# Tree Canopy Cover Ward Prioritisation Tool: User Guide

**Introduction**

This is a new tool to help decision-makers choose which locations within London might be prioritised for tree planting. This tool presents the Curio Canopy – London Tree Canopy Cover map at ward scale[[1]](#footnote-1), alongside several other environmental and social datasets.

There are multiple factors that influence both the existing variation in tree canopy cover across the capital, and the potential for increasing canopy cover, including population density, land use, differences in natural vegetation and existing habitats, soil type and topography. This tool is not a prescriptive guide to where canopy cover should be increased. It is designed as a tool to help decision-makers including local authorities, NGOs and funders, as well as Londoners, to identify where canopy cover is low, and where further consideration might be given to increasing canopy cover, based on a suite of different factors.

**The tool**

The ward prioritisation tool includes nine environmental and social factors, detailed in the table below.

For each factor where quantitative data is available the data value for each ward is included, alongside the London-wide rank (where 1 is greatest need e.g. lowest tree canopy cover), and the decile (i.e. 1 = in top 10% of wards when ranked by greatest need; 9 = in top 90% of wards when ranked by greatest need). For water quality and surface water flood risk, wards are flagged where there are locations within the ward that exceed a given value.

The ward prioritisation tool is in the format of a spreadsheet with filters, allowing users to rank or filter wards by different factors according to their priorities. This could include:

* Deciding on which (combination of) factors are most important in their area of interest
* Deciding on appropriate thresholds for their chosen factors

For a full description of the methodology used to create the Ward Prioritisation Tool, see Maplango (2019) Urban Forest Plan Tree Planting Prioritisation and Opportunity Mapping, at: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/tree-canopy-cover-prioritisation-tool>

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| **Factor** | **Measurement** | **Data source** | **Link** | **Notes** |
| Tree canopy cover | % of the ward under tree canopy cover | Curio Canopy – London Tree Canopy Cover map:  | <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/curio-canopy>  |  |
| Green/blue cover | % of the ward that is green/blue cover | London Green and Blue Cover map | <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/green-and-blue-cover>  |  |
| Index of multiple deprivation | Mean IMD score per ward | English indices of deprivation 2015 | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>  | Raw IMD data is at LSOA scale |
| Urban Heat Island | Modelled mean summer night-time temperature  | London’s Urban Heat Island – Average Summer (UrbClim model) | <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-s-urban-heat-island---average-summer>  | Raw data is point data, ward value is mean of points within the ward |
| NO2 air pollution | Mean NO2 pollution per ward | London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2013  | <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-atmospheric-emissions-inventory-2013>  | Raw data is point data, ward value is mean of points within the ward |
| Particulate matter (PM2.5 air pollution) | Mean PM2.5 pollution per ward | London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2013 | <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-atmospheric-emissions-inventory-2013>  | Raw data is point data, ward value is mean of points within the ward |
| Access to nature | % of ward area that is in a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation | Access to Public Open Space and Nature by Ward (GiGL) | <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/access-public-open-space-and-nature-ward>  |  |
| Surface water flood risk | Any locations of medium/high flood risk within the ward (Y/N) | Flood Risk Zones (Environment Agency) | <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/flood-risk-zones>  | Surface water flooding occurs in highly localised areas within wards |
| Water quality | Any locations of “Poor” water quality (WFD classification) within the ward (Y/N) | Water Quality of London’s Rivers and Other Waterbodies (Environment Agency) | <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/water-quality-london-rivers-other-waterbodies>  | Poor water quality occurs within highly localised areas within wards  |

1. Wards correct as of March 2019. The City of London is included as a single ward. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)