



Canadian Urban Forest Leadership – How to Measure Success

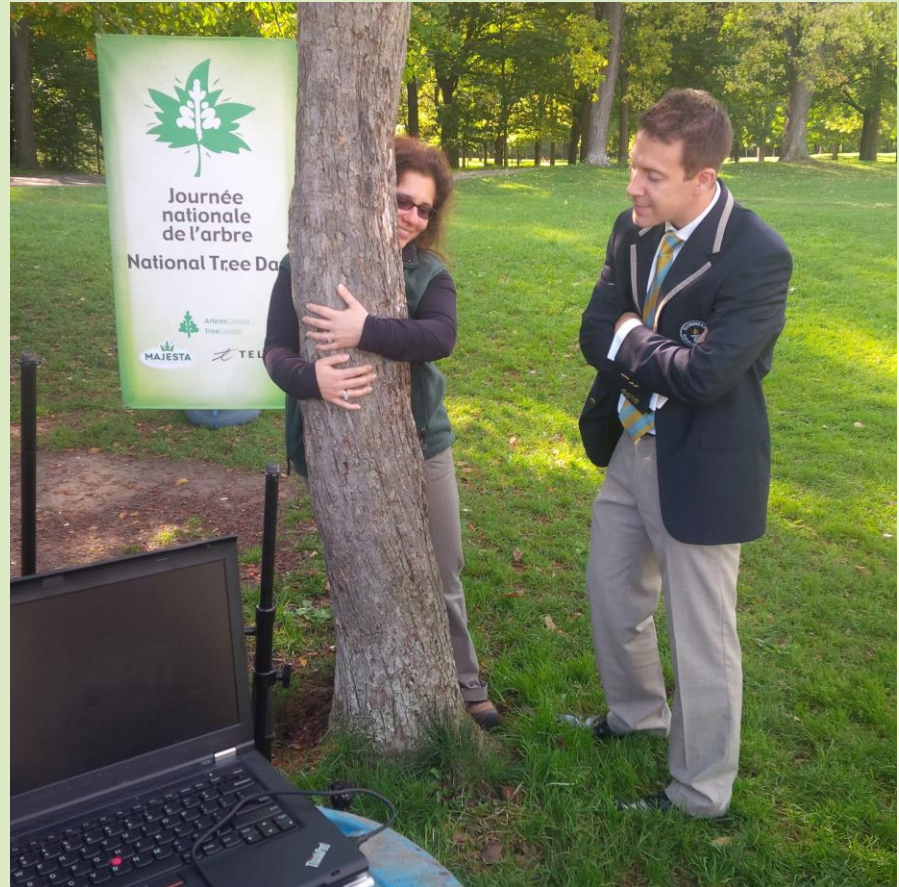
Michael Rosen, Tree Canada



Growing better places to live

Tree Canada: Urban Forests at our Core

- 11 CUFC's
- *TD Green Streets, National Tree Day, Alberta Flood ReLeaf*
- 80 million trees (12 million urban)



Answering the Question: Which Municipalities are Doing a Good Job at Managing their Urban Forests?



Answer:

- Those that meet some “Measures of Success”
- Problem is: What are those Measures? And how to “level the playing field” for very diverse communities



Recognize Municipalities for Managing Urban Forests Because...

- Improved air quality
- Micro-climate (e.g. shading)
- Property Value & Aesthetics
- Storm-water attenuation
- Energy conservation
- Noise reduction
- Wildlife habitat
- Physical & Psychological Well-Being



To Do That Means the Municipality Has...

- A 1st Class inventory
- A good diversity of trees (spp and age)
- An adequate community piece: a “tree committee”/public recognizing value of forests
- A comprehensive management plan
- UF Professionals: foresters and arborists

National Forest Cities Campaign

Category:National Forest Cities in China

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This category contains cities designated as National Forest Cities by the [State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China](#).

Pages in category "National Forest Cities in China"

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Tree City USA

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Tree City's 4 Criteria

- A Tree Board or Department
- A Tree Care Ordinance
- A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least \$2/Capita
- An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Based on Criteria and Indicators (C&I)

- C&I are practical, science-based measures that give a consistent way to define, assess, monitor and report progress - used as a measure of “sustainable forest management”
- Criteria describes values: environmental, economic, and social
- Indicators describe the ways in which a criterion gets assessed - objective measures that can be supported by data

Municipal self-assessment

We propose using a subset of criteria and indicators developed by *Kenney et al. 2011*

- Comprehensive
- Permits tracking progress
- Peer reviewed



Vegetation Resource (7)

- Relative Canopy Cover
- Age distribution
- Species suitability
- Species distribution
- Condition of Publicly-owned Trees
- Publicly-owned natural areas
- Native vegetation



Natural Areas (Moncton, NB)



Resource Management Approach (11)

- Tree inventory; canopy cover inventory; community-wide management plan; community-wide-funding; community staffing; tree establishment planning and implementation; tree habitat suitability; maintenance of publicly-owned, intensively managed trees; tree risk management; tree protection policy development and enforcement; publicly-owned natural areas management planning and implementation

Community Resource (7)

- Public agency cooperation
- Involvement of large private and institutional land holders
- green industry cooperation
- neighbourhood action
- citizen-community-business interaction
- general awareness of trees as a community resource
- regional cooperation;



Urban Forest Plan/Natural Heritage Strategy(Mississauga, ON)

An example using the *Community Framework* criteria

Community Framework

Criteria	Performance indicators				Key Objective
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal	
Neighbourhood action	No action	Isolated or limited number of active groups.	City-wide coverage and interaction.	All neighbourhoods organized and cooperating.	At the neighbourhood level, citizens understand and cooperate in urban forest management.
Citizen-municipality-business interaction	Conflicting goals among constituencies	No interaction among constituencies.	Informal and/or general cooperation.	Formal interaction e.g. Tree board with staff coordination.	All constituencies in the community interact for the benefit of the urban forest.
General awareness of trees as a community resource	Trees seen as a problem, a drain on budgets.	Trees seen as important to the community.	Trees acknowledged as providing environmental, social and economic services.	Urban forest recognized as vital to the communities environmental, social and economic well-being.	The general public understanding the role of the urban forest.
Regional cooperation	Communities cooperate independently.	Communities share similar policy vehicles.	Regional planning is in effect	Regional planning, coordination and /or management plans	Provide for cooperation and interaction among neighbouring communities and regional groups.

Examples



Oakville: FSC, Strategic Plan, EAB



Vancouver: Treekeepers

Surrey: Green Timbers



Examples

Beaconsfield: EAB regulation



Québec City: winter protection



Winnipeg: DED



Next Steps to Developing Program

- What would make you participate in a program?
- Which of the criteria are most essential?
- How best to award municipalities for participating?

Please Contact Me for More Information

Thank You

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