Urban Forest Strategy

Presenter: ***Michael Knight***

Department: ***Public Works – Parks***

Meeting Date:

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

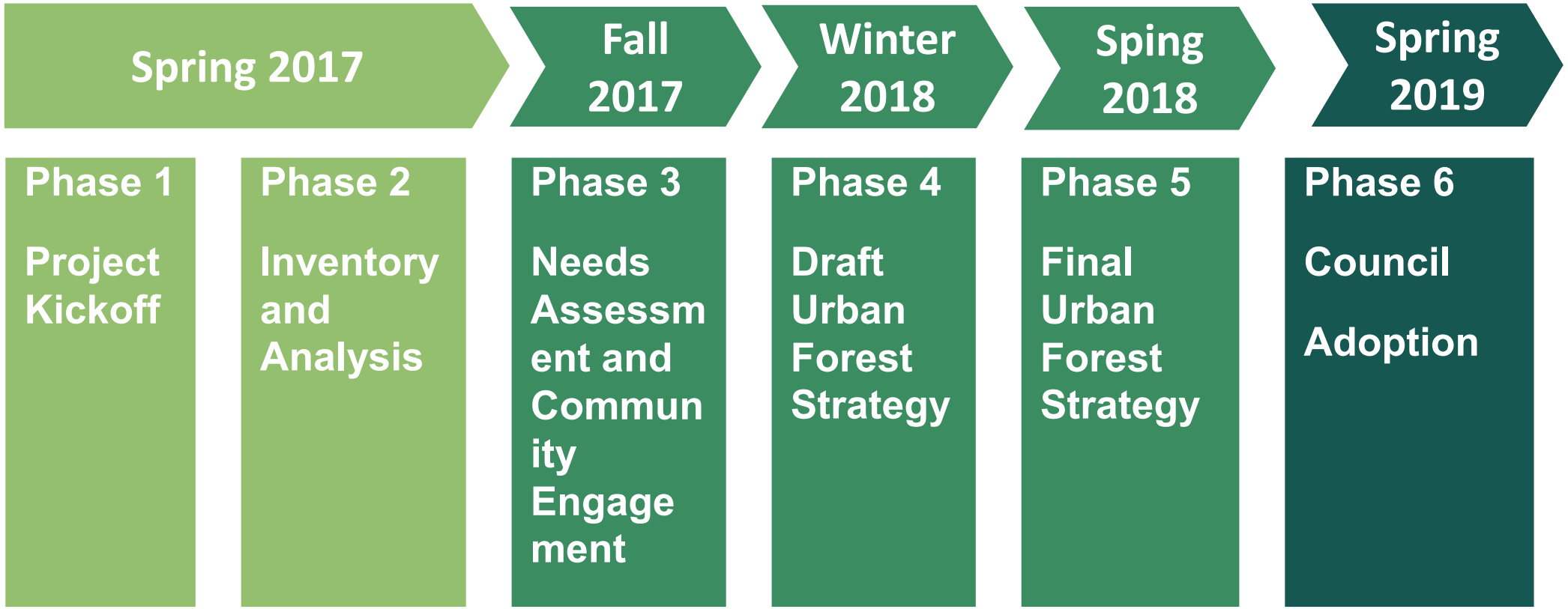
Agenda

Purpose of the Strategy
Project Process
Methodology
Engagement: What We Heard
Benefits of Trees
Our Urban Forest
Challenges
Accomplishments
Questions

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

- Establish the role and benefits of trees as part of the urban environment
- Develop a Regional urban forest vision and core principles
- Identify existing conditions and potential opportunities for enhancement
- Identify best practices to administer and manage the urban forestry program
- Identify ways to coordinate policies, practices, and procedures for all tree-related activities undertaken by the RMWB
- Develop an action plan that includes a prioritized list of strategies for current and future urban forestry service delivery

Project Process



Methodology



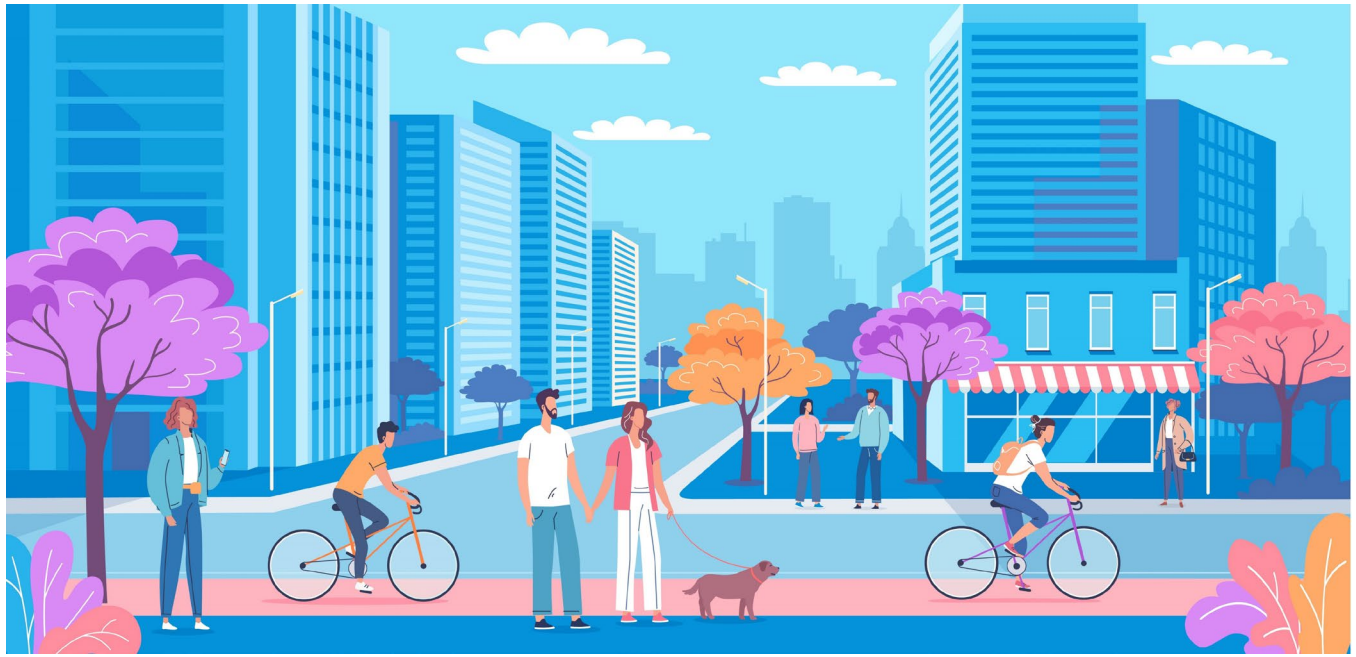
Engagement: What We Heard

THE RESULTS

- What should the UFS address?
  1. Protecting and maintaining native species
  2. Developing new treed greenspaces
  3. Developing plant species guidelines
- Most valued RM tree service?
  1. Hazardous tree removal
  2. FireSmart
  3. Home tree health assessments
- Support for a tree protection bylaw: 81%

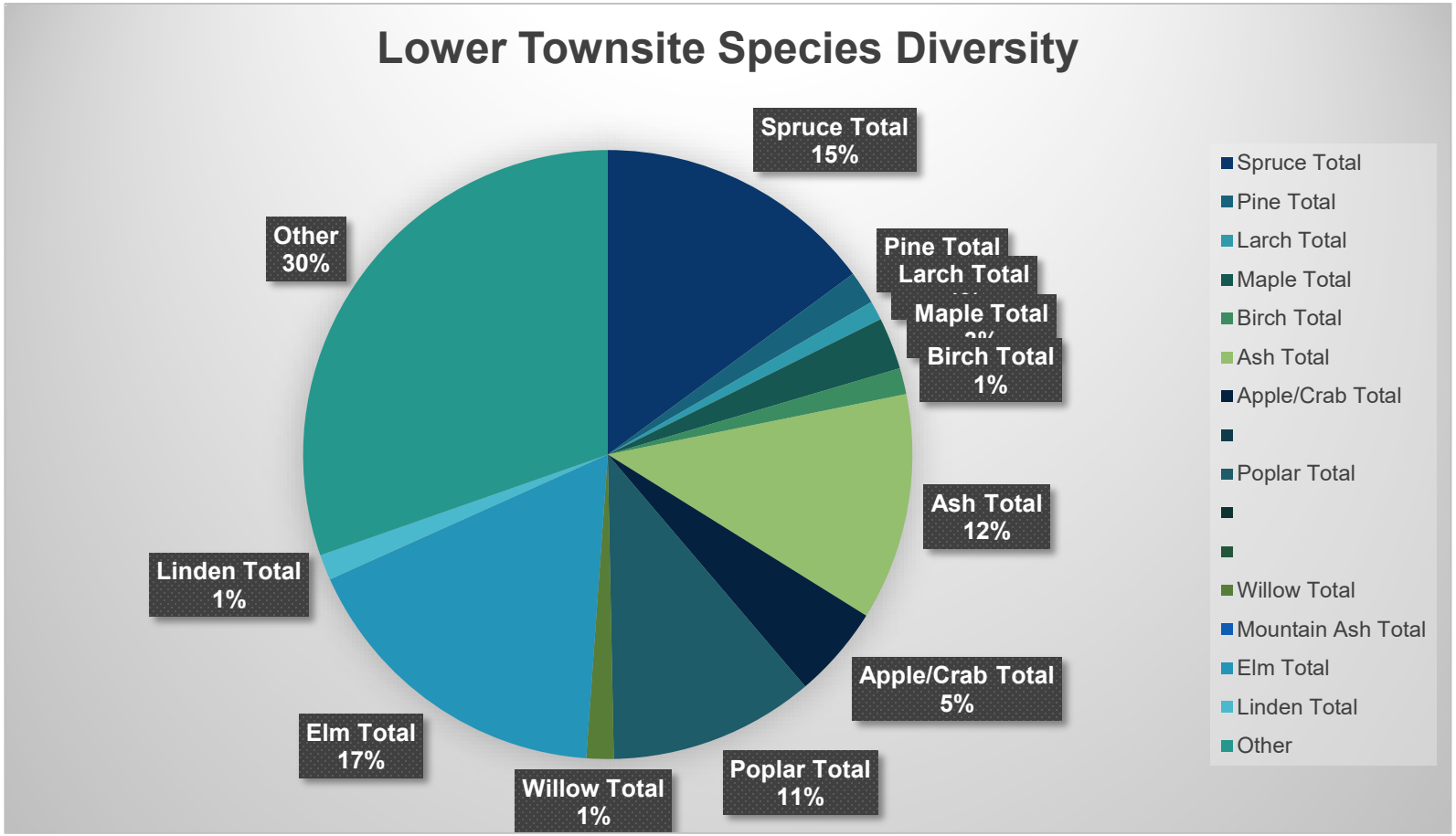
Benefits of Trees

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Urban climate
- Increased property values
- Reduced energy costs
- Human health and well-being



Our Urban Forest

- Tree totals
- Species Diversity
- Canopy Coverage



Challenges

- Limited species selection
- Soil quality and quantity
- Rapid Development
- Tree Age Class
- Tree Pests



Elm Bark Beetle - marylandbiodiversity.com

Accomplishments

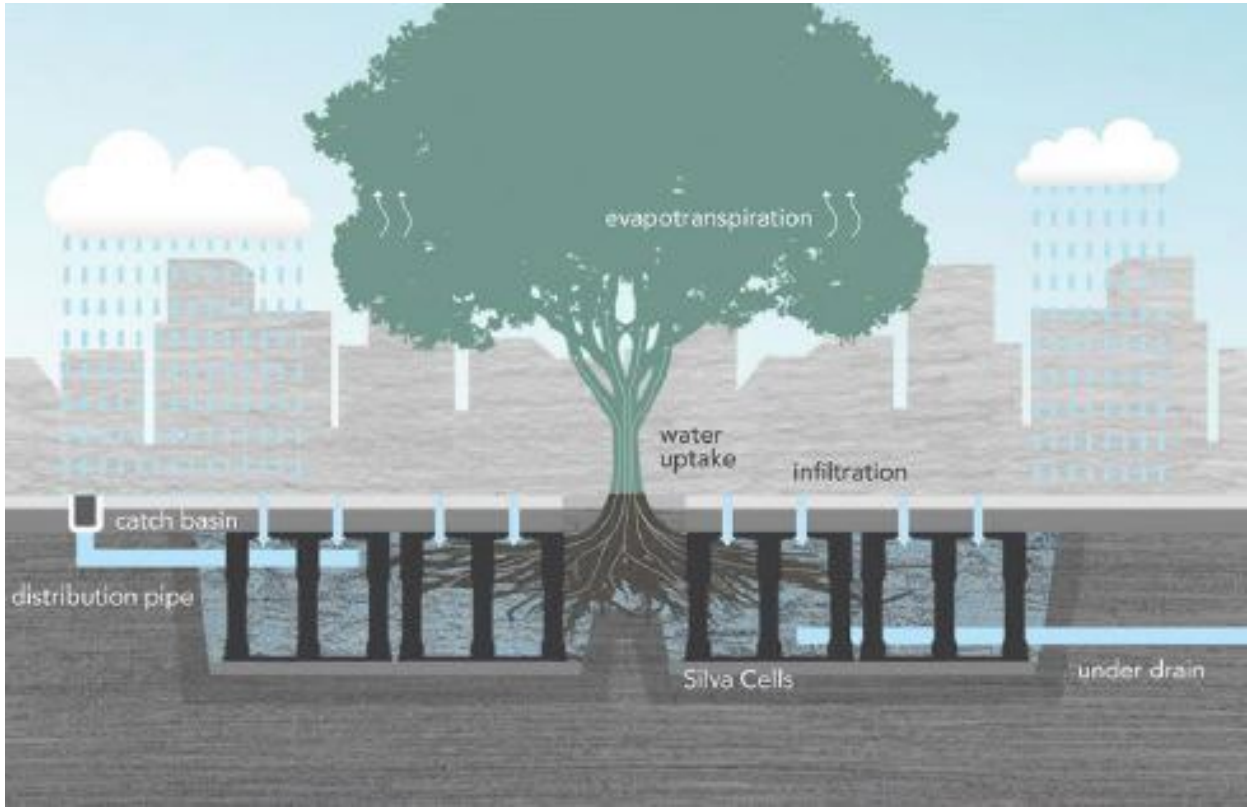
- Collaboration with RES FireSmart mitigation Strategy 2017
- Dedicated Tree Inventory in progress
- Arbor Day & National Tree Day plantings
- Updated ESS
- Elm Bark Beetle monitoring in conjunction with STOPDED
- Work orders





Future of the Forest

- Tree Bylaw
- Tree Inventory
- Soil Cells
- Tree City of the World



StrataCell by GreenBlue Urban

Thank You

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo