Urban Forestry Master Plan
2025-2035

Production Team

Redaction

- Daniel Gautreau, M. Sc. For., green spaces coordinator

Revision committee

- Eric Desjardins, municipal councillor, ward 2
- Kevin Kilfoil, coordinator, transmission and distribution, Edmundston Energy
- Manuel Lamontagne, Ph. D., citizen and professor at the *École de foresterie* of the *Université de Moncton,* Edmundston campus
- Diane Landry, M. Sc. For., manager at the *Office de vente des produits forestiers du Madawaska*
- Alain Laplante, director, Department of Public Works
- Stéphanie Lebel-Landry, Ph. D., professor of forestry at the University of Maine in Fort Kent
- Daniel Martin, B. Sc. For., certified forester, president of Abies consultants
- Karen Power, municipal councillor, ward 4

Layout, proofreading and translation

- Annie Dancause, communications
- Chantal Dubé, clerk's office coordinator
- Parise Pelletier, administrative secretary, CAO
- Mychèle Poitras, communications

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1.   Introduction

The municipality of Edmundston is characterized by its proximity to nature. The mountains, forests, and rivers surrounding and within the municipality influence the relationship that citizens have with nature. The history of the region and the culture of the community are intimately linked to the forests, both economically and in terms of recreation, tourism, and education. The omnipresence of the forest industry, the many recreational and sports facilities, the community's hunting and fishing culture and the presence of a forestry school on the university campus are proof of this. It's only natural that the community should have a unique perspective on the urban forest and its management.

Individual trees, small groups of trees within the municipality and woodlands within municipal boundaries make up the urban forest. These trees can be found on public and private lands. The presence of trees and forests in a community translates into a multitude of benefits for its citizens.

The municipality has been managing woodlands for 20 years and has adopted an urban tree management plan and tree code for 12 years. Even though a good foundation has already been laid in terms of urban forest management, it is necessary to stop periodically, take stock of the situation and renew planning so that it is up to date and responds to the concerns of citizens and contemporary environmental challenges.

In fact, northwestern New Brunswick, as elsewhere, is beginning to feel the effects of climate change. Extreme weather events are expected to become more intense and more frequent. In this context of combating and adapting to climate change, trees and forests are our allies. The actions taken by the municipality in managing this green capital will influence its ability to adapt.

This master plan will enable the municipality to achieve its strategic planning objectives. The municipality's vision is to be open, inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous. The judicious management of the urban forest will enable us to achieve objectives in line with this vision. In fact, this master plan will enrich civic life, facilitate the accessibility and availability of information, maximize public engagement, stimulate and support economic development, diversify revenue sources, improve environmental conditions in a sustainable way, and manage assets in a sustainable way. Finally, this master plan aims to establish a series of actions that will enable the municipality of Edmundston to meet the challenges of natural resource management and sustainable development in a sustained manner.

2.   The Role of Trees and Woodlands in the Municipality

Trees and woodlands are an integral part of Edmundston's territory. The benefits generated by their presence are inestimable. For this reason, trees deserve special consideration in municipal planning and management. We can categorize the benefits of urban forests [1] into four divisions:

    a)   ecological benefits;
    b)   social benefits;
    c)   aesthetic and design benefits;
    d)   economic benefits.

2.1.   Ecological Benefits

2.1.1.   Air Purification

One of the most important roles of trees is to purify the air. Trees absorb CO_2 and various pollutants and release oxygen. This process contributes to carbon sequestration, improves the quality of the air breathed by citizens, and can directly help adaptation to climate change. In addition, trees act as filters, intercepting airborne particles that are particularly dense and harmful to humans in urban areas.
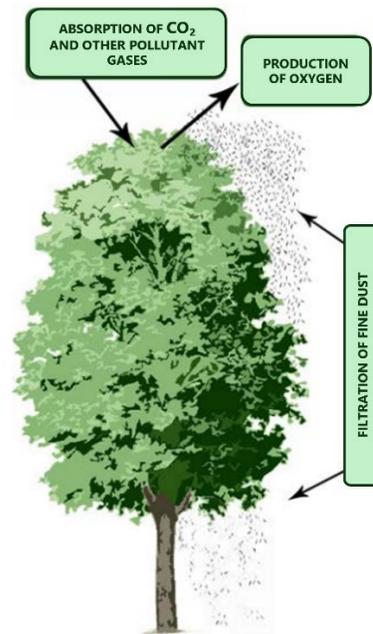
Figure 2-1 Illustration of the role of trees in urban air purification
(Source: *Les rôles de l'arbre en ville. 2008. Centre collégial de transfert de technologie en foresterie de Sainte-Foy (CERFO). Québec, 21 p.*)

2.1.2.   Protecting Soil Structure and Water Quality

Trees stabilize soil by anchoring it with their roots and adding organic matter like leaves and branches. Their canopies slow rainfall, letting water reach the ground gradually. This reduces erosion and helps build a soil structure that absorbs more water. Better water infiltration means less surface runoff and a lower risk of flooding. It also improves water quality, as soil and root systems filter out pollutants. That's why forests are critical for protecting our drinking water.

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1   Source: *Les rôles de l'arbre en ville. 2008. Centre collégial de transfert de technologie en foresterie de Sainte-Foy (CERFO). Québec, 21 p.*
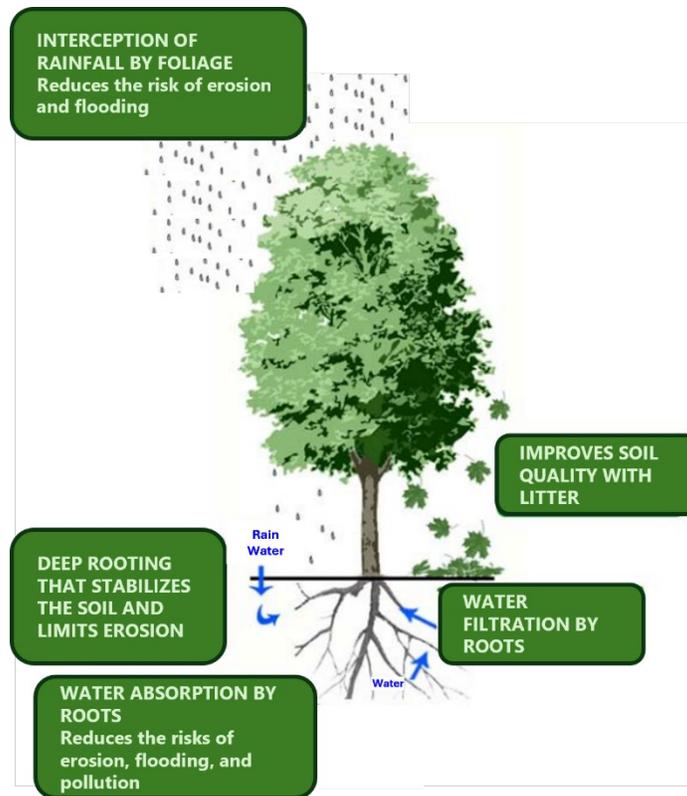
Figure 2-2 Illustration of the role of trees in rainwater and soil management
(Source: *Les rôles de l'arbre en ville. 2008. Centre collégial de transfert de technologie en foresterie de Sainte-Foy (CERFO). Québec, 21 p.*)

2.1.3. Maintaining Biodiversity

The vegetation of an environment is the basis of biological diversity. The presence of tree species helps maintain biodiversity in cities. These trees provide a habitat for a multitude of animal species, offering shelter and food. The diversity of plant species also contributes to the resilience of the urban forest. The impact of a disease or the arrival of a devastating exotic species is reduced when several species are present on the territory.

2.1.4. Regulating Temperature and Creating Comfortable Microclimates

It is now well known that trees are essential in mitigating heat islands created by the absorption of the sun's heat by grey infrastructure in urban environments. In fact, trees and urban woodlands act as air conditioners, lowering ambient temperatures in summer through the process of evapotranspiration, absorption of sunlight, and the creation of shaded areas. In winter, the opposite is true, with resinous trees absorbing light rays and reducing the wind, thus increasing the perceived temperature. This phenomenon can be put to good use around homes, reducing the need for air conditioning in summer and heating in winter.
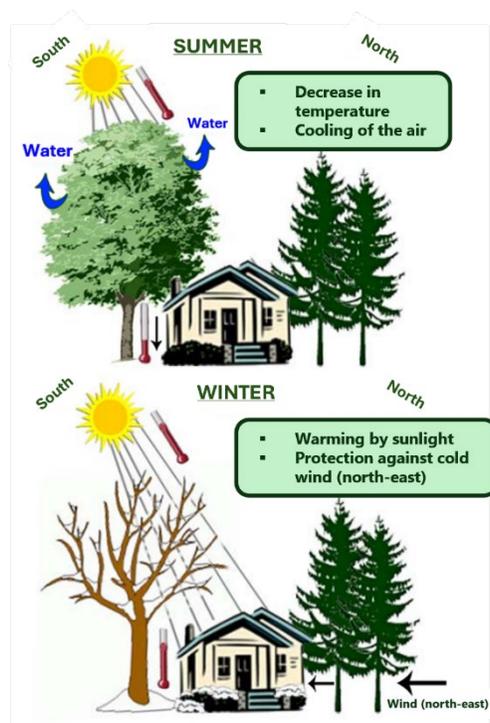
Figure 2-3 Illustration of the tree's role in temperature regulation
(Source: *Les rôles de l'arbre en ville. 2008. Centre collégial de transfert de technologie en foresterie de Sainte-Foy (CERFO). Québec, 21 p.*)

Other elements of comfort are positively influenced by the presence of trees. Trees reduce the sun's glare, protect citizens from precipitation by intercepting rain or snow, reduce wind speed, diminish temperature contrasts, and can even act to limit noise pollution. Taken together, all these effects contribute to improving the comfort of citizens in a community.

2.2.   Social Benefits

2.2.1.   Physical Health

Urban woodlands, when equipped with the right infrastructure, support public health by offering spaces for physical activity. Trails for mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing encourage active lifestyles across the community. Trees also improve air quality, helping reduce respiratory issues. By regulating temperature, they lessen the health risks of extreme heat, and by filtering UV rays, they may even help lower the risk of skin cancer.

2.2.2.   Psychological Health

Physical health is intimately linked to psychological health, so by engaging in physical activity, individuals also contribute to their mental well-being. What's more, green spaces are areas where people can relax, enjoy themselves, and observe nature, which helps them to recharge their batteries and relieve the stresses of everyday life.

2.2.3.   Socialization, Sense of Belonging and Awareness

Parks and wooded areas create natural gathering spaces that strengthen community ties. Activities like tree-planting and environmental education foster a sense of belonging and shared purpose. Forests also offer rich opportunities for learning, exploration, and connection. Whether it's birdwatching, foraging, mountain biking, or joining local hunting and fishing groups, these shared interests bring people together and build communities around nature.

2.2.4. Security

It may seem surprising, but trees can make communities safer. Along roads, they reduce glare, block wind, and limit the snow buildup, improving visibility and helping drivers see signs more clearly in bad weather. Street trees also naturally slow traffic, while rows of trees separating sidewalks from roads enhance pedestrian safety.

2.3. Aesthetic and Design Benefits

Trees clearly enhance the visual appeal of a community. With thoughtful planning, they can serve as design elements—framing spaces, hiding unsightly views, or drawing attention to key features. Trees also offer privacy and help soften the urban environment. But to truly benefit from their aesthetic value, trees must be healthy and well maintained. A diseased, damaged, or poorly pruned tree can detract from the landscape just as easily as a healthy one can elevate it.

Figure 2-4 Examples of the use of trees as a design element to enhance the aesthetics of an urban area
(Source: *Les rôles de l'arbre en ville. 2008. Centre collégial de transfert de technologie en foresterie de Sainte-Foy (CERFO). Québec, 21 p.)*

2.4. Economic Benefits

2.4.1. Land Value

Properties with trees are typically worth more than those without—some studies [2] estimate a value boost between 2% and 15%. Homes located near parks, forests, or trails also see increased market value, reflecting the high demand for access to green spaces.

2.4.2. Air Conditioning and Heating

Trees strategically placed around a house reduce the need for air conditioning and heating, saving the homeowner money and benefiting the environment.

2.4.3. Municipal Infrastructure

The power of trees to regulate temperature helps avoid large temperature variations between day and night, reducing the number of repetitive retractions and extensions and prolonging the life of the asphalt. What's more, the interception of rain by trees and their power to reduce surface runoff reduces the amount of storm sewer infrastructure needed to manage rainwater.

2.4.4. Tourism

Municipalities with abundant vegetation in the form of individual trees, but also in the form of wooded areas with adequate infrastructure, are more attractive to tourists.

2.4.5. Job Creation

Increasing the value of trees and woodlands requires careful care and management and represents an important source of employment and economic activity.

[2] Sources:
(1)   Kelly Dimke et. al., 2013. The Effect of Landscape Trees on Residential Property Values of Six Communities in Cincinnati, Ohio. Arboriculture & Urban Forestry. Pages 49-55.
(2)   Morales, D. 1980. The Contribution of Trees to Residential Property Value. International Society of Arboriculture. Pages 305-308.
(3)   Wolf, K. 2008. - City Trees and Property Values. Facility Management Journal. Pages 120-124

3. Context and Diagnosis

3.1. History of Urban Forestry in Edmundston

The municipality of Edmundston's active management of the urban forest has its origins in the Dutch elm disease epidemic of the mid-1980s. This epidemic forced the removal of several mature elm trees in the region killed by the disease. The natural disaster coincided with the arrival of the school of forestry on the university campus in 1985. So, with the help of the school's teachers, a tree commission was set up in 1988. This commission made a series of recommendations, including the creation of a green spaces committee in 1990. The green space committee has managed several projects, including tree planting.

Figure 3-1 Before the arrival of Dutch elm disease, specimens like this one, located next to the town hall, were common.

Figure 3-2 Removal of diseased and dead elm trees in the mid-80s. From left to right, on the corner of rue Laporte and De l'Église Street, on the corner of Rice Street and Canada Road, and on De l'École-Cormier Street.

Figure 3-3 Tree-planting project in the early 90s

After events that severely impacted the community's iconic elms, and with the formation of a green spaces committee, the municipality took a decisive step toward sustainable green space management by officially establishing the green space sector. This marked the beginning of a journey that shaped Edmundston's urban forestry program into what it is today. While many milestones have been achieved, several key events stand out in the evolution of the sector and the program, including:

1998   Formalization of the green spaces sector within the Public Works Department;
2004   Signature of a collaboration agreement with the *Faculté de foresterie* of the *Saint-Louis-Maillet* university campus and first integrated management plan for the municipality's woodlands;
2011   Hiring of a forester to the Public Works Department team as green spaces coordinator and formation of an urban forestry committee;
2012   Creation of the urban tree management plan and adoption of the Tree Code as municipal policy for the management of trees and woodlands within municipal boundaries;
2023   First public consultation on urban forestry held;
2025   Urban forestry master plan update.

3.2.   Current Program

The current urban forestry program was created with the intention of preserving trees and improving the health of the urban forest. The management plan outlines three main objectives:
      a)   to ensure the safety of citizens;
      b)   to preserve the health and sustainability of the existing urban forest;
      c)   to continue the development of the urban forest by increasing the tree population.

These objectives have been achieved through a series of actions and programs designed to take charge of urban forest management. The initial elements put in place to improve tree and woodland management are as follows:
      a)   an urban forestry committee;
      b)   a management plan for woodlands owned by the municipality;
      c)   a municipal tree-planting program;
      d)   a municipal tree inventory program;
      e)   a phytosanitary program;
      f)   a maintenance and protection program;
      g)   a public awareness and education program on the importance of trees in the urban environment;
      h)   an ecological complex (green materials recovery site);
      i)   an urban forestry policy (Tree Code).

3.2.1.   Setting Up an Urban Forestry Committee
To prevent green asset management decisions from falling to just one individual, the municipality established a committee to guide key initiatives—most notably the development of the urban forestry policy, known as the Tree Code. As outlined in the management plan, the committee's role is to advise, make recommendations, and help develop action plans related to urban forestry and the protection of natural heritage. It also serves as a bridge between municipal leaders and the citizens. Records show the committee was active from 2011 to 2014, then became dormant. It was revitalized in 2022 with the arrival of a new coordinator.

3.2.2.   Management Plan for Municipally Owned Woodlands
Edmundston's municipal woodlands (Figure 3-4) are vital to the community. They support biodiversity, protect water and soil quality, and offer both recreational and economic benefits. The management plan aims to ensure these woodlands continue serving the community by focusing on the following key areas:
      a)   aesthetics: increase in green assets, preservation of aesthetic appeal and creation of a green belt around the municipality;
      b)   recreational tourism: use for hiking, mountain biking, wildlife observation, etc.;
      c)   economy: reinvestment of harvest profits in the urban forestry program;
      d)   demonstration: exemplary interventions for private woodland owners;
      e)   wildlife: interventions will be carried out in such a way as to improve white-tailed deer habitat.
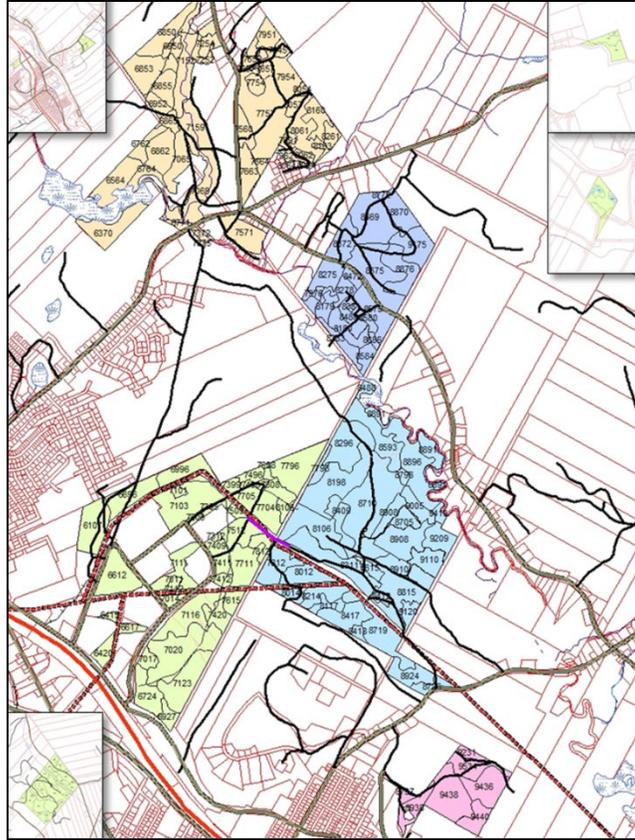
Figure 3-4 Woodlands owned by the municipality of Edmundston

Overall, Edmundston's woodland management plan has been successful in blending timber harvesting with aesthetics and recreational tourism. Small-scale logging has allowed the municipality to generate revenue while actively managing its 700-hectare woodlands. Between 2015 and 2021, an average of 1,523 m³ of wood was harvested annually. However, in recent years, some community groups have raised concerns about the program—questioning the scale and location of harvesting, the justifications provided, and the perceived lack of attention to wildlife impacts. Despite this, the program has enabled the development of a well-used network of hiking, ATV, and snowmobile trails which citizens strongly value.

3.2.3.   City Tree-Planting Program

The municipality of Edmundston runs an annual urban tree-planting program with three main goals, a) to replace trees lost to natural causes, accidents, or other factors; b) to expand the city's forest cover; and c) to raise public awareness about the value of urban trees and their role in community well-being. The program emphasizes careful species selection and strategic site placement to ensure equitable distribution, promote biodiversity, and match the right trees to the right locations. The annual target is to plant 200 trees.

3.2.4.   A Municipal Tree Inventory Program

After each annual planting season, the municipality updates its urban tree database through an inventory process. The goal is to maintain a complete and accurate record of all municipally owned trees. However, capturing every public tree is not currently feasible, and the database remains incomplete. Data quality also varies from year to year, largely because inventories are carried out by different summer students whose attention to detail can differ. As a result, while the database is usable, its consistency over time is limited. Additionally, there is very little data on trees located on private land—even though these make up most urban trees. A coordinated effort is needed in the coming years to improve and expand this information.

3.2.5. A Phytosanitary Program

Urban trees face constant environmental stress—from pollution and salt to drought, soil compaction, and physical damage. These stresses weaken trees and increase their vulnerability to pests and diseases. That's why a key component of any urban forestry program is regular monitoring for signs of disease or insect activity. The goal is to track potential threats over time—whether bacterial, fungal, or insect-related—and catch problems early to prevent outbreaks.

It's important to acknowledge that monitoring programs cannot completely prevent pest infestations or eliminate all related issues. Diseases, fungi, and insects will always be part of the urban tree ecosystem. However, early detection allows the municipality to inform citizens, assess the level of threat, and respond appropriately. For example, in spring 2023, a surge in forest tent caterpillars caused significant concern among both municipal staff and citizens. Fortunately, because the caterpillars posed only a temporary aesthetic issue and not a serious threat to tree health, eradication was unnecessary. Instead, the Green Spaces team focused on cleaning public areas to keep parks accessible. At the same time, a press release was issued advising against chemical treatments and reassuring the public that the trees would recover—along with practical tips for keeping their properties clean. By July, the trees had fully regrown their leaves and the situation had resolved naturally.

3.2.6. A Maintenance and Protection Program

The urban tree care and protection program is essential to ensuring the long-term success of newly planted trees. Its goals include improving tree survival rates, promoting healthy structure and growth, enhancing public safety, reducing conflicts with utilities and infrastructure, and cutting long-term maintenance costs. This program is a natural extension of the planting initiative and is critical to its overall effectiveness. Employee knowledge and field experience are key to the program's success. Some care and protection measures—like staking, mulching, or watering—can be applied immediately after planting. Others, such as pruning, structural assessments, or conflict mitigation, require medium- to long-term planning and a higher level of expertise. While some tasks are routine, others depend on site-specific evaluations and professional judgment.

The elements that should be automatic following planting include:
   a) mulching;
   b) trunk protection.

The elements that require basic knowledge and/or analysis of the situation are:
   a) staking;
   b) watering;
   c) sanitary pruning and/or shaping;
   d) fertilization;
   e) winter protection.

In the medium term, as the trees evolve, the following interventions require an analysis of the situation, a certain level of expertise, and specialized equipment:
   a) shaping;
   b) sanitary pruning;
   c) guying.

While protection and maintenance are essential parts of any urban forestry program, they are sometimes overlooked in favour of planting new trees. Currently, the municipality lacks a policy for safeguarding trees during construction or development projects. Introducing such a policy would significantly strengthen urban tree protection and help preserve the long-term health and value of the urban forest.

3.2.7. A Public Awareness and Education Program on the Importance of Trees in Urban Environments

A strong urban forestry plan must be backed by a consistent public awareness and education program. Public support is critical—effective urban forest management depends on community cooperation. Education efforts should be diverse, sustained over time, and tailored to different audiences to truly make an impact. Although the

current urban forestry plan includes awareness and education on paper, these components have rarely, if ever, been put into practice. Well-known examples of effective public campaigns include:

a) the distribution of information leaflets on the role and importance of trees;
b) a tree information section on the municipal website;
c) writing educational articles;
d) organization of field days to visit examples in the field;
e) conferences;
f) press releases.

The urban tree-planting program, including the policy that lets citizens request a tree for their property, is a step toward public awareness. However, participation remains low. To address this, informational leaflets on the benefits of trees and proper planting practices were created in 2023 and are handed out during community interactions. Still, these efforts are limited. A more coordinated and formal public education and outreach program is needed to truly engage the community and build long-term support for urban forestry.

3.2.8. Developing an Ecological Complex
The current urban forest management plan calls for the development of an ecological complex, including a production nursery, a composting site, a miscellaneous storage site, and mulch production.

While efforts were made to establish a municipal tree nursery, the operational complexity proved too great, and the initiative was ultimately unsuccessful. However, the organic matter recovery site—where leaves, grass, and woody debris are collected—has been a major success and is highly valued by the community. This site allows the municipality to produce compost for various municipal needs and local non-profits, and to generate biomass sold to the Twin Rivers Paper Company mill. Although the biomass sales are not profitable, the service is appreciated by citizens and should be maintained. Moving forward, efforts should focus on optimizing site operations to reduce financial losses and exploring alternative ways to better utilize or add value to the biomass produced.

3.2.9. The Creation of an Urban Forestry Policy (Tree Code)
In addition to all the elements outlined in previous sections, one of the key strengths of Edmundston's urban forestry program is the adoption of the Tree Code (schedule 2). This policy sets out clear, standardized rules for the care of urban trees and the regulation of tree cutting on municipal woodlands. With the Tree Code, the municipality aims to

a) fulfill its responsibilities regarding the planting, maintenance, protection, conservation, and removal of trees within Edmundston's boundaries;
b) define the role and mandate of the Urban Forestry Committee (UFC) as the body overseeing the application and enforcement of the policy;
c) approve work on urban trees;
d) establish standards for deforestation;
e) encourage citizens to plant, protect, and maintain trees to improve quality of life and increase urban forest cover.

The Tree Code also defines the rights and responsibilities of property owners regarding the undeveloped portion of the public right of way. It outlines the rules for tree felling, including when a permit is required, as well as the guidelines for planting and maintaining urban trees. The policy includes a list of approved tree species suitable for planting within the municipality. It also regulates wood cutting on private woodlands located within Edmundston's boundaries, helping to ensure sustainable practices across both public and private lands.

The Tree Code is a vital reference that standardizes arboricultural practices and serves as a practical guide for both municipal staff and citizens. However, it currently lacks legal enforcement power, and the municipality does not have the staffing capacity to implement all its provisions. The full document is available in schedule 2.

3.3. Forest Condition

Various indicators can help assess the state of an urban forest. In Edmundston's case, the data available provides insight into several key parameters, including species diversity, total tree population, annual planting rates, and forest canopy coverage. These commonly used metrics offer a practical way to evaluate the condition of the urban forest and guide its ongoing management.

3.3.1   Public Tree Inventory – Number and Diversity

As noted in the previous section, the municipality of Edmundston maintains an inventory of its public trees. While the database is not without limitations, it provides useful estimates of tree numbers, locations, and species diversity. Species diversity is especially important for urban forest resilience—a critical factor in adapting to climate change and resisting invasive species. According to the current inventory, Edmundston has just over 6,400 trees on public land, with approximately 35% being coniferous and 65% deciduous.

A closer analysis shows that species diversity is significantly higher among hardwoods than conifers. The inventory includes 70 species of deciduous trees across 27 genera, compared to about 20 conifer species in just six genera. This pattern is typical of temperate ecosystems like the Acadian Forest, where hardwood diversity naturally exceeds that of softwoods.

About one third of the deciduous trees in Edmundston's urban forest are maples. Another 51% are evenly distributed among birch (6%), crab apple (7%), linden/lime (8%), oak (8%), ash (9%), and lilac (13%). The remaining 16% is spread across 20 other genera, including poplar, rowan, plum, elm, and hackberry (see Figure 3-5).
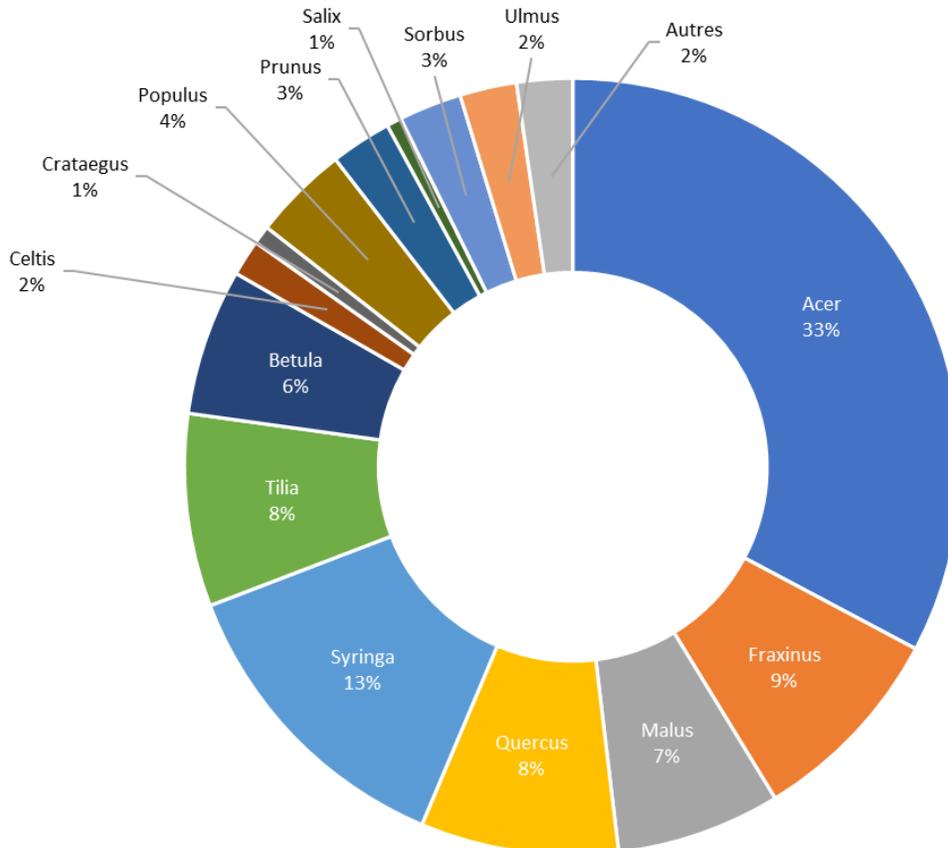
Figure 3-5 Genus distribution of hardwood trees in the urban forest found on the municipal portion of the urban perimeter (Category other : Aesculus, Amelanchier, Carpinus, Catalpa, Elaeagnus, Fagus, Ginkgo, Gleditsia, Juglans, Ostrya, Pyrus, Sambucus)

Among conifers, species are spread across six genera, though two are negligible represented by just five trees in total: four balsam fir and one Japanese yew. The remaining conifers break down as follows: 51% spruce, 28% cedar, 13% pine, and 8% larch (see Figure 3-6).
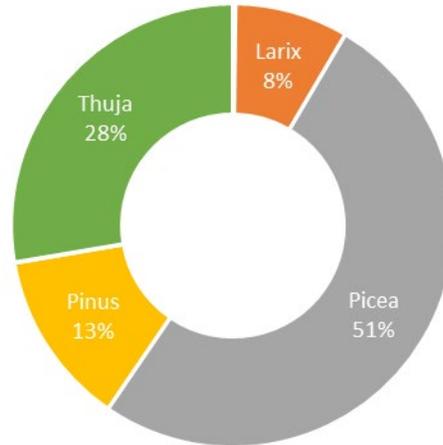
Figure 3-6 Genus distribution of coniferous trees in the urban forest on the municipal portion of the urban perimeter

Overall, the urban forest on municipal land within Edmundston's urban perimeter is highly diverse, particularly among hardwood species. This diversity enhances the forest's resilience to invasive pests and diseases. For example, despite the ongoing impact of the emerald ash borer, only 9% of the urban forest consists of ash trees—allowing the broader tree population and canopy to remain largely unaffected. Species diversity also helps the urban forest withstand environmental stresses. During periods of drought or heavy rainfall, certain species are better adapted to survive, helping to maintain canopy cover and overall ecosystem stability.

3.3.2 Urban Forest Canopy

A second key indicator of urban forest health is canopy cover—the percentage of land area shaded by the combined crown spread of all trees within the urban perimeter. This metric is widely used by cities with urban forestry programs, as it helps assess tree distribution, identify areas lacking greenery, and determine whether overall tree cover is sufficient. In Edmundston, canopy cover is measured starting at one metre above ground level.

According to a Nature Canada report analyzing canopy cover across several Canadian cities, municipalities should aim for a minimum urban canopy of 30%. In the study, canopy coverage in the evaluated cities ranged from as low as 8% to as high as 40%, highlighting the wide variation in urban forest density across the country.

In Edmundston, canopy cover was estimated using 2017 LiDAR data. The results showed that the urban forest canopy covers approximately 35.9% of the municipality's urban area (see Figure 3-7).
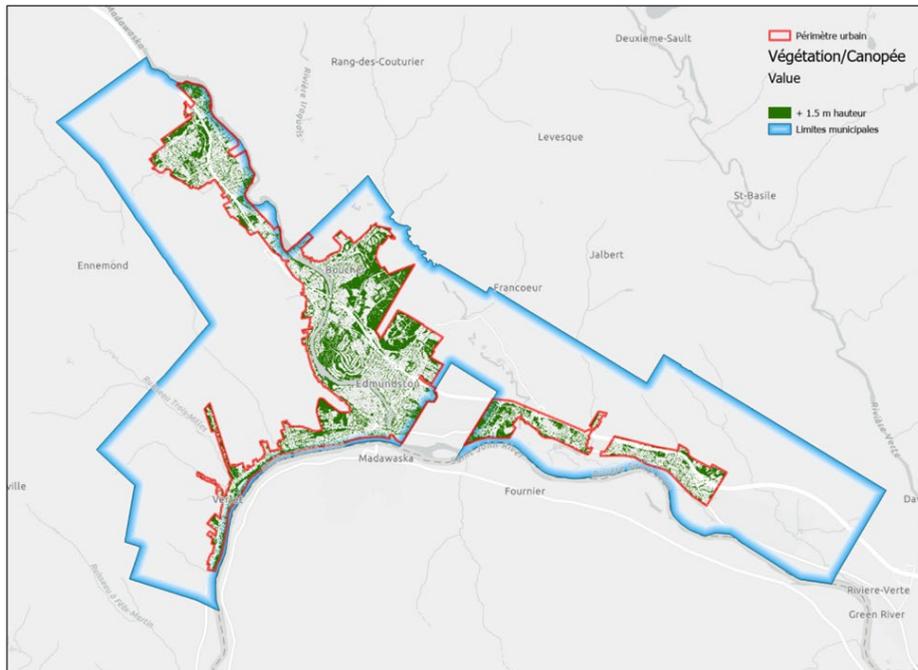
Figure 3-7 Condition of the forest canopy within Edmundston's urban perimeter in 2017: 35.9%

Edmundston meets the 30% minimum threshold and compares well to other Canadian cities. However, this figure should be seen as a baseline, not a ceiling. More ambitious targets can be set to strengthen the health and coverage of the urban forest. For example, the city of Fredericton reports a canopy cover of 63%, showing that higher levels are achievable. Edmundston could consider raising its target in future planning to further enhance ecological, social, and climate-related benefits.

3.3.3. Annual Planting

As previously noted, Edmundston has set an annual goal of planting 200 trees. This ongoing effort supports the regeneration of the urban forest and helps maintain species diversity through careful tree selection. As shown in Figure 3-8, the municipality met or exceeded this target in most years, except for 2020 and 2022, averaging 272 trees planted per year during the period analyzed.
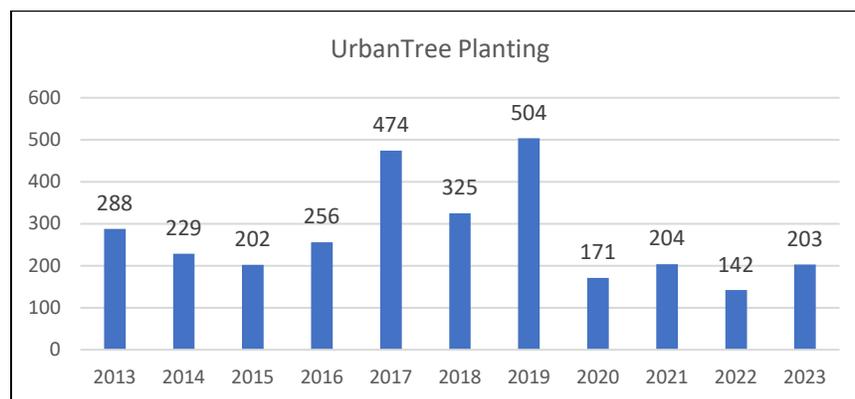
Figure 3-8 Number of trees planted annually from 2013 to 2023

3.4.   Public Consultation

In fall 2023, the municipality of Edmundston held its first public consultation focused on the urban forest and its management. The goal was to better understand public opinion on key issues related to trees and green spaces. Insights into citizens' values and beliefs can help guide more informed and community-aligned decision-making. The

consultation explored two themes: urban trees within the municipality and woodlands located within municipal boundaries. The process unfolded in two phases. First, an online public survey ran from November 9 to 24, gathering responses from 315 citizens. Second, a discussion evening was held on November 28 with representatives from approximately 15 local community organizations. The next section outlines key findings from this consultation.

3.4.1   Survey Results – Trees in the Municipality

The survey revealed several key insights about how citizens view trees in the municipality. For clarity, the term trees in the municipality was defined for respondents as including those found along streets, around homes in residential neighbourhoods, near businesses and industrial areas, and in parks and green spaces, whether on public or private land.

Finding 1: Respondents appreciate trees.

Survey results reflect a strong public appreciation for trees in Edmundston. A solid 78% of respondents disagreed with the idea that trees are a nuisance. Meanwhile, 98% agreed that trees enhance the municipality's beauty, and another 98% recognized their importance to public health (see Figure 3-9).
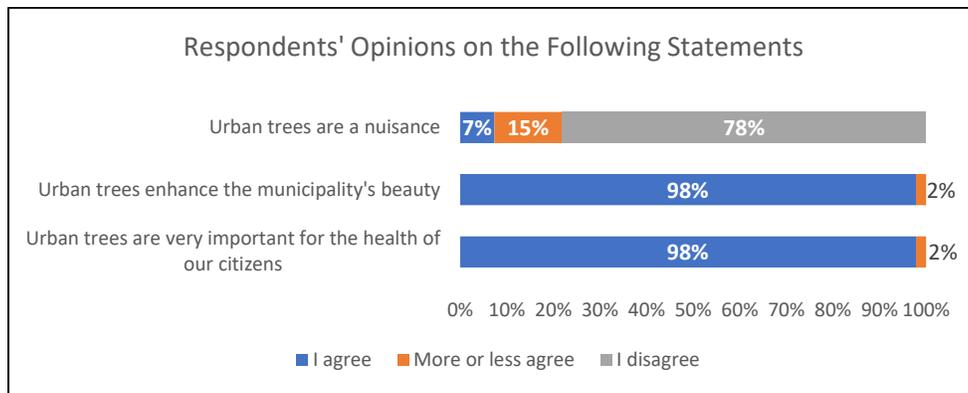
Figure 3-9 Respondents' opinions on statements about tree appreciation

These results clearly show that respondents value trees and recognize their contribution to community well-being. Equally important, the majority do not view trees as a nuisance, a key consideration in urban forestry, where trees often coexist with infrastructure and competing land uses. When individuals don't see trees as obstacles to tasks like snow removal, leaf cleanup, or managing utility lines, it signals that trees are not just accepted, they're prioritized and genuinely appreciated.

Finding 2: Most respondents believe that the number of trees in the municipality can continue to be increased.

Overall, survey responses suggest that citizens feel there aren't enough trees in the municipality and support efforts to increase tree cover. As shown in Figure 3-10, 62% disagreed with the statement that there are enough trees, and 89% agreed that the municipality should set a minimum annual tree-planting target. Together, these findings indicate strong public backing for initiatives aimed at expanding the urban forest canopy.
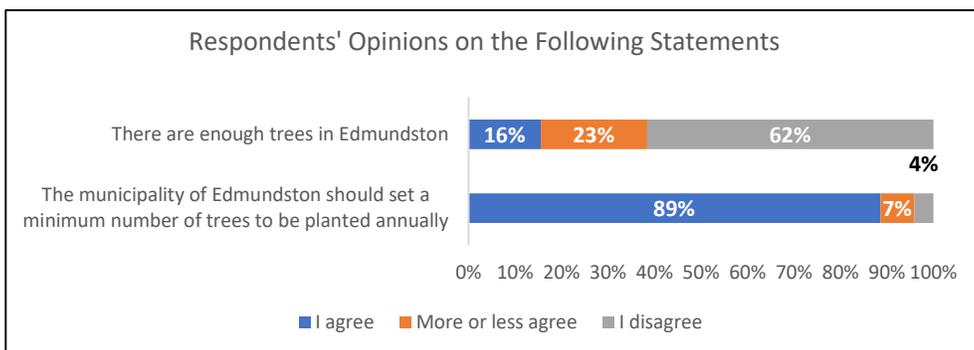
Figure 3-10 Results concerning respondents' feelings about the number of trees in the municipality

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Finding 3: The municipality could benefit from an education and awareness program on the benefits of trees.

The survey results clearly highlight the need for a public education and awareness program focused on the benefits of trees and Edmundston's urban forestry program. As shown in Figure 3-11, only 14% of respondents reported being familiar with the city's forestry program, while 55% said they were not, indicating a significant knowledge gap. Importantly, 81% of respondents believe such a program should be implemented, suggesting strong public receptiveness to learning more about urban trees and their value. This presents a clear opportunity for the municipality to strengthen engagement and support through targeted outreach and education.
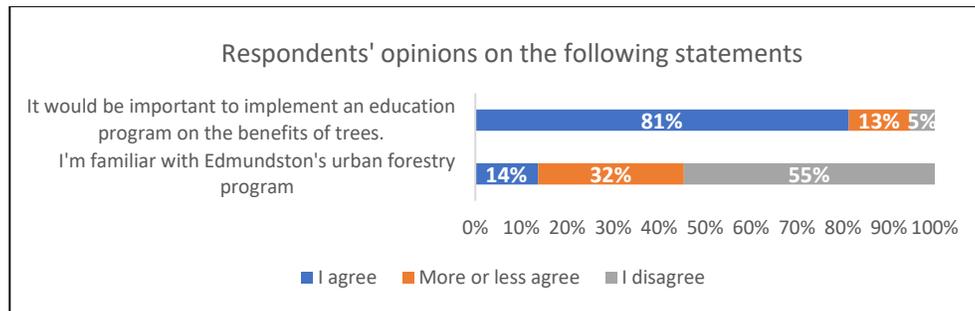
Figure 3-11 Respondents' level of agreement with the idea of implementing an education program on the benefits of trees and their knowledge of the urban forestry program.

Finding 4: The question of regulating tree cutting and planting in the municipality remains ambiguous.

One issue that remains polarizing among citizens is the potential adoption of a by-law regulating tree cutting within the municipality. While such a regulation could serve as a useful tool to influence behaviour, it also raises concerns. In the context of urban forest management, it's crucial that a significant number of trees be allowed to reach maturity to strengthen canopy cover and long-term ecological benefits. However, some individuals continue to remove healthy trees for personal reasons, which undermines the municipality's efforts to grow and maintain a resilient urban forest.

Given these challenges, it's reasonable for the municipality to consider introducing a tree-cutting by-law, as adopted in other cities such as Dieppe (NB), Laval (QC), and Gatineau (QC). In this case, 61% of survey respondents support the idea of such a by-law, while 18% disagree. However, the issue is nuanced. When asked whether citizens should be allowed to cut trees on their own property without municipal approval, 40% said yes, while 35% felt the municipality should have a say (see Figure 3-12). These split views highlight the sensitivity of the issue and the balance between private property rights and collective environmental goals. In this context, it may be worth exploring alternatives or complementary approaches—such as stronger education and incentive programs—to encourage citizens to plant more trees and preserve mature ones on their property. After all, people tend to protect what they value. The question remains: could a robust awareness campaign achieve the same results as regulation—or serve as a critical foundation for it?
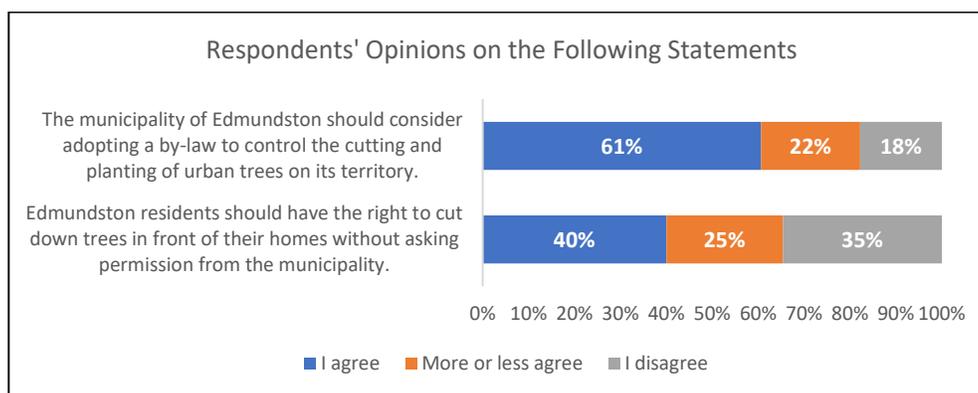
Figure 3-12 Respondents' level of agreement with the statement that the municipality should consider adopting a by-law to control the cutting and planting of trees in the municipality and the right to cut trees without permission from the municipality.

3.4.2.   Survey Results – Forests Within Municipal Limits

In addition to questions about urban trees, the survey also addressed public perceptions of woodlands within municipal boundaries. Some questions focused on general issues related to woodland management across the municipality, while others specifically targeted the management of municipally owned woodlands.

Finding 1: There is good recognition of the value of forests within municipal boundaries.

Survey results show that respondents clearly understand the value of forests. An overwhelming 97% agreed that forests are important for protecting drinking water, and 98% recognized their contribution to scenic beauty (see Figure 3-13). While these are just two of the many roles forests play in supporting community well-being, the strength of public agreement suggests a broad awareness of the importance of maintaining forested areas within the boundaries of Edmundston.
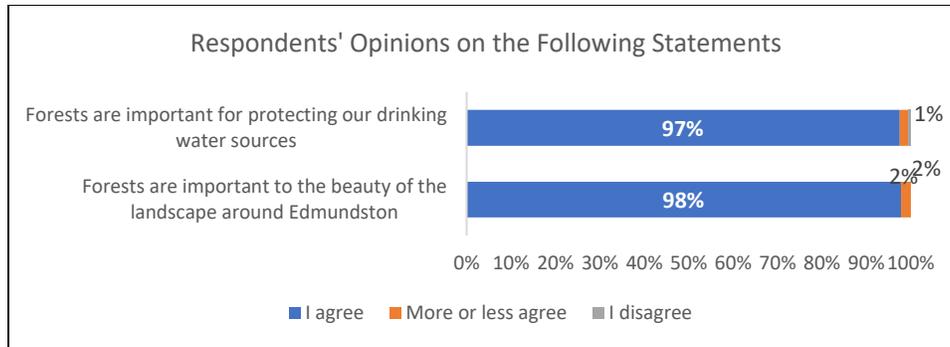
Figure 3-13 Respondents' opinions on the importance of forests for the protection of drinking water and the beauty of the landscape around Edmundston

Finding 2: People appreciate the recreational infrastructure on municipally owned woodlands

Figure 3-14 shows strong public appreciation for recreational infrastructure on municipally owned woodlands. Notably, 97% of respondents indicated that walking trails are important, a clear sign of their value to the community. Additionally, 79% recognized the importance of ATV and snowmobile trails, underscoring the relevance of these multi-use spaces. While support for motorized trail use is slightly lower, this is expected given the higher cost and narrower participation base for ATV and snowmobile activities compared to walking or snowshoeing.
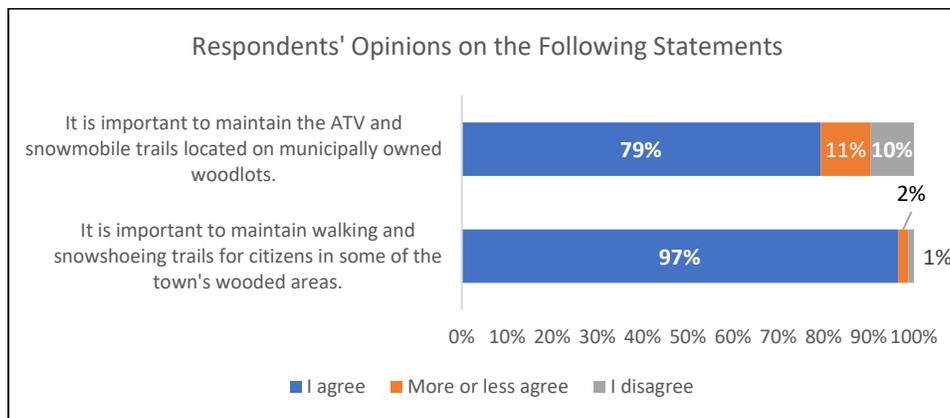
Figure 3-14 Respondents' opinions on the importance of maintaining ATV, snowmobile and walking trails on municipally owned woodlands.

Finding 3: Generally speaking, respondents say they want to be informed if there is forest harvesting on municipal woodlands, but they are divided on the idea of harvesting wood on these same lots.

For the past 15 years, the municipality of Edmundston has conducted small-scale harvesting operations on its woodlands nearly every year. As noted earlier, these activities have generated modest revenue, which has been reinvested into the urban forestry program. While some information sessions were held during this period, public attendance was low. As a result, many citizens only became aware of the harvests during or after operations, leading

to concern among some citizen groups. Effective communication is essential in natural resource management, and Figure 3-15 reinforces this point: 71% of respondents agree with the statement, "I would like to be informed of logging activities taking place on municipally owned woodlands." This strong interest in transparency highlights the need for improved outreach and proactive communication, especially if harvesting activities are to resume in the future.
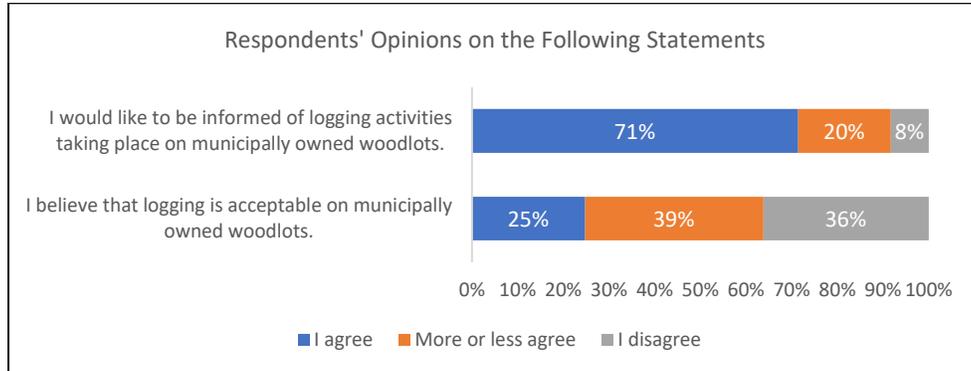
Figure 3-15 Respondents' opinions on the desire to be informed prior to forest harvesting and on the acceptability of forest harvesting on municipally owned lots.

Public opinion on harvesting wood from municipally owned lots is more divided. According to Figure 3-15, 36% of respondents disagree with the practice, 25% support it, and the largest group, 39%, somewhat agree, indicating uncertainty or conditional support. This highlights the critical role of communication in building trust and social acceptance. Educating the public on the potential benefits of responsible harvesting, such as resource renewal, increased biodiversity, fire risk reduction, and improved wildlife habitat, can help shift perceptions. However, it's essential to emphasize that these benefits only materialize when harvesting is done sustainably, with careful attention to long-term ecological impacts, biodiversity, and community values. Equally important is the inclusion of protected areas where forests can mature naturally, ensuring that conservation and restoration remain central to overall forest management strategy.

Finding 4: Respondents consider wildlife and conservation values to be important for municipal woodlands

When it comes to wildlife habitat and forest conservation, respondents' views are clear and strongly supportive. According to Figure 3-16, 92% believe it is important for woodlands to provide good habitat for wildlife, and 91% support the creation of forest conservation areas. Additionally, 83% agree that white-tailed deer should be considered in forest management decisions. These results reflect a strong public mandate for conservation-focused planning and the integration of wildlife needs into woodland management.
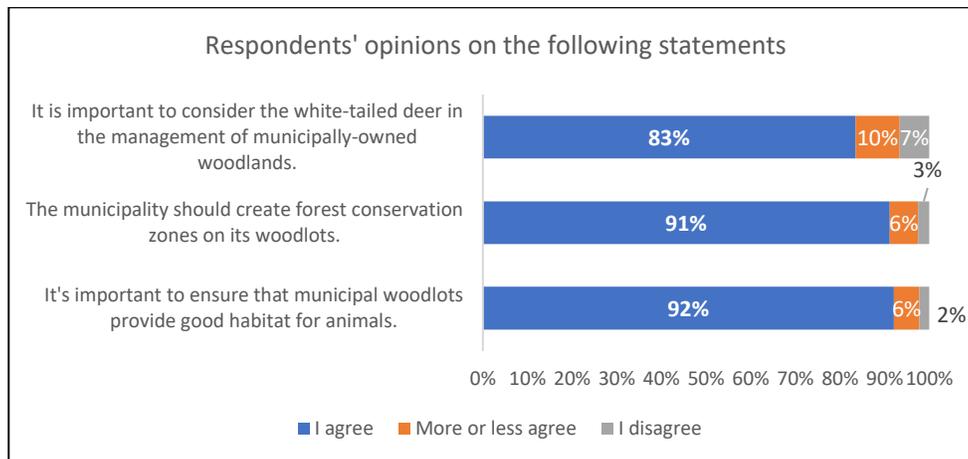
Figure 3-16 Respondents' views on wildlife and conservation values

3.4.3. Discussion With Community Organizations

As previously mentioned, the consultation also included a semi-structured discussion evening with regional community organizations interested in trees and forests. About fifteen groups participated in this event. As the survey, discussions focused on two main themes: trees within the municipality and forests within municipal boundaries. However, for this session, the forest discussion was limited specifically to municipally owned woodlands. Participants were divided into five discussion tables, each led by a facilitator responsible for guiding the conversation and taking notes. The collective input from these discussions was then used to develop a shared vision for each theme, as well as a set of expectations for the future direction of the municipal forestry program.

A)   Trees in the Municipality

For trees in the municipality, the vision that was developed is as follows: **To be the leader and reference in terms of urban forestry in New Brunswick, to enhance the quality of life of citizens and tourist attractions. This will be achieved through a precise plan fuelled by regular public consultations, frequent communications and a public education program**.

The expectations that were highlighted during the discussions are:
- a)   that the municipality operates with transparency;
- b)   that there is regular communication about tree management in the municipality;
- c)   that there is the political will to manage urban trees wisely;
- d)   that the urban forestry program includes a public education strategy;
- e)   that the necessary resources are available to the Public Works Department team to ensure success;
- f)   that there is a tree-planting program for citizens; and
- g)   that a series of key performance indicators be established to monitor the evolution of the urban forest.

B)   Municipal Woodlands

For municipally owned woodlands, the vision that has been developed is: **To become the provincial benchmark in terms of municipal woodland management, with the objective of optimizing multiple forest values, including recreational tourism, wildlife, biodiversity, educational and economic values. A sense of citizen ownership of the process is a priority, and regular communication is an integral part of the approach.**

Activities deemed acceptable on lots can be divided into three categories:
- a)   recreational tourism activities;
- b)   development (wildlife, protection, harvesting);
- c)   education.

In the case of woodlands, the expectations that have been raised are:
- d)   that the management of municipal woodlands is part of a development plan based on the values of citizens;
- e)   that there are regular communications and that the municipality operates with transparency;
- f)   that protected areas be established on wooded municipal territory;
- g)   that there be adequate follow-ups with targets and key performance indicators.

Participants generally indicated that forest harvesting could be acceptable under specific conditions, such as restoring a degraded forest stand or enhancing wildlife habitat. However, the participants also indicated that municipal woodlands should not be managed primarily for revenue generation. Their primary purpose should be environmental protection and recreational use for citizens.

4. Vision, Directions and Objectives of the Urban Forestry Plan

4.1. The Vision

The municipality of Edmundston aims to be a leader in urban forestry in New Brunswick—promoting a healthier environment, enhancing citizens' quality of life, and boosting its appeal as a tourist destination. This vision will be realized by strengthening the existing urban forestry program and ensuring the long-term health and diversity of the urban forest. The plan will be shaped by ongoing public consultations, transparent communication, and a robust public education program. Future action plans will be guided by the full range of forest values identified by citizens, including recreational tourism, wildlife habitat, ecosystem protection, biodiversity, education, and economic sustainability.

4.2. Orientations

a) protection, conservation, and enhancement of the urban forest in Edmundston;
b) to increase and maintain the canopy index for all municipal sectors within the urban perimeter;
c) sustainable woodland management based on the values of the community's citizens;
d) community awareness and education on the importance of the urban forest;
e) incorporation of key performance indicators to measure the health of the urban forest and municipal woodlands.

4.3. Urban Forestry Master Plan Objectives

To achieve this plan, a series of objectives have been identified. These objectives will enable Edmundston to reach new heights in urban forestry. For each objective, concrete actions have been established and can be found in the following section:

a) to protect, maintain and enhance the existing urban forest;
b) to increase forest canopy to 40% in each municipal sector within the urban perimeter;
c) to improve the health of the urban forest;
d) to inform, raise awareness, and educate citizens and stakeholders about the benefits of urban trees and woodlands for the community;
e) to inform the public about the municipality's actions;
f) to manage municipal woodlands in a sustainable manner;
g) to monitor the progress of implemented measures.

5.   Actions

5.1.   To Protect, Maintain and Enhance the Existing Urban Forest

Existing forest cover must be protected and enhanced so that it continues to provide ecosystem services to the community. The following actions will help achieve this goal.

Action 1 – To assess the economic value of urban forest ecosystem services

The ecosystem value of an urban forest lies in the wide range of benefits it provides, from cleaner air and climate regulation to stormwater control, biodiversity support, noise reduction, and improved mental well-being. These services also carry aesthetic, cultural, and economic significance. However, these benefits often remain abstract and hard for citizens and decision-makers to fully grasp.

A practical way to make these benefits tangible for citizens is through economic valuation. By quantifying the value of ecosystem services through a formal study, the municipality can clearly demonstrate the real-world impact of trees and forests. This approach not only strengthens public understanding and political support but also improves planning, prioritization, and evaluation of conservation and development projects.

Action 2 – To review and update the Tree Code to ensure it continues to meet the municipality's current needs.

The Tree Code is a vital tool that standardizes arboricultural practices and serves as a reference for both municipal staff and citizens. However, despite its continued relevance, the document is now 12 years old. To ensure it remains effective and aligned with the municipality's evolving priorities, a thorough review is needed. This process will help modernize its content, address current urban forestry challenges, and better support future planning and management efforts.

Action 3 – To better integrate planning and tree protection into development projects on woodlands

At the time of writing, Edmundston is facing a housing crisis, with strong economic, demographic, and social pressure driving new development. Many of these projects require the use of wooded land. While it's essential not to hinder housing development, future projects should more deliberately integrate environmental considerations, especially tree preservation, to promote harmony between growth and nature. Practical measures could include mapping trees of interest, establishing buffer zones, strategically locating buildings to minimize tree loss, implementing stormwater management plans, and introducing a tree-planting credit program tied to development approval. Integrating these elements into municipal planning policies would help balance urban growth with long-term environmental sustainability.

Action 4 – To improve the protection and preservation of trees during construction work

In many municipalities across Canada, protecting public trees during construction or renovation is a standard requirement. Heavy machinery and stored materials can compact soil, damage trunks and branches, and place trees under significant stress. This stress increases their vulnerability to pests and diseases and can ultimately lead to premature death. A well-designed tree protection plan can prevent this damage, ensuring trees remain healthy while allowing construction projects to proceed without conflict. Adopting such a policy in Edmundston would be a practical step toward preserving valuable green infrastructure during urban development.

Action 5 – To enhance the value of exceptional, remarkable trees

Not all trees hold the same value. Some stand out for their ecological significance, historical importance, rarity, age, or size. These exceptional trees, whether on public or private land, deserve special recognition. Creating a program to identify and recognize such trees would highlight their importance, raise public awareness, and serve as an educational tool. It would also reinforce the value of long-term tree preservation as part of the municipality's broader environmental goals.

Action 6 – To develop an inventory strategy for private trees

As previously mentioned, the municipality of Edmundston maintains an inventory of public urban trees. While not exhaustive, it offers a useful snapshot of the tree population on municipal land. However, most land and trees within the municipal perimeter are privately owned. This creates a significant gap in the knowledge available to urban forest

managers. To address this blind spot, it may be valuable to develop a strategy for inventorying trees on private property. Doing so would provide a more complete picture of the urban forest, support better planning and risk assessment, and help inform policies aimed at increasing canopy cover and biodiversity across the entire municipality.

5.2. To Improving Forest Health

Action 7 – To prepare and adapt urban forests and woodlands to climate change by increasing species diversity

To help trees and forests better withstand the effects of climate change, one key action is to promote species diversity. A forest with a wide range of tree species is more resilient to stressors such as drought, flooding, and invasive pests. Diversity reduces the risk that a single threat will cause widespread damage, making it a critical strategy for long-term forest health and climate adaptation.

Action 8 – To implement a strategy of continuous improvement in the maintenance and planting of municipal trees

A continuous improvement program offers a step-by-step method for refining processes over time, and it could be effectively applied to the planting and maintenance of municipal trees. Current challenges, such as poor tree placement, inadequate protection, and the lack of training on pruning of young trees or maintenance for mature trees, indicate clear areas for improvement. By adopting a continuous improvement approach, the municipality can systematically examine these processes, identify resources needs, and implement targeted solutions. This would involve clearly defining the problems, selecting practical solutions, developing implementation strategies, and establishing means of control with key performance indicators.

Action 9 – To increase the skills of municipal employees in the application of branch pruning techniques

Municipal employees in the Public Works Department currently lack formal training in arboriculture. However, both the green spaces team and several members of the roads team regularly perform pruning tasks throughout the year—for reasons such as clearing signage, improving intersection visibility, removing broken branches, or trimming trees near buildings. While pruning may seem straightforward, proper technique is essential to maintain tree structure, aesthetics, and health. Incorrect pruning can cause long-term damage. To ensure best practices are followed, employees will be reminded annually of the internationally recognized standards for pruning, as outlined in the *Bureau de normalisation du Québec's document NQ-0605-200/2020 – Entretien arboricole et horticole, partie 4 : Élagage des arbres*, through a dedicated workshop.

Action 10 – To reduce conflicts between trees and the energy distribution system and other municipal infrastructure.

One of the municipality's top priorities is to maintain a reliable energy distribution system while minimizing costs to taxpayers. Edmundston has a proud legacy of producing and managing its own power, and protecting this infrastructure is essential. However, trees can pose serious challenges when they interfere with power lines, causing outages, increasing maintenance costs, and creating safety hazards. To reduce these conflicts and support long-term coexistence between trees and energy infrastructure, the municipality will adopt a three-part approach:

a) to continue a concerted effort to plant the right trees in the right places (avoid large or fast-growing trees near lines);

b) to provide tree inspection training to power employees to identify potentially problematic trees around lines;

c) to provide annual training to Edmundston Energy's pruning team to ensure compliance with pruning standards, thereby prolonging coexistence near lines while respecting Edmundston Energy's guidelines.

For other infrastructure, the aim is above all to ensure that the right trees continue to be planted in the right places, and to involve the various departments in planning the planting.

5.3. To Increase Forest Canopy to 40% in Each Municipal Sector Within the Urban Perimeter

Action 11 – To pursue the objective of planting a minimum of 200 trees annually on the municipal territory.

Annual tree planting is one of the most visible and effective actions the municipality can take to increase tree numbers and demonstrate its commitment to urban forestry. As an extension of the existing program, it helps offset natural or accidental losses, expands forest cover, and raises public awareness about the value of trees in urban

environments. The municipality should review its minimum tree-planting target every five years to ensure it remains ambitious and aligned with community growth. Additionally, actions 3, 4, and 5 will support the broader goal of increasing the urban forest canopy to 40% of the municipal perimeter.

Action 12 – To revise the citizen tree-planting program and increase citizen participation in tree planting.

Citizens can participate in the annual tree-planting program by requesting a tree for the front of their property. This initiative is a partnership between the municipality and property owners, and operates as follows:

a) the citizen expresses interest, selects a tree from a municipality-provided list, and agrees to follow the forester's guidance;
b) the municipality orders and plants the tree;
c) the citizen pays for the tree once planted in front of the house.

This cost-sharing model encourages citizens to take ownership of the tree's care. However, despite its advantages, the program appears to be underused—likely due to limited public awareness. To boost participation, the municipality could enhance the program with more accessible options, incentives, or expanded species choices. A small, targeted advertising campaign would also help raise visibility and inform citizens of how they can get involved.

In parallel, the municipality could support and promote group planting initiatives. Encouraging citizen-led planting projects not only raises awareness of the role trees play in urban life but also builds environmental knowledge and strengthens community ties. These initiatives can energize local networks, create a ripple effect of civic engagement, and help bring more public and political support to urban forestry.

5.4. To Inform, Educate, and Collaborate with Citizens and Community Stakeholders on the Benefits of Urban Trees and Woodlands for the Community

Action 13 – To roll out information, awareness, and education campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of trees and forests to the community.

An effective urban forestry program must include a strong public awareness component. For citizens to actively support and contribute to urban forest management, they need access to clear, relevant information about the role of trees in the community. A successful awareness campaign should use a variety of communication tools to deliver accessible, engaging content. Just as importantly, the campaign must be ongoing and consistent to build lasting awareness and encourage long-term behaviour change.

Action 14 – To control tree felling in urban areas and woodlands by promoting the municipal Tree Code

The protection of municipal trees depends heavily on citizen awareness and understanding of the Tree Code. When citizens are informed and apply its standards, unnecessary tree removal can be avoided, preserving trees that offer valuable benefits to their neighbourhoods. To support this, a promotional campaign will be essential following the revision and update of the Tree Code. Once updated, a campaign should aim to educate the public, increase its visibility, and encourage community-wide participation in tree preservation efforts.

Action 15 – To sign collaborative agreements with research and post-secondary training institutions to train professionals and establish research projects in line with municipal objectives.

To advance urban forestry in Edmundston, it is essential to build partnerships with post-secondary research and training institutions through formal collaboration agreements. These partnerships would allow the municipality to support academic missions while gaining access to expertise in natural resource management—helping to strengthen and innovate its urban forestry program. In return, Edmundston can offer its unique urban and socio-demographic context as a living lab for research, as well as provide internship and summer job opportunities for students. This mutually beneficial exchange will help the municipality tackle complex management challenges, apply forward-thinking solutions, and accelerate the development of its urban forestry initiatives. Moreover, such agreements would elevate the profile of urban forestry locally and manifest the municipality's commitment to trees and sustainable urban development.

Action 16 – To seek further perspective and collaborate with First Nations on community tree management

Edmundston is the neighbouring municipality of the Wolastoqiyik people of Madawaska. The two communities share strong ties, built on mutual respect and collaboration across various initiatives. Expanding this relationship to include urban and community tree management could be beneficial for both parties. To move forward, the municipality will first engage in a consultation process to better understand the Wolastoqiyik perspective. This dialogue will help identify shared values and open the door to collaboration on joint projects. The potential for collaboration is significant, and Edmundston is committed to deepening this relationship through meaningful engagement and shared stewardship of the urban forest.

5.5.   To Inform the Public About the Municipality's Actions

Action 17 – To create at least one annual event to inform the public about planning and activities related to urban forest management.

One of the key takeaways from the public consultation was that citizens want greater transparency and communication around forest management planning and municipal actions. In response, the municipality is committed to organizing at least one annual event to present the main actions planned for the year and to create a space for dialogue between citizens and the municipal staff. This event will give citizens the opportunity to learn more about the urban forestry plan, ask questions, and share feedback on the proposed strategies. In addition to this annual gathering, the municipality will explore other information-sharing activities to keep citizens informed and engaged throughout the year.

5.6.   Sustainable Management of Municipal Woodlands

Action 18 – To prepare a management plan for woodlands that integrates community values

The public consultation also revealed that citizens want a forest management plan that reflects their multiple values. This management plan will make it possible to develop a long-term vision for municipal woodlands, to establish measurable objectives and concrete actions to achieve them.

Action 19 – To pursue a medium-term forest certification process for municipal woodlands

One internationally recognized approach to ensuring sustainable forest management is through forest certification. This voluntary process supports continuous improvement and is based on established criteria that assess environmental, social, and economic performance. Certification promotes responsible forestry by encouraging practices that protect biodiversity, support local communities, and maintain the ecological integrity of forest ecosystems. It provides a credible framework for sustainability and demonstrates the municipality's commitment to high standards in forest stewardship.

Action 20 – To explore ways to monetize carbon sequestration

Carbon sequestration by trees now has real value in global markets. Mechanisms like carbon credits, environmental service payments, government programs, and voluntary offsets offer ways to generate revenue from forests without harvesting. By better understanding these options, the municipality can explore new funding sources for urban forestry and maximize the environmental and financial benefits of its woodlands.

5.7.   To Monitor the Progress of Measures Implemented

Action 21 – To establish a timeline and a series of key performance indicators to track progress

To ensure that municipal forest management is moving in the right direction, it is strongly recommended that a timeline be established for implementing actions and key performance indicators to assess the overall performance of the urban forestry master plan. These monitoring activities will help evaluate the plan's progress and highlight areas for improvement. The existing indicators, namely the number of trees planted during the annual urban tree planting and the percentage of the forest canopy within the urban perimeter, will be maintained. Other indicators will be added to further analyze the plan's performance. During the first year of publication of this master plan, the Urban Forestry Committee will focus on establishing the timeline and the actions, and selecting the indicators that will be presented to the public and monitored in the coming years.

6. Conclusion

Over the past 30 years, the municipality of Edmundston has made major strides in green infrastructure management. Its urban forestry program has become an essential part of the city's identity. From the first green space committee in the 1990s to today's comprehensive program, the municipality has shown strong leadership in managing trees, green spaces, and natural environments. Public consultation confirmed that citizens not only value this work but believe even more can be done to expand tree cover. One of the program's most meaningful legacies is the deep public appreciation it has fostered for urban trees and green infrastructure.

Consultation participants shared a vision of Edmundston becoming a leader in urban forestry—improving forest management and, in turn, enhancing residents' quality of life. Achieving this goal will require strong partnerships with citizen groups, supported by regular public consultations, clear communication, and an ongoing public education program. For municipal woodlands, participants emphasized the importance of prioritizing wildlife conservation and sustainable management.

These elements served as the foundation for developing an action plan to advance urban forestry in Edmundston. The 21 identified actions aim to protect and enhance the urban forest, improve forest health, expand canopy cover, and raise public awareness. They also promote collaboration with citizens and stakeholders, increase transparency around municipal actions, support sustainable woodland management aligned with community values, and ensure ongoing monitoring of progress.

With this master plan, Edmundston aims to strengthen and expand its urban forestry program to address the growing challenges facing urban trees and green spaces, while enhancing communication and engagement with citizens.

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8. Schedule 1

Urban forestry master plan action plan

Orientation		Protection, conservation and enhancement of the urban forest on Edmundston territory
Objectives	**Actions**	
To protect, maintain and enhance the existing urban forest	1	To assess the economic value of urban forest ecosystem services
	2	To review and update the Tree Code to ensure that it continues to meet the municipality's current needs.
	3	To better integrate tree planning and protection into development projects on woodlands
	4	To improve tree protection and preservation during construction work
	5	To enhance the value of exceptional, remarkable trees
	6	To develop an inventory strategy for private trees
To improve forest health	7	To prepare and adapt urban forests and woodlands to climate change by increasing species diversity
	8	To implement a strategy of continuous improvement in the maintenance and planting of municipal trees
	9	To increase the skills of municipal employees in the application of branch pruning techniques
	10	To reduce conflicts between trees and the energy distribution system an dothr municipal infrastructure
Orientation		Increase and maintain canopy index for all municipal sectors within the urban perimeter
Objectives	**Actions**	
To increase forest canopy to 40% in each municipal sector within the urban perimeter	11	To pursue the objective of planting a minimum of 200 trees annually on the municipal territory
	12	To revise the citizen tree-planting program and increase citizen participation in tree planting
Orientation		Community awareness and education on the importance of the urban forest
Objectives	**Actions**	
To inform, educate, and collaborate with citizens and community stakeholders on the benefits of urban trees and woodlands for the community	13	To roll out information, awareness, and education campaigns to raise awareness on the importance of trees and forests to the community
	14	To control tree felling in urban areas and woodlands promoting the municipal Tree Code
	15	To sign collaborative agreements with research and post-secondary training institutions to train professionals and establish research and establish research projects in line with municipal objectives
	16	To seek further perspectives and collaborate with First Nations on community tree management
To inform the public about the municipality's actions	17	To create at least one annual event to inform the public about planning and activities related to urban forest management.
Orientation		Gestion durable des lots boisés, basés sur les valeurs des citoyens de la communauté
Objectives	**Actions**	
Sustainable management of municipal woodlands	18	To prepare a management plan for woodlands that integrates community values
	19	To pursue a medium-term forest certification process for municipal woodlands
	20	To explore ways to monetize carbon sequestration
Orientation		Incorporating performance indicators to measure the health of urban forests and municipal woodlots
Objectives	**Actions**	
To monitor the progress of measures implemented	21	To establish a timeline and a series of key performance indicators to track progress