

Current and Potential New Programs, Projects and Initiatives

CURRENT PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES				
Tactic	Projects/ Initiative	Benefits	Risks or Challenges	Costs/Financial Implications
<p><b>City Led Planting on Public Property</b></p> <p>Planting new park and boulevard trees (growth)</p> <p>Replanting dead/vacant park and boulevard tree spaces (renewal)</p> <p>Planting naturalized areas</p>	<p><b>Urban Tree Canopy Expansion project (2021-2023):</b> Planted 5,370 new trees (boulevard and open space trees, and 10 ha of naturalization)</p> <p><b>Capital Planning for Greener As We Grow Project (2021-2023):</b> Provision of concept level plans at the district level and Green Infrastructure Expansion Mapping (GIEM) - a new GIS tool for mapping of available City land for new boulevard and open space tree planting, naturalization, reclamation and restoration</p> <p>Naturalization, Restoration and</p>	<p>Consistency of approach and best practices for naturalization and tree planting work for the next two budget cycles</p> <p>Maximize use of City land for green infrastructure</p> <p>Planning for tree planting at the district level, and prioritize based on both available area and ability to meet other environmental/ ecological goals</p>	<p>Public complaints (locations, species)</p> <p>Various competing land uses</p> <p>Various urban constraints including overhead and underground utilities, and other existing infrastructure, designing for sightlines, soil conditions</p> <p>Complex public engagement and communications where there are sensitivities to these activities</p>	<p>Funded through:</p> <p>Urban Tree Canopy Expansion Profile (2021-2023)</p> <p>Capital Planning for Greener as We Grow and creation of a new Naturalization, Reclamation and Restoration Plan</p> <p>Greener As We Grow Capital Profile</p> <p>2 Billion Trees Federal Capacity Building Grant (if application successful)</p> <p>Trees for Life Grant</p> <p>Tree Reserve</p> <p>As funded capital projects are</p>

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	Reclamation Plan - identifies processes, best practices and plant/tree communities to support urban tree canopy development			implemented, Administration will bring forward operating impacts of capital requests in future SOBAs and for the 2027-2030 budget cycle.
<b>Resident stewardship and volunteer programs, special events, education and incentives</b>	Root for Trees Community Forestry Programs Commemorative Tree Program Natural Front Yards Community Gardens Front Yards in Bloom and Edmonton in Bloom Awards Resident requests through 311/POSSE	Resident participation in growth and conservation of urban tree canopy on public land Education and participation encourage stewardship on private land outside these programs	Small program budgets can limit reach of programs and engagement tactics Safety requirements for volunteers can restrict available planting sites and size of plant material	Funded through: Greener As We Grow Capital Profile 2 Billion Trees Federal Capacity Building Grant (if application successful) Trees for Life Grant Tree Reserve
<b>Maintenance of existing trees/canopy</b>	Operational maintenance of	Keep tree inventory in good health for long	Budgets/resources have not increased over	Existing operational budgets in Parks and

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	boulevard and open space trees, natural and naturalized areas, including replacement tree planting for mortality	term canopy growth  Replacing trees for mortality ensures re-use of tree spaces	time with increase in tree inventory and naturalized spaces  Plant material acquisition appropriate to sites  Complex planning and routing  Replacement cost increase and risk of large scale inventory losses	Roads Services for management of maintained park and boulevard trees, natural areas and naturalized areas  As funded capital projects are implemented, Administration will bring forward operating impacts of capital requests in future SOBAs and for the 2027-2030 budget cycle.
<b>Neighborhood design</b>	<b>Edmonton Design and Construction Standards:</b> Including Volume 5 Landscape, outlines tree planting requirements for developments	Establishes minimum tree planting requirements for lands that will come into City inventory (public land)	Condition of trees and handover of inventory from developers  Does not require boulevard tree planting on local/residential roads	None

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<b>Regulatory (Bylaws)</b>	<b>Edmonton Zoning Bylaw 12800:</b> Requires planting of trees based on development type (residential, commercial, industrial)	Establishes minimum tree planting requirements for new developments  Incentives to preserve mature trees (can count towards the minimum trees required)	Current Zoning Bylaw 12800 regulations for security collection make it challenging to ensure residential tree plantings are delivered if the ownership changes within the landscape maintenance period  Tree requirements for low density residential development came into effect June 2016 - prior to this date, landscaping (trees and shrubs) was not required (so therefore cannot enforce new requirements on existing development.)	Funded Program  Approximately \$400,000/year (includes inspections, procurement, enforcement of some (not all) required landscaping on private lands  Does not include low density development inspections
<b>Regulatory (Bylaws)</b>	<b>Public Tree Bylaw 18825:</b> Preserves and protects trees on public land	Seeks to avoid damage to City trees which impacts tree health and mortality  Enforcement and value recovery options for damaged trees	Difficulty getting locations to inspect utility work near trees  Work done without permits  Enforcement challenges	Funded Program  Approximately \$800,000/year (includes permit process, inspections, enforcement)

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<b>Retention of trees through approval of development plans</b>	Encourage the retention of existing natural areas and tree stands as part of neighbourhood structure plans and development design plans	Less to plant by keeping existing trees and tree stands  Retention of trees, protection of plant and animal habitat  Supports passive recreation (i.e. nature interpretation, appreciation)	Competing priorities for municipal reserve dedication (i.e. schools, parks, open space, tree stands)	None
<b>City procurement of private land with trees</b>	Natural areas and tree stands being brought into City inventory	Expand tree canopy on City-owned lands  May be able to enhance with additional trees/shrubs	Areas must be added to maintenance inventory  Reduced development and income to the City	Cost of procurement would be variable
<b>Adding new trees to older areas</b>	<b>Building Great Neighborhoods (Neighborhood Renewal Program):</b> Creation of new boulevard/sidewalk planting spaces, naturalization  Routine replacement of City trees for mortality (trees that die as a	Opportunity to renew, maintain and grow the existing canopy	Coordinating tree planting and naturalization with Neighborhood Renewal projects  Tree condition accuracy in City inventory  Potential loss of recreational spaces with naturalization	Cost based on:  Neighborhood Renewal projects (varies by project)  and  Replacement costs for approximately 3000 dead trees per year through the Soft

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	result of natural or other causes)  Naturalization planting on public land			Landscaping Capital Profile and the Park Renewal Capital Profile

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<b>Neighborhood design</b>	Review subdivision or design and construction standards to allow appropriate space for planting trees on public land	Return to separated boulevard sidewalks, in some contexts, may allow for additional trees as well as improved snow clearing/storage  Changes to design requirements could provide more room for trees  "Spread out" green space for trees and canopy instead of	Trying to balance land use, utility installation, active paths and transportation infrastructure with more green space  Impacts to developable area in a neighbourhood and increased infrastructure costs	Cost of engagement with stakeholders to change standards  Maintenance and operational cost impacts

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		concentrating into parklets		
<b>Neighbourhood design</b>	<p><b>Neighbourhood Renewal:</b> Continue to add plantable boulevard space and accelerate/prioritize plantable space within the road right-of-way as part of neighbourhood renewal designs</p> <p>e.g. converting mono walks to segregated walks to create space for tree planting</p>	<p>Increase the plantable space for trees</p> <p>Expand permeable surfacing to contribute with climate resiliency</p>	<p>Right-of-way availability is often very limited in retrofit contexts such as Neighbourhood Renewal</p> <p>Due to the limited right-of-way, accelerating boulevard additional would result in significant trade offs including reduced parking, creating 1 way roads for cars and limiting space for expanded sidewalks and active transportation. Residents may oppose changes that would increase their curb-to-property maintenance responsibilities or reduce yard space</p>	<p>May impact costs of new infrastructure or utilities upgrades/moves</p>

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<b>Neighbourhood design</b>	Work to resolve challenges with utilities not installed to proper specifications on public land	Increase tree planting spaces by resolving depth/setback installation issues	Requires partnering with utilities or changing design processes	Cost of engagement with stakeholders to change standards  Cost of monitoring
<b>Plan implementation</b>	<b>Implementation plan for Urban Forest Asset Management Plan</b>  Private tree canopy targets	Development of programs and incentives to support tree planting and retention on private property  Addition of existing tree canopy to inventory (public land)	Adoption of programs and incentives  Maintaining programs in the long term  Fair and equitable access to programs and incentives	Costs to develop and implement programs, plus ongoing operational funds  Costs of monitoring for effectiveness  Cost of land acquisition (public land)
<b>Regulatory (Bylaws)</b>	<b>Private tree bylaw</b>  Regulatory protection for trees on private land	Protect or preserve trees on private land (in theory)	Challenging to implement a program to permit tree removal and effectively enforce  Enforcement would center around removal of trees without permission, but does not necessarily contribute to overall tree planting goals	Cost to develop and implement a new bylaw, including extensive public and stakeholder engagement  Cost of monitoring and enforcement  New permitting system would require funding for development,



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			<p>Fees/permits for development and development timelines would be increased</p> <p>Regulatory complexity would be increased</p> <p>An increased burden on infill developers would be created and could reduce densification, contrary to The City Plan’s vision</p>	<p>testing, training and delivery</p>
<b>Regulatory (Bylaws)</b>	<p><b>Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative to incentivize and promote preservation and planting on private land</b></p> <p>Retain trees and natural areas in redeveloping and developing areas</p>	<p>Increase incentives for the retention of mature trees to count towards the minimum required trees</p> <p>Adjust tree planting requirements for some new large scale developments and in parking areas</p> <p>Retain existing natural areas and mature trees</p>	<p>Stakeholder opposition to changes could reduce or eliminate the proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaw</p> <p>May only be effective at time of development, and retention may not be carried forward by future owners</p>	<p>Funded program</p> <p>Cost of engagement with stakeholders to change standards</p> <p>Costs of monitoring and enforcement</p>

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<b>Resident stewardship and volunteer programs, special events, education and incentives</b>	<p><b>Promote, encourage or incentivize tree retention/preservation and planting on private land</b></p> <p>Stewardship focus - encourage planting, care, and inspire people to not cut down trees</p> <p>Could include free tree giveaways</p>	<p>Increase education on planting and tree care</p> <p>Increase Root for Trees program</p> <p>Distribute desirable plant material/trees to residents for use on private land</p>	<p>Adoption of programs and incentives</p> <p>Maintaining programs in the long term</p> <p>Fair and equitable access to programs and incentives</p>	<p>Costs to develop and implement programs, ongoing operational funds</p> <p>Costs of monitoring for effectiveness</p>
<b>Resident stewardship and volunteer programs, special events, education and incentives</b>	<p><b>Expand Low Impact Development on private land</b></p>	<p>Converting yards into LID will promote tree planting and retention</p> <p>Aids stormwater management and reduces pressure on the drainage system</p> <p>Increased biodiversity on private property</p>	<p>Monitoring or proof of installation and maintenance</p>	<p>Potential cost to subsidize LID installation.</p> <p>Cost of engagement with stakeholders</p> <p>Cost of monitoring</p>

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<p><b>City procurement of private land with trees</b></p>	<p><b>Review of City's land sale and acquisition policies and targets</b></p> <p>Increased acquisition of natural land with trees/canopy</p> <p>Retain City-owned land plots with trees (instead of selling)</p>	<p>Retention and conservation of existing natural stands and trees</p> <p>Aids with meeting UFAMP targets.</p>	<p>Potential revenue losses</p> <p>Prioritizing purchase of land with natural tree stands may reduce funding for other acquisitions</p>	<p>Cost of acquisition is variable</p> <p>Cost of maintenance of acquired land</p>