Keeping the Forest in 'The Forest City' Working on a Tree Planting Strategy

January 20, 2015
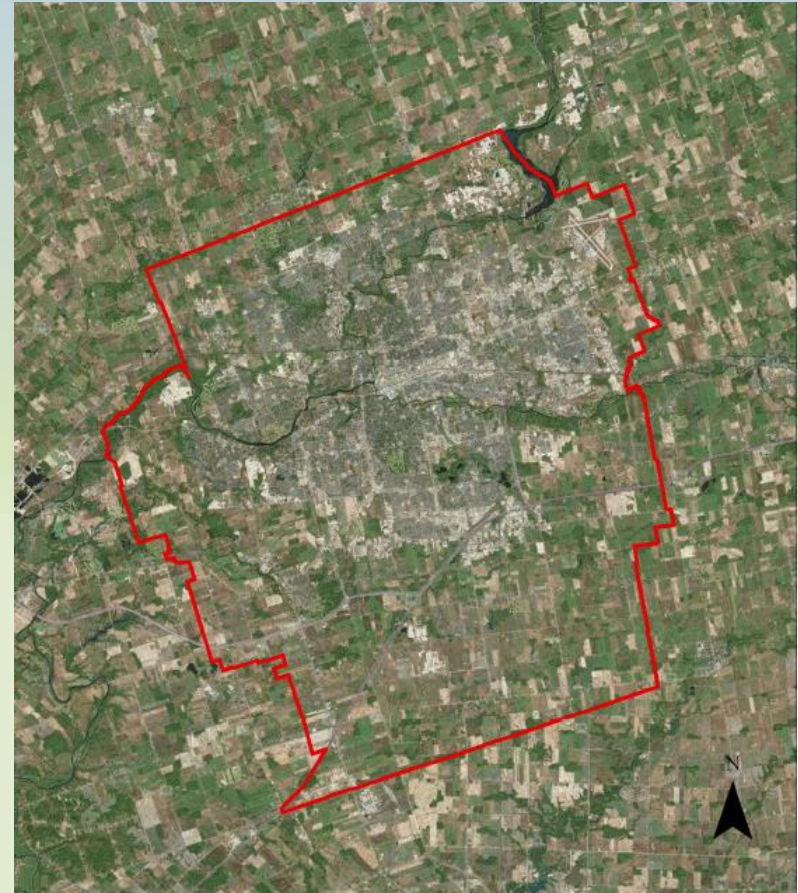
The Urban Forest Strategy outlines many goals, some of which include tree planting.
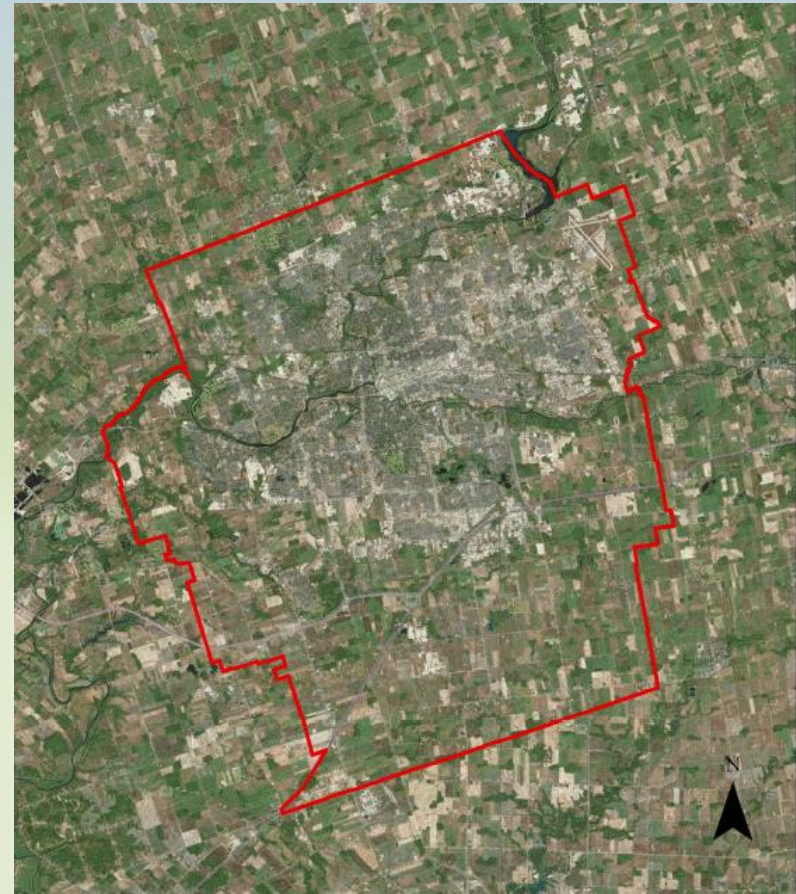
Urban Forestry would like to target some of the action items within the Urban Forest Strategy to create a Tree planting strategy for City owned property.

This is a starting point. Most land within the City is privately owned. Strategies for planting on private lands must also be reviewed. Priorities from these private stakeholders needs to be gathered.

London
CANADA

Action Items from the Urban Forest Strategy

1.1 Establish canopy cover targets by Place Type

2.7 Increase tree planting to meet canopy cover targets

Table 1. Suggested canopy cover goals by current land use types.

Land Use Type	Target Canopy Cover by 2035	Target Canopy Cover by 2065
Agriculture	13%	15%
Commercial	10%	15%
Institutional	18%	20%
Industrial	12%	15%
Low density residential	27%	35%
Medium and high density residential	19%	25%
Natural area and open space	55%	60%
City-wide	**28%**	**34%**

Percentages for land use types to be adjusted, City-wide numbers were increase by Council and are correct

1.3 Prepare a Planting Strategy for the City

2.1 Identify plantable space opportunities

Chart legend:
- Area of UGB (%)
- Potential Plantable Space (%)

Categories: Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Low Density Residential, Medium / High Density Residential, Natural Area / Open Space
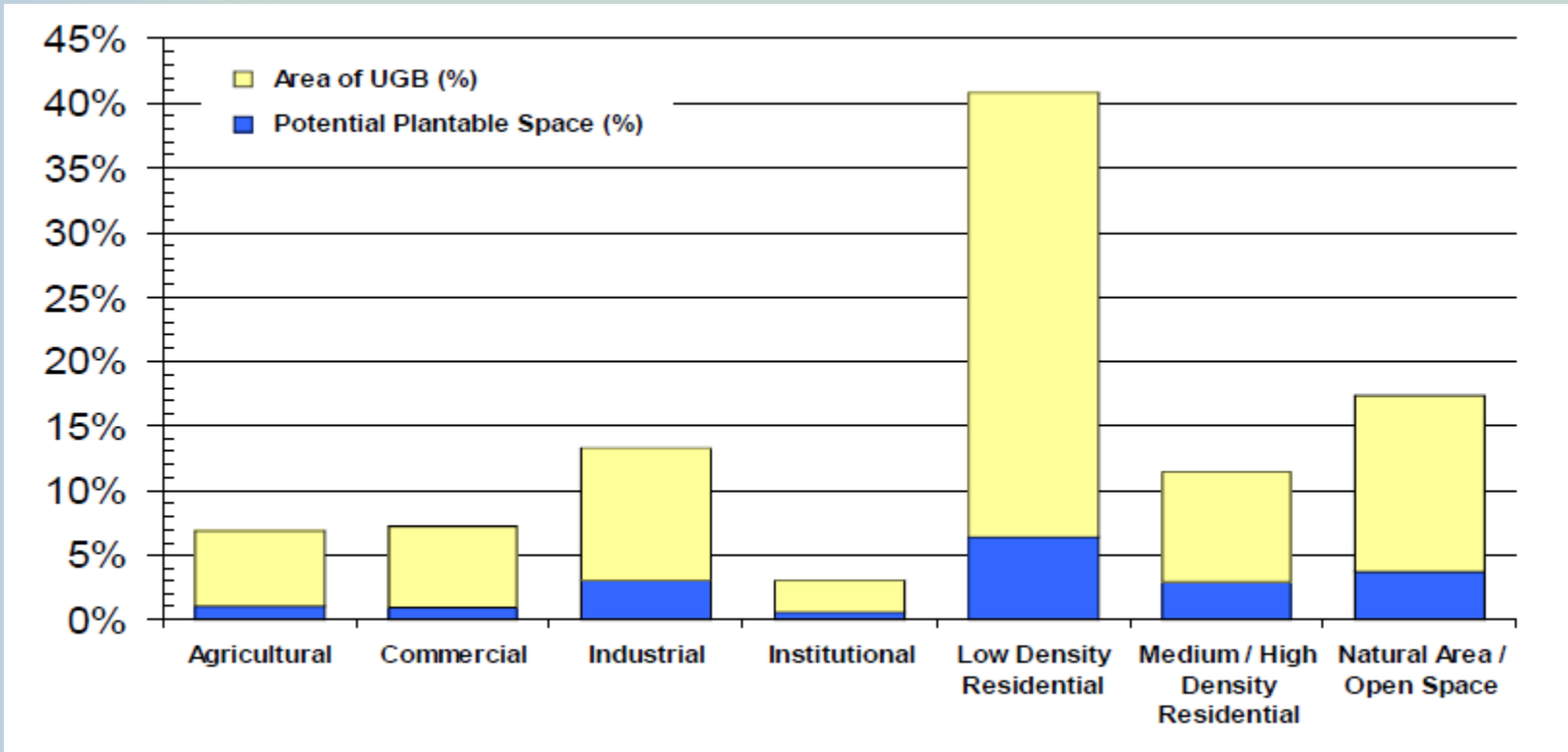
2.3 Apply "right tree, right place" best practices to select trees most suitable for the site

Fruit trees provide spring flower display and an autumn harvest

Trees provide habitat for wildlife

Evergreen screen provides protection from winter winds and acts as privacy screen

Deciduous trees planted on south and west sides provide shade and can lower air-conditioning cost by 10 to 15 percent

Spring-flowering tree used as accent in landscape

Street trees provide shade and cover for paved surfaces, reducing runoff and reflected heat. Street trees also improve the curb appeal of a neighborhood, increasing real estate values by 5 to 20 percent
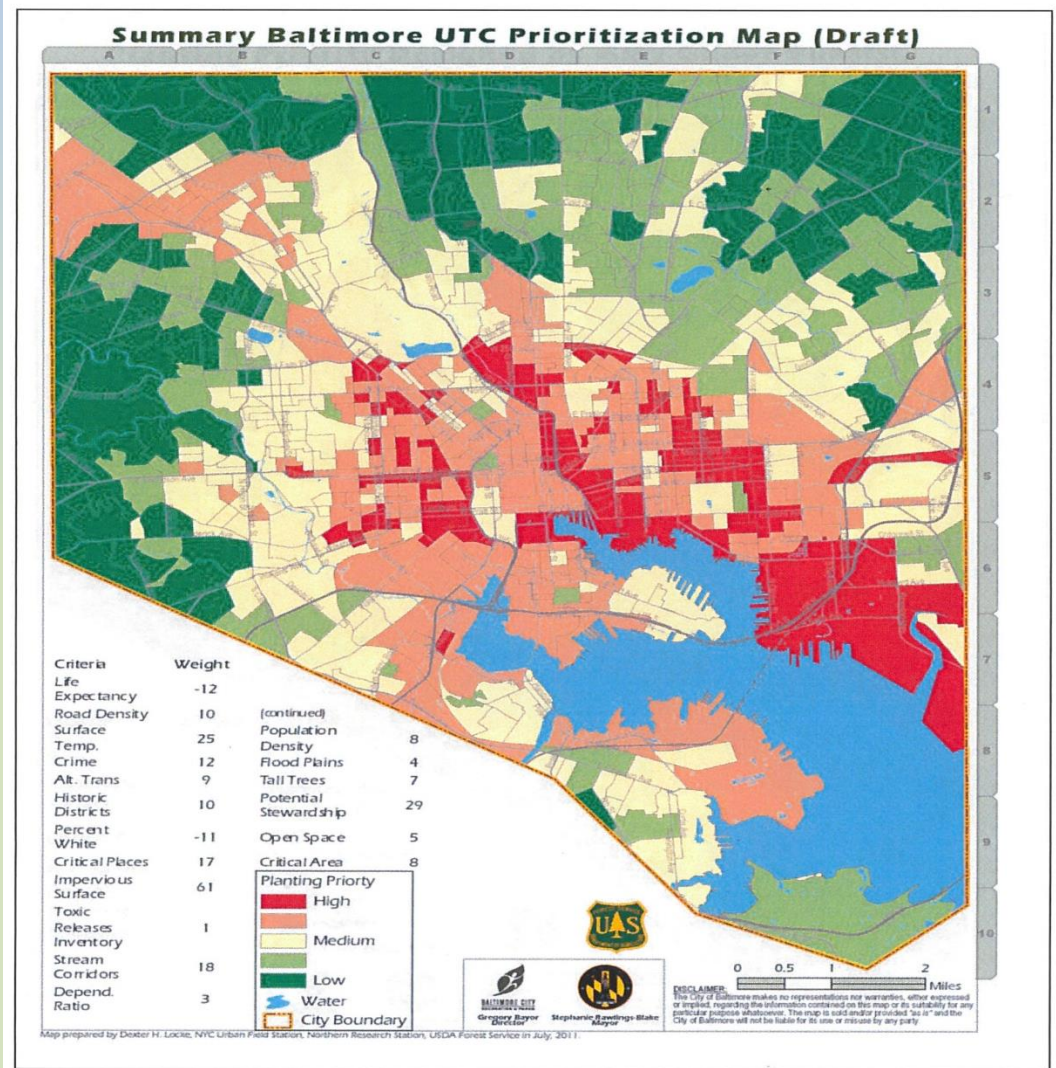
2.6 Prioritize the enhancement of plantable space in areas that are "hot spots"
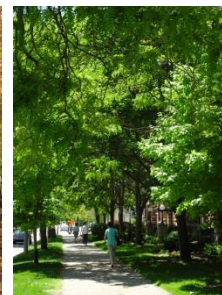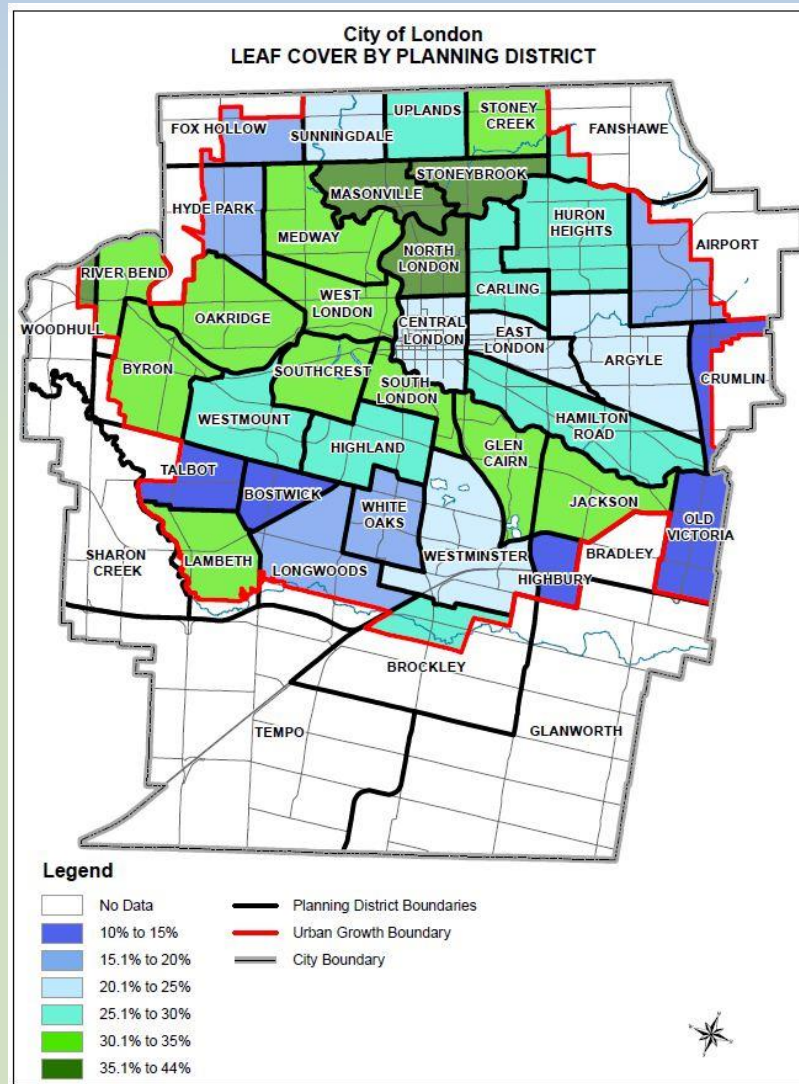
Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and Prioritization tool

Baltimore is used in this example http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1132&context=cate . This map was created using the assessment.

Summary Baltimore UTC Prioritization Map (Draft)

Criteria	Weight
Life Expectancy	-12
Road Density	10
Surface Temp.	25
Crime	12
Alt. Trans	9
Historic Districts	10
Percent White	-11
Critical Places	17
Impervious Surface	61
Toxic Releases Inventory	1
Stream Corridors	18
Depend. Ratio	3

(continued)
Population Density	8
Flood Plains	4
Tall Trees	7
Potential Stewardship	29
Open Space	5
Critical Area	8

Planting Priority
High
Medium
Low
Water
City Boundary

By creating a tree planting strategy, we hope to focus tree planting to get the "biggest bang for the buck"

City of London
LEAF COVER BY PLANNING DISTRICT

Legend

No Data	
10% to 15%	
15.1% to 20%	
20.1% to 25%	
25.1% to 30%	
30.1% to 35%	
35.1% to 44%	

Planning District Boundaries
Urban Growth Boundary
City Boundary

Ask of TFAC

Prioritize planting areas so they can be mapped. Some examples are:

1) **Geographic areas**
2) **Demographic areas**
3) **EAB replacement**
4) **Infill planting (replacements and requests)**
5) **Leaf cover percentages**
6) **Any other place types that can be mapped**

We would ask for feedback by the March TFAC meeting so it can be included in the Tree Planting Strategy
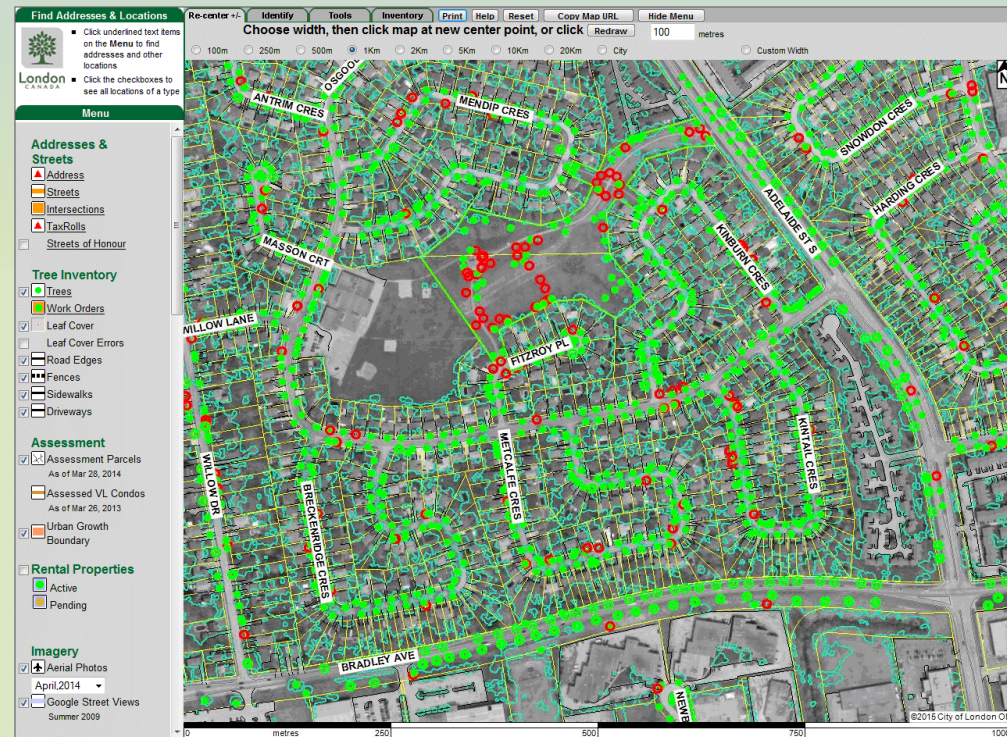
Ask of TFAC

Look at the big picture. Think about how we can also reach out to private land owners, similar to the Baltimore example