



Photo credit: Dave Colvin



# City of London Urban Forest Strategy

**Revisions recommended:  
Gabor Sass**

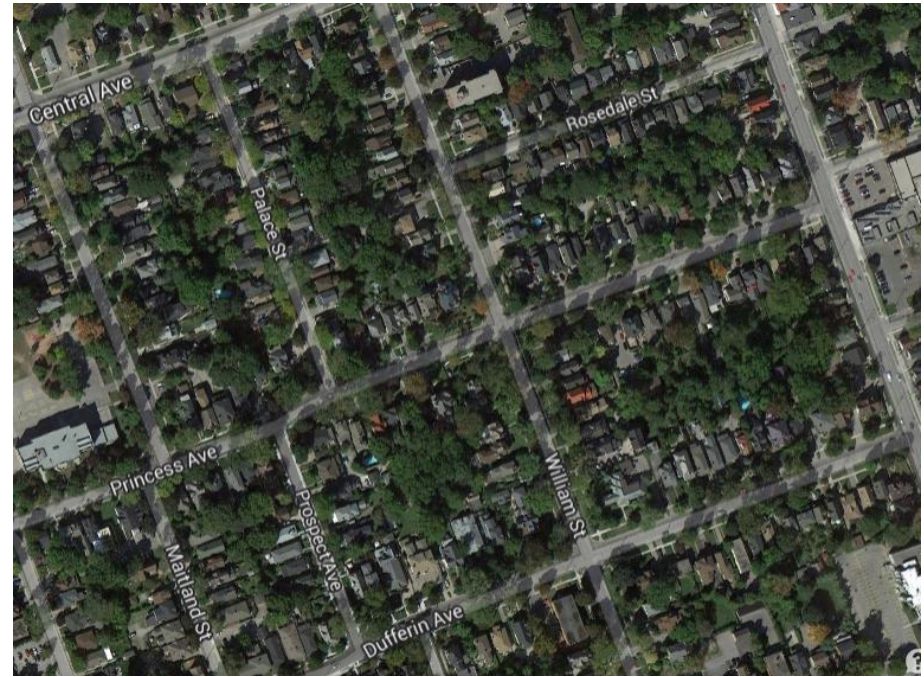
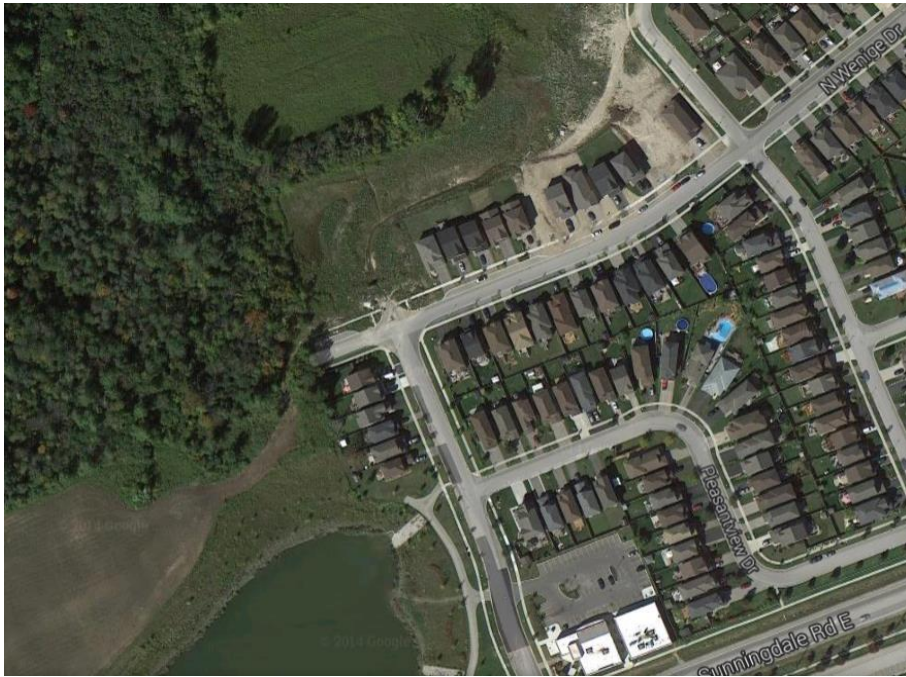
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# **NEED: Woodland Cover target**

- Current Woodland Cover ~ 8% - TOO LOW
- Environment Canada and MNR have identified a woodland cover target of 30%



# If we only focus on tree cover...



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PLANT MORE			
Strategic Goals	Actions	Priority	Timeframe
1 Achieve appropriate canopy cover across the community.	1.7 Consider the creation of policies that support a system where it would provide greater flexibility for creativity in site planning to meet urban forest and other city objectives including stormwater management. Develop a range of specifications for different types of site plans and different planning districts that would diversify the currently uniform outcomes seen due to specifications such as “zero set-back” and “3 m planting strip”.	Medium	Medium-term 3-5 years
	1.8 Consider using zoning bonuses as incentives for developments to protect treed areas (including tree plantings, enhanced landscaping, or other “green infrastructure” features)	Medium	Medium-term 3-5 years
	1.9 Conduct research, and measure woodland canopy, with the aim of developing a woodland canopy target for the City which integrates with the regional Natural Heritage System.	Medium	Long-term >5 years

**1.9** Establish a woodland canopy target for the City which integrates with the regional Natural Heritage System. Priority HIGH. Timeframe. Short-term

# NEED: stronger language on food production

## 4. Benefits of the Urban Forest

The benefits of urban forests are significant and well-documented in numerous studies. In fact, cities around the world now consider urban forests and related vegetation as an important component of urban infrastructure systems, with large healthy trees providing the greatest per-tree benefits. Figure 1 illustrates the range of benefits that urban forests contribute.

*Benefits provided by the urban forest include food production, and the provision of habitat and food for pollinators.*

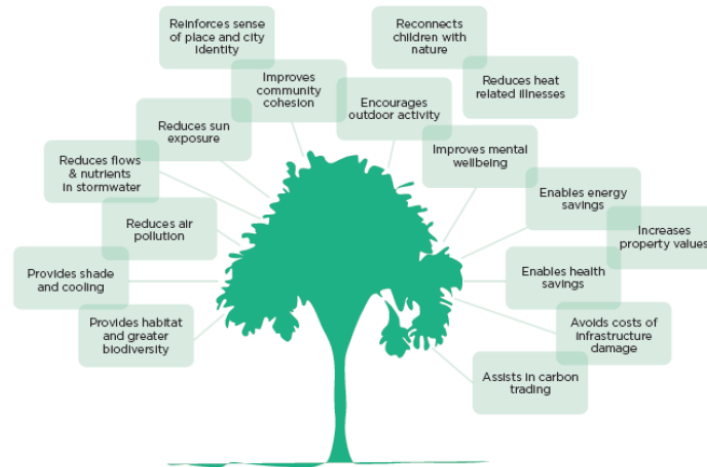
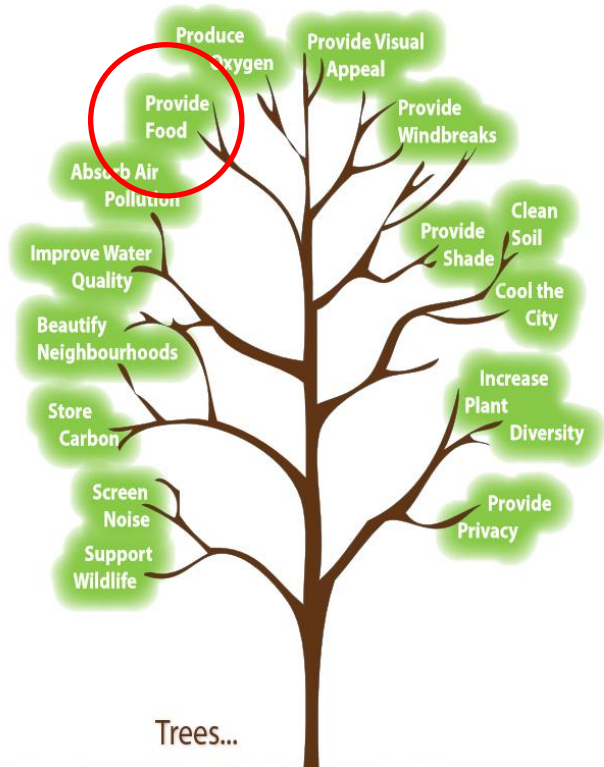


Figure 3. Overview of the benefits provided by urban forests.<sup>6</sup>

# NEED: stronger language on food production

## Why Are Trees Valuable?

Trees in both the urban and natural environment provide important environmental, economic and social benefits.



**Update section 4** on benefits of urban forest by adding paragraph on importance of food production

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# NEED: stronger language on food production

PLANT MORE			
Strategic Goals	Actions	Priority	Timeframe
2 Develop a tree establishment program driven by canopy cover targets, maintenance capacity, and “right tree, right place” principles.	2.4 Prepare a 5-year planting plan that identifies areas and objectives for community planting projects on City-owned property.	High	Short-term 1-2 years
	2.5 Identify and create improved plantable space through City infrastructure projects.	High	Medium-term 3-5 years
	2.6 Prioritize the enhancement of plantable space in areas that are “hot spots” where tree planting could mitigate the urban heat island effect.	High	Medium-term 3-5 years
	2.7 Increase tree planting to meet canopy cover targets.	High	Medium-term
	2.8 Apply existing guidelines to plant new subdivisions in phases prior to assumption so that tree planting can occur in a timelier manner before the last phase of development is finished..	Medium	Ongoing
3 Establish a diverse tree population city-wide as well as at the neighbourhood level.	3.1 Improve control over planting stock through a multi-year tree growing contract with specifications for shape, size, and provenance. This will lower costs and improve quality.	High	Medium-term 3-5 years
	3.2 Take an adaptive management approach to species selection to help diversify the species profile.	High	Medium-term 3-5 years
	3.3 Develop a native tree seed project to promote use of locally adapted seed of native species for new tree plantings.	Medium	Medium-term 3-5 years
	3.4 Encourage community gardens to consider the use of food producing tree species (e.g., fruit and nut bearing trees) and provide education on the required maintenance and management of food producing tree species.	Medium	Medium-term 3-5 years
	3.5 Manage woodlands to improve opportunities for species diversity (thinning and enrichment planting).	Medium	Long-term >5 years

- Put fruit and nut bearing trees on city tree list.
- Allow home-owners to plant fruit and nut trees on boulevards.

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