

# URBAN FORESTRY – CARBON SEQUESTRATION & OFFSETS GROUP

## **Objective 1**

**Increase Burlington's Urban Tree Canopy to 50% (from current 43%) by 2020.**

### **Action Items**

#### ***Government Actions***

1. **Plant an additional 620 acres of tree canopy.**
  - Use the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Study to identify areas of the city with highest “potential” tree canopy. Greatest opportunity to target commercial and industrial areas overall and some residential areas in particular. Large governmental and institutional properties also present significant opportunities.
  - Initiate tree planting plans for all city-owned properties (including schools).
  - Identify and promote the planting of tree species to accrue optimum benefits in the areas of carbon offsets, energy conservation, air quality, stormwater management, and habitat.
2. **Plant ?? street trees each year** (150-250 trees planted each year now).
  - Update the City Urban Forestry's inventory to determine its current health and identify needs and priorities for future urban forest management.
  - Secure increased funding for green infrastructure through partnerships and from businesses, residents, and organizations that benefit, either directly or indirectly, from tree planting.
    - Document and, where possible, quantify the multiple benefits associated with Burlington's urban canopy. Use this analysis to inform policy decisions and include this information in adult and child education programs.
    - Provide outreach and education regarding proper planting (right tree in the right place), ongoing care and maintenance, and value (direct and indirect ecosystem services) to the community.
    - Provide incentives in development regulations to promote green roof technologies to expand possible planting sites (e.g. FAHC).
    - Explore opportunities for creating local carbon offset market options for offsetting personal or corporate greenhouse gas emissions that could be used to support and sustain community tree planting, forest management, and land conservation activities.

#### ***Community Initiatives***

1. Develop tree planting plans for tax exempt properties (colleges, other government, religious, non-profits)
2. Improve development practices to limit destruction of trees and encourage planting of suitable trees.

3. Improve community understanding of the role and value of the urban forest.
4. Engage community members to assist with tree inventories and assessments.
5. Expand the Branch-Out Burlington! Tree Nursery to provide more trees for public and private planting.
6. Plant more trees on private property – near the street and in backyards.
7. Forge partnerships with community cooperatives to organize tree-planting and maintenance events.
8. Encourage residents, businesses, governments, schools, and institutions to invest in greenhouse gas-reducing projects to offset their personal or corporate greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Objective 2**

**Increase carbon storage and sequestration in existing forest fragments through improved land conservation, forest management and restoration forestry.**

### **Action Items**

1. Identify forest fragments, their condition, potential threats, ownership, etc.
2. Utilize City Parks, UVM and WVPD as possible pilot areas for demonstration.
3. Develop list of objectives for forest condition and management.
4. Consider Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) model as a tool to quantify sequestration. Seek grant funding (USFS), partners (ANR and UVM) and volunteers (BOB!).
5. Implement best management practices for City urban landscaped areas and, where appropriate, seek certification.
6. Expand the urban forest and improve forest performance by maintaining trees carefully, eradicating invasive vegetation, and promoting trees that will perform well for a long period of time.
7. Conserve and preserve existing forests, wetlands, agriculture and other open natural areas of the City
8. Implement the *Burlington Open Space Plan*.