



Share Your Ideas - Victoria's Draft Urban Forest Master Plan

Date: Friday, June 19, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria is one step closer to being the first municipality in the Capital Region to adopt and implement an Urban Forest Master Plan.

The City is developing an Urban Forest Master Plan to identify strategies on how best to invest in and maintain Victoria's urban forest over the next 20 years and beyond. An urban forest includes all of the trees, shrubs, groundcover and the soils in which they grow, in parks, natural areas, boulevards, and residential gardens.

A high-level document that will set the strategic direction for sustainable urban forest planning and management, Victoria's Urban Master Plan will inform planning initiatives of new developments, neighbourhoods, parks and infrastructure. To implement these directions, a detailed Action Plan will follow that prioritizes specific tasks to be accomplished in the short and long-term, their associated costs, required resources and potential partnerships with the community.

Consultation with the community earlier this year has helped inform the development of a draft plan. The public and media are invited to learn more about the plan's proposed vision, goals, outcomes and strategies, and to share their ideas at a public meeting at Victoria City Hall. Registration is not required.

What: PUBLIC MEETING: Share Your Ideas – Victoria's Draft Urban Forest Master Plan
When: Tuesday, June 23, 2009, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Where: Victoria City Hall, Council Chambers

The community is invited to review the draft plan and fill out an online survey by visiting www.victoria.ca/urbanforest. Print copies of the survey are available at the Public Service Centre at City Hall and at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. The deadline to submit a survey is Monday, July 20, 2009.

The draft plan's four over-arching goals are:

- Develop and maintain strong community-wide support for the urban forest;
- Protect, enhance and expand Victoria's urban forest;
- Design and manage the urban forest to maximize watershed health, biodiversity, and the conservation of sensitive ecosystems; and
- Maximize community benefits from the urban forest in all neighbourhoods.

Feedback from the public meeting and survey will help finalize the plan, which will be presented to City Council for consideration in the fall.

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For More Information:

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