

**Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Work Plan – 2017**

Meeting schedule: In order to keep momentum, TFAC will meet early in December to avoid conflict with the holidays.

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
<p><u>Urban Forest Strategy: General</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urban Forest Strategy is a multi-million dollar 20 year strategy to help ensure the growth and health of one of the Forest City’s most important features. Providing advice on the formation and implementation of London's Urban Forest Strategy is at the core of TFAC’s mandate. • Monitor progress on the Urban Forest Strategy and make recommendations concerning its ongoing implementation — Ensure PEC is being kept informed of progress on the UFS • <u>Provide feedback on “No Net Loss” policy. Likely will be December, 2017 that that review will be ready. (May start as early as July for a communication plan).</u> • <u>Provide feedback on “Right Tree Right Place”</u> — <u>Provide feedback on tree retention policy</u> • <u>Receive 2 UFS Semi-Annual Updates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>(It is noted that a template for a semi-annual updated was provided to Ivan Listar last year but not really followed in the first update: we should revisit our template and look for a more formalized structure in the reporting this year)</u> 	<p>Amber & Roberto</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A: Address and manage the infrastructure gap to maintain what we have now and reduce the tax burden on future generations.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C: Plant more trees and better protect them from deforestation, invasive species, and other threats.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E: Work together to protect all aspects of our natural environment including woodlands, wetlands, river and watercourses, and air quality as our city grows.</p>
<p><u>Urban Forest Strategy: Tree Protection</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Provide feedback on tree retention policy</u> • <u>Provide feedback on “No Net Loss” policy</u> 				

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 2017: On tree loss topic, City Tree Protection Bylaw currently in limbo (since focus was turned to the private tree protection bylaw last year instead) – we should seek to follow-up about this item this year. Andrew notes that it will likely will be December, 2017 that that review will be ready. (May start as early as July for a communication plan). Feb. 2017: Private Tree Protection Bylaw is expected to undergo a one-year review (Sept. 1 2017): City expects they'll be taking comments, doing open houses, etc. with report back to PEC in the Fall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC has previously expressed interest in receiving an (informal) 6 month update TFAC should aim to get comments in relatively early – may be August/September 				
Tree Planting Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist City staff in the development of a Planting Strategy for London (as a part of the UFS) Investigate ways the City could support tree planting on private land Provide feedback on “Right Tree Right Place” (part of the UFS) Feb. 2017: Tree Planting Strategy is under development, and City staff have developed a number for how many new trees need to be planted each year (~45,000) for years in order to reach canopy cover targets. TFAC should expect to review a draft this spring and provide comment on it. Staff would like us to specifically explore, as a part of this, how we can incent private landowners to plant trees. (Planting on city-owned land, by comparison, will be the “easy part”). 	TBD	April– December January - June May	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

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	<u>We should also inquire as to the status of the Community Planting Projects Report which is normally prepared in January by Parks Planning's Community Projects Coordination each year.</u>				
Planting & Monitoring Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal is to develop recommendations for what data should be recorded during planting, establishment, and cutting, so as to know (e.g.) how long a tree typically lives in London (& if that's improving or worsening), how many trees are being removed a year, what the survival rate is of different species, etc. 	Amber (to produce draft for TFAC)	February April – March June	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Green Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province has recently voted to try and take Wellington County's "Green Legacy" model (through which school children volunteer at county-owned greenhouses to grow, distribute, and plant free trees throughout the County) province wide. Rob Johnson, the program manager in Wellington, attended TFAC in Spring 2016 to share information about their program. We then recommended to PEC that the City investigate the possibility of bringing such a program to London, in partnership with local partners, and possibly Middlesex County. <u>They supported this recommendation.</u> In Feb. 2017, ReForest London, in partnership with the City, UTRCA, TVDSB and LDCSB submitted an application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation to undertake an initial feasibility study for London. If successful, this study would run from approx. July, 2017 – June, 2018. An updated will be provided to TFAC in June about the status of the application. The province has recently voted to try and take Wellington County's "Green Legacy" model (through which school children volunteer at county-owned greenhouses to grow, 	Amber	March – June June	\$250 (honorarium for guest speaker)	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

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	<p>distribute, and plant free trees throughout the County) province wide. Rob Johnson, the program manager in Wellington, attended TFAC in Spring 2016 to share information about their program. We then recommended to PEC that the City investigate the possibility of bringing such a program to London, in partnership with local partners, and possibly Middlesex County.</p>				
Infrastructure Replacement Projects in Roadways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent road work<u>Road work</u> and tree cutting in Rowntree and Queenston neighbourhoods <u>over the past two years</u> has provided an opportunity to review the processes affecting street trees in London • Our goal is to make recommendations to improve citizen understanding of decisions to make removals, and to reduce the impact of construction on trees • {SHOULD BE GETTING ROAD DOCUMENTS IN NEAR FUTURE TO REVIEW?}<u>Feb. 2017: A presentation was received in the last couple of months about the work happening on roadways and a new system the City has to “score” contractors based on the work they’ve done and problems encountered. This is expected to reduce the odds of Queenston-type damage happening again. However, TFAC would still like to review core road construction documents as they relate to trees and make comment.</u> 	Working group	January – June <u>May - September</u>	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A
Tree establishment recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to reduce mortality of newly planted street and park trees, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future tree watering options report for 2017 • White pot technology could be part of the green legacy • Potted stock in lieu of caliper trees • Feb. 2017: Currently appears likely that potted trees will be a greater focus in the Tree Planting Strategy in light of the cost savings they bring and the need to significantly increase planting levels to hit municipal targets. (Great progress here). We are still waiting on a report on watering options for trees and should consult with staff about when this could be prepared.<u>Growing contracts</u> 	Amber	Dec (2015) – Jan (2016); possibly reconsider again in autumn <u>March – June</u>	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

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Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change is expected to have enormous impacts on Canadian forests, with a minimum of 4°C of warming predicted for our country (vs. the global average of 2°C) by the end of the century, and worst case projections from the IPCC suggesting that increases as high as 10°C may be possible (for Canada) Goal is to develop recommendations around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition and establishment of more southerly stock Piloting more southern species as street trees Collaborating with more southern municipalities on climate change issues Feb. 2017: Significant recommendations were made around these issues last year. This year, we should inquire as to the progress on these recommendations and make further recommendations concerning the use of a standardized "climate scenario" for planning at the city. (Basically: follow up on all these; request update from City around (DATE) recommendations Make recommendations concerning citywide planning using consistent scenarios => <p><u>Revised numbers for max warming for Canada by end of century now stand at 14°C, following unexpectedly rapid warming in the past 2 years since the last IPCC report came out.</u></p>	Working group	January - May April	\$0	Building a Sustainable City 1E: Fund innovative ways to adapt to Climate Change.
Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Tree Planting Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This document determines what species can be planted and where on City land, and is updated on an annual basis <u>TFAC</u> will review and make suggestions for improvement this year, particularly with regard to invasive species, climate change, and allergens, and seek to more strongly connect it to the Urban Forest Strategy <u>These were submitted to the City in March, 2016.</u> <p>Update – Recommendations Changes submitted for review</p>	Working group	May - September	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

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	These are supposed to get done this February (2017): ask Rick Postma for update, continue to follow progress on these items.				
Committee Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential educational/outreach opportunities for members to possibly attend to help keep abreast of current developments in urban forestry (e.g., forestry conferences) and plan to have at least 3 TFAC members attend such opportunities this year. 	TFAC	Ongoing	\$500	Innovative and Supportive Organizational Practices 2B: Use innovative and best practices in all organizational and management activities
Companion Plantings for Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees often benefit from being planted in association with other native shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. Having additional naturalized land also reduces environmental impacts of land management (e.g., fossil fuel consumption for lawn mowing; stormwater runoff, etc.) and provides habitat for wildlife (e.g., bees and other pollinators). TFAC will research opportunities for this to occur on City-owned land. <i>Feb. 2017: Patti has left committee; if no one wishes to take this on this year, we may wish to remove it in favour of other tasks</i> 	Patti	July - December	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Identification of Publicly Owned Plantable Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the largest single landowner in London, the City owns an enormous amount of plantable land, not all of which is in parks. TFAC will work to make recommendations to help ensure that there is a regular process for identifying all plantable spaces on City-owned land and that there are systems in place to help get them planted and contributing to London's canopy cover targets. Invite James MacKay, Ecologist to a future meeting (2017) to speak to this. 	TBD Amber	2017	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan

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Fruit & Nut Tree Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a growing interest in food security issues in London. With climate change, food prices are expected to increase by 11-131% (depending on species) for staples such as corn, rice and wheat by 2050: an increase in food prices of as much as 4% is expected for 2016 alone. TFAC will collaborate with the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) to explore ways to increase food security through the planting of fruit and nut trees. <u>Feb. 2017: TFAC supported AAC's Urban Agriculture conference last year. Recommendations on this issue this year would probably be pretty short.</u> 	Amber (in partnership with Skylar from AAC)	May February	\$0	Caring and Compassionate Services 3A: Eliminate barriers for individuals facing poverty, mental health and addictions and help them find pathways to be successful.
<u>Phased Planting in Unassumed Subdivisions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC made a recommendation to PEC concerning the idea of doing two phases of plantings in new subdivisions to speed up planting last year; was supported by PEC Andrew has said it should be possible to make progress on this issue this year 	Craig	June - November		<u>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C</u>
<u>Shade Policy</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC received presentation and report from UWO environmental health promotion students in 2016, and recommend City consider adopting a shade policy that would deal with both living and manmade sources of shade on city properties; was supported by PEC. Toronto already has a municipal shade policy in place and could be a great source of inspiration. Randy (MLHU) would like to spearhead this this year (Although park/recreational space-focused, Toronto's policy was driven by efforts from their local health unit). 	Randy	June - December		<u>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C</u>
<u>Invasives Strategy</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of invasive tree species within London's Urban Forest continues to be of great concern to TFAC: London's two most common trees (by stem count and volume) are both invasive species. We should look to see some progress on this issue in the Tree Planting Strategy, the City's new Invasives Strategy, and the Tree Planting Guidelines. TFAC has previously recommended a "Non-Invasive Species First" planting policy wherein an invasive species would never be planted in a 				<u>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E</u>

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	<u>given planting location first (i.e., could only be considered as a replacement after another tree had been proven to fail, whereas now, an invasive species could be used right from the start).</u>				
NEW 2017					
Trees Protection Strategy Construction Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an opportunity for the TFAC to review and possibly make recommendations to this tree protection strategy for construction mitigation early spring 2017 (added following the Road Work Construction presentation in November 2016) 	Amber	July – December		Strong and Healthy Environment 3E
<u>Woodland Acquisition Policy</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC wishes to gain a better understanding of how the woodland acquisition policy currently works We hope to request presentation this spring (2017) and provide comment from there <i>AMC notes: I believe W.A.P. may have very recently been updated. Unclear if TFAC was given chance to comment or participate?</i> 	TBD	March - June		Strong and Healthy Environment 3E
<u>Orientation for new City Forester</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC will provide a presentation and briefing to the new City Forester about recent recommendations and the areas our group is hoping to focus on moving forward 	TBD	TBD		Strong and Healthy Environment 3C & 3E
<u>Asian Longhorn Beetle</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian Longhorn Beetle Report & Update on current state of affairs in North America will be given by City staff (suggested by Andrew) 	Andrew (?)	March - June		Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
COMPLETED					
City Tree Protection Bylaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the potential to reduce the number of calls from residents asking to plant trees themselves in roadways by planting more quickly in new developments Make recommendations on how to make planting easier for residents (as per council direction to staff in 2015) 	Craig	January – June	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

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