

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



The second best time is today.

Trees as a Strategic Priority

ReForest London
2016 City of London Budget PPM

January 21, 2016



Trees are Good



London Needs More Trees



City has an Tree Canopy Target



Trees Take Time to Grow

Trees are multi-faceted, multi-function technology

They provide many benefits:

- Environmental
- Human health (physical and mental)
- Economic
- Community cohesion
- Quality of Life

(some) Benefits of Trees

- ✓ Cleans air and water
- ✓ Provides habitat and boosts biodiversity
- ✓ Reduces stormwater flows
- ✓ Shade prolongs life of asphalt and roofs
- ✓ Enhances neighbourhood sense of place and identity
- ✓ Encourages physical recreation in parks and along pathways
- ✓ Shadier and cooler streets promote walking and playing outside
- ✓ Respiratory disease is decreased
- ✓ Mental health is improved with exposure to nature
- ✓ Well-treed streets even experience less crime
- ✓ Well-treed commercial areas attract more shoppers who shop for longer
- ✓ Enhances our resilience to climate change impacts
- ✓ Trees and natural areas are big component of quality of life. Quality of life attracts mobile workforce talent.

Trees Help with Many of Council's Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority #1

Building a Sustainable City

- ✔ Strong and healthy environment
- ✔ Beautiful places and spaces
- ✔ Robust infrastructure



Trees Help with Many of Council's Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority #2

Strengthen our Community

- ✔ Vibrant, connected, and engaged neighbourhoods
- ✔ Amazing arts, culture, and recreation experiences
- ✔ Healthy, safe, and accessible city



Trees Help with Many of Council's Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority #3

Growing our Economy

- 🌿 Diverse and resilient economy
- 🌿 Urban regeneration
- 🌿 Diverse employment opportunities
(incl. attracting talent)



City's own Urban Forestry Strategic Goals

 Plant More



 Protect More

 Maintain Better



 Engage the Community

What's Missing so far?

🌿 Budget Resources to Accomplish



The 2016 Business Case is a very small piece of what is required to accomplish City targets.

So we need to get started THIS YEAR by funding the entire business case

Starting Now is Urgent

- 🌿 We are trying to climb back to 2008 canopy levels
- 🌿 Trees take time to grow
- 🌿 Urban Forestry Strategic Investment is only a small step but it at least it's a step forward
- 🌿 The sooner we start the less it costs, the more benefits we get and the more we save



Our healthy and resilient future is
depending on us