WINNIPEG URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary

February 2021

Background

The Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy will provide a 20-year vision for our city's tree canopy and develop policy, recommendations, and strategic actions to help protect, preserve, and grow the canopy well into the future. The City of Winnipeg's (City) capacity to maintain the urban forest is challenged as resources struggle to keep pace with demand for disease management, urban development, tree removals, maintenance, and replanting. The Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy project is an opportunity to establish a long-term vision for Winnipeg's urban forest that responds to current and future challenges.

Engagement

Phase 1 of public engagement aimed to develop a community-supported, long-term urban forest vision that captures the community's perspectives on the city's identity, culture, and aspirations while identifying opportunities to preserve and protect, grow, and enhance the urban forest. Residents were invited to provide input through a survey, mapping tool, discussion forum, webinar presentation, self-guided walking tour, and virtual tour. In-person guided walking tours were planned but were cancelled due to COVID-19 and provincial public health orders. Stakeholder organizations were also invited to provide input at an online stakeholder workshop and through a stakeholder conversation guide. Details on engagement opportunities are outlined in Table 1.

The input collected through Phase 1 will be used to help create the draft strategy. In Phase 2 of public engagement expected to begin in spring 2021, we will gather feedback on the draft strategy.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – launched October 8, 2020
- News release – October 8, 2020
- Facebook posts with over 29,900 followers - October 8 to 31, 2020
- Twitter posts with over 99,900 followers - October 8 to 31, 2020
- Email to 109 identified urban forest stakeholders – October 9, 2020
- Online advertisement – October 9 to 31, 2020
- Newspaper advertisements in the Harold, Lance, Sou'Wester, Metro, and Times – October 14, 2020
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 2,500 recipients – October 15 and 29, 2020
- Media coverage in Global News, CJOB, and CHVN – October 15 to 18, 2020

Table 1: Public and Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

Date	Activity	Details
October 8 – November 1, 2020	Web page	Over 4,300 unique visitors
October 8 – November 1, 2020	Survey	1,753 respondents
October 8 – November 1, 2020	Mapping tool	96 submissions
October 8 – November 1, 2020	Tree mail	16 emails
October 8 – November 1, 2020	Discussion forum	9 posts
October 8 – November 8, 2020	Self-guided walking tours and virtual tours	25 participants
October 8 – November 8, 2020	Stakeholder conversation guide	5 submissions
October 22, 2020	Presentation #1 (online)	35 attendees
October 23, 2020	Presentation #2 (online)	37 attendees
December 3, 2020	Stakeholder workshop (online)	40 attendees

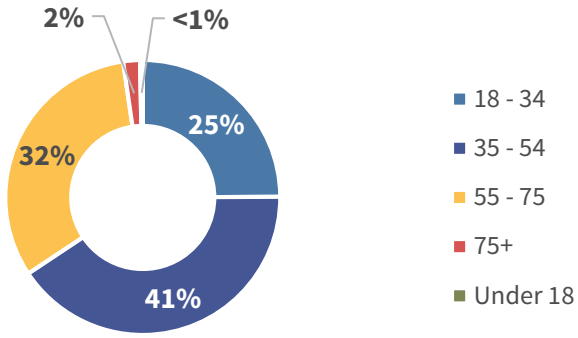
Who We Heard From

Over 4,300 unique visitors engaged with the project webpage and we heard from 1,753 survey respondents. We had 72 participants in the online presentations and 40 in the online stakeholder workshop.

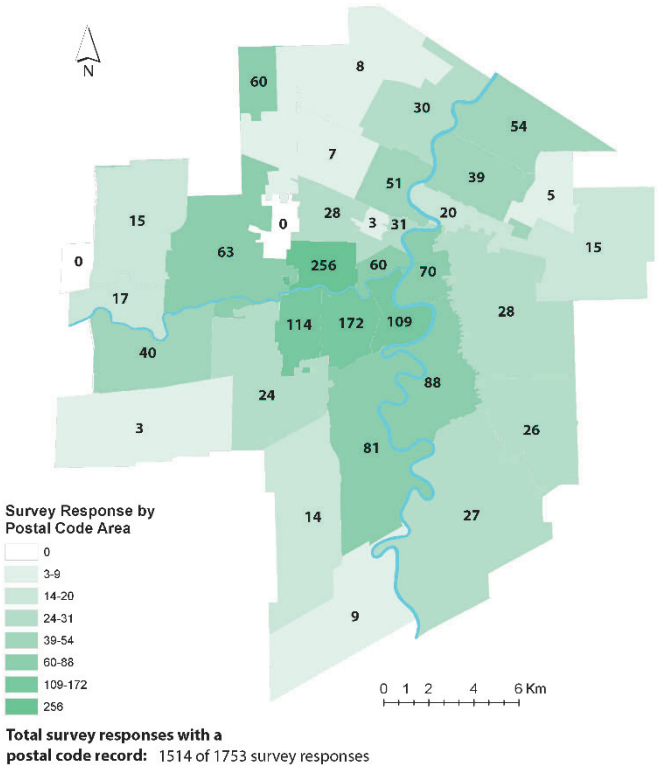
Survey Respondents

- 41% of survey respondents were between 35-54 years of age, compared to 27% in Winnipeg
- 80% of survey respondents owned their own home, compared to 66% in Winnipeg
- Middle aged homeowners are over represented in the survey data
- Facebook (31%), word of mouth (23%), and in the news (14%) were the top three ways respondents heard about the project

Survey Respondent Age



Map of Survey Respondents' Place of Residence by Postal Code



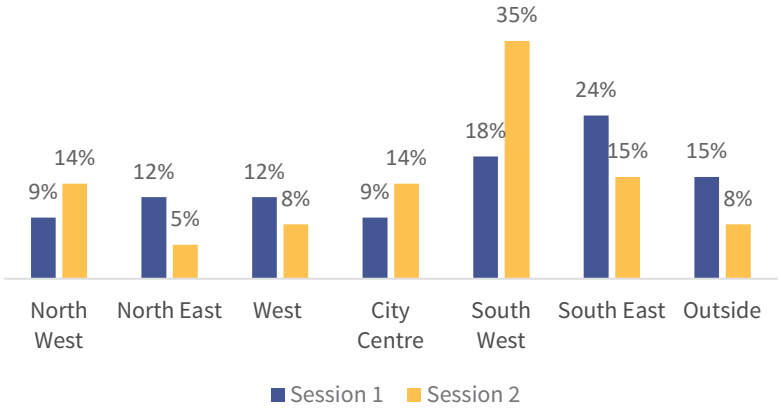
Total survey responses with a postal code record: 1514 of 1753 survey responses

Presentation & workshop attendees

Each presentation had attendees from across Winnipeg. A live poll question found the most common area of residence was South East in Session 1 and in South West in Session 2.

Participants in the stakeholder workshop represented residents' associations, tree committees, universities, nurseries, consulting companies, community groups, tree care services, trails associations, provincial government, landscape architects, city planners, and community members (see the complete list in Appendix G).

Presentation Attendees' Place of Residence



What We Heard

Key findings from the community engagement are grouped into two sections: first, the vision for the urban forest; and, second, each of five key urban forest management themes that the eventual strategy will explore (**planning**, **planting**, **management**, **protection**, and **stewardship)**. Each section presents highlights from Phase 1 engagement and ends with a summary table outlining what we heard and how it will be considered during the development of the draft Urban Forest Strategy. Detailed results and additional information can be found in the appendices.

Section 1: Vision for the Urban Forest

Vision for 2040

When asked about a vision for Winnipeg's urban forest by 2040, survey respondents stated that they would like to see more tree canopy overall (286 comments), including large and healthy trees (712 comments), across the city. Respondents also want to see more trees planted, particularly on residential streets (512 comments). Respondents shared visions of planting diverse tree species, including more native species (220 comments). This sentiment was also shared in the forum where participants noted biodiversity as an important vision for the future of Winnipeg's urban forest.

In the mapping tool, participants identified locations in Winnipeg that they value primarily because of their beautiful mature trees, their large, forested areas, and/or that provided a variety of ecosystem services.

> ***"Lots of mature trees in neighbourhoods and parks."***
>
> ***"Have a greater diversity of trees, Boulevard trees that are pruned regularly, new trees planted with care and taken care of, and have a bigger increase of tree canopy overall."***
>
> -Survey participants

> ***"Additionally, biodiversity needs to be improved. Although our elm forest is beautiful, the monoculture urban forest has proven to have detrimental impacts. Diversifying our canopies would have a huge amount of benefits in the long run."*** – Forum participant

Photos and Quotes from Mapping Tool Participants



"It is my favourite natural area in Winnipeg. A place of beauty, nature, wildlife and serenity close to my home. I am rejuvenated when I go through Bois des Esprits."



"We value these trees for protection from winter winds and for shade. Neighbouring areas have fewer trees; people walk on this road for its beauty!"

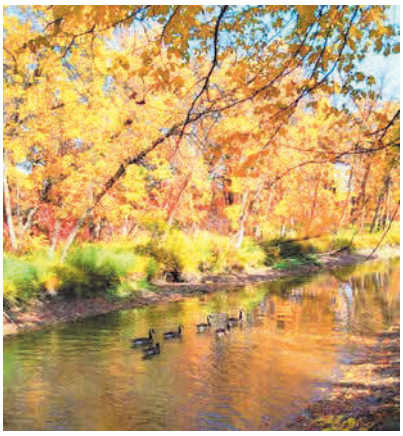


"I like the variety of native trees and wildflowers, and the fact that the forest along the creek still feels relatively wild, and messy in a good kind of way."

Community values

- Benefits of the urban forest that mattered the most for survey respondents included: habitat for native plants and animals (98% of respondents ranked it as somewhat important or very important); air purification (97%); natural experiences (96%); and shading and cooling (95%).
- The most common reasons for visiting tree locations identified in the mapping exercise are recreation/restoration (84%), to appreciate the landscape (82%), and to experience quietness/solitude (71%).
- Using the mapping tool, respondents identified valued forested areas and often noted their benefits to mental health (33 comments) and physical health (40 comments).

The common themes and wording about Winnipeg's urban forest will be used to prepare the draft vision for Winnipeg's urban forest.



"It is invaluable for getting kids familiar with nature, it provides healthy green space for outside exercise and activities, for healthier community."
- **Mapping Tool Participant**

Section 2: Plan

Work under the ***plan*** theme will seek to develop a canopy cover target and metrics to track changes in Winnipeg's urban forest, and to integrate trees and natural assets into asset management.

Canopy cover target

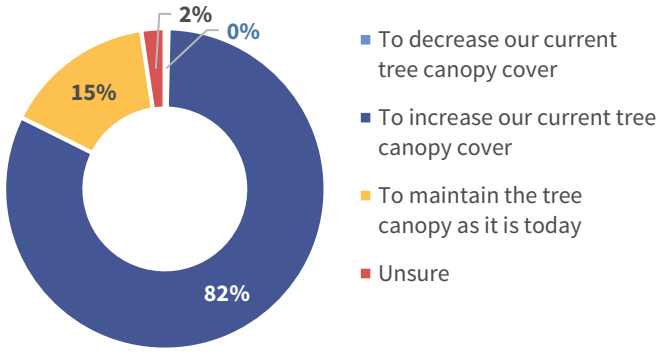
Over 80% of survey participants agree the City should set a tree canopy cover target to increase Winnipeg's current tree canopy cover.

Stakeholders in the workshop noted differences in the distribution of new trees planted across neighbourhoods and point to socio-economic factors playing a role in canopy distribution. More specifically, stakeholders observed that the reliance on community organizations to carry out tree planting is contributing to the uneven distribution of trees biased towards neighbourhoods where such organizations are active.

Integration with asset management

Stakeholders would like the City budget to reflect the value of trees and the services they provide. They are particularly interested in the integration of trees into the City's asset management system to account for benefits and costs of the urban forest.

Survey respondent preferences for Winnipeg's canopy cover target



"Whatever the tree canopy target is, it should be evenly distributed across all neighbourhoods, not 100% in some and next to 0% in others." – Survey respondent

"The *City budget should value the trees and the services they provide*." – Stakeholders at the workshop

"Use natural asset valuation to communicate value of trees and natural assets to strengthen argument for increased investment" – Stakeholders at the workshop

Summary Table 1 – Key themes from public engagement about planning

What we Heard	How it was considered
Canopy cover target: • Survey respondents would like to see the City set a tree canopy cover target to increase our current canopy cover. • Stakeholders and survey respondents highlighted the importance of distributing canopy cover across neighbourhoods	The City will explore scenarios using relevant data and metrics to propose a realistic and achievable City-wide canopy cover target that aims to increase canopy cover. The Strategy will also review canopy cover distribution across the city and make recommendations to increase it in neighbourhoods which have less canopy.
Asset management: The City should reflect the value of trees by developing an asset management system that accounts for the benefits and costs of the urban forest.	The Strategy will explore options and make recommendations for the integration of trees into the City's asset management system.

Section 3: Management

The ***management*** theme is focused on services such as pruning, watering, tree removals, integrated pest management, and storm response.

Tree removals

Using the mapping tool, participants identified several locations where they would like to see urban forest improvements. A common theme is the need for more timely removal of dead or dying and diseased trees, as well as replacement following removals (13 comments).

Pruning

Survey respondents would like to see improvements to tree pruning, with 46% either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with current pruning. Stakeholders in particular noted the importance of a best-practice pruning cycle to reduce the amount of damage sustained by trees in weather events such as the 2019 storm. However, some survey respondents noted concerns about the feasibility of reaching a best practice pruning cycle given how far from it current practices are and pointed out that the City would need to ensure sufficient budget is provided to enable that significant shift (284 comments).

Climate change

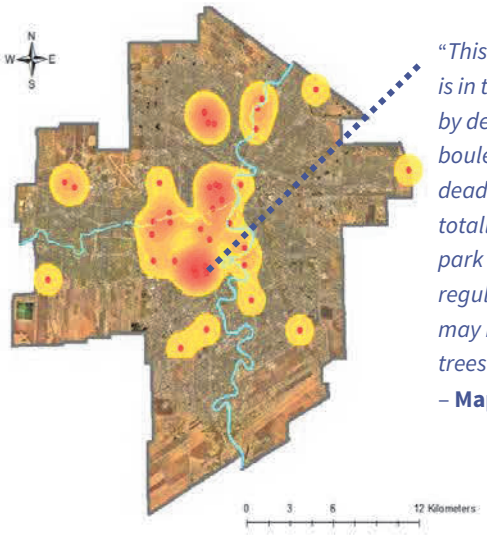
Climate change was mentioned by stakeholders as an important consideration. Budget and programs to respond to storms and increased watering needs were some of the climate impacts which stakeholders would like to see planned for.

Pests & diseases: DED and EAB management

Dutch elm disease (DED) management was identified as a top concern by stakeholders and in the survey, where respondents noted DED as a common reason for tree removal in their neighborhood (406 comments). Stakeholders noted that, although the City is managing DED, they have observed more trees becoming affected yearly and worry that the City may lose control over the disease in some neighbourhoods. They also noted that the misunderstanding of pest and diseases management issues by the public was leading to problematic practices which are putting additional strains on the City's management programs.

Participants also expressed concerns about emerald ash borer (EAB). However, 20% of survey respondents indicated being unsure about their satisfaction with the City's management of EAB. This finding aligns with comments from

Areas of Improvement identified using Mapping Tool



"This park/recreation center is in total disrepair, flanked by dead trees on the west boulevard that have been dead for over a year. One is totally de-barked. The pocket park has trees that don't regularly see pruning and may be unsafe for kids. More trees could be planted."
– **Mapping Tool Participant**

"Tree pruning and removal of diseased trees has not had an adequate budget to keep pace with requirements. I don't think the public has enough understanding of the value of trees. Our city council has neglected to provide appropriate budgets for an urban forest management strategy. Hopefully, this strategy document will help with budgeting." – Survey respondent

"Watering must be responsive to needs of plant and environmental conditions, beyond a pre-established schedule, especially with changing climatic conditions."
– Stakeholder conversation guide excerpt

"EAB sounds very devastating - I hope the City can go ahead with its EAB prevention activities to preserve our ash trees for as long as possible." – Walking tour participant

"The ash trees on my street made the street. Now that half of the tress were recently removed, the street is almost unrecognizable to me. The beauty and appeal of the street has been greatly reduced." – Mapping tool participant

stakeholders, who thought the City needed to better inform citizens about the pest, its impacts, and management of it.

Increase in urban forest funding

A large number of survey respondents would like the City to allocate more funding towards tree planting and maintenance (323 comments). Some respondents also expressed a willingness to pay additional taxes for improved urban forest management (20 comments). Participants in the stakeholder conversation guide, forum and stakeholder workshop also identified the lack of budget as a serious threat. Stakeholders in the workshop noted that they would like to see a yearly budget that accommodates adequate tree removal, replanting, and mitigation.

> ***"I strongly want our City Council to prioritize the forestry department when they decide city budgets. I personally would be ok with an increase in property taxes going to improve tree planting and maintenance."*** – Survey respondent

Summary Table 2 - Key themes from public engagement about urban forest management

What we Heard	How it was considered
Tree removals: Participants would like to see more timely removal of dead, dying, and diseased trees. The replacement of trees removed is top of mind for most.	The Strategy will recommend improvements to the City's practices and consider replacement plantings in setting a canopy cover target for Winnipeg's urban forest.
Pruning: Tree pruning was identified as needing improvement to align with best practices and improve tree outcomes. However, participants noted that this may require significant budget increases.	The Strategy will evaluate how City practices compare to best practice levels of service and make recommendations on how to move towards best practices, including identifying resourcing requirements.
Climate change: Community members are concerned about the impacts of climate change on their urban forest and noted the need for revised watering practices particularly in order to establish young trees.	The Strategy will include data about the expected impacts of climate change on Winnipeg's urban forest. It will recommend changes to management strategies.
DED and EAB management: Concerns were expressed widely about managing the spread of DED and EAB in Winnipeg's elm and ash species.	The Strategy will review City practices for pests and diseases management and issue recommendations to improve DED and EAB management programs.
Budget: A common theme expressed across engagement tools was the desire for the City to spend more funds on tree planting and maintenance.	The Strategy will review the current urban forestry budget and ensure that the budget implications of its recommendations are clearly communicated and discussed.

Section 4: Planting

The ***planting*** theme focuses on tree planting on public land, including on-street and in-park trees, as well as natural forest restoration.

Overall, 57% of survey respondents are dissatisfied with the level of service for tree planting in Winnipeg.

Street planting preferences

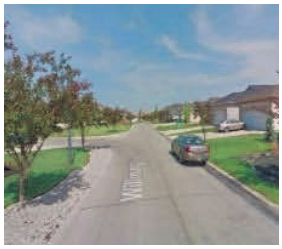
Respondents were asked to identify a photo that most resembled their street and which they would like their street to resemble (examples at right) Almost half of respondents' current streets are most like Photo E, with regularly spaced large trees. This aligns with the demographic information collected from the survey, which showed strong representation from mature neighbourhoods.

Overall, respondents prefer streets with spaced, large trees (photo E; 53% of respondents). The second preferred character is mixed spacing and species, large sized trees (photo F; 38%). The only respondents who preferred the same type of street as their current street were those living on streets with regularly spaced, large trees (photo E) or mixed spacing and species with large sized trees (photo F). No respondents preferred few or no trees (photo A), or small trees (photo B).

Street Characters



A. Few or no trees



B. Regularly spaced small trees



C. Regularly spaced, medium-sized trees



D. Mixed spacing and species, medium-sized trees

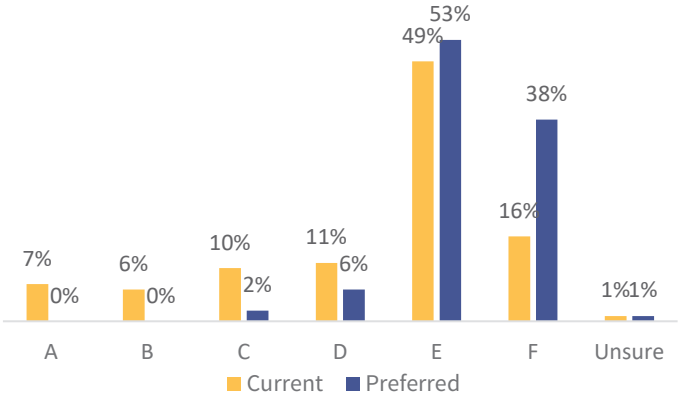


E. Regularly spaced, large trees



F. Mixed species and spacing, large-sized trees

Current and Preferred Street Character



Benefits of street trees

When selecting trees they would like to see planted on streets, survey respondents prioritized benefits like shade, carbon storage, and rainwater interception (73% ranked it in their top three) followed by bird and pollinator attraction (72% ranked it in their top three), and tree species diversity (71% ranked it in their top three). Participants rated pest and disease resistance as consistently important.

Priority planting locations

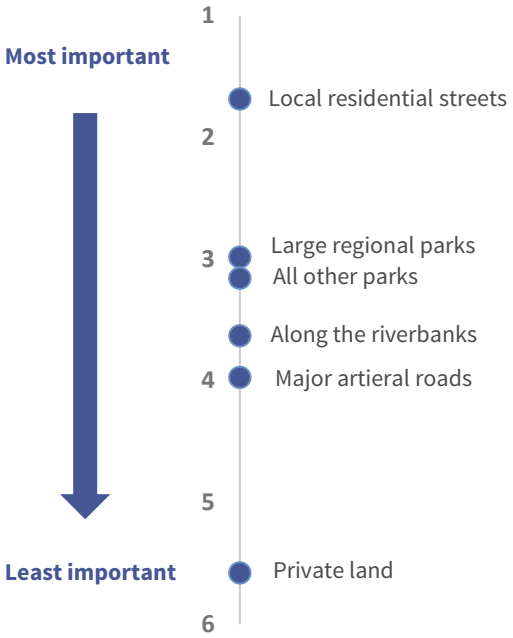
On a scale of 1 to 6, survey respondents ranked local residential streets as the most important location to plant trees (1.7), ranking major arterial roads as a lesser priority (4.0). In parks, respondents prioritized planting in large regional parks (3.0) and all other parks (3.2) similarly, while placing a lower priority on planting along riverbanks (3.6). Replacing removed trees is of great importance, especially to the many who observe a lack of tree replacement on streets.

Diversity of species

The importance of planting a higher diversity of tree species was a consistent theme across all engagement tools; respondents would like to see a more diverse urban forest, with many citing challenges in pests and disease management as a key reason for diversifying (108 comments).

Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of considering climate change impacts in the selection of tree species to plant around the city, and raised the importance of outreach with local nurseries to ensure that desired species would be available for planting in the region.

Priority Planting Locations



"The ash trees removed due to the emerald ash borers have not been replaced, leaving Wavell and Montgomery almost devoid of boulevard trees. We would appreciate the canopy being replaced, especially as it will take some time for the trees to mature and start providing shade." – Survey respondent

"Much more trees in new developments better maintained old trees/new added trees in mature neighborhood diversification of tree species planted on the residential streets." – Survey respondent

Summary Table 3 - Key themes from public engagement for the urban forest planting

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Street trees: Respondents prefer streets with regularly spaced, large trees which reflects the most common appearance of streets as regularly spaced with large trees.	The Strategy will consider this preference in developing the vision statement as well as when making recommendations for public tree planting.
Tree species: • The City should choose trees that maximize benefits, have tall canopies, attract birds and pollinators, and are diverse. • A key highlighted theme is the overall need to diversify the urban forest.	The diversification of trees species will be an important component of the recommendations for growing Winnipeg's urban forest.
Planting location priorities: • The City should focus on residential street tree planting as its highest priority. • In parks, planting should occur both in regional and other City parks.	The Strategy will account for people's priorities for tree planting in its recommendations.

Section 5: Preservation

The ***preservation*** theme focuses on regulating the protection, removal, and replacement of City trees with development and construction, as well as regulating new private trees planted with development and new boulevard trees planted under development agreements.

Tree loss impacts

Winnipeg has experienced significant tree loss within its urban forest as a result of pests and diseases and was identified as a major concern for Winnipeggers:

- Over 84% of survey respondents reported having been impacted by tree loss at a personal level.
- 70% of respondents rated the impact of tree loss on themselves as severe to very severe.

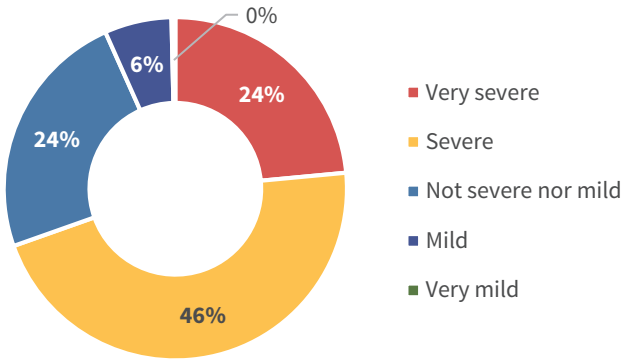
The most cited reason for tree loss was DED (406 comments). Many respondents who experienced tree loss cited significant impacts from tree removals because of the loss of their beautification and cooling benefits (739 comments).

Regulating tree protection

Several survey respondents indicated a desire for more protection of private trees, with 57% of respondents indicating being dissatisfied with the level of service for the preservation and protection of trees when development or construction projects occur. More specifically, survey results indicate:

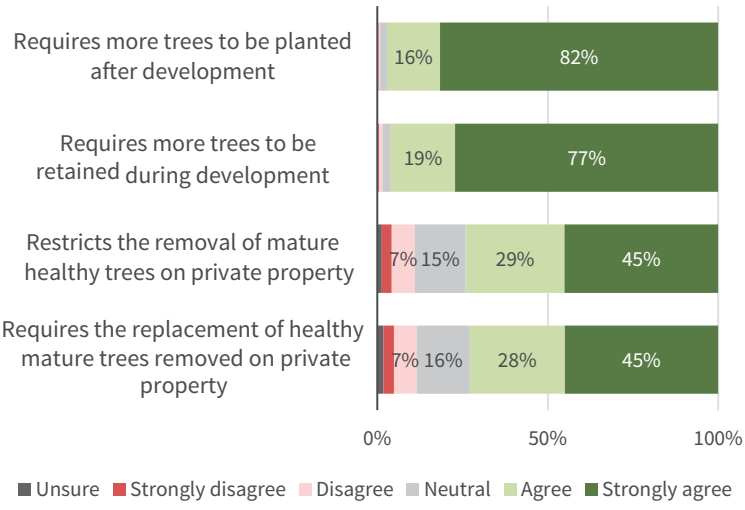
- There is strong support for measures to ensure the protection and replacement of trees as part of land development:
  - 82% of respondents strongly support a policy that requires more trees to be planted after development
  - Over 77% strongly support a policy that requires more trees to be retained during development
- There is support for protection and replacement measures of healthy mature trees on private property:
  - 74% support a policy to restrict the removal of healthy mature trees on private property
  - 73% support a policy to require the replacement of healthy mature trees on private property

Severity of the impact of tree loss



> ***"The loss of trees has very much negatively impacted our streets' aesthetics and exposure to weather. HUGE difference in my house and yard environment compared to when we were enveloped with mature trees."***
>
> – Survey respondent

The City should implement a tree policy that:



Support for the protection and replacement of healthy mature trees on private property drew higher levels of disagreement than measures for development. Stakeholders also indicated an interest in greater tree protection particularly during development, and in preventing the loss of planting space as a result of infill development. The development of a Greenspace Strategy to better protect valuable natural areas was also proposed.

> ***"It is costing us a lot of money every year to remove dead trees and plant new ones on our property. Then I see contractors cutting healthy trees down to build monster houses in our area. That really makes me mad! If people want to live in an area like ours that has a lot of trees, then don't cut them down!"***
>
> – Survey respondent

Summary Table 4 - Key themes from public engagement about tree preservation

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Impact of tree loss: Tree loss is a significant concern for Winnipeggers. The most common reason in which survey respondents have been impacted by tree loss is DED.	The Strategy will seek to reflect the impact of the loss on Winnipeggers and recommendations will be made for comprehensive invasive pest management and reduction in loss rates due to DED.
Tree protection on private land: There is a common desire to establish better protection measures for private trees. More specifically: • There is strong support for urban forest policies that require more trees to be planted after development and require more trees to be retained during development • There is support (but less unanimity) for a policy that restricts the removal of mature healthy trees on private property and requires the replacement of healthy mature trees removed on private property.	The Strategy will explore options to improve the protection of private trees on private land, including recommendations for a tree protection by-law.

Section 6: Stewardship

The ***stewardship*** theme focuses on fostering and supporting volunteer capacity, creating stewardship and education opportunities in partnership with non-profit organizations, and promoting urban forest outreach and education through various communication channels.

Stewardship Activities

Winnipeggers are active participants in a variety of urban forest stewardship activities.

- Over 91% of survey respondents have participated in a stewardship activity.
- Stakeholders noted significant community participation in planting projects and tree watering programs through neighbourhood associations, Trees Winnipeg, Friends of Peanut Park, and various tree committees.

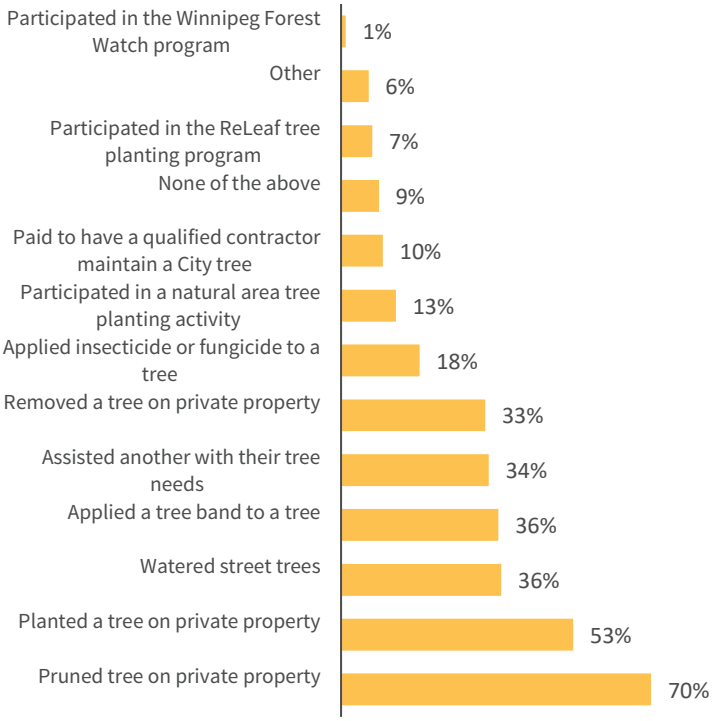
The most common activities respondents reported being involved in included pruning a tree on private property (70%), planting a tree on private property (53%), watering street trees (36%), and applying a tree band to a tree (36%). Several survey respondents and stakeholders noted that the Mayor's Million Tree Challenge was a good stewardship initiative, although many noted it may be challenging to attain given tree removal rates and lack of budget allocated to it.

Survey respondents were particularly interested in seeing the City encourage citizen tree care through watering, planting, and education. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of engaging the community more broadly and equitably. They suggested that the City considers developing partnerships with organizations such as school districts to involve youth.

Urban forest education

More than half (57%) of survey respondents currently feel dissatisfied with the level of public education provided by the City. They highlighted an interest in educational materials about how to choose the right tree for their property (57%) and what trees are suitable for Winnipeg (52%).

Winnipeggers have…



> ***"I am not a property owner, but I would love to participate in a City-run program that allows people who are not property owners to help plant city-run gardens and treed areas."*** – Survey respondent

> ***"I literally spent hundreds of dollars to water these new trees. I was billed for sewer and water for my good intentions when no sewer was involved..."***
>
> ***"My suggestion is to offer people a small credit on their water bill if they plant new trees!"***
>
> -resident comment

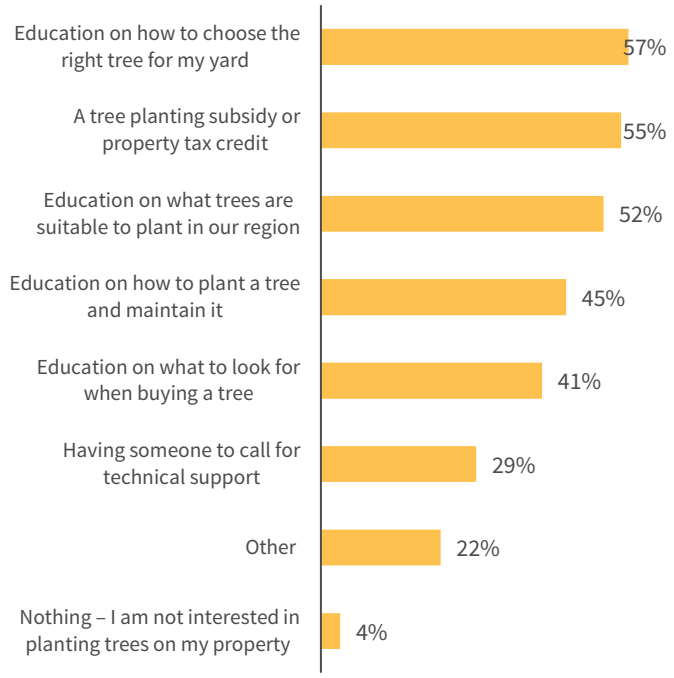
Incentives for private tree planting

Survey respondents would like the City to create incentives for community members to plant trees (such as a tax credit or water bill credit) and also to provide technical support. A little more than half of respondents would feel encouraged to plant a tree if there was a tree planting subsidy or property tax credit provided (55%). Equity needs to be at the heart of incentive programs so as to address potential barriers to tree planting, from the cost of the tree to the cost associated with watering that tree.

Balancing stewardship with City management

The stakeholders highlighted the importance of clearly defining the role of external stakeholders and the City's Urban Forestry branch in the management of the urban forest. While not-for-profit organizations and resident groups noted they want to see the City support and celebrate citizen stewardship, they noted urban forest management needed to be funded appropriately to avoid relying on the community to bridge gaps in funding and programming/maintenance. They also suggested the City consider hiring a dedicated staff to engage with volunteers and coordinate both volunteer opportunities and programs with external organizations.

What would encourage you to plant a tree(s) on your property?



Summary Table 5 - Key themes from public engagement about urban forest stewardship

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
More support for community stewardship: Participants would like the City to take more leadership for the coordination of stewardship activities and groups. • Stakeholder groups would like the City to consider a dedicated staff position to coordinate stewardship efforts and liaise with external stakeholder organizations. • Equity should be at the centre of the City's approach. New collaboration opportunities should be sought after, for example engaging with youth through schools.	The Strategy will acknowledge the importance of community stewardship in the management of the urban forest to date. It will issue recommendations to continue to foster and better support stewardship activities in the community moving forward.
More public education: Winnipeggers would like more education on choosing the right tree to plant on their properties.	The Strategy will acknowledge the community's interest and seek out opportunities to provide those resources to the community.
Supporting tree planting on private property: A key highlighted theme is an opportunity for creating incentives for community members to plant trees (i.e. tax credit, technical support). Incentive programs need to consider	Incentive programs for tree planting and maintenance will be investigated.

equity and address barriers for tree planting, particularly in lower income neighbourhoods.	
Defining the role of stakeholders: Clearly defining the role of stakeholder groups in the management of the urban forest is critical to avoid relying on the community to bridge management gaps.	The Strategy will celebrate the contribution of community members and organizations for the stewardship of the urban forest. It will explore collaboration models to be considered in the implementation of the Strategy.

Next Steps

The findings from this first phase of community engagement will be considered along with findings about the current state of Winnipeg's urban forest to inform the drafting of the Urban Forest Strategy. Phase 2 public engagement is expected to occur in the spring of 2021 to gather feedback on the draft Urban Forest Strategy.

Appendices

Appendix A – Survey Results

Appendix B – Mapping Results

Appendix C – Walking Tours

Appendix D – Public Presentations

Appendix E – Forum

Appendix F – Tree Mail

Appendix G – Stakeholder Workshop

Appendix H – Conversation Guides

Appendix F – Promotional Material, Presentation Boards, & Survey Screen

WINNIPEG URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

Phase 2 Public Engagement Summary

January 2023

Background

The Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy will provide a 20-year vision for the City's urban forest. It identifies policy recommendations and strategic actions to help protect, preserve, and grow the canopy well into the future. The Strategy was rooted in an engagement process that invited input from stakeholders and community members through two engagement phases.

Engagement

In fall 2020, Winnipeggers were asked about their long-term vision for the city's urban forest and their satisfaction with its current and future urban forest management priorities. What we heard during this phase of engagement helped our project team create the draft Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy, including the vision and strategic directions that will set the stage for future urban forest management in Winnipeg.

In spring 2022, Phase 2 engagement informed the public of the draft strategy and solicited input on targets and priorities for implementation. Winnipeggers were invited to provide feedback through a survey, a comments tool, and two online open houses. Stakeholder organizations were also invited to an online stakeholder workshop. Trees Please Coalition, Trees Riverview, and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority provided written responses to the draft outside this formal process. Details of Phase 2 engagement are outlined in Table 1.

Input collected during Phase 2 will be used to finalize the draft strategy for Council's consideration.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- News release – May 23, 2022
- Email sent to 335 subscribers – May 23, 2022
- Media coverage in the Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg Sun, CTV, and CBC – May 24 - 29, 2022.
- Online advertisement – May 25, 2022
- Newspaper advertisement in Winnipeg Free Press Community Review and La Liberté – May 25, 2022
- Public engagement newsletter to 3,300+ subscribers - June 2 & 16, 2022
- Facebook posts to more than 33,000 followers – June 10 & 16, 2022
- Twitter posts to more than 113,000 followers – June 10 & June 22, 2022

Table 1 - Public and Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

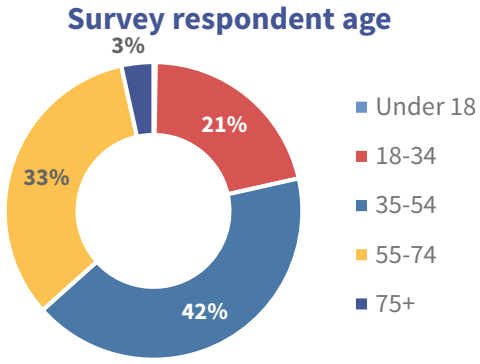
Date	Activity	Details
May 23 – June 22, 2022	Webpage	1,667 unique visitors
May 23 – June 22, 2022	Survey	838 respondents
June 14, 2022	Online open house #1 (presentation and Q&A)	19 participants
June 15, 2022	Online open house #2 (presentation and Q&A)	20 participants
June 15, 2022	Online Stakeholder Workshop	21 participants

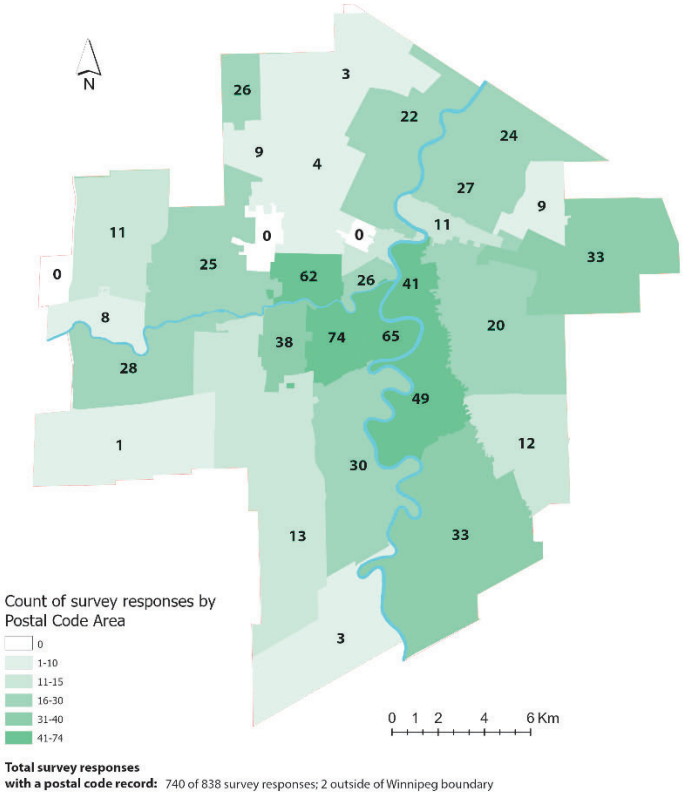
Who we heard from

Over 1,600 unique visitors engaged with the project webpage, and we heard from 838 survey respondents. We had 42 participants at online open houses and 21 in the online stakeholder workshop.

Survey respondent demographics

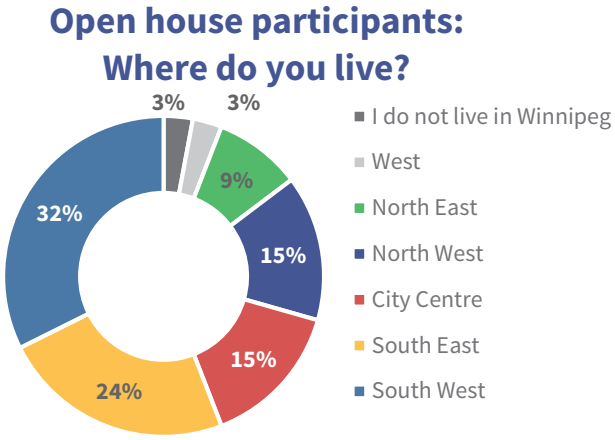
- 42% of respondents are aged 35-54
- A large proportion of respondents reside in central areas of Winnipeg (see postal code map)
- 81% of respondents own their own home
- Most participants heard about the survey through Twitter (43%), in the news (33%), Facebook (32%), and the public engagement newsletter email (32%)





Open house & stakeholder workshop attendees

- 65% of open house attendees did not participate in any Phase 1 engagement activities
- 21 stakeholders represented 17 organizations at the workshop
- 53% of stakeholder workshop attendees participated in Phase 1 of engagement



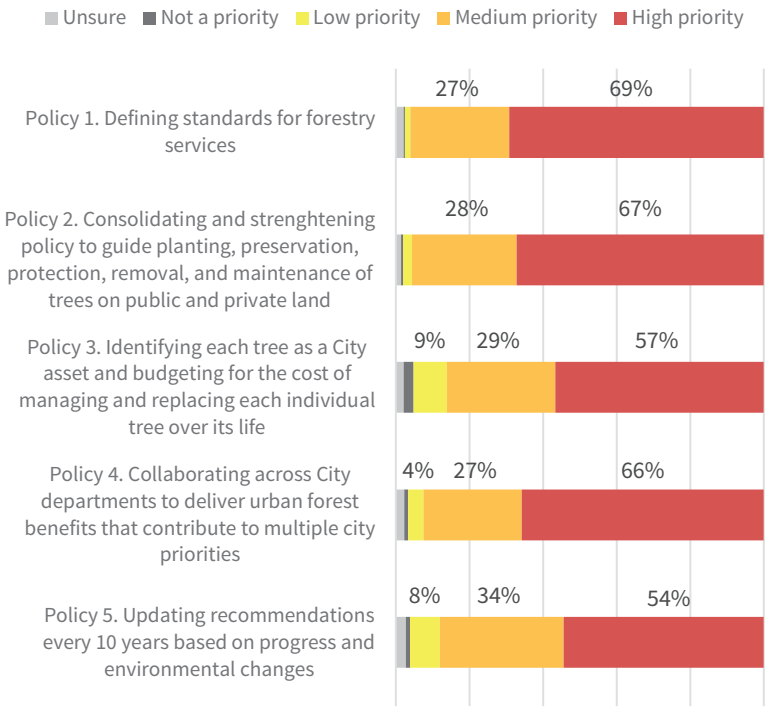
What we heard

The purpose of the second phase of engagement was to inform community members about the draft Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy and hear their thoughts on proposed policies and targets. Public input was collected through an online survey and two open houses that included a presentation and a question-and-answer period. Stakeholders were engaged through an online workshop.

Key findings from community engagement are organized under the five urban forest management goals outlined in the draft strategy: **planning**, **planting**, **managing**, **protecting**, and **partnering**. Each section presents key highlights from Phase 2 engagement and ends with a summary table outlining what we heard and how it will be considered in the final draft strategy. Detailed results and additional information can be found in the appendices.

Section 1: Plan

Plan aims to equitably distribute connected tree and forest assets to improve the health of people and their communities. Five policies associated with this goal were presented in the draft strategy.



Prioritizing policies

When asked to prioritize policies related to long-term planning of the urban forest, most survey respondents (54% to 69%) ranked ***Plan*** policies similarly high.

Workshop participants prioritized Policy 2, Policy 3, and Policy 4. They highlighted the importance of advocating for changes to the Winnipeg Charter under Policy 2 because it drives many private tree protection actions. Stakeholders also generally wanted the City to prioritize short-term actions that would more quickly achieve results.

Gaps and implementation challenges

Workshop participants identified gaps and challenges in implementing Goal 1 – Plan policies. They were mainly concerned with a lack of funding, competing priorities between trees and city infrastructure, and the need to prioritize shorter-term actions to avoid losing them in the details of the strategy. Some stakeholders also thought the strategy did not adequately stress the urgency of investing in and prioritizing the urban forest and requested that the vision statement more strongly and communicates the urgency. There were concerns that the canopy cover target was not high enough and that there should be a better explanation why the overall target was chosen. Some stakeholders noted interim canopy cover targets would be useful to ensure actions are prioritized based on their importance to achieve targets and ease of implementation.

Summary Table 2 – Key themes from public engagement about planning

What we Heard	How it was considered
Survey respondents considered all five policies under this area to be a priority. Some stakeholders highlighted Policy 2, focusing on changing the Winnipeg Charter to enable private tree protection.	Implementing Policy 2, action 2B as it relates to the City of Winnipeg Charter was changed from a long- to medium-term priority.
The Strategy must highlight short-term actions that will have the most significant impact on achieving urban forest targets.	A summary of short-term actions was integrated into a fact sheet to highlight recommendations with the most significant impacts on Winnipeg's urban forest.
The strategy must more clearly emphasize the urgency of investing in Winnipeg's urban forest and the negative impact that maintaining the status quo would have on canopy cover over the coming decades.	Information about the potential canopy cover outcomes (Figure 21) was integrated into the executive summary to highlight the impacts of inaction on Winnipeg's future canopy cover.
A more robust vision is required to emphasize the essential nature of the urban forest to the health and well-being of all Winnipeggers.	The strategy's vision was updated to highlight the essential nature of the urban forest for the health and well-being of Winnipeggers.
Increase the canopy cover target to 24% by 2040 (instead of 24% by 2065) and provide more detailed information about the implications of the current target for tree planting and resource investments.	The draft strategy now provides a more detailed breakdown of the rate of tree planting and budget investments required to achieve the target. It better explains the relationship between tree planting and canopy cover growth over time to relate planting rates to changes in canopy cover.
Emphasize the Urban Forest Program Sustainability section and its findings about resourcing.	More specific references to those findings have been added to the executive summary.
Develop a financial plan with specific dollar values associated with actions.	A breakdown of costs related to each action has been added to the Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy.

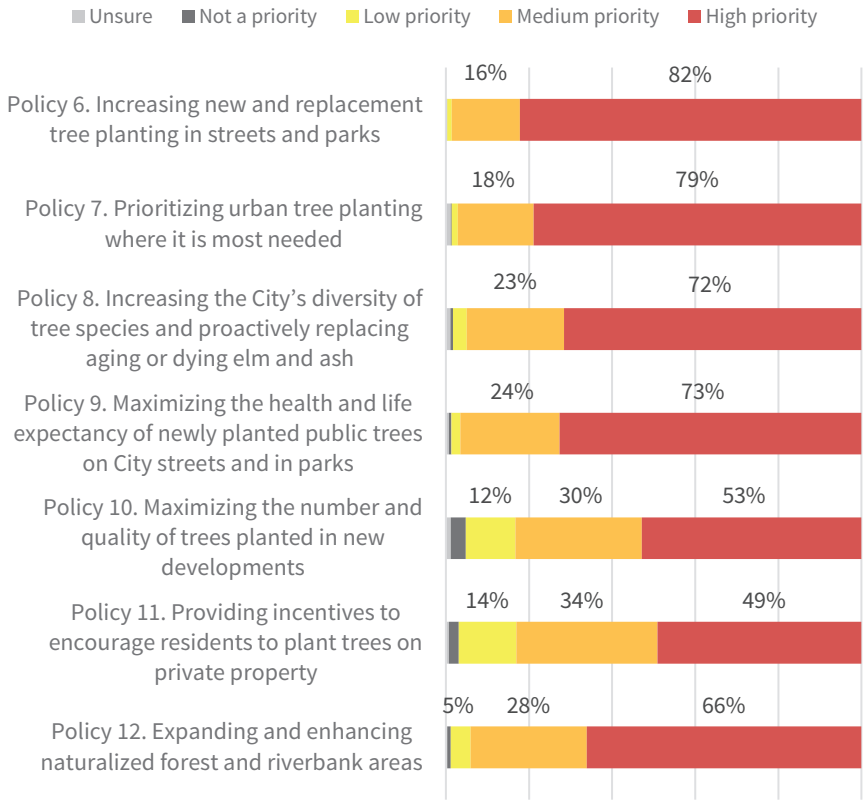
Section 2: Planting

Plant aims to strategically grow a robust and sustainable urban forest that will maximize benefits for human health and ecological function. Seven policies were presented in the draft strategy.

Prioritizing policies

When asked to prioritize policies relative to tree planting, most survey respondents ranked Policies 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 as high priorities, with the highest being Policy 6 (82%) and Policy 7 (79%). Participants in the workshop prioritized Policy 6, Policy 9, and Policy 12.

The lowest priority policy for survey respondents was Policy 11 (just 49% ranked it as a high priority).



Gaps and implementation challenges

During the workshop and open house, participants expressed concern about the 1:1 tree replacement target being inadequate to fill the backlog of planting sites and keep pace with potential losses. For tree planting on private land, stakeholders wanted to improve opportunities for renters interested in private tree planting who experience limitations from their property's owner/landlord. For tree planting on public land, stakeholders wanted to make the size of tree stock planted by the City more flexible, such as decreasing the size of stock to decrease costs and increase successful stock establishment.

Summary Table 3 - Key themes from public engagement for the urban forest planting

What we Heard	How it was considered
Survey respondents and workshop participants would most like to prioritize: • Increasing new and replacement tree planting in streets and parks (Policy 6) • Planting urban trees where they are most needed (Policy 7) Maximizing the health and life expectancy of newly planted public trees (Policy 9) • Expanding and enhancing naturalized forest and riverbank areas (Policy 12)	Actions 6A, 6B, 7A, 7C, 7D, and 9A were identified for short-term initiation.
Workshop participants were concerned that the 1:1 replacement target was insufficient to plant the backlog of vacant sites and compensate for the annual rate of tree loss on public land and wanted to increase the replacement ratio to 2:1.	The strategy was updated to clarify that the 1:1 target means every tree removed should be replaced going forward (i.e., no net loss of existing trees). That additional targets exist to plant out currently vacant sites (i.e., a net gain of trees) on public land. The fact sheet also communicates how the 1:1 replacement target and the planting site vacancy target work together to drive no net loss of existing trees and to fill the backlog of potential planting sites on public land. The strategy also now highlights the number of new trees that will need to be planted to achieve the proposed canopy cover target and replace the trees removed.

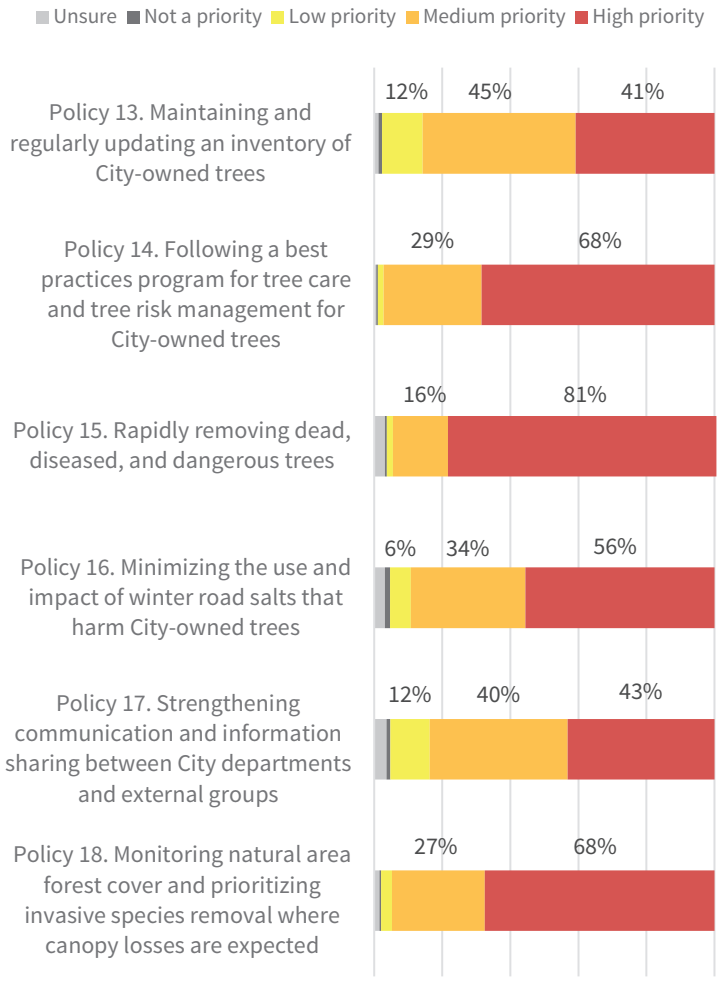
Section 3: Management

Manage aims to adapt tree management processes to improve tree health and public safety, respond to challenges and opportunities, and achieve planned service levels. Six associated policies were presented in the draft strategy.

Prioritizing policies

When asked to prioritize policies related to managing the urban forest, survey respondents prioritized Policy 15 (81% ranked it as a high priority) more highly than other policies. Policy 14 and Policy 18 were also relatively highly prioritized (68% ranked both policies as a high priority). In the workshop, stakeholders also identified Policy 15 as a top priority but also emphasized the importance of Policy 14 for pruning particularly, Policy 16 to reduce impacts from road salts, and Policy 18, particularly for the removal of buckthorn along the Seine River.

The lowest priority policies were Policy 13 (41% ranked it as a high priority and Policy 17 (43% ranked it as a high priority).



Gaps and implementation challenges

During the workshop, stakeholders identified gaps in policies and actions addressing developer practices that harm trees, suggesting more robust arborist report standards and more rewards and penalties for trees removed for development. Some participants mentioned observing damage to City trees from mowing and suggested that the City raise awareness of the issue and reallocate efforts from mowing to tree maintenance. Stakeholders also identified the lack of watering as a concern and emphasized the importance of young tree pruning. One stakeholder highlighted a preference for investing in the maintenance and protection of trees already in the landscape before investing in new trees.

Summary Table 4 - Key themes from public engagement about urban forest management

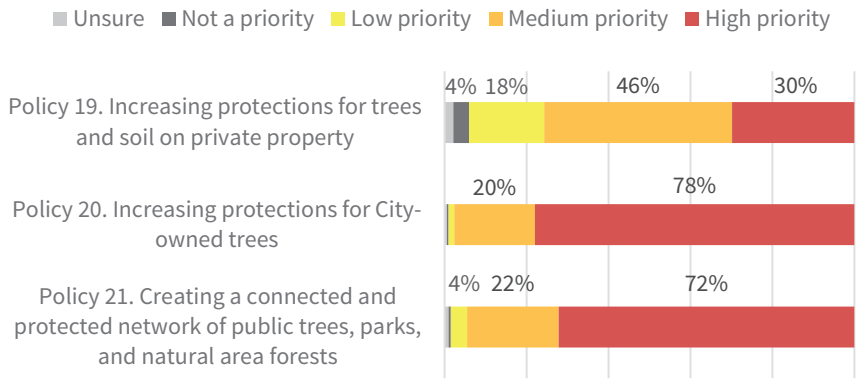
What we Heard	How it was considered
Survey respondents and workshop participants would most like to prioritize: • Rapidly removing dead, diseased, and dangerous trees (Policy 15) • Following a best practices program for tree care and risk management (Policy 14) • Monitoring natural area forest cover and prioritizing invasive species removal (Policy 18) • Minimizing the use and impact of winter road salts that harm City-owned trees (Policy 16)	Policies were all identified for short-term implementation.
Reduce tree harm caused by City activities such as mowing and infrastructure installation/renewal, and improve the education, resources, and enforcement that accompany private development.	Actions under policies 19 and 20 provide better approaches to protect trees during development and city-owned trees. Actions 19E/F/G were identified for short-term implementation.

Section 4: Protect

Protect aims to sustain Winnipeg's urban tree canopy, where it will maximize benefits for human health and ecological function. Three associated policies were presented in the draft strategy.

Prioritizing policies

When asked to prioritize policies related to tree protection, more respondents prioritized Policy 20 (78% ranked it as a high priority), followed by Policy 21 (72% ranked it as a high priority). During the workshop, stakeholders identified Policies 19 and 21 as top priorities for implementation.



The lowest prioritized policy was Policy 19 (only 30% of survey respondents identified it as a high priority).

Gaps and implementation challenges

During the workshop, stakeholders identified challenges with the impact of infill development projects on the tree canopy, including a lack of developer regulations and a need for more contractor accountability. They suggested that the Urban Forestry Branch should provide more detailed guidance to the Planning department on how to follow up on the implementation of arborist recommendations to avoid damage to trees. A key priority for many stakeholders and a recurring question from open house attendees related to a tree protection bylaw for private properties.

Summary Table 5 – Key themes from public engagement about urban forest protection

What we Heard	How it was considered
Survey respondents and stakeholders would most like to prioritize: • Increasing protections for City-owned trees (Policy 20) • Creating a connected and protected network of public trees, parks, and natural area forests (Policy 21) Stakeholders also prioritized: • Increasing protection of trees and soil on private property (Policy 19)	Actions under Policy 20 were already prioritized for shorter-term implementation. Actions under Policy 19 are dependent on implementation of Policy 2. Actions in Policy 21 are influenced by the approved Winnipeg Parks Strategy. Actions 21A/B were identified for short-term initiation to align with the Winnipeg Parks Strategy.
Improved guidance is required, and arborist recommendations for tree protection should be enforced.	Many of the actions set under Policy 19 are expected to contribute to resolving those issues.
The City should create an arborist position in the Planning Department to administer tree-related permit requirements.	Action 19D already recommends the creation of a development arborist position for that purpose.
Adopt a private tree protection bylaw with arborist reporting requirements and bonding for tree planting.	Action 19A already recommends that the City considers creating a private tree bylaw. The City's ability to do so depends on the province allowing it under the Winnipeg Charter.

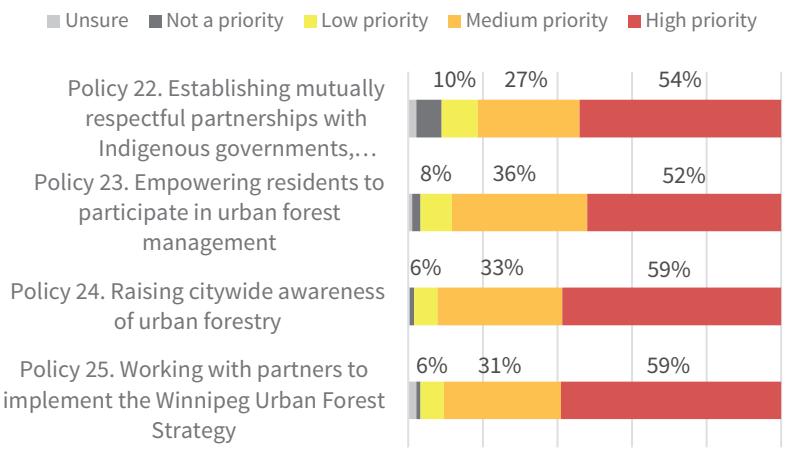
Section 5: Partner

Partner goal aims to build operational capacity and adaptability through reconciliation and stewardship. Four associated policies were presented in the draft strategy.

Prioritizing policies

When asked to prioritize policies related to partnering for urban forest management, respondents ranked all partnership policies similarly.

Stakeholder discussion during the workshop reflected all policies as a high priority, with a particular emphasis on Policy 23 and an interest in a citizen forester program to engage residents.



Gaps and implementation challenges

During the workshop, stakeholders suggested partnering with neighbourhood organizations to reach individuals and encourage their participation in urban forest stewardship. Stakeholders also suggested using existing organizations and networks to plant more trees. Open house attendees raised questions about incorporating Indigenous partnerships and perspectives into the strategy. Stakeholders noted the underrepresentation of participants from low canopy cover areas of the city. They highlighted the importance of working to create more interest and engagement in urban forestry in those areas.

Summary Table 6 - Key themes from public engagement about urban forest management

What we Heard	How it was considered
Survey respondents would most like to prioritize: • Establishing mutually respectful partnerships with Indigenous governments (Policy 22) • Empowering residents to participate in urban forest management (Policy 23) • Raising citywide awareness of urban forestry (Policy 24) • Working with partners to implement the strategy (Policy 25)	Actions under policy 22 are already identified for short-term implementation. Actions 23A, 23C, and all actions under Policy 24 and 25 will be changed to short-term implementation.
Update action 23A for a citizen forester program to also involve engagement with: • Individual homeowners for tree planting on city boulevards • Neighbourhood organizations	Action 23A was updated to include a reference to a citizen forester program engaging homeowners and neighbourhood groups.
Add an action to enable homeowners paying for the cost of planting a boulevard tree to plant it themselves according to city guidelines and with rapid approval from the City.	The City has a mechanism in place for homeowners to plant trees under an agreement with the City utilizing approved contractors in accordance with legal and risk management requirements.
Update action 23C to provide financial rebates to homeowners paying for the approved pruning of their boulevard tree.	The City explored this idea; however, it will not be pursuing financial rebates because it would divert resources away from reaching the pruning cycle target in the Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy.

Next Steps

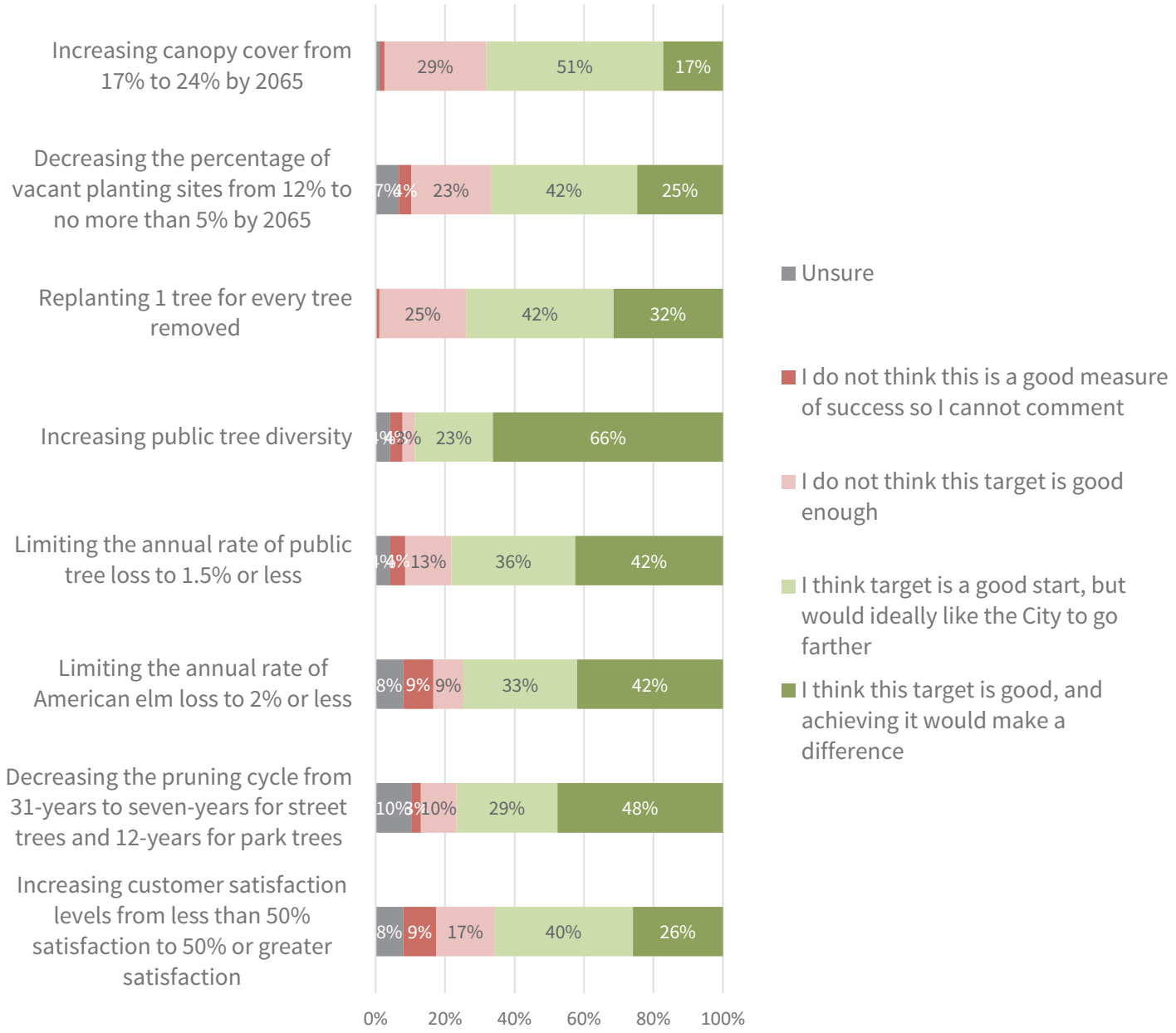
The findings from Phase 2 will be considered along with considerations for the availability of resources, alignment with other City projects, and staffing capacity as the project team finalizes the draft strategy. The revised draft strategy is expected to be presented to Council for its consideration in November 2022. Implementation of the Strategy is subject to Council approval.

Appendices

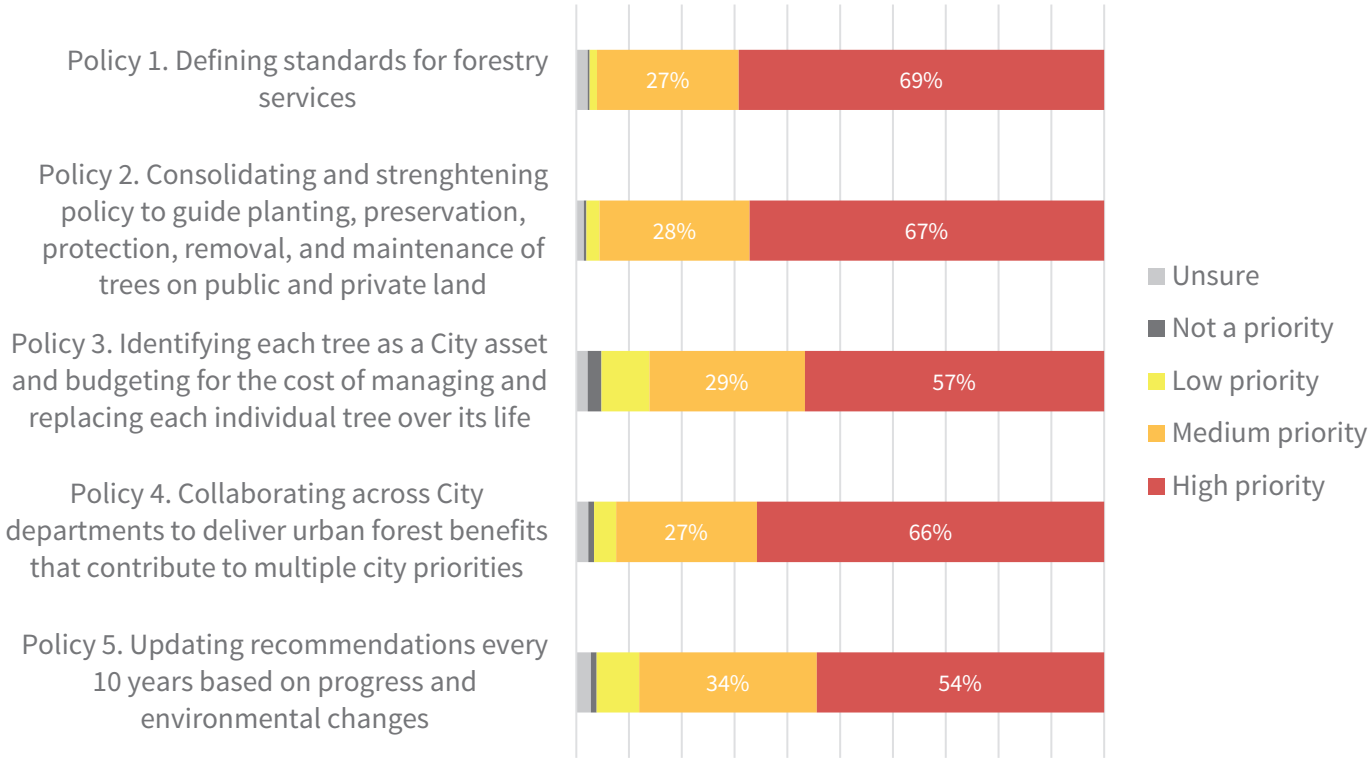
Appendix A – Survey results
Appendix B – Polls from open houses & workshop
Appendix C – Stakeholder workshop mural boards
Appendix D – Open Houses Q&A

Appendix A – Survey Results

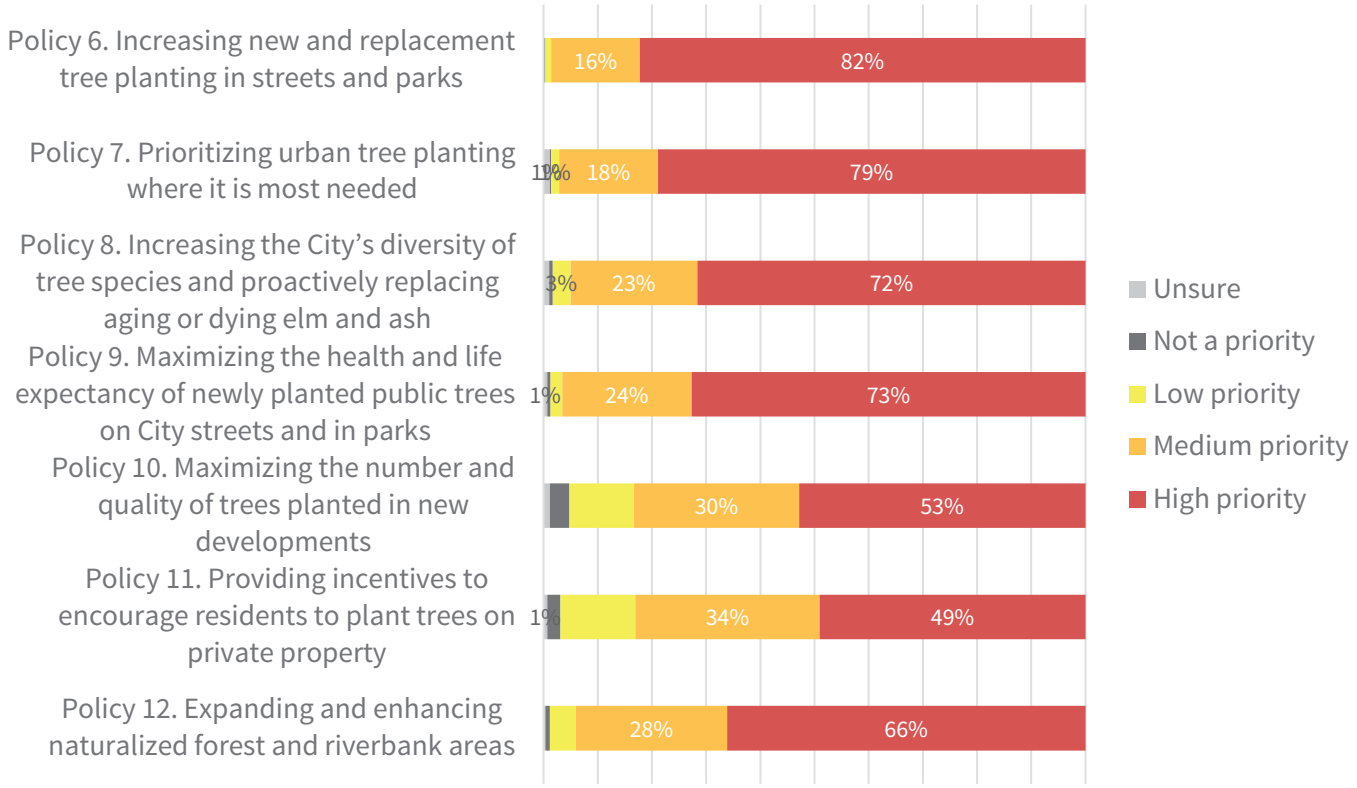
Please indicate how you feel about each target



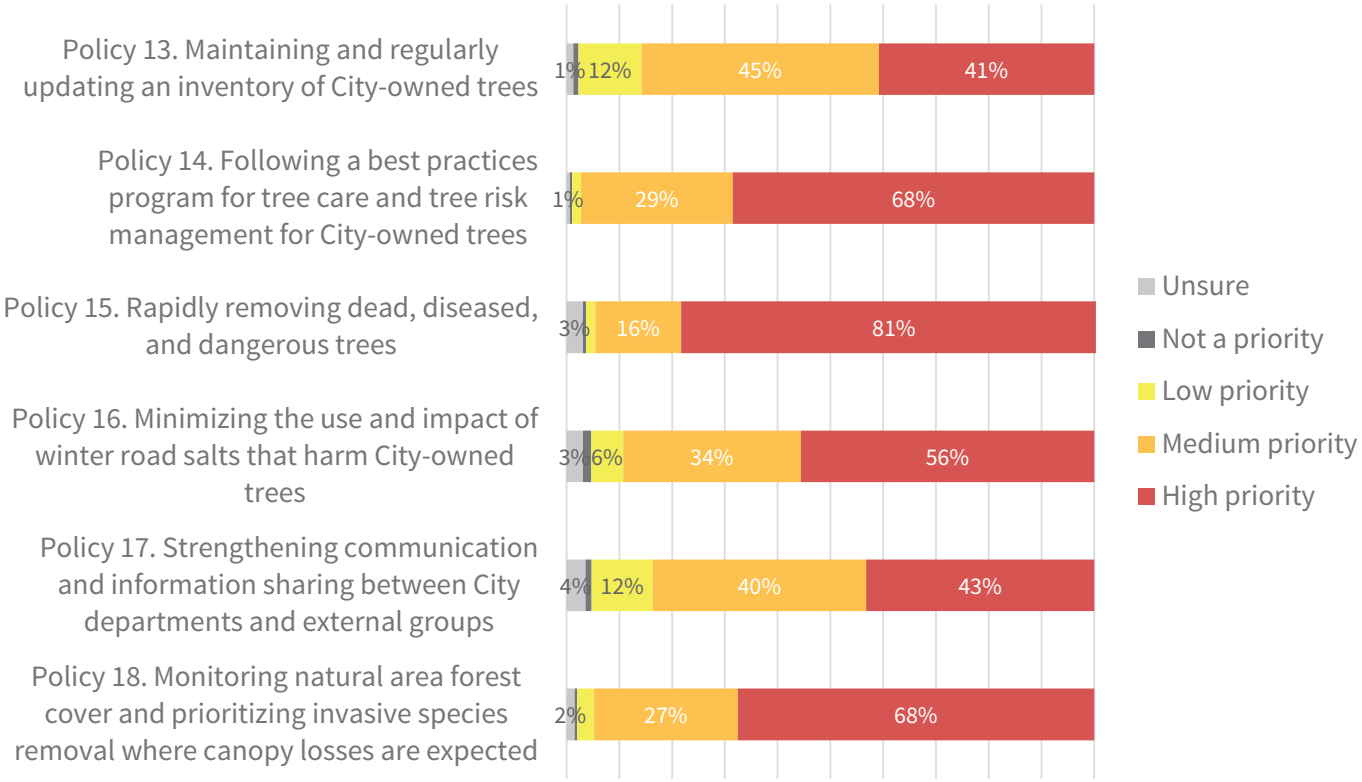
Please indicate how you would prioritize each of the following when thinking about setting policies for long-term planning



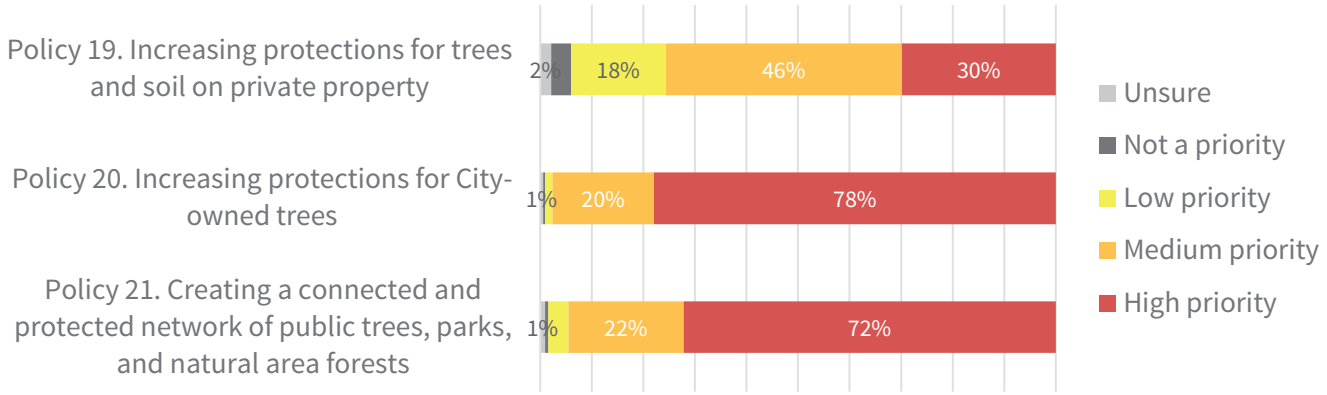
Please indicate how you would prioritize each of the following when thinking about setting policies to guide planting



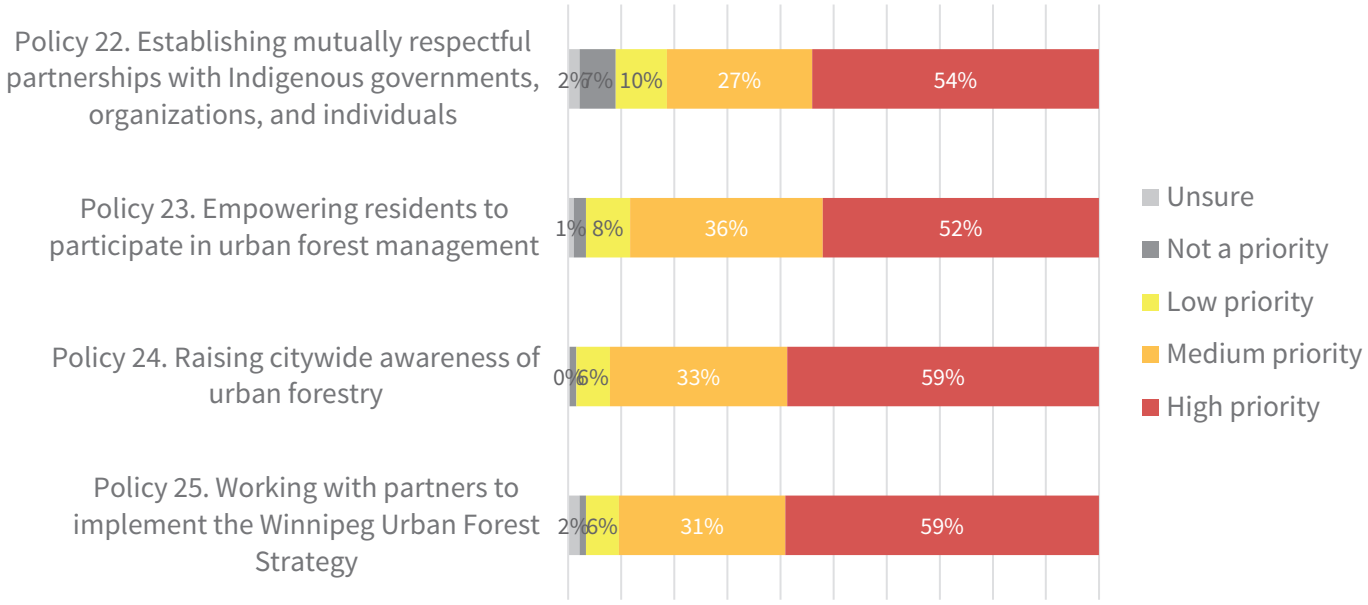
Please indicate how you would prioritize each of the following when thinking about setting policies to guide management



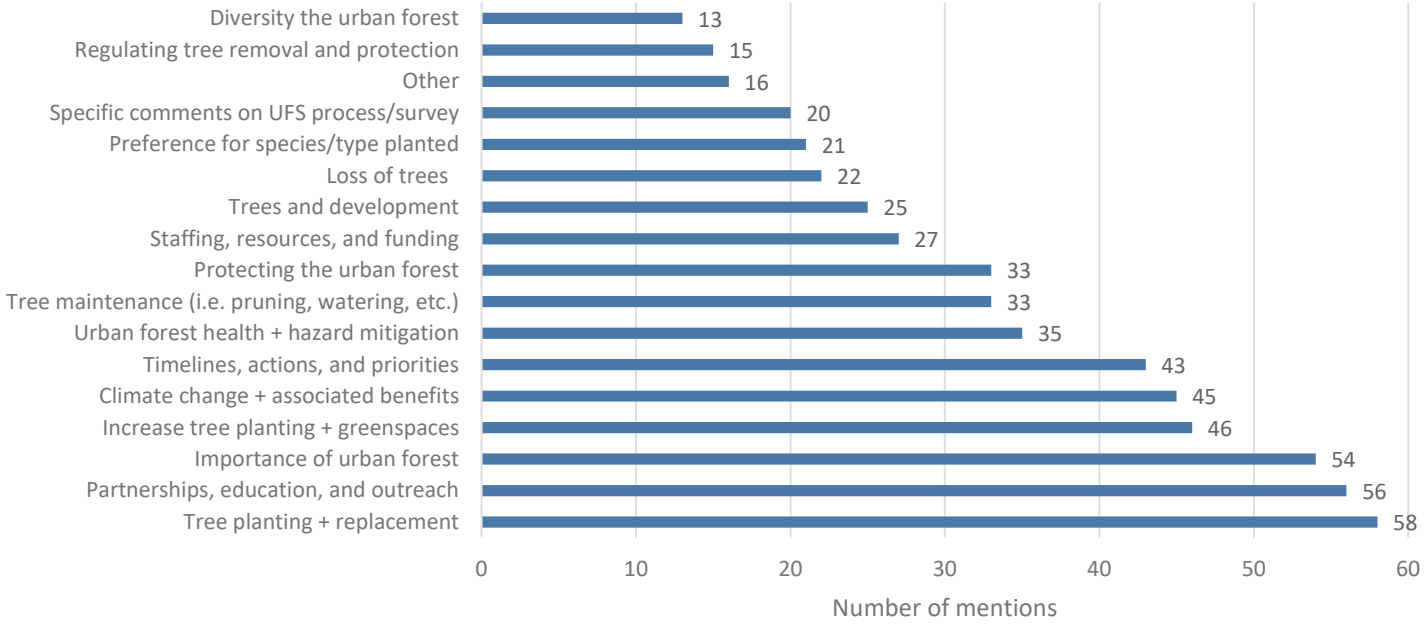
Please indicate how you would prioritize each of the following when thinking about setting policies to guide tree and natural stand protection



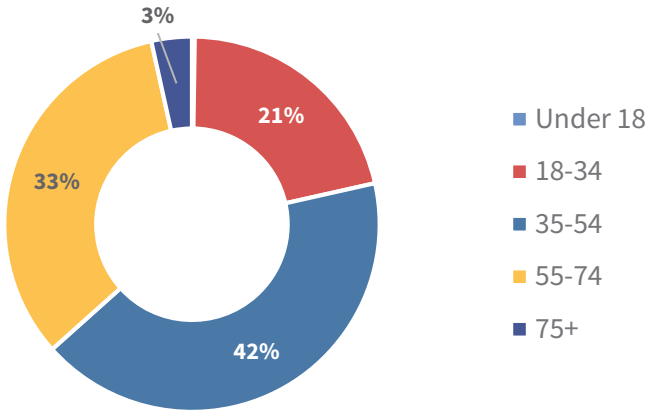
Please indicate how you would prioritize each of the following when thinking about setting policies to guide future partnerships



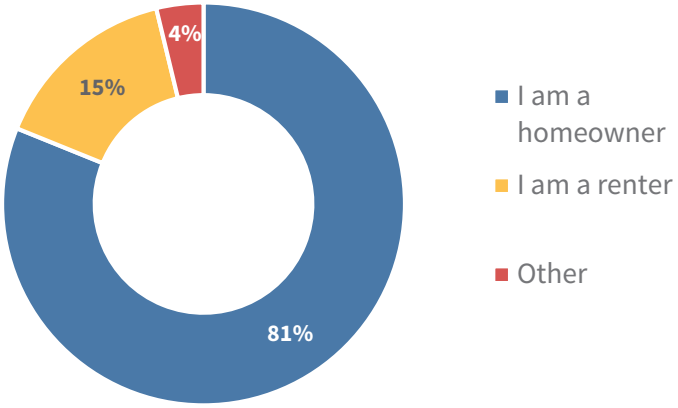
Is there anything else you would like to say about the draft Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy and its implementation?



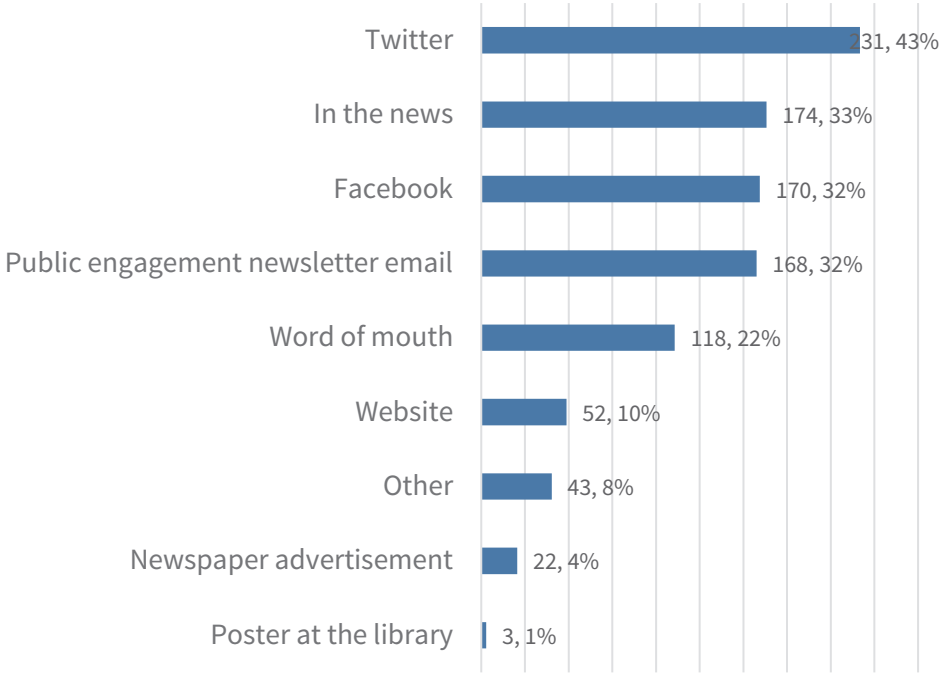
What is your age?



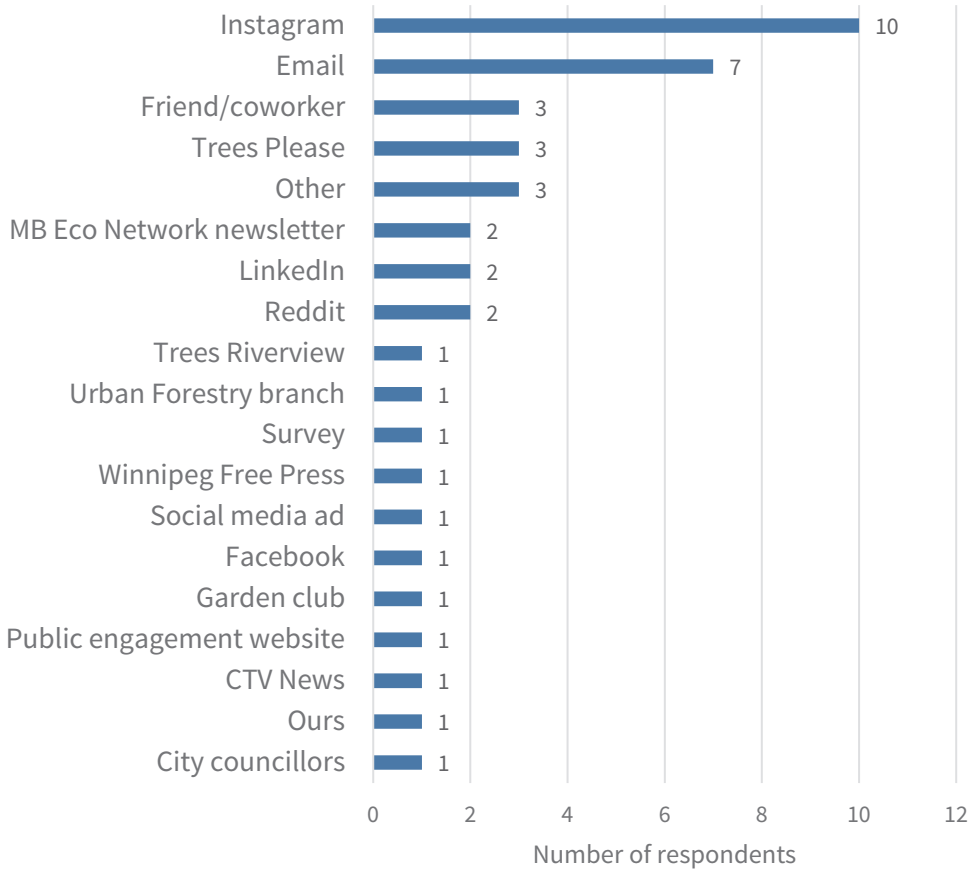
Are you a homeowner or do you rent?



How did you hear about this project?



Other responses included:



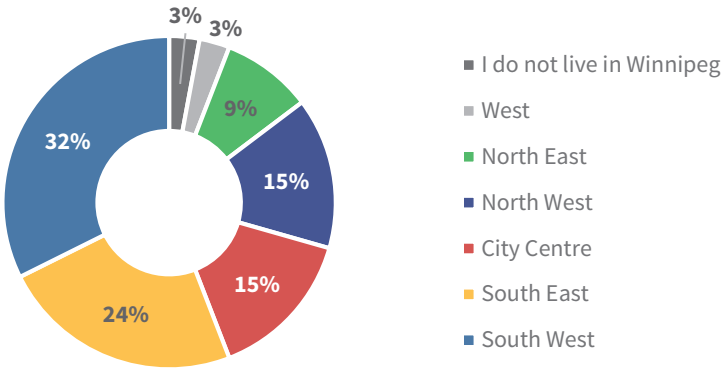
Appendix B – Polls from open houses & workshop

Open houses

Where do you live?

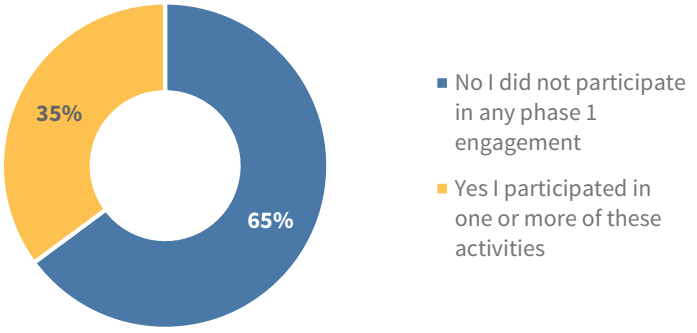
The most common answer is in the South West. The least common answers are West* and not residing in Winnipeg.

** Note: The 'west' option was accidentally excluded from the poll in open-house #1 and may therefore be under-represented in the result reported here.*



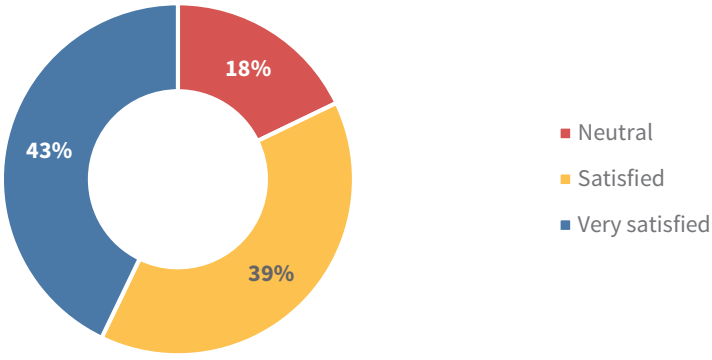
Did you participate in phase 1 engagement in the fall of 2020?

Most attendees did not participate in phase 1 engagement (65%).



How satisfied are you with tonight's open house?

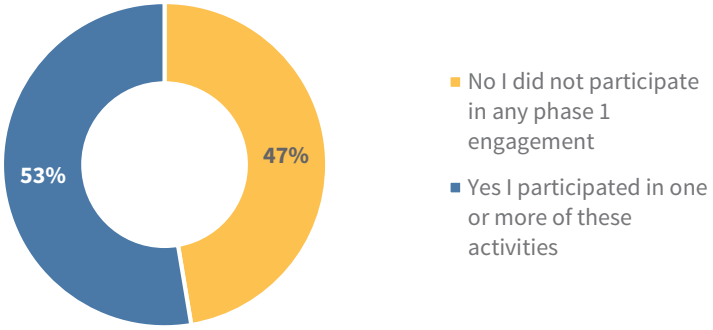
43% of respondents were very satisfied with the open house, followed by 39% satisfied.



Workshop

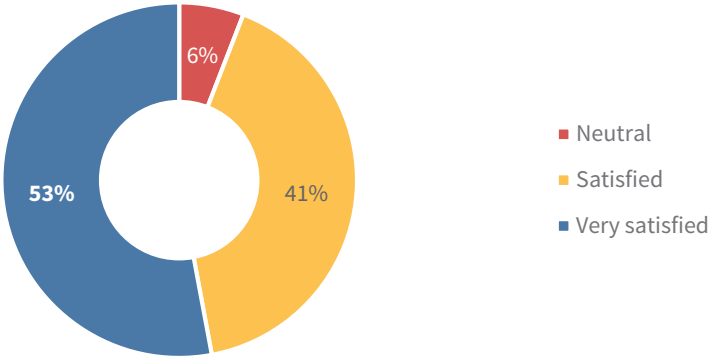
Did you participate in phase 1 engagement in the fall of 2020?

Just over half (53%) participated in one or more activities during Phase 1 of engagement.



How satisfied are you with tonight's event?

53% of attendees were very satisfied with the event, followed by 41% satisfied.



Appendix C – Stakeholder Workshop Mural Board Results

Names of organizations that workshop participants listed:

Brook McIlroy
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter
Glenwood Neighborhood Association
Jeffries Nurseries Ltd.
KGS Groups
Manitoba Conservation and Climate
Manitoba Master Gardener Association
McGowan Russell Group
Provencher Blvd. BIZ
Province of Manitoba
Scatliff+Miller+Murray Inc.
Sustainability in Action Facility (Biosystems Engineering)
T&T Tree Service Ltd.
Trees Please Winnipeg
Trees Riverview
Trees Winnipeg
University of Manitoba
Urban Forestry/DED Operations, City of Winnipeg
West Broadway Community Organization

Warmup comments

Tree protection on private land!
Making it easier for residents associations and communities to help out more
Empower residents to participate
More trees need to be planted
Stacey's group noted the absence of people from neighbourhoods without canopy cover

Goal #1 - PLAN

Are there gaps or implementation challenges to consider?

No shortage of policies and actions! The strategy covers extensive ground -
Too much to implement - how do we emphasize the most important items for council to be aware of and implement?
Strategy seems complicated + target is longer than plan implementation
What would a canopy target look like over a 20-year timeline
Action 1C - Socially equitable delivery is great to see!
Connect strategy with zoning! Examples of greenspace development being impacted by zoning requirements. Can we require people implementing zoning to review the strategy? Connection between two documents would be empowering!
Boulevards trees + private trees adjacent to roadways - trees don't seem to win when there are competing priorities (e.g., utilities, sidewalks)

On many projects, unless a landscape architect fights for tree they get removed - how can we ensure that forestry advises on development plans?
Current issue with staffing capacity; allocating some of those tasks to forestry technicians to review plans at the moment
Council + voters - technical language; didn't speak to overall vision
Imagine what Winnipeg could be - all brought into vision
Action items - consider proposed impact of action item = larger financial impact and timeline
How to we prioritize actions?
More ambitious targets
Make bolder leaps in a shorter timeframe
Emphasize sense of urgency
Trees became recognized more and more
Inadequate funding
Key plan - very important and where is funding
Operating to infrastructure budget
Secure funding from other levels of government
Recognize UF as asset = funding sources
i-Tree useful tool to relay to Council
Bringing more from background report into the UFS
Would like to see the list of must do drop dead actions at the top of the strategy - clear priority of the list of things that are essential
Wildwood - active community planting. Wildlife are eating young trees. Are there strategies on how to manage wildlife to prevent browse damage? Too many deer.
Targets 2065 - would like to know what we are trying to achieve in 5, 10 years - it's too far out to ensure that actions are taken in the near term
Too easy to push it back
1:1 sounds okay but if you tell the city they can budget 1:1 then it won't work - backlog plus
Want to make sure it's clear that 1:1 is not the only budgeted planting commitment

What are the top priorities or actions for implementation?

Action 2B Winnipeg charter is a top priority; policy 19 = top priority but needs to be enabled under 2B
Increase canopy cover by retaining trees! Do other provinces allow for fines if removals take place on private land? Would be helpful
Policy analysis #1 gap given most canopy occurs on private land means action 2B and all related points should be prioritized
Council-adopted targets + levels of service would help, along with a consolidated policy for tree criteria
Prioritize things already happening - meeting levels of service that are reported on regularly + brings accountability with regular updates
Other priorities will require more work to do the tracking
How will the strategy update actions over time? Conditions will change over the next 20 years
Collaborating with City departments - West Broadway tree loss - de-icer by public works
Implementation - any provision to protect those trees?
Could alleviate - make info easier to locate
Trees planted on Balmoral
Housing plan process similar - many departments involved
Insuring message is clear - tree work won't interfere with other City priorities
Impression when talking to City Councillors

Tree bylaw is collaborative work
Identifying trees as city assets
Collaborate across departments
Need to spell out that tree bylaw would apply to trees on private land - and potentially any tree
Winnipeg puts boards on trees for tree protection - would like to see dripline protected
Arborists make plans with recommendations for tree protection - then the developers just do what they choose. Needs more follow up to actually ensure tree protection plans are followed through on
Recommendation that the arborist reports be done before the project is approved - Development Arborist
More outreach is needed to private landowners and industry in order to get them on board to increase canopy cover
Or even to maintain 17%!
Need to get people on-side to help advocate to get tree protection guidelines/bylaws in place

Goal #2 - PLANT

Are there gaps or implementation challenges to consider?

Education: drive awareness + encourage involvement at all levels from gov to community
Inform people on importance of collaboration
Underground structure review - consultants would like feedback from City about tree considerations - one place to access all of the tree information!
Community, consultants, architect, etc.
Make it a workable, simple approach that encourage people to use the system
New infill residents often remove mature trees before realizing it was a part of why they liked the area + moved in - more education needed
How can you have 1:1 replacement and catch up with the 1.5% loss?
Unclear when reviewing the report: doesn't come across clearly that all trees will be replaced
It is a 1:1 replacement of trees but not a 1:1 replacement of canopy (new trees will be smaller!)
In addition to 1:1 replacement, will need to plant >750,000 new tree plantings to achieve the target
Tree replacement - new tree isn't the same as a mature tree
Suggested wording update: "1:1 replacement to match the 1.5% loss"
Is replacement in the same area? Clarify the objective to replace in the same community!
Be bolder in 1:1 ratio - won't meet the replacement desired
Clarify the replacement ratio vs. vacancy planting
Survivorship isn't 100%
Equitable planting opportunities - tree planting on public/private spaces
Example: North End baldspots - high poverty
92-93% West Broadway Residents are renters
Residents would like to see more trees planted
Communicating with landlords/owners - provisions/grants available?
Elementary school - tree growing and planting; City policy - planting on vacant land
Risk in thinking with wins and losses; start
Marion Street and Archibald example of vacant land for planting
Partnerships are critical - group partnerships for planting
Example - friends of peanut park
Schools - Million Trees (15 schools)
Broaden flexibility on the size of trees planted (smaller to larger stock) - cheaper, easier to establish
Has there been consideration of a >1:1 replacement ratio - especially for development

Planning tools - green plan (example from Germany). Required along side the development plan that homeowner has to plant per m2
Smaller stock catches up
Bare root trees - testing planting in parks
Education - trees don't harm, not nuicance
In streets, snow drift is a challenge for smaller stock being planted
Some trials with smaller stock are being undertaken in parks

What are the top priorities or actions for implementation?

Priority #1 = policy 6 - required to achieve much of the other actions! Also the most expensive
Policy 12 - solid idea! University class worked to identify areas ripe for reforestation. Included Sturgeon creek in west Winnipeg
Many riverbeds offer good soil moisture and less human disturbance - seems like a good priority for native trees to be successful and to increase canopy cover
Planting is a long-term project. Needs private tree regulations to support planting too! Carrots and sticks
Maximize health and life expectancy of trees
Establishing partnerships
Collaborating across departments
Replacement has been lacking - years behind in terms of replacement
Fundraising partnership goal to replant the boulevard - hoping that the City will partner

Goal #2 – MANAGE

Are there gaps or implementation challenges to consider?

Bunns creek park fallen tree issues have been resolved quickly where kids played, but some stands have lots of dead trees, but no one has removed them even if marked as yellow dot
Grand bur oak trees in surroundings may be damaged by spreading disease
Take care of the trees that we have!
Developer practices that harm trees are an issue - many small developers that don't know how to protect a tree!
Arborist reports should specify WHAT needs to be done to protect trees being retained AND follow-up on measures being implemented
Could the City certify arborists + report standards to ensure quality and follow-up?
Tree protection specifications have been created by City and being added to City specs guide
Include a mix of rewards and fines for developers that don't follow requirements
Tree inventory - Is this a snapshot to update?
Pruning cycle - suprised to see the cycle increase so fast
City staff damaging bark of tree when mowing grass = tree mortality
Solution? Education + shift in priority
Raising awareness of leaving spaces unmaintained
more awareness around the importance of naturalized spaces that aren't manicured grass might also help with that
Portable guard?
Why is the pruning cycle longer for park trees?
Young tree pruning cycle critical - emphasize
Street trees tend to require more frequent maintenance, dieback

Shift in how we manage and maintain urban nature - reallocate efforts from mowing to tree maintenance
Larger scale - how we grade, prepare soil, landscape - being mindful of passive irrigation, soil, biodiversity. More ecological aesthetics
Try to get people to naturalize their lawns and boulevards - also improves tree health
Many trees lost due to lack of watering - does the City monitor them? Contractors not following through on their obligations to maintain trees
Understory - do we put too much energy in mowing the lawn rather than letting it grow
Cost savings, moisture conservation
Purchase parking lots downtown and reforest

What are the top priorities or actions for implementation?

Policy 18 buckthorn is a priority for removal for Save our seine
Tree pruning
Minimize the use and impact of maintenance practices that harm trees
Clarify in UFS perhaps, this is an average cycle; ideal to visit for young trees more
Young tree pruning - prevent defects that are a fatal flaw down the road
Encouraging property owners to be caring for trees on boulevards
Programs to enable property owners to participate - adopt a tree example to prevent young tree mortality
Bylaws are top priority - won't reach 24% without those bylaws in place and enforcement!
Beyond 59 - was a huge oak forest cleared and nothing was done in terms of development. Why was it able to be cleared? 3-4 acres of pristine oak forest.
Interdepartmental collaboration - roads, sewers etc. so that the City isn't damaging its own trees
St Mary's interchange example - thousands of trees lost. 15 acres of trees

Goal #4 - PROTECT

Are there gaps or implementation challenges to consider?

Infill variance process used for pressure to keep pervious surfaces - programs with development + planning to increase permeable ground would benefit trees + rivers
Lack of tree regulations: Developers are cutting trees before applying for permits
Infill projects: doubling building footprints = less room for trees
Difficult to get committment for tree protection action + recommendations from arborists
Issues: excessive roots pruning, stockpiling on critical root zone, etc.
Stormwater: less soil moisture + more flash runoff into rivers - need new codes + regulations to address
Could forestry provide enough guidance for planning to better implement tree measures?
City + private trees - 8 mature trees killed from operator
= need for education on training of excavators
https://www.ccscheme.org.uk/
Change the culture around protecting trees, on both public and private land
More beyond bylaw for training of contractors = accountability
Work on both; establish the culture that protecting trees is important, regardless of where they are
Bylaw for tree protection
Clearcutting on private land.....
Definitely work on changes to the City charter, but meanwhile look for workarounds; like the Considerate Constructor scheme, for example
Stronger language on climate change and connection to sustainable development goals

Wish that there were people from other City departments in this workshop to hear these issues
Can this type of workshop be done with staff, Council?
Increase budgeting for treatments to maintain those mature elms and ash - lengthen life expectancy of more large trees
1 year warranty period inadequate for new trees - longer warranty period, especially for retained trees

What are the top priorities or actions for implementation?

Policy 21 - reference to green infrastructure, ecologically significant areas + proactive park areas
21d is key for tree protection in natural areas
21.f. Like the idea of a conservation fund. Priority to get funding for all those actions - this might be a good solution!
Make it easy for people to do the right thing!
Partnership priority is collaborating with departments etc. and community groups. Adding equity language to some actions like 25b make sure actions don't make equity gaps larger action 23c 25d etc
Private tree bylaw
Convincing the city to do what they need to do to change the Charter - to enable tree bylaw
Root protection - boards inadequate
Developers ignoring setbacks and construction is extending to sidewalk - trees in front of new developments are dying
Both developers and City - all types of infrastructure construction
Development can do well - soil cells and passive irrigation, stormwater interception. People will get excited about it. Selkirk model.
Development needs requirements with ramifications for not following through
Education regarding improved unit sales/interest with green developments
Create incentives for greening new areas with point system - requirement and incentive.
Incentives for retention to make sure they do it properly - saving trees better than trying to replace them for many reasons
Consider impact timeframe - whether proof of life 5 years later would ensure better outcomes

Goal #5 - PARTNER

Are there gaps or implementation challenges to consider?

Harness people who care about their trees + reward it!
Tree pruning - people want to help as a homeowner: could residents get $50 to prune a tree to help free up city resources?
Less exciting to participate if you can't do things yourself and have to pay out of pocket
Can plant a tree at Costco for $100 but boulevard tree costs $800 - hard for people to comprehend!
Glenwood neighbourhood association occupied with infill, but lots of interest from residents to assist with planting
Neighbourhood associations + residents could greatly help with planting and/or watering
Could save the city time and money!
Grant to help homeowners pay for their tree maintenance alongside education would be helpful!
People want to help collectively as a neighbourhood organization, but also individually. In the 'partner' area, we need to harnes this
"Tree stewards"!
Elementary school - tree growing and planting; City policy - planting on vacant land

Marion Street and Archibald example of vacant land for planting
Risk in thinking with wins and losses; start
Using existing networks
Community centres - good place to establish a starting point
Partnerships are critical - group partnerships for planting
Example: Wolseley - Tree Coalition to form an across - Winnipeg coalition
Schools - Million Trees (15 schools)
Green team for watering - option for expanding
Equipment for groups to borrow - lending library
Example - watering trees
Bring the exciting vision to the forefront of the plan that the public will get excited about - succession plan, cool streets, clearly tell Council the price they pay if they don't act
People don't understand the urgency if EAB establishes - elm loss has been slower, and people expect it to be the same
Stronger vision statement - clear alarm rung about what we stand to lose if we don't take these actions now
Should be citizens rather than customers - we're all part of our urban environment
If people don't know that they need to contribute to then 24% then they will never meet that
Partnership for Provancher Blvd - fundraising plus seeking City partnership
Hotline for residents to call in for issues about trees

What are the top priorities or actions for implementation?

23.a City forester to work with individual residents would be helpful!
Outreach strategy
Policy + set of guidelines
The city is great to work with when a partnership is established; hard to establish a partnership.
Need buy in - need to have a plan to raise awareness
Need to bring in partners for funding and other capacity - pursuing private funding
We need people represented from un-treed parts of the City
That's where the Million Trees Challenge wants to see focus

Appendix D – Open-houses Q&A session

Session 1

- Will there be bylaws to govern tree destruction during infill Projects. With real enforcement and sanctions for developers
- There have been many, many trees planted recently, and from my unscientific eye, at least 40% have died. Seemingly from lack of maintenance. It is sad to see. Is there a plan to properly water and maintain young, newly planted trees? - In Wolseley south of Pollar (?) park, also north along the bike lane
- Fantastic to see tree people. Is there a Councillor currently writing bylaw or sponsoring? Who can we get in touch with?
- I applaud the hard work done on this report, but the targets need more urgency and shorter timeline like 20 yrs not 40
- 1:1 replacement is woefully inadequate. Timeline is too long.
- There is a recent Stats Canada Green Space report that said Winnipeg is experiencing the second highest loss of green space in Canada, and they noted the loss of trees in Winnipeg is a huge part of this loss. How does this square with some of the findings in your report? It sounds like Winnipeg has more tree cover than Edmonton, for example but according to Stats Canada that's not true.
- Is the 25% cover to be achieved in 2065 apply to both city and publicly owned area or is it just city owned? Why does it take 43 years to get there?
- And don't we need to vastly increase our tree cover in order to be resilient in the face of Climate Change?
- Other cities have much tighter timeframes associated with their urban canopy targets - why is it taking forty years to increase our tree canopy by 7%?
- When I call the city about tree replacement, they seem to think trees are being replaced. We have lost hundreds of mature trees in Wolseley, and there have only been a handful of new plantings. Many have died. This is really sad, and certainly doesn't bode well for urban forests in the future.
- In new housing development areas, the is limited space in the construction of housing for tree development. Why is there no consideration in the planning stage? Occupancy verses green space.
- Could we have a tree hotline or special 311 line for reporting trees in need of water or other help?
- we had 3 new boulevard trees planted to replace the 10 lost. 2 of those trees lived. I was happy to see the city actually came by and watered the new plantings, but it was done from a truck with a big gush of water that didn't penetrate well. will you consider the use of the water bags attached to the base of the tree to ensure effective watering?
- Is it possible to involve local residents to help with tree maintenance?
- Can you produce a short, plain language report with infographics for the general public?
- Is there consideration for a cost share of new trees planted on private property? If I was to plant new trees on my property, is there consideration that I could pay a 50:50 (property owner: city) on pruning and tree care on a set cycle through private contracting through tenders?
- Will you also have a financial plan go to council to make sure there is money to do this?
- Does the annual mortality forecasts account for EAB?
- I have seen many cities require planting of trees, shrubs and bushes around commercial buildings and parking areas. It looks great, and significantly cools the areas. We don't seem to have any of these requirements and have acres of asphalt with no growth and trees. Shouldn't this be part of our plan?
- The fact we're losing big old trees, and seem to be poorly planting new trees, the 1:1 replacement is totally inadequate in terms of tree canopy growth. As well, it's the older (sometimes lower-income) areas losing big trees, and suburban growth getting new little trees and it skews the City-wide figures.

- I just joined so I may have missed this. In some of our forested areas, there are still a lot of downed trees from the storm of 2020. When will these be removed?
- Why can the city still take money from developers instead of insisting on 13% green space and trees in new developments?
- Please post address where we can post our concerns about tree planting such as not watering or sitting unplanted for weeks.
- Along the Assiniboine riverbank, in front of Cornish Library @ Armstrong's point there is a cluster of trees planted. Do I have the City to thank for that? I would say our riverbanks e.g. Forks Riverwalk, needs more trees planted to succession plan.
- I am concerned that CofW parks workers are careless using their weed whackers around trees. They cut into the bark at ground level with the weedwackers (line trimmers). Would it be possible to discontinue trimming within 12" of the tree base?
- replanting doesn't equal 1-1replacement - what about the backlog of 14500 trees identified in the report?
- Is there consideration for having bylaws to govern mature trees on private properties? Other cities have this.
- Too many of the items in the DRAFT Strategy talk about "explore" or "consider", when it needs to be IMPLEMENT.
- In the planning, how does the plan ensure there is growers to provide the required trees and engaging them longer term? Right now the city relies on what's available and doesn't necessarily plan based on future planning but contractor/designer "ideas" at the time. Are there tendering projects to ensure long term supply?
- Not including the EAB impacts again means the Strategy is too little, too slow - action to increase number and variety of trees will be good even if EAB doesn't arrive. So, the proposed planting scenario is even more inadequate. it all means Forestry needs more money.
- Where can we offer feedback to be most effective? Thanks for your work and recommendations to the city!
- When a yellow notice goes up for an infill can it include what trees the developer must retain so the public can monitor this? A project on Jubilee was supposed to save 4 Trees but the developer polled them all down. There seems to be no consequence or recourse for the public ….
- Is any branch of the City involved in trying to get federal funds to establish a national urban park within Winnipeg?
- Municipal nursery!!
- There was mention in the presentation about working with other city departments on the urban forest strategy. Has there been any movement on working with Public Works on changing how they're de-icing the roads? This has been cited as a reason to not replace trees on bigger streets like Sherbrook and Broadway. Apparently, the current de-icer kills young trees. Any information on this would be welcome.
- Yes...the City used to have its own nursery - as did the Province, I think
- Yes to municipal nursery!!!
- Please keep up the good work we are passionate about our trees!

Session 2

- Regarding the 1-1 replanting target. I am so glad to hear that there are plans for improving the standard of care for young trees. But what exactly is the plan to address the 14,500 public tree replacement backlog? I do understand that not every one of those now-vacant sites are still suitable, but there must still be thousands of sites. Is there a separate planting program proposed to eliminate this backlog?
- Live in West End, very concerned about tree loss in neighbourhoods; disportionately effected. Things identified in opportunities and challenges speak directly, climate change, equity. I don't see anything specific or vaguelly that ID's

that in terms of all of the policy statements that were articulated. Where do I find in the plan? Where does the issue of equity be addressed in plan?

- Question on taking down trees; wasting financial resources and money on taking down trees. 20 trees removed and in 30 days; most could have been taken down in one day. Can you address finances of how it is working?
- I lived in Saskatoon for many years, and they have a strong emphasis on elm pruning bans on private land and elm wood storage bans. I am not aware of a similar program in Winnipeg, and I did not see that in this planning document. Was this intentional? Did I miss it? If it was left out of the plan, how come? Thank you!
- I have to leave but appreciate all efforts to preserve and increase tree cover. I've been impacted by the city changing its zoning so as to allow commercial/condo development and thereby destroy old growth healthy trees in the process. Will the city move towards compelling corporations to design densification projects AROUND trees rather than killing these relatives? I would support a moratorium on destroying any healthy trees, all further development respects their lives as we do our own.
- Amelia mentioned that the tree cover canopy goal of 24% by 2065 was ambitious. Do you think a 40-year goal is ambitious? Other cities have far more ambitious targets. eg. Vancouver is 30% by 2050, and Montreal is 25% by 2025.
- Biodiversity - not much in plan, talked about 2007 report on Naturalized Area; lack of info on trees that bring most biodiverstiy, how many insects or birds. Will this be remedied in the revised plan?
- So resources that would serve other needs in our constituency will not be met because our city councillor is forced to subsidize replacement.
- Will the plan be revised to include more current info regarding other cities targets? The current references give a distorted view of our goals vis-à-vis other cities.
- And there need to be mechanisms and consequences to not following through on planting requirements in new construction.
- Is there a timeline for a tree by-law to be passed? I estimate that over a 1000 tree have been cut in the Corydon Osborne areas ove the past 12 years and they can never be replaced.
- I appreciate the city's intention to incorporate indigenous perspectives and reconciliation in this document. What could that look like? What actions would the city do to meaningfully engage in this?
- As a follow up, have any Indigenous partners commented on the strategy to date?
- To the bylaw, I think developers are laughing because they can get away with alot. Jubilee property, multiplex, don't know all details but city said they would plant or retain trees, but they were all bulldozede down. No teeth to any of this - we are the fools. Devil is in the details - high level report. Tree bylaw is huge. Was there any mention for any incentives for private property? I think most of our trees are located on private property - is that correct?
- Trees Winnipeg ReLeaf program was designed to be accessible to low-income citizens without private vehicles.