

Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

Report

5th Meeting of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
May 23, 2018
Committee Room #3

Attendance PRESENT: R. Mannella (Chair); T. Khan, J. Kogelheide, C. Linton, N. St. Amour and M. Szabo and J. Bunn (Acting Secretary)

ABSENT: C. Haindl, G. Mitchell and R. Walker

ALSO PRESENT: A. Macpherson, M. Morris, J. Ramsay and S. Rowland

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

- a) it BE NOTED that the attached presentation from A. Macpherson, Environmental and Parks Planning, with respect to this matter, was received; and,
- b) a Working Group BE ESTABLISHED, consisting of T. Khan, M. Szabo and A. Morrison, to review the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and report back at the June meeting of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, with input on the above-noted plan.

2.2 Complete Streets Update

That it BE NOTED that the attached presentation from M. Morris, Engineer-in-Training, with respect to an update on the Complete Streets project, was received.

3. Consent

3.1 4th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 4th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on April 25, 2018, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution - 3rd Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution, from its meeting held on April 24, 2018, with respect to the 3rd Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Green Legacy Update

That it BE NOTED that the attached presentation from A. Cantell, ReForest London, with respect to the Green Legacy Project, was received.

5.2 Trees Located at Southdale Road and Wharnclyffe Road South

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee heard a verbal update on the trees located at the corner at Southdale Road and Wharnclyffe Road South from A. Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning.

5.3 Clarification of Meeting Agenda Submission Process

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to the process for submitting items for the committee agendas.

6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

None.

7. Adjournment


The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.



Play Your Way! Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

May / June 2018


Trees and Forests Advisory Committee



Play Your Way! Purpose of Connecting With You

Purpose:

1. To review the plan to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan this year.
2. Ask for your assistance in sharing the Community Survey with your networks and the public.
3. To request your Committee's input.



Play Your Way!

About the Master Plan

Creating a “Game Plan” for Parks, Recreation Programs, Sport Services and Facilities

- The Master Plan provides an overall vision and direction for making decisions. It is a high level/policy directive document.
- It is based on public input, participation trends and usage, best practices, demographic changes and growth forecasts.
- The Plan will be used by the City to guide investment in parks, recreation programs, sport services and facilities over the next ten years and beyond.





Play Your Way!

Master Plan Overview

- The City has retained **Monteith Brown Planning Consultants**, **Tucker-Reid & Associates** and **Swerhun Facilitation** to assist in preparing the Update.











Play Your Way!

Master Plan Building Blocks

1. Public and Stakeholder Input
2. Demographics and Growth
3. Trends and Usage Data
4. Existing Policies and Guidelines
5. Park, Program, and Facility Distribution
6. Facility Inventories and Asset Management Data






Play Your Way!

Project Scope

Items within Scope:

- 
 - **Recreation Programming**, such as aquatic, sport, wellness, arts/crafts, dance/music, and general interest programs provided by the City and other sectors
- 
 - **Recreation and Sport Facilities**, such as community centres, pools, sports fields, playgrounds and more
- 
 - **Parks & Civic Spaces**, such as major parks, neighbourhood parks, gardens and civic squares
- 
 - **Investment in the Community**, such as neighbourhood opportunities, public engagement, sport tourism and more






Project Scope

Items out of Scope:

- **Parkland Dedication Policies** (London Plan)
- **Cycling** (London Plan, Transportation and Cycling Master Plans)
- **Natural Heritage and Trails** (London Plan, Conservation Master Plans, ESA Master Plans)
- **Arts, Culture and Heritage** (Cultural Prosperity Plan and related reports)

Although these items are addressed in other studies, the Master Plan will ensure alignment





Guiding and Supporting Documents

The Master Plan is a Strategy that guides the provision and management of parks, recreation programs, sport services and facilities. It is influenced by several Overarching Plans and informs several Technical Reports.



Key Overarching Plans	➔	Key Strategies	➔	Key Technical Reports
The London Plan Council's Strategic Plan Accessibility Plan Sector-specific guiding documents, such as the Framework for Recreation in Canada, Parks for All, and others		Age Friendly London Action Plan Child and Youth Agenda Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy Transportation and Cycling Master Plans Cultural Prosperity Plan Community Diversity and Inclusion Strategy SHIFT: Rapid Transit Initiative Back to the River / One River Thames Valley Corridor Plan		Development Charges Background Study Conservation Master Plans for Environmentally Sensitive Areas Park-specific Master Plans Business Cases and Feasibility Studies Various By-laws, Policies and Procedures





Deliverables and Timing

- **Background Research** March to June 2018
- **Engagement** May to July 2018
 - Community Survey (Opens May 23rd)
 - Stakeholder Sessions/Focus Groups/Interviews
- **Draft Plan #1** Sept / Oct 2018
- **Draft Plan #2** Oct / Nov
- **Final Plan** presented to the new Council January 2019

Community Survey

Purpose


- To establish a broad picture of usage, satisfaction, priorities, demographics

Timing

- Will be available May 23 until mid-July, hosted through getinvolved.london.ca

How can you help?

- Share the link to the survey with your networks
- Let us know if you would like posters or postcards to distribute





Play Your Way!

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Parks and Recreation

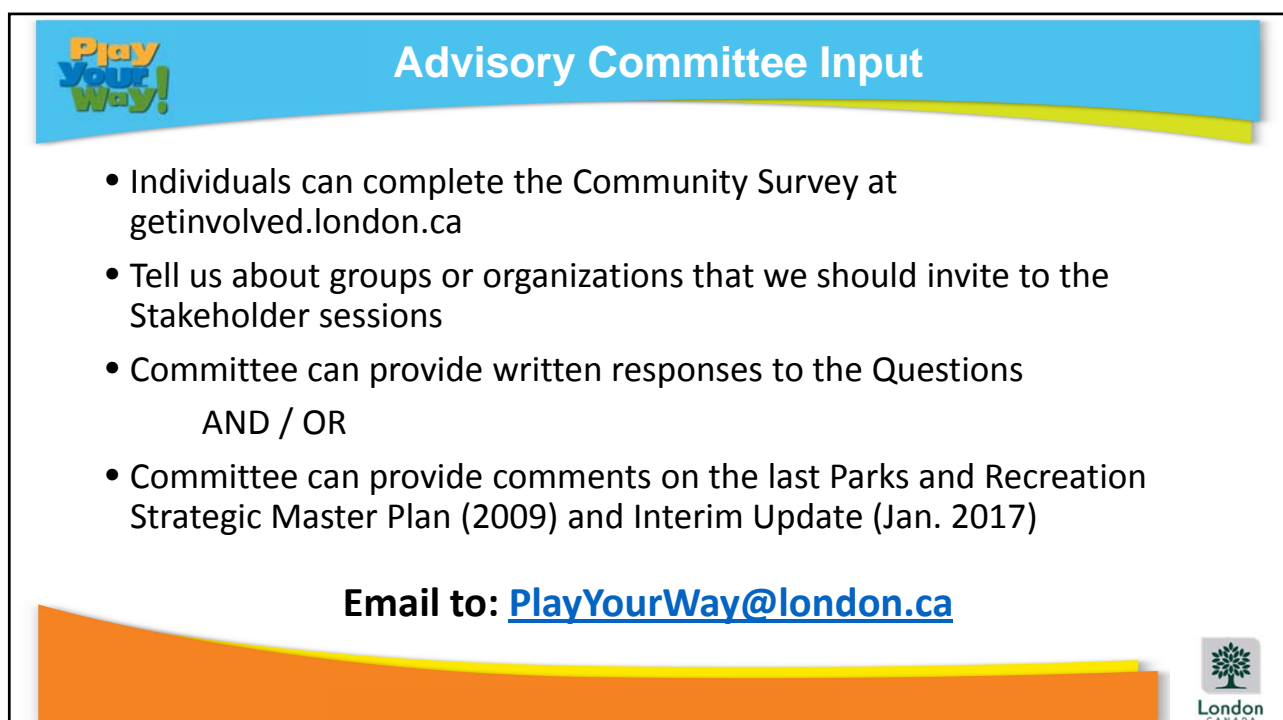
MASTER PLAN

Your input is important.
Tell us how you like to Play Your Way.
Complete the community survey:
getinvolved.london.ca

As London grows and changes, the recreation needs of residents also change. We want to ensure that the right parks, recreation and sport services, programs and facilities are in place to improve quality of life for all Londoners.

Help us plan for the next **10 years** and tell us what recreation, parks and sport services mean to you!

London CANADA



Play Your Way!

Advisory Committee Input


- Individuals can complete the Community Survey at getinvolved.london.ca
- Tell us about groups or organizations that we should invite to the Stakeholder sessions
- Committee can provide written responses to the Questions

AND / OR

- Committee can provide comments on the last Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan (2009) and Interim Update (Jan. 2017)

Email to: PlayYourWay@london.ca



London CANADA



Advisory Committee Input

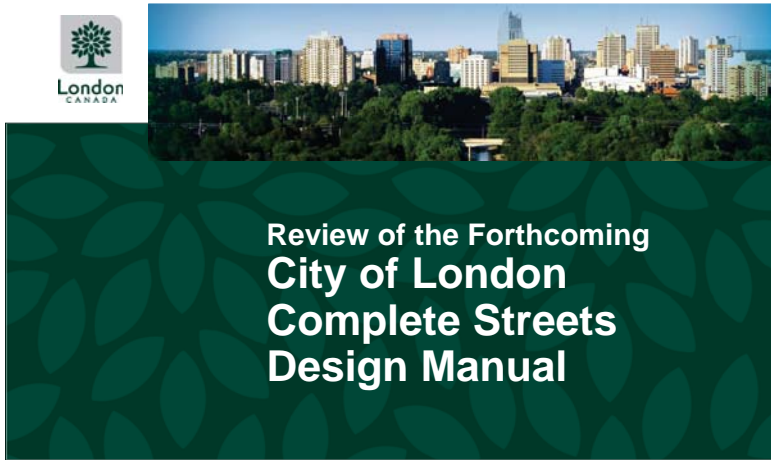
Guiding Questions

1. What are the most pressing **issues and priorities** for your Advisory Committee?
2. How can the City of London's parks, recreation and sport **services and facilities** continue to support the needs of your Committee? Please be specific.
3. How can your Committee, the City and others **work together** to meet future needs?
4. Are there any initiatives that are being contemplated, planned or are being implemented that could tie into these or other priorities for parks, recreation and sport services and facilities?



Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Thank you!



Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
May 23, 2018





Background

Each **Street Classifications** was accompanied with policies to guide future planning and design towards a an **intended character and function**, while progressing towards **overall mobility goals**

DESIGN FEATURES	STREET CLASSIFICATION		
	Rapid Transit Boulevard	Urban Thoroughfare	City Boulevard
Planned Street Width (Width of Right-of-Way)	50m	40m	30m
VEHICLE ZONE			
Divided and/or Separated	+		
On-street Parking (Additional to Through Lanes)	+	+	-
On-street Parking (in Through Lanes)	+	+	+
Cycle Facility	+	+	+
Left Turn Lanes	+	+	+
Right Turn Lanes	+	+	+
Planted Medians	+	+	+
Curb Extensions			
PEDESTRIAN ZONE			
Hard Surface from Curb to Building Face	+		
Standard Sidewalk (1.5m wide, both sides)	+	+	+
Coordinated Utilities	+	+	+
Street Trees	+	+	+
Street Furniture	+	+	+
Pedestrian-scaled Lighting	+	+	+
Landscape Planters	+	+	+
Grass Boulevard	+	+	+
Enhanced Cross-walk Treatments	+	+	+
Low Impact Development	-	-	-



Background

Many stakeholders were included in consultation efforts for the development of the Complete Streets Design Manual and attended a **Stakeholder Workshop**, held on June 2nd, 2017. These groups included:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Can-Bike
- Hyde Park Business Association
- Bell
- London Middlesex Road Safety Committee
- Middlesex Health Unit
- Start Communications
- Cycling Advisory Committee
- London Fire
- London Development Institute (LDI)
- Downtown London BIA
- London Hydro
- London Transit
- Union Gas
- Tree and Forests Advisory Committee
- Argyle BIA
- City of London Water
- London Environmental Network
- City of London Development Services



Goals

The City of London Official Plan suggested the preparation of a Complete Streets Manual to establish:

- Overall cross-sections for the street classifications
- Design parameters for the public realm





London Complete Street Manual - Content

- Chapter 1: Complete Streets: Vision and Principles**
 - Complete Streets concepts and policy support
- Chapter 2: Elements of Complete Streets**
 - Complete Streets features
- Chapter 3: Undertaking Complete Streets Design**
 - Processes for balancing the needs of current and future users
- Chapter 4: Street Design for Roadways**
 - Street characteristics/priorities and conceptual cross sections, by street classification
- Chapter 5: Street Design for Intersections**
 - Intersection treatments that provide Complete Streets elements for specific combinations of street classifications
- Chapter 6: Moving Forward with Complete Streets**
 - Progress indicators for Complete Streets outcomes



Contents:

1. What are Complete Streets?
2. Who is This Guide For?
3. Review of Complete Streets Policies in London
4. Core Principles for Complete Streets

CHAPTER

1

COMPLETE STREETS: VISION AND PRINCIPLES








Local Policy Support

“ At the local level, policy support for complete streets is found in a number of documents, including the:

- Strategic Plan
- The London Plan
- Downtown Plan
- Design Specifications and Requirements Manual
- Cycling Master Plan
- London Rapid Transit
- London Road Safety Strategy
- London 2030 Transportation Master Plan
- Urban Forest Strategy



Core Principles

-  **Embed Sustainability**
-  **Prioritize Safe and Accessible Options for People**
-  **Ensure Context Sensitivity**
-  **Prioritize Connectivity**
-  **Emphasize Vitality**





Core Principles



Embed Sustainability



“ Promote ecosystem diversity through trees, planters, and vegetation. ”



Ensure Context Sensitivity

“ Allow for the influence of important neighbourhood characteristics. ”



**COMPLETE
STREETS: VISION
AND PRINCIPLES**



Contents:

General Considerations and Tools for:

1. Pedestrian Facility Design
2. Cycling Facility Design
3. Transit Facility Design
4. Motor Vehicles
5. Green Infrastructure
6. Utilities and Municipal Services

CHAPTER

2

**ELEMENTS OF
COMPLETE
STREETS**



Street trees can be planted on both sides of the sidewalk where space permits (Google).

“ **Embed Sustainability:** Street trees make communities safer, healthier, and more walkable. ”

“ **Provide connectivity:** As the slowest mode of transportation, pedestrians have the greatest sensitivity to route directness. ”



All AODA compliant push button

**ELEMENTS OF
COMPLETE
STREETS**



Design For Accessibility

“ Pedestrians include those who are using a walker, crutches, a wheelchair or an electrically powered mobility device as well as individuals with a visual impairment. Design features should be used to accommodate all of London’s pedestrians, such as:

- appropriately wide pedestrian clearways;
- audible pedestrian signals;
- tactile walking surface indicators (TWSIs);
- visually contrasting surface treatments; and
- amenities such as seating



**ELEMENTS OF
COMPLETE
STREETS**



Contents:
(under development with City input)

1. Process Overview
2. Planning
3. Conceptualizing
4. Designing
5. Implementing

CHAPTER

3

UNDERTAKING
COMPLETE
STREETS
DESIGN



Contents:

1. Street Typologies
2. Design Guidance for:
 - Rapid Transit Boulevards
 - Urban Thoroughfares
 - Civic Boulevards
 - Main Streets
 - Neighbourhood Connectors
 - Neighbourhood Streets
 - Rural Thoroughfares
 - Rural Connectors

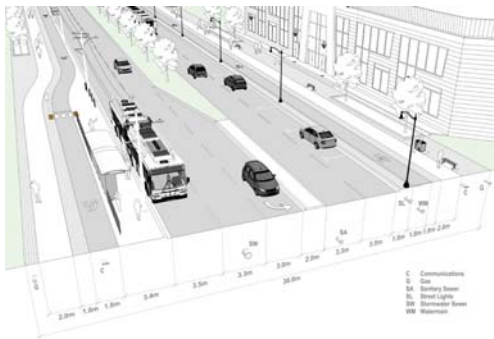
CHAPTER

4

STREET DESIGN
FOR ROADWAYS



Example
Civic Boulevard



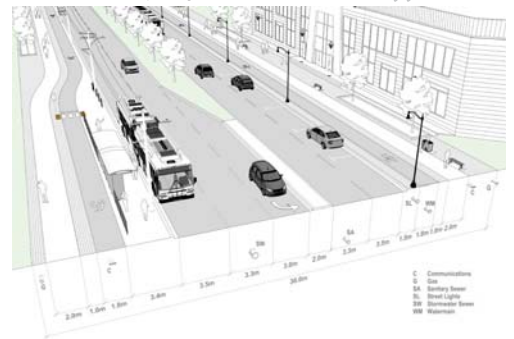
STREET DESIGN
FOR ROADWAYS



“ Physically separated and continuous cycling facilities are preferred.”

Example
Civic Boulevard

“ Civic Boulevards provide multi-modal connections between different neighbourhoods across the City including downtown.”

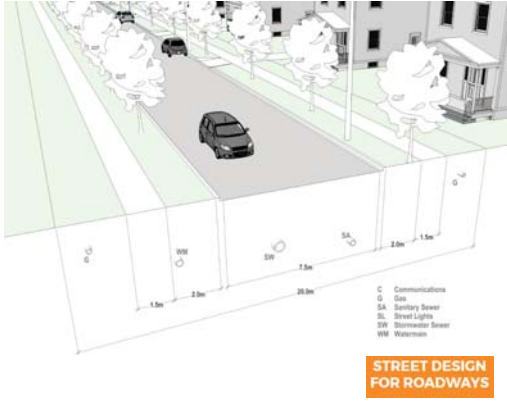


STREET DESIGN
FOR ROADWAYS

“ The variety of destinations along these corridors can generate significant volumes of walking trips ”



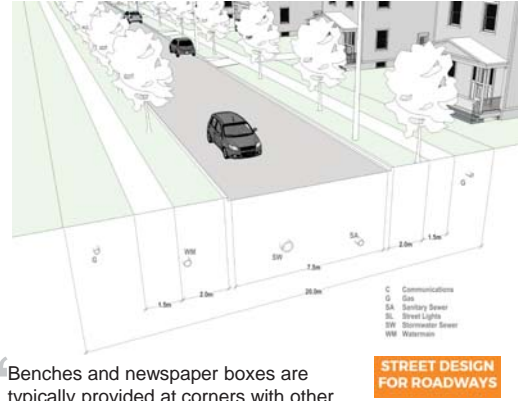
Example
Neighbourhood Street



Example
Neighbourhood Street

“Neighbourhood Streets are where most Londoners, including many families, live; enhancing the livability, sense of community, and the ability to age-in-place are important considerations.”

london.ca



“Benches and newspaper boxes are typically provided at corners with other major streets.”



Contents:

1. Intersection Design Principles
2. Design Guidance for:
 - Rapid Transit Boulevard Intersecting a Main Street
 - Urban Thoroughfare intersecting a Civic Boulevard (Signalized)
 - Urban Thoroughfare Intersecting a Civic Boulevard (Roundabout)
 - Urban Thoroughfare Intersecting a Neighbourhood Connector
 - Civic Boulevard Intersecting a Neighbourhood Street

CHAPTER
5
STREET DESIGN FOR INTERSECTIONS



Example
Rapid Transit Boulevard Intersecting a Main Street





Example
Rapid Transit Boulevard Intersecting a Main Street

“The pedestrian clearway widens as the planter boxes and trees are discontinued, providing for greater ease of pedestrian movement and queuing.”

“Centre median design requires dedicated transit signals which use the same phasing as the through motor vehicle movement.”



STREET DESIGN FOR INTERSECTIONS



Contents:
(under development with City input)
1. Principles of Performance Metrics
2. Options for Measuring Complete Streets Performance

CHAPTER

6

MOVING FORWARD WITH COMPLETE STREETS



COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN MANUAL CITY OF LONDON

Next Steps

- Share Draft with Stakeholders and Finalize late summer 2018
- Education campaign
- Move towards a network of Complete Streets



Questions

GREEN LEGACY FEASIBILITY STUDY

PROJECT UPDATES

RECENTLY COMPLETED

- Business Case Modeling
 - All partner demand (~60,000 trees and shrubs per year by 2028)
 - TPS requires 44,000 trees/year on private land
 - No caliper variant
 - No fruit trees variants
- Infrastructure Analysis

INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS:

- Several prospective facilities identified
- Urban areas rarely get to have growing facilities of their own due to cost of land
- Partners at table have space potentially available
 - Fanshawe Conservation Area
 - Westminster Ponds Centre
- Space needs overwhelmingly driven by caliper trees
- If we explore “Missouri Gravel Beds”, may even be capacity to deliver (slightly smaller) caliper stock in a small space

BUSINESS MODELLING:

- Ability to model a number of different scenarios
 - Different sizes, quantities of trees
 - Different ages of trees
 - Allows edits to material costs, spacing, etc.
- Calculates:
 - Capital costs
 - Operating costs
 - Land and space requirements
 - 60,000 trees = 297,000 in stock (supply for current + future years), 12 acres of land

PRIVATE SECTOR LIMITATIONS

- There are currently **no major growers** in London
 - Growing our own trees here can provide **job creation** as well as **volunteer and educational opportunities** in our community
- Generally speaking, private sector **cannot use unpaid volunteers**
 - If a private business owner making money off them, they have to be paid
 - Small exception currently available for high school co-op students (though “spirit” of this could be debated)

OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR NOTES

- Demand in SWO is generally high and likely to increase as climate change progresses (extremely low risk of putting anyone out of business)
- ReForest London and City have both experienced problems with substitutions (a sign that suppliers have been unable to keep up with demand)
- Identifying ways to continue to engage private sector will be part of final report: B&B caliper trees (or bareroot stock to supply MGBs) both good potential options (plus pots, soil, etc.)

MAJOR BENEFITS

- A Green Legacy initiative in London would....
 - **Double** our ability to secure/purchase trees (or halve our cost)
 - Involve **thousands of students** each year
 - Serve as its own advertising tool to **landowners** (people who have been involved in growing more likely to want to plant, also the “feel good” aspect)
 - Growing is only half the battle!

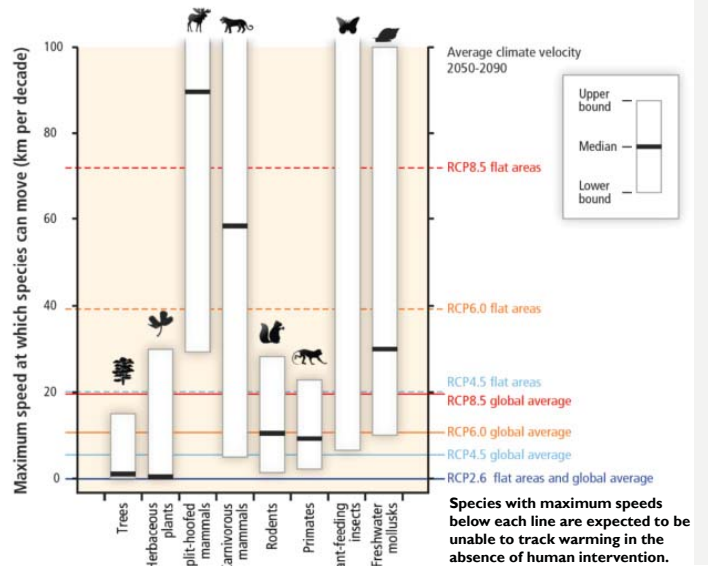
MAJOR BENEFITS

- A project like this could be seen as both **city-building** and **community-building**
 - Building space provides opportunity for other environmental programming, workshops, signage, etc.
 - Programming provides opportunity for many different types of organizations, their members, and residents, to come together to achieve a public good



PRECEDENT...

- Wellington County's program
- Cities of Detroit, Calgary, and others grow their own trees
- Nobel Peace Prize winning "Green Belt" initiative



AND NECESSITY

- Not a single country in the world is currently on track to meet it's Paris commitments, which were crafted based on how much we could emit and still hold temperatures to 2 °C (actual target)/1.5 °C (aspirational)
 - World is on track for 3°C warming (probable runaway scenario)
- Last UN-IPCC report did not include any permafrost data
 - Permafrost GHGs are double what is currently in atmosphere

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- We must find ways to slow climate change and keep up with what change is occurring
 - “Pay as you go” approach unsustainable
 - B.C. wildfires
 - Victory gardens
- For urban and rural communities, Wellington model shows considerable promise

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Next steps:
 - Partner-Specific Benefits & Priorities Analysis
 - Final Report & Operations Manual (August)
 - Dissemination
- Team will be preparing recommendations including a “go/no-go” recommendations for the report
- Possibility of pursuing a 1 year OTF-Transform grant specific to convening to expand discussions to other groups (especially social services)

ANY QUESTIONS?

