

An aerial photograph of a coastal town. In the foreground, there is a large, dense forested area with a small pond. Beyond the forest, a large body of water (likely a bay or harbor) is visible, with several sailboats anchored. The town is built on the surrounding land, with numerous houses and buildings. In the background, there are rolling hills under a clear sky.

# Sustaining HRM's Urban Forest

## Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP)

HRM Regional Council  
September 25, 2012

# **Process of plan development**

- **Regional Council motion –Aug. 28, 2001**
- **Regional Plan urban forest research and policy-2001-2006**
- **Urban forest inventory – 2007-10**
- **Early public engagement – 2010 – values**
- **Analysis and writing – 2011**
- **Second-round engagement – 2011-12**
- **Revisions – winter 2012**
- **Third-round engagement – May–July 2012**
- **Implementation strategy- UFMP Chapter 7 - Aug. 2012**
- **HRM Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) endorsement of UFMP-Sept. 6,2012**
- **ESSC report to Regional Council-Sept. 25,2012**





**Fact: people of HRM say that trees in the city are very important to them.**



# **How are trees important to people?**

- **Shade (energy savings, pavement longevity)**
- **Stormwater control**
- **Air purification**
- **Carbon storage**
- **Biodiversity conservation**
- **Aesthetics**
- **Sense of well-being identity and place**



# **Why have an urban forest master plan?**

- **To guide the City's decision-making about trees in the city:**
  - **On the city's land**
  - **On other people's land**
- **To help both the City and its citizens understand their urban forest better, in hopes of encouraging both to find ways to improve it and capture even more benefits from it over time**

# City decision-making . . .

- **On city land:**
  - **Planting** – how many trees, which kinds, where
  - **Maintaining** – how, how often
  - **Conflicts with infrastructure** – power lines, new construction
- **On other people's land:**
  - **Stewardship** – advice, assistance, incentives,
  - **Control** – regulations for removal, retention, replacement

# Guiding Principles of UFMP

- **Adaptive Management**
- **Precautionary Principle – “proceed with caution”**
- **Public Participation**
- **Sustainable Development**



# Operational Principles

1. Comprehensive approach
2. Urban forest values
3. Space and location
4. Time and timing
5. Climate change
6. Naturalness
7. Invasive species
8. Public understanding
9. Stewardship
10. Priority-setting
11. Green infrastructure
12. Sense of identity
13. Cooperation and partnerships
14. Equity
15. Integrated planning



# **Actions needed (32 categories)**

- **Plant trees  
(neighbourhood treatments)**
- **Maintain trees (7-yr  
pruning cycle)**
- **Landowner/public  
education/programming**
- **Support citizen-led  
stewardship initiatives**
- **Research and  
monitoring**
- **Staff training**
- **Fund-raising**
- **Homeowner incentives**
- **By-law development**
- **Improve tree  
components of other  
HRM plans/regulations**

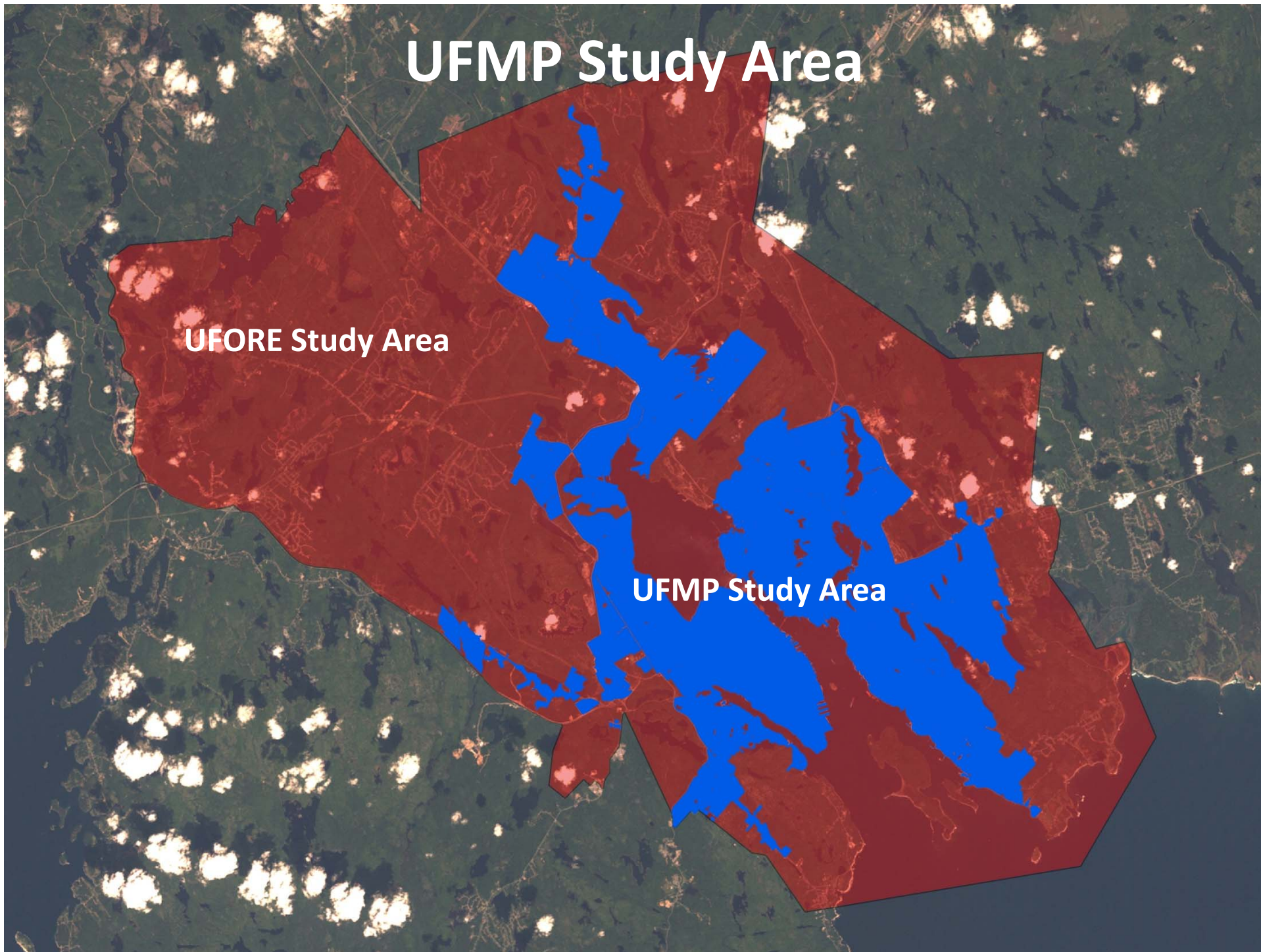
# Four Levels of Urban-Forest Management

- ➔ **UFMP Study Area:** Ecological, economic, social values/objectives/indicators/targets, operational principles, and actions
- ➔ **Community:** Natural and human history, treatment summaries, and landscape patterns
- ➔ **Neighbourhood:** Local conditions, technical neighbourhood treatments, canopy targets
- ➔ **Neighbourhood Division:** Canopy targets, prioritization, collaboration

**UFMP Study Area**

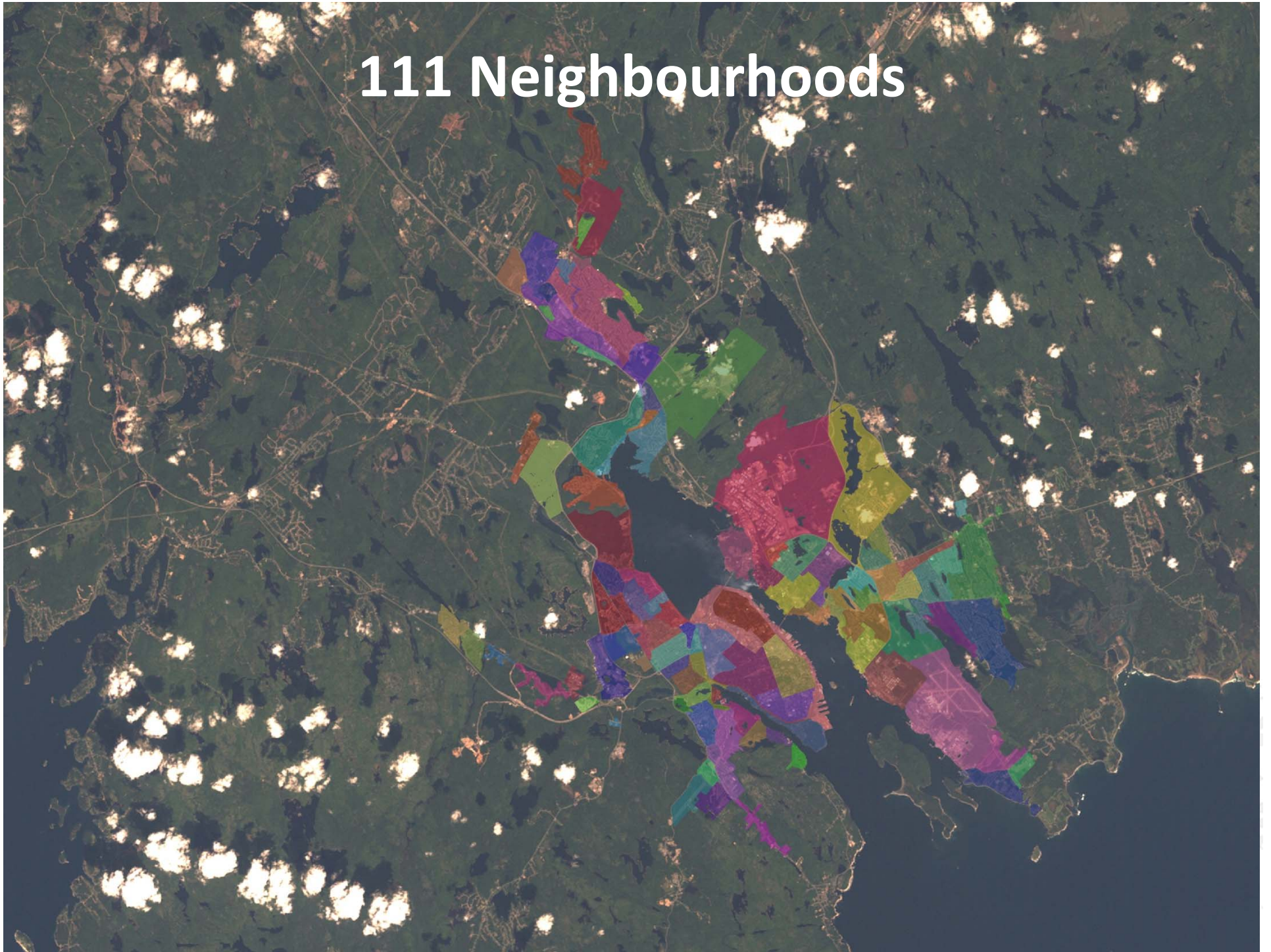
**UFORE Study Area**

**UFMP Study Area**





# 111 Neighbourhoods

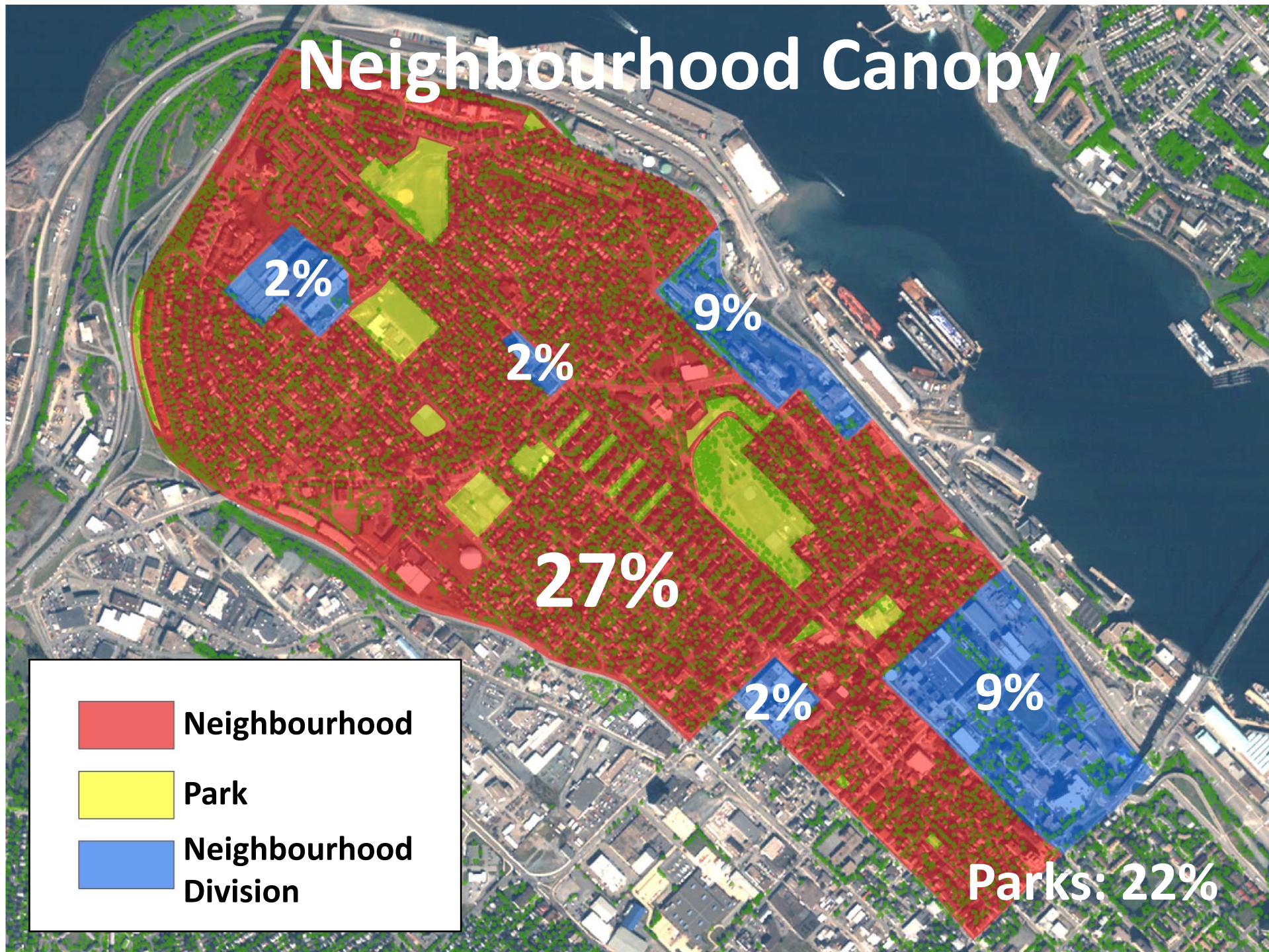






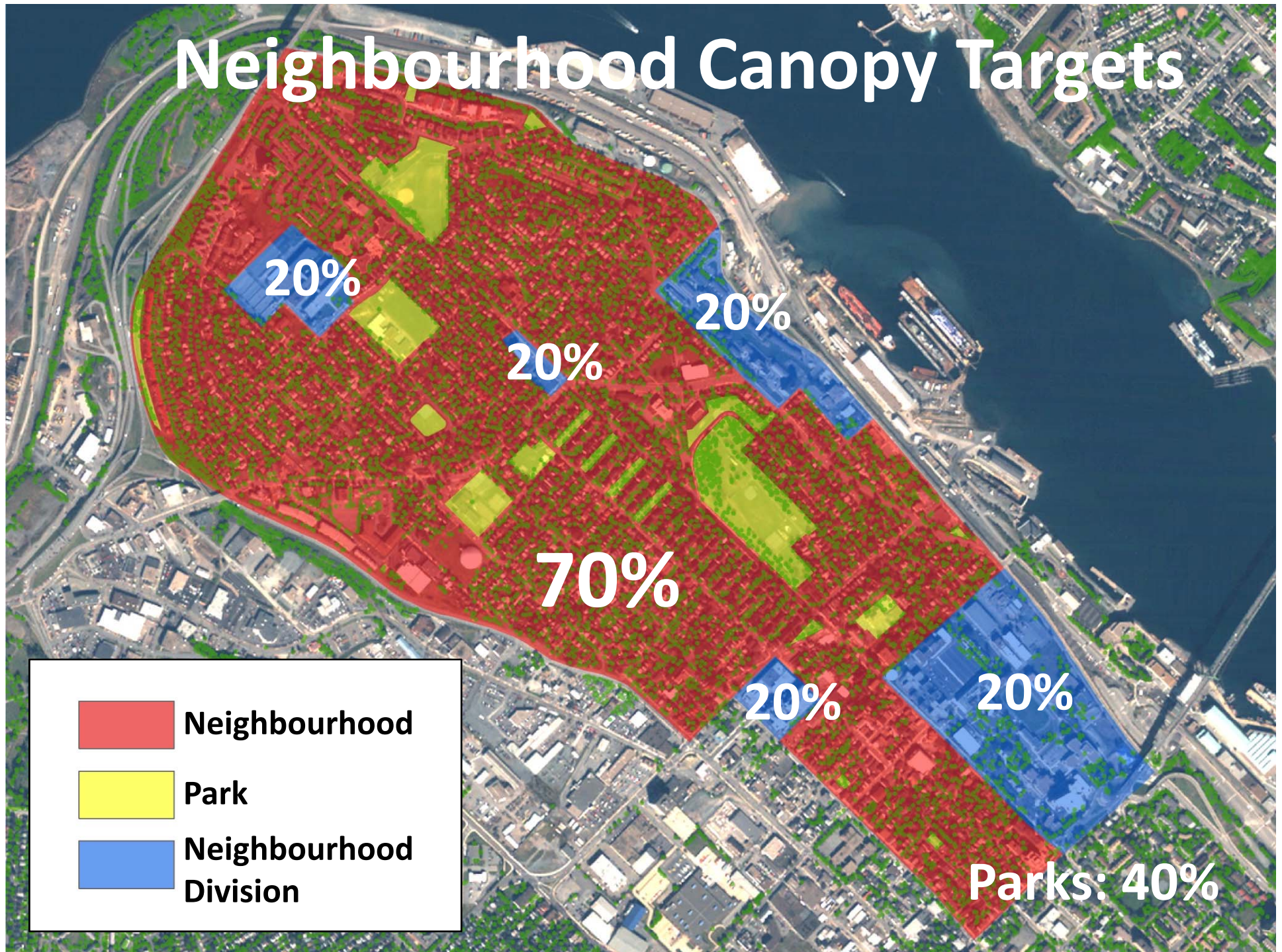


# Neighbourhood Canopy



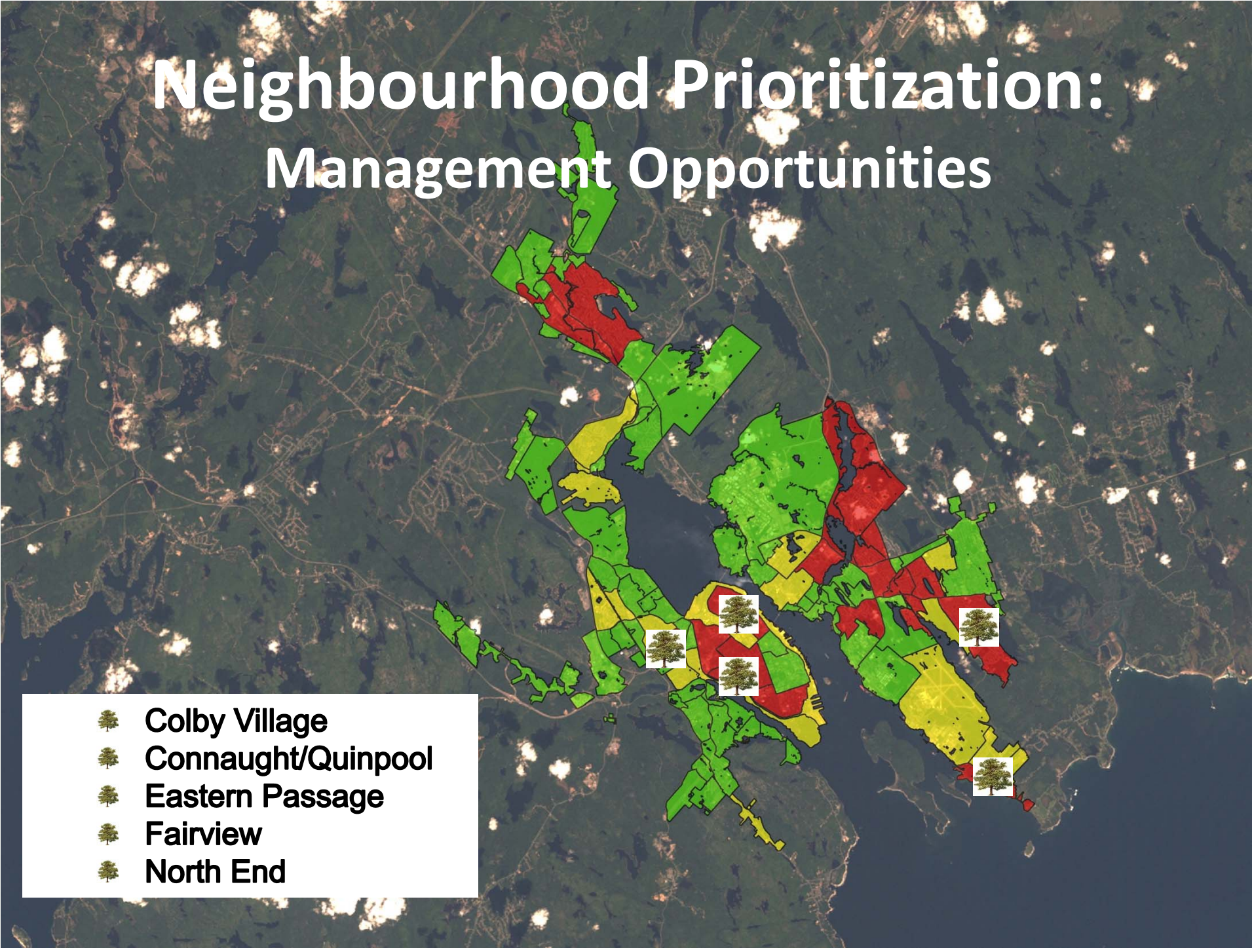


# Neighbourhood Canopy Targets





# Neighbourhood Prioritization: Management Opportunities

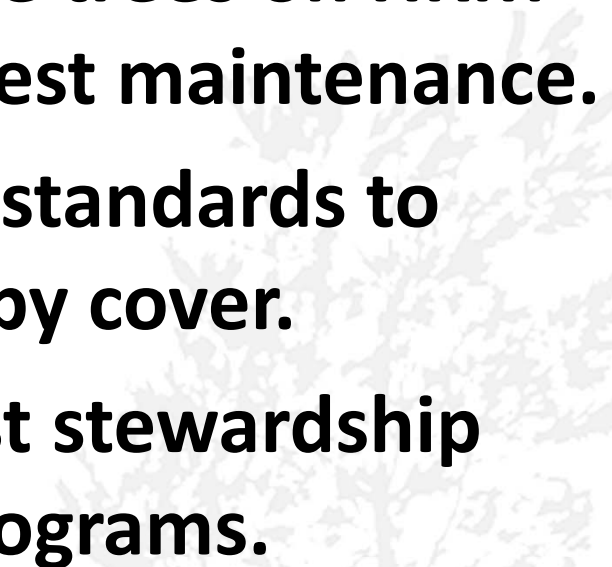
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- The map shows a coastal region with various land parcels highlighted in green, yellow, and red. Five tree icons are placed on the map: one in the central red area, one in the central yellow area, one in the central green area, one in the eastern red area, and one in the southern yellow area. A legend in the bottom-left corner lists five locations, each preceded by a tree icon.
- Colby Village
  - Connaught/Quinpool
  - Eastern Passage
  - Fairview
  - North End

# Public Engagement 2012

- **Purpose: To help determine UFMP implementation priorities.**
- **Draft UFMP posted for public review in April, 2012.**
- **Four public workshops in May/June.**
- **Online web survey in June/July.**



# **Implementation Priorities**

- 1. Increase funding, plant more trees on HRM land and improve urban forest maintenance.**
  - 2. Adopt new regulations and standards to conserve urban forest canopy cover.**
  - 3. Promote citizen urban forest stewardship and develop educational programs.**
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# **Implementation Strategy 2013/18**

## **Cost Estimates**

- 
- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>1. Increase street tree planting</b> | <b>\$325,000</b> |
| <b>2. Increase park tree planting</b>   | <b>\$75,000</b>  |
| <b>3. Improve tree maintenance</b>      | <b>\$600,000</b> |
| <b>4. By-law/regulation development</b> | <b>TBD</b>       |
| <b>5. Public stewardship programs</b>   | <b>\$50,000</b>  |
| <b>6. Research and monitoring</b>       | <b>\$32,500</b>  |

# Current Opportunities

- **Integrate UFMP policies with:**
  - **RP+5 Review**
  - **Open Space Functional Plan**
  - **Stormwater Functional Plan**
  - **The Centre Plan**
- **Include UFMP implementation strategy in 2013/14 HRM business plans.**