

March 6, 2025

13.1.1

HALIFAX

Urban Forest Management Plan

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

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Agenda

- Project Overview
- Engagement
- Final Urban Forest Management Plan

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Project Overview

Urban Forest Management Plan

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Overview

We are here

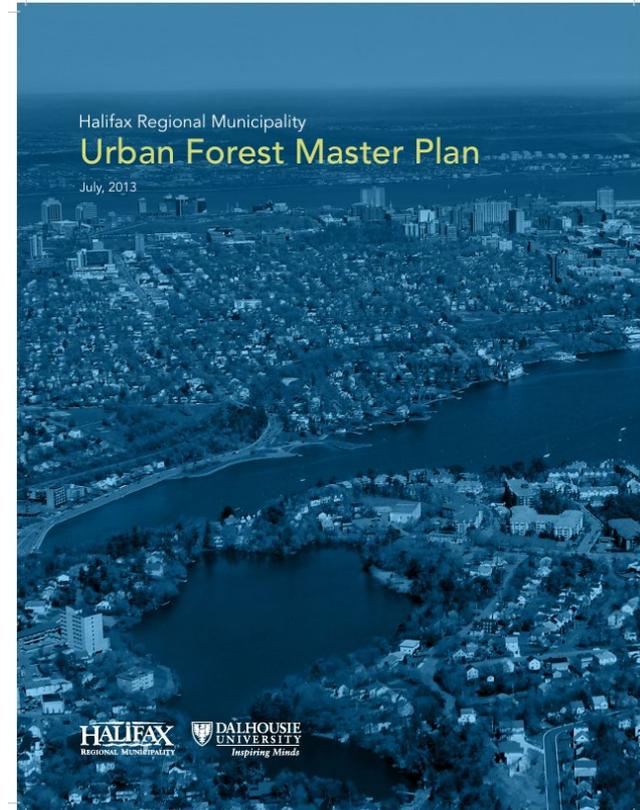


What is an Urban Forest?



What is the UFMP?

- First Urban Forest Master Plan was adopted in 2013
- Leading edge in its day
- **Award winning**
- The crown jewel of a leading program
- Legacy document
- Built community support that persists today
- **A decade has passed- it is time for review**



What is the UFMP?

- Like its predecessor will guide the management of HRM's urban forest over the next 25 years
- Provides coordinated direction for all aspects of urban forest management ranging from **operations**, to **community outreach**, **development policy**, **standards**, **procedures**, **partnerships**, etc.



Why?

The urban forest isn't a 'nice to have', it's critical community infrastructure



Engagement



Engagement



Two Phases

Phase 1 – Gather community input to inform the development of the urban forest vision and supporting goals.

Phase 2 – Gather community feedback on the full draft of the Plan.

Engagement: What it Includes

Phase 1

Survey	744
Mapping tool	64 locations
Open houses	45
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canada Games Centre• Zatsman Sportsplex	
Targeted* workshop (one online, one in-person)	39

Phase 2

Survey	88
Tree tour	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dartmouth North• Bedford• Spryfield• North End	
Open houses	34
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-person• Online	
Steering committee workshop	27

Engagement: Targeted Groups

Indigenous Community	71 participants
Francophone & Acadian Community	5 organizations
African Canadians & Nova Scotians	20 participants
People with Disabilities	8 participants
Newcomers	7 participants
Organizations	39 participants



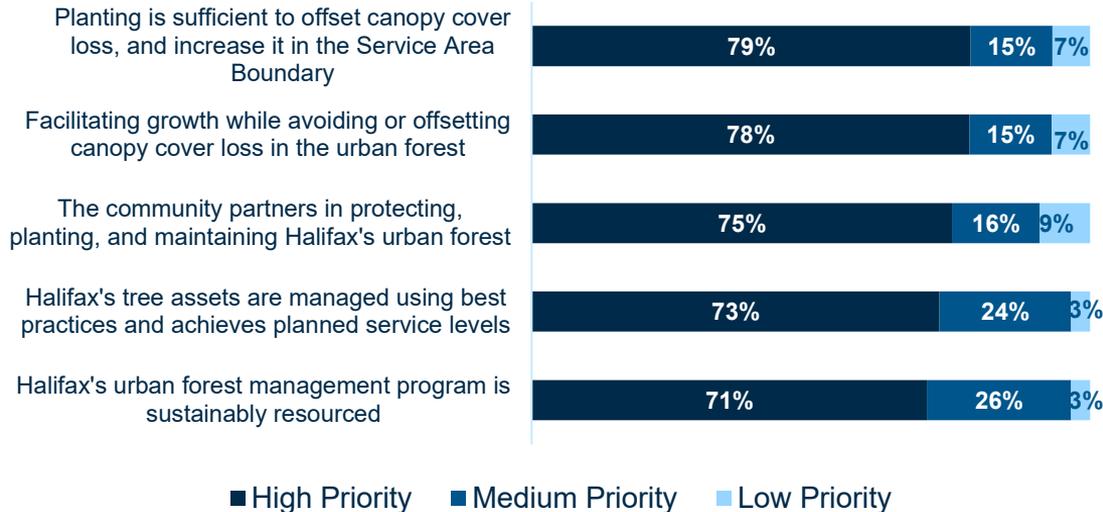
Engagement: Key Insights

- **Tree protection**
- **Tree maintenance**
- **Development**
- **Community Planning**
- Native plant selection
- Improved urban growing conditions
- Greenspaces as a place for connecting with community
- **Community resilience**
- Inclusion
- Language
- Emergency management/response
- **Community outreach/education**
- **Canopy growth**
- **Program monitoring**

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Engagement: Highlights

Feedback on Objectives

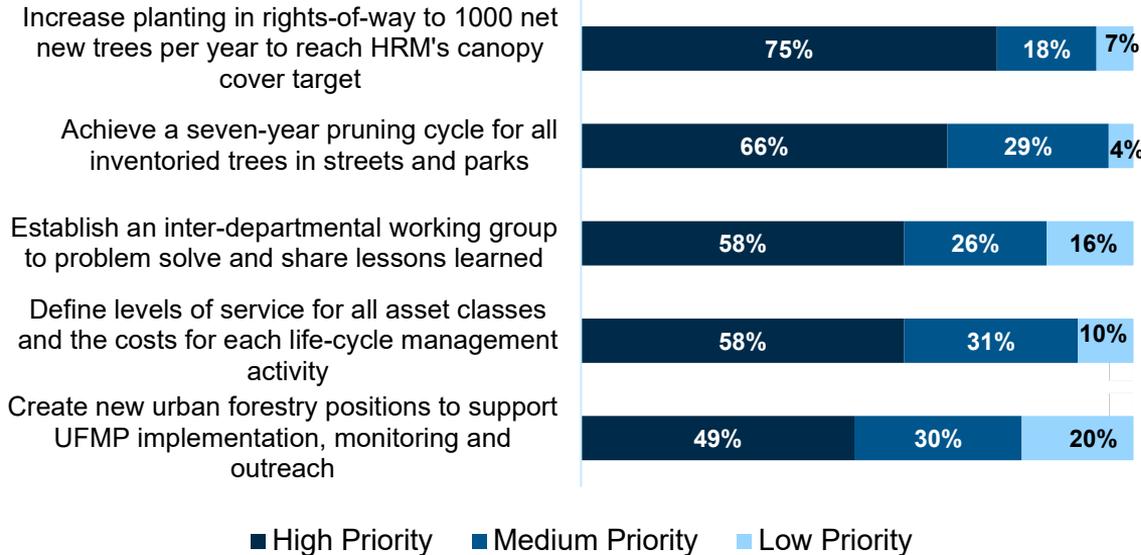


Participants mostly consider all objectives to be of high priority



Engagement: Highlights

Feedback on Quick-start Actions



Added quick-start action:

- Prepare a financial plan to formalize resource requirements and action plan following adoption

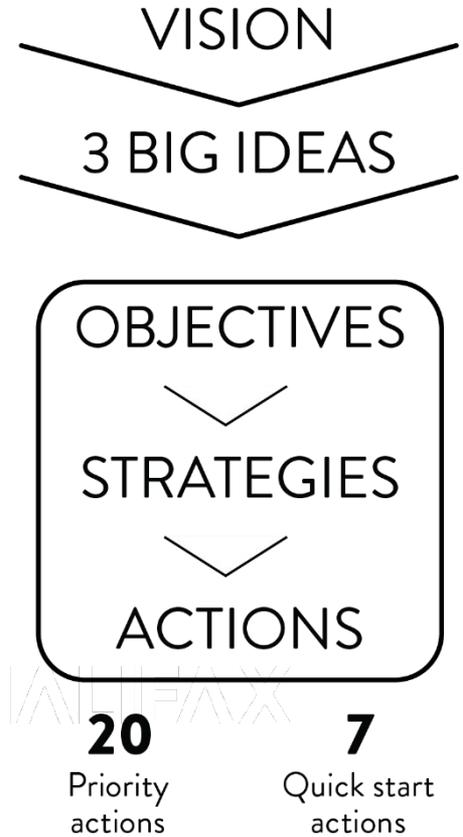


Urban Forest Management Plan

The Framework and Key Insights

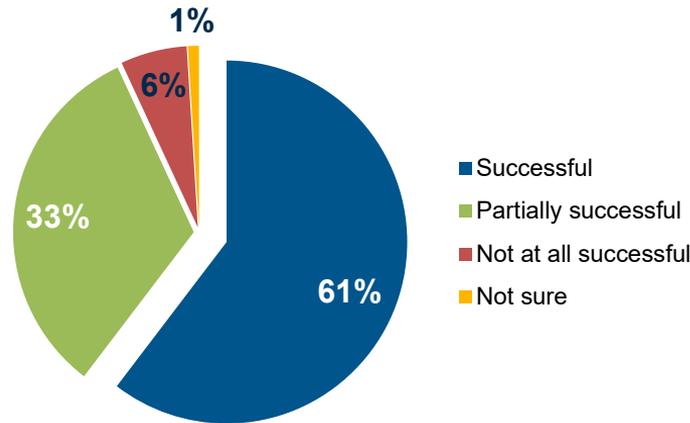


Framework



Proposed Vision

Community Said



Response to how successful the *draft* UFMP vision aligns with respondents' values in the HRM's urban forest.

The HRM is a municipality of trees. Through the shared legacy of sustainable management, HRM's urban forest has been carefully woven into the fabric of our neighbourhoods over the past 25 years. Characterized by a mosaic of native inland and coastal ecosystems as well as large, mature streetscape and park trees, the benefits our urban forest supports meaningful contributions to our health and well-being and supports the resilience of our community to the threats imposed by climate change. The protection of our urban forest and its resident biodiversity is central to our management approach and our vision for urban and rural sustainability.

3 Big Ideas



EQUITY



HRM's urban forest management program is both sustainable and equity-centered in its service delivery.

BALANCE



Balance between forest and biodiversity conservation and the continued growth of HRM.

COMMUNITY



Community values, education and stewardship capacities are prioritized- people are HRM's most influential urban forest management resource.



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Priority actions

7

Quick start actions

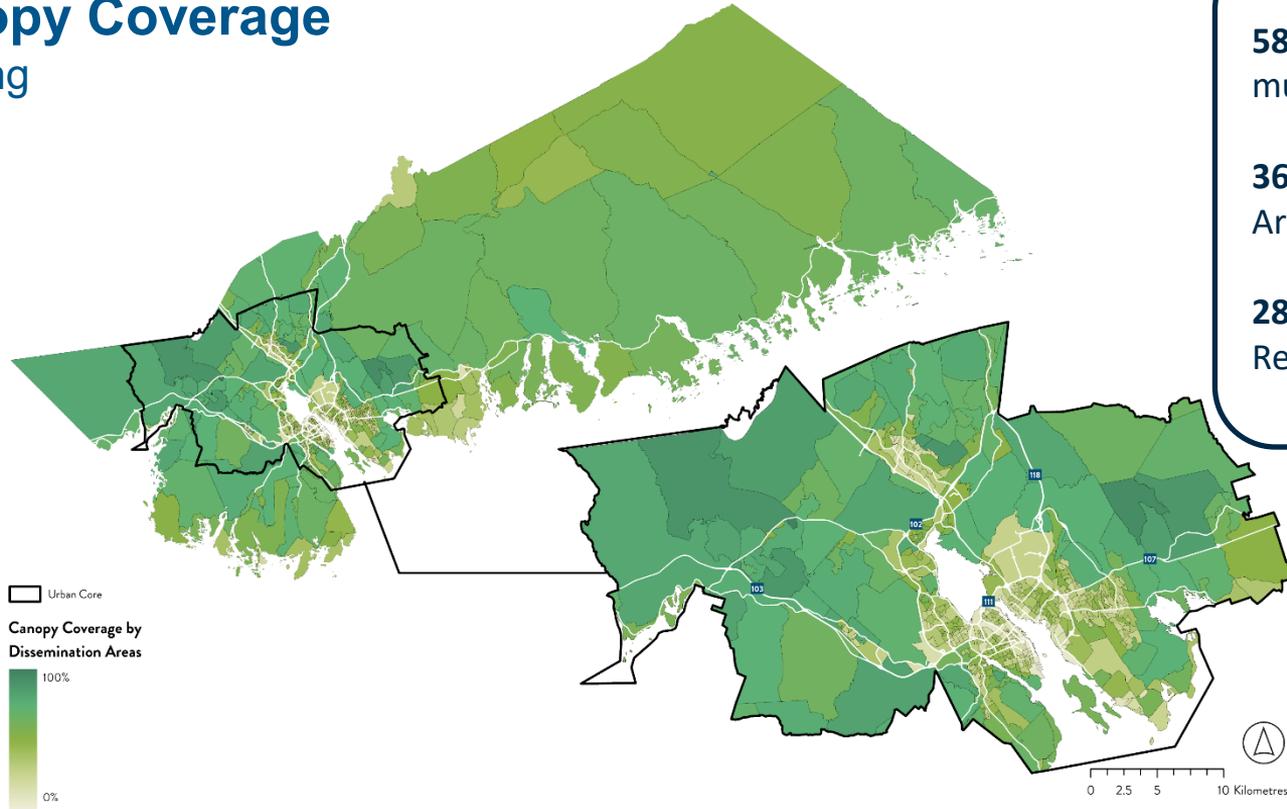
The 5 Objectives

1. Planning and Protection
2. Planting
3. Maintenance
4. Stewardship
5. Administration and Monitoring



Canopy Coverage

Planting



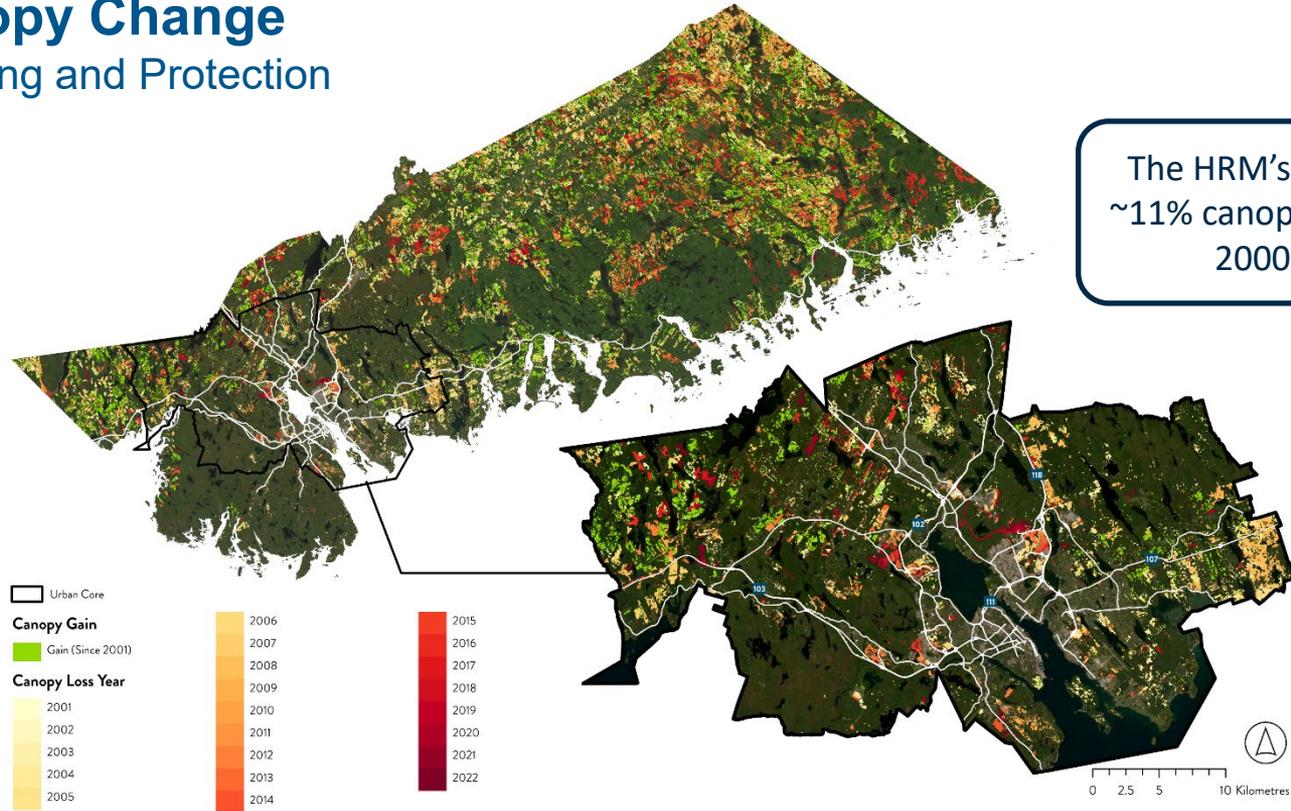
58% canopy cover
municipality-wide

36% in the Service
Area Boundary

28% in the
Regional Centre

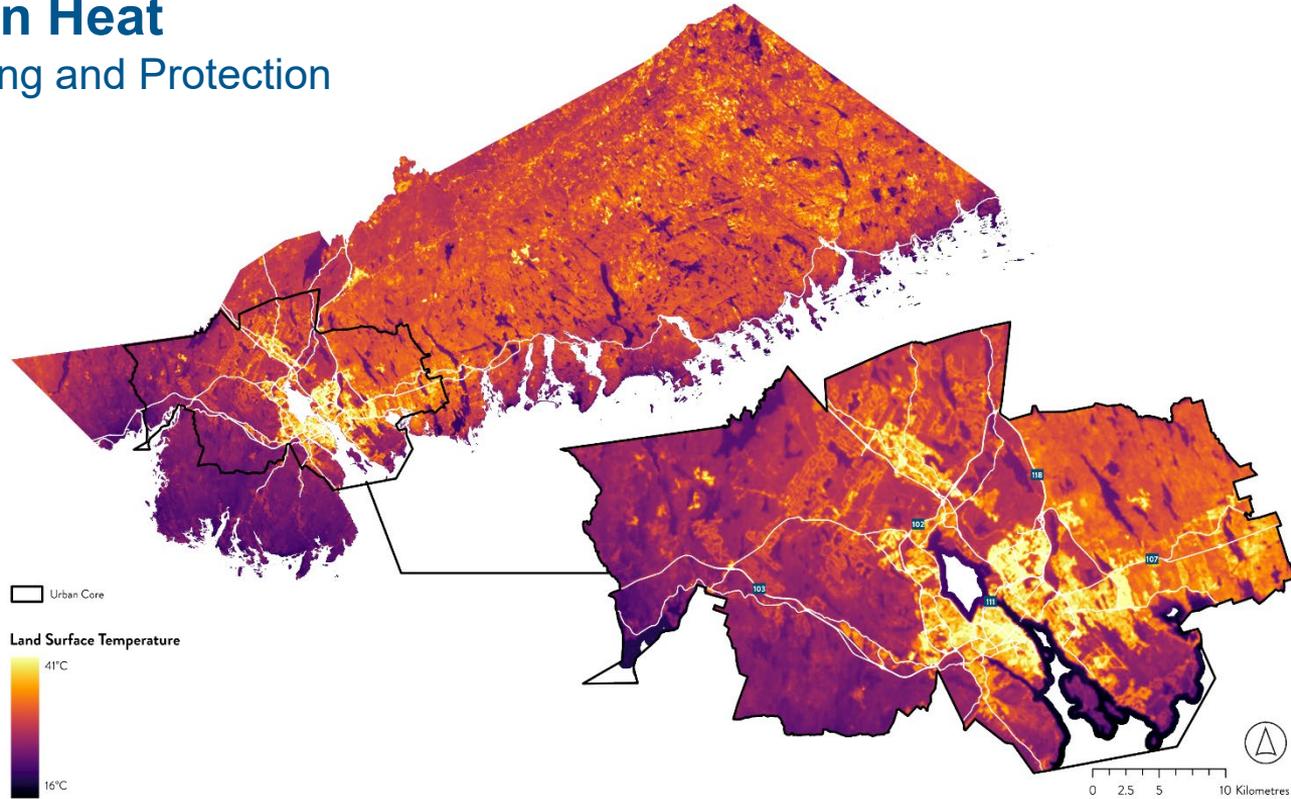
Canopy Change

Planning and Protection



Urban Heat

Planning and Protection



1. Planning and Protection

STRATEGIES

1. Ensure policies promote canopy cover in the Urban Core.
2. Prioritize urban forests in the planning and design phase of projects.
3. Build resilience to climate change impacts including wildfire threat and extreme weather.



1.1F Policies to foster the acquisition and stewardship of forested lands.



1.1G Consider policies for parkland acquisition and improvement during urban infill and redevelopment.



1.2A Consider amendments to plans and LUBs to support tree stand protection through development.



1.3A Map the WUI and high fire risk areas.



1.3B Formalize wildfire risk mapping.



1.3C Consider wildfire risk mapping through development and prepare planning policy to support risk mitigation.

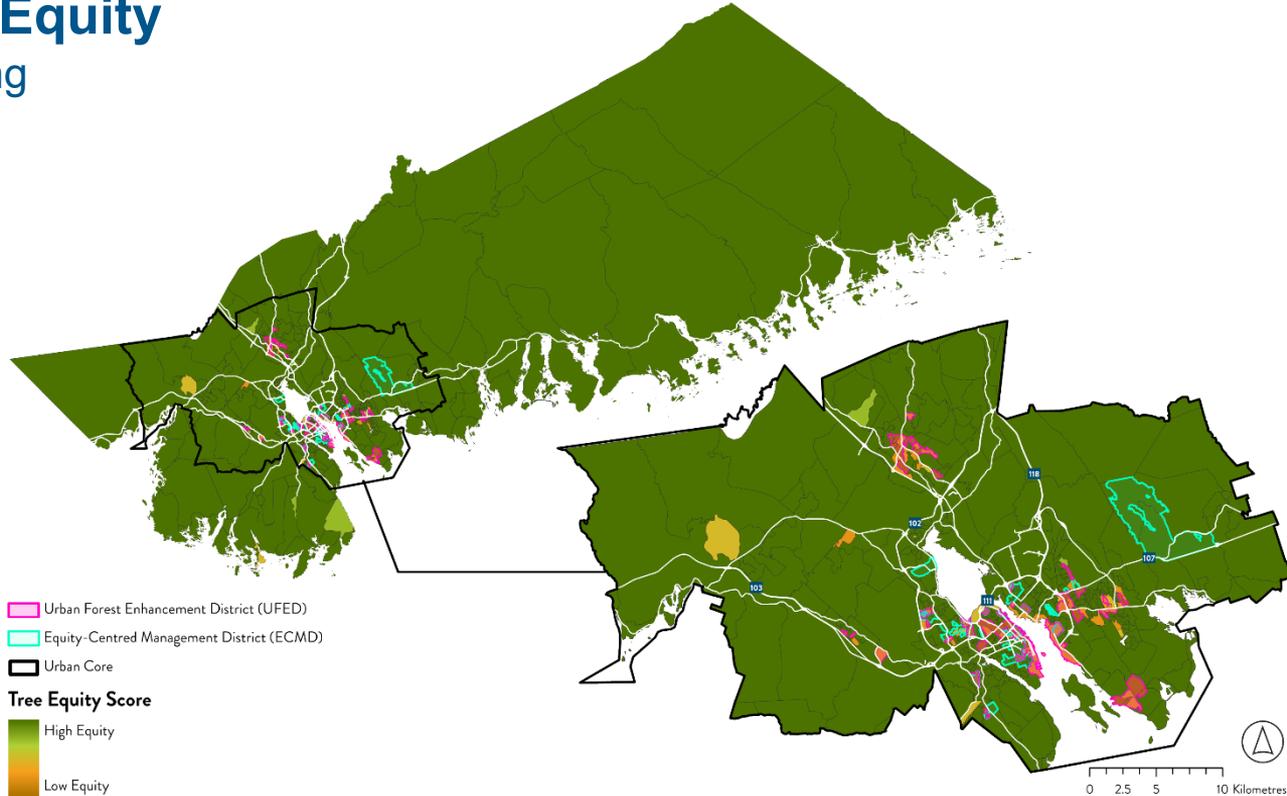


QUICK START ACTION



PRIORITY ACTION

Tree Equity Planting



Urban Forest Enhancement Districts include:

- Bayer's Lake and Beechville
- Parts of Glenbourne and Sherwood Heights
- Parts of Southdale and Russell Lake West

Equity-Centered Management Districts include:

- Albro Lake and Harbourview
- Millview
- North and East Preston
- Uniacke Square

2. Planting

STRATEGIES

1. Plant more trees.
2. Bridge gaps in access to the urban forest and its benefits.
3. Ensure planting standards are supporting long-term tree growth.

 **2.1C** Plant a minimum of 1,000 net new trees per year in the HRM's parks and streetscapes.

 **2.1D** Map areas for municipal and reforestation, prioritizing areas with a high need for shade.

 **2.2B** Prioritize the retention of existing trees on public and private property within HRM's UFEDs.

 **2.2D** Integrate ECMDs in urban forest management.

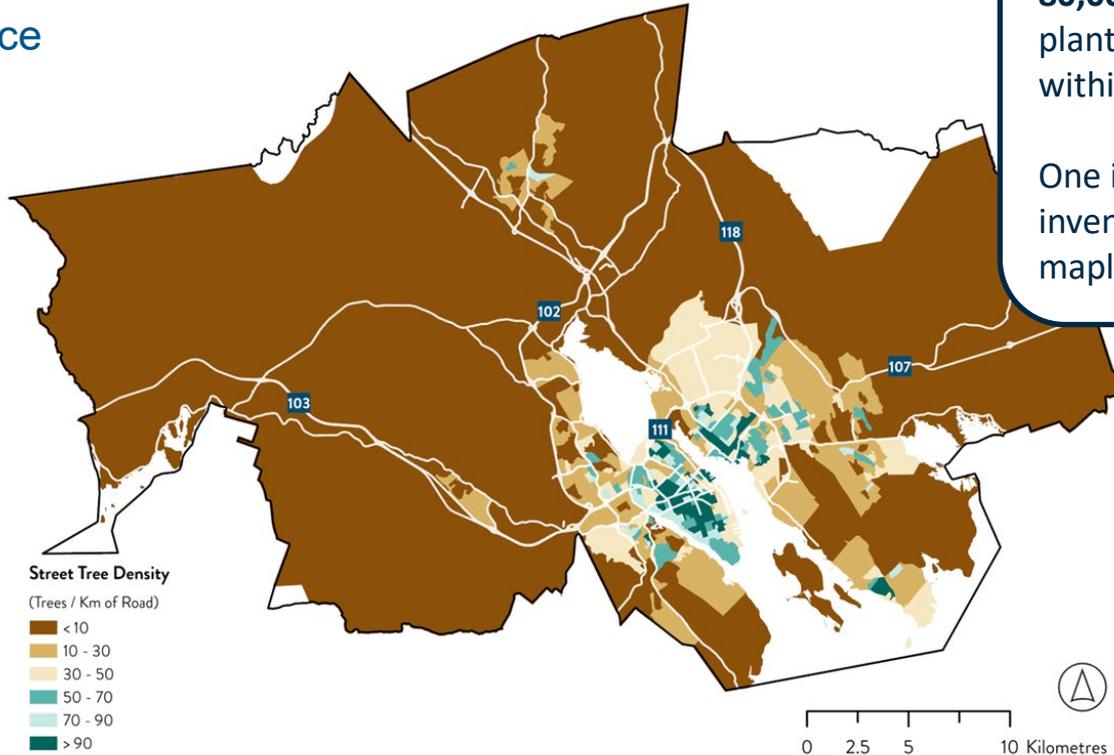
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 QUICK START ACTION

 PRIORITY ACTION

Planted Trees

Maintenance



80,000 estimated planted street trees within the urban core

One in three inventoried trees are maple

3. Maintenance

STRATEGIES

1. Enhance planted tree care practices
2. Formalize a risk management process
3. Formalize the management of the HRM's woodlands area

 **3.1A** Seven-year grid pruning cycle for planted trees in streets and parks.

 **3.1B** Three-year cyclical maintenance program for newly planted trees for the first 10 years after planting.

 **3.3C** Develop low-impact technical standards for forest trail construction and maintenance.

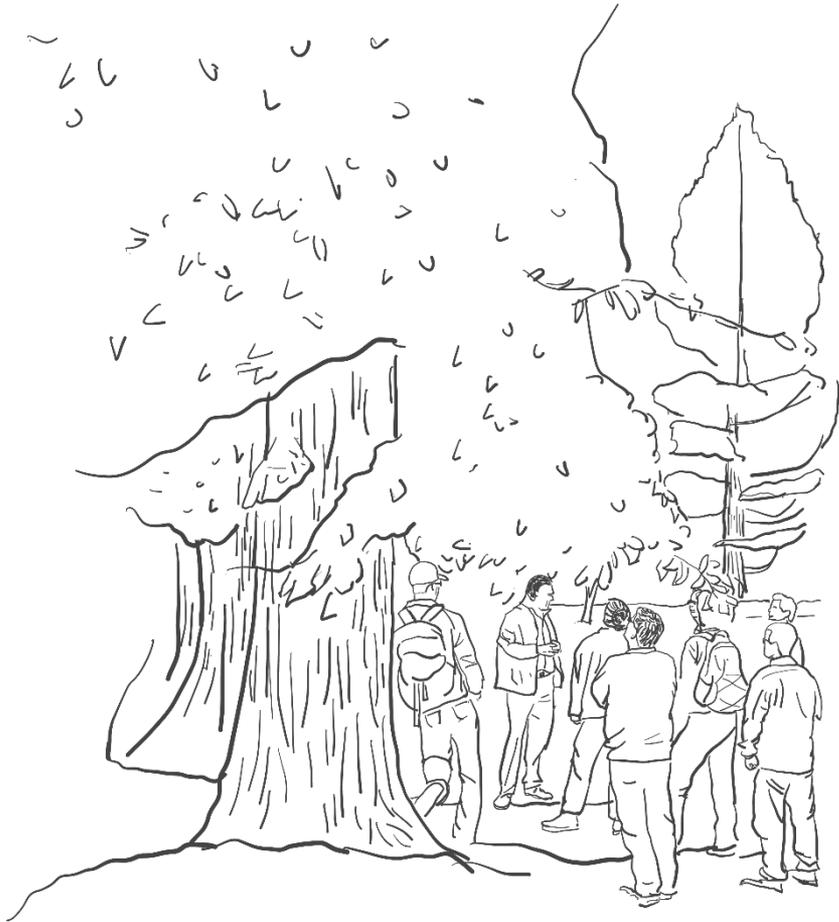
 **3.3D** Establish a framework to assess woodland health relative to long-term management goals.

 **3.3F** Conduct regular woodland assessments to evaluate conditions and guide short-term management actions.



 QUICK START ACTION

 PRIORITY ACTION



4. Stewardship

STRATEGIES

1. Develop community capacities
2. Support community outreach and education
3. Support research partnerships and opportunities
4. Explore opportunities for integrating Indigenous Knowledge and culturally sensitive management practices in urban forest management practices

! **4.1A** Collaborate with HRM business units, nonprofits, and communities for tree planting and invasives removal.

! **4.1C** Develop a community network with interest in woodland management.

! **4.2C** Ensure that outreach to communities integrate culturally sensitive communication methods.

! **4.3C** Support research partnerships with academia.

! **4.4A** Partner with First Nations and Native Council to integrate Traditional Knowledge into woodland management.

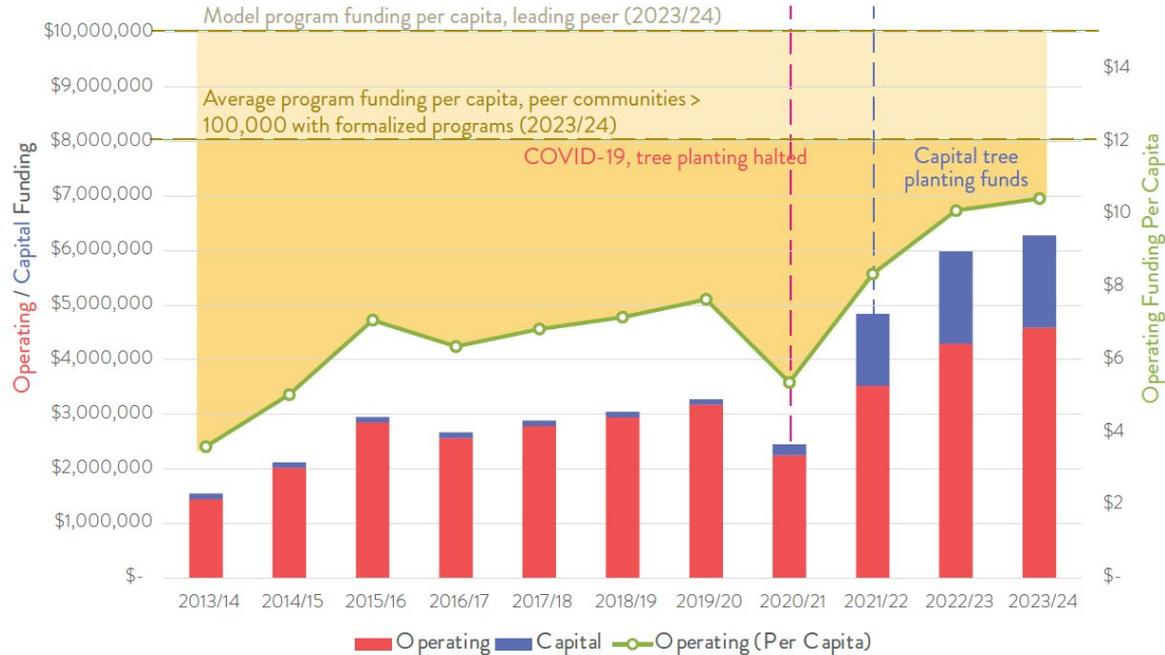


! QUICK START ACTION

! PRIORITY ACTION

Program Finance

Maintenance



HRM's operating funding was roughly \$10 per capita (2023/24), \$2 less per resident than the average amongst peer communities.



5. Administration and Monitoring

STRATEGIES

- Enhance program resources
- Practice effective program governance
- Strengthen natural asset management practices
- Prioritize reporting and program monitoring



 QUICK START ACTION

 PRIORITY ACTION

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Thank You.