

Tree Workbook

for a Walkable Neighbourhood

Workshop in Overbrook



This is a tool to allow residents and development professionals,
to work together with the help of an arborist,
& to set a course for change:
Toward a compact and complete community.
Toward a delightfully walkable neighbourhood.
Toward healthier residents & a healthier environment.
Toward a 40% neighbourhood tree canopy.

THIS WORKSHOP HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN
COLLABORATION WITH ECOLOGY OTTAWA

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Introduction

Ottawa will be intensifying, absorbing new population growth in infill development. We are growing, and there's lots of room for more people, but not if they all bring cars. It's time for our neighbourhoods to become walkable.

Following is a list of the most common barriers to [walkability](#) and the commonly missing pieces required to make our neighbourhoods into [complete communities](#).

1. Density to support transit and walkable services
2. Safe walking routes, 4 seasons of the year
3. Small Format Commercial
4. Recreational and Social Services to compliment walkable urban population growth
5. Delightful Walkability

Last Year's Overbrook Workshop

Last year Rosaline Hill worked with a group of Overbrook residents on the very first Walkable Workshops. Since then Walkable Ottawa, of which Rosaline is a founding member, has brought walkable workshops to Glebe Annex, and together with Ecology Ottawa, to City View and Alta Vista.

Read the Overbrook Walkable Workshop report here:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/rjhill/walkable-workbook-report-draft.html>

Walkable Neighbourhoods and Trees

Trees in our neighbourhoods have always been important to residents. They beautify our streets, provide shade, and also habitat for birds and other wildlife. For many people, trees provide a sense of connectedness with nature, and research has shown that being around trees is good for our mental health. Not only that, but more recent research shows a positive effect of trees on physical health too.

But in our time of climate change, trees take on even more meaning and importance to us. They not only provide shade immediately under their canopy, they actually cool the area around them. Trees manage rain water in storm events by intercepting rainfall in the foliage, which prevents water runoff, absorbing and filtering water that infiltrates into the soil, and holding stream banks in place with their roots.

And most importantly, trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, through photosynthesis, a chemical process that starts with the leaves catching the sun. They use the

carbon to build their own growth tissue and as a side benefit, they release oxygen, which of course is fundamental to all of us. All of the oxygen in the earth's atmosphere was produced by plant life over time immemorial. Makes you want to treat them with a little more respect, doesn't it?

40% Tree Canopy Target

These benefits of trees in a neighbourhood only kick in once a certain threshold is achieved. A single tree in the middle of a city block does not do much good for anyone. Because the crown of the tree provides the most shade and the foliage is so important to the other benefits, a good indicator to measure the extent of the benefits provided is canopy cover. This is literally the percentage of a given area that is covered by the crowns of the trees in that area. Research has shown that the benefits described above only really reach a point where they make a difference when 40% of an area is covered by tree canopy.

Tree Workshops

1st Zoom Meeting:

DATE: April 17

TIME: 9:30-10:30 am (preparation for 2nd meeting)

Workbook (to do):

At Your Convenience

2nd Zoom Meeting:

DATE: April 24

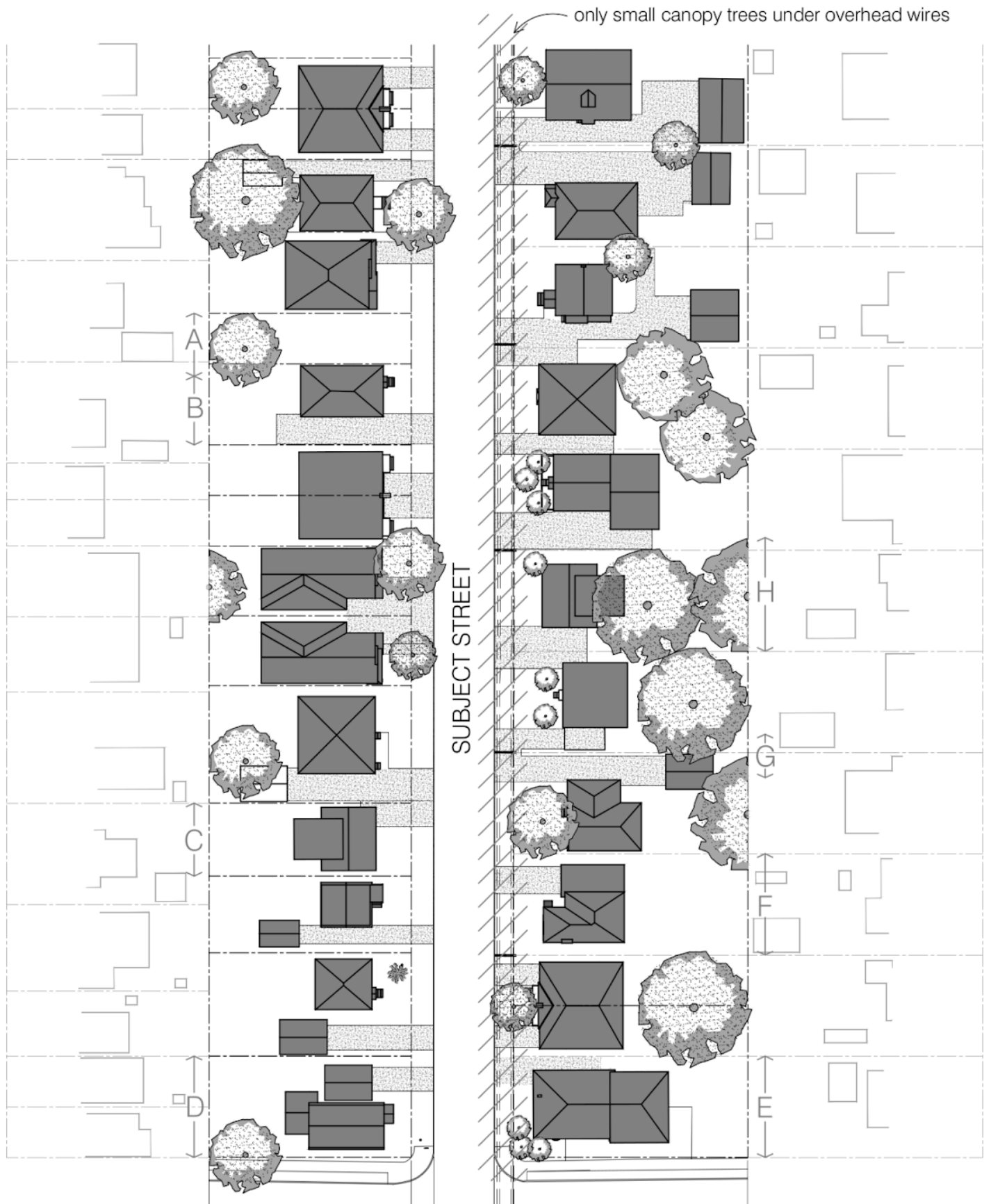
TIME: 9:30-12:30 pm

Zoom Meetings:

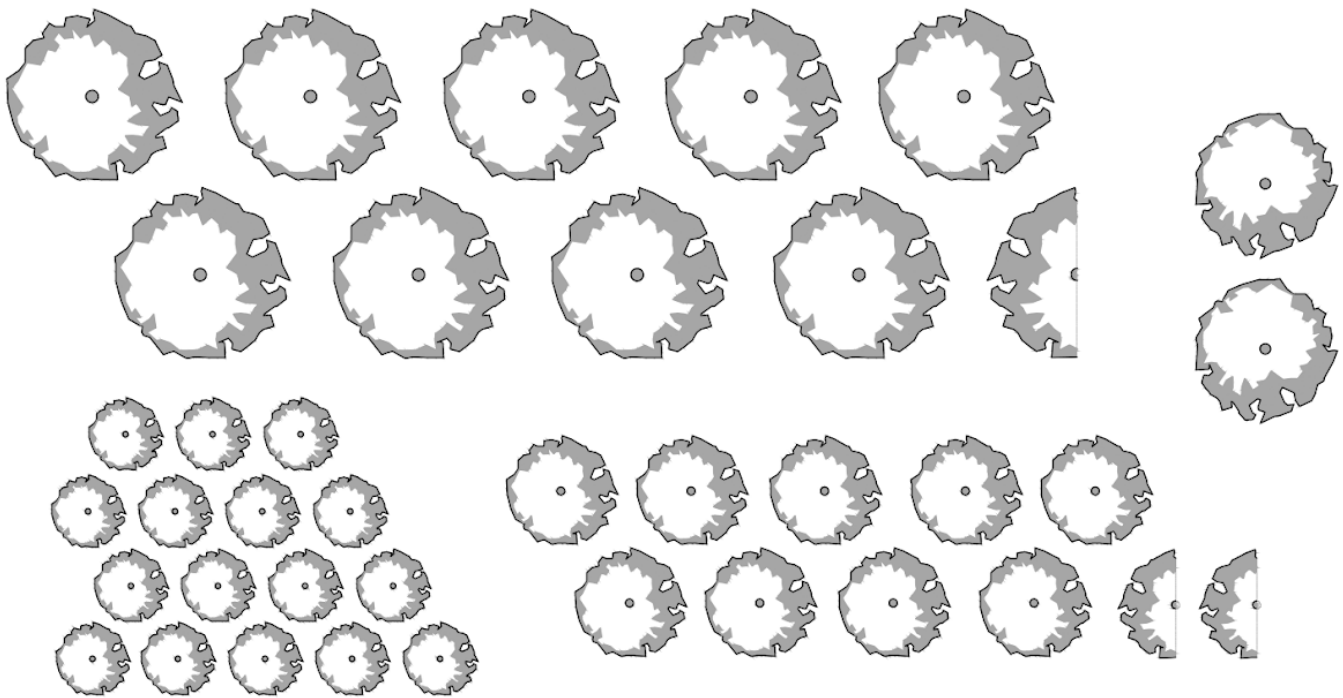
Workshops will be held on Zoom. If you do not already have Zoom on your computer you will have to download it in advance of the Workshop. Ecology Ottawa will send you an invitation and a link. The workshops will be recorded. Turn off your video if you do not wish to be included in the recording. It is important to find a quiet room -- we will need to turn our mikes on to share ideas.

Take the 40% challenge

Between the two workshop days we hope that you will use the following worksheets, roll up your selves, and see what a 40% tree canopy might be like for a typical Overbrook Street. On the following page you will find a diagram of a typical Overbrook street seen from above, with a mix of tree canopy sizes. Print out the Sample Street sheet, as well as the following sheet. Cut out and glue on trees till you reach 40% tree canopy, or perhaps stop once you think there are at an appropriate number of trees.



By adding all the trees below, our subject street would reach 40% tree canopy.



Are there Species of Trees that you would like to see in each of these size categories?



D) Very Large Canopy
2200 sq.ft. Canopy
(53 ft diameter)

- Ex. Oak
- ?
- ?