

MAUF Spring Virtual Forum

On May 12th 2022 MAUF (Municipal Arborists & Urban Foresters) members gathered online for the MAUF Spring Forum.



We had a lively discussion moderated by co-chairs Tami Sadonoja (City of Hamilton) and Steve Robinson (City of Burlington) along with panelists Drew Deitner (City of Burlington), Angie Hutnick (York Region), David Vollett (City of Brantford), and Bridget Dilauro (ISA Ontario). Mandy Vandenberg (City of Richmond Hill) our co-chair sent her regrets. Although we miss meeting in person, the virtual format does allow many of us to participate from across the province, share information and spark discussions (all without a long commute!). We heard from a number of dynamic speakers.

Greening the Landscape Consortium

Ryan Munroe introduced Vineland Research and Innovation Centre: a nonprofit working to build capacity in the arboriculture industry in Ontario. One of Vineland's initiatives is the Greening the Landscape Research Consortium, a public-private consortium funded by industry partners, including ISA Ontario. (For those who attended the 2022 ISAO Virtual Conference, you may have seen Darby McGrath's session on Vineland and the Consortium). The Consortium has identified five key priorities:

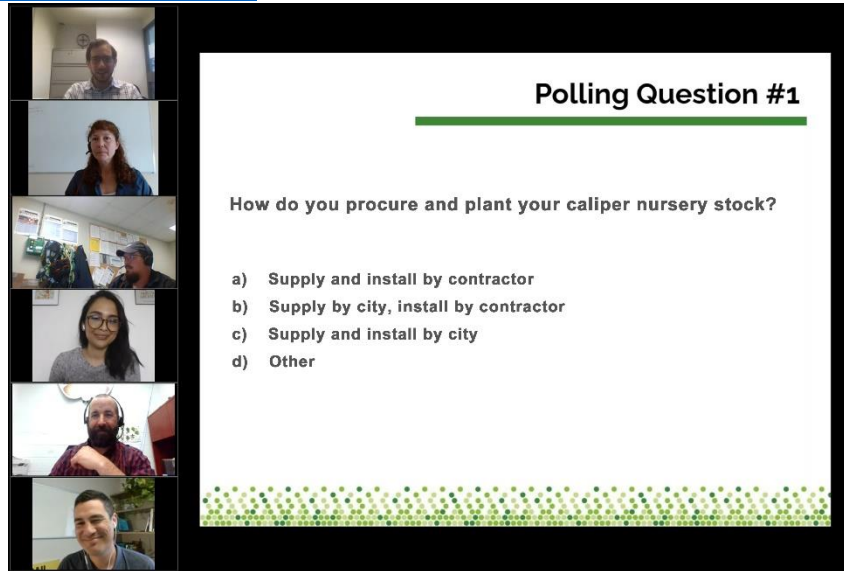
- 1) Best practices for tree establishment and maintenance;
- 2) Public perceptions of tree planting and management;
- 3) Canopy climate readiness;
- 4) Training and tools; and
- 5) Grow contracts.

If you'd like to join the Consortium or want to learn more: <https://www.vinelandresearch.com/>.

Grow Contracts

Ryan Munroe from Vineland presented on grow contracts – a topic of interest to many municipalities. Tree procurement is a challenge for many, and not just for those purchasing stock, but also for our growers trying to meet changing industry needs. Through interviews with both municipalities and nurseries, Vineland found a shared desire to ensure quality, diversity and quantity of tree stock; as well as an interest in exploring grow contracts to help enhance communication, lead time, and consistency. Examples from New York City and Illinois demonstrate that grow contracts are feasible and can be beneficial for all parties.

We polled participants on their current source of supply and installation: 85% of attendees said their caliper nursery stock is supplied and installed by a contractor (instead of supplied and installed by the city). This high ratio isn't surprising and does inspire some consideration! Participants also noted that the most common species they haven't been able to purchase due to unavailability were: Osage orange and Sassafras. We look forward to continuing the discussion and learning from the Consortium's findings. If you'd like to share your experiences on tree procurement, Vineland wants to hear from you! Contact Ryan.Munroe@vinelandresearch.com



Polling Question #1

How do you procure and plant your caliper nursery stock?

- a) Supply and install by contractor
- b) Supply by city, install by contractor
- c) Supply and install by city
- d) Other

Canopy Climate Readiness

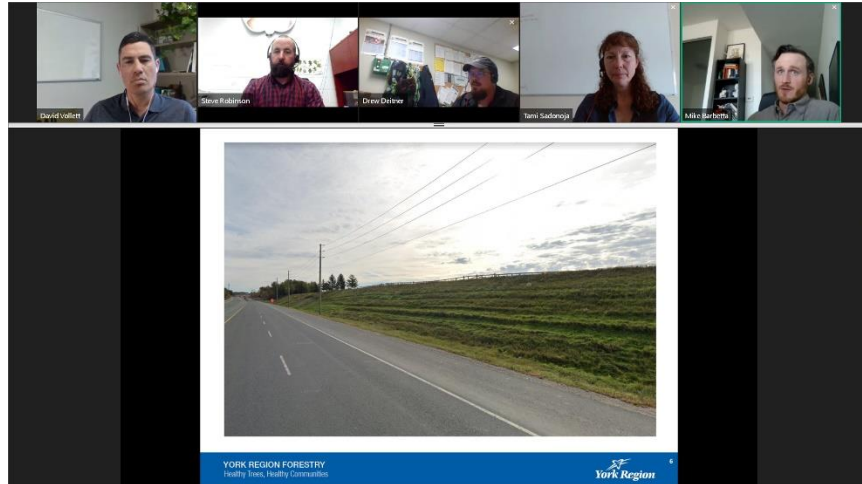
Charlene Williams from Vineland presented on another Consortium research priority: preparing our urban forests for climate change. Vineland intends to investigate: using tree species selection to maximize resilience; aligning nursery supply with municipal demand; and building better planting lists. Vineland is looking for your municipal data on: climate action plans, urban forest management plans, tree planting lists, tree species performance/maintenance data; and tree inventory databases. If you can share information please contact: Charlene.Williams@vinelandresearch.com

Small Stock Tree Planting

Mike Barbetta from York Region discussed York's roadside-tree-planting program: the challenges faced and ongoing efforts to increase tree survivability by varying site preparation and shelter methods. As we all know, roadside tree planting sites pose challenges to tree survival. Mike's team has been testing and improving their roadside planting program and found the following factors impacted survival:

- Determining proper planting time (e.g. earlier planting for bare root stock);
- Developing a watering and maintenance schedule (initial maintenance as well as shelter removal);
- Refining site and species selection: pairing the right species with the right site;
- Inventory and mapping of sites: which has helped improve ongoing data collection;
- Modifying weed suppression strategies including testing different barriers and seeded topsoil;
- Varying shelter materials (combitube & shelterguard materials were tested) as well as testing sites without shelters.

It was fascinating to hear about the different variables tested. For more information on the project, contact Mike: Mike.Barbetta@york.ca



Municipal Tree Bylaw

We likely could have dedicated the entire forum to this topic! Members joined an open discussion on tree bylaws, with input from those in the midst of initial development, to those with well-established bylaws. Some common themes examined included the benefits of AMPS (Administrative Monetary Penalty System) and ensuring bylaws are clearly written to remove any 'grey areas'. We all agreed that policing and enforcement is a challenge which highlights the importance of establishing fines and fees which adequately cover costs. Outreach with stakeholders including the public, tree care companies, developers and others can help ensure understanding and cooperation. And finally we also discussed ways to reward positive action (tree planting and protection), rather than penalizing negative action.

As always, it was a lively discussion! Look for details soon on the upcoming MAUF Fall Forum – We look forward to seeing you all there!

To become a member of MAUF or to contact us: mauf@isaontario.com