

Public feedback sought on Greater Sudbury's urban forest

Sudbury.com Staff

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Sudbury.com reader and former columnist Chris Blomme snapped this image of birches on a bright fall day at Fielding Park in 2021. | Image: Chris Blomme

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The City of Greater Sudbury is developing an Urban Forest Master Plan and wants the community to weigh in on what they'd like to see it include.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 10, and more information on the public consultation process, including a survey, can be found by clicking [here](#).

In a media release issued by the city, urban forest is described as “all the trees, tree soils and tree infrastructure within Greater Sudbury’s urban communities. Assessing the extent of the urban forest canopy, or leafy growth viewed from overhead, is often used to determine the percentage of land covered by the urban forest.”

During 2022 budget deliberations in December 2021, [city council approved proceeding](#) with an Urban Forest Master Plan. A business case at the time (click [here](#) and view Page 338) said the plan would “assess Greater Sudbury's urban tree canopy to determine the services provided by this canopy, such as carbon sequestration (carbon capture), stormwater interception, air pollution reduction, cooling in summer and contribution to biodiversity.”

Through mapping the urban tree canopy, the plan will “provide recommendations for areas requiring additional tree planting, including street trees.”

The city last undertook a mapping of its urban tree canopy in 2003, according to the business case, and it has never been accessed in terms of the services it provides.

The development of an Urban Forest Master Plan has also been recommended in the city's [Official Plan](#) “to assist in treating urban trees as a valued asset that should be retained and maintained to stay healthy.”

In this week's media release, the city notes that the plan “will help to identify priority areas where the urban forest canopy should be increased so its many benefits can be enjoyed by residents. It will also consider the diversity of tree species, the health of our tree inventory and how best to maintain existing and future trees.”

Last year, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and world-renowned scientist Dr. Jane Goodall planted Greater Sudbury's [10-millionth tree](#) as part of the area's 44-year greening program.

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