

*The best time to plant a tree  
was 20 years ago.*



*The second best time is today.*

## Are we the Forest City?

ReForest London  
2016 City of London Budget PPM

February 24, 2016



**Trees are Good**



**London Needs More Trees**



**City has an Tree Canopy Target**



**Trees Take Time to Grow**

# What do we need to know about Urban Forestry Mgmt Strategy (UFMS)?

- It's Council approved
- It includes a tree canopy target of 28% by 2035
  - That's just 3% higher than where we started in 2008 (after 20 years of UFMS approval in 2015)
  - Lots of loss due to EAB, old age and development
- The current Urban Forestry budget business case is requesting funds to implement this strategy

# What do we need to know about UFMS?

- It outlines an implementation plan of over 65 high level activities that need to be accomplished

Short term	2015-2016	27 actions
Medium term	2017-2020	31 actions
Long term	2021- 2035	13 actions

# What do we need to know about UFMS?

## Short term

- 27 of these items were meant to be done by 2017
  - but there has not been sufficient funding through the budget process
  - We are behind; its very hard to 'catch up'

## Medium term

- Another 31 items are meant to be done by 2020
  - which is close to the end of this four year budget process
  - so support in this budget is crucial

# What is the nominal cost?

- UFMS estimates cost of all short and medium term activities required to meet canopy target at \$7.3M
- Current business case is only for \$3.4M
  - The business case is < half the amount required between now and 2019

# Other 'cost' factors

- London's Urban Forest is \$1.5 billion asset
  - Business case request is 0.2% of asset value
- Annual savings and benefits provided by our urban forest include:
  - \$4.5M in reduced health care costs by cleaning our air
  - \$1.7M savings to homeowners and business through reduced energy use
- This business case is an excellent investment!

# We are making it harder by delaying

- The sooner we get moving on UFMS funding the cheaper it will be to accomplish the targets
  - Trees grow over time; time is of the essence
  - They are the only infrastructure that appreciates over time
  - UFMS will also protect more, meaning we avoid tree loss and the need to replant it (and wait)



# Urgent and Strategic

- The need is urgent:
  - Prevent tree loss
  - Maintain trees better so they live longer
  - Planting new trees can only do so much
- It's cheaper and easier if we start sooner

# Are we the Forest City?

- Community is being asked to engage and to help grow our urban forest
- Urban Forestry business case is asking for less than 50% of what we really need between now and 2019/2020
- Please support this business case and do not cut this funding level further



Are we the Forest City?