

SFI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD

MUNICIPALITIES

GROWING QUALITY URBAN FORESTS THAT DELIVER ON COMMUNITY NEEDS

Canadian municipalities can leverage certification to the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard to strategically plan and justify their investments. The standard and certification support community well-being, environmental leadership, climate resilience and long-term improvement of urban and community forests.

CELEBRATING AN EARLY ADOPTER

The Regional Municipality of York in Ontario was the first Canadian organization and municipality to become certified to the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard. By pursuing SFI certification, municipalities demonstrate their shared commitment to quality of life, and they deliver on this commitment using a credible framework that is third-party audited.



KEY BENEFITS OF SFI CERTIFICATION

STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Certification inspires public participation in urban forestry and reinforces equitable access to green space across your community.

ACCELERATES CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Certification drives climate action, proving how sustainably managed trees and forests protect your community from extreme heat, pollution, and severe weather.

AFFIRMS LEADERSHIP

Certification validates responsible investment, demonstrating how your municipality fulfills sustainability commitments and delivers lasting value to its people, trees, and forests.

CONNECTS DEPARTMENTS

Certification helps your community align departments around shared goals, integrating forestry with planning, infrastructure, and local priorities for coordinated outcomes.

BUILDS A FOUNDATION OF TRUST AND CREDIBILITY

Certification equips your municipality to respond to concerns with confidence. Independent audits evaluate your community's forest with a clear and consistent standard. Audits recognize best practices and identify opportunities for continual improvement, strengthening credibility with residents and funders while keeping pace with evolving opportunities.



CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

The SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard provides adaptable certification pathways, enabling organizations to pursue their desired goals and outcomes at their own pace.

SFI OFFERS TWO UNIQUE CERTIFICATION OPTIONS:

FULL CERTIFICATION

Certify to all 16 objectives to claim your urban or community forest as certified to the full SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard.



COMMUNITY
WELL-BEING AND
HUMAN HEALTH



URBAN
FOREST
IMPROVEMENT



THEMATIC CERTIFICATION

Focus on the areas that matter most to your community. Thematic certification lets your municipality focus resources on priority objectives, showcase existing strengths, and build momentum toward full certification over time.



CLIMATE AND
DISASTER
RESILIENCE



ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND HUMAN HEALTH

PROMOTES public health by embedding equitable access to green space and opportunities for recreation, mental health, and social connection into forest planning and management.

URBAN FOREST IMPROVEMENT

DRIVES continual forest improvement by setting long-term objectives, reinforcing best practices, and tracking measurable results.

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

POSITIONS your municipality to confront climate risks by tracking ecosystem services, reducing carbon footprints, and prioritizing vulnerable communities through equitable urban forestry strategies.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

VALIDATES your community's role as an environmental leader, demonstrating stewardship of biodiversity, water, soil, and habitat while reinforcing sustainable management of resources.

TENDING TO YOUR FOREST MEANS TAKING CARE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

By pursuing SFI certification, your municipality gains credibility, recognition and long-term resilience in managing a sustainable forest.

Turn vision into action and create a lasting legacy for your community.

Explore how at:

forests.org/sfi-urban-forestry-standard/



Learn how certification can support your community's goals. Connect with Meagan (Meg) Hanna at meagan.hanna@forests.org to get started.

