

Urban Forest Accelerator overview: objectives and approach

Objectives:

- Produce a route map and toolkit of resources.
- Consider the full life cycle of urban trees.
- Build a coalition of Local Authorities ambitious about urban forestry.

Approach:

- Input on topics from leading Local Authorities and ENGOs.
- Iterate and develop outputs with a focussed working group of LAs.





Finance Work Package

- Economic valuation – projected uplift based on i-Tree eco baseline.
- Revenue and capital requirements.
- Opportunity analysis:
 - a) Public sector funding
 - b) Business corporate sponsorship/philanthropy
 - c) Private finance opportunities
 - d) Enterprise opportunities

Our process

- Desk-based research
- Initial conversations
- Workshop – use cases, scenarios and cost categories
- Targeted conversations and follow ups
- Consult through professional bodies.
- Iterations and feedback
- Hosting the tool



Areas of the model targeted for further development

1. Update baseline costs for **Standard Tree Planting** to **2023** figures.
2. Reflect **regional/contextual variations on labour** costs and other variables.
3. Provide average costs for a **wider range of civil engineering works** incurred for tree pits creation e.g. buildouts.
4. Account for **'hidden' costs related to highway access** for tree planting and maintenance: Traffic Regulation Orders & Traffic Management Costs.
5. Facilitate **calculations on commuted sums**, based on user-defined parameters.
6. Continue enhancing **ergonomics/useability**. For example, the wider range of civil engineering & highways access cost data collated will be used to offer a **wider palette of default standard planting scenarios**.

Preparation

- ✓ Feasibility
- ✓ Design
- ✓ Consultation
- ✓ Mark out

Tree

Planting

- ✓ Excavation/pit creation
- ✓ Growing media
- ✓ Planting
- ✓ Root barrier/deflector
- ✓ Support/anchoring system
- ✓ Watering & aeration systems
- ✓ Protection
- ✓ Surface treatment

Establishment

- ✓ Watering
- ✓ Adjusting & removing stakes, watering bag, tree guard
- ✓ Replenishing mulch
- ✓ Weeding
- ✓ Formative pruning

Maintenance

- ✓ Inspection
- ✓ Crown lifting
- ✓ Dead wood removal

End of life

- ✓ Felling
- ✓ Stump grinding / removal
- ✓ Reinstatement

Scale

- Number of trees

Context/Location

- Soft landscapes/Hard landscapes
- Footfall/visibility
- Positioning in the highway & speed profile

Root stock type

- Root-balled/containerised

Root stock size

- 10-12 dbh
- 12-14 dbh
- 14-16 dbh
- >22 dbh

Specifications/growing media

- Basic specs w/o load bearing growing media
- Higher specs w/ load-bearing growing media on shared basis
- Higher specs w/ load bearing growing media on a non-shared basis

Mature size

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Massive

Watering needs

- North
- Southwest
- Southeast

Access cost

- Minimal <30mph
- Medium 30-50mph
- High 50mph and above

Growth rate

- Slow
- Medium
- Fast

Lifespan

- 50 years
- 80 years
- 100 years

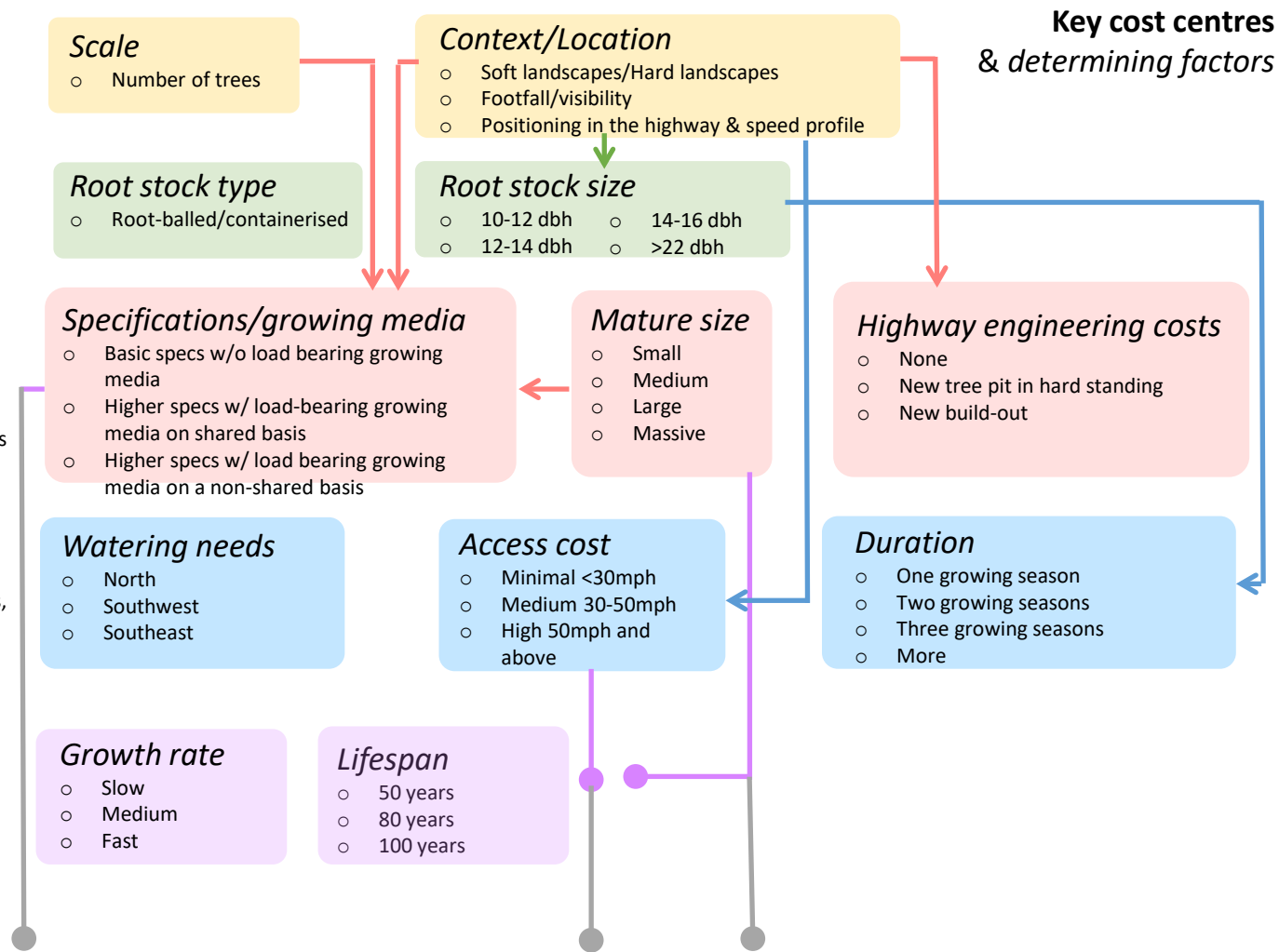
Highway engineering costs

- None
- New tree pit in hard standing
- New build-out

Duration

- One growing season
- Two growing seasons
- Three growing seasons
- More

Key cost centres & determining factors



Vehicle-dominated hard landscapes

Build-outs



Carriageway locations



Carparks



Pedestrian-dominated hard landscapes

Residential footways



High-footfall footways, plazas and pedestrian streets



Softscapes

Contexts/location
Main scenarios

Highway verges



Low profile parks and greenspaces



High profile parks and greenspaces



How you can help

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- 1. Standard tree planting costs in soft and in hard landscapes:** anonymised Schedule of Rates + your specifications.
- 2. Highway engineering costs associated with planting:** cost of creating a new tree pit in hard standing; cost of creating a buildout to provide a new tree planting site.
- 3. Highways access costs:** traffic management costs; Traffic Regulation Orders (when controlled car parking is removed to make way for tree planting).
- 4. Tree maintenance costs:** crown lifting, removal of dead wood.
- 5. End of life costs:** tree felling, stump grinding or removal, highway reinstatement.