

TFAC Website Suggestions for City of London Website – DRAFT FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1) **Trees and Forests Page Recommendations:**

- Homeowners may not be aware of the width of road allowances and thus not know which trees belong to them versus the city.
- Could add a landing page or section on how urban forestry works in the City, and how Public and Private trees are protected
 - Who does what within the city, who is responsible for which trees?
 - Which trees are protected, and by which by-law?
 - “Boulevard Tree Protection By-law”, “Tree Protection By-Law”, and Tree Protection Plan information (included in the “Design Specifications & Requirements Manual”)
 - Who to contact if you are concerned about adherence to by-laws
- Add a section on How the City supports Tree Planting
 - TreeMe grants, National Tree Day Giveaways, Million Tree Challenge, how to request a street tree
- Include a section with Key Planning Documents (Urban Forest Strategy and Implementation Plan, Tree Planting Strategy)
- May be beneficial to have the link to the tree inventory be more prominent so residents know it exists and is publicly accessible.
 - Could move it to “Tree Resources” (despite only city trees being included), since it is good way to explore the trees in the city and promote awareness
- At present, the “My Trees on My Property” only addresses by-laws, while the “City-Owned Trees” addresses both the city’s urban forestry operations as well as some general tree care information (e.g. “Maple Decline”, “Tree Planting and Watering”)
 - Information that relates to both public and private trees could be moved to the “Tree Resources” page
- The Trees and Forests Advisory Committee would like to add information to the “Tree Resources” page on tree-related issues, care and maintenance, which are relevant to homeowners and other landowners, as well as contractors. These may include:
 - How to properly plant a tree
 - Native, non-native and invasive tree species
 - Harms associated with “volcano” mulching
 - Why you should never move firewood

2) **TreeMe Grant/Funding:** Increase access to, and awareness of the program

- Add category on main grants page (**Home/City Hall/Funding and Grants**, <http://www.london.ca/city-hall/funding-grants/Pages/default.aspx>) such as “Funding for Trees” or “Funding for Environmental Projects”
- Add information on TreeMe to the “Fees and Incentives” page and/or the “Financial Incentives” (<http://www.london.ca/business/Planning-Development/fees-incentives/Pages/default.aspx> and <http://www.london.ca/business/Planning-Development/fees-incentives/Pages/Financial-Incentives.aspx>, both located under **Home/Business/Planning and Development/Fees and Incentives**)

Additional Comments Regarding TreeMe Grants/Funding:

- On the main landing page for grants, it could be helpful to divide funding opportunities into those open to residents, those for organizations, businesses, etc. This would aid in informing residents that they have access to the TreeMe program, for example
 - Revise the eligibility on TreeMe to state charities (rather than Not-for-Profits, which are different).
 - Could be helpful to indicate the types of groups or projects previously funded
 - The description noting that small groups of neighbors can access up to \$,3000 from TreeMe make it appear that \$3,000 is the upper limit. This should be expanded to note that registered charities can receive up to \$50,000.
- 3) **Navigation:** from “City Hall A-Z” (under “City Hall” tab) to tree information
- “Trees – City Inventory” links to the landing page for Trees and Forests, not the inventory
 - Either the name should be changed to “Trees and Forests”, or the link should be changed to the inventory page and “Trees and Forests” added to the A-Z list
 - “Trees, Lawns and Gardens” links to “Lawns and Gardens”, with no information on trees, and should be renamed to reflect this
 - Could be beneficial to add a “Forests” link (direct to “Trees and Forests” page)

Additional General Comments on City of London Website:

- Could be beneficial to add information on getting a tree for your yard on “Lawns and Gardens page (***Home/Residents/Property Matters and Taxes/Lawns and Gardens***, <http://www.london.ca/residents/Property-Matters/Lawns-Gardens/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Could also add information on when to water your street tree on the “Lawns and Gardens” page
- Links on the “Community Projects” page (***Home/Residents/Parks/Community Projects***, <http://www.london.ca/residents/Parks/Community-Projects/Pages/default.aspx>)
 - Could include information on the Million Tree Challenge
 - Could link to the Native Edible Trees page (<https://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Trees-Forests/Pages/EdibleTree.aspx>)
- “Business” page (<http://www.london.ca/business/Pages/default.aspx>) should include information on Tree Permits and the Tree Protection By-law
- The pages, “Having your Say: Public Participation Meetings” and “Citizen’s Guide to Land Use Planning” (<http://www.london.ca/business/Planning-Development/participating/Pages/PublicInput.aspx>, and <http://www.london.ca/business/Planning-Development/participating/Pages/CitizenGuides.aspx>, both located under ***Home/Business/Planning and Development/Participating in the Planning Process***) should be accessible from the “Residents” tab