Strategies to Encourage Private Tree Canopy

Dr. Greg King
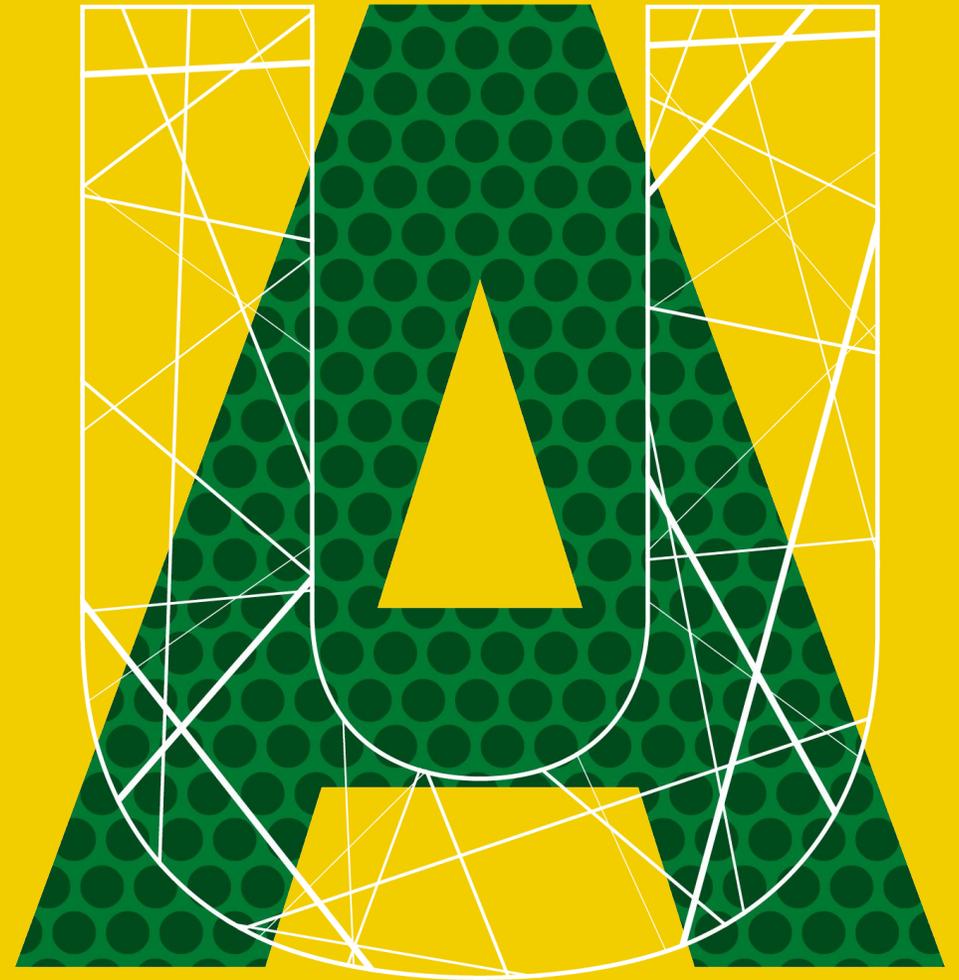
Presentation for City of Edmonton

Urban Planning Committee

29 October 2024

UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

Project Overview

1. **Background Research**
   - ➢ Academic literature review
   - ➢ Municipalities' plans, reports and websites
   - ➢ Reports from NGOs and other organisations.

2. **Evaluation of Approaches and Strategies**

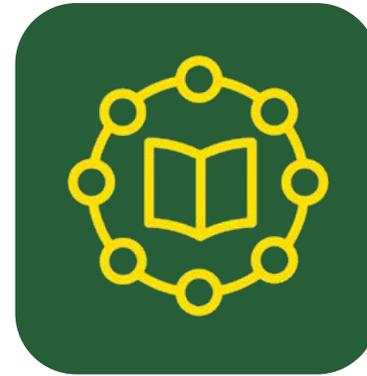3. **Semi-structured Interviews with Canadian Municipalities**

Strategies for Growing Canopy on Private Land

Planting Requirements & Opportunities

Financial Incentives

Education and Outreach

Tree Protection

Largest Impacts for Effort

Education

- Continuously communicate the benefits of private trees that acknowledges and pushes beyond aesthetic
- A key focus on the importance of tree care
- Harness energy from planting on public lands and more clearly link to private opportunities
- Improve digital resources and consider targeted printed materials that align
- Workshops & hands-on learning - partnerships?

City of Edmonton. Root For Trees.

Largest Impacts for Effort

Participation & Engagement

- A well-structured tree giveaway/sale can successfully increase trees on private lands
- Continue and expand tree appreciation events
- Develop grants focused on supporting community-level planting and engagement (e.g. schools, churches)

City of Hamilton. Free Tree Giveaway

Largest Impacts for Effort

Enforcement & Regulations

- Expand landscaping requirements and compliance
- Development trade-offs that increase mature tree retention
- Protect/create space to grow – above & below ground
- Beyond residential?
- Low-impact development
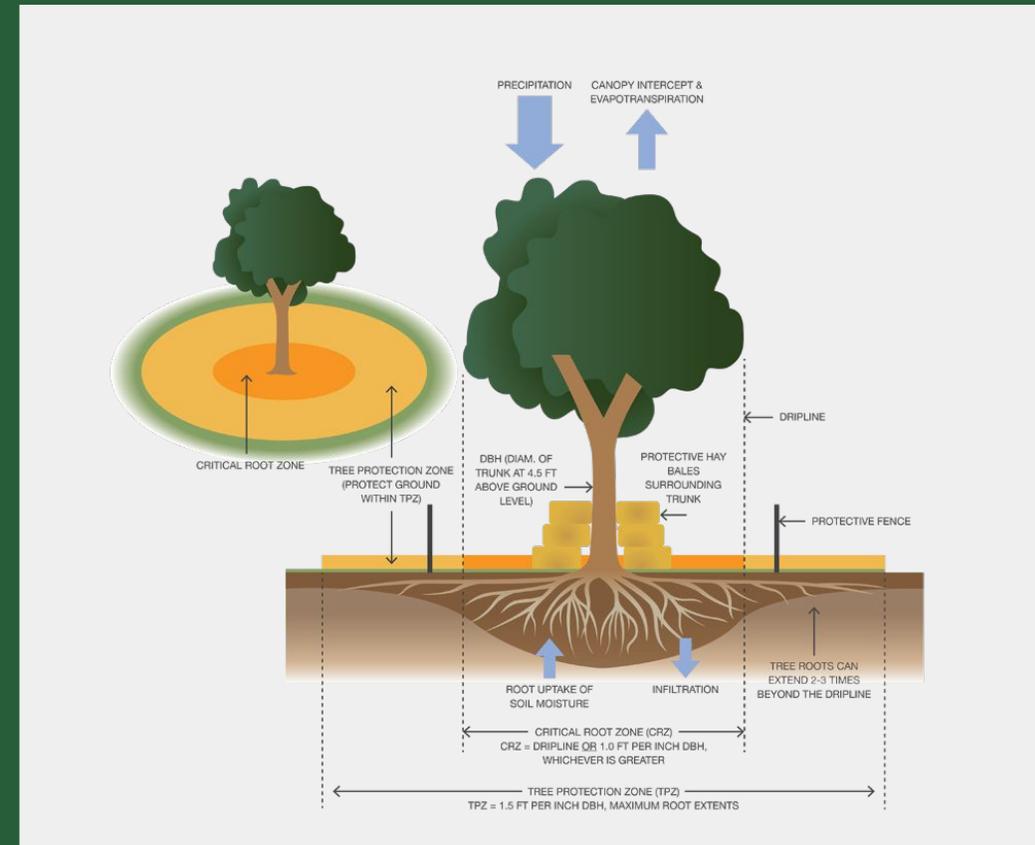
Largest Impacts for Effort

Monitoring

- Need ongoing and up to date data on where and what canopy is being lost or gained including both public and private
- Requires ongoing and consistent resourcing
- Foster internal partnerships across city departments to share resources
- Shift away from stems to canopy

Anditi. LIDAR Data and Urban Tree Canopy
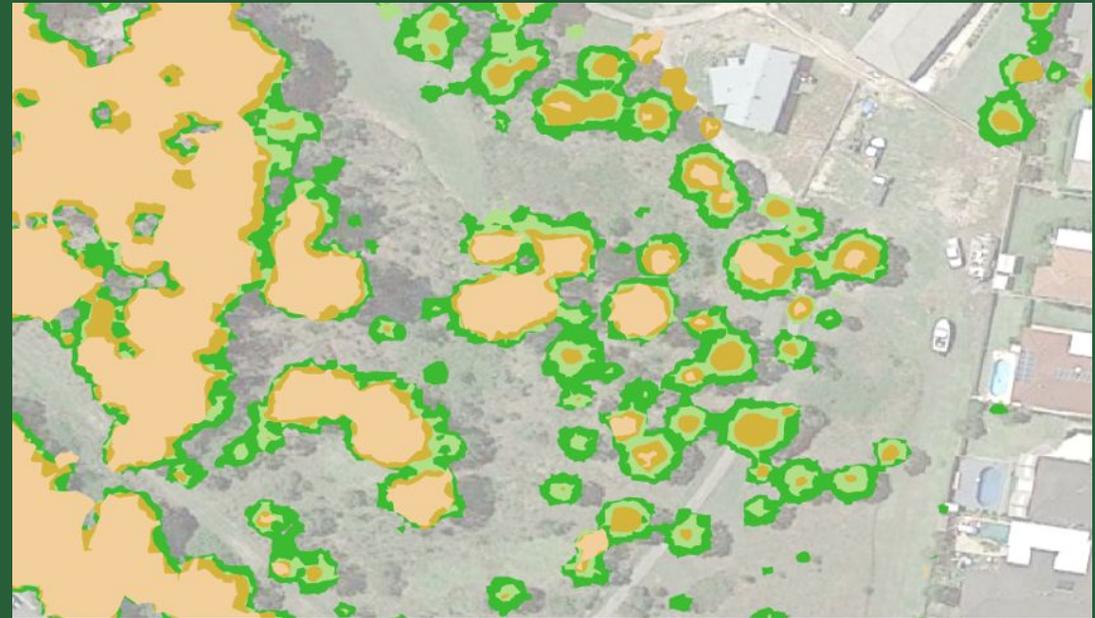
Future Work

- Learn by doing with clear evaluation of programs and approaches
- Test approaches in the Edmonton/Alberta context
- Partnership possibilities with UofA and beyond