

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Putting Down Roots for the Future

Phase 1 Stakeholder Consultations Report

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SUMMARY

In November 2015, the City of Ottawa held a series of consultation sessions (Phase 1) to obtain preliminary input to the vision and direction for a strategic Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City's urban and suburban areas.

The consultations for this project have been divided into two phases. The purpose of the Phase 1 consultations was to inform participants about the UFMP project, provide background and context for the undertaking, obtain input on the vision for this Plan, and gather feedback on key issues, challenges and opportunities related to Ottawa's urban forest. The feedback received through these consultations will be carefully considered in the development of the draft UFMP. Phase 2 consultations, scheduled for the fall of 2016, will be an opportunity for participants to review and provide input on the draft UFMP.

Some 200 participants attended the Phase 1 external stakeholder and public consultation sessions, and additional input was received through 123 online and written responses to the consultation survey. A consultation session was also held with City staff.

All Phase 1 consultations and the survey focused on five questions which asked for input related to: what participants value about Ottawa's urban forest, what are perceived to be the greatest challenges and opportunities for Ottawa's urban forest, and what the City and participants could engage in to better support the urban forest.

In general, consultation participants and survey respondents expressed support for the City developing an Urban Forest Management Plan and for a strategic approach to managing the urban forest. Top responses included:

- Many respondents indicated that they primarily value the City's urban forest for the environmental benefits and services it provides, and for its beauty.
- Top challenges facing the City's urban forest identified included: competition for space with other land uses, inadequate tree protection, pests and invasive species, and a lack of public understanding about the benefits and services provided by trees resulting in a lack of appreciation for them. Lack of funding for urban forest management and lack of coordination among the City departments were also identified as current challenges.
- Opportunities related to the urban forest identified by numerous consultation participants included broader education and engagement of the public, planting a greater diversity of tree species, improving urban design standards, improving tree protection bylaws and policies, and increasing the enforcement of existing tree protection measures.
- Many participants indicated that the City could better support trees and the urban forest by providing support to other organizations and agencies active in this field, improving City policies and practices related to the urban forest, providing advice and education, and providing incentives for tree planting and care.

- Participants also indicated that they could help support Ottawa's urban forest by providing education and outreach, providing technical support and acting as citizen scientists, participating in tree planting and care, and advocating before Council.

BACKGROUND

The City of Ottawa has recently initiated the development of a strategic Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). This Plan, once approved, will fulfill one of City Council's Strategic Initiatives.

The City of Ottawa has many policies, programs, initiatives, and regulations related to the urban forest. However, the City currently lacks an overarching long-term vision and strategic direction to plan for, maintain, and enhance the urban forest. This Plan will provide a comprehensive and strategic approach to protecting, maintaining and enhancing Ottawa's urban forest.

What is the Urban Forest?

For the purposes of the UFMP, Ottawa's urban forest includes all trees and their habitats within the City's urban boundary. This includes trees on both public and private property: along city streets; in parks, open spaces and natural areas; and in the yards and landscaped areas of residences, offices, institutions, and businesses. The urban forest is a shared resource that provides a wide range of benefits and services to the entire community. The Urban Forest Management Plan will focus on the portion of the urban forest within the City's General Urban Area and Urban Expansion Study Areas.

Phase 1 Plan Consultations

In November 2015, the City of Ottawa held a series of consultation sessions to obtain preliminary input to the vision and direction for the UFMP, as well as an understanding of historical and current issues and potential actions to address these issues. The Phase 1 consultations were considered an opportunity to: (a) inform both members of the public and stakeholders about the potential value and use of an UFMP, and (b) discuss key issues, challenges and opportunities related to Ottawa's urban forest.

These Phase 1 consultations were the first opportunity for members of the public and key stakeholder groups to provide input into the development of the Plan. Future opportunities to provide input will be available as part of the Phase 2 consultations, currently scheduled for fall 2016.

To solicit input into the development of the Plan, members of the public and stakeholder groups were invited to submit responses to a five-question survey, which was provided to consultation participants in hardcopy and also made available on the City's website.

This report presents a summary of the input received during the course of the facilitated consultation sessions, through the consultation surveys, and through written opinion letters submitted to the City. Because the input received at the consultations and through the surveys was generally focused around five discussion questions, it is summarized together below. All input received is being considered during the development of the Draft Urban Forest Management Plan.

The Consultations

The Phase 1 consultations consisted of: (1) an external stakeholder session, (2) a public consultation session, and (3) an internal stakeholder meeting. These are each described in more detail below. For each of these sessions, a series of informational posters and a presentation were developed, and a hardcopy survey form was provided with a backgrounder sheet. Each of the three consultations followed the same general format:

- Poster board viewing (about 30 minutes)
- Welcome and introductions by City staff (and Councillors at the external stakeholder and public sessions) (about 10 minutes)
- Presentation by the Consulting Team (about 20 minutes)
- Large group facilitated question and answer period (about 30 minutes)
- Small group facilitated discussion in break-out groups (about one hour)
- Report back from the small group sessions (about 20 minutes)
- Wrap up and closing remarks (about 10 minutes)

Break-out groups were not required for the internal stakeholder consultations due to the relatively small size of the consultation group; the session was held as one group. Bilingual City staff were on hand to address any questions in French during the public consultation session, and both the posters and survey handouts were provided in English and French.

The facilitated discussions were focused on obtaining input to the five discussion questions (described below) which focused the discussion on “high level” issues related to UFMP vision, issues and opportunities. Note takers were assigned to each session so that all input was recorded.

Consultation sessions were held on November 24 and 25, 2015 and consisted of three separate facilitated consultation sessions, including:

- 1. External Stakeholders Session - 1:30 to 4.30 pm on November 24, 2015 in the Colonel By Room and Councillor Lounge**
 - This session included invited representatives from local conservation authorities and other agencies, the National Capital Commission (NCC), community organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations, the development community, and others. Forty external stakeholders attended this consultation session.

2. Public Consultation Session - 6.30 to 9.30 pm on November 24, 2015 in the Jean Pigott Room, Colonel By Room and Council Chambers

- This session was open to all members of the public. This meeting was advertised through a media advisory, the City's website and social media, Councillor outreach, the City's circulation list for this project, and other partners' circulation lists. Over 150 people participated in the public consultation session.

3. Internal Stakeholders Session - 9.00 am to noon on November 25, 2015 in the Colonel By Room

- This session included invited City staff members from departments which are directly or indirectly involved in urban forest management, or who make decisions which may affect the urban forest. Thirty-two City staff members participated in the internal stakeholder consultation session.

Survey and Discussion Questions

Consultation participants and members of the public were invited to complete a five-question survey related to the vision and direction for the UFMP. The survey was provided to consultation participants in hardcopy and also made available on the City's website. It was posted online on November 24, 2015, and the deadline for submission of survey responses was December 16, 2015. The survey questions were designed to be open-ended, thereby allowing participants to freely provide their answers instead of choosing from a series of pre-selected responses. This method allowed respondents to provide a high level of detail, give unique insight into urban forest challenges and opportunities, and share their personal experiences. The survey included the following five questions:

1. What do you value most about the trees in Ottawa's urban and suburban areas?
2. In your opinion, what are the greatest challenges facing trees in Ottawa's urban and suburban areas?
3. In your opinion, what opportunities exist to better support trees and the urban forest in Ottawa's urban and suburban areas?
4. What could the City do to help you (or your organization) better support trees and the urban forest in Ottawa?
5. What contributions might you (or your organization) be able to make to better support trees and the urban forest in Ottawa?

A total of 123 surveys were submitted. As described in the Analysis of Responses section, not every survey included responses to all five questions.

The five survey and discussion questions outlined above were also used to guide the facilitated discussions during all three consultation sessions (External, Internal and Public).

Opinion Letters Received by the City

Several community associations and local environmental non-governmental associations also submitted comprehensive opinion letters, which will provide invaluable input into the UFMP development process.

Opinion letters were submitted by the following organizations:

- Urban Core Community Associations (specifically: Centredown Citizens, Old Ottawa South, Glebe, Ottawa East and Dalhousie Community Associations) (dated November 24, 2015)
- Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa (FCA) (dated December 2015)
- Greenspace alliance of Canada's Capital (dated December 12, 2015)
- Ottawa Stewardship Council (dated December 2015)
- Tree Ottawa (including input from: Ecology Ottawa, Tree Ottawa, Members of Champlain Oaks, Members of Big Trees of Kitchissippi, Members of Community Association Forum for Environmental Sustainability, Members of Federation of Citizens Associations, Members of Greenspace Alliance, and Hidden Harvest) (dated November 24, 2015)

A summary of the feedback provided in these opinion letters is incorporated into the results below. Although not all the feedback was explicitly organized according to the five survey questions, it was possible to group the vast majority of the responses within one of these five questions.

Emails Received by the City

The City received a number of emails containing attached written survey responses or opinion letters on behalf of organizations. In addition to these, the City also received eight emails from interested or concerned individuals who generously shared their thoughts, experiences and suggestions. These suggestions will be fully considered during the development of the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Other Input

Member of the public and other stakeholders were, and continue to be, encouraged to submit their thoughts or suggestions concerning the Urban Forest Management Plan via email, telephone or fax.

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

Methodology

Although the five survey/discussion questions were open-ended, a number of themes did emerge from the responses, thereby allowing trends to be identified and quantified in the submitted survey responses and consultation discussions.

To identify these key themes, survey and consultation responses were 'scanned' at a high level to identify commonalities in topic areas present in multiple responses. Responses were coded into thematic groups using subjective assessment of key words or ideas – similar and recurring words or ideas were grouped into themes. 'Outlier' words or ideas, which occurred singularly or much less frequently than others, were grouped as 'Other' and noted.

Due to the open-ended nature of the survey questions, most respondents provided multiple responses to each question. Therefore, multiple themes or multiple mentions of one theme were sometimes included in a single response. In the former case (multiple themes mentioned), each theme was counted once. In the latter case (multiple mentions of one theme), the theme was also counted only once, irrespective of the number of times the theme was mentioned in that particular response. This was done to avoid weighting the analysis of responses towards possible individual biases and to obtain more representative results.

Due to the nature of the public and external consultation sessions, the summary of the results followed a different approach. Where possible, the same categories were used to group similar open-ended questions. However, because these sessions consisted of groups of individuals in an open discussion there was a certain amount of "filtering" of repetitive responses within each session. Consequently, the public and external consultation analyses show the number of references within and among the seven groups. For example, a reference to air quality and a reference to wildlife habitat within one group would each be recorded within the Environmental Benefits category

Presentation of Results

Survey and consultation results are presented by number of mentions of a given theme and as a percentage of total number of responses. For example, if the "Environmental benefits" theme was mentioned by 35 respondents of a total of 108 responses for a given question, this would represent 32% of total responses to that question.

Results are presented in three categories, corresponding to the way input was received, including:

- Stakeholder consultation session input
- On-line and hardcopy survey results, and
- Opinion letters.

CONSULTATION INPUT AND SURVEY RESPONSES

Question 1: What do you value most about the trees in Ottawa’s urban and suburban areas?

Public and External Consultations

A total of 79 responses were recorded for Question 1. "Environmental benefits" were referred to 16 times (20%). Values associated with "Beauty and nature" were cited 11 times (14%) and "Psychological / spiritual well-being" values were associated with 10 responses (13%).

"Physical Health/Recreation" and "Strengthening communities" each had 9 responses (11%). The production of "Food" and "Shade" had 6 and 5 responses respectively (8% and 6%). "Economic benefits" were only mentioned once. The remaining references were classified as "Other" and covered a wide range of values including: "Heritage, timber production, crime reduction, history - ice storm, traffic calming, marks time - changing seasons, enhances our lives," etc.

There were ten responses from the External consultations, with no striking differences between the distribution of these among categories when compared to the Public input. Figure 1 illustrates these responses by category. The "Other" category in the External consultation included comments such as "Ottawa as the capital city - a glowing example, well-distributed [canopy], addressing tree deserts and restoring historic presence of trees, traffic calming, and public education".

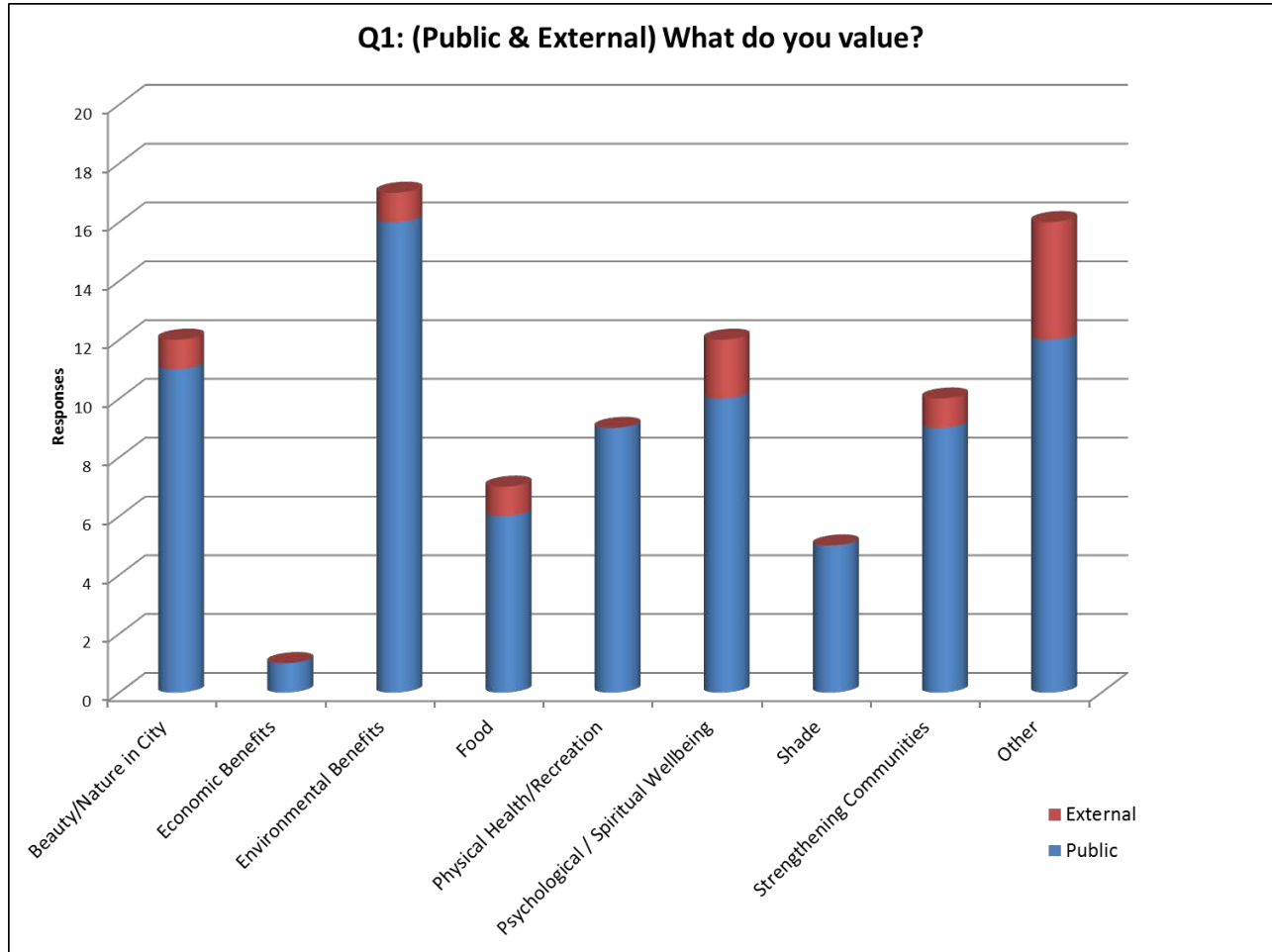


Figure 1: Responses to Question 1, external stakeholders and public.

Surveys

A total of 119 responses were provided to Question 1. The theme of “Beauty and nature” was the most commonly-cited value (82 responses, or 69% of responses). “Environmental benefits” were the second most frequently-cited value (71, 60%). The third most commonly-cited value (44, 37%) was “Shade”, which was considered a separate theme as it provides multiple benefits. Other value themes included “Physical health and recreation” (22, 18%), “Psychological and spiritual wellbeing” (21, 18%), “Strengthening communities” (15, 13%), “Food production and security” (11, 9%), “Economic benefits” (10, 8%), and “Other” (15, 13%). The “other” theme included values such as heritage, seasonality, and privacy.

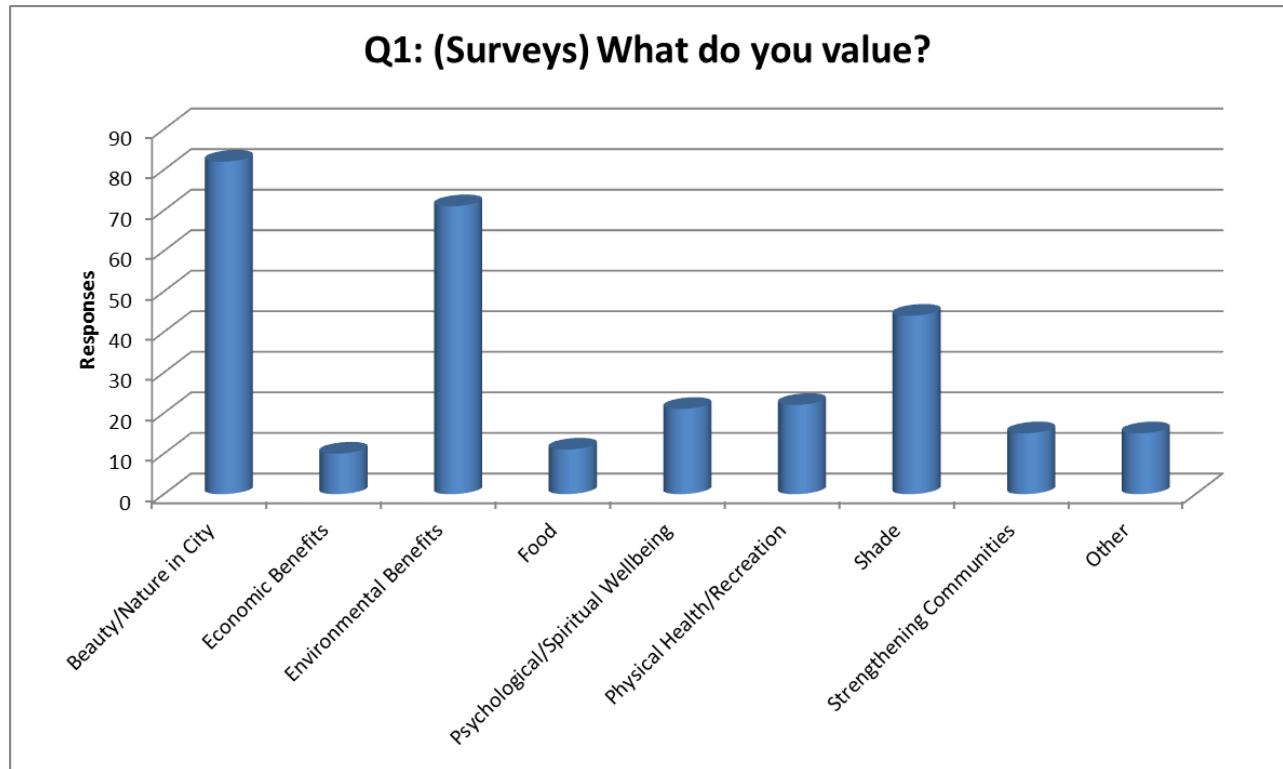


Figure 2: Responses to Question 1, surveys.

Opinion Letters

The following ideas and themes were shared related to a vision for Ottawa’s urban forest:

- *“We are Canada’s Capital and the vision for our urban forest should be an inspiration to the rest of the country.”*
- *“Ottawa’s forest cleans our air, improves the health of our residents, beautifies our communities, and overall improves our quality of life”.*
- Consider: the Natural Heritage System, riparian areas, integrated Low Impact Development.
- Priority on: preserving mature trees, increasing canopy cover, achieving equitable distribution, increasing biodiversity, increasing awareness, promoting stewardship, and improving monitoring.
- It is essential to view Ottawa’s urban forest as an integral green asset which is just as, or more, important than grey infrastructure.
- Key words and ideas: green network for commuters and tourists, connected system of parks – natural areas – pathways – street plantings – landscaped areas, integrated ecosystems, model of native biodiversity, basis for healthy living.

Question 2: In your opinion, what are the greatest challenges facing trees in Ottawa’s urban and suburban areas?

Public and External Consultations

Seventy-seven responses addressed the challenges facing Ottawa's urban forest. These were classified into 15 categories including "Other". The category with the most frequent references was "Inadequate tree protection" with 13 references (17%). Four categories clustered around 6 to 7 references (8 to 9%); these included "Lack of knowledge about tree value", "Competition for space", "Insufficient replanting" and "Lack of public education and engagement". Comments relating to "Tree conflicts" and "Inadequate maintenance" represented 5 (6%) and 4 (5%) references, respectively. Comments around "Tree conflicts" related to issues such as sidewalk heaving, shading gardens or tree roots invading weeping tiles - the negative aspects of trees as a challenge. All other categories represented less than 5% of the responses. The "Other" category, as would be expected, was very diverse with comments such as "NCC and other private lands provide City with an easy out, infill development, vandalism, poor survival and growth, when trees are planted are they mapped (need good maps), tree spaces are dangerous places, plows damage trees, stormwater management, bureaucracy," etc.

The External consultation added another seven responses. Three of these referred to "Competition for space". The rest were single responses, as shown in Figure 3.

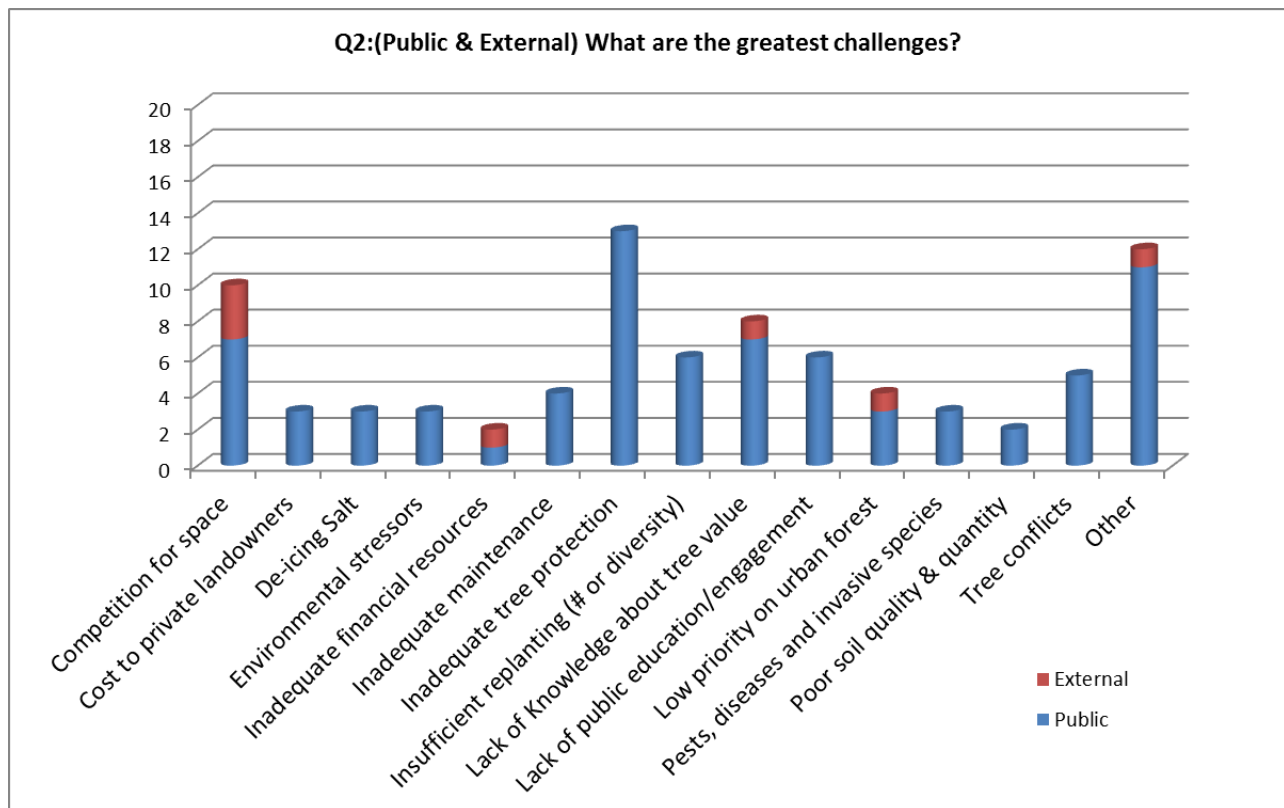


Figure 3: Responses to Question 2, external stakeholders and public.

Surveys

A total of 123 responses were provided to Question 2, and many challenges facing trees were identified. Over one-half (66, 54%) of responses identified “Inadequate tree protection”, including policies and practices, as a challenge to trees in Ottawa. Forty responses (33%) identified the themes of “Competition for space” with infrastructure, buildings or other landscape elements and “Pests, diseases and/or invasive species” as challenges. Thirty-two responses (26%) identified “Environmental stressors”, including climate change as a challenge, while 29 (24%) cited the “Lack of public education and/or engagement”. “Inadequate maintenance” of trees and “Insufficient replanting”, either in terms of the number of trees planted or tree species diversity, were each cited as challenges in 19 responses (15%). “De-icing salt” was cited in 10 responses (8%), “Inadequate resources” for management in 9 responses (7%), “Poor soil quality and/or quantity” in 4 responses (3%), the urban forest as a “Low priority for municipal management” in 2 responses (2%). The “Cost to private landowners” and a “Lack of knowledge about tree value” were each cited as a challenge in 1 responses (1%). These two themes were considered separate from others, as they recurred more frequently during the stakeholder and public consultations. “Other” challenges were cited in 21 responses (17%) and included a wide range of issues such as fruit and nut waste from food trees, an ageing tree population, clay soils and related policies, lack of natural heritage systems planning, and many others.

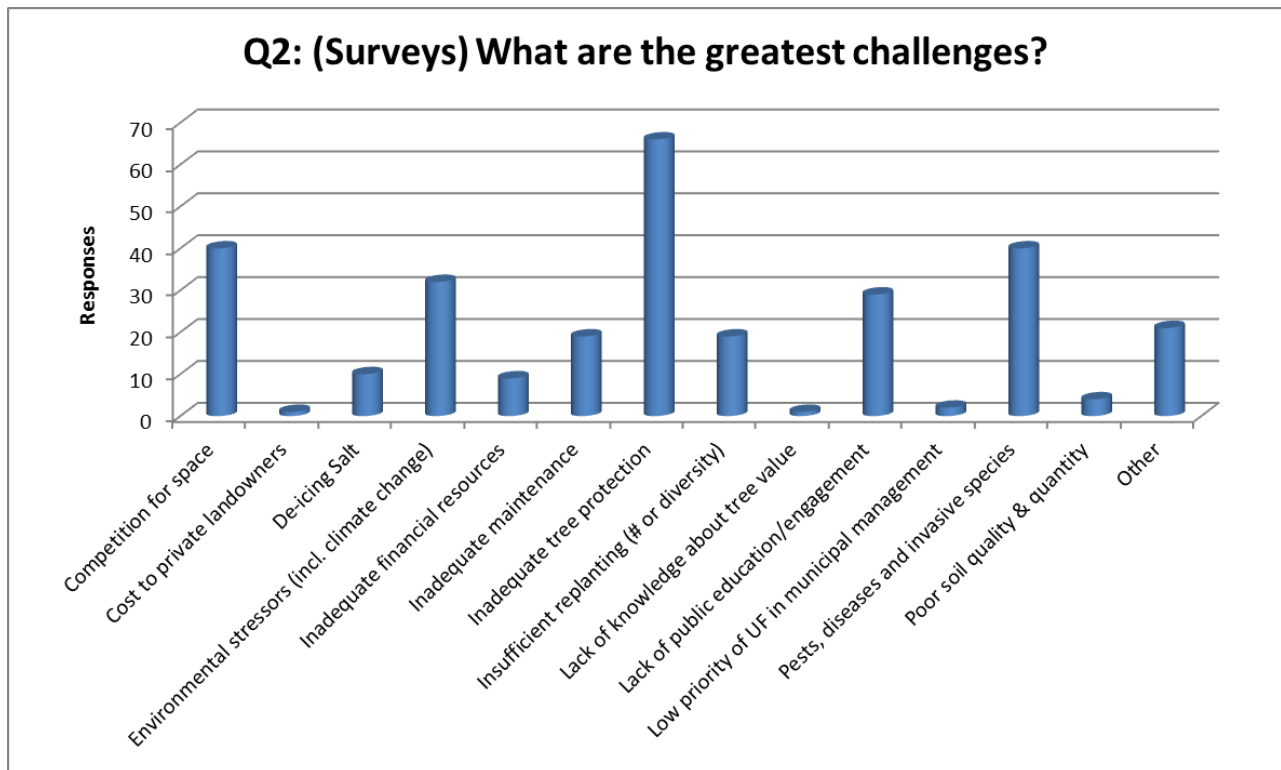


Figure 4: Responses to Question 2, surveys.

Opinion Letters

The following input was provided related to challenges for sustaining Ottawa's urban forest:

- Lack of funding for urban forest protection, maintenance and expansion;
- Intensification and densification;
- Inadequate protection for old growth forest in the city;
- Lack of support for outreach and education;
- Ongoing losses due to pests (e.g., Emerald Ash Borer) and development;
- Disjunct between Council direction and City's operational approach;
- Lack of enforcement of existing tree by-laws;
- Lack of proactive and proper planning to accommodate trees;
- Lack of knowledge about regulations regarding boundary trees;
- Lack of public consultation regarding re-development of community parks and open spaces; and
- Lack of City jurisdiction over the extensive NCC Greenbelt and other NCC-owned lands.

Question 3: In your opinion, what opportunities exist to better support trees and the urban forest in Ottawa's urban and suburban areas?

Public and External Consultations

The 55 public responses to the question about opportunities that exist to better support trees were placed into 15 categories. Fully one-quarter of all entries addressed the opportunity for greater "Public education and engagement" with 14 entries. The category with the second most frequent reference was "Increased tree planting" (embracing greater numbers as well as diversity of species) with 7 entries (11%). "Improved communications" and "Increased by-law enforcement" were next at 4 entries (7%) each. The development of a "Green roof policy", "Incentives for private landowners" and the "Revision or elimination of the marine clay policy" each had 3 (5%) references. In this case the "Other" category included suggestions such as: consultation with universities regarding health benefits metrics and benefit/cost analyses; provincial leadership in urban forestry; city ownership/easement to preserve individual trees (e.g. donation); purchase to tender trees go to 1 person/business; City should buy [land] along water courses to plant trees; collaboration with the NCC and CAs; use less salt or "green salt" on roads; locally available germplasm; etc."

The External consultation added seven responses. Two addressed "Improved urban design" and one called for greater "Public education and engagement". The "Other" category included references such as "use ESA process to directly benefit urban areas, commit to goals of UFMP, clearly articulate needs from higher levels of government."

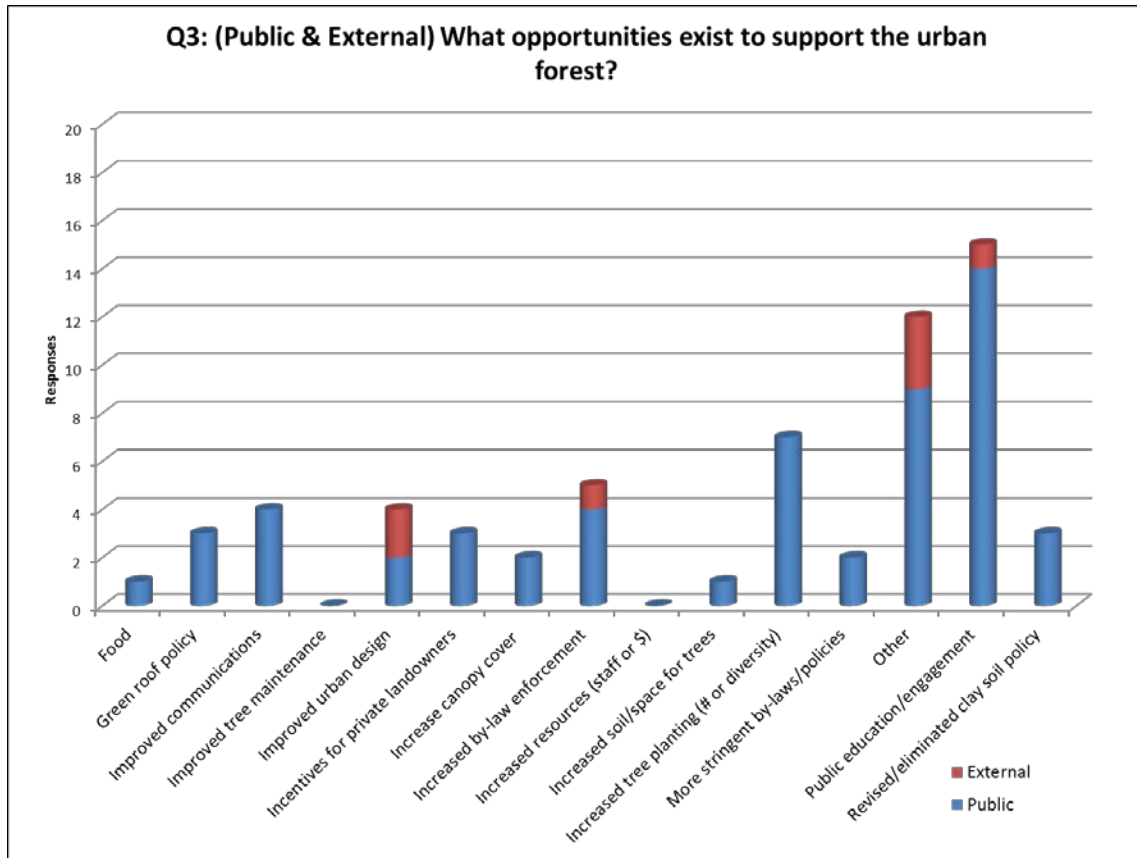


Figure 5: Responses to Question 3, external stakeholders and public.

Surveys

A total of 120 responses were provided to Question 3, and many opportunities to support the urban forest were identified. The most responses (40, 33%) identified “Increased tree planting”, either in terms of number or diversity of trees planted, as an opportunity. 31 responses (26%) suggested “More stringent policies and by-laws” should be put in place to protect trees. Nearly the same number of responses (30, 25%) suggested that “Improved urban design”, ranging in scale from city-wide to site-specific, would support the urban forest. It should be noted that 12 additional responses (10%) specifically cited “Improved or increased soil” as an opportunity; these two themes were considered related by separate as the latter is more technically specific. Other opportunity themes identified included: “Public education/engagement” (27, 23%), “Improved tree maintenance” (13, 11%), utilizing the urban forest for “Food” (10, 8%), “Incentives for private landowners” (10, 8%), “Improved communications” (9, 8%), “Increased by-law enforcement” (9, 8%), “Increased resources” (7, 6%) including staffing or funding, “Revised/eliminated clay soil policy” (4, 3%), “Increased canopy cover” (3, 3%), and a “Green roof policy” (2, 2%). “Other” opportunities included an adopt-a-tree program, tree naming/art projects, community gardens, purchasing of lands for tree planting, and may other valuable ideas.

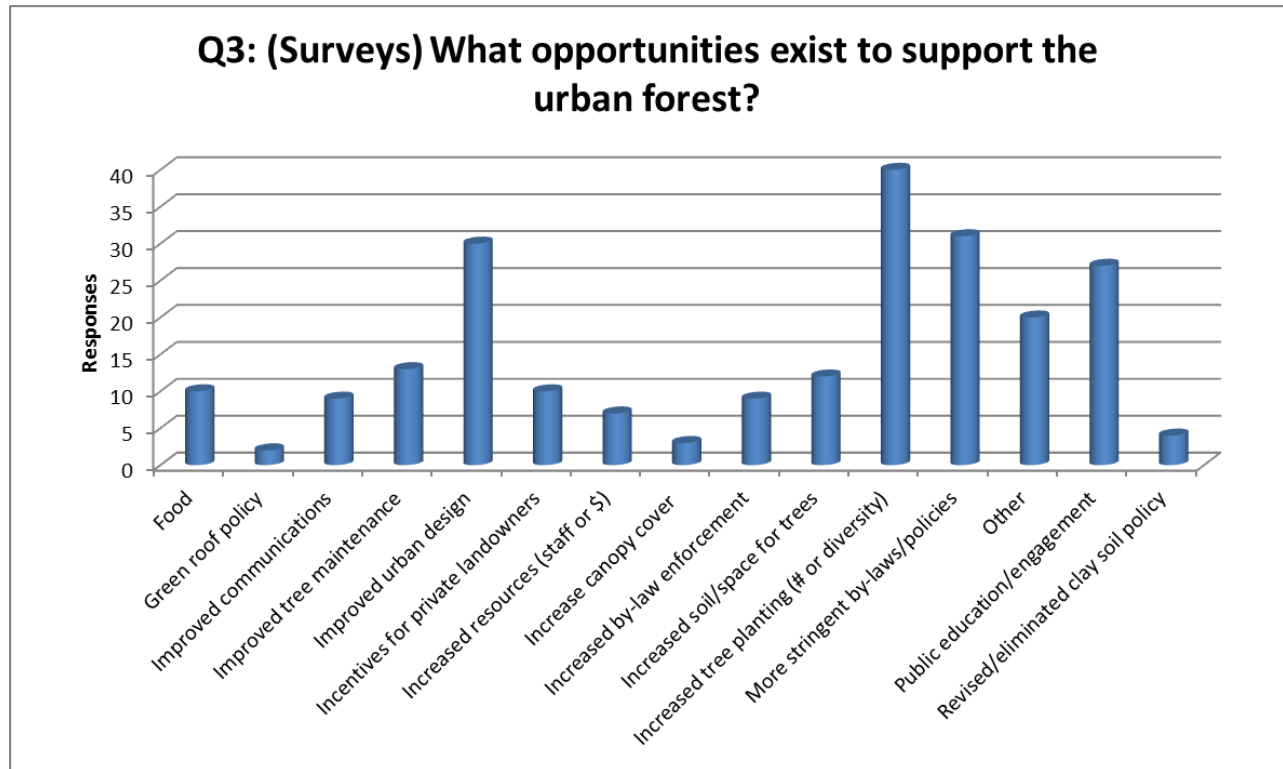


Figure 6: Responses to Question 3, surveys.

Opinion Letters

The opinion letters identified many opportunities for supporting the urban forest in Ottawa. These were grouped into the four themes of: (1) better collaboration and coordination, (2) setting a better example on public lands, (3) improving tree preservation and establishment on private lands, and (4) expanded outreach and stewardship. The suggestions under each of these themes are summarized below.

- Better collaboration and coordination
 - » Explore if infrastructure funds can be dedicated towards green infrastructure.
 - » Collaborate with NCC to try and ensure that the Greenbelt and other NCC managed properties are protected and managed with the same objectives as the UFMP.
 - » Collaborate with local “citizen scientists” to gather and share information.
 - » Work with local citizen scientists and developers on approaches and policies to protect old growth forest within the city (e.g., Arlington Woods, the Champlain Oaks in Champlain Park and Westboro Beach, and the South March Highlands).
 - » Work with local growers to ensure there is an adequate quantity of good quality native tree stock for municipal projects and other uses.
 - » Collaborate with Province to tree highway rights-of-way.

- » Better collaboration with Ottawa Hydro regarding arboricultural best practices.
- » Improve education and coordination among City departments with respect to tree preservation and planting opportunities, including review of salting application.
- Setting a better example on public lands
 - » Demonstrate best practices for tree preservation during construction or improvements to sidewalks and roads.
 - » All streets should be planned to provide adequate above and below-ground space (and soil) for trees, planning for large trees wherever possible.
 - » All streets should include a diversity of trees, preferably native species that are locally sourced.
 - » There should be a tree replacement strategy that includes at least a 1:1 replacement of all trees removed (not just upon adjacent residents' request), as well as planning for areas dominated by older trees. Where trees cannot be replaced in situ due to intensification, more effort should be placed on "treeing-up" public boulevards, parks and open spaces.
- Improving tree preservation and establishment on private lands
 - » Require that tree information to be disclosed with building permit applications so that these can be considered as part of the process.
 - » Require that existing trees be identified on development plans and that, where such trees are being preserved, so that appropriate preservation measures are in place.
 - » Require that opportunities for tree planting be integrated (e.g., at least one tree per 1000 ft² of building).
 - » Have staff review proposed tree preservation / removals / plantings on site prior to approval, and then review again during construction to ensure the approved plans are being adhered to.
 - » Allocate more resources to enforcement of the City's tree by-laws, and require letters of credit for trees to be preserved.
- Expanded outreach and stewardship
 - » An education campaign on the benefits of trees, particularly larger / heritage trees.
 - » Include more information of the City's website about species selection and how to plant and care for trees.
 - » Provide support for "community tree keepers" or "adopt an Urban Natural Area" programs.
 - » Provide incentives to plant and maintain trees on private property.
 - » Create a new City staff position to coordinate volunteer efforts and activities.

Question 4: What could the City do to help you (or your organization) better support trees and the urban forest in Ottawa?

Public and External Consultations

The 46 responses to Question 4 were divided into nine categories. The somewhat lower number when compared to the previous three questions could have been due to time constraints during the break-out session rather than a lack of interest in suggesting how the City can help. With 12 of the 46 responses (26%) suggesting a need for the City to "Coordinate or support other organizations or agencies." This is consistent with the recognition of "Public education and engagement" as the strongest category in Question 3 regarding opportunities. A category closely related to support for organizations and greater public education and engagement is "Provide advice or education" which received 6 references (13%). Suggestions for the "Improvement and enforcement of the Tree protection by-law" also had 6 references (13%). The provision of "... free trees for planting" and "...incentives to private landowners" each were referred to 4 times (9%). The "Other" category included suggestions such as: "agreements re: foraging opportunities; increase access to public land; Plant Rights of Way; greater emphasis on public transit; stump grinding; provide adequate and suitable stock; remove invasive species; engage local tree growers (nurseries); etc."

Nine responses were added through the External consultation. Two each referred to "Improve city practices", "Private property owner Incentives" and "Support other organizations/agencies". The only "Other" reference was to "planting shrubs or fruit trees in hydro ROWs".

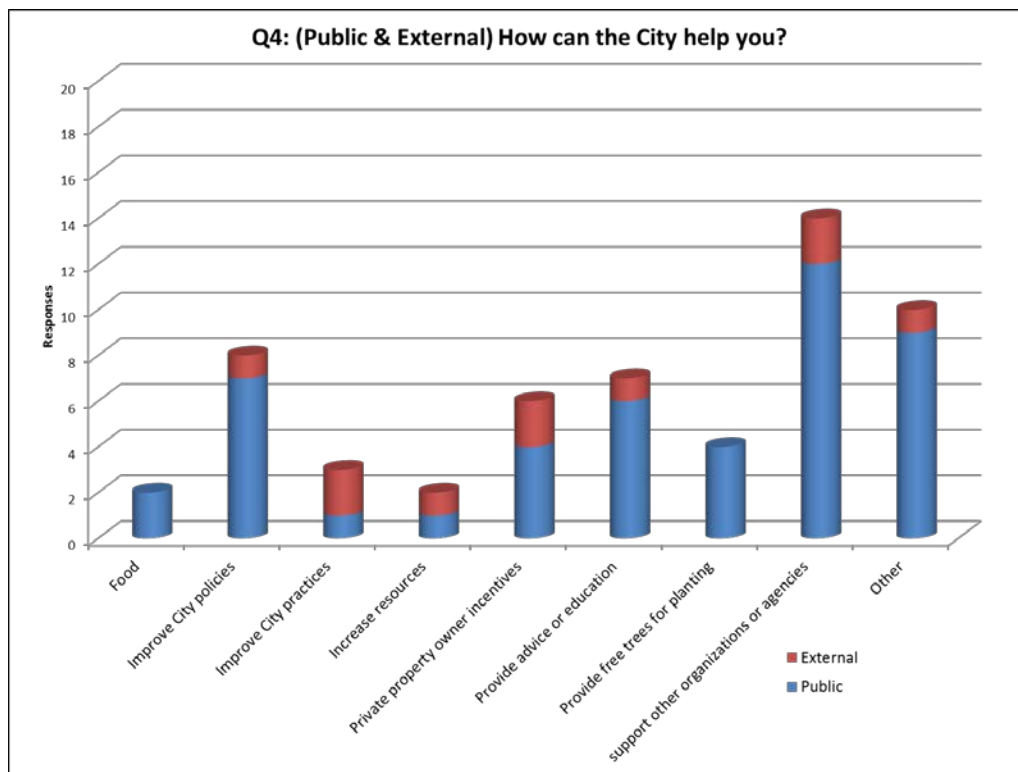


Figure 7: Responses to Question 4, external stakeholders and public.

Surveys

A total of 112 responses were provided to Question 4, and many practicable suggestions were provided for how the City could help individuals and organizations better support the urban forest. The most common theme (31, 28%) was to “Improve City policies”, with specific focus on tree protection by-laws and policies. Many responses (28, 25%) also suggested that the City should “Provide advice/education”, to increase public knowledge of the importance of urban forests and related by-laws and policies. Nearly as many responses (26, 23%) suggested the City and agencies such as Hydro Ottawa need to improve their urban forest management and maintenance practices. Other themes included: “Coordinate with or support other organizations and agencies” (20, 18%), “Provide free trees for planting” (15, 13%), “Increase resources” including staffing or funding (10, 9%), support urban forest “Food” harvesting (6, 5%) and provide “Private property owner incentives” for tree planting or care (4, 4%). “Other” responses (22, 20%) included a wide range of suggestions, ranging from providing summer student jobs to making the tree inventory publicly available.

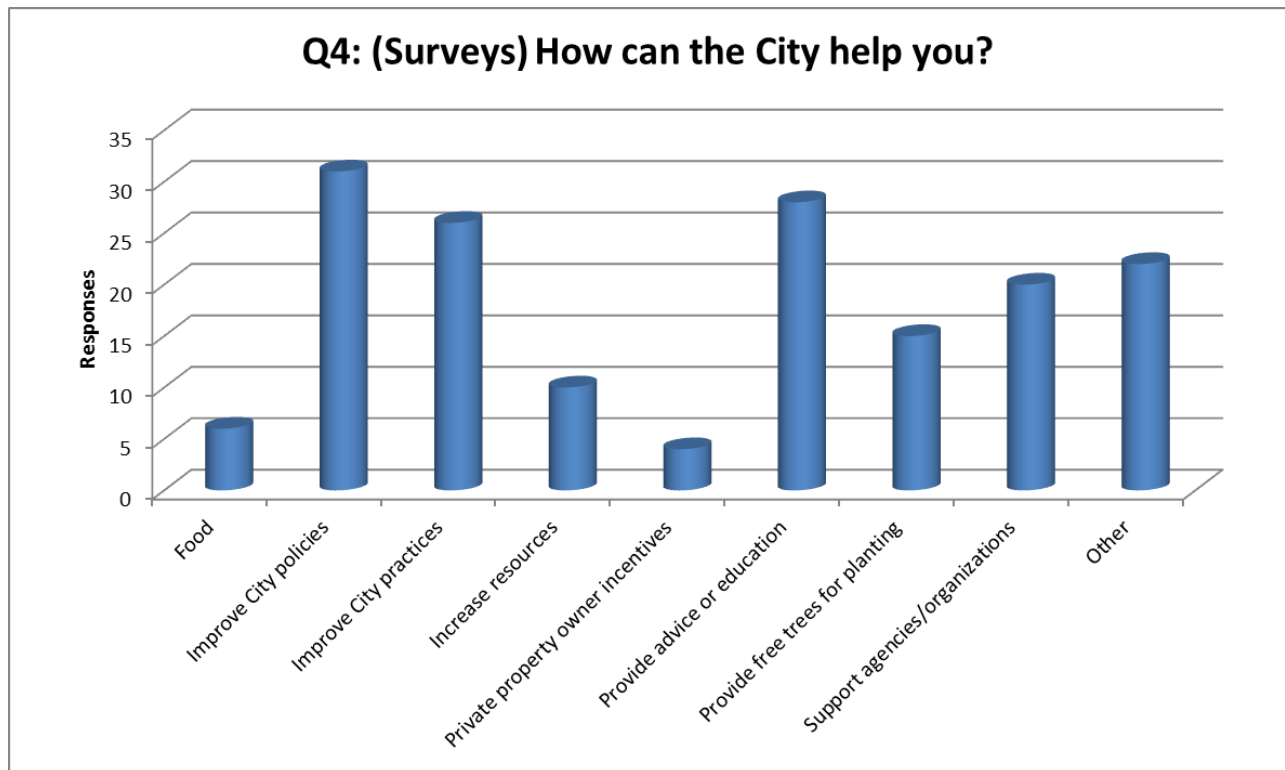


Figure 8: Responses to Question 4, surveys.

Opinion Letters

The opinion letters included many suggestions for what the City could do to better support the urban forest. Many of these are captured in the responses to Question 3; the remainder are listed below.

- Develop an UFMP that is integrated with other City plans / policies / guidelines, includes a critical assessment of current conditions, and actions with targets and performance measures to meet established goals.
- Give the UFMP a 100-year time horizon.
- Undertake a baseline inventory / assessment of Ottawa's urban forest.
- Balance densification with green infrastructure.
- Plan and manage for a diverse and resilient urban forest able to withstand the challenges of climate change.
- Recommend and implement applicable best practices.
- Use a total cost accounting system that considers the value of the existing tree canopy, including ecosystem services provided, to help rationalize investing more in protection, maintenance and enhancement.
- Allocate more resources to: protection, maintenance and establishment of trees on public lands; enforcement of existing policies / regulations; and monitoring the status of the urban forest.

Question 5: What contributions might you (or your organization) be able to make to better support trees and the urban forest in Ottawa?

Public and External Consultations

The final question had substantially fewer responses (17). Based on the observations of the consulting team who facilitated some of the sessions, this is most likely a reflection of time constraints rather than interest.

More than one-third of the responses recognized the need and the opportunity to assist the City through involvement in "Education and Communication" (6, 35%). Again, this is consistent with the more frequent responses to questions 3 and 4. "Informing and influencing city policies and practices" represented 3 of the comments (18%). Two references each were placed in the "Citizen science" and "General volunteering" categories (12%). Reference was also made to "Monitoring development", "Monitoring tree health" and "Fundraising".

The External consultation added one reference to each of these four most referenced categories.

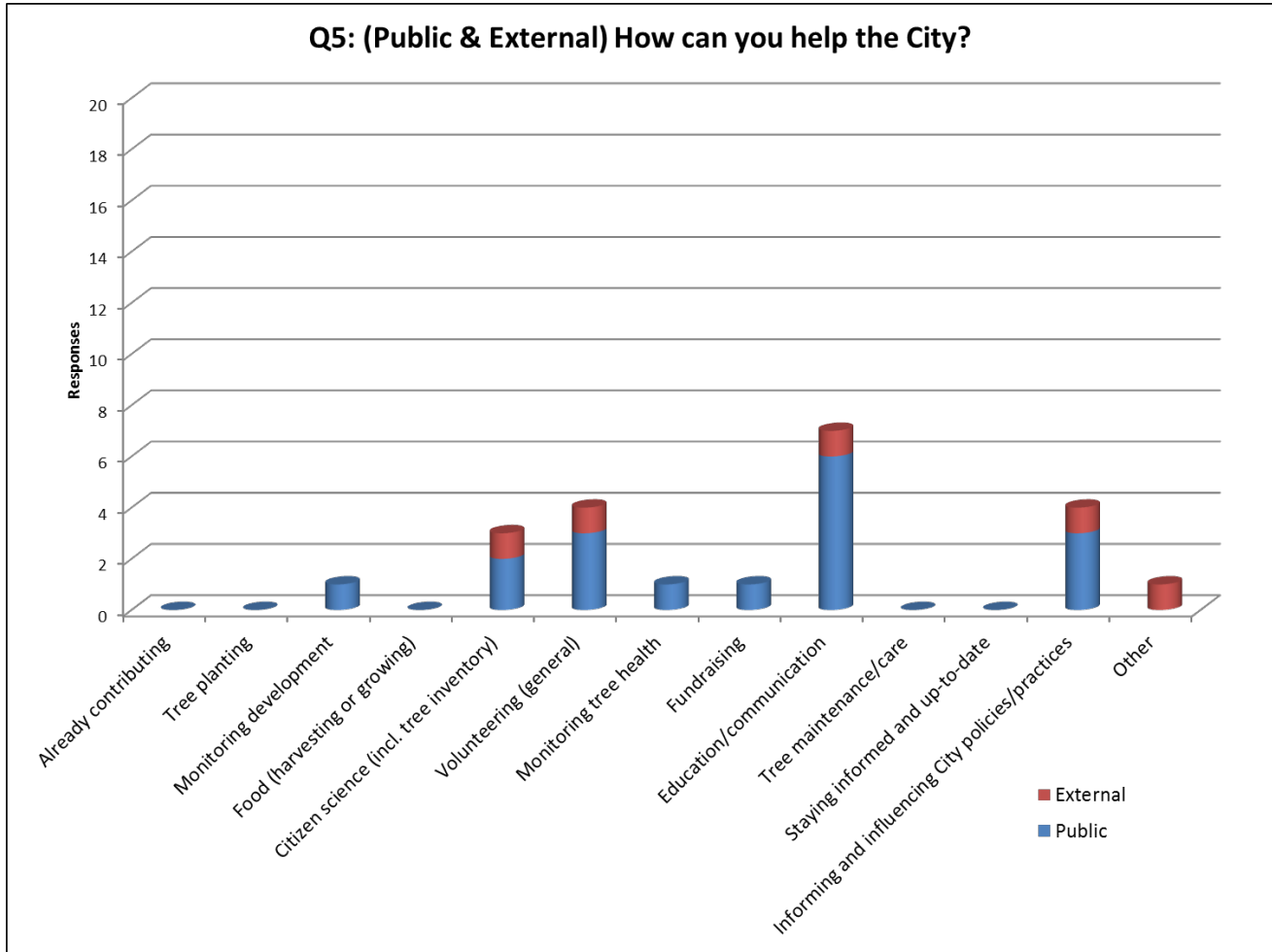


Figure 9: Responses to Question 5, external stakeholders and public.

Surveys

A total of 108 responses were provided to Question 5, and respondents identified a range of opportunities to assist the City with urban forest management. The largest number of responses (29, 27%) cited “Education/communication”, suggesting that many residents and stakeholders are eager to share their knowledge of the importance and value of the urban forest. Nearly as many responses (27, 25%) cited “Tree planting”, suggesting that one-quarter of respondents are willing to assist with tree planting initiatives, on both public and private lands. Many respondents (19, 18%) said they will continue to advocate for the urban forest by “Informing and influencing City policies/practices”. Many other potential contributions were cited by respondents, including: “General volunteering” (14, 13%), “Tree maintenance/care” (13, 12%), “Monitoring development” and reporting on tree protection contraventions (9, 8%), “Monitoring tree health” (9, 8%) and reporting health issues, “Food (harvesting or growing)” (5, 5%), “Fundraising” (4, 4%), and “Staying informed and up-to-date” (4, 4%). 12 responses (11%) cited “Other” potential contributions, such as developing local seed sources, general capacity building, or providing highly specialized advice. 8 respondents (7%) said they are already contributing to urban forest efforts and activities.

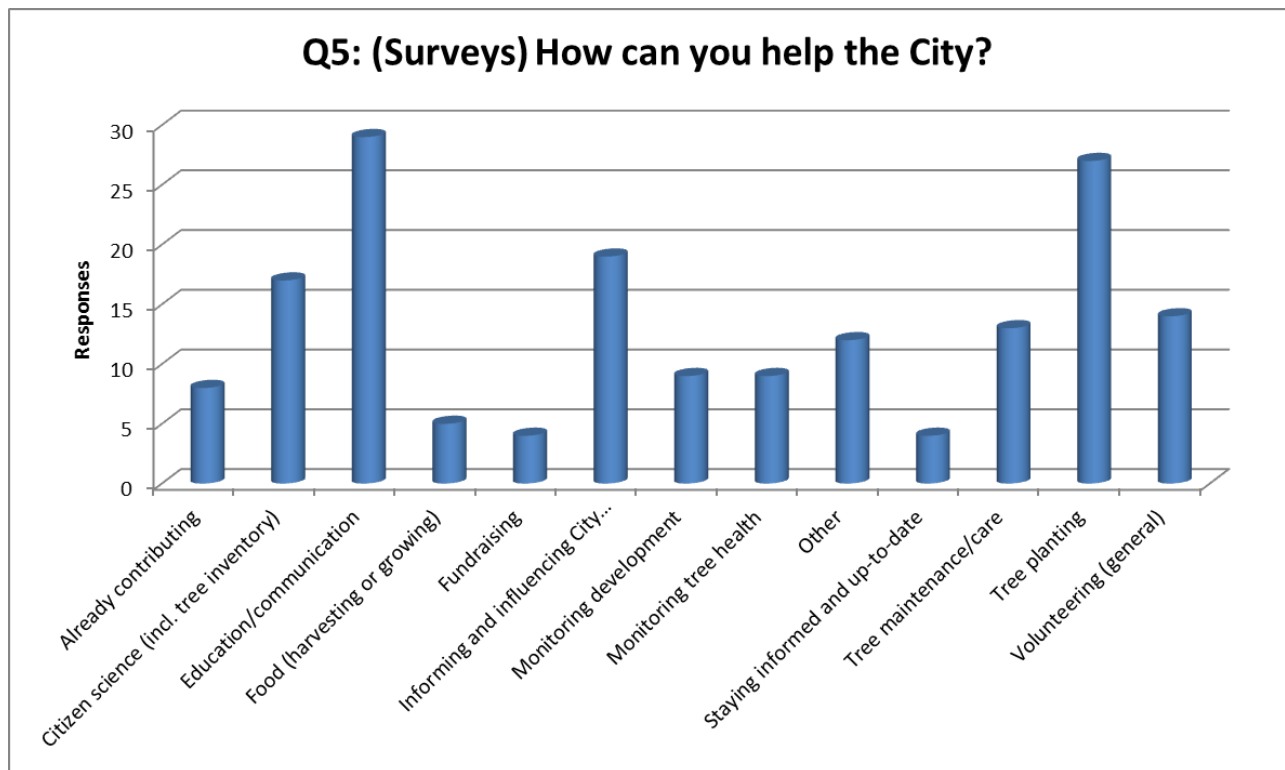


Figure 10: Responses to Question 5, surveys.

Opinion Letters

The opinion letters identified a number of specific ways in which the groups represented could assist the City in caring for the urban forest. Most of these comments focused on how these groups could volunteer their expertise by acting as “citizen scientists” in range of capacities. Prominent examples included the following:

- Local “citizen scientists” and tree advocacy groups can provide data on local wooded areas, act as advocates in their neighbourhoods, and are willing to speak to City staff / the UFMP consultants as well as the development community and Council.
 - » E.g., Ottawa field Naturalist Club has over 700 members
- Local “citizen scientists” and tree advocacy groups can work with local schools to help them integrate hands-on tree or woodland care into their school curriculum.
- Local “citizen scientists” and tree advocacy groups can start an Ottawa Tree Stewards group, which would provide training and certification to volunteers to care for the city’s trees.

In addition, all letters indicated a strong desire to provide input to the UFMP development. Three of the five letters expressed a desire for an interim consultation between the Phase 1 visioning / preliminary input consultations and the Phase 2 Draft Plan consultations. Two of the letters specifically suggest an interim consultation session whereby the draft vision and goals, along with an outline for the Plan with expected outcomes, would be presented for input.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Phase 1 consultations for the City of Ottawa Urban Forest Management Plan successfully engaged a large number of participants, and important and valuable input was received. This feedback will be considered carefully, in conjunction with background information and appropriate best practices and precedents, as the Consulting Team works with the City to develop the draft UFMP. The draft UFMP will be released for public review in the fall of 2016.

Given the extent and nature of the feedback received through the Phase 1 consultations, careful consideration will also be given to approaches and methods that can be incorporated into the Phase 2 consultations to ensure that all those interested in participating have an opportunity to provide input to the draft UFMP. In addition to facilitated workshops, consultations will include access to a complete draft UFMP which will be posted on the City’s website in advance of the workshops, as well as access to an online survey which will solicit input on the various components of the draft UFMP. As in Phase 1, the feedback received through Phase 2 consultations will be carefully considered as the Consulting Team works with the City of Ottawa to finalize the UFMP.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Ottawa and the Urban Forest Management Plan project team would like to thank everyone who attended the public and other stakeholder sessions and who contributed their valuable time and ideas to the completion of the Phase 1 consultation surveys. This input will ensure that the City of Ottawa Urban Forest Management Plan reflects the vision and objectives of the City's residents and provides practical and implementable actions designed to address specific challenges and capitalize on local opportunities to protect, maintain and enhance the urban forest in Ottawa.