



Urban Forest Management Strategy Public Engagement Strategy

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Engagement overview

The Urban Forest Management Strategy (UFMS) project was initiated in response to a key action to develop a UFMS set in Port Moody's 2020 Climate Action Plan. The development of Port Moody's UFMS will contribute to the implementation of the climate action goals for the natural environment. The Strategy will establish a 30-year vision for our urban forest to reflect a diverse and growing community in the Metro Vancouver region.

Port Moody has an extensive network of native forests and planted trees found across riparian and marine foreshore areas, parks, rights-of-ways, residential areas, and other land uses that all contribute to the city's overall urban forest canopy cover. A 2018 canopy assessment found city-wide canopy cover to be approximately 55%, with parks being the land use where the highest canopy cover is found.

Retaining and growing a healthy urban forest in a changing climate and while continuing to develop the city could pose challenges for Port Moody's urban forest by reducing the space available to grow trees and creating challenging conditions for their growth. Trees are important assets in urban areas, contributing to the quality of life in Port Moody through services such as cleaning air pollutants, shading and cooling streets and buildings, beautifying our city, stabilizing steep slopes, providing shelter from the wind, and capturing rainwater. However, trees can also be a source of risk that needs to be managed, particularly at the interface between native forest and developed areas where trees can be a wildfire or windthrow risk. Canopy cover loss and renewal, forest health, climate adaptation, and risk management will be addressed in the Strategy. The Strategy project does not include a review of the Tree Protection Bylaw and will instead focus on the broader management of Port Moody's urban forest. Community engagement targeted to a review of the Tree Protection Bylaw is expected to take place separately following the development of the Strategy.

There will be two rounds of public engagement during the development of the Strategy. The first round will focus on informing and educating the public on the goals, challenges, and opportunities for the urban forest and seeking ideas and input on a vision for our urban forest. The second round will ask participants to provide feedback on the draft Strategy and share priorities for implementation.

Given current Provincial Health Office restrictions and guidelines, engagement opportunities may need to occur online or outdoors. The approach will be reviewed based on public health restrictions at the time of planning for each round of engagement.

The UFMS will be developed throughout 2022 and into early 2023 with opportunities for public engagement offered in the spring and fall 2022. Completion of the Strategy is targeted for early 2023.

Purpose of engagement

We have four main objectives for this community engagement:

- Inform and educate the public about:
 - The state of our urban forest
 - The role of our urban forest in the community, including the unique environmental, economic, and social value of Port Moody's urban forestry
 - The challenges for urban forest management, particularly due to ongoing development and climate change
- Involve the community in developing a long-term urban forest vision that captures the community's perspective on the City's urban forest
- Consult the community to identify opportunities to preserve and protect, grow, and enhance our urban forest
- Build community awareness, support, and advocacy for our urban forest and the Urban Forest Management Strategy

Topic of engagement

Both phases will seek to consult the community to identify opportunities to preserve, protect, grow, and enhance our urban forest. Engagement will also aim to build community awareness, support, and advocacy for the urban forest and UFMS.

Phase one will focus on informing and educating the public on the current state of our urban forest, the role the urban forest plays in the community, and the challenges facing urban forest management, particularly due to ongoing development and climate change. It will also involve the community to develop a long-term urban forest vision that captures the community's urban forest values. Phase two will ask participants specifically to provide feedback on the draft Strategy and share their priorities for implementation.

Impact of engagement

Engagement on this project will impact the community by improving public understanding of the state of the urban forest in Port Moody. Engagement on this project will directly influence the preferred vision, goals, and targets, the values and priorities, and actions in the UFMS. Engagement will indirectly influence final recommendations presented to Council.

Engagement will seek to ensure that community concerns and issues are identified, understood, and accounted for in the development of the UFMS.

The project team will track and report back on participation metrics such as the number of participants at engagement events or the number of submissions on online tools and the participants' satisfaction with the engagement.

Level of engagement

<input type="checkbox"/> INFORM We will keep you informed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSULT We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	<input type="checkbox"/> INVOLVE We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternative developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	<input type="checkbox"/> COLLABORATE We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	<input type="checkbox"/> EMPOWER We will implement what you decide.
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iap2canada.ca – IAP2 Canada, an association of professionals in the field of public participation (P2), works to advance good public participation practices and has set the standard for engagement levels.

Reach of engagement

The project reach will be extensive as the urban forest contributes to the entire community of Port Moody.

Target audiences for the engagement will include:

- Port Moody residents
- Key stakeholders, agencies, and government such as:
 - Neighbourhood associations
 - Business owners/operators
 - Developers
 - Arborists
 - Environmental groups
 - Indigenous groups
 - Utilities providers
 - Recreation user groups
- Mayor and Council
- Civic Committees

Methods of engagement and communication

The following primary methods of external engagement are proposed:

- **Engage Port Moody project page**
Project page to inform the public hosted on Engage Port Moody with FAQ tab including a series of commonly asked questions.
- **Phase 1 online survey and other Engage Port Moody tools**
Online survey on vision and values, and other tools suitable to this project (to be determined).
- **Phase 1 pop-up engagement(s)**
Pop-up information booth(s) in public spaces such as parks, to receive broad input

from community members.

- **Phase 1 online stakeholder workshop**
Online workshop to provide a background review and request input through an interactive world café discussion with participants.
- **Phase 1 and Phase 2 updates to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Environmental Protection Committee**
Project updates presented at the Commission and Committee meetings.
- **Phase 2 online survey and other Engage Port Moody tools**
Online survey and other tools (to be determined) to allow the public to comment on the draft Urban Forest Management Strategy.
- **Phase 2 open house event(s)**
Open house event(s) to consult the community and obtain feedback on draft Urban Forest Management Strategy.

Timeline

Activity	Date(s) or date range
Phase One * All timelines are approximate and are to be confirmed	
Engage Port Moody project page launch including survey #1	Spring 2022
Pop-Up Engagement(s)	Spring 2022
Online Stakeholder Workshop	Spring 2022
Interim public engagement summary	Spring – Summer 2022
Phase Two	
Open House Event(s)	Fall 2022
Engage Port Moody project page updates including survey #2	Fall 2022
Final public engagement summary	Winter 2023

Reporting of engagement

The results of the consultation will be reported back to Council. In addition, the consultation results will be shared with the public via Engage Port Moody, which will include an interim (Phase 1) and final public engagement summary (Phase 2).