



Urban Forest Strategy: Implementation Plan Update 2019



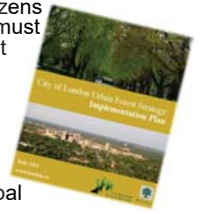
Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
September 25, 2019

Presented by John Parsons, Division Manager, Road Operations & Forestry



We Are "The Forest City"

The Urban Forest Strategy is a plan that engages citizens and outlines the necessary steps the City of London must take to protect, enhance, and monitor the urban forest that defines London as the "Forest City."



The Urban Forest refers to all trees within the municipal boundary, regardless of land use type or ownership.



We Are "The Forest City"

The City of London's urban forest is a \$1.5 billion dollar asset, providing social, environmental, and economic benefits to Londoners.

The Implementation Plan is illustrated by timeframe and priority in order to fully implement the Urban Forest Strategy over a 20 year period.

The pillars of the plan are defined as *Plant More*, *Protect More*, *Maintain Better* and *Engage the Community*



Implementation Plan Update

Action	Item	Progress
Prepare a planting strategy for the City and increase tree planting in both private and public lands	1.3,2.8,2.7,10.5	Tree Planting Strategy completed Dec 2017. Funding has been provided to increase tree planting in all sectors. Mortality estimates were included in Tree Planting Strategy, based on available literature
Update tree inventory along boulevards, parks and city facilities	3.8,2.1,10.1	Tree inventory update started in spring 2019, plantable spaces are being collected along boulevards in addition to the planting locations identified by parks staff



Implementation Plan Update

Action	Item	Progress
Update tree species list	3.9,3.10	Urban Forestry updated and approved tree species list in 2017/18
Provide more tree care enforcement and tree health care staff resources	5.1, 5.3,6.2,5.6	New UF staff hired to administer Property Standards, Boulevard Tree Protection and Tree Protection By-laws. Heritage Trees (Ontario Heritage Act) included in proposed new by-law (2019). Forestry Inspector hired this fall
Review and revise the current Boulevard Tree Protection By-law	5.7	Revised Boulevard Tree Protection By-law CP-22 was approved by Council on March 5 2019
Undertake inter-departmental staff workshops to promote trees and tree-friendly design concepts.	7.1	Consultation and outreach by Forestry staff is ongoing
Raise public awareness for tree planting programs	9.1,15.1,9.3	TreeMe program is promoted widely across City. Community Partners also provide awareness. National Tree Day 9/25/2019



Implementation Plan Update

Action	Item	Progress
Monitor canopy cover	11.2	Tree canopy cover fly-over 2015. LIDAR completed 2016 data being analyzed
Expand the testing and use of innovative methods of accommodating trees in our landscape	12.1,2.5	SilvaCells, stratacells and expanded tree pits have been incorporated in road projects
Initiate discussion forums with stakeholders to promote the benefits of mature tree retention. Including educational outreach.	13.1,17.3,17.5,13.2,18.1,12.2,17.2	Forestry staff provide design and tree protection advice on construction projects. Staff also connect with multiple stakeholders on an Ad-hoc bases.
Prioritize the enhancement of plantable space in areas that are "hot spots" where tree planting could mitigate the urban heat island effect.	2.6	This concept is promoted in the Dundas St flex street and East London parking lot upgrades
Update website	17.1,17.4,17.5	UF pages on website overhauled 2018 including service London portal link. Also includes, Educational links and notices regarding tree conditions





Implementation Plan Update

Action	Item	Progress
Increase the annual maintenance budget proportionally to new boulevard tree plantings.	9.5	Requests for growth funding submitted for each budget cycle.
Encourage community gardens to consider the use of food producing tree species	3.4	Included Urban Agriculture Strategy (2019)
Establish a scheduled life cycle and area based tree maintenance cycle	8.2	Trim cycle is being reduced with additional funding sources



Implementation Plan Update

Action	Item	Progress
Develop and implement an integrated pest management plan.	6.4	Invasive Plant Management Strategy adopted.
Reduce the area of turf grass in the City through tree planting	9.4	Naturalization program underway in many open spaces.
Improve tree health along transportation corridors, consider alternate designs that will protect trees.	6.3	Complete Streets Design Manual (2019)



Next Steps

- Continue to work through the plan with our partners and stakeholders
- Promote and provide educational awareness
- Include business case in multi-year budget 2020 2023



Questions?

