



What We Heard Urban Forestry Public Tree Bylaw

April 2020

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton





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SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY

This is your city.

We welcome your input on how we maintain, grow and build Edmonton.

We believe engagement leads to better decision-making.

We are committed to reaching out to our diverse communities in thoughtful and meaningful ways.

We want to understand your perspectives and build trusting relationships with you.

We will show you how you help influence City decisions.

Share your voice with us and shape our city.





Project/Initiative Background

Name: Urban Forestry

Date: October 22, 2019 through February 19, 2020

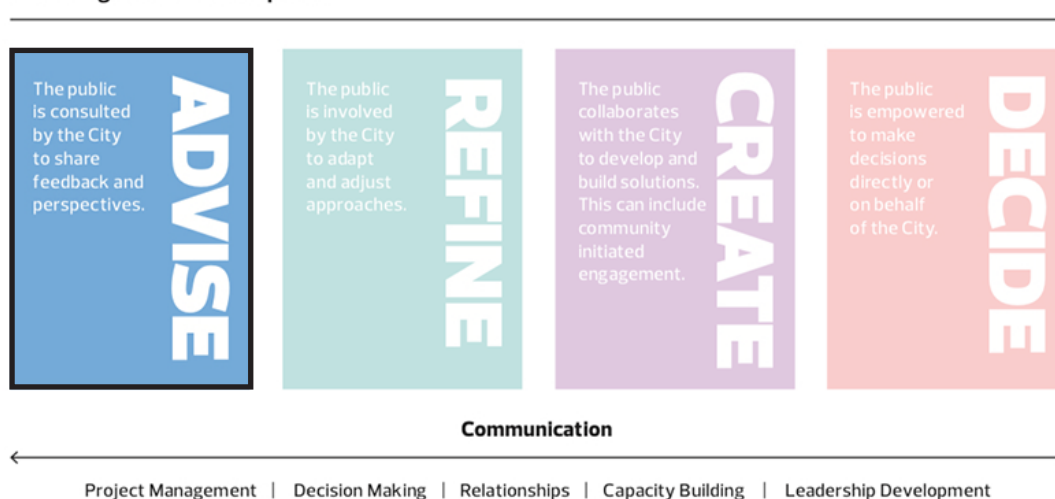
Location: Kinsmen Sports Centre, Stantec Tower, Kennedale Facility, Londonderry Mall, Terwillegar Recreation Centre, McKernan Community Hall, and online

Contact: citytrees@edmonton.ca

Level of public engagement: ADVISE

The City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum.

Increasing influence of the public



Description:

The public engagement was held to **ADVISE** on the City's updated Corporate Tree Management Policy (C456B), collect feedback on the proposed public tree bylaw, and identify elements that could improve future tree management.



Executive Summary

As part of the broader urban forest management, the City conducted public and stakeholder engagement regarding the proposed public tree bylaw between October 2019 and February 2020.

Discussions at the public drop-in events focused on how the City currently manages and protects trees. Overall, participants emphasized that trees are important for mitigating climate change, improving air and water quality, wind reduction, and the aesthetics of a community. Boulevard trees and natural areas were most commonly identified as priorities for protection and preservation. Many attendees asked for more educational opportunities for the community around tree protection and management.

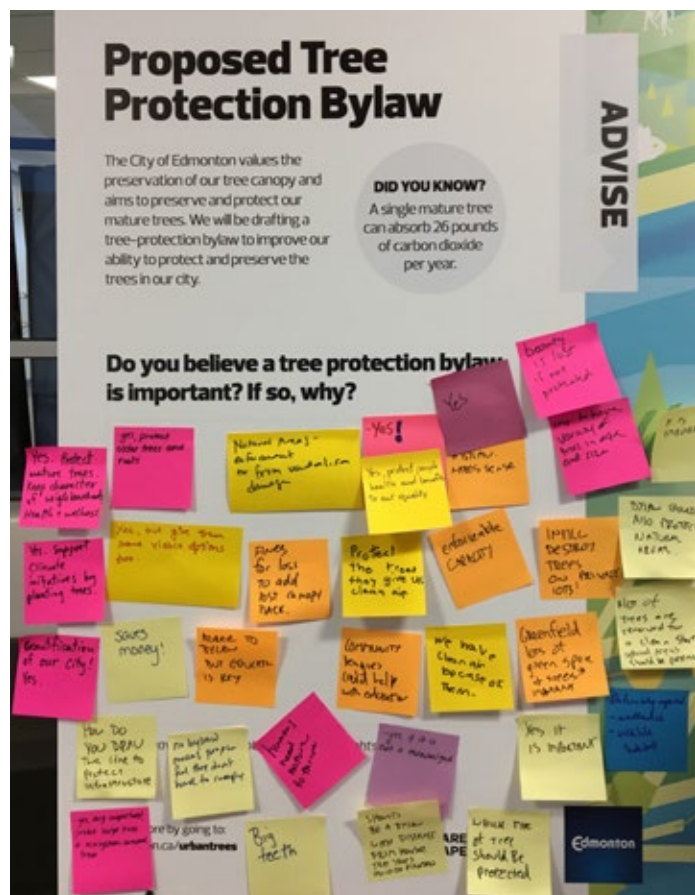
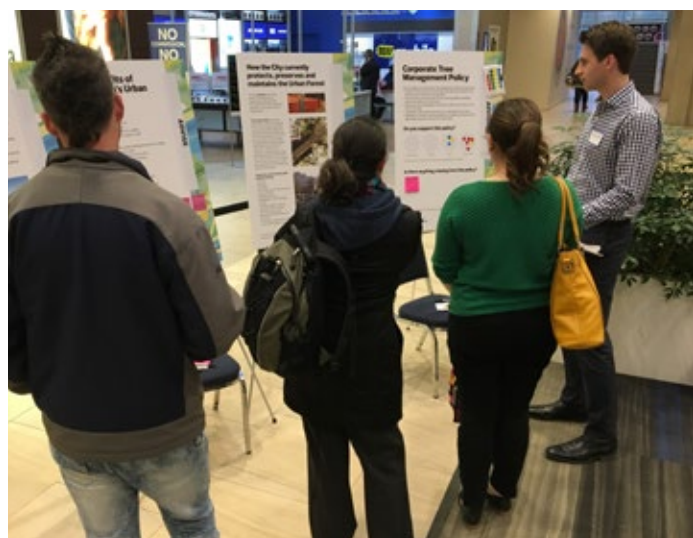
The electronic survey showed that a large majority of participants agreed that a bylaw should be implemented to protect trees from damage and/or destruction. The most popularly selected options to preserve and protect the City of Edmonton's Urban Forest were to plant more trees and educate the public. A small majority of respondents agree that the City is doing enough to preserve and protect the City's Urban Forest, suggesting room for further improvements.





At stakeholder meetings, representatives from environmental and non-profit organizations, industry, and utility companies were invited to provide specific feedback about the public tree bylaw. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of simplicity and clarity in the bylaw to ensure easy compliance, and developers focused on the need for some flexibility to meet the requirements of the bylaw. Utility companies discussed the importance of consistency between existing agreements and the proposed bylaw for regulating right-of-ways. Suggestions for alternative approaches to promote tree protection, besides the bylaw, included more education and engagement opportunities, and alignment with other existing City processes. Some issues with the Tree Preservation Guidelines were also discussed such as the appropriate protection distance for Boulevard and Open Space Trees vs. Natural Stands.

Feedback collected from this engagement will be considered for refining the bylaw. The draft public tree bylaw is scheduled to be presented to City Council during the Summer of 2020. Public and stakeholder engagement will continue in 2020 to help create the Urban Forest Asset Management Plan.





Introduction

In the spring of 2019, City Council directed City Administration to engage with the public and stakeholders on the Corporate Tree Management Policy (C456B) and to understand how the public would like to see the City of Edmonton Urban Forest protected, preserved or enhanced. In the fall of 2019, the City had detailed conversations with the public and stakeholder groups about the Policy. The information gathered from those conversations helped update the Policy. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the updated Policy and report will be presented when Council is back in session.





The City received feedback on the overall management of the Urban Forest, which included planting more trees, diversifying tree species, expanding naturalization in certain areas, and increasing protection from damage caused by humans and climate change. In addition to informing the policy changes, this feedback will also be used to help create an Urban Forest Asset Management Plan and a new public tree bylaw.

The City of Edmonton is developing a public tree bylaw to reduce damage and loss to City-owned trees, as well as create an enforceable and effective mechanism for tree preservation and protection. While the City has guidelines in place for tree protection and preservation through the Corporate Tree Management Policy, it is difficult to identify and prove the cause of damage and loss to trees due to inadequate protection measures, especially around construction sites. The variety of benefits trees provide are significantly diminished for decades after they are damaged or lost. A strong protection mechanism, like a dedicated bylaw, is essential to ensure the sustainability of the City's Urban Forest.

This report focuses on the feedback collected from engagement activities that will inform the development of the public tree bylaw. In the fall of 2019, citizens were asked whether they were in support of tools, such as a bylaw, to protect, preserve, and grow Edmonton's Urban Forest. Three public drop in events, a stakeholder workshop, and an electronic survey in October and November 2019 provided the opportunity to gather general feedback.

Three stakeholder workshops in February 2020 sought additional feedback focused on the proposed public tree bylaw. A total of 3,522 citizens participated in the engagement events. Engagement activities concluded on February 19, 2020. The draft bylaw will be presented to Council for consideration this summer.

Engagement Timeline

Gather public and stakeholder feedback

Fall 2019 / Winter 2019–20

- Oct/Nov 2019 – Online Survey
- Oct/Nov 2019 – Public Drop-in Sessions and Stakeholder Workshop
- February 2020 – Stakeholder Workshops

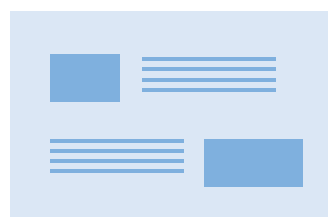
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the timelines on reporting back to Council on this project may be affected.



What We Did

Communication activities were used to raise awareness of the Project and promote the engagement activities to encourage participation.

These included:



**Posters distributed to
Community Leagues**



Project website

Social media



Facebook ads

4,000 clicks
280,000+ impressions

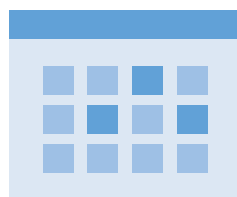


Twitter ads

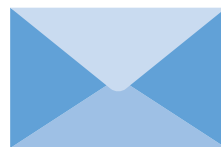
129 clicks
25,000+ impressions



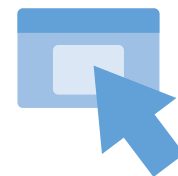
**Wayfinding
signage at
events**



**City of Edmonton
Public Engagement
Calendar**



**Emails to
stakeholder groups**



**Digital
advertising**
700,000+
impressions

The next section describes the methods and activities used to engage citizens.



Public Drop-in Events

The public drop-in events provided the Project team the opportunity to engage face to face with the public and allowed participants to interact with subject matter experts from the City.

A total of 143 citizens participated in three public drop-in events and many expressed support for protection measures including a public tree bylaw. At each event, 18 storyboards were set up around the perimeter of the room to share information about the Project, the Urban Forest and how the City's Urban Forest is currently managed, protected, and enhanced. Information was organized into the three types of areas that make up the Urban Forest: Boulevard and Open Space Trees, Naturalized Areas, and Natural Areas. The Policy, along with the updated Policy statement, was available as well as other handouts regarding Urban Forestry programs and tree care for residents.

Participants were encouraged to review the information, ask questions to the Project team, respond to questions on display boards with sticky notes, and provide comments that were documented by note takers. At each event, participants were requested to complete an evaluation form to provide comments and suggestions for improvements to the events.



Three drop in events were held:

Londonderry Mall	Terwillegar Recreation Centre	McKernan Community Hall
Thursday, October 24 5:00pm – 8:00pm	Saturday, October 26 10:00am – 1:00pm	Wednesday, October 30 5:00pm – 8:00pm
49 participants	81 participants	13 participants



Stakeholder Workshop

In November 2019, one stakeholder workshop with environmental and non-profit organizations took place to discuss the priorities and perspectives on the City's Urban Forest management, the Corporate Tree Management Policy and tree protection measures. In February 2020, three stakeholder workshops with representatives from environmental and non-profit organizations, industry, and utility companies discussed the proposed content for the new public tree bylaw.

A total of 36 people attended the workshops, which included presentations by subject matter experts and facilitated discussions on current tree protection, jurisdictional scan results, and the proposed bylaw inclusions.

Kinsmen Sports Centre	Kinsmen Sports Centre	Stantec Tower	Kennedale Facility
Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 9:30am - 12:00pm	Thursday, February 6, 2020 from 9:00am - 12:00pm	Wednesday, February 12, 2020 from 9:00am - 11:00am	Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 9:00am - 11:00am
13 participants	6 participants	10 participants	7 participants



Electronic Survey

An electronic survey was conducted from October 22 to November 7, 2019, which aligned with the duration of the public drop-in sessions. A total of 3,343 people participated in the survey to share their knowledge and appreciation of the City's Urban Forest, perspectives on the City's management, preservation and protection of the Urban Forest, and advice to update the Corporate Tree Management Policy.

Three platforms were used to implement the survey:

PLATFORM	City of Edmonton Insight Community Panel	Link on the Project website www.edmonton.ca/ urbantrees	Edmonton Panel Members
# OF SURVEYS CONDUCTED BETWEEN	2,388 surveys October 22 and November 7, 2019	555 surveys October 22 and November 7, 2019	400 surveys October 24 and November 1, 2019

The City of Edmonton's Insight Panel is an inclusive and accessible online citizen panel made up of diverse Edmontonians who provide feedback on City policies, initiatives, and issues through responses to monthly surveys. The Edmonton Panel is made up of members of the public, within the City boundaries, who have agreed to respond to surveys conducted by Leger, a Canadian market research and analytics company with offices in Edmonton.



What Was Said

Engagement Results and Findings

The previous What We Heard report focused on the feedback received to inform the Corporate Tree Management Policy, while this report focuses on the proposed public tree bylaw.

Public Drop-in Events

Discussions at the public drop-in events focused on how the City currently manages and protects trees. Feedback was requested regarding updates to the Corporate Tree Management Policy and advice on developing measures for the public tree bylaw. The feedback below has been divided amongst the four questions posted on storyboards. Feedback was documented from comments written directly on the storyboards and conversations with subject matter experts and facilitators.

At the public drop-in events, we had conversations with many young Edmontonians. The selected venues and times made it convenient for parents with young children and youth attending programming to participate in engagement.

Do you believe a tree protection bylaw is important? If so, why?

Participants who attended the drop-in events determined trees were important for mitigating climate change, improving air and water quality, reducing wind, and improving the aesthetics of a community. When discussing tree protection, many participants were surprised that the City of

Edmonton does not have a public tree bylaw. They stated that tree protection is important, especially for mature, heritage, and vulnerable tree species, and that those who damage trees or tree roots should be held accountable. Some attendees noted that there should be a measure of lenience for accidental damage of public trees.

What should the bylaw include in order to effectively preserve, protect and enhance Edmonton's urban forest?

Many attendees asked for more public education and engagement opportunities to promote a better understanding of the importance of urban trees and a public tree bylaw.

It was recommended that a bylaw be framed in a way that doesn't target a particular audience. The bylaw should be administered on a case by case basis and equally apply to businesses, City, and utilities. Some people suggested that it should apply to private property as well, and there should be a section to deal with nuisance trees or those that are infected and diseased.



Some people thought that developers should consider existing trees when designing or planning a project, and that permits should be required to remove trees. There was a suggestion to provide education first, monitor violations, and enforce as a secondary step. People stated that more enforcement officers would be required if there was a bylaw. Some people thought it was important for enforcement officers to be able to stop work if there was a violation.

People did note that appropriate clearance from street lights needed to be maintained, as did clear sightlines along roadways. A few people advised that trees should be maintained and preserved using standards available through International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

If a City tree is damaged because of work undertaken by a landowner on an adjacent private property (e.g. landscaping, construction, etc.), should the City hold the landowner responsible? If so, how?

The majority of people agreed that following education opportunities, those who cause intentional damage should be held accountable. Consequences for damaging trees ranged from fines, bonds, penalties, to mandatory replacement of equal or greater size, or increasing the number of replacement trees.

Many discussed challenges such as whether to hold the homeowner or their hired contractor responsible. People felt there was a difference between citizens and businesses in this regard, with the majority of people commenting that businesses should be held to a higher standard. People also indicated that City departments that cause damage must also be held accountable.

How do you think Urban Forestry should be protecting and managing trees in natural areas?

There was a wide variety of feedback related to the prioritization and management of different treed areas. Overall, boulevard trees and natural areas were most commonly identified as priorities.

In natural areas the majority of people advised to keep them clean from litter, do maintenance for public safety, and protect from invasive species. Some people talked about using fencing to protect sensitive flora and fauna from users and/or construction, as well as taking measures to prevent erosion. The topic of prescribed burns for forest health was mentioned a few times. Other tools noted for managing forest health include leaf on ortho-imagry, LiDAR, and air photos.

A few people thought that natural areas should be patrolled or monitored more by enforcement officers and park rangers.



Stakeholder Workshop

NOVEMBER 2019

Environmental and Non-Profit Groups

In the November 2019 meeting, stakeholders from environmental and non-profit groups were asked to provide input on the Corporate Tree Management Policy, review the four guiding principles of Urban Forest management, and offer suggestions on potential content for the public tree bylaw.

More information on the feedback related to the Policy and overall Urban Forest management can be found in the February 2020 Urban Forestry What We Heard Report which has been posted on the Project website: www.edmonton.ca/urbantrees.

Feedback on tree protection and the proposed bylaw indicated that:

- More work is needed to clarify language to be used in bylaw sections.
- It is very important to be able to issue stop-work orders.
- The City should consider including private trees in the bylaw.
- Fines should be equal to the cost to repair the damage. If the City is more proactive on educating citizens on tree health and protection, then there may be a lesser need to enforce the bylaw.





FEBRUARY 2020

Discussions focusing on a proposed public tree bylaw occurred in three workshops in February 2020 with non-profit groups and environmental groups, development industry and utilities. The conversations focused on the bylaw approach, potential inclusions, exemptions and exclusions, and approaches other than bylaws to promote tree preservation. In some cases all three groups provided similar comments and on some issues the comments differed as noted below.

Bylaw Approach

Participants thought the bylaw should have a broad scope to be fair, including guidance on construction, maintenance, repairs, renovations, and utilities. They also emphasized that the bylaw needs to be simple and straightforward so that the average homeowner can understand it. Without simplicity, compliance will be low. For larger projects, participants indicated that a more customized detailed plan makes sense. Trees are a selling feature, and there is interest in protecting them.

Developers would like to see flexibility in accomplishing tree preservation, to meet the intent of the bylaw without overly restrictive regulations. In some cases, it may be impractical or impossible to build a protection fence within the constraints of existing sidewalks and buildings. Without flexibility, developers may find it easier to pay a fine.

“What about [utilities] and other City contractors that come in and do a lot of damage? There has to be fairness. If I can't do it on my property, but the city CAN do it on their property, that isn't fair and you will not get compliance.”

– Industry stakeholder

There was concern on how the bylaw would impact construction activities, including timelines and cost. Utility companies wanted to understand how the bylaw interacts with right-of-ways and provincial legislation. One participant explained that it would be best if there was only one set of rules to comply with, since provincial legislation and the bylaw may conflict. Utility companies are required by legislation to maintain clearance around lines. The utility companies are trying to protect the public and their assets; the City is trying to protect the trees. The legislation and the bylaw need to align.



Potential Inclusions

The following definition was discussed for potential inclusion in the bylaw:

*“No person shall conduct any **work** within five metres of the trunk of any City tree or within 10 metres of any Natural Stand unless the person:*

- *has obtained a permit; and*
- *is conducting work in accordance with an approved Tree Preservation/Protection Plan; or*
- *has otherwise obtained consent from the City Manager in writing.*

Where ‘work’ means construction, demolition, excavation or laydown activities or vehicular access (other than on roads, driveways, improved trails).”

The resulting comments included a lack of understanding of some of the terms:

- Clarity required on the term “improved trails”
- Concerns that “vehicular access” could include loading mulch into someone’s backyard
- Questions if “excavation” included creating a hole to plant a tree
- Maybe the definition should use the word “activities” rather than “work”
- Regarding home property owners, what do you define as work? Are we talking about building a garage, digging a pond, putting in a flower bed?
- Clarity is also required on the definition of a ‘City tree’. There was confusion on whether it applies to shrubs and trees on a utility’s right of way, and if naturalization areas and natural stands are included.

The definition generated a discussion around when a Tree Preservation Plan should be required. Some participants indicated that traffic on dirt trails should be limited because it causes erosion and compaction, and that mountain bikers should not be allowed in the spruce stands.

Utility companies explained that they use Komodos, boats, and Argos to access routine utility maintenance and inspection of manholes and outfalls. There are about 100 off roading visits per year, for both routine and emergency purposes.





Exceptions & Exclusions

Participants were asked what exceptions or exclusions to the bylaw should be considered. Suggestions included:

- Damage from natural disasters
- Damage from emergency situations such as emergency utility work
- High priority dig ups, many of which are considered emergencies; utilities do not contact Forestry until after work is completed, and there may be root damage

Other discussion in this area addressed difficulties that utility companies face in avoiding tree damage. For example, during construction, the builder is the prime contractor and is liable. Utility companies are often called in at the last minute and the Tree Protection Plan may be gone by then.

ISA Certified Arborist Requirement

Participants were asked whether it makes sense to require Tree Preservation/Protection Plans to be prepared by an ISA Certified Arborist. Responses varied significantly.

Some felt that this work is important and should be reviewed and conducted by an ISA Certified Arborist. Others felt that the requirement is too expensive and may lead to non-compliance, particularly for smaller projects and homeowners. It was suggested that the City could provide guidelines and templates to explain the Tree Preservation/Protection Plan and have a City landscape architect or arborist review the plan.

Others suggested that landscape architects, biologists, environmental scientists, or registered professional foresters could also do the work of an ISA Certified Arborist. Some developers suggested including the Tree Preservation/Protection Plan in the landscape site plan, which is created/reviewed by a landscape architect.

There was concern from utility companies over the fees associated with getting a Tree Preservation/Protection Plan created by an ISA Certified Arborist, and the impact an additional fee may have on customers. An example was provided where the developer will likely have removed any required tree protection measures prior to utilities being called to connect homes to their services. Utility companies have set rates for servicing connections. Having to facilitate a second Tree Protection Plan could add a significant cost that companies are unable to charge the customer. Feedback suggested that the Tree Preservation/Protection Plan should be a flat service charge to align with the fixed rates that utility companies charge.





Alternative Approaches

Many suggestions were made on processes to help tree protection and preservation other than a bylaw.

Education

The City could reinstate the master naturalist program and the office of biodiversity.

Community leagues are an excellent resource to help educate neighbourhoods, particularly when a sustainability director is involved. Some industry associations also have programs to educate people on what is required for a Development Permit. Templates and guidelines on the City website would be helpful, as well as lunch and learns.

Development Permits

Some participants from the development industry suggested the bylaw requirements be connected to the Development Permit. For instance, in infill development a survey is required to indicate tree locations on the plot plan. A builder crossing the boulevard has to apply for a Temporary Crossing Permit (TCP) and an On-Street Construction and Maintenance (OSCAM) Permit. Permit approvals could be linked to compliance with the bylaw. This would also be applicable to greenfield developers during the Final Acceptance Certificate (FAC) and Construction Completion Certificate (CCC) approval processes. The utility companies also questioned if the bylaw requirements could be included on the Development Permit.

Right-of-Way Utility Permissions

The utility companies suggested receiving annual permission similar to the Elm permit, which allows pruning out of season. Utility companies own and work in right-of-ways, and requested clarity on how the Tree Preservation/Protection Plan interacts with right-of-ways. Approximately 90% of utility work is in right-of-ways, and there are many historic elms that are downtown, referred to as non-compliant trees because they are too close to power lines.

Underground utility work for drainage causes concerns with tree roots. They are removed if they are tangled around the utility lines. Utilities have a root maintenance plan for customers where roots are cleaned up annually. The Tree Protection Plan should define the size of roots that are a concern.

Service level agreements were suggested as a way to provide exemptions for utilities to use right-of-ways.

Regular meetings between the City's Urban Forestry team and utility companies would be helpful.



Tree Preservation Guidelines

Participants were asked whether the draft Tree Preservation Guidelines effectively support the bylaw.

Communication was identified as an area of concern. For instance, some participants indicated that when dealing with natural stands there is a lot of discrepancy between what private professionals say and what the City departments will say. There have also been discrepancies between what different City departments say.

“If you have a big construction project then you definitely want that plan.”

Can you ask permission for small things instead of having to do a full [tree protection] plan? Like to trim overhang along your fence, or within your yard?”

— Environmental and NGO stakeholders

Scalability was also discussed. In new developments where trees are new, protection should be scaled down to be appropriate for the roots of a new tree, in comparison to a large mature tree.

When asked whether the distance the bylaw should apply around natural stands should be five meters or 10 meters, participants had varying responses. Some thought that 10 metres would not sufficiently protect the tree roots and that five metres would not provide sufficient provision for the growth of the trees. A concern about compaction on the roots was raised.

Some from the development industry believe they cannot accomplish working limits within five meters of trees. For infill sites with 7.5 metres of frontage, a five metre tree protection buffer impedes access to sites. One participant explained that other jurisdictions use a drip line rather than a fixed distance.

A significant issue is that the cost of fencing can exceed the fine for not following the tree permit. One participant stated: “I spent about \$1,000 for fencing around those trees. It would have been easier for me to just pay a \$250 dollar fine.”



Electronic Survey

There were a total of 3,343 respondents to the electronic survey in the fall of 2019. Most respondents wanted the City to include more protection from damage caused by humans, and to plan for improved climate resiliency. They indicated that the top areas to prioritize for management, preservation, and protection were the river valley, ravines, natural areas, and naturalized sites.

The electronic survey asked for respondents' opinions regarding elements of the Corporate Tree Management Policy, a proposed public tree bylaw, and the asset management plan. The following summary focuses on the questions associated with tree protection and the public tree bylaw. Survey responses for the Corporate Tree Management Policy can be found in the February 2020 Urban Forestry What We Heard Report which has been posted on the Project website: www.edmonton.ca/urbantrees. Responses relevant to the Urban Forest Asset Management Plan will be reported in that What We Heard Report anticipated for 2021.

The following summarizes the questions of and responses to the electronic survey¹. The number of respondents for each question is 400 for Edmonton Panel, 2,388 for Insight Community Panel and 555 for the open link on the Project website unless otherwise noted.

¹ The survey results are shown by platform rather than being grouped together because it is possible that some respondents may have answered the survey multiple times. The Edmonton Panel is shown in the first column because it is weighted to be representative of the City of Edmonton population. Participants in the other two platforms have sought out the survey and may have a stronger bias towards the topic.



Opinions On Urban Forests

1. In your opinion, what public areas should the City of Edmonton prioritize for Urban Forestry management, preservation and protection? Please rate each public area from lowest priority to highest priority.

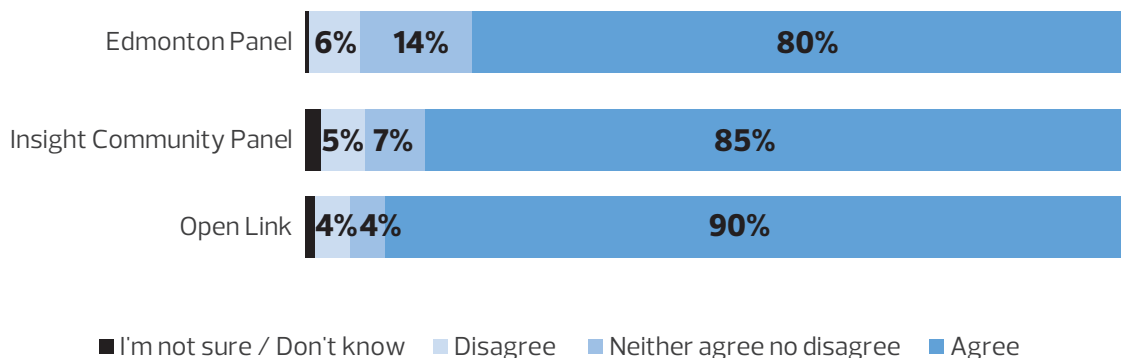
The river valley natural areas including wetlands and grasslands, natural areas excluding the river valley, and naturalized areas were identified as the top three priorities for Urban Forestry management, preservation, and protection.

PRIORITY (4,5 RATINGS)	EDMONTON PANEL	INSIGHT COMMUNITY	OPEN LINK
River valley natural areas including wetlands and grasslands	77%	88%	89%
Natural areas excluding the river valley	73%	83%	85%
Naturalized areas	72%	79%	78%
Heritage trees	62%	70%	70%
Boulevard trees	56%	77%	72%
Treed buffer areas along major roadways	56%	70%	64%
Ornamental trees in open spaces	40%	49%	42%
Commemorative trees	36%	34%	29%



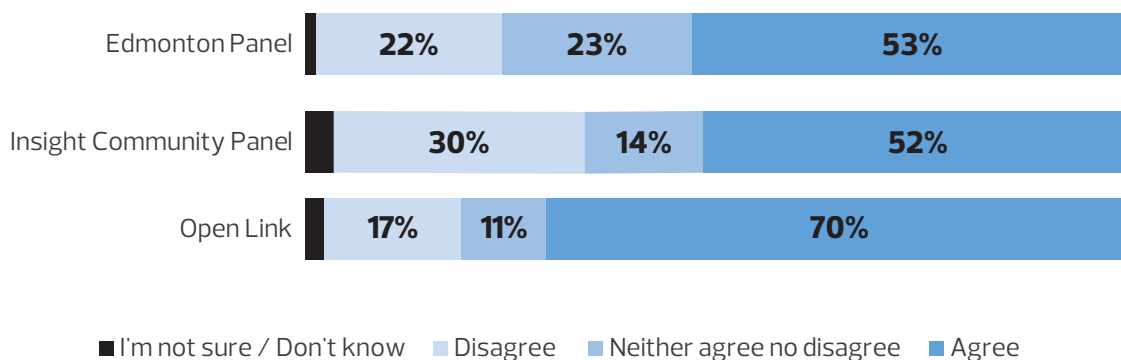
2. The City is developing a tree protection bylaw and will present it to City Council for approval. The bylaw will include enforcement and education details on how to better ensure city trees are protected and preserved. How much do you agree or disagree that the City should pass bylaws to protect trees from damage and or destruction?

Survey respondents agree that the City should pass bylaws to protect trees from damage and/or destruction.



3. How much do you agree or disagree that the City should pass bylaws to protect trees on private property?

A small majority of respondents agree that the City should pass bylaws to protect trees on private property.





4. The City is considering including the following protection measures in the proposed tree bylaw. Please indicate how important you think each of these protection measures are to include in the bylaw.

Respondents think all protection measures are important to include in the bylaw except “No person shall attach or permit to be attached to a City tree any object or thing, including decorative lights without the prior written approval from the City of Edmonton”.

IMPORTANT (4,5 RATINGS)	EDMONTON PANEL	INSIGHT COMMUNITY	OPEN LINK
Fines will be administered to those who cause damage to any city tree part, including complete loss to any city tree	69%	83%	82%
A notice may be issued to stop any work causing unauthorized injury, removal or destruction of a tree	68%	77%	79%
No person shall alter the grade level or drainage pattern in any manner to interfere with the access of water, air or nutrients to any city tree	64%	73%	72%
Fines will be administered to those who fail to produce an approved tree preservation plan onsite when construction activity is within 5 metres of a city tree	59%	73%	78%
No person shall attach or permit to be attached to a city tree any object or thing, including decorative lights without the prior written approval from the City of Edmonton	48%	49%	38%



5. Which of the following efforts would you like to see the City implement to help adapt to climate change? Please select all that apply.

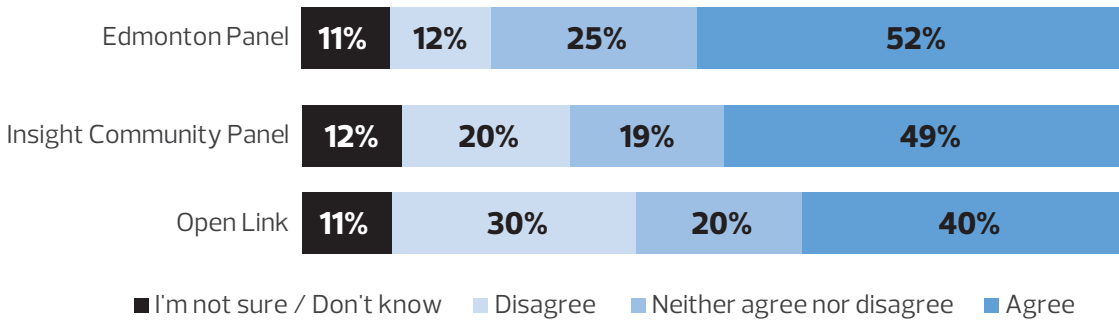
Respondents think the City should plant more trees, shrubs and wildflowers and plant more species of trees to diversify the Urban Forest as efforts to help adapt to climate change. Respondents who selected the 'other' category suggested the question instead be about drought rather than climate change, plant more native species and more food trees, and mandating/encouraging/teaching residents to plant trees.

	EDMONTON PANEL	INSIGHT COMMUNITY	OPEN LINK
Plant more trees, shrubs and wildflowers	68%	75%	82%
Plant more species of trees to diversify the urban forest	62%	70%	76%
Plant more drought tolerant tree species	55%	72%	73%
Establish more efficient watering and pruning techniques to reduce natural resource use / inputs (reduce emissions and water use)	52%	65%	71%
Increase public education on the benefits of trees and the importance of protection and preservation	50%	58%	67%
Increase enforcement for protection of large, mature trees	46%	56%	64%
Increase the current canopy cover goal of 20% to 30%	44%	63%	73%
Other	2%	11%	14%
Don't know / Refused	1%	—	—



6. In your opinion do you agree or disagree that the City is doing enough to preserve and protect the City of Edmonton's Urban Forest?

A small majority of respondents agree that the City is doing enough to preserve and protect the City of Edmonton's Urban Forest.



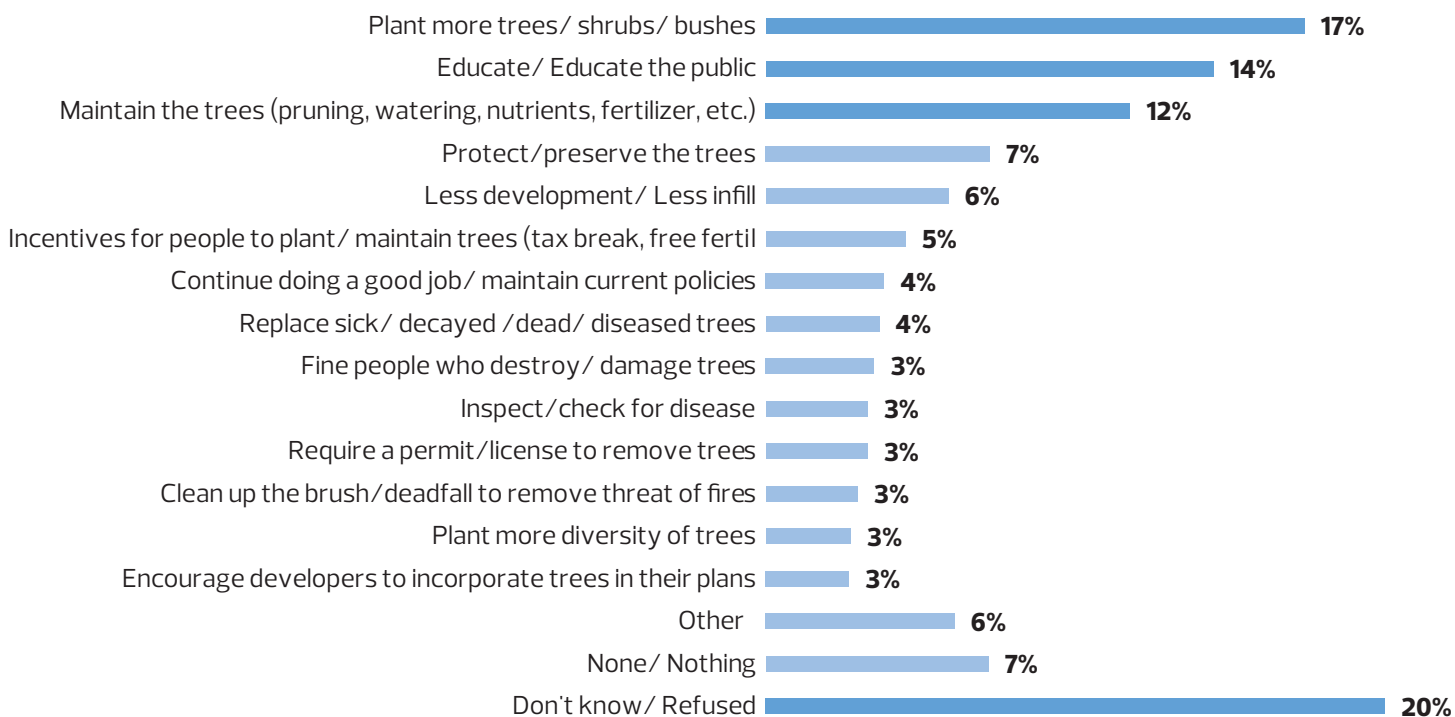
“There is no reason why community leagues couldn't have a 'tree director' position just like they have a 'sports director' person. If you create a formal structure within a community league that already exists, then you have eyes and ears in each community.”

– Environmental and NGO stakeholder



7. What more do you feel should be done to protect and preserve trees in Edmonton?

Survey respondents feel more trees/ shrubs/ bushes should be planted and the public should be educated to protect and preserve trees in Edmonton. The few responses to the 'Other' category were to be innovative or proactive with protection measures, such as by looking to examples from other cities. They also included reviewing snow clearing practices and the impact of road salt on boulevard trees.



“Keep it simple for compliance, and obviously you need a lot of education.”
– Utility company stakeholder



As a Result, What Has Changed in the Project?

Through engagement in the fall of 2019 Edmontonians indicated they place high value on urban trees and would support a bylaw to protect and preserve trees. That feedback was used in conjunction with a jurisdictional scan to create sections that could form a public tree bylaw. As a result of further stakeholder discussions in 2020, the City will be focusing on:

- Trying to keep the bylaw fairly simple, focusing on key concerns related to tree preservation and making language easy to understand.
- Taking a collaborative approach towards building the bylaw – by working with various teams within the City, especially with the permitting group to align the processes.
- Amending who can write or review the Tree Preservation Plan by including more professional designations besides an ISA Certified Arborist.
- Potentially including non FAC sites in the bylaw.
- Sharing an extensive FAQ document on the forestry website.
- Providing City approved templates for Tree Protection Plans to allow for more flexibility and support.
- Preparing presentations to give to utilities, community leagues and environmental groups around tree preservation and protection.
- Enhancing our volunteer programs for tree planting including tree risk assessments for natural areas.



What's Next

Feedback collected from this engagement will be considered while finalizing the draft public tree bylaw. The draft public tree bylaw is scheduled to be presented to City Council in late Summer of 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this timeline on reporting back to Council may be affected.

Public and stakeholder engagement will continue in 2020 to help create the Urban Forest Asset Management Plan. Information regarding the further engagement will be posted on the Project website: www.edmonton.ca/urbantrees.

Thank you for participating in sharing your voice and shaping our city.

For more information on City of Edmonton public engagement, please visit www.edmonton.ca/publicengagement





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SHAPE OUR CITY

