



# Urban Forest Strategy Annual Review



Trees & Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC)

March 24, 2021



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CANADA

# Urban Forest Strategy



City of London Urban Forest Strategy  
*Enhancing The Forest City*



June 2014  
www.london.ca



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.”

Road map to 35% tree canopy cover by 2065

Plant More	Expand and manage the urban forest strategically to maximise the social, environmental and economic returns.
Protect More	Protect and maintain London's urban forest on public and private land where it is providing the benefits of the 'right tree in the right place' or is supporting the integrity of natural features.
Maintain Better	Maintain and monitor the urban forest over time and adjust management practices as needed using current information and research.
Engage the Community	Partner with the community to achieve urban forest goals.

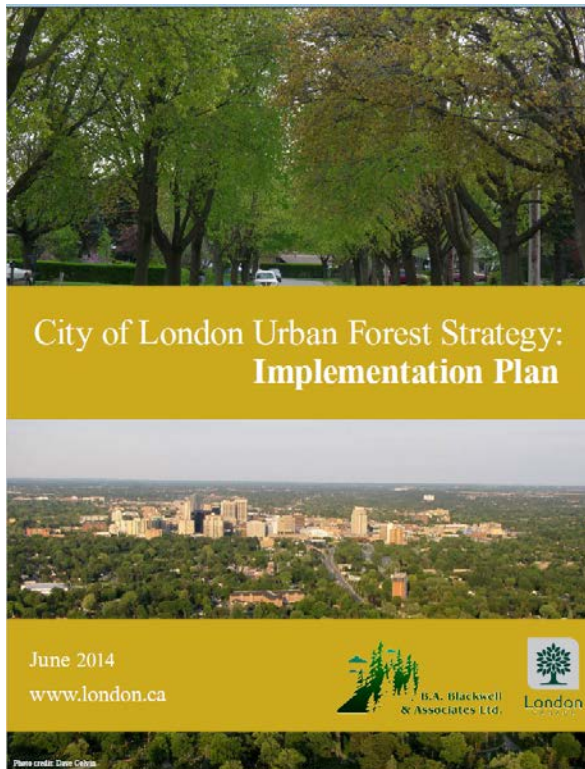


# Urban Forest Strategy

## 18 Strategic Goals (pg 22-23)

- Achieve appropriate canopy cover across the community
- Develop a tree establishment program driven by canopy cover targets, maintenance capacity, and “right tree, right place” principles
- Establish a diverse tree population city-wide as well as at the neighborhood level
- Enhance and enforce municipal policies
- Improve urban forest health
- Maintain publicly owned trees to maximize current and future benefits provided to the site
- Monitor existing and potential canopy cover
- Consult & cooperate with citizens at the neighbourhood level to embrace citywide urban forest goals & objectives
- Consult & cooperate with the business community ....
- Consult & cooperate with neighbouring communities ....

# Implementation Plan



## The Implementation Plan

- 20-year Plan & Associated Funding
- 4 Guiding Principles
- 18 Strategic Goals
- 95 Action Items
- Timeframe
  - Short term
  - Medium term
  - Long term
- Priority
  - High
  - Medium



**SHORT TERM: 2015 - 2016**

New:	\$841,000
Carry over:	\$0
Total:	\$841,00

<b><i>Plant More:</i></b>	<b><i>\$117,000</i></b>	<b><i>Protect More:</i></b>	<b><i>\$425,000</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 establish canopy targets</li> <li>1.2 increase parking lot shade trees</li> <li>1.3 prepare a planting strategy</li> <li>1.4 implement no net loss policy</li> <li>2.1 identify plantable space opportunities</li> <li>2.2 develop planting standards</li> <li>2.4 prepare 5 year community planting plan</li> <li>3.9 ensure suitable species for harsh conditions</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.7 review buffers between developments</li> <li>4.8 benefits of controlled access for woodlands</li> <li>5.1 enforce penalties for Tree Conservation By-law</li> <li>5.2 strengthen Parks By-law</li> <li>5.3 increase By-law enforcement staffing</li> <li>6.1 revise policy to better use topsoil for planting sites</li> <li>6.2 hire dedicated forest health staff</li> </ul>	
<b><i>Maintain Better:</i></b>	<b><i>\$252,000</i></b>	<b><i>Engage the Community:</i></b>	<b><i>\$47,000</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 undertake interdepartmental staff workshops</li> <li>7.2 implement tree retention policy</li> <li>10.1 prioritize CMMS and complete tree inventory</li> <li>10.2 integrate London Hydro maintenance in CMMS</li> <li>10.3 monitor species performance over time</li> <li>11.1 conduct plantable space analysis</li> <li>11.2 monitor canopy cover change over time</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13.1 initiate developer discussion forums</li> <li>15.1 develop incentives for private tree planting</li> <li>15.2 distribute public tree information cards</li> <li>17.2 promote London's urban forest</li> <li>17.3 inform the public re: tree maintenance issues</li> <li>17.5 develop a comprehensive communications strategy</li> </ul>	



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**MEDIUM TERM: 2017 - 2020**

New:	\$5,580,000
Carry over:	\$902,000
Total:	\$6,482,000

<b>Plant More:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$2,320,000</b></span>	<b>Protect More:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,555,000</b></span>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.5 provide development incentives to protect trees</li> <li>1.6 develop creative design solutions to include trees</li> <li>2.5 improve plantable space in City infrastructures</li> <li>2.6 enhance plantable space in urban hot spots</li> <li>2.7 increase tree planting to meet targets</li> <li>3.1 move to multi-year tree growing contracts</li> <li>3.3 develop a native tree seed project</li> <li>3.4 encourage food bearing trees in community gardens</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Carry over initiated in previous term: \$0</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.2 manage natural areas to enhance biodiversity</li> <li>4.3 collate and synthesize natural area data</li> <li>5.4 inspect developments through all phases</li> <li>5.5 create policies around new subdivision tree retention</li> <li>5.6 develop a heritage tree By-law</li> <li>6.3 better protect trees from salt/snow dumping</li> <li>6.4 develop an integrated pest management plan</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Carry over initiated in previous term: \$790,000 (actions 4.8, 5.1, 5.3, 6.2)</i></p>
<b>Maintain Better:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,575,000</b></span>	<b>Engage the Community:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$130,000</b></span>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.5 fund a second urban forest technician</li> <li>7.6 deliver a "state of the forest" report every 4 years</li> <li>9.3 provide annual funds for community plantings</li> <li>9.4 reduce turf grass with more trees and less mowing</li> <li>9.5 increase maintenance budget to match plantings</li> <li>9.6 build a contingency disaster funds for tree damage</li> <li>10.1 re-inventory City trees</li> <li>10.4 analyze tree inventory for age and projected life span</li> <li>10.5 estimate mortality rates and project losses</li> <li>11.3 monitor urban forest benefits over time</li> <li>11.4 model canopy growth to refine planting goals</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Carry over initiated in previous term: \$84,000 (actions 7.1, 10.3)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14.1 establish a nursery growing contract for tree supply</li> <li>14.2 facilitate education workshops</li> <li>15.3 develop neighbourhood tree plans</li> <li>15.4 expand the adopt-a-park program</li> <li>16.1 facilitate workshops with local businesses</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Carry over initiated in previous term: \$28,000 (actions 17.2, 17.3)</i></p>

**LONG TERM: 2021 - 2035**

New:	\$4,323,000
Carry over:	\$14,372,000
Total:	\$18,695,000

<b>Plant More:</b>	<b>\$2,850,000</b>	<b>Protect More:</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
<p>1.9 develop a woodland canopy target 3.5 manage woodlands to improve species diversity 3.7 develop a more balanced age distribution over time</p> <p><i>Carry over initiated in previous term: \$2,220,000 (actions 1.6, 2.5, 2.7, 3.3)</i></p>		<p>4.4 develop a woodland restoration master plan 4.6 reintroduce lost or rare native species in natural areas</p> <p><i>Carry over initiated in previous term: \$7,910,000 (actions 4.2, 4.8, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 6.2, 6.4)</i></p>	
<b>Maintain Better:</b>	<b>\$1,270,000</b>	<b>Engage the Community:</b>	<b>\$83,000</b>
<p>8.2 create a life cycle and area based maintenance cycle 10.1 re-inventory City trees 11.5 establish long term woodland monitoring plots 12.2 form research partnerships with local institutions</p> <p><i>Carry over initiated in previous term: \$3,724,000 (actions 7.1, 7.5, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 10.3)</i></p>		<p>13.2 initiate stewardship forums with large land owners 13.3 provide support for rural stewardship planning 16.3 provide public recognition for good urban forestry 18.1 cooperate with neighbouring communities</p> <p><i>Carry over initiated in previous term: \$518,000 (actions 14.2, 15.3, 15.4, 16.1, 17.2, 17.3)</i></p>	



# Urban Forest Strategy Action Items \*Status

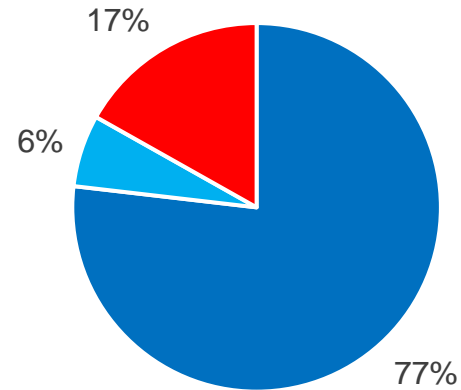
**Completed/On-going:** one-time ask finished (e.g. hire Forest Health Technician, Planting Strategy); significant start; review of policies & procedures; opportunities to implement on-going

**On-track:** within timeframe (long term)

**Delayed:** not started, minimally started and/or beyond timeframe

\* Exceptions; overlapping; can apply in many different areas

## Total of 95 Action Items



■ Completed/On-going ■ On-track ■ Delayed



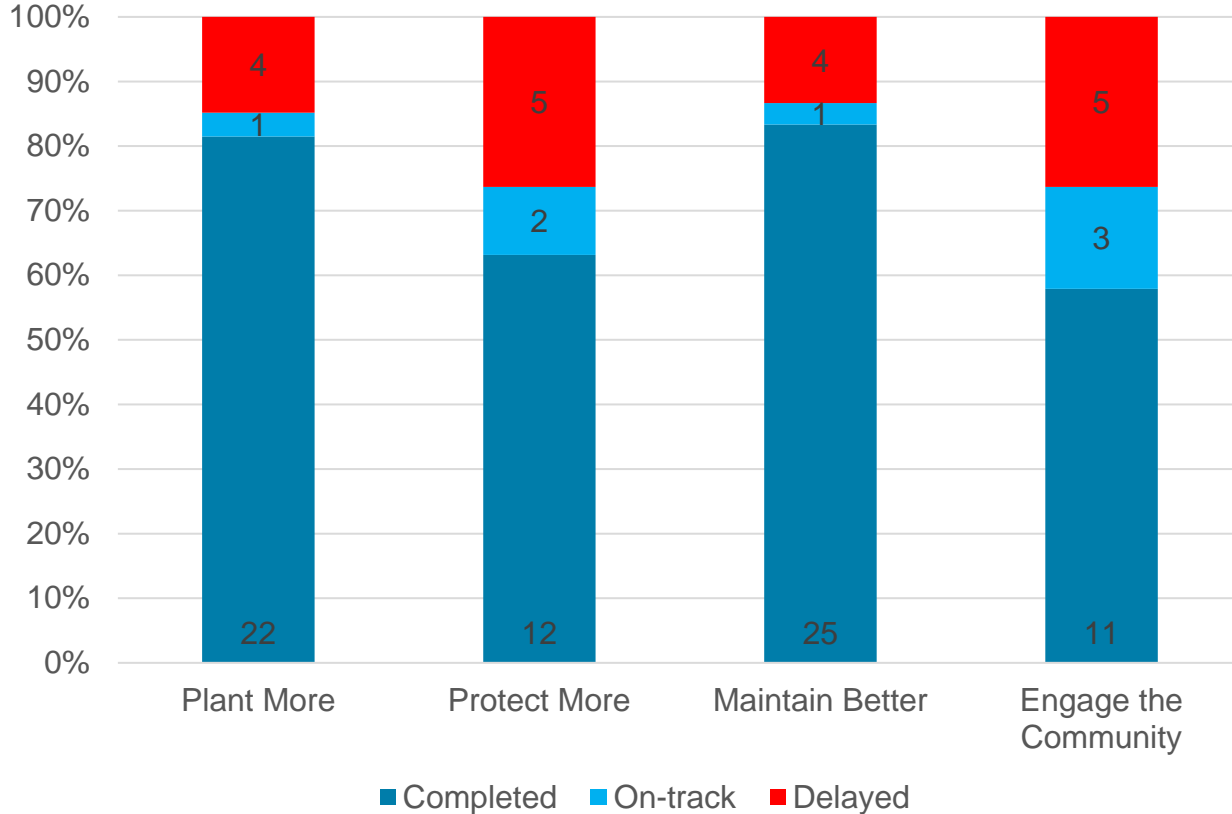
# On-going Work & Projects

- Administration & Enforcement of Bylaws
- Update of Policies & Procedures
- Inventory & Canopy Cover
- TreeMe Grant Program 2021
- National Tree Day Celebration
- Encourage Food Producing Trees in Community Gardens





# Urban Forest Strategy Guiding Principles & Action Item Status





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# Plant More Completed On-going (22)

1.1 Establish canopy cover targets
1.3 Prepare a planting strategy
2.4 Prepare a 5-year community planting plan
1.6 Develop creative design solutions to include trees
2.1 Identify plantable space opportunities
2.2 Develop planting standards
2.3 Select trees most suitable for sites, emphasizing large stature trees and native species where possible.
2.5 Improve plantable space in City infrastructure
2.6 Enhancement of plantable space in urban “hot spots” to mitigate the urban heat island effect.
2.7 Increase tree planting to meet canopy cover targets.
3.1 Move to multi-year tree growing contracts
3.10 Plant long-lived, climatically adapted and low maintenance species
3.2 Diversify the species profile.
3.8 Identify high maintenance and low maintenance species and revised the recommended planting list
3.9 Ensure suitable species for challenging conditions
1.7 Create policies that support greater flexibility for creativity in site planning
2.8 Plant new subdivisions in phases prior to assumption
3.3 Develop a native tree seed project
3.4 Encourage food producing trees in community gardens
3.5 Manage woodlands to improve species diversity
3.6 Planting of more tree species that rank low on the Plant Allergy Scale
3.7 Develop a more balanced age distribution over time



# Plant More On-track (1) & Delayed (4)

1.9 Develop a woodland canopy target	On-track (Long term goal > 5 years)
1.2 Increase parking lot shade trees	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)
1.5 Provide development incentives to protect trees	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)
1.4 Implement a no net loss policy	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)
1.8 Develop zoning bonusing incentives for development	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)



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# Protect More Completed & On-going (12)

5.1 Enforce the penalties as per the Tree Conservation By-law.

5.2 Strengthen the Parks By-law

5.3 Increase enforcement staff and resources

5.7 Revise the current Boulevard Tree Protection By-law

6.2 Hire dedicated forest health staff

5.6 Develop and enforce a Heritage Tree By-law

4.1 Expand the UTRCA management contract to include city owned woodlands or Parks...

4.2 Manage natural areas to enhance biodiversity

4.3 Collate and synthesize natural area data

5.4 Inspect development sites throughout all phases

6.4 Develop and implement an integrated pest management plan

4.6 Reintroduce, where appropriate, "lost" or rare native species in natural areas.



# Protect More On-track (2) & Delayed (5)

4.4 Develop a woodland restoration master plan	On-track (Long term goal > 5 years)
4.5 Require a water balance study where warranted for developments	* On-track (Long term goal > 5 years)
4.7 Assess whether current woodland buffer requirements are adequate.	Delayed
4.8 Educate the public about controlled access for woodlands and require it be established	Delayed
5.5 Create policies around tree retention for developments	Delayed
6.1 Revise policies to support opportunities to better use native topsoil for tree planting sites	Delayed
6.3 Protect trees and their root zones from salt inputs and snow dumping	Delayed





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# Maintain Better Completed On-going (25)

7.5 Fund a second urban forest technician
7.6 Deliver a state of the forest report to Council on a 4-year cycle
10.1 Prioritize the CMMS and complete the tree inventory
11.1 Conduct a plantable space analysis
11.2 Monitor canopy cover change over time
11.3 Monitor urban forest benefits over time
12.1 Expand the testing and use of innovative methods planting
12.2 Form research partnerships with local institutions
7.1 Undertake inter-departmental staff workshops
7.2 Establish an inter-divisional implementation team for the urban forest strategy
7.4 Increase the City's emphasis on using trees for place making
7.7 Establish a corporate philosophy whereby trees are considered as green infrastructure assets
8.2 Establish a life cycle and area-based tree maintenance cycle that includes rural areas.
8.3 Identify high maintenance and high failure potential species and consider for phased replacement
9.1 Raise public awareness of community project funds.
9.2 Develop a "tree infrastructure budget" for designing and building trees into selected capital projects.
9.3 Provide annual funding to support Community/not-for-profit planting initiatives.
9.4 Reduce the area of turf grass through tree planting, and more selective mowing
9.5 Increase the annual maintenance budget to match tree plantings.
9.7 Find options for funding restoration and maintenance of new woodlands.
10.3 Monitor species performance over time
10.4 Analyse current tree inventory for age and projected life span
10.5 Estimate mortality rates projected losses
10.6 Refine the cost per tree establishment estimates and actual costs
11.4 Model canopy growth to refine planting goals



# Maintain Better On-track (1) & Delayed (4)

11.5 Establish long term woodland monitoring plots	On-track (Long term goal > 5 years)
8.1 Establish quality specifications for London Hydro tree maintenance crews to use	Delayed
10.2 Include London Hydro maintenance activities in the CMMS	Delayed
9.6 Build a contingency disaster fund for damaging events to the urban forest	Delayed
7.3 Establish a policy approach that encourages landowners/developers to retain and plant trees	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)



# Engage the Community Completed & On-going (11)

14.1 Establish a nursery growing contract for trees supply

13.1 Initiate developer discussion forums

14.2 Facilitate education workshops

18.1 Liaise with neighbouring communities

15.1 Develop incentives for private tree planting

15.2 Distribute tree care/tree information cards to the public

15.3 Develop neighbourhood tree plans

17.1 Maintain the urban forestry website

17.2 Raise the profile of London's urban forest

17.3 Educate the public about proper tree care

17.6 Improve the City website and staff directory



# Engage the Community On-track (3) & Delayed (5)

13.3 Provide support for rural stewardship planning	On-track (Long term goal > 5 years)
16.3 Provide public recognition for good forestry	On-track (Long term goal > 5 years)
13.2 Initiate stewardship forums with large landowners	On-track (Long term goal > 5 years)
15.4 Expand the adopt-a-park program	Delayed
16.1 Facilitate workshops with local business	Delayed
16.2 Build partnerships with business owners	Delayed
17.4 Provide a synopsis of legislation, policy, and By-laws that apply to tree removals	Delayed
17.5 Develop comprehensive communication strategy	Delayed



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# Delayed Action Items (18)

1.2 Increase parking lot shade trees	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)
1.5 Provide development incentives to protect trees	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)
1.4 Implement a no net loss policy	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)
1.8 Develop zoning bonusing incentives for development	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)
4.7 Assess whether current woodland buffer requirements are adequate.	Delayed
4.8 Educate the public about controlled access for woodlands and require it be established	Delayed
5.5 Create policies around tree retention for developments	Delayed
6.1 Revise policies to support opportunities to better use native topsoil for tree planting sites	Delayed
6.3 Protect trees and their root zones from salt inputs and snow dumping	Delayed
8.1 Establish quality specifications for London Hydro tree maintenance crews to use	Delayed
10.2 Include London Hydro maintenance activities in the CMMS	Delayed
9.6 Build a contingency disaster fund for damaging events to the urban forest	Delayed
7.3 Establish a policy approach that encourages landowners/developers to retain and plant trees	Delayed (London Plan Appeal)
15.4 Expand the adopt-a-park program	Delayed
16.1 Facilitate workshops with local business	Delayed
17.4 Provide a synopsis of legislation, policy, and By-laws that apply to tree removals	Delayed
17.5 Develop comprehensive communication strategy <a href="http://london.ca">london.ca</a>	Delayed



# Summary Points Delayed Action Items

## Delayed Action Items Focus Area

1. London Plan Appeals (5) or Development Related

2. External Engagement

- **Develop comprehensive communication strategy**
- Facilitate workshops with local business
- Build partnerships with business owners

Upcoming – Long Term

- Provide support for rural stewardship planning
- Provide public recognition for good forestry
- Initiate stewardship forums with large landowners

3. Linked to Another Action Item

- 4.7 Assess whether current woodland buffer requirements are adequate.
- 4.8 Educate the public about controlled access for woodlands and require it be established
- **1.9 Develop a woodland restoration master plan (Long term >5 years)**



# Summary Points

## Urban Forest Strategy

### Action Items by Timeframe

Short Term 1-2 years (42)

- 83% Completed or On-track
- 7% Delayed

Medium Term 3-5 years (37)

- 81% Completed or On-track
- 19% Delayed

Long Term > 5 years (16)

- 100% Completed or On-track

### Action Items by Priority

High Priority Action Items (64)

- 83% Completed or On-track
- 17% Delayed

Medium Priority Action Items (31)

- 87% Completed or On-track
- 13% Delayed

### Urban Forest Strategy (adopted 2014)

#### 83% Completed or On-track

- Majority of work aligns with UFS
- Provides clear guidance
- “Does it align with the UFS”?



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# Questions?

