



DRAFT URBAN FOREST TARGETS

Target Type	Current Status	Recommended Target
Urban Forest Canopy Cover	approximately 15%	15% to 20%
Urban Forest Quality (of City Street and Park Trees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Current City tree inventory is not up to date, or complete b. Six species account for 42% of the urban forest c. Invasive Norway maple accounts for ~ 8% of the urban forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The City's inventory includes all City street and park trees, including current data on their condition and health b. No tree species represents more than 5% of the tree population City-wide or +20% on a given street c. Proportion of non-native, invasive trees on City lands is gradually reduced
Urban Forest Canopy Distribution	Current canopy cover distribution in the city is very uneven.	Canopy cover is increased disproportionately in areas previously below 15%.



In reality, increasing canopy cover in an urban area is more challenging than might be expected. Even with ongoing tree planting efforts, a target of 15% to 20% is considered realistic for Mississauga because:

- Emerald Ash Borer, a pest that kills almost all ash trees, is established in Mississauga and will peak over the next few years
- many lands have existing zoning that permits some type of development
- infrastructure will need to be improved and expanded
- hazard trees must be removed
- most of the City's trees are small and will not start contributing substantially to canopy cover for at least 10 to 20 years
- some trees, in the past, were planted in poor conditions
- it is an added challenge to maintain newly planted trees under conditions of climate change (e.g., more intense periods of drought, more frequent storms)