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The public consultation approach for this project is organized around two critical phases of the project:

- At the beginning of the research and planning program, to include the community's interest, ideas and vision for the project; and
- Once the plan has been drafted, to present the findings and solicit feedback on the recommendations.

This summary provides a summary of the 2019 – second phase – consultation findings.

## **Methods**

Second phase consultation on the Urban Forest Strategy consisted of the following methods:

1. A public open house
  - a. Thursday May 2, 2019, 5:30-7:30pm at the Florence Filberg Centre Evergreen Lounge
  - b. The public meeting consisted of display panels of key findings, the draft plan, a 30 minute staff presentation and an hour town hall Q&A.
  - c. A copy of the presentation slides and display panels are available on the project webpage.
2. Invitation for stakeholder meetings with the three identified stakeholders. CVDCA meets regularly with senior staff and used those meetings to discuss the UFS.
3. Referral to all City departments, regional local governments, School District 71, Island Health and Ministry of Environment.
4. A survey questionnaire, available in hard copy and on-line formats between the dates of April 22 and May 23, 2019 (32 days). Interactive 'story-map' functionality and cover photo competition was also available.
5. Staff was available to receive questions and ideas about the project via front counter, phone, emails and through the mail.

## **Advertisement**

The advertisement for the public opportunity to participate in the Phase 2 consultation was provided through the following:

1. Two press releases printed in the Comox Valley Record: April 30, 2019 ("Courtenay Urban Forest Strategy seeking public input"); and May 16, 2019 ("Deadlines loom for two Courtenay surveys"). Paid advertisement for the public meeting in the April 25, 2019 paper.
2. Story and paid advertising in Island Word May 2019 edition ("Courtenay Urban Forest Strategy Ready for Final Public Feedback").
3. Social media ads.
4. Social media FB events for the public meeting.
5. City's website page: on the homepage and dedicated project page ([www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest](http://www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest)).
6. Sharing through staff planning email contacts, including a list of local developers, land development consultants, land surveyors, biologists and arborists.
7. Advertisement on the TV monitors at Lewis Centre, Florence Filberg Centre and City Hall.
8. Hardcopies of the survey made available at Lewis Centre, Florence Filberg Centre and City Hall.



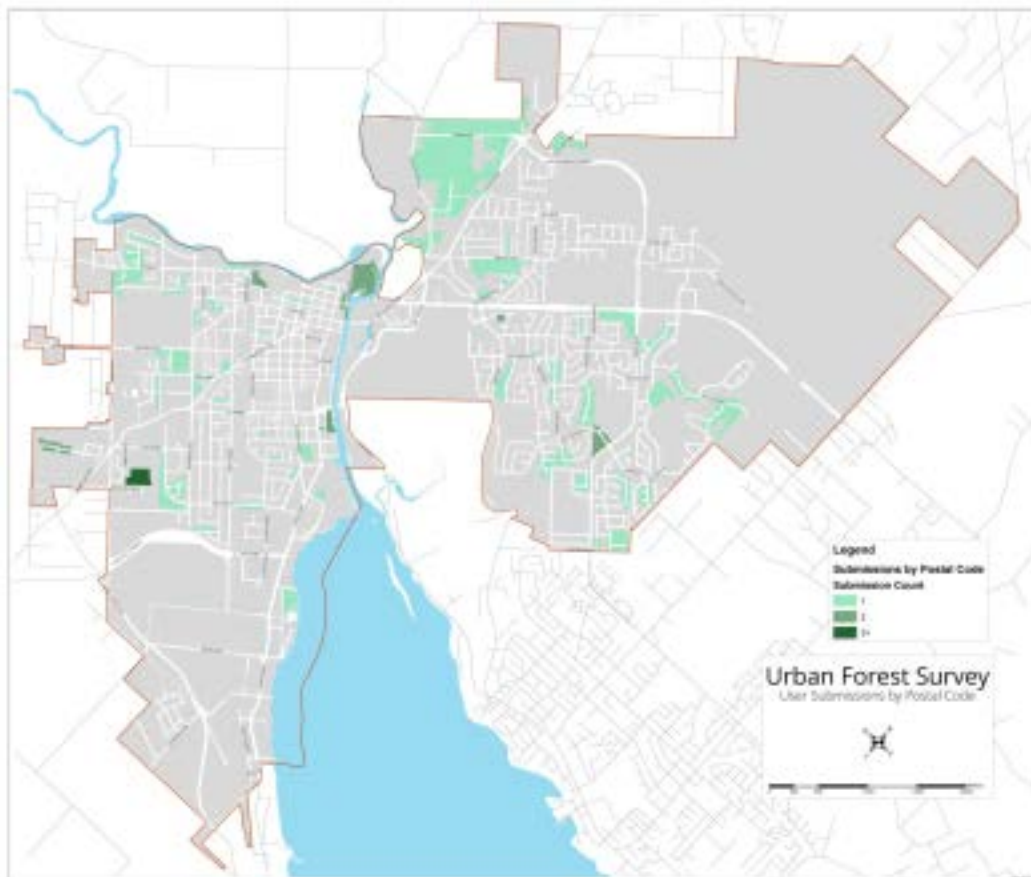
### ***Participation statistics***

- 246 individuals conducted the survey, however only 173 indicated whether they own property and/or live within the City, of which 70% (121) indicated they did. In general more respondents skipped Phase 2 survey questions than in Phase 1;
- 37 attended the public meeting;
- 910 unique page views received on the dedicated Urban Forest Strategy webpage. Unique page views are individual counts of on-line devices with each their own IP (Internet Protocol) address. This was more than in the first phase.

### ***Responses – Survey Questionnaire***

Full survey questionnaire responses are presented here. To view the original survey, consult Appendix A.

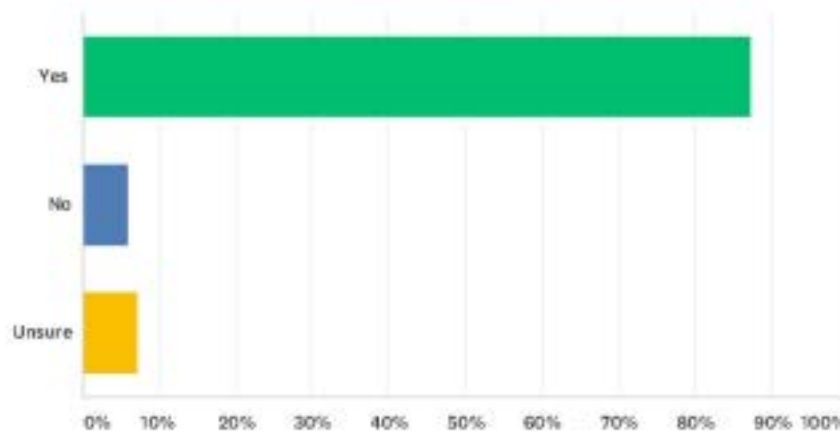
The map below shows the postal codes that participated in the survey.





### Q1 Do you agree with this Vision Statement?

Answered: 241 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	87.14%	210
No	5.81%	14
Unsure	7.05%	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>241</b>

#	IF NOT, OR IF YOU'RE UNSURE, CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY? WHAT WOULD YOU INCLUDE OR CHANGE? IF YOU NEED MORE ROOM, YOU MAY WRITE TO <a href="mailto:PLANNING@COURTENAY.CA">PLANNING@COURTENAY.CA</a>	DATE
1	It is a motherhood statement and requires serious political will.	5/29/2019 11:09 AM
2	My idea would include trees that loose less leaves as they are messy and cause walkways to be slippery. Also, evergreen trees help reduce noise pollution.	5/23/2019 3:03 PM
3	Absolutely increasing the canopy with climate change in mind. I would add food security and habitat for native birds, insects, etc. as two of the top priorities, so choosing some trees that produce foods, especially proteins (nuts) and considering under-story plantings as part of a native tree's ecology.	5/23/2019 2:52 PM
4	It would be nice to see the word "biodiversity" appear in there somewhere.	5/23/2019 10:21 AM
5	The urban forest should not "accomodate development". Development should accomodate the urban forest.	5/22/2019 7:56 PM
6	Focus on park areas, not all private development. City urges density but that argues against a more extensive urban forest. New plantings are better than efforts to retain old forest trees that do not survive in an urban development.	5/22/2019 11:33 AM
7	What is the cost to monitor this plan? The city planted tree on Ryan Rd in front of the shell station and they are dead. Why did the city not put in a watering system? There needs to be more of a vision than just planting trees. Make sure they are watered.	5/21/2019 7:47 PM
8	Does not appear to address the spatial issue of	5/21/2019 1:51 PM



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9	Taking the inputs of only 306 people to develop a policy for more than 25,000 is ridiculous. Stop telling people what to do with private land and then walking away from your responsibility to maintain it! Remove climate change from this so called vision. This is a purely politically and activist driven agenda that should not become part of a municipal policy. ASK all of us for our input and do not go ahead with any policy that affects all of us and will cost all of us time and/or money without our approval	5/21/2019 7:51 AM
10	city hall should be attending to the water issues we have and not worrying about what trees I want on my property	5/20/2019 2:20 PM
11	My constant fear these days is fire. We need a canopy that doesn't increase the risk of burning. There is quite a bit of info lately on how we need to reduce the risk of fire in areas like ours. That might mean strategically REMOVING some trees.	5/19/2019 11:00 PM
12	Just curious as to what will happen if I decide what I want to do with trees on my own property . Eg: if I decide to remove some trees I think are too big, but the city's plan says I cant, then who assumes liability if on of those trees blows over and crushed something on my neighbour's property?	5/19/2019 7:23 PM
13	I have 6 large firs in my backyard that would have to be removed if I build a garage on my property. These firs are approx. 100+ feet tall. Please note that during a windstorm, they could fall not only onto my house but to either of two neighbors houses. Would I be penalized for removing these 6 trees?	5/18/2019 7:15 PM
14	Accommodating development is vague. To date, development seems to have been negatively affecting the canopy and costing us too much in many ways. Time to pull up the drawbridge or regulate development to mitigate its negative effects.	5/18/2019 11:14 AM
15	Too long	5/18/2019 8:43 AM
16	I am uncomfortable with the word 'accomodate', as it prioritizes development. I feel that urban development follows AFTER forest security, rather than imposing economic design on the landscape. I appreciate climate change is mentioned, but environmental resilience is not.	5/17/2019 9:46 AM
17	In certain areas it needs to be more extensive; in older neighborhoods it needs to be less and managed and people need to be required to maintain their trees correctly to avoid impacting their neighbors.	5/16/2019 3:38 PM
18	The canopy cover on private property will not be accessible to public, and may not be connected to other canopied areas. But it is still very important.	5/10/2019 9:30 AM
19	Not grammatical . "...design treatment to reduce..., (to?) create..., and.. (to provide?) canopy trees on key routes. ". " Key routes " also seems very vague. Sounds like on roads and highways only. ..?	5/6/2019 12:26 PM
20	I would like to see something in there about creating a food forest as well.	5/3/2019 7:35 PM
21	I agree with the statement - however I don't believe that the urban forest needs to be accessible (1st sentence) - would like to see that deleted. I also think that the term "impervious surfaces" should be used vs prevalence of pavement. I understand the need to speak to the masses but the term impervious is becoming common knowledge	5/2/2019 10:13 AM
22	There is a suggestion that the Vision will change to accommodate development. Far too many trees have been taken down to accommodate develop...unnecessarily so. Huge beautiful forests are gone forever.	5/1/2019 2:29 PM
23	would like to see something in there about wild life corridors	4/29/2019 9:49 PM
24	I don't know what a Canopy Cover Target is.	4/28/2019 5:34 PM
25	The life of a tree can be debatable...in my old Towne they ripped out 100 year old trees because they were deemed unsafe and then never replaced them on the boulevard. They just needed to be pruned better. What will the protection be with trees in the ways of power lines, and pathways?	4/27/2019 7:01 AM
26	but "comprised of" is terrible English! It comprises / it consists of.	4/26/2019 10:49 PM
27	I believe that the vision statement ALSO needs to include statement about incorporating more edible plants/trees and plants/trees that are sustainable in the changing climate as well as for changing wildlife	4/25/2019 11:43 AM

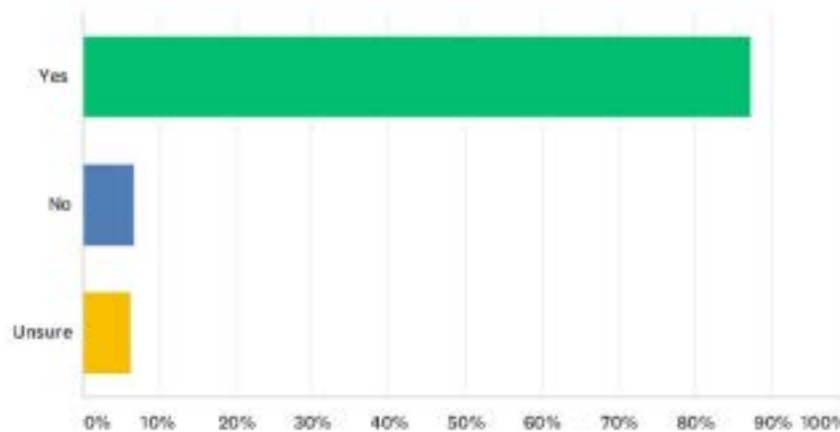


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### Q2 Do you agree with the goals identified?

Answered: 226 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	87.17% 197
No	6.64% 15
Unsure	6.19% 14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226</b>

#	IF NOT, OR IF YOU'RE UNSURE, CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY? WHAT WOULD YOU INCLUDE OR CHANGE? IF YOU NEED MORE ROOM, YOU MAY WRITE TO <a href="mailto:PLANNING@COURTENAY.CA">PLANNING@COURTENAY.CA</a>	DATE
1	The language is poor and leaves too much to political interference.	5/29/2019 11:09 AM
2	"managing alongside other infrastructure goals" sounds too much like letting developers have their way instead of putting trees first.	5/23/2019 7:01 PM
3	love the connection to asset management	5/23/2019 10:22 AM
4	I think the goals go overboard. In general, they are not bad but I fear the interpretations will be overly aggressive.	5/22/2019 11:34 AM
5	I have lived at my location which has 56 trees greater than 40 cm for 28 years. My commitment to the trees is clear, I worry that you will fail to partner effectively with me to maintain the tree cover, I do not need to be told how to maintain my forest.	5/21/2019 12:14 PM
6	This should apply to public land and only suggest on private land. Bureaucrats need to start to understand that they work for us and not the other way around.	5/21/2019 7:52 AM
7	Does "manage" include a plan for when and how to review and reassess?	5/20/2019 10:39 PM
8	Again, there is no mention here of the risk that certain types of forest canopies might pose to some areas in terms of fire. Also, can we please ban open burning in areas where there are forest canopies?	5/19/2019 11:03 PM
9	I always think about the punitive nature of city bylaws.	5/19/2019 7:25 PM
10	There should be explicit mention of some intent to preserve native woodland, even (and especially) in areas planned for development (i.e. clearing land completely prior to development should be eliminated). There have been, and still exist, lots that have years ago been cleared down to mineral soil, and now boast only Scotch Broom).	5/19/2019 5:21 PM



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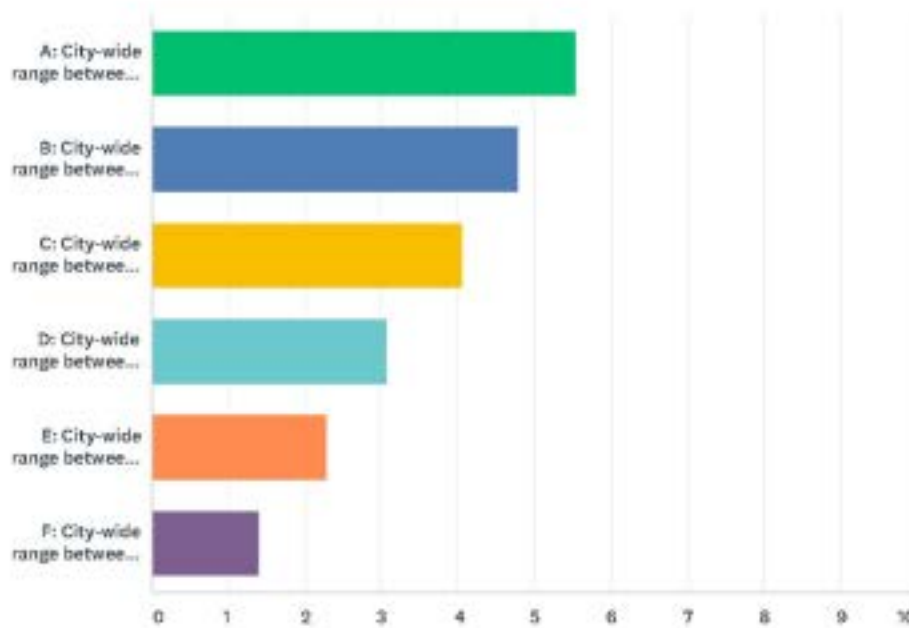
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11	Will I have the right to remove trees on my property to build a garage in the future?	5/18/2019 7:19 PM
12	Protect existing greenways and forest corridors for humans to build a reciprocal relationship with the forest.	5/18/2019 10:53 AM
13	Yes, good guidelines. More emphasis on stewardship and protection of the Commons, please.	5/17/2019 9:48 AM
14	The language is imprecise and leaves too much to interpretation by politicians, planning and engineering.	5/15/2019 2:10 PM
15	Manage should be 'passive', not 'proactive'. Only enough to keep it safe for public access - leave the forests/trees/ecosystems alone and it will take care of itself, which will help to minimize the costs to taxpayers.	5/10/2019 11:59 AM
16	I honestly do not believe that the city wants to protect any forest, other than that which is already parkland. I'm thinking of the hospital site, Crown Isle shopping centre, the development off Ryan road, Crown Isle itself, etc. I'm not sure that the city is serious about maintaining a canopy, especially on its streets. How would it be enforced? The hospital site and Crown Isle shopping centre lost most of the trees because they were apparently susceptible to wind damage. How would the city bring charges against a contractor, developer, or homeowner that removed trees illegally? It is my understanding that in these cases, the fines are not steep enough to be a deterrent.	5/8/2019 11:43 PM
17	Make this study non applicable to private acreage already regulated by tree cutting by-law!	5/7/2019 11:19 AM
18	Too I am not sure what all the adverbs are for. "Grow intelligently..." Not sure what that means.	5/6/2019 12:29 PM
19	these words seem awfully general and perhaps meaningless ... specifics would be much better than buzz words.	5/3/2019 7:37 PM
20	I'd like to see more urgency in the goals. We need meaningful action ten years ago to help this planet.	5/2/2019 2:31 PM
21	"integrate into public asset management" = I would like to see some reference of linking this strategic plan with other internal city strategic plans i.e. Parks Plan, IRMP etc..	5/2/2019 10:18 AM
22	The 'growing' aspect concerns me. I doubt the city can grow much farther spacewise without seriously impacting local forests and wildlife. Increased density within current neighbourhoods would seem to be the only answer.	5/1/2019 8:30 PM
23	What are the other infrastructure goals that you want to manage? Sounds like taking down more trees to me.	5/1/2019 2:31 PM
24	I am wondering why in the partnering section there is only a reference to the Komox FN. I would think working collaboratively with the CVRD and the town of Comox and village of Cumberland would also be important. This is a valley issue - not just a Courtenay issue.	4/28/2019 10:12 AM
25	Yes, but we don't know what specifically the "idea" of an urban forest is. So it's hard to understand the parameters.	4/27/2019 7:03 AM
26	Partner with whom? Connectedness mea nos what?	4/26/2019 2:18 PM



### Q3 Which Canopy Cover Scenario do you most prefer? Use the drop-down arrows to rank the Scenarios from 1 to 6 with 1 being your highest preference.

Answered: 198 Skipped: 48



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
A: City-wide range between 34-40%. Canopy similar or higher than today due to 100 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; lots of voluntary private land planting and maximizing public land planting.	88.46% 166	3.13% 6	2.60% 5	0.00% 0	1.56% 3	6.25% 12	192	5.54
B: City-wide range between 29-37%. Canopy similar or lower than today due to 75 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; lots of voluntary private land planting and maximizing public land planting.	4.60% 8	85.06% 148	2.87% 5	1.15% 2	5.75% 10	0.57% 1	174	4.80
C: City-wide range between 27-36%. Canopy similar or lower than today, and lower than Scenario B, due to 75 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; some voluntary private land planting and maximizing public land planting.	4.73% 8	2.96% 5	86.98% 147	4.73% 8	0.00% 0	0.58% 1	169	4.06
D: City-wide range between 24-34%. Canopy lower than today due to 50 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; lots of voluntary planting, and maximizing public land planting.	1.23% 2	1.23% 2	6.17% 10	87.85% 142	2.47% 4	1.23% 2	162	3.07
E: City-wide range between 23-33%. Similar to Scenario D with fewer private planting efforts.	1.23% 2	6.17% 10	1.23% 2	3.09% 5	85.80% 139	2.47% 4	162	2.27
F: City-wide range between 21-31%. Canopy similar to today due to 25 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; lots of voluntary private land planting and maximizing public land planting.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00



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F: City-wide range between 21-31%. Canopy a lot lower than today due to 50 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw, no voluntary planting and maximizing planting only on public land.

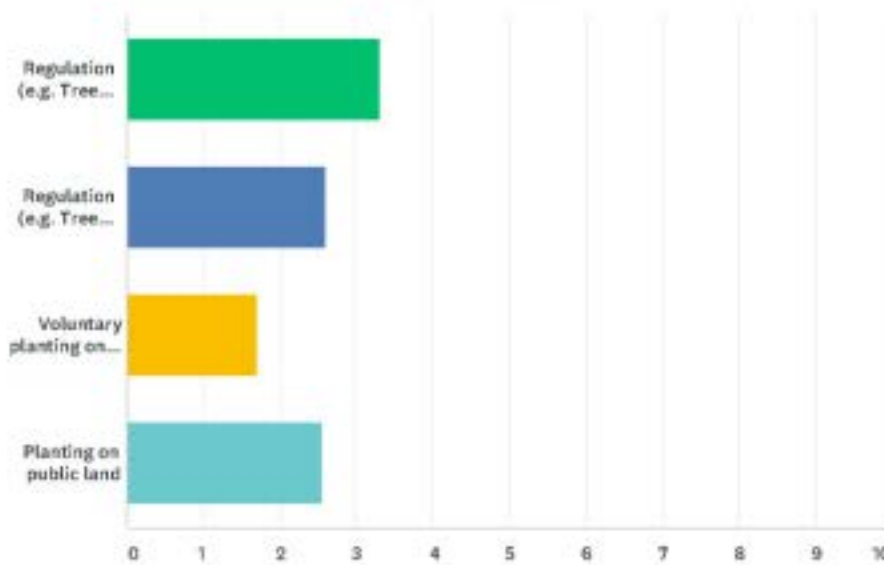
6.21%	0.62%	0.00%	2.48%	2.48%	88.20%	
10	1	0	4	4	142	161 1.41





**Q4 If the City must chose between which types of strategies to focus on, how would you order the following action categories? Use the drop-down arrows to rank the options from 1 to 4 with 1 being your highest preference.**

Answered: 195 Skipped: 51

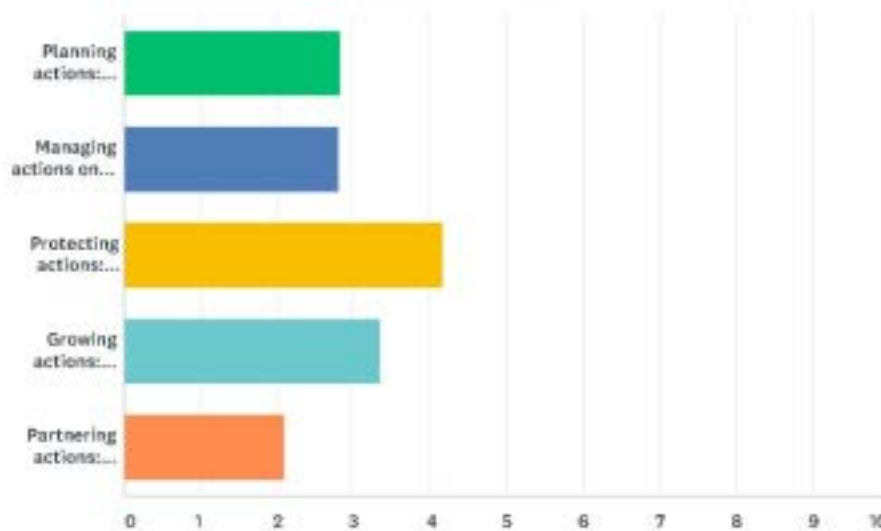


	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Regulation (e.g. Tree Bylaw) of undeveloped forested properties	62.16% 115	17.84% 33	8.11% 15	11.89% 22	185	3.30
Regulation (e.g. Tree Bylaw) of developed urban properties	14.59% 27	45.41% 84	25.41% 47	14.59% 27	185	2.60
Voluntary planting on private land	3.28% 6	19.67% 36	20.77% 38	56.28% 103	183	1.70
Planting on public land	25.00% 47	18.62% 35	43.09% 81	13.30% 25	188	2.55



**Q5 How would you order the following types of actions? Use the drop-down arrows to rank the actions from 1 to 5 with 1 being your highest preference. Actions listed are organized by Strategy goals. Consult the plan for more detailed information on actions.**

Answered: 184 Skipped: 62

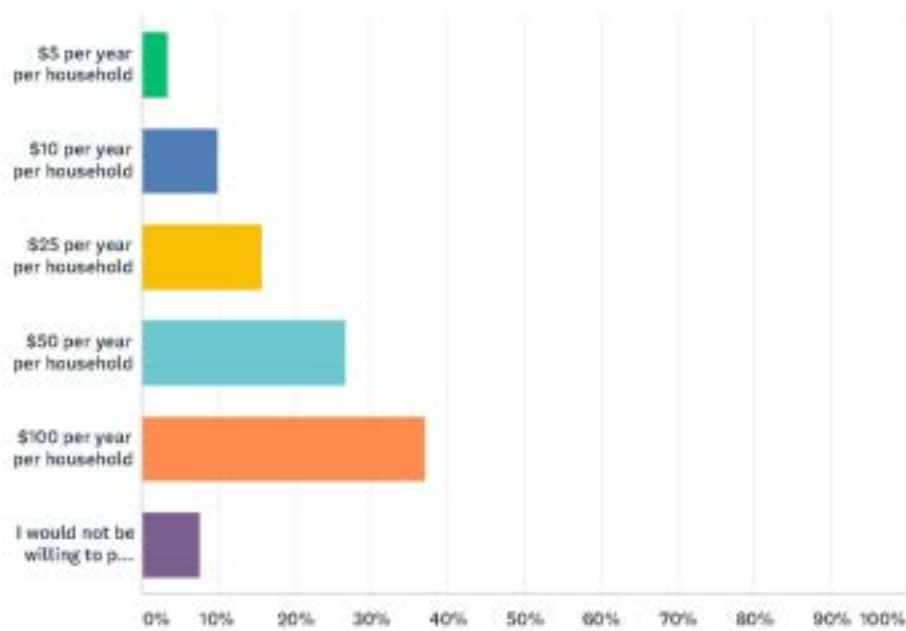


	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Planning actions: Includes planning consultation activities with individual neighbourhoods; conducting a forest fire management plan; maintaining spatial data on changes to canopy cover.	20.48% 34	10.84% 18	20.48% 34	26.51% 44	21.69% 36	166	2.82
Managing actions on public land: Includes continuing to develop management responses to risk factors such as climate change, storm, pests and drought; investing more in the early years of tree establishment; developing clear operating procedures based on level or service expectations for public trees.	5.29% 9	24.71% 42	31.18% 53	22.35% 38	16.47% 28	170	2.80
Protecting actions: Includes pursuing options to enhance the protection of significant forest stands and biodiversity corridors; understanding how changes to hydrology and soil through development affect the urban forest; monitoring the Tree Bylaw to ensure it is effectively protecting trees, and making changes when it is not.	56.07% 97	18.50% 32	14.45% 25	7.51% 13	3.47% 6	173	4.16
Growing actions: Includes more planting on public and private land; enhancing the quality of new planting conditions; distributing the canopy cover to areas that need it; promoting building energy efficiency through strategic planting locations.	17.71% 31	37.71% 66	12.57% 22	24.57% 43	7.43% 13	175	3.34
Partnering actions: Includes partnering with others such as community groups on stewardship activities; partnering with students conducting research on the urban forest; investing in public education and communications; working with nurseries, arborists and third party utilities.	6.29% 11	9.14% 16	20.57% 36	16.57% 29	47.43% 83	175	2.10



**Q6 Considering your answers to the previous question (Question 5 - Priorities), what is the maximum you would be willing to pay for the City to implement the initiatives that you support? Answering this question does not mean a tax increase will occur, but rather helps staff and Council to understand how important urban forest actions are to you.**

Answered: 184 Skipped: 62

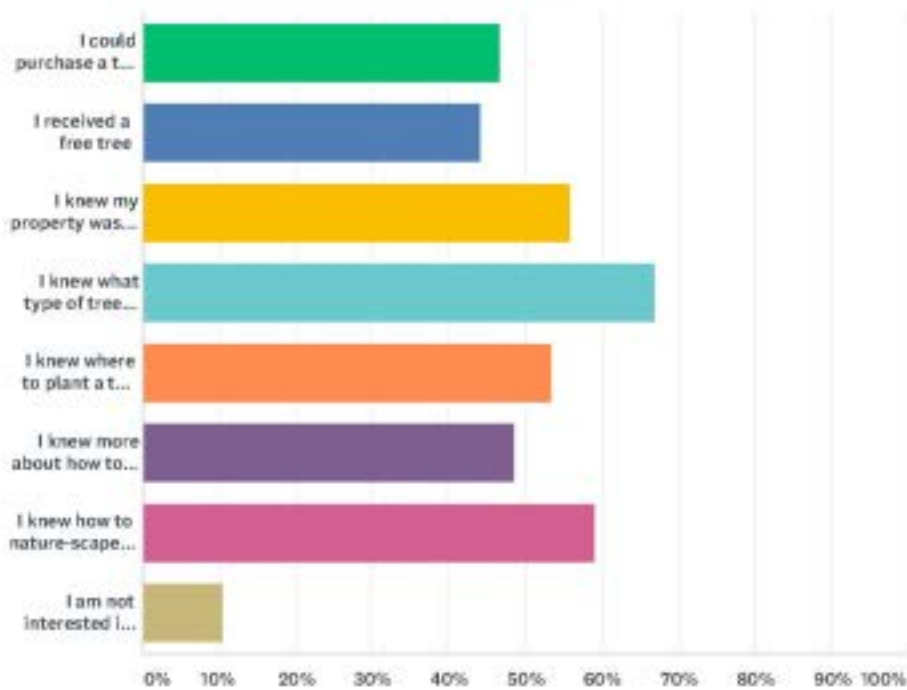


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
\$5 per year per household	3.26% 6
\$10 per year per household	9.78% 18
\$25 per year per household	15.76% 29
\$50 per year per household	26.63% 49
\$100 per year per household	36.96% 68
I would not be willing to pay any amount per year	7.81% 14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>184</b>



### Q7 I would plant a new tree on my property if: Select all that apply

Answered: 163 Skipped: 83



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I could purchase a tree for \$20 or less	46.63% 76
I received a free tree	44.17% 72
I knew my property was within an area that could benefit from more tree canopy cover	55.83% 91
I knew what type of tree to plant on my property based on soil and light conditions and available growing area	66.87% 109
I knew where to plant a tree on my property to enhance energy efficiency of my home	53.37% 87
I knew more about how to care for my tree, including into its maturity	48.47% 79
I knew how to nature-scape my yard to provide habitat for birds and pollinators	58.90% 96
I am not interested in planting a new tree on my property	10.43% 17
Total Respondents: 163	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I will be planting trees, large shrubs and fruit trees. This will include fiberts and saskaloons (Amelanchier alnifolia). But first I need time to plan, and I need to rip up some of the concrete the previous (idiot) owner put down!	5/29/2019 11:31 AM
2	My property is already fully treed. Despite earlier comments that you received, I believe that subsidized planting on private land could prove very useful.	5/29/2019 11:27 AM
3	Our area was supposed to get a City supplied yard tree two years ago. This project stopped half way up our street within no explanation given.	5/29/2019 11:11 AM



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4	I have a small city limits property and have planted over 50 trees as a living fence with ease and success. I only had a hard time with watering them in the hot summers. So worth the personal cost as my yard is lovely, visual secluded, and has noise reduction. Also, my trees do not drop leaves so less garden refuse to drag to the curb.	5/23/2019 3:27 PM
5	We already have a tree plan for our property that we are implementing	5/23/2019 3:07 PM
6	I have planted 3 trees on my property this year	5/23/2019 1:49 PM
7	if municipality offered help in the maintenance of tree...ie delimiting when/if required	5/22/2019 7:05 PM
8	we live on forested land - question doesn't really seem to apply to my situation - i don't think we "need" more trees, but maybe i'm wrong ...	5/22/2019 6:48 PM
9	My yard already has many trees, including some original forest. I don't think there is adequate room for any more.	5/22/2019 5:01 PM
10	More fruit trees are needed	5/22/2019 1:37 PM
11	I do not see an option for businesses or multi-family complexes such as apartments or condominiums. There seems to be an over emphasis on households. Also, there does not seem to be any consideration for educating private homeowners on the type of tree to plant. We have trees that probably used to be hedges which are now enormous trees that are actually dangerous if they should fall or in the event of a fire.	5/22/2019 1:11 PM
12	Very important to be flexible. A multifamily townhouse development does not have the ability to plant as many trees as a private large lot, nor to maintain trees that grow too large. My own experience in such a development is that th original trees were inappropriate and some are causing root problems with streets, sidewalks, etc.	5/22/2019 11:44 AM
13	I live in a condo at Trumpeters Landing We gave the right amount of trees	5/22/2019 11:33 AM
14	Already have an oak, beech, and 3 Japanese maples. Lot is too small to add more trees, unfortunately.	5/22/2019 12:29 AM
15	More trees are great but your watering restrictions are detrimental to growing them	5/21/2019 7:53 PM
16	I live in a strata so can't plant trees. However, I would be willing to sponsor the planting of a tree in an area that could benefit from more tree canopy cover.	5/21/2019 2:06 PM
17	I will be planting more trees on my property and do not need help paying for them. My property is in your example of the 40% coverage area which helps with shade in the summer and large habitat for birds.	5/21/2019 12:24 PM
18	I rent my apartment so can't choose any of these	5/21/2019 11:00 AM
19	STOP telling us what to do on OUR private property. Start by protecting trees from being completely removed during new developments. Today a developer gets rid of all trees before developing. STOP this practice. I have enough trees on my property already and I do not need a bureaucrat to tell me to plant another one and then charge me for it. Enough already. Once again producing charts from the inputs of 306 people in a city of \$25K plus is irrelevant. Get all of our inputs before you do anything more	5/21/2019 7:58 AM
20	If it does not block out the sun from my vegetables growing.	5/20/2019 12:44 PM
21	...I had any space left for more trees.	5/20/2019 8:57 AM
22	If I can plant one, I should also be able to remove one.	5/19/2019 7:42 PM
23	if there were no restrictions on cutting down some of the large trees that are already on my lot.	5/19/2019 3:56 PM
24	I have over 30 trees on my property	5/19/2019 10:55 AM
25	I have quite a few mature city owned trees bordering my property and have one tree and shrubs already. No room for more.	5/17/2019 10:42 PM
26	Understanding the tree lifespan is key. We lose trees due to them getting unmanageable. Having worked with the Lush fruit gleaning project, there are a remarkable # of trees needing pruning maintenance to stay productive. I have planted 6 trees in my yard, but have no more room. I support making trees freely available in principle, and taking steps to educate the community about the worth and care of trees.	5/17/2019 9:55 AM
27	I wish I had more room for more trees	5/17/2019 8:36 AM



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28	I could be assured that there would be enough water resources available to maintain a tree to maturity and beyond.	5/16/2019 8:02 PM
29	I would plant if I was given a percentage figure of the canopy cover of my individual property	5/16/2019 5:53 PM
30	I already have many trees on my property	5/16/2019 3:43 PM
31	Live in a Strata .. not sure how that would work.	5/16/2019 8:04 AM
32	I knew which trees are native species and endangered	5/13/2019 8:39 AM
33	I have planted the maximum number of trees on my property that can be healthy as they mature in the space.	5/10/2019 12:00 PM
34	A free tree, and advice about tree selection, planting, and care are critical.	5/6/2019 12:50 PM
35	My property is maximally covered by trees. Many are Douglas-fir that do not grow well in shade. I am trying to replace them with red cedar seedlings.	5/5/2019 8:32 AM
36	I've planted as many trees as I can on my property. I would buy and plant trees on public land if I was allowed to.	5/2/2019 2:35 PM
37	I grow a garden. I have numerous trees on my property (two adjacent 1/2 acre lots) that creates a visual buffer from my neighbors, enhances habitat for some types of birds while maintaining my objective to have ample sunshine hours to grow my vegetable garden. I grow most of our yearly intake of vegetables on my property. I have been gardening here for 35 years. I have cut down all the fir trees that use to surround the perimeter of my property and have planted filbert trees, along my property lines as well I have encourage shrubs and bushes (snow berry, nine bark, salmon berry, hawthorn, laurel) to fill in between. I do not believe that urban residential properties should be planting trees that grow larger than 15 meter. Fir tree when mature drop a significant amount of litter that reduces the life span of some roofing materials. As well they can cause severe damage in the event of being blown down. Their root systems over time can cause expensive repairs to underground infrastructure. Also I want to explore solar power options and having some one plant trees that grow up and block my yard to sunshine is very important issue for me.	5/2/2019 6:53 AM
38	I am probably going to remove two trees from my property - a magnolia and a lilac - which are unsuited to the site. I would love to know of native replacements that would enhance the city plan.	5/1/2019 8:42 PM
39	I have planted 7 trees in my back yard. I am now thinking of the front yard.	5/1/2019 2:50 PM
40	I am personally up for planting trees, but I don't own land. I rent. But regardless, it's an important initiative as more canopy cover can reduce the temperature on the streets and in the city. Having shade from trees is extremely important for humans and the rest of the ecosystem. And they're beautiful and tourists love them.	4/30/2019 8:02 PM
41	All of the above	4/29/2019 5:25 PM
42	Strata living	4/29/2019 4:24 PM
43	I also have a significant number of trees on my property already	4/28/2019 10:16 AM
44	If the tree would have best possible impact on the environment and bonus provide food source for my family. I think blight tolerate hazelnut trees would be an excellent choice	4/28/2019 6:59 AM
45	Gardening needs to be taken into account, with the threat of food shortages the more we grow and learn to grow the better our chances of survival.	4/28/2019 6:54 AM
46	My area is heavily forested and lacks sunlight. Overgrown trees are a major urban problem as well that should be addressed.	4/27/2019 9:37 PM
47	I have many trees on my property. I am concerned that some people may buy trees for hedging and think that this is enough. I am also concerned about people planting fir hedges as they are very difficult to maintain and grow much too high to be planted on shared property lines.	4/27/2019 5:35 PM
48	We have a food garden, so planting more trees would not work with that.	4/27/2019 3:52 PM
49	I would plant more trees if I knew there was a bill in the place to protect watersheds and forests in the surrounding Cumberland area from deforestation. There should be no logging on hills or any vicinity to a township as it directly affects runoff and flooding.	4/27/2019 7:12 AM
50	Kids seem more concerned about the future of our planet. If each child were given a free tree surely most would get planted. Even if only say a third were planted, think how much greener our city would become.	4/26/2019 11:03 PM



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51	We cut down a mature cedar and two towering cypress that were infringing on our foundation and have since planted 14 fruit trees, 2 nut trees, 4 deciduous trees, plus a plethora of large shrubs. That doesn't include the 30 year old apple and the 15 year old red maple that were already there. Please plant more nut trees in the city parks.	4/26/2019 11:29 AM
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## Q8 Do you have any other comments you'd like to make about Courtenay's Urban Forest Strategy that were not covered in the survey?

Answered: 109 Skipped: 137

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Question 4 - Regulation of undeveloped forest properties is important to catch before developers moonscape and the soil is lost. Question 5 - Hard to chose priorities... ideally they would all be happening at the same time. Everyone needs to don superman capes! :) I think part of the education segment should include when to plant, i.e. in the fall, when there is less heat stress and more water to help trees get established. Encourage local nurseries/"garden centres" to have more young trees available in fall instead of spring. This may not be possible due to their suppliers. Also education re not planting trees with aggressive roots (e.g. cherry trees) near water/drain lines.	5/29/2019 11:33 AM
2	A minor suggestion: "Liquidambar" is an unfamiliar term to me, and a parenthetical "Sweet gum" might help improve comprehension. Thanks for all the good work!	5/29/2019 11:28 AM
3	Wanted to choose equal No.1 weighting for question 4 and 5. Both questions are too restrictive and channel input into predetermined areas. Enforcement of existing tree protection bylaws is non existent. Marking and leaving appropriate trees is an important part of a mature canopy but is meaningless when new home owners remove those trees. The City also needs to a plan to replant the riparian zones where drought has and continues to kill cedar trees.	5/29/2019 11:13 AM
4	Extra effort should be made to protect forests in urban expansion areas within the city boundaries (area adjacent to seal bay park). I think that a canopy cover percentage is a better way to protect forests on greenfield development sites rather than stems per ha. Mature trees have wider canopies therefore their value to reach targets is greater than less mature "stems." The tree bylaw has a lot of flexibility for developers, so the per cent approach can be made to work.	5/24/2019 9:33 AM
5	there should be a push to have large tree canopies Streets like there are in Vancouver.	5/23/2019 10:16 PM
6	I didn't respond to the amount each household should pay because it's an unfair method of paying for this important strategy. The people answering this survey are more likely to afford more than those who don't but all would pay. Also, developers and realtors should pay substantially for the urban forest strategy because they're the ones who have profited most from the destruction of our community.	5/23/2019 8:17 PM
7	Anyone who is elected or hired to work for the City of Courtenay or the Regional District should have a tree-friendly attitude and mostly not a developer-attitude. I have been saddened too many times by developers who go into an area and strip all of the huge old trees off of the land so that they can develop the property for less cost. This should not be allowed. Developers have too much say in how trees are treated in our valley. This has even happened on our school properties, such as along Lake Trail Road at Lake Trail School. A beautiful line of Lombardy Poplars were totally destroyed so that an addition could be put on the school. When a student-led group tried to replant a row of Douglas Firs, the school district did not replace the chain-link fence along the line of new young trees. As a result all of the new Douglas Firs were torn up or ripped out of the ground by uncaring passers-by. Only one magnificent Douglas Fir remains of the 15 that were planted. The original Lombardy Poplars were a sound buffer, shade for students, and stopped dust from the road from entering the windows of the school. Total disaster on the part of the school district and the developer/builder. These are the sorts of things that happen to our beautiful urban forests.	5/23/2019 7:13 PM
8	It feels like we are over developing in Courtenay and losing some beautiful wooded areas. Can't we take a long term view of what makes our area so special, but which is quickly losing it's character and the reason we moved here.	5/23/2019 6:03 PM
9	1) Add protection for all mature trees, in addition to the 6 species listed. There are many beautiful mature trees in the city and they are not protected. 2) Gravel on narrow winding pathways through our nature parks causes loud crunchy walking while trying to listen to birds and relax in a natural environment. I wish a softer quieter material could be used instead, such as bark mulch or wood chips. I realize that gravel is required on wheelchair accessible routes. Maybe newer materials such as rubber chips from recycled tires could be used?	5/23/2019 4:09 PM





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10	The survey was a bit confusing so I hope to make the point of saying yes to planting more ever green trees! More evergreen trees that don't create slippery mess on sidewalks, no to leaves clogging up city gutters too.	5/23/2019 3:31 PM
11	I would like to see new plantings focus on food security and supporting wildlife. Trees can be planted in a measure that would feed the community in times of possible famine or food insecurity. Nut trees can provide needed protein and fats and I believe should be a priority over fruit trees. Walnuts, hazelnuts, etc, and choosing the best varieties for production along with other needs. I would also like to see trees chosen that benefit pollinators, local birds, and other wildlife. Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback and good luck with this!	5/23/2019 3:13 PM
12	Planting trees on small urban properties decreases light for gardening. Establishing accessible community gardening opportunities in neighbourhoods would make tree planting more acceptable to people on small lots.	5/23/2019 1:50 PM
13	Exceptionally well done! Very thorough. I'd love to see the habitat connectivity/wildlife use model and other analysis used to improve EDPAs in the City and inform the OCP, Parks Master Plan, IRMP etc.	5/23/2019 10:37 AM
14	I would like to see information included regarding wildlife and our urban/rural forest interface.	5/23/2019 7:37 AM
15	I believe this whole program is unnecessary expense to the already overburdened Taxpayers (of which I am one)	5/22/2019 10:01 PM
16	This survey is flawed. It does not consider or give options for tree cover over 40%, when tree cover should be 50% or more.	5/22/2019 8:04 PM
17	A tax incentive for tree owners i.e. small rebate to a maximum of ??? possible one hundred dollars if tree density met or exceeded. help in maintenance of trees for seniors or disabled. Both these suggestions would have helped keep my neighbourhood greener. As a Comox resident I am aware of the threat of amalgamation so feel justified to participate in this survey plus we share the same valley and planet.	5/22/2019 7:10 PM
18	i think keeping it 'positive' and taking it as a given fact that it's everyone's responsibility to provide clean air for the city, and nature corridors for people and friendly animals, and conditions for serenity that benefits everyone. We know more about these things nowadays than we used to, it's scientific, the effect of trees or even 10 minutes in a forest, on the mind ... That's why i put education and partnerships high up there in my ordering of strategic goals - the grandparents may not learn, but the grandchildren will, if given opportunities.	5/22/2019 6:52 PM
19	A lot of education and incentives will be needed to encourage voluntary planting of trees where there are not many now.	5/22/2019 5:02 PM
20	I DO FEEL IT WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL TO HAVE A MINIMUM CANOPY COVERAGE MUCH LARGER THAN IS CURRENT IN LARGE Comercial spaces, ie. parking lots.	5/22/2019 2:33 PM
21	More trees are needed in parkinglots to provide shade. Huge trees in a neighbours yard are not good if you want to grow food/vegetables in your own yard: too much shade and roots prevent proper growth off food plants!	5/22/2019 1:41 PM
22	I think that the Urban Forest Strategy should be targeting the large complexes that are being build that are mostly cement parking lots with little or no trees planted. This survey seems to be targeting home owners. We are not the problem. If one was to look historically, for example at the Valley View area, 20 years ago when it was being developed, there were very few trees left because it was easier to build on clear lots. Now however, there is good coverage. If one was however to look at the SuperStore complex which was also built around 20 hears ago, there is very little urban forest. I do not see any photographs of complexes such as this in the choices of percentage we would choose in our neighbourhoods.	5/22/2019 1:20 PM
23	It seems the strategy is "one size fits all". My earlier comments about townhouse developments suggests that different goals for different types of developments are needed.	5/22/2019 11:46 AM
24	If we are going to carry out this forestry plan We absolutely need to consult with Forest/Wildfire groups as to which trees are best	5/22/2019 11:35 AM
25	Stop the rampant automatic approval of every pro-developer proposal.	5/22/2019 7:02 AM
26	Keep up the good work!	5/22/2019 5:38 AM
27	I seek out green space to walk in daily.	5/22/2019 3:28 AM



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28	Remove dead oaks on Ryan Road medians, prune flowering trees on 17th near bridge, landscape both sides of bridge, require developers to plant & maintain trees (Superstore & Thrifty's parking lots), require developers to create parks (i.e. Crown Isle), identify existing residential native trees (Pacific dogwood & Garry oaks), ensure planting of a variety of trees in new developments (i.e. Idiens Way is all oak), removal of significant trees should result in heavy fines.	5/22/2019 12:39 AM
29	Permaculture-inspired trees help greatly. Food (example - nut) trees, trees that produce amazing amounts of bee-nectar, trees that can be used medicinally, should also be considered.	5/21/2019 10:53 PM
30	I am dismayed that the city is developing at a rate that is unsustainable, detrimental to our environment, and the essence of the entire valley. How will the urban forest expansion model be possible when we are continuing to use our land for more housing and businesses. If we are already taxing our environment, water supply, and our roadways are used to capacity, perhaps we should be looking at curbing the rampant development of the city and area. I am saddened to see that the charm and peace of this valley is being sold out to line the developers' pockets, or serve the desires of those who want this area to grow unchecked.	5/21/2019 9:40 PM
31	Just remember that there is exactly the same amount of water on this planet as there was 1 million years ago. Watering plants and trees are good for the environment. Plants give us oxygen and clean up the air watering restrictions hinder plant growth and create fire hazards. I like that you want more canopy cover but you have to have a plan in place to keep them alive	5/21/2019 7:55 PM
32	Keep up the good work. Thank-you for allowing input from the Taxpayers. We are very interested in not looking like Vancouver a concrete jungle. WE would like to see our Community a vibrant, beautiful place for ever.	5/21/2019 7:51 PM
33	Just keep as much as the natural forest as you can. It is the reason that I moved here...the nature.	5/21/2019 7:18 PM
34	This is easy to read, details the process for the community very well. Thank you	5/21/2019 5:05 PM
35	Hard surfacing of the landscape must be stopped, and reversed through innovative development technologies. Mature tree removal, particularly west of the Courtenay River must be stopped. Developers must work with nature, including existing trees where possible - mature trees need to be recognized for their inherent value in our urban landscape. A good start to making the City a healthier place to live - unfortunate it wasn't started a few of decades ago.	5/21/2019 2:16 PM
36	I am very pleased that the City has recognized the importance of urban forests to the health and well-being of the community and the environment. I hope that connectivity corridors will be addressed as the strategy moves forward.	5/21/2019 2:10 PM
37	My main concern is that you will make rules which adversely affect me when I am already providing >40% canopy. The burning rule causes me to send over 100 bags of yard waste.	5/21/2019 12:28 PM
38	no	5/21/2019 11:00 AM
39	WAY too much bureaucracy. Way too little correspondence with all of us. We already pay way too much tax for the services we get. WHAT about important issues like the rapidly increasing traffic problems in Courtenay? WHAT are you doing about this problem?	5/21/2019 8:00 AM
40	It is essential that all levels of government act swiftly and expediently to increase canopy cover in urban areas and strongly protect existing habitat. Scientists are telling us we have 12 years to greatly reduce our CO2 emissions. A million species on our planet are at imminent risk of extinction. The web of life is unravelling as we twiddle our thumbs and talk. Thank-you for putting the strongest protections and actions in place as soon as possible.	5/20/2019 10:54 PM
41	I live in the Puntledge Park neighbourhood and feel quite happy that this neighbourhood has many very tall native trees, partly due to park and riparian areas but also many private lots have very tall trees. The presence of tall 100' native trees really gives a feeling of canopy and supports native species. We see merlins and squirrels. Through a neighbourhood planning process would it be possible for a property owner to reduce the number of trees required if they had room to plant a native conifer(s) that could reach full size? The large conifers do take up some space but really add to canopy. The tree bylaw allows for a tree of 5 metres (16.4') to qualify as a tree. Would not like to see a forest of smaller trees!	5/20/2019 9:43 PM
42	Thank you for making this survey and for being forward thinking on this important matter	5/20/2019 2:26 PM
43	Addressing trees that developers cut down on masse just to make it easier to subdivide.	5/20/2019 2:01 PM
44	What is not covered here is backyard garden plots and how that can also help. We had to remove 3 trees that were blocking light and stopping the sun from hitting our solar panels.	5/20/2019 12:45 PM



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45	This is an excellent use of time and energy on the part of the City of Courtenay. Perhaps a bit more clarification around the relationship between urban forest percentages and forest fire risk would help assure the community that sustaining cover is good.	5/20/2019 8:59 AM
46	Please plan for fires and reduce the number of people chopping trees for firewood and burning.	5/19/2019 11:06 PM
47	Protect what we have. Grow what we had.	5/19/2019 5:28 PM
48	Well done. It's about time our community started to preserve and enhance our trees. Future generations will thank us...	5/19/2019 5:14 PM
49	On my city lot I have a dozen mature tree. I like my trees and have worked to maintain them. But these tree do require a lot of work and money to properly look after them and to clean up the mess they make. As I get older it is becoming more difficult to do this work and as all my costs have gone up (including the non-stop raising of city taxes) it is getting more difficult to afford my trees. So I am very concerned that this plan may restrict the control I have in removing some of my trees. If this is correct, then I am very much against it.	5/19/2019 4:04 PM
50	Community meetings are very good. This is all a good plan for the future	5/19/2019 9:09 AM
51	This strategy should highlight how this is beneficial NOT ONLY to humans but to the more than human world. Let's not adopt another anthropocentric policy as nothing will change in the long run for health of all beings if we continue to try to do this to maximize human interests.	5/19/2019 11:05 AM
52	Commercial property owners like myself may live the tree idea but the roots of large trees can cause a lot of damage. How can this be minimized?	5/17/2019 7:52 PM
53	I would like to see less pavement, this could easily be achieved by mandating gravel parking lots.	5/17/2019 3:15 PM
54	I live in Puntledge and have compiled a series of aerial photos of the neighbourhood. Twenty years ago, this strip along the river was almost entirely forested. We are now dealing with the vestigial remains of that forest. It happens that fast. You can't just instantly regrow a tree, or an ecology. The Tsolam restoration took a whole generation. Let's protect what remains. Let's defend against further erosion, and help support the groundwater in doing so. We are facing extreme environmental collapse, which is playing out in our lifetimes. Most of VT's forests have been laid waste. This urban forest strategy is not a light decision about aesthetics. It morally behooves us to do everything we can to slow the destruction of our forests, both urban and wild, to help sustain a web of life for the next generation.	5/17/2019 10:02 AM
55	Your format of questions is confusing especially when ranking different categories. I suppose it could be made more difficult but I struggle to see how.	5/16/2019 10:23 PM
56	I would definitely like to see more trees of substance planted on private properties on all urban streets. We are going to need the shade, fresh air and ambience that trees provide to all people and animals in a community. We sadly underestimate the value of an abundance of trees!	5/16/2019 6:05 PM
57	Keep the valley green! Sounds like a lovely plan to increase canopy coverage.	5/16/2019 5:54 PM
58	Please don't legislate what I have to do on my land. Also, legislate property owners to maintain their yards and trees	5/16/2019 3:44 PM
59	Imperative that every time a new development is approved there needs to be a plan for green space. Developers must take some (or all) responsibility for providing for this.	5/16/2019 8:05 AM
60	Ensure compliance by developers in tree replacement. Partner with School Board for canopy development	5/14/2019 9:00 AM
61	This is a very important concern for the health of the planet and humanity	5/13/2019 1:58 PM
62	Needing stricter regulation to ensure that developments (like in the crown isle and surrounding areas) leave more tree coverage from the forests they chop down	5/13/2019 8:40 AM
63	This is a well conceived strategy that will sustained support from future councils.	5/10/2019 1:11 PM
64	If I could afford it I would be willing to contribute more than \$100/year. OR I would like this much of my current property tax to go towards protecting and growing the urban forest. This would be my priority.	5/10/2019 12:01 PM
65	1. Best return on effort is to set canopy goals for new development. Developers understand that development regulations are expected. They can work it into their building designs early in the process. 2. For existing developed land we need to focus on education (getting the message out) and on tree protection bylaws that property owners can live with. E.g. they can remove an old tree if it is replaced by new trees.	5/10/2019 9:34 AM



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66	Bylaw that requires developers keep a significant pourcentage of mature canopy that already exists on the property.	5/8/2019 5:19 PM
67	Trees are an important part of this city! Lets keep what we have and plant more.	5/8/2019 3:54 PM
68	I would like to see all our remaining large trees protected, especially our Garry Oaks. In our neighbourhood (Courtenay West), we have lost many trees and habitat for birds and other wildlife.	5/9/2019 2:31 PM
69	Well done! Go Green and bring a maintain as much older growth trees as possible. Mark trees to be kept in a new development & Supervise when forest is removed by developers to ensure minimal damage to marked trees. Thank you!	5/9/2019 12:55 PM
70	limit your actions to public lands!	5/7/2019 11:21 AM
71	How about a pilot project? Down town Courtenay -old Thrifties -Courthouse lawn. Plant trees and remove some parking. Or Driftwood Mall. Remove lots of parking along Cliffe, and make wide treed walking corridors up to the Mall entrances.	5/6/2019 12:55 PM
72	I'm excited that Courtenay is looking at this, our environment is important!	5/6/2019 10:18 AM
73	No	5/5/2019 8:32 AM
74	Thanks for the opportunity to give input.	5/3/2019 7:45 PM
75	More action. Push out big corporate. Stop cutting trees to build big expensive houses that only increase gentrification and displacement in our home community. We are running out of time, and you have all the power.	5/3/2019 9:32 AM
76	I have the good fortunate to live in a residential area of Courtenay that has high density of trees. I would love to see development of this in other neighborhoods that would benefit from additional urban trees, both on public and private lands. I'd like to see less concrete and more permeable type parking lots with landscaping. We can do it!	5/3/2019 8:25 AM
77	I'd like to see more native Gary Oaks planted in our Parks, as they are suited to more drier and warmer climates and provide habitat for birds, mammals and insects (ecosystem)	5/2/2019 10:26 PM
78	I live on a street (upper Hobson Place) where there is room for three vehicles to pass, i.e., one parked on either side and moving traffic in the centre. This rarely happens, as most residents park on their capacious driveways. Please consider inserting a median on such wide residential streets, with trees planted all along its length. Residents who have trouble backing out of their driveways and hitting the median curb (hopefully, not the trees) will soon adapt. Make street parking illegal, ticketable. Alternatively, widen the sidewalks and plant trees, seeking residents' cooperation in terms of the city's financial burden and suitable/preferred types of trees. Encourage planting of trees in residents' back and front yards, with a tax rebate where a financial burden is proven. Plant more trees in our parks - keep enough open space for recreation, but insert more single trees and groves. Require shopping centres and other large open parking areas to include a certain percentage of trees/area. This will help the strategy, and provide shade for those unfortunate pets left in sweltering cars.	5/2/2019 7:08 PM
79	No.	5/2/2019 4:41 PM
80	I can't stress how important this initiative is. Even with 40% canopy cover that is a 60% loss of what would traditionally have grown here. The tree sizes are also much smaller than the local trees. Since they are made of carbon, the importance of tree size and numbers cannot be understated.	5/2/2019 2:37 PM
81	Well done!	5/2/2019 10:24 AM
82	Trees are the lungs of the Earth. Although I don't live in Courtenay, I would be willing to contribute financially. I wish Comox had such a plan.	5/2/2019 10:12 AM



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83	I understand this is a Forest Strategy plan and am all-in as far as supporting it. We have removed all the grass from both our front and back yards and have planted a full-on veggie garden in the back that feeds us throughout the summer and beyond (with overage going to the food bank). We've installed a drip system in both our front and back yards that controls water consumption. We also are installing a solar array on the roof of our home this summer. We acknowledge that we have few trees in our backyard (more in the front) because we need the sunlight for the array and the veggie garden. Is there anyway to incorporate all of what we've strategically accomplished within the Forest Plan in order to acknowledge the many, many ways property owners can contribute to an overall strategy that improves green spaces in the Comox Valley and limits the use of water? For example, could conscience homeowners like ourselves help to plant more canopy elsewhere with our monetary support? Sort of the same idea as carbon offsets? I may not be making sense; I'm just wondering if the Forest Strategy is one piece of a larger green pie.	5/2/2019 8:48 AM
84	An established mature tree enhances and increases the property value. That tidbit will encourage people to not cut them down and to plant more;	5/2/2019 8:45 AM
85	Keep it up!	5/2/2019 7:13 AM
86	As a long time property owner and resident of Courtenay I am pretty much fed up with the never ending tax increases that get promoted in a piece meal approach. Its only this wee amount or that wee amount but when added together I have only seen my property taxes increase dramatically over my time here. It would be a breath of fresh air to not have a property tax increase before the wise lord lays me to rest.	5/2/2019 6:59 AM
87	I'm impressed that I read the whole package /plan! I didn't think it would be that interesting but this is an amazing piece of long term vision that I commend those involved! Well done!!	5/1/2019 9:58 PM
88	In addition to the consultations of May 2, how about a presentation on the best/ideal/native trees to plant on Courtenay properties?	5/1/2019 8:43 PM
89	Am very concerned about greedy developers moving into the region and mowing down forests unnecessarily, as happened with Crown Isle, for example.	5/1/2019 6:33 PM
90	Please do whatever you can to find funding for this project even if some people complain because they aren't looking at the big picture/long term. We are having a climate emergency and planting more trees is extremely important.	4/30/2019 8:04 PM
91	Increasing the urban forest is great for us and the environment. I moved to the Comox Valley from Fort McMurray after the fire in 2016. My concern is of course for fire safety of developed areas. Our climate is becoming drier and warmer so increasing the size of the urban forest needs to be done with fire safety in mind. My second concern is will there be any requirement of dedicated green spaces or park areas in newly developed areas either commercial or residential?	4/30/2019 2:15 PM
92	we need to protect the trees we have on public and private land, we need to plant more trees, we need more species diversity	4/29/2019 9:55 PM
93	Since there are only 10% of old Growth forest left in Vancouver island I believe all efforts to protect all healthy trees should be done. Also, all efforts to plant more trees is important to offset our carbon emissions to provide us with clean air to breathe. All efforts should be done from our leading governmental organizations to set an example be leaders that are pro active about our environment at all costs and set the definitive actions now about eco conservation, protection and action!	4/29/2019 5:30 PM
94	I chose not to range the five strategies because I believe they all must be implemented concurrently	4/28/2019 10:16 AM
95	some trees have root systems that interfere with sewer systems, this gets worse the older the neighborhood is, understanding which trees won't do damage in the long term is extremely important in areas with sewer lines.	4/28/2019 6:57 AM
96	I would just like to add that a tree on private property that is diseased, dangerous and quite frankly ugly should be permitted to be cut down on private property even if it's a protected species. It is not trees above homes and lives. I should have the right to protect my home before you have the right to protect 1 tree. Thank you.	4/28/2019 6:42 AM
97	My area is heavily forested and lacks sunlight. Overgrown trees is a major urban problem as well that should be addressed.	4/27/2019 9:38 PM



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98	See previous comment. Please clarify whether or not you include cedar and/or fir hedges. While cedar hedges are quite easy to maintain, they should not be counted as individual trees. I also want to see regulations that prevent new developments from planting fir hedges on shared property lines. They grow too fast and are very expensive to maintain.	4/27/2019 5:38 PM
99	Thank you	4/27/2019 2:11 PM
100	Cumberland forest project? There has been major erosion around comox lake since many trees have been logged around that area. It seems futile to plant a few trees in town when those trees are being taken directly from us.	4/27/2019 7:14 AM
101	I deplore the policy of cutting down trees and clearing bush because of homeless campers, e.g. the lovely tall cottonwoods behind the Puddleducks daycare at Ryan and Back Rds. City permission should be required to cut any trees. This is not tackling the homeless problem at all. The answer in some US cities has been enforced incarceration for detoxing followed by education and providing lifelong drug alternatives, e.g. methadone. This had a 93% success rate in one city. In the long run this is way cheaper to society. There is no point in pushing the homeless around. The problem stems from drug and alcohol addictions. Can a covenant be placed on the majestic oak on Ryan next to the RCMP? Cutting that down would be a crime, but developers don't care. Clearcutting by developers should be prevented. Charging them for each tree cut will do nothing because their money is endless and they laugh as the relative low cost of doing business. The latest desecration is at Lerwick and Valley View with one or two small token trees left. Courtenay is changing way too fast and not for the better!	4/26/2019 11:18 PM
102	Thank you for caring. Please plant more nut trees.	4/26/2019 11:30 AM
103	Wondering how neighbourhoods can best be allies by having a strategy in place for discussion between neighbours when questions arise on neighbouring property with regards to either planting or taking down trees (ie when it affects not only the private owner's property but adjacent properties as well)...	4/26/2019 10:07 AM
104	Good to see that the climate chaos is being considered. We need to draw down as much carbon as possible. More trees are needed ASAP.	4/25/2019 7:42 PM
105	I think it would be important to be in contact with Comox council's forest strategy, because there is a forest interface between the two communities and the Comox peninsula is all encompassing.	4/25/2019 4:16 PM
106	Culture is important and we need to understand that tree formed our natural landscape and historical economy. Maybe we could have built in the historical importance of trees for Courtenay	4/25/2019 2:28 PM
107	I'm concerned that direction for food related plants/trees has not been stated. This includes not just planting but also requiring harvest, or sharing of harvest on private lands where the food is left to rot rather than be harvested.	4/25/2019 11:48 AM
108	downtown should have less pavement	4/25/2019 9:06 AM
109	Some of these questions really get into the weeds and I don't think are appropriate to ask the public, for example what priority to place planning over growing etc. that's all part of the same objective and shouldn't be ranked. particularly by the public who are not up on the intricacies of making this happen.	4/25/2019 8:39 AM

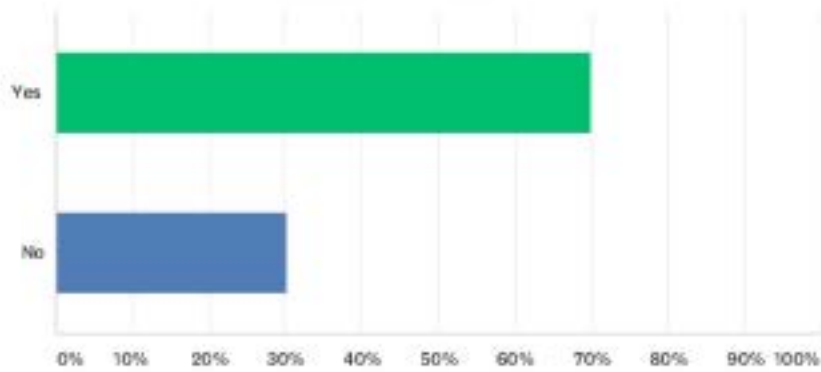


Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey

SurveyMonkey

### Q9 Do you live and/or own property within the City of Courtenay?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 73



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	69.94%	121
No	30.06%	52
TOTAL		173



### **Written Submissions**

A number of individuals as well as stakeholders provided written submissions. Individual written submissions are summarized here with names withheld to protect privacy. Stakeholder submissions are included below in full.

	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	Resident within Valley View neighbourhood	States strong support for the UFS initiative, however feels that public land debris must be managed proactively to avoid accumulation of forest fire fuels. Cited examples within his neighbourhood where City and School District lands had debris accumulated.
2	Resident within Crown Isle neighbourhood	States strong support for the UFS and would like to see more trees retained and planted in his neighbourhood, as well as encouraged partnership with SD71 to increase trees on school lands.
3	Member of naturalist organizations	Stated that 50% canopy cover should be considered to account for biodiversity requirements, climate change, supporting low-flammability deciduous cover to support a cooler environment.
4	Resident of east Courtenay	Stated support for the UFS as she felt it's an important community topic for many reasons (health, recreation, environment, wildlife, aesthetics). She wished to see more trees retained in new developments and ensuring more planting of the correct trees in the correct locations. Cited idea of an educational page in the local paper to encourage people to plant in support of the plan.
5	Resident of west Courtenay	Shared a Winnipeg "Dedication Gardens" initiative as an idea in support of growing the urban forest on public land with private donations, with minimal administrative requirements.





May 27, 2019

Nancy Gothard  
Policy Planner  
City of Courtenay  
830 Cliffe Avenue  
Courtenay, BC V9N 2J7

Dear Ms. Gothard:

**Re: Letter for Support of the Interim Draft of the City of Courtenay (2019) Urban Forest Strategy**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Courtenay's Urban Forest Strategy (UFS). We would like to offer our full support to the UFS, as stated on page 13, the recognition of "mental, physiological and physical health benefits of a personal connection to nature" puts health (and its connections to the natural environment) front and centre in the Plan. Today, chronic diseases are on the rise and "alarming trends in declining mental health are [indeed] the leading public health concern in Canada." In fact, over half of British Columbians have at least one chronic condition and chronic diseases are responsible for the majority of deaths in the province<sup>1</sup>.

The Strategy is clear in its efforts to promote sustainability, buffer climatic changes, and showcase its health promoting synergies with environmental protection and stewardship. Consider, for instance, the capacity of a park to cool and filter the air in a dense neighbourhood, or the ability of a greenway to inspire active transport and access to nature. Such interventions foster more livable surroundings that encourage physical activity, promote mental health, and bring diverse communities together<sup>2</sup>. The health promoting rationale is woven throughout the UFS, illustrated in public feedback all the way to Actions.

Studies have shown that access to green space can significantly affect how you travel and your physical activity, and exposure to air pollution, traffic safety, and noise<sup>3</sup>. Trees can encourage health promoting behaviours, for instance, research is showing a strong association between street trees and an increase in walking and perceptions of safety. Even a brief interaction with nature, such as a ten-minute walk or a view of green space, can have restorative effects<sup>4</sup>.

Some of the many elements we would like to support in the Strategy are as follows, however, this is by no means a fully comprehensive list and more so teases out a few highlights):

- **Section 2** (on page 18) – the overarching *Value of the Urban Forest* and its *Benefits* states "urban trees and forests provide services that improve human health and well-being." This value is accurate and admirable. There is strong evidence that the experience of being in and viewing nature has significant physical and mental benefits, including increased social well-being and reduced stress. Research also supports a strong relationship between biodiversity and measures of ecosystem functioning, such as water quality, soil health and pollination.



- Section 5 (page 6) – under *Climate Change* there are “anticipated impacts of climate change for Courtenay that include sea level rise and more extreme rainfall events, higher storm surges, flooding and waterlogged soils outside the summer months. Warmer temperatures will increase evaporation and vegetation water demand. Overall, water supply is expected to be reduced while water demand is likely to grow, increasing the possibility of drought.” Climate change is clearly observable and many people are already feeling its effects. It is affecting individuals and the communities in which people live, work and play. Expanding the use of vegetation and natural elements across the built environment, e.g. using the cooling effect of vegetation in parks and increasing the number of trees, mitigates air pollution and the urban heat island effect.
- Section 6 (page 10, 76 & 87) – *Food Security* is a term peppered throughout the Strategy and we would like to echo its support for inclusion. Public fruit trees and fruit gleaning projects can support healthy eating habits. Healthy eating habits can in turn significantly reduce the risk of chronic disease, e.g. high blood pressure, osteoporosis and cancer—which increases quality of life and reduces health care costs. While there are different ideas of what makes a healthy diet, all generally prioritize consumption of whole foods, such as fruits, vegetables and grains<sup>2</sup>.

The above are only a few of the many objectives and actions in the Strategy where Island Health may offer its support to this Plan. We would like to leave you with this recent finding: in the literature review by Fong et al. (2018), there is mounting evidence demonstrating associations between greenness and health. They found consistent and strong evidence that higher levels of greenness are associated with higher birth weights, higher levels of physical activity, and lower mortality rates<sup>4</sup>. They further point to how policies and interventions to increase neighborhood levels of greenness are relatively straightforward and may have many co-benefits, i.e. for climate mitigation and stormwater runoff control<sup>4</sup>. The UFS is an intervention to achieve a myriad of goals, such as improvement to a healthier built environment for all.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jade Yehia, CPHI(C)  
Regional Built Environment Consultant

JY/cmd

cc: Charmaine Enns, MD, MHSc, FRCPC, Medical Health Officer, Island Health

<sup>1</sup> BC Centre for Disease Control (2018). The Economic Burden of Risk Factors in BC, 2015. Excess Weight, Tobacco Smoking, Alcohol Use, Physical Inactivity and Low Fruit and Vegetable Consumption. Retrieved May 24, 2019 at [http://www.bccdc.ca/prop-public-health/Documents/economic\\_burden\\_five\\_risk\\_factors\\_BC\\_2015.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/prop-public-health/Documents/economic_burden_five_risk_factors_BC_2015.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> BC Centre for Disease Control (2018). *Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit: making the links between design, planning and health*. Retrieved May 21, 2019 from: [http://www.bccdc.ca/prop-public-health/Documents/HBE\\_linkages\\_toolkit\\_2018.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/prop-public-health/Documents/HBE_linkages_toolkit_2018.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Partnership between University of BC Health & Community Design Lab and Vancouver Coastal Health (2019). *Where Matters: the Health & Economic Impacts of Where We Live*. Retrieved May 21, 2019 from: <https://health-design.sphg.ubc.ca/where-matters-health-economic-impacts-of-where-we-live-2/>

<sup>4</sup> Fong, K.C., Hart, J.E. & James, P. (2018). *A Review of Epidemiologic Studies on Greenness and Health: Updated Literature Through 2017*. Current Environmental Health Reports 5: 77. Retrieved on May 24, 2019 at: <https://doi.org.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/10.1007/s40572-018-0179-y>



**Erin Nowak**  
Program Coordinator  
(250) 203-5644  
Email: erin@cvlandtrust.ca

**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 3462  
Courtenay, BC V9N 5N5

**Office:**  
2356a Rosewall Crescent  
Courtenay, BC, V9N 8R9

#### Partner Organizations

Comox Valley Land Trust  
Project Watershed  
Millard-Piercy Watershed Stewards  
Morrison Creek Streamkeepers  
Beaufort Watershed Stewards  
Comox Valley Nature  
Comox Valley Water Watch Coalition  
Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society  
Perseverance Creek Streamkeepers  
Cumberland Community Forest Society  
Mack Laing Heritage Society

#### Support Organizations

CV Sustainability Project  
CV Council of Canadians  
Friends of Comox Lazo Forest Society  
Forbidden Plateau Road Residents Association  
Black Creek Streamkeepers  
Saratoga and Miracle Beach Residents Association  
Arden Area Residents Association  
Friends of Strathcona Park  
Merville Area Resident's & Ratepayers Association  
Vi Whitewater Paddling Association  
Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society  
Macdonald Wood Park Society  
Tsolum River Restoration Society

#### Funding Partners

Real Estate Foundation of B.C.  
Community Gaming Grant  
RBC Blue Water Fund  
Comox Valley Regional District  
City of Courtenay  
Village of Cumberland

[www.cvlandtrust.ca/cvcp/](http://www.cvlandtrust.ca/cvcp/)

Date: June 26th, 2019

#### Re: Letter of Support, City of Courtenay's Urban Forest Strategy

To: Ian Buck, Director of Development Services and Nancy Gothard, Policy Planner

The Comox Valley Conservation Partnership (CVCP) Steering Committee would like to provide this letter of support to congratulate the City on the recent Urban Forest Strategy and public consultation process. The information is comprehensive, timely and presented in an informative and engaging format.

The CVCP has been advocating for an Urban Forest Strategy since 2016 when the City was considering significant changes to the Tree Bylaw. We congratulate Mayor and Council, staff, consultants, stakeholders and the many members of the public who participated to create this valuable piece of work.

There are a number of aspects of the UFS that CVCP specifically would like to commend:

- Inclusion of an ambitious City-wide Tree Canopy Target.** CVCP understands that the public consultation indicated strong support for increasing the overall Canopy Cover of the city from the current 33% City-wide (25% in urban areas) to 40% City-wide (and minimum of 34% in urban areas). 40% Canopy Cover is a target that CVCP requested during the Tree Bylaw work, citing the numerous benefits of a significant and well distributed canopy.
- Commitment to partnerships.** CVCP is a partnership based organization with a core belief in the power of collaborative approaches. We would like to offer support in implementing the UFS through developing and disseminating educational materials in partnership with the City, partnering in community initiatives such as tree planting programs/neighbourhood tree hunts.
- Commitment to monitoring the canopy cover over time.** As a living system, CVCP recognizes that the urban forest is dynamic and will change over time. Significant unknowns include climate change and the rate of development. As such monitoring the canopy in order to make informed decisions is critical to practicing evidence-based decision making. CVCP notes the monitoring cycles are projected for every 6 years and requests that more frequent intervals be considered to more proactively respond to urban forest changes.
- Incorporating UFS information into the OCP review.** For example the biodiversity connectivity analysis is an asset and should be used as a green network land use foundation in the City's climate friendly OCP. Protecting patches and corridors of native ecosystems is consistent with climate friendly community planning and affords many other benefits to biodiversity, rainwater management and high resident quality of life.
- Integrating UFS information with the ongoing Integrated Rainwater Management Plan (IRMP).** The relationship between water quality and



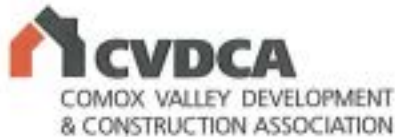
quantity and land use and coverage is well established, and CVCP is pleased to see a holistic and return to ecological principles being espoused in the IRMP. We look forward to continuing to work with the City on the IRMP initiative, and are pleased to see that the important role of trees and forests will be explored in that work.

- **More detailed neighbourhood planning.** The CVCP also supports that more detailed consideration of Urban Forest values should be examined at the neighbourhood scale with local residents, as is recommended in the UFS. The CVCP acknowledges that some lands will be better suited to tree retention and protection, while on other land replanting is a more suitable urban forest option, but that a healthy balance of retention and replacement must be considered in all neighbourhoods to sustain a resilient urban forest.

The CVCP Steering Committee appreciated being a part of the collaborative process and look forward to taking the next steps in partnership to assist in implementing this innovative Strategy.

Sincerely,

Erin Nowak  
Program Coordinator  
Comox Valley Conservation Partnership



2019-06-28

City of Courtenay  
Development Services  
planning@courtenay.ca

RECEIVED  
JUN 28 2019  
CITY OF COURTENAY

RE: Urban Forest Strategy, City of Courtenay, 2019, Interim Draft April 2019 -Diamond Head Consulting and City of Courtenay

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Interim Draft Urban Forest Strategy as posted on the city website and dated 2019-04-26. There is also a reference to a Final Draft on the website, so we would appreciate confirmation that we are indeed reviewing an Interim Draft and not a Final Draft document, and that a Final Draft will be forthcoming for review by the public following this round of inputs.

The Comox Valley Development and Construction Association represent local builders and land and property development corporations, the building industry and consultants. As we are sure that Council and staff appreciate this is a seasonal business and this is the busiest time of year for most of our members. Our comments today will therefore be reflective of our need to stay focused on employing our workers effectively and creating the products and services we rely on to maintain our businesses and employment. While our comments are therefore necessarily brief, this does not reflect our opinion of the importance of this initiative, either to our business viability or to our community. We look forward to contributing to this dialogue for years to come.

We applaud the City for this initiative and the Interim Draft report contains a wealth of helpful data, comparative research and guidelines. We share with the citizens of Courtenay the importance of trees in our community and the goal of maintaining or increasing tree canopy from current levels. The study has explicitly and thoroughly laid out the importance and benefits of trees. It is a dense but excellent resource in this respect.

We agree with the observation that majority of tree canopy is and will remain on private land, and that stewardship partnership will be the way forward on any urban forest strategy. We agree that both public and private lands will require a strategy for the community goals to be achieved. If we understand the data on Land Cover Distribution correctly (p. 32) the urban residential land categories in aggregate have more tree canopy cover, measured in hectares, as the entire public land category. We believe this has been achieved simply because people want trees – not because they have been ordered to keep them.

Murray Presley · chairman · 951 Fitzgerald Ave, Courtenay, BC, V9N 2R6 · (250) 338-1394



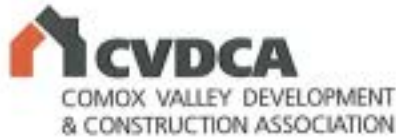
Philosophically, we believe that education and carrots will get more than sticks in a goal of long-term tree conservation for the Courtenay community. We believe that was also reflected in survey results, for example, that people are more interested in knowing what trees should be planted than in having the city provide them with trees for free, and that city tax expenditures on tree matters be in the order of \$300,000 (\$25 per household) annually.

We are in agreement that compact development (compact single family, ground-oriented housing, mixed-use or high density) is conducive to a healthy community.

We would like to work with city staff and its consultants to test out the Scenarios A-F on p. 58 for residential tree canopy targets, in particular to examine how the interplay of City servicing, environmental protection and tree-related policies can achieve desired targets over the longer term. Our sense is that there should be more focus on the end goals of tree canopy post-development, particularly in regard to improving the long-term diversity of species in the urban setting, rather than on what we have experienced under the current Tree Bylaw as a challenging approach to retention of existing trees. We believe a workshop approach is practical and would help bridge gaps in understanding for both the public and private sector and result in more informed stewardship on the critical private sector side of implementing the urban forest strategy. It could for example move forward on the identified Action 12 a 'explore how to maintain hydrological pathways to retained forest patches...', and the implications of 12 b 'require that calculations for stormwater management plans for new development utilize runoff coefficients that incorporate the historical land cover value for up to 25 years.' With the City's stormwater management bylaw under review, our recommendation would be to delete this action here, in favour or considering appropriate standards in the appropriate bylaw. If it is left in the Urban Forest Strategy, the criteria should be clearer. Further, we would appreciate some comparables and rationale for incremental benefits of such a standard. If we understand it correctly, it appears that this standard is significantly more onerous than elsewhere.

As part of that workshop approach, we would appreciate seeing some comparables to other jurisdictions on the continent and some insight into differential impacts of the range of tree canopy targets being considered in the Interim Draft. Is there evidence of significant health related benefits of a community with a 40% tree canopy target, compared to one with 37% or 33%, for example.

We would also like to explore what design or policy options are contemplated within the urban core related to the 'key hub patches', 'major connectivity pathway' and 'pinch points' illustrated on an unnamed figure on p. 46. The only actions we could find was 11 b (p. 84) which states 'Consider options, such as land acquisition or regulation, to enhance protection of Significant Stands and Corridors', and 'Consider density bonusing options to protect Significant Stands and Corridors in the next Zoning Bylaw



review.' These could potentially be significant tax expenditure items, whether in acquisition or maintenance, and we are unclear at this point of the regulatory mandate contemplated by the authors.

A workshop approach to the Scenarios, at least for residential development, we believe will lead to a more informed conclusion on how achievable the various targets are in today's compact development world, and if there are unintended trade-offs that are relevant to other policy initiatives such as affordable housing that council will want to consider.

We agree that there are important opportunities to achieve city-wide goals as commercial and industrial areas develop and redevelop, and through adjacent city initiatives of streetscape improvements.

Under Action 11a, adding a >60cm DBH threshold to the definition of 'Protected Tree' will reduce flexibility and options to develop land with larger trees. If a size threshold is to be considered, then consider what standard should apply to which species. This again would be a helpful topic for a workshop.

We would appreciate some clarity on what is envisaged under recommendation for action 11c for soil preservation guidelines and storage before providing meaningful comments.

Action 13a states 'on greenfield properties where forest cluster of corridor configurations may be possible but are not proposed, require a design rationale for why such configurations are not possible'. Please clarify if this means forest clusters proposed for within public park designations, or something beyond that.

Action 13d contemplates three visits, one comfort letter, and two memos by an arborist for tree protection zones. Is all this added cost for consulting value added to the city or the buyers?

Under Action 13i, there should be an appeal opportunity to Council if there is a disagreement between an applicant and the opinion of the Director, and some guidelines to applicants on what constitutes 'to the satisfaction of the Director'.

Under Partner Indicators there is a rating of low for 'involvement of large private and institutional landholders', but no partner actions. This appears to be a gap, to which our proposed workshop may be one response.

We would appreciate a more focused final draft emphasizing guidelines and costed policy recommendations, with a companion resource document for the research-oriented reader.



There appears to be an inference that there will be a heavy reliance for canopy maintenance and enhancement through retention of existing stands of trees on private lands. Is that the intent? To what extent? Mandatory retention as required in the current Tree bylaw is difficult and costly, and would be a key item to discuss at the workshop proposed above. If pursued, these costs are eventually passed on directly to the consumer, impacting housing affordability in the region, which we understand is also an important objective of council.

Council should consider a sliding scale of replacement, either cash or trees, which encourages retention, but does not make it mandatory. This will provide flexibility, and will help manage cost/affordability, while still achieving tree canopy targets.

The cost implications of meeting the targets suggested in the UFS are not clear. This needs to be remedied. It is not reasonable to create a policy framework that ignores the costs of implementation to existing residents and industry. We would appreciate a cost impact analysis of implementing the Goals, Strategies and Actions, both on the City finances and private sector, and a comparison of this to the survey results of what the public anticipate spending through their tax dollars. For example, some of the potential initiatives appear to have substantial cost implications.

As we looked at the front cover of the document we were reminded that on an airshed and regional basis we are among the fortunate regions in the world in terms of tree opportunities. We applaud this effort to extend that regional strength in practical terms into the urban environment for our community well being and the health of our citizens. We are here to share in that challenge.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Murray Presley', is written over a horizontal line.

Murray Presley



## Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey

### Urban Forest Strategy background

One year after beginning a comprehensive exploration and community consultation into Courtenay's urban forest, [the draft plan](#) is now available for public feedback and we want to hear from you!

The Urban Forest Strategy will guide how we as a community protect and manage trees on public and private land within the Courtenay boundaries. The drafted Strategy recommends the vision for what our future urban forest will be and a framework for how to get there.

The survey focuses on a few key questions to gather final input on the vision, preferred canopy target, your priorities and willingness to participate in proposed urban forest actions.

All survey participants are welcome and encouraged to consult the draft Urban Forest Strategy, including previous consultation findings, which are available on the City of Courtenay's website at: [www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest](http://www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest)

Questions and written feedback may also be directed to City staff at [planning@courtenay.ca](mailto:planning@courtenay.ca)

**A public open house will take place Thursday, May 2** from 5:30-7:30 pm at the [Florence Filberg Centre Evergreen Lounge](#) with a short presentation at 6pm.

Survey closes May 23, 2019. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to participate!

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is 14 pages, including a number of images. Please return the survey to City Hall, Lewis Centre or Florence Filberg Centre, or scan it to [planning@courtenay.ca](mailto:planning@courtenay.ca)  
You may also conduct the survey online, or view the draft plan, at: [www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest](http://www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest)  
Note - the answer boxes are quite small. Please use as much space on the page as you need.

# Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey

## Vision Statement

The Urban Forest Strategy Vision Statement is meant to capture the desired state of the urban forest. The Vision Statement should be relatively short and concise and will be used as an aspirational guide to help the community make decisions about the urban forest as the plan is implemented.

The Vision Statement has been informed by the summer 2018 consultation findings, using the voices from the community.

Please read the draft Vision Statement and answer the question below.

### Vision Statement:

*Courtenay residents envision a future urban forest that is more extensive than today, is connected and accessible, maintains mature trees and ecosystem services, is comprised of a sustainable mix of ages and locally adapted species, and is used as a design treatment to reduce the prevalence of pavement in commercial areas, create neighbourhood distinction and canopy streets on key routes.*

*The City will monitor canopy cover changes at established intervals to refine policies and actions to achieve the Vision, as the urban forest changes to accommodate development, climate change and through the natural life span of trees.*

\*Note that the adopted Canopy Cover Target will be included within the Vision Statement, at the beginning of the second paragraph. Questions 3 & 4 ask about your preferred Canopy Cover Target.

1. Do you agree with this Vision Statement?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If not, or if you're unsure, can you explain why? What would you include or change? If you need more room, you may write to [planning@courtenay.ca](mailto:planning@courtenay.ca)

# Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey

## Goals and Strategies

A summary of the Urban Forest Strategy recommended goals are presented here for your feedback.

The draft document contains detailed information on goals and strategies to achieve the Vision. Participants are encouraged to consult the draft Urban Forest Strategy on the [City's website](#) to learn more.

[www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest](http://www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest)

Recommended goals for Courtenay's urban forest are organized around these 5 themes:

**Plan strategically** to inform and monitor land use pattern projections on the urban forest and integrate into public asset management.

**Manage proactively** to enhance urban forest health, safety and resilience by managing alongside other infrastructure goals.

**Protect prudently** to maintain the quality and connectedness of the urban forest.

**Grow intelligently** to provide urban forest benefits when and where they are needed.

**Partner effectively** to share stewardship and promote appreciation of the urban forest.

2. Do you agree with the goals identified?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If not, or if you're unsure, can you explain why? What would you include or change? If you need more room, you may write to [planning@courtenay.ca](mailto:planning@courtenay.ca)

## Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey

### Setting a Canopy Cover Target

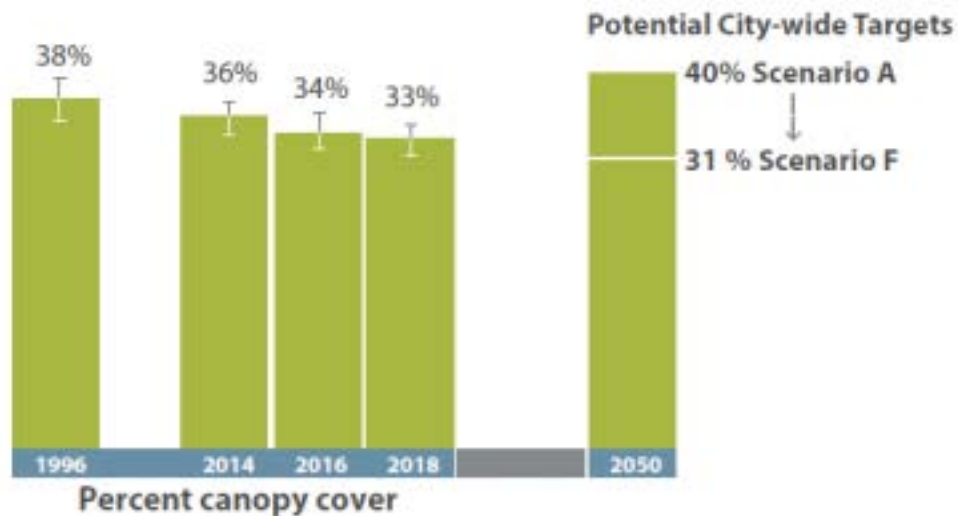
Tree canopy is a common metric used to describe the extent of a community's urban forest. Courtenay's tree canopy is composed of natural forests and planted trees in streets, parks and on private property.

#### **Courtenay's tree canopy today and over time:**

Courtenay's canopy cover in 2018 was approximately 33% across the entire City, and 25% within the urban areas. The canopy cover has been declining over time, with accelerating loss in the past four years.

There are no industry standards on canopy cover as each community will determine this for themselves based on their values. Common targets in other communities range between 30-40%.





**Please consult the information in the following table and images and answer the question below on which Canopy Cover Target Scenario you most prefer. Canopy Targets are for the year 2050.**

*Some explanation of the table:* [Table on next page](#)

The table shows differences in actions in three broad categories that could be taken to achieve the different Canopy Target Scenarios, of which there are 6 presented. These action categories are: regulation (such as the tree bylaw), voluntary planting (on private land) and public planting (on City land).

Because the rate of community growth and forest change cannot be predicted at this time for large undeveloped portions of the urban forest, the Canopy Targets are shown as a range of what might be reasonably achieved between the city-wide target (maximum) and the urban area target (minimum). Minimums are presented to show that as the large undeveloped portions of the urban forest are developed, they would be required to meet the minimum city-wide targets similar to the rest of the community.

**Reminder that the current city-wide canopy cover is 33%, the urban area canopy cover is 25%.**

**Table showing different Canopy Cover Target Scenario options**

Scenario	City-wide Canopy Target (maximum)	Urban Area Canopy Target	Tree Bylaw Density Target (Stems per hectare)	New Trees planted on private land (voluntary)	Action category: Regulation	Action category: Voluntary Planting	Action category: Public Planting
A	40%	34%	100	17,000	Highest	High	High
B	37%	29%	75	17,000	High	High	High
C	36%	27%	75	8,500	High	Moderate	High
D	34%	24%	50	17,000	Current	High	High
E	33%	23%	50	8,500	Current	Moderate	High
F	31%	21%	50	0	Current	None	High

The images below are examples of neighbourhoods that contain different percentages of canopy cover. Locations of the images are included in the image captions should you wish to visit the area yourself to help inform your opinion.

**Examples of 40% canopy cover in residential areas (upper range of Scenario A).**



*Old Orchard block bound by 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets and Duncan Avenue and Douglas Place.*



*East Courtenay block bound by 10<sup>th</sup> Street East, Back Road and Glen Urquhart Drive.*

Examples of approximately 30% canopy cover in residential areas (lower end of Scenario B).



West Courtenay block bound by 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Tull and Percy Avenues.



East Courtenay block bound by 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Street East, Arrowsmith and Evergreen Avenues.

Examples of approximately 25% canopy cover in residential areas (within lower ranges of Scenarios C and D).



Puntledge neighbourhood block bound by 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Robert Lang Drive, Rod & Gun Road and Willemar Avenue.



Sandwick neighbourhood block bound by Oakridge and Mapleridge Drives, Muir Road and Poplar Drive.

Examples of approximately 20% canopy cover in residential areas (lower ranges of Scenarios E and F).



Portion of a west Courtenay block bound by 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets, Stewart Avenue and Tull Place.



Portion of east Courtenay block bound by McLaughlin Drive, Macintyre Avenue and Dingwall Road.

### 3. Which Canopy Cover Scenario do you most prefer?

Number the 6 Scenarios from 1 - 6 with 1 being your first preference.



**A:** City-wide range between 34-40%. Canopy similar or higher than today due to 100 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; lots of voluntary private land planting and maximizing public land planting.



**B:** City-wide range between 29-37%. Canopy similar or lower than today due to 75 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; lots of voluntary private land planting and maximizing public land planting.



**C:** City-wide range between 27-36%. Canopy similar or lower than today, and lower than Scenario B, due to 75 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; some voluntary private land planting and maximizing public land planting.



**D:** City-wide range between 24-34%. Canopy lower than today due to 50 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw; lots of voluntary planting, and maximizing public land planting.



**E:** City-wide range between 23-33%. Similar to Scenario D with fewer private planting efforts.



**F:** City-wide range between 21-31%. Canopy a lot lower than today due to 50 stems/ha tree density requirements in bylaw, no voluntary planting and maximizing planting only on public land.



**4. If the City must chose between which types of strategies to focus on, how would you order the following action categories?**

**Number the 4 options from 1 - 4 with 1 being your first preference.**

- Regulation (e.g. Tree Bylaw) of undeveloped forested properties
- Regulation (e.g. Tree Bylaw) of developed urban properties
- Voluntary planting on private land
- Planting on public land

# Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey








## Prioritizing activities

The draft Urban Forest Strategy contains numerous recommended actions to support the urban forest, most of which would require individual adoption by Council in order to be implemented. Some actions can be undertaken by staff in house and others would require additional funding and working with partners. Identifying priorities is a critical step in determining which activities to focus on.

### 5. How would you order the following types of actions?

Number the 5 types of actions from 1 - 5 with 1 being your first preference.

Actions listed are organized by Strategy goals. Consult [the plan](#) for more detailed information on actions.

-   **Planning** actions: Includes planning consultation activities with individual neighbourhoods; conducting a forest fire management plan; maintaining spatial data on changes to canopy cover.
-   **Managing** actions on public land: Includes continuing to develop management responses to risk factors such as climate change, storm, pests and drought; investing more in the early years of tree establishment; developing clear operating procedures based on level or service expectations for public trees.
-   **Protecting** actions: Includes pursuing options to enhance the protection of significant forest stands and biodiversity corridors; understanding how changes to hydrology and soil through development affect the urban forest; monitoring the Tree Bylaw to ensure it is effectively protecting trees, and making changes when it is not.
-   **Growing** actions: Includes more planting on public and private land; enhancing the quality of new planting conditions; distributing the canopy cover to areas that need it; promoting building energy efficiency through strategic planting locations.
-   **Partnering** actions: Includes partnering with others such as community groups on stewardship activities; partnering with students conducting research on the urban forest; investing in public education and communications; working with nurseries, arborists and third party utilities.

## Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey

### Willingness to support

Courtenay's urban forest grows across thousands of property boundaries, with 84% of it growing on private land. Managing this community asset is a shared responsibility that benefits from the participation of citizens, businesses, developers, agencies and the stewardship sector.

Please indicate your willingness to participate in stewarding the urban forest by answering the following two questions.

**6. Considering your answers to the previous question (Question 5 - Priorities), what is the maximum you would be willing to pay for the City to implement the initiatives that you support?**

*Answering this question does not mean a tax increase will occur, but rather helps staff and Council to understand how important urban forest actions are to you.*

- \$5 per year per household
- \$10 per year per household
- \$25 per year per household
- \$50 per year per household
- \$100 per year per household
- I would not be willing to pay any amount per year

**7. I would plant a new tree on my property if:**

*Select all that apply*

- I could purchase a tree for \$20 or less
- I received a free tree
- I knew my property was within an area that could benefit from more tree canopy cover
- I knew what type of tree to plant on my property based on soil and light conditions and available growing area
- I knew where to plant a tree on my property to enhance energy efficiency of my home
- I knew more about how to care for my tree, including into its maturity
- I knew how to nature-scape my yard to provide habitat for birds and pollinators
- I am not interested in planting a new tree on my property

Other (please specify)

# Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey

## Additional comments

8. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make about Courtenay's Urban Forest Strategy that were not covered in the survey?



## Courtenay 2050 Urban Forest Strategy - Final Plan Survey

### Information about you

Please answer the following two questions to help us understand the neighbourhood and demographic representation through the survey.

9. Do you live and/or own property within the City of Courtenay?

Yes

No

10. What is your postal code?

11. Would you like to stay in touch about the Urban Forest Strategy implementation and possibly get involved? If so, please provide your email address. This information will not be shared.

Email Address

### Don't forget to map your thoughts!

The Survey also includes an opportunity for you to map treed locations in the community that are of interest, concern or important to you. You're encouraged to provide input to the community "story map", including your own photos! Click [here](#) to the separate story map page.

One photo will be chosen from all submissions for the cover of the Urban Forest Plan; the winner will also receive a \$200 gift certificate to a local nursery!

Click [here](#) to return to the City of Courtenay Urban Forest Strategy homepage.

Story map can be accessed from the Urban Forest Strategy webpage:  
[www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest](http://www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest)