services, and wildlife habitat
- ◆ Aesthetics and shade
- ◆ Aesthetics, air quality, and habitat
- ◆ The beauty
- ◆ Appearance and function
- ◆ Beauty, shade, grace, wind-break, air toxicity filter, carbon dioxide, roots, the underground parts (supporting community of life), food, spiritual sustenance, kindred spirit-hood, the sheer magnificence of this amazing life form on earth!
- ◆ Beauty, value that the forest adds to certain neighbourhoods, shade offering, and carbon offset abilities
- ◆ Beauty, shade, colour, moderates climate, homes for birds
- ◆ Beauty of trees streets, large wild areas in parks, brings wildlife (birds) to the city, and will help us deal with climate change
- ◆ Aesthetics/water retention/ urban cooling
- ◆ Streets of flowering cherries. Beacon Hill Park and other large park environments. Dramatic avenues of large trees (i.e., Chester St.)
- ◆ Boulevard trees especially cherry and plum blossoms in spring
- ◆ Its existence. Blossoms/colours in spring, and the way they continue over the weeks – beautifully planned!
- ◆ A beautiful place to take my son for a walk. We find something new each time
- ◆ Beauty, Bird habitat, and clean air

Greenspaces, natural environment

- ◆ I prefer anything green to pavement
- ◆ Green space, good for the planet
- ◆ It is important to have some amount of actual nature in our lives, even if it is only of the marginal variety found in urban areas.
- ◆ Canopy trees
- ◆ Greenery, cleaner air and more agreeable spaces
- ◆ Large trees such as the Sequoia Gigantica
- ◆ Our abundance of parks and the close proximity to the city of large parks like Beacon Hill and Mt Doug.
- ◆ Green space (physical), air quality contribution, and diversity of plants and animals
- ◆ The lush green in all neighbourhoods
- ◆ The pockets of near-natural places (e.g., edges of parks, shorelines and undeveloped areas not yet annihilated to build yet more condos)
- ◆ I think that it's very inadequate but I do appreciate the large canopy trees in Rockland and Fairfield
- ◆ Abundance and variety of tree species connected greenspaces
- ◆ Greenspace, visuals, air quality, shade, habitat for birds, etc. landmark trees, and historical values
- ◆ Connection to nature, wildlife habitat –essential to quality of life and healthy environment
- ◆ We have more trees/greenspaces that soften the lines of concrete and highnesses. We have spaces to retreat to for physical and mental health. We have nature within our city
- ◆ The mature canopy cover over city streets
- ◆ The linear parks and trails that follow the natural watercourses, these are excellent for cyclists, providing a welcome relief from the traffic
- ◆ Environmental sources of trees, aesthetics, safety, and space

Habitat and species

- ◆ Maintaining native plants, trees, and animals, the visual appeal of the landscape
- ◆ Refuge for deer, raccoons and other wildlife. Food for the future. We need these wild spaces for our mental and spiritual well-being.
- ◆ Habitat, shade cover, oxygen, beauty
- ◆ Bird habitat; water mitigation; oxygen; canopy over my front yard (cooling in summer. wind buffer in winter); pollinating corridors for bees, butterflies. Places to walk and remember how it "used to be" here and all up the island - are quickly disappearing. Vestiges of indigenous plants.
- ◆ That it acts as habitat for birds/wildlife
- ◆ Wildlife – mammals (deer in our backyard) and songbirds/hummingbirds. Serenity – peacefulness of the forest and noise reduction
- ◆ A continuous forest canopy for wildlife habitat and edible tree fruits and nuts
- ◆ Native species, edible landscapes to contribute to our food security.
- ◆ Natural areas that are left - Less lawn below and more wildlife habitat. The native ecosystems that are associated with the region are critically endangered and should be valued intact, however fragmented they have become.
- ◆ Natural area with native species
- ◆ Being able to see wildlife in the city (saw a barn owl)
- ◆ Personally wildlife values – birds, squirrels, etc. Got a wider idea of urban forest as including food-growing, horticulture

- ◆ Habitat for native birds, insects, mammals and associated plants, fresh air and water circulation, shade, and beauty.
- ◆ Habitat for birds and mammals – trees and undergrowth provide homes and food and shelter from the storms. Shade in summer (more necessary as the climate warms). True green, not just ‘green’.

Diversity

- ◆ Diversity of trees and the number.
- ◆ Diversity and density of trees overall
- ◆ The variety of trees, and how various species contribute to creating real character to streets and sidewalks, and hence neighborhoods. The volume of greenery created by this urban forest and the verdant tone it adds to our city.
- ◆ Beacon Hill Park’s diverse species of trees. Neighbourhood Parks with fruit trees
- ◆ The maturity and variety of trees and the different colors/foilage
- ◆ I love the variety of trees, the different trees on different streets i.e. (the Kwanza street, the magnolia street etc). Having street trees help make the streets more pedestrian friendly providing shade and interest.
- ◆ Diversity and omnipresence
- ◆ Variety
- ◆ Diversity; beauty and ecological function of a diverse plant cover
- ◆ That we have large numbers and diversity of species
- ◆ Diversity – natural areas/boulevards/parks/residents and species diversity – native and introduced
- ◆ Variety of trees

Ecosystem services (e.g., air quality, shade, water quality)

- ◆ Carbon sink, tree canopy, fruit-nut production, traffic calming, and buffer noise
- ◆ Carbon sink, canopy/shade in summer, green space (beauty –cherry blossoms), buffer noise, fruit production, and peace
- ◆ The aspects of our urban forests that I value the most are maintenance of some portion of the natural environment within the city, the provision of habitat to wildlife, the visual greening of city, and the contribution to climate change (ability to absorb greenhouse gases).
- ◆ Oxygen it provides and homes for birds.
- ◆ Shade, aesthetics, cleaner air
- ◆ Shade, green, blossoms, fresh air, retaining water, providing exchange of gases CO2/
- ◆ The ability to provide food, shade, and privacy
- ◆ Shade, birds, break from cement, Beauty, sheer awesome wonder and variety. Promotes well being, oxygen, I have 4000 cars go by my place on Quadra St. from 4:15am to 4am every day only a fifteen minute break
- ◆ Shade in summer from deciduous species. Beauty, visual interest, nesting places for birds, promotes quietness. The beauty. We have been presented with the challenge of a global crisis, and yet we continue to ignore the solution: trees
- ◆ Shade, beauty, leaf mulch, and calming effects, tourism effects, benefits to ecosystem health and air quality
- ◆ Shade, variety, carbon offsetting, beauty

- ◆ That like any forest, it is our lifeline, the lungs of our community. For that we can not possibly over value our urban forest - can not make it too high a priority.
- ◆ Food production, shade, aesthetics, and energy conservation
- ◆ Air quality, quiet escape, ecological importance (reducing runoff, habitat, oxygen, etc), makes Victoria what it is.
- ◆ The ecosystem services they provide by serving as habitat for a number of mammal and bird species, the carbon they take up, their modulation of local climate and the shade and aesthetic value they provide
- ◆ Shade, beauty, and air quality
- ◆ The green. The oxygen. The shelter. The shade. The creatures. Also, trees that provide food are great! An urban forest lets a little of the "wild" peek through our efforts to tame the streets. This is better for our collective health and connects us to our environment and each other in a way that drowns in a manicured landscape. Maybe less of us would go wild if we had that earthly connection:)
- ◆ The integration with other ecological factors that make the city a vibrant, people- and rest-of-nature-friendly ecosystem. In other words, having a holistic perspective when talking about an 'urban forest'.
- ◆ I love the shade and how they bring the natural world into the city. The more trees there are in a neighbourhood, the more attractive and livable it is.
- ◆ Ecological benefits – cooling, filtering, water management, habitat, shade, noise reduction, spirit-lifting, connection to nature, and good
- ◆ Air filtering and carbon sequestration; wildlife habitat; beauty; potential for food production; creation and maintenance of healthy viable ecological systems
- ◆ Sound of wind in the trees, natural cooling / heating quality of the trees and other plants, beauty, food.

Livability, sense of community, sense of well-being

- ◆ Urban forests offer a direct connection to nature in the city. Sharing in the care and maintenance of land, water, and growing things strengthens human community.
- ◆ Urban forests build community. They give citizens a sense of belonging. Streets without trees are throughways for vehicles only.
- ◆ It makes the city much more enjoyable. Most of us have to live in the city, and trees soften the edges of the hard buildings. They give us a reminder of the seasons.
- ◆ The mature trees and the vast amount that we have in Victoria. It is one of the most attractive assets of our city. I feel the trees give a calm, peaceful, less noisy atmosphere to the city, and less of a concrete jungle.
- ◆ Calm, energy filling green space that provides clean air, habitat for wildlife and native plants
- ◆ I enjoying having nature surround me when I am walking down the sidewalk and am sure that are a huge part of keeping the air somewhat clean downtown.
- ◆ Greenery softens and quiets the view and surroundings. The zoning requirements hopefully prevent the construction of over size and crowded buildings. Density is reduced.
- ◆ Appreciate how trees can positively impact environment. The “wow” factor for visitors, Japanese flowering trees (except for caterpillar invasion) ginkgo, Garry Oak, Grand Sequoia
- ◆ That it is old and provides a sense of well being to my urban life.
- ◆ The qualities I value most about Victoria's urban forest are its beauty, and its capacity to enhance our quality of life, by not only being part of our life support system, but also as a generous reminder that British Columbians are defined by our forests, urban and non urban.
- ◆ The values it adds to my everyday existence (clean air, shade, attract wildlife, aesthetics, and intercepts rainfall)

- ◆ The urban forest is 'living infrastructure' for the city, a source of beauty, relaxation, natural cooling in summer, warming in winter, food, buffering noise and dust, contributing to the health of soil and people, oxygenating the air etc. In terms of upholding the ability of the commons to support life and provide fresh air, fertile soil and clean water the urban food forest is the 'most important' infrastructure of the city rating far above roads, sidewalks, parking lots and industrial scale systems for handling storm water and sewage waste. The urban forest is capable and willing to take on many of the services we rely on the industrial infrastructure for while contributing to the ongoing health and diversity of our biosphere.
- ◆ Makes the city more livable for people. Provides habitat for urban wildlife. Provides some protection from mudslides etc caused by wet weather. It is very important in combating climate change in the medium to long term.
- ◆ Makes Victoria more livable - green, shady, good for birds, makes houses & streets more attractive, reduces traffic noise, reduces street light glare - I even feel calmer driving down a street with trees
- ◆ The healthy benefits to all.
- ◆ The value of having cool, green spaces in a fairly large city, makes our urban environment seem more 'rural' and creates a sense of community. Trees create shade to cool areas that would otherwise get too hot with all the concrete and they provide habitat for birds. In order to maintain Victoria's reputation as the Garden City, green spaces consistently throughout the entire city are very important.
- ◆ In many parts of the city, the trees help it to feel less urban. I don't get the feeling that I'm trapped in a concrete jungle nearly so much as other cities. Looking down on the city from the top of Mt. Doug, there are trees and trees and trees amongst the buildings. Every effort to preserve forest makes this a better place.
- ◆ That it brings some of nature to the city and makes us more human. To observe the change of seasons puts us in contact with the earth -- contact we sorely need.
- ◆ I value the natural feeling of having trees always present on all our streets, the shade they provide from sun, rain and at times wind. It's so great to be able to look up and see a flower, bird, spider web, or critter sharing our habitat.
- ◆ The trees make the city livable. Shaded streets are lovely. Birds in the trees are wonderful and interesting. A city with large trees is far more interesting and welcoming
- ◆ tranquility
- ◆ Our urban quality of life in "the city of gardens"
- ◆ The fact that we have it – and the variety. Trees define the seasons and provide many recreation activities
- ◆ The cultural, health, social, environmental, economic, aesthetic, and benefits
- ◆ Have colour and disorder in a city, shade on a hot day. Places like Toronto and Vancouver have so little trees downtown that it is boring and suffocating
- ◆ "Heart" value is the aesthetic beauty they provide and intellectual value – cooling, biodiversity, habitat, stormwater management, and beauty
- ◆ Its ability to bring people together and connect them to what really matters – community, ecology, and self-identity

Uniqueness

- ◆ An urban area with so many trees is a truly unique and beautiful thing that is very rare in most North American cities. I value the fact that it is so special and unique.
- ◆ Unique in Canada (unique biogeoclimatic zones), and very varied species, ornamental and native
- ◆ I value the uniqueness of the urban forest in contrast to a natural forest. I like the surprise of the coloured blossoms on small streets and the stately canopy of horse chestnuts on other trees. The regular-spacing

and uniform-sized trees of boulevards can help make a street look cohesive even if its houses are each totally different from house to house (i.e. one new, one old, one run-down one maintained. We are blessed with an abundance of natural forest around us (thanks to folks like CRD parks), and we must acknowledging that very few areas of the city (especially Victoria in contrast to say Saanich) will never be entirely natural again so the idea of returning to an entirely natural or bio-mimicked vegetative cover everywhere is a false ambition.

Other:

- ◆ About the urban forest in general I would say it's great to have some many trees but the whole approach to installation and care needs an overhaul and to be guided by the principles of sustainability. Please link this plan with the Sustainability Strategy that is being created by the City also. Thanks for this opportunity!
- ◆ Legacy urban planning
- ◆ The part of the forest I value most is the trees, because they are most visible
- ◆ A plan will hopefully be made to help improve where we live
- ◆ Its being there
- ◆ That it exists. I wish more people would plant trees and greenery as they do so much to green and beautify the landscape, provide habitat for birds, and do their part to clean the air. I would like to see more native plants and areas where local food production is encouraged.
- ◆ Encouraging homeowners to plant native trees adapted to Victoria's climactic zones such as arbutus and Garry oaks

What do you dislike or consider a nuisance about Victoria's urban forest?

Nothing

- ◆ N/A (17 responses)
- ◆ Nothing (10 responses)
- ◆ Can't think of a negative
- ◆ Absolutely nothing. Leaves and debris from trees are a small price to pay for our wonderful leafy environment.
- ◆ I love everything about Victoria's trees; I cannot see any negatives.
- ◆ I don't see a nuisance but can understand why there may be individual circumstances where others would find them so.
- ◆ There is nothing I dislike or consider a nuisance about our urban forest. True trees are messy at times, and some times dangerous. But humans can be too.
- ◆ Nothing I can handle it all leaves berries nuts, petals, bird poop and all of it feels vital to me
- ◆ I really don't dislike anything.
- ◆ Absolutely nothing
- ◆ Nothing I can't live with. Even when the roots are in our 100-year old sewer pipes
- ◆ Nothing really, leaf collection issues need more community involvement and leaf use (composting)
- ◆ None. I don't think any of this is the urban forest problem. We need to stop tearing down the trees to put in condos and sidewalks!
- ◆ What's not to like? There should be more green space, if anything.
- ◆ The forest is worth any inconvenience

- ◆ I enjoy all the trees. I realize that trees that will grow to appropriate size, in appropriate locations, are a challenge!
- ◆ There is no nuisance more important than the importance of vital living systems and a vital urban food forest. I suggest you reframe 'nuisances' to a question like, 'what do you believe are the most important forest stewardship issues? One of these will be the removal of 'unsafe' trees.
- ◆ Nuisance and forest seems like an oxymoron. I guess the invasion of invasive species in our public parks. Also some of the public's lack of regard for our parks, for example seeing people mountain bike in Summit Hill Park which is an endangered ecosystem. Not sure if it is indifference or lack of education.
- ◆ Ah - what? Nuisance? Beneficial asset! If people don't like "inconvenience of urban forest" move back to Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba - wherever people originate from that does not have the (decreasing) bounty of tree canopy! And there are places that need reforestation: BC Hydro property alongside Bowker Creek. So not enough trees as I see it.

Not enough urban forest

- ◆ Too little forest.
- ◆ There isn't enough
- ◆ Not enough trees, especially downtown. Portland, Oregon, transformed itself 30 years ago; trees played a major role.
- ◆ Not enough trees. Many are planted too far apart. Some are small "lollipop" and don't make a real impact on the cityscape.
- ◆ The gaps in between (e.g., Gorge Waterway trail ends at an intersection, interrupting both the flow of people, which could increase community connectedness, and the continuity of species, the corridor which could be creatively designed to go under the bridge and carry on down the waterway...)
- ◆ I dislike the areas where it does not exist or is minimal, with trees that are too small or too sparsely situated.
- ◆ It's patchy and heavily weighted in favor of wealthier neighborhoods.
- ◆ Lack of boulevard trees (nothing about the forest itself I would consider a "nuisance")
- ◆ Large Boulevard trees are taken down and not replanted or are replanted with small trees

Leaf litter

- ◆ Leaves, and lack of collection
- ◆ The fact that the leaves are collected, and thus cannot give the trees the nutrients they require to grow to their potential. Look it up!
- ◆ Leaf clean up in the fall. And the fact that some of the trees are coming to an end of their life span and so pose a potential threat to buildings and homes if they come down the wrong way.
- ◆ In the Fall, when the leaves just don't seem to stop falling, but then that's life, right?
- ◆ Leaves in fall and getting hit by flying chestnuts, but even then its kind of fun! Great to see the leaf collection program and composting!
- ◆ The problem of leaf litter on concrete and how to manage it better.
- ◆ Mess of fruit on the sidewalks, the rotting leaves plugging the water drains, and sap on my car
- ◆ Glad I don't have to pick up leaves!
- ◆ Leaves complicate storm water removed by obstructing storm drains
- ◆ Lack of residential leaf pickup (only once a year not enough). Residents throwing leaves into gutters

- ◆ Leaves from deciduous species require raking but provide compost. Leaves left on city streets clog storm water sewer catchments. Tree roots sometimes break up city sidewalks
- ◆ People raking leaves into the street, instead of using them to mulch and improve soil structure

Pitch and honeydew

- ◆ The only thing I think of is the use of Birch as street trees as the aphid honeydew drops on cars.
- ◆ Pitch on cars parked on the street.
- ◆ I find the sap that drops from the tulip trees in James Bay (where I used to live) to be a minor nuisance for a part of the year (late Spring, and late into the Summer). What I dislike most about Victoria's urban forest is that it is nowhere near as extensive, nor is it as supported or valued as it needs to be. Asking for this feedback is a step in the right direction, though.

Damage from roots

- ◆ Cracks in the sidewalk from roots; sticky resin during certain times of the year; some pollen can be irritating
- ◆ I am aware that as trees really age, it is quite costly so some planning around the type of trees to avoid the roots breaking up the sidewalks would make sense
- ◆ Tree roots pull up the pavement sidewalk. Could water pervious pavers be more easily maintained? Also, people would be more aware and cautious if they were walking on a less ostensibly "smooth" surface. Also, less damaging to tree roots. On two occasions, I have nearly been hit by falling tree limbs. One was in a windstorm and once was a diseased oak on Cook Street on a still day. I know this is unusual, but maybe the trees could be checked more often for health of their limbs.
- ◆ Roots interfering with drainage

Lack of variety/species selection/tree replacement

- ◆ It is not diverse enough. That there is an excessive number of trees serving an aesthetic end without any functionality. Picture pretty only.
- ◆ I find tropical trees irritating, but mainly these are found on private property, I think.
- ◆ Small twig like trees that are planted that die
- ◆ Too many examples of local tree monoculture, as in block boulevards planted with the same species/variety of tree. Poor selection of trees so that the trees are butchered by various maintenance crews as they mature and impinge on overhead lines
- ◆ The thing I dislike is the trend to planting small trees when replacing the older large trees. These trees do not have the same visual impact, they don't replace the larger trees visually, or ecologically in terms of ability to shade or absorb Co2. It seems we only look to find trees that are easy to maintain, don't shed too many leaves, and don't interfere with hydro lines, we do this without consideration about how visually boring our city becomes with these matchstick trees.
- ◆ Use of non-indigenous or non-climate-appropriate species that have a short life span.
- ◆ Over use of short lived pest prone trees
- ◆ Mature/old trees that dominate the location
- ◆ Trees are too short (Japanese Cherries) without variety
- ◆ High water use, introduced species with limited spin off value
- ◆ Monocultures on same streets that are collapsing
- ◆ Not sure if we have this in Victoria, but the palm trees all over Oak Bay drive me nuts!

- ◆ Too much hedge keeps sunlight from reaching homes. Big trees in wrong places such as small lots, leaves that become slimy, not being cleaned up by residents, branches breaking, and dark streets at night.
- ◆ Too little species diversity; insufficient emphasis on useful, multifunctional trees
- ◆ There are some areas planted with a poor choice of species, more thought in the future should be placed on whether a large, small, flowering, or fruiting species will excel, be enjoyed or battle for existence with hydro lines and commercial trucks or creating hazards with dropping fruit or nuts.
- ◆ The only thing might be the occasional huge tree which is out of scale in the urban setting, e.g., giant Douglas firs, sequoia, cedar, etc. These trees belong in the forest. Shaded gardens and yards can be a real problem with these huge trees, particularly during the damp dark days of autumn and winter.
- ◆ Dislike the choice of trees/shrubs that don't easily flourish in our climate, so require careful maintenance.
- ◆ Hawthorne trees are a blight / constantly shedding leaves and berries / fast growing and danger when in power lines / nuisance to clean up versus oaks or maples (size of leaves)
- ◆ Not enough evergreen. Small "ornamental" trees instead of real trees
- ◆ I dislike that there is inconsistency and irregularity where boulevard trees are being replaced. The city ought to have planted mid-spot replacement trees some years ago in anticipation of removing mature trees.
- ◆ I dislike the look and performance of many of the decorative cherries - so many of them appear misshapen and sickly. They seem to succumb badly to outbreaks of insects and disease.
I dislike that we manage street tree (and much private tree) leaf litter by driving vehicles around and sucking them up with machines, then trucking them somewhere far away only to compost them and then bring the stuff back into the city. (I hope my understanding is not wrong on this?) This has a HUGE carbon footprint when maybe the answer is a more creative and localized one. See below.
- ◆ Although I know they are native species, I am not a fan (personally) of evergreen trees on public boulevards - I think the Garry Oaks are more appealing.
- ◆ I dislike the palm trees. Certainly there are many other trees and plant life which are better suited to our city's climate--trees/plants which would grow better and wouldn't need to be removed for the winter
- ◆ Poorly planned selection of tree species or type, poor pruning practices that visually affect look of tree
- ◆ When trees etc are placed only because humans think they're nice looking, without consideration for the true, greater "usefulness" of the tree etc.
- ◆ Some trees have branches that seem to break more easily
- ◆ Lack of attention to maintaining, replacing boulevard trees and parks native ecosystems
- ◆ I am glad that they will be increasing the diversity
- ◆ Lack of biodiversity in types of trees that encourages diseased trees

Tree management practices

- ◆ Lack of maintenance
- ◆ I dislike it when people cut down trees on their private property unnecessarily, particularly in the neighborhoods that still have some natural habitat left!
- ◆ Poor pruning practices and not often enough
- ◆ When they are not pruned correctly and the resulting implications or wrong trees planted for a certain type of location. Don't like the tall fast growing trees that block views and don't provide any real benefits (i.e. food or privacy) don't like the ivy that is allowed to grow on many of them.
- ◆ Anytime I see city staff cutting down healthy trees, which I have witnessed, or otherwise "managing" the so-called urban forest.

- ◆ I dislike the use of pesticides and herbicides; the overgrowth of some non-native plants
- ◆ When boulevard trees are not pruned or replaced when removed.
- ◆ I think Victoria has done an above average job of maintaining and improving its Urban Forest.
- ◆ Urban forest that require excessive maintenance like watering, leaf blowers, pesticide etc
- ◆ Aging, lack of care/replacement for old trees, not enough emphasis on fruit trees and fruit bearing bushes.
- ◆ The inability of Parks Department to maintain through pruning, removing suckers, crow's nests. I am not blaming, I understand financial considerations limit actions
- ◆ Having to fight so hard to retain it.
- ◆ Lack of money to maintain boulevard trees, replace some with newer disease resistant, choose mid-height trees, the ones on my street are enormous.
- ◆ Lack of maintenance for older trees (e.g. a tree on my boulevard has been dead 2 years and has not been removed). Bad pruning to accommodate overhead wires destroys trees
- ◆ The lack of structural pruning in the first 10-20 years of the after planting tree care, and the removal of sound trees for development with no considerations'
- ◆ Trees getting old can pose a danger and require management
- ◆ It's sad to see trees surrounded by asphalt
- ◆ Concrete around trees
- ◆ Property owners who live on corners who do not trim back shrubs etc. for better visibility for drivers at the stop sign, i.e., corner of Niagara and South Turner. It's very difficult to make a turn to the right onto Niagara when traveling north on South Turner, and the visibility to the west is blocked by the homeowner's shrubs.
- ◆ Any in-efficiencies that may create lag/frustration in the system and maintenance
- ◆ Difficulty for community to manage space
- ◆ The fact that the urban forest hasn't been watered, pruned, maintained and nurtured in recent years
- ◆ Cutting mature trees prematurely to minimize risk or hazard often for too great a concern for liability. Developers who eliminate trees and plant exotics
- ◆ Lack of City commitment to continuous stewardship. Pruning/watering/due diligence on tree removal and mixed age planting
- ◆ Not a tree fault but bigger picture: circulation around trees can be very poor. Need to divert and rebuild our sidewalks where large trees are protected and need to carefully consider location of new tree. Sometimes "protected" trees would be better removed and replaced so careful review rather than blanket protection should be considered
- ◆ Sap and invasive squirrels, too much shade in some places, and not enough elsewhere
- ◆ Sometimes people don't trim their bushes that fall onto the sidewalk. This creates a problem, especially for people with physical disabilities because the sidewalk area is diminished making it difficult to walk by or go by on wheelchairs or other apparatus. In addition, I don't like how the Garry oak forests are unhealthy, and how English ivy is choking the trees. I think we need to adopt traditional methods of keeping the Garry oak ecosystem alive and healthy - which is the controlled burn and have camas planted - and give access to harvesting the camas to the First Nations in the area. As well, there needs to be more extensive and valued consultation with the First Nations communities whose traditional land we are on.

Trees and hydro wires

- ◆ How so many have been disfigured for power/telephone lines

- ◆ They're too often under utility wires, so they're pruned into odd, unattractive shapes - which probably increases the chance of them blowing down - and increases city maintenance costs.
- ◆ Mutilation by Hydro, careless maintenance, nuisances such as crows, squirrels attracted to the detriment of ground nesters/feeders.
- ◆ Power outages due to toppled trees
- ◆ Overhead wires! Cars/parking/concrete interfering, and lousy pruning
- ◆ How those with other priorities such as BC Hydro, Engineering and works, and developers treat it
- ◆ Dislike the need to “prune” our street trees to accommodate hydro/power lines. Dislike the hardscapes that often surround our trees to their bases, need to increase grating and continue underground systems for trees to provide needed H2O fertility
- ◆ Trees that are “mutilated” to make way for utility lines. Maybe we could bury the lines?

Wildlife and habitat

- ◆ That the habitat around trees is constantly being eroded through mowing, invasive species, and non-native plantings.
- ◆ Invasive species. Landscaping. Not enough wild plants.
- ◆ Invasion by non-native species (flora, fauna); reduction of urban forests by human development
- ◆ Invasive non-native species – plants, animals, camping misuse
- ◆ The deer are a problem in Gordon head and probably other areas (though not in Victoria proper).
- ◆ Trees with grass/dirt underneath – not an understory and not fallen debris like in real forests. Horse chestnuts and flowering cherries where there could be edibles

Trees as food source

- ◆ Not enough fruit trees
- ◆ No food
- ◆ Not enough food bearing trees
- ◆ Too many non-native trees and not enough food!
- ◆ Its disregard for provision of food to those in need. It can feed hungry families
- ◆ I dislike that there are not more fruit and nut trees and that boulevards are so rarely used to grow vegetables.

Other

- ◆ Cars and no emission standards in Victoria
- ◆ People that don't pick up after their dogs!
- ◆ Shading of my north side of the street property
- ◆ That people complain about them. There is always maintenance to do whether it is a built structure or tending a garden. Trees do what they need to grow. If their roots or branches become a maintenance issue, what is the big surprise. Just deal with it since trees are a bigger value than a disservice to us.
- ◆ Overhead hazards, traffic visibility at some locations
- ◆ View restrictions in specific instances
- ◆ People's hesitation and thinking that we can get the “pie” in the sky
- ◆ There is one very tall tree across the street on the boulevard that shades my yard all summer. Is there a height restriction?

- ◆ Awareness of urban forest needs to be highlighted by the city more
- ◆ Private property tree issues and disputes need assistance and guidance from urban forestry planters. My yard is shaded by neighbours large and out of control Cypress trees. There is a process to resolve or guide this tree issue, what would be a better species to plant so both neighbours benefit – can the city assent in providing information to the homeowners
- ◆ Occasionally trees create too much shade for vegetable gardens

What would you like to change about Victoria's urban forest?

More trees, larger areas

- ◆ More
- ◆ More boulevard trees
- ◆ More emphasis placed on making this a more interesting city where the trees we plant are as important as the design guidelines placed on the buildings we put up. The trees planted on a street are every bit as important as the exterior ascetics of the buildings on a street.
- ◆ More trees! I love the horse chestnuts, but would hate to live too close to one, since they'd block too much light, so consideration about mature size, and streetscape. However, I do want variety - not a city of "tidy, controllable" trees.
- ◆ Keep adding more trees!
- ◆ More trees
- ◆ More of it.
- ◆ More trees
- ◆ More of it
- ◆ Keep on – plant more
- ◆ Extend it
- ◆ More of it!
- ◆ More trees of larger mature form
- ◆ More trees in areas with low levels of trees
- ◆ I would increase the size of the natural areas and introduce food plants into landscaped areas. I would see public funds purchase the lands these forests are on and put under a covenant for all time.
- ◆ Planting more trees, informed by good research and planning
- ◆ More connective greenways/trails within neighbourhoods and between neighbourhoods
- ◆ More trees
- ◆ More trees, interlinked corridors of forested land, cultivate/restore native species. Plant for climate change
- ◆ More cherry trees lining streets. That is what makes Victoria "Victoria."
- ◆ Increase it
- ◆ More native species, much better protection for Garry oaks and related native species, and more food-bearing trees
- ◆ More of them
- ◆ More street plantings
- ◆ More large trees, planted closer. See Menzies St. between Superior and Simcoe for an example of poor tree planning. Many cherry trees are over mature, are not being replaced, are planted too far apart
- ◆ More trees, especially shade trees that are pest and disease resistant

- ◆ More native trees – Garry oaks
- ◆ More native shrubs in parkland, buried hydro/phone wires so ‘Y’ shape eliminated
- ◆ More native plants, more climate-appropriate trees, more native ground cover like salal, etc, to celebrate where we really are - more edible trees and shrubs that are harvested as part of the parks program - efforts used to keep climate-inappropriate trees alive could be refocused to this!
- ◆ More native trees
- ◆ More evergreen?
- ◆ Maintain and ADD trees throughout the City core
- ◆ Add more trees and never neglect to replace public fruit trees! Plant more mature trees, not just tiny sticks
- ◆ Need more of it, connect large pieces of habitat utilizing the boulevard of trees
- ◆ More appropriate right tree, right place, implementation and management and care
- ◆ Expand it and more local trees and plants
- ◆ More trees on residential front/back yards – too many barren empty residential “lawns”
- ◆ Increase continuous canopy by binding private property owners to contribute their trees
- ◆ Need more trees downtown - more green space with trees.
- ◆ More canopy plantings, more food trees in urban parks and boulevards, more understory plantings, less concrete and asphalt under trees
- ◆ Make it more dense, healthy and part of a linear connection
- ◆ I want to see this forest become more diverse, better tended, and acknowledged as the lifeline it is.
- ◆ I would like to make it bigger, encompass more private yards - shared yards. More roof top gardens. Encourage people to plant more - perhaps make some tax incentives for home owners who "green' their yards.
- ◆ More greenways, corridors, and shotgun planting
- ◆ Expand forested parks where necessary so that everyone can enjoy them
- ◆ More of it, on both public and private land; greater consideration of viable wildlife habitat; and maintaining functional ecologies, not just trees; greater genetic diversity; more multifunctional and especially food trees, stronger programs to encourage and support planting and discourage culling of useful trees on private land; more public awareness and involvement in the urban forest
- ◆ I would like to see more trees lining streets like Shelbourne. I'd definitely like to see boulevard hedges along roadways to create more pollution control. More incentives for homeowners to plant trees. More protected rural tree areas.
- ◆ Increase it if possible. Where there are gaps between treed areas, link them with treed corridors to make a continuous network
- ◆ Thicker, healthier, edible where possible, have the community take some ownership and responsibility toward it

Fewer tree removals/tree replacement

- ◆ Refresh and refurbish our aging trees.
- ◆ An ongoing program whereby a certain number of trees get planted each year in each neighbourhood so that they aren't all "old" at the same time.
- ◆ I would like to see tree preservation bylaws enforced so that people are less likely to cut down trees unnecessarily. There has been some discussion in the news about or aging trees, and I would like to see those trees replaced when appropriate so that the deaths of those trees do not leave us without trees, but

rather with new trees. I would like to see native, drought resistant species planted so that we are better able to adapt to climate change.

- ◆ I would like to be able to have some choice in what trees are planted on the boulevard in front of our house. We have the old Linden trees, which leak sap like crazy. They are being replaced with what I call the "lollipop trees" which give me a fierce hay fever reaction for a month or so. There are a lot of them on Quadra between View and Yates. They don't look very natural in shape.
- ◆ Make sure trees are not cut down unnecessarily. Some feel a large tree near a home or park is a hazard. If it needs to go, make sure it is really dead and a hazard before cutting.
- ◆ Plant as many big growing trees to continue to have canopies over hard surfaces to reduce heat Islands and peak storm events in creeks
- ◆ Make the transition to new (replacement) trees seamless
- ◆ Renewal concept of plantings - now and as trees age: replace as needed. Add under story of indigenous plantings to provide further asset and assist resilience of trees
Propagate and plant indigenous species along riparian areas. Plant trees along waterways to lower water temperatures/ increase water quality.
- ◆ Plant natives. Heavy penalty for violation of tree bylaw

Protect it

- ◆ Mostly I want to see all of the remaining urban forest protected, and funding available for restoration where applicable. Once the forest is gone it would take generations (and realistically wouldn't happen) to get it back.
- ◆ Victoria has a beautiful urban forest. Please maintain it
- ◆ Ongoing threat of destroying urban forest through a long-term plan for the protection of connected areas of trees

Choice of species, greater diversity

- ◆ More holistic/integration/ecosystem concept, more food-bearing trees and bushes, and more access for economically disadvantaged areas
- ◆ Grow trees that are native to the area and can withstand droughts
- ◆ Replace and plant a diverse range of trees to avoid monotonous blocks with the same treescape. Plant a wider variety of trees-considering newer varieties more suitable for boulevard use (size), wider ornamental variation (spring flowering, fall colour, habit). Anticipate climate change and potential new species to plant.
- ◆ More green spaces. Period.
- ◆ I would like to see less reliance on exotic species and more reliance on native specially, especially those adapted to late summer drought.
- ◆ I would like to see lots of creative approaches: 1. A great variety (for resilience and diversity) of tree species that address more than one benefit at a time. 2. Inclusion of a decent proportion of native species (to ensure biodiversity, cultural reference, drought tolerance and wildlife habitat and to help define a unique visual) but not exclusively native by any means 3. Way more food producing trees - and yes, this would require an exciting and creative new approach to management and tree care/harvesting. Such as allotting tree care/harvesting contracts to numerous individuals (think of the 3rd economy sector potential alone!) and even non-profits who would be obliged to meet adequate care standards in exchange for harvesting potential. Imagine if the boy scouts got to grow AND sell their apples! They could earn a few badges on that project. This links in with the urban agriculture position of the City too. 4. Fiber producing trees (and other species).

- ◆ Fewer introduced species more native plants, more food producing plants
- ◆ Smaller native trees are not as pretty as flowering cherry trees, but they might live longer
- ◆ Species diversification
- ◆ Improve health (species, extent, diversity); increase importance (recognition by people)
- ◆ Replace labour intensive flowerpots and gardens with “dwarf” pendulous trees
- ◆ Increase diversity of species, no more 'park'ettes'. New developments should leave existing species in place, build around--don't clear and plant introduced shrubs in straight lines.
- ◆ I would like to see the boulevard program separated from the rest. The city should also create backyard naturescape program. The boulevard program is as much about streetscape and urbanity as sidewalks are, while places like backyards have more space and offer the opportunity for a more continuous native tree canopy and pocket habitats. I would like to see the boulevard planting program continued and extended to all streets so that everyone has the lovely evenly spaced comfortable canopy and that a planting cycle is implemented so that replacement trees are already in place and of a decent size when aging trees are removed.
- ◆ I would like to see more variety in the types of plants in public places and a move towards Permaculture in conjunction with food sustainability in the region. The Urban Forest must be seen as part of the bigger picture as we attempt to build sustainability and resilience in preparation for climate change and energy descent.
- ◆ More variety, more diversity, sheerer biomass – bigger and more numerous trees, varied under story. Also much more nut and fruit producing trees, e.g. edible chestnuts, walnuts, gingko, fig, cherry, etc.
- ◆ I am glad that they will be increasing the diversity

More food production

- ◆ Increased support needed for planting of fruit trees or fruiting vines. Increased support for native trees. Probably a good idea to do more mixing of varieties so that if one gets “a bug” not all the trees get wiped out at once. Increased attention should be paid to the idea of living roofs and how that can be supported both in the existing downtown core, wit new developments and with homeowner initiatives. More attention needs to be paid to planting more native shrubbery, more drought resistant plants and plants such as herbs that bring beneficial insects as well as have a food value.
- ◆ I would love to see more fruit and nut trees all over Victoria. We could easily supply the population of Victoria with all the fruit and nuts (that grow well in this region) that we would want. These types of trees are also pleasing to the eyes. Fallen fruit is hardly an excuse against fruit trees in Victoria. If we don't want the fruit rotting on the ground to nourish the soil, it could be trucked-away to a city compost pile to improve the quality of compost. The few instances of children falling out of trees while trying to pick apples will be outweighed by the health these apples will be giving them.
- ◆ Plant more fruit trees and shrubs. Get public involved in maintenance, harvest and preservation of the food.
- ◆ No berries no fruit trees, new plantings that will reflect our changing climate. Consider more boulevard plantings other than grass. Cook St. Village 200 Block West side is a good example. Lawn is a mud hole now.
- ◆ I would like to see more food producing trees planted, such as monkey puzzle tree groves and various nut and fruit trees.
- ◆ It would be really cool if we could get food from it... for example, planting fruit trees. We also need to have more consultation with the First Nations, especially in regard to reviving the Garry oak ecosystems.
- ◆ More canopy trees, more food-bearing trees, more mature trees, more trees, more trees, more trees

- ◆ More fruit and nut trees!
- ◆ More trees, more fruit and nut bearing trees, more protection of trees and root zones. More neighborhood industrial business engagement
- ◆ Wherever appropriate, fruit and nut trees should be planted
- ◆ Vertical forestry, more community management, more food bearing, more pollinators, more young and old education
- ◆ More fruit trees.
- ◆ I would like to see more trees that supply food for our citizens. Please consider planting fruit and nut trees in our urban forest. Also trees that will sustain local wildlife populations of birds and other animals.
- ◆ I would like to see a larger urban forest and see areas where fruit trees and nut trees were available to the public so our city could become more sustainable.
- ◆ More native trees should be added/replaced; allow trees to grow larger/older. Choose trees that will grow large and develop a closed canopy (not just little "lollipop trees"). Some sections need to be better maintained in order to prevent declines from pathogens
- ◆ Replace all Hawthorns with non-fruit bearing trees
- ◆ Would like to see more fruit trees in areas where windfalls won't cause a problem. Would like to see many more trees in general, in particular native species.
- ◆ I would like to see more edible nut trees. What's wrong with real chestnuts?
- ◆ I would like to have more and bigger trees, where possible, and more fruit and nut trees, if a system (or systems) can be put in place to deal reliably with the produce.
- ◆ Make it indigenous and make it sustainable. More fruit and nuts!
- ◆ I would like to see more fruit/nut trees, as well as more native species.
- ◆ I would love to see fruit and nut trees planted in our boulevards. I think that changing bylaws to allow gardening in our boulevards would be a very important step towards increasing our urban food security as well as the general livability of our city. Portland Oregon has always impressed me with its abundance of fruit/nut/fig trees and veggie gardens in the boulevards.
- ◆ More food-based trees wherever practical. Possibly working with Lifecycles for collecting the bounty. Also, would like to see more education promoted, including local edibles and medicinal herbs.
- ◆ Include food-producing species such as nuts and fruit
- ◆ More food bearing trees and understory, more succession plantings. Bring a Geoff Johnson (a local expert on designing an implementing urban food forests) to consult. His contact is respectyouralders@yahoo.com
- ◆ MORE FOOD! (I'll make sure people eat it)
- ◆ More guild plantings with food species
- ◆ More edible trees and food forest (permaculture system)
- ◆ Allow for residents to plant trees in boulevards, especially fruit and nut bearing
- ◆ More trees, fruit bearing trees, larger broad canopy trees, and vegetable production
- ◆ Participating in gardens on city property could invigorate Communities. Many social ills of our culture could be remedied by community and proper land use planning. Politics divides people but the common goals necessary to manage a food source could bring us together. We need to work together to deal with climate change. Urban forests could unite Victorians in a common goal.
- ◆ I would like new trees planted to be fruit trees, that can be harvested by citizen's and non profit citizen's groups. This is critical to help buttress Victoria's food security.

Changes to maintenance practices

- ◆ Fallen leaves might be composted within neighbourhoods and used for mulch, rather than trucked away.
- ◆ More maintenance of branches
- ◆ Just leave the forest alone! If we attempt to manage or otherwise change the urban forest, we cause damage to it. Call me jaded, but this survey looks like an excuse to give the illusion of public consultation. Do you have secret plans to cut down trees somewhere, clear away the living topsoil, and proceed to "develop" (i.e. destroy) little pieces of nature? Question 6 is exactly the type of wording those with a hidden agenda love to use.
- ◆ Better tree management - removing old trees and replanting new ones. Better and proper pruning.
- ◆ Ban all use of herbicides and pesticides; increase number of trees; maintain old trees, as they are most attractive
- ◆ Perhaps more care in watching for sick trees & better planning of replacing those that need to be replaced.
- ◆ Greater attention to groundcover to protect soils and decrease runoff. Continue education that leaves one vital to the ecosystems and should be mulched, spread to protect soils areas, and not removed and disposed of.
- ◆ Manage for the long term – build connectivity – properly fund the establishment and maintenance
- ◆ More work put into it, i.e. clearing non-native underbrush (broom/ivy) and re-introduce snow, huckleberries, salal, and ferns
- ◆ I would like to see a change in the way the city trees are pruned for the power lines and more mulch placed around trees, this WILL cut water loss and reduce soil compaction also less grass to cut.

Right tree, right place

- ◆ Plant trees on public boulevards that are adapted to the summer drought and don't need extensive watering. Also avoid trees that drop excessive cones or sticky droplets. Native trees are best, but not the giant rainforest specimens, such as cedar, fir, etc. Use Hawthorne, cherry, productive nut trees, etc.
- ◆ Ensure that the trees thrive on their own in this environment.
- ◆ I feel sorry for the trees with water shortage and trying to grow in small circles surrounded by cement – water catchments and rainwater gardening –edible fruits/nuts/medicinal plantings are needed
- ◆ Would like to see larger trees planted some of the oldest streets still don't have proper canopies because wrong trees were chosen. Make sure the forest is properly maintained. Need to funds in budget for this. So cost of tree protection and retention isn't onerous for homeowners.
- ◆ Do not allow large trees in the wrong place! Homeowners with large trees at the wrong place have to replace them with small trees/bushes when the tree life is over

Development considerations

- ◆ I would like to see green roofs promoted and supported as far as possible.
- ◆ Maintain it a great deal better, expand it, and turn it into new development
- ◆ Provide more parks and urban forest in Victoria. I would like to see more new developments with public green spaces planned and/or rooftop gardens and green spaces for residents.
- ◆ All developments should have to include space for urban trees to soften the structure and provide beauty and greenery for the community
- ◆ Development should be done in context of maintaining natural values
- ◆ I would like to see Victoria's green spaces become more or less sacrosanct vis-à-vis development. People need "wild" places close to their homes. This keeps them in touch with reality (i.e., nature). They should

not have to drive or catch a bus in order to spend time in a place out of sight and sound of vehicles and housing. These green spaces need not be big, but they need to be abundant.

- ◆ Better tree protection program that limits the destruction of trees and root zones of trees in residential developments

Manage for climate change

- ◆ Manage our forest to reduce climate change
- ◆ Ensure plantings that will be as easily sustained as possible in our climate. There's a better chance of these flourishing, without considerable maintenance, and providing our environment with their many benefits.
- ◆ Plant for climate change, i.e. more Garry oak and associated meadow/shrubs, these are the plants that are pre-adapted to a warmer climate

Education

- ◆ It would be great if there were more labels thus educating the public. I think schools should be allowed to have more trees and planted areas for education and shade protection.
- ◆ I would like to see more benches under trees and the names of the particular varieties
- ◆ Broad recognition of the positive attributes of urban forests
- ◆ Increase public understanding and awareness of the importance of protecting and enhancing urban forestry
- ◆ More and more education
- ◆ Increase attention to it, plus increase linear parks and trails along natural causes

Other comments

- ◆ I love it just as it is now.
- ◆ How it is defined - trees should be native and should be associated with native shrubs and native herbaceous species. Trees in isolation or surrounded by lawn and/or concrete are not "forest"
- ◆ I don't have enough knowledge about the subject to give recommendations.
- ◆ Greater City budget commitment. Orchestrate planning process where urban forests are equal partners
- ◆ More opportunity for community
- ◆ Shocked that you are not allowed to plant tree in someone's honor--surely this should be part of the grand plan. More fruit trees for general consumption
- ◆ Everything, as it applies to typical boulevard plantings and much of the commons. A serious re-write of city bylaws to give permission to initiatives which will cause the urban forest to grow in size, diversity and health, with a particular focus and re-imagining our urban forest as an 'urban food forest' so that real value and benefit will be sure to accrue to future generations and the biosphere. Apply solutions that are bio-regionally sensitive and appropriate, and give permission to strategies that 'reweave' the web of life throughout the entire city.
- ◆ Just as this workshop reflects, I think it's critical to consider Victoria's urban forest as a vital component of Victoria's bounty and natural wealth. So maintenance, nurturance, planning for the future

The City has to balance many different priorities. How important to you is Victoria's urban forest?

Very important	122
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Important	39
Somewhat important	4

Comments:

- ◆ Critical!
- ◆ It's why I moved here. It's why friends and family want to come and visit
- ◆ Can positively impact daily lives and long-term health of people and animals/birds/water/soil
- ◆ Victoria is somewhat defined by its trees and natural shrubbery. Victoria was fortunate to have parks superintendent Herb Warren plant/plan the flowering trees we enjoy today and leave other areas in a natural state – Dallas Road cliffs
- ◆ I am all for supporting a healthy urban forest. We need to look beyond the forest and have the sun as a key priority in the plan. In light of climate change and the need to reduce our demand on power, we need to use the passive energy from the sun as well as solar energy. The Plan has to reconcile these two priorities – need for trees and sun.
- ◆ Trees, if maintained properly should last tens of years. Therefore, it is important to have a suitable policy right from the beginning. Other issues/areas of concern are more dynamic/adjust to change better (i.e., tourism policy), as municipal priorities change. With trees, however, it is more effective and cheaper to get it right the first time, when trees are planted.
- ◆ Important, but a lot less important than the current social housing/homeless problems. Another priority for the next decade will be sewers.
- ◆ I doubt you will have many people filling out this survey who would consider it “Not at all important”. The ones who don't care are out watching NASCAR racing.

Issues

What do you feel are the three most important issues that Victoria's Urban Forest Master Plan should address?

Preparing for climate change	61
Planting/care of trees	93
Removing and replacing aging trees	38
Managing tree-related nuisances (e.g., leaf litter, root problems, shade, view restrictions)	12
Enforcing tree bylaws and policies	23
Protecting heritage trees	29
Managing/restoring/enhancing natural areas	92
Managing trees for safety/hazards (e.g., falling branches, wildfire)	14
Managing pests, disease and invasive species	21
Consulting with neighbourhoods on their local urban forest	43
Providing public education on tree care	26

Comments:

Community involvement

- ◆ Encouraging community involvement in planting and maintaining food bearing trees and shrubs
- ◆ Enable community associations to oversee some of the planning, instalment and maintenance of the urban forest. The more people involved the better.
- ◆ If the city were unwilling to create new jobs for such necessary work, then organizing volunteer opportunities would be essential. (Not only the urban forest would benefit from such volunteer programs, but the residents and therefore the city as a whole would grow.)
- ◆ This might best implemented by community or by street or by block
- ◆ Encouraging home owners to plant trees
- ◆ This is a good strategy, getting the neighbourhoods involved, the speaker from the Maddison Lane stewardship is a good case in point. An urban environment like the City of Victoria requires all natural areas to be maintained and expanded if possible; again the Maddison Lane stewardship group is good case in point. Need some specifics on preparing for climate change
- ◆ Ensure that landowners –long term – maintain their required landscaped areas. Many have been flattened and ignored for years. For example, Quadra Street old “brick” location prior to Fairway foods.
- ◆ Most trees are in people’s backyards. Encouraging them to take care and value them should be a priority
- ◆ Providing homeowners with suggestions about the kind of tree species to plant that will fit in with the new urban forestry plan, would the city provide some money to assist with the planting of trees on private land?
- ◆ I wouldn’t want the plan to focus on restoration of natural areas as plenty of groups are doing this. I believe the bigger concern is providing strategies for greening our built (non-natural) areas.
- ◆ Public involvement is crucial, given low budget for tree planting and maintenance. Could we have “block” tree guardians – similar to block parents?
- ◆ ‘Public’ consultation engagement, education, private residential, industrial, business
- ◆ I think people that live on the street should make sure the drains aren't plugged up with leaves.

Education

- ◆ Natural spaces for children to play in, naturalizing schoolyards (active ones and especially deactivated ones), day lighting creeks, education of how urban forests and how we care for them reflect our disposition to the greater world and environment.
- ◆ Education combined with citizen dialogue, where people feel they helped "create" the urban forest, would engender respect for our natural areas.
- ◆ On the last day of Grade One, in Edmonton, almost fifty years ago, I was given a fir tree to take home and plant. That tree still thrives and can be seen for miles. This is such a simple thing, to involve young kids in the planting and tending of trees, learning about their crucial role in the life of our communities and our home planet.
- ◆ Programs similar to the earthquake preparedness could be developed so a neighborhood, block by block, could feel a pride for their street. School kids should be able to identify the trees etc on the school property. If you don't start NOW all the old trees will go and we will be left with streets of tiny trees.
- ◆ informing people about what they can do (their part) is critical, including how to reduce the impact of development (one tree at a time)
- ◆ More education, integration with agriculture, and integration with community

- ◆ Education mobilizing people to take care of their immediate environment creates a vital whole community city of gardens city of trees
- ◆ People need to be educated in regard to natural processes and to live in harmony with them
- ◆ I really wanted to put public education on tree care in there too.
- ◆ Public education must also be continued – e.g. not planting future “giants” in front yards, next to building and underground pipe systems, and using debris as compost
- ◆ Demonstration/model edible forest gardens, designed on permaculture principles, in variety of locations around the city

Maintenance

- ◆ I feel that the general top priority should be the maintenance, protection and (where possible) growth of our urban forest. I hope to see it protected as necessarily, whether by planting more drought resistant (native species) trees to replace aging ones, or by enforcing tree bylaws that protect our trees on private property.
- ◆ Please leave your hands, tools and machines off of the few remaining forests as much as you possibly can. Having said that, I do agree it is reasonable to remove any branches or trees that have a reasonably high likelihood of falling IF and only if there is a place directly below that is frequently used by people.
- ◆ Managing/restoring areas such as Beacon Hill park
- ◆ Parking lots could be green spaces as well, if we managed them correctly. There is technology that allows cars to sit stably on a grassy plane and use the grasses as plants, which absorb and transform grease and gasoline from cars, diverting it from water systems. A bit of an opportunity for research!
- ◆ Working with City to have utility power lines buried, use less asphalt covering (porous gravel, soft rubber pathway material)

Protecting and Replanting

- ◆ The main enemy of the urban forest is subdivision and development. We need larger minimum lot sizes. “Densification” is not environmentally good. Protecting nature in the city is good, i.e. leaving room for it!
- ◆ Be sure to protect any undeveloped public rights-of-way, such as unused road ROW, by designating them as parkland. Expand the urban forest into these areas by planting with suitable trees.
- ◆ We need to get busy on a replacement program now because the lead-time for sourcing and planting trees, and seeing results, is so long.
- ◆ Protection and replanting of the Garry Oak forest. Properly educating the public that we live in a Garry Oak forest ecosystem, to be proud of this fact and to encourage the community and neighbourhoods to help maintain it.
- ◆ While I support protecting heritage trees, I am not sure what a “heritage” tree is. If it were a species not native to BC, I would think it requires a lot of protection and therefore will cost more. Planting/caring of trees I think falls under managing. I think the more trees we can incorporate into the City the better, provided that people do not live in them or use them to hide behind (purse snatchers, muggers).
- ◆ Encourage and allow for boulevard planting
- ◆ By planting native trees they should require less water and less disease management
- ◆ Remove aging trees only if absolutely necessary plant more trees to replace those lost to increased development
- ◆ I prefer use of native species in our urban forests
- ◆ I am concerned about the fate of both the Garry oak ecosystems and the cedars in regard to climate change.

- ◆ I have a concern about how to manage the dying cedars in Victoria.
- ◆ Right tree, right place. As aging infrastructure is replaced, trees could be renewed.

Healthy ecosystems

- ◆ A healthy, diverse eco-system is much more important than any aesthetic consideration. Concerns of 'unsightliness' should not be allowed to overrule sound principles of eco-system restoration.
- ◆ We need to make sure we allow older trees to become wildlife habitat - decaying trees are a vital part of the cycle, and even if they are less attractive they need to be protected.
- ◆ Encourage diversity on the boulevards i.e. shrubs
- ◆ Managing pests

Plan for climate change

- ◆ To prepare for climate change, one positive thing would be to plant more trees in the city. The public should somehow be invited to participate in different ways in planting and caring for our trees through some kinds of programs or festival/ community activity etc.
- ◆ Climate change demands that we alter our food consumption habits and the city needs to move on this issue. An urban forest could reduce our carbon consumption and give us more food security.
- ◆ But preparing for climate change/removing and replacing old trees also important and protecting heritage trees

Plant for food and other uses

- ◆ Please, please, please plant more of them! It would also help the economy to plant food bearing trees
- ◆ Planting food bearing trees
- ◆ More fruit bearing trees should be planted; address food security at the same time
- ◆ Please note that Q7 above did not provide one of my most important issues: Integrating the urban forest into a sustainable economy - one which allows us to meet some of our food, fiber and recycling needs very locally. I would rate that higher than "consulting with neighbourhoods.... forest" one which I ticked in order to give an answer.
- ◆ Providing food and fiber to the community
- ◆ Planting food forests in areas of the city
- ◆ Food security and more food trees
- ◆ Fruit and nut trees equal Italian (edible) chestnuts, almonds, walnuts, variety of blossoms help local bees/apiarists
- ◆ being useful (food, cleaning air, etc) not just trees but also plants, vegetables, etc
- ◆ Working with communities to increase the urban food forest in public spaces, as well as private land, so as to increase food security
- ◆ Integration with urban agriculture policy agriculture and forests are often seen as incompatible – how can we integrate?
- ◆ Again, I think that the urban forest matters, but there are two streams: A- the boulevard beautification urban streetscape design side of things that has a classic uniformity) and helps streets feel orderly and cohesive. Of course hilly and windy streets are probably better candidates for different sorts of trees, maybe Garry oaks & Arbutus and the opportunity to have more natural areas, native plantings etc. Enhancing places like Beacon Hill Park, subsidizing Garry Oak & Arbutus trees for private properties to help

encourage people to plant them. Encouraging local plant vendors to put native plants front & centre in their sales areas.

Bylaws and enforcement

- ◆ Re: managing tree-related nuisances - We lost a city hawthorn in front of our house, but couldn't have another one planted, since they now seem to be classified as an 'untidy' tree - it was really disappointing, since I love hawthorns.
- ◆ I have seen, with my own eyes, how a developer will come & cut down a tree in the middle of the night, because it doesn't fit in with his plans for his development. And of course, what can anybody do when the tree has been chopped down. I would really like to see huge fines put forth to those who do this, whether it be a developer or just a homeowner (whom I have read about as well!).
- ◆ Policy enforcement and education for property owners and developers eradicate noxious plants (broom, ivy, morning glory) – get rid of squirrels
- ◆ Ensuring trees do not come down (which the city has begun) on a whim/ preference by private property owner. CRD wide education hands-on program for community groups, schools, churches, institutions (i.e., VIHA or other large places of business).
- ◆ Reviewing bylaws – passing new ones to take care of the new thinking (as in systems thinking) and new knowledge (which trees – sizes – sun energy not blocked) to plant
- ◆ While other bylaws address tree protection and heritage trees – the focus of this plan is primarily about creating a mature public forest
- ◆ Public significant tree society to identify and protect unique trees

Resources

- ◆ I would like to see a larger, permanent, trained staff to oversee and care for our trees for new planting and maintenance of existing. The tree-lined boulevards are essentially a park like setting - I enjoy walking on the sidewalks any where there are big trees. The bigger the better. Keep the boulevards healthy so our trees can have the best possible environment. For air and water circulation, consider planting on boulevards where possible so people don't trample and compact the ground.
- ◆ All of these considerations are important; if there aren't enough folks to look after all these concerns perhaps some of the road crews could be re-assigned to Parks
- ◆ I think invasive species is a huge problem that needs a lot more resources directed towards removal and restoration as well as public education.
- ◆ I would like to know if the Master Plan would have the policies, resources and infrastructure to accomplish the urban forest vision being defined by this process. Will there be a purpose driven (not stress driven) implementation process of regular monitoring and feedback, to enable decision makers (policy and operational) to incrementally produce (not simply record) the results that citizens want?

Other

- ◆ The most important strategy will be to initiate an integrated living system design approach to not just the urban forest, but to all urban infrastructure, including the resurrection of urban creeks and wetlands, design of buildings to allow plant growth adjacent, up and over onto roofs, build soil fertility, provide fresh locally harvested food, capture and reuse stormwater for irrigation, use renewable energy with a focus on 'micro' living systems rather than the current industrial scale infrastructure. All of the above issues mentioned in this survey are important, not just three, and there are many missing.

- ◆ Valuate the urban forest, set priority. Engage community directly, best practices. Multi-disciplinary interdepartmental coordination (public works, roads, parks)
- ◆ Trees help retain moisture in the soil, preventing flooding. Tree related nuisances often are overemphasized by people who are not used to living in natural surroundings
- ◆ Managing nuisances minimizes complaints from people who are unaware of the value of the forest
- ◆ Public works – semi permeable forest trees with more chance of growth, integrate UFMP with urban agriculture and social community
- ◆ Ecological and social services
- ◆ Peak Oil
- ◆ I hope I'm wrong and the purpose of this is not to justify some type of forest destruction in the future.
- ◆ I had great difficulty choosing three issues as the most important to me. I don't see how you cannot do all of the above.
- ◆ All of these are important, all need to be done.
- ◆ It is sure difficult to choose three out of a list of many practices I feel are important for the sustainability of a well-managed urban forest.
- ◆ It was very difficult to just pick 3.
- ◆ How can you pick three of so many equally important issues?
- ◆ I strongly support the initiative to develop an overall plan rather than just responding when there are problems - I had trouble identifying the 3 most important issues, as they all are relevant to a good plan. The choice of any future plantings seems to be very important as it would address so many of the issues you identify
- ◆ I have checked three issues as requested – however, in my mind so many of the above issues are linked – so identifying priorities is an artificial and somewhat arbitrary distinction
- ◆ All are important

Vision

Which of the following phrases matches your VISION for Victoria's urban forest in 2058?

A contributor to the City's economic prosperity	31
A source of community pride	75
Abundant and diverse (character, age, species, etc.)	106
An important part of the City's quality of life/livability	117
An integral part of City infrastructure (along with roads, sidewalks, sewers, and utilities)	104
Attractive	53
Engaging the community in stewardship	83
Featuring large, connected patches of green space	104
Featuring native trees and shrubs	76
Healthy and safe	40
Managed cost-effectively	25
Multi-functional (e.g. managing stormwater, reducing air and water pollution, providing shade, and buffering noise)	117
Nuisance-free	2
Protecting ecosystems and species at risk	89
Protecting heritage landscapes (e.g., Garry oak ecosystems)	87

Providing learning opportunities for children and adults	66
Resilient to climate change	67
Supporting abundant native wildlife (appropriate to an urban environment)	92
Useful (e.g. providing food, wood)	62

Comments:

All important

- ◆ I like all these!
- ◆ Good list
- ◆ I tried to thin down, but really, I'd go for everything on the list!
- ◆ Hard not to check them all. The Master Plan will be too far-reaching to meet all of the above
- ◆ Really hard to limit to just a few.
- ◆ All of the above are achievable.
- ◆ All of the above are great ideas
- ◆ All of these are important!! (except nuisance free) Thank you for doing this process!
- ◆ All of the options above are important, and are achievable with the right vision and leadership. Following permaculture practices will help to achieve these goals.
- ◆ Very difficult to not check almost all on the above list. But again, if the community were more actively involved, most of these visions could be realized.
- ◆ I would put a check beside almost all of those. Except perhaps nuisance free - urban structures are more of the nuisance, and we need to allow nature to be part of our world.
- ◆ Many of these phrases represent synergies and the outcomes of complimentary activities, rather than those at cross-purposes. We can achieve these!
- ◆ Phrases and ideas are linked
- ◆ The issues are all interconnected start with abundant and diverse and the rest will follow
- ◆ These are all good attitudes, difficult to decide which ones are the priorities!
- ◆ These are all important considerations. Costs are always an issue, but I think the value of the educational experiences, use of forest resources for food/medicine, providing jobs, and tourism need to be part of that equation.

Using forest products

- ◆ Urban forests should not be used for lumber harvest for instance, but a more natural relationship to the trees and plants, as practiced by the First Nations is healthy for the forest and is a respectful use.
- ◆ Wow - I never thought of using urban forest to provide resources like wood and non-timber resources like mushrooms and herbs, etc. We could have a whole working forest like the famous Wildwood near Ladysmith, which has been a working forest since 1938. That could be an amazing tourism draw.

Demonstration and education

- ◆ I think demonstration gardens where people can come to see the value of the plants in their neighborhood or on their property. Primarily thinking of storm water management, shade and buffering noise. An actual

visual display teaches more than printed data that gets throw away. Each neighbourhood park could have some demonstration gardens if going to be planted anyway.

- ◆ School kids could care for and harvest from fruit and nut trees!
- ◆ Pick appropriate street and urban trees that when mature “fit” the landscape and require safety pruning only. List tree species available and appropriate for homeowners to use

Priorities

- ◆ Most important: Supporting abundant native wildlife
- ◆ Food security is a major issue on Vancouver Island and we ought to be more responsible on this front. Allow the community to be involved and we’ll share the undertaking!
- ◆ Food, peak oil!
- ◆ Planning for appropriate food-bearing trees and community education and support and involvement of communities with lower-income and more transient populations – areas which have less green space
- ◆ Providing food.
- ◆ I don't strongly feel that providing "large", connected patches of greenspace is a high priority in our urban area just because I am willing to give those spaces up to meet other sustainability goals (such as affordable housing and densification) if necessary. I would rather we focused on quality than on quantity given that we also have the benefit of a huge shoreline as an open space.
- ◆ Preserving and living in harmony with what’s left of what was here before white people took over should be top priority. That should take care of climate change and other issues
- ◆ I would like to see this ancient, slow moving life form included in the Charter of Rights for I do believe that trees are imbued with inherent worth, completely independent of any value humans attribute to them. They are more ancient than us and deserve vastly more respect than we give them
- ◆ I want to have native trees and shrubs, but not to the exclusion of other species. I also want it to be managed cost-effectively, but if the choice was between no forest if it couldn't be managed cost-effectively and a thriving one that wasted some money, I would definitely choose the latter.
- ◆ Softening the concrete jungle
- ◆ Protecting ecosystems and species at risk is equally important to me

Nuisance-free

- ◆ No natural landscape will even be “nuisance free” – that is a small price to pay
- ◆ Urban forests are vital and bring many economic, environmental and aesthetic benefits. They are well worth any trouble they cause, but it would be well to use trees that are relatively trouble-free.
- ◆ We just need to redefine what we consider nuisance - an urban forest is a privilege!

Involving the broader community

- ◆ Listen to local environmentalist groups. They care. Lets have several world-class botanists, naturalists, usually ignored, who should be consulted, listened to, and treasured. Chris Bradshaw being one.
- ◆ Fiscal/legal carrots and sticks must be developed to encourage more trees on private land – the city will have its hands full managing its existing public urban forest
- ◆ Involving people, neighbourhood by neighbourhood, is the key to establishing a feeling of responsibility and ownership and participation. It’s not solely the responsibility of the City – people need to step up
- ◆ Influencing urban forest planning in other CRD jurisdictions (not just the city of Victoria)

- ◆ I think an important key towards improving the Urban Forest is promoting and encouraging partnership. I think that Seattle provides a good example of rewarding community initiatives thereby harnessing the community interest that already exists/which can save city funds

Other

- ◆ I am disappointed to see the loss of many Garry oak trees in the building of the Spencer Road interchange (*Ed.'s note: this is in Langford*)
- ◆ I would like to hope we can leave an urban forest that is always in view, is interesting and attractive year round
- ◆ softening the concrete jungle
- ◆ "Urban Forest" renewal is an important opportunity to engage young people and link the public to natural history education and environmental values
- ◆ Break the job down into manageable parts, city planner, admin, workers, neighbourhood plans, and street volunteers and civic pride, and education and youth
- ◆ Consider that impacts to water along and throughout the entire recharge process are improved by additions to urban forest. Promote links between impacts to water from rainfall, through filtering benefits to water, to removing barriers to water entering the land (i.e., de-pave, repave with permeable surface to improve water quality as it makes its way along into marine cycle - NOT just in the pipe/ out of pipe mentality). See trees as part of the interconnected flora that provides cleansing factor values and water level mitigation to reduce need to overspend on engineering apparatus/ additions to infrastructure which can be reduced as need for more pipes decreases as urban canopy/ under story increases.
- ◆ Has the city done studies on how the urban forest we currently have protects the diversity of Flora and Fauna?
- ◆ Have caused over checking off the infrastructure box. The urban forest is as important as any of the infrastructure elements named, but should be separate.
- ◆ I am concerned about what 'managing' natural spaces in urban areas looks like.
- ◆ I appreciate the replanting being done in Beacon Hill Park
- ◆ I have never used the branch and leaf pick up service by the city. I compost my leaves and my regular yard clean up rubbish is picked up by a local business throughout the year. Save money here and focus on the street trees and park system.
- ◆ I like the idea of tree walks for visitors and locals. If greenspaces were connected there could be a walking path.
- ◆ I really like the idea of connected green spaces but it makes me edgy to think there's more campgrounds for homeless people I feel very strongly that parks should be visited and shared not lived in. I am hoping my voice will be heard on this subject through this survey.
- ◆ I think we should expect to have to do some maintenance although of course choosing a lower maintenance approach would be responsible. Education, habitat, etc. will be an outcome of any good urban forest. I see our urban forest strategy as separate from heritage landscapes, etc.
- ◆ If species cannot survive in changing conditions, gradually replace them with species that will survive. Continue to develop pest, disease, and climate-threatened resistant trees
- ◆ Monarch (and other) butterflies are going extinct due to loss (paving and development) of land all along migration routes. Could we partner with Monarch Watch to add Butterfly Way stations all along migration routes – do our part where we are. Ecosystems (plants) depend on the butterfly life cycle. Some parks, schools and community centre grounds could be planted as designated "way station".

- ◆ More trees from ‘rigid’ boulevard orientation into the road area allowing road surface to curve! Slows traffic and cools surface – breaks sight lines, longer asphalt life
- ◆ Please bring in a permaculture consultant
- ◆ The condition and trend of the trees is the most effective way to know how well the urban forest is being managed. Is the condition and trend improving or declining - and if it is declining, what will be done about it? A forest that self renews is the ideal.
- ◆ This is a part of a major issue and needs to be framed in educational and promotional material as contributing to something greater than just 'protecting Garry Oaks'. We have made choices about certain species, that are, just a part of the whole. Big messaging for each project/intervention is needed.
- ◆ Traffic is ever growing and cars dominate, especially in neighbourhoods. Too much traffic, going too fast and too noisy
- ◆ Useful is too broad.
- ◆ Valuation model (include multi-dimensional economic model)
- ◆ Why does “Paris, France” consistently become the #1 destination year after year? Beautiful parks, green spaces, great public transport, less parking lots more walking and cycling
- ◆ Comments; multifunctional is key to get this funded, must provide multiple benefits and help achieve multiple objectives

Priorities

Where should the City place greatest priority in restoring and enhancing the urban forest?

Boulevards	78
Downtown	34
Natural areas (including Garry oak, upland coniferous, riparian and shoreline and shoreline ecosystems)	102
On other public lands (e.g., Government House, Legislature, Provincial Capital Commission properties, St. Ann's Academy), working in cooperation with other government agencies	25
Open areas (e.g. parks, school grounds, playing fields)	71
Parking lots	23
Private property landscapes	17
Properties undergoing re-development	43
Trails and greenways	58

Comments:

All important

- ◆ Actually, they are all important
- ◆ All important
- ◆ All of the above
- ◆ Again, I wanted to select more than three. Trees are one of the things I value the most about Victoria. I do think the city has to make some effort to support in some way the part of the forest that is on private land.

Where there a currently few trees

- ◆ Green up areas that are currently concrete and asphalt wastelands - parking lots
- ◆ Barren urban landscapes benefit greatly from trees and other plant life.
- ◆ It's not a surprise that the most desirable neighbourhoods i.e., Rockland are the most heavily treed. We need to bring up the percentage in Burnside Gorge and Downtown
- ◆ Incorporate more forest into open areas, e.g. around periphery
- ◆ Urban forest planning should also be linked to downtown planning and revitalization: if the downtown core was cut off from cars and transformed into a pedestrian mall, and additional trees were planted and maintained, the downtown area would be significantly enhanced, a boon to business and tourism
- ◆ Victoria is rightly regarded as a garden city - now lets show the world the next stage of what is possible in a green urban landscape. I want to see tens of thousands of trees planted and growing in parking lots, down shopping streets, throughout downtown, and suburbia.
- ◆ Areas currently lacking green space – public space is important – limiting it to private property leaves out community members who are not homeowners
- ◆ Not sure how to answer this last question as I would want all those areas enhanced with urban forest. So if there are limited \$ then that would factor in because obviously some areas would cost more than others. Some areas would give bigger bang for their buck. For me urban forest is beyond just aesthetic value so it would depend on which areas could best support an urban forest that provided the most amount of benefits to the community

Specific locations

- ◆ Also along the Galloping Goose and Lochside trails
- ◆ In have-not neighbourhoods
- ◆ It's alarming to see that James Bay, where I live has only 13% treed, when Rockland has 33%! Yet J. B. is increasingly targeted for small lot infill – often leaving no green space at all. Development must agree to trees, shrubs, and green space for wildlife
- ◆ Some of the many soccer fields in this city should be re-wilded to natural areas. Most of the time no one is playing on these fields. Reducing the number of fields will bring more people together, and the active fields will have more going on all the time. Right now some of them are empty and lifeless. If there are fewer fields, the remaining fields will be vibrant gathering points for residents.
- ◆ St. Ann's has funding they can use to develop their land same with heritage we need to diversify large tracts of vacant public land that may be redeveloped, e.g. Old Blanshard School
- ◆ The city and community needs to have a greater say in the use of large greenspaces, i.e., How did Glenlyon school get permission to turn their greenspace into artificial turf? Lost greenspace in our neighbourhood – we were never consulted, the private school did what they wanted and for profit – let the government (provincial) pay for care of trees. I have a greater concern over the number of "greenspaces" turning into artificial turf? What was wrong with playing soccer on real dirt?

Planting for food

- ◆ Beware fruit-bearing trees on public property because they promote vandalism, pest invasion, require spraying of insecticides
- ◆ I'd like to see food security concerns included, i.e. the urban forest mandate, as climate change continues to escalate, we're going to long for and need many, many more trees than presently grow in Victoria. The Parks and Dept aren't going to be an able to keep up with this demand all alone. Citizen's help will be required. Why wait? Lets all start planting trees now – judiciously, thoughtfully, intelligently, correctly!
- ◆ Instead of flowering-only trees plant fruit-bearing trees (and harvest fruit)

- ◆ I am interested in the idea of working with residents to look at the best use of boulevards in residential neighbourhoods - being aware of course of gas lines etc. - is there a way to combine a good urban forest with more urban gardening?
- ◆ Communities: Use underused areas of land and parks to install self sufficient, self fertilizing, multifunctional food bearing food/forest
- ◆ The number one thing I would love to see is the city participating in growing food on public lands (parks, schools, boulevards, etc).
- ◆ Perhaps the city could somehow \be involved with lifecycles and their program of growing gardens at schools.
- ◆ Boulevards: I would like to see space for food gardens and not so much for trees.

Bylaws and incentives

- ◆ I am astonished that the city tree protection bylaw protects large trees. It ought to be the other way around. We rarely see young Garry Oak or Arbutus trees. We will be like people on Easter Island, eventually trees will die or have to be cut down, and these two most cherished tree species will exist only in stories told to children.
- ◆ Legislate that greenspace must be included. Please keep lights and signs off trees stop gardening around boulevard trees causes compaction (walking). Let's get rubber sidewalks (recycled tires?) We're watering unsuitable crops.
- ◆ Expand the urban forest concept and provide serious funding
- ◆ Developer should pay for properties undergoing re-development, City of Victoria needs to have policies that require them to do so. City should provide tree care education for residents to encourage them to care for their own trees
- ◆ Allow stewardship opportunities for private properties, development and local parks, school grounds etc to apply for grants and get involved. The city park staff has to stay focused on the large picture of the urban forest. I'm not interested in park staff maintaining small pockets left behind by developers. These developments should have maintenance of trees within their building maintenance schedules.
- ◆ There should be property tax incentives to reward a high standard of urban forest stewardship.
- ◆ Coordinated green plan –orchestrate and commit to the budget value

Planned approach, work with others

- ◆ In the early going, focus on strategies that develop connectivity in the urban food forest. A good structure for this will be to develop walkable urban village centers, connected by 'greenway' streets. This, along with some bylaw changes on boulevard plantings, will encourage private property owners to landscape their own properties in a way that expands and contributes to the overall diversity of the urban forest.
- ◆ It's important to consider connectivity - corridors of green space that link together.
- ◆ I am hoping the plan will help advise on where the biggest gains can be made - I don't feel I know enough about the trade-offs at this point to fill in question 9 very well.
- ◆ Embed ethos of tree value benefits revived and enhanced in over-used impacted systems as in 9. 1, above (restore habitat as at Beacon Hill in many additional locations. I would add Trails and Greenways to my personal list) to offset increased development/ hard surface increases. Value interconnected benefit of more forest along pollinating corridors (i.e., add flora to offset isolated atolls of lands cut off from habitat flight paths to increase food security/ address urbanization as threat to food security. Add trees to parking lots. De-pave hard surface/ impermeable paving in parks. Re-think "regular" concrete as sidewalk material (replace with permeable paving AND requisite changes to piping into storm water.

- ◆ Work with community groups to increase diversity
- ◆ Working with development, renovation community, integrate trees and agriculture with IRM, education in schools curriculum
- ◆ Trails and greenways can be contradictory, the limited number of ‘unpeopled’ urban forests need to be absolutely protected. These areas, the few we still have, need to be left to flora and fauna
- ◆ Need to retain key properties (public and private) that contain urban forests and contribute to greenbelt connectivity

In developments

- ◆ If properties are being re-developed anyways, they may as well incorporate as much greenery as is feasible
- ◆ Include green roofs (especially downtown) to affect city heat generation. Mandate trees on all redevelopment
- ◆ Its not that existing public lands and natural areas shouldn’t be addressed but other groups are addressing them to some extent. Again. I believe our “developed” areas that are hardscapes without much green should be the focus. Urban “green” is what makes a city beautiful
- ◆ Encourage the use of green roofs, impermeable
- ◆ Re-development needs to preserve existing trees as much as possible, especially native or heritage potential trees
- ◆ Paving and green walls. Maybe even some type of rebate.

Parking lots

- ◆ All parking lots should have trees - and some way of allowing water to absorb into the soil.
- ◆ Keep paving to a minimum to allow for trees to absorb water important for salmon and other wildlife

Education

- ◆ Educational material
- ◆ Enhance private engagement buy-in with public education, new bylaws (that are enforced) and grants/incentives- get everyone on board more private donors, business endorsements, etc..
- ◆ Getting the public involved in working public and private land is key, and therefore education is key.

Other

- ◆ A lot of natural areas are infested with ivy and spurge laurel, and require cleansing. They serve as seed sources to promote the spread of these invasive plants into surrounding areas.
- ◆ Accessibility
- ◆ Difficult list. Maintain or replace large growing trees including natives (Garry oak, B.L., Maple, Alder)
- ◆ Having people with an interest in nature, local conditions and willingness to listen to those who care, should be a priority – forget the ‘recreation mentality’
- ◆ I think the city should spend less money upgrading playgrounds needlessly. I know this has happened to virtually every playground I loved as a kid in Gordon Head. Employing local people to do repairs engages the community, creates a sense of place and stewardship, and is much more cost effective.
- ◆ I think cities have a handle on parks and natural areas in terms of conservation, and are coming along on diversity, native species, and food producing... It will be in the least expected areas that major shifts in thinking will occur. E.g., Close Government Street between Wharf and Yates, rip up the pavement, plant a

range of coastal species along and put paving stones in for a walkway, and be proud of how tourists and locals alike, eventually, will praise the act!).

- ◆ It was very difficult to limit to three. I also like boulevards, downtown and properties undergoing re-development. Not so much around schools or parking lots - safety issues. I think private property landscapes should be managed by the property owner, provided they are not doing something that threatens trees generally.
- ◆ Its not that existing public lands and natural areas shouldn't be addressed but other groups are addressing them to some extent. Again. I believe our "developed" areas that are hardscapes without much green should be the focus. Urban "green" is what makes a city beautiful
- ◆ Really wanted to check 4. Also wanted to check trails and greenways.
- ◆ Seems as though the boulevards already get so much attention. Lots of opportunities to "sell" our open spaces for carbon sequestration and the city can benefit from all the values the trees provide. Seems like a win-win.
- ◆ Small trees can be easily replaced as objective and site conditions change
- ◆ Tough question. What do you mean by "enhance"? I would like to see more hands-off management. It sickens me to see so many trucks and other city staff vehicles driving around in our parks going about so-called management responsibilities. The use of vehicles is indiscriminate. You would like suggested restoration priorities? How about not planting flowers in Beacon Hill Park, but rather native plants that then require no more human involvement in their lifecycles. And do this on foot or with bicycles and bicycle trailers. If you need to gently transition your employees out of their pickup trucks, and don't think they're ready to walk or cycle, then how about electric golf cars? But we so don't need so many of them doing all of this "management". Another priority then is to cut your staff and place these people in jobs that bring the city closer to sustainability. Or at least don't hire and take advantage of natural attrition.
- ◆ Volunteers might take more of this responsibility on restoring and enhancing public lands

Do you think residents should have a greater role in the stewardship of urban forest?

Yes	134
No	10
Deciding how to manage trees in their neighbourhood	44
Encouraging homeowners to 'host' a boulevard tree in their front yard	100
Providing input into neighbourhood urban forest management	55
Removing invasive species	99
Restoring ecosystems to a more natural state	96
Watering new street trees close to their homes	89

Comments:

- ◆ People usually want to help. Just need to know boundaries.
- ◆ I think many people would be happy to play a part, if asked.

Provide education/information

- ◆ Education and practical input from arborists and city staff. Tax breaks healthy and cared for trees on the property
- ◆ Education is the key. If you can show people all of the benefits of an urban forest, you won't have to legislate protection of natural areas.
- ◆ Education is the most important
- ◆ Educational
- ◆ Support Friends of Groups to become community educators/ ambassadors to help implement comprehensive invasive species removal throughout city and region (i.e., cross municipal boundary strategies). Devise ways of dealing with broad amounts of removed material to "cook" seed heads, roots, dead (where to house? How can this be done environmentally well? A Saanich park expresses the headache of dealing with volumes of invasive material. How to address regionally for greater impact/ more restoration potential?
- ◆ Engage people in planting, invite to workshops teaching about engaging ecosystems, work with school groups to do education outreach.
- ◆ In order to be good stewards, citizens must be educated about all the values of the urban forest, their role in the "environment" and empowered to do something about it.
- ◆ People are not educated about trees to manage trees in their neighbourhood – nice idea though. Invasive species should be removed and people should be fined if they do not. Encourage financial incentives for caring for their trees – e.g., water saving tickets you a rebate, planting trees congruent with the urban forestry plan could be paid for
- ◆ The more possibilities for engagement the better, though ultimately it is up to us to be involved. I think education is vital. Perhaps the city could look at becoming an active partner in school field trips to city related facilities and parks and discuss with children ways that people in the community can be engaged with their environment.
- ◆ Although residents should be encouraged to look after trees and shrubs in common lands, often education into their care should be provided. Many plants and trees are killed by 'kindness', such as over watering.
- ◆ Disposal of invasive species can be an issue - more information is needed about which species are particularly invasive and why not to plant them in the first place.
- ◆ I have noticed ivy is a problem in many areas, and homeowners often let it grow unchecked. It would be good to see residents protect the trees on their property by removing this invasive species to ensure that it doesn't choke the trees.
- ◆ I think that nurseries need to take leadership and stop selling invasive species. I think it would be unrealistic to force people to remove invasive species from their properties but I think we need to educate and encourage homeowners about invasive species removal.
- ◆ Citizens should have the ability to recognize the symptoms of tree hazard (insect, disease, wind and fires etc), and risk (closeness to dwellings etc), and to support actions necessary to protect human life and property.
- ◆ The more possibilities for engagement the better, though ultimately it is up to us to be involved. I think education is vital. Perhaps the city could look at becoming an active partner in school field trips to city related facilities and parks and discuss with children ways that people in the community can be engaged with their environment.
- ◆ There should be free (to the public) education on how this stewardship can be done. The city needs to hire people like Jackie Robson to educate Victoria residents - and she needs to be paid a living wage to do this highly valuable work!
- ◆ Tree appreciation day offer to neighbourhood

Role in food production/gathering

- ◆ They could possibly be involved with some of their care. I run the LifeCycles Fruit Tree Project and coordinate more than 150 volunteers to pick excess fruit from people's back yards and redistribute it to volunteers, food banks and community agencies. I am finding more and more people are wanting to get involved with harvesting local food and it's a great way to build community, reduce your grocery bills, reduce greenhouse gases because you are eating locally – as long as not the whole burden falls on the community. Pruning for example would maybe need to be done by the city. But I think this is an area that has been under explored and would benefit greatly from more community discussion and input
- ◆ Cooperatively and sustainably harvesting fruit/nut trees
- ◆ "Adoption" of food trees (fruits and nuts, berry bushes) to ensure maintenance and harvesting
- ◆ Areas of urban forests can also be part of food security programs in neighbourhoods – designating lands for urban food gardens and fruit trees
- ◆ Encourage projects such as the resident-initiated community boulevard garden on Haultain. That is a fantastic improvement, and links to food security as well. Productive fruit trees, herb bushes, vegetables, native plants - all should be encouraged!
- ◆ Residents should be involved in planting and maintaining dedicated food forest areas
- ◆ The name for this project should be 'urban food forest' or we are missing an essential opportunity in contributing to the welfare of future generations.
- ◆ Yes, and there should be room for local small-scale entrepreneurs (including non-profits and institutions such as schools) to provide care in exchange for harvesting rights.
- ◆ Fruit and nut trees on public land nearly everywhere please!
- ◆ I would love to see fruit trees and living roofs implemented and then the community associations or neighbourhood groups could be involved with design and responsible for the harvest of the fruit and plants.
- ◆ If people want to plant trees on boulevard, they could agree to water it and maintain it for 3-5 years, then the City could resume care. If it's a fruit/nut tree, anyone should be able to harvest it if it's on public land
- ◆ If residents consent to stewardship and are willing to commit the time & effort, they should be permitted to plant trees, particularly food-bearing trees and native species
- ◆ If residents were to benefit from caring for trees in their area they would be more committed to caring for the trees. Food-producing trees are an excellent way to get residents involved, and have the added bonus of addressing food security issues.

Role for homeowners on their lands

- ◆ I think that homeowner urban forest stewardship should encourage in backyards as well. Not only are they pleasant, but also a continuous backyard corridor of trees can be denser and assist in privacy. Especially as the city begins to infill (which may happen soon if the mayor's garden suites are passed).
- ◆ A front yard is different from a boulevard. The front yard is privately owned, the boulevard is publicly owned. The city has no control over what people do on their own land for landscaping, it would be foolish for the city to invest in front yard trees (intended for the boulevard), when a new owner can change his or her mind and chop it or them down.

Helping manage trees on public lands

- ◆ It makes sense for homeowners to look after the property which impacts on them immediately (e.g. the boulevard in 'front' of their property) and for interested volunteers be from an association e.g. the

Maddison Lane Stewardship Group. The best approach is for the City to drive up interest by seminars such as this which will hopefully encourage committed citizens to participate

- ◆ In conjunction with City staff
- ◆ Of course, to water boulevard trees and plantings, you need to have boulevards - and there aren't many of them around our neighbourhood.
- ◆ Boulevard gardening to complement trees, clearing leaves from storm drains in the autumn, "donating" appropriate trees to the boulevard plan
- ◆ As I mentioned above I think residents should make sure drains are clear. Not bag the leaves but pile them away from the drains.
- ◆ I wouldn't be opposed to it, but I don't know what role residents would logically play
- ◆ Expert staff can manage / the general public are not experts and 1000 opinions will only hamstring your work
- ◆ For the past few years the city has told the residents of Hollywood Crescent to rake the leaves from the boulevard trees onto the boulevard for pick up. Piles of leaves have been left on the grass for up to 6 weeks – mid October to early December for pick up. These piles kill the grass and leave unsightly black areas from January to July before the grass grows in –partly – again. Hollywood Crescent is part of the Marine Scenic drive and should be looked after in a better fashion by the city. Beside the model boat pond in Holland Point Park at the corner of Dallas Rd and Government St. are some trees that cause great problems for model boat operation. Year around leaves, branches, and seeds drop into the water from overhanging branches. These impede the operation of the boats by snagging the little propellers and rudders. People have had their motors burn out as a result. Others will not return because of the mess floating on the surface. The city needs to remove the willow tree from the North side and heavily prune the Maples in the Southeast corner
- ◆ I would resist forcing responsibility on the private sector at this time but make it easy for those interested in doing something to do something
- ◆ When I lived in Saanich, my neighbour had volunteered to take care of the boulevard watering and plantings under the trees. I was his back up. It greatly enhanced the area.
- ◆ Nothing should be forced
- ◆ Participation should be invited and encouraged, but not required. Continuity has to be maintained by city staff, I think.
- ◆ While all of the above have merit, I wonder if #1 is possible. #2 -- how much would the average person know about urban forest management. As far as trees go, I am not sure what an "invasive species" is. Are there trees not native to Vancouver Island that are invasive here?
- ◆ We would have committed to watering the new boulevard tree in our yard. I think it would be risky to expect people to look after trees, but the city could ask for a commitment.
- ◆ How practical is this? Will people really commit to something like watering trees in front or near their house or place of residence?
- ◆ The city of Victoria residents do not take responsibility of the public boulevard area that they are taxed for: No snow shovelling, no watering, no cutting grass, no cleaning up the garbage. Business owners are the worst.
- ◆ It would not be smart to let homeowners "host" a tree unless they knew how to prune them. It would also be wonderful if green spaces were promoted as garden spaces for food and beauty- front yards and boulevards.

- ◆ I would have checked all of the above but only if newly planted species are native (and then they would only require watering at the outset). I find it unacceptable that our natural heritage has been lost to the horticultural industry.
- ◆ Not sure what this would mean - asking seniors or busy families to prune trees seems unrealistic
- ◆ Not sure what your definition of "stewardship" means.
- ◆ Turn boulevards into rain gardens to take up excess rains, plant variety to bring bees and butterflies back to neighbourhoods, Rip up paved alleys for 'block gardens, and green play areas for kids, find space for a community garden within walking distance of most residents, increase natural playgrounds for kids-stop putting the big plastic/metal crap out there--yes they play on it, but give them a pile of dirt, water and some logs and see what happens,
- ◆ Residents come and go, residents are capricious, but City departments are permanent. We need continuity, and a big budget. Professionals should manage the treescape, under strict tree preservation bylaws. Public (as with all laws) has an observational/oversight role
- ◆ Watering budget is City responsibility, and succession planning
- ◆ More community associations, classes in elementary secondary schools which steward pieces of land

Provide incentives

- ◆ Tax people on three scales: no tax and look after it all/ % tax with the city helping out with some elements on boulevard maintenance and a fine if the property owner has not done any of these things.
- ◆ Have money donated to plant a tree in their name. Attach some "ownership" in name to trees
- ◆ Lets make incentives available to homeowners to plant trees on their property as well as protect existing ones (i.e. LEAF program in Toronto). Also developers that receive bonus density should be required to plant trees not only on their property but the surrounding neighbourhood
- ◆ Offer incentives for tree care and removal of invasives on private property
- ◆ Place a citizen bounty on broom and gorse
- ◆ Programs with financial incentives for homeowners to grow food trees in their yards. Programs to educate public about significant needs of urban forest as forest – total ecosystem - not only as isolated trees. When regulating new development, more attention needs to be paid to avoiding destruction of soil ecologies. Traditional landscaping destroys soils that take many years to build, we need to change this
- ◆ Sponsor a tree in their neighbourhood.
- ◆ Tax breaks/grants/subsidized tree planting for homeowners. Sorry but managing trees is complex – the decisions of their management should be left to experienced professionals
- ◆ Likely not everyone will want to/be able to contribute, but those who are interested should be encouraged
- ◆ And you could even provide incentives for citizens to engage in such activities. \$100 off of their city taxes, or free recreation centre passes, or public transit credit, or something else the sum of which equals the amount of money we collectively save by not having paid city staff doing the above activities.
- ◆ All of the above and even fines to enforce quality and compliance

Role for residents as advocates

- ◆ By providing opportunities for input like this survey, residents have access to participate. As well, residents that feel strongly can always participate through council meetings & their neighbourhood assns.
- ◆ Nothing should be done on private property without consulting with neighbors and the City
- ◆ Neighbourhoods should be made aware of any change, proposal prior to action
- ◆ We need a greater role in the planning

- ◆ We need to redesign how we water trees and rainwater design
- ◆ Reporting damaged, vandalized trees and shrubs, and advocating for more bird friendly trees

Other

- ◆ In conjunction with Habitat Acquisition Fund, protect areas of urban forest on public land which join areas of urban forest on private land
- ◆ Reclaim small lots with plantings/ add green space; allow boulevards for thickets (bird habitat, cooling land, water retention).
- ◆ The CRD must ban the sale, propagation and planting of English ivy anywhere in the CRD, and require its removal on all public and private property. The growth and spread of English ivy is completely out of control in Rockland. It has climbed to the tops of many trees and has already killed many. Perhaps we can establish neighbourhood volunteer cleanup crews to start clearing local ivy, and spurge laurel too.
- ◆ This land is the traditional territory of Coast Salish First Nations people. The Douglas Treaty promises that they should be able to continue their cultural practices (hunting and fishing) in perpetuity. If the First Nations people are not consulted on this plan and given a central role in the management of the forest, then the City of Victoria will be in violation of these treaties.
- ◆ More integrated planning
- ◆ Integrating vegetation management on private lands in small planning units
- ◆ Rockland has many mature trees: leaves. Leaf blowers are an annoying source of noise and air pollution. Can we with climate change limit or ban these invasive machines?

Do you have any other ideas or comments that you would like to share with us?

- ◆ Thank you for taking the time and resources to look into this important matter. Although my biggest personal interest in trees is in their contributions to natural habitat and climate change, I know that trees really make a big difference to the attractiveness, livability, and vitality of Victoria. They definitely brighten our downtown and undoubtedly contribute to our economic well-being. It is great to see that City council recognizes this.
- ◆ If we are striving to become a sustainable city, I think trees, plants, and other wildlife should be given greater importance when making development plans. Without natural diversity in our landscape, our city will get sick. I think proper urban forest development is priority.
- ◆ I am very pleased to see the City of Victoria asking for comments about the urban forest. It shows that the city cares about the future, the city and its residents. Thank you for taking the time to invest in our community assets.
- ◆ Great use of municipal funds...finally. Young Tree Training is essential. Much of the problems and expense is because of poor structure
- ◆ I would like the city to look more at the idea of storm water runoff and how that can be used to water our city's urban forest. Would like the sewage system to be changed so that heat can be collected, water can be cleansed with plants and recycled and the sludge can be used as fertilizer on our urban forests – but I know this would be outside your mandate. I just would like more sustainable practices to be enforced. I am happy that Victoria has reduced its amount of pesticide use so I guess when planting we need to look at those types of issues but water plays a big role and it should be part of the design plan that “waste” water can be recaptured. Also I still see far too much watering of boulevards in the middle of the day and on rainy days and with water heads running onto the street.
- ◆ When I first visited Victoria last year I was very surprised how little natural areas and tree there were down town

- ◆ allow people to grow vegetables in the boulevard areas - as long as they are kept up and not become wastelands. perhaps a bylaw amendment to cover this
- ◆ the biggest problem in tree vigor is lack of nutrients, leaves that in nature are recycled as nutrients are in boulevard and downtown trees taken away. trees do not get adequate fertilization.
- ◆ Tree planting and replacement needs to be planned in perpetuity and needs an ongoing budget commitment that isn't subject to the foibles of councils of the day.
- ◆ Look into monkey-puzzle trees - when planted in groves they are able to pollinate and produce nuts, which are highly nutritious and delicious.
- ◆ Across from my house a housing development went in. When it was finished, the city and some contractors came around and cut down about 5 or 6 trees, some of which were healthy and some not so healthy. Then they ripped up the old grass and laid down new sod. I think the healthy trees were cut down to appease the interests of the developer in improving views from the new condos. Of course the official reason would be something different. I give you this example of typical government management of nature. In case you don't believe me the property is 999 Burdett and I'm talking specifically about the Vancouver Street side. The point of this story: Please resist your urges to alter existing forest and other natural greenspace. It's a waste of time and money, destroys life for trivial interests and creates greenhouse gases that needn't have been created.
- ◆ As part of the consultation - what about some discussion on environmentally safe methods of protecting against disease and insect damage?
- ◆ This is a great idea! The boulevards in my neighborhood are poorly tended by the city. It would not be appropriate for the city to just get the neighbours to water and tend their grass and not get a rebate back on the property taxes. Also if we have to tend to them we should be able to plant more than grass, of course allowing access for parking.
- ◆ Perhaps after I can view the plan.
- ◆ get rid of limb pick up. It is costly and a responsibility of the homeowner. Leaves require a more timely pick up / how can Saanich pick up twice before Vic picks up once?
- ◆ Please try to restore connectivity of our native ecosystems through homeowner education and stewardship activities. Because natural areas such as Beacon Hill Park are such major attractions, there is a desperate need to expand the target audience beyond City of Victoria residents. This could be accomplished with signage, etc. It is sad to see the extent of the trampling and damage to the spectacular Garry Oak ecosystems of our region.
- ◆ I would like Victoria's urban forest, to be understood as the ultimate symbol of sustainability. Trees run on solar energy, recycle nutrients and water, and the native trees are highly adapted to local circumstances. When humans are too, our whole civilization will be sustainable.
- ◆ Development and road traffic is decimating the urban wildlife community. I propose we value the wildlife we have left in the city and create an Urban Wildlife Service that studies and protects the animals such as raccoon and deer, as well as acting as sort of PR people for the animals. (Raccoons get a bad rap. they need better publicists) People should be able to hunt the grey squirrels and feral rabbits. They are a good source of quality meat and they are invasive species wrecking havoc on the ecosystem and some folks love to eat them, me included. Better use them then just kill them. A person should not kill what they can't eat.
- ◆ Make sure you enforce city tree cutting bylaws.
- ◆ In Boston on Commonwealth Avenue there is a mall with large trees on either side, in the ground at the base of each tree is a plaque with a poem. I expect that these are sponsored trees. I know we do things differently here, but I know that many of our mature trees will be taken away soon and would hate to see them replaced by tiny spindly saplings - would it be possible to use a plaque-donation program to raise funds to plant more substantial trees rather than spindly little things?

I believe that schoolyards are also an untapped resource for the urban forest. The city parks program should work with school district, CRD, and organizations like Evergreen to re-introduce a sizable portion of native habitat to each school site. I believe this was done at Strawberry Vale elementary school some years ago with great success. I think that the true gains in fighting climate change with an urban forest is the role of boulevard (and boulevard trees) in making an walking an option

- ◆ Increasingly, Canada's population is urban. We need to re-connect (or maintain connections) between humans and nature. Otherwise, if in the future, people become increasingly disconnected from nature -- who will stand up to protect nature (whether it's urban, rural, or remotely located nature). Thanks for this urban forests initiative.
- ◆ Infrastructure such as sewer and storm, must be addressed ASAP. Public Education needed urban forest concept wonderful but above first priority.
- ◆ With a growing population and water a real issue – time to encourage water use priorities. The over watering of parks and recreation is more than wasteful – it's a crime. Changes from City Hall needed. Leadership is the word I'm looking for!
- ◆ I am part of a group who wants to help create a city where we all belong, and work together in building an amazing city. Where we are leaders in a green city, protecting native habitat, multi-functioning city with focus on the long-term impact of our lives here today ... We effect the next 7 generations – SEVEN, that is a long effect.
- ◆ Take a stance with the powers that be, move forward with conviction, and seek community support! How about more 'nature houses' for interpretation: work with BC Parks as their backcountry rangers are getting nay business, bring them in until enough folks can get excited about going 'out there' again! E.g., Little Brick house beside playground on Gorge Waterway Park, ideal for a nature house, and let that retaining wall along the Gorge collapse to restore the shoreline, and stop cutting down willows who may be wrecking said walls (if that's why they were cut?). #12. 7 if you are a linear thinker, a mathematical equation if you are a literal thinker, and elephant if an abstract thinker...
- ◆ Ways to harvest and manage rainwater would be great to incorporate into the vision - we could become a city others look to for example and inspiration. This is a great opportunity to do something that will look to the future instead of relying on the past, a paradigm-shifter!
- ◆ Water is the basis for discussion. Anything to improve all water quality is to be encouraged. Land considerations=water quality - a most pressing issue. Each municipal council, all through the CRD, should be required to place environmental concerns at forefront in all guiding principles concerning infrastructure, development (new and reno's) - within its offices, through planning departments, as a matter of course in private developments that come before rezoning committees, that development cost charges, though providing offset, should be of considerable sums to add to inventory and pay for a considerable arm of park's costs, as they impact access to few remaining lands left to exploit; factor in the addition of indigenous trees, shrubs and other flora. See the opportunities to add to learn to lead in environmental restoration - a growing area for necessary economic development and employment; Victoria could create a leading role, add jobs, and increase land envirosapes.
- ◆ I think that we need to realize that 'green spaces' are only one aspect of a connected ecosystem, which includes water systems, food systems, us, and even systems like the garbage system! we have to stop thinking and talking of them as if they are separate.
- ◆ I long ago figured out that the overwhelming difference between a beautiful street and an unattractive one was... TREES! No other factor is even in the running. Adding the environmental and economic benefits of having a maximally attractive city, there is no way we can afford not to have a vigorous and plentiful urban forest.

- ◆ I believe that developers should be held to the letter and the SPIRIT of their development plans. If they do not, they should forfeit their development permits. They should then be prohibited from future developments for a minimum period of time - say five years. If this were the case, cutting trees and paying a fine will no longer be simply "the cost of doing business".
- ◆ More signage--identify the various types of plum/cherry trees for example
- ◆ There are a lot of 'experts' in living in the city who know of concepts like permaculture, naturescaping, mushrooms, wild edibles, and medicinal herbs. It would be great to see the city tap into the wisdom of those living in the community to develop an integral plan.
- ◆ Many of the flat roof buildings could host green roofs, providing insulation and reducing pollution. Rain barrels could be installed all over the city, which could then be used to water city green spaces practically for free!
- ◆ The cities of the future must necessarily function very differently than they do today. Changing our values to fit a sustainable urban model works best with legislation and by-laws. (Look at how the rate of smoking has decreased)
I would be very proud if we managed to reduce our dependence on imported food through an alteration of our land use planning, and maintained the excellent quality of life that our forests contribute to.
- ◆ I would like to share my opinion of being not in favor of understory planting young trees beneath older mature trees , the young tree is competing for sun and nutrients and will be stunted and misshapen, also it stands more of a chance of being damaged from the removal of it's elder in the future.
- ◆ Your scope is not comprehensive and integrated enough, so your results can only be a small fraction of what is possible through working with integrated living system approaches to the whole design of a 'living city'. The urban food forest is just part of a complex whole, which includes transportation, communications, energy, infrastructure, architecture, urban plan, culture, food, education, and governance. Good luck with your urban forest initiative. Our species is increasingly becoming urban and our ability to manage increases in human population in ways that uplift the context for life will be key to our future. Our cities must become our source for water, food, energy and community, while at the same time be 'living' environments for regenerating biodiversity and fertility. I am interested in contributing to our success in this regard through my work as an architect and urban planner, and groups like 'urban food foresters' and 'imagine 2112' that I am part of.
- ◆ Manage the urban forest in an integrated fashion with parks, open spaces, greenways and trails. Set up a collaborative mechanism for getting all the planners together from various jurisdictions, along with representatives of the public.
- ◆ The Cook Street Village will look like a gastly strip mall without the giant chestnut trees. They add architecture to the street where there is none in the buildings. **DO NOT REMOVE THEM !** This is an excerpt from my walking tour: A Stroll through Suburbia. Boulevards “The city’s park superintendent, Herb Warren, spent considerable time addressing a failing boulevard tree system. Many trees were large and considered “forest trees” creating many problems above and underground. Mr. Warren hybridized popular Japanese cherry trees and encouraged dwarf, sterile varieties to replace unwanted trees. Although Horse Chestnut trees were planted along this stretch of Cook Street with a local improvement bylaw (ca.1910), they were planted too close together and in 1936 Herb Warren cut down every second tree. There was still a plan to replace these with a dwarf, sterile variety, but in 2001, a public consultation process reaffirmed that the tree species is an.....”
- ◆ Can we design yards differently yards differently put houses at the backs of yards or stagger properties?
- ◆ A recent study mentioned on CBC, “Tree Mortality” has shown a doubling of forest tree mortality in recent years. We need to do everything we can to offset that developing disaster

- ◆ More on all of this ASAP. Educations especially, get a huge article in the papers, on TV, radio about this consultation process as we speak
- ◆ The public is certainly affected by the Urban Forest and many of us would like to be involved. We understand that the city has a bit task on their hands and many conflicting stakeholders, but hopefully if you welcome us to help you we can relieve some of this burden. Thank you for hosting this session!
- ◆ We need to take the emphasis off individual trees, whether they are old, sick, etc. and look at the urban forest and canopy and understory as a continuum. A variety of ages of any organism are natural. Old trees take decades to die and still serve – Dead, they provide nutrients to soil, nurse new growth, into the succeeding forest. They never die! So let's not kill them
- ◆ congratulations for doing this
- ◆ I would be interested to work with others to limit or ban leaf blowers
- ◆ Along with water permeable surfaces
- ◆ I live on Vining St. We had a wonderful community building experience in collaboration with the City of Victoria, last spring in relation to the urban forest, namely reviewing the tree health of our cherry trees on our boulevard. It was excellent to be part of the City's process and a good learning experience. Very important to involve citizens in urban forest planning.
- ◆ Great start: budget, orchestrate, and commit
- ◆ No new development should be allowed on property with high natural values
- ◆ I wish I could have had more time for this myself. Good luck! Good work!
- ◆ Very interesting and worthwhile! New developments should have more true green spaces, not just technically 'green'
- ◆ Need innovative ideas that combine densification and green space – different models of residential living – given the issue of constraints of market system
- ◆ Thank you for having the workshop and encouraging public input
- ◆ Let's make a multi-use URBAN FARM at the Canwest wastelands, at Hillside/Blanshard/Quadra. This could be a centerpiece for future development
- ◆ Manage soil PH to suit tree species
- ◆ Please contact with any questions or input
- ◆ Crop trees, chestnuts, apples, etc. Urban fruit planning need neighbourhood management
- ◆ There needs to be coordinated programs to plant and maintain food (fruit and nut) trees with functional ecologies around them, and to harvest and use the fruit that these trees grow. Coordinating with existing city food advocacy groups such as Lifecycles, Victoria permaculture network. Design with water consideration in mind. Establish trees that won't require constant additional water inputs after first few years. Need a couple of comprehensible inventories of existing food-producing trees and graft-able species (Hawthorns, Horse chestnuts). Multi-layers on residential boulevards not only trees but also useful shrubs and groundcover instead of grass.
- ◆ All future paving – municipal residential and commercial must be permeable
- ◆ It comes down to money – the long-term health of the urban forest will depend on private individuals, not government agencies – resources will be stretched!
- ◆ Food! Peak Oil!
- ◆ Thanks for the workshop! Well conceived and delivered
- ◆ Homeowners that designate a tree on their property as "heritage" could receive a discount on property taxes or cost of services
- ◆ I believe public consultation on this urban renewal is essential for getting the urban forest plan right

- ◆ Boulevard street trees and rainwater management/stormwater innovation must occur together – both help solve big maintenance and watering problems
- ◆ Victoria’s climate supports exotic species too. I always enjoy the variety of Hollies (mostly on private property) and other trees
- ◆ Fines for not removing invasive species from your property, provide work crews to remove invasive species such as community service groups can come to private properties to assist in ivy removal
- ◆ Thank you!
- ◆ There needs to be more focus and money on the public spaces. From experience, the bylaws governing trees on private land are working well. The enforcement of the private tree protection during construction is effective, and the staff is courteous.

Workshops

Did you attend one of the Urban Forest Master Plan workshops?

- ◆ Yes 99
- ◆ No 61

How did you hear about this workshop?

Community Organization	15
Friend, Colleague	18
Times Colonist Ad	12
Newspaper article	17
Email	26
Website/online	5
Radio	6

- ◆ I would have liked to attend, but I didn't hear about this much (I rarely read the paper), can there be radio ads next time?

Was the location and time of workshop convenient?

- ◆ Yes 62
- ◆ No 2
- ◆ I would like to participate in the workshops but I have a continuing commitment on Tuesday nights and the 24th I am out of town. I look forward to learning about the plan.

Did you find the workshop information helpful?

Strongly agree	33
Agree	32
Neutral	1

Comments:

- ◆ Yes, I want to thank the bright sparks who thought to involve the residents of Victoria in this important policy planning/making.
- ◆ I really liked the presentations at the workshop and I like the vision that the consultants are bringing to the task. I hope the council recognizes how valuable the forest is on so many levels and gives it the necessary level of support to sustain and expand it. Thank you for asking our opinions on this important matter.
- ◆ I've learned a lot from this workshop about the value of variety, sustainability and urban sustainability in choosing species. I've almost changed my priorities from boulevards to more emphasis on parks and natural areas
- ◆ Excellent workshop, thank you!
- ◆ Thank you for this well run and informative presentation
- ◆ Thanks for organizing this opportunity
- ◆ Thank you for considering such a broad array of alternatives, more diversity is always good
- ◆ These public meetings are good. In such a small city, individuals can feel they make a difference and can cooperate for the better
- ◆ I appreciate this workshop opportunity very much in order to learn how to promote urban forest. Please continue to involve residents and to use imagination and sense of fun to promote our precious urban forest
- ◆ Increased my awareness of urban forest value – interesting ideas in my group.
- ◆ Trees are part of the whole system – we need to meet people's needs in terms of food security and land use – people in apartments/condos with no land available for personal use (needs).
- ◆ I sense that the presenters were informed on the benefits of a full, diverse, green urban environment and that they were sincere in obtaining community input
- ◆ The workshop is extremely useful. The advertising was a bit deficient. I almost missed it. More extensive email advertising would have been good.
- ◆ Presentations at City Hall are always interesting
- ◆ Great! Let's get doing, my concern lots of talk and money spent on consultants, less on implementation
- ◆ More people could enjoy the scenery if parking restrictions were not so rigid – instead of "residential only" perhaps a limit of 2 or 3 hrs would be good
- ◆ Nice balance of presentation vision, practical, community connections
- ◆ I was very pleased to see the optimism and openness of the city towards this issue. A community vision is exactly what is needed – please keep us involved! Thank you
- ◆ Thank you for organizing this workshop
- ◆ Restore streams – bring them to the surface
- ◆ Master plan, orchestrates, budget, review, and adjust
- ◆ Maddison St. project was marred by poor presentation
- ◆ I am glad that the issue is being addressed and taken seriously
- ◆ All the presentations were informative and interesting –especially liked the Maddison Lane talk. An example of what communities can do. Irony: one of the pictures in Mr. Gye's presentation shows a development under construction where a 'protected' tree has now been severely damaged (outside Southpark school)
- ◆ Overview and facts, figure useful detailed example of Maddison Lane excellent
- ◆ A good overview; a little more detail would have helped (presumably this will come from this process). I found the City employees particularly good and passionate about their work

- ◆ Well-done folks! Great variety with presenters, fabulous turnout, and good amount of time for each activity
- ◆ Great to hear City's perspective that they are open to suggestions from the public
- ◆ Very pleased to see such enthusiasm for including the community's voice
- ◆ Photo display/illustrations would help
- ◆ I would like to see more recognition of: a) the importance of food as a potential value of the urban forest (i.e., fruit and nut trees): b) the need not only to avoid decline of the urban forest but actually to increase it, in diversity, wildlife habitat, density, and total area
- ◆ Well presented, brief, and balanced
- ◆ Useful to maybe have boards that illustrate tree species, issues, etc.
- ◆ I was surprised that most of my concerns had been thought about by the presenters. I think we have to think/act large and do it all.
- ◆ It was good to see encouragement to look down to the soil and roots that are affected by us
- ◆ I am thrilled to discover the thoughtfulness and energy exhibited by all concerned! Yea for trees! And yea for their friends and advocates!
- ◆ The percentage of treed area is interesting, however it's difficult to tell whether the percentage is declining or increasing. How does today's number compare to 5 or 10 years ago?
- ◆ The presentations were very informative but did require more answering of questions
- ◆ I support the concept of an urban forest. It is so easy to lose our trees in areas of urban development. It is important to preserve, protect and replant trees lost
- ◆ Nice to see the Ryan St. Project, Dan's presentation was very interesting to show historical photos and offer insights to the challenges the city staff face
- ◆ I would have appreciated more educational material lectures,
- ◆ Charts to be checked were a good way to get information from the public
- ◆ Comments: Well organized and informative. Good forum for public input
- ◆ Great to allow room for lots of new ideas

Other comments

Posted by Treewatchvictoria at 3:55 PM <<http://treewatchvictoria.blogspot.com/2009/01/victorias-urban-forest-workshop.html>>

- ◆ The City of Victoria's Urban Forest Workshop, held twice this week, was stimulating and informative. Large posters of written statements on the walls on which people could write comments or put check marks beside points they agree with were a good way to give feedback, and to see other people's feedback
- ◆ One thing the discussion about tree preservation makes us realize, is that we must focus not on individual trees but on the urban forest as a whole. We must not get too stuck on whether a tree is "sick" or "aging." It should not therefore have to be removed. Trees are valuable at every stage, including when they are rotting and falling down. We heard at the workshop that a large percentage of Victoria's trees are elderly. Good! We must leave room for that too: in a natural ecosystem there's no one to sweep in and clean up fallen trees which are in fact giving back their substance to the soil in support of new growth. We must beware of trying to cut out this phase of of tree life because gnarled old trees whose branches are falling off look somehow unsightly or untidy. Nature does have its "untidy" face: growth, maturity and decay comprise her cycles, without which a park, garden or woodland is not healthy. Decaying trees provide the

transition to new growth and also provide bird and insect habitat -- another essential part of a healthy urban forest.

- ◆ It is crucial that we leave space for trees to lie down and crumble as well as to stand up like ornaments in rows. We need to preserve large gardens, legislating minimum lot size limits as a tool. We need to designate some neighbourhoods free from housing "infill." We need lots of wide boulevards and greenways that are NOT for cycling or for vegetable growing, but dedicated to mixed tree and shrub plantings, butterfly and bee "way stations", and bird territory.

Email 1:

- ◆ As trees are taken down for renewal, is there a possibility that some of the wood could be acquired for wood turning by local artisans? Rather than being burned in fireplaces, quality wood such as this could be put to a good use and be much better for the environment. Thank you.

Email 2:

1. Mandatory that all development applications be circulated to an Environmental Advisory Committee, incumbent upon it to review applications for compliance with the VUFMP policies and regulations.
2. Ensure bldg. approval footprints not restrict green zone policies for mature tree dev.- coverage, setbacks, and common green areas.
3. Institute building envelope policies and standards. to safeguard green property objectives - orientation for maximum solar penetration, zipper building lots, aggressive native planting and elimination of grassed area for water & root retention - mandatory concessions for approval
4. Introduce distribution program of native seed to residents & training sessions to stimulate native plant propagation & provide an incentive program for nurseries, NGOs (LEAF in Toronto) to increase rear yard planting of indigenous species and city front yard area and earth distribution.
5. Designing common utility trenching and roadside tree planting to minimize damaging excavation and tree canopy destruction
6. All OCP reviews such as Downtown Expansion are subject to VUFMP scrutiny.
7. Harmonize cityscape view line and VUFMP policies as barometer of livability
8. Introduce 'green look' landscaping & design not just LEED standards .
9. Rainwater retention by design, planting and composting.
10. Stormwater control with swale ditching and planting, restricting sidewalks and ensure porous channelled driveways.
11. Consider introducing more dry extreme tolerant eastern species - sycamore, tulip tree, elm, blue ash, walnut, linden, etc.
12. Introduce a green property appreciation program - environmental value-added to home
13. Urban forest parks schedules not be overridden by civic works - best practices
14. Devise a native species assessment and recovery policy for each dev. application.
15. Mandatory invasive species assessment eradication with each dev. application.
16. VUFMP incorporating pedestrian corridors and golf courses be mandatory in OCP reviews
17. Co-ordinate common benchmarks for other municipalities to prepare UFMPs

18. Incentives for homeowners to covenant to protect native areas of property, Garry Oak meadow, etc.- relief for taxes, surveys, assessments
19. Introduce program for civic action to create parkettes and swaled corridors of native planting
20. Dev. approvals ensure min. soil quality and drainage standards to sustain mature growth.

Email 3:

I am retired and a woodworker in West Vancouver. (You know where this is going.) If possible, please try to save the good trees so they can be used in making furniture. I made a Stickley writing desk and two small side tables out of our old cherry tree. At the moment I am struggling with a 6ft long sideboard using acacia that blew down in the big windstorm three years ago. It is magnificent wood.

A commercial shop would not bother with old gnarled wood as it is so problematic, but it often has the best grain. Some woods are not worthwhile, like some chokecherry I got, but many are. The seat of a Windsor chair I made is maple, which came from Cordova Bay.

Here is a possible business plan:

1. Announce that a tree will be cut down on a specific date,
2. Cut the limbs up for firewood, and sell it on site for a fair price,
3. Cut up the trunk into 5 to 8 foot sections and sell them as logs to anyone who can take them away. (would think some sawmills might be interested.)
4. If any trunks are left over, take them to a yard and let them sit for a year, or mill them immediately into 1 1/4" planks. This gets problematic.
5. Sell the wood as there is a need. (A lot of hardwoods are sold on the Internet.)

That wood is too valuable to just burn or chip. I hope you can do something.

Email from group of residents:

A group of us met together and offer these suggestions to the Victoria's New Urban Forest Master Plan Committee.

We agreed with the 6 suggestions put forward by Jackie Robson. We suggest that:

- ◆ Community orchards be established through out Greater Victoria as well as within the city. May be olive, lemon & palm trees, well as apples, pears etc
- ◆ Allotment gardens should be encouraged to grow more food related plants, trees & shrubs.
- ◆ That shade trees be food producing
- ◆ That the urban forest most be considered as an ecosystem. It can't exist on its own. Ground cover trees & shrubs of different ages & varieties are essential
- ◆ Athletic parks & school grounds and golf courses should have more trees & shrubs
- ◆ The same is true for Parking lots especially at shopping malls. Tree protection bylaws need to be re-examined to conform to the Urban Forest initiative.
- ◆ Any exotic trees that have produced wood that is now old and near to decaying and considered a danger to the public, must be thought of as possible wood for the growing furniture and musical instrument businesses.

- ◆ Tree planting agreements should be made by the city with the developers
- ◆ Tree stewardship programs should be established with the public
- ◆ Consideration for the urban forest to be considered as Green Infrastructure because of the improvement of air quality, water retention and slowing of the run off water. The Urban Forest policy must be combined with the acquisition of food.
- ◆ All urban forest wastes should be turned into mulch in situ to keep the soil healthy.
- ◆ The general public should be educated that gardens do not have to be tidy & neat and that mulching adds natural nutrients back into the soil. Mulch serves several important functions It hosts a variety of insect, bacterial & fungal life that break down the mulch into soluble soil nutrients. Mulch also reduces soil moisture evaporation by shielding the diet, and it curtails weed growth
- ◆ The concept of rooftop gardens should be promoted and include shrubs and ground cover, They also provide extra garden space, that is in short supply for the production of food. It has been stated that the amount of undeveloped arable land within the CRD amounts to approximately 500 square metres per person. Which is not sufficient to produce enough food to feed the inhabitants of the Capital Regional District

The following links were found to give good information.

- ◆ <http://nfsc.forest.ca/>
- ◆ <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/services/ucf/GeorgiaModalUrbanForestProject.cfm>
- ◆ <http://treecanada.ca/>

- ◆ Habitat Acquisition Trust Urban Forest Initiative

Appendix 4: Issues and Challenges

Communication and Education

At present, there are few opportunities for citizens to become involved in urban forest stewardship.	2
There are few opportunities for children and adults to learn about trees and treed environments.	2
Homeowners need better information (e.g., how best to care for trees in their yard).	3
The City of Victoria does not currently have a program to encourage tree planting on private lands.	5
There is only limited inventory information regarding trees on private lands.	2

Comments and suggestions

- ◆ The city should promote edible landscaping, food trees ✓
- ◆ Opportunity for students in a co-op program at UVic? ✓
- ◆ Great opportunity: schools, universities, hospitals, municipalities can apply for money and are encouraged to engage community
- ◆ How about adopt-a-street-tree program?
- ◆ Go for it!
- ◆ FTP has info on fruit trees
- ◆ Pull together existing inventory and monitoring
- ◆ Access old aerial photos to provide a baseline for trend
- ◆ Work with UVic remote sensing to generate LIDAR profile for City's trees and understory
- ◆ Get a class at UVic/Camosun to do this (many people to cover whole city)
- ◆ Educate nursery to sell native species and stop selling invasives
- ◆ Visualization model tree growth to forecast tree/vegetation structure 20-50-80 years hence
- ◆ This public input is a step in the right direction – what is needed next is further action
- ◆ Is there an inventory of city trees?
- ◆ Of various ages/sizes?
- ◆ Wildlife trees?
- ◆ Fruit/food trees?
- ◆ See www.treewatchvictoria.blogspot.com
- ◆ Spring ridge commons work parties 385-5800
- ◆ Plants for a future database tells of size at maturity, growing conditions and more, pfaf.org

Collaboration

There is a need to ensure that urban forest planning is linked to planning for parks, development, sidewalks, infrastructure, neighbourhoods, etc.	12
Goals can conflict (e.g., densification of buildings can result in less space for trees; the need to replace aging underground infrastructure can impact street trees).	2
There is limited funding for urban forest management, including tree replacement.	0

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Collaborate with elementary and secondary schools to increase urban forest cover on school grounds - healthier for students and staff, public land for whole community to enjoy, and beautification in every neighbourhood ✓
- ◆ Absolutely (more satisfying too)
- ◆ Less buildings, more trees
- ◆ Reduce densification and infilling
- ◆ Trees for tomorrow funding
- ◆ Adopt-a-street-tree program
- ◆ Linked to planning for community food production
- ◆ Fruit trees and bushes
- ◆ Goals can coincide
- ◆ Development cost charges – if take down large trees make these pay \$20K per tree then use it for reforestation
- ◆ It is always a question of priorities
- ◆ Decide to spend money on trees instead
- ◆ Compare to 4 million to fix a sinking street at Vancouver St. and View St.
- ◆ Need a process where neighbours can articulate their opinions on amount of shade, tree height, species, for their immediate local area – not all want large trees, deep shade
- ◆ Bikes out of parks please
- ◆ Dogs out of parks please
- ◆ Victoria is low on park space per thousand population; we need more to provide and for the growing population in and around downtown, including lots of trees too

Safety

As trees age, there is an increased risk of trees and branches falling	2
It can be challenging to balance the liability risks with the desire not to remove a mature tree	2
There is a need to take action to prevent wildfires. (But this includes clearing groundcover, which conflicts with biodiversity goals.)	0
Fire helps to maintain Garry oak ecosystems, but fires are suppressed for safety reasons	
If an earthquake occurs, some trees could present a hazard	
Children climbing trees creates a liability issue for the City of Victoria	

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Liability needs a reality check – what happened to personal responsibility and common sense? ✓✓
- ◆ Balance these fears with the risks implied by “nature deficit disorder” ✓✓
- ◆ We need armies of garden/tree workers instead of military, have youth groups and educational courses ✓✓
- ◆ Prioritized food-producing trees in public space ✓
- ◆ Same as people, but we keep them around
- ◆ How about just remove the dangerous branch?
- ◆ Is this really a problem in Victoria with 78% impervious surfaces?
- ◆ I think lush groundcovers are fire resistant
- ◆ No more air pollution please!

- ◆ What about controlled fires? To stop the gall wasps
- ◆ Regarding Garry oak meadows – it is possible to have controlled burns safely in such areas, to mimic the original way of preserving them
- ◆ So do chimneys and gas line
- ◆ Buildings, bridges, are much worse
- ◆ Education
- ◆ “making something highly conscious to begin with turns into the way you learnt to always do things”
- ◆ Call Katimavik
- ◆ Vehicles and roads??
- ◆ Kids need to climb trees and be encouraged to be outside
- ◆ We need trees in order to breathe!
- ◆ Let the children climb!
- ◆ Watch out for steps too
- ◆ Appropriate pruning and avoid ‘topping’

Natural Areas and Biodiversity

Many treed areas have little or no understorey (shrubs and groundcover), making them less attractive for wildlife.	6
Many treed areas are small and isolated from each other, so wildlife cannot move between the different patches of habitat.	4
Trees on boulevards, in parks, and in residential gardens are lacking in species- and age-diversity.	8
Many natural ecosystems have been degraded by human activities.	5
Rare Garry oak ecosystems continue to be fragmented, degraded or lost.	5
Sustainable communities require highly functional ecosystems, so we need to focus on enhancing whole ecosystems and not just trees.	13
Other urban land uses limit the space available for adding to natural areas.	0

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Treed areas are needed in public spaces ✓✓✓✓✓
- ◆ More community gardens integrated with parks and schools and sports fields any public property ✓✓✓✓
- ◆ Incentives for residents to maintain natural areas on private property – tax breaks, education, etc. ✓✓✓✓
- ◆ Plant chestnuts in parks for food security (long-term) ✓
- ◆ Opportunity to use street trees as corridors for wildlife dispersal, movement – right on! Yes! ✓
- ◆ Give us back our shrubs, less fear mongering
- ◆ Plant and educate
- ◆ Allow wildlife corridors from one area to another
- ◆ Replant, encourage change
- ◆ Please limit
- ◆ Duh! Restore where possible
- ◆ Plant and encourage such on private land
- ◆ e.g. UVic predator birds are back – owls, hawks
- ◆ Practice permaculture

- ◆ Biodiversity is most important
- ◆ Survey to determine public’s appropriate appetite for wildlife populations that will come with habitat development – deer? Raccoons? What birds?
- ◆ Varieties of trees chosen should be those most likely to survive when in their particular location, also blend in well with the surrounding area, not with view to preservation (e.g. Garry oaks)
- ◆ Support invasive species removal
- ◆ We need more (pocket) parks, with plantings and the greater use for such of private: ‘city of trees’
- ◆ Many natural areas provide food for insects and birds but not humans
- ◆ We need more trees with fruit and nuts
- ◆ Kids need to play outside at school
- ◆ Patients need access/views of ecosystems to heal better
- ◆ Biodiversity helps people de-stress and keep healthy
- ◆ Bees require blossoms from fruit trees; could replenish stocks of local hives/apiaries
- ◆ Plant Ginkgo too-males and females

Protection of Heritage and Wildlife Trees

The City of Victoria does not currently have a program to identify or protect heritage or wildlife trees (beyond the Tree Preservation Bylaw).	5
Wildlife trees (trees that have died and are left standing for use by birds and other wildlife) must be assessed for safety on a regular basis by qualified tree-risk assessors.	2
Protection of individual trees can be complex. On private property, heritage trees must be protected by a legal covenant registered on the property title.	1

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Garry oak protection bylaw – Saanich has one ✓✓
- ◆ There are more than just trees in the forest ✓
- ◆ Get on with it. Dept. needs a real budget with sufficient and trained staff – far too little of the former and much turn over
- ◆ Get busy, new council!
- ◆ Inventory?!
- ◆ It should start with an inventory
- ◆ A fence around the bottom would keep people safely away
- ◆ Encourage and provide incentives if necessary
- ◆ The urban forest is for species other than humans
- ◆ Apparently trees stay standing, and useful as wildlife trees, for half as long as they were alive – that would be over 100 years
- ◆ Fund/support native species planting/restoration (Garry oak, Arbutus, etc.)
- ◆ All that is being discussed is “trees”
- ◆ Many concerns have been addressed through addressing “stacking” and an “understory”
- ◆ There are few Victoria areas that are truly “forest” – like the SE corner of Beacon Hill Park is one example, leave it to evolve naturally
- ◆ Do not remove fallen tree trunks, do not permit dogs, in order to protect bird habitat, etc.

Trees and Development

New development may result in the loss of trees.	0
Smaller lot sizes and larger building footprints reduce the space available for new tree plantings.	1
Construction activity can damage trees (e.g., digging, spillage of cement or paint).	6
Mature trees provide the community with valuable services (e.g., shading, stormwater detention, air pollution removal). These services may be under-valued in the development approval process.	12
Municipalities have only limited ability to require tree retention and replanting during/after development.	0
The soils needed to grow trees may be destroyed during land development. Good growing soils take hundreds of years to develop naturally.	3

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Lower building footprint, increase adequate greenspace for root systems √√√
- ◆ Then pass stronger laws √√
- ◆ Responsible building practices must be supervised by City Engineering Department √√ - that's scary!
- ◆ The Cridge in 1984 had everyone in arms over the oaks but they managed to build around these concerns √
- ◆ Trees increasingly seen as adding to real estate value √
- ◆ Re-design common utility trenching overhead to safeguard root system and tree canopy √
- ◆ Build up not out and on existing run-down sites
- ◆ Build around the trees!
- ◆ Be more creative with building plants
- ◆ May free up more public space where trees can be planted, provide places to walk and cycle. Wildlife corridors – under and overpasses, over/under streets
- ◆ Enforce protection of trees on building sites
- ◆ Use the city composting program to enrich soils for trees and other agriculture within city i.e. Community gardens
- ◆ Keep the trees!
- ◆ Change the bylaws to protect the tree and the environment
- ◆ Let trees grow big and lots of branches for kids to climb!
- ◆ Enforce landscape plans with binds
- ◆ Get more!
- ◆ Revise planning zoning standard to permit mature streets to grow
- ◆ Use n-fixing pioneer trees
- ◆ Limit development
- ◆ Instead of permitting residential building to extend out to property line, the current trend in Victoria, require setbacks to enable more trees, plants, etc.

Tree-related Concerns

Over-shading of homes, gardens	0
Leaves and branches falling into the yard	0
Views blocked	
Roots lifting sidewalks or driveways	0

Roots invading drains or sewer lines	0
Insects and birds leaving droppings on cars	0
Low hanging branches interfering with double-decker buses or high trucks	0
Poorly placed trees limiting the use of one's own property	0
Trees encroaching from a neighbouring property	0
Trees interfering with utility lines	0
Allergies from pollens	0

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Bury power lines where possible √√√
- ◆ Utility lines interfering with trees – put lines underground √
- ◆ Reduce building envelope to the footprint size, thus adjust location as above √√
- ◆ Perhaps it is the buses and trucks we need to control √√
- ◆ Trees provide habitat for birds, small animals, insects – get rid of the cars, not trees √
- ◆ Shade makes growing food more difficult √
- ◆ Trees are more important than views to see a view, enjoy the health benefits of walking! √
- ◆ Encourage use of qualified arborists
- ◆ Right tree, right plan
- ◆ There are many veggies that like shade (winter lettuce, kale)
- ◆ Maintenance and pruning; plant smaller trees and bushes
- ◆ Feed the soil
- ◆ Get real: clean up or hire someone to do so
- ◆ Let's not be too compulsively neat! Good compost, good firewood
- ◆ This is nature too! Wildlife bird habitat
- ◆ Views blocked
- ◆ Trees create nice views – who wants to look in someone else's windows?
- ◆ Trees are the view
- ◆ Selective pruning can maintain views
- ◆ Negotiate
- ◆ What about hurting trees?
- ◆ Asphalt sidewalks don't make trippable cracks like cement and is cheaper to replace
- ◆ sewer pipes without seams do not get invaded by roots
- ◆ Ridiculous!
- ◆ LOL!
- ◆ So? Nature is more important than cars
- ◆ Plant appropriate species in these areas
- ◆ More buses to street without low branches
- ◆ I don't understand this, educate public about the benefits of trees
- ◆ Or neighbours wanting to remove trees, reducing benefits for birds and wildlife
- ◆ Some trimming or bury the utility lines
- ◆ Place homeowners in consideration of existing trees, not vice versa
- ◆ Build at the back of lots – trees 60 ft. from homes
- ◆ Need for city regulations to limit size of trees on small lots

- ◆ Master plan to take into consideration two opposite needs, ecology of forests, and access to as much solar energy (passive and not) so we can lower demand on hydroelectricity

Tree Removal and Replacement

Many street trees are nearing the end of their safe, useful life expectancy.	3
The current rate of tree replacement throughout Victoria may not be sufficient to sustain the urban forest.	4
Many people object to the removal of mature trees, especially when they still appear to be safe.	2
Some people favour planting only native tree species, but many native species do not adapt well to street environments.	1

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Set up a program of rear yard planting of native species – on private land, not city interference, largest foot print of lot (like L.E.A.F. in Toronto) √√√
- ◆ Plant young trees under older trees 10-20 years before cutting old trees √√√
- ◆ Graft ornamental cherries, plums, apples, etc over to edible varieties so as to mimic a natural forest and make replacement less traumatic √√√
- ◆ When replacing existing trees, we need to take food security issues into consideration by planting diverse varieties of native and non-native food producing trees √√
- ◆ Or can the street environment design change to accept more native species √√
- ◆ Old dead trees provide habitat for wildlife √
- ◆ Don't be too pure, go for what grows well √
- ◆ Prairie cities have just gone through Dutch Elm disease and trees that killed Birches – these were canopy/boulevard plantings so when cut down the city of trees (Saskatoon) looked blighted, no foresight to alternate plantings √
- ◆ Allow school woodworking programs access to the cuts of these mature trees √
- ◆ And as our summers get hotter we need shade trees √
- ◆ Establish cradle to grave program like Vancouver and budget line item for such
- ◆ This is part of their life too – nurse logs, wildlife habitat, soil replenishment – this is saying it's not useful and it takes less money to cut down
- ◆ Increase rate
- ◆ Then replace more
- ◆ I agree mature trees make the streetscape good!
- ◆ Those will change with global warming
- ◆ Ask the community what they want
- ◆ Use trees and wood for education in schools
- ◆ Put the hydro/phone lines underground so they don't have to butcher our trees
- ◆ Some boulevard trees that have only minor damage are removed; we don't kill people if they break a limb for example
- ◆ Leave Garry oak stump, it may sucker little ones giving it a head start
- ◆ Plant more trees to replace the ones that got cut

Tree Health

Streets are harsh locations for trees, shortening their life-spans.	3
Past planting and pruning practices have made some trees vulnerable to pests and disease.	3
Trees common to Victoria (e.g., flowering cherry and birch) are highly susceptible to pests and diseases.	3
Impervious cover (e.g., asphalt or concrete) prevents water from reaching tree roots.	0
Construction machinery can compact growing soils and damage tree roots.	3

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Plant multiple types of trees on one street to increase biodiversity and reduce tree illnesses √√√√√√√√√√
- ◆ Use permeable surfaces √√√√√√
- ◆ No grass, more diverse understory √√√√
- ◆ Ban/eradicate English ivy/broom/daphne √√√
- ◆ Provide incentive to homeowners to promote the health of trees √√
- ◆ Educate staff on sustainable methods (permaculture) √√
- ◆ Think outside the box, i.e., successional plantings, use n-fixing plants, and beneficial insect attracting plants in the understory √√
- ◆ Stop letting services dictate tree shapes and locations (Hydro, etc) √
- ◆ So decrease the number of streets!!
- ◆ Monocultures have that problem, have diversity of trees
- ◆ Do a better job regularly and deal with butchering by BC Hydro
- ◆ Because most are exotics!
- ◆ Replace, global warming means different trees
- ◆ Yet the City insisted that Dockside Green use asphalt instead of gravel paths
- ◆ Encourage permeable surfaces on private land
- ◆ We should stop putting asphalt and concrete near tree beds
- ◆ Prevent
- ◆ Do we need boulevards? Would trees be healthier in someone's yard? Give boulevard space to homeowners yards
- ◆ Yes we do, they make a huge difference to a neighbourhood
- ◆ Instead of boulevards small parks of trees away from traffic
- ◆ No, boulevards enhance street incredibly especially when there are trees lining the street
- ◆ What about the health of people themselves? Trees provide oxygen people need to survive
- ◆ Myco-remediation for tree health

Climate Change

Drought, more frequent and violent wind storms, and warmer temperatures will stress many trees.	3
It is difficult to predict which tree species will do well (or not) when future climates are uncertain.	0
A sustainable urban forest is needed to help soak up the carbon produced by burning fossil fuels.	6
How can the urban forest help to dampen or buffer these effects of climate change?	0

Comments and suggestions:

- ◆ Garry oaks are adapted to summer droughts as climate change progresses what does “native” mean? ✓✓✓✓✓
- ◆ What about downtown water catchments we have a lot of cement – all drainage goes to Ocean can we shift some of this water to our gardens, trees, etc ✓✓✓✓✓
- ◆ Lack of local food and medicines plant trees with edible fruits and nuts with understories of medicinal plants ✓✓✓
- ◆ Plant lots – not far apart! ✓✓
- ◆ B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range Research Branch is undertaking research to plant which tree species are best suited to the future climatic conditions ✓✓
- ◆ And other food plants, i.e. Italian (edible) chestnut trees for food ✓✓
- ◆ Boulevards need to be used as treed environments and retain rainwater ✓
- ◆ Reduce carbon emission by removing vehicles, use public transportation, bicycles, etc. ✓
- ◆ Community tree guardians for food bearing trees, share the produce in neighbourhoods ✓
- ◆ Then biodiversity
- ◆ Next bioclimatic zones tree
- ◆ Look at the projections of IPCC
- ◆ Some kinds of trees sequester more for longer if they are used after they are cut, they still sequester
- ◆ The fossil fuels burned, and GHG emitted by transporting food long distances to this area could be significantly reduced by growing food on trees, such as fruits and nuts, within urban and suburban areas
- ◆ In partnership with community gardens to ensure use
- ◆ Economic opportunity – urban farmers
- ◆ Hazelnuts may be safer to eat because they are protected from air borne pollutants
- ◆ Trees suck up lots of water – plant lots of trees in low lying areas where the extra rainfall will go
- ◆ Chestnuts for long-term food production
- ◆ Prioritize food-producing trees
- ◆ Mediterranean trees tolerate climatic extremes (i.e. Figs, etc)

Appendix 5: Vision 2058

Following the workshop presentations, attendees were invited to respond to two questions:

- ◆ Think about what the City might look like in 2058 – what will be different (how will we get around, will the population be older/younger/a different ethnic mix, what are some of the factors driving this change)?
- ◆ Describe your ‘ideal’ urban forest in 2058: what does it look like, how does it function, what values does it provide?

Many people discussed these questions in small groups, others chose to fill out the response form on their own.

Group A: (Kathy, Dave, Heidi, Bruce, and Jackie)

City in 2058:

- ◆ Art and Gardens
- ◆ Urban Farm behind old Blanshard School
- ◆ Review urban designs – high density
- ◆ No land – how do we put greenspace back into the design
- ◆ New thinking about architecture
- ◆ Less vandalism because of “broken window effect” (more civic pride and sense of well being)
- ◆ More transportation option such as walking, non-motorized
- ◆ More cycling lanes
- ◆ Underground services
- ◆ Hopefully higher and more concentrated density, fewer cars bicycling on the scale of Amsterdam
- ◆ Shared stewardship, volunteerism, retired people
- ◆ 2058 has more population
- ◆ Status quo ethnicity
- ◆ Population older retired, well off greater volunteerism
- ◆ Older, retired, wealthy, intelligent – stewardship, volunteerism
- ◆ Limited water
- ◆ Homeless problems solved
- ◆ By 2058 the maintenance will be carried out by the current youth
- ◆ This cohort will be involved in planning and setting up the sustainable systems

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Planting/re-planting
 - ◇ Species variety on a street for tree loss due to drought and disease
 - ◇ Large canopy tree/divers plantings with habitat understory
 - ◇ More trees that will live for hundreds of years planted in parliament lawn and other large public open areas
 - ◇ Use of public lands – schools, recreation parks
 - ◇ Focus efforts on the have-not neighbourhoods

- ◇ Seven-acre lands bordered by Hillside/Kings/Quadra/Blanshard: rethink land use there to accommodate will be multiple green areas – urban farming, community allotment, community orchard, community garden commons, and native plant habitat
- ◇ Identify opportunities afforded by large blocks for integrated development
- ◆ Urban forest management
 - ◇ Security – limb up shrubs and small trees rather than eliminate them
 - ◇ Configure shrub plantings so that they are fewer problems for safety, security, etc.
 - ◇ Data information on tree species to match qualities, characteristics with local objectives
- ◆ Design
 - ◇ Aesthetics will change over 50 years
 - ◇ Shaggier look will be more accepted – flowing lines, not grids
 - ◇ Redevelop back alleys for services
 - ◇ Building codes, incentives to affect architecture
 - ◇ What opportunities for greenspace for those on small lots and high density?
- ◆ Community Gardens; fruit trees; food production
 - ◇ City partnership with fruit tree project to ensure ongoing city sponsorship and harvesting of fruit and nut trees
 - ◇ City hired facilitation for community coordinators to move this (drought between plantings in certain areas that neighbourhoods have asked for, Seattle and Montreal have hired coordinators for community garden facilitators)
 - ◇ Resilient landscaping to take into account global warming, e.g. Gingko trees which also produce edible nuts
 - ◇ Integrate urban forestry into urban agriculture
 - ◇ Financial support ongoing for existing groups concerned with food security and gardening forestry
 - ◇ Sustainability – link to food tree project such as Life Cycles and provide money
 - ◇ Incorporate green rooftops as agriculture source
- ◆ Habitat for wildlife corridor; wildlife cycle corridors downtown to outer edges
 - ◇ Linear corridors ensure healthy greenways as vectors for wildlife dispersal
- ◆ Transportation
 - ◇ More [bike] lanes
 - ◇ Reinstated city supported community bike systems
 - ◇ Fewer sidewalks
 - ◇ Depaved alternate streets that give choices of how each block could be planted according to the wishes of each neighbourhood
 - ◇ De-paving, look at street infrastructure and identify opportunities for electric – only, pervious surfaces, and walk/bike over the 50-year horizon
 - ◇ Depaving is already happening in Portland, Oregon
 - ◇ Computer mediated car sharing that makes it easy to ditch your car requiring fewer parking spaces, e.g. Bluetooth technology as you need it transportation.
 - ◇ Paris bike system, Mexico “collective”.
- ◆ Streams, stormwater, water management:
 - ◇ Streams daylighted – riparian areas restored
 - ◇ Rain gardens workshop and incentive programs for set-up

- ◇ Cisterns and grey water systems citywide supported
- ◇ Rubber/permeable pavers in parking areas and sidewalks
- ◇ Planning - Storm water management and swales, rain gardens, pervious surfaces
- ◇ Xeriscaping
- ◇ Overarching facilitators between permeable surfaces for water
- ◆ Ecosystem services
 - ◇ Services – weather buffer such as rain, wind, frost, shade, and temperature
 - ◇ Carbon storage
 - ◇ Shotgun planting – resilience on face of uncertain climate future
- ◆ Social/economic benefits
 - ◇ Future jobs for youth
 - ◇ Social Housing and constantly cutting out undergrowth because of social problems need to change
 - ◇ Generate money through green growth
- ◆ Renewable energy:
 - ◇ Windmills
 - ◇ Energy sell back program from house solar/wind collections to public utilities
 - ◇ Energy sellback programs/computer-mediated car-share programs
 - ◇ Incorporate alternate energy acquisition into any housing development
- ◆ Local control – neighbourhood action groups – articulate local goals some planning units smaller than neighbourhoods and larger than single lots
- ◆ Translate top – down visions, plans, and local implementation
- ◆ Safety, security requirements to remove understory
- ◆ Funding:
 - ◇ Budget money and City to provide support service for self organized groups to facilitate plan
 - ◇ Funding required supporting community initiatives
 - ◇ Money sources – city maintenance directed towards aesthetics re-channeled into more functional services
 - ◇ Look at cost savings that are realized by vegetation related ecological and social services and incorporate that into accounting
- ◆ Education for the next generation of Professors of agriculture, forestry, horticulture, and offer free courses for general public

Group B: (Marg, Marg, Dan, Gail, and Jen)

City in 2058:

- ◆ Fewer roads, opportunity for lots of greenspace
- ◆ Change in jobs, different ethnicity, ages, and need to integrate
- ◆ More local economies, less ability for private transit
- ◆ Population continuing to age
- ◆ Need to remedy sidewalks accessible for all and permeable
- ◆ Less land with sea levels rising
- ◆ Mix of trees, but historic areas for ornamental, aesthetic (cherry blossoms)
- ◆ Replanting regularly in areas

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ First Paris/Buenos Aires in Canada
- ◆ Food production
 - ◇ Localized food security
 - ◇ How do we think of an integrated landscape – separate agriculture and urban forest plan? Crazy!
 - ◇ Gaps in rich and poor, more need to provide food
 - ◇ Fruit trees maintained by neighbourhood association
 - ◇ Food distribution
 - ◇ Vertical gardening – vegetables, living walls, green roofs, inside
 - ◇ Fruit for all off trees (high maintenance?)
 - ◇ Life Cycles as a starting point, adopt a trees with civic organizations, and safer ladders for seniors to be involved
 - ◇ Beekeeping, pollinators such as Mason Bees (non aggressive, non stinging)
- ◆ Education
 - ◇ Education about tree root systems – semi permeable surfaces
 - ◇ Outdoor learning for kids, courses in elementary and secondary about agriculture
 - ◇ Education about wildlife
 - ◇ Wild plant education
- ◆ Urban design:
 - ◇ Built environment will look different – trees will be a higher order priority
 - ◇ Localized village centres
 - ◇ Accessible seating (arthritis, canes) , back tables, rocks as seating and aesthetic
 - ◇ Rehabilitate Rock Bay: ideal gathering, renovated space
 - ◇ Reclaim hazardous areas
 - ◇ Green roofs, etc
 - ◇ Semi permeable surface
 - ◇ New concretes – new built environment
 - ◇ Parkades have living walls,
 - ◇ Staggered planning/zoning, multiple levels
- ◆ Public engagement
 - ◇ Need communication with everyone, interdepartmental – city workers, parks, levels of government, neighbourhood associations, citizens, and private sector
 - ◇ Stronger neighbourhood plans
 - ◇ Neighbourhood plans with dialogue and 100% participation
 - ◇ More dialogue, more public participation
 - ◇ Balance of “right to light” – do we need laws? Education
- ◆ Salmon spawning streams in city
- ◆ Gathering space! Green gathering spaces, play areas, performance areas
 - ◇ Games, play space, generational mixing – recreation areas; chessboard in ground; hopscotch
 - ◇ Folk festival – less private ownership
- ◆ Integrated resource management, distributed facilities on schools
- ◆ Bylaws, enforcement

- ◇ Change bylaws
- ◇ Create bylaws to allow for innovation – trials, pilot programs, assessments, with incentives to try
- ◇ Create bylaws to create spaces, gardens
- ◇ Grants, tax incentives
- ◇ New private laws, promote protection
- ◇ Promoting covenants, tax breaks
- ◇ Covenants and deeds for homeowners with private trees, if a new homeowner wants to cut the tree down they have to pay the money value of the tree, but can't just be 'enforcing' all these laws
- ◇ Pay to cut trees, private trees as community resource – include community value
- ◆ Money versus trees? Do we need inside more open environment?
- ◆ Voluntary stewards – community ethic
- ◆ Spawning salmon in city
- ◆ Daylight streams at Fisherman's wharf park
- ◆ Integrated waste management to generate heat, gardens, and education about worm casting
- ◆ Paris bike-share centered programs, tie to license
- ◆ Need transport services and new greenways that don't necessarily follow lands
- ◆ Problem GVHA is private

Group C: (Gail, Leia, Jen, Dan, Margaret, Margaret, Anita, and Laurena)

City in 2058:

- ◆ Change transit areas
- ◆ Less dependence on cars (roadways as opportunity?)
- ◆ Smaller vehicles (electric, smart size), smaller roads
- ◆ Bicycle lanes everywhere
- ◆ Scooter lanes
- ◆ Immigration
- ◆ Attract younger (but UVic does)
- ◆ More poverty gap (who will volunteer w/out middle class?)
- ◆ Climate change effected, warmer, less land
- ◆ Different generation
- ◆ Denser and bigger
- ◆ Jobs change – mix of demo, ethnic, age
- ◆ Older city that other centres (seniors)
- ◆ Island integrated and bigger up island
- ◆ Post peak, post apocalyptic, don't know?? What does next year look like?
- ◆ Local and regional (local food security)
- ◆ City-states – local control

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Urban forest planting
 - ◇ Arbutus and Garry Oaks

- ◇ If more forest, mitigation plant and education
- ◇ Tree and water considerations in development
- ◇ Trees planted linearly in pockets
- ◇ Adapting to plants, look what to plant
- ◇ Schoolyards – boundaries – larger trees along chain links, and mature plants
- ◆ Urban forest management
 - ◇ Climate change – planning now for climate 50-100 years from now
 - ◇ Public works – have more semi permeable surface options for working around with trees
 - ◇ More parks – “Paris of North America”
- ◆ Food production
 - ◇ Forest and agriculture plan together, interplay
 - ◇ Bylaws include gardens, more outdoor learning for kids, part of curriculum, gardens are teaching kids
 - ◇ Middle level canopy and food
 - ◇ Shrubs integrated with agriculture
 - ◇ Agricultural focus
- ◆ Boundaries are different
- ◆ City hall, Centennial Square, village centres and more recycling
- ◆ More wild animals (coyotes?)
- ◆ Integrate with riparian where we have them
- ◆ More day lighting rivers/streams/creeks
- ◆ Outdoor learning for kids
- ◆ City Centennial Square – public square
- ◆ Recreational and ‘play’ areas
- ◆ No tourist buses (but elderly people)
- ◆ Visitors/tourists – how do we move/design for tourists
- ◆ Less parking (park and ride, park and walk, park and cycle, cycles for rent)
- ◆ Work with GVHA

Group D: (Josephine, Zack, Laurie, Donna, Ken, Stephanie, Chris, and Danny)

City in 2058:

- ◆ Less tidy, perfect
- ◆ Climate change resistant trees
- ◆ Do no further damage to the urban forest
- ◆ The land is preserved and protected
- ◆ More shelter for wildlife is provided
- ◆ Interesting ecologically, diversity
- ◆ A lot more roof planting, also vertical
- ◆ Food crops with cleaner transportation, less pollution
- ◆ Food greenways
- ◆ Fig trees
- ◆ Provides food, oxygen, shade, diversity, species diversity

- ◆ Retaining soils – health and nutrients
- ◆ Shift in transportation
- ◆ Development of green spaces
- ◆ Decrease impervious surfaces
- ◆ Redevelopment infill, building up, which works?
- ◆ More stewardship and education by the community representatives
- ◆ Public-driven decisions made by neighbours
- ◆ Tree care programs integrated in schools and many aspects of society
- ◆ Accessible funding for programs
- ◆ Soil management

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Inspires much of the rest of Canada
- ◆ Roof-top planting – cleaner air and food production
- ◆ Cleaner transportation –skateboards, bicycles
- ◆ Greener –works with natural topography
- ◆ Trees that sustain us
- ◆ Less impact full development
- ◆ Decrease in impervious surfaces, soil protection, and water
- ◆ Protect from human activities
- ◆ Provides shelter for wildlife
- ◆ More stewardship, more collaboration between parties
- ◆ Education, liking responsibility, sense of belonging
- ◆ Shift to sustainability, diversity, and group organization
- ◆ Contribute aesthetically, food, psychologically, biological, economic, green infrastructure, and social
- ◆ Species selection, appropriate to location, climate, more native balance

Group E: (Elaine, Kinney, Tessa, Ian, Tamara, John, and Shawn)

City in 2058:

- ◆ N/A

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Total lifetime usefulness of trees
- ◆ Use for wood at end of life cycle
- ◆ Capacity
- ◆ Food
- ◆ Medicine
- ◆ Community relationships with urban forest, within neighbourhood
- ◆ Culture of maintaining and harvesting from trees
- ◆ Planting ecologies, not just trees: multi-story development
- ◆ Harvesting as we go, to replace aging trees

- ◆ Diversity, planning for climate change; trees that don't need watering
- ◆ Greater use of trees for educational purposes; interface with schools
- ◆ Reclaiming turf from parks that isn't actively used, not playing field, could be re-forested.

Group F: (Jean, Elaine, Kathy, Jenny, Jonathan, and Jackie)

City in 2058:

- ◆ Tree will survive future conditions
- ◆ Fiber production using willows
- ◆ Swales, water gardens
- ◆ More pedestrian friendly garden blocks
- ◆ Food production on boulevards
- ◆ Food production – nuts, fruits, and partnership with fruit tree project
- ◆ Pedestrian friendly, food production, water gardens and swales to deal with run off. Plants for fiber production and multi-story plantings. My generation, 78 will travel by bus and teach young people to work with the food and fiber resources growing in the neighbourhood.
- ◆ Local community based population notes
- ◆ 100% multiple understory areas
- ◆ No more parkades because permeable parking surfaces
- ◆ Widespread house collection of energy solar and sold back to power utilities

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Continued greater biodiversity in tree and plant species on each street maybe 15-20 different species
- ◆ Plant hazelnuts, walnuts, chestnuts, arbutus unido, edible crabapples, juniper, salix, big leaf maple
- ◆ Every species serves multiple functions and every “guild” (a group of plants that work together in similar ways to a forest with a ground cover, shrub layer, primary canopy, secondary canopy, and vine layer) produces at least one food or fiber crop annually.
- ◆ Every other street de-paved and planted with shrubs, gardens, and trees as the neighbourhood determines
- ◆ Green roofs
- ◆ Efficient and widespread car share cooperatives virtually eliminating need for intercity cars
- ◆ Paths for walking accommodate people who walk a lot with mulch paths and those with problems walking or wheelchairs with pavers

Group G: (Clive, Rafe)

City in 2058:

- ◆ Will there be “streets” or electric vehicle paths?
- ◆ The city's travel routes and patterns may be completely unrecognizable but will likely have more walking, cycling, and light vehicle routes
- ◆ Electric vehicles with more low speed scooters will mean less space needed for cars and larger sidewalk space with boulevard spaces
- ◆ There will be more walking space needed and an appreciation for natural beauty to walk about (parks and boulevards)

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Diverse
 - ◇ We need a diverse forest – different flowering seasons, leaf shape/colour, tree height/form, planting density
 - ◇ Natives are also too limited in variety
 - ◇ Use the best available species – don't get stuck with 'native' tree thinking because with climate change, 'native' will be irrelevant
 - ◇ Diverse trees to discourage diseases
 - ◇ No more straight line of trees
- ◆ Uninterrupted tree corridors
- ◆ Connected greenways for trails to walk on and sustain urban wildlife
- ◆ Shade trees for increasing summer heat
- ◆ Drought resistant trees (California type)
- ◆ Compatible understory plantings
- ◆ Matching through the city and joining adjacent municipalities (hopefully amalgamation will have taken place by then!)
- ◆ Food trees for feeding the populace
- ◆ Comfortable walking paths through the woods
- ◆ Urban dwellers taking responsibility for their urban neighbourhood forest

Group H: (Doug, BJ, Jackie)

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Prioritize now while aging population isn't so old
- ◆ Real estate with trees could have info on existing trees and ecosystem
- ◆ Boulevard – streetscape contests (not just trees but shrubs too)
- ◆ Incentive rate property taxes lowered for trees
- ◆ Hydro:
 - ◇ Hydro lines will be buried, develop succession planting where trees are near their life end
 - ◇ Hydro statement that issues benefits statement of trees on your property
 - ◇ Above all ideal visioning, we feel that clear negotiation guidelines and restrictions are necessary with regards to work with BC Hydro
- ◆ Signage on tree life
- ◆ Food production
 - ◇ Reduce barriers to having fruit trees on boulevards and shrubs and vegetation
 - ◇ People want edible landscapes
 - ◇ Look for but prioritize where communities grow food on parkland
 - ◇ Think back to the Winnipeg legislature when they planted food
- ◆ Elm trees – handy
- ◆ Green roofs prioritized for new construction
- ◆ Reduced site disturbance on lots...preserving the equivalent of building footprint in natural vegetation
- ◆ Public spaces/connectivity/squares

- ◆ Pemberton Park – infill with more trees
- ◆ Support de-paving initiatives

Individual #1:

City in 2058:

- ◆ A blend of forest and agricultural on both private land and public land
- ◆ Making pavers a standard for the city and all new developments, that surface parking is reduced/eliminate that green space is reclaimed

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ I was most inspired and energized by this workshop partnering with the City to address the urban forest desires of my community (Burnside Gorge) is something we have desires to address, specifically in reference to Cecelia Ravine Park and other areas. If there were possibility to set up a pilot project to get a Friend Group (friends of trees, of parks, of Cecelia Ravine Park) I would welcome and volunteer our community.

Individual #2:

City in 2058:

- ◆ The supply lines that bring this urban population it's cheap oil-subsidized, foreign food will no doubt be degraded
- ◆ The demand for local food will be immense
- ◆ Will some of this pressure be alleviated by public trees?

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Food-producing trees that are adapted to a wide range of climatic conditions (i.e. Mediterranean species) predominate
- ◆ These are supported and accented by trees and shrubs that attract beneficial insects, improve soil fertility, and are native and/or ornamental

Individual #3:

City in 2058:

- ◆ Travel will be more difficult because of population density and expensive fuel for travel
- ◆ We will need more neighbourhood parks and walkways

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Varieties of trees, shrubs
- ◆ Remember places where children can run and play

Individual #4:

City in 2058:

- ◆ Food security

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Hydro does not hold the “cards” –oversight
- ◆ Planning long-term for utilities
- ◆ Cultural shift
- ◆ Thought for the right tree in the right place

Individual #5:

City in 2058:

- ◆ I would think some downtown streets would not have cars at all, but would be more treed and be pedestrian walkways.
- ◆ I would see a bikeway around the harbour connecting the Galloping Goose Trail
- ◆ I would see developments required to have spaces in front of their structures for green developments (also along the sides and back)
- ◆ Each development must be a part of the community, not a separate identity

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Areas of biodiversity – a lot of canopy
- ◆ Reduced impervious surfaces
- ◆ Lots of walk able areas
- ◆ Connections with greenways
- ◆ Connection with urban food sources for local food sources and food security

Individual #6:

City in 2058:

- ◆ Connected by greenways
- ◆ Less cars more LRT (light rapid transit, especially in downtown core)
- ◆ No massive parking lots
- ◆ Kids playing street hockey on tree lined streets
- ◆ Neighbours that know each other
- ◆ Functioning waterways and creeks

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Greenways and wildlife corridors connect the large patches of habitat – lots of birds and wildlife living amongst us
- ◆ Shrubs, flowers, and veggie gardens along the boulevards, no traditional curbs and gutters the extra street space is used to store rainwater
- ◆ Diversity of tree species and sizes, lots of vertical structure that increase biodiversity trees with a swing – herd some good climbing trees

Individual #7:

City in 2058:

- ◆ Peak oil – assuming there is no miracle oil replacement
- ◆ People will not be driving much
- ◆ Imported food will be prohibitively expensive

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ The ideal urban forest is diverse
- ◆ People feel that it is their space and they take care of it
- ◆ People can forage for food any time of year
- ◆ Fruit and nut trees make up many of the small flowering trees in the city
- ◆ People come together to ensure their maintenance, proper harvest, and that people are educated about them

Individual #8:

City in 2058:

- ◆ It feels slower!
- ◆ Streets are constantly narrowed, cars are as common as bicycles now due to the economic change, and there are less people retiring in Victoria, making housing and living more affordable for younger folks

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ The urban forest in Victoria is grown in cluster of location specific and suitable trees/shrubs
- ◆ More than 1/3 of all trees in Victoria are edible, many of the food production areas are leased now to the city to local farmers, providing jobs and income for locals
- ◆ There are beehives in some spots

Individual #9:

City in 2058:

- ◆ N/A

Ideal urban forest:

- ◆ Ecologically – based management over the entire urban landscape embracing both public and private lands.
- ◆ The city provides a framework and guidelines, which in turn, the actual decision-making is at the more local level down to the block, where relevant.
- ◆ All boulevards are part of this management and urban farming and ornamentals (limited) are encouraged
- ◆ Continuous forest canopy and wildlife dispersal corridor required as a consideration of all planning along with conservation of historical values

Individual #10:

City in 2058:

- ◆ I would love to see rapid transit, from the Colwood area to downtown