



2024 to 2027 Business Plan

Service: Urban Forestry

\$28.80

Annual cost for the
average rate payer
(2024 to 2027)

0.74%

Of the 2024 to 2027
City of London Net
Property Tax
Supported Budget

Who we are:

- Urban Forestry is a collaborative of two distinct functional teams, Forestry Operations and Urban Forestry, that work in partnership to implement the City's Urban Forest Strategy.
- Forestry Operations provide professional and technical services (including tree planting, pruning, trimming and removal services) and develops policies, guidelines, strategies, by-laws and plans related to the protection, maintenance, forest health and planting trees.
- Urban Forestry is tasked with delivering long-range targets and initiatives associated with the Urban Forest Strategy (2014), the Tree Planting Strategy, and the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- Urban Forestry functions like a "Research and Development" arm of the Parks and Forestry team: identifying targets; gathering and analysing information; identifying and monitoring urban forest threats; predicting or modelling outcomes;

developing programs to help deliver its goals; implementing control such as Integrated Pest Management, and providing professional, technical urban forestry advice.

What we do:

- London has deemed itself the Forest City, with a stated goal of 34% tree canopy coverage by 2065.
- Urban Forestry contributes towards the provision of tangible societal benefits that preserve and enhance urban living.
- Urban forests help control storm water, lower urban temperatures, clear the air, improve citizen health and psychological well-being and increase property values and commercial investments.

Why we do it:

- **Traditional** – London is the “Forest City”. The management of trees and urban forests is a typical municipal service.

The following table provides an overview of the budget for this service:

Budget Summary (\$000's)	2024	2025	2026	2027	2024 to 2027 TOTAL
Gross Operating Expenditures	\$6,679	\$6,898	\$7,052	\$7,176	\$27,805
Other Revenues	-\$310	-\$310	-\$310	-\$310	-\$1,240
Net Tax Levy Supported Operating Budget	\$6,369	\$6,588	\$6,742	\$6,866	\$26,565
Total Capital Expenditures	\$2,751	\$2,723	\$2,723	\$2,673	\$10,870
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's)	35.3	36.3	36.3	36.3	N/A

Reflects 2024 to 2027 adopted City budget as of December 1, 2025.

Linkage to the 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan

This service supports the following Strategic Areas of Focus in the 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan:



**Reconciliation, Equity,
Accessibility, and
Inclusion**



**Housing and
Homelessness**



Wellbeing and Safety



**Safe London for Women,
Girls, and Gender-Diverse
and Trans People**



**Economic Growth, Culture,
and Prosperity**



**Mobility and
Transportation**



**Climate Action and
Sustainable Growth**



Well-Run City

Environmental, Socio-economic Equity and Governance (ESG) Considerations

Environmental, Socio-economic Equity and Governance Profile for this service:

Environmental:

- Our trees and woodlands are keystones to and indicators of urban ecosystem health; overall tree and woodland condition inform community environmental health and watershed condition rating.
- Trees and woodlands provide habitat and habitat corridors or connectors for wildlife, boosting biodiversity.
- Our trees and woodland supply numerous ecosystem services and functions e.g., they help remove pollutants from our soil, air and water.
- Trees mitigate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, provide oxygen, and support our goal of Net Zero GHG by 2050.
- Trees provide resilience against climate change and related issues such as erosion, flooding, and urban heat effect.
- Trees directly impact human health and longevity, e.g., by providing shade, to reduce heat stress, skin cancer.

Socio-economic Equity:

- Urban forests influence community prosperity e.g., increased property values; longer and healthier human lives; reduced costs of grey infrastructure (e.g., surfaces last longer).
- Tree equity is currently imbalanced, but the goal is equal access to abundant, quality trees where people live, work and play.
- The City's unique location on the Forks of the Thames means there is a strong riparian component to our urban forest, bringing benefits to neighbourhoods of all classes of socio-economic status.
- Human health, mental and physical, is improved by the presence of urban forests.
- Social interactions are encouraged by people being in and among nature, for example seeking shade on a park bench or attending a tree planting event can lead to new friendships and feelings of belonging in their community.
- Urban trees provide connection to the passage of time, the changing of seasons, and memories.
- Food-bearing trees may help with food security, as well as minimizing the carbon footprint of healthy food.

Governance:

- Through the interplay of Acts, Regulations, City By-laws, studies, inventories, policies and practices, the City's forestry assets are identified, protected and conserved.
- Various federally supported programs (e.g., Green Municipal Fund), subject to successful application for external funding, and other climate change-related initiatives continue to provide momentum for expansion of urban and rural tree cover.

The following section provides an overview of the key activities the service plans to undertake from 2024 to 2027 to implement the Corporation's 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan, as well as an overview of the risks and challenges the service is anticipated to experience during this period:

Service Highlights 2024 to 2027

- This service takes a strategic management approach to ensure that the urban forest is resilient, diversified and healthy.
- We are active partners with organizations that support tree planting and woodland preservation.
- The Tree Protections By-law and Boulevard Tree Protection By-law help preserve our urban forest.
- Through our Tree Canopy Conservation Program (2023) we are helping homeowners retain large trees for longer.
- We will be actively gathering information in our woodlands, from soil to tree canopy, to better understand their value, condition, dynamics and needs so to develop a comprehensive, cohesive, integrated approach to woodland management.

Risks and Challenges Anticipated in 2024 to 2027

- Urban forests are at risk due to invasive pests (e.g., spongy moth), diseases (e.g., maple decline), weather events, drought, injury from construction, declining number of planting sites of high quality, and a host of other human-related and natural influences. We are continuing to monitor the urban forest in collaboration with other departments and agency experts and implementing treatments to mitigate risks using the best available tools and resources.

Other reference information and links:

- Link to the City of London website page [Trees](#)
- Urban Forestry Strategy – Available by request at treeprotection@london.ca

Contact:

- Paul Yeoman Director, Parks and Forestry
- 519-661-CITY (2489) Extension 2356
- pyeoman@london.ca