

# Community-Based Urban Forestry



Local Enhancement and  
Appreciation of Forests

# Community Based Urban Forestry

- When citizens become actively involved in protecting, planting and caring for the urban forest
- Feel ownership and responsibility and have knowledge and tools



# The Urban Forest in Toronto



- Green infrastructure of the city
- Trees, shrubs, vegetation and wildlife in our developed areas

# Ravines and Parks



- 2.5 million trees

# Street Trees



- 500,000 trees
- stressful urban conditions

# Municipal Forestry



- inspection
- evaluation
- protection
- pruning
- watering
- fertilizing
- health care
- removal
- planting

# Limited Municipal Resources



- Municipal forestry departments are stretched – amalgamation
- Resources spent on damage control
  - Pests, storms, aging canopies
- Struggling for adequate enforcement of bylaws

# Private Trees

- 3 million trees on city property
- Over 80% of land in Toronto privately owned
- At least half of the trees in Toronto are on private property
- Private tree protection bylaw
- No coordinated management efforts on private land



# Loss of Habitat/Native Species



- historical reliance on hardy, exotic species such as Norway Maple
- invasion of natural areas and loss of native species

# Shrinking Forest Canopy



- aging forest canopy



- development and infill pressures

# Exotic Pests

- Asian long-horned beetle



- Emerald ash borer



# Urban Stresses

- drought
- hard surface
- poor soil
- compaction
- salt
- vandalism



# Neglect



# Abuse



# Accelerating Loss



- rate of tree loss is greater than replacement

# Building Relationships with Trees

- More than just planting is needed to face these challenges
- Public has to build a deeper relationship with trees





- Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests
- established 1996
- small tree planting project



We envision a city  
that is healthier  
because every  
citizen CARES for  
the urban forest





Helping people build  
relationships with  
trees

# 3 P's Philosophy

- **Protect**
  - ⇒ existing mature trees
- **Preserve**
  - ⇒ soil quality and volume
  - ⇒ potential planting locations
- **Plant**
  - ⇒ new trees in good locations where they will thrive



# LEAF Programs

Involving people in urban forest stewardship

- ⇒ Backyard Tree Planting Program
- ⇒ Tree Tenders – workshops and training
- ⇒ Tree Tours
- ⇒ Tree Festivals
- ⇒ Advocacy

# Backyard Tree Planting Program

- cost to homeowner  
\$85 to \$140 per tree
- 10,000 trees and  
shrubs planted
- property owners are  
partners



# After four years



# 7 years after planting



# Community Events



- LEAF involves diverse communities and youth
- Training and supervision of volunteers
- Ensure maintenance of past plantings

# Toronto Hydro Employee Planting



# Hands-on Workshops



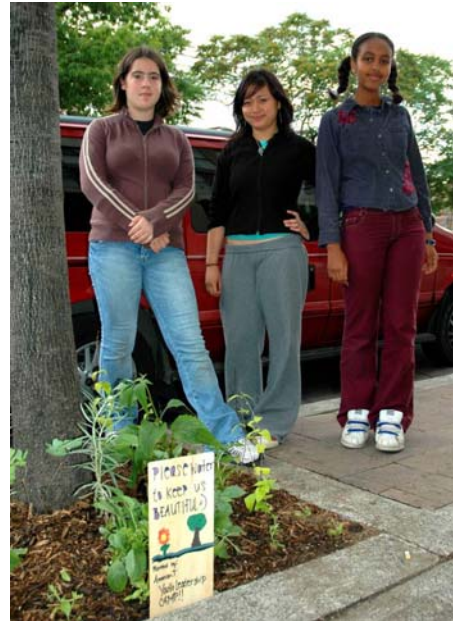
# Involving Youth



# Partnering with the City



# Tree Pit Makeovers



# Tree Tenders Training Program

- 10 hours of arboriculture training
- Classroom and outdoor
- 25 participants per session



# Tree Tours



- Guided walking tours
- Introduce people to trees in their neighbourhood
- Interesting and fun first step to more involvement
- Often involve special guests – City Councillor



# Tree Tours

- Focus on trees
- Incorporate history, culture, art
- Partner with diverse groups
- Outreach to multi-cultural communities



# Tree Tours



# Tree Festivals



- community celebration of trees
- held in local park
- incorporate Tree Tenders and Tree Tour

- children's activities
- music, poetry, art, stories
- involve local business, artists, politicians
- In partnership with City

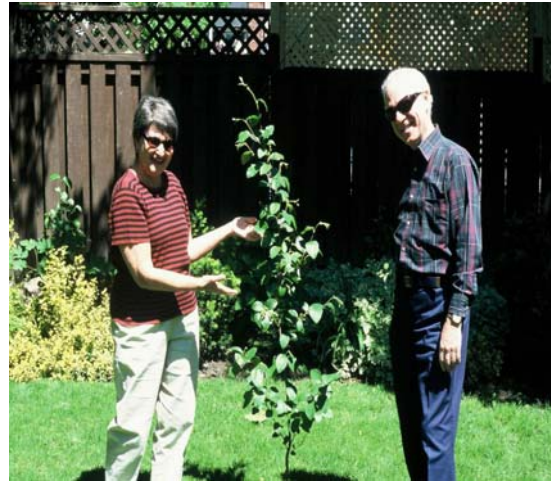


# Leslieville Tree Festival



# More than just planting trees

- Building relationships
- Complimentary programs
- Fostering public trust
- Achieving more together





- Electronic network
- Monthly newsletter
- Success stories, news, resources, events
- Free to join
- [www.leafToronto.org/ufn](http://www.leafToronto.org/ufn)



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