



# Tree By-law Review

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Discussion Paper



The City of Ottawa is undertaking a review of its tree by-laws and implementing policies and processes.



This presentation summarizes the Tree By-law Review Project and the challenges that stakeholders have identified.



It outlines a suite of proposed directions to improve the by-laws and associated processes.



We need your input!

# Background

# The Urban Forest



The urban forest is a vital part of the City. It provides wide-ranging benefits and services to the city's residents and makes Ottawa a healthy, vibrant, safe, and prosperous place to live.



# Project Scope

- Review and update the City's tree by-laws
- Investigate need for a heritage tree protection by-law, program or registry
- Develop city-wide compensation guidelines
- Identify and formalize incentives to encourage tree conservation and tree planting
- Improve policies and processes related to tree protection and by-law implementation
- Develop Official Plan policies to support integrated approach; retain, replace and renew Ottawa's urban forest.
- Consider options to protect peri-urban woodlands

# Enabling Legislation and Existing By-laws

The Ontario Municipal Act gives Ottawa the ability to enact by-laws to prohibit or regulate the destruction or injury of trees. The City has two tree by-laws; the **Municipal Trees and Natural Areas Protection By-law, 2006-279** for City property and the **Urban Tree Conservation By-law, 2009-200** for private property.

On City property, permission is required prior to removing any tree. On private properties greater than one hectare, a permit is required to remove any tree 10 cm or greater in diameter. For smaller private properties (<1ha), a permit is required to remove trees 50 cm or more in diameter.

# Why is the City Reviewing its Tree By-laws?

When the Urban Tree Conservation By-law was approved in 2009 it addressed issues of the day. The steady pace of development and infrastructure projects, together with disease, has resulted in noticeable tree loss in the urban area over the past decade.

# Objective



The project aims to develop an integrated approach to protect Ottawa's urban tree canopy while maintaining and increasing the diversity of the urban forest over time by revising the City's tree by-laws and the associated processes, as well as developing transparent tree permitting and compensation requirements.

# RETAIN

# REPLACE

# RENEW

The three core goals of the study (retain-replace-renew) are listed in order of importance. The first goal is to retain existing trees on site.

Trees that cannot be retained will be replaced on site or elsewhere in the city to ensure that the urban tree canopy is not diminished over time.

Active tree planting will help to ensure that the urban tree canopy continues to be renewed overtime, with varying species and age classes.



An integrated approach to regulating tree removal will help to realize the vision and objectives of the UFMP

## A Sustainable and Resilient Urban Forest

### Objectives of Ottawa's Urban Forest Management Plan

Sustainability

Protection and Establishment

Improve Knowledge

Community Engagement

Resilient, Diverse, Functional

Minimize Risk

Proactive Management and Resources

*Putting Down Roots for the Future*



[ottawa.ca/urbanforest](http://ottawa.ca/urbanforest)

# Key Issues

Tree loss in inner  
urban  
neighbourhoods

Education to raise  
awareness about the  
value of the urban  
tree canopy

Need to improve  
implementation of  
the by-laws

Inadequate tree  
protection

Protection of  
Heritage Trees

Protection of peri-  
urban woodlands



Building awareness and shifting attitudes about the urban forest will be fundamental to the success of the project.

# Proposed Directions

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Combine the two tree by-laws into one

Strengthen Official Plan policies

Lower distinctive tree size (currently 50 cm DBH)

Earlier consideration of trees in the development process

Develop clear rules around tree permitting

Permit to work around trees

# Proposed Directions

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Improve information available for tree protection

Develop tree compensation requirements

Develop a Heritage Tree program

Ongoing training and education (staff, developers, consultants, builders, contractors and residents)

Robust monitoring and transparent reporting



# Tell us what you Think

- Do you support the proposed directions?
- Do you have ideas for other solutions?
- Submit comments to [Martha Copestake](#) by September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- For more information: [Ottawa.ca/treebylawreview](https://ottawa.ca/treebylawreview)