



PORT COLBORNE

**Meeting
Environmental Advisory Committee
November 9, 2022 6:00 p.m.**

The following were in attendance:

Staff: Cassandra Banting
Janice Peyton

Council: Councillor Mark Bagu
Councillor Harry Wells

Public Members: George McKibbon
Jack Hellinga
Katherine Klauck
Tim Lamb
Trent Doan
Tim Hoyle
Ryan Waines
Kerry Royer
Norbert Gieger

This was an online Microsoft Teams meeting.

1. Call to Order

Chair George McKibbon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Tim Lamb
Seconded by Harry Wells

That the agenda dated November 9, 2022, be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED.

3. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

4. Approval / Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Tim Lamb

That the minutes of August 10, 2022, be accepted as written.
CARRIED.

5. Public Works Update

Cassandra Banting, Environmental Compliance Supervisor, provided the following update:

a) EV Charging Stations Project

The Director of Public Works and staff at city hall are reviewing this project and are looking at hiring an expert on the subject for assistance.

b) Energy Conservation & Demand Management Plan

Energy conservation strategies for city facilities are ongoing.

c) Urban Forest Management Plan

This project is ongoing. John McNeil is in attendance this evening to give an introductory presentation on the project.

d) Questions & Concerns

Previous to this meeting, various questions and concerns compiled by EAC members were submitted to Cassandra for clarification and answers to the concerns were emailed to committee members.

Cassandra reviewed the answers to the questions and responded to comments and questions of committee members.

A copy of the answers to the questions are attached to the minutes.

e) Public Engagement at Friday Morning Market

Public Works divisions are looking at setting up tables at the Market in the new year, for Earth Day and Public Works Week, for example. Once dates are set Cassandra will share the information with this committee to coordinate EAC members attending the market to increase public awareness about environmental items.

6. Urban Forest Management Plan Introductory Presentation

John McNeil of McNeil Urban Forestry provided an introductory presentation on City of Port Colborne Urban Forest Assessment & Management Contract 2022-07. Mr. McNeil responded to comments and questions of committee members. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

Kerry advised that the Vineland Research Centre has a resource on their website regarding tree selection and soil conditions that may be of interest. This resource is available to the public.

Cassandra will circulate all information regarding opportunities for stakeholder engagement for this project to the EAC.

7. Bill 23 to the Planning Act

As a follow-up to minutes of the last meeting (page 6 of minutes of August 10th), George referred to section 34:1 of Bill 23. George stressed the importance of due diligence and suggested members try to keep up with all changes of this lengthy legislation as best they can.

8. Finalize Draft Terms of Reference

The committee reviewed the terms of reference, edited with members comments/suggestions from the August 10th initial review of the document.

Members expresses interest in having a seat at the table for Strategic Planning discussions.

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Norbert Gieger

That the EAC committee adopt the final EAC Draft Terms of Reference, with amendments as discussed.
CARRIED.

Once amendments are complete, the final EAC Draft Terms of Reference will be sent to the Clerk's office.

9. End of Year Draft Annual EAC Report

George asked for volunteers to draft a short year end report for Clerks and Council. Jack, Harry, and George will work on the report.

10. Agriculture & Aggregates

George has forwarded links from the University of Guelph to committee members regarding agriculture and aggregates. There were no questions or comments from committee members regarding this item.

11. Other Business

Harry raised this issue of the NPCA Water Quality Reports and the lack of information regarding municipal source water protection. Harry advised that he requested information from the Region because the Regional Official Plan was supposed to address this topic, however Harry has not received a reply from the Region.

12. Next Meeting /Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next EAC meeting will be on Wednesday January 11th at 6 p.m.

Janice Peyton

From: Cassandra Banting
Sent: November 8, 2022 4:48 PM
To: georgeh@mckibbonwakefield.com
Cc: Janice Peyton
Subject: EAC concerns - comments back

Good Afternoon George,

I'm including responses to the EAC concerns that were raised. Thank you for your patience as I wanted to compile the information from the appropriate staff. Please let me know if you have any further questions and I can follow up with the appropriate staff person.

1. Flushing of hydrants/dead end lines and watermain breaks. This water is chlorinated and should be dechlorinated prior to discharge. In the past contractors were required to direct the water to a tank with sodium bisulphate (NaHSO_3) for chlorine neutralization and tested before discharge. A few NaHSO_3 pucks in the gutter cannot be considered as adequately neutralizing the chlorine. All water operations staff use the LPD 250 diffuser when flushing and reinstating watermains. This unit internally houses sodium bisulphate tablets that dechlorinate the water that is discharged. Additionally, during watermain construction projects, for example, discharged water is sampled to monitor chlorine levels to make sure the water is neutralized and to verify the removal of all chlorine. During watermain breaks, if the water is flowing into a catch basin, dechlor pucks are used. Staff try to isolate watermain breaks and proactively conduct leak detection to try and limit the amount of chlorinated water entering into the environment.
2. Vehicles parked at construction sites are left running through the duration of the work as opposed to shutting the engines off. Is there not an anti-idling bylaw or practice in place for municipal vehicles? Employees have been instructed that if they are in a hard closure (complete road closure) there is no need to run dump trucks or pickup trucks unless it is needed to due to extreme weather. Occasionally, some equipment or tools, such as a post-pounder is operated off of the truck, so the truck has to be running. If staff are working on a roadside, they must follow MTO book 7 and beacons must be utilized and the vehicle has to be running for these lights to remain on. Large dump trucks may also need to be running so they can be moved while loading them. Employees are aware of the impacts idling and are told about the environmental impacts and additional fuel costs it can have for the City.
3. Is there an action plan for spills when these occur in our municipal right of ways.
Yes, we do. As long as the City gets informed about it, we will respond and take action as necessary. Staff respond to spills on roadways and municipal right of ways. We have a Spills reporting process and call SAC (Spills Action Centre) when required. Minor spills do not need to be reported to SAC, but City staff will still respond. Emergency Services will respond when required as well. Depending on the spill, the local area Ministry Inspector will also investigate and verify a clean up has occurred.
4. Maintenance and replacement of trees in HH Knoll park, especially when trees die.

The Park has suffered damage from storms over the past three years and lost 12 trees but over the past two years, the Parks Division has planted over 50 trees in that Park alone. The City also gave away 400 trees on earth day to encourage private plantings as well and planted over 100 mature trees in various parks. We have been engaged in the meetings with NPCA on the 2 billion tree initiative along with local growers that have planted trees along our Friendship trail for us.

5. Over filled garbage containers especially in well used public areas has been raised as a concern. Parks manages over 120 garbage cans throughout the City with various levels of service determined by locations, expectations, and overflowing conditions during peak seasons. We have joined forces with the Niagara Region and have added 16 PSR containers managed by the Regional collection program to various Parks to help with managing those issues. Some of the frequency of the pickups on PSR containers was identified this summer and was increased from 2 times to 3 times a week, which has helped. Parks has added extra cans and 50 gallon barrels to problem areas to help with this issue as well.

Another consideration is that garbage collection from the Niagara Region has changed to every other week and often illegal dumping occurs in municipal garbage cans, parks, roadways etc. We share our findings with the Niagara Region task force on illegal dumping and will communicate with them when contents of the garbage has personal identification.

6. Where the boulevard tree bylaw is concerned, there may be inconsistency in the way it is applied. For example, the plan of subdivision approvals for residences in west Port Colborne adhere to bylaw as it was approved whereas anecdotal evidence suggest it may not be adhered to where a tree is removed in front of an existing residence and staff replant a substitute in a location inconsistent with the bylaw.

This is currently under review as part of the Urban Forest Management Plan project. This has been brought to staff's attention. There are some discrepancies between the By-Law and Tree Installation Policy. Currently, staff have replanted some trees based on the discretion of the Director and staff, on a case-by-case basis. Some factors considered before replanting a new tree would be overhead wires and underground utilities.

Thank you,



PORT COLBORNE

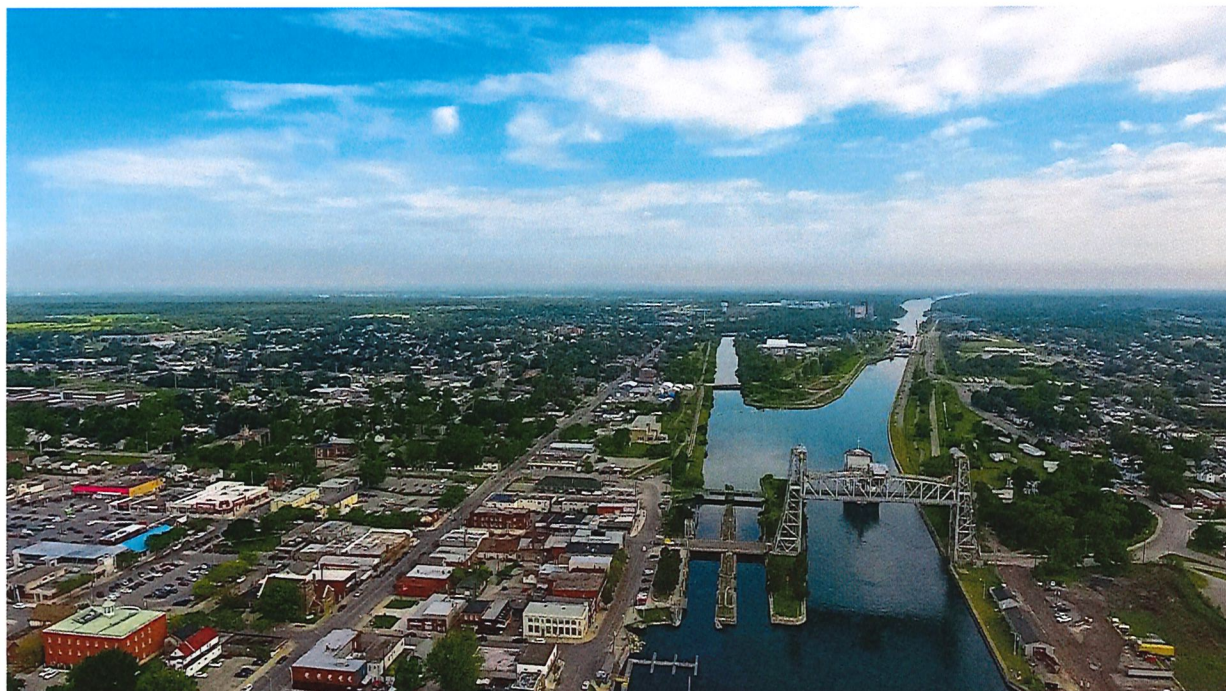
Cassandra Banting
Environmental Compliance Supervisor
 City of Port Colborne



www.portcolborne.ca

1 Killaly St W
 Port Colborne, ON L3K 2L5
Phone 905-835-2900 x250
Email Cassandra.Banting@portcolborne.ca

"To provide an exceptional small-town experience in a big way"



City of Port Colborne Urban Forest Assessment & Management Plan Contract No. 2022-07





W&A Team

Pete Williams, W&A, Project Manager

John McNeil, Project Coordinator,
Strategic Planning

Mike Rosen, Consultation Michael
Rosen- Communications & Engagement

Peter Kuntz, Kuntz Forestry - UTC
Canopy Analysis & Ecologist

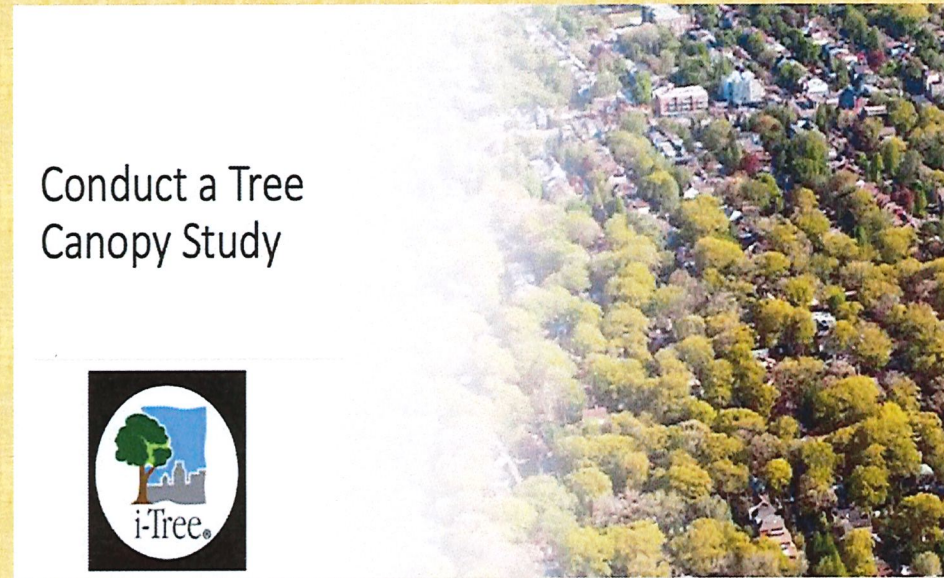
Peter Simon, Tree City. *City Building*

Three main Project Deliverables identified in the RFP:

1. Tree Inventory - create a database for Operations (2,000 City trees)
2. Draft an Urban Forest Management Plan
3. Review Tree By-law 6175/01/15 & Tree Installation Policy, 2007

Additional Project Deliverables/ 'Value Added (2-4)':

Conduct a Tree
Canopy Study



1. Canopy GAP Map

~identify opportunities for future tree planting

2. i-Tree Eco

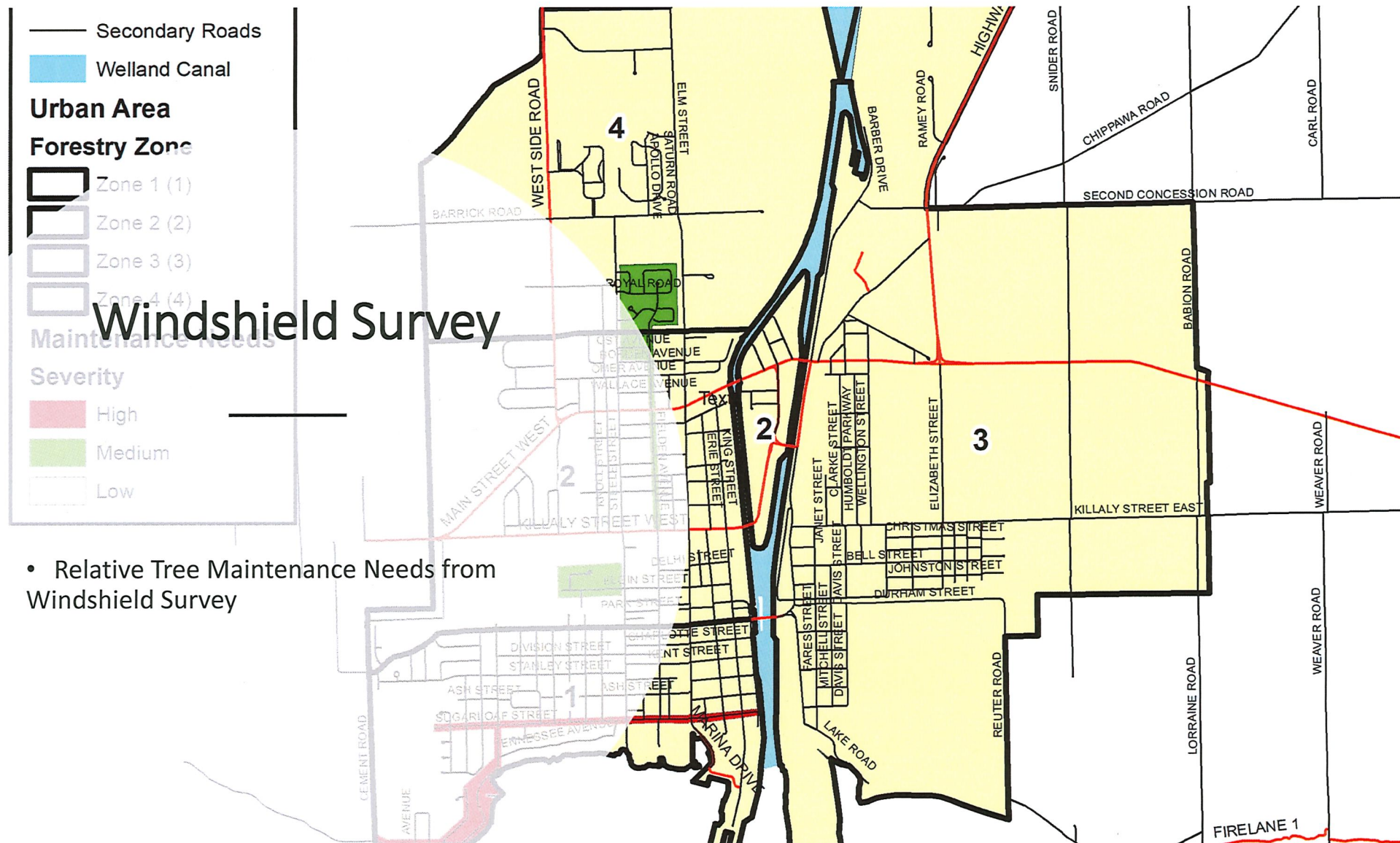
~ quantify ecological values of municipal (street & park) trees

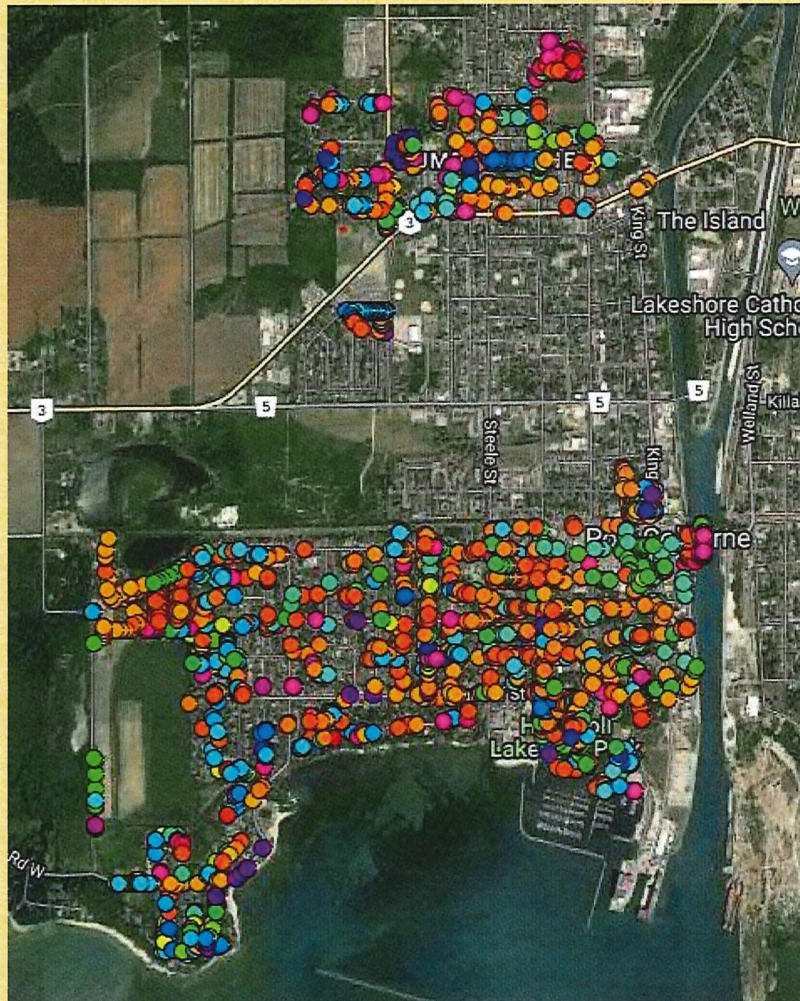
3. i-Tree Canopy

~ measure the tree canopy cover in the City & quantify the value of its ecological services

4. Windshield Survey

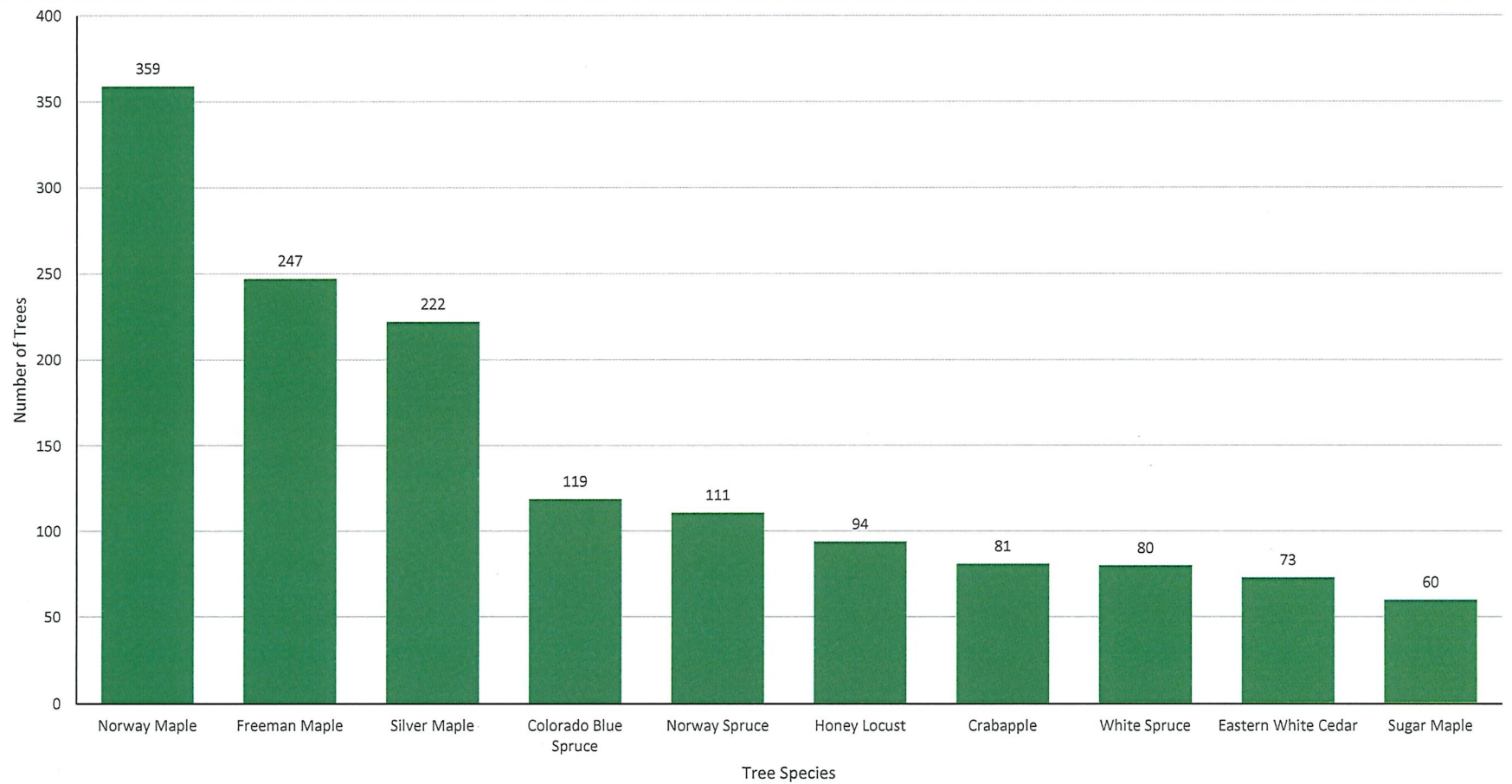
~ To help characterize the condition of public trees in the urban forest





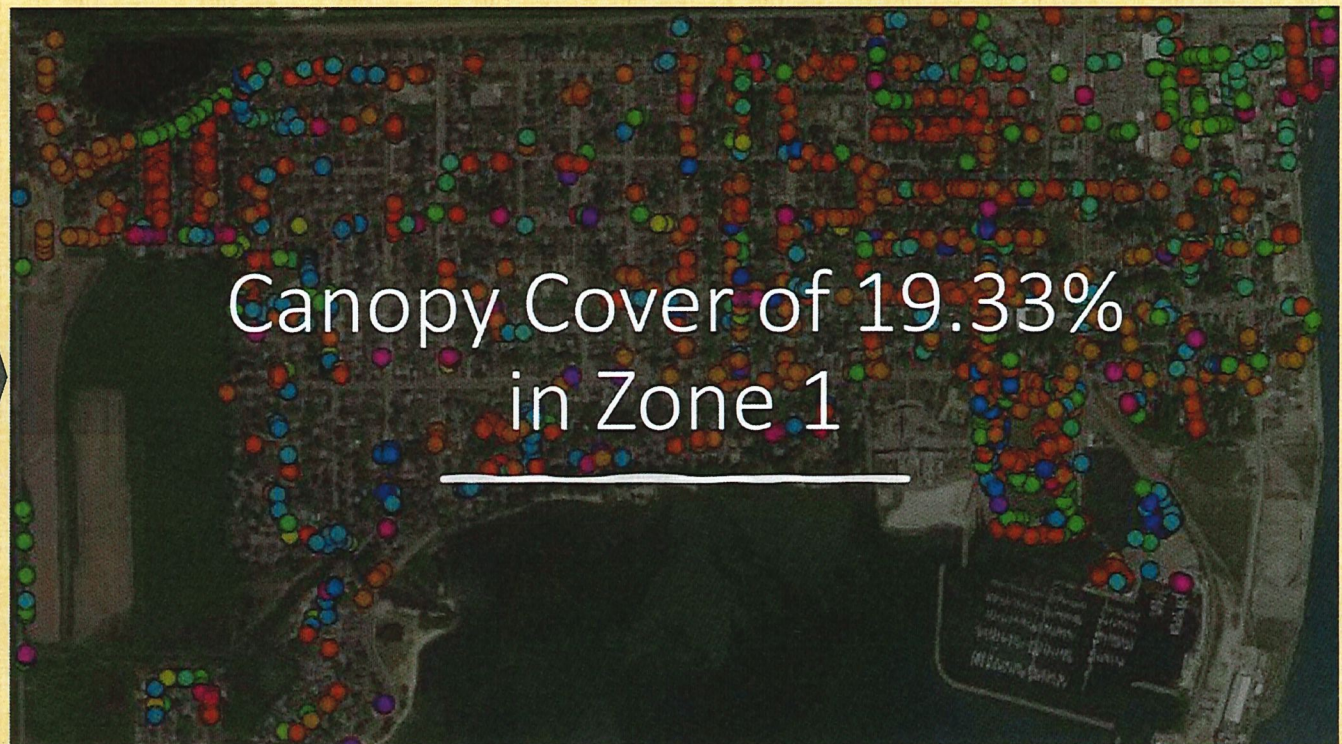
1. Tree Inventory

***Locations of trees assessed
in the Sample Inventory***



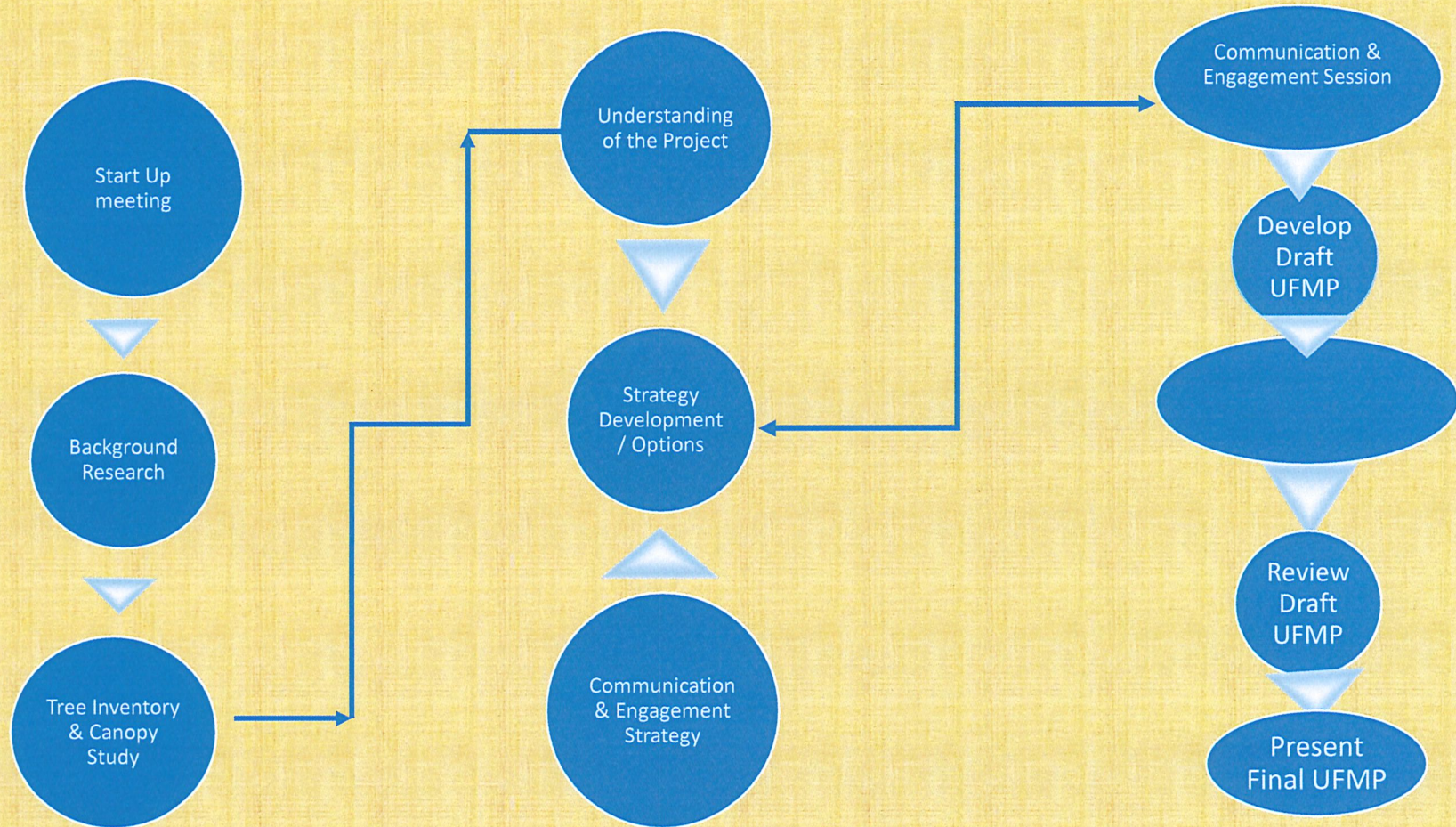
Ten Most Common Species in Port Colborne Inventory

i-Tree
Canopy



2. Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)

UFMP: Delivery Strategy



UFMP: Understanding of the Project



UFMP: Understanding of the Project

Q3 & Q4, 2022: Staff Interviews/Discussions &
Project Team Exercises:

- ✓ Draft: Vision, Principles & Goals
- ✓ Benchmark: Criteria and Indicators for Strategic Urban Forest Planning and Management
- ✓ Assessment: SWOT Analysis

Q4, 2022: Implement *Communications & Engagement Strategy*:
Launch *Bang the Table*, 1st Meeting with EAC, background research

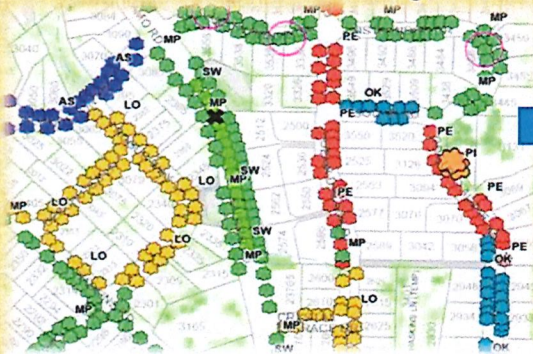
COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Internal & External Stakeholder and Public Consultation:

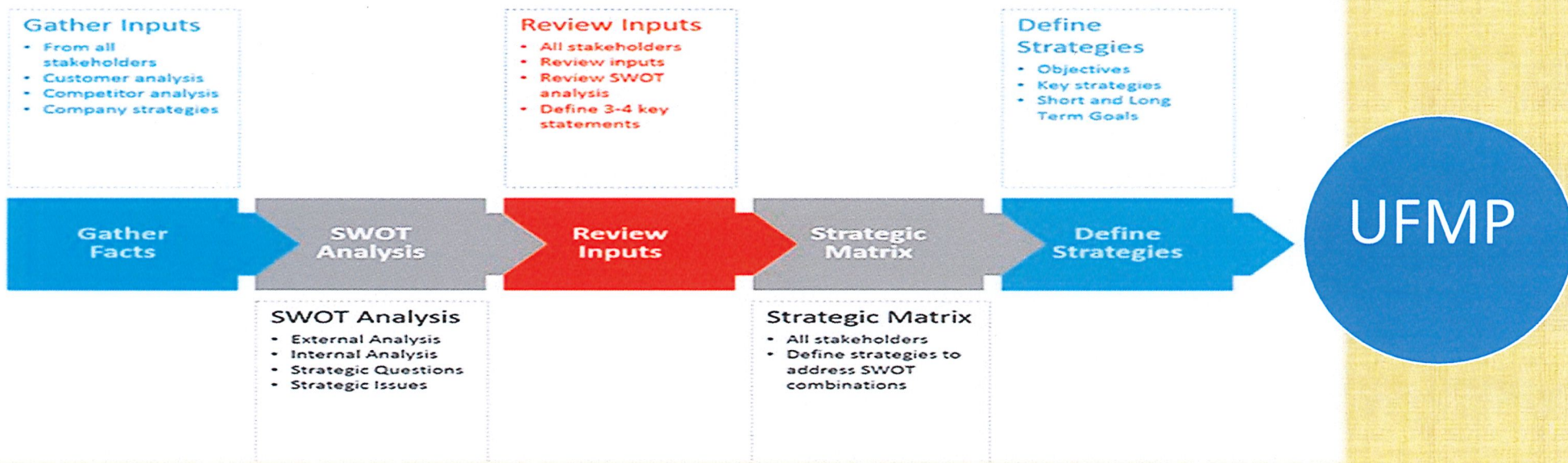


Review Tree By-law 6175/01/15 &
Tree Installation Policy, 2007

Project Deliverables: Strategic Planning



Strategic Plan Process



Developing an UFMP *with* the client





- ✓ *We've been in your position & know what it feels like*
- ✓ *Successfully completed these types of Projects for other municipalities*
- ✓ *Over a century of award-winning urban forestry expertise on our Team*

THANK YOU

