


# Forestry

Total asset replacement value	<b>\$116 million</b>
Current condition	<b>EXCELLENT</b> 
Projected condition in 25 years	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Annual funding needed to meet target performance	<b>\$900,000</b>
Annual average funding	<b>\$200,000</b>
Annual funding gap	<b>\$700,000</b>
Funding source	<b>Tax base</b>
Data maturity level	<b>Medium</b>

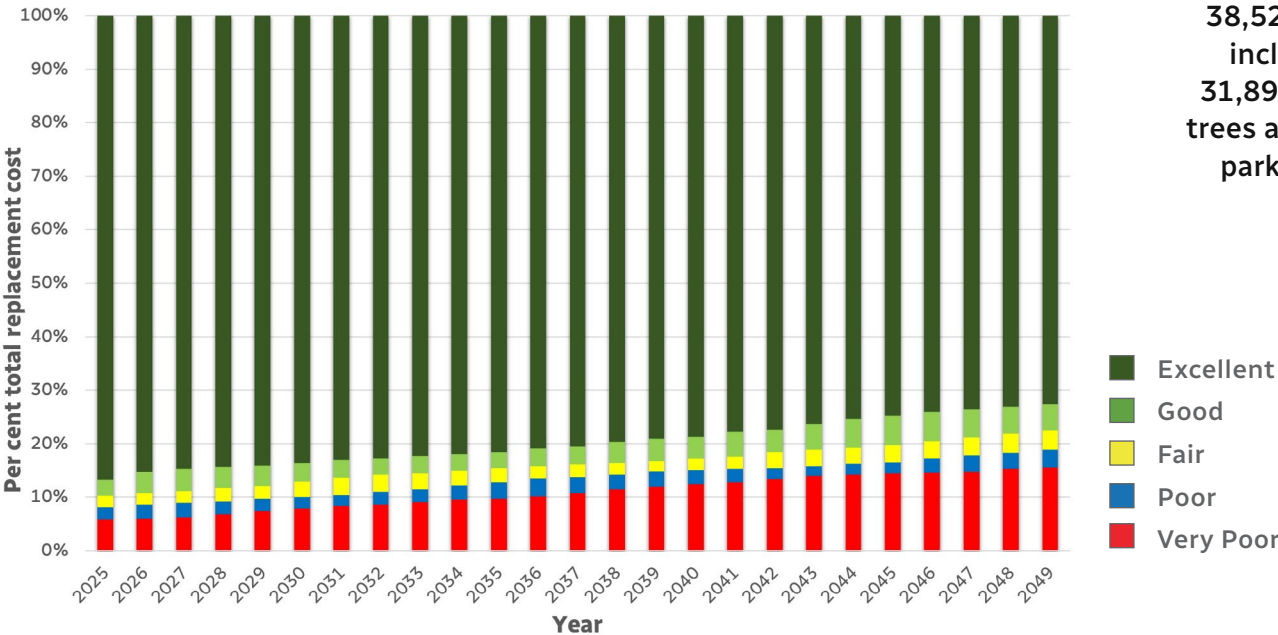


Annual funding needed \$900,000



Assets include 38,524 trees including 31,893 street trees and 6,631 park trees.

Projected annual performance of forestry assets



A FEATURED STORY

### Urban Trees Boost Community Wellbeing

Urban trees, a vital part of our green infrastructure, continue to make a big impact in our community. Our tree canopy helped cool neighborhoods, improve air quality, and reduce stormwater runoff. Beyond environmental benefits, residents can feel more connected and at ease in green spaces. With every tree planted and preserved, we're building a healthier, more resilient Waterloo.

#### CURRENT STRATEGY

The City's urban forest includes trees planted along streets, and trees on City-owned lands like open spaces, parks, tree grates and woodlots. Trees located within City cemeteries are captured as a cemetery asset. It is important to note fleet and associated equipment (e.g. Aerial Lift trucks, Gator, and Pickup Trucks) is captured under the fleet asset class. The useful life ranges from 50 to 200 years and varies depending on the species of tree and whether located within the road right-of-way or park. Forestry is a tax base funded asset.

#### ASSET PERFORMANCE

Tree assets' lifecycle is modelled differently than that of engineered assets. As trees mature and appreciate over time, they are considered to stay in excellent condition until they reach the end of their estimated service life by species, at which point they degrade very rapidly.

As trees are a living organism, they are more susceptible to environmental factors when compared to built or "grey" infrastructure. This susceptibility includes, but is not limited to the quantity of rain, severity of wind, and winter temperatures.

Street or boulevard trees located in the road right-of-way face a more challenging growing environment due to increased salt exposure and limited available topsoil volume compared to typical trees located in parks. As a result, the anticipated life of a street or boulevard tree is considered to be 75% of that of the equivalent park tree.



Forestry assets with a fair or better performance

Forestry asset performance is evaluated using historical knowledge, age, and observed conditions. The quality and availability of our asset data (data maturity) are continuously evolving. The current data maturity level for forestry assets is assessed to be medium. The city is continuously working to improve asset data quality. Currently 92% of our forestry assets are considered in fair or better performance. With the current level of funding, we anticipate the percentage of forestry assets with a fair or better profile to decrease to 81% by 2049. Based on the best available forestry asset data, deterioration rates and 2025-2033 capital funding forecast, it is estimated that forestry assets have an infrastructure funding gap of \$700,000.

### LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following tables show the levels of service established by the city for forestry assets. These metrics include the technical and community level of service required as part of the Ontario Regulation 588/17. Service metrics are reported for the prior year ending on December 31.

### COMMUNITY LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following table outlines the qualitative descriptions that determine the community levels of service for forestry assets.

SERVICE ATTRIBUTE	QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTION
<b>Scope</b>	Manage and maintain the urban forest including scheduled and emergency tree maintenance, tree assessment and tree planting throughout the city
<b>Customer Service</b>	The average number of days to replace a street or park tree is 6 months although emergency tree maintenance is undertaken with 24 hours. Scheduled maintenance can take up to one year.
	The average number of days to respond to a tree inspection request is 2 to 3 days.

**TECHNICAL LEVELS OF SERVICE**

The following table outlines the quantitative metrics that determine the technical level of service for forestry assets.

SERVICE ATTRIBUTE	QUANTITATIVE METRICS	2023	2024
Quality	Number of street trees receiving preventative maintenance	5%	5%
	Per cent of forestry assets that are in fair or better condition	93%	92%
Environmental Stewardship	Per cent of diversity of the tree canopy. To reduce the risk of catastrophic tree loss due to pest, the City plans to keep the urban tree population to no more than 10% of any one species and 30% of any one genus.	Species – Norway Maple exceeds 10% target, currently at 15%  Genus – Maple exceeds 30% target, currently at 37%	Species – Norway Maple exceeds 10%, currently at 15%  Genus – Maple exceeds 30%, currently at 37%

The information presented here is based on the best available asset inventory and condition data as of March 2025, as well as funding details from the 2025-2026 approved capital budget and the 2027-2033 capital forecast.

The forecasting model allows staff to project the condition of City assets over a 25-year timeframe and therefore all funding is based on a 25-year average..