

Five Goals OF FOREST STEWARDSHIP

1. Maintain and Increase Canopy Cover

Niagara Parks lands currently feature 28% canopy cover, just short of the 30% required to make a forest truly sustainable. Over the next decade, we will plant a minimum of 5,000 trees each year, manage shoreline vegetation and protect woodlots to increase canopy cover to 35% or more.

2. Increase Species and Habitat Biodiversity

A diverse forest habitat is more resistant to disease, drought and invasive species. By utilizing the 5-10-20 rule, we are working to ensure that no single tree species is more than 5% of our forest canopy, that no single genus is more than 10% and that no single tree family constitutes more than 20% of the canopy.

3. Mitigate Adverse Impacts

Identify and address impacts to urban forests, such as invasive species, recreational use and climate change.

4. Increase Awareness and Promote Stewardship

Niagara Falls can't protect our forests alone. That's why a big part of our forestry plan focuses on people with tactics educate and engage the groups and individuals with the greatest potential to influence forest health.

5. Improve Data Collection and Monitoring

We are investing in monitoring the process of our plan by collecting, capturing and analyzing the empirical data we need in order to measure the impact of the plan and adapt its approaches as necessary.