

SFI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Urban and community forests and trees are vital for community well-being, health, resiliency, and sustainability.
- Urban and community forests and trees and their associated benefits should be accessible and available to everyone.
- Urban and community forests and trees depend upon understanding, awareness, appreciation, stewardship, and engagement by communities and people in order to thrive.
- Urban and community forests and trees require proper planning, care, and management to optimize benefits and minimize risks.
- Urban and community forests and trees are nature-based solutions to pressing issues and essential green infrastructure.



OBJECTIVE 1: COMMUNITY, PEOPLE, AND INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

To strengthen the community, enhance local economies, broaden public engagement, respect diverse perspectives, facilitate Indigenous participation, and ensure equitable access for all to the many benefits of urban and community forests.



OBJECTIVE 2: HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

To promote human and community health and well-being through equitable management and distribution of tree and forest related benefits, fair and safe access to and within green spaces, and nature-based recreational opportunities.



OBJECTIVE 3: PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

To protect, conserve, and improve biodiversity through urban and community forestry, including threatened and endangered species, wildlife habitat, trees, forests, and associated ecological systems.



OBJECTIVE 4: STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING AIR, WATER, AND SOIL

To consider the impact of the urban and community forest and organization's program on natural resources including air, water, and soil.



OBJECTIVE 5: URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST AND TREE HEALTH AND VITALITY

To ensure the long-term viability of urban and community forests by maximizing their health, longevity/age, diversity, resilience, and size to optimize benefits and resource availability and use.



OBJECTIVE 6: SPECIAL SITES, INCLUDING NATURAL AREAS

To manage lands that are geologically, culturally, economically, or ecologically important in a manner that considers their unique qualities.



OBJECTIVE 7: CLIMATE-SMART MANAGEMENT

To promote climate change resilience and address pressing environmental, social, and economic concerns using tree-related adaptation and mitigation strategies.



OBJECTIVE 8: URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST PLANNING

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the urban and community forest resource and management program through comprehensive planning and strategic goal setting.



OBJECTIVE 9: MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS AND TREES

To ensure that best practices are followed in the establishment, maintenance, and management of forests and trees.



OBJECTIVE 10: DISASTER READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

To limit undesirable effects and aid in the recovery of communities and forest resources from disasters through strategic planning, preparation, effective response, restoration, and improved resilience.



OBJECTIVE 11: CAPACITY BUILDING

To promote continued improvement in the practice of sustainable management through education, outreach, sufficient resourcing and funding, professional development, engagement, stewardship, and performance review.



OBJECTIVE 12: URBAN WOOD AND COMMUNITY FOREST UTILIZATION

To ensure the highest and best use of urban and community forest wood resources and minimize waste from our urban and community forests.



OBJECTIVE 13: COMMUNICATIONS

To invest in and utilize effective communication both internally and externally to support and promote all aspects of the urban and community forest and urban and community forestry program.



OBJECTIVE 14: RESEARCH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

To invest in, utilize, and promote, research, science, and technology that supports sustainable resource management.



OBJECTIVE 15: LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INCLUDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

To comply with applicable laws and regulations and recognize Indigenous Peoples' Rights.



OBJECTIVE 16: REPORTING

To annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard to increase transparency.



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



TASK GROUP MEMBERS

- Jennifer Alger, Urban Wood Network
- Scott Altenhoff, Society of Municipal Arborists
- Adrina Bardekjan (Michael Petryk alternate), Tree Canada
- Josh Behouneck (Lee Mueller alternate), International Society of Arboriculture
- Patricia Billette, Wildlife Habitat Council
- Owen Croy Formerly City of Surrey, Canada,
- Asia Dowtin, Michigan State University
- Rachel Holmes, The Nature Conservancy
- Sharon Jean-Philippe, University of Tennessee/TreeFund
- Ian Leahy, American Forests,
- Rachel Miletti, National Association of Friendship Centers
- Geoff Kempter (Kieran Hunt alternate), Utility Arborist Association
- Cecil Konijnendijk, European Forum on Urban Forestry
- Jacques Larouche, Canadian Forest Service
- Mike Marshall, Marshall Tree Farm
- Margo Morrison, Nature Conservancy Canada
- Benjamin Osborne (Jessica Einhorn alternate), New York City
- David Sivyer, USDA Forest Service
- Kim Statham, City of Toronto
- Alana Tucker, Arbor Day Foundation
- Danielle Watson, Society of American Foresters
- Keith Wood, National Association of State Foresters