

# URBAN FORESTS

Trees and other woody plants on streets, in parks, in natural areas and on private property all create the urban forest. The urban forest not only makes our city beautiful but contributes to the health of citizens and has economic, recreational and environmental benefits.

Charlottetown has a rich history related to its urban forest. Many of the trees we see today date back to the 1800's and were planted by school children on Arbour Day. Some of these trees were American elms that are some of the largest trees in the city.

Charlottetown has over 7500 street trees and many trees in parks, woodlands, hedgerows and banks of watercourses. Street and park trees are documented in Charlottetown's tree inventory. Trees are one of the city's most valuable infrastructures, making the care and maintenance of the urban forest vitally important. Urban forest operations include a tree planting program, monitoring and management of Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer and other forest pests; a scheduled pruning program and a hazardous tree removal program.



## URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT GOALS

Create an effective and efficient tree maintenance schedule- pruning, removals, watering, etc.

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Develop strategic tree planting plans- species distribution, age distribution, vacant planting sites, species or areas where survival rates are poor.

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Develop management strategies for invasive species - presence of insect pests, disease.

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Create and enforce tree protection bylaws.

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Ongoing urban forest research and the creation of an urban forest management plan which engages the community in protecting and growing the urban forest.



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## TREES IN OUR URBAN FOREST

Charlottetown's urban forest is home to many different tree and shrub species, some of these include:

- American elm
- Littleleaf linden
- Red oak
- Red maple
- White spruce
- Serviceberry
- White birch
- Witch hazel

It is important to protect and manage the urban forest as it is part of the city's green infrastructure. In 2019, City Council passed the Tree Protection Bylaw. The bylaw protects all trees on City-owned property. It also applies to heritage trees on private or public property. A heritage tree is a tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of more than 100 cm and is an American elm, sugar maple, red maple, red oak or linden species.

This bylaws protects trees from damage or impacts caused by activities such as construction. Written permission must be obtained from the City for removal or pruning of City-owned or Heritage trees. Work on or near a public or protected tree without written permission will result in fines.

For more information visit: [www.charlottetown.ca/bylaws](http://www.charlottetown.ca/bylaws)



## BENEFITS OF URBAN FORESTS

**Improve air and water quality:** Trees remove carbon, sulfur, ammonia and other chemicals from the air. Tree roots prevent soil erosion, which helps reduce water pollution.

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**Reduce storm water run-off:** Trees help manage runoff by absorbing water through the soil and into tree roots.

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**Provide food and habitat for wildlife:** Trees support birds, small mammals, amphibians and insects. They use the trees as food and shelter.

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**Increase well being:** Trees boost our immune system, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, improve our moods and help us focus.

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**Reduce energy costs:** Shade cools buildings in the summer, reducing energy used by air conditioners. Trees also block wind and snow in the winter, decreasing heating costs.

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**Improve aesthetics and property value:** Trees beautify a property and provide a welcoming, natural setting.

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**Reduce maintenance costs:** Trees shelter asphalt and buildings from the elements, reducing wear and erosion.