



Urban Forestry & Naturalization Management Plan

**A Strategic Roadmap for Tecumseh's
Urban Forest and Naturalized Areas**

Defining the Baseline of our Tree Canopy

12.1 %

Approx. 11.5 km² current canopy cover

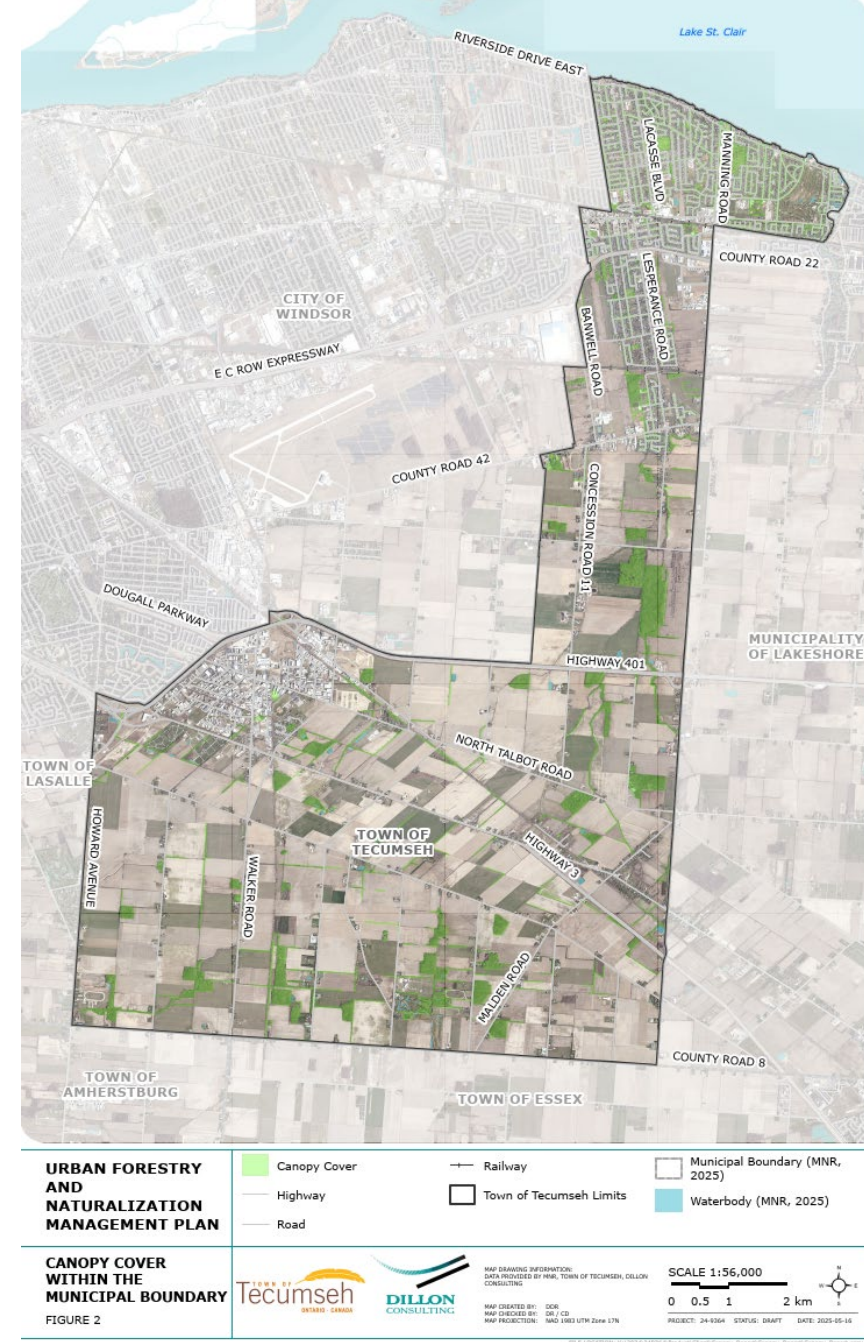
9,424

tracked assets (trees)

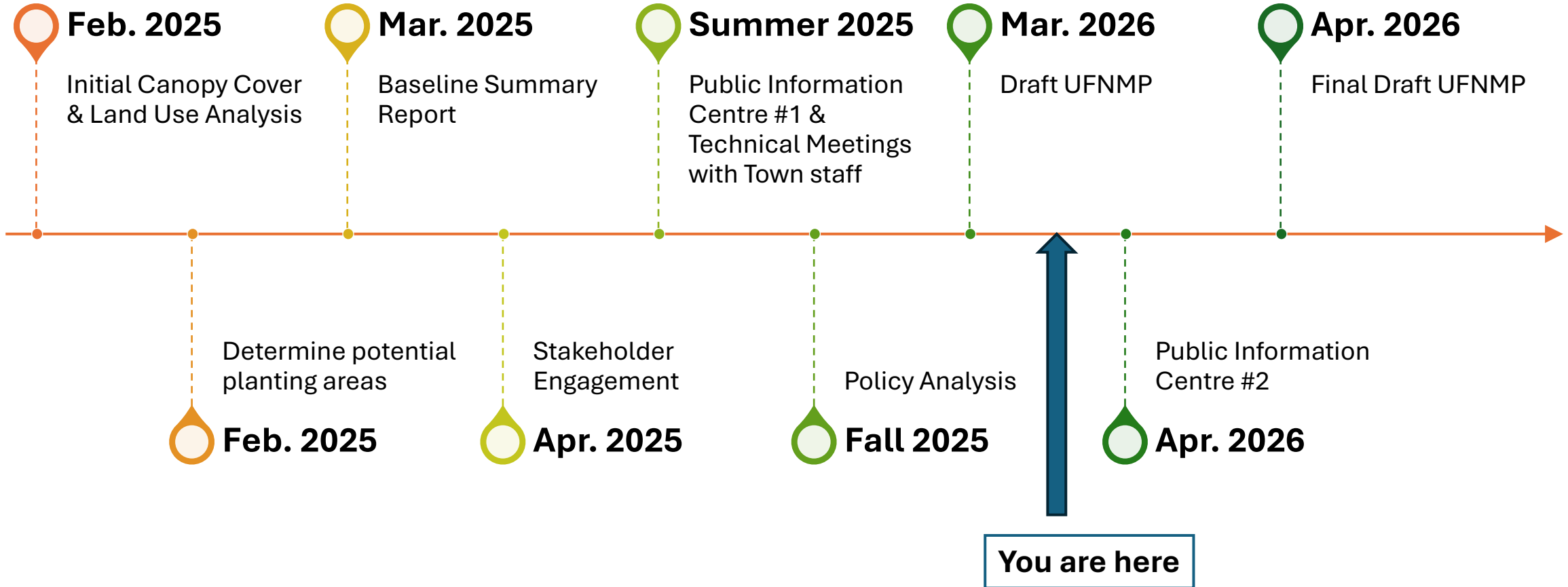
4.1 km²

wooded area

Tecumseh has a foundation of natural assets, but to increase canopy cover requires a systematic shift in how we plant, protect, and manage our urban forest.

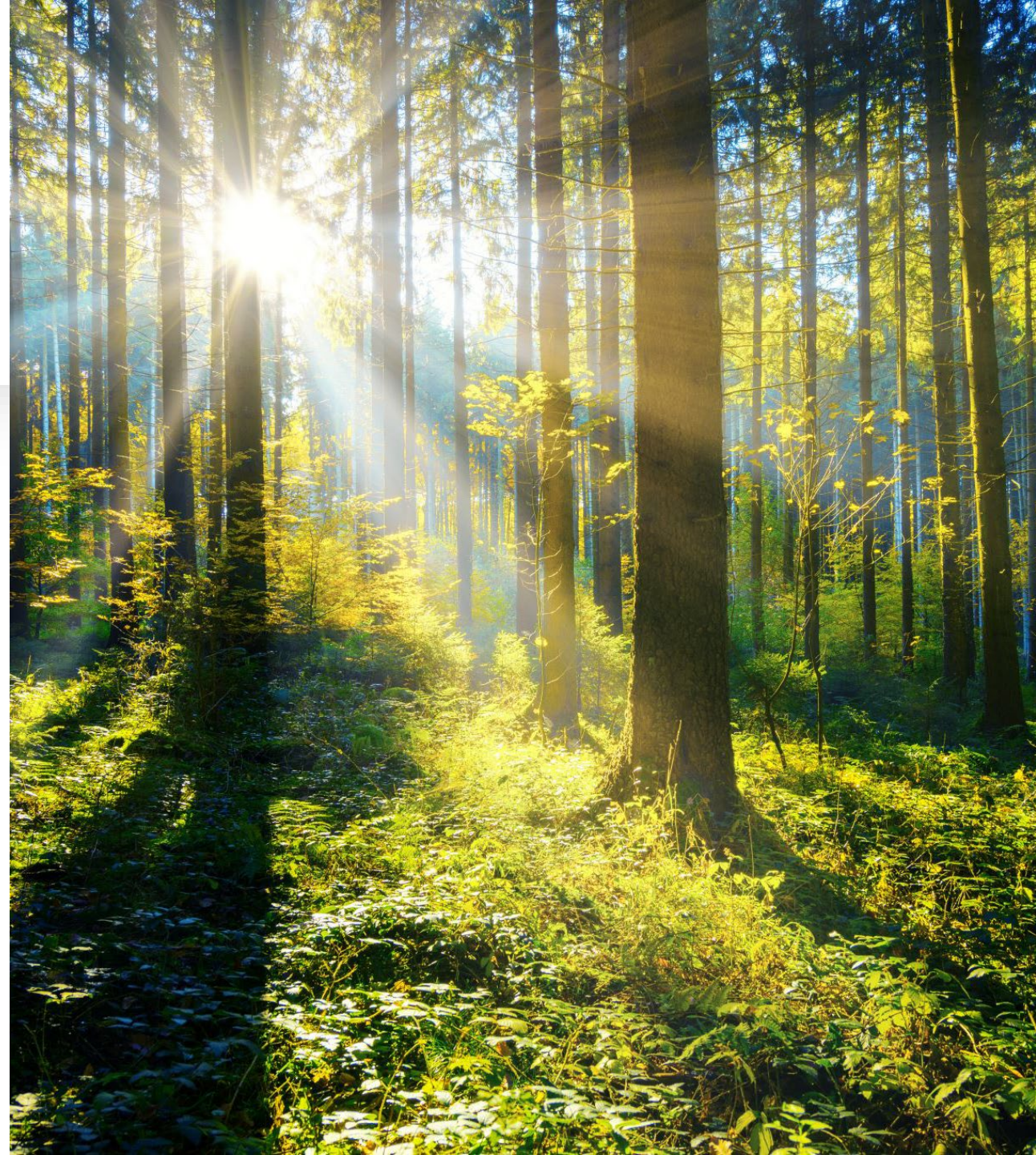


Project Timeline



UFNMP Vision

Tecumseh nurtures a resilient and flourishing urban forest by recognizing trees and natural areas as shared community assets, guiding decisions with knowledge and adaptability, and strengthening the connection between people and the natural environment that enriches their lives.



UFNMP Pillars

- **Shared Stewardship**

We value the urban forest as a collective resource, cared for by residents, staff, and partners who help sustain Tecumseh's natural heritage.

- **Green Infrastructure Excellence**

We treat trees and natural areas as essential infrastructure that supports ecological resilience, climate adaptation, and community well-being.

- **Knowledge Driven**

We make informed decisions grounded in strong data and flexible approaches that respond to changing environmental conditions.

- **Protect and Grow the Canopy**

We safeguard existing trees and plant wisely for the future, ensuring the right tree thrives in the right place to strengthen long-term canopy cover.

- **Community Connection**

We cultivate meaningful connections between people and nature, enhancing public spaces, cultural identity, and a sense of belonging.



UFNMP Themes & Goals

Urban Forestry Theme	Goal
Urban Forest Management & Maintenance	Transition from reactive to proactive urban forest management and maintenance
Urban Forest Establishment & Enhancement	Improve restoration of natural areas, tree establishment and associated practices
Urban Forest Protection	Strengthen Town policies and establish technical protections and standards
Outreach, Stewardship, and Partnerships	Develop and implement knowledge sharing opportunities with the community to help manage the urban forest and local natural heritage

Urban Forest Management and Maintenance

Recommendations



Create a new full-time “Town Arborist” position



Enhance maintenance of newly planted Town trees



Integrate urban forestry assets with the Town’s Asset Management Program



Expand and update the urban forest asset inventory



Undertake proactive risk management and monitoring in natural areas



Enhance urban forest pest, disease and invasive pest management

Urban Forest Establishment & Enhancement

Recommendations



Approve and implement the new specifications and standard design details

Tree establishment standards for street trees, park trees, and naturalization projects

Monitoring and maintenance standards for naturalization plantings



Approve and implement the new tree replacement guidelines and associated protocol



Approve and implement the new Tree Canopy & Natural Vegetation Policy



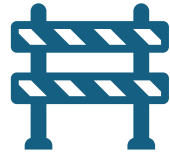
Prioritize tree planting in naturalization areas

Urban Forest Protection

Recommendations



Approve and implement the new Public Tree By-law



Implement new tree protection specifications and standards



Improve capital project and building permit review processes to support the identification of opportunities for protecting and enhancing the urban forest



Improve on-site tree monitoring

Outreach, Stewardship & Partnerships

Recommendations



Formalize existing and develop new community programs



Develop new urban forest and naturalization education programs



Support and develop urban forest and naturalization partnerships



Pursue funding opportunities to support the initiative of the UFNMP

Next Steps

- Public Information Centre #2
Tuesday April 21, 4:00pm – 8:00pm
Horwood Room, Tecumseh Arena,
12021 McNorton Street,
Tecumseh, ON
- Finalize the UFNMP & Attachments
- Final Report RCM June 23, 2026

Questions

