NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Town of Olds Takes Stock of Its Urban Forest to Plan for the Future

OLDS, Alta. – November 17, 2026 – The Town of Olds is taking a closer look at one of its most valuable natural assets: its trees.

Over the next few months, qualified arborists from Green Drop will assess approximately 5,000 public trees and examine tree coverage throughout Olds. The Urban Forest Inventory will help the Town better understand the health and condition of its trees, identify maintenance needs and plan for future planting and replacement.

The project is part of the Town's broader approach to long-term planning and asset management, which uses reliable information to guide decisions, set priorities and make the best use of public resources.

"Good planning starts with understanding what we have and what we'll need in the future," said Mayor Dan Daley. "We've made significant progress in managing our roads, water systems and other infrastructure through better data and long-term planning. Our urban forest deserves that same thoughtful approach. This project builds on the plans and priorities we've already established and helps us make informed decisions that will benefit Olds for generations."

The inventory will document the location, species, size, age and condition of Town-owned trees. It will also identify potential risks, areas with limited tree coverage and opportunities for future planting.

The Town contributed $20,000 with the vast majority covered by a grant that supports communities managing their trees and forests.

"Trees are an important part of our infrastructure," said Adrian Pedro, Director of Infrastructure Services. "This grant gives us an opportunity to complete an assessment at a relatively low cost

to the Town. We'll be able to better plan maintenance, protect healthy trees and make informed decisions about where to invest our resources."

No trees are identified as requiring removal as part of the inventory, and all on-site assessment work will take place on Town-owned property. While the inventory focuses on public trees, the broader tree canopy assessment will measure tree coverage across the community.

Residents Invited to Share Their Priorities

Community input will help shape the project, with two opportunities for residents to participate.

The first engagement session will take place **November 24, 2026**, inviting residents to share what they value about Olds' trees and green spaces, identify areas of concern and suggest opportunities for future planting. An online survey can be found at **engage.olds.ca/urban-forest.**

A second engagement phase in July 2027 will give residents an opportunity to review the draft findings and recommendations before the final report is completed.

The completed inventory will help guide tree maintenance and future planting and provide a foundation for a future Urban Forest Strategy.

Learn more about this project and the public engagement on the website at www.olds.ca/treeinventory

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