



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives

DATE: July 28, 2026

SUBJECT: UNH Sustainability Fellow – Citywide Tree Canopy Assessment

### Recommendation:

Accept this report.

### Background:

For the fifth time since 2019, the City was selected to host a Fellow through the UNH Sustainability Institute Fellowship summer program. The project under this year's Fellowship was designed to utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to analyze the existing tree canopy for the entire City, looking at historic data compared to most recent readily available data. Specifically, the deliverables include a dashboard that will be available through the City website to view the changes over time, canopy by Ward, and see changes in heat island over the years. In addition, the Fellow will provide areas recommended to prioritize tree plantings for the most beneficial natural climate solutions, as well as a methodology for her work to share with other municipalities.

The City was fortunate to be matched with Danielle Melius, a recent graduate of University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Conservation Biology and Minor in Geospatial Analysis. Danielle has worked closely with the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee and Conservation Commission Tree Subcommittee during her tenure.

### Discussion:

Ms. Melius will present the findings of her research during her presentation to City Council. She is in the process of data review, and her final report will be completed prior to the Council meeting.

Ms. Melius' presentation is the final task in her workplan for the City before the end of the fellowship program. The Energy & Environment Advisory Committee and Conservation Commission Tree Subcommittee, as well as City staff, are grateful for all of her hard work and

professionalism throughout the summer. We wish her all the best as she moves on the University of Toronto for her Master's degree program.