

Urban Forest Strategy

TFAC Comments - March 26, 2014

- Given the amount of interest from London residents, we would request that consideration be given to the issue of **food security** within the strategy and within our urban forest, and view this as a natural extension of the work that has already taken place with regards to food security through community gardens in the city. We would also recommend that consideration be given in the strategy to the importance of trees and forests to **pollinators**.

Specific suggested changes include:

- Add mention of food security and pollinators to Fig. 1 on page 4
- Include species for food production as a criteria (page 27, Sec. 7.2)
- Strategy 6.3 on page 26 (“Identify pruning dependant and high failure potential species within the street tree population, and consider for phased replacement with more reliable species”) seems to be suggesting that the City go and cut down potentially healthy and structurally sound trees if they happen to belong to a species which is generally more susceptible to disease or damage. While it may make sense to reduce the *planting* of overall weaker species, we would strongly recommend suggesting changing the wording to make it clear that this strategy would apply only to trees already slated to come down.
- A correction should be made to p. 16 where it is noted that volunteer groups in the city use seedlings in their plantings: the majority (if not all) of our community planting organizations use **saplings or larger** in their projects.
- We would request enhanced discussion around engagement of landowners as a means of achieving proposed canopy targets on Section 13.
- On page 33, Sections 13.1 and 13.2 – we would propose changing the phrase “information forum” to “stakeholder forum” or “discussion forum” to reduce the sense of one-way communication with these land holders.
- Incorporate some examples of what “Right Tree, Right Place” might mean.
- Reference should be made early in the document about the time frame of the strategy (through to 2034) and the frequency of review (every 5 years)
- We would strongly recommend the inclusion of woodland cover target be reconsidered as a part of the overall Urban Forest Strategy.