

# Social Housing in London Ontario: Tree Planting Opportunities

## Types of Social Housing in London:

**Private non-profit:** 1,815 units

**Federal non-profit:** 1,357 units

**Provincial co-op:** 1,122 units

**Public housing/rent-geared-to-income:** 3,282 units

**Rent supplement program:** 479 units

**Affordable housing program** → lower cost, but NOT geared to income (privately owned, but below average rent)

Source: City of London, 2019. A Guide to Family

Housing, <https://www.london.ca/residents/Housing/Finding-Housing/Documents/2019-02-28%20Guide%20to%20Family%20Housing%20Booklet.pdf>

Note: The City of London's "A Guide to Adult Housing" and "A Guide to Senior Housing" quote the same numbers for units of the different types of social housing, so they appear to be totals (i.e. not specific to the type of housing in each guide).

## Current Methods of Acquiring Trees:

- Boulevard/tree laws trees can be requested from the city for planting on city-owned property
  - Request via **Service London → Report a Tree Issue**
    - City does not plant on private property. I'm not sure if these trees can be planted on provincially or federally owned properties?
- Grants for planting trees on private property are available via the **TreeMe initiative**
  - However, recipients of the fund must contribute 25% of the cost, either via volunteer time, materials, or financial contributions
  - Appears to also require the recipients of the grants to do a lot of organizing for the project (filling out applications as well as organizing the planting/contractors, etc.)

## Potential Opportunities for the City to Improve:

- Under the Urban Forest Strategy:
  - **Section 9: Increase funding to support and sustain urban forest management**
    - **Subsection 9.3:** Provide annual funding to support Community/not-for-profit planting initiatives. These organizations are currently able to leverage additional funding at approximately 5:1.
      - I believe this is the TreeMe initiative?