

Appendix 3. Worksheet to Review Higher-Level Plans

Higher Level Planning Tools: Official Community Plan (may also include neighbourhood plans and urban design guidelines)

Does your plan contain policy direction that addresses the following?	Yes	No	Partially	N/A	Priority to Update?	Notes for update:
A clearly defined vision that, at the highest level, supports the importance of trees and forests to the community						
The connection between human health and well-being and forests and trees						
Aligning urban forest strategies with transportation, park, and climate plans						
Supporting development and implementation of urban forest and biodiversity conservation strategies						
Natural Environment						
Strategies that support urban forest goals and operational targets including tree canopy extent, planting targets, condition, and distribution, ecosystem services and urban forest system vulnerabilities						
Best management practices for the planting, establishment, maintenance, protection, risk management, and removal of trees						
Protection of significant trees or stands of trees						
Maintaining or enhancing the ecological viability of the urban forest, including supporting a diversity of forest types and a minimum widths/size of retention areas						

Does your plan contain policy direction that addresses the following?	Yes	No	Partially	N/A	Priority to Update?	Notes for update:
Maximizing the retention of existing vegetation and soils through development and infrastructure projects						
Design of new developments to prioritize protection of environmentally sensitive areas identified in a Natural Environment Development Permit area						
Maximizing the retention of existing native vegetation and restoring native vegetation wherever possible during site development in environmentally sensitive areas identified in a Natural Environment Development Permit area						
Provincial or regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts to conserve biological diversity and protect threatened and endangered species and ecosystems						
An ecosystem-level approach to ecological planning and management to ensure the ongoing function of environmentally sensitive areas, establishment and/or retention of ecosystem connectivity corridors and the preservation of species at risk						
Strategies to manage and protect rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies, and riparian areas, and to manage stormwater						
Strategies to maintain and improve biodiversity through the establishment and preservation of ecosystem connectivity corridors						

Does your plan contain policy direction that addresses the following?	Yes	No	Partially	N/A	Priority to Update?	Notes for update:
Integrated management options where appropriate, such as prescribed fire, rotational grazing, and natural regeneration to increase forest health and vitality						
Strategies to restore critical habitat and culturally significant vegetation						
Incentives for voluntary environmentally sensitive area protection including allowing increased height and density on the balance of the subject property, transferring density to another property, trading land, purchasing land, offering grants-in-aid, or granting tax exemptions						
Requiring land use and development projects to have “no net loss” of natural ecosystems and their functions as determined through environmental assessment for properties identified in a Natural Environment Development Permit Area, and pursuing net gain overall						
Mitigation sequencing of management actions that could harm trees or habitats by first trying to avoid impacts through siting and design, mitigate impacts where possible, or compensating if the loss is unavoidable						
Compensation requirements for unavoidable losses or trees or habitat						

Does your plan contain policy direction that addresses the following?	Yes	No	Partially	N/A	Priority to Update?	Notes for update:
Stewardship of environmentally sensitive areas on private property through conservation tools such as conservation covenants, land trusts and eco-gifting						
Tools to protect environmentally sensitive areas including dedicating land, returning to Crown Land, covenants, density bonusing, cluster housing, amenity contributions and adequate setbacks						
Initiatives, policies, outreach, or public assistance strategies that encourage private landowners to replace trees that have died or been removed						
Equity						
Equity in planning decisions and resource allocation in the community to ensure that forests and trees are preserved and protected in all neighbourhoods regardless of social, ethnic, or economic demographics						
Strategies to ensure equitable distribution, access and utilization of urban forests, parks and greenspaces						
A commitment to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including use of available resources and information to identify the Indigenous Peoples whose rights may be affected by the organization's urban forest management activities,						

Does your plan contain policy direction that addresses the following?	Yes	No	Partially	N/A	Priority to Update?	Notes for update:
recognition of the established framework of legal, customary, and traditional rights such as the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples						
Inclusive community engagement, diverse partnerships, equitable protocols, and targeted programming to ensure that forests and trees are planted, preserved, and protected in all neighbourhoods regardless of social, ethnic, or economic demographics						
Land Acquisition						
The acquisition of new parks and protected areas						
Connectivity between parks and public spaces						
Partnerships to acquire and deliver parks and public spaces						
Climate Resilience						
Designing the community to be more resilient to a changing climate including protecting natural areas and habitats, increasing park space and tree canopy cover, and reducing energy consumption by building energy-efficient neighbourhoods						

Does your plan contain policy direction that addresses the following?	Yes	No	Partially	N/A	Priority to Update?	Notes for update:
Green infrastructure strategies to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands, ecological disruption, and social/economic disruption due to climate change						
Encouraging collaboration with Indigenous Peoples to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into climate action						
Encouraging the community to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change						
Investing in trees and green infrastructure to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate on public land, in urban centres, and in new development						
Encouraging the use of adaptive management strategies in municipal operations to cope with uncertain climate conditions						
Reducing the risk of invasive species and diseases in sensitive ecosystems and where they threaten public health, the economy and the environment						
Urban Design						
Land use-specific guidance protecting and integrating nature and greening, including tree planting in both the public and private realm						
Form and character development permit areas that provide guidelines for incorporating high-quality landscape, and streetscape design to support livability, sustainability, and a sense of place						

Does your plan contain policy direction that addresses the following?	Yes	No	Partially	N/A	Priority to Update?	Notes for update:
Form and character development permit areas that provide guidelines for the design of streets and open spaces, create visual interest, comfort, and safety for pedestrians, and positively contribute to urban ecology and stormwater management (see Toolkit section 5.2.1 for more details on the use of form and character landscaping guidelines)						
Form and character development permit areas that provide guidelines to ensure the provision of adequate servicing, vehicle access, and parking while minimizing adverse impacts on the comfort, safety and attractiveness of the public realm						
Neighbourhood or area plans that guide future development in an area, including the locations of parks and public spaces and development standards to provide a link between the high-level planning found in an Official Community Plan and the regulatory detail of a zoning bylaw						
Public realm design guidelines that describe outcomes expected for urban centres, including public realm typologies, streetscape components, and expectations for the standard of trees, soils and materials installed in the public realm						