



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**ReForest London**  
planting the future today

# About Us

We are ReForest London, the city's largest not-for-profit organization dedicated to building a resilient community through environmental stewardship and nurturing a thriving urban forest.

As a unifying force, we collaborate with individuals, organizations, and businesses, creating partnerships that strengthen the Forest City. By inspiring, educating, and empowering Londoners, we cultivate a shared commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable practices.

At ReForest London, we prioritize the lasting impact of our work. Through tree planting initiatives, we aim to create a legacy of positive change in our city.

With the support of dedicated volunteers and generous donors, we harness the power of collective action to restore ecosystems, improve air quality, and enhance the well-being of our community.

Join us in our mission to build a sustainable, green city in London. Together, we can make a profound difference in protecting and preserving the natural world for future generations. Reach out to us today to discover how you can actively participate in creating a greener and more environmentally conscious community.



# A Message From the Executive Director

So much has changed in the last few years, and much of it is not going back to the way it was. Some of it shouldn't. Many of our ongoing problems, inequities, and challenges have been laid bare for all of us to see clearly.

Also becoming clearer is how everything is connected. A healthy and thriving community depends on many factors, none of which we can treat as separate from each other. Economic well-being has always been founded on healthy natural systems and resources. A healthy economy depends on a healthy community, and a healthy community depends on a healthy environment.

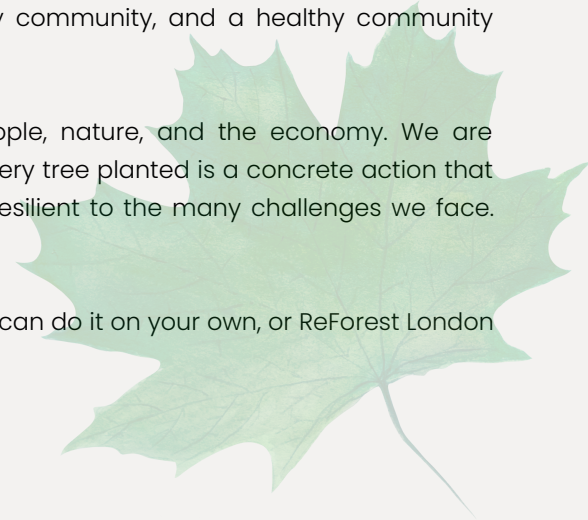
Climate change is one of the top challenges of our time, impacting people, nature, and the economy. We are experiencing negative impacts today that will only worsen for our children. Every tree planted is a concrete action that anyone can take to directly strengthen our community and make it more resilient to the many challenges we face. Every tree planted is a deliberate effort to create a better future.

I invite you to be deliberate and make a better today and a better future. You can do it on your own, or ReForest London can help you.



*Dean Sheppard.*

**Dean Sheppard, Executive Director**



# Impact Highlights

**3351**

trees planted

**1195**

shrubs planted

**2363**

trees given away

**1166**

volunteers engaged

**335**

workshop participants

**780**

hours of educational programming delivered



# Million Tree Challenge

The Million Tree Challenge (MTC) continues to make remarkable strides in building a resilient future for our city. In the past year, we engaged with the community through 105 diverse public events. These were delivered through our many programs, including Park Naturalizations, Neighbourhood ReLeaf, and Trees for Teachers. Through these programs, we connect with individuals from all walks of life and neighborhoods.

Each tree planted, educational program conducted, and person engaged through our initiatives brings us closer to a city that thrives with nature. ReForest London remains steadfast in our mission to foster a greener, healthier, and more sustainable community. Through the Million Tree Challenge, we are building a legacy of environmental stewardship and leaving a lasting impact for future generations.

We reached a significant milestone in our journey towards the Million Tree Challenge in 2022, celebrating 500,000 trees planted. To mark this achievement, we organized a special event at the Westminster Ponds Centre for Environment & Sustainability, bringing together community members, volunteers, and partners who have been instrumental in our progress. It was a moment of great pride and excitement as we reflected on the impact we have made in planting thousands of trees and shrubs across our city. The event served as a testament to the collective efforts and dedication of everyone involved, highlighting the transformative power of community engagement and the shared vision of a greener and more resilient future.

With the Million Tree Challenge reaching its halfway mark, there has never been a better time to get involved. Whether you're an individual, organization, or community group, your support is crucial in achieving our goal of planting one million trees. Join our over 200 partners, and together we'll make a lasting impact on the environment, enhance our urban spaces, and ensure a thriving and resilient community for generations to come.





# Planting Baby Woodlands

Park Naturalizations program has been instrumental in preserving and growing our urban forest.

In 2022 alone, our dedicated team successfully planted an impressive 3351 trees and 1195 shrubs at 17 different locations across the city. These figures highlight the collective commitment to enhancing the ecological integrity and resilience of our local parks.

The impact of planting thousands of trees and shrubs extends far beyond mere aesthetics. It significantly contributes to the health of our local ecosystem, creating a more vibrant and sustainable environment. By strengthening the urban forest, we fortify our community's ability to withstand environmental challenges that may arise in the future.

Preserving and growing the urban forest is not just a task for one organization but requires a collective effort. Your involvement makes a significant difference.

By volunteering, participating in events, or providing financial support, you can actively contribute to our cause. Together, we can plant more trees and create even more resilient and thriving green spaces throughout the city.

Join us today, and be a part of the movement towards a greener and more sustainable future for all. Together, we will make a lasting impact and ensure a brighter and healthier environment for generations to come.

*Lily Vuong*

**Lily Vuong, BSc**

**Manager, Naturalization Projects**

[reforestlondon.ca/programs/park-naturalizations](https://reforestlondon.ca/programs/park-naturalizations)







# Neighbourhood ReLeaf

Neighbourhood ReLeaf gives away free trees to anyone in London.

89% of land in the city is privately owned so in order to have a full healthy urban forest, we need to address private property too.

With a total of 16 tree giveaway events throughout the year, ReForest London successfully distributed an impressive 2,363 new trees to 1079 households across the city. Our team also provides guidance on tree care, educational resources, and workshops that empower Londoners to better care for their trees.

Trees play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of climate change, reducing air pollution, and improving air quality. Moreover, they offer shade, lower urban temperatures, and create a more pleasant and liveable environment. These benefits are highest when trees are planted near where we live and play.

By encouraging Londoners to host, plant and care for trees, Neighbourhood ReLeaf encourages collaboration and shared responsibility for the urban forest, fostering a collective understanding of the importance of trees in building a sustainable future.

Tree giveaway events serve as catalysts for community engagement, empowering individuals to actively contribute to a greener and healthier environment.

Together, ReForest London and its dedicated community of Londoners are nurturing a city that breathes and thrives with life, all thanks to the power of trees and the shared commitment to building a sustainable future.

*Maddy Sansom*

**Maddy Sansom, MFC**

**Manager, Community Projects**

[reforestlondon.ca/programs/neighbourhood-releaf](https://reforestlondon.ca/programs/neighbourhood-releaf)



# Trees for Teachers

Schoolyards are always in need of trees, and we believe that influencing the values and knowledge of the next generation is key to making environmental progress. For these reasons, ReForest London has been engaging with schools since our inception.

Our Trees for Teachers program not only brings shade trees to schoolyards but also empowers teachers to lead students through the learning process of selecting the right tree species and planting spots. We conducted professional development workshops that attracted 42 educators from across the city, delivering a total of 204 hours of programming. These workshops equip teachers with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively incorporate environmental education into their curricula. They also empower students to become active participants in environmental conservation.

In addition, we provide completely stocked, ready-to-go seedling growing kits for teachers and their classrooms. Students learn about germinating tree seeds and caring for seedlings, instilling them with a sense of responsibility for nurturing and caring for the environment.

The program's impact extends far beyond the immediate participants; by reaching out to students and educators alike, our program is fostering a culture of environmental consciousness and responsibility within the community. Trees for Teachers plays a vital role in inspiring young minds, cultivating a love for nature, and empowering teachers to integrate environmental education into the classroom.

*Sara Patterson*

**Sara Patterson**

**Environmental Programs Coordinator**

[reforestlondon.ca/programs/trees-for-teachers](https://reforestlondon.ca/programs/trees-for-teachers)



# Westminster Ponds Centre

The Westminster Ponds Centre for Environment and Sustainability continues to grow into a powerful and unique community asset. As a hub and flagship location focusing on community sustainability, the Centre works to create greater local capacity and fuel collaboration and progress toward community sustainability, health, and resilience.

Throughout the year, we collaborated with 16 organizations to deliver a range of Environmental Education workshops, presentations, and events, totaling an impressive 576 programming hours. These collaborations facilitated the dissemination of valuable knowledge and fostered a deeper understanding of environmental issues across diverse audiences in our community.

On the capital side, ReForest London prioritized accessibility upgrades to ensure inclusivity and equal access for all individuals. We successfully installed two accessibility ramps, providing convenient entry to both the Bruce Pavilion for Environmental Action and the Huron Pavilion for Environmental Education.

The ramps were accompanied by barrier-free paths of travel, enabling individuals with mobility challenges to navigate the premises comfortably, as well as a new accessible parking space. Additionally, we constructed an accessible porch at the Huron Pavilion, further enhancing the accessibility and welcoming nature of the Centre.

Our educational programming equips individuals with knowledge and skills inspiring them to take action and make positive changes. Our commitment to accessibility upgrades ensures that everyone, regardless of ability, can participate fully in the Centre's activities and initiatives and be part of fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and building a stronger, more inclusive future for all.

*Shaquille Sealy*

**Shaquille Sealy, MSc**  
**Operations Manager**

[westminsterpondscentre.ca](http://westminsterpondscentre.ca)



# Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of ReForest London. They create an impact across our entire organization, from tree planting to community outreach, tree giveaways, and involvement in the Board of Directors and our working committees.

With a total of 1166 unique volunteers and an impressive 4675 volunteer hours, their collective efforts have had a remarkable impact on the local environment and community.

Throughout 2022, ReForest London's volunteers actively participated in a range of projects that fostered environmental sustainability and community engagement.

Volunteers tirelessly planted and cared for trees, transforming vacant spaces into vibrant green areas. They created healthier habitats for wildlife and enhanced the overall well-being of residents.

Additionally, volunteers played an instrumental role in raising awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship. Through community outreach programs, educational workshops, and public events, volunteers actively engaged with individuals, schools, and businesses, inspiring them to take action and make sustainable choices.

ReForest London's volunteers made an indelible mark on the community in 2022. Through their unwavering dedication and countless hours of service, they have played a vital role in building a resilient future.

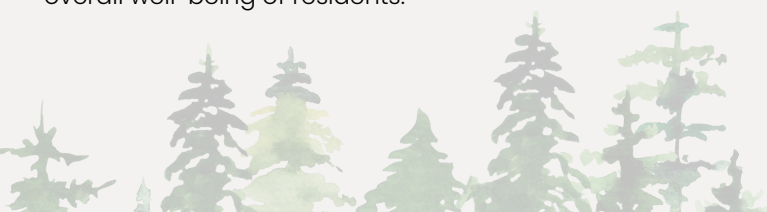
If you or your business are interested in joining our mission, contact us today to discover how you can become a part of our vibrant and rewarding volunteer community!

*Rose Pfeifer*

**Rose Pfeifer**

**Engagement Coordinator**

[reforestlondon.ca/volunteer](https://reforestlondon.ca/volunteer)







# Planning a Sustainable Future

In our unwavering dedication to fostering a thriving urban forest, We're thrilled to highlight two vital initiatives aimed at nurturing the future of our urban landscape: Aftercare and The Seed Hub.

The Aftercare Program stands as a testament to our commitment to the long-term survival and prosperity of newly planted trees within the community. By providing ongoing care and support, this program plays a crucial role in enhancing the health and resilience of the urban forest.

In the past year, we held 15 successful Aftercare events, bringing together volunteers and tree enthusiasts to nurture and maintain the planted trees. Thanks to the collective efforts of the volunteers and the program's meticulous attention to tree care, an impressive 70% tree survival rate has been achieved.

The Aftercare Program continues to make a significant impact, promoting sustainable urban forestry and fostering a greener and healthier environment for everyone.

The Seed Hub Program is a commendable initiative that focuses on collecting and preserving native seeds to support biodiversity and ecological restoration efforts.

Through a series of 13 events, the program successfully gathered an impressive total of over 14,000 native seeds.

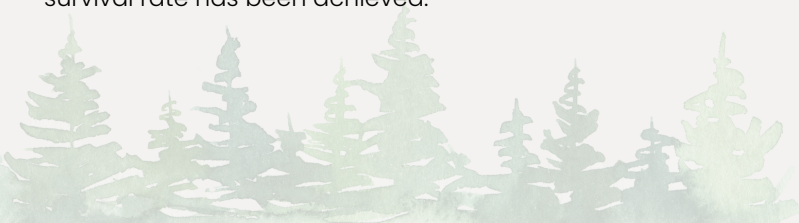
The Seed Hub Program not only highlights our commitment to conservation but also emphasizes the importance of community involvement in safeguarding our natural heritage for future generations.

*Shannon Dobbs*

**Shannon Dobbs**  
**Workshop Leader**

[reforestlondon.ca/programs/aftercare](https://reforestlondon.ca/programs/aftercare)

[reforestlondon.ca/programs/the-seed-hub](https://reforestlondon.ca/programs/the-seed-hub)





# Financial Report

Both revenue and expenses have increased slightly compared to 2021 as we have returned to near-normal operating levels. While we continue to grow our corporate partnerships and earned revenue, ReForest London remains reliant on and focused on raising new grant money each year. We are also investing in the Environment and Sustainability Centre, which is reflected in an increased value of Property, Premises, and Equipment, as well as a decrease in deferred revenue.

Building our Restricted Operating and Capital Reserves has become an increasingly important part of ReForest London's long-term financial plan. Significant strides were made in this area in 2022, including utilizing our operating surplus to meet our desired contributions. ReForest London has an active Finance and Audit Committee that oversees and guides our operations and reporting. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC serves as our independent external auditor and has issued an unmodified or "clean" audit opinion on the 2022 financial statements. A complete copy of those statements can be found on our website.

Dillon O'Henly, Board Treasurer

	2022	2021
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$1,217,840	\$1,058,343
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$1,194,643	\$969,339
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	\$23,197	\$87,004
<b>Property, Premises &amp; Equipment</b>	\$1,191,717	\$1,007,879
<b>Deferred Revenue</b>	\$457,099	\$608,257
<b>Accumulated (operating) Surplus</b>	\$94,257	\$106,783
<b>Restricted Reserves</b>	\$171,781	\$136,058

# Top Sponsors



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# Contact Us

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You can play a role in transforming London into a sustainable, green city. Together we'll make a profound impact in protecting and preserving the natural world for future generations and creating a healthier community at the same time..



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[reforestlondon.ca](http://reforestlondon.ca)  
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