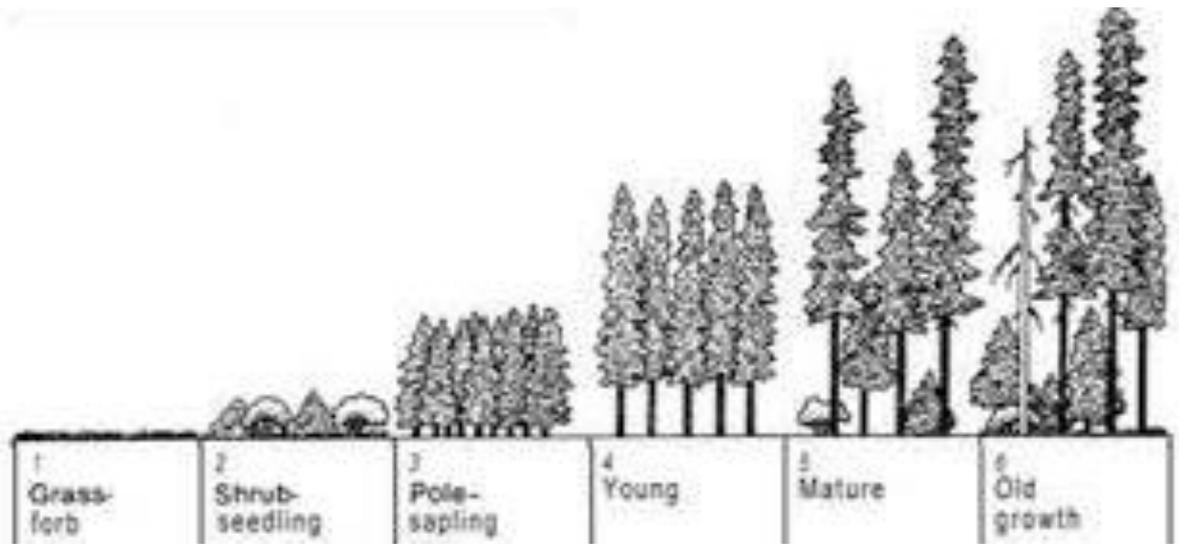# Enhancing North Saanich Forest Stands and Natural Ecosystems

North Saanich Ecosystems Require Long-Term Management Planning

To Old Growth 350 Years

| 1 Grass-forb | 2 Shrub-seedling | 3 Pole-sapling | 4 Young | 5 Mature | 6 Old growth |

What A Municipal Natural Resource Strategy Could Do

- Insure long term planning for natural ecosystems.
- Insure vegetation management to provide for flora and fauna.
- Grow the number of natural areas to reduce forest fragmentation and enhance forest cover.
- Re-naturalize or ecologically repurpose some areas to increase canopy cover and healthy natural ecosystems.
- Insure that fire hazard reduction, down woody debris management and other ecological management elements fall under this umbrella.

North Saanich Ecosystem Strategy Implementation Should Involve

- **Conducting and maintaining an inventory of natural ecosystems including canopy cover and forest stand characteristics.**

- **Monitoring the condition of North Saanich vegetation resources over a long period.**

- **Adopting a sustainable approach to managing natural vegetation.**

- **Integrating vegetation resource management plans with other natural area resource management plans and initiatives.**

Describe the Characteristics of Forested and Non-Forested Ecosystems
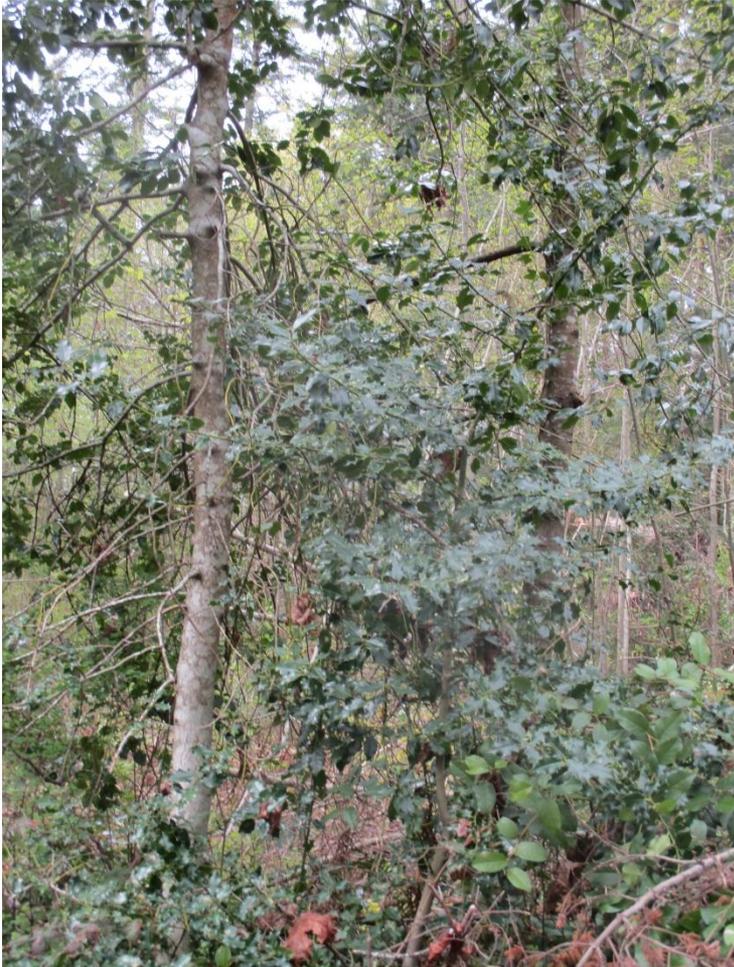
Ecosystem Management Requires Information

North Saanich Ecosystems

- **Historic canopy loss-considerable information from aerial photo or remote sensing coverage. This has been assembled before and can be again fairly easily. But it does not indicate what vegetation patterns exist n the ground.**

- **Municipality needs information on the forest canopy and all natural ecosystems- some of this information will have to be gathered on the ground now.**

Natural or Indigenous Ecosystems

- **Use the Provincial BEC system: Tree species distribution, tree percent cover**
- **vegetation associations, ecosystem information such as: plants, shrubs, soils and wildlife**
- **Tree age class, tree height, form**
- **Diameter, growth rates**
- **Vegetation health factors**
- **Site conditions**
- **Significant trees; wildlife trees**

Restoration of Ecosystems

How to Gather Information

- **Gather existing ecosystem data for North Saanich-sort and consolidate.**

- **Augment available information using senior University students, available through subsidized programs. Gather missing ecosystem data.**

- **Consider modeling or other computer analysis through a PhD student to answer questions about climate change and future development impacts on ecosystems.**

Summary

- **Provincial ecologic information exists for North Saanich but needs augmentation.**

- **Appoint a qualified natural resource person to staff to coordinate and implement ecosystem management.**

- **Students with supervision can assemble much of the information at minimal cost to the District.**

Friends of North Saanich Parks

- **Conducting Restoration.**
- **Gathering Ecosystem Information Such As:**
- **Soil Properties,**
- **Vegetation Associations,**
- **Wildlife Information,**
- **In 2023: Canopy information together with site information.**

Ensure The Lilies Will Always Be There