TOWN OF STRASBOURG

Urban Forest Management Plan

For the Town of Strasbourg, SK

PRESERVE. CARE. RENEW.



October 2026

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GREEN DROP Tree Care

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Summary

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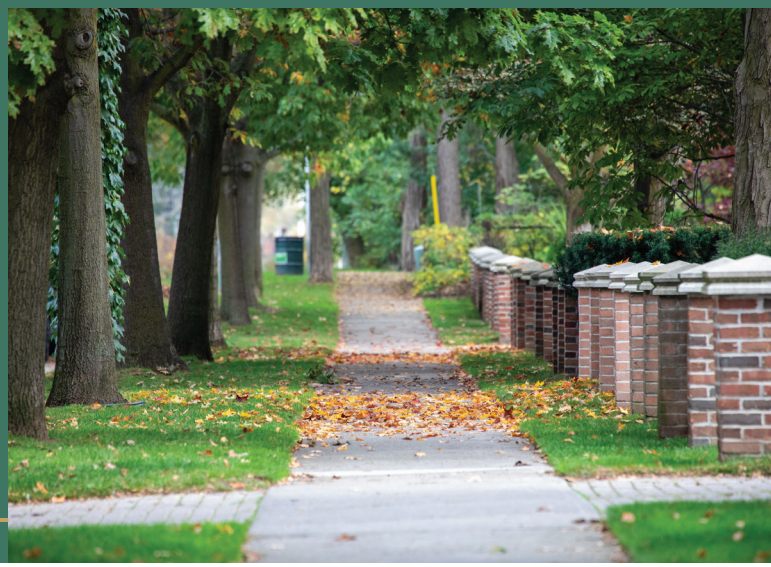

The Town of Strasbourg's Urban Forest Management Plan establishes a **20-year framework** for retaining valued trees, renewing canopy, and improving management within available municipal resources. It brings together tree-inventory findings, estimated environmental benefits, policy review, staff and public consultation, and climate analysis.

The detailed inventory analysis indicates that **79.3% of assessed public trees are in excellent or good condition**. However, green ash, Siberian elm, and Manitoba maple account for **62.4% of the analysed population**, demonstrating reliance on a limited number of species. Dutch elm disease has already caused substantial tree losses and municipal costs for disease management, including tree removal and disposal, while projected warming and moisture stress reinforce the need for suitable species selection and reliable establishment care.

The i-Tree assessment reports approximately **$57,485 in annual benefits** from the assessed public-tree dataset. These quantified services complement the shade, shelter, habitat, and community character provided by Strasbourg's trees.

Public consultation attracted **47 survey responses**. Participants identified replacement planting, mature-tree maintenance, shade, and species diversity as priorities. **83.0% supported a long-term canopy target**, and **89.4% considered increasing diversity very or extremely important**. Staff consultation identified limited personnel, training, equipment, and funding as constraints on delivery.

The plan is guided by the vision:

> **"An enduring urban forest that preserves Strasbourg's valued trees and renews its canopy through suitable planting, ongoing care, and investment within the Town of Strasbourg's means."**

Implementation prioritizes urgent safety concerns, confirmed disease management, young-tree care, policy updates, and staff training. The planting program targets **50 trees annually during the first five years**, subject to suitable sites and resources, with **at least 85% survival after two growing seasons**. Future planting will progressively broaden diversity without requiring the premature removal of suitable healthy trees.

Annual reporting, maintained GIS records, and five-year inventory and canopy reviews will support informed decisions. Comprehensive reviews at least every ten years will allow the Town to adjust the plan as conditions and resources change.

Report Objectives

The objectives of this UFMP are to:

1. **Establish an urban forest baseline.**
   Document the composition, size, condition, distribution, and selected benefits of Strasbourg's assessed public trees.
2. **Evaluate current management capacity.**
   Review municipal policies, practices, staffing, equipment, and funding to identify practical improvements.
3. **Protect established trees and manage identified concerns.**
   Establish priorities for inspections, maintenance, disease response, and retention of suitable mature trees.
4. **Guide canopy renewal and successful planting.**
   Identify planting priorities and suitable species, supported by achievable establishment and aftercare commitments.
5. **Improve diversity and climate resilience.**
   Gradually reduce dependence on dominant tree groups and incorporate future growing conditions into management decisions.
6. **Support community stewardship.**
   Incorporate consultation findings into management priorities and provide practical opportunities for residents to participate in tree care.
7. **Provide an accountable implementation framework.**
   Define phased actions, responsibilities, performance indicators, and review intervals to guide budgeting and measure progress.

Introduction

01



Trees are an important part of Strasbourg's community character and municipal infrastructure. Along streets, in parks, and within shelterbelts and public spaces, they provide shade, wind protection, wildlife habitat, and environmental services. Sustaining these benefits requires ongoing care and coordinated planning for the trees that will replace today's canopy.

The Town faces several challenges in managing this asset. Dutch elm disease has resulted in tree losses and substantial management costs. The public tree population remains concentrated in a small number of species, while projected warming and moisture stress may affect future tree performance. Limited staffing, equipment, and funding also influence the work the Town can undertake.

At the same time, Strasbourg has a foundation for continued stewardship. Most trees assessed in the updated inventory were recorded in excellent or good condition. Existing municipal policies recognize the value of public trees, and consultation participants expressed strong support for replacement planting, mature-tree maintenance, greater diversity, and improved shade.

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The Urban Forest Management Plan establishes a **20-year framework** for caring for Strasbourg's public trees and renewing its canopy. It translates inventory findings, climate analysis, policy review, and community priorities into practical strategies, phased actions, and measurable performance indicators.

Its purpose is to help the Town prioritize work, coordinate resources, and make consistent decisions about tree retention, maintenance, and planting.

1.2 Scope and Approach

The plan focuses on municipally managed trees, including boulevard trees, park trees, shelterbelts, and other public-tree assets. Private-property trees are considered where relevant to community canopy, public education, and coordinated Dutch elm disease management.

The assessment brings together:

- An updated public-tree inventory and analysis of composition, size, condition, and distribution.
- Estimates of selected environmental and economic benefits using i-Tree.
- Review of the Official Community Plan, Urban Forestry Policy TS-004, and municipal priorities.
- Staff consultation on operational practices and resource constraints.
- Public consultation to identify community values and management priorities.
- Climate projections and their implications for tree selection and care.
- Maintenance and planting strategies supported by an implementation and monitoring framework.



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These sources provide complementary perspectives. Inventory information describes the assessed tree population, consultation identifies participant priorities, and the operational review establishes the conditions under which recommendations must be delivered.

1.3 Planning Direction

The UFMP emphasizes retaining suitable established trees, addressing urgent concerns and confirmed disease, and renewing canopy through successful planting. Diversification will occur progressively, with species selected for suitable sites, Prairie growing conditions, and future climate pressures.

Implementation will be phased through annual work planning and budgeting. Planting commitments will be matched with establishment capacity, while training, qualified contractor support, and reliable GIS records will strengthen delivery. Regular monitoring and periodic reviews will allow the Town to adjust its approach as conditions, resources, and community needs change.

Benefits of the Urban Forest



02

Strasbourg's urban forest provides environmental services, supports community well-being, and contributes to climate resilience. Trees provide shade, store carbon, intercept rainfall, and create habitat. These benefits depend on tree size, condition, species, and growing conditions, as well as the Town's ability to maintain healthy trees over time.

This chapter combines recent research with the estimated benefits of Strasbourg's publicly owned trees. The composition, condition, and distribution of the existing urban forest are examined in the following chapter.

2.1 Environmental Services

Carbon Storage and Sequestration

Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and store carbon in their woody biomass. Carbon storage represents the accumulated stock held in trees, while annual sequestration represents the additional carbon captured through growth.

A Canadian assessment published in 2023 reinforced the importance of using regional conditions and Canadian inventory data to estimate urban forest carbon benefits (Steenberg et al., 2023). Strasbourg's assessment estimates that the assessed public trees store approximately **1.2 million kg of carbon dioxide**, with a further **39,860 kg** sequestered annually. Maintaining healthy established trees and supporting replacement-tree survival will help sustain these benefits.

Rainfall Interception and Soil-Water Management

Tree crowns intercept rainfall, while permeable soils allow water to infiltrate around root systems. A recent review found that runoff reduction depends on crown characteristics, branching structure, and suitable soil conditions (Dowtin et al., 2023). Tree planting therefore needs to be supported by adequate growing space and soil management.

Strasbourg's assessed public trees are estimated to avoid **25.53 m^3 of stormwater runoff annually**. Protecting permeable planting areas and reducing soil compaction can support this function while improving the availability of soil moisture for tree growth.

Shade and Local Cooling

Trees moderate local temperatures through shade and evapotranspiration. A global analysis of 182 studies found that cooling performance varies with climate, tree characteristics, and the surrounding built environment (Li et al., 2024). These findings support selecting suitable trees and locating them where shade will provide the greatest practical benefit.

For Strasbourg, planting opportunities should consider walking routes, seating areas, parks, and community destinations. Retaining established shade trees is also important because replacement trees require time to develop comparable crowns. The current benefits dashboard does not provide a separate estimate of outdoor cooling.

Air-Quality Improvement

The i-Tree assessment estimates that Strasbourg's assessed public trees remove **6.73 kg of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) annually**. This provides a local measure of one air-quality service delivered by the urban forest. The result should be interpreted as a modelled removal estimate rather than a direct measurement of changes in residents' exposure or health.

Biodiversity and Habitat

Trees and associated vegetation provide food, shelter, and breeding opportunities for wildlife. Habitat quality depends on the types of vegetation present and the resources they provide.

A 2024 review of 165 papers found strong evidence that native plants support greater animal abundance and diversity in urban landscapes (Tartaglia & Aronson, 2024). Strasbourg should incorporate site-suitable native trees and complementary vegetation where practical, alongside requirements for drought tolerance, winter hardiness, available space, and maintenance. This approach connects future planting with both habitat provision and long-term tree performance.

2.2 Social and Community Benefits

Comfortable and Accessible Public Spaces

Shade is an important consideration in the design and management of outdoor spaces. Research shows that tree cooling varies with placement and surrounding conditions (Li et al., 2024). For Strasbourg, this supports assessing shade at the locations where residents walk, rest, and gather, alongside overall canopy coverage.

The proposal identifies older residents as an important group within the engagement process" with "Shade planning should consider older residents and others who may be particularly affected by heat."

Health and Well-Being

Access to treed environments is associated with health and well-being benefits. A study of older adults in Washington State found that greater availability of green space, particularly tree canopy and forest cover, was associated with better self-reported general health and lower odds of serious psychological distress (Vegaraju & Amiri, 2024). These findings support maintaining accessible treed spaces, while recognizing that the study does not establish a direct health outcome for Strasbourg residents.

Community Character and Stewardship

Established trees form part of Strasbourg's streetscapes, parks, and shared spaces. The UFMP provides an opportunity to identify trees and treed areas that residents value and to incorporate those priorities into management decisions.

Public engagement can inform retention priorities, replacement planting, and community participation. Clear communication about tree benefits and maintenance needs will also help explain why establishment watering, pruning, and protection require continued municipal investment.

2.3 Economic Benefits

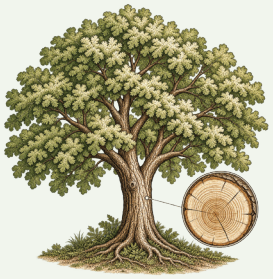
Estimated Benefits of Public Trees

The updated 2026 tree inventory contains **997 individual-tree records**. Following the addition of newly planted trees, the dataset used for the i-Tree benefits assessment contains **1,025 trees**. The inventory composition and condition analysis presented in Chapter 3 is based on the 997-tree dataset.

The i-Tree assessment estimates that Strasbourg's assessed public trees provide **approximately $57,485 in annual benefits**, including carbon sequestration, air-pollutant removal, avoided stormwater runoff, and building energy savings. This value demonstrates the urban forest's contribution to the Town's environmental services and community well-being. It represents the benefits quantified by the assessment; additional values associated with habitat, recreation, community character, and well-being are not fully captured in this monetary estimate.

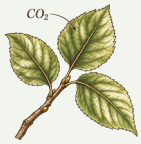
ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC TREES

Carbon dioxide stored



APPROXIMATELY

1,200,000 kg CO_2



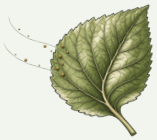
Carbon dioxide sequestration

39,860 kg CO_2 **per year**



Stormwater runoff avoided

25.53 m^3 **per year**



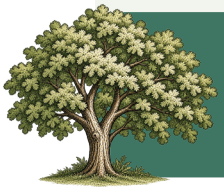
Fine particulate matter removal

6.73 kg $PM_{2.5}$ **per per year**



Building energy savings

$9,411 per year



TOTAL ANNUAL BENEFITS

Reported under the annual dashboard view

$57,485 /year



These estimates apply to the assessed public-tree dataset. They do not represent all trees within the municipal boundary or the full range of social, cultural, and ecological benefits provided by the urban forest.

Protection of Municipal Investment

Trees represent an investment in planting, establishment, and ongoing care. Their continued contribution depends on survival, condition, and growth. Protecting suitable established trees and maintaining replacement trees will help preserve the services already supported by municipal investment.

The inventory and maintenance recommendations provide a basis for prioritizing inspections, pruning, watering, and replacement. Coordinating this work with annual budgeting will help the Town direct available resources toward clear service needs.

Energy and Infrastructure Contributions

The assessment estimates **$9,411 in annual building energy savings**. This represents one quantified economic contribution of the assessed trees and should be interpreted according to the model's building-proximity and other input assumptions.

Trees can also support stormwater management, although performance depends on site and soil conditions (Dowtin et al., 2023). Strasbourg should consider opportunities to integrate suitable planting areas with street, park, and drainage improvements. Any proposed infrastructure savings require evaluation against local design requirements and maintenance costs.

2.4 Summary

Strasbourg's public trees provide measurable carbon, stormwater, air-quality, and energy benefits, alongside habitat and community services. The i-Tree assessment establishes a baseline for selected benefits from the assessed dataset.

Sustaining these contributions requires healthy established trees, successful replacement planting, suitable growing conditions, and consistent maintenance. The UFMP will connect these needs with the Town's inventory findings, climate assessment, community priorities, and available resources.

Existing Urban Forest

03



UNDERSTAND THE FOREST

Strasbourg's public trees grow along boulevards, within parks, and in inventoried natural areas. The 2026 inventory analysis covers **997 trees** and provides a baseline for maintenance and future planting. Newly planted trees subsequently added to the dataset are included in the separate i-Tree benefits assessment described in Chapter 2.

3.1 Tree Composition and Distribution

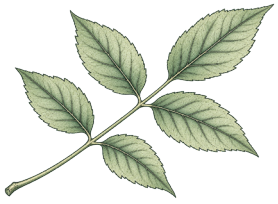
Green ash, Siberian elm, and Manitoba maple account for **62.4% of inventoried trees**. Including American elm increases this proportion to **69.6%**. This concentration means that problems affecting a few tree species could result in substantial canopy losses.

SPECIES DIVERSITY (997 public trees)

27 RECORDED SPECIES

62.4% IN THREE LEADING SPECIES / 622 TREES

GREEN ASH



294 trees

29.5%

SIBERIAN ELM



173 trees

17.4%

MANITOBA MAPLE



155 trees

15.5%



Most inventoried trees are located along boulevards (**57.2%**) and in parks (**40.0%**), with the remainder in inventoried natural areas (**2.8%**). Boulevard-tree management is therefore particularly important when coordinating road, sidewalk, and utility work.

PUBLIC-TREE INVENTORY



997
INVENTORIED TREES

Boulevards	**57.2%**
Parks	**40.0%**
Natural areas	**2.8%**

3.2 Diversity and Resilience

The **10-20-30 guideline** recommends limiting a tree population to no more than 10% of one species, 20% of one genus, and 30% of one family (Santamour, 1990). Strasbourg exceeds the species guideline for green ash, Siberian elm, and Manitoba maple, and the genus guideline for ash and elm.

These thresholds are difficult to achieve in Prairie communities with a limited selection of suitable trees. Strasbourg should use them as a long-term direction, gradually broadening diversity through new planting and replacement.

Healthy, suitable trees should not be removed solely to meet diversity percentages. The planting strategy and recommended species appendix explain how future planting can reduce dependence on dominant tree groups.

3.3 Tree Size and Health

Approximately **79.3% of inventoried trees are in excellent or good condition**, providing a sound foundation for retaining existing canopy.

The inventory includes a range of tree sizes. Green ash and Siberian elm are strongly represented in smaller diameter classes, while Manitoba maple accounts for an important part of the larger-tree population. This supports two priorities: maintaining developing trees and planning gradual replacement where established trees decline or require removal.

Tree size alone does not determine age, condition, or risk. Maintenance decisions should consider individual defects, location, and public use. Chapter 8 provides the maintenance strategy.

3.4 Pest and Disease Concerns

Dutch Elm Disease

DED is an established local issue. Town staff reported that more than **70 elms have been removed because of the disease since 2020**.

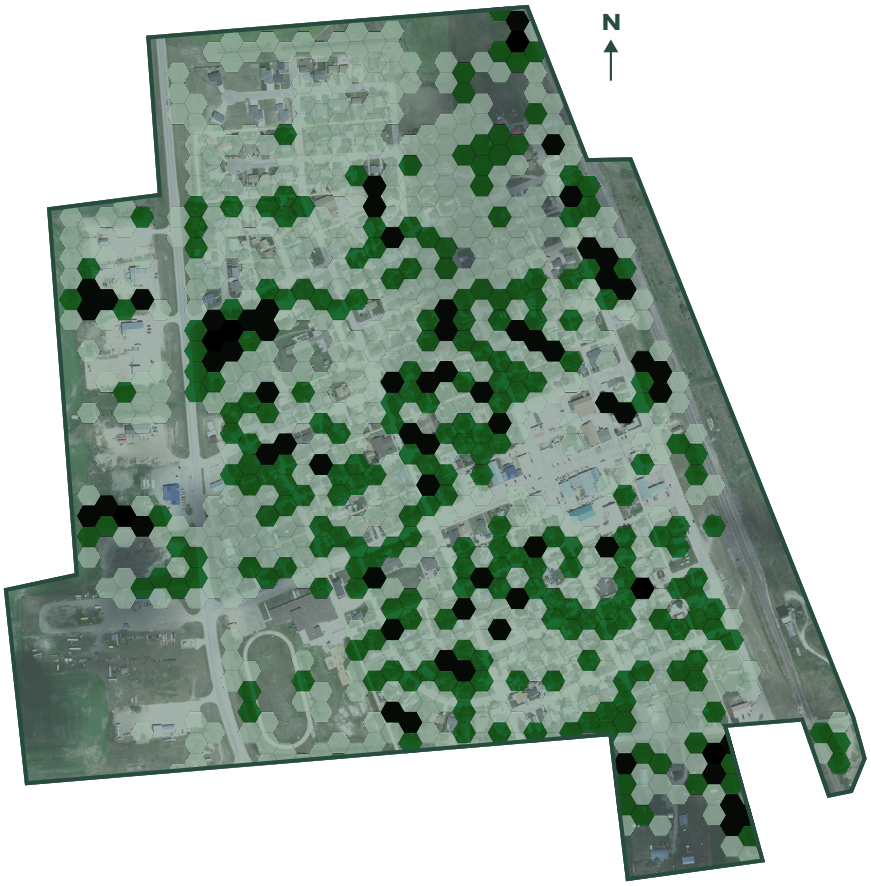
Management should focus on prompt action on confirmed infected trees, appropriate disposal, and replacement of lost canopy. Where future elm planting is approved, suitable DED-resistant cultivars should be selected following amendment of TS-004.

Emerald Ash Borer

Ash accounts for approximately **30.6% of inventoried trees**, making emerald ash borer an important preparedness concern. The inventory does not establish a local infestation. Gradual diversification, staff awareness, and response planning will help the Town prepare for potential impacts.

3.5 Public Tree Canopy

PUBLIC-TREE CANOPY / ASSESSMENT BOUNDARY



APPROXIMATELY

2.4%

PUBLIC-TREE CANOPY

Public-tree canopy covers approximately **2.4% of the defined downtown assessment area**. This excludes private-tree canopy. The assessment focuses on the developed community because much of the wider municipal land base is farmland.

Lower — Higher

Darker shading indicates more mapped public-tree canopy within each hexagon.

Canopy assessments should be repeated at least every five years using a consistent boundary and method.

Evaluation of Current Policy and Practice



04

Strasbourg has policies that recognize the value of trees and support their care and replacement. The main challenge is delivering these commitments with limited staff, equipment, and funding.

This review draws on municipal policies, strategic priorities, and staff consultation. Detailed amendments to Urban Forestry Policy TS-004 are provided in **Appendix II**.

4.1 Policy Framework

The **Official Community Plan, Bylaw No. 343/15**, supports community appearance, recreation, greenways, and the protection of natural features. These objectives provide a foundation for integrating trees into municipal planning and public-space improvements.

Urban Forestry Policy TS-004, adopted in 2020, assigns responsibilities for planting, pruning, removal, and tree replacement. However, several provisions require updating:

1. 
DED management: Revise the policy to reflect the Town's current approach of removing confirmed DED-infected municipal trees and arranging appropriate disposal, with work prioritized according to public safety and applicable requirements.

2. 
Inspection commitments: Replace blanket annual inspection commitments with targeted assessments and investigation of reported concerns.

3. 
Private-property responsibilities: Clarify notification, required action, and financial responsibility. The current policy provides Town-funded removal of qualifying DED-infected trees on private property; any change requires an explicit Council decision.

4. 
Species selection: Adopt the UFMP's recommended species list and resolve conflicting planting restrictions.

5. 
Maintenance planning: Use GIS-based tree management software to prioritize, schedule, and record work.

The policy update should also clarify how approved DED-resistant elm cultivars may be used in future planting.

4.2 Staff and Equipment

Staff consultation identified **three administrative staff, three operational staff, and one seasonal employee**, all supporting wider municipal services. Staff reported limited arboricultural expertise and gaps in equipment, including access to a chipper and stump grinder.

The Town should assign urban forestry coordination to a designated existing position, supported by practical training and qualified contractors. Trained municipal staff can undertake suitable routine work, while specialized pruning, elevated work, complex removals, and detailed assessments require appropriate professional support.

Equipment purchases should be considered alongside rental and contracting options, taking account of workload, operator training, and ongoing costs.

4.3 Current Management Approach

The existing pruning program follows a geographic sequence. This can help organize work, but safety concerns, confirmed disease, and urgent clearance needs should take priority.

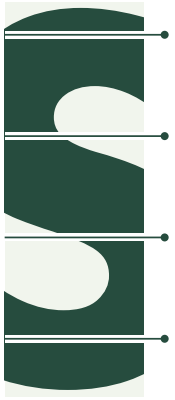
An annual work plan managed through the GIS system would allow the Town to identify priority trees, assign tasks, track completion, and retain deferred work for future budgeting.

DED has placed substantial pressure on resources. Staff reported approximately **$125,000 in expenditure over five years**. The Town's approach should focus on managing current impacts and renewing lost canopy, supported by clear procedures for public and private trees.

4.4 Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats

Tree replacement was identified as a leading priority in the **2025 Strategic Priorities update**. The proposed Memorial Tree Program and park improvements offer opportunities to coordinate planting, if establishment care and maintenance are funded.

S Strengths



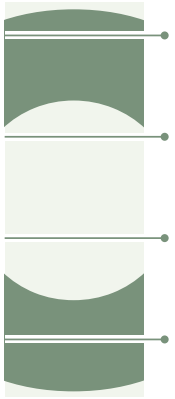
- Existing **urban forestry policy** and municipal responsibilities.
- Council priority for **tree replacement**.
- **Inventory information** and GIS management tools.
- **Municipal tree farm** supporting replacement planting.

C Challenges



- Limited **staff time**, training, equipment, and funding.
- Continuing **DED losses** and response costs.
- **Concentration** in a small number of tree species.
- Urgent work competing with **planned maintenance**.

O Opportunities



- **Coordinate planting** with parks and infrastructure projects.
- Build **staff skills** and use contractors strategically.
- Pursue **grants, sponsorship**, and resident participation.
- Improve work planning and reporting through **GIS**.

T Threats



- Further disease losses and potential **invasive pests**.
- **Drought, heat**, and severe weather.
- Planting failures where **aftercare** is insufficient.
- **Funding shortfalls** delaying necessary work.

The priority is to connect policy commitments with achievable annual work plans. Updating TS-004, strengthening staff capability, and maintaining reliable records will support more consistent care within Strasbourg's resources.

05 Public Consultation

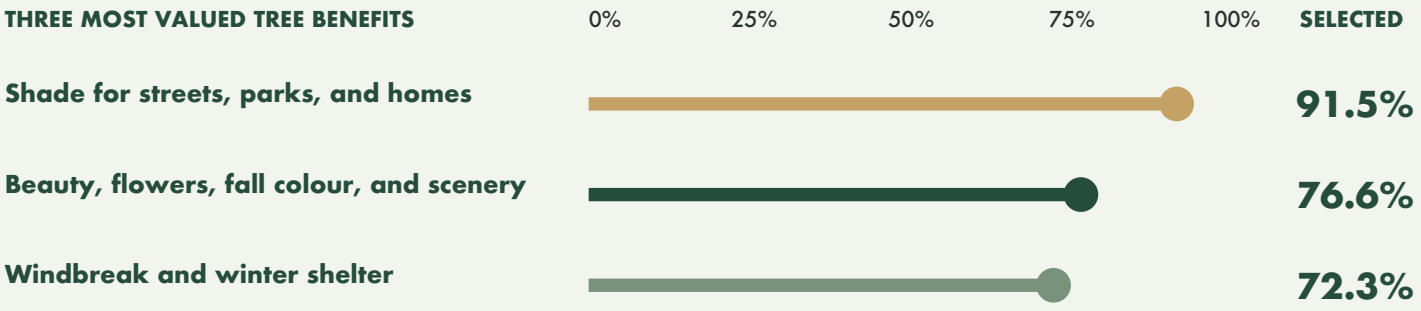
Public consultation was undertaken to understand how residents value Strasbourg's urban forest and identify priorities for its future management. The findings inform the UFMP alongside the tree inventory, policy review, and assessment of municipal capacity.

A total of **47 respondents completed the survey**. The results demonstrate strong support among participants for replacing lost trees, maintaining established trees, increasing species diversity, and setting a long-term canopy objective.

The findings describe the views of survey participants and should not be interpreted as statistically representative of all Strasbourg residents. Percentages in this chapter are based on 47 responses and are rounded. Questions allowing multiple selections may total more than 100%.

5.1 Community Values and Tree Benefits

Respondents identified shade as the most valued tree benefit, followed by community appearance and protection from winter winds.



5.2 Support for Canopy Growth and Species Diversity

LONG-TERM CANOPY OBJECTIVE

Most respondents supported establishing a long-term canopy target.

HOW PARTICIPANTS RESPONDED



SPECIES DIVERSITY

Increasing species diversity also received strong support.

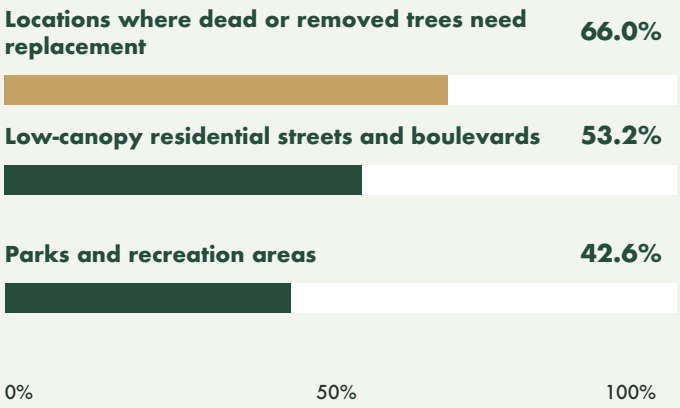
IMPORTANCE ASSIGNED TO INCREASING DIVERSITY



5.3 Preferred Planting Locations and Management Priorities

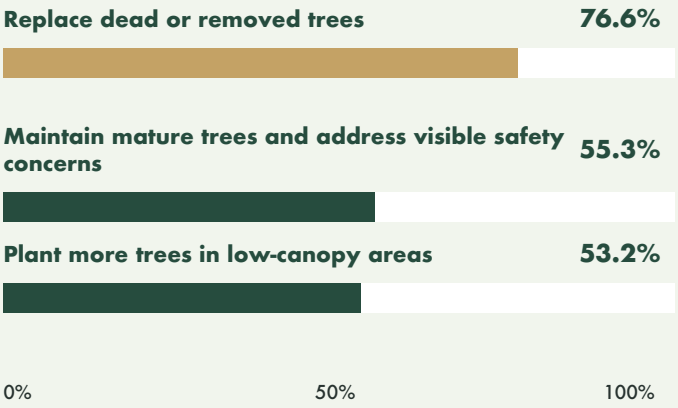
PLANTING LOCATIONS

Replacing trees at locations where previous trees had died or been removed was the most frequently selected planting preference.



MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Respondents identified the following actions as priorities for improving the urban forest.



5.4 Dutch Elm Disease Awareness

AWARENESS





5.5 Operational Capacity and Funding

STAFFING, EQUIPMENT, AND TREE CARE

Most respondents recognized the need for adequate resources to deliver an urban forestry program.



PREFERRED FUNDING APPROACH

External grants were the most frequently selected funding approach.



76.6%
Provincial or federal grants

10.6%
Community fundraising / adopt-a-tree

12.8%
Other approaches

5.6 Community Participation and Stewardship

Respondents expressed varying levels of interest in participating in urban forestry activities.

Water or monitor a young public tree	**34.0%**
Not at this time	**27.7%**
Join a community planting event	**19.1%**

*Selected responses shown

5.7 Digital Inventory and Public Information

Responses to investment in a GIS-based tree inventory were mixed.

Yes - invest in a GIS inventory	**34.0%**
No - retain paper records	**23.4%**
Not sure / need more information	**42.6%**

*Selected responses shown

5.8 Overall Satisfaction

The survey recorded an average satisfaction rating of **3.8 out of 5**.

3.8 out of 5



5.9 Implications for the UFMP

The consultation identifies a consistent direction that can be incorporated into implementation.



01

Replacement is the strongest improvement priority.

Maintain a verified list of losses and suitable replacement sites.



02

Shade is the most frequently valued benefit.

Assess shade needs at walking routes, parks, and community destinations.



03

Species diversity receives strong support.

Increase species diversity across successive planting programs while retaining suitable healthy trees.



04

Participants value mature-tree maintenance.

Combine planting with inspection and prioritized maintenance.



05

Most respondents recognize capacity requirements.

Match annual commitments with staffing, contractor support, and establishment resources.



06

Grants are the preferred funding approach.

Prepare fundable projects with realistic ongoing municipal costs.



07

Some respondents would help care for young trees.

Explore a manageable stewardship program with clear oversight.



08

Many respondents need more information about GIS.

Explain inventory tools through their practical service benefits.

5.10 Summary

The 47 survey responses provide clear input for Strasbourg's urban forest planning. Participants favour replacing lost trees, maintaining established trees, increasing diversity, and improving shade in suitable locations. Most also support a long-term canopy objective and recognize the resources needed to deliver it.

The UFMP should translate these preferences into a phased program supported by technical assessment, establishment care, and realistic funding. Regular reporting will help residents understand progress and the decisions required to sustain the Town's urban forest.

Climate Change and Urban Forest Resilience

06



Trees planted today will experience changing conditions over their lifetimes. Strasbourg's climate analysis projects warmer temperatures, more hot days, fewer extreme cold days, and a longer frost-free season. These changes will influence which trees thrive and how much care they require.

6.1 Projected Changes

APPROXIMATE DAYS ABOVE 30°C / ANNUALLY

Historical conditions

11 Days

In 2051–2080

59 Days

Late century

81 Days



FROST-FREE SEASON

Historical

122–126

Approximate days

→

Projected

Approximately

154–160

Days



DAYS BELOW −30°C

Days below −30°C are projected to become substantially less frequent compared with the 30-year historical reference period.

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION

May increase slightly, but greater evaporative demand could still increase summer water stress.

6.2 Implications for Trees

The main concerns for Strasbourg are:

- **Establishment difficulties:** Newly planted trees may require more attention during hot, dry periods.
- **Declining condition:** Moisture stress may reduce growth and weaken trees, particularly in compacted soils or restricted rooting spaces.
- **Changing species suitability:** Trees must tolerate future heat and drought while remaining hardy enough for Prairie winters.
- **Pest and disease pressures:** Changing conditions may affect pest activity and tree susceptibility, reinforcing the need for awareness and appropriate response.

The climate analysis does not establish a local trend in future windstorm frequency. Post-storm inspections remain part of routine preparedness.

6.3 Adaptation Priorities

Strasbourg should focus on five practical actions:

1. **Retain suitable established trees** to sustain existing shade and shelter.
2. **Diversify planting** using species suited to local sites and future growing conditions.
3. **Provide adequate rooting space** and protect soils from compaction and excavation.
4. **Match planting with aftercare capacity**, including watering and mulching.
5. **Monitor local performance** through the GIS inventory, recording survival, condition, and maintenance needs.

07 Vision and Strategic Goals

7.1 Vision

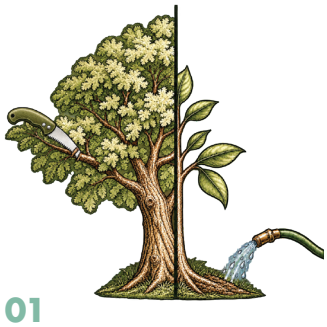
Strasbourg's urban forest is a valued community asset that requires continued care and renewal. Public consultation identified replacement planting, mature-tree maintenance, shade, and species diversity as priorities. Staff consultation also emphasized the need to align these expectations with available personnel, equipment, and funding.



OUR LONG-TERM VISION

"An enduring urban forest that preserves Strasbourg's valued trees and renews its canopy through suitable planting, ongoing care, and investment within the Town of Strasbourg's means."

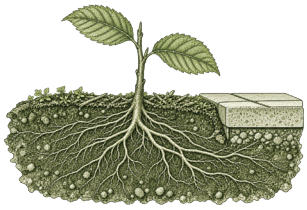
7.2 Guiding Principles



01
Retention and Renewal

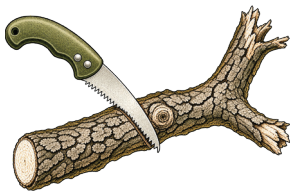
Retain healthy, suitable established trees and plan replacement planting to sustain canopy as trees decline or require removal. Renewal should consider the benefits lost, available planting space, and the time required for replacement trees to mature.





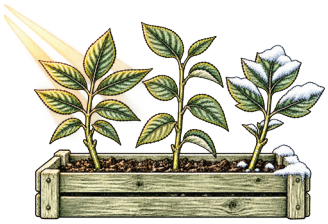
02
Right Tree, Right Place

Select trees according to soil conditions, available rooting space, mature size, infrastructure constraints, and maintenance requirements. Planting decisions should consider both current Prairie conditions and projected climate changes.



03
Public Safety

Use qualified assessment where concerns exceed municipal staff expertise.



04
Diversity and Climate Resilience

Broaden the range of suitable trees through successive planting programs. Apply the 10-20-30 guideline as a long-term direction, recognizing Strasbourg's climate, nursery availability, and operational constraints.



05
Achievable and Sustained Investment

Match planting and maintenance commitments with the resources required to deliver them. Include establishment care, staff training, contractor support, and ongoing maintenance in financial planning.



06
Informed and Accountable Management

Use the GIS inventory, canopy assessments, maintenance records, and performance indicators to guide decisions. Review progress regularly and adjust implementation as conditions and resources change.



07
Community Stewardship

Provide practical opportunities for residents to support tree establishment and care. Communicate management decisions clearly and maintain municipal oversight of public-tree work.

7.3 Strategic Goals and Targets

The following five goals translate the vision into management priorities over the 20-year planning horizon.
Year 1 refers to the first year of implementation following adoption. Targets should be incorporated into annual work planning and budgeting, with progress reviewed annually.

Goal 1 — Retain and Care for Established Trees

Maintain valued public trees through appropriate inspection, prioritized maintenance, and timely management of confirmed disease.

TARGET
100%

- **REPORTED HAZARDOUS-TREE CONCERNS**
  Review all concerns; prioritize urgent conditions and record assessment findings and actions.
- **REPORTED PRUNING & MAINTENANCE REQUESTS**
  Review all requests; prioritize public safety and infrastructure conflicts.
- **CONFIRMED MUNICIPAL DUTCH ELM DISEASE CASES**
  Manage all cases under applicable provincial removal and disposal requirements.

FOLLOW UP

Maintain records of inspections, significant defects, recommended work, and completed maintenance to support follow-up decisions.

Goal 2 — Renew Canopy Through Sustained Planting and Successful Establishment

Replace tree losses and establish suitable new trees at a pace the Town can maintain.

TARGET
50
TREES / YEAR

YEAR 1 — YEAR 2 — YEAR 3 — YEAR 4 — YEAR 5

~250
BY YEAR 5

Subject to suitable planting sites and available resources.

COMPLETE
≥ 90%
Of Scheduled Young-Tree Watering Events

ACHIEVE
≥ 85%
Survival After Two Growing Seasons

MAINTAIN
≥ 1:1
Planting : Removals



CANOPY ASSESSMENT AT LEAST EVERY 5 YEARS

Assess canopy using a consistent methodology and municipal boundary.

Increase public-tree canopy within the defined downtown assessment area from approximately 2.4% to at least 2.9% by Year 10. Assess progress at least every five years using the same assessment boundary and a consistent method.

Goal 3 — Build a More Diverse and Resilient Tree Population

Gradually reduce dependence on dominant species and genera while selecting trees suited to local and future growing conditions.

DIVERSITY IN NEW PLANTING

- **ONE FAMILY** ≤ 30%
- **ONE GENUS** ≤ 20%
- **ONE SPECIES** ≤ 10%

Select trees based on site suitability, winter hardiness, heat and drought tolerance, pest susceptibility, and maintenance needs.

Work toward these limits across cumulative new planting, where feasible.

ANNUALLY — Review new-planting composition.

5-YEAR INVENTORY REVIEWS — Show a declining share of overrepresented species or genera through planting and justified replacement, where feasible.

Retain suitable healthy trees rather than removing them solely to achieve diversity percentages.



Goal 4 — Strengthen Municipal Capacity and Accountable Management

Establish practical responsibilities, staff capability, and reliable records to support consistent implementation.

BY YEAR 3	ANNUALLY	EVERY 2–3 YEARS	AT LEAST EVERY 5 YEARS	AT LEAST EVERY 10 YEARS
Review Policy TS-004. Train 100% of designated operational staff in planting, pruning and basic tree care.	Record 100% of new public-tree plantings and removals in GIS. Review progress and resource needs.	Refresh designated staff training, subject to available resources.	Complete a comprehensive tree-inventory update.	Complete a comprehensive UFMP review.

Goal 5 — Support Community Participation in Long-Term Tree Care

100%
KNOWN AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNERS

Provide DED management information when confirmed cases are reported to the Town.

≥ 85%
TWO-YEAR TREE SURVIVAL



For trees enrolled in supported watering programs.

ANNUALLY

- Record participation in the boulevard watering incentive or other approved young-tree stewardship program.
- Provide a public update on planting, removals, establishment survival, significant maintenance, and UFMP progress.
- Coordinate participation through clear instructions, reporting arrangements and municipal oversight.

7.4 Implementation Direction

Implementation will begin with urgent tree concerns, confirmed disease management, policy review, staff training, and establishment care. Planting will proceed alongside these responsibilities, with quantities aligned to suitable sites and maintenance capacity.

The Town will use annual progress reviews to identify completed work, outstanding needs, and necessary adjustments. This approach will support steady canopy renewal while keeping commitments consistent with Strasbourg's resources.

Tree Maintenance Strategy



08

Strasbourg's maintenance strategy focuses on public safety, management of established DED, and care of existing trees. Work will be prioritized according to tree condition, public use, and available resources.

8.1 Inspection and Maintenance Priorities

The Town should review reported concerns and undertake targeted inspections in frequently used areas. Initial priorities include primary roads, emergency routes, sidewalks, parks, municipal facilities, and event locations.



URGENT SAFETY CONCERNS

Assess unstable trees, hanging branches, and blocked access; restrict access where necessary until corrective work is completed.



CONFIRMED DISEASE

Arrange prompt removal and appropriate disposal of confirmed DED-infected trees.



PLANNED MAINTENANCE

Address significant deadwood, clearance conflicts, declining trees, and previously identified defects.



ROUTINE CARE

Undertake young-tree pruning, establishment checks, and follow-up monitoring.

Additional checks should follow significant storms and precede major events where trees could affect public safety. Tree condition alone does not determine risk; location and potential consequences must also be considered.



01 RECORD CONCERNS **02 ASSIGN PRIORITIES** **03 SCHEDULE WORK** **04 TRACK COMPLETION**

The GIS-based tree management software should record concerns, assign priorities, schedule work, and track completion. Deferred tasks should remain visible for future work planning and budgeting.

8.2 Pruning and Contractor Support

Trained municipal staff should undertake suitable routine work within their competence. Qualified contractors should support specialized tasks.



MUNICIPAL STAFF

- Young-tree structural pruning.
- Small, ground-accessible branches and basic clearance work.
- Routine observations, aftercare, and recordkeeping.



QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS

- Large-tree pruning and removals.
- Elevated work and complex defects.
- Detailed assessments, stump grinding, and specialized equipment work.

WORK NEAR POWER LINES MUST BE COORDINATED WITH THE UTILITY PROVIDER AND UNDERTAKEN BY APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

The existing geographic pruning sequence can help group routine work efficiently, but urgent concerns and disease requirements take priority. Staff training should be completed by **Year 3**, with refresher training **Every Two to Three years** as resources permit.

8.3 Dutch Elm Disease Management

DED is established in Strasbourg. The Town's focus should be on managing infected trees and replacing lost canopy, supported by targeted assessment and investigation of reported concerns.

Confirmed infections should be recorded in the GIS system, together with ownership, notification, required action, and removal and disposal records. Work must follow applicable provincial requirements.

TS-004 should be updated to clarify municipal and private-owner responsibilities, financial arrangements, notification, and follow-up procedures. Detailed policy amendments are provided in Appendix II.

8.4 Young-Tree Aftercare

Continue the boulevard-watering program with municipal monitoring and supplementary care when needed. Resident participation should support a reliable Town-coordinated program.

Aftercare should include watering, mulch checks, inspection of stakes and guards, damage reporting, and appropriate formative pruning. Initially allow seven watering events during each tree's first growing season and five during its second growing season, adjusting the schedule to rainfall, soil moisture, and tree needs.



THE TOWN SHOULD TARGET:

At least 90%
completion of scheduled watering events.

At least 85%
survival after two growing seasons.

8.5 Community Support and Review

A proposed Tree Ambassador program could share approved tree-care information, explain reporting channels, and encourage watering participation. Diagnosis, risk assessment, and enforcement remain with qualified or authorized personnel.

Maintenance priorities and outstanding work should be reviewed annually. Comprehensive inventory and canopy assessments should occur at least every five years, with an overall strategy review at least every ten years.

Tree Planting Strategy

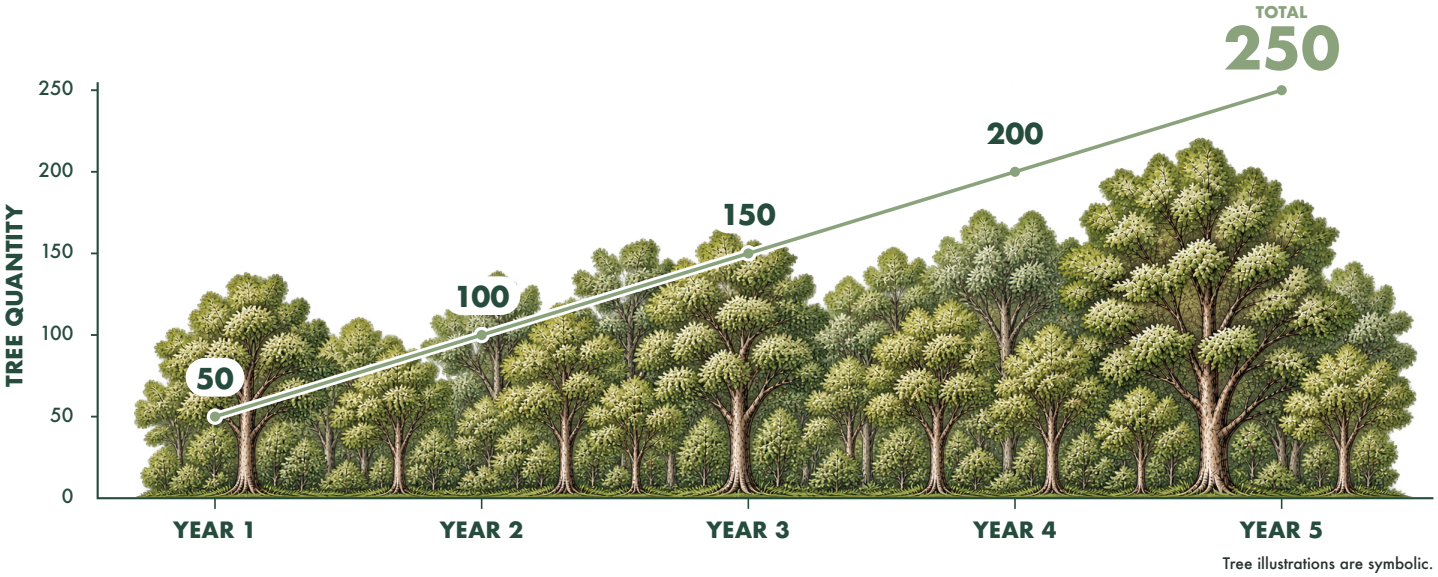
09



Strasbourg's planting program will replace lost trees, improve shade, and gradually diversify the public urban forest. Planting will focus on suitable locations where the Town can provide reliable establishment care.

9.1 Planting Targets

ANNUAL PLANTING TARGET (50 TREES/YEAR)



Tree illustrations are symbolic.

The Town will target **50 trees annually during Years 1–5**, or **approximately 250 trees**, subject to suitable sites and available resources. Annual planting will continue thereafter, with quantities reviewed against tree losses, establishment results, and funding.

PUBLIC-TREE CANOPY IN DEFINED DOWNTOWN ASSESSMENT AREA

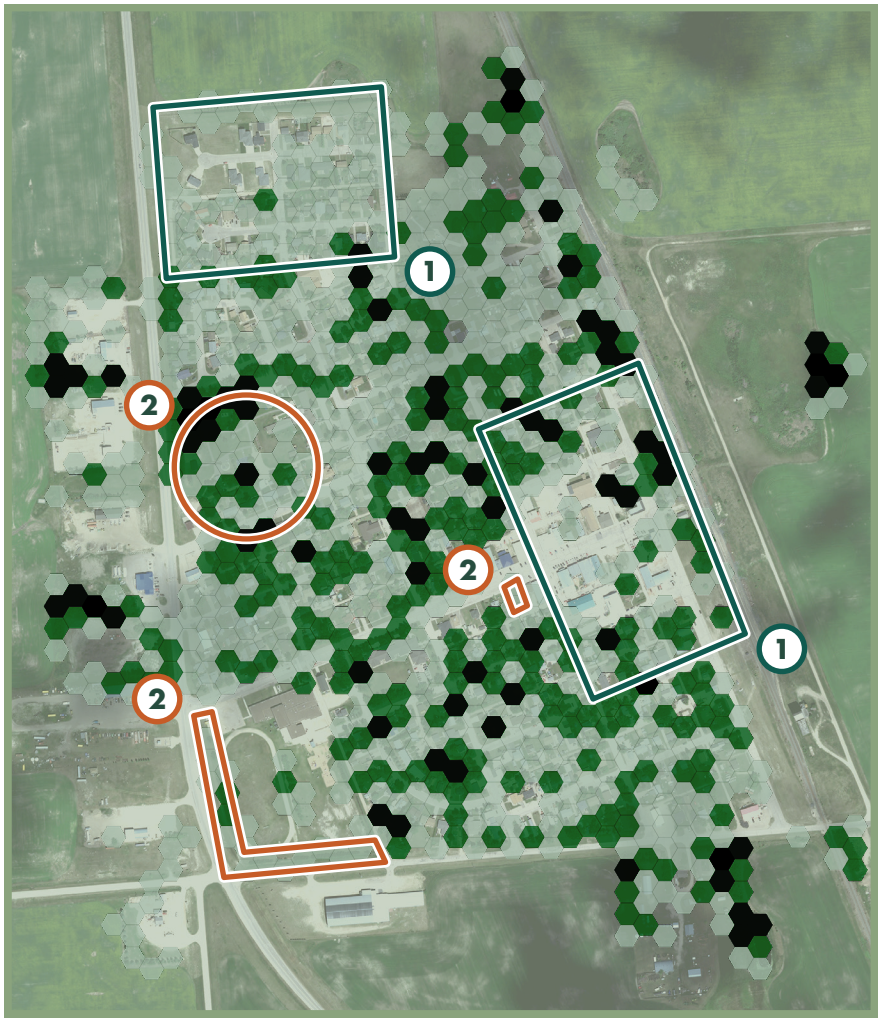
2.4% → **≥ 2.9%**
BY YEAR 10

Planting and retention will support the target of increasing public-tree canopy in the **defined downtown assessment area** from 2.4% to at least 2.9% by Year 10.

Success will be measured by surviving trees and canopy development, alongside planting numbers. Establishment care and the **85% two-year survival target** are addressed in **Chapter 8**.

9.2 Priority Planting Locations

PRIORITY PLANTING / CANDIDATE STREET CORRIDORS AND PUBLIC-SPACE VICINITY



PRIORITY 1

Replace losses and fill canopy gaps

- East-side streets (Railway Avenue and Mountain Street) and boulevards with lower canopy.
- Northwest streets (Chapin Street, Prospect Avenue, and Maple Street) and boulevards with lower canopy.
- Municipal sites where DED removals created canopy gaps.
- Sites where dead, poor-condition, or hazardous trees have been removed.
- Suitable boulevard gaps where residents will participate in watering.

PRIORITY 2

Improve public shade and shelter

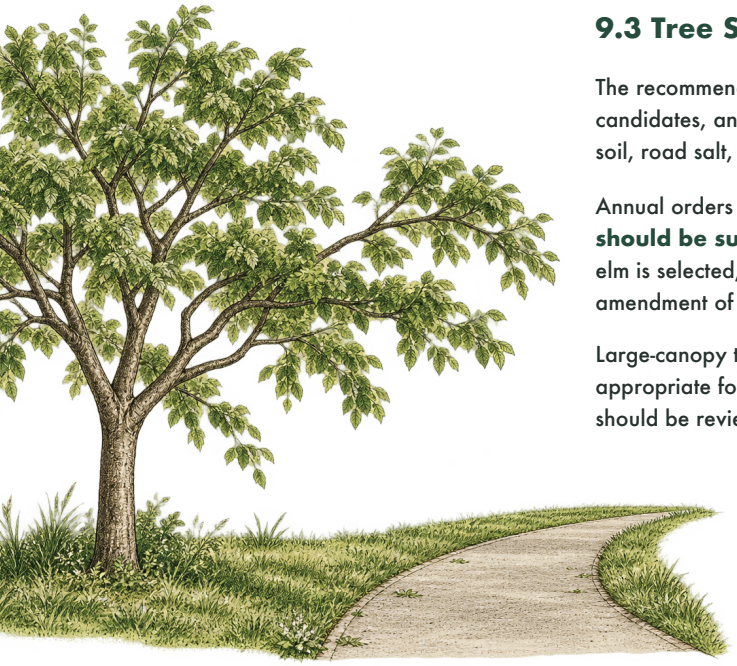
- Town-owned greenbelt surrounding the sports grounds (William Derby School).
- Municipal parks and recreation areas.
- Sites requiring shade, shelter, or wind reduction.
- Municipal facilities and other publicly used locations.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY PLANTING

Other suitable boulevards, civic spaces, open spaces, and approved memorial planting locations.

SITE ASSESSMENT

All locations require field assessment. Where a former planting site has inadequate space or infrastructure conflicts, a different species or a nearby suitable planting location may be selected.



9.3 Tree Selection

The recommended species list in **Appendix I** identifies routine planting candidates, trial candidates, and site restrictions. Selection should consider mature size, rooting space, utilities, soil, road salt, exposure, and future climate conditions.

Annual orders should favour suitable, underrepresented genera. **Routine ash procurement should be suspended**, and additional Manitoba maple planting generally avoided. Where elm is selected, only specifically approved **DED-resistant cultivars** should be used following amendment of TS-004.

Large-canopy trees should be selected where space permits. Smaller ornamental trees are appropriate for constrained sites but should not dominate the planting program. Diversity should be reviewed across cumulative planting, following the approach in Chapter 3.

Trial species should be planted in small numbers and monitored annually for **at least three growing seasons** before wider use is considered.

9.4 Planting Delivery

BEFORE ORDERING TREES, THE TOWN SHOULD CONFIRM:

- Approved locations, species, and suitable nursery stock.
- Utility clearance and adequate growing space.
- Planting costs, watering access, and establishment responsibilities.
- Coordination with planned infrastructure and park improvements.

Completed work should be checked before acceptance, and each tree entered into the GIS inventory.

Resident watering and memorial planting can support the program through approved locations, clear instructions, and Town oversight. Annual records should track planting, removals, survival, and species composition to guide the following year's work.



Action Plan and Performance Monitoring



10

10.1 Implementation Approach

The action plan translates the UFMP's vision and strategic goals into phased activities over a **20-year period**. It prioritizes public safety, Dutch elm disease management, successful tree establishment, and practical improvements to municipal capacity.

Implementation will be coordinated through annual work planning and budgeting. Public Works will lead field delivery, with Administration coordinating policy, funding, communication, and reporting. Qualified contractors and advisors will support work beyond municipal expertise or equipment capacity.

20-YEAR PLANNING

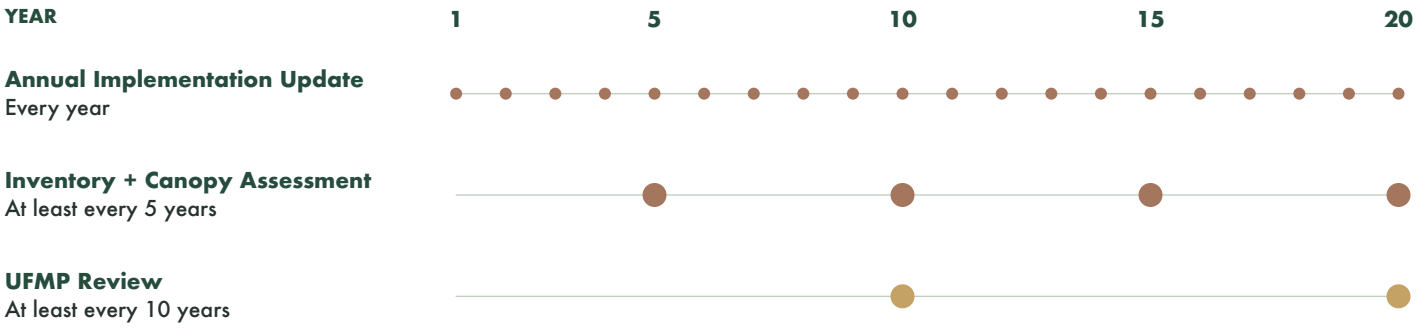
Year 1 begins following adoption of the UFMP. Recurring maintenance, disease response, and establishment care continue **across all periods**.

THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIODS ARE:

Short term: Years 1–5	Medium term: Years 6–10	Long term: Years 11–20

ONGOING THROUGHOUT

• MAINTENANCE • DISEASE RESPONSE • ESTABLISHMENT CARE



10.2 Short-Term Action Plan

YEARS 1–5

Action	Key performance indicator	Target or frequency	Lead responsibility
Address reported hazardous-tree concerns.	Percentage of reported concerns reviewed and actions recorded.	Review 100%; prioritize urgent conditions and record assessment, interim controls, and completed work.	Public Works and qualified contractor
Manage confirmed municipal DED cases.	Percentage of confirmed cases managed according to applicable requirements.	Manage 100%; record confirmation, removal, disposal, and completion dates.	Public Works and qualified contractor
Clarify private-property DED procedures.	Completion of responsibility, notification, and follow-up procedures.	Establish procedures within Years 1–3; provide information to 100% of known affected owners when confirmed cases are brought to the Town's attention.	Administration, with qualified advice
Update Urban Forestry Policy TS-004.	Completion of policy review and amendment.	Review and adopt necessary amendments by Year 3, including DED procedures and the approved planting list.	Administration and Council
Evaluate a supporting DED bylaw.	Completion of an options review and Council decision.	Consider during Years 1–5; confirm authority, administrative requirements, enforcement options, and resource implications.	Administration and Council
Deliver annual replacement and priority planting.	Trees planted annually and cumulatively.	Target 50 trees annually and approximately 250 by Year 5, subject to suitable sites and available resources.	Public Works
Maintain young-tree establishment care.	Percentage of scheduled watering events completed.	Complete ≥90%; initially allow seven events in Year 1 and five in Year 2, adjusted for rainfall, soil moisture, and tree needs.	Public Works and participating residents
Measure planting survival.	Percentage of planted trees alive after two growing seasons.	Achieve ≥85% two-year survival; record losses and likely causes.	Public Works
Improve staff competency.	Percentage of designated staff completing relevant training.	Train 100% in planting, pruning, and basic tree maintenance by Year 3.	Administration and qualified trainer
Establish consistent GIS records.	Percentage of new plantings and removals recorded.	Record 100% annually; reconcile inventory versions and retain planting, inspection, and maintenance history.	Public Works, with GIS support
Prepare annual maintenance priorities.	Completion of annual work plan and outstanding-work register.	Review annually; identify urgent, scheduled, completed, and deferred work.	Public Works
Develop community stewardship.	Participation and care outcomes in approved programs.	Continue the boulevard-watering incentive; explore Tree Ambassador and Memorial Tree programs within available capacity.	Administration and Public Works

10.3 Medium-Term Action Plan

YEARS 6-10

Action	Key performance indicator	Target or frequency	Lead responsibility
Maintain or increase canopy coverage.	Percentage of the defined downtown assessment area covered by public-tree canopy.	Increase coverage from approximately 2.4% to at least 2.9% by Year 10.	Town and GIS contractor
Sustain establishment success.	Two-year survival of newly planted trees.	Achieve ≥85% for each assessed planting cohort.	Public Works
Maintain resident watering participation.	Participating households, enrolled trees, and survival.	Record annually; achieve ≥85% two-year survival among supported trees.	Public Works
Continue prioritized pruning and maintenance.	Percentage of reported requests reviewed and outstanding priorities tracked.	Review 100% of requests; prioritize safety and infrastructure conflicts and record deferred work.	Public Works and qualified contractor
Maintain accurate GIS records.	Percentage of new plantings and removals entered.	Record 100% annually; update associated maintenance information as work occurs.	Public Works
Update the municipal tree inventory.	Completion of comprehensive inventory review.	At least every five years, including the first update by Year 5 and subsequent update by Year 10.	Qualified contractor, coordinated by Public Works
Measure canopy change.	Completion of comparable canopy assessment.	At least every five years; use repeat LiDAR where appropriate and affordable.	Town and GIS contractor
Improve planting diversity.	Species, genus, and family proportions in cumulative new planting.	Review annually; work toward ≤10% per species, ≤20% per genus, and ≤30% per family where feasible.	Public Works and qualified advisor
Evaluate trial species.	Survival, condition, and maintenance requirements of trial trees.	Inspect annually for at least three growing seasons before considering wider deployment.	Public Works and qualified advisor
Maintain staff competency.	Training participation among designated staff.	Provide refresher training every two to three years, subject to resources.	Administration
Review pest preparedness.	Currency of reporting, response, and communication procedures.	Review annually and following significant new pest information or local findings.	Public Works and qualified advisor

10.4 Long-Term Action Plan

YEARS 11-20

Action	Key performance indicator	Target or frequency	Lead responsibility
Sustain municipal canopy.	Canopy coverage and change from the adopted baseline.	Maintain the adopted minimum and pursue further increases where feasible; assess every five years.	Town and GIS contractor
Maintain replacement planting.	Trees planted compared with trees removed.	Target at least a 1:1 ratio over each five-year period, where suitable sites and resources are available.	Public Works
Maintain establishment success.	Two-year survival of planted trees.	Maintain ≥85% survival.	Public Works
Improve population diversity.	Proportion represented by dominant species and genera.	Demonstrate a declining proportion at successive five-year reviews where feasible through suitable planting and justified replacement.	Town and qualified advisor
Continue municipal DED management.	Compliance of confirmed municipal cases with applicable requirements.	Maintain 100% compliance and complete case records.	Public Works and qualified contractor
Continue prioritized maintenance.	Reported concerns reviewed and actions documented.	Review 100%; prioritize work according to assessed safety needs and available resources.	Public Works and qualified contractor
Maintain inventory and canopy information.	Completion of comprehensive reassessments.	At least every five years.	Town and qualified contractors
Sustain community education.	Education activities and participation recorded.	Review opportunities annually; provide community and school activities where partnerships and resources permit.	Administration and program partners
Review the UFMP.	Completion of strategy and KPI review.	Comprehensive review at least every ten years, including Years 10 and 20.	Administration, Council, and Public Works

10.5 Measurement and Reporting

Performance monitoring should distinguish work completed from the outcomes achieved. Planting numbers, for example, should be reported alongside survival, removals, and canopy change.

Measure	Calculation or recording approach
Two-year survival	Trees from a planting cohort alive after two growing seasons ÷ original trees planted in that cohort × 100. Record replacement trees separately so losses remain visible.
Watering completion	Completed watering events ÷ scheduled events × 100. Document schedule adjustments for rainfall and soil conditions.
Planting-to-removal ratio	Public trees planted ÷ public trees removed over the same five-year period. Report the underlying counts; where no removals occur, report counts without calculating a ratio.
Planting diversity	Trees within each species, genus, or family ÷ total trees in the defined cumulative planting period × 100. Use a consistent reporting period.
Request review	Reported concerns reviewed ÷ concerns received × 100. Report outstanding corrective work separately.
DED management	Track confirmed cases against applicable requirements and assigned deadlines. Distinguish open cases from completed cases.
Canopy change	Compare assessments using the same boundary and a consistent method; report percentage-point change and relevant uncertainty.

10.6 Annual Review and Resource Allocation

Public Works and Administration should prepare a concise annual implementation update for Council. The update should identify:

- Completed actions and progress against KPIs.
- Staff training and community participation.
- Numbers of trees planted and removed, and survival rates after two growing seasons.
- Significant maintenance completed and work deferred.
- Expenditure, funding received, and priorities for the following year.
- Confirmed DED cases, completed response, and outstanding requirements.

Annual budgeting should identify the resources required for urgent work, disease response, established-tree maintenance, and young-tree care before confirming additional planting commitments. External funding and community support can supplement delivery, while ongoing obligations remain part of municipal planning.

Where targets are not achieved, the Town should record the reasons and adjust work planning, resources, or delivery methods. Changes to adopted strategic targets should be clearly documented through the appropriate review process.



11 Conclusion

Strasbourg's urban forest is a valued municipal asset that provides shade, shelter, habitat, and measurable environmental benefits. The inventory indicates that most assessed public trees are in excellent or good condition, providing a strong foundation for continued stewardship. However, reliance on a limited number of species, ongoing Dutch elm disease losses, changing climatic conditions, and constrained municipal resources create challenges for sustaining these benefits.

Public consultation supports a practical approach centred on replacing lost trees, maintaining established canopy, increasing diversity, and improving shade. These priorities align with the Town's existing policy direction and reinforce the need to connect planting commitments with reliable establishment care and ongoing maintenance.

Implementation should begin with urgent safety concerns, confirmed disease management, young-tree care, staff training, and policy clarification. A sustained planting program should progressively renew canopy and broaden species diversity, with planting quantities matched to suitable sites and available resources. Qualified contractors, external funding, and community participation can support delivery.

The action plan and performance indicators provide a framework for monitoring progress and informing annual budgets. Accurate GIS records, establishment-survival assessments, and periodic inventory and canopy reviews will allow the Town to adjust its approach as conditions change.

Through consistent care, phased renewal, and achievable investment, Strasbourg can retain its valued trees and develop an urban forest that continues to serve the community for generations.



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APPENDIX I

Species List

Tier 1 - Preferred Routine Planting

Common Name(s)	Latin Name	Native to SK	Size of mature Crown	Water Requirement	Light Requirement	Suitable Location	Remarks
Common hackberry	*Celtis occidentalis*	no	Large	Low	sun to semi-shade	Boulevard, Park	
Emerald Spire crabapple	*Malus x 'Jefgreen'*	no	Small	Moderate	full sun	Boulevard, Park	
Gladiator crabapple	*Malus x adstringens 'Durleo'*	no	Small	Moderate	full sun	Boulevard, Park	
Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac	*Syringa reticulata"Ivory Silk"*	no	Small	Moderate	full sun	Boulevard, Park, Yard	
Spring Snow crabapple	*Malus 'Spring Snow'*	no	Small	Moderate	full sun	Parks/ Private yards	

APPENDIX I

Species List

Tier 2 - Plant in small numbers and monitor for at least three growing seasons.

Common Name(s)	Latin Name	Native to SK	Size of mature Crown	Water Requirement	Light Requirement	Suitable Location	Remarks
Amur cherry	*Prunus maackii*	no	Small	Moderate	full sun	Boulevard, Park, Yard	Susceptible to black knot
Bur oak	*Quercus macrocarpa*	yes	Large	Moderate	full sun	Boulevard, Park	Slow growing, sensitive to construction
Northern pin oak	*Quercus ellipsoidalis*	no	Large	Moderate	full sun	Boulevard, Park, Yard	
Ohio buckeye	*Aesculus glabra*	no	Medium	Moderate	sun to semi-shade	Boulevard, Park	Fruit is poisonous to pets
Prairie Sky hybrid poplar	*Populus × canadensis 'Prairie Sky'*	no	Large	Moderate	full sun	Park, Yard	Fast-growing, relatively short-lived tree.
Purple Spire crabapple	*Malus x 'Jefspire'*	no	Small	Moderate	full sun	Park, Yard	Fire Blight, Apple Blight
Showy mountain ash	*Sorbus decora*	yes	Medium	Moderate	full sun	Boulevard, Park, Yard	
Thunderchild crabapple	*Malus*	no	Small	Moderate	full sun	Private yards / open spaces / parks	

APPENDIX I

Species List

Restricted planting

Common Name(s)	Supporting rationale
American Elm	Highly vulnerable to DED and already prohibited for new planting under TS-004
Ash (Fraxinus)	Emerald ash borer attacks and can kill all Fraxinus species. Ash also represents approximately 31% of Strasbourg's inventory, making further routine planting inconsistent with diversification
Cotton Woods & Poplars	Cottonwoods and poplars are prohibited for new public and private planting under TS-004 because of shallow roots, weak limbs, suckering, nuisance seed and disease concerns.
Laurel Leaf Willow	Not recommended for constrained boulevards or sites near infrastructure because of its space and maintenance requirements.
Manitoba Maple / Boxelder	Already approximately 16% of the inventory. Natural Resources Canada describes its wood as soft and weak, with irregular spreading limbs and a shallow, fibrous root system.
Russian Olive	Identified as invasive in Alberta and Manitoba, with potential to become invasive in Saskatchewan.
Schubert Chokecherry	Schubert chokecherry is susceptible to black knot, which can cause branch decline and recurring pruning requirements.
Larches, Pines, And Spruces	Not to be planted close to walkways, streets, and buildings because of their broad base that may become an obstruction as the tree matures
Siberian Elm	Prohibited for new planting under TS-004 and already represents approximately 17% of the inventory. Further routine planting would increase reliance on an overrepresented species.

APPENDIX I

Species List

Site guidance and source notes

Site	Preferred selection	Conditions / notes
Wide boulevard without overhead utilities	Common hackberry, bur oak or little-leaf linden	Use where the boulevard can accommodate a large mature crown; hackberry and linden tolerate sun to semi-shade, while bur oak requires full sun. Provide low-to-moderate supplemental water during establishment.
Narrow boulevard	Emerald Spire crabapple, Gladiator crabapple or Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac	Small-crown Tier 1 selections for constrained boulevards. Plant in full sun with moderate establishment watering and confirm setbacks from driveways, signs and intersections.
Boulevard beneath overhead utilities	Emerald Spire crabapple, Gladiator crabapple or Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac	Use small-crown Tier 1 trees and confirm utility-owner clearance requirements before planting. Full sun and moderate establishment watering are preferred.
Park or recreation site	Common hackberry, bur oak, Swiss stone pine or Prairie Horizon Manchurian alder	Match crown size to available park space. Bur oak and Swiss stone pine require full sun; hackberry and Prairie Horizon alder can tolerate semi-shade. Avoid creating a single-species stand.
Civic or ornamental site	Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac, Spring Snow crabapple, Gladiator crabapple or Goldrush Amur cherry	Use as Tier 1 ornamental accents in full sun with moderate establishment watering. Maintain species and cultivar diversity rather than repeating one selection throughout the site.
Sports-ground greenbelt	Common hackberry, bur oak, Swiss stone pine or Prairie Horizon Manchurian alder	Use medium-to-large Tier 1 trees outside field safety zones and preserve sightlines, access and drainage. Confirm adequate rooting and crown space before planting.
Near playground	Common hackberry, Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac or Spring Snow crabapple	Maintain clear sightlines and play-area setbacks. Avoid brittle willows, aggressive-root species and thorny hawthorn near active play surfaces; use moderate establishment watering.
DED replacement site	Common hackberry, bur oak, little-leaf linden or Ventura maple	Use a non-elm, non-ash Tier 1 replacement suited to the available crown and rooting space. Diversify by block and avoid continuous single-species planting.
Wind-exposed site	Swiss stone pine, bur oak or Prairie Horizon Manchurian alder	Select sheltered microsites where possible and establish with adequate watering. Use small mixed plantings first and monitor crown form, winter injury and wind damage.
Restricted rooting area	Emerald Spire crabapple, Gladiator crabapple or Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac	Use only where minimum soil volume and rooting width can be provided. If the rooting area cannot support a small Tier 1 tree at maturity, do not plant.

APPENDIX II

Recommended Amendments to Urban Forestry Policy TS-004

Policy section	Issue identified	Recommended update
Policy objective and Section 1 — Statement	The policy does not reference the adopted UFMP or its implementation framework.	Incorporate the UFMP vision and reference the plan as the framework for annual work planning, budgeting, planting, maintenance, and monitoring.
Section 14 — DED management objective	The commitment to keeping DED out of Strasbourg no longer reflects local establishment or the Town's management direction.	Shift toward managing the consequences of established DED, including confirmed infected-tree removal, appropriate disposal, public safety, and phased canopy replacement within available resources and applicable requirements.
Section 14 — Annual inspections	The commitment to an independent annual inspection of all public and private elms does not reflect current capacity or practice.	Replace the blanket commitment with targeted assessment and investigation of reported concerns. Prioritize dead or declining elms, public exposure, and cases requiring action. Define reporting, referral, and follow-up procedures for private trees.
Section 14 — Private-tree removal funding	The policy commits the Town to paying for removal and disposal of qualifying public and private DED-infected trees.	Explicitly review this commitment. Council should determine whether to retain municipal funding, introduce capped assistance, or assign costs to owners. State eligibility, approval requirements, funding limits, and transition arrangements.
Section 14 — Notification and follow-up	The policy does not establish a clear process for confirmed private-property cases.	Define written notification, required actions, case-specific deadlines, disposal instructions, and follow-up records. Do not use a general winter deadline to defer action required earlier.
Section 14 — Regulatory references	The policy attributes the pruning ban to an association and includes operational instructions that require review.	Reference the applicable provincial requirements and current official disposal guidance. Clarify authorization procedures and distinguish routine pruning from whole-tree removal and emergency work.
Section 16 — Authority and enforcement	Enforcement responsibilities are broadly stated, but no supporting bylaw is identified on the policy cover.	Identify the authority and designated roles supporting implementation. Consider a supporting DED bylaw where enforceable obligations are needed. Confirm the basis for inspection, notices, penalties, and cost recovery before incorporating these provisions.
Section 17.1 — Elm planting	All elm species and cultivars are prohibited, preventing consideration of DED-resistant selections.	Allow specifically approved DED-resistant cultivars where identified in the UFMP species appendix and suited to the site. Retain diversification requirements and distinguish resistance from immunity.
Section 17.2 and Appendix A — Approved species	Blanket restrictions conflict with species already listed in Appendix A and do not reflect the UFMP's planting recommendations.	Adopt the UFMP species list as the revised Appendix I. Amend Section 17.2 and related provisions to match its approved candidates, site restrictions, and trial requirements. Require approval for substitutions.
Section 17.3 — Boulevard conifers	Larches, pines, and spruces are restricted on public boulevards, but the relationship with other planting locations needs clarification.	Align restrictions with the adopted species appendix. Clearly distinguish boulevard limitations from potential use in suitable parks, greenbelts, and other open spaces.

APPENDIX II

Recommended Amendments to Urban Forestry Policy TS-004

Policy section	Issue identified	Recommended update
Sections 4.1–4.2 — Hardiness and suitability	"Zone 3b or any higher hardiness zone" could be interpreted as accepting trees requiring warmer conditions.	Require demonstrated hardiness appropriate to Strasbourg. Consider heat, drought, soil, and exposure suitability. Allow uncertain candidates only through approved, monitored trials.
Section 4.2 — Fruit-bearing boulevard trees	The blanket prohibition may conflict with proposed ornamental crabapple selections.	Align the provision with the adopted species list. Assess fruit characteristics, pedestrian use, cleanup requirements, and site suitability rather than excluding every fruit-bearing tree.
Section 5 — Planting approvals	Approval procedures do not fully address stock substitutions, establishment responsibility, or acceptance of completed work.	Retain written approval for public-land planting. Require approved locations and stock, utility clearance, establishment arrangements, acceptance checks, and inventory entry. Clarify ownership and responsibilities for resident-sponsored trees.
Section 6 — Planting sites	Generic dimensions and inconsistent unit conversions may lead to unsuitable placement.	Correct conversions and align guidance with mature tree dimensions, rooting space, sightlines, utilities, and site conditions. Require utility-provider coordination where relevant.
Section 7 — Pruning priorities and delivery	The geographic sequence does not clearly explain how urgent concerns and limited resources affect scheduling.	Use GIS-based tree management software to record pruning needs, assign priorities, schedule work, and track completion. Prioritize safety concerns, disease requirements, clearance, and high-use locations, while retaining geographic grouping for efficient delivery. Distinguish work assigned to trained municipal staff from tasks requiring qualified contractors.
Section 8 — Tree removal	Retention provisions need a clearer connection to urgent safety and confirmed disease response.	Retain the principle that nuisance alone does not justify removal. Clarify assessment, authorization, emergency decisions, disease-related removal, documentation, and replacement-site review.
Section 10 — Reforestation	A positive planting-to-removal ratio does not demonstrate establishment success or canopy replacement.	Link planting commitments with available care capacity. Monitor planting, removals, two-year survival, and canopy change together, consistent with the UFMP targets.
Section 4 — Inventory and records	Update requirements and responsibilities are not sufficiently defined.	Record all planting and removals and update inspection and maintenance histories. Use unique tree identifiers and complete comprehensive inventory reviews at least every five years. Coordinate with periodic canopy assessment.
New provision — Community programs	Resident watering, memorial planting, and Tree Ambassador activities lack a consolidated framework.	Define approval, ownership, care, reporting, and oversight arrangements. Keep diagnosis, risk assessment, and enforcement with qualified or authorized personnel.
Appendices and document administration	Species descriptions, botanical names, numbering, and cross-references contain inconsistencies.	Replace Appendix A with the reviewed UFMP list, update assessment forms, correct technical descriptions and numbering, and identify approval dates, responsible staff, and review intervals.