

Item No. 11.1

HALIFAX

Urban Forest Master Plan

Priority 3: Citizen Stewardship

August-3-17

Priorities

- Page 108 of the UFMP lists Citizen Stewardship including:
 - Educating land owners, developers and realtors of the benefits of trees
 - Establish innovative and interpretive programs
 - Establish a fundraising model to work with NGOS and public sector
 - Encourage urban orchards
 - Use the urban forest to increase active transportation opportunities
 - Foster citizen stewardship of the urban forest
- Limited engagement has been done despite the UFMP not being fully funded. TPW continues to look for opportunities to increase allocation within approved budget targets

1. Priority Actions

following UFMP projects outlined in Table 7.2 are made available to future investment in the urban forest. The actions contained in the table represent the opportunities and priorities identified through the research process underlying Plan development. The investment will be significant, and a measured and tactical approach over time will be needed.

The table provides an overview of priorities, categorizes specific and supporting actions, indicates starting dates, estimates probable costs, and identifies departments designated to be involved in supporting the actions. As noted previously, an interdepartmental committee to be coordinated by Municipal Operations will work cooperatively to implement the UFMP.

The following action categories summarize implemented priority actions and new costs to be undertaken in the initial five-year timeframe of the Plan.

Neighbourhood Treatment (NT) – Priority 1

Neighbourhood treatments are based on local tree canopy improvement targets identified in the Plan that focus on tree planting in parks and on streets as well as enhanced maintenance of the HRM-owned urban forest.

Action A1 refers to canopy cover targets for HRM parks, to be achieved through tree planting and natural regeneration.

Actions A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, and A11 are supplementary, and are included in the cost of Action A1.

The total area of HRM parks scheduled to be planted and naturalized annually is 33 ha, at an estimated cost of \$ 75,000 starting in FY 2013/14.

Action A2 refers to urban forest planting targets starting in FY 2013/14 that will require the planting of an additional 1,500 street trees annually at an estimated cost of \$325,000.

Actions A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A12, A19, and A23 are supplementary and are included in the cost

2. Maintenance (M) – Priority 1

- Estimated maintenance costs of \$600,000 starting in FY 2013/14 include Action A8 only.
- Employing a seven-year pruning cycle will initially be experimental. Costing this action is difficult, since future industry prices are variable and hard to predict, and there will undoubtedly be a transitional cost associated with implementing this action. Tree maintenance is currently reactionary, whereby HRM urban foresters respond to public requests in sequence. While the pruning cycle is implemented, it will be necessary to continue the reactionary maintenance for the first several years for safety reasons. Otherwise, potentially hazardous trees would remain unattended for too long. Costs could also be affected if cooperative pruning schedules and practices are adopted by HRM and Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI).

3. Citizen Stewardship (CS) – Priority 3

- Action A16 is the principal public education action.
- Actions A10, A13, A15, A20, A27, and A28 are supplementary, and are included in the cost of Action A16.
- The estimated cost of urban forest education starting in FY 2013/14 is \$50,000.

4. Research and Monitoring (RM) – Required

- Action A18 refers to urban forest research and project monitoring required to ensure the effectiveness of UFMP adaptive management processes.
- Actions A14, A25, and A26 are supplementary, and included in the cost of Action A18.
- Research and monitoring will be ongoing tasks conducted by Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES).
- The cost for monitoring and research starting in FY 2013/14 is estimated at \$32,500.

UFMP Public Engagement to date

- 5-10 education walkabouts have occurred annually
- 30+community tree planting projects
- Presentations and talks with NGOs
- Radio and television interviews
- Integrating the urban forest into our complete streets program



Future Plans

- Formalizing an education program in partnership Dalhousie anticipated in winter 2017 to be funded in 2018/19 budget.
- Program will include:
 - Increased media presence
 - Social media engagement
 - Education for different demographics
 - Increased talks and presentations