

## Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

**To:** Chair and Members, Community and Protective Services Committee  
**From:** Kelly Scherr, Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Urban Forest Strategy Monitoring Report  
**Date:** December 2, 2024

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure, the following actions be taken with respect to the strategies and actions identified in the Urban Forest Strategy:

- (a) the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information;
- (b) Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to provide an annual Urban Forest Strategy Monitoring Report to update the community on actions and outcomes that advance the implementation directions of the Urban Forest Strategy; and,
- (c) Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to complete the requisite technical studies and background research to update the Urban Forest Strategy, with finalized recommendations presented no later than Q1 2027.

It being noted that the linked 2025-2029 Tree Planting Strategy will be submitted for Council consideration in February 2025.

## Executive Summary

The Urban Forestry Strategy (UFS) was adopted by Council in 2014. It identified 95 actions intended to advance additional tree planting, aid in the retention of existing trees, improve tree and forest maintenance, and generate community engagement.

Over the past 10 years, UFS actions have produced a substantially increased level of tree planting, diversified the species composition of the urban forest, improved the health and long-term benefits of City-owned tree assets, and increased London's overall canopy cover.

Based on funding provided to advance the UFS and the prioritization of implementation efforts, 73% of UFS actions have been achieved, partially achieved or are in progress nearing completion.

A number of key forestry issues are provided in the report, including the effects of Climate change on the urban forest, improving tree outcomes for new development, woodland management, efforts to increase tree maintenance and future challenges with nursery stock supply.

Civic Administration is seeking direction to commence the necessary technical studies to complete a 10-year update of the UFS to confirm existing conditions and ensure the community is well-positioned to meet its canopy cover and greenhouse gas emission goals.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

### Climate Action and Sustainable Growth

- 1.2**
  - a.** Protect the natural environment and avoid natural hazards when building new infrastructure or development.
  - b.** Improve the natural environment and build resiliency when replacing aging infrastructure.
  - d.** Protect natural heritage areas for the needs of Londoners now and into the future
  
- 2.1.**
  - a.** Implement the Climate Emergency Action Plan with a focus on actions up to 2027 that will contribute towards achieving 2030 emissions reduction targets.
  - b.** Plan for and adopt the use of zero-emissions, clean energy, and green infrastructure technologies.
  
- 2.2**
  - a.** Encourage community-led climate action through education, partnership, and promotion.
  - b.** Support community preparedness for the impacts of climate change and extreme weather.
  - c.** Implement the Climate Lens Framework across the City of London and its agencies, boards, and commissions and report on the results.
  - d.** Coordinate collecting and sharing environment and climate data to support evidence-informed decision-making.
  
- 3.1.**
  - a.** Monitor and communicate changes in the infrastructure gap to inform management of City assets.
  - b.** Invest in publicly-owned assets to maintain existing levels of service and to implement planned levels of service.
  
- 3.2**
  - a.** Adapt infrastructure and assets to fit evolving community needs, including accessibility.
  - b.** Build, maintain and operate assets with consideration for energy efficiency, environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

## Analysis

### 1.0 Background Information

#### 1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

October 10, 2023: 2023 Corporate Asset Management Plan (Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee)

November 16, 2020: Public Participation Meeting – New Proposed City of London Tree Protection By-law (Planning and Environment Committee)

November 6, 2017: Tree Planting Strategy 2017 – 2021 (Planning and Environment Committee)

June 3, 2014: Urban Forest Strategy and Implementation Plan – Keeping the Forest in the Forest City (Planning & Environment Committee)

#### 1.2 Council Resolution

At its meeting of July 23, 2024, Council resolved the following:

- a) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide information and associated recommended actions on the following matters in Q4 of 2024:
  - i) Urban Forestry Strategy Monitoring Report:

- A) a status update of initiatives identified in the Urban Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan;
  - B) the requirements to effect The London Plan policies for tree replanting and/or compensation with development applications;
  - C) opportunities to establish large designed planting sites (e.g., an arboretum or new woodland habitat); and,
  - D) opportunities to require better soil amendments in new developments;
- This report addresses the above matters as well as seeking direction to commence technical studies required to update the Urban Forest Strategy.

### 1.3 Overview of the 2014 Urban Forest Strategy

The first large-scale assessment of London's urban forest was completed in 2012 (the Urban Forest Effects [UFORE] Study). This comprehensive snapshot of the urban forest and the value of tree benefits served as the baseline data for the 2014 Urban Forestry Strategy (UFS). The UFS and its Implementation Plan was approved by Council, with capital funding provided to deliver its many actions.

The 2014 UFS has the following guiding directions:

- **Vision:** A healthy, diverse, and extensive urban forest for today and the future. London is the Forest City.
- **Mission:** Plant more, protect more, maintain better.
- **Guiding Principles:**
  - Expand and manage the urban forest strategically to maximize the social, environmental and economic returns.
  - Protect and maintain London's urban forest on public and private land where it is providing the benefits of the "right tree in the right place" or is supporting the integrity of natural features.
  - Maintain and monitor the urban forest over time and adjust management practices as needed using current information and research.
  - Partner with the community to achieve urban forest goals.

The City's trees and woodlands were identified as having numerous public benefits, including:

- **Environmental:**
  - moderating temperatures;
  - moderating stormwater runoff;
  - reducing air pollution;
  - providing habitat;
- **Community:**
  - improving social cohesion
  - enhancing walkable communities;
  - reducing sun exposure and heat-related illnesses;
  - improving mental wellbeing;
- **Economic:**
  - lowering energy costs;
  - increasing property values;
  - improving retail businesses;
  - lowering health care costs; and,
  - supporting employment attraction and tourism by marketing the Forest City brand.

At the time of the approval of the UFS, the city's urban forest consisted of over 6.5 million trees, had a replacement value of approximately \$1.5 billion and canopy cover within the Urban Growth Boundary was assessed at 25%. The UFS identified targeted canopy covers of 28% by 2035 and 34% by 2065.

To advance the strategy and achieve canopy cover targets, the UFS identified 95 actions to be undertaken in three time frame categories (short-term – 1-2 years; medium-term – 3-5 years, and long-term – 5+ years). These actions were intended to advance additional tree planting, aid in the retention of existing trees, improve tree and forest maintenance, and generate community engagement.

The UFS is available online at <https://london.ca/sites/default/files/2024-11/Urban%20Forest%20Strategy%20-%20Accessible.pdf>

#### 1.4 Status of the Urban Forest Strategy Actions

Limited comprehensive monitoring and updates on identified UFS actions have been provided to the community since the UFS was adopted in 2014. As a result, a summary of the UFS actions and outcomes is included with Appendix ‘A’. A listing of recent achievements is provided in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Major Achievements 2019-2024**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project and Description</b>
2019	<b>Boulevard Tree Protection By-law</b> The Boulevard Tree Protection By-law was updated in 2019 with a new scale of fees to provide greater levels of compensation for removed trees.
2021	<b>First Long-term Tree Supply Contract</b> A long-term tree planting contract was secured with a vendor focused on tree quality and providing a range of tree species. The contract has helped the city reduce warranty-period tree mortality and the ability to exceed tree planting targets. The contract is renewable up to 2029.
2021, 2023	<b>Pilot Veteran Tree Incentive Program/Tree Canopy Conservation Program</b> New programs were introduced to offer financial assistance for maintenance of Distinctive Trees protected by the Tree Protection By-law.
2021	<b>Updated Trees and Forests Design Standards</b> A comprehensive update of the City’s forestry and tree design standards was completed, based on professional and municipal best practices. In particular, soil quality and quantity requirements were increased to support the long-term growth of newly planted trees.
2022	<b>Forestry Communications Plan</b> To advance public engagement and celebrate urban forestry-related success, public information and education messaging has increased through various communications channels.
2024	<b>Envirodepot Tree Depot Pilot</b> Informal tree give-aways were run at City Envirodepots during the spring to provide additional opportunities to support resident tree planting. Less common species were targeted to improve diversity in the urban forest. Fruit trees were also offered to support the Urban Agriculture Strategy and were very popular choices.
2024	<b>Junior Forest Rangers Camp at Fairmont Park</b> The City piloted its first ever camp focused on trees and forests. Two full week camp sessions were held, and registration interest vastly exceeded expectations. Feedback from campers and parents was excellent, with appreciation expressed for camp experiences focused on the natural environment. The program will be expanded in 2025, supportive of the UFS principle of engaging the community.
2024	<b>Initiate Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs)</b> Installed in city-owned woodlands, this project will take 3 years to complete. PSPs will provide valuable data on actual growth, condition, structure and biodiversity of our woodlands, to better inform Corporate Asset Management, improve modelling and quality-control of remote-sensed information.

Year	Project and Description
2024	<b>Enhanced Forestry Operations Contract</b> The City revised the structure of its operations contract. Rather than awarding work to a single vendor, the contract now has multiple work and equipment categories with multiple successful vendors for each category. The new contract provides greater flexibility for operational tasks, provided opportunities for a diverse number and scale of companies to access procured services, and maximized value for money for the City.
2024	<b>Hiring of Designated Forest Health Staff Member</b> Designated staff member now on staff to enable the City to address issues including but not limited to current (beech leaf disease, spongy moth), and potential (Asian long-horned beetle, oak wilt, spotted lanternfly) invasive species, and other tree health concerns.

The results of UFS strategic goals and actions are provided in Table 2. It is important to recognize that the implementation of the UFS was not fully funded, which impacted the prioritization of actions and pacing of delivery.

**Table 2: Status of the Urban Forest Strategy Actions**

<b>Plant More</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Achieved	14	52%
Partially achieved	1	4%
In progress	4	15%
Delayed	6	22%
Not achieved	2	7%
Total	27	100%
<b>Protect More</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Achieved	10	53%
Partially achieved	7	36%
In progress	0	0%
Delayed	2	11%
Not achieved	0	0%
Total	19	100%
<b>Maintain Better</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Achieved	15	50%
Partially achieved	11	37%
In progress	1	3%
Delayed	3	10%
Not achieved	0	0%
Total	30	100%
<b>Engage the Community</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Achieved	8	42%
Partially achieved	2	11%
In progress	0	0%
Delayed	9	47%
Not achieved	0	0%
Total	19	100%
<b>UFS Actions Overall</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Achieved	47	
Partially achieved	21	77%
In progress	5	
Delayed	20	21%
Not achieved	2	2%
Total	95	100%

#### Notes:

- 1) “Achieved” means that the action has been completed or is completed and implementation is ongoing.
- 2) “Partially achieved” means that a portion of the action has been completed, but additional work is required for aspects of the stated action, or the stated action is impacted by legislative changes.
- 3) “In progress” means that work is presently underway to complete the action.
- 4) “Delayed” means that the action could not be completed within the given timeframe and remains to be completed.
- 5) “Not achieved” means that the action cannot be completed due to existing limitations (e.g., Provincial legislative changes).

In general, actions that are identified as delayed reflect longer-term initiatives or were extended from original timelines by staff based on available funding to implement the UFS. These items provide opportunities for further review and consideration as part of the upcoming update to the UFS.

## **2.0 Discussions and Considerations**

The UFS has now reached a 10-year milestone. Although components have received some updates over the years, the technical data that provided the basis for the UFS is now 12 years old. There are a number of key areas of focus that are prompting the need for a review of the UFS and to consider changes to strategic goals and/or discrete actions.

### **2.1 Climate change**

Woodlands and individual trees are important contributors to mitigating and adapting to the effects of Climate change. In addition to their numerous ecological, public health and economic benefits, trees capture and store carbon. Trees provide further benefits to emissions reductions when they are planted close to residential and commercial buildings and in sufficient numbers to provide cooling effects, lessening the need for air conditioning.

Urban forest management and achieving the City’s forest canopy goals have a direct benefit to the City’s Climate Emergency Action Plan targets. Planting new trees, replacing removed trees, maximizing tree health through pruning and care, and by-law protections are all helping to achieve Council’s goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Although the present UFS is supportive of Climate change actions, it was established prior to the City’s Climate Emergency Declaration. Future updates to the UFS will examine opportunities to improve resilience to Climate change impacts.

The effects of Climate change have been experienced by Londoners with an increasing number of acute storm events. Over the past several years, the higher frequency and impacts of storm events has resulted in large number of damaged and downed trees. The community is impacted by the loss of large trees, road closures and/or damage to private property, increased costs for storm responses, and changes to the canopy cover structure in effected neighbourhoods. It is anticipated that storm impacts will continue to be experienced and are difficult to predict.

Climate change is also placing increased stress on the urban forest. As temperatures rise, pests and pathogens migrate north or are able to survive in conditions that were previously unfavorable. It is expected that a range of tree species will increasing be faced with threats to health and survival. Trees experiencing severe stress and/or loss due to pests and pathogens may result in the need for large-scale removals, with financial and social impacts for the community.

Finally, London may be faced with emergency events that were previously not a likely risk – woodland fires. Extended dry conditions are being experienced at times of the year when trees are most in need of water. Communities throughout Southern Ontario are examining the potential for fire risk and what measures can be taken to mitigate

potential impacts. The City is participating in discussions with municipal counterparts to gather best practices. Fire risk and response is also being examined in partnership with the Emergency Management and Security Services division and the London Fire Department.

## **2.2 Development-related Matters**

### **2.2.1 Implementation of the London Plan Policies**

Since the adoption of the current UFS in 2014, The London Plan has come into force and effect. The London Plan is a blueprint for city building to 2035 and includes a chapter that provides a policy framework to manage the urban forest. In-force policies include a canopy cover target, management and monitoring requirements, and tree planting principles and guidance. Requirements for tree inventory and tree preservation plans for planning and development applications and a framework to permit tree replacement and compensation is also provided.

Policy 390\_ identifies the Urban Forest Strategy and its associated implementation plan as the documents that will determine strategic directions and implementation mechanisms to support the policies of The London Plan. The Urban Forest Strategy is further identified as a Guideline Document under policy 1720\_5. These are adopted by Council to provide direction for the implementation of the policies of The London Plan.

Policy 399\_ provides direction for how trees will be protected and managed with development applications and/or infrastructure projects. It sets forth the requirements of having tree inventories and preservation plans. Although The London Plan seeks to have trees retained with new development and infrastructure projects, it does recognize that some removals of health and structurally-sound trees will be required. The policy framework establishes the ratio at which trees are to be replaced (1 tree per 10 cm of tree diameter removed) and, if tree replacement cannot be accommodated on site, the policies permit the City to establish a financial compensation option.

To meet the goals and policies of The London Plan, Staff are preparing an implementation framework associated with tree removal compensation. The Design Specifications and Requirements Manual will be updated to clarify criteria and processes for assessing and inventorying trees. Parameters for trees requiring compensation (considering tree size, health and structure) will be established through implementation policies and guideline documents. Tree compensation fees will be calculated and established through the City's Fees and Charges By-law.

Preliminary consultation with development representatives has taken place and the draft implementation framework will be provided for further input. Updates to design standards and guideline documents will be completed in the first half of next year, with the financial compensation amounts included with the next Fees and Charges By-law update in September 2025.

### **2.2.2 Soil Conditions for Boulevard Trees**

Boulevard trees require adequate soil quality and depth in order to ensure that newly planted trees are able to achieve their maximum growth potential. Well-planted streets with extensive canopy cover are important goals for new subdivisions and development sites to support the social, environmental, and economic benefits provided by trees.

The UFS identified the need for enhanced soils standards for newly planted trees, which was also incorporated into the Complete Streets Design Manual and The London Plan. In 2020, a consultant was retained to provide recommendations on changes to the City's design standards based on establishing the foundations for trees to thrive. The work was informed by professional best practices, a scan of standards in large urban municipalities, and scientific analysis. Revisions were put forward with the 2021 Design Specifications and Requirements Manual update and in-office and on-site workshops were held with development representatives.

Since the revised standards were implemented, concerns about the scope of the City standards have been raised by the development community. A working group has been formed, including Parks and Forestry staff and a consulting arborist retained by the

London Development Institute. The working group is examining concerns raised and suggestions provided to determine if the design standards for soils will receive minor modifications next year.

### **2.3 Woodlands and Afforestation**

The City owns approximately 290 woodlands with a total area of about 1270 hectares. New woodlands are regularly acquired with development applications and from purchases by the City of woodlands not associated with development.

Woodland acquisition involves the preliminary assessment of existing conditions to inform baseline maintenance requirements (e.g., hazard trees, invasive species management, access controls, etc.). Good woodland stewardship requires investments for planting (e.g., maintaining the structure of the forest, diversity tree species, reducing the growth of invasive plants), maintenance (e.g., tree pruning, pathways at appropriate locations, removal of excessive dead wood), and monitoring (e.g., sample plots, water balance analyses). Actions to accomplish these tasks are established through woodland management plans, which are tailored to the specific needs of the forested area. Woodlands may become certified (Forest Stewardship Council or Sustainable Forestry Initiative) for sustainability and carbon credits. Some suitable urban woodlands could also be managed under best forestry practices for lumber or non-timber forest products to help defray costs and demonstrate to the public the value of woodlands as a renewable resource.

The completion of woodland management plans requires a renewed emphasis. Staff will be engaging a consultant in 2025 to assess existing woodland conditions and to prioritize the creation of woodland management plans and interim maintenance activities. Existing budgets are sufficient to move forward with woodland management plans and associated actions, but greater investment is anticipated to be required in order to provide an optimal level of coverage and pacing for completing woodland management activities.

Along with woodland stewardship, the City aims to undertake afforestation to enhance existing features and to establish new features. Staff are examining potential locations as part of the review of City-owned lands. Preliminary candidate sites include River Road Park, lands proximate to the W12A landfill and ecological restoration lands. Large planting areas provide greater opportunities to efficiently manage young trees, to provide opportunities for the planting of species that are not ideal for boulevards and parks, to create new habitat, and to serve as the location of replacement trees funded through development fees and/or capital projects.

Opportunities also exist to work with owners of large private land holdings and institutional lands for afforestation projects. In particular, there is the potential for temporary forests to be created – large groupings of trees planted on lands being held for long-term development opportunities. These temporary forests could be established with clear expectations of their intended function and established lifecycles. Short-lived and fast-growing species (e.g., poplars) would be chosen, recognizing that the climate change and canopy benefits provided by the temporary forests is preferred over no trees planted to avoid encumbering the lands. This concept will be explored further as part of the 2025-2029 Tree Planting Strategy.

### **2.4 Maintenance of City-owned Trees**

Reductions to the tree pruning cycle have been a service delivery focus in recent years. Previously set at once every 10 years, City trees are now pruned at least once every 7 years, with an ideal 5-year cycle as a target. The improvements are due to continuous improvement initiatives, the addition of staff arborists and service improvements provided by the City's forestry contractor. Reduced tree trimming cycles improve public safety, reduce damage and disruption caused by storm events, and lessen the potential for power outages and traffic diversions from downed trees or branches. Continuous improvement initiatives will be advanced to achieve the 5-year cycle prior to the end of the decade.



## **2.5 Future Supply of Trees (Nursery Stock)**

The tree nursery sector is experiencing considerable pressure to meet the ever-increasing demand for trees. Most larger municipalities and corporations are targeting tree planting as an important means of addressing the climate crisis. A tree nursery is a challenging business – it can be difficult to source seed and saplings, species selection frequently targets the most commercially-viable trees, mortality rates can be high, and most importantly, trees take between 5 to 8 years of growth before they reach caliper size.

In 2018, the Ontario Tree Seed Plant in Angus, Ontario closed, which created difficulties for the nursery sector that needed to source seed where they could find it. Tree prices have increased by 50-80% since 2020 (depending on the species) and the availability of desired tree species has been inconsistent year-over-year. Most Ontario tree nurseries are small-scale serving landscaping companies and homeowners, or are large-scale enterprises growing for corporate garden centres like Home Depot, Rona, etc. The City has been fortunate to secure a long-term planting contract with a tree provider that can meet our present demand with high-quality specimens.

It is projected that the demand for trees will be significantly increasing in the coming years, which will place pressure on City tree planting efforts for desired sizes and species diversity. Tree costs will reflect the demand and the anticipated supply shortages. As a result, the City will be exploring a “Seed to Street” program, whereby seeds will be harvested from our urban forest, germinated, grown from seedling to sapling and transplanted to a location where they can reach the size to be planted in boulevards and other City lands. The program is not envisaged to replace a tree supplier; rather it is a means to ensure that the City can supplement supply shortages and meet its targets. A consultant will be retained to assist with the feasibility study for Council consideration (and cost estimates associated with the initiative).

## **2.6 Initiation of Technical Studies of the Urban Forest**

The UFS had a 10-year period before it was anticipated that a major update would be required. The initial UFORE 2012 study (upon which the UFS was initially based) used data gathered in 2008. This data was gathered using the science available at that time. The urban forest is a collection of living organisms, constantly changing. There have since been major technological advances in artificial intelligence and data-gathering to compute and model urban forest values and facilitate evidence-based decisions, with associated costs decreasing as demand grows for these tools.

Civic Administration is requesting Council direction to commence the technical studies required to update the UFS. The comprehensive study is expected to identify and assign attributes and benefits to every tree visible from a technological perspective (est. about 7 million trees), evaluate current urban forest condition and structure, and measure and model forecasted progress towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 under a range of Climate change scenarios. The technical work will benefit both forestry management efforts and contribute to the implementation of the City’s Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Funding is available in existing growth and tax-supported capital budgets intended to support this work. A Request for Proposal (RFP) would be issued in Q1 2025.

## **3.0 Financial Impact**

This report does not seek additional investment associated with the Urban Forest Strategy. Since the inception of the UFS, forestry operating, and capital budgets have been increased to provide for the implementation of a large portion of the identified actions. Existing capital funding has been allocated and will continue to advance key forestry initiatives over the life of the 2024-2029 Multi-Year Budget.

Staff will also be monitoring opportunities to apply for senior government funding for tree planting and eligible forestry management projects. Existing and planned actions provide the foundations necessary to be competitive in successfully receiving this funding.

Finally, potential opportunities exist for institutional, community and corporate partners for many of the initiatives that will be advanced in the coming years. Wherever possible, Staff will seek to combine financial and non-financial resources to maximize public benefits.

## 4.0 Next Steps

In addition to the commencement of technical urban forestry studies to inform an update to the Urban Forest Strategy, the following initiatives will be undertaken in 2025:

- **Plant More**
  - Council consideration of the 2025-2029 Tree Planting Strategy
  - Completion of opportunities analysis for tree planting locations on City-owned lands
  - Continuation of “pop-up” tree giveaways at City EnviroDepots
  - Targeted replanting of select woodlands (impacts of removals associated with Emerald Ash Borer and Beech Leaf Disease)
  - A review of the TreeMe and Tree Canopy Conservation Program funding frameworks
  - Rural roadside tree planting (replacement trees and new plantings)
  - Feasibility study for “Seed to Street” initiative and City-owned and operated tree nursery
  - Site selection for the new “Forest City Arboretum”
  
- **Protect More**
  - Finalization and implementation of tree removal compensation framework (development and capital projects)
  - Initiation of a review of the Tree Protection By-law and Boulevard Tree Protection By-law
  - Continued acquisition of woodlands (development applications and private sale)
  - Establishment of a Council policy related to resident requested removals of City-owned trees
  - Continued education and compliance activities for the Tree Protection By-law and Boulevard Tree By-law
  
- **Maintain Better**
  - Completion of the Woodland Management Action Plan
  - Modernization and continuous improvement initiatives related to tree maintenance work order system
  - Updating of operational service delivery standards for tree maintenance, stumping and tree planting
  - Continued electrification of hand-held equipment
  - Review of City design standards for trees and confirmation of soil standards for boulevard trees in new subdivisions
  - Continued collaboration with construction managers to improve tree retention and after-care support for newly planted trees
  
- **Engage the Community**
  - Co-creating a forestry-related initiative with local First Nations communities
  - Explore opportunities with institutional landowners for afforestation (permanent or temporary locations) to advance climate change goals
  - Expansion of the Junior Forest Rangers Camp program
  - Public outreach sessions and events regarding forest health (pests and pathogens identification)
  - Collaboration with the Upper Thames Conservation Authority on forestry matters to identify opportunities to maximize strategic outcomes, gain efficiencies and cost savings, and avoid real or perceived duplication of services

- Continued partnerships with ReForest London and other community groups on initiatives to advance the UFS

## Conclusion

The City has made excellent progress in achieving the actions identified in the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS). A number of items are planned for future implementation, reflective of the long-term nature of the UFS. Progress and opportunities will be communicated in future UFS Monitoring reports.

Commencing technical studies will confirm existing conditions of the urban forest and enable updates to the UFS based on data collected.

Staff have a strong work plan identified for 2025. The in progress and planned initiatives will continue to advance goals and targets identified in the UFS as well as supporting the direction of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

As it is the first comprehensive report on the status of UFS actions, this monitoring report is comprehensive and extensive. Future annual monitoring will build on this baseline and will be scoped to report on progress completed during the course of the year and matters that have the potential to impact the urban forest in the short-term.

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Appendix 'A': Urban Forest Strategy Actions and Updates