WELCOME

TO THE URBAN FOREST STRATEGY PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

THE CITY OF HAMILTON IS DEVELOPING AN URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

Help us shape Hamilton's urban forest!

Tonight's first Public Open House provides an introduction to the project and seeks your input on the community's vision for managing the urban forest.

Please fill out a comment sheet before you go.

Other ways you can comment:

Visit the web page at: **www.hamilton.ca/urbanforeststrategy**
Take the online survey on the web page.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT HAMILTON'S URBAN FOREST?

WHAT IS THE URBAN FOREST?

An urban forest includes all of the trees and woodlands growing on both public and private lands including parks, street and yard trees, in addition to natural areas and ravines within the urban and suburban areas of Hamilton.

WHY DO WE NEED AN URBAN FOREST STRATEGY?

Hamilton is fortunate to have many natural features (Cootes Paradise, Dundas Valley, Hamilton Harbour, and the Niagara Escarpment) which contribute to a beautiful and healthy environment. There are also many trees growing in parks, backyards, and along streets. All of these trees contribute to the health of the community and the beauty of the neighbourhoods in Hamilton.

However, pressures on trees are increasing, especially in the urban area, including:

- Invasive non-native tree species which compete with native trees and reduce biodiversity;
- Pests and diseases (e.g. Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, Butternut canker, Oak wilt, Dutch Elm Disease);
- Impacts of climate change (drought, flooding, storm damage) which stress trees;
- Difficult growing conditions in the urban area (poor soil, soil compaction, road salt, and limited space to plant); and,
- Development pressures which reduce the space available for trees and increase the conflicts with other infrastructure

Today, we face a slow and subtle loss in the urban tree canopy associated with these pressures. This means that Hamilton needs to proactively manage its urban forest.