



City of  
**Kelowna**

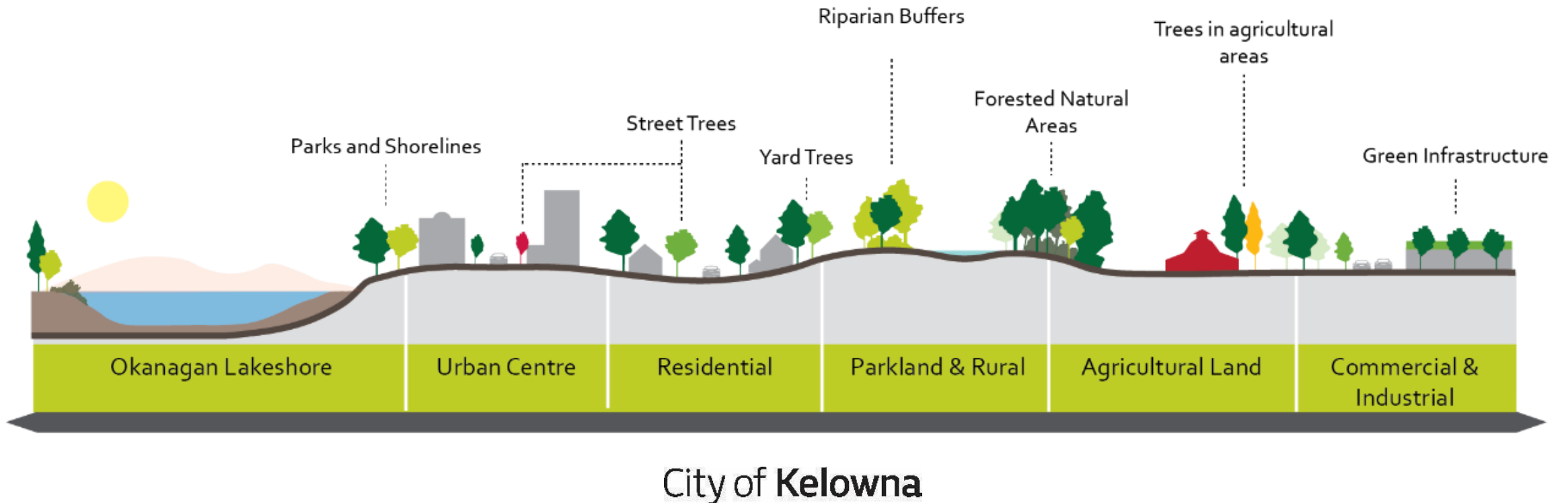
# Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy Goals & Strategies

April 17, 2023



# What is the urban forest?

*"All trees, forests, plants, soils, and associated ecosystem components located within the city."*



# Includes rural and urban, public & private

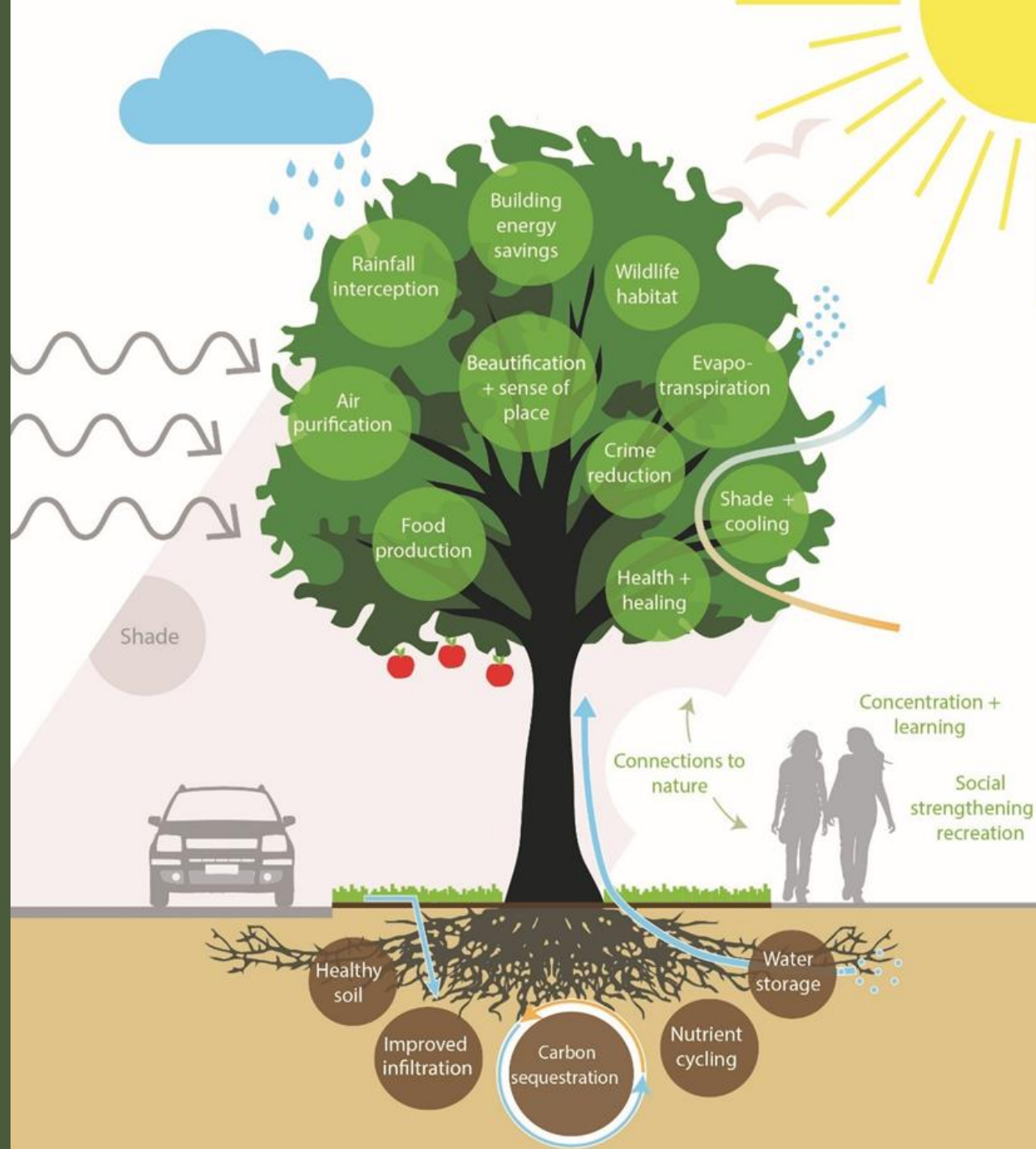
<i>City forest</i>	<i>Private forest</i>
	
	
<b>Natural Forests</b>	

<i>City tree</i>	<i>Private tree</i>
	
	
<b>Urban Trees</b>	



# Trees provide many benefits...

- ▶ Providing habitat for wildlife
- ▶ Stabilizing steep slopes
- ▶ Storing and sequestering carbon
- ▶ Cooling urban areas
- ▶ Improving mental and physical health
- ▶ Encouraging social cohesion



# ... but face many challenges



Pests, diseases & invasives



Climate change and extreme weather



Development and urbanization



Asset lifecycle



Program capacity



Urban environments



# What is a SUFS?

- ▶ Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy
- ▶ 10-year strategic document with policy and strategic action recommendations to protect, preserve and grow the urban forest.



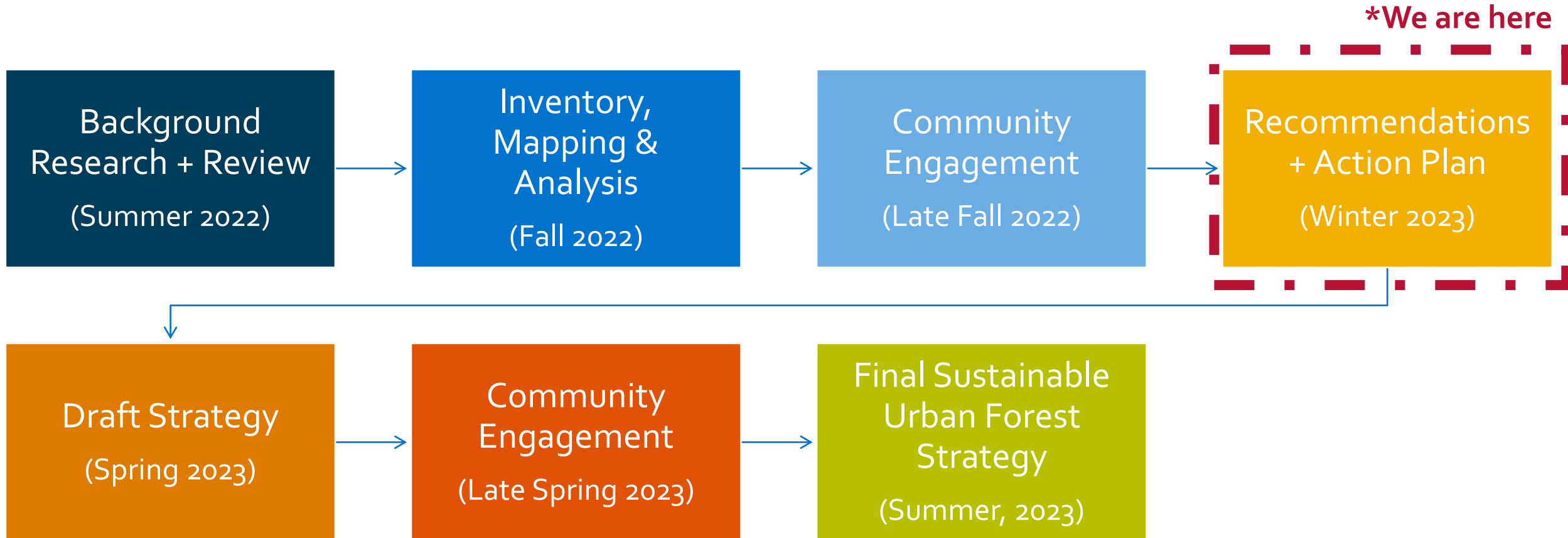


# Actions since 2011 SUFS

- ▶ Canopy targets adopted in OCP
- ▶ Urban forestry department better staffed and funded
- ▶ Wildfire fuel management treatments
- ▶ NeighbourWoods program
- ▶ Municipal Properties Tree Bylaw updated
- ▶ Canopy enhancement strategy to improve tree regulations



# 2023 SUFS Update





# Technical Analysis Results

## ▶ Public realm

- ▶ 23,000 inventoried street & park trees
- ▶ ~100 distinct tree species
- ▶ Over 190km of trails
- ▶ 270 waterbodies & riparian areas

## ▶ Private realm

- ▶ Residential properties
- ▶ Commercial properties
- ▶ Agricultural land





# Engagement" "what we heard



Who we heard from – total:

**347** Survey respondents

**22** Open house attendees

**48** Mapping tool participants

**25** Stakeholder workshop participants





## Goal 1: Protect, connect, & expand the urban forest

- a) Continue to integrate policy and planning to protect, connect and expand tree canopy.
- b) Expand the urban forest equitably in urban areas.
- c) Restore forests to expand habitat, enhance biodiversity and improve connectivity.
- d) Improve the quality and suitability of trees being planted for the site and climate requirements.





## Goal 2: Maintain a healthy, safe & viable urban forest

- a) Clarify operational procedures and standards to improve efficiency and manage risk.
- b) Transition from reactive to proactive maintenance of urban trees.
- c) Ensure resources are sufficient to deliver levels of service that maximize urban forest benefits.





## Goal 3: Involve people and organizations in urban forest management

- a) Improve governance and public and institutional awareness of urban forest management.
- b) Strengthen community partnerships and participation to implement the Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy.
- c) Build relationships with syilx/Okanagan communities, First Nations governments and Indigenous peoples through forest management.

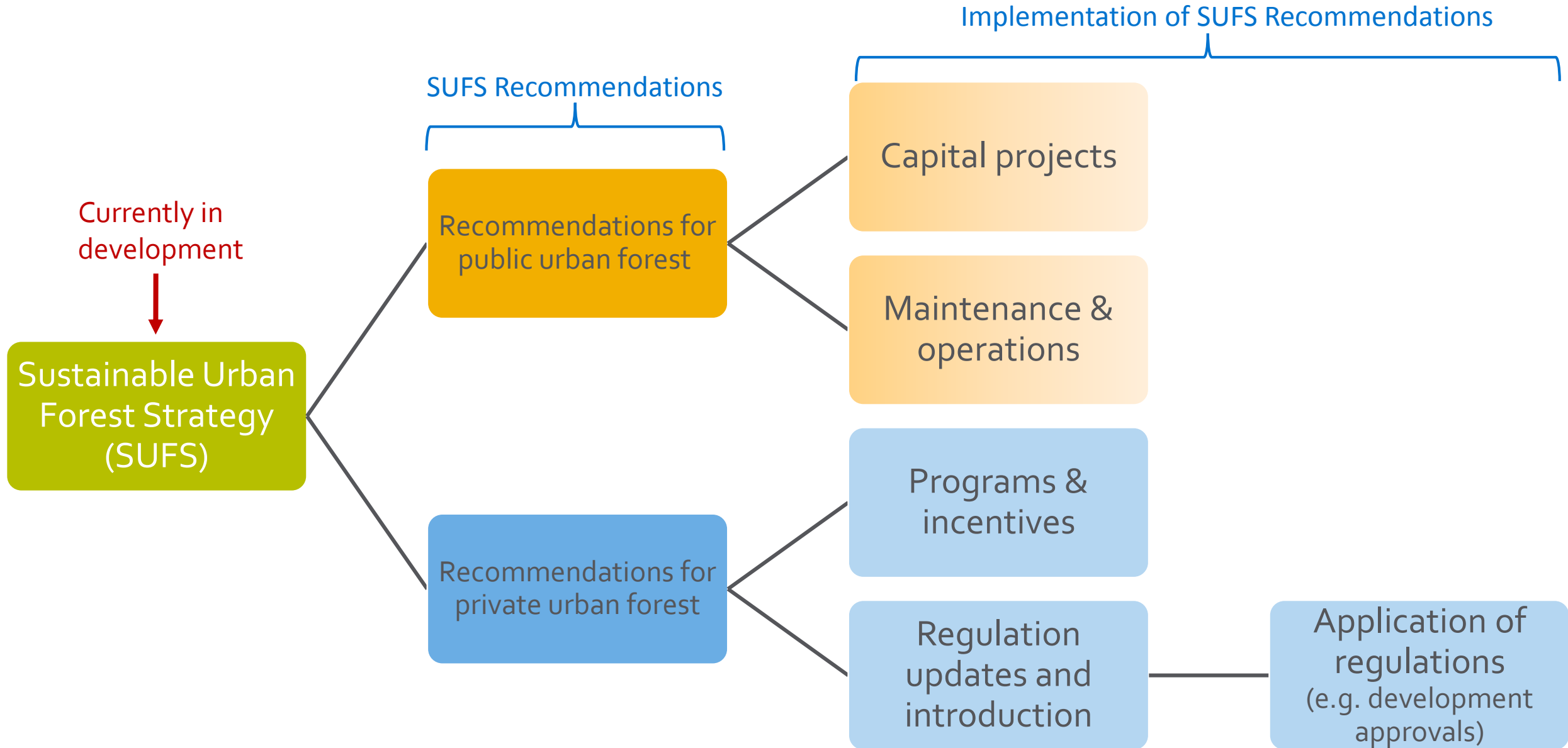




## Goal 4: Monitor and innovate to achieve our urban forest vision

- a) Monitor change, report and adapt management to new information.
- b) Trial innovative approaches to semi-arid urban forestry.

# Roadmap to improving/expanding urban forest







*Questions?*

For more information, visit [kelowna.ca](http://kelowna.ca).

# Trees in different areas of the city

