



ReForest London
planting the future today

ReForest London

- Founded by citizens in 2005 as a part of the Urban League of London
- Since then:
 - 30,000+ trees and shrubs
 - 24,000 +volunteers
 - 200+ projects



Mission:

ReForest London is a non-profit organization dedicated to partnering with our community to enhance environmental and human health in the Forest City, through the benefits of trees.

- Empowerment
- Ecosystem Health
- Education

Programs: Park Naturalizations

- Volunteers come together to plant trees in local park space.
- In these projects we are creating new naturalization areas in London's parks to improve the biodiversity of the park and attract wildlife.



Have you planted a tree before?

We'll teach you it's easy!

**No experience required.
All ages welcome!**

At the start of every park tree planting event, we'll teach you how to plant a tree.



Programs: School Community Tree Challenge

- ReForest London works with a school team of students, teachers, administrators, and parents plant trees in schoolyards throughout London.
- We have planted trees in dozens of schools, involving students in the planting.
- Ongoing application deadline



Programs: Celebration Forest

- The Tree Gift program allows individuals and businesses to buy a native tree in honour of someone to be planted in Celebration Forest.
- The name of the honouree is put on the Celebration Forest sign and online registry.



Programs: Seedling Give-Aways

- ReForest London has given away thousands of tree seedlings for Londoners to plant on their properties.
- Tree seedlings can be ordered by Million Tree Challenge Partners for their events.



Programs: TreeCycle

- Londoners can donate extra trees from their yards to our TreeCycle program to see them put into a variety of planting projects across our city.
- Spring and Fall intake dates



Programs: Neighbourhood ReLeaf

- ReForest London has launched a city-wide initiative to provide “a tree for every Londoner” that wants one
- We are recruiting and training volunteer teams to assist with 3 primary initiatives:
 - **Tree blitz**
 - **Tree Depots**
 - **Tree planting** in parks in every ward in 2017



Programs: Tree Blitz

- In June 2015 ReForest London volunteers planted **over 400 trees** for our neighbours, instantly impacting an entire community's future in just one day. **Spring of 2016 launched new program.**
- It is surprising to learn that forty percent of the land in London is controlled by individual residential land owners.



Programs: Tree Depots

- Tree Blitz /Depots offer native trees to Londoners for free!
- Million Tree Challenge Partners can sponsor a Depot at their event or to their members or employees.



Programs: Tree Teachers

- Through this program, we train individuals to become speakers to London organizations and businesses about trees.
- Our first three topics developed to educate Londoners about trees are:
 - 1) Native Trees for Your Yard
 - 2) The Emerald Ash Borer
 - 3) The Importance of Trees





MILLION
TREE
CHALLENGE



Million Tree Challenge:
So Far...

283, 964

As well as **197** community
partners! (as of June 23, 2016)



Trees, Forests and The Forest City

London has around 22% canopy, while an ideal percentage is 40%.



Quick Facts About Carolinian Canada

- 25% of Canada's population on 0.25% of its area
- More endangered and rare species than any other life zone in Canada
- A great diversity of wildlife of all kinds, including many species not found elsewhere in Canada.
- Less than 2% of the landscape is in public ownership
- 73% of the landscape is in highly productive agriculture.
- Forest cover has been reduced from 80% to 11.3%
- Forest interior has been reduced to just 2%
- Wetlands reduced from 28.3% to 5.1%



London 1840



London looking west down Dundas St from
Wellington to Ridout circa 1840

London's Urban Forest

- Under intense pressures from human activity, our forest is usually the most common connection that we urbanites have with our natural environment.
- Includes street trees, residential trees, park trees and greenbelt and ravine plant and animal communities, and provides habitat for a diversity of urban wildlife



What does
London's
Urban Forest
do for YOU?

What our Urban Forest can do for you:

- **Increase Privacy** -
Nature's curtains between you and your neighbour – shielding both sight and sound



What our Urban Forest can do for you:

- **Lower heating and cooling costs** - cooling costs by 50 % & heating costs by 30%
- **More Shade** – a tree's shade on a hot summer afternoon is a welcome oasis



What our Urban Forest can do for you:

- Higher property values - A well treed lot can increase property values by 20% as well as make your street beautiful.



Guess which neighbourhoods of London these photos are from!

What our Urban Forest can do for you:

- o **Cleaner air and water -**

As well as taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen trees also filter dust, ozone, sulfur dioxide and other pollutants from our air. Trees slow rain and runoff, holding the soil in place, reducing runoff and recharging groundwater.

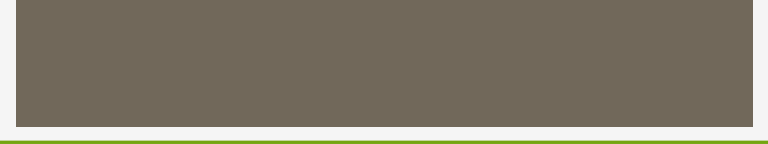


What our Urban Forest can do for you:

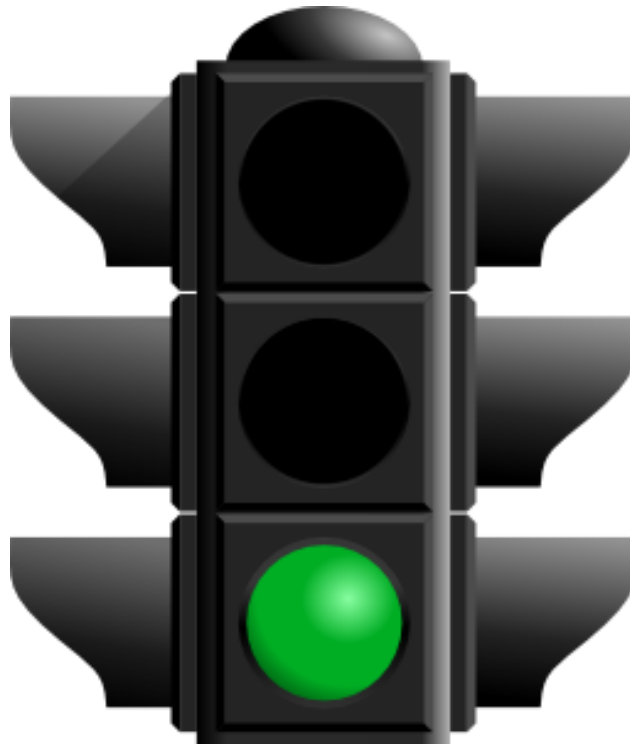
- **Better quality of life** - Study after study shows that well-treed communities are safer and healthier.
- "Using data from Toronto, a team of researchers has found that having 10 more trees on your block has self-reported health benefits akin to a \$10,000 salary raise or moving to a neighbourhood with a \$10,000 higher median income or being seven years younger." –Star 2015



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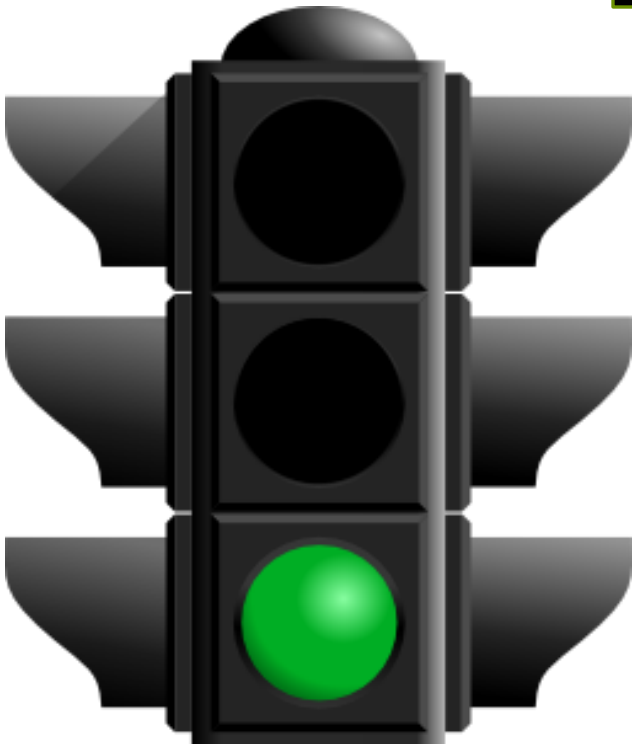


Native Species

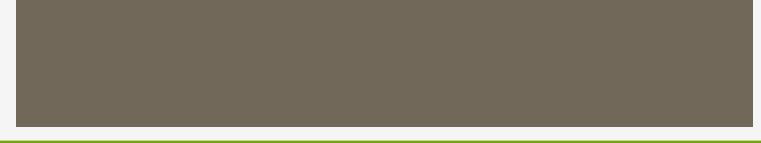




Native Species



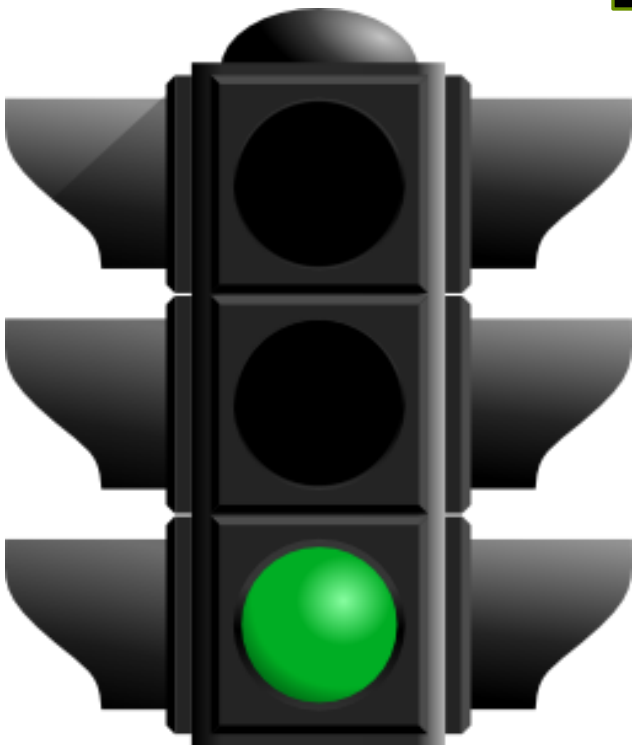
- Species that occur within our ecosystem without being brought here by human intervention
- Evolved here and are suited to local environment and conditions
- Connected with other native species in the ecosystem by the food chain and other natural processes.

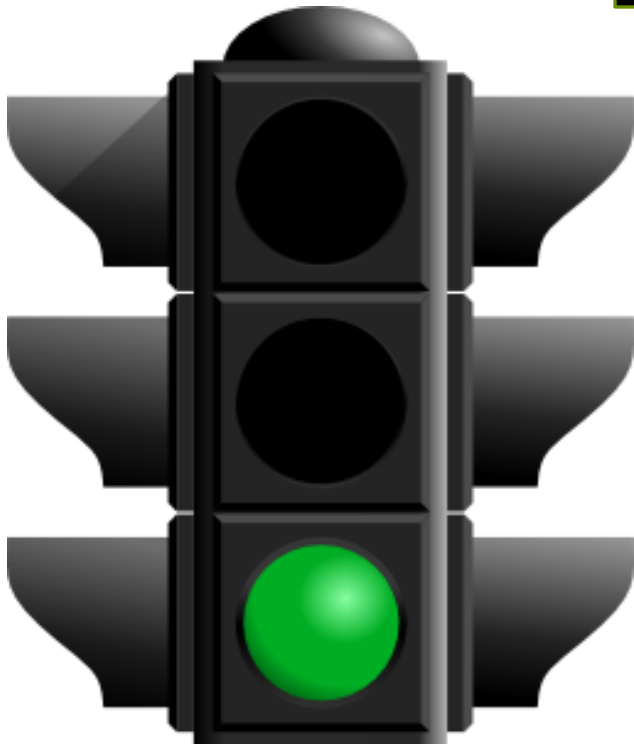


Native Trees

Sugar Maple

- Large tree, can grow up to 35 metres.
- Can live for more for more than 200 years
- Spectacular fall foliage
- Maple Syrup, was a 354 million dollar industry in Canada in 2009





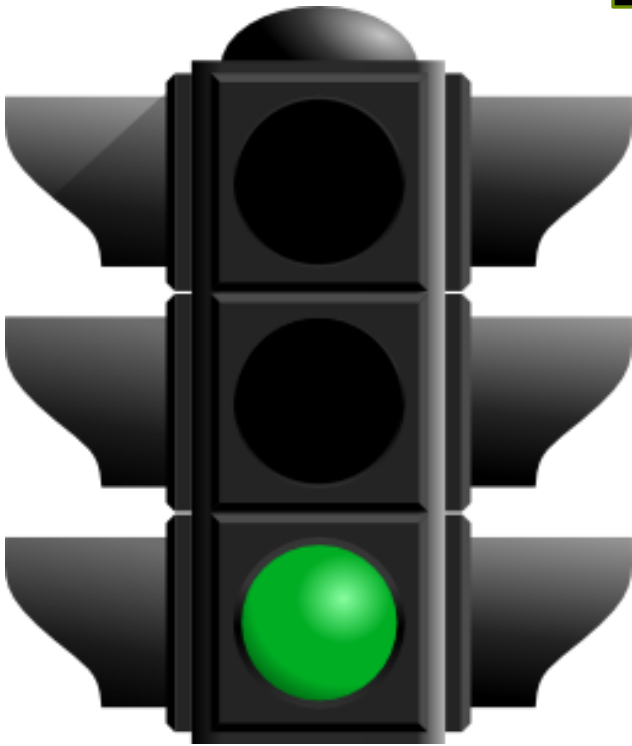
Native Trees

Pawpaw

- Small tree, grows 4m-6m
- It is the only hardy member of otherwise tropical plants
- Large fleshy fruit are edible when ripe (tastes like banana/guava)



Native Trees



Tulip Tree

- Very large tree, up to 10.5 m
- Green-yellow flowers in late spring
- Great for wildlife and birds
- Resemblance to tulips is only superficial



Non-Native Trees





Non-Native Trees



- Species that have been introduced into our ecosystem from elsewhere
- Not likely to become a threat to native species.
- Safe for landscaping but unacceptable for naturalization projects.
- These species are less ideal for use than native species, but are not a danger to them.

Non-Native Species



Japanese Maple

- Relative of north american maples
- Native to Japan, China, Mongolia and eastern Russia
- Used in landscaping
- No threat to native trees.

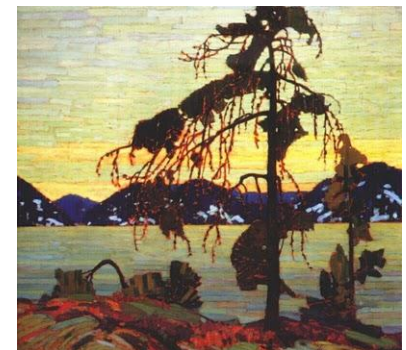


Non-Native Species



Jack Pine

- National icon, painted by Tom Thompson
- native to northern boreal forests, not this far South
- Grows 9-22m
- Often thrives in rocky soil and poor growing conditions.



Invasive Species



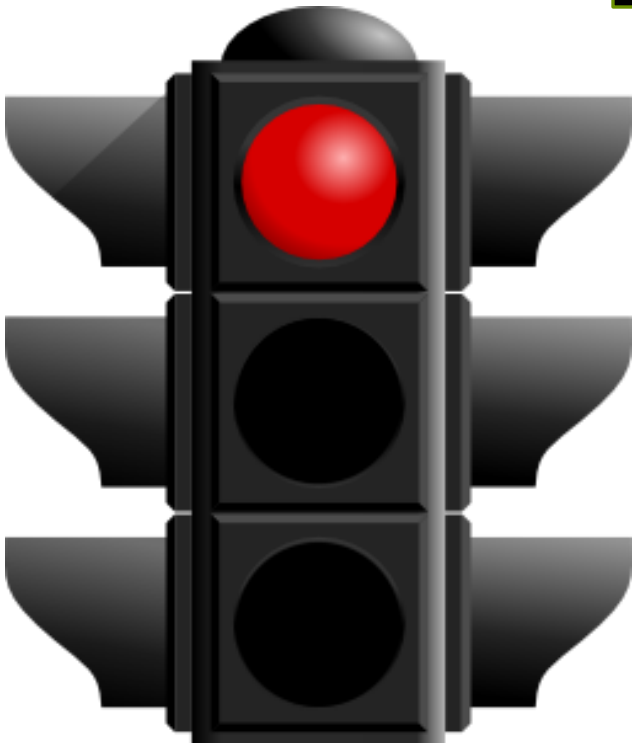


Invasive Species

- Species that have been introduced into our ecosystem from elsewhere
- Has no “enemies” to maintain species levels
- Will become a threat to native species and disrupt local ecosystems
- **Do not plant under any circumstances** and should be removed when possible.

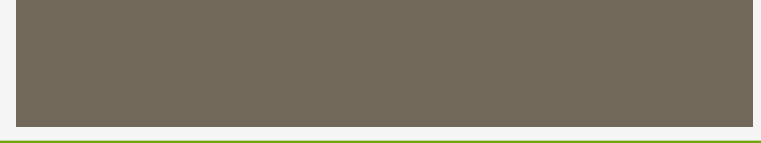
Invasive Trees

European Buckthorn

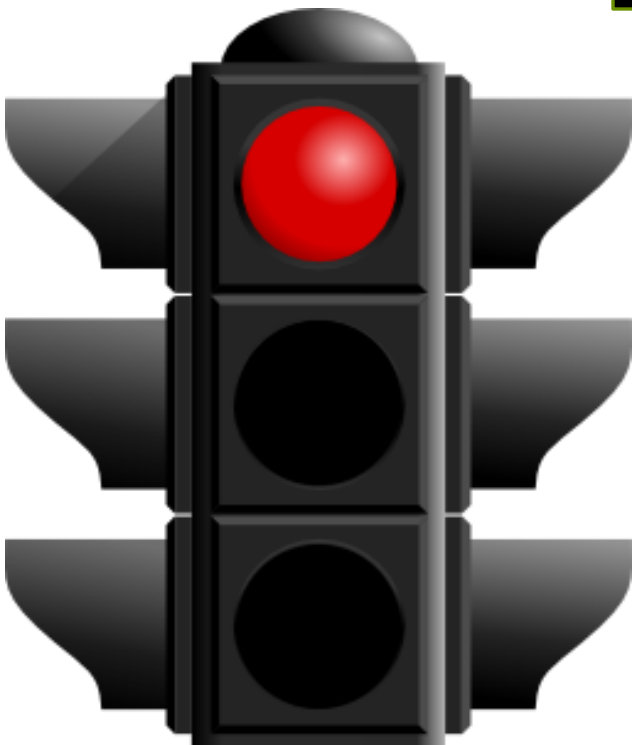


- Introduced to North America to use as hedgerows.
- Commonly used as an ornamental shrub
- Smooth, dark green leaves are finely toothed.
- Forms dense thickets that crowds out and shades out native plants.





Invasive Trees

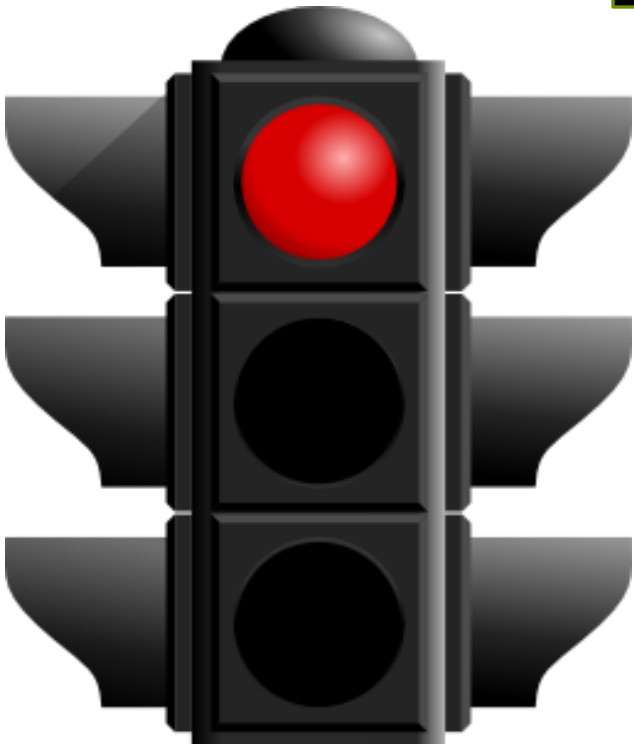


Norway Maple

- Native from Southern Scandinavia to Northern Iran
- Introduced to North America in the 18th C.
- Gained popularity in the 50's and 60's as a pollution resistant street tree.
- Threatening native trees when seeded in natural areas.



Invasive Trees



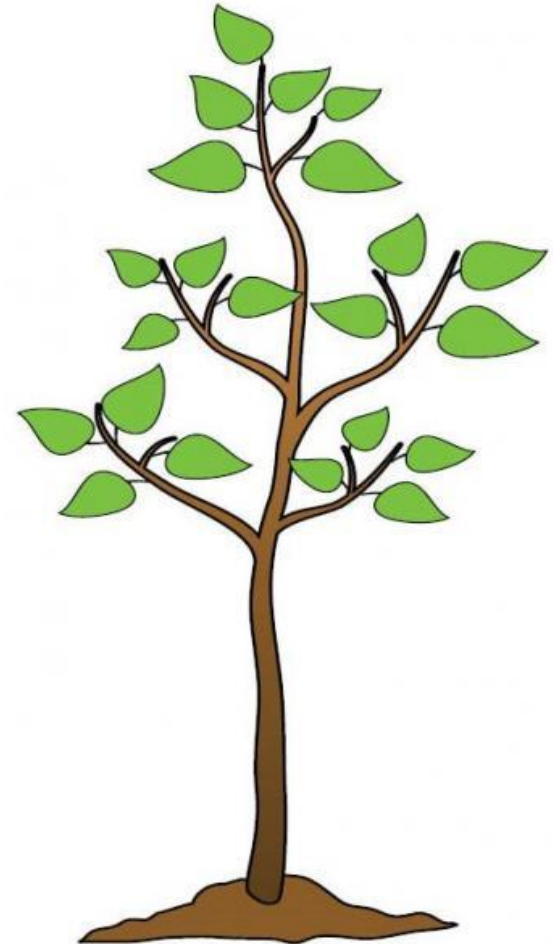
Tree of Heaven

- Native to northeast and central China
- First brought to North America in 1784
- Re-sprouts vigorously when cut making it difficult to eradicate.



How do I know if a tree is native?

- Ask an Expert
- Look it up online using a reputable source (Environment Canada, Parks Canada, Evergreen, ReForest London, etc.)
- Use our “Choosing the Right Tree” Brochure.



Other threats to native species:

- **Emerald Ash Borer**

- Ash comprises an estimated 7% of the tree canopy in London. It is projected that the majority of this will be lost to the EAB over the next decade



Asian Longhorn Beetle

- Asian long-horned beetle (ALHB) is an invasive forest pest with no natural enemies in North America that attacks nearly all broadleaf trees, with native Maples being the preferred host. It was introduced to North America in the 1990's through untreated wooden shipping pallets



Select a suitable species

- Be sure to check
 - light requirements
 - soil requirements
 - moisture requirements



See Tree Planting Video

- https://youtu.be/ok_JIKQGrLU

Things NOT to do

- Do not Prune excessively
- Do not apply chemical fertilizers or pesticides
- Do not line-trim (weed-whack) around base
- Do not compact soil or cover with impermeable materials

How YOU can help

Donate!

Volunteer!

Train!

Donate!

- ◉ Give a one-time donation or donate monthly on canadahelps.org
- ◉ Donate by mail:
ReForest London
PO Box 25144
London, ON N6C 6A9
- ◉ Purchase a celebration forest tree, a tree voucher, or an “I dig trees” t-shirt

Volunteer!



- Attend tree plantings and aftercare events!
 - Schedule available on our website
- Join a snowflake team for the Tree Blitzes!
- Attend more training sessions!

How to be a good Volunteer

- Choose your words and actions carefully when representing ReForest London
- Hold your personal safety, and the safety of staff, other volunteers and community members as your highest priority.
- Be Reliable
- Have Fun!



Our Volunteer Opportunities

- ◉ Plantings and Aftercare events
- ◉ Tree Specialists
- ◉ Tree Blitzers
- ◉ Community Liaisons
- ◉ Tree Teachers
- ◉ Canvassers
- ◉ Tree Mascots
- ◉ Office Assistants
- ◉ Committee Members

Attend Tree Plantings and aftercare events

- Fun, outdoor Spring and Fall activity
- All Ages! Family friendly
- Requires no extra training
- Meet like-minded community members or join in with a group of friends or coworkers



Join a Snowflake!

- We are looking for people who are leaders in their field. These volunteers help lead projects and other volunteers.
- Mapping/GIS
- Data
- Storytelling
- Truck Drivers
- Outreach/Community Partnerships

Tree Blitzers

- Helping at Tree Blitz events.
 - Door to door offering trees
 - Assist with tree selection for homeowners
 - Record data

Requires one 1.5 hour training session



Tree Specialists

- Learn to become knowledgeable tree planters
- Assisting first time tree planters at naturalization events and/or help at Tree Blitz and Tree Depots
- **2 hour “classroom” session and 2 hour Tree Identification hike.**



Community Liaisons

- Attend community events to share information on our organization
- Staffing a display booth, speaking with the public and encouraging their participation
- **1 hour classroom training**



Tree Teachers

- Tree teachers teach groups about trees – workplace, service clubs, classrooms
- Our three presentations thus far are:
 - **Native trees**
 - **The emerald ash borer**
 - **The importance of trees**
- Tree teacher training consists of a **1.5 hour classroom session**



Other Volunteering Opportunities

- Storyteller
- Canvassers
- Tree Mascot
- Photographer
- Graphic Designer
- Office assistant
- Committee Member (for Fundraising)
- **Have another skill or talent that you would like to share – let us know!**

No Training necessary for these options



Any Questions?

thank you!