



# Urban Forest Management Plan and Woodland Management Strategy

**Phase One Engagement Summary**

May 2023

City of Vaughan



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## SCOPE OF THE ENGAGEMENT

The City of Vaughan is home to a diverse urban forest that spans a range of land uses and ownership types. Land use change and development activity associated with the City's rapid growth over recent decades has exerted significant pressure on Vaughan's urban forest. At the same time, issues such as climate change, invasive pests, and diseases, have increasingly been a source of urban forest stress. The City is now developing an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) to guide the long-term management of the urban forest as a critical community resource.

### Engagement

Two rounds of public engagement are planned to help inform the development of UFMP. Phase 1 of public engagement, occurred from March to April 2023, and was designed to help inform the vision, principles, and goals of the UFMP.

The second phase of engagement will take place in June 2023, and will present draft components of the UFMP and solicit feedback from the community on how the UFMP direction captures and addresses key concerns; this will include exploring which goals and strategies are prioritized through the full draft of the UFMP.

### Objectives for public engagement

The project team aims to achieve the following objectives through two phases of public engagement:

- To inform the public about:
  - The status of our urban forest and woodlands (i.e., forested areas > 0.2 hectares in area)
  - The role of the urban forest in the community, including the unique environmental, economic, and social values it supports
  - The challenges facing urban forest management within the city
- To involve the community in developing a long-term urban forest vision that captures the community's perspective on the city's urban forest
- To consult the community to identify opportunities to preserve and protect, grow, and enhance our urban forest
- To build community awareness, support, and advocacy for our urban forest and woodlands and the Urban Forest Management Plan and Woodland Management Strategy

## ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The public was invited to provide input through an online survey, mapping tool, and a virtual open house from March to April 2023. The public was invited to participate in additional community events including an art contest and an Earth Hour Event to learn more about the urban forest and share their ideas about urban forest management. Details on Phase 1 engagement opportunities are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1 Summary of engagement opportunities provided in Phase 1**

Time	Engagement Opportunities	# of Participants
March-April 2023	Survey	493 participants
March-April 2023	Mapping tool: Map Vaughan's trees	49 participants
March-April 2023	Art contest	49 submissions
March 25, 2023	Earth hour event	±350 attendees
April 3, 2023	Virtual open house	7 participants
April 25, 2023	Stakeholder workshop	10 stakeholder organizations

## Communications

Information on engagement opportunities was communicated via several available online and in-person platforms to reach as many people as possible. Table 2 provides a summary of the communication/promotional avenues used in the first phase of public engagement.

On Vaughan's project page, 49 "engaged" participants contributed to one or more feedback tools, 72 "informed" participants visited multiple project pages, contributed to a tool or downloaded documents, and 233 "aware" visitors viewed the project page.

**Table 2 Summary of communication tactics and platforms used in Phase 1**

Launch date (duration)	Communication tactics
March 21, 2023	Project webpage on <a href="https://vaughan.ca">vaughan.ca</a> and <a href="#">Have Your Say, Vaughan</a>
March 21, 2023 (for two weeks)	Banner on the homepage of <a href="#">the City website</a>
March 21, 2023 (for two weeks)	Graphic on our digital sign network (see example of graphic used in Appendix A)
March 21, 2023 (for two weeks)	Graphic on TV screens at City Hall and community centres (see example of graphic used in Appendix A)
March 21, 2023	<a href="#">Public service announcement</a>
March 21, April 3 and April 17, 2023	Council communications packages
March 23, 2023	<a href="#">Special edition</a> of the Vaughan Engagement eNewsletter
March 24	Blurb in the Economic Development eNewsletter
March 21 and 25, 2023	In-person events (Blue Willow and Earth Hour)

Launch date (duration)	Communication tactics
March 21 to April 2, 2023	On-hold message for people who call into the City's call centre
March 29 to April 5, 2023	Social media ads
March 30	Media coverage by NRU
April 2023	<a href="#">Vaughan Engagement eNewsletter</a>
April 13, 2023	<a href="#">UFMP Newsletter #1</a>



## WHO WE HEARD FROM

We heard from 493 survey respondents, 49 mapping tool participants, 12 attendants of the virtual open house, and representatives from the 10 organizations at the stakeholder workshop. An art contest and earth hour event provided residents in Vaughan additional opportunities to learn more about the urban forest and the Urban Forest Management Plan project.

### Survey demographics

Of the survey respondents:

- 89% reside in Vaughan
- 45% own a property or operate a business in Vaughan
- 78% are 25-64 years old: 36% are 25-44 years old, 43% are 45-64 years old
- 40% or their household member(s) were born outside of Canada, 18% are ESL (English as a Second Language), 11% identify themselves as racialized person
- 33% have children (age under 18) and 22% have seniors (age 65+) in their household.

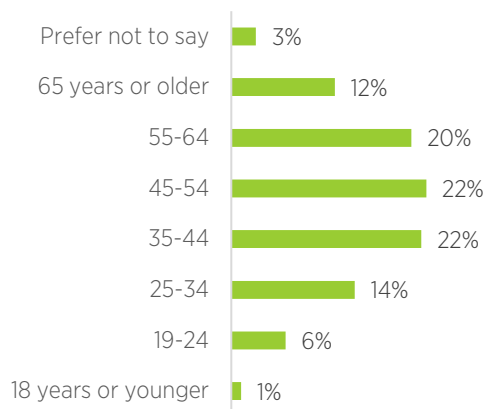


Figure 1. Age of respondents (357 responses)

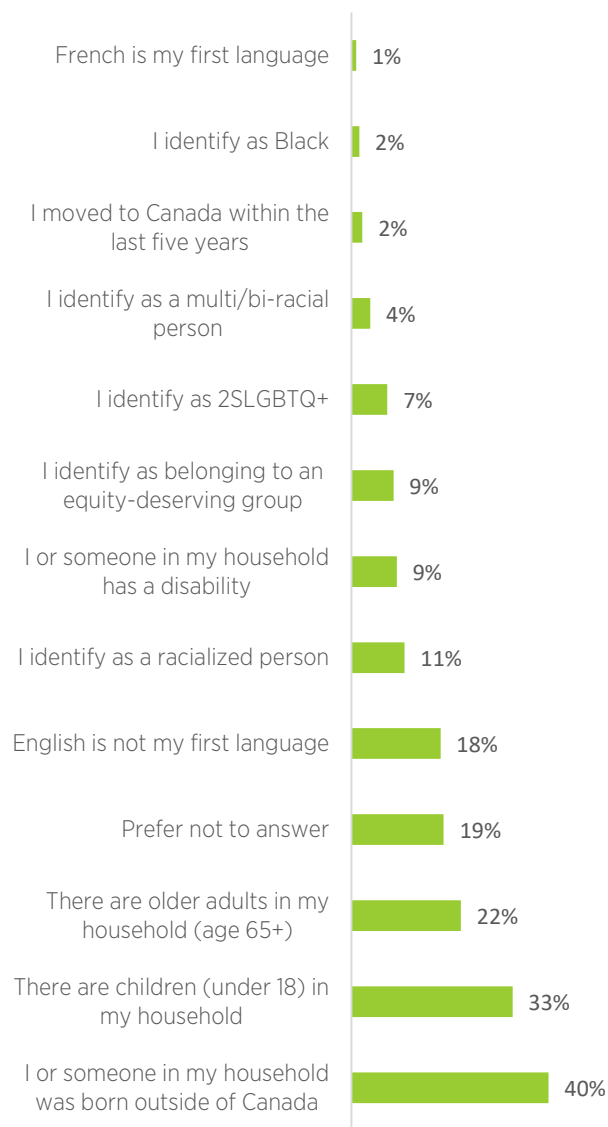


Figure 2. Cultural background of respondents (315 responses)

## Stakeholder workshop

10 stakeholder organizations attended the online workshop. Stakeholders included members of:

- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers
- Invasives Species Centre
- York Region Catholic District School board
- Millwood Ratepayers'
- SpringFarm Ratepayers Association (SFRA)
- Association of Land Surveyors
- Woodbridge Agricultural Society
- Forests Ontario
- LEAF



## WHAT WE HEARD

Key findings from the first phase of public engagement are summarized in this section for each engagement tool:

- Online survey
- Mapping tool
- Stakeholder workshop

The detailed engagement results are available in the Appendices (Appendix B: Detailed Survey Results and Appendix C: Stakeholder Workshop Boards).

### Online survey

The online survey focused on five key topics:

- Understanding how the urban forest is valued and what the community's vision for it by 2042
- Preferences for street trees (size and distribution)
- Priorities for urban forest management
- Satisfaction with and preferred urban forest service levels
- Stewardship of the urban forest



### Valuing and visioning the urban forest

Most respondents (33%) ranked climate benefits of the urban forest (e.g., shade and cooling of streets and buildings) as the most important value to them, followed by health and social benefits (21% of respondents), ecological benefits (20%), and environmental benefits (17%) (Figure 3). Economic benefits, such as increasing property values and attracting more tourists, were ranked as lower importance by respondents. It was voted by 56% of respondents as the least important benefit.

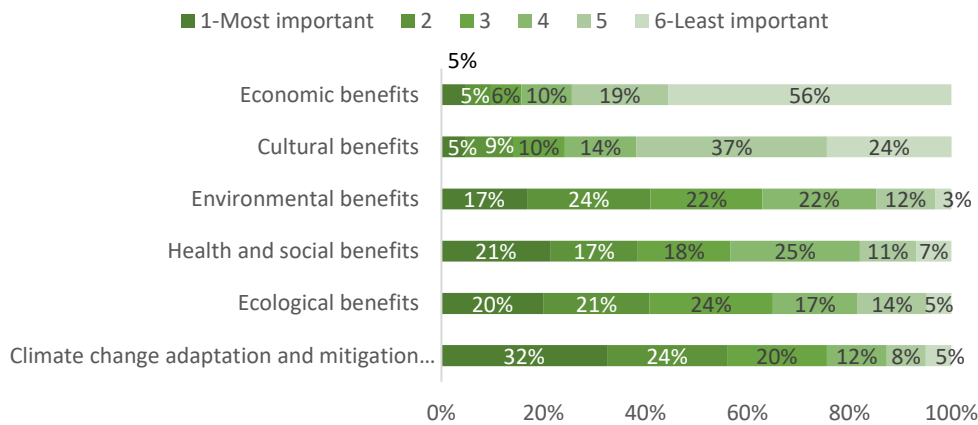


Figure 3. Respondent ranking of urban forest benefits by participants (total respondents: 434)

Respondents were asked to imagine what they would like Vaughan’s urban forest to look like in 2042. 90% of participants would like to increase Vaughan’s tree canopy cover in the future, with only 1% (4 people) indicating a preference for a less tree canopy. The responses were analyzed by counting the number of occurrences of a set of key terms as they appeared in respondents’ answers. These in turn will be used to inform key themes for the vision (illustrated in Figure 4). Besides the term “**tree**” (mentioned 137 times), “**green**” (50 times) and “**canopy**” (42 times) were the most used to describe respondents’ desire for more green space and larger tree canopy for **recreational uses** (24 times), **biodiversity** and “**wildlife**” **habitat** (22 times), **aesthetics** (22 times), “**shade**” and “**cool[ing]**” (20 times), and clean “**air**” (7 times) and “**water**” (4 times). Terms “**lush**” (32 times), “**mature**” (31 times), “**health**” (31 times) and “**native**” (16 times) indicate respondents’ preference for a healthy, large, mature urban forest of native species.



Figure 4. Word cloud showing the most common words used by respondents to describe their vision of the urban forest by 2042

“I’d like for Vaughan to have trees everywhere and prioritize nature. Sidewalks should have natural canopy cover to incentivize walking.”

- Survey respondent

### Preferences for street trees

Eighty-six percent of survey respondents indicated that having a tree in their boulevard is very important to them. Three percent of respondents are of the position that boulevard trees are not important (2%) or slightly important (1%). This is mainly because of concern that trees can damage property (47%) and pose safety hazards (33%). The rest 11% think boulevard trees are important or moderately important to them.

Respondents were also asked to make two selections from the photos presented in Figure 5; the first being the photo that most resembles their street now and the second being the photo that depicts what they would like their street to resemble.



A. Few or no trees



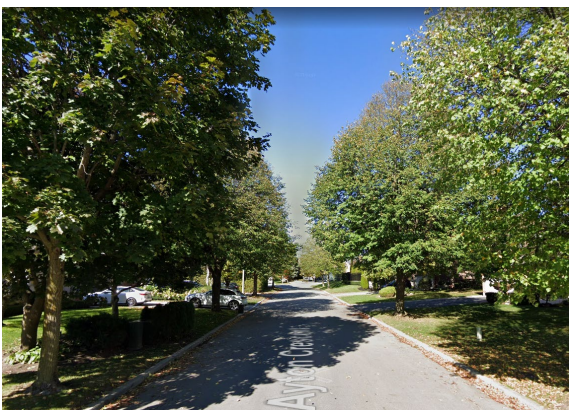
B. Regularly spaced, small trees



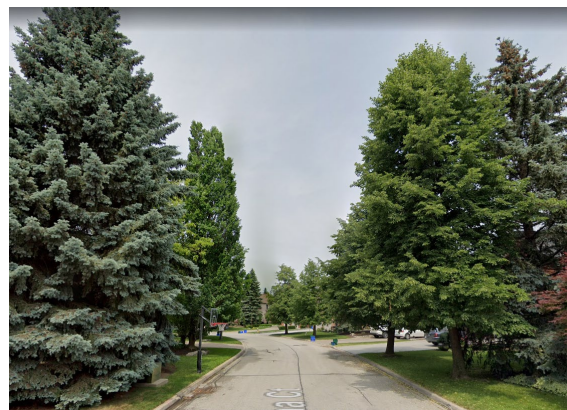
C. Regularly spaced, medium-sized trees



D. Mixed spacing and species (different types of trees), medium sized trees



E. Regularly spaced, large trees



F. Mixed species (different types of trees) and spacing, large sized trees

Figure 5. Types of street tree planting presented to survey respondents

Most survey respondents currently live on a street with regularly spaced small trees (option B, 39%) or medium-sized trees with mixed species and spacing (option D, 27%). Overall, very few people (11%) live on streets with only large trees (option E and F). However, streets with large trees are preferred by most people (68%), especially with mixed species and spacing (option F, 50%). Only 5% of respondents would like to live on a street with small trees. Among them, 4% of respondents prefer streets with regularly spaced small trees, which is the most common streetscape on the streets where respondents currently live.

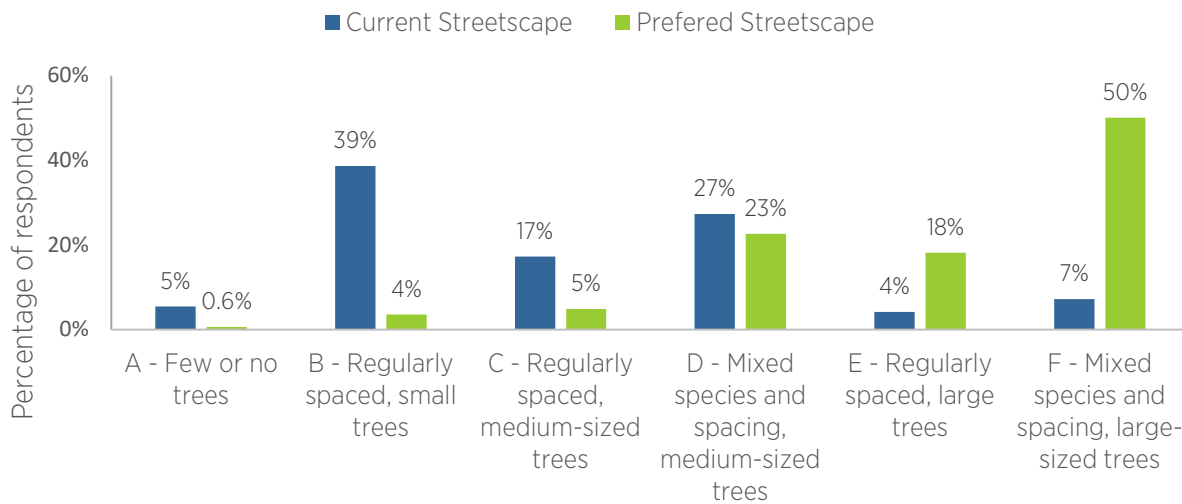


Figure 6. Respondents' current streetscape (458 responses) versus preferred streetscape (473 responses)

## Priorities for urban forest management on City-owned land and private land

Most respondents feel that local residential streets are the most important locations where the City should prioritize for tree planting and replacement (selected by 61% of respondents), followed by developed trails and greenways (37%), regional roads/arterials (31%), and municipal collector roads (28%). Private land is considered as the least important location for tree planting and replacement. Only 17% of respondents believe the City should prioritize planting and replacement on private land (Figure 7).

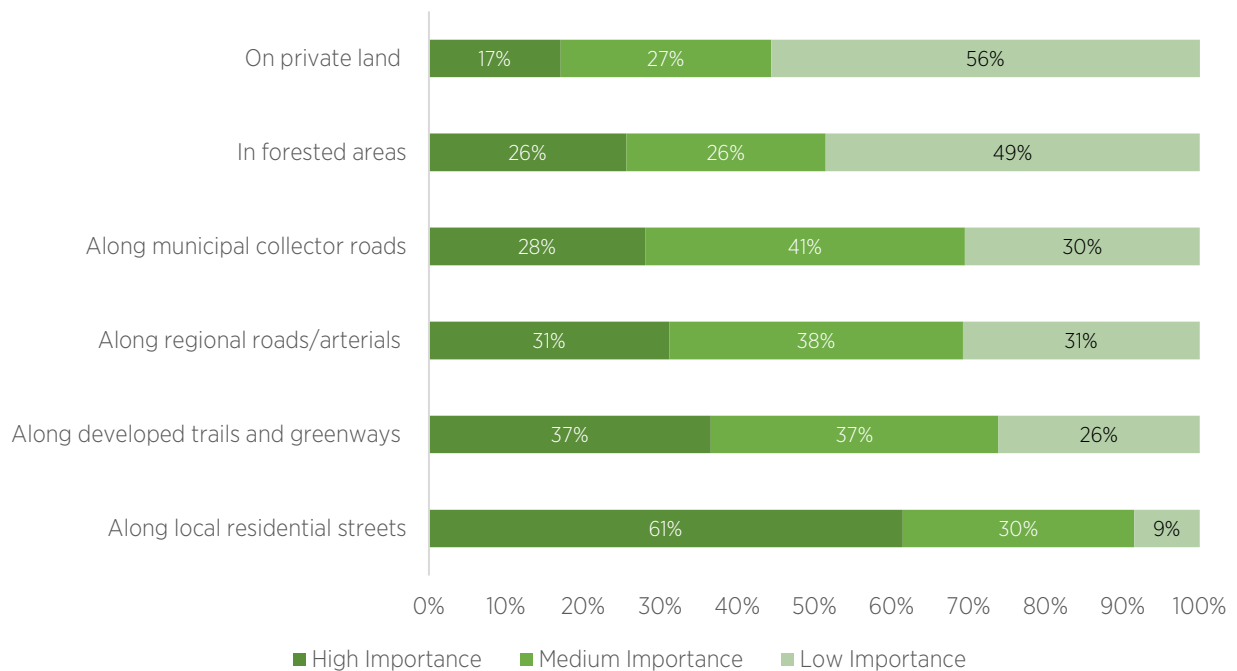


Figure 7. Ranking of areas where the City should prioritize tree planting and replacement (total respondents: 410)

“Plant significantly more trees in parks and create more trails within existing parks.”  
 - Survey respondent

Respondents were asked to assign different levels of priority to six urban forestry actions on City-owned lands (Figure 8). Overall, most actions were ranked as medium-high priority or essential. Specifically, increasing penalties for public tree removals, planting more street and park trees, improving tree species selection, improving soil standards, and constructing new tree planting space where few trees exist now were identified as essential actions by over 40% of respondents. Creating more opportunities for residents to participate in tree planting and care was a relatively lower priority, identified by 24% of respondents.

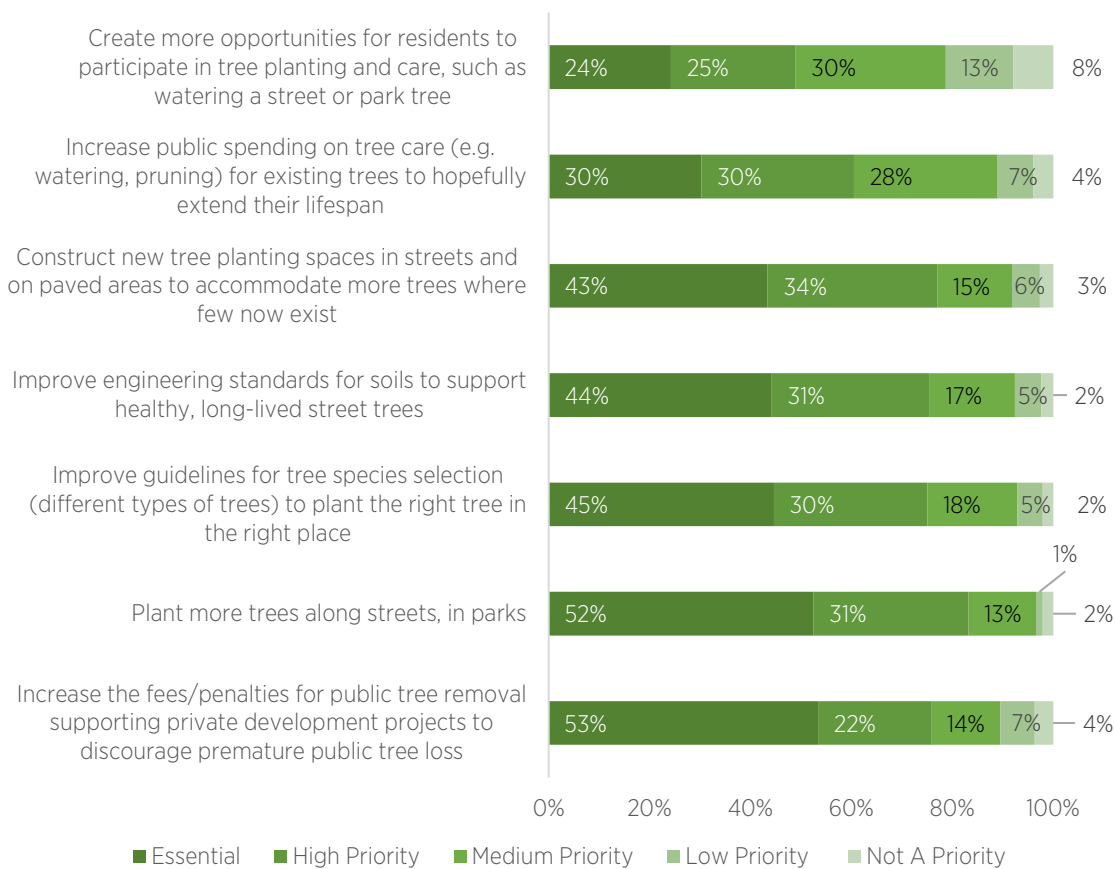


Figure 8. Priority ranking for seven urban forest actions on the City-owned land (total respondents: 381)

“Developers should be required to keep mature trees when building new subdivisions as replanting with an immature tree is not equivalent!”  
 - Survey respondent

Respondents were then asked to assign different levels of priority to eight urban forestry actions on private lands (Figure 9). All listed urban forestry actions on private land were considered as medium-high priority or essential by respondents. The top actions ranked as essential include requiring trees to be planted as green infrastructure (ranked “essential” by 55% of respondents), increasing planting requirements for new multi-family, subdivision, and commercial developments (53%), and protecting trees during construction by requiring supervision by qualified arboricultural professionals (50%). The lowest ranked action (considered more as a medium-priority action) is to allow small variation of setbacks or building heights with new development in exchange for positive urban forest outcomes, such as more planting space and parkland.

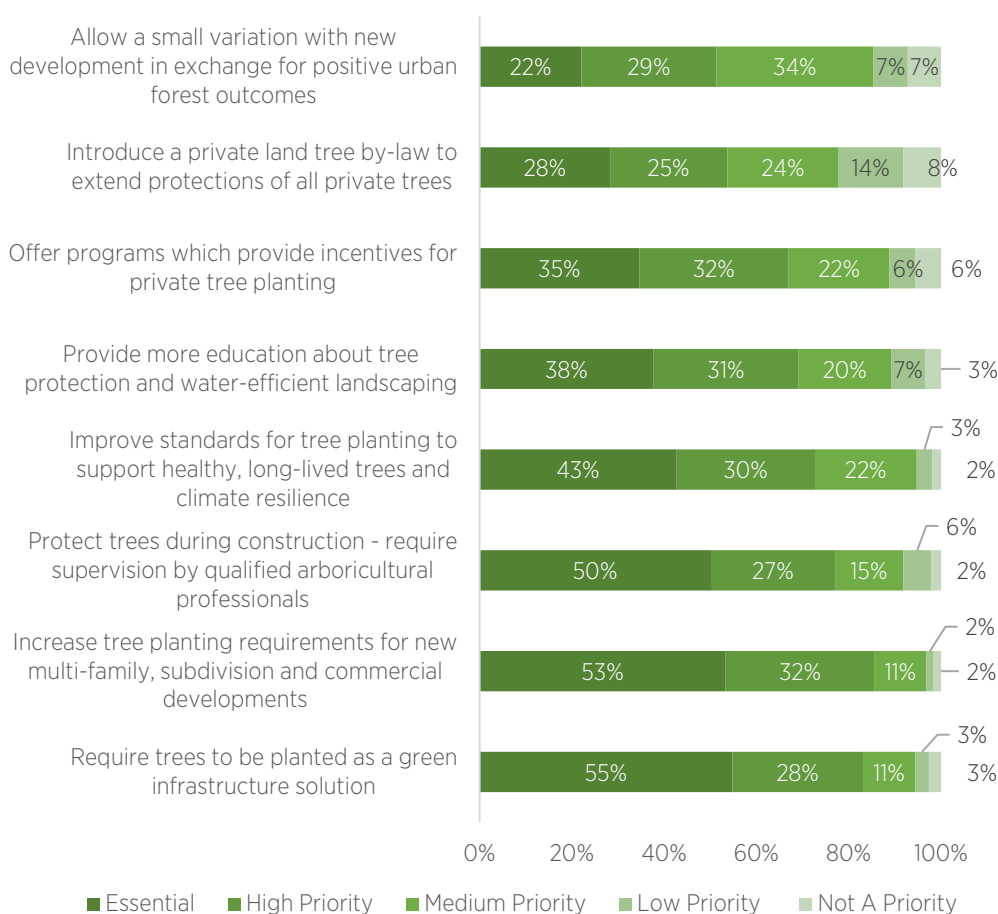


Figure 9. Priority ranking for eight urban forest actions on the private land (total respondents: 410)

### Satisfaction with and preferred urban forest service levels

Respondents were asked to rank satisfaction levels with current service levels for trees provided by the City (Figure 10). A large proportion of respondents are not aware of City services in public education (36%) and pest and disease control (30%). Among people who are aware of various urban services provided by the City, they have very mixed levels of satisfaction. Participants are in general satisfied with tree pruning services (32% satisfied) but see opportunities to improve in services relating to public education (12% satisfied versus 27% dissatisfied) and tree planting and replacement (24% satisfied versus 36% dissatisfied). When it comes to tree and stump removal and pest and disease control, more respondents are neutral about these services (32% and 28% respectively) than being satisfied or dissatisfied.

Respondents also provided suggestions to improve the City’s service levels. The most commonly suggested ideas are to increase the efficiency of tree replacement, inspection and pruning (38 respondents), improve tree maintenance (34 respondents), and introduce more environmental protection and development restrictions (31 respondents).

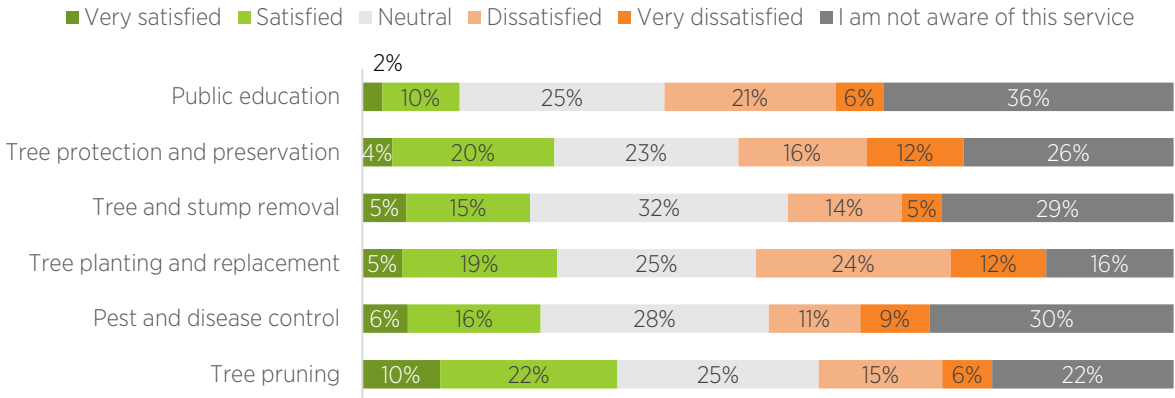


Figure 10 Satisfaction levels with current service levels for trees in parks and along streets (total respondents: 411)

Respondents were asked if they would be willing to pay for improved urban forest service levels by the City (Figure 11). While 21% of respondents wouldn’t be willing to pay anything for improved services, most respondents (79%) would be willing to pay at least \$5 per year per household to support the City to deliver service levels that they are satisfied with. Among them, 20% are willing to pay at least \$100 more per household, per year.



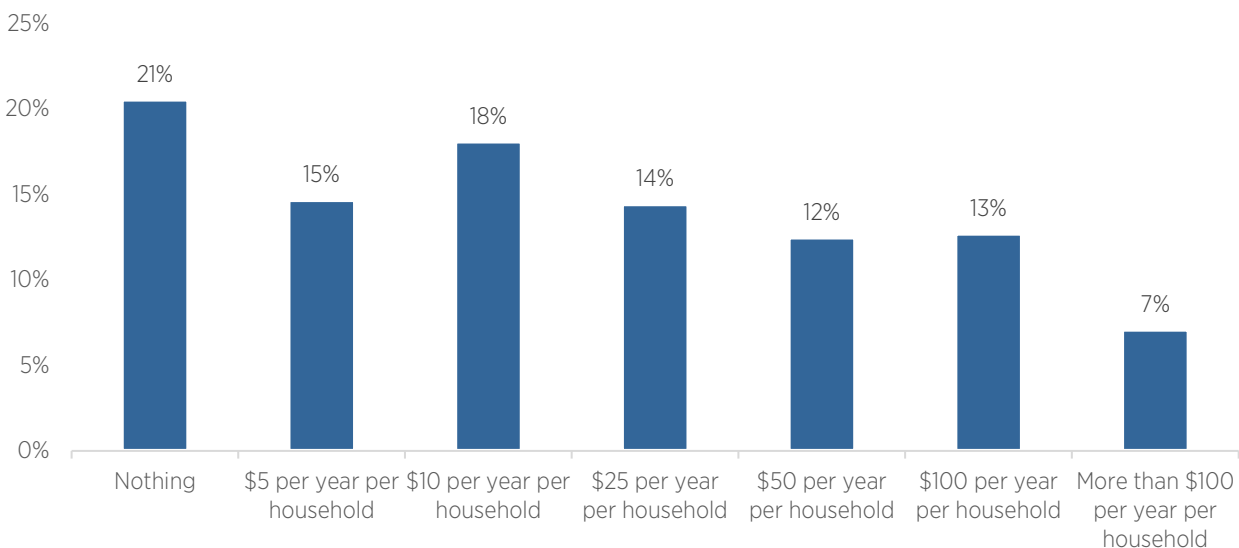


Figure 11. The amount of money respondents would be willing to pay for the City for improved service levels on public land (total respondents: 409)

## Community stewardship of the urban forest

Community stewardship refers to activities that the community participates in to care for or contribute to the planning and management of the urban forest on public and private land. Of the 372 respondents, over half have pruned private tree(s) (60%), watered street tree(s) (57%), and planted private tree(s) (53%). About 10% have never participated in any stewardship activities before.

The top three barriers to community stewardship include:

- Lack of relevant information (e.g., how to participate in stewardship activities, what's available, etc.) (65%);
- Other priorities (21%); and
- Physical or mobility challenges (9%).

## Mapping tool

Residents were invited to use the online mapping tool to identify and share places that they feel are alive and well or which, in their opinion, are need improvement. A total of 139 locations were identified: 115 (83%) were places needing improvement, 20 (14%) were places that are alive and well, and 4 (3%) were areas that respondents both appreciate and see opportunity for improvements. Locations were submitted by 45 participants. Where in some cases a single respondent submitted multiple locations, respondent locations were weighted in the figures following (Figure 9 and 10); all unique respondent submissions have a common weight of one divided amongst however many submissions they made.

## Alive and well

Most of the alive and well places were in or near a park, such as Mackenzie Glen District Park, Marita Payne Park, and forested areas near Humble River (Figure 12). Most people highly value the locations for the opportunity to recreate (e.g., walk the dog and exercise) (35%) and see and support biodiversity and wildlife (30%). Other respondents appreciate the overall look and view of the space (20%).

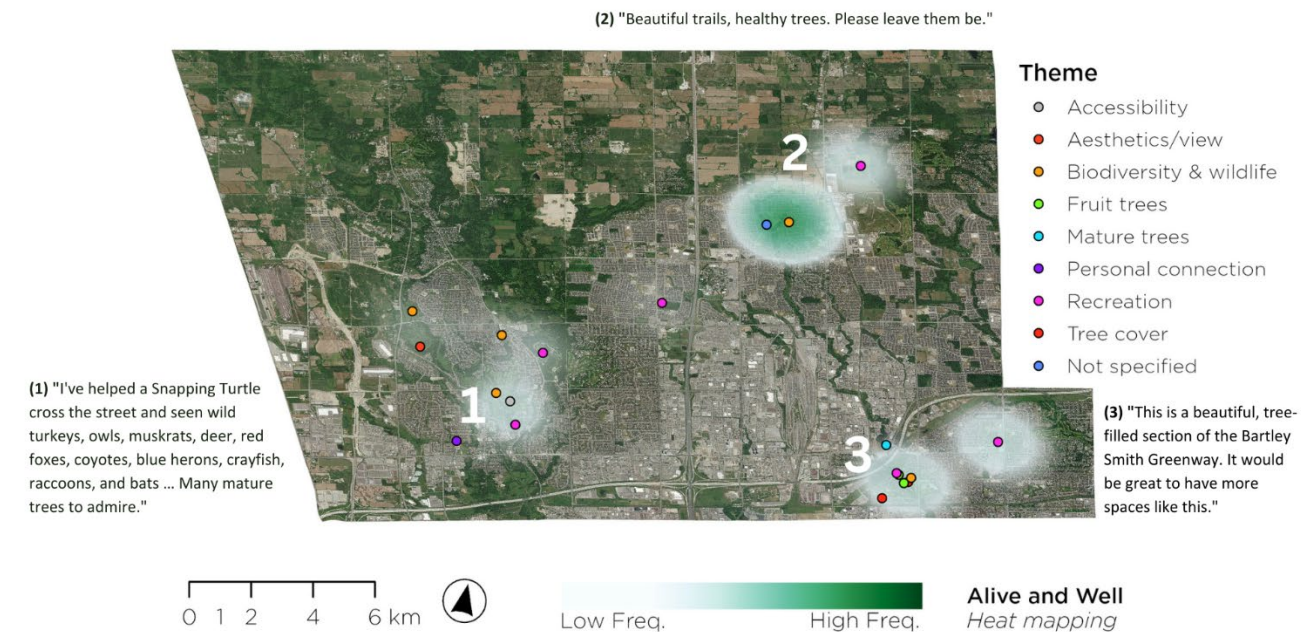


Figure 12 Alive and well urban forest places identified in the online mapping tool

### Needing improvement

Urban forest places needing improvement are shown on Figure 13. Residential areas near Mackenzie Glen District Park were the most common areas for improvement. Other hotspots for improvement were identified in the western Vaughan near Kortright conservation area, along the greenway in the southwestern part of the city, and in residential areas in the southern and southeastern parts of the city. The most common improvement expressed by respondents was adding more trees (including replacing removed or dead trees; 23%) and improving urban forest management practices (especially addressing issues regarding littering and avoiding over-trimming understory; 21%). People also had suggestions on where trails and walkways could be extended, connected, and improved (9%).



Figure 13 Urban forest places needing improvements identified in the online mapping tool

## Virtual open house

The virtual open house on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was another channel where community members could watch a presentation about the state of the urban forest, ask questions to the project team, and to share their thoughts on how to improve Vaughan’s urban forest. Twelve (12) participants attended the open house. Through live polling available during the event, participants indicated they most valued the environmental (e.g., rainwater management and air cleaning) and climate benefits (e.g., shade and cooling benefits) the most, whereas they considered economic and cultural values (e.g., increased property value and aesthetic values of trees) less important (Figure 14).

### 3. What types of urban forest benefits do you value the most in your community?

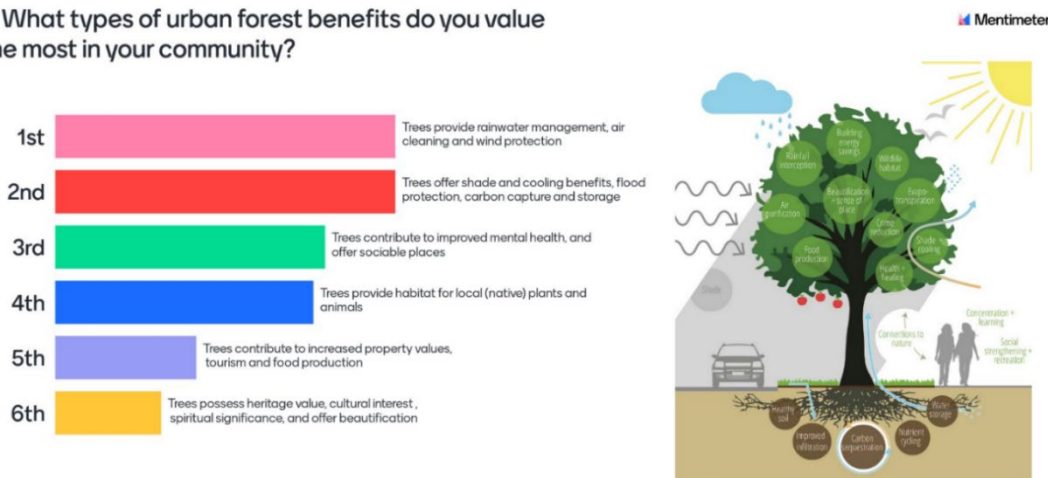


Figure 14. The urban forest benefit that participants value the most (total respondents: 7).

Participants also shared their opinion on the current levels of urban forest service by the City. Overall, they were somewhat neutral to dissatisfied with most of the tree services, such as tree pruning and protection (Figure 15). Participants were the least satisfied with public education related service, indicating a key area for future improvement.

### 4. How satisfied are you with the current levels of service provided by the City?

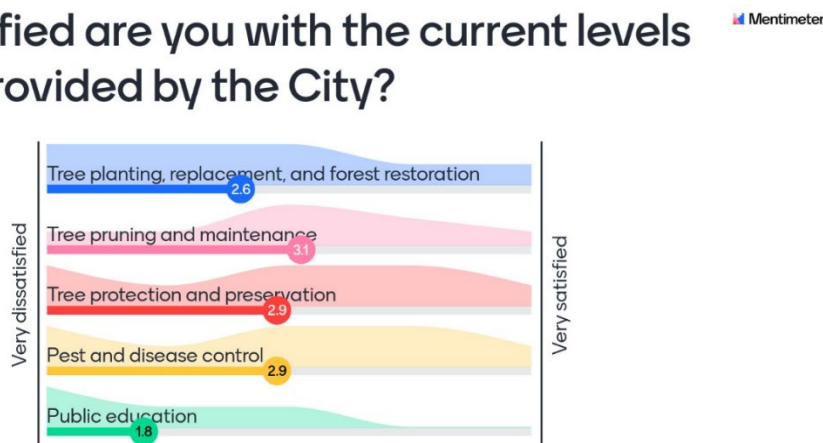


Figure 15. Participants’ satisfaction levels of the City’s current levels of urban forest services.

## Stakeholder workshop

On April 25, 16 members of ten targeted stakeholder groups attended workshop about the Urban Forest Management Plan. Participants were representatives from other levels of government, environmental/non-profits, ratepayers associations, school boards, and professional organizations. The project team presented an overview of the state of the urban forest and facilitated a conversation to hear about opportunities and challenges facing Vaughan’s urban forest using four urban forest themes:

- Growing
- Managing
- Protecting
- Partnering

Participants were asked to rank five management objectives developed from those urban forest themes (Figure 16). Among 14 respondents to this question, seven believed that tree and forest protection and preservation should be the priority in urban forest management, followed by tree planting, reforestation and tree replacement (6 participants). Most participants saw pest, disease and invasive controls and tree pruning and maintenance as lower priorities, compared to other management objectives.



Figure 16. Ranking of the urban forest management objectives by workshop participants (total respondents: 14)

On the topic of planting and managing the urban forest, participants discussed the challenges of competing interests and needs for space (e.g., trees versus development), limited seedling stock and increasing seedling prices. Several improvement opportunities were identified on both public and private land. Participants saw the opportunity to increase planting on City-owned properties, such as parks, stormwater management ponds, and schools. They also suggested tree planting and care programs for residents and businesses to grow the urban forest on private land. Participants

identified that non-profit organizations (e.g., LEAF) could play a crucial role in managing the tree planting programs for local communities.

The major concern regarding tree protection was the removals of trees due to development impacts. Participants identified opportunities to improve tree outcomes through revisiting tree protection measures, fines for illegal tree removals, regulations to prioritize habitat connectivity through development, replanting conditions to support tree replacement, and public education and stewardship opportunities.

The conversation around urban forest partnership was embedded in the discussions of other themes throughout the workshop. Specifically, participants saw opportunities for improving education and stewardship programming through leveraging the capacities of the City's partners like LEAF, the Region of York, school boards, and the TRCA.



## SYNTHESIS OF FEEDBACK

The feedback received from the survey, mapping tool, virtual open house and stakeholder workshop will be used to inform the drafting of the Plan’s visions, goals, and priorities. Highlighted from the community inputs will specifically go towards drafting:

- A vision for the urban forest
- Goals related to:
  - Growing
  - Managing
  - Protecting
  - Stewarding

The tables also describe how each key statement (i.e., “what we heard”) will be considered in the development of the UFMP.

### SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FOR THE URBAN FOREST PLANNING AND LONG-TERM VISION

What we heard	How it will be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most valued benefits provided by the urban forest are climate, environmental, and ecological benefits.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mapping tool participants particularly valued the urban forest for recreational, ecological (support biodiversity and wildlife), and aesthetic values.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Survey respondents envisioned Vaughan’s 2042 urban forest as expanding, with healthy, large, and mature trees of native species that provides a wide variety of climate, environmental and ecological benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>The project team will incorporate this input when drafting the UFMP vision and goals. The strategy will emphasize the benefits most valued by the community and will address the issues cited by participants as needing improvement.</p>

### SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FOR GROWING THE URBAN FOREST

What we heard	How it will be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey respondents wanted an increasing tree canopy cover in the future.</li> <li>• Both survey respondents and stakeholder workshop participants believed that tree planting, reforestation and tree replacement</li> </ul>	<p>The draft UFMP’s canopy cover target will take that preference into account.</p>

<p>is one of the most important management objectives and actions.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder workshop participants identified important opportunities to grow the urban forest through collaboration with regional and local organizations, business, community groups, and schools.</li> <li>• Survey respondents would like to see more trees being planted along streets and in parks, especially along local residential streets and developed trails and greenways.</li> <li>• On private land, respondents suggested to increase tree planting through green infrastructure projects, new multi-family, subdivision and commercial developments, and offer incentives for private tree planting.</li> <li>• There is an opportunity to increase community satisfaction through improving tree planting and replacement practices.</li> <li>• Respondents have a strong preference toward large trees with mixed species and spacing along streets</li> </ul>	<p>The draft UFMP will include recommendations for tree planting that incorporates community’s value and preferences.</p>

**SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FOR MANAGING THE URBAN FOREST**

What we heard	How it will be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey respondents expressed mixed levels of satisfaction towards current tree management services. They were overall satisfied with tree pruning services but neutral about pest and disease control and tree and stump removal.</li> <li>• Mapping tool participants would like more trees planted and better management practices applied to address current issues such as littering in forested areas and over-trimmed understory vegetation.</li> </ul>	<p>The project team will incorporate this input when developing the recommendations for tree management and include recommendations to clarify and improve services levels</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On City-owned land, most respondents supported the improvement of both tree</li> </ul>	<p>The draft UFMP will make recommendations to improve planting</p>



species guidelines and soil engineering standards, construction of new tree planting spaces in streets and paved areas, and an increase in public spending on tree care for existing trees.	site construction standards to support the health and survival of trees given site and climate requirements.
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SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FOR PROTECTING THE URBAN FOREST

What we heard	How it will be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More survey respondents were dissatisfied than satisfied by current urban forest service levels for tree protection and preservation.</li> </ul>	The draft UFMP will consider strategies to improve tree protection and preservation that move the City towards meeting or exceeding current public expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder workshop participants considered tree and forest protection and preservation as the most important urban forest management objective.</li> <li>• On public land, most respondents considered increased fees and penalties for public tree removal as the most essential in urban forest action.</li> <li>• On private land, respondents recommended to enhance tree protection during construction (e.g., by requiring supervision by qualified arboricultural professionals), introduce a tree bylaw to extend protections of all private trees.</li> </ul>	The draft UFMP will make recommendations that include policy tools and approaches to improve protection of trees on both public private land

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FOR STEWARDING OF THE URBAN FOREST

What we heard	How it will be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey respondents were dissatisfied with public education services by the City.</li> <li>• Over half of the respondents had pruned, watered, or planted a tree. About 10% had never participated in any stewardship activities.</li> <li>• The biggest barriers to community stewardship are:</li> </ul>	The draft UFMP will recommend ways to address barriers and encourage urban forest stewardship.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of relevant information</li> <li>○ Other commitments and priorities</li> <li>○ Physical or mobility challenges</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most respondents would like to see more opportunities to participate in tree planting and care (49% considered it as an essential or high priority action).</li> <li>● Stakeholder workshop participants saw opportunities to improve education and stewardship in tree and ground cover planting, invasive species management, and tree removals.</li> </ul>	<p>The draft UFMP will recommend ways for the City to encourage urban forest stewardship, including education on tree planting and care. Recommendations will also include ways to partner with local and regional stakeholders to increase and enhance engagement and stewardship opportunities.</p>

## NEXT STEPS

The findings from the first phase of community engagement will inform the development of the draft UFMP, including a long-term vision and priorities for implementation. Phase 2 of public engagement is expected to occur in June 2023 to gather feedback on the strategic framework of the UFMP.

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Communication and Promotion Materials

Appendix B: Detailed Survey Results

Appendix C: Stakeholder Workshop Boards

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A – Sample Communication and Promotion Materials



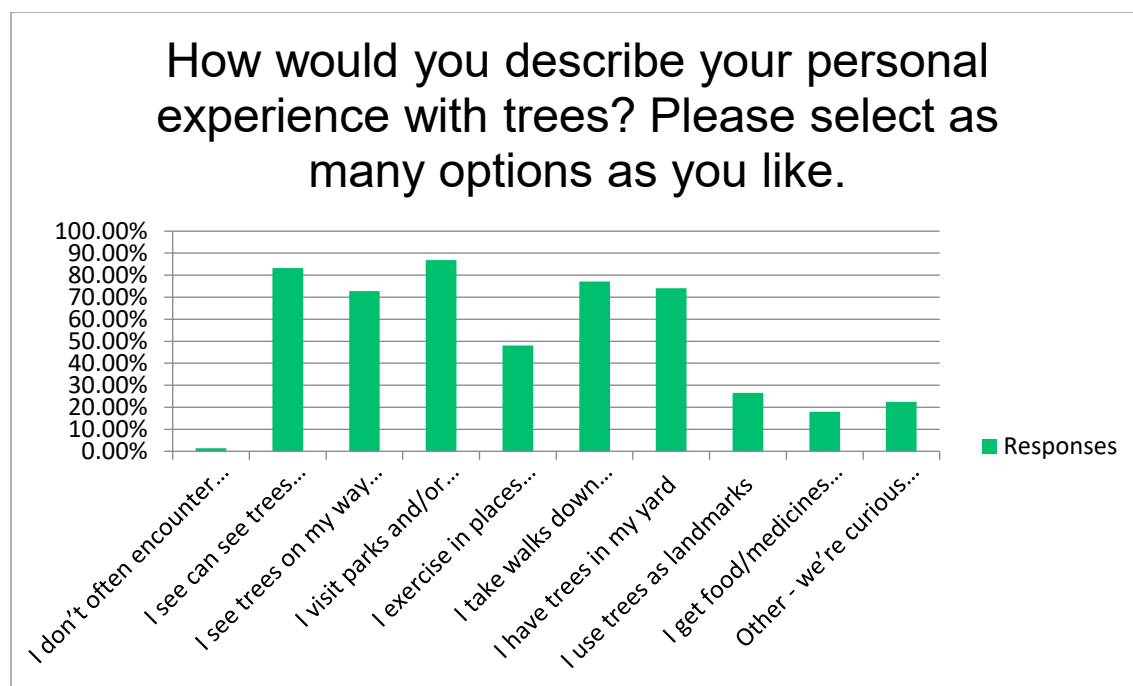
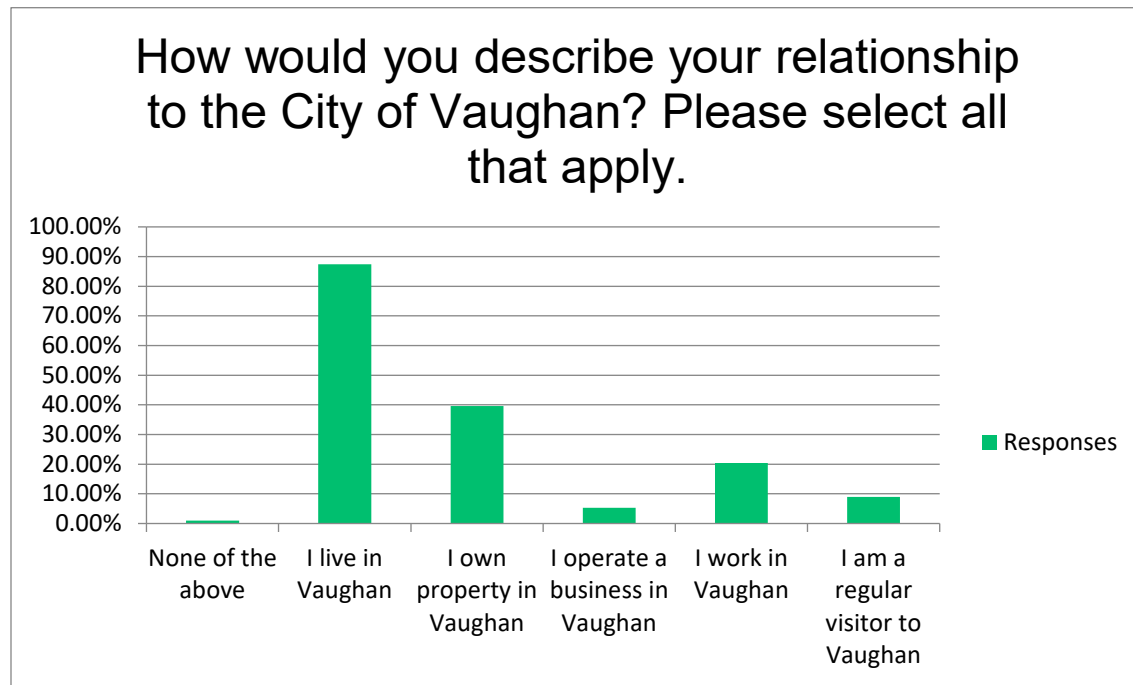
Figure A 1. Examples of graphic used for communication and promotion on various platforms

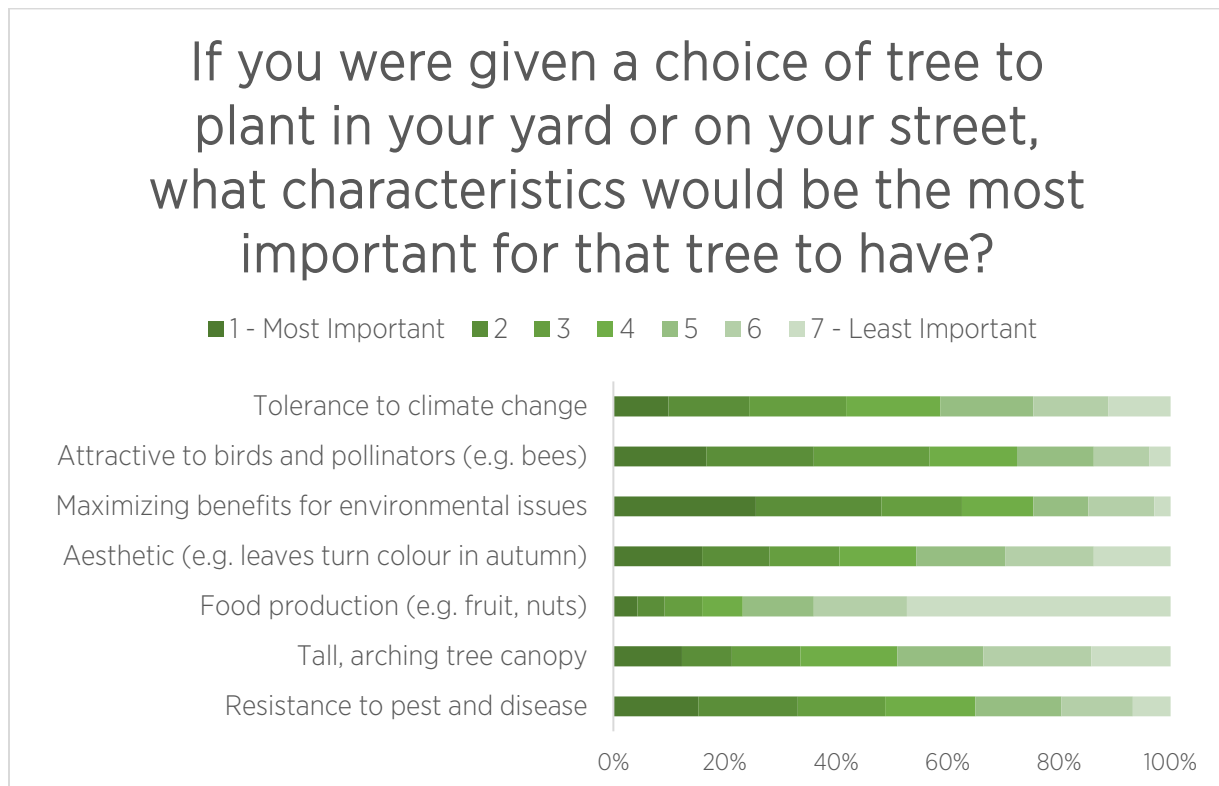
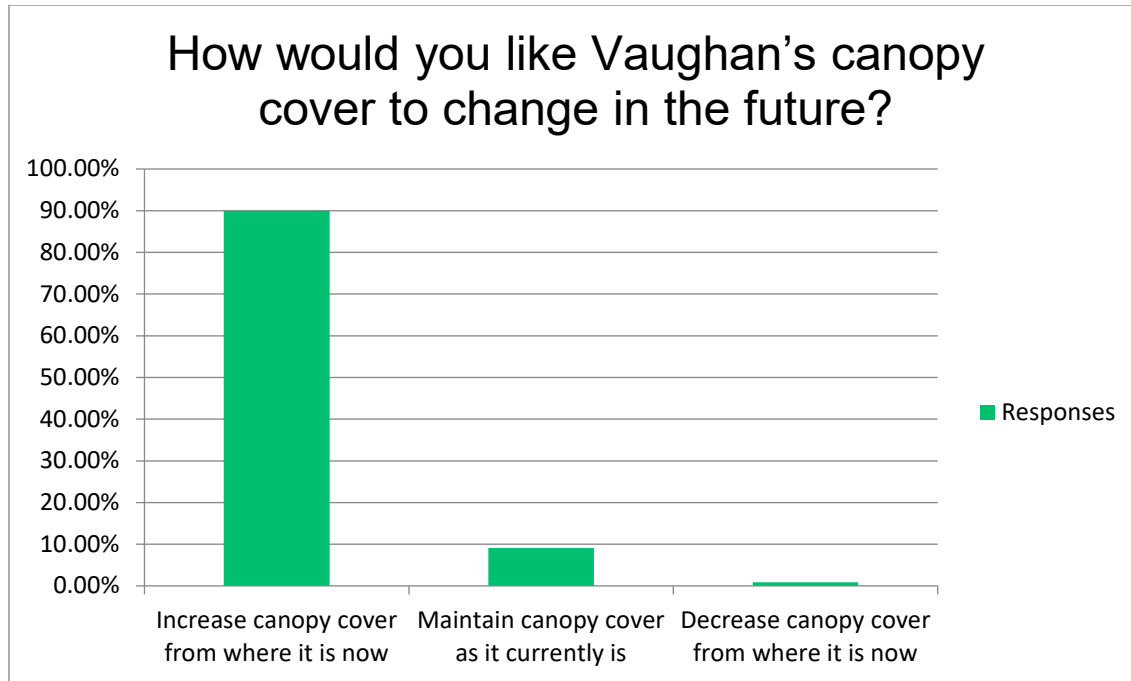
*Top: graphic used for the City's digital sign network*

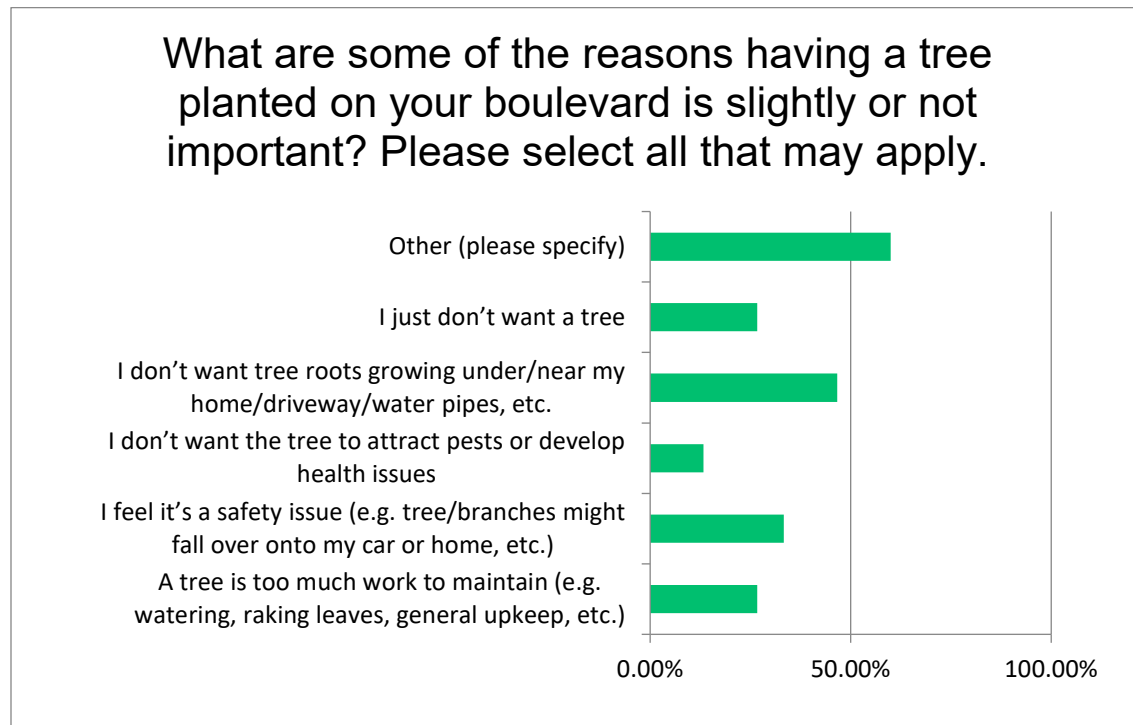
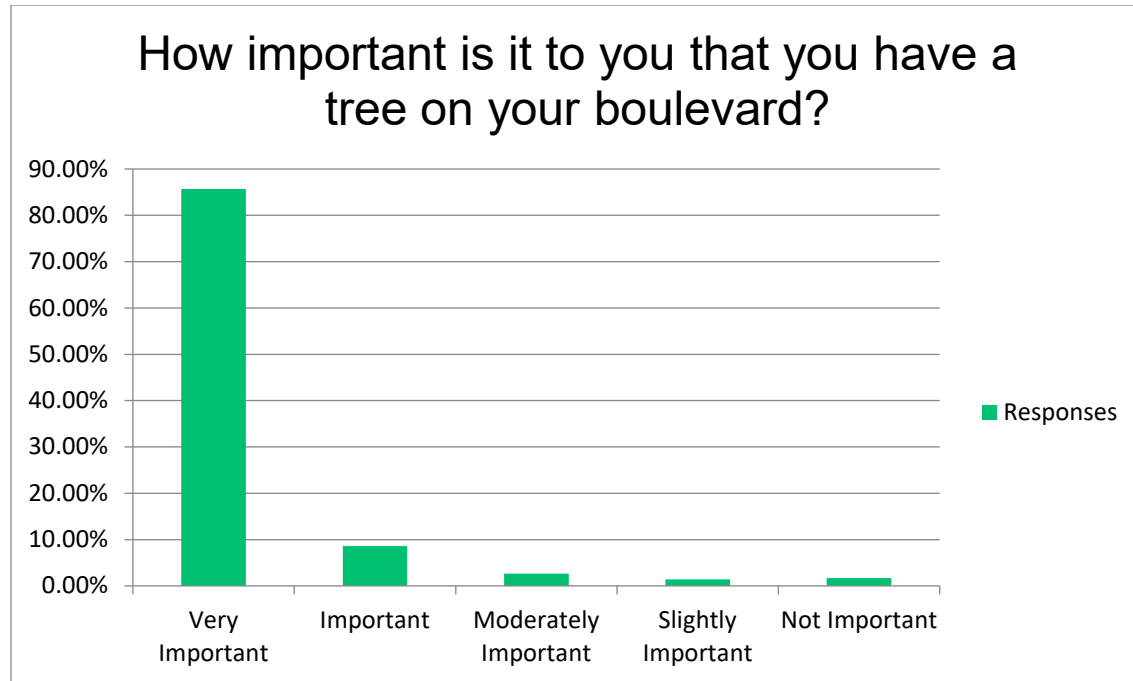
*Bottom: graphic used for TV screens at the City Hall and community centres*

## Appendix B – Detailed Survey Results

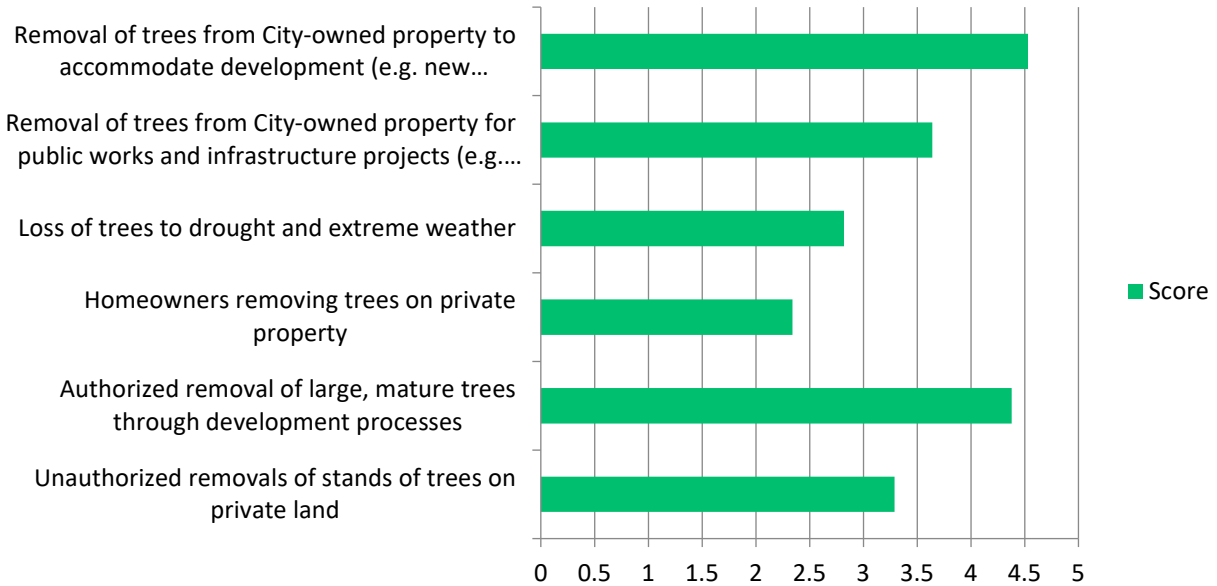
The section includes responses that are not covered/summarized in the main body of the report.







In your opinion, what are your biggest concerns with respect to tree loss in the city of Vaughan? Please rank the following from most important (1) to least important (6).



# Appendix C – Stakeholder Workshop Boards

## Stakeholder participants

**TIP - How to comment using sticky notes**

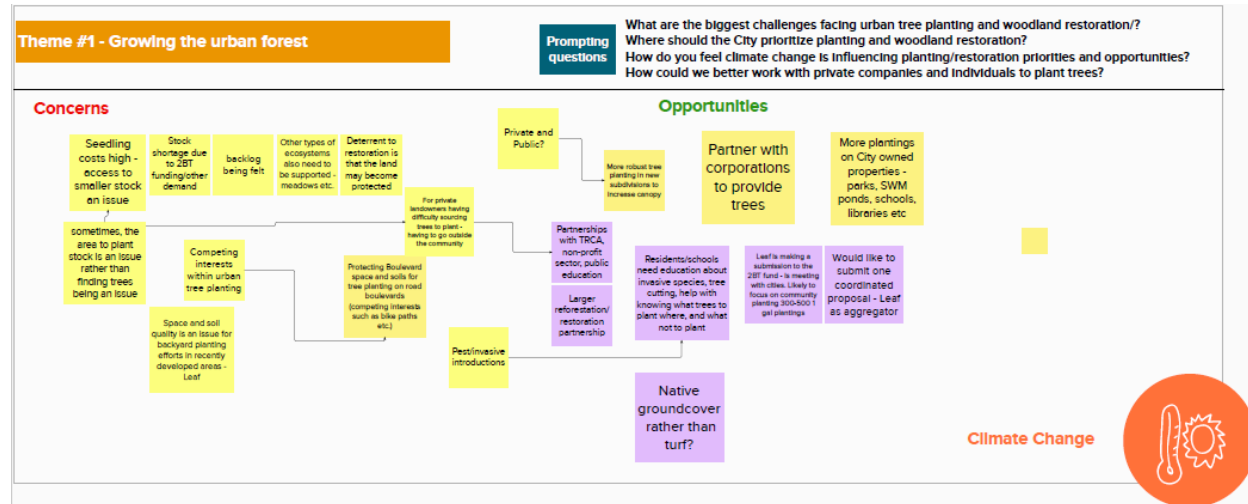
- 1) Click and drag a sticky from the left side of the board or double-click on the board to make one appear
- 2) Type your comment and resize the sticky using one of the corner handles
- 3) Click beside your note, then reselect it to move it around the board

Note that you can also use the pencil icon at the bottom of the left hand menu to draw on the board

**What professional organization, NGO or interest group are you associated with/representing today?**

TRCA (Woodland Mgmt., Applied Res. - GI)	MacKenzie Ridge Rate Payers	Invasive Species Centre	YCDSB	Millwood Rate Payers
SpringFarm Rate Payers Association (SFRA)	Association of Land Surveyors	Woodbridge Agricultural Society	Forests Ontario	LEAF

## Theme #1 – Growing the urban forest





Theme #2 – Managing the urban forest

**Theme #2 - Managing the urban forest**

**Prompting questions**

What are the biggest challenges for tree and forest management?  
 Are there examples of parks or woodlands in the city you think are particularly well managed? Why?  
 What are the most important ways the City could improve urban tree and woodland management?  
 How could the City better support private landowners to manage trees and woodlands?  
 How has climate change impacted priorities in urban tree and woodland management?


**Concerns**

**Opportunities**

Policy requiring development meet a canopy target over X years?

Tree removal and replacement requirements - LEAF support?

Climate Change



Theme #3 – Protecting the urban forest

**Theme #3 - Protecting the urban forest**

**Prompting questions**

What are the biggest challenges facing urban forest protection?  
 Where do you think the City's priorities lie in terms of urban forest protection Why?  
 Are you aware of communities that are doing a particularly good job of forest protection?  
 How has climate change impacted priorities in urban forest protection?


**Concerns**

- Fines/penalties not adequate
- Lack of leadership on proper fines
- Will urban forestry work in tandem with bylaws? Proper fines?
- Illegal cutting
- Public woodlots being impacted by development
- Protection of natural heritage
- Not enough tree protection/enforcement with development
- Kitchy road extension - threat to connectivity. High value biodiversity areas require more protection
- Small parcels, fragmented
- Not conducive to wildlife
- Higher fines/penalties that will deter illegal cutting for development
- Work with partners in business and development planning to address tree protection
- Replanting conditions required under bylaws. Potential for backyard planting program (LEAF) to support proper replacement - right species, proper planting
- Tree protection bylaw and process currently under review

**Opportunities**

- Connect habitats through development
- Assistance to private woodlots - knowledge, values, how to better manage them
- Public education on proper stewardship
- Managed Forest Tax Incentive
- -and education about the services and benefits of trees (ecosystem service quantification/valuation)
- Public realm won't be able to hit canopy targets without private land
- Focus on sustainable mobility - results in a loss of trees
- Intensification of older neighbourhoods losing backyard trees
- Boulevards squeezed - tree planting and storing snow
- Provincial direction to increase logging - densify, intensification

Climate Change



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Theme #4 – Partnership to steward the urban forest

