



# Memo

**To:** TFAC

**From:** Rick Postma

**Date:** February 17/ 2015

**RE:** **Tree Planting Priorities**

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Each year, the City of London Plants several thousand trees on the boulevards and in the parks of London. There are many different types of City lands that get planted and are as follows:

- 1) Parks – tree planting in parks for both naturalization and shade
- 2) New Subdivision Planting – a requirement through the subdivision agreement
- 3) SWM tree planting – tree planting as part of the Stormwater landscape plans
- 4) Infill Tree planting categories
  - a. EAB infill planting – tree planting to replace Ash trees which have been removed due to Emerald Ash Borer
  - b. Replacement tree planting – replacing trees which have been removed for reasons other than Emerald Ash Borer
  - c. Request Tree planting – tree planting along a boulevard at the request of a homeowner or other person
  - d. Proactive Infill Tree planting – tree planting along boulevards or in open spaces, not defined as parkland, to increase canopy and create tree lined streets. Filling in the gaps.
  - e. Infilling and replacing trees after road construction projects.

The first 3 locations for tree planting involve priorities based on the assumption of land. The 4<sup>th</sup> location deals with the replacement of trees that have been cut down or planting in areas that need more trees. A high priority for the City has always been to replace any trees that have been removed and fulfill any planting requests by homeowners in an expedient manner. Replacement and request tree planting accounts for most of the Infill tree planting on boulevard. EAB infill is similar to the regular replacement infill planting only targeting areas where Ash trees that have been removed.

One of the planting areas which can be organized in a strategic manner would be the Proactive Infill tree planting. It is not known exactly how many trees are infilled by the Forestry Operations Department proactively but it is dependent on the number of replacement and request tree planting is done and the amount of budget that is available.

The City does keep an inventory of all the trees in the City (mainly on boulevards), a version of which is accessible to the public on our City Tree Map. What is not accessible is an internal version which also notes locations which need to be planted. This is one of the tools that will be used to come up with a strategy to plant more proactive infill trees efficiently. The strategy will also be used if there is an increase in tree planting budgets so staff can systematically look at the City and plant trees where they are needed to efficiently fill in the gaps and get the most benefits in the long term.

**Part 1- Prioritizing planting locations**

We are asking TFAC to look at prioritizing typical planting spots so we are planting the areas that give the most long term benefits first. The following is a list of the types of trees we plant and the different locations we plant in. By prioritizing the list, we can map the areas which we want to plant first based on the number of trees we have available to plant. We should categorize by high, medium and low.

Priority	Species size	Priority	Planting location
	Large		Arterial road
	Medium		Residential road
	Ornamental		Industrial area roads
			Boulevard width 2m or greater (sidewalk present)
			Boulevard width less than 2m (sidewalk present)
			Room to plant behind sidewalk, non-standard right of way widths
			Boulevard, no sidewalk
			Open green space(not parkland)
			Open green space in front of parkland
			Under Hydro
			No Hydro
			Canopy Level identified by UFORE
			In front of a residence
			Not in front of a residence
			Demographic areas and health concerns
			Zoning areas – based on Schedule A
			Pedestrian gathering areas i.e. bus stops
			Other- Please identify

For example, planting large trees may be a high priority due to the greater long term benefits of this size of tree compared to an ornamental tree. Another priority may be to plant in front of a residence so there may be some additional care, i.e. watering, done to the tree. This may be a strategy which will aid in the long term survival of a large more beneficial tree

verses planting ornamental trees on arterial roads under hydro which may or may not survive. The priorities for planting can then be mapped and ranked as to the importance so that we can start infilling where we get the biggest benefits. The number of places planted would be based on the money available for tree planting.

This does not mean that low priority areas would not get planted, but it may be that we would target the high priority first and move to a different area or the strategy may be to target the high priority first and the lower priority second within the same area so the entire area can be filled before moving on to the next area.

## **Part 2 – Organizing the City into Manageable sections**

The next step will be to decide how to segment the City in order to systematically plant the City. The City can be broken down by planning district or by ward, but Forestry Operations has already created a numbered Grid map which can be overlaid onto the Canopy map. This would create manageable sized blocks and all of the prioritized planting locations along with current planting location data could be mapped. It would also mean that sections of the City which are highest priority can be looked at closely and checked to confirm if a tree can be planted. Recognizing that the UFORE Canopy map is an average canopy for the planning district, grid blocks can be isolated within districts for further analysis. All planting spots do need to be confirmed before sent to a contractor for planting.

Figure 1 is a city map with a grid overlay showing the location of Ash trees in Parks. The same type of map may be created showing big picture tree planting areas like canopy cover and zoning areas. Figure 2 shows an example of the individual grid which could display a closer look at that area and all the planting locations which have been prioritized. At this level we can map things like hydro corridors, residential streets, LIDAR results, “to be planted” dots, etc. This will allow us to compare grids locations for further confirmation on planting spots and allow us to focus infill planting in areas that need trees the most.

Figure 1



