

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT ⁰⁰¹

APR 2024

City of
SACRAMENTO

Sacramento Urban Forest Plan

#001

Posted by **Noelle Anderson** on **05/01/2024** at **11:55am** [Comment ID: 2228] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I hope that these new funds will provide better pay for our city urban forest workers . They are already understaffed because skilled arborists trained by the city, easily get higher paying jobs elsewhere.

#002

Posted by **Tyler Wunsch** on **05/06/2024** at **7:26pm** [Comment ID: 2292] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

A city is many things and can be more than just a tagline. For example, Sacramento is Farm to Fork Capital and it's The City of Trees. It's also the River City. I would like to see "The City of Trees" put back on the water tower. It was deleted without asking the community and has undermined and divided our city. Instead of deleting it, space should have been created to also say "Farm to Fork." Hundreds of thousands of residents want to see it back on the water tower and for people passing through it was also a beautiful sight to see...

#003

Posted by **Mary Jane Jane Sutliff** on **05/14/2024** at **12:58pm** [Comment ID: 2379] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Will you be planting native trees. They should be selected because they will live in the heat and take less water. There is quite a bit of research on how biodiversity is affected by the lack of native horticulture.



SPECIAL THANKS



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#004

Posted by **Tyler Wunsch** on **05/06/2024** at **7:32pm** [Comment ID: 2294] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

I LOVE our trees and there should be a policy and community engagement / awareness that gardeners should not put leaf piles in bike lanes and instead use the green bins (I see so many tiny leaf piles that for sure could fit in the bin). We also need to sweep the bike lanes in winter months from the leaves falling. Wet leaves can be very slippery to cyclists.

Partner Advisory Committee

350 Sacramento
Asian Resources Inc.
Avondale/Glen Elder Neighborhood Association
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Strategic Growth Council
City of Sacramento Youth Commission
Council Member District 3 Jeff Harris
Elmhurst Neighborhood Association
Explore Midtown
Friends of Capitol Mansions
Hagginwood Neighborhood Association
Historic Monterey Trail District
Hodgson and Company
Hollywood Park Communi-Tree Committee
LDK Ventures, LLC
Meadowview Urban Tree Project
Midtown Association
North Natomas community representative
North State BIA
Preservation Sacramento
Public Health Institute
River Park Neighborhood Association
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
Sacramento Area Council of Government
Sacramento City Unified School District
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sacramento Tree Foundation
South Natomas community representative
Trees4Sacramento

Additional thanks to:

AIM Consulting Inc. and Davey Resource Group

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#005

Posted by **David Burger** on **04/26/2024** at **4:08pm** [Comment ID: 2201] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

I don't see in this Table of Contents an analysis of why trees planted in the Sacramento urban forest fail. I'm sure there are myriad reasons, but a careful analysis should be able to identify the major ones. Without understanding why trees have failed in the past, we're destined to repeat history. Thanks!



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Introduction



California State University, Sacramento Arboretum

#006

Posted by **Tyler Wunsch** on **05/06/2024** at **7:34pm** [Comment ID: 2295] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: -1

We need a "leave the leaves" campaign where if we placed leaves in the sidewalk planter box street scape area that is full of soil or even on lawns and gardens then the nutrients from the leaves can benefit and create healthy soil. It's also a benefit where we don't need to leaf blow leaves into a pile that just blows away a few days later and scatters, but we can help regenerate our community land together through education and awareness

008

Sacramento's urban forest is made up of an estimated one million trees, extending across public property, private land, residential yards, parks, natural areas, streetscapes, schools, and commercial businesses throughout the City.

Many residents consider Sacramento's urban forest to be its most notable characteristic and take pride in being from the "City of Trees." The tree canopy that shades the City today is the result of deep commitment from Sacramentans, past and present, who established the City's tree legacy. While many cities with lush urban forests were built in areas once covered by native forests or woodlands, Sacramento is primarily a natural grassland. Aside from the native oaks along rivers and creeks, nearly all the one million trees in Sacramento were individually selected and planted.

Sacramento's urban forest creates a more livable, healthy, and sustainable City. These trees cool our homes, roads, and neighborhoods; clean our air and water; create beautiful spaces for rest and recreation; improve public health; and absorb greenhouse gases. While the benefits trees provide can be difficult to quantify, the cumulative environmental benefit Sacramento's trees provide to the community are estimated to be over \$100 million annually¹.

009

Sacramento's urban forest is fundamental to the City's character and to its residents' quality of life; however, it faces several challenges. Uneven distribution of canopy cover across the City, management and infrastructure needs, pressure from development, and environmental threats worsened by climate change—such as extreme heat, drought, severe storms, and increases in pests—all require ongoing attention and action to ensure existing trees are preserved and new trees grow.

010

The trees owned and maintained by the City are a vital piece of the City's infrastructure and a valuable capital asset worth \$409 million. Like any piece of infrastructure, such as the roads on which we drive and bicycle and the pipes that bring water to our faucets, the urban forest supports the function of the City and requires a long-term plan to ensure its longevity and sustainability. The Sacramento Urban Forest Plan (SUFPP) provides a guiding vision and policy framework to ensure a thriving, growing urban forest that supports our community health and climate resilience goals now and for generations to come.

011

¹ City of Sacramento Urban Forest Resource Analysis (2018) (https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/Public-Works/Maintenance-Services/Urban-Forest-Master-Plan/SacramentoCA_ResourceAnalysis_20180522.pdf?la=en)

#007

Posted by **Tyler Wunsch** on **06/17/2024** at **11:58pm** [Comment ID: 2920] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

I also wanted to mention something that is so near and dear to many Sacramentan hearts and that is the tagline, "City of Trees." I bet you perked up with excitement and enthusiasm just seeing it in the subject line. I know I did while writing it. A city is many things and can be more than just one tagline. For example, Sacramento is The Farm to Fork Capital and it's The City of Trees. It's also the River City.

I would like to see "The City of Trees" put back on the water tower of which is was deleted without public approval. It was deleted without asking the community and has undermined and divided our city ever since. Instead of deleting it, space should have been created also to say "Farm to Fork." Hundreds of thousands of residents want to see it back on the water tower and for people passing through it was also a beautiful sight to see...

Please consider setting aside time, effort and dollars to put the City of Trees back on the water tower for a public engagement and civic pride opportunity.

#008

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **8:44pm** [Comment ID: 3047] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

suggest adding ' budgetary constraints, low priority in development review process'

#009

Posted by **Angela Miles** on **04/27/2024** at **9:41pm** [Comment ID: 2205] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 1, Disagree: -1

Who will ensure that City owned trees are not cut down in parks and parkways by the unhoused, we they have been cutting down City owned trees for fire wood. If the trees are critical infrastructures why have they not been stopped and who will protect future trees from being cut down?

#010

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/18/2024** at **4:04pm** [Comment ID: 2927] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Additional challenge: costs of maintenance and irrigation,

#011

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **10:27am** [Comment ID: 3148] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Add citation here

#012

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **10:11am** [Comment ID: 2212] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

There's many areas in city that has a lot of trees which enrich the environment and community, yet there's other places such as the River District that although it is an industrial area there's a lot more residents in the area and there are hardly any trees or shade.

PURPOSE OF THE SACRAMENTO URBAN FOREST PLAN

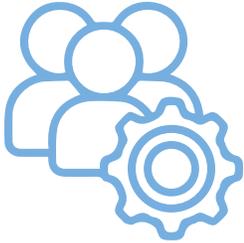


The SUFP is the City’s primary planning tool for the protection, expansion, maintenance, sustainability, and enhancement of Sacramento’s Urban Forest. The core of the SUFP is a set of goals, policies, implementation measures, and actions that set ambitious urban forestry targets, measure progress towards those targets, and support a healthy and sustainable urban forest.

The policy and program framework of the SUFP informed the development of the City’s 2040 General Plan and the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP), as related to the urban forest, and was integrated into these plans to serve as an implementation tool.



DEVELOPING THE SACRAMENTO URBAN FOREST PLAN



The SUFP was developed by the Department of Public Works and a consultant team in close collaboration with City staff across departments, the City’s Urban Forester, and community partners. The process began in 2017 and included research and analysis of existing urban forest programs, current conditions of City-owned trees, and status of City-wide canopy cover. The SUFP was further informed by community engagement efforts to learn the values and priorities of Sacramento community members and utilize their input to guide the creation of strategic goals, policies, and actions. Core components of the process to develop the SUFP are summarized in Table 1 on the next page. After an initial draft document was developed by the consultant team in 2019, Public Works staff began working internally to strengthen the recommendations of the SUFP and align them with the recommendations of the 2040 General Plan and CAAP. The following section describes the research, analysis, and community engagement activities used to develop the SUFP recommendations. The results of each step are further outlined in detail throughout the “Status of Sacramento’s Urban Forest” Chapter of this SUFP.

#013

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **4:33pm** [Comment ID: 2932] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Was there any equity/racial equity considerations that guided the creation of the plan in either approach or outcomes? If so, I would recommend included here explicitly.

Table 1 Research and analysis stages of developing the Sacramento Urban Forest Plan

Urban Forest Resource Analysis²	Urban Tree Canopy Assessment³	Community Engagement⁴
<p>To understand the structure, function, and value of Sacramento’s public trees, the City performed a resource analysis. The resource analysis assessed the City’s inventory of City-managed trees in conjunction with i-Tree Streets—a benefit-cost modeling software—to examine the composition, canopy cover, age, distribution, condition, and performance of public trees. This analysis also established benchmarks to inform management decisions and assessed the economic value public trees hold.</p> <p>014</p>	<p>To understand City-wide tree canopy, the City performed an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (UTC) using high-resolution aerial imagery and remote-sensing software. The assessment resulted in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps detailing the location and extent of existing tree canopy, on both public and private property. The UTC identifies canopy cover and potential plantable space by zoning type, park land, neighborhood, and community plan area. It also assesses change over time by comparing imagery from 2004 and 2016. The UTC establishes a baseline for monitoring overall tree canopy cover throughout the community, provides a foundation for developing community goals and urban forest policies, and creates a benchmark for measuring the success of long-term planning objectives.</p>	<p>To understand community values and provide residents and partners multiple opportunities to express their views, the development of the SUFP included the formation of and meetings for a Partner Advisory Committee (formerly called the Stakeholder Representative Group), numerous public meetings and workshops, a digital survey, and a series of pop-up booths at community events.</p>

² City of Sacramento Urban Forest Resource Analysis (2018) (https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/Public-Works/Maintenance-Services/Urban-Forest-Master-Plan/SacramentoCA_ResourceAnalysis_20180522.pdf?la=en)

³ City of Sacramento Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (2018) (<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/Public-Works/Maintenance-Services/Urban-Forest-Master-Plan/Copy-of-Sacramento-UTC-Assessment-20180515.pdf?la=en>)

⁴ Community Engagement efforts for developing this plan are outlined in [Appendices C, D, and E](#).

#014

Posted by **Angela Miles** on **04/27/2024** at **9:49pm** [Comment ID: 2206] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Out of the current trees inspected and counted how many trees belonged to the City? Of these trees were they kept up and maintained by the city on a normal basis? Was the City proactive in caring for the trees or reactive after multiple 311 reports? If we anticipate to add additional trees how should we expect them to be maintained?

#015

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **10:01pm** [Comment ID: 2901] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

For future assessments, a partnership with google to get census tract level high resolution data may save critical resources and planning overhead. More money could be allocated to getting trees planted/established.

<https://insights.sustainability.google/places/ChIJ-ZeDsnLGmoAR238ZdKpqH5I?hl=en-US>

<https://insights.sustainability.google/places/ChIJ-ZeDsnLGmoAR238ZdKpqH5I/download?hl=en-US>

#016

Posted by **Rani Isaac** on **05/07/2024** at **4:02pm** [Comment ID: 2312] - [Link](#)

Maintain

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Regarding Table 1 - The aerial assessment fails to note the health and level of disease in our private property neighborhood trees. Most have a fungus (black leaf spot) that is hard to fight and eliminate. Most important is not to leave fallen leaves on the ground or mulch them. This promotes the fungus.

#017

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/18/2024** at **3:54pm** [Comment ID: 2924] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This assessment is at least six years old and must be updated in order to accurately assess the current state of the canopy

#018

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **4:45pm** [Comment ID: 2934] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Here I would recommend providing more details and/or reference to how principles of inclusion informed the outreach and engagement strategy with careholders in these different formats. How were those communities/areas of the City engaged that are not benefiting from tree canopies? What were the strategies to reach those communities?

#019

Posted by **Shaun Kirby** on **04/26/2024** at **2:23pm** [Comment ID: 2195] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

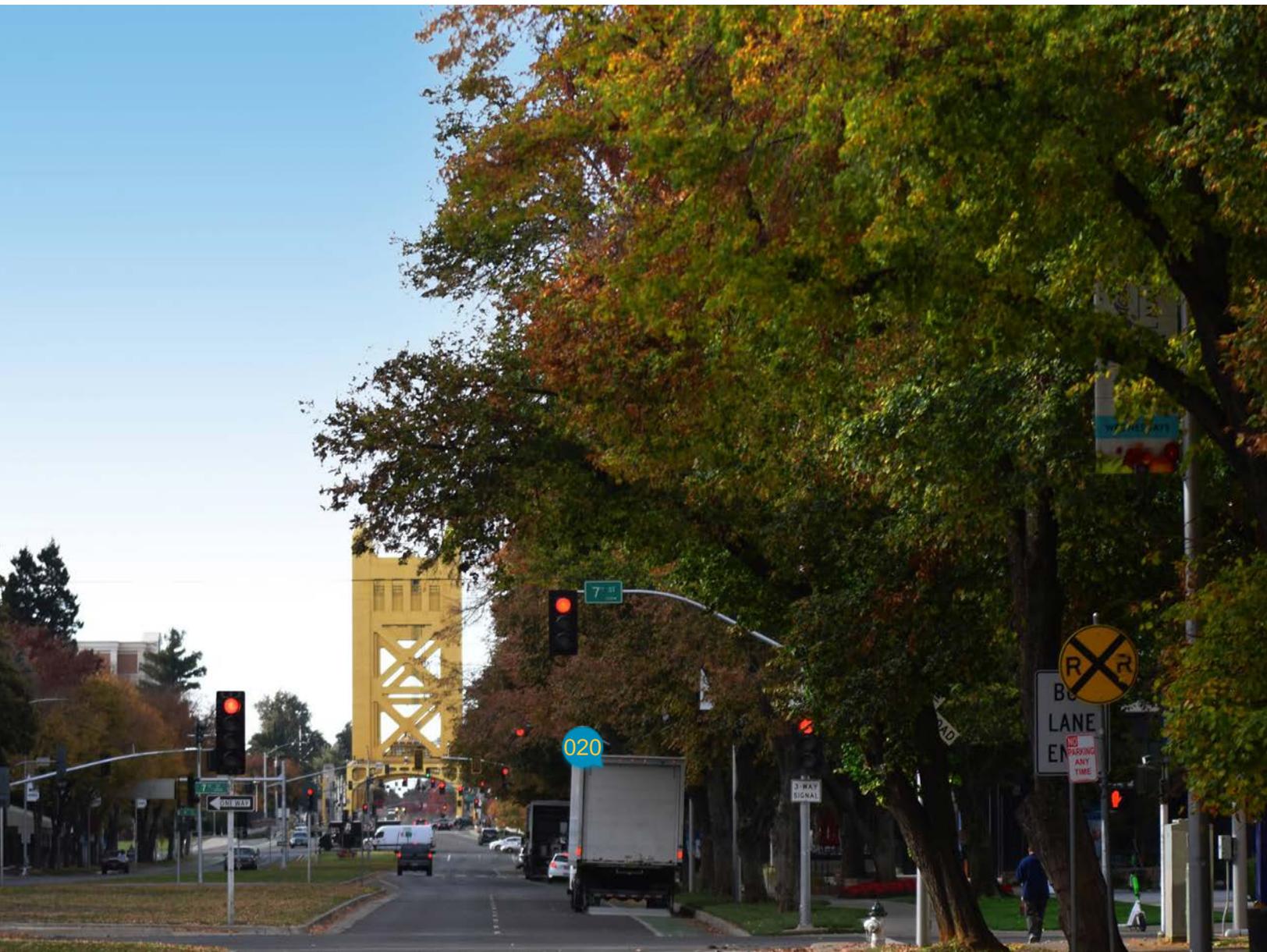
Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

I hope there will be a chance for the community to give input on what type of trees get planted. All of us who live in Downtown Sacramento know there are certain tree species that are incredibly unpleasant (stink). Like the Bradford Pear tree, which isn't even a long living tree.

WHAT IS AN URBAN FOREST?



“Urban forest” is a term used to describe the collection of trees found within the built environment. An urban forest is defined by its **urban setting** full of paved surfaces, buildings, parks, and large **human population**. Sacramento’s urban forest is primarily human-created – the result of tree planting and greening activities carried out by people – ⁰²¹with pockets of remnant native forest ecosystem. Given its location, an urban forest **requires regular maintenance** to keep roads, sidewalks, and parks clear and safe.



#020

Posted by **Angela Miles** on **04/27/2024** at **9:56pm** [Comment ID: 2207] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Who should be maintaining the upkeep of the trees? Can the City afford this? As of now, the city is lacking in certain areas (DISTRICT 2) with upkeep of the trees. How can we ensure that it will be maintained once more trees are added?

#021

Posted by **RAY TRETHERWAY** on **06/21/2024** at **10:27am** [Comment ID: 3118] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

I am suggesting an introduction to what an urban forest is to be more descriptive for the decision makers and general public.

Urban forests are a reflection of the values and aspirations of the community pies they serve.

90% of the trees that make up our urban forest are owned and managed by private property owners.

The best urban forest does not happen by chance. The best urban forest is the result of the collective will and resolve of a community to develop and implement policies, ordinances, budgets and best practices based upon research, studies and practical experiences and knowledge.

Protection of our existing mature tree canopy is imperative - this canopy is the frontline to ameliorating urban heat islands and harmful air pollution, as well as carbon storage and lowering summer energy consumption.

The best urban forest is one that has extensive canopy cover in all neighborhoods, healthy and low risk.

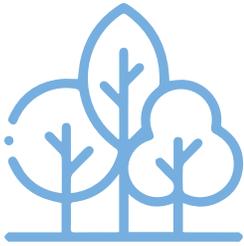
The best urban forest must be equitable

The best urban forest demonstrates positive returns on program investment's and return in community benefits.

The best urban forest values, protects and manages our native tree and natural areas.

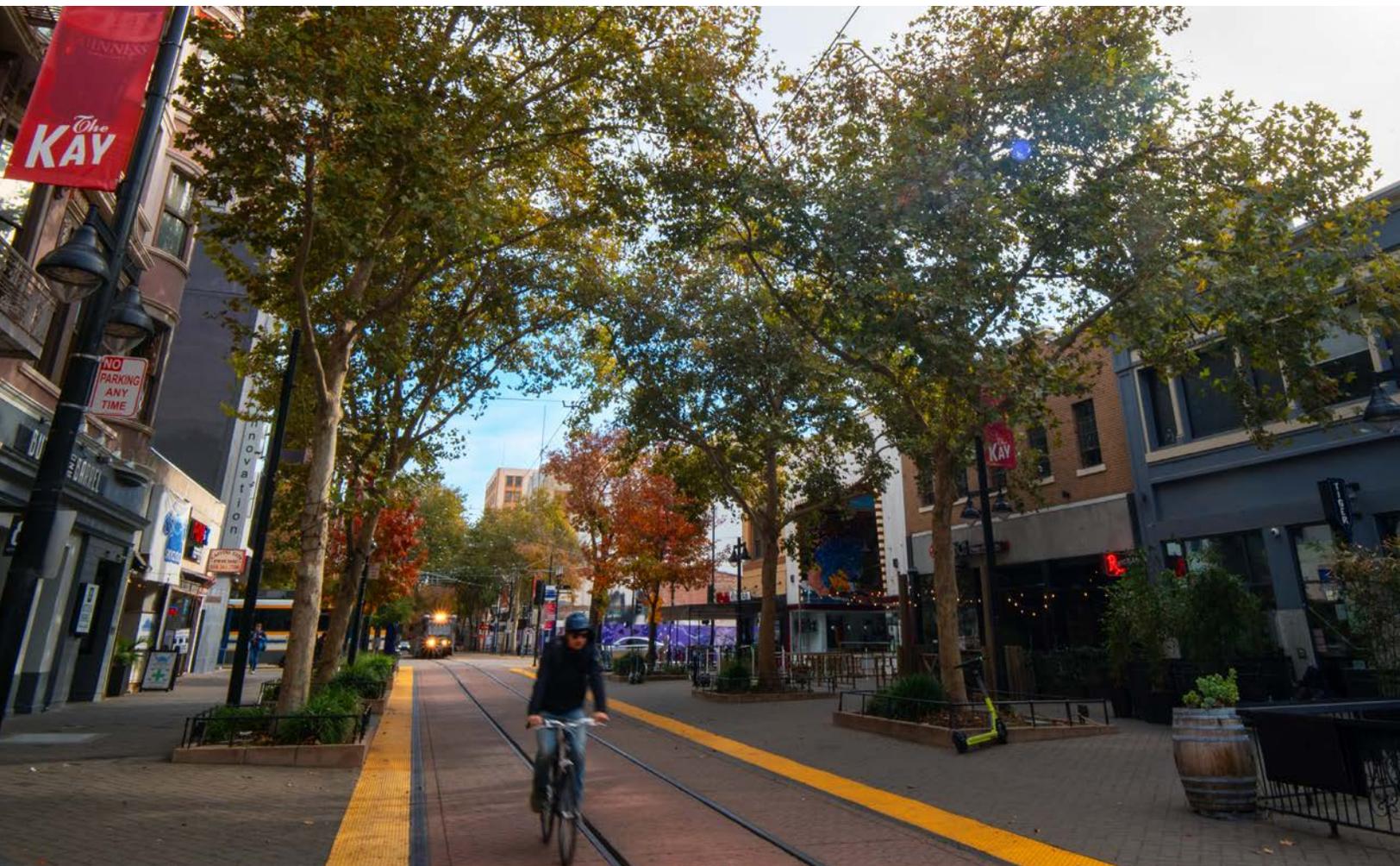
Community education, partnerships and engagement are the civic cornerstones to building the best urban forest.

WHY INVEST IN TREES?



Sacramento’s trees work hard around the clock to improve and enhance public health, the urban environment, and community quality of life. It is difficult to overstate the value of urban trees. There is no other investment that delivers the vast array of benefits as a healthy urban forest. A thriving urban forest is also an infrastructure investment that increases in aesthetic, functional, and economic value over time. With proper care and maintenance, trees’ value and community benefits increase as they age and grow. This section discusses the social, economic, and environmental benefits that Sacramento’s trees provide, and gives context to our urban forest’s role in providing protection from the impacts of extreme heat and climate change.

The tree benefits that Sacramentans identified as most important during community outreach are highlighted in green.



Benefits of Trees

Social benefits

Infuse beauty: The visual characteristics of trees and landscaping (e.g., form, color, texture) add to the aesthetics of urban spaces, provide character and a sense of place within neighborhoods.⁰²⁴

Strengthen communities: Trees enhance neighborhoods by strengthening ties between neighbors, fostering neighborhood pride, and promoting connection through the shared planting and caring for trees.⁰²³

Support education: Tree canopy cover near and around schools has been associated with higher standardized student test scores in reading and math⁵.

Improve physical and mental health: People living in neighborhoods with more tree canopy cover have been shown to have better overall health⁶, including lower rates of obesity, less chronic stress, lower blood pressure, lower rates of depression and anxiety, improved healing times from injury and illness, and fewer incidents of hospitalization from acute respiratory symptoms and heat related illnesses.

Calm traffic: The presence of trees can reduce driving speeds by narrowing the visual width of the roadway and signaling to drivers that people walking and bicycling are present.

Promote active transportation: Trees also support walking, bicycling, and use of public transit by making roadways and transit stops safer, cooler, and more comfortable.

Reduce violent and property crimes: Increased neighborhood tree canopy cover has been associated with a reduction in violent and property crimes as well as an overall improved sense of safety.⁷

022

⁵ Kuo, M., Klein, S. E., Browning, M. HEM., & Zaplatosch, J. "Greening for academic achievement: Prioritizing what to plant and where," Landscape and Urban Planning, Volume 206, 2021. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169204620314456>)

⁶ Ulmer, J. M., Wolf, K. L., Backman, D. R., Tretheway, R. L., Blain, C. J., O'Neil-Dunne, J. P., & Frank, L. D. (2016). "Multiple health benefits of urban tree canopy: The mounting evidence for a green prescription," Health & Place, Volume 42, 2016. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1353829216301332?via=percent3Dihub>)

⁷ Ogletree, S. S., Larson, L. R., Powell, R. B., White, D. L., & Brownlee, M. T. J. "Urban greenspace linked to lower crime risk across 301 major U.S. cities," Cities, Volume 131, 2022. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264275122003882>)

#022

Posted by **Angela Miles** on **04/27/2024** at **10:00pm** [Comment ID: 2208] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

If all these facts are true, why is there not more trees in District 2? We need all these positive factors in District 2.

#023

Posted by **Thea R Yacoub** on **06/20/2024** at **3:14pm** [Comment ID: 3083] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I can not overstate this, trees give neighborhoods vibrancy, life. I am writing this while in Land Park, surrounded by trees. They make me feel at home here.

#024

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **10:17am** [Comment ID: 2214] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

Will they be adding more trees to the communities that do not have as many trees? Such as industrial areas



Economic benefits

Lower electricity bills: Trees can reduce energy use for summer cooling by 20-40 percent⁸. Trees help buildings conserve energy by shading buildings from the sun, providing a wind break that slows the loss of heat from buildings, and shading air conditioning units so they run more efficiently. This benefit is anticipated to significantly increase over time as extreme heat impacts grow in the coming decades.

Increase property values: Mature, healthy trees can increase property values for both residential and commercial properties.

Boost commercial activity: Shoppers tend to spend more time and money in commercial districts with mature, healthy trees⁹.

Create jobs: In 2009, urban forestry supported 60,067 jobs in California resulting in \$3.3 billion in individual income¹⁰.

Promote productivity: Employees with views of nature are often more productive, happier, and healthier¹¹.

⁸ Monitoring conducted by the California Institute of Energy Efficiency and Sacramento Municipal Utility District in the summer of 1991 indicated these savings are achievable. (https://www.aceee.org/files/proceedings/1992/data/papers/SS92_Panel5_Paper28.pdf)

⁹ Wolf, K.L. "Community Economics - A Literature Review," Green Cities: Good Health, 2010. College of the Environment, University of Washington. (https://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Print_Economics.html)

¹⁰ Urban forestry jobs impact (<https://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/research/economic-development-jobs-impact>)

¹¹ Berto, R. "Exposure to Restorative Environments Helps Restore Attentional Capacity," Journal of Environmental Psychology, Volume 25, 2005. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0272494405000381>)

Environmental benefits 025

Lower temperatures: Shade from large, healthy, mature trees reduces the amount of sunlight that is absorbed and stored by impervious surfaces, such as roads and buildings. When temperatures are high, trees release water vapor from their leaves into the air through a process called transpiration, which cools down both the plant and the surrounding area. Through shade and transpiration, trees lower ambient air temperature and reduce urban heat island effects.

Improve air quality: Trees clean the air by absorbing harmful gaseous pollutants like carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and nitrous oxide. Trees also capture airborne particulate matter such as dust, ash, pollen, and smoke on their leaf surfaces; turn carbon dioxide into fresh oxygen through photosynthesis; and reduce ozone formation¹² by shading surfaces and reducing air temperatures.

Reduce flooding: During storm events, trees intercept rainfall in their canopies and tree roots increase the amount of water soil can hold. Rainfall then evaporates from the leaves or slowly soaks into the ground, which slows and reduces and slows stormwater runoff and limits sediment and pollutants from entering waterways¹³.

Carbon sequestration: Trees sequester greenhouse gases that trap and retain heat in the atmosphere and cause climate change. Carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, is stored in tree trunks, branches, leaves, and roots through photosynthesis. The amount of carbon that can be stored is directly related to the size of the tree, meaning larger trees store more carbon¹⁴. Sacramento's CAAP identifies carbon sequestration through expansion of the urban forest as providing approximately 2 percent of the total greenhouse gas reductions possible by 2030.

Support wildlife: Trees provide critical 027 habitat, food, and shelter for birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fish, and other aquatic species and create wildlife corridors that support migration and preservation of species. 026

¹² Shade from trees in parking lots reduce surface asphalt temperatures as much as 36 degrees F. The cooler parking lot temperatures reduce ozone concentrations and hydrocarbon emissions (fuel evaporation) from parked cars. (<https://extension.psu.edu/green-parking-lots-mitigating-climate-change-and-the-urban-heat-island>)

¹³ Xiao, Q., McPherson, E. G., Simpson, J. R., & Ustin, S. L. "Rainfall Interception by Sacramento's Urban Forest," Journal of Arboriculture, Volume 24, 1998. (https://www.fs.usda.gov/psw/publications/mcpherson/psw_1998_mcpherson005_xiao.pdf)

¹⁴ Gomez-Baggethun, E., & Barton, D. N. "Classifying and valuing ecosystem services for urban planning," Ecological Economics, Volume 86, 2013. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S092180091200362X>)

#025

Posted by **Jordan Hosein-Hedmann** on **06/20/2024** at **12:53pm** [Comment ID: 3072] - [Link](#)
Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Please plant trees that help to balance the pollen blooms in the Mid-Town region (<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/news/how-plant-gender-impacts-your-allergies/#:~:text=Male%20plants%20produce%20and%20disperse,pollen%20and%20allergies%20for%20decades.>) This will help reduce allergy problems, increasing outdoor activity for those with allergies to participate in community activities, events and so on.

#026

Posted by **Angela Miles** on **04/27/2024** at **10:06pm** [Comment ID: 2209] - [Link](#)
Suggestion

Agree: 7, Disagree: 0

Trees should be planted and aligned on the bike trail for shade for the bicyclers. This is needed during Sacramento Summers.

#027

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **3:57pm** [Comment ID: 2276] - [Link](#)
Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

This concept is key to the report. A loss of bird life is due to the planting of non-native trees, which are a food desert for birds. We should take care not to plant trees from locations like Australia and Brazil, which are being promoted as climate resilient, when our own native oak trees are well adapted to no summer water and hot summers.

Benefits of Public Trees Measured

Trees benefit Sacramento in many ways that cannot be measured, such as beauty and connection to nature. Yet, many of the benefits from trees are quantifiable. Utilizing iTree software¹⁵, the benefits that our public trees return to the City have been estimated and are depicted in the figure below.

028 These calculations are a snapshot that account for City-owned trees in the City inventory from 2018, or just under 10 percent of all trees in the City. Note that this does not include all City trees as that estimate is about 100,000 as of 2023 – the inventory requires consistent updates as trees are planted and removed. Based on the trees identified in this inventory snapshot, if the environmental benefits of all trees in the City were estimated, including the additional 90 percent of trees on private property, the total community benefit of the City-wide urban forest would be about ten times greater.

- > **19%** Canopy cover – total surface **031** area of the entire City of Sacramento shaded by trees
- > **1,000,000** Estimated number of trees in the entire City
- > **87,324** Number of City-maintained trees in the City inventory
- > **\$408,000,000** Capital value of Sacramento’s public trees (Cost to replace canopy with trees of equivalent species, size, and condition)
- > **65,000,000** gallons Stormwater diverted from the drainage system annually
- > **6,485** tons Carbon dioxide captured by City trees annually
- > **21.4** tons Pollutants removed from the air by City trees annually
- > **\$1,200,000** Annual savings from reduced electricity and natural gas usage for heating and cooling
- > **\$7,700,000** Property value increase provided by public trees annually

Cumulative benefits to the community from these environmental services value nearly \$10.5 million annually. When the annual investment of \$8.2 million in maintenance and care for these public trees is considered, there is an **030** equal net benefit to the community of about \$2.3 million dollars. In other words, for every \$1 spent on public tree maintenance and care, the community receives \$1.28 in benefits – a positive return on investment **032** **033**

¹⁵ iTree is a peer-reviewed software tool developed by the U.S. Forest Service that can quantify the ecosystem services of urban trees. (<https://www.itreetools.org>)

#028

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **10:54am** [Comment ID: 3149] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The first two sentences in this paragraph read awkwardly. Consider rephrasing / tightening up this language to better convey the point.

#029

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **11:01am** [Comment ID: 3150] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The paragraph above indicates that these calculations account for city-owned trees, but these first two stats include all trees in the city, public and private. Consider revising to reduce confusion.

#030

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **6:26pm** [Comment ID: 2876] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

i-Tree benefit estimates do not include many widely acknowledged benefits of trees. This number should be seen as a lower bound, and this type of accounting likely dramatically underestimates the true financial value of the urban forest.

#031

Posted by **Jordan Hosein-Hedmann** on **06/20/2024** at **12:55pm** [Comment ID: 3073] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Please have an equitable approach to where trees are planted and help create shade not only in parks across South-Sacramento but in neighborhoods as well! Especially along sidewalks leading to Sac-RT busiest bus line-stops. This can help increase ride-quality for people taking the bus and encourage people to start taking the bus as the walking portion of the trip will be shaded/ projected especially in hot summer months

#032

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **11:03am** [Comment ID: 3151] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

These figures need citations.

#033

Posted by **Angela Miles** on **04/28/2024** at **3:55pm** [Comment ID: 2210] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

District 2 has trees that have been in need of maintenance for years. Still unmaintained. It is my suggestion that you start in D2 and work from there. I also suggest that maintenance be done in district 2 just as it would be done in McKinley Park, Miller Park, and William Land Park.

Extreme Heat and Climate Change Adaptation

The effects of climate ⁰³⁵ change are already being felt in Sacramento with impacts to public health, ecosystems, and the local economy. Scientists project that climate-driven impacts will increase significantly throughout the century.

Specific impacts of climate change expected in Sacramento include:



Increased temperature

- > increased number of extreme heat days
- > increased incidents of heat-related illness and death
- > growing urban heat island effect
- > heat-related disruption to energy generation and distribution
- > increased cost of cooling
- > decreased safety and comfort of ⁰³⁶ transportation on high heat days



Changes in precipitation

- > more frequent flooding and extreme storm events
- > increased frequency and length of droughts
- > decreased groundwater supply



Worsening air quality

- > more frequent regional wildfires that negatively impact water, soil, and air quality

⁰³⁴ These impacts will not be evenly distributed across the City as climate change compounds the effects of historical lack of investment in trees and areas where development patterns were not planned for tree inclusion, greater exposure to pollution, and other existing inequities, thus disproportionately affecting people of color and low-income communities.

The City has recently taken several critical steps to advance long-standing efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including the development of the CAAP, the City's 2021 Climate Implementation Work Plan, 2020 Mayors' Commission on Climate Change Report, and the 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration¹⁶. Both the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change Report and the CAAP identify urban tree canopy as centrally important to sequestering carbon, building resilience to heat and air quality impacts, and improving community health.

The CAAP is the City's overarching strategy to address climate change and includes targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as specific adaptation measures. The CAAP identifies clear goals for urban forestry and this Urban Forest Plan includes policies and implementation measures that were developed to support and achieve the CAAP targets. The CAAP urban forestry goal is ⁰³⁷

When comparing the expected impacts of climate change to the benefits of trees, the rationale ⁰³⁸ for the prioritization of trees is clear. Trees are a unique, multi-benefit approach to help decrease temperatures, clean the air, protect residents from negative health impacts, make outdoor recreation safer, make active transportation and transit use safer and more comfortable, and protect against flooding while increasing groundwater infiltration.

¹⁶ The City's Office of Climate Action & Sustainability webpage links to key policy documents, recent meetings, and ongoing initiatives. (<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/climateaction>)

#034

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **11:06am** [Comment ID: 3153] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This is a long sentence. Consider breaking up / revising to better convey the point.

#035

Posted by **Tyler Wunsch** on **06/18/2024** at **12:01am** [Comment ID: 2921] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I am working on a sustainable community initiative to light up the dead and dry sidewalk streetscape natural planter boxes between the sidewalks and the streets, which some people call planter strips, others call hell strips, and what I call Front Yard Farms. I am trying to build out a pollinator-friendly corridor from my house at 17/18th and P Street and Fremont Park. I think it's super important to prioritize trees for the urban canopy and mother nature's A/C decreasing the concrete heat island effect, but it's also wonderful to light the spaces up with native plants, drought-resistant and drought-tolerant succulents, cacti, and aloes, and really whatever anyone wants to plant. I rent at my place, and I asked the landlord and she gave the green light go ahead which then was transformed into this. I am getting buy-in from neighbors and businesses and building out a new garden now. Here's a picture from Instagram of my place before and after... Just wanted to let you know and maybe we can work on a wider city initiative for these spaces to add beautification, civic pride, community, and sustainability.

#036

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **11:05am** [Comment ID: 3152] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

What is 'active transportation'?

#037

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **11:09am** [Comment ID: 3154] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This must be a typo.

#038

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/18/2024** at **3:55pm** [Comment ID: 2925] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The referenced language is not a goal. It's a description of why trees need to be

prioritized.

#039

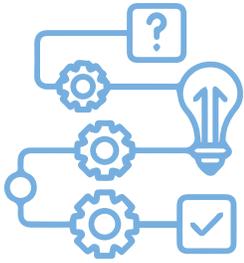
Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **10:22am** [Comment ID: 2215] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

All of these are vital issues, however planting more trees can reduce these problems. They can help keep area cool during increased temperatures, can help decrease wildfires and produce better air quality with their oxygen.

CHALLENGES AND ISSUES



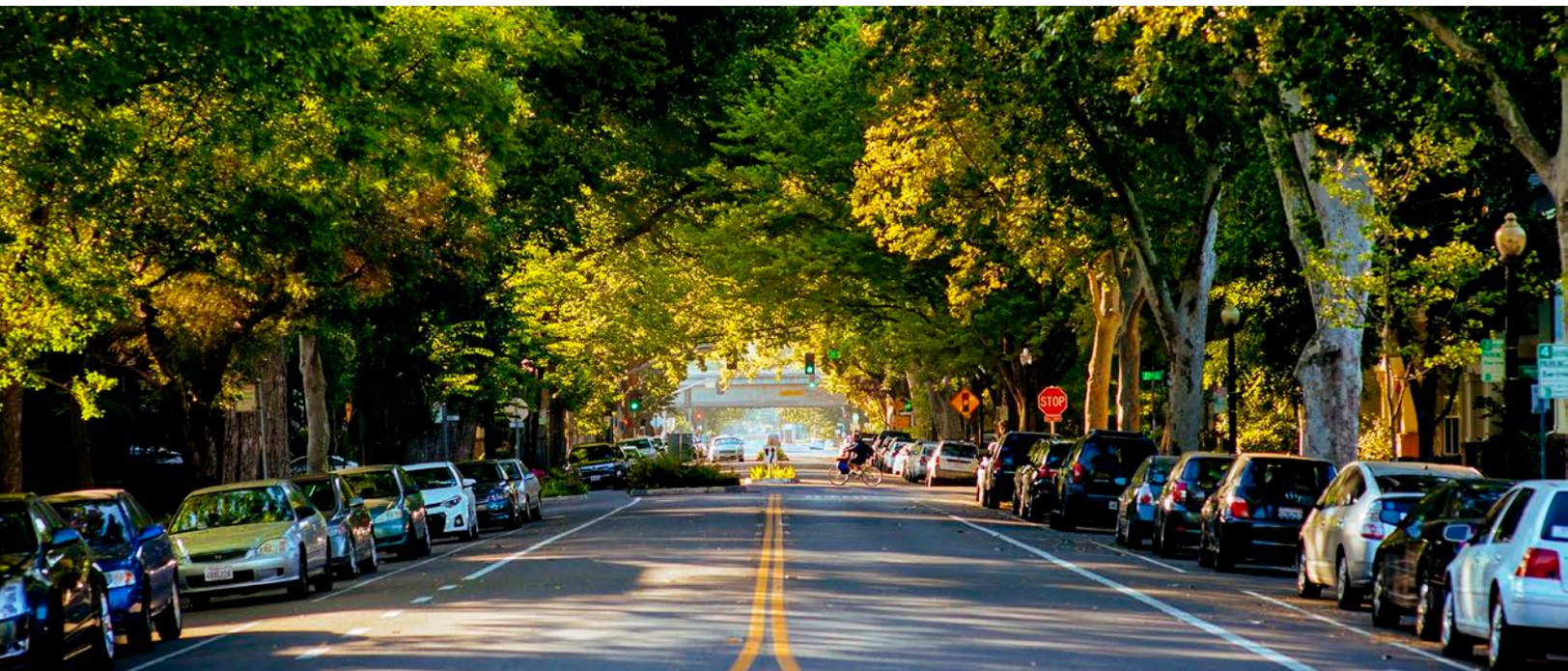
Sacramento’s urban forest provides essential benefits and services to the City and its residents; however, those benefits are not guaranteed without ongoing attention and action. Since Sacramento’s urban forest was primarily planted by humans in urbanized settings, the urban forest requires ongoing human intervention to sustain and preserve growth, optimize benefits, and meet established safety and economic goals. Sacramento’s urban forest is currently facing several challenges; without intervention, these issues may threaten the long-term health and success of the City’s population. The most significant challenges and issues facing the urban forest are summarized in this section. For a more detailed discussion of each topic, please refer to the “Status of Sacramento’s Urban Forest” section.

The primary challenges and issues facing Sacramento’s urban tree canopy include:

- 1) Uneven distribution of canopy and benefits
- 2) Lack of awareness and compliance with City ordinances
- 3) Pressure from planned development
- 4) Dispersed maintenance and management responsibilities
- 5) Demands on City resources and responsibilities
- 6) Emergent environmental threats

042

043



#040

Posted by **Virginia Jameson** on **06/12/2024** at **1:00pm** [Comment ID: 2795] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

There is an additional challenge that may or may not be covered by one of these that are listed. One of my neighbors just cut down a large, healthy tree because his insurance company threatened to cancel his property insurance if he didn't, I assume because of perceived risks related to trees falling down. How can we protect our tree canopy and the city's investment from a proliferation of threats like this from insurance companies?

#041

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **11:17am** [Comment ID: 3155] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

the city's urban tree canopy

#042

Posted by **David Howell Smart** on **05/01/2024** at **8:43am** [Comment ID: 2227] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Falling trees and maintenance of trees
Dutch Elm disease

#043

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/18/2024** at **4:01pm** [Comment ID: 2926] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This challenge needs its own number, as it is foundational:

7) Life Cycle costs of tree canopy can be crippling to disadvantaged residents. Those costs are challenging for everyone. Further, the tree work community in Sacramento is unregulated and tree care standards are not enforced by any agency. The canopy value of a major shade tree can be destroyed in an afternoon by a "landscape service" that has no training or certification in tree canopy maintenance. Further, unmaintained canopy trees are more dangerous.

Uneven distribution of canopy and benefits ⁰⁴⁴

In 2017, Sacramento was identified as the greenest City in the United States according to TreePedia, a project conducted by MIT's Senseable City Lab¹⁷. While large-stature trees along streets in the Central City and surrounding neighborhoods garnered this recognition by providing an impressive eye-level perspective of greenery, Sacramento is not a "green" City in every neighborhood. Canopy cover—measured by the amount of land covered by trees when viewed from above—varies wildly from one area of the City to another. Sacramento's average tree canopy is 19.1 percent with canopy in residential neighborhoods varying from 43 percent to 12 percent. This discrepancy in access to canopy and green space leads to disparities in who receives the social, economic, and environmental benefits of trees.

The City's canopy is growing, but the current rate is not enough to achieve the ambitious goals of this Plan or to create equity without intervention. Every zoning type, planning area, council district, and major park has seen an increase in canopy cover over the past two decades. This growth, while historic and important, is not aggressive enough to achieve canopy cover goals across the City. Specific focus needs to be given to planting and maintaining trees in neighborhoods that are below the target canopy ranges, starting with the lowest canopy areas and neighborhoods with the most vulnerable populations. ⁰⁴⁵

Lack of awareness and compliance with City ordinances ⁰⁵⁰

The City has both a tree protection ordinance¹⁸ and a parking lot shade ordinance¹⁹. These ordinances establish policies that protect large and medium trees on private property and require 50 percent shade cover in newly built or improved parking lots. City staff and stakeholders expressed, in community engagement meetings, that most private property owners are not aware of these City ordinances and that compliance is primarily enforced through community reporting. The City only becomes aware of private tree removals if reported or by the filing of a permit application. This makes it difficult to protect against prohibited tree removals. Additionally, the results of the UTC assessment found that only 5.9 percent of parking lots in the City achieve 50 percent shading, a result driven by both issues with ordinance compliance and legacy parking lots constructed before the ordinance was effective. ⁰⁴⁷

Increasing canopy cover is dependent on both preserving trees - especially mature shade trees - and planting new trees. It will be difficult for the City to protect the existing canopy if residents are not aware of the regulations that limit when trees can be removed on private property, and without enforcement of these maintenance and protection policies. ⁰⁴⁸

¹⁷ <https://senseable.mit.edu/treepedia/cities/sacramento>

¹⁸ Sacramento City Code Title 12.56

¹⁹ Sacramento City Code Title 17.612.040

#044

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **4:39pm** [Comment ID: 2933] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Here acknowledging the historical and current realities as to why there is uneven distribution of canopy would be important. Demonstrating how this plan tries to address inequities that burden those part of the City, and its impact on communities of color, vulnerable, etc., would be important.

#045

Posted by **Cristina Navarro** on **05/03/2024** at **1:57pm** [Comment ID: 2246] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 5, Disagree: 0

River District has some of the lowest tree canopy covers in all of Sacramento. An equitable approach to future tree plantings is the best way to go. Starting with communities with the lowest tree canopy and then moving to maintaining existing tree canopies.

#046

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **6:55pm** [Comment ID: 2877] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Is there a discussion of the rate of growth somewhere? How was it determined that the canopy is growing? How fast? The information in this plan seems dated.

#047

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **11:34am** [Comment ID: 3157] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I question whether this statement is accurate. This suggests that a non-native tree (e.g., an American Elm, which is not native to California -- and many American Elms do exist in the city's urban tree canopy) would not be protected by these ordinances.

#048

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **12:26pm** [Comment ID: 3158] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

If it doesn't do so already, the city code should be amended to require that, prior to the closing of any real estate transaction: 1) real estate brokers must provide copies and/or written summaries of these ordinances to buyers and 2) buyers must sign an affidavit acknowledging that they've received a copy of and understand these

ordinances, as well as the penalties for disregarding them.

#049

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **4:10pm** [Comment ID: 2277] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

An obvious example is the Costco parking lot at Cal Expo. The lot has only small and many dying trees. The lot was planted with trees many years ago, but has not been kept up.

#050

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:02pm** [Comment ID: 2534] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Good discussion of protecting existing tree canopy. My sense is that a lot of private protected trees are cut down without permits. If licensed arborists are cutting down these trees without obtaining permits, are actions taken against their licenses? I understand there are unlicensed arborists out there as well. Is the lack of awareness only on the part of the property owner, or are there licensed arborists that are actually unaware of the permit requirements for private protected trees? That would be hard to believe.

#051

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **11:25am** [Comment ID: 3156] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

It would be helpful here if a summary of those goals were provided, or even a reference to the section of the plan where those goals are articulated.

Pressure from planned development

Sacramento is among the fastest growing communities in the state and is projected to experience significant growth over the next 20 years. City policies support accommodating much of this growth through infill development, especially in the Central City, older commercial corridors, and in transit-oriented development. ⁰⁵² ⁰⁶⁰

While higher densities and infill development do not preclude trees and trees shading, policies and design standards can help ensure that trees are preserved and incorporated throughout the design process and are afforded the above- and below-ground growing space needed to reach maturity, all while minimizing conflicts with other infrastructure (e.g., roads, sidewalks, streetlights, solar panels, and utilities). ⁰⁵⁷

Strategic review and updating of community development and design standards, as well as monitoring development to achieve canopy cover goals, is necessary to ensure that neighborhoods and business districts include trees that can grow to maturity and provide canopy cover. ⁰⁶¹

Demands on City resources and responsibility

Within the City, staff from a variety of departments play a role in managing the urban forest and are responsible for the planting, maintenance, and care of trees on City property and right-of-way and ensuring compliance with relevant City codes.

Funding for urban forestry is not increasing at the same rate as costs for maintenance of City-managed trees. The City is currently not able to achieve the recommended five-year cycle for maintenance of all City trees. ⁰⁵³ ⁰⁵⁴ ⁰⁵⁶ Increasing maintenance intervals is not a viable option as it increases the risks of decay, deadwood, and heavy limbs, thereby increasing potential risks and reducing the opportunities to identify health issues – resulting in potential liability to the City.

With a focus on funding tree maintenance, funding to regularly update tree inventories has declined resulting in a backlog of tree entries. Additionally, many City parks are older facilities built without appropriate irrigation that best serves needs for trees. ⁰⁵⁹ Reducing lawn watering in times of drought also impacted trees. Identifying ⁰⁵⁵ necessary funding to install or retrofit irrigation to provide appropriate watering to trees presents significant challenges for canopy expansion in parks.

For the City to successfully implement the goals, policies, and programs identified in this plan additional resources will be required, particularly for ongoing maintenance of an urban forest that needs to nearly double its current size to reach canopy goals. ⁰⁵⁸

#052

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:05pm** [Comment ID: 2535] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Suggested edit - add residential neighborhoods. "City policies accommodate support much of this growth through infill development, especially in the Central City, older commercial corridors, residential neighborhoods, and in transit oriented development."

Why: The Missing Middle Housing proposal will allow multi-unit infill housing on all single-family and residential city lots up to FAR 1, but Transit Oriented Development will double that density to FAR 2 in certain neighborhoods, including several with 30% tree canopy (Elmhurst, East Sacramento, Land Park). A great portion of the city's tree canopy is on land slated for development. Basically this is infill everywhere.

#053

Posted by **Sarah Huchel** on **04/30/2024** at **8:37am** [Comment ID: 2224] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I'm not sure this makes sense -- why would increasing maintenance levels result in these things?

Reply by **Sarah Huchel** on **04/30/2024** at **8:38am** [Comment ID: 2225] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Oops, misread "intervals" as "levels." Need more coffee, nevermind!

#054

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **12:34pm** [Comment ID: 3159] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Do you not mean "decreasing"?

#055

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **6:57pm** [Comment ID: 2879] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Drought tolerant species must be prioritized for sites where irrigation cannot be consistently applied.

#056

Posted by **Seth Henderson** on **06/12/2024** at **9:57am** [Comment ID: 2793] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Funding our city's canopy development is worth the risk. The cooling and wildlife benefits are only a portion of the overall success. This would create more jobs for the city and private maintenance industries.

#057

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **6:56pm** [Comment ID: 2878] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Preservation of old trees and proper planting of new trees with development is absolutely essential. Development cannot be prevented without severe negative effects on the city, but without management, development will destroy the existing tree canopy. Planning should include guidelines about mature tree size and canopy coverage, not merely number of trees. Ensuring sufficient root space is also essential if trees are to reach their mature size.

#058

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **12:40pm** [Comment ID: 3160] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

What about imposing some type of urban tree canopy development impact fee to provide the necessary funding?

#059

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **4:16pm** [Comment ID: 2278] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Ideally trees should be watered separately from lawns. That means when trees are planted, they should have their own watering system that will deep water them, and less frequently than the lawns. This could potentially save money long term.

#060

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/19/2024** at **12:38pm** [Comment ID: 3043] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Older residential areas are being impacted by urban style, higher density housing with significant trees being destroyed in the neighborhoods

#061

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:06pm** [Comment ID: 2536] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Total agreement. "Strategic review" is absolutely necessary. The UFP must be articulated with community development plans and Title 17 Planning and Design standards. In addition, due to the number of ministerial approvals increasingly being mandated by the state and the city, there is a need for objective design standards that will protect trees and help reach the appropriate canopy goals (Strategies 1.1.1.A. and 2.3). Without objective standards, tree protection and planting area is not part of the ministerial plan approval process. After a ministerial project is approved, a tree removal permit is applied for. At that point, the tree or trees are in the way of the project.

One idea is an objective standard of a minimum square foot area for existing trees or for planting trees. Developers need to be a part of Strategy 1.1.1.A. to meet the canopy goals for each type of development so that should be part of the standards, based on development type (residential, commercial, industrial).

One radical suggestion is where ministerial review is not mandated by state law, if tree removals of private protected trees or city trees are part of the project, ministerial review should not be available - standard design review process must be employed. Planning then has the discretion to work with the developer, tree removals are part of holistic project approval, and there is a role for Urban Forestry in the planning process. However, this may not work where ministerial reviews are state-mandated; thus the need for objective design standards.

Tree protection is needed in streamlined approvals: There are state laws that will not allow infill development to be subject to objective design standards if 800 square foot units cannot be built (SB 9, and the ADU law). Expect the push for streamlined approvals to continue. - SB 423 (Ch. 778, Stats. 2023) mandates ministerial reviews in multifamily housing developments, and SB 684 (Ch. 783, Stats. 2023) mandates ministerial reviews for 10 homes or less in multi-family zones on urban lots under 5 acres. SB-1123 would extend this requirement to single-family zones and is moving through the Legislature - it was passed by the Senate and is now in the Assembly.

Standard discretionary review: Allows for discretion, working with developer to accommodate existing trees or space to plant trees. Standard design review and flexible design standards for tree protection and tree planting is a proposed element of Missing Middle Housing. However, there is a push for ministerial review from some members of the Planning Commission and City Council, if not at the outset, then after a year or two, so we will need to look ahead.

Dispersed maintenance and management responsibilities

The responsibility for the urban forest is shared by many. About 90 percent of Sacramento’s urban forest exists on property that is managed by private owners and public agencies other than the City of Sacramento. Each agency and property owner has different goals, priorities, and available resources, making tree management oversight complex and, at times, a competing priority. There is also a gap in technical expertise, particularly with private property owners - around proper maintenance practices such as irrigation and pruning.

This dispersed ownership structure results in varying levels of investment, maintenance, planting, and care. Reaching canopy cover goals City-wide requires the support and investment of each of these parties as they control most of the City-wide urban forest. The City’s direct role is primarily on City-managed right-of-way, street trees, and other City property. Partnership, education, and outreach is required to achieve the goals of this Plan, with strong collaboration between the City, other public agencies, private businesses, community-based organizations, and the public.

062

Emergent environmental threats

Over the past century, average maximum temperatures in California have increased between 1.6°F and 2.5°F, and temperatures are expected to continue to rise due to climate change impacts on California. These changes are projected to bring more frequent, lasting, and intense periods of heatwaves and drought as well as increasingly intense winter storms. Drought conditions will weaken trees without proper irrigation and intense storms will affect weakened trees with increased incidents of limb drop and felling. Finding additional water and funding for irrigation improvements will present a challenge. Care needs to be given to drought-related watering restrictions, drought messaging, and water meter implementation to ensure that water-saving measures do not adversely affect trees. The City will also need to continue to critically examine its tree palette and plan for a hotter, drier future.

A new invasive species afflicts California approximately every 40 days, and the Sacramento region has been identified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as one of the top five regions at risk for the establishment of invasive pests and diseases. These new threats have the potential to cause significant damage to the urban forest and pose a substantial risk to tree benefits. Frequent monitoring and early detection of signs and symptoms of disease development and pest infestation will provide the City with the best chance to sustain a healthy canopy into the future. Best practices recommend that no single species represents greater than 10 percent of the total tree population and that no single genus represents more than 20 percent. Increasing diversity in trees planted to meet this standard would increase City-wide resilience to new pests and diseases.

#062

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/18/2024** at **4:17pm** [Comment ID: 2928] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

If the urban tree canopy is infrastructure, then responsibility for it, like any infrastructure, is shared between the City and other entities. The City must be visionary in considering the canopy as infrastructure. This includes looking at cost-sharing, regulatory changes, and other means to maximize the maintenance of this valuable infrastructure.

#063

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:28pm** [Comment ID: 3140] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I think this is a good place to add the dispersed maintenance and management responsibilities within publicly maintained trees as a barrier as well, for example, only having 1 staff, an arborist, dedicated to trees in the Parks Department which has 30,000 trees, and removes 240 trees a year. Collaboration will be important to achieve the goals of the plan, but also a balance of management responsibility and funding for public trees.

#064

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/01/2024** at **1:43pm** [Comment ID: 2232] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

I wish Parks would consider replacing the hundreds of trees lost to the storms in recent years. Also I wish Parks would consider a less austere aesthetic to their landscaping and consider that underbrush and shrubs are best practices for the local wildlife and for our enjoyment. It seems that the mantra is "anything below 6 feet must go", including tree branches.

#065

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **4:36pm** [Comment ID: 2279] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

There should be a licensing/certificate program provided by the city for tree pruning. A great deal of damage is done through improper pruning to private property trees by people who aren't trained to properly prune trees, for example, topping trees.

#066

Posted by **Erik Taylor** on **06/25/2024** at **12:43pm** [Comment ID: 3161] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This could be partially addressed through education. Providing easy-to-follow literature and diagrams to homeowners via mailers that describe proper pruning techniques, as well as some of the benefits of a healthy urban tree canopy, including increased property values.

#067

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **4:41pm** [Comment ID: 2280] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Please do not neglect to consider the importance of native trees as keystone species that support the native bird population. There is a push to plant trees from Australia and South America, with the assumption they will be better adapted to future heat and drought. This doesn't take into account the importance of native tree species which provide food (caterpillars) for nestling birds and habitat, which non native trees do not provide.

Reply by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **6:59pm** [Comment ID: 2880] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Ecological research shows that non-native trees do provide habitat value to native species, albeit not always at the same level as native trees. Non-native trees can be a part of a healthy, biodiverse urban forest, as long as native trees are also prioritized where they are appropriate.

#068

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **10:34am** [Comment ID: 2216] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Each district from Sacramento should be able to get together with public and private owners to go over standard rules and regulations, that way everyone can be on the same page.

Key Recommendations 069



#069

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **4:49pm** [Comment ID: 2936] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I recommend that there is one explicit recommendation of 1) a committment to equity/racial equity and 2) embedding an equity/racial equity lens into the plan

The SUIFP provides a long term vision and strategy for the city’s trees focused on these key recommendations, summarized below and on the following pages. For a more detailed discussion of specific policy recommendations and implementation measures, please refer to the policy and program framework section.

1) Trees and _____

Trees should be addressed as critical infrastructure that helps support climate adaptation and targeted environmental and public health goals. The co-benefits of trees **and** other essential community planning efforts can be achieved through strategic planning and policy: trees and development, trees and density, trees and active transportation, trees and solar, trees and energy management, trees and public health.

2) City of Trees for All

The SUIFP calls for increasing City-wide tree canopy from 19 percent to 35 percent by 2045. To reach that goal, the combined efforts of the City, other agencies, and the public will need to plant and maintain an additional ~25,000 trees per year. Targeting planting efforts to the neighborhoods with the lowest canopy levels, highest heat exposure, and most socio-economically vulnerable residents will ensure that Sacramento can be the City of Trees for all residents and the benefits of trees are shared equitably.

3) Protect Trees

Reaching the canopy goal will require protecting existing, healthy trees and ensuring that young trees are able to grow to express their full potential canopy. Sacramento will not be able to reach 35 percent canopy coverage through planting alone; maintaining the existing canopy is key. Strong ordinances, increased enforcement capacity, creative planning, expert tree care, and public-private partnerships are necessary to protect and care for as many trees as possible.

4) Invest in Canopy

Increased City funding, staffing, and maintenance capacity is needed to carry out the expanded planting, maintenance, enforcement, and engagement responsibilities necessary to achieve the City-wide tree canopy goal of 35 percent. Associated efforts and investments from private partners and the public will be necessary; the City does not own sufficient plantable space to reach the community canopy goal alone.

#070

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **4:47pm** [Comment ID: 2935] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

How is this defined?

#071

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:30pm** [Comment ID: 3142] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

increased urban forestry staff,

#072

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/18/2024** at **4:21pm** [Comment ID: 2929] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Developing a long-term maintenance strategy must be part of any planting program designed to meet equity goals.

#073

Posted by **Roslyn Bell** on **05/14/2024** at **9:41pm** [Comment ID: 2383] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

I recommend that the City also target public parks since it owns that land and can easily plant more trees in public parks.

#074

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:07pm** [Comment ID: 2537] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

The text states or assumes that the city's overall tree canopy is at 19%, based on an assessment done by Davey Tree in 2018. Our canopy has declined since 2018 due to drought, storms, development, and tree removals due to age and decay. A new assessment is needed to see where we really are.

#075

Posted by **Isabella Nicolaidis** on **05/20/2024** at **11:12am** [Comment ID: 2502] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

City officials/crews performing all other maintenance services should be required to identify and report places where public trees are missing, damaged, sick, or dead when in the course of their regular duties (ie. trash collection, street sweeping etc.)

as well as identify shade deserts and places where tree planting is necessary and possible. The onus shouldn't only be on community members, but all city staff should be active participants in this effort while working out in the community.

#076

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:29pm** [Comment ID: 3141] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Can we say prioritizing as opposed to targeting?

#077

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **1:55pm** [Comment ID: 2871] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Does the city have a plan and goals for how many trees the city specifically needs to plant? I did not find them in this plan. Without such metrics, this collective responsibility framing looks from the outside like an attempt to give the city a scapegoat if goals are not met. Furthermore, it is not clear to me how the city will be planting enough trees only in city maintained spaces, particularly in under-canopied neighborhoods. The city must devise a strategy to expand areas where planting and management can take place in neighborhoods that have a scarcity of city-maintained trees.

#078

Posted by **Roslyn Bell** on **05/14/2024** at **9:43pm** [Comment ID: 2384] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Here is say targeting neighborhoods with the lowest percentage, but it does not say how it will target them. SMUD and the Tree Foundation give trees to homeowners. What is the the City intending to do here? Will the City plant trees along streets, in parks, give incentives? What specifically is the recommendation?

#079

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **10:37pm** [Comment ID: 2903] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

There is plenty plant-able space on every sidewalk outside the 3 square mile core of city center.

There is an abysmal scarcity of trees along city sidewalks. The sidewalk cutouts for every sidewalk needs to be mandated and trees planted(and established) to convert hardscape to greenscape.

#080

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/19/2024** at **12:41pm** [Comment ID: 3044] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The heritage or significant tree ordinance of Sacramento item number 21 is being used to promote new, so-called infield development for housing at a high cost on our current tree canopy. Item 21 needs to be reevaluated, rewritten, and understood to support significant trees in establish neighborhoods.

#081

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **10:20pm** [Comment ID: 2902] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Tree planting goals are only 1/4th the job done. For establishment of a tree(3 year period) - there needs to be provision in budget for watering trucks. It is possible, San Francisco is doing it.

Recommended goals -

25000 trees planted each year.

75000 trees established each year

We may not achieve the required levels, but transparent/honest goals in planning is critical to making a difference.

Status of Sacramento's Urban Forest

082



#082

Posted by **Tyler Wunsch** on **06/18/2024** at **12:28am** [Comment ID: 2922] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." - Warren Buffett



Sacramento's urban forest has been profoundly shaped by its past and current residents, the natural environment, and changes in physical conditions. It is constantly evolving as trees are planted, die, or are removed. The urban forest is living infrastructure that benefits the entire city and its residents. Made up of individual trees growing on both private and public land, the responsibility for stewarding Sacramento's urban forest is shared by the entire community.

This chapter reviews the state of the urban canopy, past and present; provides detailed analysis of City-managed trees; and explains existing policies, programs, and tree management structure. The details and analysis in this chapter inform the Key Recommendations, Policy and Program Framework, and Implementation Strategy sections of this SUFP.

HISTORY OF SACRAMENTO'S URBAN FOREST



The City of Sacramento has a rich history of trees, driven by substantial City investment and community advocacy. Understanding the historical context of the urban forest and lessons learned from previous challenges is essential to informing future actions and investments. Trees were critical to the City's past and are essential for addressing current and future challenges facing Sacramento.

Pre-urban Sacramento

The area encompassing Sacramento was, and still is, the Tribal land of the Nisenan people. Sacramento was a gathering place for many local Tribes who have lived throughout the central valley and foothills for generations and were the original stewards of this land, including the Southern Maidu People, the Valley and Plains Miwok/Me-Wuk Peoples, and the Patwin Wintun Peoples.²⁰

Before European American settlers arrived in Sacramento, the area was predominated by dry grassland with native riparian forests that grew along the rivers and savanna-like native oak woodlands at higher elevations. Native trees found in this region, historically and current day, include blue oak, interior live oak, **083**y oak, foothill pine, willow, cottonwood, Oregon ash, western sycamore, and California black walnut.

The influence of Indigenous Peoples on woodlands in the area can be inferred from observations made at the time of initial contact by European Americans, oral histories of elders, and landscape changes that have been documented since the dispossession of Indigenous populations. The open, park-like woodlands dominated by majestic oaks—that early European colonizers consistently describe throughout the Central Valley—suggest that these woodlands were the result of intense manipulation by fire. Fire and controlled burning were used by Indigenous Peoples to increase acorn production, promote secondary tree growth used for basketry material, reduce pest and diseases in acorn crops, and expand oak woodlands among other uses. This burning was done in large part due to oak acorns being a staple food source.²¹

²⁰ Center, S. N. "Our Native Community," Sacramento Native American Health Center, 2022. (<https://snahc.org/our-native-community>)

²¹ Mensing, S. "The History of Oak Woodlands in California, Part II: The Native American and Historic Period," The California Geographer, Volume 46, 2006. (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232041282_The_History_of_Oak_Woodlands_in_California_Part_II_The_Native_American_and_Historic_Period)

#083

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **4:45pm** [Comment ID: 2281] - [Link](#)

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

These species should be planted in our urban parks. They are long-lived and well adapted to no summer water. They are also important habitat for our native bird, insects and native bees.



Sacramento City Hall in 1923. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Center for History, McCurry Foto.

Urban Sacramento

European American settlers began to arrive in the mid-1800s. Following the 1848 discovery of gold in the Sierra foothills, Sacramento experienced rapid growth, dispossession of land from the Indigenous Peoples, and significant changes to the native forest. Settlers and miners cut down and damaged trees for fuel and shelter while also recognizing the value of shade relief, often building around existing mature trees.²²

As the area urbanized, trees and open space were intentionally included as a part of the urban fabric. Efforts to preserve open space and trees (e.g., as public parks) and to plant street trees date back to 1849 and 1855 respectively. Sacramento, initially known as the “City of Plains” due to the predominant grasslands, was quickly dubbed the “City of Trees.” Two early reporters described this transition: “Our citizens have a mania for planting trees. There is hardly a street in the suburbs that in a few years will not be beautifully shaded”²³ and “Shade trees add much to the beauty of the place; it will be, in a few years, the city of trees.”²⁴

Early in Sacramento’s history, both the City and its citizens took an active role in the care and creation of the urban forest and that legacy has persisted today. The City of Sacramento has been a leader in developing the area’s urban forest. Ordinances and action from the Sacramento City Council, dating back to the 1850s, have progressively required tree plantings for public health, flood protection, street shading, new development, parking lots, and protection of large and native trees.

²² McPherson, E. G., & Luttinger, N. “From nature to nurture: the history of Sacramento’s urban forest,” *Journal of Arboriculture*, Volume 24, 1998. (https://www.fs.usda.gov/psw/topics/urban_forestry/products/cufr_20_EM98_19.pdf)

²³ Daily Democratic State Journal. February 13, 1855.

²⁴ Holden, W. “Sacramento: Excursions into its History and Natural World, Two Rivers Publishing Company, 1987.

While the City has taken these steps, progress has been buoyed by the engagement and passion of Sacramento residents and civic leaders, particularly women. Mrs. J. Henry Miller led a lengthy campaign to convert a swamp into what is now McKinley Park. Other women, including Effie Yeaw and Eleanor McClatchy, were active champions in protecting ecology and trees. Fred N. Evans designed many parks for the city, including William Land Park⁰⁸⁵ and developed a professional tree management program for the City. C.K. McClatchy, the editor of the Sacramento Bee from 1883 to 1936, became a leading advocate on the behalf of Sacramento's trees and is credited with promoting the City's reputation as a "City of Trees" in the paper, as well as publishing front-page obituaries for trees cut down or vandalized to raise public awareness and pride in city trees.³

In 1981, in response to the City's declining budget for urban forest programs, the mayor and county board of supervisors gathered more than 125 civic, business, and community leaders to develop the concept of a community-based non-profit organization aimed at increasing tree planting and providing resources and education about stewardship and care of trees. By 1982, the non-profit Sacramento Tree Foundation (STF) was formed, led by a group of 50 volunteers. Today, STF provides urban forest programming and tree care to⁰⁸⁴ historically disinvested areas in the Sacramento region. With financial sponsorship from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and volunteerism from residents, STF has planted more than 500,000 trees in the Sacramento region.

While the City and its residents have put considerable investment into the urban forest, the opposing perspectives of trees as both essential to health and as nuisances have persisted. Affection for different tree species has changed over time, resulting in mass planting of certain species sometimes followed by mass removal. Widespread tree damage during large windstorms in the 1930s and 1940s prompted residents to view trees (particularly large trees) as a safety hazard, even though⁰⁸⁷ pruning practices and damage to root systems from road expansions were to blame at that time.

Following World War II, rapid suburbanization, widespread support and availability of automobile travel, and availability of air conditioning led to changes in civic support of the urban forest. Tree removals increased to accommodate street widening, underground utilities, and commercial development. By the 1950s, subdivisions were frequently built with air conditioning and without trees to provide natural cooling. Ordinances that protected and required trees were relaxed and community involvement in the urban forest declined.

While support for trees has ebbed and flowed, it has never disappeared. Periods⁰⁸⁶ of decreased interest and protection of trees have been punctuated with public protest over tree removals, mobilization to demand that City Council strengthen tree removal ordinances and permitting requirements, changes in development patterns to require trees, dedicated volunteerism, and investment of residents' time and City resources to protect and steward trees.

Today, many past challenges and strengths are still on display. The City continues to prioritize and invest in maintaining a substantial public tree resource; however, its scope of oversight, budget, and capacity is insufficient to support the entire urban forest. As a result, investment and involvement from the community, businesses, and private entities is essential for the continued growth and⁰⁸⁸ success of the urban forest.

#084

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/18/2024** at **4:22pm** [Comment ID: 2930] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

STF also provides services to middle class neighborhoods as well. So perhaps should add the word "primarily" here

#085

Posted by **Erik** on **06/25/2024** at **1:12pm** [Comment ID: 3162] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I'd love to see the city get rid of the Land Park Golf Course and replace the fairways with a dense urban forest

#086

Posted by **Erik** on **06/25/2024** at **1:19pm** [Comment ID: 3163] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This is a really long sentence. Consider revising / breaking up to better communicate the point.

#087

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **4:49pm** [Comment ID: 2282] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This problem of improper pruning and damage to root systems is still a problem today and contributes to blow over of many trees.

#088

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **10:50am** [Comment ID: 2217] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This past winter with all the storms there was many trees that fell in highways and streets that were hazardous. Getting those cleaned up and out of the way immediately is very important.

Reply by **John** on **05/01/2024** at **1:18pm** [Comment ID: 2230] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Lots fell all at once, but I saw a remarkably quick response. Trying to identify where all those trees fell and working to replace them (possibly with more resilient/appropriate types) should be a priority. Many are still standing, but are mangled and missing major limbs. Strategically taking those down and replacing them would benefit the city.

SACRAMENTO ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT 090



Located at the confluence of two major rivers within California’s northern Central Valley, Sacramento exists in a unique location with a diverse ecology and environment that shapes the growth of the urban forest throughout the city. Understanding the natural ecological and environmental factors at play allows the City to make informed management decisions about both natural and urban forests within the city.

Sacramento’s trees and vegetation support local wildlife by providing food, shelter, and nesting areas to a wide variety of birds, animals, and insects. The city is home to a diverse ecology of native plants and animals—some of which cannot be found anywhere else on the planet²⁵—and the interconnectedness of these native and non-native species contributes to the environmental health of the city and region. This biodiversity, or variety of plants and animals in local Sacramento habitats, is important for the resilience of the ecosystem. Particularly in the rapidly changing environment caused by climate change impacts, preserving and propagating locally acclimated populations, where suitable, can enhance urban forest resilience. The SUFP strives to maintain and strengthen the capacity of the city’s urban forest to support wildlife and local biodiversity. Strategies include preserving native oak woodlands, planting native trees, and promoting more adaptive 089 planting palettes.



²⁵ Sacramento Orcutt Grass is a California endangered plant species found only in the bottom of vernal pools in eastern Sacramento County. It is the only plant known to be endemic (restricted to) Sacramento County.

#089

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **5:12pm** [Comment ID: 2283] - [Link](#)

Agree: 1, Disagree: -1

I agree with the comments, but urge caution about the idea of "promoting more adaptive tree planting palettes." This is being put forward as a solution to the more drought and heat conditions that we expect in the future, but may lead to the further degradation of what little habitat that still remains.

#090

Posted by **John H.** on **04/29/2024** at **10:16am** [Comment ID: 2213] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 4, Disagree: 0

This is a good, short summary of the ecology of the Sacramento area regarding the subject of this document. To promote and protect these natural qualities and to improve the natural character of the city even more, the plan should prioritize using species native to this area. There are many species that naturally grow in the Sacramento region, in addition to the oaks mentioned. Please focus on making selection of native species a high priority.

Mediterranean Climate

091

Consistent with the majority of California, Sacramento has a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters, each lasting about 6 months. Mediterranean climate zones are unique, found in few places around the world. Similar conditions are found in areas around the Mediterranean Sea, Australia, South America, and Africa.

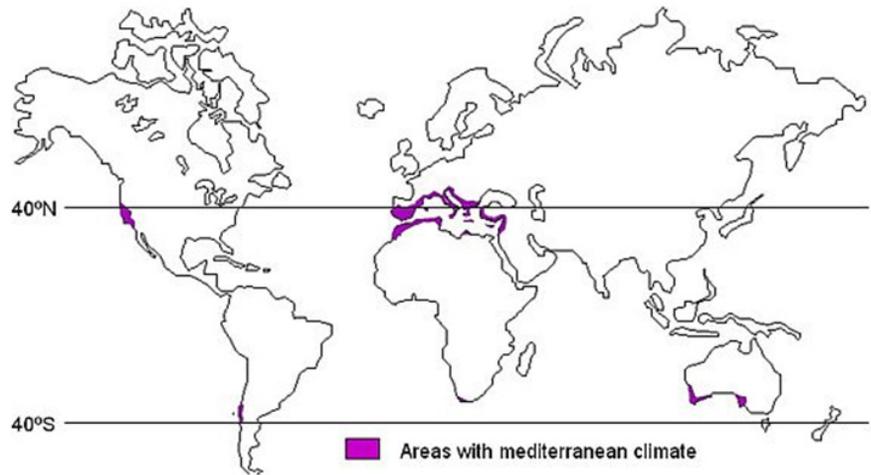


Figure 1 Areas with mediterranean climate²⁶

The California Floristic Province

093

Sacramento is located in the California Floristic Province, one of only 36 biodiversity hotspots worldwide.²⁷ The California Floristic Province is home to over 3,500 plant species, 61 percent of which are endemic⁰⁹², and Oak Woodlands are the region's largest, most important habitat types.²⁸

In Sacramento, one of the primary native habitats is Blue Oak and Valley Oak Woodlands. These native oaks are keystone species²⁹ in our ecosystem and provide critical habitat for a diverse array of plants and animals. Without these native oaks, Sacramento's ecosystem would change drastically; many plant and animal species would die off, others would explode in number. When the keystone species like native oaks are removed, it is called a "top-down trophic cascade" and can have major long-term damaging effect on an ecosystem.



Figure 2 California Floristic Province

²⁶ <https://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/climate.html>

²⁷ Biodiversity hotspots are an exceptionally high number of plants and animals that are found nowhere else in the world (i.e., are endemic) and have lost at least 70 percent of the native vegetation coverage. (<https://www.conservation.org/priorities/biodiversity-hotspots>)

²⁸ <https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots/california-floristic-province/species>

²⁹ Keystone species have low functional redundancy meaning if the species were to disappear from the ecosystem, no other species would be able to fill its ecological niche.

#091

Posted by **Erik** on **06/25/2024** at **1:26pm** [Comment ID: 3165] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Explain the relation of Sacramento's Mediterranean climate to its urban tree canopy.

#092

Posted by **Erik** on **06/25/2024** at **1:23pm** [Comment ID: 3164] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Define 'endemic' here for your readers.

#093

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **5:14pm** [Comment ID: 2284] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Excellent explanation of the value of our endemic woodlands and plants and animals!

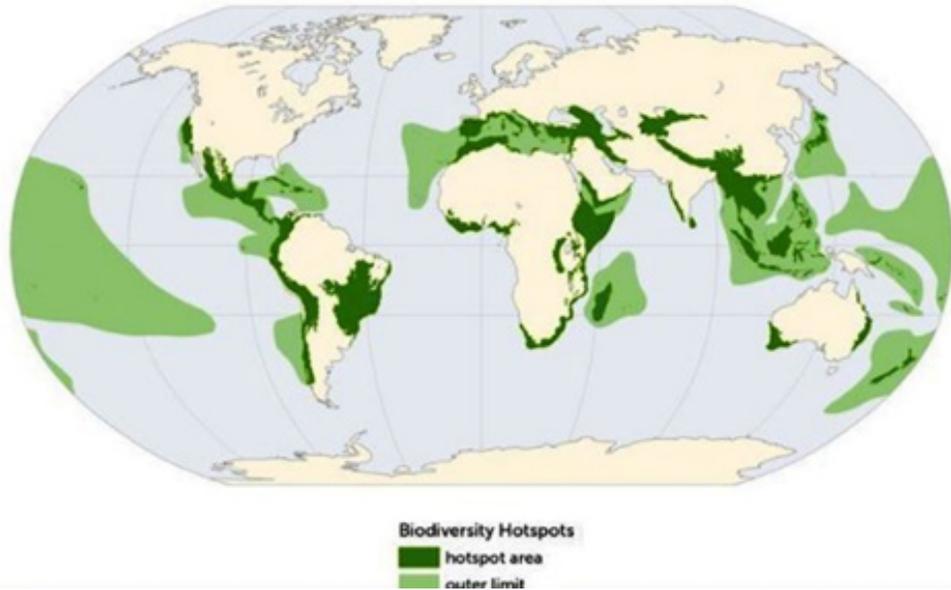


Figure 3 Biodiversity hotspots

The Pacific Flyway

The Pacific Flyway is a major north-south travel route for migratory birds that runs along the Pacific Coast, from Alaska to Patagonia. Every year, at least a billion birds travel some or all this distance in both spring and fall to follow food sources, find breeding grounds, or reach over-wintering sites.³⁰ For those birds that travel this avian superhighway through the Sacramento region, the city’s trees, parks, and water bodies provide critical food and shelter along their journey⁰⁹⁴



Figure 4 Pacific Flyway

³⁰ <https://abcbirds.org/blog/north-american-bird-flyways/#:~:text=Birds%20navigate%20along%20more%20or,%20Central%2C%20and%20Pacific%20Flyways>

#094

Posted by **Rani Isaac** on **05/07/2024** at **4:16pm** [Comment ID: 2314] - [Link](#)

Maintain

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Every winter I put out suet and hulled sunflower seed and mushy blueberries that I won't eat out and attract migratory birds. My son and I clean two watering bowls - one on the ground and one on a pedestal. I bring the uneaten seed/food each night so as not to attract raccoons and rodents. This is a source of delight and connection for us. As our trees have grown, more birds feel safe to visit. Hawks even come on cloudy days but the jays really make a fuss when the hawk shows up.

CITY-WIDE TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT



The best way to understand Sacramento’s urban forest is to assess its “tree canopy.” Tree canopy—also referred to as canopy cover—is the layer of leaves and branches of trees and other woody plants that cover the ground when viewed from above. Most of us notice tree canopy based on how much shade we can find on a hot summer day; Similarly, canopy cover is quantified as a percentage of the total surface area of the ground that is shaded by trees. Understanding canopy cover is important to measure the benefits of the urban forest, assess how the urban forest is distributed geographically, establish a baseline, and measure changes over time.

The development of the SUFP included an urban tree canopy assessment (UTC) using high resolution aerial imagery and remote sensing software that was completed in 2009. This assessment provides a bird’s-eye view of the entire urban forest, including all trees on both public and private property. To identify and evaluate geographic issues and trends, canopy data from the UTC³¹ was aggregated in several ways. Exploring canopy distribution across the city can help guide tree investment opportunities and identify areas for focus in the plan.

Tree Canopy Summary

In 2018, the City of Sacramento encompassed 99.7 square miles (63,784 acres), of which 19 square miles (12,198 acres) were shaded by tree canopy:

City-wide

- 19.1 percent tree canopy (12,198 acres)

Parks

- 27.4 percent canopy (1,639 acres)

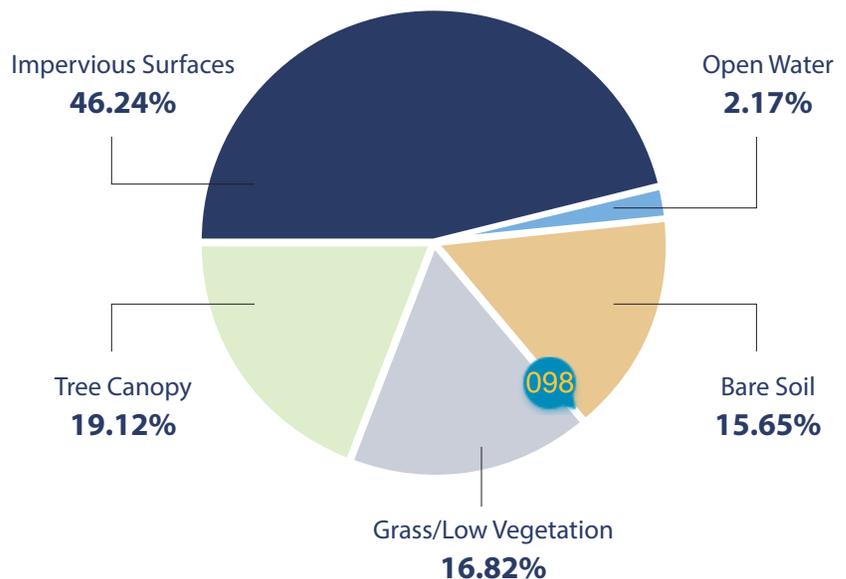


Figure 5 Sacramento land cover classes

³¹ For more detailed information, refer to the full Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/Public-Works/Maintenance-Services/Urban-Forest-Master-Plan/Copy-of-Sacramento-UTC-Assessment-20180515.pdf?la=en>)

#095

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **5:22pm** [Comment ID: 2286] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The proportion of Tree canopy is dwarfed by all the other parts of the pie chart: impervious surfaces are almost half!

#096

Posted by **Amanda Meeker** on **04/27/2024** at **2:49pm** [Comment ID: 2203] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

Many large trees, mainly elms, fell during the windstorm last year and so many more have been removed over the past year or so. Midtown is one neighborhood that has noticeably less canopy now than when the survey was done. I hope that will be taken into account.

#097

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:08pm** [Comment ID: 2538] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

The text states or assumes that the city's overall tree canopy is at 19%, based on an assessment done by Davey Tree in 2018. Our canopy has declined since 2018 due to drought, storms, development, and tree removals due to age and decay. A new assessment is needed to see where we really are.

#098

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **5:20pm** [Comment ID: 2285] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The Pacific Flyway is a critical route for the planet's birds. Most people don't realize the importance of the Sacramento region for this "superhighway for birds". Also, birds fly at night, and the city should have a "lights out for birds" policy during spring and fall migrations.



The UTC conducted a high-level assessment of a maximum potential canopy cover, including existing canopy and potential plant-able area³². The UTC overstates plant-able areas, as it does not include an analysis of areas currently planned for future development, play areas, drainage facilities, or other restrictions.⁰⁹⁹ The City may also seek to incorporate trees in areas currently covered with pervious surfaces, such as creating new landscape strips as part of complete streets projects and promoting trees in private parking.¹⁰⁰ While the exact percentages for potential canopy cover are not exact, the UTC shows there is an opportunity to increase urban tree canopy throughout the city.

The CAAP identifies 35 percent canopy by 2045¹⁰² as the target canopy cover for Sacramento³³, a goal that was supported by the Partner Advisory Committee¹⁰⁴ that has guided the development of the SUFP. According to national analysis by two U.S. Forest Service researchers, “40–60 percent urban tree canopy is attainable under ideal conditions in forested states, 20 percent in grassland cities and 15 percent in desert cities are realistic baseline targets, with higher percentages possible through greater investment and prioritization.”³⁴¹⁰¹¹⁰³

Considering Sacramento’s natural ecology—primarily grassland with riparian woodlands—existing canopy cover, and potential for growth, 35 percent is an ambitious and important target that is likely close to the maximum ecological capacity for the city.

To reach the 35 percent canopy goal by 2045, an estimated 540,000 additional trees need to be planted—about 25,000 per year—while maintaining existing canopy levels.¹⁰⁶

³² Potential plant-able areas include bare soil and grass/low vegetation.

³³ CS-1 (Carbon Sequestration 1): <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/content/dam/portal/cdd/Planning/General-Plan/2040-General-Plan/PDC%20Public%20Hearing%20Draft%20Climate%20Action%20and%20Adaptation%20Plan.pdf>

³⁴ Leahy, I. “Why We No Longer Recommend a 40 Percent Urban Tree Canopy Goal,” American Forests, 2017. (<https://www.americanforests.org/article/why-we-no-longer-recommend-a-40-percent-urban-tree-canopy-goal>)

#099

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:09pm** [Comment ID: 2539] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

As the city eliminated single-family zoning and is allowing multi-plexes on all city lots, with higher density allowed for "transit oriented development" (TOD) in R-1 and R-2 zones, plantable area is definitely overstated, as development will result in the elimination of existing, mature trees and elimination of plantable space.

#100

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:09pm** [Comment ID: 2256] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 6, Disagree: 0

Public and private parking lots should be ground zero for required planting of canopy trees. No building permit without a significant commitment from the builder to offsetting the heat generated by parking lots with trees throughout the parking lot.

#101

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **7:15pm** [Comment ID: 2288] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

"through greater investment and prioritization". True

#102

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **10:46pm** [Comment ID: 2904] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

As per Berkeley Earth Report - 2024 is the second consecutive year global average has surpassed 1.5C global warming critical target. And by 2035, it is expected to be established norm. We have a diminishing window available to make critical impact. 2045 may be too little, too late. or we can choose to not look up!

#103

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **1:57pm** [Comment ID: 2872] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Though this plan underlines numerous times that tree benefits are being distributed inequitably, and outlines several strategies to address this, the plan also undermines its own stated goal by omitting any specific goals in low-canopy neighborhoods. If the city achieves 35% average canopy by expanding tree coverage where it is already high, and failing to improve coverage where it is low, this plan would deem such an outcome a success. In reality, it would be a complete failure. The city must

set minimum goals for improvement based on the conditions in each neighborhood. If it fails to do so, the easiest and likeliest strategy to achieve the target may be increasing canopy coverage in wealthy areas where tree coverage is easy to achieve, regardless of good intentions. Other cities are now examining canopy coverage from the perspective of each individual residence, with, for example, 3-30-300 standard. By only setting a goal that is city-wide, Sacramento will be lagging far behind the best practices in urban forest management.

#104

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:14pm** [Comment ID: 2540] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I was on both the 2018 and 2023 PAC and attended all the meetings. I do not remember the 35% goal being supported by the PAC, and the 18-page report from the PAC meetings does not support this statement (Urban Forest Plan Stakeholder Meeting #1, 5/9/2018, pp. 120-138 of the Urban Forest Plan, specifically pp. 129-130, 133.) The draft UFP we were shown in 2023 already contained this statement. I have heard this may have been supported and voted on by the Mayor's Climate Commission.

#105

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/01/2024** at **1:37pm** [Comment ID: 2231] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

How can the existing canopy compete with utility right-of-way and their vegetation management programs? While my neighborhood of Upper Land Park has the best canopy in the area, there has been a lot of trees aggressively pruned to weird shapes to accommodate the ever-increasing overhead wires and poles and cables in our backyards. A large coastal redwood was recently pruned of all its south facing boughs because of this right-of-way and now the poor tree has lost an enormous amount of shade potential, carbon sequestration and ruined its gorgeous aesthetics. This is happening all over my area. Why can't the utilities get their equipment underground? Think of the potential tree preservation you could gain and save money with high wind events and power outages. Plan to get the old infrastructure of the past replaced with underground utility lines in the older Sacramento neighborhoods.

#106

Posted by **Rani Isaac** on **05/07/2024** at **4:21pm** [Comment ID: 2315] - [Link](#)

Maintain

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Indeed - ambitious! Private homeowners can contribute by using the Sacramento Tree Foundation for assistance with planting and purchasing. I received free trees from SMUD partnering with the Tree Foundation and expert help with planting and

siting two shade trees from a personal visit from an urban forester.

Table 2 Number of Trees Needed to Increase Canopy Cover³⁵

Total Canopy Cover	Small (20-ft) ³⁶	Medium (30-ft) ³⁷	Large (40-ft) ³⁸	Very Large (60-ft) ³⁹	Average ⁴⁰
19%	0	0	0	0	0
20%	55,880	34,925	19,269	8,597	29,668
25%	374,800	234,250	129,241	57,662	198,988
30%	693,720	433,575	239,214	106,726	368,309
35%	1,012,640	632,900	349,186	155,791	537,629

Table 3 Number of trees needed to be planted per year to reach canopy target by 2045, assuming an average annual mortality rate of 5 percent⁴¹

Total Canopy Cover	Small (20-ft) ³⁶	Medium (30-ft) ³⁷	Large (40-ft) ³⁸	Very Large (60-ft) ³⁹	Average ⁴⁰
19%	0	0	0	0	0
20%	2,667	1,667	920	410	1,416
25%	17,888	11,180	6,168	2,752	9,497
30%	33,109	20,693	11,417	5,094	17,578
35%	48,331	30,207	16,666	7,105	25,660

³⁵ Each cell is the total number of trees of the specified size need to reach the canopy cover identified in the row. The rows/columns are not cumulative.

³⁶ Eastern Redbud and Crape Myrtle were used to represent a small tree with a 20-foot canopy diameter.

³⁷ Strawberry Tree and Chinese Pistache were used to represent a medium tree with a 30-foot canopy diameter.

³⁸ Zelkova and Red Oak were used to represent a large tree with a 40-foot canopy diameter.

³⁹ Valley Oak and American Elm were used to represent a very large tree with a 60-foot canopy diameter.

⁴⁰ Calculation of the number of additional trees needed to achieve the identified canopy cover percentage, assuming that equal numbers of trees of each size are used. This is not a sum of the number of trees needed.

⁴¹ Average annual mortality rates were drawn from: Roman, L. A., & Scatena, F. N. "Street tree survival rates: Meta-analysis of previous studies and application to a field survey in Philadelphia, PA, USA," Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, Volume 10, 2011. (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/238003598_Street_tree_survival_rates_Meta-analysis_of_previous_studies_and_application_to_a_field_survey_in_Philadelphia_PA_USA)

#107

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:00pm** [Comment ID: 2881] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

What is the actual annual mortality of the city's trees? Has this been investigated? Our extreme climate may mean higher than average tree mortality, and mortality could increase as the climate warms.

#108

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:01pm** [Comment ID: 2882] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The math here shows that the canopy goal is much more easily attainable by planting large trees, yet in my past interactions with the city, they frequently planted much smaller trees in wide open parks with minimal justification. The city should have a policy to plant larger trees whenever the planting site allows.



Neighborhood

A neighborhood-based analysis—using Sacramento’s 129 identified neighborhoods—can better reflect geographies that are well understood by community members.⁴² Exploring canopy distribution and socioeconomic indicators at the neighborhood level can provide a more meaningful understanding of tree canopy and guide implementation of outreach, education, and planting activities.

A table of canopy levels in City Parks is included in [Appendix A](#). Ten neighborhoods currently meet or exceed 35 percent canopy cover. An additional 26 neighborhoods have between 25–35 percent canopy cover. Those ten neighborhoods with the highest tree canopy are Boulevard Park, Campus Commons, Elmhurst, Land Park, Marshall School, Natomas Corporate Center, New Era Park, Richmond Grove, River Park, and Southside Park. These neighborhoods are primarily characterized by mature trees planted many decades ago, and many have large public parks that are rich in trees or are neighborhoods adjacent to riparian corridors. Most of these neighborhoods also host significant street tree resources within the City’s right-of-way and on City property.

Of the areas with the lowest canopy cover, 24 neighborhoods have between 20–25 percent canopy cover and 69 neighborhoods have 20 percent or less canopy cover. Many of the neighborhoods with the very lowest tree canopy are industrial area¹¹² with canopy cover less than 5 percent. Residential neighborhoods with the lowest canopy cover are primarily in South Sacramento, North Sacramento, and North Natomas.¹¹¹ The factors behind the lower canopy coverage vary from neighborhood to neighborhood, but include development patterns⁴³, neighborhood¹¹³, amount and size of parks, school sites with low canopy, limited street tree planter strips, high proportions of rental housing and short-term occupancy,⁴⁴ history of redlining and racist housing covenants, and other socio-economic factors. Details about how redlining and demographics correlate to the urban forest are further discussed in the Tree Canopy and Social Equity section.

⁴² It is important to note that these neighborhood boundaries are intended to be illustrative only and do not correspond directly to neighborhood association boundaries; rather, they are intended to provide a general assessment of conditions.

⁴³ Issues with development patterns include but are not limited to annexation of neighborhoods that were developed under both Sacramento County and City of North Sacramento design requirements, which varied from the City’s at the time of development.

⁴⁴ Roman L. A. “Urban Tree Mortality: A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management in the Graduate Division of the University of California, Berkeley,” 2013.

#109

Posted by **Jennifer montgomery** on **05/26/2024** at **7:08am** [Comment ID: 2600] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The standard 12.5' PUE utility easements limit possible tree locations and require a wide landscape area to be planted with shrubs only. If there could be flexibility to decrease the easement width it would create many more places where trees are allowed to be planted.

#110

Posted by **Austin Miller** on **04/26/2024** at **12:39pm** [Comment ID: 2192] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 4, Disagree: 0

The Report should provide an analysis of canopy coverage within Disadvantaged Communities and other areas of concern identified through the City of Sacramento Environmental Justice Element.

#111

Posted by **Roslyn Bell** on **05/14/2024** at **9:35pm** [Comment ID: 2381] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

More trees should be added to North Natomas Regional Park at the corner of Natomas Blvd. and New Market. Plenty of space and trees are needed.

#112

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:16pm** [Comment ID: 2257] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Industrial areas should not be excluded from this plan. Most of these areas have parking lots where trees can be planted to reach a 35% goal for the entire property.

#113

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **7:20pm** [Comment ID: 2291] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Some industrial areas, like the River District, are very old, and require a different set of metrics for trees. Street trees take on greater importance, and parks should be plentiful for neighborhoods.

#114

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **10:59am** [Comment ID: 2218] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Typically, in nicer areas and neighborhoods is where the trees are kept cleaner, in comparison to lower income communities. Would this be a private property owner manner or is the community that makes sure they stay up to date and clean?if so can they get the same maintenance

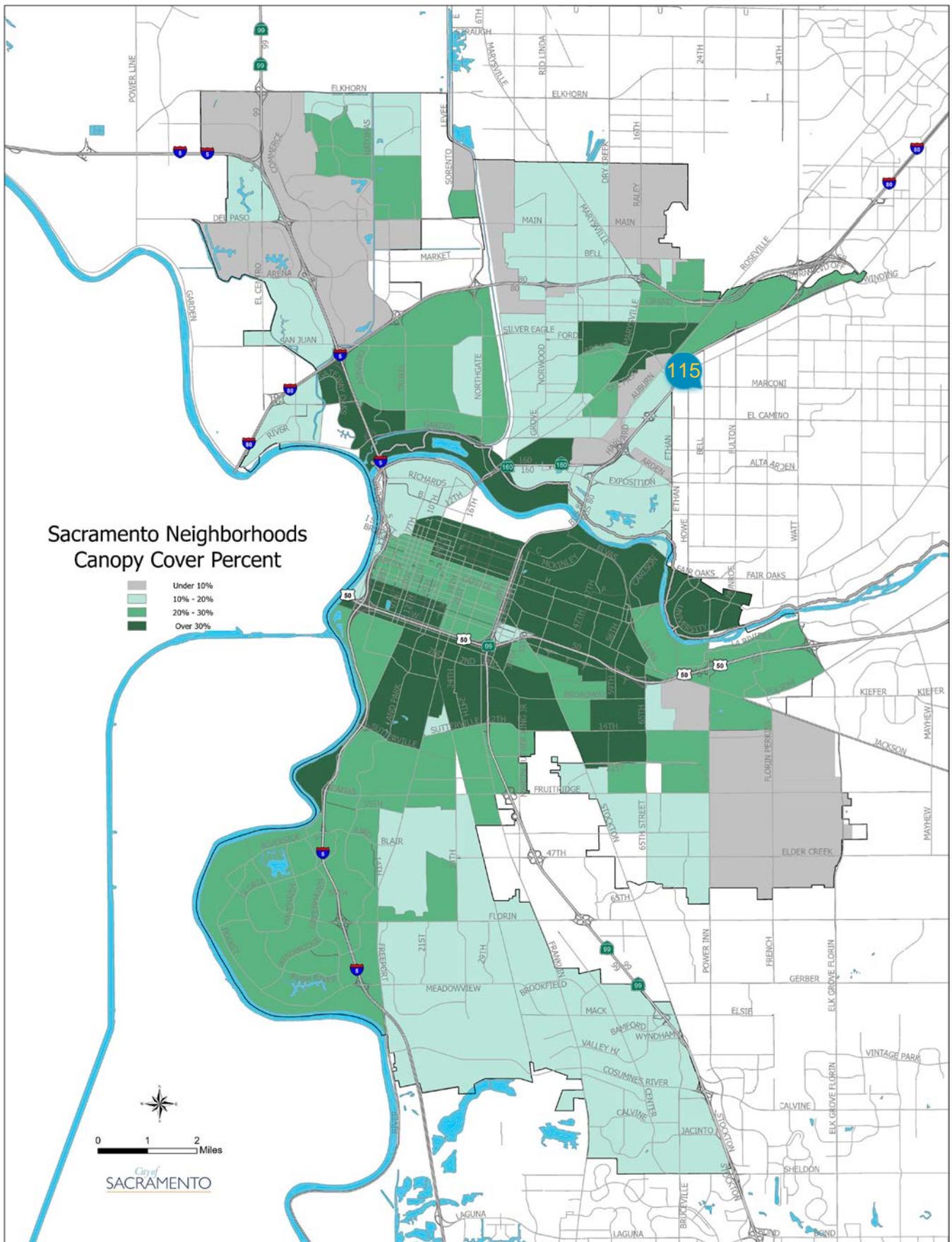


Figure 6 Neighborhood canopy cover map

#115

Posted by **Isabella Nicolaidis** on **05/20/2024** at **11:08am** [Comment ID: 2501] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

What do the places with no color indicate?

Census Tract

Analysis of canopy coverage at a census tract level is important because most grant funding opportunities allocate funds based on project boundaries defined by census tract. Looking at tree canopy by census tract allows the City to target urban forest grant opportunities to grow canopy where it is below target goals. Assessing canopy cover this way, a similar pattern to neighborhood level canopy is visible; there are the highest levels of canopy in older neighborhoods, near the City's core, and adjacent to riparian corridors and fewer trees in South Sacramento, North Sacramento, and North Natomas.



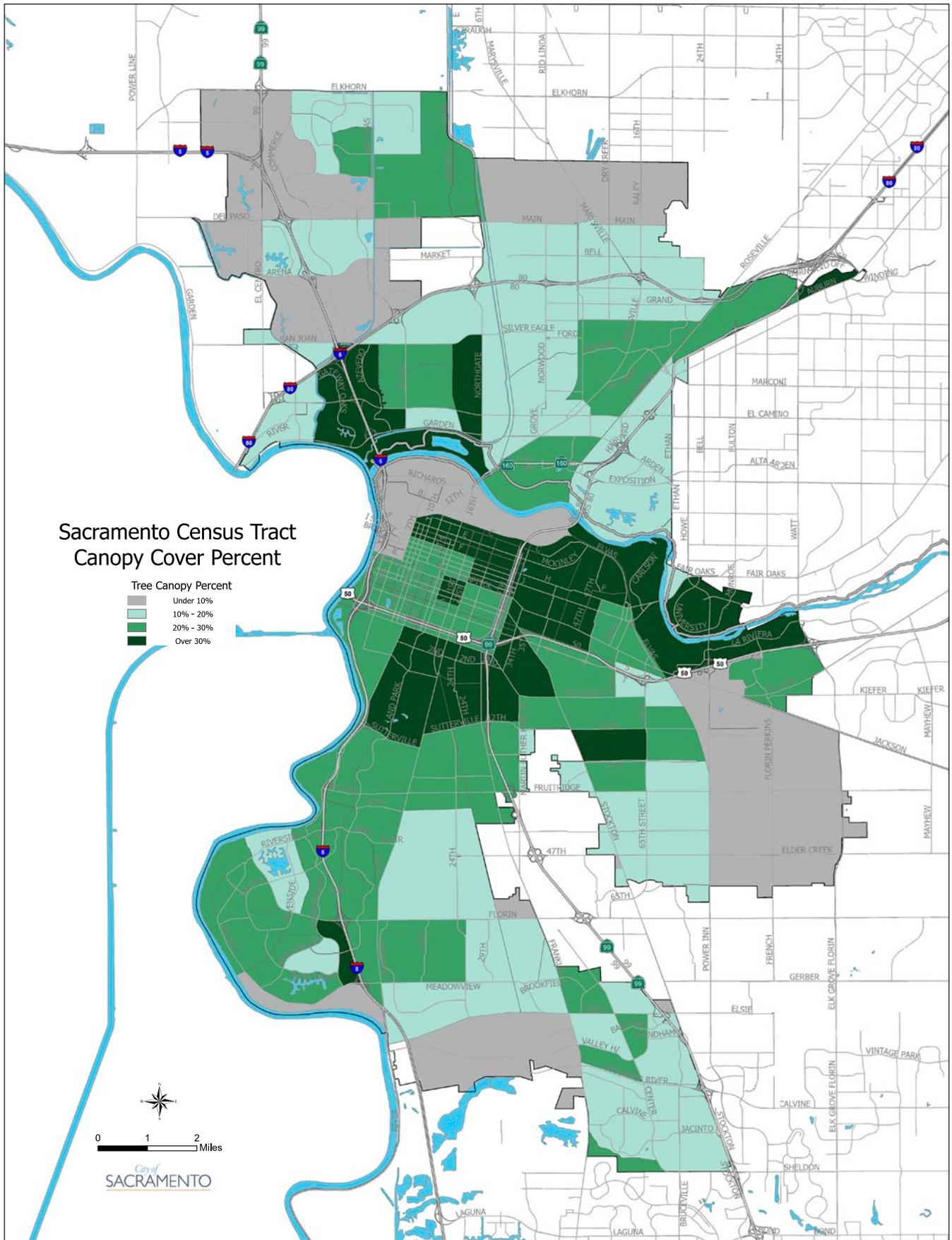


Figure 7 Census tract canopy cover map

Zoning

Zoning is a regulatory tool through which governments assign land area into “zones,” each of which has a set of regulations governing the type of new development in each zone to help guide urban growth and development. The City’s zoning requirements, found in Title 17 of the City Code (the Planning and Development Code), regulate the height, lot coverage, parking standards, landscaping requirements, and setback requirements that apply within each zone. Zones may be defined for a single use (e.g., residential, commercial) or have several combined activities that are compatible (e.g., residential mixed use, which allows a mix of residential and commercial uses). Given the variation in types of development, density/intensity, and lot coverage, canopy cover varies significantly among different zones.

In Sacramento, the American River Parkway-Flood Zone, Residential Office, Office Buildings, and Residential zones have the greatest canopy cover percentages; Manufacturing, Industrial, and Highway Commercial zones have the lowest canopy cover. Due to the localized, household and community-level public health and environmental benefits of trees, high levels of canopy cover in the areas where most residents spend most of their time is essential. Residential zoning comprises the areas of the City where most people live; specific attention to canopy maintenance and expansion in these areas is a priority. ¹¹⁶

Residential zones cover the greatest proportion of the city. Current canopy levels in Single Family Residential (R-1) residential zones are 26 percent – above the City average of 19 percent. With R-1 zones reflecting 35 percent of the City’s footprint, trees in R-1 zones make up 49 percent of all trees in the City. While trees in R-1 make up a huge proportion of the total trees in the City, the amount of City canopy in R-1 is consistent with how much of the City’s land mass is within the R-1 zone. ¹²²

Recent land use changes to allow greater densities in single family neighborhoods by allowing duplexes to fourplexes and multiple accessory dwelling units (ADUs) have raised community concerns related to potential effects on tree canopy. ¹¹⁹ The City is also focusing on other actions to address residential densities in other land use and zoning categories to support provision of more housing opportunities. An analysis of current canopy levels by residential zoning type shows very limited correlation between density and canopy; overall, all residential zones regardless of density have between 19 and 26 percent canopy. ^{117, 118}

To provide for the successful implementation of housing density development and tree canopy preservation and enhancement, several key recommendations are included in the policy and program framework, including: reviewing and amending development standards, city code, and design guidelines as necessary to promote future canopy levels, allowing maximum flexibility in development standards to encourage preservation of existing trees, continuing to enforce the tree protection ordinance (City Code chapter 12.56), and developing metrics to track and report on tree removals and projected canopy levels for development projects. ^{120, 121}

#116

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:16pm** [Comment ID: 2541] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Objective design standards are needed to save our canopy from urban infill development projects such as Missing Middle Housing in residential zones.

#117

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:18pm** [Comment ID: 2543] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The difference between 19 and 26 percent canopy is significant, and preceding information contradicts this statement. The preceding (3rd) paragraph states, “trees in R-1 zones make up 49 percent of all trees in the City.” Adding density in residential zones in the form of Missing Middle Housing will result in the loss of mature trees, and space to plant trees. Even with careful design standards, a tree and a structure cannot occupy the same space.

#118

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:04am** [Comment ID: 2959] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

However, many residential areas have a much larger percent of canopy cover. City needs to set goals for each type of zone, and require development to meet that goal.

#119

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:17pm** [Comment ID: 2542] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

he sentence that starts: “Recent land use changes to allow greater densities in single family neighborhoods by allowing duplexes to fourplexes” will need to be amended. The Missing Middle Housing plan passed by the City Council in November 2023 includes a sliding-scale FAR of 1, and in many single-family neighborhoods designated for Transit Oriented Development (TOD), a sliding-scale FAR of 2. This will result in greater than “duplexes to fourplexes” - the City’s “Figure LUP-5 Sliding FAR Scale” includes up to 12+ units. The “multiple accessory dwelling units” are still part of the plan. The end of the sentence is certainly true, “have raised community concerns related to potential effects on the tree canopy.”

#120

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:20pm** [Comment ID: 2544] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The current tree protection ordinances are not protecting our canopy from development. Hopefully some of these concepts will be strongly implemented and enforced.

#121

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/18/2024** at **4:31pm** [Comment ID: 2931] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Need to add

develop a metric for tree canopy -- existing and goal -- for each census tract, then use that metric as an evaluation tool for development projects. Also: require tree canopy information for all development proposals - not just for private protected trees, but for all canopy. That basic measurement must be incorporated into the analysis of any development project. Developers must know that existing canopy cannot be ignored in development.

#122

Posted by **Rani Isaac** on **05/17/2024** at **3:42pm** [Comment ID: 2494] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

When land is rezoned from school zoning or from agricultural land to residential, some public purposes can be required of the residential developer when plans are approved by the planning council and by city council. Trees, picnic areas, community gardens (especially for agricultural land conversions) would help with the greater density planned for future new housing.

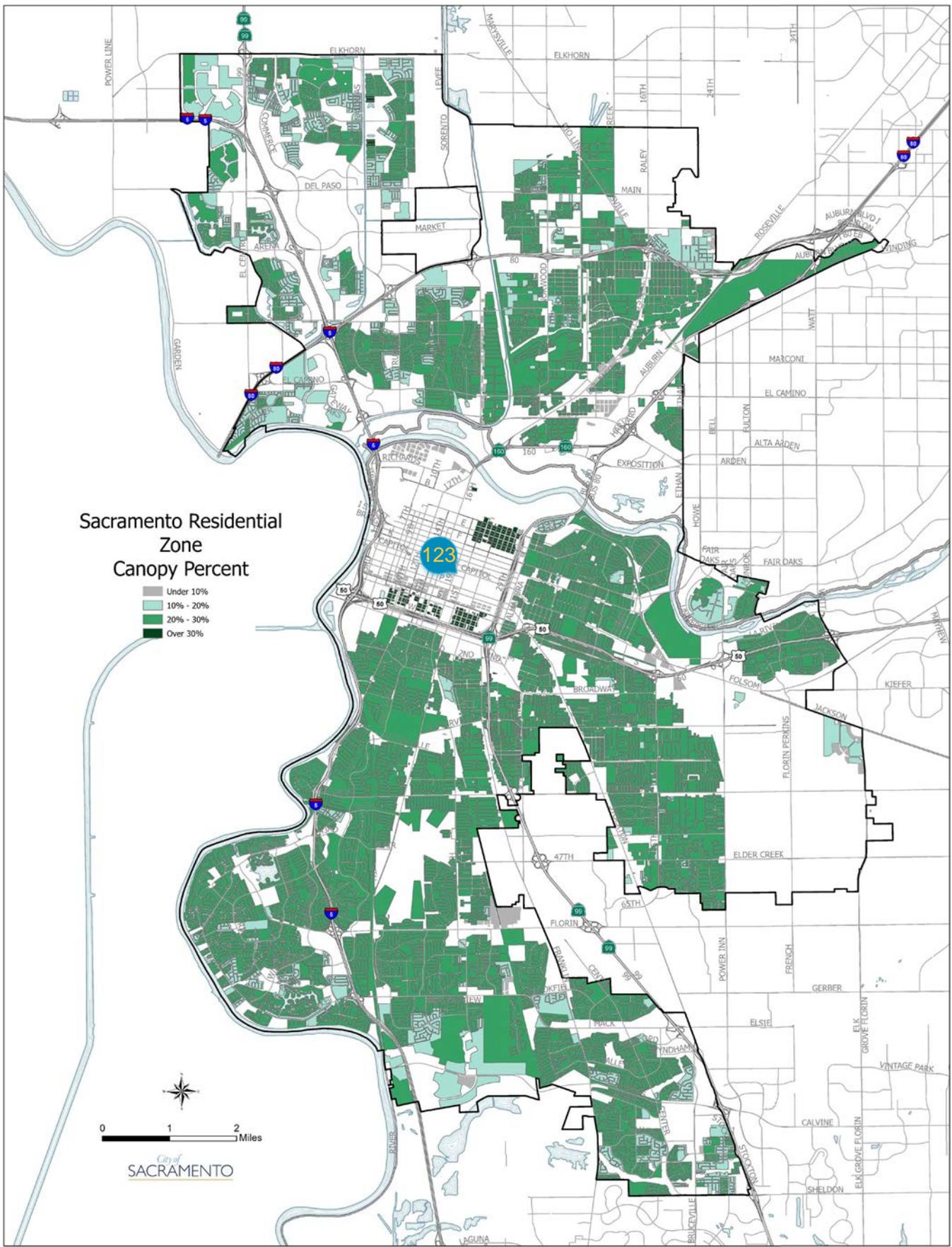


Figure 8 Residential zoning canopy map

#123

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **7:31pm** [Comment ID: 2293] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

There are NO trees in this area of town? This map is hard to read, and doesn't seem accurate regarding tree cover.

Canopy Cover by Zoning Type

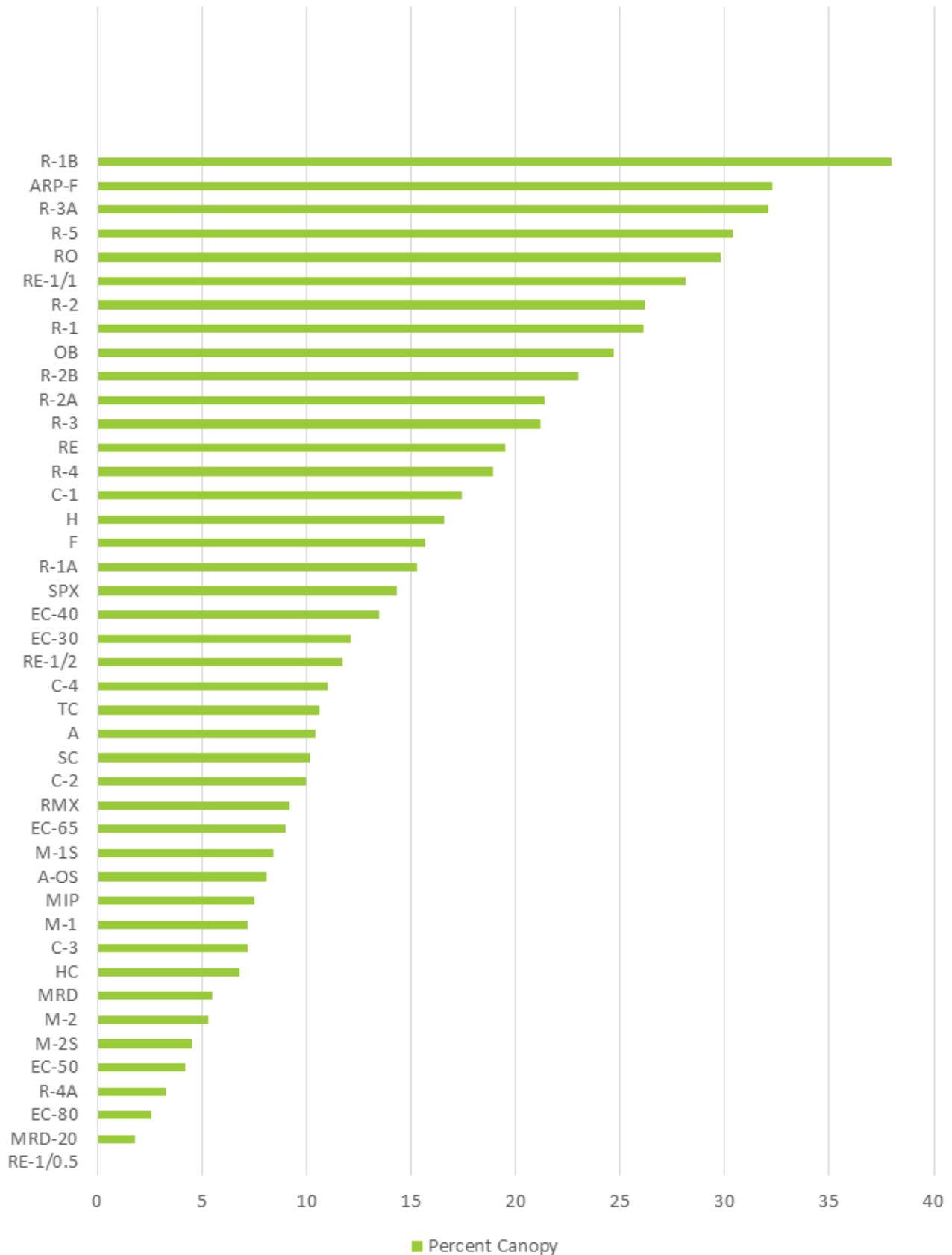


Figure 9 Canopy cover by zoning type

Parks

Public parks are a primary area for people to take advantage of the benefits of public trees, through both passive and active recreation. This is particularly important in areas where there is less overall tree canopy, as public parks may be the main source of green space and shade. The potential canopy cover in public parks depends on the use of the park (e.g., open play areas and swimming pools versus natural and picnic areas) and available plant-able space that does not conflict with these recreational uses. ¹²⁴

Within city limits, there are 278 parks covering 5,993 acres managed by the City of Sacramento. This does not include parks managed by Sacramento County, the State of California, and other organizations. Among the top ten largest City parks, William Land Park has the greatest canopy cover at 67.1 percent and Sutter's Landing Regional Park, which was a former landfill and as a result has limits on planting in and adjacent to ¹²⁵ landfill area, has the lowest canopy cover at 1.8 percent.

Overall, tree canopy covers 27.4 percent of parks and open space areas. A table of canopy levels in City parks is included in [Appendix B](#). Additional planting at parks and open space areas can increase access to trees in communities with lower tree canopy levels. Similar to neighborhood-level strategies, prioritizing canopy expansion efforts in parks with priority communities that have the lowest canopy, that serve the most vulnerable populations and have the most significant potential for canopy increase, will be important in the implementation stages of this plan.

Parking Lots

Though not as obvious as neighborhoods and parks, parking lots are important areas of the urban forest. Parking lots are areas of the city that often have high urban heat island effect and poor air quality, and trees are effective tools for combatting both problems. ¹²⁸
¹²⁹

The materials that are used to build parking lots, such as asphalt and concrete, absorb heat. These materials then radiate absorbed heat and can raise temperatures by several degrees.⁴⁵ Additionally, the operation of conventional gas and diesel ¹²⁷ that combust fossil fuels can also raise air temperatures.⁴⁶ As temperatures in parking lots increase, gasoline from leaky fuel tanks and worn hoses evaporates and results in hydrocarbon emissions and the formation of ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is one of Sacramento's biggest air quality problems and Sacramento has been classified as a severe nonattainment zone—an area that does not meet the EPA's national ambient air quality standards.

Planting trees in parking lots reduces heat through shading asphalt and concrete, reducing both heat absorption and the radiation of heat, and by reducing the ambient air temperature through transpiration⁴⁷. Cooler air temperatures reduce ozone concentrations by lowering the emissions of

⁴⁵ Golden, J. S. "The built environment induced urban heat island effect in rapidly urbanizing arid regions—a sustainable urban engineering complexity," *Environmental Sciences*, Volume 1, 2004. (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15693430412331291698>)

⁴⁶ Wilby, R. "A Reivew of Climate Change Impacts on the Built Environment," *Built Environment*, Volume 33, 2007. (<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/alex/benv/2007/00000033/00000001/art00003>)

⁴⁷ Transpiration is the process of water movement through a plant and out the surface of a plant.

#124

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **06/06/2024** at **4:25pm** [Comment ID: 2719] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The city needs an ordinance that would ban food trucks and large vehicles from driving on the turf in public parks, unless it is necessary for maintenance. Trucks and large vehicles compact the soil, which is detrimental to the health of trees. The city should seek measures to minimize soil compaction in parks.

#125

Posted by **Rani Isaac** on **05/17/2024** at **3:26pm** [Comment ID: 2492] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Using available plantable space for more fruit bearing trees or possibilities for community gardens like Wild Rose Park would help residents in more densely settled neighborhoods who need the ability to grow some of their own food. Some parks with available plantable space could be transitioned to such beneficial, practical uses.

#126

Posted by **Isabella Nicolaidis** on **05/20/2024** at **10:57am** [Comment ID: 2499] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Many city parks in underserved areas have trees that are not healthy or maintained. If the city automatically established neighborhood associations for all locations within city boundaries and solicited volunteers to participate, then the city could partners with these associations to help plant and maintain trees in city parks in underserved areas. Additionally, the city should provide a resource for the public to report a tree that is unhealthy or needs maintenance, and provide signs around parks with a QR code they can scan to report a problem tree.

#127

Posted by **Isabella Nicolaidis** on **05/20/2024** at **11:06am** [Comment ID: 2500] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

There should be an easier way for members of the public to report parking lots that don't meet shade requirements.

Additionally, businesses with old lots that were built prior to current code should be given resources and incentive to update their lots with shade tree plantings. For example, they could receive a tax benefit for doing so, or they could write off the expense. Another idea could be that the city could provide a program for business to utilize when they want to re-design parking lots/properties to include more trees. The program could streamline the permits process, provide tax incentives and a list of

partnering contractor/building/planting/irrigation/tree maintenance that provide discounts for program members, and the program could include a public facing element to let community members know which businesses are in the process of improving their spaces.

#128

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **11:02am** [Comment ID: 2219] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Adding more trees to parking lots would also bring in more customers to the businesses because it would be more appealing.

#129

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:20pm** [Comment ID: 2258] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I agree that trees in the parking lot could attract more customers, but they could also dissuade people who don't want to park under trees because of bird droppings. For this reason, I believe that planting a significant number of trees in parking lots should be a requirement before building permits are issued.



hydrocarbons that are involved in ozone formation. Planting trees in parking lots throughout the Sacramento region to achieve 50 percent shade on paved areas is estimated to have the potential to reduce hydrocarbon emissions by 1 metric ton per day.⁴⁸

The City first enacted a parking lot shading ordinance, City Code section 17.612.040, in 1983, which established tree shading requirements and standards for planting, maintenance, protection, removal and replacement of trees in parking lots. However, many existing parking lots in the city pre-date the 1983 application of these standards and are not subject to the ordinance. In addition, many parking lots developed since 1983 have failed to reach 50 percent shade coverage. A randomized assessment (as a part of the UTC in 2018) of 648 parking lots found that the average canopy was 15.3 percent and only 5.9 percent of parking lots had 50 percent shading. This analysis did not consider when parking lots were approved.

One challenge to enforcing the ordinance is that a complex series of calculations is necessary to determine if a given plan or existing parking lot complies with the ordinance. There are mechanisms within the ordinance to allow for enforcement of the code but without clear, objective, and observable metrics of compliance, only the most drastic examples of non-compliance are noticed and corrected.

Table 4 Summary of statistical findings for parking lot shading of randomized sample of 648 parking lots in the City of Sacramento

Highest Canopy Cover	89.4%
Lowest Canopy Cover	0.0%
Average	15.3%
Standard Deviation	16.8%
Percent Compliance	5.9%
Percent Non-Compliance	94.1%

Based on these findings, evaluation of and amendments to the Parking Lot Shade Ordinance and the Parking Lot Tree Shading Design and Maintenance Guidelines as well as exploration of enforcement options and incentives to increase parking lot shading will be needed.

⁴⁸ McPherson, E. G. "Sacramento's parking lot shading ordinance: environmental and economic costs of compliance," Landscape and Urban Planning, Volume 57, 2001. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0169204601001967>)

#130

Posted by **Steve Schweigerdt** on **06/03/2024** at **3:43pm** [Comment ID: 2710] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

The City should institute a vacancy tax on vacant parcels and parking lots that underutilize urban space and use the proceeds to support implementing this plan, including the deficiencies in parking lots.

#131

Posted by **Rani Isaac** on **05/17/2024** at **3:33pm** [Comment ID: 2493] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Shading can also be accomplished by adding solar panel covered parking structures. If tree shade is difficult to include, this is an option for new residential and commercial developments.

#132

Posted by **Erik** on **06/25/2024** at **1:51pm** [Comment ID: 3166] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

What are the penalties to landowners for failure to adhere to these requirements. Are the requirements being enforced? Do they need to be strengthened?

Reply by **Erik** on **06/25/2024** at **1:54pm** [Comment ID: 3167] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

getting a little ahead of myself...i see this is addressed below

#133

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:21pm** [Comment ID: 2259] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

How does the city enforce the existing ordinance requiring shade trees in parking lots? In my former place of employment a new parking lot was constructed with no trees, and this was after 1983.

Street Trees ¹³⁵

Sacramento's large inventory of City-maintained street trees is a unique asset compared to other cities and is a critical component of the robust canopy cover that the City currently enjoys. Of the about 100,000 City trees maintained by the City, the majority of them are street trees. Street trees are primarily located in areas developed when standards required inclusion of landscape strips between the sidewalk and street. These standards primarily exist in older neighborhoods such as the Central City and immediately adjacent neighborhoods, like Land Park, Curtis Park, and East Sacramento. Where there were no landscape strips, these same areas often included an easement in front yards for street trees. These neighborhoods tend to have the largest, most mature trees within the City, as many are many decades old due to when the neighborhoods were developed. In all areas with street trees, adjacent property owners are responsible for watering street ^{139s}.

In areas developed after the 1980s, City development standards also typically required landscape strips and tree planting, although depending on tree selection and planter width, these may not include the largest canopy trees. Many areas developed after World War II and those originally developed in the unincorporated County and the former City of North Sacramento were developed with different development standards and often do not include landscape strips, thus lacking space for publicly maintained street trees, and in some cases also lacking sidewalks. Past community wide planting efforts often neglected many of ¹³⁶se neighborhoods. This resulted in lower existing canopy levels and presents a major challenge to create ¹³⁸ing space along streets in many Sacramento neighborhoods. As a result, options for planting and maintaining trees to provide neighborhood canopy coverage becomes a greater responsibility for private property owners to plant trees in the front and back of properties. Many of these areas are in low-income and racially diverse communities with the least financial and social resources to accomplish this goal. ¹⁴⁰

While this does pose a significant challenge to planting and maintenance efforts, it does not preclude any neighborhood from reaching the canopy cover goals. The distribution of City street trees does not directly correlate to canopy cover level in neighborhoods throughout the City, as can be seen in Figure 10. It does, however, require more incentive programs and intervention efforts to convert more public spaces for trees and supporting private property owners and other agencies to plan ¹³⁴es to accomplish the tree canopy goal. ¹³⁷

#134

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:05am** [Comment ID: 2960] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

plant AND MAINTAIN trees to accomplish....

#135

Posted by **Jordan Hosein-Hedmann** on **06/20/2024** at **12:58pm** [Comment ID: 3074] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Would it be possible to have trees in the streets we have green examples in land park where the street is narrower and slows traffic in residential areas, along with providing shade for people in the neighborhood. A long-term way to make neighborhoods safer by encouraging people to slow down on neighborhood streets and encouraging people to go outside and enjoy the shade the neighborhood has to provide.

#136

Posted by **Isabella Nicolaidis** on **05/20/2024** at **10:52am** [Comment ID: 2498] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 5, Disagree: 0

The city should allow residents to identify where streets are wide enough to add planting spaces between street & sidewalk or add a center median planting strip. It would be easiest for people if there was an interactive map they could use to highlight possible places in their communities where street tree planting may be possible.

If funding is a concern for adding planting strips/planting medians, then the city should find funding from local corporations/large businesses, with the promise that a plaque will be placed near the planting strip highlighting the donation and donor/company.

Additionally, the city should make it possible for individuals/businesses to pay for the city to plant memorial trees in public spaces. A list of available spaces should be publicly accessible.

#137

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:22pm** [Comment ID: 2546] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

While it is definitely true that the "distribution of City street trees does not directly correlate to canopy cover level in neighborhoods throughout the city," supporting private property owners to plant trees is not enough to reach appropriate canopy

levels in low-income, racially diverse neighborhoods. Maintenance, and funds for maintenance is a key issue. Street trees shade the streets, walkways and bikeways. There is no substitute.

#138

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:34pm** [Comment ID: 2900] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Trees can and should be added to neighborhoods even if historically they were not managed by the city. The costs associated with newly planted trees should be low, which will give time to improve the budget situation and locate more funds. Shying away from this essential strategy of planting and maintaining trees in all neighborhoods is akin to giving up before we've even started.

#139

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/20/2024** at **10:26pm** [Comment ID: 3105] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

If city plants a street tree and walks away from the responsibility of establishing it (watering for 3 year period) - it is 1/4th the job done.

Watering program will need to scale to accelerate tree cover at the scale current climate crisis requires. Adjacent property owners can opt-in for watering and get incentives for doing it. it can't be a mandated requirement.

#140

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:21pm** [Comment ID: 2545] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

In some areas developed without landscape strips after World War II, my understanding is that there were also easements included in front yards for city-maintained street trees, but in the early 1990s the city abandoned, to the homeowners, approximately 59,000 front yard trees citywide. Residents in older, more affluent neighborhoods have the means to maintain the front yard trees that were once maintained by the city. However, in low-income, racially diverse neighborhoods without landscape strips, front yard trees are necessary to shade streets and properties; but over half the properties are rentals, and many residents lack funds for arborists and tree maintenance. How will the city shade the streets in such neighborhoods without planting and maintaining front yard trees? One of the reasons the city discontinued this program (besides legal considerations) is that it didn't have the budget to continue maintaining front yard trees. The city needs to correct this inequity, yet it appears to lack the budget to do so, leaving such neighborhoods at a distinct disadvantage that is a public health issue. How will the city increase its budget to plant and maintain street trees in these forgotten

neighborhoods?

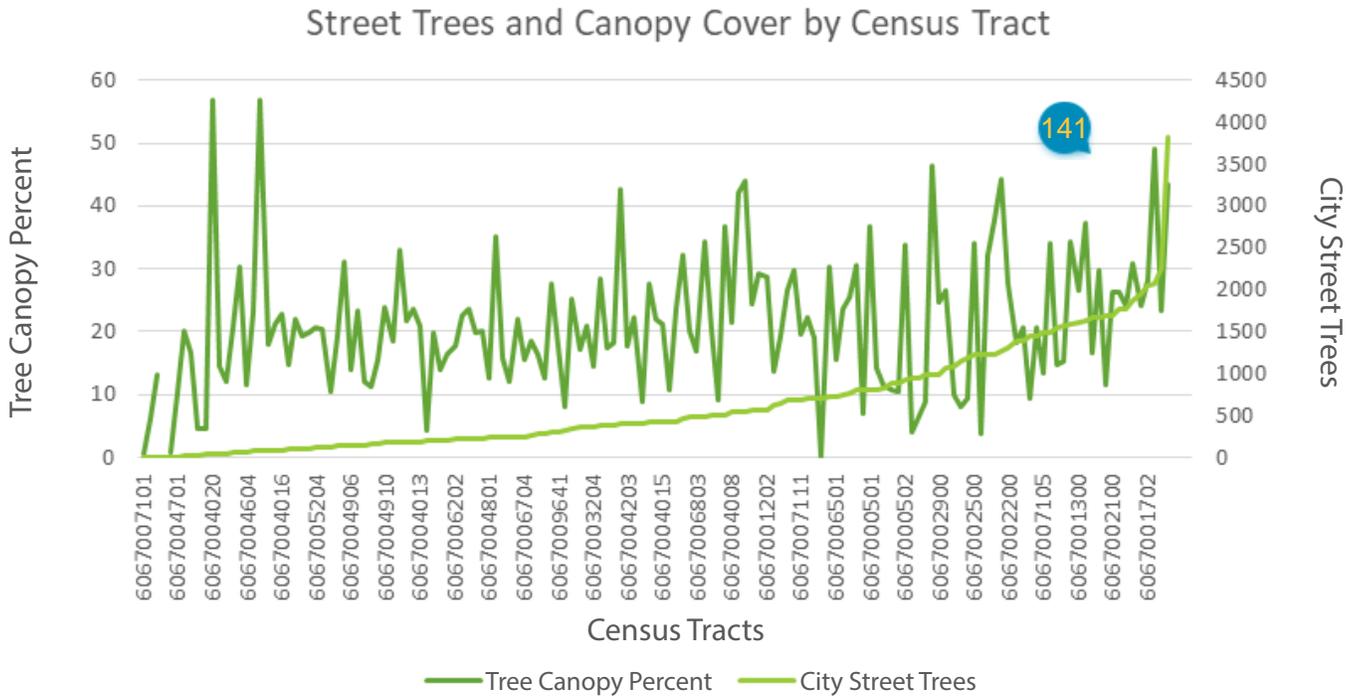


Figure 10 Street Trees and Canopy cover by Census Tract

Historic Change

The last tree canopy assessment using the same methodology was in 2004. In 2004, the tree canopy was 8,856 acres, which at the time was 13.9 percent of the city’s land cover. By the time the aerial imagery used for this study was captured in 2016, tree canopy had increased by 3,343 acres to 12,199 total acres or 19.1 percent of the city’s land cover, which is a 37.8 percent overall increase. Every zoning type, planning area, council district, and major park saw an increase in canopy cover between 2004 and 2016.

Factors that have affected the increase in tree canopy include:

The addition of thousands of trees to the City-managed public tree resource through new plantings along streets and in parks.

New developments with urban trees in areas that were formerly agricultural or grass fields.

The planting of thousands of new trees on private property by community members.

The increase in size of existing trees and new trees.

This significant change should inspire both optimism and caution. It is a marked improvement that indicates trees are being preserved, planted, and are growing across the City. However, it is challenging to differentiate the relative weight of each factor in driving this increase in canopy cover, specifically how much growth is due to trees maturing and increasing in canopy diameter, versus new trees being planted.

#141

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **4:58pm** [Comment ID: 2939] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

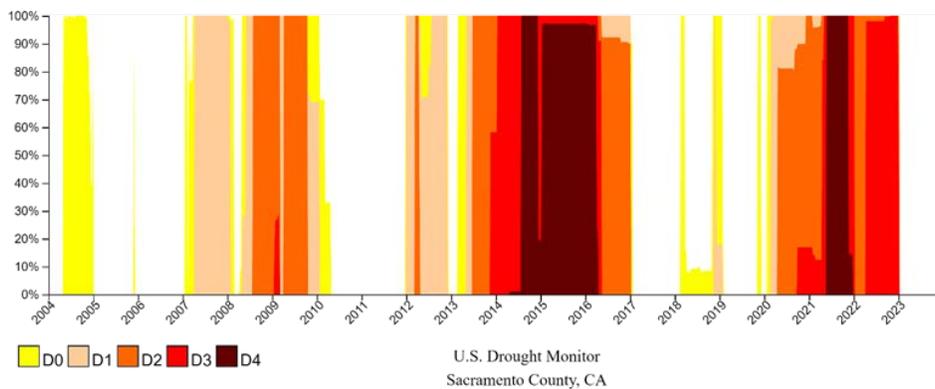
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This might have more impact and relevance if this was illustrated by neighborhood/district.

Much of the increase in canopy in new development areas, many of which were formerly grasslands or agricultural lands with close to zero canopy, is the result of newly planted urban trees. In these areas, development patterns as well as development standards and design guidelines have a substantial impact on the continued expansion of the canopy over time. Several factors will impact the total percent canopy cover of these areas when planted trees reach full maturity, including minimum required size of planting strips and tree wells, required tree spacing, tree species selection, residential yard size, and road width. Evaluation of an ¹⁴³possible amendments to the planning ordinances, policies, standards, and guidelines that effect how trees are incorporated into new development as well as exploration of programs and funding needed to increase enforcement efforts is needed to ensure all new development can achieve a minimum of 35 percent canopy.

Another cause for caution is the recent extreme and exceptional periods of drought in Sacramento. During the 2004 to 2016 period, Sacramento experienced two major periods of drought. One from 2007 through 2010 and another beginning at the end of 2011 and extending into 2017.⁴⁹ At the peak of the drought in 2015, Governor Brown issued a call to conserve water that led many Californians to stop irrigating lawns and other landscaped areas. This had the unintended consequence of further impacting trees within those lawns and landscaped areas that were reliant on irrigation to supplement the increasingly scarce amounts of rainfall that the region had experienced for several years. While healthy trees can recover from short periods of drought stress, prolonged periods without water will eventually kill the tree, although it may take years before the tree finally succumbs. There are many trees lost because of drought that are not captured in the most recent UTC. Future urban tree canopy assessments will be required to understand the impact of increasingly frequent extreme weather events on the urban canopy. ¹⁴² ¹⁴⁴

Figure 11 Sacramento County Drought Monitor from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Integrated Drought Information System⁵⁰



Overall, the city’s canopy is growing, but not enough to achieve the ambitious goals of this SUFP or to create geographic equity without intervention. Specific focus needs to be given to planting trees in areas that are below the target canopy cover, starting with the lowest canopy areas and most vulnerable populations. Alongside new and replacement planting, existing mature trees should be maintained and protected whenever possible since the greatest benefits accrue from continued growth and longevity of existing canopy. ¹⁴⁵

⁴⁹ Data for California from the National Integrated Drought Information System, May 2023 (<https://www.drought.gov/states/california>)

⁵⁰ <https://www.drought.gov/states/california>

#142

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:23pm** [Comment ID: 2547] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Trees lost during the drought were not captured in the UTC. This is all the more reason to do another one.

#143

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:08am** [Comment ID: 2961] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

evaluation of and amendments to (NOT "POSSIBLE" AMENDMENTS TO)

#144

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:11am** [Comment ID: 2962] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

It is crucial that City programs for water conservation are CHANGED to ensure that water conservation incentives REQUIRE targeted watering for trees. That can't be an option, it needs to be a requirement. Further, the City needs to work with the landscape design community (both licensed and unlicensed) to ensure that they understand the needs for different watering patterns for canopy trees, and make space for canopy trees in xeriscape designs.

#145

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:27pm** [Comment ID: 2260] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

I absolutely agree that existing trees must be maintained and protected. However, I see permits being approved now to clear-cut existing canopy trees in order to construct upscale housing. Is the City going to wait until all these permits are executed, or will the City take some action now? Is it going to be housing at all costs, and this urban forest plan set aside whenever a developer wants to build?



Social Equity 146

As part of the 2040 General Plan Update, the City commissioned a Race & Place report⁵¹ to outline the context of and provide baseline data for environmental justice issues in Sacramento. The report details the connection between Sacramento's environmental conditions and intergenerational patterns of race and urban development that shape the city, in particular the historic impact of racial inequality in housing and the impacts of discriminatory housing programs. The cumulative effects of this trauma created disparities across Sacramento in social determinants of health, population, income, housing, education, employment, infrastructure, and tree canopy. The report identifies a north/south corridor across the city that exhibits poverty and segregation and an east/west corridor that exhibits wealth and opportunity. The neighborhoods in the north/south corridor are the locations most vulnerable to climate change impacts and environmental injustice.

⁵¹ Hernandez, J. "Race and Place in Sacramento: A Report for the City of Sacramento to support preparation of the Environmental Justice Element of the Sacramento 2040 General Plan Update," JCH Research, 2021. (https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/CDD/Planning/General-Plan/2040-General-Plan/Race_Place_Nov-2021.pdf?la=en)

#146

Posted by **Jordan Hosein-Hedmann** on **06/20/2024** at **12:59pm** [Comment ID: 3075] - [Link](#)
Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Thank you all for including this! I look forward to seeing Sacramento progress to being a more equitable city as time goes on.

Multiple scientific studies have been conducted in Sacramento regarding the social geography of tree canopy, and the correlation between urban heat and tree canopy as well as public health and tree canopy.

One study on the distributional equity of urban tree canopy in U.S. cities found that areas with more Black and Latino residents in Sacramento have fewer trees⁵². This association between income, race, and tree canopy cover was unique to Sacramento and Los Angeles when compared to the other cities in the study, which the authors suggest may be due to the hot, dry climate and the need for irrigation.

When analyzing the UTC report prepared for this plan, canopy data overlaid with income statistics shows that Sacramento neighborhoods with higher levels of income also have greater percentages of tree canopy, while neighborhoods with low- to moderate-income—such as historically redlined neighborhoods like Meadowview, Del Paso Heights, Parkway and Valley Hi—have noticeably fewer trees and less shade.⁵³

An exploratory study on tree cover and health in the Sacramento region showed that more neighborhood tree cover was associated with positive effects on health conditions for adults aged 18 to 64 years. The study, conducted by Urban Design 4 Health and the Sacramento Tree Foundation, showed that higher levels of tree cover in a neighborhood were

significantly associated with more vigorous physical activity, less obesity, better general health, lower rates of asthma, and better social cohesion.⁵⁴

A 2019 study on Sacramento's heat islands by Portland State University's Heat Mapping Project, found that the temperature differentials between neighborhoods can vary by as much as 20 degrees during summer days.⁵⁵ The study found that wealthy, tree-canopied neighborhoods are typically cooler, while low-income, asphalt-heavy communities are hotter. Historically redlined neighborhoods were an average of six degrees hotter than the rest of the region, turning these locations into places where outdoor activities are less safe and enjoyable.

The environmental inequity of tree canopy in Sacramento is further complicated by the fact that tree planting efforts are also affected by social and economic disparities. A five-year study of trees distributed through the Sacramento Tree Foundation residential free shade tree program found that homeownership and educational attainment were directly linked to increased levels of both tree planting and tree survival.⁵⁶ While income levels showed no consistent trend, stable homeownership was the best predictor of tree establishment success, a factor that is deeply influenced by the historical, racist housing practice of redlining.

⁵² Schwarz, K., Fragkias, M., Boone, C. G., Zhou, W., McHale, M., Grove, J. M., . . . , Whitmer, A., & Cadenasso, M. "Trees Grow on Money: Urban Tree Canopy Cover and Environmental Justice," *PLoS One*, Volume 10, 2015.

⁵³ Development patterns at the time of development when many of these areas were in the County prior to annexation into the City, did not require medians or separated sidewalks which has directly correlated to lower canopy.

⁵⁴ Ulmer, J. M., Wolf, K. L., Backman, D. R., Trethy, R. L., Blain, C. J., O'Neil-Dunne, J. P., & Frank, L. D. "Multiple health benefits of urban tree canopy: The mounting evidence for a green prescription," *Health Place*, Volume 42, 2016.

⁵⁵ White, R. "Summer Days Often Feel Much Hotter If You Live In One Of California's Historically Redlined Neighborhoods," *CapRadio*, May 2020. (<https://www.capradio.org/articles/2020/05/26/summer-days-often-feel-much-hotter-if-you-live-in-one-of-californias-historically-redlined-neighborhoods>)

⁵⁶ Roman, L. A., Battles, J. J., & McBride, J. R. "Determinants of establishment survival for residential trees in Sacramento Count, CA," *Landscape and Urban Planning*, Volume 129, 2014. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0169204614001273>)

#147

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:06pm** [Comment ID: 2883] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

While home ownership may be a factor on its own, turnover of residents is also a large factor in tree survival. The city has limited tools to increase home ownership but tenant protections are more within its purview, and could have positive effects if they cause turnover to decrease in rentals.

#148

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:03pm** [Comment ID: 2941] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

I recommend defining these terms of environmental equity, social equity to create shared understand as well shared understanding of approach and outcomes the plans wants to achieve.

When assessing these reports and studies cumulatively, the results clearly depict a persistent pattern of social inequity in Sacramento's tree canopy. Racially diverse and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods have fewer trees and experience greater heat island effects; as a result, residents suffer negative health effects.

Policies and implementation measures in this SUFP must include efforts to not only increase the city-wide canopy cover but to strive for greater parity across all neighborhoods while doing so. This will require strategically developed programs and consistent, dedicated funding to increase tree planting and care efforts in neighborhoods with low tree canopy, high heat island effects, and high social vulnerability. Additionally, because 90 percent of the tree canopy is privately-owned, focusing only on equity in the City-owned public tree resource will be insufficient. Additional policies, programs, and partnerships should be developed to bolster the efforts of residents, community groups, non-profits, and other private entities in growing trees canopy in disadvantaged communities.

Canopy expansion efforts should be focused first on residential neighborhoods with the lowest canopy, highest vulnerability to extreme heat, most socio-economically vulnerable populations, and the most significant potential for canopy increase.

Planting in these areas can provide the greatest marginal benefit per tree planted, including household and community-level resilience to climate impacts including extreme heat, associated public health benefits, energy bill savings, improved active transportation conditions, and economic benefits. Areas that meet these criteria have been identified as "urban forest priority intervention areas" for investment in urban forestry programs.

These "urban forest ¹⁴⁹ priority intervention areas", shown in Figure 12, were ranked using data at the census tract level. Priority metrics used to rank census tracts include state or federal designation as a disadvantaged community⁵⁷, canopy coverage below 25%, and Day Time Land Surface temperature greater than or equal to 103 degrees Fahrenheit⁵⁸. Census tracts meeting all three criteria were ranked Very High priority; census tracts meeting 2 criteria were ranked High priority; census tracts meeting one criterion were ranked Medium priority; and census tracts that did not meet any criteria were ranked Low priority.

The Urban Forest Priority Intervention Areas map will be utilized to support strengthened interventions in areas with the highest need. Within priority areas, program efforts will further emphasize residential areas, corridors, and parks with consideration to existing infrastructure constraints.

⁵⁷ SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities and Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool disadvantaged community maps were used to identify disadvantaged status.

⁵⁸ Based on Sacramento's average relative humidity ranges during summer months, this temperature would likely reach a wet-bulb temperature near or above 86 degrees Fahrenheit, which could pose potentially fatal danger to humans outside. (<https://www.technologyreview.com/2021/07/10/1028172/climate-change-human-body-extreme-heat-survival/>)

#149

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:04pm** [Comment ID: 2942] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

recommend this be included as a specific recommendation to address racial inequities, both historically and currently.

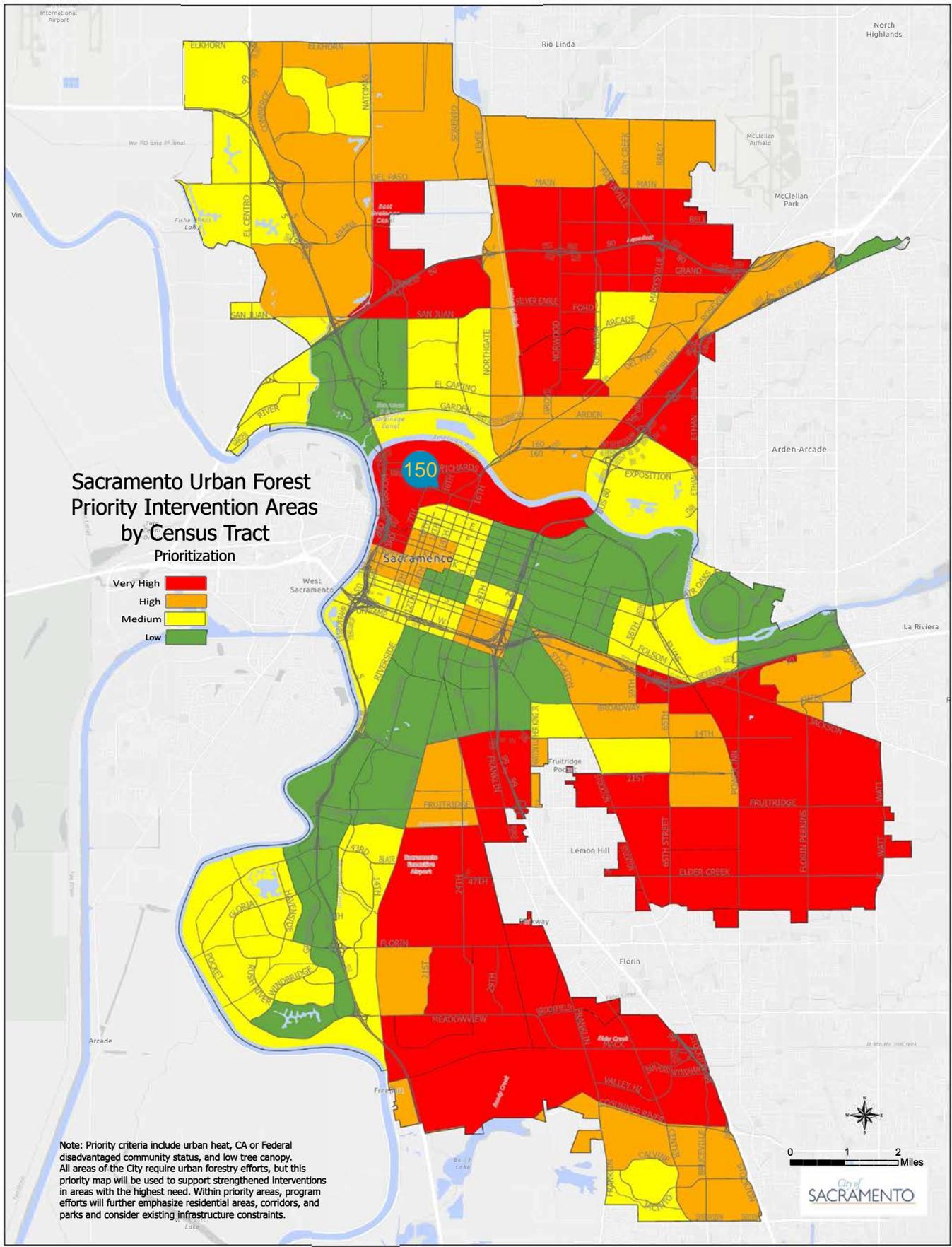


Figure 12 Urban Forest Priority Intervention Areas Map

#150

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/01/2024** at **1:54pm** [Comment ID: 2233] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Completely agree that the areas along the lower Parkway need enhanced management due to the destruction of trees from the Corps of Engineers erosion control and from homeless encampment fires that really took out a lot of habitat in this area. Oaks please!!

CITY-MANAGED TREES ANALYSIS



Within Sacramento city boundaries, there are an estimated one million trees; however, only about ten percent of those trees are managed by the City of Sacramento. The previous section, the City-wide Tree Canopy Assessment, focused on all one million trees. This section focuses only on the ten percent of trees managed by the City of Sacramento.

The City inventoried all City-managed street and park trees in 2018 - a total of 87,324 trees. Data collection included species, size, condition, and geographic location. Since then, the City's public tree resource has increased in population; the City estimates that it currently manages about 100,000 trees, including trees in new parks, streets, and City-managed facilities that have not yet been inventoried. While not perfect, this inventory provides a snapshot of the type and distribution of City trees.

151

An Urban Forest Resource Analysis⁵⁹ of City-managed trees was completed in 2018 using i-Tree Streets, a benefit-cost modeling tool. The results quantified the existing structure, function, and value of the City's public tree resource, including examination of composition, species diversity, age distribution, condition, and performance.

Species Diversity

Species diversity is important to the biological resilience of the urban forest. Species, in this context, refer to distinct types of trees. Similar species that are genetically related are grouped into a genus, and similar genera are grouped into a common family. This means that species in a common genus or family are genetically related to each other.

Maintaining diversity in the tree canopy is important for overall resilience of the urban forest. Dominance of any single species or genus can have detrimental consequences in the event a specific type of tree is particularly susceptible to the impacts of storms, drought, disease, pests, or other stressors. Many pests and disease-causing pathogens tend to preferentially impact a specific species of tree or group of species that are closely related genetically, while leaving other more distantly related species of trees completely unaffected. Dutch elm disease and sudden oak death disease, for example, have had catastrophic impacts on the populations of elm trees and oak trees respectively, but do not impact other types of trees. A diverse mix of trees makes it harder for diseases to spread throughout a region since the trees that are not susceptible can act as a barrier between the disease-causing pathogen and the trees that are susceptible. Additionally, a diverse mix of trees

⁵⁹ https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/Public-Works/Maintenance-Services/Urban-Forest-Master-Plan/SacramentoCA_ResourceAnalysis_20180522.pdf?la=en

#151

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:32pm** [Comment ID: 2261] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

In selecting tree species, the City should consider the size of the tree at maturity. Overuse of smaller species may be convenient for landscape purposes, but larger trees are needed in order to provide adequate shade to reach the 35% goal.

minimizes losses to the overall tree population from any particular environmental stressor by limiting the number of trees that are vulnerable to it. The “10-20-30 rule” is a widely used standard that recommends no single species represent greater than 10 percent of the total population, no single genus more than 20 percent, and no single family more than 30 percent.⁶⁰

City-managed trees include a mix of 194 unique species, significantly higher than the mean of 53 species reported by a nationwide survey of street tree populations in 22 U.S. cities.⁶¹ Of the 194 species, 165 species each account for no more than one percent of the overall tree population and only two species account for more than five percent. Except for *Platanus x acerfolia* (London plane) at 15.5 percent, the City’s inventory meets industry recommended species diversity standards.

The overreliance on *Platanus x Acerfolia* in the City inventory should be minimized. There are emergent threats (e.g., Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer) that, while not yet in the Sacramento area, have the potential to cause significant die back in the species. Future planting should focus on increasing diversity and reducing reliance on this overused species. New and underutilized tree species should be considered for replanting sites left vacant by the loss of trees whose species is overrepresented in the City’s tree inventory. The City should continue to explore the use of new species that show the potential to be resistant to the known pests that currently pose a threat to the region and the potential to withstand climate impacts affecting the Sacramento region, such as extreme heat, drought, and precipitation. Tree species lists and standards for City projects and private development should be reviewed and updated to ensure adherence to current best practices regarding species diversity and selection.

Age Distribution

As trees age and increase in size, they need different management and care. The age distribution of individual trees within the urban forest influences present and future costs of maintenance as well as the flow of benefits. While large, mature trees provide the greatest level of benefits, they also cost more to maintain due to their size and need for specialized equipment.¹⁵⁴ Having a large portion of mature trees in an urban forest can strain municipal budgets.⁶²

An “ideal” age distribution of trees has a high proportion of young trees to offset establishment and age-related mortality as a percentage of older trees declines over time: 40 percent immature, 30 percent young, 20 percent middle aged, and 10 percent mature. An urban forest with an ideal age distribution allows for predictable annual maintenance costs and continuity in tree canopy coverage and associated benefits.¹⁵²

Age distribution can be approximated by considering the range of trunk diameters within the overall inventory and of individual species.⁶³

⁶⁰ Santamour, F. S. “Trees for Urban PLanting: Diversity, Uniformity, and Common Sense,” Metropolitan Tree Improvement Alliance (METRIA) Conference, 1990.

⁶¹ McPherson, E. G., & Rowntree, R. A. “Using structural measures to compare twenty-two U.S. street tree populations,” Landscape Journal, Volume 8, 1989.

⁶² McPherson, e. G., van Doorn, N., & de Goede, J. “Structure, function and value of street trees in California, USA,” Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, Volume 17, 2016. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1618866715301400>)

⁶³ In all trees except palms, the trunk diameter increases with age, so trees of the same species with smaller trunk diameters tend to be younger and those with larger trunk diameters tend to be older. Palms were not considered in this analysis because their diameters do not increase as they age.

#152

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:15am** [Comment ID: 2963] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This distribution is flawed in that it is often the older trees that provide the most climate benefits - including canopy spread, carbon sequestration, low water needs, etc.

#153

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:08pm** [Comment ID: 2884] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The previous urban forest inventory contains many misidentifications, so the diversity statistics here are likely inaccurate. I hope if another inventory is conducted, a contractor with more local expertise will be selected.

#154

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:47pm** [Comment ID: 3143] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

California Natural Resource Agency's released Nature Based Solutions Climate Targets for Developed Lands calls for larger tree canopy to be planted to protect us against climate change. Specifically, to "increase large canopied, drought-tolerant trees meaningful to the community; prioritize communities with low tree canopy". We are lucky that our climate and proximity to our rivers allows us to grow large canopied trees that provide maximum health benefits. We should not limit our tree benefits by planting smaller trees than we are able to because of strain on municipal resource. At the very least, large canopied trees should be prioritized and recommended on private property to achieve the goals of this plan.

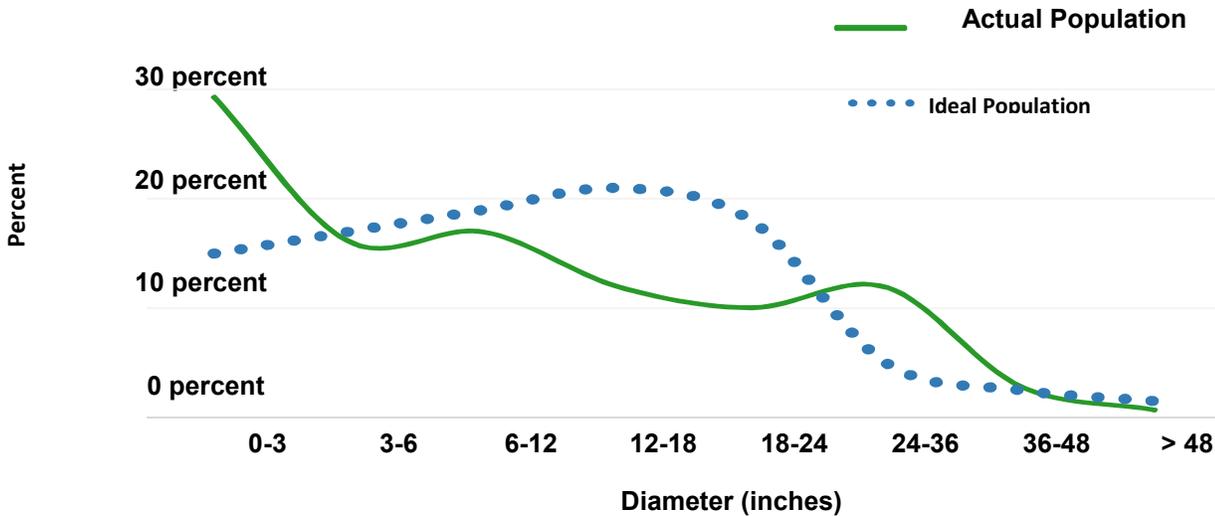


Figure 13 Age distribution of City of Sacramento trees compared to ideal population distribution

The City-managed tree resource has 62.3 percent of trees with a diameter of 12 inches or less and 15.5 percent of trees with a diameter of 24 inches or more (Figure 9), although the diameter distribution—and therefore the age distribution—in the City-managed inventory varies across species.

Compared to the ideal age distribution, Sacramento’s public tree resource includes more small stature, immature, and young trees than are recommended for an urban forest. In a growing city like Sacramento, this trend is expected due to newly developed areas being more likely to have a higher proportion of younger and smaller trees. The city can expect environmental services provided by the urban forest to significantly increase as the current young tree population ages and tree size increases. Continued investment in tree planting and existing tree maintenance will be needed to ensure an ideal age distribution is achieved and retained. Additionally, young and immature trees require more frequent pruning to establish appropriate and safe structure which should be considered in urban forest management decisions.

#155

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:16am** [Comment ID: 2964] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

'tree planting AND FOLLOW-UP CARE and existing tree'

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION



Sacramento’s vast urban forest is owned, managed, and regulated by a diverse collection of stakeholders. This section provides an overview of the primary stakeholders and details the City’s role in managing public trees, including department responsibilities, services provided, funding, regulations and policies, and the effectiveness of City Code in protecting and expanding the urban forest.

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Who Manages Urban Trees?

Sacramento’s trees are owned and maintained by a mix of public agencies and private stakeholders who collectively share the responsibility of maintaining the urban forest. Each agency and property owner has different goals, priorities, and available resources, making uniform tree management and oversight that accounts for these differences a complex task. The primary agencies and groups responsible for the urban forest are described below.

City of Sacramento: Manages trees on City property and in City rights-of-way, primarily street trees, trees in City parks, and at City facilities. 157 158

Sacramento County: Manages trees on County-owned and managed property, including County facilities and County parks that are within the city limits, such as the American River Parkway.

State of California: Manages trees on State property and rights-of-way, including State parks, state-owned facilities, Cal Expo, and along state highways.

School Districts: Manages trees on school district and educational institution property, including Sacramento State University, University of California Davis, Los Rios Community College District, and multiple K-12 public school districts, various campuses and related parking lots.

Private Property Owners: Most of the land within the city is under private ownership, including commercial, industrial, and residential properties. Owners are responsible for planting and maintaining trees on private property, as well as watering city street trees unless they are a part of a tax-funded maintenance district that includes irrigation facilities for street trees. 159

Regulatory Agencies: Various flood control agencies manage activities on the river levees and may restrict planting activities. Public wildlife agencies enforce environmental regulations that protect certain trees, particularly in natural areas. Public and private utilities, particularly the electrical and natural gas providers, also drive tree decisions, such as removal and trimming of trees to avoid conflicts with underground and overhead utilities.

Sacramento Tree Foundation: A community benefit non-profit that advocates for and supports private planting efforts and provides public education regarding proper tree planting and maintenance.

#156

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **12:06pm** [Comment ID: 2616] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Independent citizens' tree commission/advisory board

This commission/board should be established by the city under city ordinance, and its recommendations should carry sufficient weight to protect our tree canopy. A citizen's advisory board was recommended in the Sacramento Tree Services Best Management Practices Review and Report which was developed by Robert L. Tate Associates Inc. and published in November 2003. The report recommended that the city define and regularly convene a Citizen Advisory Group to review and aid in setting policy, provide program feedback, and protect the community's urban forest interests.

#157

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **10:53pm** [Comment ID: 2905] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Street trees is the most critical area - it is the hardest to catch up on too. This needs to be allocated most budget for Sidewalk conversion to tree canopy. And watering trucks for tree establishment.

#158

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:19am** [Comment ID: 2965] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

City should commit to taking a leadership role in regulating tree care in the City. This is a perfectly reasonable goal and will help A LOT in growing our canopy.

#159

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:24pm** [Comment ID: 2548] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

There is virtually no public education letting property owners know that they are responsible, by city ordinance, for watering city trees in the public right-of-way in front of their property. Trees are dying or their health is compromised (leading to eventual removal) as a result.

This range of ownership structure results in varying levels of investment, maintenance, planting, and care. Most entities with tree management oversight have other, sometimes competing, priorities or missions beyond tree care. Public safety concerns may result in tree removals or restrictions. Agencies with another core mission, such as public education, may have challenges devoting adequate resources to tree planting and maintenance within limited resources. Private owners may be concerned with the costs of tree care or lack the technical expertise to understand and implement proper pruning, irrigation, and other maintenance activities. Requirements for development may compete with existing trees.

Reaching canopy cover goals city-wide requires the support and investment of each of these parties. Partnership, collaboration, education and outreach between the City, other public agencies, private businesses, non-profit urban forest organizations, and the public will be required to achieve the goals of this plan.

City of Sacramento – Department Roles

Within the City, staff from a variety of departments play a hand in managing the urban forest.

Urban Forestry Section of Department of Public Works (DPW): The urban forestry section is responsible for planting, maintaining, and protecting trees within the public right-of-way, advising other departments on proper tree care and compliance with city codes related to trees, and providing recommendations to the Community Development on trees in connection with proposed private development. Street trees are considered an essential element of city transportation infrastructure.

Facilities Division of Department of Public Works: The Facilities Division is responsible for planting, maintaining, and protecting trees at City facilities, including City office buildings and parking lots, libraries and community centers.

Marina Section of Department of Public Works: The Marina section manages the Sacramento Marina, which includes open space adjacent to the Sacramento River, as well as the Marina parking lot.

Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE): YPCE is responsible for planting, maintaining, and protecting trees within city parks and parkways.

Department of Utilities (DOU): DOU is responsible for planting, maintaining, and protecting all trees within City water, wastewater, and drainage facilities and easements.

Community Development Department (CDD): CDD is responsible for permitting new development and enforcing city codes and ordinances regarding trees in private development projects.

#160

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:21am** [Comment ID: 2966] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Whoever does utilities installation in sidewalks needs to be contained on this list - so that they can get with the program of not doing water services/etc. in tree drip zones. That may be PW, that may be DOU. Currently this is a big problem.

#161

Posted by **Steve Schweigerdt** on **06/03/2024** at **3:50pm** [Comment ID: 2711] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

It seems like Urban Forestry should be managing all city trees, including those in facilities, parks, and waterways.

#162

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:52pm** [Comment ID: 3144] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Parks only has one arborist, not any dedicated tree maintenance staff, work is contracted out, I think this is not clear in this description of how City Trees are maintained, and should be highlighted to help decision makers understand the tremendous gaps in funding, and encourage increasing dedicated funding for urban forestry to all departments involved.

#163

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:25am** [Comment ID: 2967] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This enforcement process is very passive and occurs late in the development process. UF needs to be kept in loop and needs to ADVOCATE FOR TREE PRESERVATION IN DESIGN. This is not happening.



City Services

The following general services are provided for City-managed trees:

- 1) Pruning of City-managed trees¹⁶⁴
- 2) Removals of City-managed trees
- 3) Planting of city-managed trees
- 4) Irrigation in parks and irrigated planters and medians
- 5) Review, issuance, and appeals of permits
- 6) Implementation of City tree protection regulations
- 7) Development review
- 8) Response to 311 community lines
- 9) Emergency response
- 10) Biomass disposal and utilization
- 11) Pest management for City-managed trees

Pruning

A pruning cycle is the number of years it takes to prune all trees managed by the City. The City strives to achieve a five-year pruning cycle, meaning that one fifth of the city's inventory of trees are pruned every year, with each tree receiving maintenance once every 5 years. Currently, the City is on an estimated eight-year pruning cycle for street trees and ten-year pruning cycle for park trees.^{167 168} The length of the pruning cycle has a significant effect on tree value. Proactive routine maintenance can identify and correct defects in trees and¹⁶⁶ improve their structure which can reduce the need for additional and more costly maintenance in the future. Longer pruning cycles may require less initial financial output but any short-term savings to the city is offset by a loss in tree value and increased costs for future maintenance, with the decline in value and the increase in maintenance costs accelerating over time. While the City's current pruning cycle is appropriate, a goal of reaching a five-year pruning cycle has the potential to save maintenance cost over time and increase tree longevity.⁶⁴

Trees are pruned out of cycle only if the tree is impacting private property (building clearance), the right-of-way (road and sidewalk clearance, sign clearance), or if the tree represents an immediate danger to the safety of the public.¹⁶⁵ To mitigate problematic structural defects that develop early in a tree's life and become a greater problem as trees mature, structural pruning is used by City Arborists to develop stable trees and reduce risks to the public.

⁶⁴ Miller, R. W., & Sylvester, W. A. "An Economic Evaluation of the Pruning Cycle," Journal of Arboriculture, Volume 7, 1981.

#164

Posted by **Gabriele** on **05/08/2024** at **9:02pm** [Comment ID: 2349] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

It makes sense to me that young trees be planted properly and pruned to direct their growth such that low limbs which are later damaged by cars/trucks/pedestrians be removed at the time of planting and within the first 5 years of growth. It would save money to spend time on young trees.

Also, I'm seeing inappropriate pruning by utility workers ... topping trees to avoid power lines does not work for the long run. Please train folks to prune out only the branches that interfere with power lines so they don't weaken the tree or make a bigger mess of things.

When choosing trees to plant, please avoid Bradford Pear trees (high allergen!) and Liquid Amber trees (they drop spike ball seed pods which are tripping hazards and their roots uproot concrete walkways.

I'd like to see schools plant more trees (and be trained on how to properly maintain/prune them). Foothill High School has done a poor job.

I'd like to see more rain water capture landscaping so that trees can be watered deeply and ground water can be re-charged. If this means curb cutting to divert some draining water to a percolating catch basin (as places in the southwest have done), that makes sense to me.

Thank you for taking this on. I love trees so much. How can I help you?

#165

Posted by **Molly Penberth** on **04/26/2024** at **9:29pm** [Comment ID: 2202] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Severe damage and potential loss of heritage trees should be considered as a reason to prune trees outside the normal cycle.

#166

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:09pm** [Comment ID: 2885] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

If the city lacks the capacity to do regular structural pruning on all of its newly planted trees, perhaps a team of trained and verified volunteers could be approved to do pruning on small trees. This task would not be suitable for all volunteers, but perhaps a team of certified arborists (city staff or from the community) could provide training to a group of committed volunteers, with oversight based on photographic evidence.

#167

Posted by **Eric Premack** on **04/26/2024** at **3:45pm** [Comment ID: 2199] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

These pruning cycles are too long and should be shortened both in policy and practice. The City should, whenever it is more cost-effective, make use of private contractors rather than more expensive city employees to get the pruning work done.

#168

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:25pm** [Comment ID: 2549] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The pruning cycle is inadequate. Many trees are removed because proper maintenance and follow-up cannot be effected.

Removals 170 173

Generally, City-managed trees will only be removed for reasons of public safety. Private parties can request to remove a City tree at their own expense for reasons other than public safety (i.e., new construction, trees affecting hardscape or foundations). Applicants are required to apply for a permit to remove a City tree and provide for any required replacement or mitigation. A City Arborist will evaluate the request to determine if the impact of the proposed removal and replacement on the City's urban forest is justified for that individual case. The City has a public notification process for all tree removals that do not involve an immediate danger to the public. Public notice generally involves a notice on the tree and the City website for 15 days to allow for objections or appeals from any members of the public. If a tree is illegally removed, violators are subject to fines of up to \$25,000 in addition to any civil and/or criminal penalties that may apply to the situation⁶⁵.

Planting 172

Tree planting is part of the reforestation efforts of the Urban Forestry Section. Trees are planted on City property, within the public right of way along streets or City easements, by maintenance staff according to widely accepted best management practices for the tree care industry (ANSI A300 standards).

The City generally plants a new tree to replace each tree that has been removed unless there is an unavoidable conflict that prevents planting. As trees are removed, the City endeavors to replace that tree within two 171 years. Planting typically takes place in the Spring and Fall. Planting sites are evaluated for their ability to sustain a tree to maturity. Sites with irrigation are preferred over non-irrigated sites and larger planting sites are preferred over smaller sites. Volunteer tree planting events with City parks require oversight by City staff.

Irrigation

Trees in parks and at City facilities are passively watered by turf irrigation systems. Trees within the public rights-of-way are irrigated by adjacent property owner 174 except in instances where they are a part of a tax-funded maintenance district that includes irrigation facilities for street trees. Non-irrigated newly planted trees may be watered by City staff with water trucks for the first three years.

The City's Department of Utilities promotes water conservation and drought response, while valuing the importance of tree care. Trees should be watered separately from lawns and landscapes due to varying water needs. Lawns and landscapes need frequent and short watering intervals whereas trees require infrequent and long watering intervals. In addition, lawns and landscapes are both subject to the City's watering schedule but trees watered via soaker hose or drip irrigation are not.

169

⁶⁵ Sacramento City Code 12.56.090C (https://library.qcode.us/lib/sacramento_ca/pub/city_code/item/title_12-chapter_12_56)

#169

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:28am** [Comment ID: 2968] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

DOU needs to require tree irrigation in all water- preserving installations that get City rebates. The general public view xeriscaping as precluding canopy trees. That is not the case, and the City needs to make that clear

#170

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:25pm** [Comment ID: 2550] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Signs should be put on both sides of the tree so they can be seen from both the sidewalk and the street. The period in which to file objects or appeals should be 30 days, not 15, as it is currently. The appeal process for private protected trees should be made easier for the public, including lowering the fee for private tree appeals, and allowing appeals to be filed online or via e-mail. Currently appeals for the removal of private protected trees must be filed in-person at the city clerk's office, and the appeal form is not available online. This is an opaque process and the tree ordinance needs revision.

#171

Posted by **Eric Premack** on **04/26/2024** at **3:43pm** [Comment ID: 2198] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

Two years is much too long and the policy (and practice) should be to replace within weeks, not years.

#172

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:26pm** [Comment ID: 2551] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Tree planting sites in park strips (public right-of-way) should not be replaced with utility boxes. Utility boxes should not be an excuse for not replanting a tree, or planting a smaller species. It should not take the city two years to plant a new tree where a tree has been removed; the timeline should be one year, at the most.

#173

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/31/2024** at **11:34am** [Comment ID: 2699] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Urban Forestry website - listing of city tree removals (maintenance) and private

protected tree removal permits: Listing should include the species and diameter, and the arborist's report supporting the removal. If the arborist's report for a private protected tree was submitted to the city by a private arborist in support of the removal, it is a public record and should be included.

#174

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:27pm** [Comment ID: 2552] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

There is virtually no public education that lets property owners know that they are responsible, by city ordinance, for watering city trees in the public right-of-way in front of their property. Trees are dying or their health is compromised (leading to eventual removal) as a result.

Permitting

Tree permits are required for trimming and removal of City-managed trees and private protected trees. A City Arborist reviews applications for tree permits; removals are posted for 15-days and posted on the City's web site and can be appealed by the public.

Enforcement of City Tree Protection regulations

The City's Code Enforcement Officers have the duty to enforce all city codes and City Arborists are also authorized to enforce section 12.56 of the city code titled Tree Planting Maintenance and Conservation. City Code Enforcement Officers and City Arborists routinely respond to reports from community members about suspected violations of the city code related to trees and address violations observed during the course of their planned inspections and on-the-job observations. Violations of the city code may be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties, but they are most often addressed by the City through education and administrative penalties ranging from \$250 to \$25,000. The amount of the administrative penalty for any specific action is at the discretion of the person enforcing the code and may be reduced by a hearing examiner if the penalty is appealed. Current policy requires that all monetary penalties received from enforcing the Tree Planting Maintenance and Conservation code be placed in the City's Tree Planting and Replacement Fund and used to fund tree planting projects within the City. 

Development Review

The City's Community Development Department oversees new development and compliance with zoning regulations. The Public Works Urban Forestry section supports development review using arborists to consult and advise on critical tree decisions and consistency with City tree regulations. Compliance with tree requirements occurs as new development project applications are submitted and on a complaint basis within the Community Development Department's Zoning Investigation section. The City maintains lists of tree species that are suitable for parking lots and street trees. 

Response to 311

The 311 24-hour call and web hotline processes requests for routine and emergency tree work involving city owned and maintained trees. Currently, the 311 service receives 500-700 calls per month for tree-related issues. Most calls are related to non-emergency service requests, and general information.

#175

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:27pm** [Comment ID: 2553] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

There is very little involvement by the city Public Works Urban Forestry section in ministerial reviews as opposed to standard design reviews. In ministerial reviews (which are increasingly mandated by the state and the city [ex. ADUs, SB 9 projects, SB 35 projects, etc.]) the review is basically a check sheet and the project is approved before a tree removal permit is submitted to Urban Forestry for review. If tree protection and space for planting is not “baked in” to the planning ordinances governing ministerial review, our canopy is at grave risk. In standard design reviews, a landscape plan including tree removals is submitted to Urban Forestry and approval of the landscape plan is part of a holistic review of the project.

#176

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **8:29am** [Comment ID: 2969] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

THIS FUND, INCLUDING SPECIFIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURES, FOR PRIOR YEAR, CURRENT YEAR, AND BUDGET, NEEDS TO BE INCLUDING IN THE FUNDING SECTION OF THE SUPP.

#177

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/19/2024** at **4:53pm** [Comment ID: 3045] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Again, the significant tree area in the tree ordinance is not supportive of maintaining significant trees. Number 21 is interpreted as any project seems to be a reason to cut down trees.

Emergency Response

Every year, the City of Sacramento creates an emergency response plan. The response plan outlines procedures for city staff to respond to emergencies during and outside of normal business hours and gives guidance on how to prioritize various types of tree related issues to maximize the overall safety to the public. The City responds to all tree emergencies that affect the public, regardless of whether the tree is a public or private tree.

Biomass Disposal and Utilization

The City provides residents with yard waste containers that are collected year-round to manage the leaf litter from publicly managed and privately managed trees. From November through January, Sacramento allows residents to put green yard waste (specifically, fallen leaves) in the street where “The Claw,” a yard-waste pick-up machine, picks up piles of leaves. The City recycles all wood and tree related debris generated by pruning and removal activities performed by city staff and contractors. No wood and tree related debris is ever taken to a landfill. Small tree parts are generally processed into wood chips at the work site and used as mulch within City maintained landscaped areas such as street medians and parks. Wood chip mulch can help conserve soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures, and provide additional fertilization to the soil as it slowly decomposes. Larger tree parts are generally taken to a recycling facility that is authorized by the State to receive and process recyclable materials. The fate of the wood depends on the capacity of the recycling facility, but it is not uncommon for wood that originates in Sacramento to be used to make mulch or plywood or be burned to generate electricity. Contractors performing tree care work for the City of Sacramento recycle any wood and tree related debris they generate during the course of their work in a similar manner to City staff. The City’s current tree care contractor, West Coast Arborist, also has the capacity to process larger tree parts to make usable consumer products such as lumber, and furniture through their Street Tree Revival program. The Sacramento Tree Foundation has a similar program called the Urban Wood Rescue program that also processes tree parts into usable consumer products. The City of Sacramento supports this program by donating large tree parts to STF whenever possible. These programs not only recycle the wood and prevent it from going in a landfill, but they also create valuable and long-lasting products that maximize the carbon storage potential and benefits that Sacramento’s urban forest can provide to the public.

#178

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:09pm** [Comment ID: 2886] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The city needs a policy document that outlines best practices for preventing the spread of serious tree pests. Many very serious pests can be spread by the transport of wood products. The Mediterranean oak borer, invasive shothole borers, and emerald ash borer are all of particular concern in the present time, but new pests are introduced to California all the time. Wood products should be chipped and left on site in situations where there is any chance of transporting such pests.

Pest Management

The City performs pest and disease management for City-managed trees. Management includes identifying and monitoring pests and diseases and employing a broad range of techniques aimed at protecting and enhancing tree health to keep pests and diseases at a tolerable level. One notable disease found in Sacramento trees is Dutch elm disease (DED), a disease fatal to elm trees but not impacting other species of trees. DED decimated elm population across the United States and reached Sacramento in 1990. Sacramento had been anticipating its arrival since 1982 and proactively prepared a comprehensive plan to address the situation. Over the years the plans and methods used to control Dutch elm disease have been modified and adjusted to address the changing situation but always involved trained staff, early detection, swift action, reforestation and community involvement. Today Sacramento still has approximately 2,000 elm trees with approximately 200 estimated to be over a hundred years old. It is rare to see so many mature elms in any city in the United States. This tremendous success can serve as an example of what is possible when the City makes a dedicated effort to provide pest and disease management care for trees. The City continues to stay informed about many pests and diseases that pose new threats to our urban forest. Emerald Ash Borer and Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer are two notable examples of pests that pose a potential threat to our urban forest if they were to be introduced to Sacramento. Emerald Ash Borer is an insect that can fatally injure ash trees. It has decimated ash trees across the country and is approaching California. The polyphagous shot hole borer is an insect that can fatally injure a wide variety of species but is known to impact London plane trees preferentially. It is already in California. The loss of significant amounts of ash trees and/or London plane trees in Sacramento would be catastrophic. Efforts to minimize the impacts will once again require proactive planning, trained staff, early detection, swift action, reforestation and community involvement.

179

#179

Posted by **Eric Premack** on **04/26/2024** at **3:40pm** [Comment ID: 2197] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Swift action to address diseased trees should be a absolute city policy, especially with Dutch Elm Disease where inspection and removal of infected trees should occur very rapidly to prevent spread. Ditto for similar pests and diseases.

Funding

180

Proactive and professional management of any public infrastructure asset requires sufficient funding to maintain the asset at industry and community standards, and the urban forest is no different. Stable and predictable funding is critical to effective and efficient management of the urban forest as well as the urban forest program’s viability and sustainability.

Table 5 City funding for City-managed trees

185

Investments	
Urban Forestry Division Operations	\$6,600,000
Park Trees	\$800,000
Other Landscaping Costs (City facilities)	\$300,000
Total Investments	\$7,700,000

Note that this does not include costs associated with collection and disposal of leaves, estimated at nearly \$2 million annually but primarily covered through ratepayer green waste collection and disposal, or emergency response for major storm events, which are unplanned and costs can be substantial, as was evidenced in the early 2023 storms. In fiscal year 2022/2023, the City’s total budget for urban forest maintenance activities across departments was approximately \$7.7 million, or \$14.80/capita. Urban forestry program funding comes from several sources and varies by department, as described below.

Public Works Urban Forestry Section

184

Virtually all funding for the City’s Urban Forestry section is through proceeds from the City-wide Landscaping and Lighting District (L&L), enacted in 1989. This special assessment district raises funds for installing, maintaining, and servicing public lighting, landscaping, and park facilities through special assessments on the property tax bill of all parcels within the city.

The portion of the annual L&L assessment applied for Street Trees is about \$25 per single family home , with commensurate rates for other types of land use. In 2023, this funding source is estimated to contribute approximately \$6.6 million annually. This funding is used for urban forestry staff salaries, contracted maintenance work, equipment, vehicles and fuel, responding to customer inquiries through 311, and trees for planting and other equipment. Based on approved staffing levels, the current practice is for the Urban Forestry section to contract out about half of its routine tree maintenance. The use of L&L is limited to planting and maintenance of City trees and landscaping. L&L funding is not eligible for programs, planting, or maintenance of trees on private property or property owned by other agencies or for educational programs or materials.

#180

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:30pm** [Comment ID: 2581] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The Urban Forestry program is woefully underfunded. For just one example; The city has admitted in various places in this document that one of the reasons it abandoned trees it planted and maintained in front yards - where there were no public right-of-way planting strips - is because it lacked the budget and negatively impacted the maintenance and pruning cycle. It abandoned approximately 59,000 trees back to the homeowners in approximately 1990. In low-income neighborhoods, this resulted in devastation to an already-insufficient tree canopy. How does the city propose to shade these neighborhoods, as a matter of environmental justice, if it lacks the budget to do so? It is not sufficient to expect Sacramentans in low-income neighborhoods to plant and maintain front and backyard trees without assistance from the city.

#181

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **9:28am** [Comment ID: 2970] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This chart is inadequate.

What are the revenue sources?

What is historical pattern of funding and expenditures?

How many FTEs serve UF purposes? How are they distributed between departments?
NOTE THAT THE UF RECEIVED GENERAL FUNDING FOR YEARS. If the City is going to really commit to the canopy goal in this plan, more funding is needed.

#182

Posted by **Matt Anderson** on **05/23/2024** at **9:28pm** [Comment ID: 2574] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Has the city considered amending the L&L to increase services or expand planting in under-served areas? Removing the special discounts for "church" parcels, increasing escalation cap to 4% (or more, given recent inflation), or correlating tree maintenance costs to something other than vehicle trips may be worth looking, if feasible.

#183

Posted by **Matt** on **04/27/2024** at **9:24pm** [Comment ID: 2204] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Figure appears to be \$8.2 million on page 16 but may be including other data?

Additionally, is maintenance cost at full implementation known/could be calculated?

#184

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **9:29am** [Comment ID: 2971] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Note that General Fund has been available as a revenue source in the past.

#185

Posted by **Eric Premack** on **04/26/2024** at **3:37pm** [Comment ID: 2196] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

The City should be supplementing these dedicated forestry funds with general purpose funding from the General Fund.

Youth Parks and Community Enrichment

Youth Parks and Community Enrichment (YPCE) dedicates approximately \$800,000 annually from L&L funding for tree maintenance in City parks and parkways, including scheduled maintenance and emergency removals. YPCE does not include any City tree maintenance staff, so all maintenance work is performed by third party contractors. YPCE also supports community tree planting efforts in City parks. YPCE does have a dedicated arborist position.

Public Works Facilities Division & Department of Utilities

Both the Public Works Facilities Division and the Department of Utilities utilize third party contractors to perform emergency maintenance and hazard management work on trees located at facilities within their purview, but they do not have dedicated budgets, programs, or staff to perform routine maintenance.

Tree Planting and Replacement Fund

On August 4, 2016, the City Council added Chapter 12.56 to the City Code, which among other things, allows in-lieu fees and civil penalties for tree removals to be deposited into the Tree Planting and Replacement Fund. This Fund is used for tree planting projects for City trees on City property and restricts plantings on private property.

Assessment of Funding

The City's urban forest budget per capita (\$14.80) is considerably higher than the nationwide average (\$7.37) and exceeds the minimum \$2 per capita required by the Arbor Day Foundation as one condition of Tree City USA recognition.⁶⁶ It must be noted, while the City investment exceeds these two metrics, neither are tied to tree canopy goals, local labor markets, or other issues unique to individual communities.

Existing funding levels allow the City to meet its current urban forest maintenance obligations, such as pruning existing inventory, service requests, and emergency response. These funding levels will not be sufficient to achieve the ambitious canopy and climate resilience goals of the City, increase tree planting efforts, retrofit and install irrigation, increase maintenance capacity as canopy increases, support unplanned emergency response, and enforce key ordinances.

⁶⁶ Arbor Day Foundation. "Economics of Urban Forestry," Arbor Day Foundation, 2023. (<https://www.arborday.org/urban-forestry-economic>)

#186

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:28pm** [Comment ID: 2555] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

The in-lieu fees should be sufficient to virtually replace the loss of the canopy provided by a tree that is removed for a development project. Often in-lieu fees are cheaper than preserving a mature, existing tree. Developers want to monetize every square foot of property. It is up to the city to require true canopy preservation. A developer's job is to make money.

#187

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/01/2024** at **2:03pm** [Comment ID: 2234] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

YPCE needs to get an arborist who will advocate for the trees

#188

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:28pm** [Comment ID: 2554] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

YPCE needs a dedicated arborist position to advocate for, and have professional knowledge of tree stewardship and maintenance.

#189

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/19/2024** at **4:55pm** [Comment ID: 3046] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

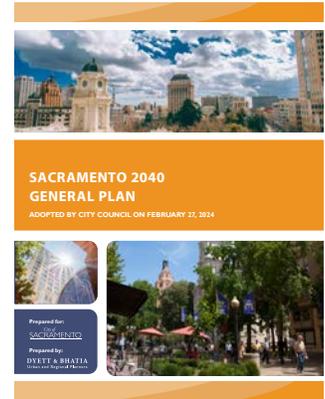
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Private significant trees that are cut down and have to pay Mitigation our subtractive value to the neighborhood they are in. It is understood that there are many neighborhoods that need more tree canopy, but when the trees cut down in the neighborhood that is privately held, that money goes into the phone for all the trees and the general neighborhood Liz is out.

Tree Regulations & Policies

The Sacramento Urban Forest Plan builds on several City documents focused on improving the city’s design, mobility, and ecological resilience. The City’s tree regulations and policies establish the regulatory framework for the protection and preservation of the urban forest. Below is a summary of the most significant existing policy documents, plans, and codes that affect our urban forest.

- 1) **Adopted 2024 Sacramento General Plan⁶⁷:** The General Plan’s Environmental Resources & Constraints Element provides the policy frameworks that support urban forestry and landscaping on City’s streets, open space, and development projects. 190
 - a) **Community Plans:** Community Plans are a portion of the General Plan prepared for a specific area or community within the city – allowing the City to guide investment and development decisions by community. As a part of the General Plan, Community Plans include policies that supplement city-wide urban forest policies to address specific community forest needs.



- 2) **Adopted 2024 Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP)⁶⁸:** The Climate Action & Adaption Plan includes an inventory of Sacramento’s greenhouse gases (GHGs) and sets goals for GHG reduction for the city to meet. The CAAP also includes a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment that evaluates projected climate impacts in Sacramento through the end of the 21st Century, and an Adaptation chapter that identifies six primary adaptation goals and a range of supporting policies and actions intended to guide City efforts to mitigate the effects of projected climate change impacts. Expanding the urban forest to 35 percent by 2045 to sequester carbon is one of twelve CAAP measures that have been identified to reduce GHG emissions. The adaptation chapter also includes a variety of policies and actions intended to support urban forest expansion as a key approach to mitigate projected significant increases in extreme heat impacts and heat island impact over the course of the 21st Century. 191
- 3) **Urban Forest Plan:** This plan, the Urban Forest Plan, will provide the policy framework, goals, and implementation actions for maintaining, expanding, and sustaining the urban forest in Sacramento. 192
- 4) **Parks Plan 2040⁶⁹:** The Draft Parks Plan 2040 provides a guideline for maintaining, improving, and expanding City parks. City parks represent an opportunity to protect the existing urban forest, expand the City-owned urban forest, and provide access to green space in disadvantaged communities. Strategies to support the expansion and enhancement of the urban forest program shall be included in the Parks Plan 2040. *Adoption of the Parks Plan is expected in 2024.*

⁶⁷ <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/long-range/general-plan>

⁶⁸ <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/long-range/climate-and-sustainability-planning>

⁶⁹ <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksPlan>

#190

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:29pm** [Comment ID: 2556] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This plan contains virtually no protection for existing, mature trees, which are crucial to our tree canopy. The city is relying heavily on urban and residential infill and reducing VMT (vehicle miles traveled) as climate goals. Existing trees and space for planting trees are in grave danger of being sacrificed for infill development.

#191

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:29pm** [Comment ID: 2557] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The CAAP contains almost no protection for existing, mature trees, which are crucial to our tree canopy. The city is relying heavily on urban and residential infill and reducing VMT (vehicle miles traveled) as climate goals. Existing trees and space for planting trees are in grave danger of being sacrificed for infill development.

#192

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:34pm** [Comment ID: 2262] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

When does this plan go into effect?

- 5) **Active Transportation Plan**⁷⁰: The City’s Bicycle Master Plan (2016) and Pedestrian Master Plan (2006) identify plans for improving walking and bicycling on city streets and on off-street shared-use paths. Street trees have been proven to have traffic calming, urban heat, and air quality benefits and should be employed as part of strategies to create more bikeable and walkable streets and paths. These two plans will be updated and integrated into one Streets For People active transportation plan, which will include assessment and recommendations for tree shading for walking and bicycling infrastructure. *Adoption of the plan is anticipated by 2025.*
- 6) **Sacramento City Code**¹⁹³ The City Code includes standards and ordinances needed to implement the urban forestry policies and goals of the general plan and other plans. It includes the Planning and Development Code (Title 17) that guides requirements for trees in new development. The General Plan 2040 and CAAP include policy direction to update the City Code to support urban forest expansion. Important existing standards and ordinances related to the urban forest include the following:
- a) Chapter 12.56 Tree Planting Maintenance and Conservation
 - b) Chapter 15 Street Design Standards
 - c) Chapter 17.612 Landscaping and Paving Regulations
- 7) **Specific Plans**⁷²: Specific Plans are comprehensive planning and zoning documents for a defined geographic region of the City. They implement the General Plan by providing a special set of development standards, including related to trees. Specific Plans can either be adopted by ordinance, which allows it to supersede the zoning code, or adopted by resolution, so that it is treated as a City policy. ¹⁹⁴
- 8) **Planned Unit Development**¹⁹⁵ Planned Unit Development, or PUD, is a flexible zoning device that redefines the land uses allowed within a stated land area. PUD’s promote large scale, site-specific, mixed-use land development. PUDs are subject to the requirements of the schematic plan and development guidelines adopted for the PUD, in addition to the planned unit development. This allows PUDs to follow unique guidelines specific to that area, which may deviate from City-wide design guidelines.
- 9) **Urban Design Guidelines**⁷⁴: The Urban Design Guidelines provide site design guidance by project type and area. Design Guidelines important to the urban forest include the Parking Lot Tree Shading Design and Maintenance Guidelines which provides standards and guidance for the planting, maintenance, protection, removal, and replacement of parking lot trees with the purpose of achieving the 50 percent shading requirement in parking facilities. Street Standards are another set of design guidelines, which provide guidelines for the design and planting of trees along streets.

⁷⁰ <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/public-works/transportation/current-transportation-efforts/streets-for-people-sacramento-active-transportation-plan>

⁷¹ https://library.qcode.us/lib/sacramento_ca/pub/city_code

⁷² <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/long-range/specific-plans>

⁷³ <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/long-range>

⁷⁴ <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/site-plan-and-design-review>

#193

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **9:33am** [Comment ID: 2972] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Note that there needs to be a goal date for updating these Codes to reflect and support the goals of this SUFP. Note that there is an adoption plan date for Active Transportation Plan. There should be a like adoption date for Ordinance updates.

#194

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **9:34am** [Comment ID: 2973] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Note that the Specific Plan for my area (East Sacramento) barely mentions tree canopy, and yet tree canopy is one of the primary characteristics for the area. Someone in Planning needs to get the memo about neighborhood character. I haven't checked other Specific Plans.

I have a hunch that they all should be UPDATED TO REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE OF CANOPY IN THE AREA.

#195

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:21am** [Comment ID: 3107] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

PUDs Our primary is to guarantee a canopy equivalent to urban forest is implemented in its inception. This should be codified in the city party. A prime example is the Campus Commons area and Isak.

Figure 14 Heirarchy of policies, plans, and codes that effect and regulate trees in the City of Sacramento



Sacramento City Code – Tree Ordinances and Standards

The previous sections outline the regulatory framework that governs the City’s urban forest. Building on this review, the following sections evaluate the efficacy of the tree regulations found in the Sacramento City Code in greater detail. Outlining the specific tree regulations allows for determining if they are sufficient to reach the canopy cover goals of the City and what changes are necessary. ²⁰¹

Chapter 12.56 Tree Planting Maintenance and Conservation

The Tree Planting Maintenance and Conservation Ordinance requires a permit for pruning and removal of any City tree (any tree on City-managed right-of-way) and regulates private protected trees. Private protected trees are defined as:

- 1) A tree that is designated by city council resolution to have special historical value, special environmental value, or significant community benefit, and is located on private property; ¹⁹⁷ ²⁰⁰ ²⁰² ²⁰³
- 2) Any native Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*), Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii*), Interior Live Oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), or California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), that has a Diameter at Standard Height (DSH) of 12 inches or more and is located on private property; ²⁰⁴
- 3) A tree that has a DSH of 24 inches or more located on an undeveloped lot or a lot that does not include any single unit or duplex dwellings; or
- 4) A tree that has a DSH of 32 inches or more located on private property that includes any single unit or duplex dwellings.

Unless the tree is deemed to be an immediate threat, any removal of City trees must be posted for 15 days prior to removal, allowing any person to file a written objection. Removal of City trees in connection with public projects must be approved by the City Council. If the Community Development Department determines that tree removal is necessary for a discretionary development application, the approval shall occur with the body that approves the development application with the same appeal process. This process gives a high level of oversight, transparency, and community input on tree removal decision making. ¹⁹⁶ ¹⁹⁸ ¹⁹⁹

#196

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/01/2024** at **2:10pm** [Comment ID: 2235] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

But how does a developer get to take out an old growth valley oak tree and then call it "Oak Way" with the city's blessing? That is, is there a criteria where the city potentially and actually denies said developer or is it just a process of going through the paperwork? Does someone actually decide if a special tree gets axed purely because the developer wants it gone or saved because it is the moral thing to do?

#197

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:10pm** [Comment ID: 2887] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Are there any trees currently protected by such council resolutions? Is this posted publicly anywhere?

#198

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:24am** [Comment ID: 3108] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Private protected trees are not protected due to item 21 in the ordinance. It seems to be interpreted that any development can, or must be approved if the tree gets in the way of your project. It should, and must be interpreted, or rewritten to make it understood that the projects need to work and be developed around the trees.

#199

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:32pm** [Comment ID: 2560] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

If the tree is not determined to be an immediate threat, why is the appeal period only 15 days, instead of 30 days, which would give better notice to the public? What does the city gain by shortening the appeal period, except to discourage public input? In addition, it should be easier for the public to file appeals, including online or via email. The city has accepted e-mail appeals in the past for city tree removals, but requires appeals for private trees to be filed with the city clerk, accompanied by the proper form and a \$298 appeal fee. The form is not posted on the Urban Forestry's website where the ability to appeal is stated.

#200

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:36pm** [Comment ID: 2263] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

What is it that private protective trees are protected from? In my neighborhood several private protective trees are slated to be cut down so that the developer can build luxury condos. What, then, is the value of this so-called protection?

#201

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **9:38am** [Comment ID: 2974] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The Section on 12.56 doesn't appear to recommend any changes. That is a deficiency in this SUFF.

If the drafters of this Plan do not have a plan for conforming 12.56 with canopy goals, then a Technical Advisory Committee should be appointed, consisting primarily of urban tree canopy specialists, to assist the City in developing such conforming language.

#202

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **9:39am** [Comment ID: 2975] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The 2016 amendment removed "Heritage Trees" from City ordinance protection. This watered-down Pay to Remove ordinance does not provide the protection that the prior ordinance did. The City needs to commit to a process to amend City Code to truly value canopy.

#203

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:31pm** [Comment ID: 2558] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

It appears that, ultimately, a tree has to elicit a city council resolution to be saved from the developer's ax. Is there any other protection for private trees besides what is already in the tree ordinance?

#204

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:31pm** [Comment ID: 2559] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The provisions of 2) - 4) appear to merely be criteria for the property owner to request and be granted a permit to remove a private tree. How often are private removal requests denied (i.e. percentage of permits denied v permits approved), and what is the justification given for denial? How often is the developer asked to redraw their plans to spare a tree described in 2) - 4)?

Chapter 15 Street Design Standards

The City's Street Design Standards require newly developed streets to include landscape buffers (planter strips) between curbs and sidewalks. The standards require a 6-foot minimum planter. Where existing streets do not comply with these standards, individual standards are established when the City conducts complete street projects to retrofit existing corridors. When infill development is proposed, projects are typically required to match the existing conditions.

A 6-foot minimum width for medians and planting strips allow for small and medium stature trees according to the City's recommended street tree list⁷⁵. This City list includes approved tree species with minimum spacing recommendations based on the tree size at maturity. By exploring opportunities to increase the minimum median and planter strip width, the City can provide space for more medium and large size trees which in turn increase potential canopy cover and species diversity.

Table 6 Shade trees approved for use as street trees on the City of Sacramento Street Tree List

	Planter Width (ft)	Tree Height (ft)	# of species on City list
Small Trees	4'	15-25'	15
Medium Trees	6'	25-35'	14
Medium-Large Trees	8'	36-50'	21
Very Large Trees	10'	>50'	6
Trees for Narrow spaces ⁷⁶	8-10'	18-45'	11

The street design standards support utilizing trees to improve walking safety and comfort and as traffic calming devices, but no other standards or codes require maximizing other benefits of trees in development projects.

Standards or design guidelines providing guidance how to maximize cooling benefits would be beneficial to reaching canopy goals and increasing community climate resilience. Buildings and landscaping should be planned to provide cooling benefits for buildings by providing summer shade. In addition to providing shade for the pedestrian environment along streets, trees can also be strategically planted around buildings to yield energy cost savings and keep indoor spaces cooler. Tree shade can contribute to reducing energy needs by 30 percent for air conditioning and 20-50 percent for heating⁷⁷. Trees should be planted to shade east- and west-facing walls to maximize these benefits and should also be planted to shade heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units to increase efficiency. For buildings with solar panels, tree selection and solar panel placement should be planned and designed to the extent feasible in a manner that allows panels to operate with the existing and expected conditions of trees.

⁷⁵ <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/public-works/maintenance-services/urban-forestry/urban-forestry-tree-permits/street-tree-list>

⁷⁶ Narrow spaces include areas where there are restriction on side-to-side canopy growth such as buildings or powerlines. Trees that grow tall and narrow are most appropriate in these areas.

⁷⁷ Nowak, D. J. (2017). *Urban Trees Save Billions of Dollars Through Reduced Energy Costs*. New York: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

#205

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:34pm** [Comment ID: 2561] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 4, Disagree: 0

I strongly support “exploring opportunities to increase the minimum median and planter strip width” and for other concepts/proposals provided here. We need to plant large species. However, the city should be bullish on imposing an 8-foot minimum planter width in new developments and medians, as well as in infill development unless there is an exception to match existing conditions.

Reply by **Matt Anderson** on **05/23/2024** at **9:44pm** [Comment ID: 2575] - [Link](#)

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Second to all of this!

If full 8' planter widths are found infeasible, requiring it least at the treewell locations should be incorporated into the city standard specifications. (utilizing the various grate/permeable/other technology to ensure pedestrian path of travel is maintained where it overlaps)

#206

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:28am** [Comment ID: 3109] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

6 foot planting strips do not provide enough canopy for a 40 foot wide street. Streets over a particular with such as 20 feet should have an 8 foot planting strip to create a canopy that cools. The neighborhood and the paved area.

#207

Posted by **Stephen Richard Bakken** on **05/15/2024** at **7:10pm** [Comment ID: 2454] - [Link](#)

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

SMUD obviously has their list of acceptable tree species beneath powerlines, which is primarily decurrent small to medium height trees. in the past SMUD was only concerned with height and response to pruning. Table 6 attempts to address planter size associated with height, but this is only part of the story. Some species which have distinct characteristics that make them unsuitable for a specific size planter box based upon mature height alone. For example a Camphor tree should never be planted in any restricted planter box 10 feet or less because its massive root collar at maturity causes extensive sidewalk and curb breakage. I recommend the City's street tree list should identify the characteristics of each species including red flags for specific problems such as pest susceptibilities, root collar size. Ultimately if the wrong species is planted in a specific location it may have to be prematurely removed; something we all wish to avoid.

#208

Posted by **Matt Anderson** on **05/23/2024** at **9:57pm** [Comment ID: 2577] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

Encourage the city to ensure street trees in the public ROW are incorporated into the ongoing design standards update (or at minimum engineers will not face additional liability if they include them in future projects)

Reply by **Matt Anderson** on **05/23/2024** at **10:02pm** [Comment ID: 2578] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 4, Disagree: 0

Additionally encourage pursuing a pilot project to pursue viability of treatments that incorporate trees in the public right of way where planters and yard space may not be present. (e.g. interspersed with parking spots)

As an example, Monterey has implemented a successful version of this for many years in their downtown on Alvarado St.

<https://www.google.com/maps/@36.5987958,-121.8946818,3a,75y,275.38h,86.86t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1snTdl75O2NM43cfYpq302GA!2e0!7i16384!8i8192?entry=ttu>

#209

Posted by **Matt Anderson** on **05/23/2024** at **9:48pm** [Comment ID: 2576] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Encourage developing rootable soil standard specs for future plantings to avoid sidewalk uplift, breakage, and ADA travel issues.

#210

Posted by **Steve Schweigerdt** on **06/03/2024** at **4:00pm** [Comment ID: 2712] - [Link](#)

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

Standards also need to prescribe 8X8 tree wells in parking lanes and the addition of landscaped medians in the right places. Many of our streets are too wide and this will provide shade and also constrain the street width for improved safety and lower speeds.

#211

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:13pm** [Comment ID: 2888] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Strongly agree that tree wells should be wider than 6 feet. The tables in this plan suggest that the canopy coverage goal may be unattainable without a strategy that focuses predominantly on the largest trees. Even if some streets cannot accommodate 8 or 10 foot planting spaces everywhere, scattering a few larger

spacing along a corridor will make a big difference. This could be achieved using bulb outs or other innovative strategies to expand the planting space beyond the sidewalk.

#212

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:35pm** [Comment ID: 2562] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 4, Disagree: 0

These standards and guidelines must not be optional. Developers feel they need to monetize every square foot of a lot. It is up to Community Development to help us develop a livable community, and that includes the need for trees.

#213

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **2:01pm** [Comment ID: 2873] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Street redesigns should include an estimation of future canopy coverage along the street on the basis of the included tree wells and species selected. In addition, there should be a goal for each project to reach a target tree canopy coverage at maturity. Since street redesigns are infrequent, this goal should be very aggressive and well beyond the minimum goals found elsewhere in this plan, since this is one of the few situations where the city can have near total control over future tree cover.

#214

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **10:57pm** [Comment ID: 2906] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

How about applying these standards retroactively to bring city sidewalks up to code?

#215

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **9:42am** [Comment ID: 2976] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

These standards must be beefed up to protect existing canopy and provide space for future canopy.

Street designs must include irrigation for young trees. City assistance with irrigation costs of young trees must be available.

#216

Posted by **Jennifer montgomery** on **05/26/2024** at **7:41am** [Comment ID: 2601] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Approved tree list does not include native trees found in this region that are identified earlier in the Urban Forest Plan:

Blue Oak or Valley Oak Interior Live Oak, Foothill Pine

Reply by **Alex Binck** on **06/10/2024** at **5:20pm** [Comment ID: 2728] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Valley oak is actually on the current list. The other oaks are acceptable as street trees and should be added. Foothill pine has very large cones and is prone to dropping large branches. Like other native species, it should be used when appropriate, such as in larger parks, but it is not a good street tree.

#217

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:14pm** [Comment ID: 2889] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Based on the file date, this list is almost 10 years old. There should be a more regular process to keep the list up to date. Knowledge about and availability of various species has changed considerably in the last 10 years.

Chapter 17.612 Landscaping and Paving Regulations

The City's existing guideline²¹⁹ for parking lot shading requirements call for 50 percent of the total parking lot area to be covered by tree canopies within 15 years after establishment of the parking facility. The natural growth rate of the tree, establishment care and maintenance provided, spacing between trees, planter size and soil structure all impact the growth of the tree canopy and timeline of when and if 50 percent canopy cover is achieved.

Currently, the City does not have a program to inspect parking lots after completion to ensure ongoing compliance with tree shading plan approved with the project, and has not identified a process for parking lot owners to replace trees if they die or are removed. As property change²²⁵ hands, parking lot owners may not be aware²²¹ that the trees were a condition of approval. As a result, ongoing compliance is not guaranteed and many parking lots do not achieve the stated goal.²²⁴

Other Considerations Related to Tree Ordinances and Standards²²⁶

One of the extraordinary elements of Sacramento's urban forest is that most of the trees were not planted due to City requirements, but in recognition of the inherent benefits of trees. While the City's Street Standards include trees for some of its history, most requirements were added beginning in the 1980s (e.g., the Parking Lot Shading Ordinance). While design standards and other guidelines may suggest inclusion of trees, the City's standard zoning does not require that lots include trees in front yards; there are not requirements for back yard trees, and tree placement and recommendations are only examined when new development or redevelopment requires discretionary approvals.

In areas with a greater levels of re²²⁰old homes and with concerns over water use increasing due to recent droughts and installation of water meters, there are more barriers to voluntary planting of trees and preservation of trees. Some basic zoning requirements may assist in supporting trees where there are barriers to voluntary plantings.²²²

218

#218

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **9:45am** [Comment ID: 2977] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

If this SUFP is really designed to provide a vision for a tree-canopied future for this City, there must be language fewer "mays" and more "requires." So the last sentence should call for zoning changes to support trees regardless of barriers...

#219

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:35pm** [Comment ID: 2563] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

These guidelines are close to useless, as anyone can see driving around the city. The city does not have a program to inspect parking lots after completion to ensure compliance, has not identified a process for parking lot tree replacement, or, when the property changes hands, to inform the new owner of the requirements, and to effect compliance. The word "guidelines" says it all. It should be an enforced requirement.

#220

Posted by **Isabella Nicolaides** on **05/20/2024** at **10:45am** [Comment ID: 2497] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

The city should require that stand-alone rental properties that do not provide central air conditioning and/or require tenants to pay utilities for heating/cooling must plant/water/maintain deciduous shade trees on property that will provide shade from the morning and afternoon sun.

#221

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:18pm** [Comment ID: 2890] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Enforcement is the obvious flaw in the current system. Is there not a fee levied on properties that are violating the ordinance? It should be fairly easy to monitor canopy coverage on parking lots using remote sensing. Or if the city is unable to monitor the situation, creating a structure for community members to do so could be workable. Or, if the issue is lack of knowledge about the age of parking lots, perhaps the grandfather clause should be eliminated. Property owners have had decades to improve the situation at this point, and if they still need more time, a reasonable deadline can be selected. Requiring compliance on all parking lots would greatly simplify enforcement.

#222

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:40pm** [Comment ID: 2582] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Ban artificial turf: A bill was passed in the Legislature that allows cities to ban artificial turf. This is definitely something to consider for the Urban Forest Plan. It could certainly be banned on park strips, i.e. the public right-of-way where the city plants its trees (but property owner is required to maintain - and some are using artificial grass).

It would be great to ban it for lawns, but that might go beyond the purview of the tree ordinance and may need to be in the zoning ordinances in title 17. It is currently banned under the dripline of trees in yards in city ordinance 17.612.010(A)(1)(b).

Here is the bill (SB 676; Stats. 2023, ch. 498)

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB676

#223

Posted by **Matt Anderson** on **05/23/2024** at **10:27pm** [Comment ID: 2579] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Obviously there are limited city resources to implement these parking guidelines, a few off-the-cuff questions/ideas:

Are there penalties for violating the COAs?

If so, could an enforcement review task on a complaint-basis be created for PW/code enforcement? (perhaps review complaints quarterly or biannually?)

Alternatively, perhaps a one-time notification/reminder of requirements to all parking lot parcels?

Or more regularly, a standard notification to go out when they apply for their regular business license renewal reminding them of the requirements?

#224

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:36pm** [Comment ID: 2564] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Problems have been identified without offering a solution. Standard zoning should require front and backyard trees, with species depending upon lot size. I agree that some basic zoning requirements may result in supporting tree plantings where there are barriers to planting. There should also be education on tree watering (it takes less water than you think), and the city should impose water allowances for tree watering in low-income communities.

#225

Posted by **Matt** on **06/17/2024** at **12:12pm** [Comment ID: 2911] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Text hints at a solution here - why not impose time-of-sale ordinance requiring all commercial parking lots coming up to standard prior to sale? (unless showing serious intent to redevelop)

Consider imposing on commercial real estate brokers (smaller outreach effort needed) or developing some very large mitigation/in-lieu fee to fund an inspection and enforcement program if owner refuses to come into compliance.

#226

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:40pm** [Comment ID: 2565] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Problems have been identified without offering a solution. Standard zoning should require front and backyard trees, with species depending upon lot size. I agree that some basic zoning requirements may result in supporting tree plantings where there are barriers to planting. There should also be education on tree watering (it takes less water than you think), and the city should impose water allowances for tree watering in low-income communities.

Ban artificial turf: A bill was passed in the Legislature that allows cities to ban artificial turf. This is definitely something to consider for the Urban Forest Plan. It could certainly be banned on park strips, i.e. the public right-of-way where the city plants its trees (but property owner is required to maintain - and some are using artificial grass).

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Community Priorities

228

230

Partnership and Engagement is a guiding principle utilized in the formation of this plan. To establish this principle of collaboration and shared responsibility, the development of the Sacramento Urban Forest Plan included significant community engagement. Community engagement efforts included the formation of a Partners Advisory Committee (PAC)⁷⁸, a digital survey, numerous public meetings and workshops, and a series of pop-up booths at community events. Through these activities, participants shared their values, priorities, and recommendations. The results of the community engagement activities are summarized in this section and were utilized to inform the urban forest vision, guiding principles, policy framework, and key recommendations.

229

Partner Advisory Committee (PAC)

227

Developing an urban forest plan not only involves technical analysis and data that can be researched, gathered, and analyzed. Additional information rests in the firsthand knowledge and experience of various groups and individuals that directly manage trees, engage the community, and complete projects that impact trees. To ascertain this information the City invited leaders from the following 30 groups to participate in a Partner Advisory Committee (PAC):

- > 350 Sacramento
- > Asian Resources Inc.
- > Avondale/Glen Elder Neighborhood Association
- > California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- > California Strategic Growth Council
- > City of Sacramento Youth Commission
- > Council Member District 3 Jeff Harris
- > Elmhurst Neighborhood Association
- > Explore Midtown
- > Friends of Capitol Mansions
- > Hagginwood Neighborhood Association
- > Historic Monterey Trail District
- > Hodgson and Company
- > Hollywood Park Communi-Tree Committee
- > LDK Ventures, LLC
- > Meadowview Urban Tree Project
- > Midtown Association
- > North Natomas community representative
- > North State BIA
- > Preservation Sacramento
- > Public Health Institute
- > River Park Neighborhood Association
- > Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
- > Sacramento Area Council of Government
- > Sacramento City Unified School District
- > Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
- > Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- > Sacramento Tree Foundation
- > South Natomas community representative
- > Trees4Sacramento

⁷⁸ Originally called the Stakeholder Representative Group or SRG.

#227

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:33am** [Comment ID: 3110] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This is a great list of partners. We are at Campus Commons 660 acre planned unit development with over 1000 trees. Would love to have participated in policymaking. We are privately maintaining our urban forest. And humbly believe that trees are significant and all neighborhoods. Our experience might be helpful.

#228

Posted by **Isabella Nicolaidis** on **05/20/2024** at **10:27am** [Comment ID: 2495] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

There are many communities, especially in underserved areas, that do not have neighborhood associations. In my old neighborhood (Hollywood Park) there was a tree planting association that coordinated with the Sac Tree Foundation and would plant people's free trees for them. This was such a huge incentive to planting trees because many people don't have the means/ability (or knowledge) to plant them themselves. If the city really wants to help improve the tree canopy and encourage residential property owners to plant more trees, then this plan should include methods for establishing neighborhood associations in underserved areas and partner with them to have free tree-planting services led by volunteers. Currently, the onus for creating neighborhood associations is on the average resident, and for underserved areas this burden and time commitment is just too much. It would be great if the associations could simply be established automatically for all areas of the city, and people could just sign up to be involved/volunteer. Making this process easier will encourage people in underserved areas to take ownership of their neighborhoods and get involved in meeting our tree canopy goals.

#229

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:41pm** [Comment ID: 2566] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

These outreach efforts and forming a PAC should be continuous, not a one-off. Working with citizens community groups, neighborhood associations and organizations in various parts of the city on an ongoing basis is vital.

#230

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **1:48pm** [Comment ID: 2220] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Having community input is really important especially when it comes to things that affect their area

City staff convened two meetings with the PAC in the beginning stages of the project development process in 2018 and twice more after development of the administrative draft plan in 2023. The PAC provided review and feedback of the findings from the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and Resource Analysis as well as the SUIFP goals, policy and program framework, and implementation strategy.

A full summary of the meetings is available in [Appendix C](#).

Highlights from SRG input include:

- Unanimous agreement that the City is not appropriately shaded at the current tree canopy level and there is a need for an ambitious tree canopy goal in the SUIFP.
- Concern with lack of canopy cover in low canopy residential neighborhoods and parking lots.
- Recommendations to prioritize low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods, commercial corridors, and streets (to promote walking and biking) as the highest priority planting areas.
- Importance of stronger policies and enforcement mechanisms to achieve increased canopy cover of the urban forest.
- Education for homeowners is a helpful strategy to increase canopy cover, such as resources for tree planting, species selection, tree maintenance, and the benefits of trees.

Survey

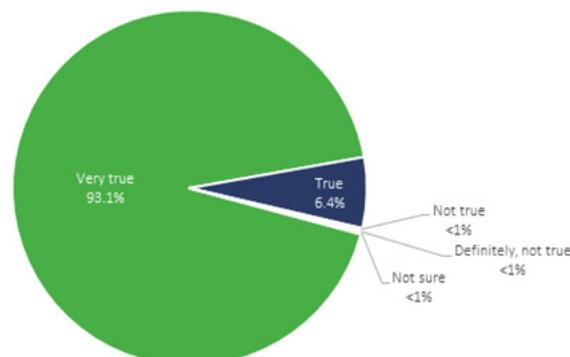
To understand how the Sacramento community thinks and feels about trees, and how these perceptions affect the urban forest, an online survey was utilized to reach a wide array of community members. The survey was available on the Urban Forest webpage section, emailed out via local media, social media, and available at public workshops. The survey was open for 15 weeks, beginning July 26, 2018, and closing November 1, 2018; in total 1,699 people responded.

The survey included a series of 13 questions, including questions about public views of the benefits of trees, awareness of the urban forest program, expectations for public tree maintenance and planting, perception of strategies to increase planting trees on private property, and tree education topics. For the complete survey and results, see [Appendix D](#).

Major themes of the survey results included:

Question 1: “Trees are important to the quality of life in Sacramento”

- > Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that trees were important to the quality of life in Sacramento, 99.5 percent of respondents responded “true” or “very true”.



#231

Posted by **Isabella Nicolaidis** on **05/20/2024** at **10:37am** [Comment ID: 2496] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

It would be amazing for residents to be given the opportunity to identify specific locations where trees are needed/possible using an interactive map.

Additionally, there are an excess of unmaintained and blighted vacant properties or lots that just sit and attract unwanted illegal activity, as well as create "shade deserts" if the lots do not contain well-maintained and watered trees. It would be great if the city could enhance its efforts to force property owners to plant and maintain trees on the perimeters of these lots to provide shade to adjacent public spaces like sidewalks/streets and also for adjacent properties.

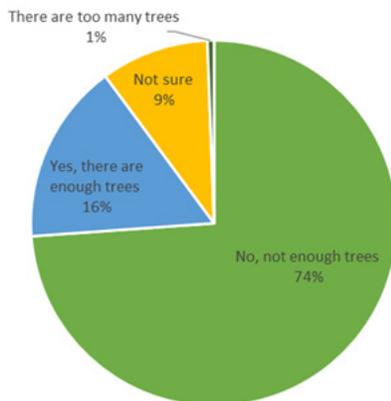
Question 2: “I value trees for the following reasons: (select your top five)”

- > Respondents identified shade and cooling, air quality, and beautification as the main reason they value trees.
 - 76.5% identified that trees “shade streets, sidewalks, and bike trails”
 - 70.7% identified that “they clean the air”
 - 70.2% of respondents identified “their beauty”
 - 46.6% responded, “they bring birds and wildlife”
 - 46.14% responded, “they save energy”
 - 41.4% responded, “they support human health”
 - 37.4% responded, “they reduce greenhouse gases”
 - 35.3% responded, “they define my neighborhood”

232

Question 4: “Are there enough trees throughout the City?”

- > Most respondents believed that there are not enough trees throughout Sacramento.



Question 8: “Where does Sacramento need to plant more trees?”

- > Nearly 83% of respondents identified neighborhoods lacking trees as highly important and 51% said along public streets
- > Common comments included:
 - Concerns about the cost of maintenance of trees on private property
 - Cost of watering trees and lack of knowledge on how to effectively water trees
 - Lack of understanding regarding who is responsible for the care of street trees
 - Lack of understanding around identifying which trees are owned by the City

Pop-up Workshops

To ensure that the perspectives of residents from around to city were captured, at least one pop-up workshop was held in each of the eight city council districts. The project team, with support from the Sacramento Tree Foundation, hosted 13 pop-up workshops in 2018. Each pop-up workshop was advertised through the City of Sacramento’s Urban Forest Project webpage, as well as through email notifications sent to the project’s PAC, through community partner networks, and council members community events and mailing lists.

Questions presented at each pop-up workshop were geared toward neighborhood preferences. The results from the pop-up workshops showed that participants were interested in all types of trees and would primarily like to see large and medium trees that provide air quality, shade, and health benefits in their neighborhoods. Participants were also asked where they would like to see more trees planted in their neighborhoods. Most of the locations were on streets, in parks, and at schools. The complete list of pop-up events and a list of responses with specific locations can be found in [Appendix E](#).

#232

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **1:49pm** [Comment ID: 2221] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This a good way of getting the residents involved

Policy and Program Framework



Sacramento City Hall



The Sacramento Urban Forest Plan outlines a comprehensive framework to align urban forestry policies and programs with the City’s land use, climate, health, transportation, and economic goals.

Based on assessment of the urban forest and professional and community input, the goals, policies, and implementation strategies identified in this Policy and Program Framework are grounded in the following vision and guiding principles.

#233

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:11pm** [Comment ID: 2943] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

definition? Reference consistently through out plan the same way.

VISION



The City of Sacramento, together with community investment and involvement, will reinforce Sacramento’s legacy as the “City of Trees”. The City will address²³⁴ historic inequity in access to nature, and prioritize the sustainable management and expansion of the urban tree canopy to provide extensive benefits and reprieve from the impacts of climate change for generations of Sacramentans to come. ²³⁵



#234

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **8:47pm** [Comment ID: 3048] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

historic inequities in neighborhood tree canopy, access to nature..

#235

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:43pm** [Comment ID: 2567] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This is a good vision statement. However, the city has lost its legacy as “City of Trees” except in word only, including in city documents and promotional materials. Austin, TX currently has 41% tree canopy (2022) and it’s goal is 50% by 2050. <https://www.austintexas.gov/blog/austin-closer-its-canopy-goal-50-2050-0>

Portland, OR had 29.8% in 2020, down from 30.7% in 2015. <https://www.portland.gov/trees/tree-canopy-forest-management>

I believe Sacramento’s tree canopy has declined since the 2018 Davey survey. Sacramento boasts about trees as they continue to fall due to acts of nature, lack of maintenance, and development. As Sacramento’s priorities are infill development and eliminating cars as parking as a climate solution, our tree canopy is being left behind.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Identified with collaborative input from community stakeholders, the following guiding principles established the foundation on which all Goals, Strategies, Policies, and Implementation Actions included in the SUFP were developed.

- > **Civic Pride and Community Health:**
Sacramento’s urban forest is essential to the city’s identity, livability, and community health. ²³⁷
- > **Resilience to Climate Change:** ²³⁹
Preserving, strengthening, and adapting the urban forest is a critical strategy in responding to climate change.
- > **Equity:** ²³⁶
All communities are entitled to the same access to tree canopy and its benefits. Inequities in tree canopy must be addressed.
- > **Partnership and Engagement:**
The urban forest is a community resource, ²⁴⁰ and urban forest programs and priorities need to be achieved through collaboration and shared responsibility between the City, community members, and external partners.
- > **Planned-for Trees:**
Incorporating tree canopy into development is a priority, to allow trees to grow to maturity without interfering with adjacent infrastructure and contribute to canopy cover goals. ²³⁸

#236

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:13pm** [Comment ID: 2944] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

recommend consideration of equity / racial equity is both a process and outcome.

#237

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **8:49pm** [Comment ID: 3049] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

and environmental quality

#238

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:46pm** [Comment ID: 2979] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This is in addition to preserving current trees in new development - which is crucial in growing our canopy. Every tree lost is a step back in reaching tree canopy goal.

#239

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:45pm** [Comment ID: 2978] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

...strengthening, expanding, and adapting....

#240

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **8:50pm** [Comment ID: 3050] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

a community asset of multiple benefits and serves

GOALS & STRATEGIES



The Policy and Program Framework and Implementation Strategy are both based on the following five goals for the urban forest. Each goal is accompanied by a series of strategies, which are required to achieve it.

Goal 1: GROW

Grow the urban forest through new plantings to support livable neighborhoods, mitigate the impacts of climate change and reinforce the City’s legacy as the “City of Trees.”

Strategies:

1. Expand Canopy
2. Plan for Trees
3. Canopy Equity



Goal 2: STEWARD

Steward the City’s existing trees to preserve canopy and protect the urban forest from biological and cultural threats and loss.

Strategies:

1. Canopy Resilience
2. Native Forest Resilience
3. Tree Protection



Goal 3: MANAGE

Manage the urban forest through coordinated planning, design, and maintenance to ensure its long-term health and sustainability.

Strategies:

1. Organizational Best Practices
2. Manage Risk
3. Regular Maintenance
4. Enforce Standards
5. Manage for Co-benefits



Goal 4: ENGAGE

Engage, educate, and coordinate with community members, public agencies, partners, and private businesses to care for and grow the urban forest.

Strategies:

1. Community Engagement
2. Partner Coordination
3. Youth Engagement
4. Workforce Development



Goal 5: SUSTAIN

Sustain the growth, development, and continuity of city urban forest programs through dedicated funding and innovation.

Strategies:

1. Program Funding
2. Incentive Programs
3. Innovation



#241

Posted by **Laurie Stephey** on **06/11/2024** at **12:45pm** [Comment ID: 2764] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Expand canopy, prioritizing native trees

#242

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:50pm** [Comment ID: 2981] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

6. Transparency. Increase transparency of UF function, including income, expenditures, and staffing.

#243

Posted by **Jojo Melendres** on **05/29/2024** at **7:07pm** [Comment ID: 2629] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Please offer tax incentives to private developers if they incorporate shady trees on their plans.

#244

Posted by **Jojo Melendres** on **05/29/2024** at **6:51pm** [Comment ID: 2626] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I am particularly concerned with lack of coordination in the development of tiny homes for the homeless population. If I were the developer of these tiny home, I will make sure that each tiny house is under a tree canopy so there is natural shade and will reduce need for cooling with an AC during warm months. Please make sure trees providing shade will be incorporated into the development of tiny homes. Thank you!

#245

Posted by **Iso** on **04/26/2024** at **1:26pm** [Comment ID: 2193] - [Link](#)

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Hello! Some homeowners and property mangers in my neighborhood have a hard time maintaining trees or planting trees on their property because it's too expensive, or they are concerned about wind risk and then chop down the entire tree due to perceived hazard to their home. Could there be a hotline developed to best support people when they are having trouble with tree management?

#246

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:16pm** [Comment ID: 2945] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Recommend that equity is not just a strategy in goal 1, rather an approach to operationalize through the policy and program framework.

#247

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:49pm** [Comment ID: 2980] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Steward add comment

4. Increase regulation of tree maintenance function in the City. Develop assistance program for property owners to maintain trees.

#248

Posted by **Jojo Melendres** on **05/29/2024** at **7:05pm** [Comment ID: 2628] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Ask high school students to participate in contest with the goal of planting the most trees possible in a 30-month period. National Geographic has this annual video competition called "Slingshot Challenge". Sacramento may have a similar county-wide contest called "Race to 300 trees in 30 days challenge" . There will be ranking of most trees planted per school. We should be able to compensate the students for their effort for planting as tokens of active participation the contest shall be organized year round on a monthly basis.

#249

Posted by **Jojo Melendres** on **05/29/2024** at **6:59pm** [Comment ID: 2627] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I suggest that all elementary schools will incorporate tree planting field trips and they receive education on the importance of trees. They should be made curious as to how trees help in carbon sequestration, keeping the surface temperature cool, and providing beauty and value to the environment, especially with holding the soil against erosion. All Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts should be tapped into earning a "Tree Steward Badge" by planting at least 10 trees during their formative years.



Grow

Goal 1: Grow the urban forest through new plantings to support livable neighborhoods, protect residents and visitors from the impact of climate change, and reinforce the City’s legacy as the “City of Trees.”

Strategy 1.1 Expand Canopy

Increase the current levels of canopy to maximize the benefits of the urban forest.

Policies + Implementation Actions

1.1.1 The City shall strive to achieve a minimum average City-wide tree canopy of 25 percent by 2030 and 35 percent by 2045.

- A. To this end, the City shall aim for the following minimum City-wide 2045 canopy coverage goals in its planning, restoration, and urban forest implementation efforts.
 - Residential neighborhoods: 40 percent
 - Streets and sidewalks: 50 percent
 - Parking lots: 50 percent⁷⁹
 - Commercial and mixed-use areas: 25 percent
 - Industrial areas: 20 percent
 - Public facilities and parks: maximize tree canopy based on usable space.
- B. These goals will help drive land use and planning standards and decisions. The City will prioritize efforts and programs for more tree planting in those areas substantially below these goals, particularly in disadvantaged communities, and where heat island effects are greatest.

1.1.2 Establish a parks tree planting program.

- A. Maximize trees within new parks’ plans to the extent feasible while providing for other desired recreational amenities.
- B. Increase tree planting in passive recreation and landscape areas within existing parks that can accommodate more new trees.
- C. Prioritize tree plantings and installing appropriate irrigation in parks and public spaces in communities where tree canopy coverage is low to provide greater access to greenery and shade.
- D. Identify funding to establish a consistent tree planting, irrigation, and tree replacement program for parks.

⁷⁹ In some instances, shading may be accomplished through installation of carports and/or overhead solar arrays or other efforts that have sustainability benefits.

#250

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:53pm** [Comment ID: 2983] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

C. The City shall establish a process by revising ordinances, standards and practices, that supports preservation of existing canopy in all areas.

#251

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:01pm** [Comment ID: 3051] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

achieve a minimum 30% tree canopy within new parks (similar to the State's mandated tree canopy cover for all new public schools)

add D. design and plant shade tree plantings for all youth and adult sport activities to lower incidences of skin cancer

#252

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **10:23pm** [Comment ID: 3126] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Identify funding to establish -multiple full time urban forestry staff positions within the parks department to-develop a consistent tree planting, irrigation, -maintenance- and tree replacement program in parks. (current staff=1 Arborist for 30,000 existing trees.)

#253

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:51pm** [Comment ID: 2982] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Revise language in 1.1.1. to read:

The City shall achieve a minimum.....

if we can't be bold and firm in this first goal, the SUFP is being set up for failure.

#254

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:54pm** [Comment ID: 2984] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

E. Encourage volunteer planting efforts in all City Parks and City School. Planting plans must include a plan for maintenance including early pruning and irrigation as necessary.

#255

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:11pm** [Comment ID: 3053] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

how will this be funded. the City Council should be informed on the cost/annual budget of this new parks tree planting program

#256

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **1:10pm** [Comment ID: 3077] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

City parks provide a great opportunity to bring nature to the city. Parks can accommodate large native trees such oaks that support a wide variety of wildlife. Locally adapted native plants save water, require little or no fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides, and importantly provide habitat for native birds, bees and butterflies. This doesn't require a wholesale change in local park landscaping but would require a shift by the City to take advantage of opportunities to add native plants whenever possible. Consider the concept of adding "habitat islands" within parks. These are groupings of native plants chosen for aesthetics, habitat value, and low water needs. These native plant groupings will provide the highest ecosystem benefits while simplifying irrigation and maintenance needs.

#257

Posted by **Steve Schweigerdt** on **06/03/2024** at **4:18pm** [Comment ID: 2714] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

This is a lofty goal and I don't think it can be achieved by incentives alone. Street trees are a community resource and there needs to be an ordinance requiring property owners to have a street tree for every 40 feet of frontage. Pair that with incentives to achieve the goal. Just like water meters were required to be installed.

#258

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:18pm** [Comment ID: 2891] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The goals for mixed use, commercial, and industrial areas seem quite low. High canopy can still be achieved in highly developed neighborhoods with the strategic planting of large-canopy trees in adequately sized tree wells. For example, downtown is already at 23% and I am certain this could be improved. In some cases, this may require some depaving, but many such programs now exist in other cities which could be replicated.

#259

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:09pm** [Comment ID: 3052] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

is this plan suggesting to eliminate 10% of park land to be designed and managed as natural areas? it should be kept as a city goal to increase biodiversity and to enhance habitat for pollinators

#260

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **11:02pm** [Comment ID: 2907] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Would this be applicable retroactively to provide canopy on existing sidewalks throughout city?

Else, meaningless to have this goal.

#261

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/04/2024** at **12:10pm** [Comment ID: 2248] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

yes! especially along the lower American River Parkway where so much damage from fires. Also can you consider more trees along the river banks of the Sacramento River?

#262

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **12:59pm** [Comment ID: 3076] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

It will be important for the City to focus on trees that are climate resilient, and that address carbon sequestration, minimize water use, and provide wildlife habitat benefits.. To achieve these benefits, California native trees need to be a significant component of future plantings. The Urban Forest Plan will need to collect and develop scientific information to create a tree list to address climate resiliency and wildlife needs. This will require the City to look well beyond the typical urban trees that are often planted throughout the United States and without regard to local conditions. Local trees support local wildlife.

#263

Posted by **Russ Schmunk** on **05/28/2024** at **4:49pm** [Comment ID: 2619] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Lacking here and throughout the document is a realistic plan for achieving the 35% canopy cover goal. Absent a dramatic change in the availability of public funding, this is likely to require extensive use of volunteer and other agency resources. The plan should detail how these resources will be mobilized. One idea is to nurture neighborhood groups like the one to which I belong; in our first years of operation, we tripled the rate at which SMUD-funded trees were planted.

#264

Posted by **Jazmin Vargas** on **04/29/2024** at **1:51pm** [Comment ID: 2222] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

When executing this have in mind parks that do not have as many trees, that could be a good focus area

- 1.1.3 **Continue to operate a street tree planting program**
- A. Maintain optimum stocking density along City right-of-way
 - B. Strive to replace removed trees within a maximum of two years
 - C. Incorporate street tree plantings into new developments
 - D. Where feasible, incorporate street tree planting into complete street transformations for corridors developed without planted strips.

Strategy 1.2 Plan for Trees

Incorporate trees into all levels of planning and development to ensure existing trees are preserved, an adequate number of new trees are planted to reach canopy goals, and that trees can grow to maturity without interfering with adjacent infrastructure.

Policies + Implementation Actions

1.2.1 Amend Sacramento City Code⁸⁰ as necessary to improve tree canopy inclusion and require minimum levels of tree planting in development projects. Review the following topics at a minimum:

- A. Review City Code and Planned Unit Development Guidelines for opportunities to add requirements for trees in setback areas, particularly located to shade sidewalks, bikeways and streets based on minimum canopy goals, particularly in new single-unit dwelling developments/subdivisions
- B. Opportunities to provide incentives or requirements for inclusion of trees in front, back, and side yards;
- C. Requiring consideration of tree placement in site plan and design review to maximize energy conservation;
- D. Guidance on solar panel installation requirements to minimize potential conflicts with tree plantings;
- E. Guidance defining how tree permits for ministerial development project reviews are processed, including timing of tree removal permit application processing and approved tree removals within the review, and permitting process;
- F. Guidance on tree selection, prioritizing City-approved tree species that are climate-appropriate and more likely to survive projected climatic changes in the Sacramento Valley; and
- G. Identify types of commercial and industrial developments with space appropriate for large trees and consider applying a higher level of specificity of tree-related requirements, including but not limited to trees species, mature canopy diameter, and post-construction inspection

⁸⁰ Review and amendment of Sacramento City Code shall include Title 17 Planning and Development Code and Title 12 Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places code. (https://library.qcode.us/lib/sacramento_ca/pub/city_code)

#265

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **11:12pm** [Comment ID: 2908] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Street tree planting program is the critical piece that needs to scaled up aggressively.

City sidewalks are the elephant in the room - without tree lined corridors along these, there are heat islands all over the city. And every citizen is denied a critical infrastructure for their right to walk.

A simple experiment - try walking half a mile on an 80+F day on a tree less street. Or cover the distance from DOCO to Amtrak station, which is a high footfall area.

#266

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:58pm** [Comment ID: 2986] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

H. Convene an Advisory Group on these Code changes - to include tree canopy advocates and external Urban Forest experts.

#267

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:07pm** [Comment ID: 2989] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This needs to be strengthened by saying

"Requiring tree permits to be issued in at a time and in a manner so that appeal can occur before final design approval"

One can argue that any private protected tree on a lot should preclude ministerial approval. That is an objective design standard that would meet state requirements.

#268

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:48pm** [Comment ID: 3059] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

set development tree canopy goals as suggested in the sacramento tree foundations new development urban forest guidelines

#269

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:51pm** [Comment ID: 3060] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

and I. address revisions to the City' existing parking lot shade tree ordinance that includes minimum planting area, stewardship, tree replacement and penalties

#270

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:19pm** [Comment ID: 2892] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Tree planting requirements for private property must consider mature tree size, growing space, and anticipated canopy coverage, not merely numbers of trees. Many recent developments have planted very small tree species or have very small tree wells that will never adequately shade streets and sidewalks.

#271

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:56pm** [Comment ID: 2985] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

E. Develop strategies for mainance of trees that shares costs with property owners. Businesses in Smart Street areas are concerned about the cost of irrigating and tree care.

#272

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:39pm** [Comment ID: 3058] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

add E. to assist with recently adopted senior city guidelines, the plan should have a guideline that addresses the role of shade streets, bikeways and pathways that welcome year-around walkability and exercise

#273

Posted by **Russ Schmunk** on **05/28/2024** at **4:54pm** [Comment ID: 2620] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

It would be helpful to quantify the contribution of each of the measures identified here to achieving the 35% goal, for various levels of growth. This would assist with assessing what priority should be attached to them.

#274

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:29pm** [Comment ID: 3055] - [Link](#)

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

it is imperative to inform the city council and tree advocates that the current city policies for planting and managing city maintained trees was a policy and budgetary decision at the time of the adoption of the City's first urban forest master plan in the

early 1990's. Prior to that time the City's policy offered free front yard street trees to all residents, published a tree selection booklet for the resident to select their tree(s), and delivered the trees. In today's consideration of the City's CO 2 reduction and urban heat island reduction goals, the City leadership can justify a policy redirection to again offer free street trees to all city properties. One, it would correct the unanticipated inequity of the current policy; secondly, the City would accept its climate resiliency and urban heat island amelioration responsibility to shade its heat sink paved roadways

#275

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:13pm** [Comment ID: 3054] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

incorporate the design, planting and stewardship guidelines as proposed by the sacramento tree foundation for new residential developments

#276

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:44pm** [Comment ID: 2568] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

In low-income neighborhoods with the lowest canopy percentage, the city should revive the practice of planting and maintaining city trees in front yard easements where there are no planting strips, with homeowner approval and opt-in for the easement.

#277

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:33pm** [Comment ID: 3056] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

what is the best practices for street tree stocking density?
is it 50% of the pavement shaded on the summer equinox?
best to state a measurable goal.

#278

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/22/2024** at **3:46pm** [Comment ID: 2569] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The timing of the tree removal permit applications AND project approval is a major issue for our tree canopy. In ministerial approvals: Currently tree removal permits are applied for after project is essentially approved. There is no provision to review tree removals during the approval process, where the developer could be asked to amend its plans and accommodate the existing, mature tree or trees.

#279

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:35pm** [Comment ID: 3057] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

this appears to be a very flakey, unenforceable guideline.
with a very difficult goal of increasing canopy cover, the City should demonstrate a leadership goal and replace all removed trees within 6 months.

1.2.2 Review and update design guidelines and development standards to support achievement of minimum canopy goals, outlined in strategy 1.1.1, and maximize benefits.

- A. Trees should be provided with adequate growing space, aligned to reduce building heat and to shade public walkways to the extent feasible. ²⁹¹
- B. Require adequate soil treatment and space in plantings to ensure long term success.
- C. Identify appropriate long-term irrigation solutions. Include tertiary treated water and/or water re-²⁸¹ for new plantings on city proper ²⁸⁹ where feasible.
- D. Plant the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason. When planting trees or preparing or approving tree plans, require adequate space and ap-²⁹⁶ appropriate species for the location. Incorporate shade trees as street trees to the extent feasible.
- E. Identify appropriate recommendations for tree height and placement to avoid conflicts with pedestrian scale lighting and signage.

1.2.3 Encourage development plans to meet minimum canopy goals, identified in strategy 1.1.1, within 15 years. ²⁸³ ²⁸⁸ ²⁹⁷

- A. Identify and implement methods to include tree canopy assessment and recommendations in the development review process. Enact new review fees as necessary to address this requirement. ³⁰⁰
- B. In development plan ²⁸² where there is not adequate space to allow for trees on individual lots, strategies such as plazas, paseos, parks, and robust street tree programs should be utilized to meet canopy goals. ²⁸⁷ ²⁹⁰ ²⁹⁵
- C. When development is proposed with no or limited trees due to the level of lot coverage or other conditions, iden-²⁸⁴ how and where occupants or users will access trees or other shading and employ adequate shading mitigations. ²⁹³
- D. Deve-²⁸⁰ a calculator tool to help determine canopy potential for development projects.
- E. Identify and establish metrics, processes, and fees to begin monitoring, tracking, and reporting on number of trees planted in new development, average future canopy predicted, and trees removed. ²⁸⁶

1.2.4 Develop mechanisms that require or incentivize preservation of existing trees during site development when feasible.

- A. Provide maximum flexibility in development standards to preserve existing trees and promote improved future t-²⁸⁵ canopy levels, especially for residential urban infill projects. ²⁹⁸ ²⁹⁹ ³⁰¹
- B. Continue to ensure Chapter 12.56 of City Code is enforced for all tree removals associated with development projects requiring ministerial re-²⁹². ²⁹⁴

#280

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:02pm** [Comment ID: 2987] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Revise to read

D. ...tool to determine canopy requirement for every development proposal. This calculator will be based on Census Tract in which the development is occurring. It shall be quantitative as in the FAR standard for infill units. In this say, Tree Canopy will be considered equivalent to increased density as a Climate Change adaptation.

#281

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:21pm** [Comment ID: 2893] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Excessive dissolved salt in recycled water has caused considerable damage to urban trees and soils. Recycled water should only be used to water trees when dissolved salts are confirmed to be low enough to avoid these harms.

#282

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **10:03pm** [Comment ID: 3064] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

all development plans, including infill, should meet minimum tree canopy goals for the public and environmental health benefits and services are accrued for current and future city residents when adequate tree canopy is mandated

#283

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:46pm** [Comment ID: 2583] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 4, Disagree: 0

This should be "required," not "encouraged." At the very least, incentivized in such a manner that the incentives are serious - sufficiently attractive (or punitive) to get results. The city needs a metric for exactly what is required, by lot size and location, for the developer to contribute to meeting minimum canopy goals. This requirement can be met by preserving an existing tree and/or planting species recommended for the planting area. If the developer does not meet these goals, meaningful in-lieu fees should be imposed.

#284

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:21pm** [Comment ID: 2894] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

In addition to the proposed strategy, consider alternative urban greening strategies such as green roofs or walls if trees are not possible. Though in the vast majority of projects, 8' tree wells with large trees should provide adequate coverage even in highly dense, urban developments. Perhaps developers can be required to add or improve street tree spaces if the entire lot is to be a building.

#285

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:22pm** [Comment ID: 2895] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

It is important that any barriers to housing construction balance the preservation and growth of tree canopy against the difficulty of building new housing. Sacramento is not currently building enough housing to keep up with demand, and if this situation continues, I predict a backlash that will erase any well-intentioned but naive restrictions on development. We must seek policies that enable adequate housing AND adequate tree canopy, not one at the expense of the other. Clear guidelines that ensure high canopy coverage but that are not subject to excessive delays or reviews may offer the best balance. A system where developers know how to include adequate coverage plans from the beginning should still allow for the efficient construction that Sacramento needs.

#286

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:12pm** [Comment ID: 2992] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Add F. Enforce requirement for maintenance of trees in new development for 5 years.

#287

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:46pm** [Comment ID: 2584] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The city should not approve plans that do not allow adequate space for trees.

Reply by **Alex Binck** on **06/10/2024** at **6:14pm** [Comment ID: 2729] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Agreed, but how this is determined is an important question. It is more important that overall canopy coverage is improved by planting larger trees than ensuring every lot has a certain number of trees. Developers respond to such requirements by planting tiny decorative trees that have little benefit and will not shade public areas like streets and sidewalks.

#288

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:08pm** [Comment ID: 2990] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

"Require" not "encourage". Otherwise, lipservice.

#289

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:54pm** [Comment ID: 3062] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

this may be the opportunity to set urban forestry standards in line with other public works standards and mandate design and engineered permanent watering systems for all new tree plantings

#290

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:11pm** [Comment ID: 2991] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Following up on Francesca and Alex's comments, this could be amended to call for innovative solutions such as shared canopy tree space - so that two homes can have one large canopy tree between them. Perhaps the person whose property contains the tree would have some city cost relief

#291

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:52pm** [Comment ID: 3061] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

spell out best practices minimum planting area

#292

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **10:06pm** [Comment ID: 3065] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

add C. Maximize existing tree protection during all phases of development , including signage, flagging tree canopy protection zones, regular irrigation and limited tree trimming

#293

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:47pm** [Comment ID: 2585] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

The city planning and development ordinances should not allow a level of lot coverage that results is "no or limited trees." Development standards should not

allow building large structures that take up so much of the lot that there is no room for green space and/or trees. FAR (floor area ratio) is subject to setbacks and other design requirements; the canopy goals of Strategy 1.1.1.A. should apply to developments.

Key portions of Strategy 1.2.3 cannot be implemented in ministerial approvals without ordinance revisions.

#294

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:49pm** [Comment ID: 2587] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Chapter 12.56 is totally inadequate with regard to ministerial project review. Ministerial reviews were not mandated by state law or local ordinances when the tree ordinance was last revised in 2016. The (Title 12) tree ordinance and the planning and zoning ordinances will need to be amended to include tree requirements, and objective design standards for preserving existing trees and planting trees in standard design reviews and ministerial reviews.

#295

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:04pm** [Comment ID: 2988] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Subsection (B) should be removed, as no housing should be without adequate canopy. If this subsection remains in, then the developer must pay an additional fee to compensate for costs of cooling the house, and cost of canopy loss to City as a whole.

#296

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **9:56pm** [Comment ID: 3063] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

set the urban forestry best management practice: plant the largest canopy tree for the space below and above ground as possible

#297

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:39am** [Comment ID: 3111] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Require re-development opportunities to protect, and save Trees of significance on private property. So-called infill development must also retain the tree canopies insignificant trees.

#298

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:48pm** [Comment ID: 2586] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Developer standards should be written in such a manner that they are not easily waived for developer profit and convenience. A developer's job is to maximize profit on every square foot of a lot. It is up to the city to set the parameters.

#299

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:44pm** [Comment ID: 2265] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

What does this mean when there is a state law (HAA) that the City has interpreted to mean housing at all costs? Which way will the axe fall, on the existing, healthy tree canopy or on the extent of the developer's plans?

#300

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:41pm** [Comment ID: 2264] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Recommend but not require?

#301

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:41am** [Comment ID: 3112] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Where there are Trees of significance on private property and redevelopment of infill, developers should be required to offer three alternatives to protect the trees.

1.2.5 Identify strategies to strengthen implementation of the Parking Lot Shading Ordinance and Parking Lot Shading Design and Maintenance Guidelines to support achievement of a minimum of 50 percent shading within 15 years. 307

- A. Review and amend Chapter 17.612.040 of City Code Tree Shading Requirements for Parking Lots and Parking Lot Shading Design and Maintenance Guidelines to ease compliance, improve site plan review, climate-resilient tree selection, inspection, and monitoring, and strengthen requirements for ongoing maintenance and replacement of parking lot trees.
- B. Identify when and how shading requirements may be satisfied through alternate methods such as canopies and solar arrays.
- C. Develop resources to strengthen monitoring and enforcement of the Parking Lot Shade Ordinance after parking lots are completed. 305
- D. Develop an inventory of parking lots that are subject to the parking lot shade ordinance to aid in monitoring and enforcement efforts.
- E. Explore amending Chapter 12.56 of City Code to include required parking lot trees under the definition of private protected tree 303
- F. Pursue opportunities, including grant funding 304 and partnerships, to add trees in existing parking lots that have no or limited tree canopy. 306 These efforts shall focus on disadvantaged neighborhoods, particularly those with the greatest heat island impacts. 309

1.2.6 Support the achievement of 50 percent tree shading over streets and sidewalks. 308 310

- A. Incorporate tree canopy strategies in the *Streets for People* active transportation plan.
- B. Update street standards to optimize tree canopy and provide solutions for various street functions and conditions.
- C. Require street trees on approved private streets unless clearly infeasible. Develop specific conditions under which trees on private streets may be deemed infeasible and plans approved without the inclusion of street trees. If street trees are infeasible, locations within the development shall be identified for inclusion of green space and tree canopy.
- D. When planning and implementing complete streets projects, the City will incorporate tree planting with adequate planter space 302 and irrigation as an essential infrastructure element to the extent feasible given physical conditions. Emphasis will be placed on shading sidewalks and bikeways.

1.2.7 Ensure the successful establishment of trees incorporated into development.

- A. Developers will be responsible for planting required trees and ensuring health and survival for those trees using landscape warranty conditions where feasible and identifying the party responsible for tree maintenance and establishment when their obligation ends.
- B. Developers shall use healthy trees and responsible irrigation practices in planting efforts to promote success and reduce young tree mortality.

#302

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **10:13pm** [Comment ID: 3067] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

does this plan identify adequate planting space and irrigation system to inform the development community on the minimum standards?

#303

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **10:09pm** [Comment ID: 3066] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

add F. inform Sacramento citizens on how best to monitor an report, when necessary, parking lot shade tree violations

#304

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **3:52pm** [Comment ID: 2275] - [Link](#)

Agree: 1, Disagree: -1

More native species oaks should be planted in parks. They are a keystone species that are essential to our native bird life. We should avoid planting alien species from places like Australia, South America, which do NOT support our native birds. Also, we need only to look at cities like Pasadena, which has many oaks thriving as street trees.

Reply by **Alex Binck** on **06/10/2024** at **6:40pm** [Comment ID: 2730] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

While I agree that there are opportunities to expand native oak species in parks, a healthy, diverse urban forest cannot consist only of oaks or the few other native trees in Sacramento. The tolerance of native species to our future climate is an unresolved question, and native oaks are already threatened by several introduced pests and diseases (Mediterranean oak borer, gold-spotted oak borer, sudden oak death).

In the face of these challenges, the only tenable strategy is one of diversity. In addition, ecological research suggests that native species from nearby regions in the greater Southwest may have large benefits to our biodiversity as well as our local natives. Introducing these species will allow us to protect local biodiversity and also increase resilience to climate and pest pressures.

#305

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **10:27pm** [Comment ID: 3127] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

And on an ongoing basis as needed.

#306

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:50pm** [Comment ID: 2589] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

This is an important priority. As the city and state discourage the use of cars, and less parking lots are built, it is important to reduce the heat island effects in existing parking lots, especially in disadvantaged neighborhoods with the greatest heat island effects.

#307

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:49pm** [Comment ID: 2588] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

Enforcement is key or the ordinances are meaningless.

#308

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:53pm** [Comment ID: 2590] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 6, Disagree: 0

How will the city accomplish this for streets in low-income neighborhoods with the lowest canopy in the city, where there are no planting/landscape strips? There is a great need.

Reply by **Troy Sankey** on **06/09/2024** at **12:02pm** [Comment ID: 2727] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Agreed, I think there should be a little more specificity around how to accomplish this. One option is a policy goal of implementing updates to street design standards and fire code to give more long-term flexibility for allowing curb extensions/chicanes/median strips that double as tree wells and traffic calming. Specifically, this flexibility is helpful wherever utility conflicts dictate tree placement, travel lanes may need to be necked-down/eliminated, and on-street parking stalls may need to be deleted to accommodate a tree. By doing things like reducing the 20-foot-clear requirement for high-speed fire truck access, reducing 11ft minimum lane widths, and reducing minimum turning radii required by fire trucks, we can start to achieve this goal.

#309

Posted by **Mary Ann** on **05/04/2024** at **4:46pm** [Comment ID: 2266] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

The number of existing parking lots may far outnumber those that will be constructed in the future. Failing to pursue tree planting in existing lots is missing out on huge potential tree cover.

#310

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **10:34pm** [Comment ID: 3128] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

In low-income neighborhoods most vulnerable to extreme heat, that lack space to plant street trees, plant and maintain front yard trees for residents in neighborhoods like we do in other neighborhoods.

- C. Trees that are not healthy shall be replaced prior to the completion of the building permit. Explore options to provide for tree warranties on private property after the building permit is completed.
- D. Develop resources to broaden the inspections of development projects to include review of compliance with approved landscaping plans, technical planting requirements, and tree health.

Strategy 1.3 Canopy Equity

Seek to address historic inequities, remove barriers to tree adoption, and ensure the urban forest is shared equitably⁸¹ across all communities⁸².

Policies + Implementation Actions

- 1.3.1 **Prioritize City planting efforts and implementation of urban forest programs in priority communities.**
- 1.3.2 **Support and facilitate canopy expansion efforts on private property across the City with focus in priority communities.**
 - A. Take action to support equitable urban forestry canopy expansion, maintenance, and benefits on private property across all communities and ensure programs are informed by diverse perspectives and focused to address those communities in greatest need.
 - B. Maximize involvement in urban forestry programs from residents in disadvantaged neighborhoods by enhancing community engagement and available urban forestry programs and resources.

311

⁸¹ Because equity is a guiding principle of the SUFP, equity-centered policies and implementation actions are also embedded into the other goals and strategies in this plan.

⁸² Priority communities for urban forestry programming will be identified through regular assessment of Disadvantaged Community status, urban heat indices, tree canopy percentage, air quality indices, and public health concerns.

#311

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:17pm** [Comment ID: 2993] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Add C. In cooperation with the nonprofit community, develop a program for irrigation and maintenance for all Canopy in priority communities.

#312

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **10:19pm** [Comment ID: 3070] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

set policies and budget priorities to support equitable

#313

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **10:18pm** [Comment ID: 3069] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

i would suggest replace 'seek' with 'prioritize" as this is the largest and most compelling failure of urban forestry

#314

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **10:21pm** [Comment ID: 3071] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

this should include the opportunities for employment and training opportunities (the best avenue to engaging tree plantings and stewardship in priority neighborhoods

#315

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/19/2024** at **10:16pm** [Comment ID: 3068] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

spell out what these resources would be, so decision and policy makers would understand the the costs and personal necessary to enforce

#316

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **10:40pm** [Comment ID: 3129] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Disadvantaged neighborhoods need the tree maintenance funded -encouraging the residents to participate is not enough. Priority communities need expanded establishment and maintenance assistance.

#317

Posted by **Garrett Jensen** on **06/14/2024** at **11:16am** [Comment ID: 2869] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

- More curb grass trees in areas that do not have them.
- More median trees and other use of greenery that narrows roads and slows traffic, increase use of roundabouts with tree canopy in the middle
- Consider trees near highways and freeways to develop new canopy and lessen the ugliness of these roadways
- More parklets with greenery/canopy
- Partially close targeted alleyways for park/green space and improved public safety
- Street closures and walking malls create opportunity for beautiful new canopy
- Building standards in downtown that add tree (and art) requirements to new construction so not to create a cement jungle.
- Separated bikeways to create room for new canopy, can be done through lane diets and ending 3+ lane one ways in Sacramento
- Greening and cooling school playgrounds.

Sacramento as the Capitol City should be the model for the future of cities. Let's go big and experiment! Thank you.

#318

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:54pm** [Comment ID: 2591] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Maintenance is key for private property canopy expansion in disadvantaged communities with low canopy. Watering is metered, and arborists cost money that people don't have, and more than half are renters. Creative fundraising, including grants, will be needed, as well as a volunteer program that include expert advice and assistance - up to and including volunteer arborists.



Steward

Goal 2: Steward the City’s existing trees to preserve canopy and protect the urban forest from biological and cultural threats and loss.

Strategy 2.1 Canopy Resilience

Ensure Sacramento’s urban forest is resilient and prepared for the biotic and abiotic⁸³ impacts of climate change necessary for the longevity and success of the city’s trees.

Policies + Implementation Actions

2.1.1 Promote biological diversity in tree species and age for the city’s urban forest to maintain resilience.

Strive to ensure that overall City tree planting efforts, including trees planted by the City and trees associated with approved development projects, follow the 10/20/30 rule for species diversity, except in instances when planting native trees for native forest enhancement or reforestation.

2.1.2 Create a master recommended tree list to ensure that all trees planted by the City or associated with approved development projects suitable for changing climate conditions in Sacramento.

- A. Recommended trees shall be used to guide public and private plantings. This list will be modified as conditions change and will identify how trees not on this list will be evaluated for inclusion in City approvals.
- B. Continue to support research and partnerships with research institutions to identify tree species that demonstrate substantial adaptability to the impacts of climate change expected in the Sacramento area.
- C. Update the recommended tree list to include identifying information about each species to assist in proper tree selection, include characteristics such as amount of shade cover provided, size of planter needed, soil conditions needed, water use needs, and carbon sequestration capabilities.
- D. Include native trees on the master recommended tree list and identify appropriate use cases.

2.1.3 Continue to monitor and identify pest threats and take preventative actions to anticipate threats and minimize potential impacts.

319

⁸³ Biotic factors are living things with an ecosystem (ex: plants, animals, bacteria); Abiotic factors are non-living components in an ecosystem (ex. water, soil, atmosphere).

#319

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/20/2024** at **1:42pm** [Comment ID: 3079] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

add: identify program, budgets, partnerships and guidelines for special priority to monitor, inspect and manage the city's historic american and english elm tree population.

#320

Posted by **Matthew Toenies** on **06/18/2024** at **9:45pm** [Comment ID: 2957] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

A wealth of scientific evidence and increasing public awareness support the multiple benefits of maximizing native trees over non-native alternatives. As a professional environmental scientist I appreciate this document's emphasis on native tree species, but an even greater emphasis is warranted. Maximizing locally native tree cover is a critical approach that is increasingly supported by residents of Sacramento, for good reason, since it will allow us to achieve great strides in addressing climate and biodiversity concerns while simultaneously bringing the other benefits of urban forests.

#321

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **3:51pm** [Comment ID: 3087] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Inclusion of native trees is an important first step. Also, consider that the City may need to make extra efforts to assure that native trees are available in the quantities needed. Nurseries are typically geared up to supply the typical urban trees planted throughout many parts of the United States. These exotic trees often don't meet requirements for climate resilience and low water use, and are much less likely to provide wildlife benefits associated with native trees.

#322

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **4:01pm** [Comment ID: 3088] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

There are an awful lot of non-native oak trees planted as street or park trees in sacramento. Please confirm that this measure wouldn't effectively limit using locally native oaks as street/yard/park trees. If so, please revise this recommendation in order to support more native trees. Oaks in particular are wildlife friendly and are one of the best trees for carbon sequestration..

#323

Posted by **Mr. Burke A. Lucy** on **06/21/2024** at **5:37pm** [Comment ID: 3125] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I agree with the feedback on page 153: "Addressing food insecurity:

• Respondents hoped to see more fruit and nut bearing trees in the city and increased gleaning efforts to provide food to low-income and un-housed populations." Fruit and nut trees provide habitat and sustenance for wildlife and food for us. That should be added as 2.1.2 E. here to add fruit and nut bearing trees, especially those on the City's "River Friendly Landscape Plant List" as very low to medium water-use. Those include these trees:

- Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*)
- Chinese Jujube (*Ziziphus jujuba*)
- Olive (*Olea europaea*)
- Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*)
- Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*)
- Holly Oak (*Quercus ilex*)
- Judas Tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*)
- White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)

Shrubs (if you can include shrubs)

- Skunk Bush (*Rhus trilobata*) - also a California native
- Pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana* - *Feijoa sellowiana*)
- Japanese Rose or Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*)
- Cherry Laurel, English Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)
- Ebbinge's silverberry (*Elaeagnus xebbingei*)
- Silverberry (*Elaeagnus Pungens*)

The City's existing 10-year old list referenced in footnote #75 includes several fruitless trees and recommends for one, "elect seedless cultivars to avoid litter from fruit." Fruit is NOT litter.

I understand fruit trees require extra pruning and maintenance, but this should be an added priority for the City at least or especially to allow on private property.

#324

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **10:43pm** [Comment ID: 3130] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Quantify "as conditions change" to a number of years, for example every 8 to 10 years.

#325

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:55pm** [Comment ID: 2592] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The word “master” is redundant and should be stricken. The city chose to avoid the negative connotations associated with the word “master” and struck it from the title of the Urban Forest Plan. (Formerly called the “Urban Forest Master Plan.”)

#326

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **3:35pm** [Comment ID: 3085] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Pages 29 and 30 of the document contains a good discussion of the local ecology in the Sacramento region including the value and uniqueness of local native plants and animals. There are a large variety of wildlife species including many species of birds and insects that favor or are limited to locally native trees and plants. Consistent with this discussion, the habitat value of native trees should be an important tree selection factor incorporated into this recommendation.

#327

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **3:42pm** [Comment ID: 3086] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Beyond a simple tree list it is important to provide a full list of potential trees by various attributes such as size and sun requirements including water use and wildlife benefits (which are often not acknowledged). See Calscape.org for information on locally native trees.

#328

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **3:16pm** [Comment ID: 3084] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Local native tree species must be a predominant part of future climate resilient tree plantings since they are especially well suited to the local environment, and provide important wildlife benefits and are consistent with the intent of the City Ordinance NO. 2009-02 to promote water efficient landscapes. Initial efforts to identify climate resilient trees for our area (e.g., UC Davis Climate Ready Trees) are lacking in scientific rigor and documentation, and actually appear to avoid CA native trees, and they do not factor in the wildlife benefits which are expected to be higher with native trees compared to exotic trees. The City must participate in meaningful research applicable to the Sacramento Region. It should not be assumed that trees from hotter climates will necessarily adapt well in the Sacramento Region with climate change since various factors might be important to having a resilient urban forest (e.g., rainfall, low temperatures, soils, etc.).

#329

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/04/2024** at **12:18pm** [Comment ID: 2249] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

consider the native wildlife when deciding on trees of the future. many species are adapted to natives

#330

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/20/2024** at **1:39pm** [Comment ID: 3078] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

add2.1.3 launch a tree mulching program for all city managed trees to increase soil health, tree health, tree longevity, resistance to pests and disease; and to conserve water.

expand the program to all city residents to keep the mulch local and reduce carbon emissions and fuel consumption to transferring wood chips/mulch to further locations

#331

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **4:40pm** [Comment ID: 3091] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

When considering non-local trees for climate resiliency, please consider trees genetically similar to our local native trees (e.g., southern CA oak tree) rather than far flung exotic trees such as from the east coast, Australia, South Africa, etc. These genetically similar trees are most likely to provide the wildlife benefits associated with our local tree species. Since our Mediterranean climate is different from other parts of the world this isn't necessarily a good indicator of sustainability in our climate.

#332

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:24pm** [Comment ID: 2896] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Traditional approved tree lists will not support diversity to the extent needed in the face of current global changes. The majority of tree species planted in Sacramento would be forbidden under the city's most recent street tree list. While some species are excluded for good reasons, others are excellent trees not considered simply because they are uncommon. Perhaps a list of disallowed trees would be a better approach. Alternatively, a much longer experimental tree list could be compiled for promising but unproven trees that should be tested in smaller numbers. Such lists should be compiled with input from urban forestry researchers and other experts. Additionally, many species are appropriate for some situations but not others. Trees that are good choices for some situations but poor choices for others should not be universally excluded.

Strategy 2.2 Native Forest Resilience

Conserve native oaks and woodlands as a valuable tool for climate adaptation that can address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Policies + Implementation Actions

2.2.1 Preserve native trees, woodlands, native species, and riparian areas to the extent feasible in recognition of their ties to the area’s natural history, ability to sustain ecosystems, and adaptation to Sacramento’s hot and dry climate 338 339

2.2.2 Incorporate native plantings into the urban forest and parks when appropriate and to the extent feasible.

When planting native trees for native forest enhancement or reforestation, select species based on ecological appropriateness instead of adhering to the 10/20/30 rule for species diversity 340

2.2.3 Advocate for regional forest corridors to facilitate adaptation and migration of native tree species and wildlife.

Explore developing and adopting a natural area plan in coordination with other agencies in the region.

Strategy 2.3 Tree Protection

Preserve existing tree canopy and healthy mature trees⁸⁴ as vital for maintaining current canopy levels, meeting canopy goals, and adapting to climate change. Enforce tree protection standards to better protect the urban forest from loss of existing trees.

Policies + Implementation Actions

2.3.1 Preserve mature trees in development to the extent feasible. 336 337

- A. Support preservation of healthy trees in the City’s regulations and discretionary decisions for new development and redevelopment.
- B. Require development projects to consider alternatives to removal of healthy trees and only consider removals of healthy, mature trees when alternatives to removal prove infeasible. 333 335
- C. Consider long-term energy and economic benefits of tree inclusion against reductions in initial development costs when assessing development proposals. 334
- D. Design public projects to avoid the removal of or damage to city trees to the extent feasible.

⁸⁴ For this policy document, mature trees are defined using the definition of private protected trees within Chapter 12.56 of City Code.

#333

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/04/2024** at **12:23pm** [Comment ID: 2250] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

please make this a strong incentive to leave the tree

#334

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:52pm** [Comment ID: 2997] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This is related to my earlier comment that removing trees or not having space for trees needs to be mitigated NOT JUST by tree fund but by additional costs to developer representing additional energy costs due to lack of canopy

#335

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:55pm** [Comment ID: 2593] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

First - requiring to consider" is very weak tea. "Require development projects to avoid the removal of healthy trees," or something equivalent. Strong objective standards to implement 2.3.1 must be written into the planning ordinances, as this requirement is not sufficiently robust currently, even in standard design review. The objective standards will have to be sufficiently clear and robust in order to be applicable in ministerial approval of development projects.

#336

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:53pm** [Comment ID: 2998] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Every statement in this policy needs to be beefed up. "to the extent feasible" is a poorly-disguised loophole.

#337

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:43am** [Comment ID: 3113] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The word to the extent feasible is a cop out and should be removed. It's a statement to preserve mature trees in development and that is the goal. Do you not waver

#338

Posted by **ray tretheway** on **06/20/2024** at **1:45pm** [Comment ID: 3080] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

collaborate with community efforts to identify, protect and purchase open space lands to meet the state's open space goals for all municipalities

#339

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:49pm** [Comment ID: 2996] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Prevent removal of native canopy trees that meet specified standards of height and DBH - that is, protect them from development.

#340

Posted by **Steve Schweigerdt** on **06/03/2024** at **4:13pm** [Comment ID: 2713] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

There are natural areas and remnant oak groves in most council districts. Work with YPCE to establish Natural Areas Program to grow and manage these areas. ECOS will be bringing this recommendation to Council for the Parks 2040 plan.

2.3.2 Protect existing trees during construction.

- A. Require adequate protection during construction to protect existing tree roots and structure. 343
- B. Develop a tree protection manual for construction projects.

2.3.3 Require mitigation for tree removal to include onsite or offsite plantings and/or tree removal fees.

- A. Support opportunities to allow for mitigation in priority communities. 349

2.3.4 Encourage appropriate watering and irrigation practices to minimize water use while supporting healthy tree growth. 344

- A. Support initiatives that encourage other entities and private property owners to practice responsible tree irrigation during droughts to minimize tree stress and loss.
- B. Upgrade or supplement irrigation in parks and streetscapes where needed to support appropriate tree watering practices. 345

2.3.5 Assess the success of objectives and enforcement of the City's Tree Ordinance (City Code Chapter 12.56) to encourage the preservation and care of private protected trees.

- A. Take action as necessary to strengthen enforcement of tree regulations and requirements.
- B. Regularly assess fines for violations, especially for repeat offenders. 348
- C. Develop educational materials to promote tree protection ordinance and increase community awareness about tree protection requirements, particularly to landscape and tree care companies.
- D. Require tree removals that are a part of private development projects or City projects be approved by the hearing body as a part of project approval. 34347

2.3.6 Support the use of proper pruning techniques on privately maintained trees.

- A. Provide education to support appropriate pruning practices on privately maintained trees and trees maintained by other agencies.
- B. Encourage use of certified arborists for guidance on tree care and maintenance. 350

342

341

#341

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:15pm** [Comment ID: 3013] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

2.3.7. Develop a licensing program for tree care workers.

#342

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:01pm** [Comment ID: 3003] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

C. Develop an system of incentives and cooperation with neighborhoods in all parts of the City to pool resources to hire arborists for consultation in Canopy Tree maintenance.

D. Set standards in Ordinance for tree mainenance - e.g., no topping. Require tree service industry to accept those standards in order to operate in the City.

#343

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **10:46pm** [Comment ID: 3131] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Require and enforce

#344

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:57pm** [Comment ID: 2594] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

It is only a matter of time before we have another drought. Many trees died during the drought because private property owners 1) erroneously thought they could not water their trees, 2) did not know appropriate watering and irrigation practices to minimize water use while supporting healthy tree growth and 3) mostly people have no clue that watering city street trees on the right of way in front of their property is required by ordinance. Public education is crucial.

#345

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:54pm** [Comment ID: 2999] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

c. require installation of specific tree irrigation systems in residential development - i.e., tree irrigation stations.

#346

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **1:58pm** [Comment ID: 3001] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

E. Require independent review of specified tree removal proposals. Change appeal process to include outside (i.e., not UF) review.

#347

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:59pm** [Comment ID: 2596] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Subdivision D speaks of a "hearing body." That term is not used or defined elsewhere in the Urban Forest Plan. This will need to be defined and fleshed out.

Reply by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **9:01pm** [Comment ID: 2597] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Further thoughts re "hearing body":

City trees

A problem with our current tree ordinance is that "director" is defined to also be the director's "designee." Most or all of the actions to be taken by the director in the tree ordinance have been designated to be performed by urban forestry staff, and thus, on appeal, a "director level" review is done by the city's urban forester for city trees. There is no one from outside the urban forestry department to provide oversight or higher level review. Thus we have a department that is the final reviewer of its own work, and there is actually no "director level" review of tree removals, although this is what the city and the planning department continues to tell the public.

With Urban Forestry nested underneath Public Works/Maintenance, city staff at the director level may not have sufficient arborist expertise to hear appeals, and that may be why the director designates the urban forester (who has that expertise). I do like the fact that the urban forester meets the appellant(s) at the site. It would be better to designate an outside arborist - that has no other contracts with the city - to act as director in tree appeals. Another option would be a Tree Commission created by the city, to review appeals.

Reply by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **9:02pm** [Comment ID: 2598] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

And an additional thought:

Private trees

With regard to private trees, my understanding is that the "hearing body" consists of one person.

#348

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **8:57pm** [Comment ID: 2595] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The fines for repeat violations should be sufficiently large as to encourage repeat violations, if they are not already. The fines for arborists should be higher than the fines for property owners, as arborists are assumed to be professionals.

#349

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:45am** [Comment ID: 3114] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I agree that priority communities need the medication fees. I also believe that some of those mitigation fees should go back to the neighborhood to replant trees were significant trees are removed and incentive should be provided to either keep the trees or to plant trees that will replace the canopy that is lost.

#350

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/24/2024** at **9:03pm** [Comment ID: 2599] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

“Encourage use of certified arborists for guidance on tree care and maintenance” for private protected trees is a vague requirement. I can accept merely “encouraging” an individual homeowner who may not have the means to hire a licensed arborist, or in over 50% of the cases, to be a renter; however, owners of multi-unit buildings and larger development projects should be required to use certified arborists for planting and maintenance.

Regarding homeowners and renters, some of the encouraged guidance needs to be provided under A. - “provide education” (by the city, grants to the Sacramento Tree Foundation or other entities). Many people do not have money for arborists or are renters.



Manage

Goal 3: Manage the urban forest through coordinated planning, design, and maintenance to ensure its long-term health and sustainability.

Strategy 3.1 Organizational Best Practices

Seek to include necessary resources to manage city trees at a sustainable level.

Policies + Implementation Actions

- 3.1.1 Employ professional urban forest staff and rely on urban forestry best management practices.**
- A. Seek to maintain adequate and qualified urban forestry staffing and supporting contracts to appropriately maintain City trees and provide high levels of customer service.
 - B. Maintain a high level of professionalism by requiring certified arborists and adherence to professional standards and best urban forest management practices for decision making, maintenance, care, and planting of trees under City authority.
- 3.1.2 Strengthen collaboration and support between all City departments that manage trees.**
- A. Coordinate an internal working group with key staff from relevant departments and divisions.
- 3.1.3 Conduct annual reporting on the urban forest plan to ensure progress toward goals and appropriate resource allocation.**
- A. Assess the urban forest program staffing levels, funding allocation and utilization, status of SUFP objectives, and tree planting and removal activities.
 - B. Provide an annual update to the City Council.
- 3.1.4 Strive to perform regular 5-year updates to the Urban Forest Plan and canopy cover assessment and analysis reports.**
- A. Strive to perform a canopy cover assessment aligned with the CAAP update greenhouse gas inventory.
 - B. Explore funding to support SUFP and canopy cover assessment and analysis report updates.

#351

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:04pm** [Comment ID: 3005] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

3.1.1 establish a City Steering Committee or staff person (Tree Czar) operating out of the Mayor's Office to coordinate City efforts to meet the Canopy Goals. By removing this function out of the Organization Chart, Tree Canopy goals, which require a change in the Culture of city departments, including UF, will be more possible. If there isn't a person/group with some agency over the other departments, this great shift in Culture - Seeing the UF as infrastructure - it will not likely happen.

#352

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:07pm** [Comment ID: 3007] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

C. See Trees for Sacramento Letter for specifics on what needs to be included in Annual Report

D. Provide information on fund sources and expenditures for entire UF function.

E. Provide information on staffing across Departments

F. Report needs to include prior year, current year, and budget year information.

#353

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:46am** [Comment ID: 2602] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

There should be a tie-in with Strategy 4.4, workforce development, especially 4.4.2, subdivision B. Are internships or apprenticeship programs possible? Career pathways to jobs in the city's urban forestry department, especially for the residents of underserved areas of the city?

#354

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:21pm** [Comment ID: 2946] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Recommend to include language for equitable community engagement as a best practice ensuring all the goals in this section. Here is an example of a city toolkit that has best practices <https://engagement-toolkit.phila.gov/>

#355

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:05pm** [Comment ID: 3006] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

See goal above. Internal working group is great, but needs to have a leader who has management powers over the group.

#356

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/21/2024** at **12:46pm** [Comment ID: 3122] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Measure 4.4 h of the City Parks Plan Update states: Establish a working group to provide guidance to City staff on nature, wildlife and biological expertise. This measure should be extended to the Urban Forest Plan regarding native tree plantings in natural areas, parks, and regional forested corridors.

#357

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:08pm** [Comment ID: 3008] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

"Striving to" and "Exploring funding fo"r is too aspirational. These need to be goals, the City needs to find a way to fund them.

#358

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **10:51pm** [Comment ID: 3132] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Require Parks to provide a yearly report on urban forest progress.

#359

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/21/2024** at **12:38pm** [Comment ID: 3121] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

The City also needs staff with expertise in management of natural areas and in establishment of native trees. Without this it will be difficult to impossible to meet Urban Forest Plan Measures 2.1.1 to 2.2.3 (page 98).

Strategy 3.2 Manage Risk

Utilize tree risk management policies, procedures, and practices to minimize the risk of injury and property damage.

Policies + Implementation Actions

3.2.1 Rely on industry best management practices for pest control, disease prevention, and hazard mitigation measures in urban environments in treatment of City-managed trees.

- A. Require regular disease and pest training for City urban for³⁶⁵ staff.
- B. Continue to monitor City-managed trees for signs of emergent pests and diseases and take proactive measures to address threats.
- C. Continue to monitor and address as necessary City-managed trees that have structural deficiencies, disease, or may cause harm.

3.2.2 Maintain and implement emergency response plans for storm events that result in tree loss and damage.

3.2.3 Minimize future damage or conflict by planning for trees as a part of infrastructure.

- A. Require proper planting space and tree selections to minimize conflicts and damage to infrastructure assets, including sidewalks, overhead lines, underground utilities, and solar panels. ³⁶² ³⁶³

³⁶⁰

Strategy 3.3 Regular Maintenance

Perform regular maintenance on City trees to improve the health, longevity, safety, and functional capacity of the urban forest.

Policies + Implementation Actions

3.3.1 Continue to operate a proactive tree maintenance program to preserve and protect City-managed trees.

- A. Strive to achieve a 5-year maintenance pruning cycle.

3.3.2 Update and regularly maintain a comprehensive inventory of all City-managed trees.

- A. Integrate inventories across City departments into one central inventory.
- B. Perform a comprehensive inventory update to capture all street trees, park trees, trees on City-managed facilities, and vacant planting stalls.
- C. Implement procedures to regularly inc³⁶⁴orporate new plantings, tree removals, and tree maintenance into the inventory on an on-going basis.
- D. Explore coordination and integration of inventories with other public agencies with land in the city limits, including but not limited to the State of California, County of Sacramento, UC Davis, Sacramento State, Los Rios Community College District, public school districts, and public utilities.

³⁶¹

#360

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:10pm** [Comment ID: 3009] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

3.2.3 Explore challenge of insurance coverage being removed for Canopy Trees. Work with partners and state wide organizations to find a solution for property owners to preserve these trees.

#361

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:11pm** [Comment ID: 3010] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

E. Find out how many trees have been lost to the City - either not replaced, or replaced by property owner.

#362

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/04/2024** at **12:30pm** [Comment ID: 2251] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

I would add minimize damage to the existing trees by utility companies and scrutinize their activities on private property. SMUD can't just keep hacking the trees we have. They should underground their aging equipment everywhere.

#363

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:48am** [Comment ID: 2603] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Tree planting sites in park strips (public right-of-way) should not be replaced with utility boxes. This is not a good excuse for not replanting a tree or planting a smaller species if a tree needs to be removed.

#364

Posted by **Daniel Savino** on **04/26/2024** at **2:15pm** [Comment ID: 2194] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

It is important to consider long-term drought/heat risks in new plantings, and anticipate long-term health of trees planted in the near future in a more arid, windy climate that is likely to make certain current species less viable, and others more so.

#365

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **10:52pm** [Comment ID: 3133] - [Link](#)

Suggestion
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0
And Parks Staff

Strategy 3.4 Manage for Co-benefits

Plan to maximize the co-benefits of the urban forest throughout trees' full life cycle.

Policies + Implementation Actions

3.4.1 Support tree reuse efforts within the City to extend the life cycle of trees.

- A. When large trees need to be removed as a part of a Capital Improvement Project or private development, identify options for the highest and best use of the wood, including urban lumber or mulching programs.

3.4.2 Explore opportunities to leverage the benefits of trees to retain stormwater runoff.

- A. Identify opportunities to incorporate trees into stormwater runoff systems. ³⁶⁷

3.4.3 When designing transportation improvements, ³⁶⁶ support the inclusion of adequate tree canopy to provide substantial shade for active transportation infrastructure and support achievement of 50 percent shading on streets and sidewalks.

- A. When conducting active transportation audits, identify opportunities to add shade trees on public and private land.
- B. Review procedures to ensure that inclusion and preservation of trees are part of transportation planning and projects.
- C. To the extent feasible require the inclusion of trees and irrigation in all road diets, transportation Capital Improvement Projects, and private development projects altering the roadway.
- D. When conducting active transportation audits, identify opportunities to add shade trees on public and private land.

#366

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:13pm** [Comment ID: 3012] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

"support" should be "require"

#367

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:13pm** [Comment ID: 3011] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

B. Include stormwater runoff control in developing metrics for tree preservation and canopy allowance.



Engage

Goal 4: Engage, educate, and coordinate with community members, public agencies, partners, and private businesses to care for and grow the urban forest.

Strategy 4.1 Community³⁶⁸ Engagement

Support community advocacy for and involvement in the urban forest.

Policies + Implementation Actions

4.1.1 Recognize and promote the city's urban forest.

- A. Annually celebrate Arbor Day to promote awareness of the city's tree canopy and benefits.
- B. Annually maintain the City's status as a Tree City USA⁸⁵.
- C. Promote the City of Sacramento's urban forest nationally and internationally to encourage visitors and tourism.

4.1.2 Conduct City-wide urban forest public outreach and education.

- A. Inform and educate residents about the urban forest, City-maintained tree operations and maintenance, available tree planting and water-wise irrigation programs, and opportunities to support the urban forest.
- B. Develop informational materials to provide to homeowners, tenants, and business owners to support tree canopy, including but not limited to the following topics:
 - Information on tree benefits, planting guidance, tree selection and care, available programs, and water-wise irrigation³⁶⁹.
 - Information about tree species that are adapted to Sacramento's climate and resilient to drought and climate change.
 - Guidance on tree planting to maximize building energy conservation.
 - Guidance to plant and maintain healthy trees in parking lots.
 - Options and strategies to convert paved areas to tree planting areas.
- C. Update the City's urban forestry website to improve available information and references to tree partners and opportunities.
- D. Target public outreach in disadvantaged, high heat, and low-canopy neighborhoods.
- E. Identify opportunities to provide translated and/or bilingual outreach and education materials.
- F. Develop partnerships with community-based organizations to strengthen multi-lingual and culturally appropriate engagement. ³⁷⁰

⁸⁵ Tree City USA is a recognition earned from the Arbor Day Foundation through demonstrated commitment to trees. (<https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>)

#368

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:24pm** [Comment ID: 2947] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Recommend to include language for equitable community engagement as a best practice. Here is an example of a city toolkit that has best practices <https://engagement-toolkit.phila.gov/>

#369

Posted by **Steve Schweigerdt** on **06/03/2024** at **4:26pm** [Comment ID: 2717] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 3, Disagree: -1

Too many yards are being converted to rockscape that is detrimental to trees. Coordinate with utilities to ensure their programs do not encourage rock and continue to educate residents.

#370

Posted by **Russ Schmunk** on **05/28/2024** at **5:05pm** [Comment ID: 2621] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

As noted previously, partnerships with community based groups, the Sacramento Tree Foundation and SMUD are likely the key element in a realistic plan achieving the 35% goal. The plan should detail what specific steps will be taken towards this end.

4.1.3 Encourage active participation by residents in the development and promotion of a sustainable urban forest. ³⁷³

- A. Establish a tree ambassador program.
- B. Provide and support ³⁷² educational events about the benefits of trees, proper irrigation and water use, and tree care and pruning. ³⁷⁴ ³⁷⁶
- C. Encourage and support community tree planting, volunteer, and community forestry efforts of other agencies and partners. ³⁷⁵
- D. Target City-led community tree planting events and volunteer opportunities in disadvantaged, high heat, and low-canopy neighborhoods. ³⁷⁷

³⁷¹

Strategy 4.2 Partner Coordination

Facilitate coordination, involvement, and commitment from all entities that own, control, regulate, or affect the urban forest.

Policies + Implementation Actions

4.2.1 Continue existing partnerships and establish new partnerships. ³⁷⁹ ³⁸⁰

- A. Strengthen partnerships with other agencies, organizations, contractors, and public utilities whose activities impact trees through regular dialogue and project coordination.
- B. Establish new partnerships and memoranda of understanding with partners to deliver tree planting, maintenance, and education projects and reach City tree program goals.
- C. Collaborate with groups such as the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, State of California, Sacramento County, Los Rios Community College District, K-12 school districts, Tribes, Sacramento Tree Foundation, environmental groups, community and neighborhood associations, business and property improvement districts, and other agencies and organizations to expand tree planting, preservation, and care programs throughout the city. ³⁷⁸ ³⁸¹

4.2.2 Support and encourage businesses to increase tree canopy.

- A. Work with businesses and property improvement districts to incorporate and add trees to business corridors, streets, and parking lots.
- B. Explore incentives and other programs to encourage the addition of trees to commercial properties and parking lots.
- C. Develop and implement a pilot program to retrofit existing low canopy parking lots to increase tree canopy and reduce urban heat.

#371

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **2:39pm** [Comment ID: 3017] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

E. Develop working group to make recommendations to implement the SUFF. Working group to comprise neighborhood activists, tree canopy experts, and other committed to meeting the tree canopy goals.

#372

Posted by **Deb Sullivan** on **05/07/2024** at **2:23pm** [Comment ID: 2303] - [Link](#)

Other

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

We have a tree between houses that overhangs our roof (@4' above + @ 6' wide, which is trimmed annually). This tree was placed at the direction of the Sac Tree Foundation years ago in coordination with SMUD. We just got a "Non-renewal" notice from our homeowners insurer - they will only accept removal of the tree which will be expensive for our neighbor and he will lose a lot of shade to his home. Neighbor is OK with this but how is this fair? Sac may be fighting a losing battle with the insurance companies on this one!

#373

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:50am** [Comment ID: 2604] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

We need to encourage active participation by property owners as well. Over half of Sacramento's properties are rentals, and property managers and landlords need to be engaged, including those that do not reside in the city or county. We need to engage people that have the money and power to maintain our tree canopy on private land. We need to be forward-looking as the city is pro-housing and prioritizing urban infill, especially in residential zones, as a climate adaptation. Much of this new growth will be rentals.

#374

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/04/2024** at **12:35pm** [Comment ID: 2252] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 4, Disagree: 0

Taking care of a tree is a big responsibility and a lot of work. Private landowners should be incentivized to have trees and properly maintain them. After all, we are contributing to the quality of life in our community when we take care of our own trees.

Reply by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:52am** [Comment ID: 2605] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

This is especially true in low-income neighborhoods that lack tree planting strips for city street trees. Front yard trees are vital for shading the streets.

Reply by **Alex Binck** on **06/10/2024** at **7:33pm** [Comment ID: 2731] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Tax incentives could be a possible strategy. They would need to be carefully designed so as not to be overly burdensome on financially insecure residents.

#375

Posted by **Russ Schmunk** on **05/28/2024** at **5:09pm** [Comment ID: 2622] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

More specificity needed here. The plan should describe specific actions, rather than state that the City will "encourage and support."

#376

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/04/2024** at **12:37pm** [Comment ID: 2253] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

People stopped watering trees when the drought hit but there are benefits to watering even then, so keep telling people to water their trees.

Reply by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:53am** [Comment ID: 2606] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

There was virtually no public information on this. People should have been told to continue watering trees with soaker hoses, even during the drought. It doesn't take much water but it needs to soak into the ground. So many trees died on private property because people thought they couldn't water them!

#377

Posted by **Russ Schmunk** on **05/28/2024** at **5:12pm** [Comment ID: 2623] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

More detail please. Also, instead of making these efforts City-led, a more effective strategy would likely be to support the Sacramento Tree Foundation in doing this work, as they have experience with it.

#378

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **2:08pm** [Comment ID: 3081] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

These partnerships are all valuable. The collaborations with the Sacramento Tree Foundation (STF) and SMUD have been particularly helpful in expanding the canopy of shade trees in Sacramento urban areas. However, please consider expansion of partnerships with STF and SMUD beyond the current focus on shade trees. The current "Shady 80" tree list has a number of significant limitations: too few water wise trees; no meaningful distinction between the wildlife and pollinator benefits of local native trees versus non-native trees (natives will generally be higher); not enough emphasis on climate resilient trees; an overemphasis on shade trees; and often a shortage of available native trees. There are also likely opportunities to work with STF to plant oaks as part of the City's Tree Planting and Replacement Fund pursuant to the City Tree Ordinance that could include ecosystem plantings (understory and mid-story native plants) in conjunction with tree plantings. STF is currently doing this with other local jurisdictions (e.g., Sacramento County and Rancho Cordova). Also SMUD has significant lands that could be available for tree plantings and other habitat types such as native grasslands that promote carbon storage.

#379

Posted by **Russ Schmunk** on **05/28/2024** at **5:15pm** [Comment ID: 2624] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Given that partnerships are likely critical to realizing the plan's goal, due to City resource constraints, this section should detail what specific steps will taken to further partnership activities.

#380

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/20/2024** at **2:19pm** [Comment ID: 3082] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

These partnerships are super important and are essential to successfully implementing the Sacramento Urban Forest Plan. This collaboration efforts should be adequately funded by the recent federal grants to support urban forestry in Sacramento.

#381

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:48am** [Comment ID: 3115] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Campus Commons Park corporation, we look forward to partnering as well. Thank you for the opportunity.

4.2.3 Strengthen partnerships with entities in disadvantaged and low tree canopy neighborhoods.

- A. Build and strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations, businesses, non-profits, neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, and other entities within or that serve disadvantaged, low tree canopy, and high heat neighborhoods to promote and expand access to urban forest programs.  

4.2.4 Support science-based urban forest decision making among partners.

- A. Encourage other agencies and utilities that govern tree removal, maintenance, policies, and/or restrictions to ensure these decisions are based in ecological and science-based information and balance decisions for tree removal or restrictions with longer-term environmental consequences. 

Strategy 4.3 Youth Engagement

Cultivate youth engagement in the urban forest to continue Sacramento’s legacy of tree stewardship.

Policies + Implementation Actions

4.3.1 Support opportunities for youth leadership in urban forest programs.

- A. Sponsor and support youth leadership efforts and programs around tree planting and care.
- B. Partner with the Youth Commission and YPCE Youth Division to take a leadership role in promoting planting programs, developing efforts to increase access to trees in disadvantaged communities, and training youth “tree stewards” within the community.
- C. Provide seed funding as needed to support urban forest youth leadership programs.

4.3.2 Increase youth tree literacy and access to trees.

- A. Partner with schools to increase trees, tree maintenance, and irrigation on school grounds.
- B. Partner with schools to offer tree care curriculum and programs.

#382

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/04/2024** at **12:38pm** [Comment ID: 2254] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

SMUD needs to underground lines to protect our tree canopy. You cannot mitigate climate change on the trees.

#383

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:54am** [Comment ID: 2607] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Access to arborist services for private protected trees for low income residents needs to be a part of this program, including creative ideas for obtaining grants. Perhaps a tie-in with Strategy 5.2.1?

#384

Posted by **Russ Schmunk** on **05/28/2024** at **5:19pm** [Comment ID: 2625] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

How will this occur? This is written as a general goal, not a strategy or action step.

Strategy 4.4 Workforce Development

Advance career pathways in urban forestry.

Policies + Implementation Actions

4.4.1 Promote workforce development programs for tree care professions as a critical component of green industry.

- A. Explore developing and facilitating tree care apprenticeship programs in the city with local tree care companies, certified arborists, workforce development organizations, and educational institutions.
- B. Coordinate with the Landscape and Learning program⁸⁶, local high schools, and community colleges to promote careers in tree care. 
- C. Identify opportunities to utilize workforce development programs, such as the regional and state conservation corps, in City urban forest efforts.

4.4.2 Build workforce pipelines from Sacramento's historically under-employed and low-income neighborhoods into the City's urban forest workforce.

- A. Strengthen partnerships and training opportunities to offer pre-employment training, job placement support, and advertisement to increase awareness about career pathways into urban forestry.
- B. Prioritize outreach for workforce development programs to Sacramento's historically under-employed and low-income neighborhoods to facilitate entry into well-paying urban forestry careers.

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 385

⁸⁶ <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Youth-Division/Youth-Employment/LandscapeAndLearning>

#385

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:46am** [Comment ID: 3018] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

4.4.3 Work with Urban Forest Council and secondary and postsecondary regional schools to develop a curriculum for tree workers at all levels.

4.4.4 Coordinate with continuing education providers to ensure that landscape designers understand the needs of canopy trees. This is necessary to curb practices in xeriscaping and hardscaping that damage tree.

#386

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:03pm** [Comment ID: 3135] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Create full time urban forestry positions within Parks for students to graduate in to.

#387

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:25pm** [Comment ID: 2948] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Would be great to connect this to the work of the equity team for the department that is supporting workforce equity goals of the Race & Gender Equity Action Plan for the City.

#388

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:02pm** [Comment ID: 3134] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Add tree benefit, planting, and establishment care training to the Landscape and Learning program.



Sustain

Goal 5: Sustain the growth, development, and continuity of City urban forest programs through dedicated funding and innovation.

Strategy 5.1 Program Funding

Pursue sustainable funding to support the ambitious canopy and program goals within this Plan.

389

Policies + Implementation Actions

- 5.1.1 Perform a cost analysis to determine the projected cost to meet the tree planting and maintenance targets identified in the Urban Forest Plan to reach 35 percent canopy cover by 2045.**
- 5.1.2 Pursue an increase in dedicated long-term funding to provide an increased level of tree canopy, perform associated care and maintenance, and expand core urban forestry services and programs.**
 - A. Provide information on the level of funding and staff needed to ensure adequate maintenance of City-managed trees to meet professional standards, including five-year maintenance cycle for all City trees and regular maintenance of the City inventory and to address additional trees and canopy levels.
 - B. Develop a cohesive funding program for tree planting and irrigation within City parks.
- 5.1.3 Pursue grant funding to promote tree planting and partner engagement.**
 - A. Whenever feasible, seek grant funding for programs to promote tree planting efforts, public-private partnerships, workforce development, community education, street tree expansion, and parking lot greening.
- 5.1.4 Optimize existing funding sources to meet canopy and management goals.**
 - A. Assess current processes and fees to identify improvements to better achieve objectives.
- 5.1.5 Explore new funding sources.**
 - A. Explore opportunities to utilize taxes, special assessments, and special tax districts to receive dedicated program funding.
 - B. Explore non-traditional and technology-driven funding techniques, such as donation and gifting programs.

390

391

#389

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:47am** [Comment ID: 3019] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

City needs to get this going.

#390

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:56am** [Comment ID: 2608] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Suggested edit: "seek out grant funding for programs to promote tree planting "and maintenance efforts. ..."

Planting and maintenance go hand in hand. Planting trees that will wither and die is not a good recipe for our urban forest.

#391

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:04pm** [Comment ID: 3136] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

tree planting - establishment - and irrigation

Strategy 5.2 Incentive Programs

Explore incentive programs to reduce barriers to tree planting and care on private property.

Policies + Implementation Actions

5.2.1 Explore providing financial support to residents in disadvantaged communities for tree planting and care. 393

- A. Identify funding options or incentives to support mature tree care, including water use and maintenance costs related to trees. 394
- B. Identify funding options or incentives to reduce barriers to tree planting, including education, support for irrigation installation, and support for maintenance costs.

5.2.2 Explore financial incentives to support residents with mature trees.

- A. Investigate potential tax break for properties with City-protected and registered trees. 395 396

Strategy 5.3 Innovation

Advance innovative technologies and approaches to support the urban forest.

Policies + Implementation Actions

5.3.1 Support new technologies for tree canopy assessment and planning.

- A. Utilize technology that allows for public access to urban forest data and can be easily used by residents and other organizations.
- B. Identify innovative tools that allow for improved assessment of urban forest resources and utilize that data to improve program and project planning.

392

#392

Posted by **Steve Schweigerdt** on **06/03/2024** at **4:23pm** [Comment ID: 2715] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Under innovation there should be goals for introduction of new disease resistant species to maximize diversity, testing of paving and soil treatments that best support tree growth in challenging conditions, and integration with tactical urbanism to retrofit streets for people instead of cars.

#393

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:57am** [Comment ID: 2609] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

This is an absolute must. Money to care for trees, not just plant them, is crucial to public health.

Reply by **Alex Binck** on **06/10/2024** at **7:41pm** [Comment ID: 2732] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

I wonder if SMUD could be a potential partner here, as they already offer many similar rebates.

#394

Posted by **Steve Schweigerdt** on **06/03/2024** at **4:24pm** [Comment ID: 2716] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Concerns over cost are one of the main barriers to planting. If the City can address that with equitable funding, it should be paired with a requirement to plant, since trees are a community resource.

#395

Posted by **Theresa Ann Lown** on **05/04/2024** at **12:41pm** [Comment ID: 2255] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

or just a mature healthy tree of a certain diameter and it is inspected often for compliance.

#396

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:58am** [Comment ID: 2610] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Sounds good but need to know more. What is a city-protected and registered tree?

Are those trees that were planted in front yards before the city abandoned them to the property owner? Is there a way for a homeowner to seek registration of a mature tree? What does city-protected mean - that the tree cannot be cut down for a development project or the tax break is forfeited?

Implementation Strategy



North Sacramento

Implementation of the Sacramento Urban Forest Plan will require participation from multiple departments across the City, other agencies, and key partners. The following section assigns responsibility and a suggested timeframe for implementing the SUFP’s strategies, policies, and implementation actions.

Department Key	
PW	Department of Public Works
YPCE	Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment
CDD	Community Development Department
DOU	Department of Utilities
OIED	Office of Innovation and Economic Development

GROW



Grow the urban forest through new plantings to support livable neighborhoods, protect residents and visitors from the impact of climate change, and reinforce the City’s legacy as the “City of Trees.”

Strategies	Policies + Implementation Actions	Lead	Support	Timeframe
1.1 Expand Canopy: Increase the current levels of canopy to maximize the benefits of the urban forest.	1.1.1 The City shall strive to achieve a minimum average wide tree canopy of 35 percent by 2045.	PW	CDD, YPCE	15–20 years
	1.1.2 Establish a parks tree planting program.	YPCE	PW	0–5 years
	1.1.3 Continue to operate a street tree planting program.	PW		Ongoing

#397

Posted by **Russ Schmunk** on **05/28/2024** at **4:45pm** [Comment ID: 2618] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Lacking here and throughout the document is a realistic plan for achieving the 35% canopy cover goal. Absent a dramatic change in the availability of public funding, this is likely to require extensive use of volunteer and other agency resources. The plan should detail how these resources will be mobilized. One idea is to nurture neighborhood groups like the one to which I belong; in our first years of operation, we tripled the rate at which SMUD-funded trees were planted.

#398

Posted by **Laurie Stephey** on **06/11/2024** at **12:50pm** [Comment ID: 2769] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

increase levels of canopy, prioritizing native trees

#399

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/20/2024** at **10:40pm** [Comment ID: 3106] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Missing street trees are the critical piece - and it needs to be scaled up to cover minimum of 30pct of the targeted goal(25000). Ideally 80 pct, if we are to identify trees as essential infrastructure that effects every household in the city.

#400

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **11:17pm** [Comment ID: 2909] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Tree planting is 1/4th the job done.

Need additional policy for a three year tree establishment period. Watering trucks will need to be assigned to each neighborhood for establishing street trees

#401

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:47am** [Comment ID: 3020] - [Link](#)

Remove

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

remove "strive for"

#402

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:10pm** [Comment ID: 3137] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

planting -and establishment- program. This program's development will require oversight from the urban forestry department, as there is currently only one position in parks (arborist).

1.2 Plan for Trees: Incorporate trees into all levels of planning and development to ensure existing trees are preserved, an adequate number of new trees are planted to reach canopy goals, and that trees can grow to maturity without interfering with adjacent infrastructure.	1.2.1 Amend Sacramento City Code as necessary to improve tree canopy inclusion and require minimum levels of tree planting in development projects.	PW, CDD		0–5 years
	1.2.2 Review and update design guidelines and development standards to support achievement of minimum canopy goals and maximize benefits.	CDD	PW	0–5 years
	1.2.3 Encourage development plans to meet minimum canopy goals within 15 years.	CDD	PW	0–5 years
	1.2.4 Develop mechanisms that require or incentivize preservation of existing trees during site development when feasible.	CDD	PW	0–5 years
	1.2.5 Identify strategies to strengthen implementation of the Parking Lot Shading Ordinance and Parking Lot Shading Design and Maintenance Guidelines to support achievement of a minimum of 50 percent tree shading within 15 years.	PW	CDD	0–5 years
	1.2.6 Support the achievement of 50 percent tree shading over streets and sidewalks.	PW	CDD	0–5 years
	1.2.7 Ensure the establishment of trees incorporated into development.	PW	CDD, DOU	0–5 years
1.3 Canopy Equity: Seek to address historic inequities, remove barriers to tree adoption, and ensure the urban forest is shared equitably across all communities.	1.3.1 Prioritize City planting efforts and implementation of urban forest programs in priority communities.	PW	YPCE	0–5 years
	1.3.2 Support and facilitate canopy expansion efforts on private property across the City with focus in priority communities.	PW	CDD	15–20 years

#403

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:50am** [Comment ID: 3025] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Change all time spans to 2 years maximum. We can't use 20% of our time setting standards. If we use more time, we'll need to up the canopy goals.

#404

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:48am** [Comment ID: 3021] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

1.2.3."require" not "encourage"

#405

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:52am** [Comment ID: 3027] - [Link](#)

Remove

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Achieve, not support the achievement.

Who else is going to achieve but UF?

#406

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **11:59am** [Comment ID: 2611] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 3, Disagree: 0

This should be "required," not "encouraged." At the very least, incentivized in such a manner that the incentives are serious - sufficiently attractive (or punitive) to get results. The city needs a metric for exactly what is required, by lot size and location, for the developer to contribute to meeting minimum canopy goals. This requirement can be met by preserving an existing tree and/or planting species recommended for the planting area. If the developer does not meet these goals, meaningful in-lieu fees should be imposed.

#407

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:51am** [Comment ID: 3026] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

remove "when feasible."

#408

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:49am** [Comment ID: 3023] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Once again, 1 or 2 years - not 5

#409

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:49am** [Comment ID: 3022] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Must be done within a year or 2

STEWARD



Steward the City’s existing trees to preserve canopy and protect the urban forest from biological and cultural threats and loss.

Strategies	Policies + Implementation Actions	Lead	Support	Timeframe
2.1 Canopy Resilience: Ensure Sacramento’s urban forest is resilient and prepared for the biotic and abiotic impacts of climate change necessary for the longevity and success of the city’s trees.	2.1.1 Promote biological diversity in tree species and age for the city’s urban forest to maintain resilience. ⁴¹⁶	PW	YPCE, CDD	0–5 years
	2.1.2 Create a master recommended tree list to ensure all trees planted by the City or associated with approved development projects are suitable for changing climate conditions in Sacramento.	PW	CDD, YPCE	0–5 years
	2.1.3 Continue to monitor and identify pest threats and take preventative actions to anticipate threats and minimize potential impacts.	PW		Ongoing
2.2 Native Forest Resilience: Conserve native oaks and woodlands as a valuable tool for climate adaptation that can address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.	2.2.1 Preserve native trees ⁴¹⁵ woodlands, native species, and riparian areas to the extent feasible in recognition of their ties to the area’s natural history, ability to sustain ecosystems, and natural climate adaptation. ⁴¹⁴	PW	YPCE, CDD	Ongoing
	2.2.2 Incorporate native plantings into ⁴¹⁰ urban forest ⁴¹² and parks when appropriate and to the extent feasible.	YPCE	⁴¹⁷	Ongoing
	2.2.3 Advocate for regional forested corridors to facilitate ⁴¹³ adaptation and migration of native tree species and wildlife. ⁴¹¹	PW, YPCE	CDD	5–10 years

#410

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **2:07pm** [Comment ID: 2874] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

There is a strong public push to increase native tree planting within the city, based primarily on a desire to conserve California's natural biodiversity, particularly wildlife. However, many urban foresters have legitimate concerns about the ability of some native species to survive climate change, pest pressures, and urban conditions. In addition, Sacramento did not historically contain enough native species to satisfy species diversity goals, which are essential to urban forest resilience and will support biodiversity separately from the benefits of the individual species planted. Urban biodiversity is influenced by a variety of features of the urban forest beyond tree provenance, including tree stature, presence of cavities, habitat connectivity and size, etc. Furthermore, the science on the relationship between biodiversity and differing management strategies in urban forestry is complex, uncertain, and not well understood by the public or urban forest managers. The city should satisfy these diverse objectives by making biodiversity conservation an explicit goal, and develop a science-based, comprehensive strategy to achieve biodiversity goals without sacrificing other essential goals in this plan. A future document, guided by expert advice, could compile and evaluate the various techniques that could achieve this goal.

#411

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/21/2024** at **12:25pm** [Comment ID: 3120] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This a great idea for enhancing habitat connectivity. Please develop an overall strategic plan sooner rather than later (i.e., 0-5 years) to support planning and acquisition efforts for regional forested corridors.

#412

Posted by **Laurie Stephey** on **06/11/2024** at **12:52pm** [Comment ID: 2770] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

add more natives to list of approved street trees, encourage homeowners to plant natives on their property

#413

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:54am** [Comment ID: 3028] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

City should advocate for tree preservation and wildlife migration corridors in American River Parkway adjacent to City.

#414

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/21/2024** at **12:57pm** [Comment ID: 3123] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Please add more native trees to existing natural areas. Measure 4.5 g of the City Parks Plan Update states that: In natural areas, plant drought drought-tolerant species that are native to the Sacramento Valley region to create dense tree groves.

#415

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/21/2024** at **12:19pm** [Comment ID: 3119] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Add a measure to recommend native tree plantings within the many natural areas within the City. This supports carbon sequestration and enhances biodiversity within the City. Existing natural areas often have significant capacity for more trees due to past degradation and lack of tree regeneration. These areas include but are not limited to: Del Paso Regional Park, Fisherman's Lake, Bannon Creek Parkway, Tretheway Oak Preserve, American River Parkway (from Sacramento River to Watt Avenue), William Chorley Park, Granite Regional Park, Reichmuth Park, and North Laguna Creek Park. Augmenting existing natural areas is an effective way of reducing habitat fragmentation and increasing local diversity.

#416

Posted by **Dan Meier** on **06/21/2024** at **1:28pm** [Comment ID: 3124] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Consider opportunities to create native forests within the City on open space or undeveloped lands, properties needing redevelopment or degraded lands. One increasingly popular concept is the mini-forest or pocket forest (aka Miyawaki Method). See Mini-Forests Revolution by Hannah Lewis for more information. These mini-forests consist of densely planted locally native trees within urban areas with a focus enhancing local biodiversity and creating carbon storage. These are typically community based plantings with the intent of being self-sustaining after 3 years (i.e., no irrigation or maintenance after 3 years). This method has spread internationally and has recently reached the west coast (San Diego, Berkeley, and Seattle).

#417

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:25pm** [Comment ID: 2897] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Shouldn't PW be listed here? Unless urban forestry will not be planting any native trees? I believe they are currently doing so, unless that will be eliminated. If so this

should be made explicit.

2.3 Tree Protection: Preserve existing tree canopy and healthy mature trees as vital for maintaining current canopy levels, meeting canopy goals, and adapting to climate change. Enforce tree protection standards to better protect the urban forest from loss of existing trees.	2.3.1 Preserve mature trees in development to the extent feasible.	CDD	PW	Ongoing
	2.3.2 Protect existing trees during construction.	PW	CDD	0–5 years
	2.3.3 Require mitigation for tree removal to include onsite or offsite plantings and/or tree removal fees.	PW	CDD	Ongoing
	2.3.4 Encourage appropriate water and irrigation practices to minimize needed water use and support healthy tree growth.	PW	YPCE, DOU	Ongoing
	2.3.5 Assess the success of objective and enforcement of the City's Tree Ordinance to encourage the preservation and care of private protected trees.	PW	CDD	0–5 years
	2.3.6 Support the use of proper pruning techniques on privately maintained trees.	PW		0–5 years

418

#418

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **11:03am** [Comment ID: 3034] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

2.3.7 In collaboration with residents, develop revisions to the City ordinances that affect the Urban Forest.

#419

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **11:02am** [Comment ID: 3033] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This phrase doesn't make sense.

"Assess the success of objective and enforcement of the City's..."

#420

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:55am** [Comment ID: 3029] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

to the extent feasible is "wiggle words" or, more accurately loophole language. "Feasibility" is in the eye of the beholder.

#421

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:56am** [Comment ID: 3030] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

We need better data on the number of private protected trees removed. We need data on the number of appeals that are granted.

#422

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **11:00am** [Comment ID: 3032] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Ensure quality care by prohibiting tree work by people who do not meet basic standards set by the City. Best would be a tree-care licensing program.

#423

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **10:58am** [Comment ID: 3031] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

NOTE THAT WE SHOULD NOT RESTRICT PROTECTION EXCLUSIVELY TO PRIVATE PROTECTED TREES, AS EVERY CANOPY TREE WAS ONCE A SMALLER TREE, AND

SOME CANOPY TREES DON'T MEET STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE PROTECTED TREES. As Ray Trethaway said at a Partner Advisory Committee meeting: Canopy is not the same as trees. (or something like that..)

MANAGE



Manage the urban forest through coordinated planning, design, and maintenance to ensure its long-term health and sustainability.

Strategies	Policies + Implementation Actions	Lead	Support	Timeframe
3.1 Organizational Best Practices: Seek to include necessary resources to manage City trees at a sustainable level.	3.1.1 Employ professional urban forest staff and rely on urban forestry best management practices.	PW	CC	Ongoing
	3.1.3 Strengthen collaboration and support between all ⁴²⁵ departments that manage trees.	PW	CDD, DOU, YPCE	Ongoing
	3.1.4 Conduct annual reporting on the urban forest plan to ensure progress towards goals and appropriate resource allocation.	PW	YPCE, CDD, DOU	Annually
	3.1.5 Strive to perform regular 5-year updates to ⁴²⁴ Urban Forest Plan and canopy cover assessment and analysis reports.	PW	CDD, YPCE	Every 5 years, aligned with CAAP
3.2 Manage Risk: Utilize tree risk management policies, procedures, and practices to minimize risk of injury and property damage.	3.2.1 Rely on industry best management practices for pest control, disease prevention, and hazard mitigation measures in urban environments in treatment of City-managed trees.	PW		Ongoing
	3.2.2 Maintain and implement emergency response plans for storm events that result in tree loss and damage.	PW		Ongoing
	3.2.3 Minimize future damage or conflict by planning for trees as a part of infrastructure.	PW, CDD, YPCE		0–5 years

#424

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **11:57am** [Comment ID: 3039] - [Link](#)

Remove

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Remove "Strive to".

#425

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:33pm** [Comment ID: 2899] - [Link](#)

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Parks maintenance staff do little if any maintenance on trees, including basic tasks related to young trees that don't require much training. I have returned to tree plantings years later to find stakes still hanging off of trees long past when they are needed. Mulching is another easy task that should be part of routine maintenance, particularly for young trees.

3.3 Regular Maintenance: Perform regular maintenance on City trees to improve the health, longevity, safety, and functional capacity of the urban forest.	3.3.1 Continue to operate a proactive tree maintenance program to preserve and protect City-managed trees.	PW		Ongoing
	3.3.2 Update and regularly maintain a comprehensive inventory of all City-managed trees.	PW	YPCE, DOU	0–5 years, Ongoing once updated
3.4 Manage for Co-benefits: Plan to maximize the co-benefits of the urban forest throughout trees' life cycle.	3.4.1 Support tree reuse efforts within the City to extend the life cycle of trees.	PW	YPCE	5–10 years
	3.4.2 Explore opportunities to leverage the benefits of trees to retain stormwater runoff.	DOU	PW	0–5 years
	3.4.3 When designing transportation improvements, support inclusion of adequate tree canopy to provide substantial shade for active transportation infrastructure and support achievement of 50 percent shading on street and sidewalks.	PW		0–5 years

#426

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:14pm** [Comment ID: 3138] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

to include natural playgrounds, benches, tables and signage.

ENGAGE



Engage, educate, and coordinate with community members, public agencies, partners, and private businesses to care for and grow the urban forest.

Strategies	Policies + Implementation Actions	Lead	Support	Timeframe
4.1 Community Engagement: Support community advocacy for and involvement in the urban forest.	4.1.1 Recognize and promote the city’s urban forest.	PW		Annually
	4.1.2 Conduct a City-wide urban forest public outreach and education.	PW		0–5 years
	427.3 Encourage active participation by residents in the development and promotion of a sustainable urban forest.	PW	YPCE, DOU	Ongoing
4.2 Partner Coordination: Facilitate coordination, involvement, and commitment from all entities that own, control, regulate, or affect the urban forest.	4.2.1 Continue existing partnerships and establish new partnerships.	PW		Ongoing
	4.2.2 Support and encourage businesses to increase tree canopy.	PW		0–5 years
	4.2.3 Strengthen partnerships with entities in disadvantaged and low tree canopy neighborhoods.	PW		0–5 years
	4.2.4 Support science-based urban forest decision making among partners.	PW		Ongoing
4.3 Youth Engagement: Cultivate youth engagement in the urban forest to continue Sacramento’s legacy of tree stewardship.	4.3.1 Support opportunities for youth leadership in urban forest programs.	PW		0–5 years
	4.3.2 Increase youth tree literacy and access to trees.	PW		5–10 years

#427

Posted by **John** on **05/01/2024** at **1:14pm** [Comment ID: 2229] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

It would be great if citizens could easily submit tree-specific feedback and suggestions to the city through the 311 app.

4.4 Workforce Development: Advance career pathways in urban forestry.	4.4.1 Promote workforce development programs for tree care professions as a critical component of green industry.	PW	YPCE	0–5 years
	4.4.2 Build workforce pipelines from Sacramento’s historically under-employed and low-income neighborhoods into the City’s urban forest work force.	PW	OIED, YPCE	5 years

#428

Posted by **Austin Miller** on **04/26/2024** at **12:32pm** [Comment ID: 2190] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The City should work with organizations like Sac Tree Foundation and Center for Land Based Learning (CLBL) to expand existing programs like the CLBL SLEWS program which teaches high school students about the importance of trees and engages those students in implementing planting and other habitat preservation projects.

#429

Posted by **Laurie Stephey** on **06/11/2024** at **12:54pm** [Comment ID: 2772] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

emphasize workforce education targeting native tree species and maintenance

#430

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:16pm** [Comment ID: 3139] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

How would YPCE promote this? Strengthen to implement basic skill training into Landscape and Learn.

SUSTAIN



Sustain the growth, development, and continuity of City urban forest programs through dedicated funding and innovation.

Strategies	Policies + Implementation Actions	Lead	Support	Timeframe
5.1 Program Funding: Pursue sustainable funding to support the ambitious canopy and program goals within this Plan.	5.1.1 Perform a cost analysis to determine the projected cost to meet the tree planting and maintenance targets identified in the Urban Forest Plan to reach 35 percent canopy cover by 2045.	PW	CDD, DOU, YPCE	0–5 years
	5.1.2 Pursue an increase in dedicated long-term funding to provide an increased level of tree canopy, perform associated care and maintenance, and expand core urban forestry services and programs.	PW	YPCE	0–5 years
	5.1.3 Pursue grant funding to promote tree planting and partner engagement.	PW		Ongoing
	5.1.4 Optimize existing funding sources to meet canopy and management goals.	PW	YPCE, DOU	0–5 years
	5.1.5 Explore new funding sources.	PW		0–5 years
5.2 Incentive Programs: Identify incentive programs to reduce barriers to tree planting and care on private property.	5.2.1 Explore providing financial support to residents in disadvantaged communities for tree planting and care.	PW	PW	5–10 years
	5.2.2 Explore financial incentives to support residents with mature trees.	PW		5–10 years

#431

Posted by **Austin Miller** on **04/26/2024** at **12:34pm** [Comment ID: 2191] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

The City should bolster existing programs such as SMUD's Free Shade Tree Program where applicable.

#432

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **2:09pm** [Comment ID: 2875] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

What planting targets? This plan is lacking specific targets for the city's actions and outcomes. Instead, primary metrics are outlined as a community responsibility. While I understand that the city cannot achieve the canopy coverage goal alone, that does not mean it cannot outline what its contribution should look like, and choose quantifiable metrics to measure its progress towards this goal. At minimum, it should outline how many trees the city aims to plant in each neighborhood, broken down by canopy size. Despite many good ideas, without city accountability in regards to specific metrics, the plan may fail to achieve its objectives.

#433

Posted by **Kate Riley** on **06/19/2024** at **12:00pm** [Comment ID: 3040] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

City needs to explore financial assistance for maintenance for large mature trees regardless of neighborhood and ownership.

#434

Posted by **Anita B.** on **06/16/2024** at **11:21pm** [Comment ID: 2910] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Given the critical nature of accelerating Urban greening - may need some creative ways to engage Corporate partnerships. For example - adopt-a-green corridor/neighborhood similar to adopt a highway initiative.

#435

Posted by **Deb Sullivan** on **05/07/2024** at **2:37pm** [Comment ID: 2304] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Partnering with homeowner's insurance companies to be aware of the requirements for insuring a property and liability in a loss would be beneficial. Our neighbor is having to bear the cost to remove a tree which was planted years ago through the

SMUD Tree Program and sited by the Sac Tree Foundation - this is due to a non-renewal notice we received regarding his tree overhand of our roof. This is NOT fair!

<p>5.3 Innovation: Advance innovative technologies and approaches to support the urban forest.</p>	<p>5.3.1 Support new technologies for tree canopy assessment and planning.</p> <p>436</p>	<p>PW</p>		<p>5–10 years</p>
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#436

Posted by **Deb Sullivan** on **05/07/2024** at **2:41pm** [Comment ID: 2305] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Coordination with utilities and homeowner insurance companies is critical now. Insurance companies are using satellite photos to audit homes being insured. Plant a tree which will eventually overhang a roof will void insurance. Encroach an overhead utility will cause unsightly trimming and weaken the tree.

Appendices



APPENDIX 437 A: TREE CANOPY BY NEIGHBORHOOD

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>Canopy %</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Grass/ Low Veg. Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>
Airport	851.97	96.55	11.33	290.73	138.27	326.41	0.00
Alhambra Triangle	88.92	14.31	16.10	64.86	4.04	5.71	0.00
Alkali Flat	89.25	27.77	31.11	49.66	7.71	4.11	0.00
American River Parkway	1,041.94	362.76	34.82	96.30	387.00	30.60	165.28
Arden Fair	78.45	4.95	6.30	71.13	1.78	0.60	0.00
Avondale	307.59	43.89	14.27	146.94	96.58	20.19	0.00
Belvedere	315.25	10.17	3.23	236.33	15.43	53.31	0.00
Ben Ali	242.87	40.11	16.52	151.58	38.40	12.78	0.00
Boulevard Park	154.68	68.34	44.18	72.86	13.07	0.41	0.00
Brentwood	201.29	29.19	14.50	128.09	29.25	14.75	0.00
Cal Expo	846.21	168.71	19.94	226.27	291.19	80.95	79.09
Campus Commons	404.83	177.69	43.89	159.22	53.93	9.99	4.01
Cannon Industrial Park	195.24	15.93	8.16	128.39	22.54	28.38	0.00
Carleton Tract	120.18	24.37	20.28	77.23	17.22	1.36	0.00
Central Oak Park	396.90	126.69	31.92	202.32	58.80	9.10	0.00
College Town	200.43	48.65	24.27	95.97	22.09	10.69	23.03
College/Glen	964.87	232.26	24.07	550.42	153.53	28.59	0.08
Colonial Heights	178.45	61.46	34.44	90.12	24.99	1.88	0.00
Colonial Manor	346.01	71.71	20.72	187.07	73.76	13.47	0.00
Colonial Village	214.21	45.77	21.37	124.16	43.96	0.33	0.00
Creekside	489.26	25.21	5.15	172.04	56.46	235.55	0.00
CSUS	402.11	104.70	26.04	207.74	62.85	11.76	15.07
Curtis Park	658.83	216.59	32.88	317.99	69.75	54.49	0.00
Del Paso Heights	407.48	64.67	15.87	200.49	108.71	33.61	0.00
Del Paso Park	820.42	235.57	28.71	170.26	303.10	109.86	1.63
Depot Park	496.67	21.03	4.23	306.33	37.80	128.67	2.84
Dos Rios Triangle	52.12	8.57	16.44	30.86	12.47	0.21	0.00
Downtown	530.44	123.40	23.26	355.21	48.32	3.50	0.00
East Del Paso Heights	550.07	117.24	21.31	266.24	116.55	50.03	0.00
East Sacramento	2,148.80	710.91	33.08	1,050.12	313.45	73.54	0.78
Elder Creek	146.33	4.78	3.27	125.82	6.39	8.76	0.58
Elmhurst	225.29	91.40	40.57	107.55	25.20	1.14	0.00

#437

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:31pm** [Comment ID: 2949] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Encourage adding a glossary which includes terms as well as acronyms.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>Canopy %</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Grass/ Low Veg. Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>
Erikson Industrial Park	270.15	13.80	5.11	213.22	18.74	24.39	0.00
Fairgrounds	151.58	32.10	21.18	87.25	23.63	8.60	0.00
Florin Fruitridge Industrial Park	757.71	42.63	5.63	544.08	37.69	130.19	3.12
Freeport Manor	177.27	25.76	14.53	119.56	24.46	7.49	0.00
Fruitridge Manor	453.19	71.28	15.73	268.26	91.16	22.49	0.00
Gardenland	389.13	82.09	21.10	162.41	118.81	25.81	0.00
Gateway Center	134.20	42.78	31.88	56.12	19.24	16.07	0.00
Gateway West	762.85	77.00	10.09	359.75	146.94	161.07	18.09
Glen Elder	269.58	44.19	16.39	128.58	92.16	4.03	0.62
Glenwood Meadows	343.50	53.62	15.61	179.78	85.49	24.60	0.00
Golf Course Terrace	388.42	89.96	23.16	209.94	83.88	4.63	0.00
Granite Regional Park	320.67	82.68	25.78	77.90	63.48	87.53	9.08
Greenbriar	640.58	2.84	0.44	25.99	1.69	608.02	2.03
Greenhaven	1,014.76	213.79	21.07	529.37	165.90	9.95	95.74
Hagginwood	595.60	203.66	34.19	217.58	132.26	40.51	1.59
Hansen Park Golf Course Site	288.34	19.01	6.59	3.04	35.73	223.04	7.53
Heritage Park	294.92	46.38	15.73	166.23	34.21	44.12	3.97
Hollywood Park	268.10	66.05	24.64	148.09	50.49	3.47	0.00
Johnson Business Park	188.83	28.03	14.84	111.19	22.61	25.20	1.80
Johnson Heights	141.22	20.43	14.47	22.74	33.33	64.72	0.00
Land Park	1,137.38	486.88	42.81	423.56	192.83	19.37	14.73
Lawrence Park	163.11	31.66	19.41	103.11	24.11	4.23	0.00
Little Pocket	273.85	89.84	32.81	95.18	40.14	3.77	44.92
Mangan Park	105.83	21.21	20.04	66.90	17.67	0.05	0.00
Mansion Flats	132.41	43.76	33.05	77.35	10.86	0.44	0.00
Marshall School	108.27	55.37	51.14	44.81	8.09	0.00	0.00
Meadowview	3,495.54	432.87	12.38	1,231.78	685.30	1,124.48	21.11
Med Center	230.19	51.26	22.27	145.65	27.94	5.35	0.00
Metro Center	185.46	63.35	34.16	86.54	19.37	15.33	0.87
Midtown / Winn Park / Capital Ave	422.38	122.52	29.01	262.87	33.93	2.81	0.24
Morrison Creek	671.80	26.31	3.92	390.70	61.17	193.62	0.00
Natomas Corporate Center	160.77	65.04	40.45	64.04	31.45	0.24	0.00

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>Canopy %</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Grass/ Low Veg. Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>
Natomas Creek	312.92	23.73	7.58	161.74	34.08	93.38	0.00
Natomas Crossing	673.40	44.24	6.57	273.50	114.05	218.97	22.64
Natomas Park	1,029.16	225.73	21.93	588.84	158.98	46.40	9.21
New Brighton	748.71	24.99	3.34	145.62	53.21	524.27	0.62
New Era Park	168.15	65.25	38.80	83.36	18.40	1.15	0.00
Newton Booth	234.68	64.34	27.42	147.66	17.36	5.31	0.00
Noralto	292.52	57.23	19.56	109.24	68.92	57.13	0.00
North City Farms	406.22	82.28	20.26	230.89	56.35	36.70	0.00
North Oak Park	348.98	116.50	33.38	186.65	37.70	8.12	0.00
Northgate	340.18	60.08	17.66	174.74	91.06	13.86	0.43
Northpointe	122.82	19.48	15.86	69.56	25.64	8.15	0.00
Norwood I-80	45.42	3.83	8.43	29.79	5.68	5.13	1.00
Norwood Tech	68.09	9.94	14.60	47.56	8.84	1.04	0.71
Oak Knoll	161.31	15.01	9.30	63.23	31.19	50.98	0.89
Old North Sacramento	436.87	62.30	14.26	289.22	59.94	25.42	0.00
Old Sacramento	139.38	16.32	11.71	76.50	7.91	8.79	29.85
Parker Homes	43.81	12.42	28.36	20.45	6.51	4.42	0.00
Parkway	1,371.93	220.15	16.05	824.23	209.69	111.80	6.06
Pell/Main Industrial Park	227.01	11.40	5.02	178.11	24.92	12.58	0.00
Pocket	2,850.30	628.63	22.05	1,403.10	513.50	60.34	244.73
Point West	390.56	77.02	19.72	225.26	74.68	10.28	3.33
Power Ridge	323.83	9.67	2.99	246.25	17.94	49.96	0.00
Raley Industrial Park	1,070.83	66.11	6.17	316.44	61.88	616.54	9.84
Ramona Village	326.58	18.75	5.74	231.21	30.31	46.30	0.00
Regency Park	362.95	46.68	12.86	198.16	78.90	29.18	10.03
Richardson Village	139.31	17.07	12.26	58.99	48.17	15.06	0.01
Richmond Grove	143.32	50.10	34.96	79.00	12.25	1.97	0.00
River Gardens	173.71	42.61	24.53	77.13	49.51	4.46	0.00
River Park	491.99	176.37	35.85	181.76	96.01	12.91	24.94
Robla	1,481.68	192.32	12.98	360.65	230.78	687.81	10.12
RP - Sports Complex	931.99	84.72	9.09	355.36	104.35	372.24	15.32
SCC	71.85	7.77	10.81	50.97	11.14	1.97	0.00
Sierra Oaks	248.55	77.71	31.26	142.82	26.04	1.99	0.00
South City Farms	132.99	32.03	24.09	67.71	27.06	6.18	0.00

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>Canopy %</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Grass/ Low Veg. Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>
South Hagginwood	435.83	105.85	24.29	196.07	91.77	41.40	0.73
South Land Park	1,810.41	481.22	26.58	971.27	307.15	38.70	12.07
South Natomas	1,903.27	409.12	21.50	862.77	375.83	251.14	4.41
South Oak Park	367.94	80.92	21.99	187.78	76.25	22.98	0.00
Southeast Village	338.31	43.56	12.88	187.93	85.35	20.26	1.21
Southern Pacific / Richards	789.88	79.28	10.04	418.39	81.43	169.85	40.92
Southside Park	214.16	76.23	35.60	108.05	24.47	1.34	4.06
Strawberry Manor	231.68	28.64	12.36	96.35	67.71	35.51	3.48
Sundance Lake	796.26	50.00	6.28	359.57	93.35	241.43	51.91
Swanston Estates	301.21	55.06	18.28	187.52	49.64	8.99	0.00
Tahoe Park	409.35	128.10	31.29	197.60	81.84	1.82	0.00
Tahoe Park East	171.76	20.30	11.82	111.10	29.94	10.42	0.00
Tahoe Park South	201.75	60.90	30.18	94.36	45.62	0.87	0.00
Tallac Village	183.16	43.83	23.93	92.72	39.94	6.67	0.00
Upper Land Park	643.75	179.18	27.83	269.60	97.87	26.91	70.18
Valley Hi / North Laguna	3,533.70	578.83	16.38	1,887.42	623.27	431.73	12.45
Valleyview Acres	145.01	11.12	7.67	13.12	34.21	86.50	0.05
Village 12	121.15	17.83	14.72	77.83	18.20	7.29	0.00
Village 14	121.29	32.92	27.14	22.43	30.88	35.07	0.00
Village 5	313.11	27.60	8.81	111.28	26.37	127.23	20.63
Village 7	162.74	4.75	2.92	71.29	44.83	41.88	0.00
Village Green	51.84	9.80	18.91	28.51	11.30	2.23	0.00
West Del Paso Heights	322.90	60.60	18.77	121.03	91.71	49.10	0.47
West Tahoe Park	136.05	39.11	28.74	76.88	18.91	1.16	0.00
Westlake	446.27	44.93	10.07	214.36	61.53	107.27	18.18
Willowcreek	597.13	109.75	18.38	240.93	75.34	139.33	31.80
Wills Acres	119.66	19.31	16.14	51.89	42.65	5.80	0.00
Woodbine	346.74	47.27	13.63	187.34	62.89	49.24	0.00
Woodlake	230.76	71.67	31.06	94.29	42.73	21.55	0.51
Youngs Heights	44.81	8.23	18.37	22.02	8.21	6.36	0.00
Z'berg Park	314.20	69.38	22.08	137.09	63.13	44.07	0.52
Neighborhood Total	61,223.08	11,801.65	19.28%	28,478.39	10,306.59	9,455.28	1,181.17

APPENDIX B: TREE CANOPY IN CITY PARKS

Park	Acres	Canopy Acres	% Canopy	Impervious Acres	Pervious Acres	Water Acres	Bare Soil Acres
24th Street Bypass Park	7.41	0.39	5.27	0.52	2.48	0.00	4.02
4-Way Parklets	2.89	0.19	6.56	0.00	0.40	0.00	2.29
7th Street Promenade	1.07	0.26	24.51	0.73	0.07	0.00	0.00
Adventure Park Site	3.51	0.01	0.36	0.00	0.05	0.00	3.44
Airfield Park Site	9.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.19
Airport Little League Park	10.02	0.52	5.22	1.31	3.90	0.00	4.28
Alan And Helen Post Park	0.69	0.05	7.31	0.28	0.07	0.00	0.28
Albert Winn Park	2.56	1.48	57.67	0.25	0.83	0.00	0.00
Alder Park	2.03	0.44	21.74	0.18	1.21	0.00	0.20
American River Parkway	1,459.16	541.56	37.11	89.25	636.85	94.47	97.04
Anthony Park	1.66	0.41	24.85	0.10	0.61	0.00	0.54
Argonaut Park	8.57	0.98	11.45	3.63	3.86	0.00	0.09
Army Depot Park	19.50	0.24	1.24	2.70	3.61	0.24	12.70
Artivio Guerrero Park	2.51	0.04	1.62	1.09	1.38	0.00	0.00
Autumn Meadow Park	6.07	0.23	3.73	0.85	5.00	0.00	0.00
Bannon Creek Park & Parkway	18.94	16.17	85.41	0.48	2.24	0.00	0.05
Bannon Creek Preserve	5.52	5.36	97.11	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00
Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course	0.11	0.08	75.75	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
Belle Cooledge Community Center Park	10.20	3.37	33.04	1.30	5.53	0.00	0.00
Belle Cooledge Park	8.68	4.09	47.09	1.37	3.14	0.00	0.08
Bercut Richards Plaza Site	0.21	0.13	60.81	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.00
Bertha Henschel Park	2.55	0.82	32.08	0.31	1.33	0.00	0.09
Bicycle Easement	1.04	0.01	1.17	0.28	0.11	0.00	0.64
Bill Bean Jr Memorial Park at Colonial Manor	4.33	0.96	22.24	0.48	2.83	0.00	0.07
Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex	21.63	1.94	8.96	2.58	10.48	0.00	6.64
Bing Maloney Golf Course	175.31	49.95	28.49	8.32	102.06	0.00	14.98
Blackbird Park Site	10.18	0.09	0.84	0.37	0.99	0.00	8.74
Blue Oak Park	0.98	0.36	37.06	0.12	0.50	0.00	0.00
Brockway Park	0.93	0.91	98.17	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Brooks Truitt Park	0.89	0.01	1.64	0.11	0.21	0.00	0.56
Burberry Community Park	11.76	1.48	12.60	1.72	8.43	0.00	0.13
C.K. McClatchy Park	15.41	6.61	42.86	2.89	5.10	0.00	0.82

#438

Posted by **Greta Lacin** on **05/06/2024** at **7:40pm** [Comment ID: 2296] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The American River Parkway is our largest park. It needs protection and support for removal of invasive species of plants and trees.

<i>Park</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>% Canopy</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Pervious Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>
California Lilac Park	3.23	0.77	23.71	0.50	1.54	0.00	0.43
Camellia Park	2.01	0.47	23.33	0.35	1.19	0.00	0.00
Campus Commons Golf Course	23.36	4.59	19.67	0.84	17.85	0.01	0.08
Cannery Plaza	0.22	0.01	6.04	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitol Park	36.01	20.28	56.31	7.05	8.66	0.00	0.03
Carl Johnston Park	24.28	3.10	12.78	1.62	17.41	0.00	2.14
Central Shops Plaza	3.04	0.00	0.14	2.26	0.15	0.00	0.63
Cesar E. Chavez Plaza	2.54	1.59	62.59	0.52	0.43	0.00	0.00
Charles Robertson Park	9.05	2.11	23.27	2.38	3.95	0.00	0.62
Charlie Jensen Park	2.81	1.02	36.26	0.28	1.33	0.00	0.17
Charter Pointe Park	4.89	2.68	54.73	0.08	2.04	0.01	0.08
Chicory Bend Park	11.01	8.44	76.65	1.29	0.91	0.19	0.19
Chuckwagon Park	1.80	0.72	40.29	0.00	1.07	0.00	0.00
Coloma Park	3.04	1.09	35.73	1.61	0.35	0.00	0.00
Colonial Park	2.15	0.60	27.96	0.22	1.08	0.00	0.24
Commerce Station Park Site	4.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.02
Cool Wind Way Park	1.15	0.48	41.22	0.04	0.64	0.00	0.00
Cosumnes River College Park	8.09	0.02	0.31	1.24	6.82	0.00	0.00
Cottonwood Park	4.99	1.04	20.89	0.26	3.50	0.00	0.19
Crocker Park	2.58	1.93	74.82	0.00	0.65	0.00	0.00
Danny Nunn Park	12.34	2.25	18.26	1.81	8.28	0.00	0.00
Del Paso Regional Park	596.43	195.15	32.72	36.23	270.22	1.63	93.21
Depot Park	1.49	0.06	3.94	0.22	0.71	0.00	0.49
Discovery Park	55.64	33.04	59.38	7.52	11.93	3.15	0.00
Dixieanne Tot Lot	0.15	0.11	69.71	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00
Dogwood Park	3.02	0.00	0.00	0.64	2.32	0.00	0.07
Earl Warren Park	5.02	0.87	17.34	0.60	3.55	0.00	0.00
East Lawn Children's Park	0.33	0.22	65.56	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00
East Portal Park	7.35	3.19	43.36	0.17	3.76	0.00	0.24
Edward Kemble Park	1.74	0.14	7.86	0.27	1.32	0.00	0.01
Edwin Z'berg Park	2.48	0.60	24.37	0.31	1.56	0.00	0.00
Egret Park	4.93	0.50	10.08	0.54	3.89	0.00	0.00
Egret Park Open Space	3.59	0.40	11.25	0.38	2.75	0.00	0.06
Eileen Dutra Park	0.41	0.31	76.66	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00
Elderberry Park	2.19	0.24	10.95	0.40	1.56	0.00	0.00
Emil Bahnfleth Park	6.33	1.67	26.44	0.04	4.62	0.00	0.00
Emiliano Zapata Park	0.95	0.54	56.94	0.11	0.29	0.00	0.01
Fisherman's Lake Parkway & Open Space	33.39	2.16	6.47	4.76	3.48	0.04	22.95

<i>Park</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>% Canopy</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Pervious Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>
Five Star Park	0.35	0.03	8.57	0.12	0.21	0.00	0.00
Fourth Avenue Park	1.07	0.33	30.35	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.71
Frank Seymour Park	43.60	26.82	61.51	2.27	14.43	0.00	0.09
Franklin Boyce Community Park	9.80	0.06	0.65	0.71	3.91	0.21	4.91
Fredrick Miller Regional Park	38.68	19.54	50.52	12.03	5.85	0.48	0.79
Freeport Park	3.96	0.97	24.37	0.03	1.98	0.00	0.99
Fremont Community Garden	0.46	0.04	9.16	0.23	0.18	0.00	0.00
Garcia Bend Park	19.71	6.25	31.69	3.74	8.04	0.95	0.73
Garden Highway Bikeway	24.41	18.82	77.08	1.79	1.42	2.08	0.30
Gardenland Park	6.03	1.64	27.14	0.66	3.59	0.00	0.15
Gateway Park	5.02	0.75	14.90	0.00	3.97	0.00	0.30
George Sim Park	13.92	1.71	12.26	4.45	7.03	0.11	0.62
Glenbrook Park	17.64	3.94	22.34	1.10	11.47	0.00	1.13
Glenbrook River Access	4.03	0.52	12.86	0.46	0.27	0.00	2.78
Glenn Hall Park	8.13	2.55	31.43	1.62	3.91	0.00	0.04
Golden Poppy Park	2.03	0.28	13.86	0.72	1.03	0.00	0.00
Governor's Mansion	0.79	0.36	46.07	0.29	0.13	0.00	0.00
Granite Regional Park	83.70	19.95	23.83	7.79	26.14	2.07	27.75
Greenfair Park	0.61	0.48	78.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00
Hagginwood Park	15.43	4.95	32.05	2.81	7.50	0.00	0.17
Hampton Park	6.16	0.48	7.81	0.88	3.06	0.00	1.73
Hansen Ranch Regional Park Site	265.95	13.24	4.98	1.94	32.34	7.21	211.23
Harrier Park	0.74	0.19	25.72	0.22	0.28	0.00	0.04
Heron Park	3.95	1.12	28.24	0.12	2.72	0.00	0.00
Hite Park	4.99	0.97	19.38	0.19	3.73	0.00	0.11
Hummingbird Park	4.32	0.37	8.47	0.50	2.21	0.00	1.25
J. Neely Johnson Park	0.97	0.74	76.45	0.09	0.14	0.00	0.00
Jacinto Creek Park	11.74	1.73	14.70	1.42	7.82	0.00	0.77
Jacinto Creek Parkway	14.62	1.74	11.91	1.97	3.24	0.04	7.62
Jack Rea Park	0.34	0.09	26.52	0.06	0.19	0.00	0.00
James Mangan Park	8.19	2.19	26.74	1.03	4.73	0.00	0.24
James W. Marshall Park	2.51	1.47	58.55	0.55	0.49	0.00	0.00
John Cabrillo Park	5.63	0.90	15.92	1.03	3.63	0.00	0.07
John Fremont Park	2.57	1.23	47.68	0.21	1.13	0.00	0.00
John Mackey Memorial Park at Kenwood Oaks	11.56	1.03	8.92	0.04	7.33	0.00	3.16
John Muir Children's Park	2.50	1.48	59.34	0.07	0.94	0.00	0.01
John Reith Park	1.27	0.29	22.78	0.06	0.92	0.00	0.00

<i>Park</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>% Canopy</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Pervious Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>
Joseph Reichmuth Park	43.49	27.26	62.69	1.97	13.53	0.00	0.73
Kaiser Promenade	0.77	0.04	4.88	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.73
Kokomo Park	7.01	0.48	6.85	0.81	5.72	0.00	0.00
Lawrence Park	5.08	1.76	34.57	0.21	2.42	0.00	0.69
Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park	0.60	0.20	33.17	0.27	0.13	0.00	0.00
Leland Stanford Park	2.76	0.46	16.80	0.05	2.25	0.00	0.00
Lewis Park	3.31	1.69	51.06	0.32	1.16	0.00	0.14
Linden Park	4.91	1.47	29.92	0.22	3.11	0.00	0.12
Mae Fong Park	8.26	0.26	3.20	1.17	1.17	0.00	5.65
Magnolia Park	6.42	0.40	6.28	1.13	4.15	0.00	0.74
Magoichi Oki Park	15.04	3.64	24.21	0.58	5.77	0.00	5.05
Manuel Barandas Park	13.02	2.67	20.52	0.28	3.15	0.00	6.91
Manuel E. Silva Park	3.15	0.11	3.62	0.58	1.79	0.00	0.67
Maple Park	1.07	0.19	17.51	0.47	0.26	0.00	0.15
Margarette "Mama" Marks Park	4.80	0.94	19.70	0.51	3.24	0.00	0.10
Mark Hopkins Park	6.36	0.59	9.26	0.65	4.78	0.00	0.35
Market Plaza	0.65	0.00	0.08	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.08
Martin Luther King Jr Community Garden	0.30	0.08	27.79	0.06	0.14	0.00	0.01
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	1.49	0.32	21.25	0.33	0.75	0.00	0.08
Matsui Waterfront Park (Robert T.)	6.79	0.54	7.95	2.04	4.05	0.05	0.10
Max Baer Park	4.10	0.79	19.21	0.52	2.80	0.00	0.00
Meadows Community Park Site	11.15	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.00	11.12
Meadowview Park	8.26	1.49	17.99	0.31	5.73	0.00	0.74
Mesa Grande Park	6.30	1.44	22.79	0.59	4.14	0.00	0.14
Michael Himovitz Park	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.07
MIs Promenade	0.68	0.01	1.81	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.27
Museum Plaza	5.65	0.01	0.24	4.54	0.18	0.00	0.92
Natomas Oaks Park	13.02	10.15	77.97	0.31	2.56	0.00	0.00
Ninos Park	4.20	1.10	26.19	0.22	2.88	0.00	0.00
Ninos Parkway	46.73	3.72	7.96	3.22	14.50	0.24	25.05
North Laguna Creek Park	21.45	5.43	25.29	2.96	12.50	0.44	0.13
North Laguna Creek Wildlife Area	120.82	19.52	16.16	3.67	28.44	5.76	63.44
North Natomas Community Park	35.33	3.41	9.65	3.67	23.66	0.00	4.59
North Natomas Park Nature Area	7.09	1.82	25.62	0.73	0.42	1.10	3.02
North Natomas Regional 	212.82	6.45	3.03	12.33	32.90	12.72	148.41

#439

Posted by **Roslyn Bell** on **05/14/2024** at **9:37pm** [Comment ID: 2382] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

North Natomas Park needs more trees. As a regional park, it is really lacking.

<i>Park</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>% Canopy</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Pervious Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>
North Point Way River Access	5.10	1.70	33.30	1.31	0.91	0.05	1.13
North Pointe Park	1.73	0.63	36.27	0.07	1.03	0.00	0.00
Northborough Park	4.01	0.84	20.98	0.58	2.48	0.00	0.12
Northgate Park	15.88	4.75	29.90	1.23	9.64	0.00	0.26
Nuevo Park	6.80	1.00	14.65	0.36	5.08	0.00	0.36
Oak Park	8.45	2.40	28.36	3.70	2.21	0.00	0.14
Oak Park Open Space	1.95	0.10	4.95	0.59	1.08	0.00	0.18
Oakbrook Park	4.75	0.24	4.98	0.04	0.20	0.00	4.27
Old Sacramento State Historic Park	6.24	0.53	8.52	4.64	0.38	0.05	0.65
O'Neil Field	5.44	0.83	15.19	0.50	3.98	0.00	0.14
Orchard Park	11.91	2.09	17.58	1.01	8.67	0.00	0.13
Pannell/Meadowview Community Center Park	11.92	1.85	15.55	4.46	5.05	0.00	0.56
Park Es 3	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.07	0.00	0.08
Park Es 4	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13
Park Plaza	1.62	0.82	50.60	0.15	0.65	0.00	0.00
Park Site 15a	22.50	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.50
Park Site 15b	10.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.11
Park Site 15c	2.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.53
Park Site 15d	3.00	0.01	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.99
Park Site 2d (Basin 8b)	5.07	0.04	0.84	0.32	0.06	0.00	4.65
Park Site Ns1	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50
Park Site Ns2	5.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.16
Park Site P1	2.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	2.89
Park Site P2	5.96	0.85	14.23	0.15	2.60	0.00	2.37
Park Site P3	5.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.10
Park Site P4	2.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.07
Park Site P5	1.89	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	1.86
Park Site P6	4.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.80
Park Site P7	4.25	0.01	0.22	0.55	0.05	0.00	3.64
Park Site P8	5.32	0.08	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.24
Park Site P9	26.59	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.79	0.00	25.68
Park Site Sn2	3.93	0.38	9.72	0.15	1.28	0.00	2.12
Park Site Sn4	0.23	0.11	47.25	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.08
Parkway Oaks Park	8.98	5.29	58.95	0.17	3.52	0.00	0.00
Peach Paseo	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50
Pear Paseo	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42
Peregrine Park	8.23	1.13	13.68	1.48	4.64	0.00	0.99
Persimmon Paseo Site	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19
Phoenix Green	1.78	0.44	24.96	0.16	1.09	0.00	0.08
Pioneer Landing Park	1.49	0.03	1.97	1.13	0.20	0.00	0.13

<i>Park</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>% Canopy</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Pervious Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>
Plaza Cervantes	0.64	0.28	44.01	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00
Plover School Park	0.52	0.05	9.22	0.27	0.20	0.00	0.00
Pocket Canal Parkway	52.06	10.12	19.45	14.21	6.70	20.52	0.51
Pollack Ranch Park	7.17	2.14	29.84	0.34	4.68	0.00	0.01
Portuguese Community Park	3.19	1.51	47.21	0.12	1.57	0.00	0.00
Quail Park	5.21	0.56	10.70	0.57	4.08	0.00	0.00
R. Burnett Miller Park	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.87
Red Tail Hawk Park	5.00	0.56	11.28	0.57	3.77	0.00	0.11
Redbud Park	1.38	0.28	20.70	0.18	0.85	0.00	0.06
Redwood Park	3.61	0.54	14.92	0.75	2.03	0.00	0.29
Regency Community Park	42.06	3.39	8.07	4.84	32.61	0.00	1.22
Reginald Renfree Park	6.69	2.71	40.55	0.08	3.75	0.00	0.14
Richard Marriott Park	7.58	5.44	71.74	0.12	2.02	0.00	0.00
Richardson Village Park	8.88	0.39	4.41	0.25	6.79	0.00	1.45
Richfield Park	3.15	0.19	5.95	0.37	1.79	0.00	0.81
River Birch Park Site	20.54	1.31	6.36	1.73	4.25	8.00	5.25
River Otter Park	2.10	0.31	14.57	0.19	1.26	0.00	0.35
River Park	1.58	0.49	31.21	0.16	0.82	0.00	0.10
River View Park	5.19	1.10	21.25	0.29	3.74	0.00	0.06
Riverfront Park	1.07	0.03	2.43	0.51	0.53	0.00	0.00
Robla Community Park	17.82	1.31	7.34	1.81	12.15	0.00	2.55
Rocket Park Site	5.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.09
Roy Nielsen Park	8.09	2.43	30.09	0.56	4.82	0.00	0.28
Sacramento Historic Old City Cemetery	31.29	10.69	34.15	2.63	17.97	0.00	0.00
Sacramento Northern Parkway	60.04	17.47	29.10	10.43	17.72	0.04	14.37
Sacramento River Parkway (Central Area)	11.52	3.75	32.54	2.60	2.94	1.22	1.01
Sacramento River Parkway (Future)	100.03	34.38	34.37	16.12	17.31	6.16	26.06
Sacramento River Parkway (Land Park Area)	39.41	13.34	33.84	9.08	1.70	3.14	12.15
Sacramento River Parkway (Pocket Area)	7.70	2.51	32.59	1.42	1.10	1.12	1.55
Saint Rose of Lima Park	0.51	0.24	46.16	0.25	0.03	0.00	0.00
Sally Hudson Park	0.61	0.50	81.70	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.06
San Juan Reservoir Park	32.86	1.93	5.87	2.70	3.27	2.26	22.70
Sand Cove Park	9.39	6.90	73.45	0.54	1.80	0.00	0.16

<i>Park</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>% Canopy</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Pervious Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>
Shasta Community Park	18.68	2.28	12.23	5.85	9.99	0.00	0.56
Shore Park	2.37	1.34	56.44	0.05	0.98	0.00	0.00
Shorebird Park	2.35	0.62	26.37	0.35	1.20	0.00	0.18
Sierra 2 Park	2.67	1.31	48.84	0.05	1.31	0.00	0.00
Skylark Park	2.53	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00	2.41
Sojourner Truth Park	6.04	0.60	9.89	0.17	5.27	0.00	0.00
South Natomas Community Park	24.19	5.44	22.49	4.24	13.24	0.00	1.27
Southside Community Garden	0.79	0.29	36.83	0.04	0.46	0.00	0.00
Southside Park	19.53	9.36	47.92	1.85	3.92	4.06	0.34
Sparrow Community Garden	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sparrow Park	1.75	0.27	15.52	0.13	1.04	0.00	0.31
Steve Jones Park	6.73	0.26	3.88	0.63	5.64	0.00	0.20
Strauch Park	3.21	0.91	28.34	0.14	2.16	0.00	0.00
Strawberry Manor Park	1.29	0.14	10.92	0.46	0.69	0.00	0.00
Sundance Park	2.01	0.20	10.14	0.46	1.34	0.00	0.00
Sutter's Fort & State Indian Museum	6.15	2.04	33.27	1.64	2.22	0.24	0.00
Sutter's Landing Regional Park	161.43	2.96	1.83	35.30	15.95	0.00	107.22
Swainson's Hawk Park	5.71	0.28	4.90	1.30	4.05	0.02	0.06
Sycamore Park	5.29	0.51	9.63	1.02	3.54	0.00	0.23
Tahoe Park	17.92	6.12	34.18	1.29	9.81	0.00	0.69
Tahoe Tallac Park	6.78	0.91	13.45	0.56	4.66	0.00	0.65
Tanzanite Community Park (Basin 6a)	31.90	3.50	10.97	3.09	13.17	7.32	4.82
Tbd	27.05	5.66	20.93	11.86	6.19	0.17	3.16
Temple Avenue Park	1.03	0.42	41.16	0.11	0.45	0.00	0.05
Theodore Roosevelt Park	2.55	0.51	19.89	0.21	1.66	0.00	0.17
Thomas Jefferson Park	5.67	2.16	38.13	0.41	2.95	0.00	0.15
Tiscornia Park	14.36	1.95	13.56	1.18	2.18	8.52	0.53
Tony Court Park	0.89	0.41	46.65	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.00
Township 9 Park Site	15.27	3.93	25.71	2.44	1.72	4.52	2.67
Triangle Park	1.20	0.02	1.69	0.01	1.04	0.00	0.14
Two Rivers Park	3.03	0.55	18.08	0.17	2.28	0.00	0.03
Ulysses S. Grant Park	2.34	0.53	22.54	0.18	1.38	0.00	0.25
Under I-5 Experience	2.70	0.00	0.00	1.91	0.39	0.00	0.40
University Park	3.72	1.33	35.72	0.11	2.28	0.00	0.00
Valley Hi Community Park	16.19	4.45	27.47	1.56	9.70	0.00	0.48
Valley Oak Park	8.69	0.17	2.00	1.42	6.67	0.00	0.43

<i>Park</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Canopy Acres</i>	<i>% Canopy</i>	<i>Impervious Acres</i>	<i>Pervious Acres</i>	<i>Water Acres</i>	<i>Bare Soil Acres</i>
Victory Park	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.36
Victory Promenade	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.24
Victory Promenade Site	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.47
Vista Connector To 4-Way	0.42	0.01	3.52	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.11
Vista Park	9.27	0.22	2.33	0.01	0.79	0.00	8.26
Walter S. Ueda Parkway	454.76	74.59	16.40	44.81	147.98	20.86	166.52
Washington Park	1.58	0.52	32.94	0.12	0.94	0.00	0.00
Westhampton Park	4.31	0.49	11.33	0.70	3.12	0.00	0.01
Westlake Community Park	10.35	1.25	12.06	1.60	5.68	0.00	1.82
Wild Rose Park	8.63	0.51	5.92	1.67	5.90	0.00	0.56
William Chorley Park	31.18	17.54	56.26	0.87	8.83	0.00	3.94
William Curtis Park	18.80	12.11	64.43	0.68	5.97	0.00	0.04
William Land Golf Course	91.06	43.77	48.07	1.55	42.80	2.46	0.49
William Land Regional Park	115.27	77.32	67.08	6.25	30.10	0.15	1.45
William McKinley Park	31.09	15.20	48.89	3.75	11.35	0.78	0.00
Willow Park	2.50	0.49	19.79	0.48	1.53	0.00	0.00
Winner's Circle Park	1.87	0.28	14.81	0.38	1.18	0.00	0.03
Witter Ranch Park	9.01	1.30	14.45	0.68	6.79	0.00	0.25
Witter Ranch State Historic Park	24.09	0.24	0.99	0.48	0.01	0.00	23.37
Wood Park	5.56	1.85	33.35	0.53	3.10	0.00	0.08
Woodbine Park	6.48	2.60	40.08	0.37	3.37	0.00	0.15
Woodlake Park	6.16	2.57	41.79	0.72	2.87	0.00	0.00
Zacharias Park	6.12	2.58	42.15	0.29	3.06	0.00	0.18
Grand Total	5,993.23	1,639.07	27.35%	536.62	2,202.35	224.87	1,390.33

APPENDIX C: PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY

To support preparation of the Sacramento Urban Forest Plan, City staff convened a Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) to solicit firsthand knowledge and guidance from key groups and individuals directly involved in the management, community engagement, and project implementation work related to trees in Sacramento. The PAC met four times during the SUIFP development, twice during the initial research and analysis phase in 2018 and twice during the development of the public review draft in 2023. Participants from the following 30 groups were involved in providing feedback via the PAC:

- > 350 Sacramento
- > Asian Resources Inc.
- > Avondale/Glen Elder Neighborhood Association
- > California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- > California Strategic Growth Council
- > City of Sacramento Youth Commission
- > Council Member District 3 Jeff Harris
- > Elmhurst Neighborhood Association
- > Explore Midtown
- > Friends of Capitol Mansions
- > Hagginwood Neighborhood Association
- > Historic Monterey Trail District
- > Hodgson and Company
- > Hollywood Park Communi-Tree Committee
- > LDK Ventures, LLC
- > Meadowview Urban Tree Project
- > Midtown Association
- > North Natomas community representative
- > North State BIA
- > Preservation Sacramento
- > Public Health Institute
- > River Park Neighborhood Association
- > Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
- > Sacramento Area Council of Government
- > Sacramento City Unified School District
- > Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
- > Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- > Sacramento Tree Foundation
- > South Natomas community representative
- > Trees4Sacramento

Meetings #1 and #4 functioned as workshops, with substantial group feedback; whereas meetings #2 and #3 were primarily focused on information sharing with the PAC. PowerPoint presentations for each meeting can be found on the project website (www.cityofsacramento.gov/sactreeplan) and summaries of meetings #1 and #4 are provided below.  440

#440

Posted by **Howard Levine** on **06/21/2024** at **9:56am** [Comment ID: 3116] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

As stated earlier in this plan, Campus Commons with over 47% canopy in a private maintain area, a planned unit development has experience in maintaining a large Diverse tree canopy. In the future, we offer to be part of the ongoing conversation. Thank you.

Urban Forest Master Plan

Stakeholder Meeting #1

5.9.2018

S U M M A R Y



Meeting Summary

On Wednesday, May 9, 2018, the City of Sacramento held the first of three Stakeholder Representative Group meetings (SRG) for the Urban Forest Master Plan. The meeting took place from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Sacramento City Hall, located at 915 I Street, in Sacramento.

The following project team members attended the meeting:

City of Sacramento	Davey Resource Group	AIM Consulting
Lucinda Willcox	Tina McKeand	Gladys Cornell
Kevin Hocker		Nicole Porter
Jennifer Venema		Katie Durham
Stacia Cosgrove		
Kevin McClain		
Eugene Loew		
Jesus Munoz		
Kevin Wasson		

19 stakeholder representatives attended the meeting, representing the following organizations:

- 350 Sacramento
- Asian Resource Center
- California Strategic Growth Council
- Public Health Institute
- Elmhurst Neighborhood Association
- Friends of Capitol Mansions
- LDK Ventures, LLC
- Midtown Association
- North State BIA
- Preservation Sacramento
- River Park Neighborhood Association
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD)
- Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD)
- Sacramento Tree Foundation
- The Historic Monterey Trail District
- Trees4Sacramento
- U.S. Forest Service
- WALK Sacramento

The meeting objectives included:

- Introduce the project background and goals
- Outline the project process and timeline
- Review updates from the City’s 2016 Tree Ordinance
- Present key findings from the Urban Tree Canopy and iTree reports
- Discuss the vision for Sacramento’s urban tree canopy and potential strategies to achieve the vision
- Identify next steps for the project

Project Overview

The City of Sacramento has a long-standing reputation as the City of Trees. Emphasis on the importance of trees in Sacramento dates to its founding in 1849. In the late 1970s and the 1980s, Sacramento’s urban forestry program was recognized for its beautiful tree canopy and partnerships; today, our urban forest is rated as one of the top ten in the country.

In August 2016, the City adopted comprehensive updates to the City Code to update and clarify its tree regulations. During the process of revising the city’s tree-related ordinances, additional policy issues were raised regarding the City’s urban forest and its future. With a changing environment and new technological tools, an updated Urban Forest Master Plan is required to preserve the health and stewardship of Sacramento’s urban forest.

The City’s updated Urban Forest Master Plan will address the protection, maintenance, sustainability, and enhancement of Sacramento’s tree canopy.



Stakeholder representatives discussing the Urban Forest Master Plan.



Lucinda Wilcox, City of Sacramento, presenting the project background and goals.

Meeting Format & Presentation

The first SRG meeting included a presentation and large group discussion. The project team presented on the project’s goals and background, the process and timeline, updates from the [2016 Tree Ordinance](#), and key findings from the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and public tree Resource Analysis. Throughout the presentation, stakeholder representatives asked questions. Following the presentation, stakeholder representatives participated in a group discussion and were encouraged to provide additional input through feedback forms. Below is an overview of the presentation.



Councilmember Jeff Harris discussing the importance of the Urban Forest Master Plan.

Project Background, Goals, & Process

Lucinda Willcox, Project Manager from the City of Sacramento, introduced the Urban Forest Master Plan and its goals. Building upon community interest and priorities identified in the 2016 Tree Ordinance update, the Urban Forest Master Plan development process will assess the City’s existing tree canopy through resource and historic analyses.

The process includes collaboration with internal partners, stakeholder groups, and the community-at-large to help inform the goals the City sets for Sacramento’s tree canopy. The Urban Forest Master Plan will include an action plan for how to achieve the goals, as well as a plan to monitor the tree canopy regularly in the future and evaluate if and how the goals are being achieved.

- **Question:** Will the project timeline be available online?
 - **Project team response:** Yes, the timeline is available on the [project webpage](#).

Updates from the 2016 Tree Ordinance

Kevin Hocker, Urban Forest Manager at the City of Sacramento, provided a brief overview of some of the updates to City code that resulted from the 2016 Tree Ordinance. The ordinance aimed to consolidate three previous ordinances into one, clarify confusing language, and protect more trees when possible. Effective in September 2016, the ordinance accomplishes the following:

- Protects all City trees



Gladys Cornell, AIM Consulting, welcoming stakeholder representatives to the meeting.

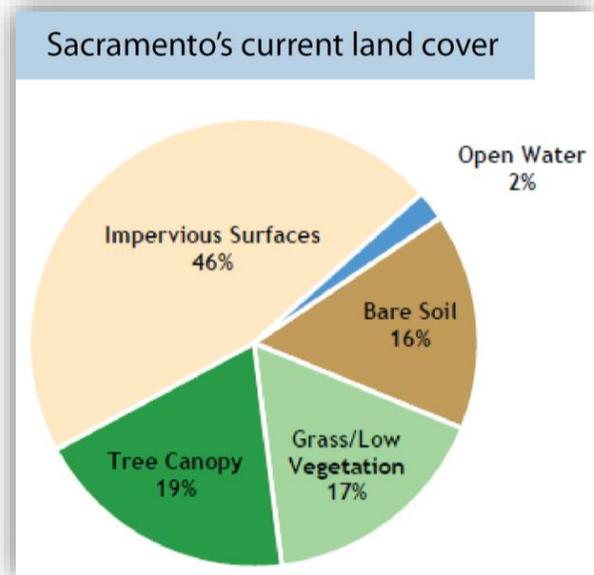
- Identifies “private protected trees” as private trees with diameters larger than 30-inches; native oak trees are classified in this category if their diameters are larger than 12-inches
- Created a tree removal public notice process and procedure through the City website
- Created a Tree Mitigation Fund dedicated towards replacing trees and creating more space to plant trees

Additional issues not addressed by the ordinance were specifically identified as issues to be discussed and addressed during the Urban Forest Master Plan development process. These additional issues include:

- Trees located on public land, excluding the public right-of-way
- Concerns about parking lot shade
- Formation of an urban forestry citizen advisory group
- Tree planting
- Monitoring, evaluating, and reporting, by community plan area and citywide
- Tree Preservation Funds
- Tree Protection Standards
- Incentive programs
- Canopy coverage goals
- **Question:** Does the 2016 Tree Ordinance prohibit tree-topping?
 - **Project team response:** Yes; tree-topping is not a routine or acceptable practice. There will be rare times where tree-topping is preferable to removing a tree, and in those circumstances, you would need special permission from the City.
- **Question:** Does this ordinance only apply to City trees and private protected trees?
 - **Project team response:** Yes. City code only regulates City trees and private protected trees. There are some trees that are not regulated by the ordinance, and City code does not apply to them.
- **Comment:** Species diversity is an important topic that should be discussed in the Urban Forest Master Plan.

Resource Analysis and Key Findings

Tina McKeand, Project Manager with Davey Resource Group, presented key findings about the urban forest identified by the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and the public tree Resource Analysis. This information provides the foundation for the Urban Forest Master Plan. The Urban Tree Canopy assessment considers all public and private trees in the City from a bird-eye view, and the public tree Resource Analysis evaluates all public trees in the City’s inventory and the benefits they provide.

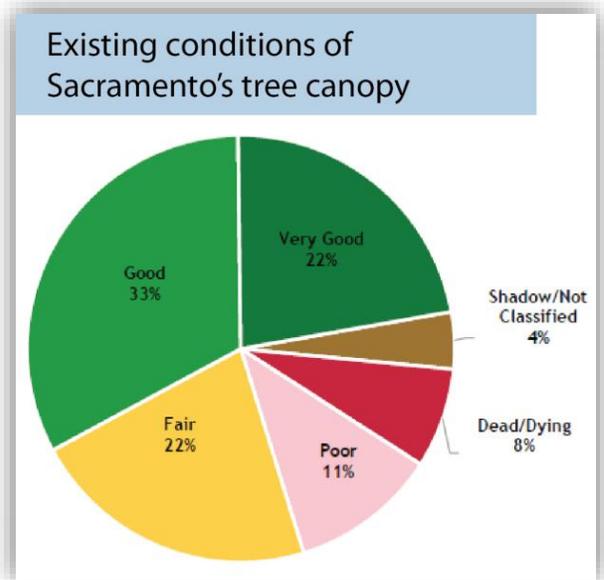


Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

The Urban Tree Canopy Assessment was conducted as a top down assessment using high-resolution aerial imagery and infrared photography to determine the coverage and health of the City’s urban tree canopy.

Sacramento has 19 square miles (12,198 acres) of tree canopy. Today, 77% of the trees in Sacramento are in fair or better condition. Land cover in the City can be identified as one of five classifications:

- Tree canopy
- Impervious surface (e.g. buildings, streets, and parking lots)
- Low lying vegetation (e.g. shrubs, grasses)
- Open water
- Bare soils



On average, the City has a 19% tree canopy cover. Based upon the area’s current land cover, Sacramento has the potential to support a tree canopy of 45%. However, it may not be possible to reach this full potential due to areas that are undeveloped where other uses, such as buildings and housing developments, may be built.

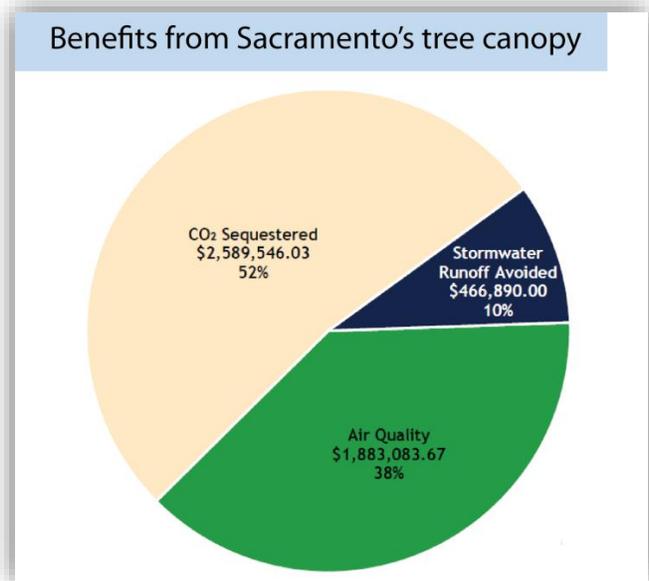
- **Question:** How do you assess the health of the tree canopy?
 - **Project team response:** You can assess canopy health through infrared imagery. The reflection of light off a tree’s leaves can help us detect if a tree is “stressed” or not. However, it is important to note that stress does not automatically mean a tree is dying; it could just be going through a period of stress (e.g. aphids). The only way to fully determine what is causing stress on a tree is to physically inspect it.

Parking Lots

Parking lots developed after 1983 are required to have a 50% tree canopy cover within 15-years of construction. From a sample of 648 parking lots throughout the City, the average tree canopy cover is 15%. While the project team cannot identify which parking lots, if any, were built after 1983, it is important to note that only 6% of the parking lots assessed are currently meeting the shade standards; 94% are not.

Tree Canopy Benefits

Sacramento’s tree canopy is currently storing 1.5 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Annually, this resource provides an added \$4.5 million in annual benefits, including: removing 392 tons of air pollutants, reducing storm water runoff by 58 million gallons, and sequestering an additional 73,541 tons of CO₂.

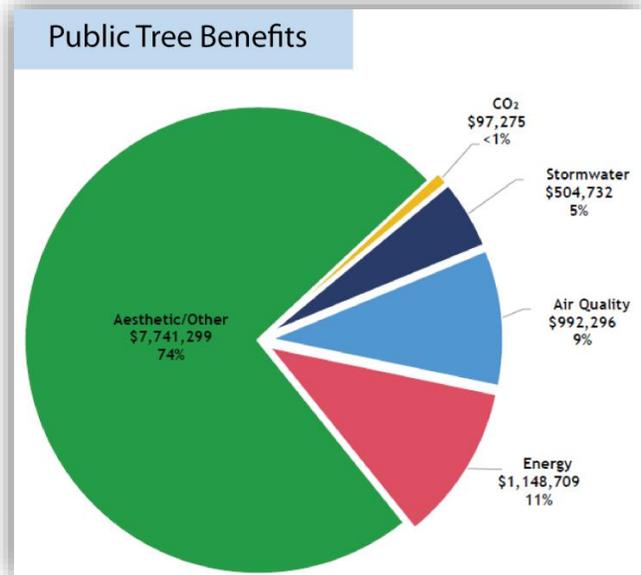


- **Question:** Have you done any quality assessment for the aerial measuring you’ve done?
 - **Project team response:** Yes. DRG uses iTree Canopy (itreetools.org) to cross check the results of the GIS land cover analysis. iTree Canopy uses randomly generated points which are manually evaluated for land cover type. Points are sampled until an acceptable standard error is achieved, (typically <+/- 2%). The results confirm the overall percentage of land cover type found by the GIS analysis.
- **Question:** What are the dates from this data?
 - The Resource Analysis utilized current data provided by the City. The Urban Tree Canopy assessment imagery was from 2016.
- **Question:** If a vacant parcel of land has a specific zoning already identified, does the Urban Tree Canopy assessment consider this information?
 - **Project team response:** No, it does not take that into consideration.
- **Question:** Are there energy savings from the benefits of the tree canopy?
 - **Project team response:** The Resource Analysis concluded that public trees provide an estimated \$1.2 million in benefits annually.
- **Question:** How do these assessments measure and take into consideration air pollutants that are emitted from certain tree species? Are their effects included in this data?
 - **Project team response:** That is an important factor to consider. We will check the methodology of the assessment and get back to you. This assessment is based on the overall tree canopy and there is no way to identify species specifically as it relates to benefits.
- **Comment:** I think it is important to be candid; everyone loves trees, but there are important characteristics and impacts of certain tree species that affect tree selection and public health.
- **Comment:** There are also costs associated with the urban tree canopy, due to property damage and injuries. We and the community will need to consider this as well.

Public Trees

Public trees in Sacramento are comprised of 87,324 trees with 194 unique species. Some species of trees represent a greater part of the inventory; for example, the Londonplane tree represents 15% of the City’s entire urban tree canopy. Best urban forest practices dictate that no single tree species should represent more than 10% of the entire tree population and no tree genus should represent more than 20% of the population.

- **Comment:** While London Plane trees represent a large portion of the tree canopy in older neighborhoods such as East Sacramento, I am not seeing a lot of them being planted now. We should consider the different ages of tree species.
 - **Project team response:** The Urban Tree Canopy Assessment presents more detail about the age of Sacramento’s trees.
- **Question:** Is the total number of trees in Sacramento (87,324) based on street trees as well as park trees?
 - **Project team response:** Yes, both are included in the inventory. However, street and park trees that are in bicycle paths are not included. There are potentially thousands of trees that have not been added to the inventory.
- **Question:** Are the 87,324 public trees the only street trees the City recognizes to maintain?
 - **Project team response:** This inventory lists trees on City-managed public right-of-way; primarily street trees and tree in public parks. It does not include public trees in areas managed by other agencies (e.g., County in Sacramento River Parkway, State Parks, public schools). The inventory is not completely up to date; many newly planted trees are not yet entered so the actual inventory of City-maintained trees is closer to 100,000. While trees on private properties may also provide tree shading, unless it is in a City-owned easement, then these trees are not reflected in the public inventory.



Public Tree Benefits & Investment

The values of public and private trees are determined by the U.S. Forest Service. The annual benefits of Sacramento’s tree canopy total about \$10.5 million. The average tree provides \$120.06 in benefits; smaller trees provide fewer benefits and larger trees provide more.

A rough estimate of the City of Sacramento’s public costs for trees is approximately \$8.2 million annually; about \$6 million for urban forestry staff and contracts and the rest for green waste disposal. The net benefits, after the \$8.2 million investment, are \$2.3 million. This means that for each \$1 spent, Sacramento received \$1.28 in benefits from the tree canopy.

With \$6.0 million in urban forestry operations, the City conducts the following operations: tree maintenance, tree removal, development review, tree species protection, permitting, emergency response, and outreach and engagement.

Discussion Summary

Below is a summary of the large group discussion that followed the meeting presentation.

Sacramento’s current tree canopy is at 19%. The Greenprint sets an average 35% shade canopy goal for our region based on the best available science. What percentage should the City aim for?

- **Comment:** I live in one of the denser-canopied neighborhoods, but we don’t think it is enough. It is clear to me that we live in an area of “surplus” but there are other areas that are still under-canopied. In my opinion, the only way to increase those areas is to have a higher City-wide goal. We need to increase the entire City’s canopy to increase livability. If you set it the goal too low, then it will be too easy for some areas to achieve. We should set it high.
 - **Project team response:** Thank you for your input. Keep in mind that this is a 20-year plan. While the City is not opposed to setting the goal high, it is important that we as a group do not set the goal too high and we see no progress within the next 20 years.
- **Comment:** In thinking about areas that are under-canopied, we need to look at how to funnel resources to help them achieve a higher tree canopy. Maintenance is quite expensive and is an important piece of this effort. It is so important to think about goals and resources; but how do we pair them while focusing on those underserved areas?
- **Comment:** The topic of injustice is very important. However, we do need to make the goal reasonable so citizens, as well as developers, don’t oppose it.
- **Comment:** We talk about planting trees, but when California was in a drought and the Governor’s office encouraged people to stop watering parks, many trees became stressed. We cannot plant a huge number of trees and not take care of them – we need to worry about the health of trees.
 - **Project team response:** That is a good point. There is an annual cost to taking care of trees, in addition to the issue of water restrictions during drought years. Based on the Resource Analysis, the City pays an average of \$94 annually per tree.
- **Comment:** What we are experiencing in the Central City is a dramatic increase in density; I don’t see any of this study addressing population density as it relates to the tree canopy. Density will be a pressure over time to consider. This also doesn’t consider the cost to the public. For example, recently my car was parked on the street and the tree caused \$1,700 in damage to my car. There is a cost to the public that hasn’t been considered in this resource analysis. I would like to see a

program that addresses the replacement planting of certain trees that are not contributing to the overall canopy's benefits.

- **Project team response:** These assessments are based upon the data we have. They can be used as a management tool and contribute to the Urban Forest Master Plan, but they are not only sources of input and/or data. The issues you bring up today are good considerations.
- **Comment:** I would like to see if there is a correlation between income levels and canopy levels.
- **Comment:** There is a soil-type correlation to consider; soils change dramatically from area to area in Sacramento, so it is hard to establish tree canopies in some places. To achieve a higher percentage of tree canopy in some areas, it is not a social just issue but a soil-type issue. For example, a lot of trees aged out and died in South Natomas due to bad soil.
- **Comment:** The Energy Commission, today, adopted a new building standard for all construction after 2020 – solar panels need to cover 20% of all new housing developments.
- **Comment:** With California now requiring solar to be built on all new developments' roofs after 2020, I see a natural competition between tree canopy and solar need. Are there other communities with similar predicaments?
 - **Project team response:** Some communities look at walk-in gardens or look for a centralized place to put solar panels. With this new requirement, the City will have to examine its effects on tree planting and consider where to place solar panels in relation to planting trees.
- **Comment:** Regarding neighborhoods we want the City's tree canopy to resemble, Land Park has a tree canopy that covers the streets and helps shade homes, reduce energy costs, increase property values, and reduce the cost of maintaining streets. I think all neighborhoods should look like Land Park.
- **Comment:** In 100 years, the climate of Sacramento will be more like the climate of Tucson, Arizona. At the current rate of climate change, it is important that we plan for tree species in the future that are heat and drought resilient. There will be more swings between heavy storms and dry winters. This is something that will be very important to consider. However, this shouldn't be a discouragement to planting more trees. More trees will help make summers more pleasant and cool, and trees also encourage people to walk and bike outside and enjoy the outdoors. Factoring in the urban heat island effect, which is a growing problem for region, I think a higher tree canopy would be better. Plus, trees can also encourage more rainfall.
- **Comment:** I think at least a 35% canopy goal is good; the City of Citrus Heights has this goal. For a 20-year time frame, it is important to set an ambitious goal.
- **Comment:** How do we motivate property owners to plant and maintain a tree? If a tree causes damage to a sidewalk, who is responsible for fixing it and how will the City address it?
 - **Project team response:** In general, for smaller trees, planting, maintenance, and removal is not regulated by the City. If a tree is larger than a certain size, then it is the property owners' responsibility to apply for a permit and requires City approval to remove the

tree. Sidewalk repairs are the property owners' responsibility, regardless of the cause of damage.

- **Comment:** To reach a 35% canopy goal, would we have to plant all of the trees necessary within in next 5 years so that we reach the goal within the 20-year time-frame?
 - **Project team response:** No. The canopy goal does not have to be set as a 20-year goal.
- **Comment:** Ignoring the cost, I'd want 45% or an even higher canopy. But cost is an important factor.
- **Comment:** Since most trees are smaller than 12-inches in diameter, is there a way to see what kind of benefits we can expect from those?
- **Comment:** The City should look at the canopy cover over trails, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and sidewalks to see where we can plant trees. If we see what space would be needed to plant trees there, then you can use that information to inform the City's canopy goal. Shade over streets and bike trails is desirable, especially where it is exceptionally hot in the summer. Also, shade over streets would encourage pedestrian and bike activity.

Is 50% a reasonable goal for shade required in parking lots? Do we want to adjust that? How can the City make this goal more successful and increase compliance? How should the City factor in solar with these requirements?

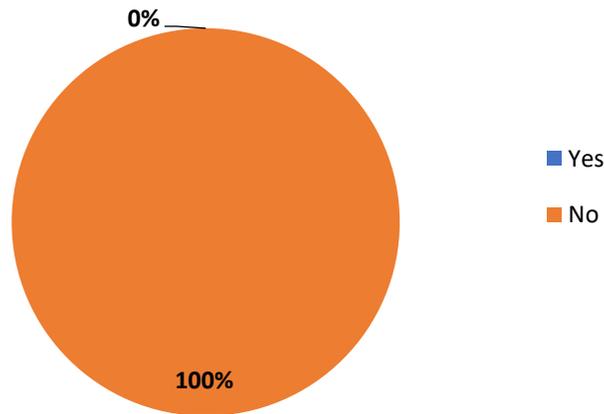
- **Comment:** Build less parking and require less parking. For existing parking lots, the City should implement a pilot program aimed towards finding a balance between solar panels and trees. This is an important question about infrastructure that needs to be handled.
- **Comment:** We need more outreach and education of the rules around tree planting and maintenance. At the Cannery, people are complaining because the property owner recently cut down some of the trees in the parking lot. The trees were not large enough to be privately protected, but they provided significant shade. It is important to keep private property owners aware of what they are supposed to be doing. People break rules all the time without knowing it.
- **Comment:** We do not have strong enough language to enforce parking lot shade requirements. The City should reshape the Urban Forest Master Plan so there is a focus on air quality, water quality, and urban heat ordinances.
- **Comment:** A bare parking lot is the best place to plant a tree, in terms of the water quality benefits it provides, because of all the oil that is left at the lot.
- **Comment:** Suburban parking lots should have different requirements than urban parking lots.
- **Comment:** The City should consider different requirements for different land uses and conditional use permits. For example, new cannabis operations in warehouse districts have a tremendous opportunity for additional trees around their buildings and in their parking lots.
- **Comment:** There must be enforcement.

- **Question:** Giving more spaces for trees only applies to new parking lots. To my understanding, older or retro-fitted parking lots do not have to comply, correct?
 - **Project team response:** If a parking lot was built before 1983, and expands by less than 50%, they are only required to meet the 50% shade goal on the newer portion of the lot. However, if the lot expands by more than 50%, the shade goal must be met for the entire lot.
- **Comment:** Property owners of spaces that stress open air could explore community solar benefits. If a space cannot have trees, then there should at least be a requirement for solar panels on parking lot roofs, so the lot provides some type of positive benefit to communities.

Feedback Forms

Below is a summary of all the input obtained from stakeholder representatives through feedback forms.

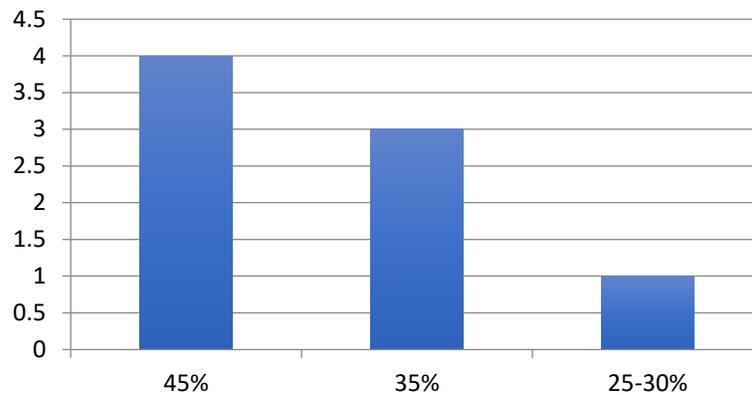
1a. Is the City appropriately shaded at the current tree canopy level?



No

- Sacramento’s tree canopy is specifically lacking in underrepresented neighborhoods.
- The city’s canopy coverage is uneven and often sparse in lower-income areas.
- The parking lot ordinance needs to be enforced.
- For an example of a "good feeling" shaded street, see Stacia Way in Hollywood Park.
- In particular, low-income and communities of color in Sacramento have less access to the benefits of the urban forest.
- The City needs more trees, especially in currently under-shaded communities, for the benefits: air quality, aesthetics, storm water, and cooling to mitigate heat islands and extreme heat.
- It's great, but surrounding neighborhoods could be much better.
- Many neighborhoods need trees for shade; all neighborhoods should be 40%.
- Even the Midtown / East Sacramento areas have gaps, and certain neighborhoods are very canopy deprived.

1b. If not, what percentage of tree canopy should the City aim for?

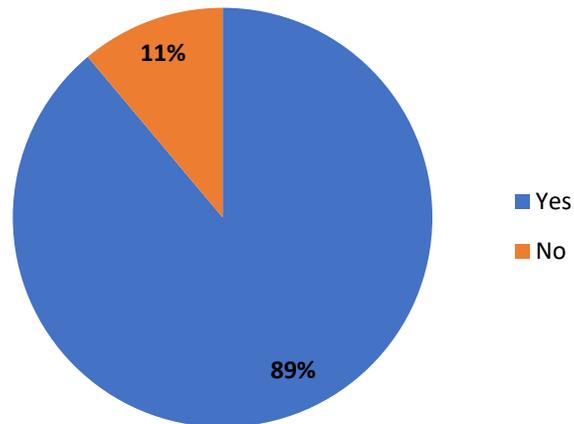


- I recommend 35%, given the impacts of a warmer climate on health; heat island effect, air quality, the economy, etc.
- Set an ambitious tree canopy goal.

2. What outreach would be helpful to achieve a higher percentage of tree canopy?

- Education on tree maintenance, selection of species, benefits, and economic value. Reach out to commercial and residential landowners.
- Education on the conflicts and (perceived or real) negative qualities of trees.
- Educate people on the rules and enforce them.
- Education on social justice and equality as it relates to trees. The City should work with private property owners, educate people on the health of trees, and find trees that will work for all communities.
- Increased outreach to property owners.
- Display the benefits of trees to residents, property values, safety, visual appeal, etc.
- Increased canopy may reduce particulate matter concentration, ozone levels, incidence of asthma, as well as many other health benefits.
- Help homeowners select and plant appropriate trees. Also help folks learn how to care for trees.

3a. For parking lot shade requirements, is 50% a reasonable goal?



Yes

- With good parking lot designs, a higher percentage of tree canopies may be achievable. What's missing is enforcement.
- I think this can be achieved through a mix of solar panels and increased tree canopy.
- Parking lots are giant frying pans.
- The ordinance needs to be revised to require the total parking lot to be shaded, not just new positions of parking lots for retrofits.

No

- 75% should be the goal

3b. If yes, what are some ideas to increase shade in parking lots? If no, why?

Enforcement

- Enforcement is needed.
- Amend the ordinance with stricter enforcement.
- Enhance compliance; increase code enforcement involvement where non-compliance with parking lot shade ordinance is observed or reported. The City could use volunteers to assist with identifying non-compliant parking lots.

Specific Zones

- Clarify that pruning is allowable for security cameras in cannabis project parking lots.
- The City could increase its tree canopy through conditions of approval in Conditional Use Permit requests for cannabis projects, which are generally in warehouses with large, bare parking lots. Link the tree canopy goal with cannabis approvals to provide a community benefit.

Physical environment

- Increase the City's soil capacity.
- Water trees for the first three years to guarantee more root space.

Update regulations

- Check the formula for tree shade – it should be realistic for parking lots.
- Prohibit tree topping.
- Ensure construction plans include sufficient planting / growth space.
- Plant trees in medians and borders of buildings.
- Plant the right trees, at right size, and in the right locations.
- Increase required planting areas for trees.
- Require trees to be planted at one of the following times: at a building’s initial construction, when a parking lot is retrofitted to install EV chargers (part of the City’s EV strategy), or when a street is first paved.
- Implement new regulations with any new developments in which lots are reconfigured.
- Revamp the parking lot shade requirement to emphasize the placement of large trees in parking lots.
- Develop Public Works Standards for tree maintenance.
- Instruct all local landscaping companies how to take care of trees including: pruning, maintenance, removing diseased trees.
- Codify through council resolution a revised Parking Lot Shade Tree Design and Maintenance Guideline document to improve the current planter dimension requirements, planting specifications, and approved species list. Rename this document a “manual” instead of a “guideline.”
- Revise chapter 17 (17.68.040 F.) of the Parking Lot Shade Tree Design and Maintenance Guideline document to explicitly require permits to prune or remove parking lot trees.
- Revise Chapter 17 of the Parking Lot Shade Tree Design and Maintenance Guideline document to require that existing parking lots subject to the shade ordinance make improvements as needed to meet the 50% shade coverage requirement following a notice of non-compliance.

4. Where would you like to see more trees?



- Public spaces in low-income neighborhoods and low-canopy areas. This would bring tree benefits and encourage private and commercial landowners to plant more trees.
- Low-income residential and commercial areas to promote and enable more people to walk, bike, and ride transit.
- Walkable areas including private developments, public properties, and around building developments.
- Front yards near sidewalks.
- New infill under canopied areas.

Additional Comments

Consider Sacramento's climate

- We will have more years of drought and water-use reduction. Let the grass in parks and public / private properties die, but stress the need for infrequent, deep watering.
- For reduced ozone formation, select tree species that are low emitters of biogenic volatile organic compounds.
- Plant drought-tolerant trees to anticipate future heat and drought.
- Anticipate urban heat island and vulnerable communities.
- Develop strategies for keeping trees watered during severe drought, include standard policy / practices for placing vegetative barriers between freeways and other busy roadways and development such as residential, schools, parks, and other places where more people most vulnerable to air pollution may be located.

Policy & Enforcement

- Make sure there is consistent tree-canopy-supportive policy among the General Plan, the Urban Forest Master Plan, and specific plans. For instance, require a minimum 7-foot width for tree planters.
- Increase requirements for front yard trees. Develop incentives for planting backyard trees.
- Work to get school districts to adopt the parking lot shade ordinance.

- Look at the relationship between the population density and canopy. Set a goal accordingly. Consider costs to the public in maintaining canopy, particularly in areas with again or inappropriate species.
- Develop specific recommended tree removal mitigation measures that will promote the return of health benefits of tree canopy as quickly as possible.
- Develop street tree policy to promote increased canopy, including adequate planter sizes. Include street trees in definitions of Complete Streets. Focus on street tree planting to provide sidewalk shade versus just in medians.
- Building setback standards need to allow space for shade tree planting.
- Planning guidelines need to allow for canopy trees.
- Consider reinstating registration of tree companies – stop tree-topping!
- Enforce tree protection for construction sites.
- Consider revising sidewalk accommodations for major trees (i.e. more room to root zone ⁴⁴¹)
- Embed irrigation infrastructure into trenches for EV charging conduits when EV chargers are installed.
- Maintenance is critical and should have more investment.

Tree Size

- A focus on large stature trees (where growth space is available) to maximize benefits.
- Emphasize the planting of large trees for shade.

Other

- Demonstrate net dollar benefits for private landowners to encourage planting and care.
- Why is Urban Forestry in the Public Works Department? The Parks department would be more appropriate.
- Parking lots seem to be a no-brainer.
- The report was very data driven, not ready for prime time, some numbers were "unreasonable."
- In your reports, it would be helpful to see the City's population density layered over the current canopy.

Next Steps

The next steps in creating the Urban Forest Master Plan include an online community workshop along with a series of Pop-Up events throughout the late spring and summer 2018. A community workshop will be held in the summer of 2018. By fall, the project team will have an administrative draft of the Urban Forest Master Plan for the second Stakeholder Representative Group Meeting. Following the second SRG meeting, there will be a public draft of the plan available for comment and review. A third and final SRG meeting will take place in winter of 2018, with the Final Urban Master Plan published in Spring of 2019.

#441

Posted by **Mike Ritenour** on **04/29/2024** at **10:04am** [Comment ID: 2211] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

In my opinion, having enough root space, and protecting surrounding objects from root damage is one of the biggest challenges with increasing the canopy cover. Repetitive damage of parking lots, sidewalks, etc. from tree roots pushes property owners to remove trees to reduce long term maintenance costs. The "Right Tree in the Right Place" should also be followed with "Planted and Maintained Correctly" which should include the installation of root barriers and long term tree irrigation systems, which are often skipped by property owners to reduce costs. Tree ordinances should include requirements for preparing the planting area and irrigation designs if the goal is to encourage property owners to keep trees for the long term. A mass public campaign on tree pruning is also necessary as many people and cultures practice damaging tree pruning techniques that result in an annual lost of canopy and limited tree growth.

Appendix

- Meeting invite
- Presentation
- Meeting agenda
- Feedback Form

Urban Forest Plan

Partner Advisory Committee Meeting #4

December 13, 2023 | 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Meeting Summary

On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, the City of Sacramento held the fourth and final meeting of the Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) for the Urban Forest Plan (UFP). The meeting took place from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Sacramento City Hall, located at 915 I Street, in Sacramento.

The following City staff and project team members attended the meeting:

- **Rachel Patten**, Sustainability Analyst, Public Works
- **Lucinda Willcox**, Assistant Public Works Director, Public Works
- **Kevin Hocker**, City Urban Forester, Public Works
- **Sarah Kolarik**, Sustainability Analyst, Office of Climate Action and Sustainability
- **Taner Pasamehmetoglu**, Arts Program Assistant, Office of Climate Action and Sustainability

PAC members attended the meeting, representing the following organizations:

- 350 Sacramento
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)
- Elmhurst Neighborhood Association
- Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association CommuniTree Project
- Meadowview Urban Tree Canopy Project (MUTP)
- North Natomas community
- Preservation Sacramento
- River Park Tree Canopy Project
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD)
- Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD)
- Sacramento Tree Foundation
- Trees4Sacramento

After the third PAC meeting, on Thursday November 2, 2023, PAC members were asked to review and provide comments on the Preliminary Administrative Draft Urban Forest Plan. The PAC's review was focused on: recommendations for Vision Statements, prioritization of Implementation Measures, and identifying any major topic areas that were missing, unclear, or inaccurate.

PAC members were asked to provide comments through two methods:

- 1) Responding to a digital survey
- 2) Sending additional comments not captured by the survey via email

The focus of PAC meeting #4 was to summarize the PAC feedback on the Preliminary Administrative Draft Urban Forest Plan, provide staff responses to major topic areas, facilitate group discussion of the plan and allow final comments, and finally to outline the next steps for the UFP and the PAC.

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Summary of survey responses and comments
- How staff will respond to comments
- Next steps for the draft Urban Forest Plan and Partner Advisory Committee
- Discussion/Question and Answer

Meeting Notes

Summary of Survey Responses and Comments

18 of 31 PAC members completed the digital survey to provide feedback and comments on the Preliminary Administrative Draft Urban Forest Plan. The survey consisted of 15 questions that asked participants to rank preferred Vision Statements, prioritize Implementation Strategies from each of the five Goals of the UFP, rank how well they felt the UFP addressed the unique needs and challenges of Sacramento's urban forest, and spaces for narrative comments on each topic. The results of that survey are as follows:

Vision Statement

Survey respondents voted for the vision statement:

The City of Sacramento, together with community investment and involvement, will reinforce Sacramento's legacy as the "City of Trees". The City will address historic inequity in access to nature, and prioritize the sustainable management and expansion of the urban tree canopy to provide extensive benefits and reprieve from the impacts of climate change for generations of Sacramentans to come.

Priority Implementation Strategies

There were nine total Implementation Strategies across all five Goals that at least ~50% of survey respondents voted as high priority for implementation. Those Implementation Strategies fell into four broad categories: 1) Funding for UFP strategies, 2) Shading streets and sidewalks, 3) Supporting Disadvantaged Communities, and 4) Protecting native trees.

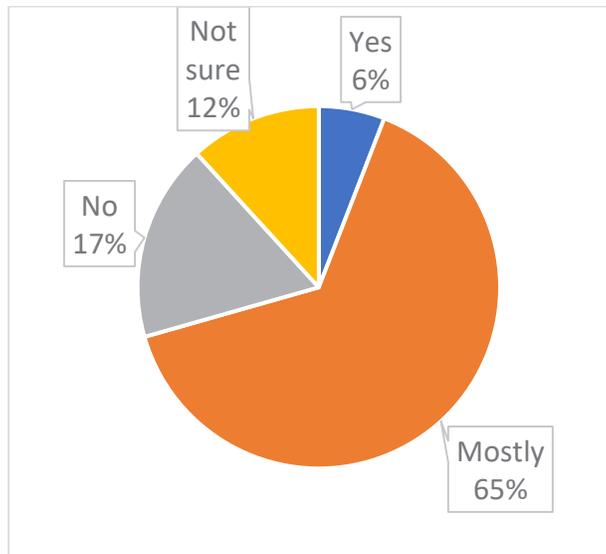
The nine high priority Implementation Strategies listed in order of priority ranking were:

- **5.1.2** Pursue an increase in dedicated long-term funding to provide an increased level of tree canopy, perform associated care and maintenance, and expand core urban forestry services and programs.
- **5.2.1** Explore providing financial support to residents in disadvantaged communities for tree planting and care.

- **1.2.7** Support the achievement of 50 percent tree shading over streets and sidewalks.
- **3.4.3** When designing transportation improvements, support the inclusion of adequate tree canopy to provide substantial shade for active transportation infrastructure and support achievement of 50 percent shading on streets and sidewalks.
- **4.2.3** Strengthen partnerships with entities in disadvantaged and low tree canopy neighborhoods.
- **3.4.3** When designing transportation improvements, support the inclusion of adequate tree canopy to provide substantial shade for active transportation infrastructure and support achievement of 50 percent shading on streets and sidewalks.
- **4.2.3** Strengthen partnerships with entities in disadvantaged and low tree canopy neighborhoods.
- **3.1.3** Strengthen collaboration and support between all City departments that manage trees.
- **5.1.1** Perform a cost analysis to determine the projected cost to meet the tree planting and maintenance targets identified in the Urban Forest Plan to reach 35 percent canopy cover by 2045.

Effectiveness of the UFP

Survey respondents voted that the Preliminary Administrative Draft Urban Forest Plan “Mostly” addressed the unique needs and challenges of Sacramento’s Urban Forest.



Comments about why the draft plan did not fully address the needs of Sacramento’s urban forest mainly focused on the need for more resource allocation, additional specifics about implementation, and aggressive private property canopy goals. Many comments also expressed appreciation of the details and high-level guidance that the UFP draft provided.

General Feedback

In addition to the 18 survey responses, Staff also received 8 comment letters via email. Staff will review and respond to the feedback through two ways:

- 1) Incorporate changes into public review draft. (E.g., higher-level changes)

- 2) Respond to comments during the public review period (E.g., more specific implementation action changes or topics that require broader public discussion)

There were four major theme's that appeared in many survey responses and comment emails that staff wanted to address directly with the PAC.

Strengthen Language

PAC Comments: Reduce the use of words that do not convey a specific measurable outcome or add a measurable outcome to the statement to bolster words like “encourage,” “seek,” and “support.”

Staff Response: We will go through and look at each instance, limit the usage as much as possible, and add direction. Some will likely stay in the document based on staffs' authority to recommend changes and ability/resources to guarantee policies and programs.

Increase Canopy Goal

PAC Comments: Some calls to increase the overall canopy goal above 35% or to achieve the 35% goal before 2045.

Staff Response: Based on UTC report by Davey, underlying ecological conditions, and urban forestry best practices, staff believe 35% canopy (shading 35% of the entire land surface of the City of Sacramento) is the maximum feasible that we can achieve on this timeline.

We want to set an ambitious but realistic goal. 35% would nearly double the number of trees in the City. Nothing will prevent us from exceeding this goal.

City Maintenance of Private Trees

PAC Comments: Calls to revive previous practices of planting and maintaining trees on private property.

442

Staff Response: Several decades ago, the City attempted to help homeowners provide care of trees in the “private maintenance easement” or private front yard trees in close physical and visual proximity to public-right-of-way trees. After review, it was identified that not only did this result in unacceptably long pruning cycles, but was also not an allowable practice. Since 1990, only trees within public-right-of-way easements are pruned by the City.

Legally, the City does not have the right to begin pruning trees on private property without permission or an easement, and that process 443 not appear feasible. While staff does not see a legal avenue for the City to directly care for trees on private property, the Plan does explore alternative options to provide tree care assistance through other programs.

To grow tree canopy on private property the City must:

- Support increased planting efforts.
- Support ongoing tree maintenance.

Policy + Implementation Actions recommended to address this need:

#442

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **12:00pm** [Comment ID: 2612] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Besides the legal issues, which are not insurmountable, the city claims maintenance of these trees “result[ed] in unacceptably long pruning cycles.” As an number of these trees are, or were in disadvantaged, post World War II subdivisions that were not planned with a planting strip between the sidewalk and the street, and/or no sidewalks, the city abandoned many trees in disadvantaged communities due to budget costs. The plan does not appear adequate to shade them now.

#443

Posted by **Alex Binck** on **06/16/2024** at **7:27pm** [Comment ID: 2898] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Issues around private property seem possible to overcome by an opt-in program. The budgetary issues should be addressed by the city council, and don't necessarily need to preclude the endorsement of such a plan here. However, restricting this program to high priority neighborhoods could help defray the cost and direct benefits to where they are desperately needed. If any legal change is needed, we can also bring a suggestion to the council. I am sure many community groups would support such a change, as this is widely acknowledged as a catastrophic flaw in the city's current tree management strategy.

- **1.3.2** Support and facilitate canopy expansion efforts on private property across the City with focus in priority communities.
- **2.3.6** Support the use of proper pruning techniques on privately maintained trees.
- **4.2.2** Support and encourage businesses to increase tree canopy.
- **5.2.1** Explore providing financial support to residents in disadvantaged communities for tree planting and care.
- **5.2.2** Explore financial incentives to support residents with mature trees.

Continued Involvement of the PAC

PAC Comments: The City should continue to involve the PAC in the implementation of the UFP and/or create a tree commission.

Staff Response: It is currently not a Council priority to expand commissions. Community members are welcome to recommend this to Council for consideration.

The PAC's feedback is extremely valuable in the development of this planning and visioning document. Staff are not recommending ongoing engagement with this specific group past the plan development. But implementation of the UFP will require deep engagement with many partners and constituents.

Policy + Implementation Actions recommended to address this need:

- **1.2.2** Amend Sacramento City Code as necessary to improve tree canopy inclusion and require minimum levels of tree planting in development projects.
- **3.1.4** Conduct annual reporting on the urban forest plan to ensure progress towards goals and appropriate resource allocation.
- **4.1 Community Engagement:** Support community advocacy for and involvement in the urban forest.
- **4.2 Partner Coordination:** Facilitate coordination, involvement, and commitment from all entities that own, control, regulate, or affect the urban forest.
- **4.3 Youth Engagement:** Cultivate youth engagement in the urban forest to continue Sacramento's legacy of tree stewardship.
- **4.4 Workforce Development:** Advance career pathways in urban forestry.

Next Steps

Staff finalize public review draft over the next few months. Public review will likely begin winter/spring 2024.

- Goal of Feb. 2024 for launch of public review period
- At least 30 days of public review
- Will go through commissions, Council, community meetings, and have an online public review draft.
- PAC can comment again at that time. PAC can share widely with their networks.

Discussion / Q&A

Below is a summary of the large group discussion that followed the meeting presentation.

- 1) *Will there be a mailing list that updates people every time something happens on the project (e.g., missing middle, CAAP)?*
 - **Project team response:** Yes! We have a mailing list [Join mailing list for email updates](#). We can automatically add the full PAC to the list. And We will send notices throughout process.
- 2) *Ordinance reviews will go through Law and Leg?*
 - **Project team response:** Correct
- 3) *Rancho Cordova has a program to provide free trees to property owners. Has the City of Sacramento considered that?*
 - **Project team response:** No, the City hasn't looked at the approach of providing trees directly to homeowners. STF already runs this type of program and is partnering with the City of Rancho Cordova to offer that program. The City not set up to administer its own free tree program at this point.

We do have recommended Policy and Implementation Strategies recommended in the UFP to address financial assistance to homeowners for tree planting and care, understanding that this is can be a financial obstacle that prevents tree care.

- 4) *You mentioned that the City used to have a tree easement.*
 - **Project team response:** There has never been a tree easement. The City used to trim trees in what was called a "private maintenance easement" but was just private front yards that were close physically and visually to the public-right-of-way. The City did this work because it was a public good. But, the City didn't have the financial resources to continue, and it negatively impacted broader tree maintenance capacity. It's also not legal for the City to do that work without property owner permission, so we can't just start doing it again. 444
- 5) *Trees for Sacramento is interested in continuing a dialogue for implementation. Can't wait 5 years with the timelines on this plan. Requesting sign ups to mailing list.*
- 6) *Interest in keeping the dialogue open (echoed from many members)*
 - **Project team response:** Implementation Strategy 4.1.3 – tree ambassador program as an avenue for continued engagement.
- 7) *Frustration regarding that developers remove a lot of trees and feeling that petitions to save trees don't matter. Need this change to happen before the 0-5 year timeline for most tasks. Regulations feel like they are set up to remove trees.*
 - **Project team response:** Need this plan in place to advance some of the ordinance update pieces.
- 8) *Front yard maintenance – EJCGC had discussed that many of those homes receiving that maintenance were in low-income areas. Want to find ways to incentivize people. Need to find ways to help cover unaffordable costs of tree maintenance. Lack of equity.*
- 9) *Community education. Are people adequately watering trees in their yards? Need outreach. Can there be information as part of the low-water use application that provide info about tree watering needs?*
 - **Project team response:** Yes, great idea!

#444

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **12:01pm** [Comment ID: 2613] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

It is claimed that “the city didn’t have the resources to continue.” Thus trees in post-World War II neighborhoods that were not properly planned with a planting strip between the sidewalk and the street, and/or no sidewalks, and many of which are in disadvantaged communities, were abandoned due to budget costs: “financial resources to continue, and it negatively impacted board tree maintenance capacity.” These neighborhoods became collateral damage, thrown under the bus. This is simply unacceptable. Planting trees in these neighborhoods will not necessarily solve the problem of shading walkways, bikeways and homes without a targeted approach.

10) *City should be looking into marketing for this thing. Needs to have central management from the City*

11) *Document is amazing! Full of information.*

12) *For easement issue. Isn't it a policy issue?*

445

- **Project team response:** No policy around it. Something that changed prior to the 1994 Urban Forest Management Plan.
 - *If owner gave permission, you could do it.*
 - **Project team response:** Theoretically, but we would need a program in place to do so. Liability and cost are major concerns that makes this infeasible. Operationally it would be challenging and very inefficient because each property owner would need to opt-in and give permission, likely resulting in a patchwork of homes receiving care. We won't have more staff or money to do this so a program of this type would decrease City tree maintenance overall, which was a major factor for moving away from the practice originally.
 - *What about overarching benefit of reducing urban heat island impact? Liability concerns of climate change. Lots of benefits from trees (e.g., multi-modal safety, etc.). Looking at doing something precedent setting. How do we make these big goals happen?*

13) *Community partnerships and awareness. Need that first to bring in the money needed for the UFP. Would want to see that as part of the priority of implementation.*

14) *State Water Board outdoor water efficiency standards decrease amount allocated for water providers for outdoor water use. What about incentives for outdoor asphalt removal that have related benefit? Asphalt is part of the water efficiency score. Can you look at all City incentives city wide.*

- **Project team response:** Yes, we will talk with DOU
 - *Fellows at Air District are working on an urban heat island project. Trees are fantastic, but also cool pavements. Both heat mitigation measures together.*
 - *Doesn't have to be an either or. How do you make it work together at a high level. But driveways – do people need that much parking? Can there be incentives to remove pavement? And remaining pavement could be cool pavements. Reducing parking and replacing with trees.*
 - *Cal Fire: reflective paints are not proven yet. More of a band-aid approach. Caution around this approach.*
 - *State laws that reduce and/or eliminate requirements for off-street parking (e.g., not required for ADUs, not required for other new development (??))*

#445

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **12:02pm** [Comment ID: 2614] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

The city claims getting property owners to opt-in and give permission to resume this program, “likely resulting in a patchwork of homes receiving care” is infeasible. Wouldn’t 2 or 3 homes on each street with what would become large, well-maintained street trees create a benefit for the entire block. The city claims it would “decrease City tree maintenance overall, which was a major factor from moving away from the practice originally.”

Obviously the homes in the Fab 40s and other high resource areas of the city have the means to hire arborists and maintain the abandoned trees. Disadvantaged communities will remain without shade, which is a public health issue. Deeming everything to be sufficient if a person is within walking distance of a park will not shade the trees or homes where people actually live.

- 15) *Also artificial turf removal. Can City ban? Not supposed to have artificial turf under the drip line of the tree. Not in the tree ordinance (Title 12.56), but in a separate City policy (Title 17).* 446
- 16) *Objective design standards are needed to preserve existing canopy in infill projects. Matt and Ngyuen (Planning staff) said they were going to start working on that.*
- **Project team response:** Yes, CDD has started working on the Missing Middle Housing update and our project team are engaged in discussions with them about the needs of trees/canopy related to those updates.
- 17) *Old arena side in Natomas is a giant parking lot with dying trees. Want to see parking garages rather than sprawl. With solar on top*
- *Or transit and active transportation so we don't need parking lots!*
- 18) *Home insurance conflicts. Home insurance providers are pulling out of CA. They are wanting people to remove all trees on property to receive insurance (they are looking for any reason to drop coverage). Does the City fit into that conversation? Discussion with the insurance commissioner? Using wildfires as excuse, even in urban areas.*
- **Project team response:** This is a great flag. We will looking this. 447
- 19) *NASA cool community project. Projected that doubling the canopy would reduce ambient air temperature by a couple degrees.*
- 20) *Want to see pervious pavement if pavement is needed in the future. Concern about flooding. Want a holistic approach to ordinances so that they work together to create a green city.*
- 21) *North Natomas Development Commission reviews proposals (e.g., a hotel). They are including a bioretention facility as part of the periphery of the facility. Includes trees in facilities.*
- *But caution that the correct trees are planted. Needs to be carefully designed.*
 - *Rain gardens. DC will design these for you.*
 - *North Natomas has a lot of retention basins. Not a combined storm-sewer system.*
- 22) *Post-project clean-up. Frustration about working with the City since they see old materials (e.g., stakes or out of date irrigation).*
- **Project team response:** Can you give more details about the project that has issues?
 - *Native tree planting*
 - *Regional park is mostly undeveloped. Lots of construction debris that doesn't make it safe to use. Sheep and goats do weed maintenance.*
- 23) *Process question: Best case scenario. When will it get all of the necessary approvals and to start implementation?*
- **Project team response:** Firstly, we are not waiting for the plan adoption for high-level things we know are needed (e.g., increased planting in DACs). Already got approval to add trees to street design update and the Streets for People Active Transportation Plan.

#446

Posted by **Francesca Reitano** on **05/27/2024** at **12:03pm** [Comment ID: 2615] - [Link](#)

Flag

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

Since the time of this meeting, a bill was passed in the Legislature that allows cities to ban artificial turf. This is definitely something to consider for the Urban Forest Plan. It could certainly be banned on park strips, i.e. the public right-of-way where the city plants its trees (but property owner is required to maintain - and some are using artificial grass).

It would be great to ban it for lawns, but that might go beyond the purview of the tree ordinance. It is currently banned under the dripline of trees in yards in city ordinance 17.612.010(A)(1)(b).

Here is the bill (SB 676; Stats. 2023, ch. 498)

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB676

#447

Posted by **Deb Sullivan** on **05/07/2024** at **3:05pm** [Comment ID: 2306] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This is happening right now (5/2024) - we are in the city and SAFECO/Liberty sent us a non-renewal notice because our neighbor has a tree between our houses that slightly overhangs our roof. Insurers are now using satellite photos to audit properties they insure. They need to be brought into the mix else this project will fail - people are being forced - right now- to remove perfectly good trees!

Best case scenario is public review will start in Feb. and go through March-early April. Processing comments will take a couple of months. The best case is adoption middle of May. Otherwise, will wait until after the budget is adopted in mid-July.

24) *How can this group support next steps?*

- **Project team response:** Go back into the plan during public review. Share with networks. Want this to get a lot of detailed, diverse feedback. For implementation – not quite there yet. PAC will be tapped as part of that process. Getting through this step first.

25) *Will the PAC receive direct responses to the comments they submitted? Want to know how they were addressed. Access to public comments?*

- **Project team response:** Wasn't going to directly respond to each comment. Happy to have deeper discussions as requested. Everyone will have access to the summary of public comments with responses as part of the Council report package. Responses will be grouped by topic.

26) *Want to see another canopy assessment. This wasn't highlighted in top takeaways. Last time was 2018/2019. Want to see change from "ground zero" from adoption.*

- **Project team response:** Noted. There is an implementation measure regarding the more frequent canopy assessments.
 - *Been 5 years from the Davey Resource Group. Money issue?*
 - **Project team response:** Everything is tradeoffs. Could spend money on a canopy assessment, but would have to reduce spending elsewhere.
 - *How much did it cost?*
 - **Project team response:** Assessment was part of the bigger DRG contract. We can look into determining how much was specifically for the canopy data.

27) *35% increase of tree canopy for what? What's the baseline for the 35% increase?*

- **Project team response:** The goal is not an increase from a baseline – the goal is to achieve 35% of ALL city land area as being covered by tree canopy.

28) *Conflicts/alignment with missing middle housing. Front setbacks are being removed with missing middle. Need to save space for trees. Many benefits from those trees. Don't want lots to be developed without any space for trees.*

- **Project team response:** Currently working with the missing middle housing staff on this update and improving provisions for trees.
 - *Setbacks for second story of home that allow for tree canopy. Some housing advocates want to remove that setback. Though flexible design standards to save trees on request. Want to see sign off of trees being planted as part of the site.*
 - **Project team response:** Kevin and Rachel are coordinating with them. Requesting reductions in rear yard setbacks instead of setbacks in front in public realm. Talking about minimum

reasonable space for trees and requiring trees in development. Will share this info and have that dialogue with them.

- *PUDs – can have a very large tree that would provide shade for multiple homes on a street.*

29) *Charts of sizes of trees that would be planted. Lots of favoritism toward small trees, not medium or large. Want to see large trees along streets and sidewalks. Want to maximize canopy where there is space for it.*

- **Project team response:** The tables don't recommend which trees we plant. One is about how many of each size of tree would be needed to meet canopy goal (pg. 21). The other table is for trees currently on the street tree list (pg. 47)
 - *Want to see 8' in parkways to have enough space for trees in parkway strip.*
 - *Can all ordinances be aligned to meaningfully contribute to City canopy?*

30) *Key opportunities: private industry partnerships. Want to see no net loss of tree canopy. Tree removals would require tree planting elsewhere. Tree planting on schools. Maintenance is a big challenge. Want to see that partnership. Partnership with State. Cal Fire program was mandated to increase canopy cover across the state. Also urban canopy cover assessment taking place statewide.*

31) *Lots of state buildings in Sacramento. Lots of new developments that haven't included a lot of tree canopy.*

- *State buildings and public schools are DSA. Fall under state building code. That code doesn't encourage planting a lot of trees.*
 - *State of CA recently establishes 35% canopy cover, 50% parking lot coverage requirements for NEW schools*

32) *Underground infrastructure. Conflicts with SMUD infrastructure. City investment in EV charging will pose a conflict. Want the City to map these out together. Share that information regarding planting potential.*

APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

To get input on community priorities for preparation of the Sacramento Urban Forest Plan, the following survey was available online and distributed at pop-up events from August–October 2018. The following summarizes the responses to the survey and the numerous individual comments. Each written comment has been “coded” with a brief description that helps capture what the response is about and allows for better summarizing the results of the entire survey effectively. The coded summaries of the written responses are provided below the results of the corresponding question.

Sacramento Urban Forest Master Plan: Community Survey

The trees planted throughout the City of Sacramento are its “urban forest.” An urban forest is the network of trees in a city. Scientists have found that urban forests provide many environmental and health benefits. Unlike natural forests, however, most City trees have to be planted and cared for by people.

We really want to hear Sacramento residents’ ideas! Your responses to this survey will be used to create the Urban Forest Master Plan. The Urban Forest Master Plan is important because it will establish the City’s goals and actions necessary to ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the benefits of a healthy urban forest in Sacramento.

The survey should take about 5 to 10 minutes. Thank you for your input.

1)

Trees are important to the quality of life in Sacramento.	Response %	Response Count
Very True	93.05%	1,581
True	6.42%	109
Not True	0.24%	4
Definitely, not true	0.18%	3
Not Sure	0.12%	2
TOTAL		1,699

#448

Posted by **Aimee Barnes** on **06/18/2024** at **5:34pm** [Comment ID: 2950] - [Link](#)

Question

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Does the Survey provide social demographic data of respondents? Also can the respondents be disaggregated by zip code or neighborhood?

2)

I value trees for the following reason: (select your top five)	Response %	Response Count
They shade streets, sidewalks, and bike trails	76.46%	1,299
They clean the air	70.69%	1,201
Their beauty	70.22%	1,193
They bring birds and wildlife	46.62%	792
They save energy	46.14%	784
They support human health	41.44%	704
They reduce greenhouse gases	37.3%	636
They define my neighborhood	35.31%	600
I enjoy being outside in shady parks	25.78%	438
They shade parking lots	19.42%	330
They increase property values	13.89%	236
They absorb stormwater runoff	11.54%	196
Other (please specify)	5.06%	86
TOTAL		1,699

Respondents who selected “Other” wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Desire to select more than five reasons they value trees
- Importance of trees to Sacramento’s city identity
- Importance of trees for cooling and urban heat reduction
- Importance of trees for ecological and environmental health
- Trees providing calming and connection to nature
- Trees improving quality of life and livability
- Trees providing food
- Trees providing resilience to climate change
- Trees improving air quality
- Trees providing noise pollution reduction

3)

Are there enough trees in your neighborhood?	Response %	Response Count
No, not enough trees	55.56%	944
Yes, there are enough trees	38.38%	652
Not sure	4.83%	82
There are too many trees	1.24%	21
TOTAL		1,699

4)

Are there enough trees throughout the city?	Response %	Response Count
No, not enough trees	73.87%	1,255
Yes, there are enough trees	16.01%	272
Not sure	9.54%	162
There are too many trees	0.59%	10
TOTAL		1,699

5)

Is there anything else you would like to say about trees in Sacramento?	Response Count
	1,012 Answered
	687 Skipped
TOTAL	1,699

Respondents wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

Increasing canopy and planting trees:

- Respondents described a desire to see more trees planted, desire for large scale planting efforts, concern about lack of trees in new development, desire for more large and mature trees, desire for more park school and parking lot trees, desire for removed trees to be replaced, expressed concern about small trees being planted to replace large trees, and recommended specific planting locations.

Protecting existing trees:

- Respondents described the importance of proactive preservation of mature and heritage trees, opposition to removing trees, emphasis on caring for existing trees, concern about private property owners removing trees, and concern about topping and excessive pruning.

Proper care and maintenance:

- Respondents emphasized the importance of managing tree hazards and unhealthy/dead/dying trees. Emphasized the importance of proper care for safety and tree health. Described the importance of maintenance for pest and disease control and longevity of mature trees. Expressed uncertainty about who holds responsibility for maintenance, concerns about proper watering and drought stress, and concerns about maintenance costs.

Equity and distribution of trees across the city:

- Respondents noted canopy cover changed significantly between certain neighborhoods and expressed concern that there were not enough trees in socio-economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Recognition of trees as a defining feature of Sacramento:

- Respondents identified trees as important to livability in Sacramento, as an important consideration in why they live in or moved to Sacramento, a desire to rebrand Sacramento as “the City of Trees”, and trees as beautifying their neighborhoods and as important cultural resources.

Criticism of city policies and programs:

- Respondents expressed concerns that city policies and enforcement efforts are insufficient to protect existing canopy, that tree requirements in new development are insufficient, that tree removals for development need to be more strictly regulated, that maintenance of city trees is insufficient, and a perception that city services are unequally distributed between all neighborhoods.

Appreciation for the benefits and importance of trees:

- Respondents expressed appreciation for the benefits trees provide including shading, cooling, beauty, environmental benefits, crime prevention, air quality, increased home values, and increased appeal of neighborhoods. Respondents also expressed preferences and appreciation for specific tree species.

Concerns about trees:

- Respondents expressed concerns about property damage from trees, allergies, the tree population aging and dying off, and specific criticism of certain tree species. A few respondents questioned the importance of trees as a city priority.

Concerns about conflicts between trees and other infrastructure:

- Respondents expressed concerns about conflicts between trees and utilities (both overhead and underground), streetlights, sidewalks, and generally trees being planted in unsuitable locations that cause damage.

Concerns about climate change:

- Respondents raised concerns about the impact of climate change on the urban forest, specifically issues regarding tree species diversity, hardiness, and adaptability to increased drought and extreme storms. Respondents also highlighted the importance of trees for combatting climate change, including for air quality and urban cooling.

Importance of native trees:

- Respondents expressed appreciation for native oaks and heritage trees and identified native trees importance for the natural ecology and wildlife as a priority.

Addressing food insecurity:

- Respondents hoped to see more fruit and nut bearing trees in the city and increased gleaned efforts to provide food to low-income and un-housed populations.

New programs:

- Respondents wanted to see workforce development programs to provide entry level employment to local youth and young adults. Respondents wanted to see the city develop incentive programs for private maintenance, planting, and watering.

Desire for more collaboration across sectors:

- Respondents showed support for the Sacramento Tree Foundation and desire for SMUD and PG&E to be more proactive in managing tree/utility conflicts and replanting efforts. Respondents expressed desire to see increased planting in collaboration with schools, including outdoor education for K-12.

Appreciation of city efforts to maintain trees:

- Respondents expressed appreciation for city maintenance crews caring for trees along streets and in parks and want to see increased funding for maintenance.

6)

Did you know that the City has a program for planting and taking care of public trees? Please check all the answers below that are true for you:	Response %	Response Count
I was aware the City responds to tree emergencies (falling trees and limbs)	58.26%	924
I have seen trees with signs that say they'll be removed	42.12%	668
I did not know that the City has a program for planting and taking care of trees	39.03%	619
I have used the City's tree website or called for information about trees	17.02%	270
I have read in the newspaper about what the City is doing to plant and take care of trees	46.14%	784
I have asked for a permit to remove a City tree	2.59%	41
Other (please specify)	12.36%	196
TOTAL		1,586

Respondents who selected "Other" wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Criticism of the city program
- Limited knowledge/uncertainty about the city tree program
- Confusion about the city program vs other programs
- Praise of the city program
- General comments, including specific issues and personal experiences

7)

Do you think that the public trees in Sacramento are getting good care from the City?	Response %	Response Count
I don't know	39.22%	622
Yes	36.82%	584
No	15.38%	244
Yes, very good	5.23%	83
No, not at all	3.34%	53
TOTAL		1,586

8)

Where does Sacramento need to plant more trees? Please pick your top three.	Response %	Response Count
In neighborhoods lacking trees	82.98%	1,316
Along public streets	51.51%	817
In parking lots	34.87%	553
In industrial areas or business parks	28.44%	451
At schools	25.98%	412
In median islands in roads	25.09%	398
In parks	21.88%	347
Along trails and bike paths	19.92%	316
Sacramento has enough trees and doesn't need to plant any more	1.77%	28
Other (please specify)	7.57%	120
TOTAL		1,586

Respondents who selected “Other” wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- In disadvantaged communities (specifically areas in South and North Sacramento were frequently mentioned)
- Along streets and sidewalks to make biking, walking, and public transit safer
- To shade buildings: apartments, new homes, and commercial businesses
- To replace removed trees
- Specific locations: addresses, schools, vacant lots, parks, playgrounds
- General comments, including specific issues and personal experiences

9)

What would you like to learn about? Please check all that you would enjoy.	Response %	Response Count
How to properly water trees during drought	51.70%	820
Caring for trees on my property	42.18%	669
Different kinds of trees in the City	42.06%	667
Caring for street trees	33.98%	539
How to get free trees to plant at my house	31.27%	496
How to contact the City about tree problems	24.19%	395
Best places in Sacramento to see trees	21.25%	337
Planting trees	21.19%	336
How trees save money	16.02%	254
Benefits of trees	13.37%	212
How to recycle and dispose of leaves and tree trimmings	12.99%	206
Jobs in the tree care industry	7.06%	112
Other (please specify)	10.84%	172

Respondents who selected “Other” wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Tree care and maintenance
- City policies and programs
- How to get involved in supporting tree services
- General urban forestry concepts
- Agroforestry and urban food forests
- Resources for renters and landlords
- Multilingual resources
- Not interested/already knowledgeable

10)

What would inspire you to plant more trees? Check all that apply to you.	Response %	Response Count
Free or low-cost trees	61.60%	977
Get money back (a rebate)	37.89%	601
Have big tree classes in my neighborhood	34.62%	549
Nothing, there are enough trees	6.37%	101
Other (please specify) *Coded responses listed below	24.02%	381
TOTAL		1,586

Respondents who selected “Other” wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

- Education and outreach about why tree planting is important
- Community events (some respondents recommended raffles and give aways at events)
- Enthusiasm from their neighbors (i.e., promotion at neighborhoods association meetings, being a part of a community-wide effort)
- They would but they do not have the space or personal property
- Assistance with planting and maintenance
- Education about planting, care, watering, and maintenance
- Do not want to plant because of concerns with water usage and root damage
- Financial incentives such as grants and subsidies for planting, maintenance, dead tree removal, and water
- Environmental benefits of planting
- They want to but are unable to plant due to restrictions (i.e., HOA, landlord, etc.)

11)

Do you have any other comments on how to increase tree planting in Sacramento?	Response Count
TOTAL	491

Respondents wrote responses that fell into the following categories:

Policy and Regulation:

- Enforce existing policies
- Develop new policies and codes requiring trees
- Increase funding
- Increase city tree inventory by taking responsibility for all front yard trees and maintenance cost

Education and Awareness:

- Advertise existing programs
- Perform education and awareness-raising campaigns about tree care topics
- Provide educational resources about the benefits and importance of trees
- Provide education about the value and importance of California native oaks

Community Engagement:

- Host community tree planting events and provide volunteer opportunities
- Provide neighborhood-based programs and workshops to encourage residents to plant and care for trees
- Focus on disadvantaged communities for education, outreach, planting, and maintenance programs
- Provide education to K-12 youth in coordination with schools

Tree Management and Maintenance:

- Properly fund and implement maintenance of newly planted trees on public and private property throughout their lifetime
- Prioritize preserving existing mature trees and limit tree removals
- Ensure diseased and dying trees are quickly removed and replaced

Strategic Planting:

- Target school districts and school campuses for tree planting and youth education
- Prioritize planting in low-canopy disadvantaged neighborhoods and streets
- Use documented tree canopy cover to monitor and create a plan for city policy and practices to expand tree canopy cover
- Strategically plant trees to shade playgrounds, parks, vacant lots, parking lots, streets, and on/off ramps

- Maximize canopy on city property
- Replace removed trees and target age-related succession planting

Financial Incentives

- Offer low or no-interest loans, rebates, and grant programs to private residential property for tree maintenance
- Providing incentives to commercial property owners to improve existing parking lots and landscape areas
- Offer rebates, and economic incentives to increase tree planting
- Offer free trees and tree care supplies (i.e., irrigation, pruning services, etc.)
- Develop a workforce development program

Appreciation

- For trees, city services, and community engagement on tree topics

Personal Anecdotes

No comment

12)

What is your age?	Response %	Response Count
56+	37.64%	592
46–55	15.83%	249
36–45	20.15%	317
26–35	21.93%	345
18–25	<1%	68
Under 18	<1%	2
TOTAL		1,573

13)

Please check all that are true about you.	Response %	Response Count
I live in Sacramento	91.99%	1,447
I have planted trees in my own yard or I’ve convinced neighbors to plant trees in their yards	59.82%	941
I work in Sacramento or I come to Sacramento often	54.61%	859
I have donated to a non-profit tree organization or I’m a volunteer for one	22.70%	357
I have planted public trees as a volunteer	16.47%	259
None of the above	<1%	10
TOTAL		1,573

APPENDIX E: POP-UP WORKSHOP SUMMARY



Pop-up Workshop Series Summary of Input

Project Overview

The City of Sacramento has a long-standing reputation as the City of Trees. Emphasis on the importance of trees in Sacramento dates to its founding in 1849.

In August 2016, the City adopted comprehensive updates to the City Code to update and clarify its tree regulations. During the process of revising the city’s tree-related ordinances, additional policy issues were raised regarding the City’s urban forest and its future. With a changing environment and new technological tools, an updated Urban Forest Master Plan is required to preserve the health and stewardship of Sacramento’s urban forest.

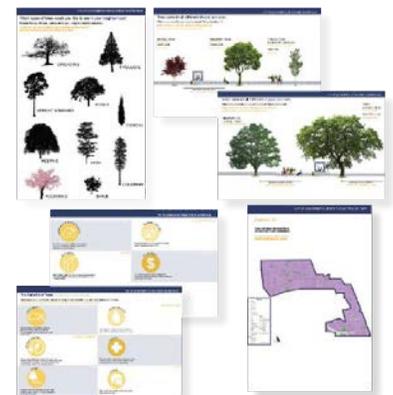
The City’s updated Urban Forest Master Plan will address the protection, maintenance, sustainability, and enhancement of Sacramento’s tree canopy, and allow the City to establish goals and monitor our progress.

Pop-up Workshop Series Objective

The objective of the pop-up workshop series was to engage community members throughout the City of Sacramento in a grassroots effort. The project team and the Tree Partners attended several community events throughout each district in Sacramento to obtain input.

Questions presented at each pop-up workshop included:

- What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?
- Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood? Where do they fit?
- Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you.
- Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

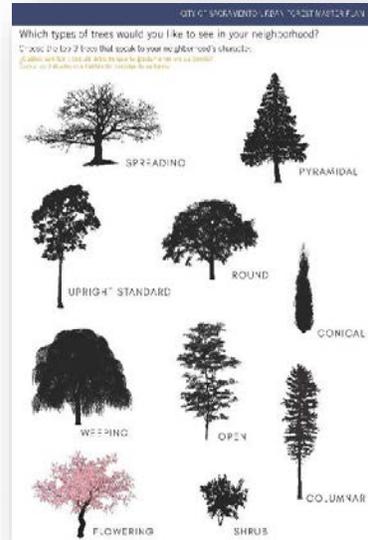
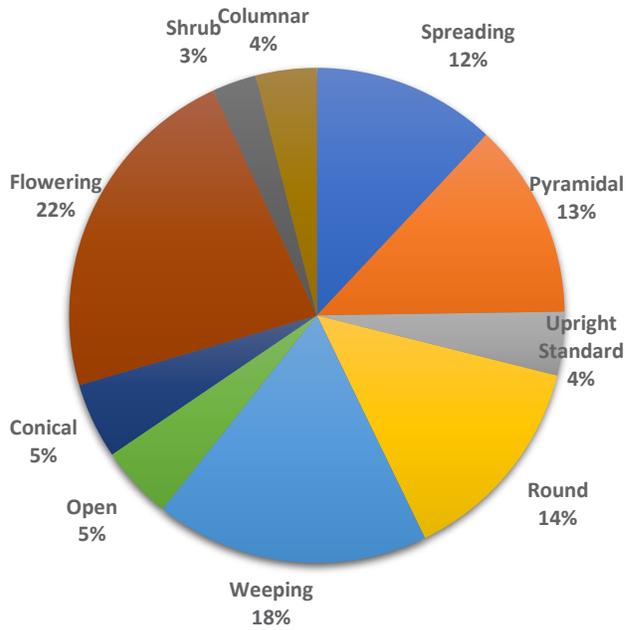


A total of 13 pop-up workshops were held by the project team and the Tree Partners in each district in Sacramento. The various events included farmers markets, family-friendly music and movie events, community tree planting workshops, a high school, and various neighborhood association events.

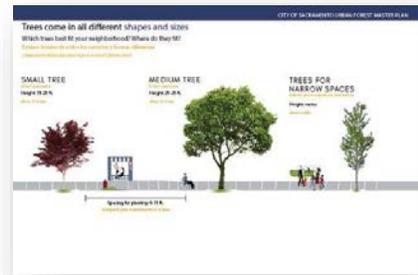
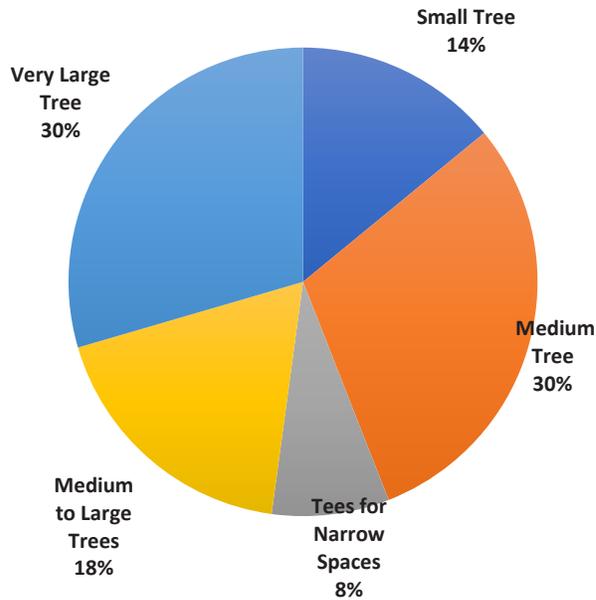
Pop-up Workshop Series Summary: All Districts

Below are community responses received from 13 pop-up workshops in each district, organized by question. The graphs below depict the responses received from all districts combined.

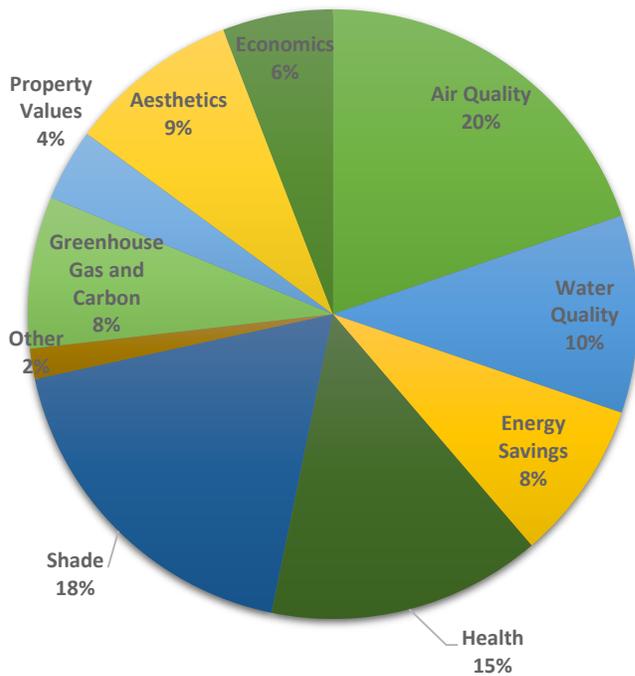
What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?



Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?



Pop-up Workshop Series Summary by District

Below are community responses received from 13 pop-up workshops in each district, organized by district.

District 1

The project team held one pop-up workshop in District 1 at Councilmember Angelique Ashby’s First Friday family event.

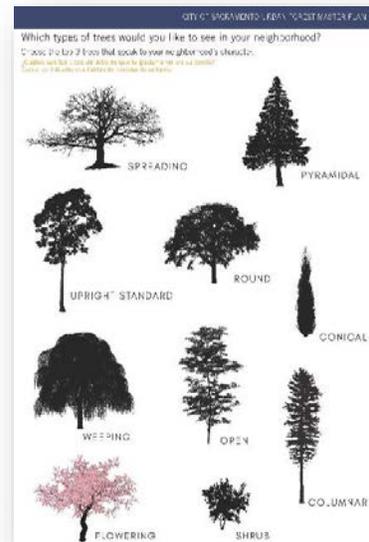
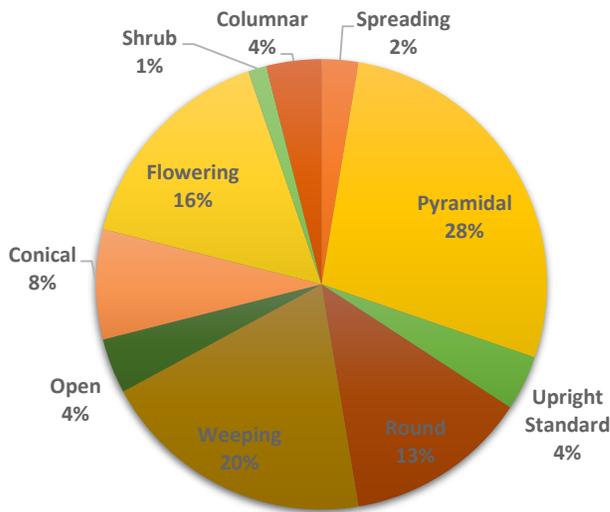
The pop-up was held on Friday, September 7, at Natomas Regional Park, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The project team received input from more than 30 community members, including families and children.

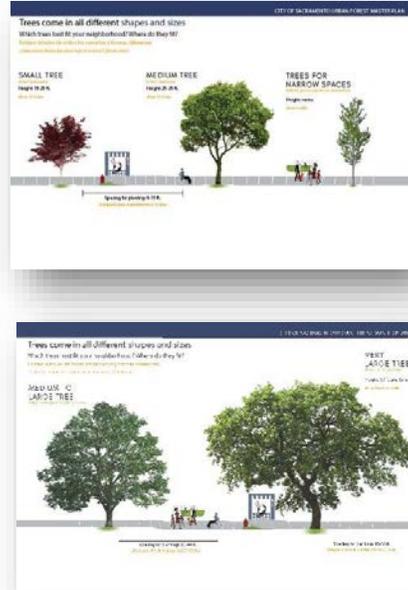
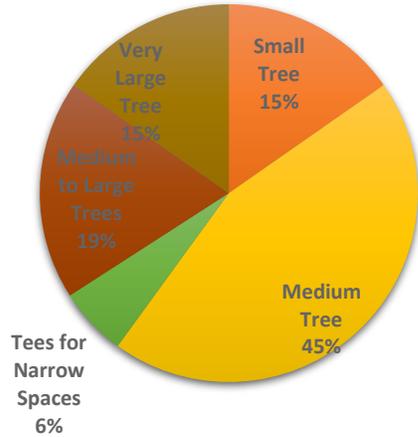
Below is a compilation of feedback received from District 1.



What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?



Comments:

- Small trees in the center divider.
- Fewer trees with sap. Small trees mean fewer leaves to rake.
- Medium trees in parking lots, but no trees with sap! It sticks to cars.
- No berry trees.
- I am considering buying a home, and when there are large trees with shade around, it is an incentive to buy.
- Fruit trees are good 449

Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?

No input received.



#449

Posted by **Rani Isaac** on **05/07/2024** at **4:27pm** [Comment ID: 2316] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

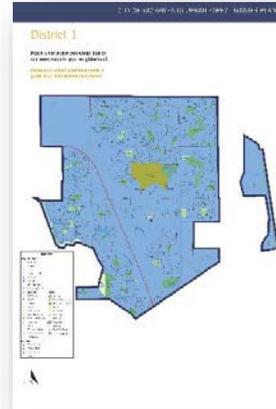
Fruit trees are so important to the birds and to those of us who are pinching pennies. Every year, my one fig tree keeps the jays and mockingbirds well fed. They get the upper third of the tree. I harvest the rest. I also have a young persimmon that has to be protected from the birds with nets and an orange tree. Community gardens like Wild Rose Park support fruit growing for those with small lots. Please help us add more.

Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

- Along Mabry Drive and Cliff Breeze Place
- North Natomas Regional Park
- Tower Center Drive and New Market Drive

Additional comments:

- Weeping willows (at North Natomas Regional Park).
- We have incentive to buy based on trees.
- No trees that rain pollen on ho 450.



#450

Posted by **Katta** on **05/03/2024** at **7:14pm** [Comment ID: 2247] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Please plant trees that produce less pollen and/or balance the sex distribution of the trees so its not just male trees fruitlessly (pun intended) overproducing pollen. Our allergies are very intense here! More than in other cities, but we would love to see more trees.

District 2

The project team held one pop-up workshop in District 2 at Grant Union High School during their lunch hour.

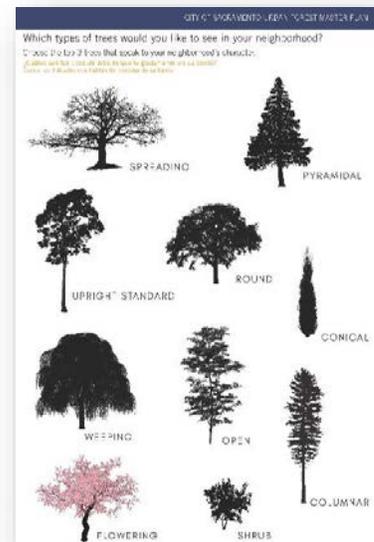
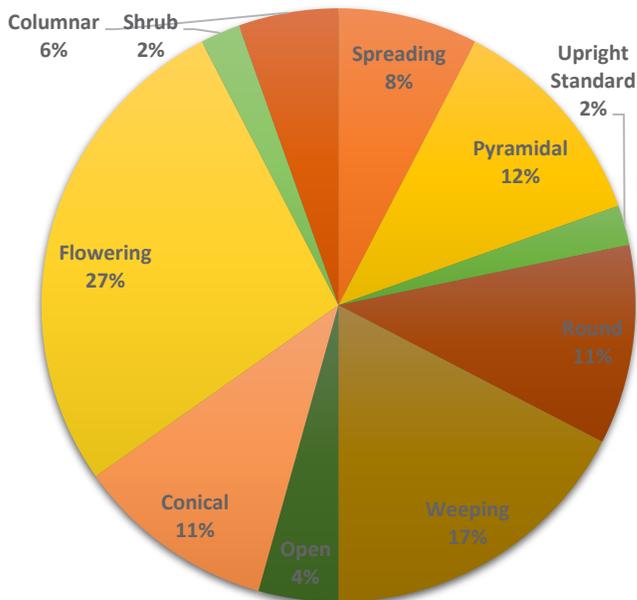
The pop-up was held on Thursday, October 4, in the Promenade at GUHS from 11:55 – 12:35.

The project team received input from more than 40 students, and several faculty members.

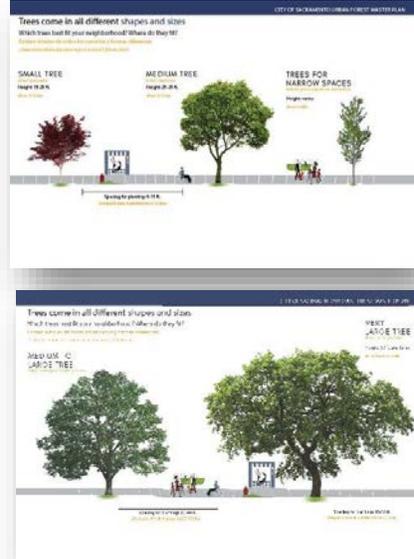
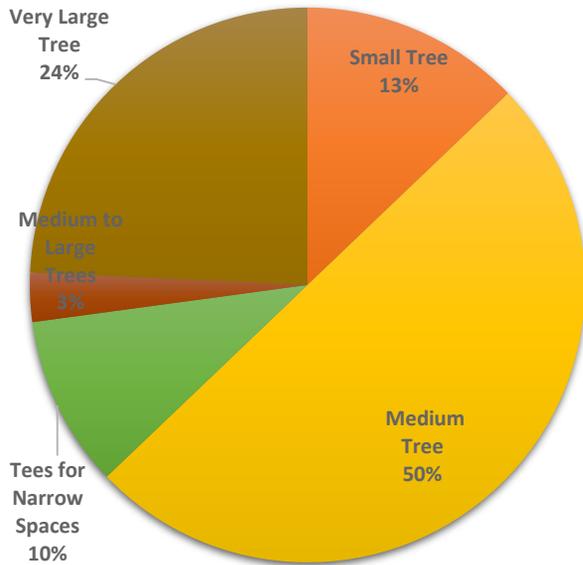
Below is a compilation of feedback received from District 2.



What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



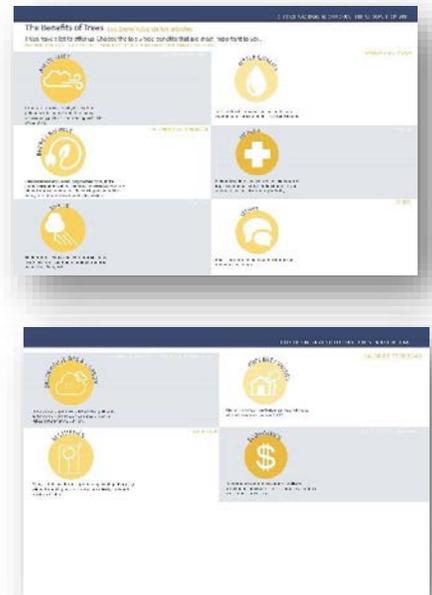
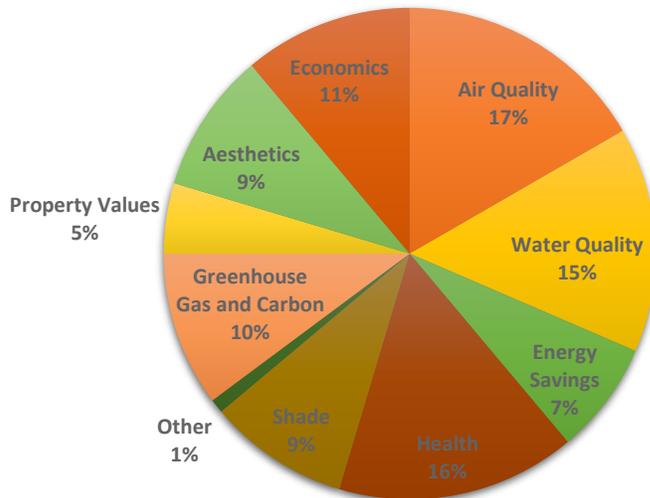
Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?



Comments:

- Plant more native trees

Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?

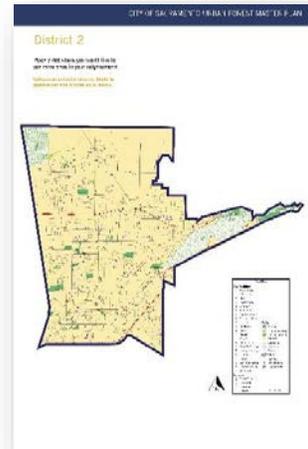


Comments:

- Greenhouse gas reduction helps with the future

Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

No input received.



District 3

The project team held three pop-up workshops in District 3, with the help of the project’s Tree Partner, Sacramento Tree Foundation, at Councilmember Jeff Harris’ Food Truck Mania event at Glen Hall Park, a Sacramento Tree Foundation Mulching event at Gardenland Park, and a Sacramento Tree Foundation Planting Workshop at the South Natomas Community Center.

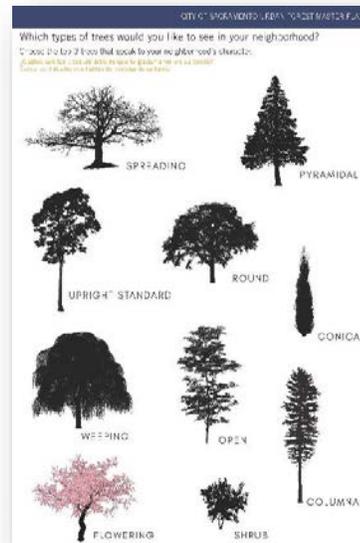
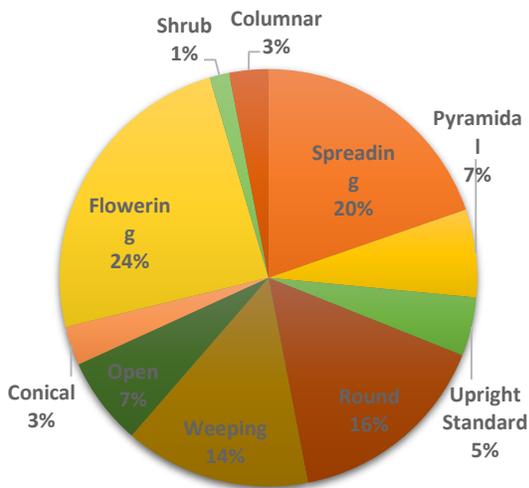
- Food Truck Mania: Friday, August 10
- Mulching Event: Saturday, August 18
- Tree Planting Workshop: Saturday, October 6



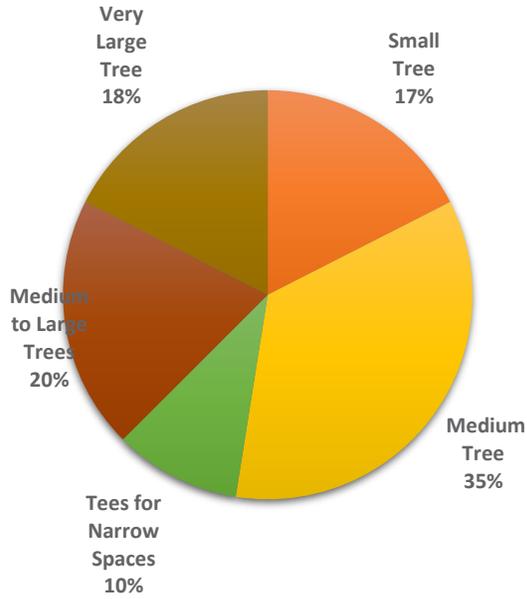
The project team received input from more than 60 community members from all pop-up workshops.

Below is a compilation of feedback received from District 3.

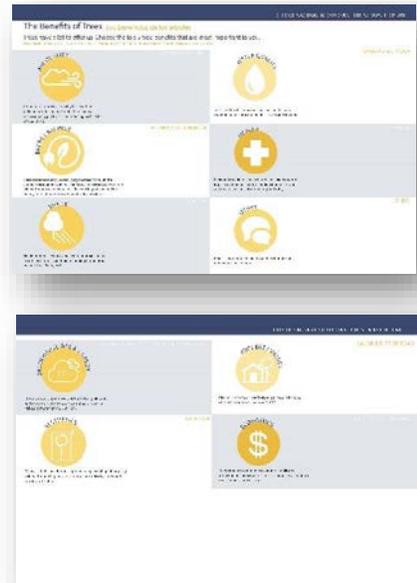
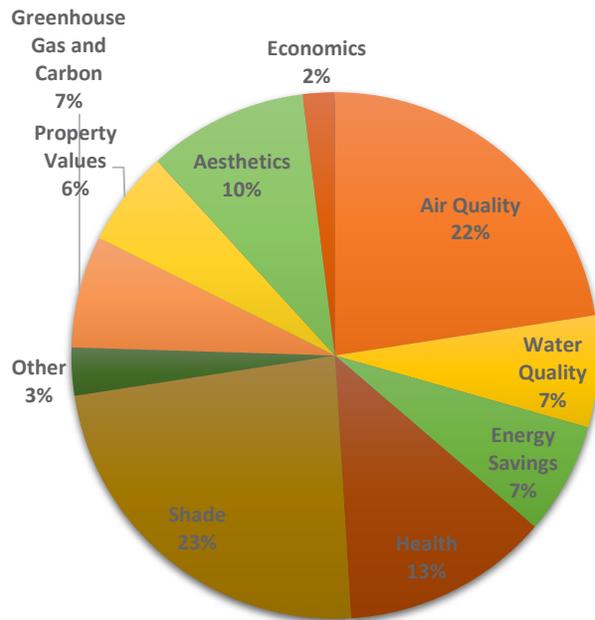
What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?



Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?



Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

- Intersection of Nordyke Drive and Winter Garden Avenue
- Northgate Park
- South Natomas Community Park
- Cal Expo
- Sutter's Landing Regional Park
- Northgate Boulevard and Haggin Avenue
- Mc451ey Park
- Glen Hall Park
- Sandburg Drive
- Caleb Greenwood Elementary School
- Elvas Avenue
- J and 51st Street
- East Portal Park
- Kit Carson Middle School
- Carlson Drive and Messina Drive
- Gardenland park
- West El Camino Avenue
- Winds Parkway
- Northgate Boulevard



#451

Posted by **Kay E Overman** on **04/26/2024** at **3:55pm** [Comment ID: 2200] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

McKinley Park to replace the trees lost to the intentional reduction of groundwater due to the installation of the water overflow project.

District 4

The project team held one pop-up workshop in District 4, at the Saturday morning Midtown Farmer’s Market, on 20th Street between J and K Streets in Downtown Sacramento.

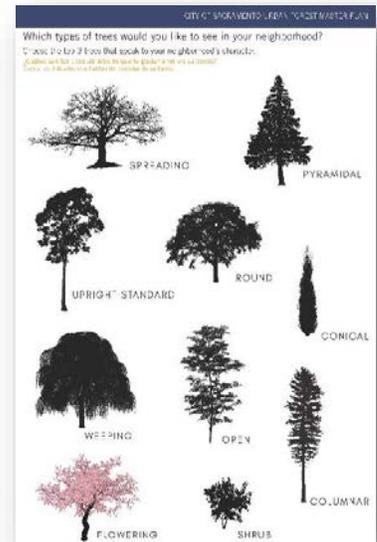
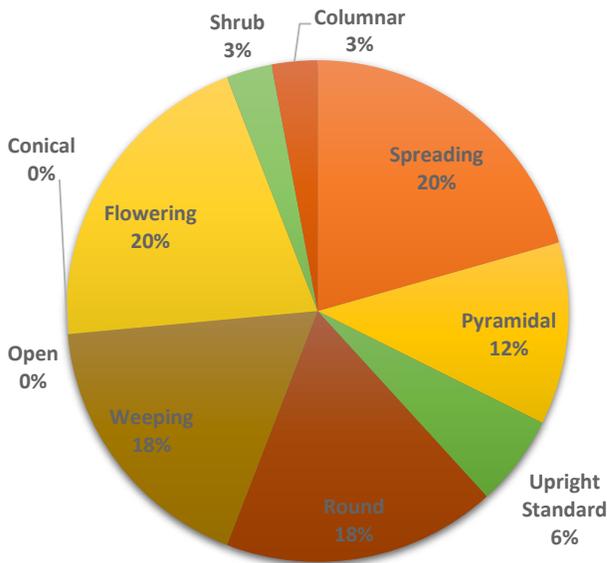
The project team received input from around 25 community members from this pop-up workshop.

Below is a compilation of feedback received from District 4.



452

What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



#452

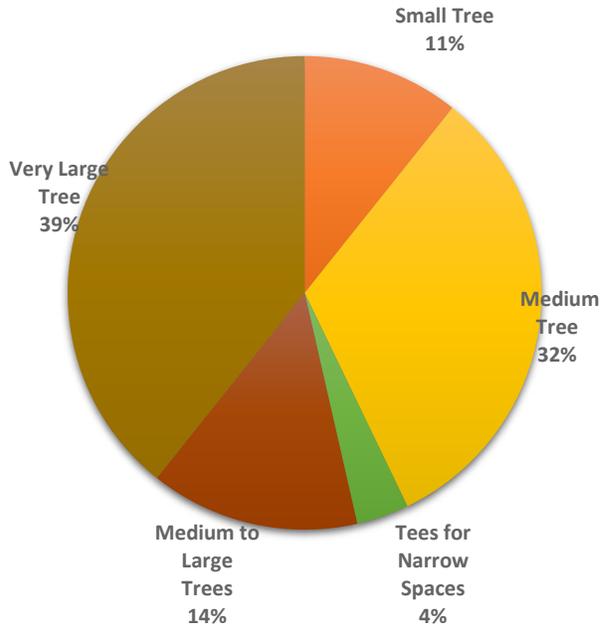
Posted by **Caryl Rose** on **05/03/2024** at **11:32am** [Comment ID: 2238] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

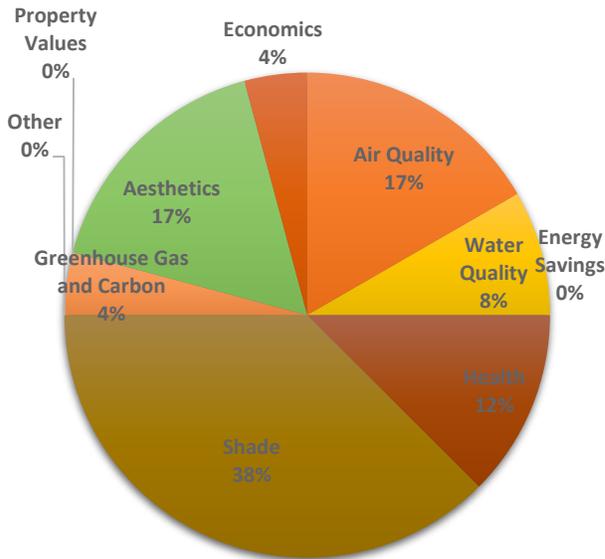
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

In the areas of the city that have been identified, it is my hope the city will work with entities such as the California Native Plant Society and UC Davis to identify location appropriate trees; by this I mean, trees that are appropriate for the central valley and that take into account low water table years and the added pressure on trees due to extreme temperatures. Some trees that could be used in these planting areas are the Northern California Black Walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), which while prohibiting the under-canopy growth of other plants, has low water needs; the Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), which could be planted near riverways and/or streams and is important to birds and butterflies, the California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*); these are some of the 23 trees identified by the California Native Plant Society as appropriate for the Sacramento Valley. I strongly encourage leadership to review and analyze long-term tree planting and their needs as they move forward on this wonderful plan. Long term planning will also need to be included from a cost benefit perspective, related to management and upkeep to include park maintenance costs of these trees, up to and including staffing and watering needs.

Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?

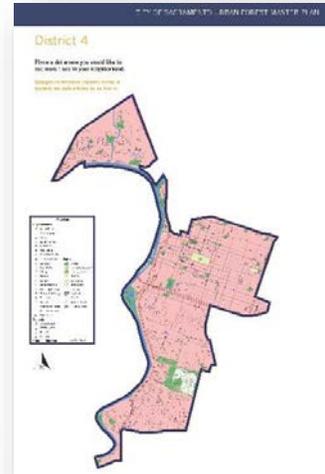


Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?



Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

- West El Camino Avenue
- Gateway Oaks Drive: Natomas Oak Park
- G and 26th Street
- Front Street under I-80
- 3rd Street, Leataata Floyd School
- Broadway and 17th Street
- S and 19th Street



Additional Comments

- Oak Park needs trees
- North Highlands needs more trees
- At the post office downtown, a tree died, was removed and nothing was re-planted.
- Freeport Boulevard needs tree 453
- More trees on main streets, i.e. Boulevards



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#453

Posted by **Ava Scally** on **06/20/2024** at **4:50pm** [Comment ID: 3092] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Please invest in tree cover on Broadway. It will relieve heat stress in this popular transit corridor, add visual calmness for drivers, and make the stretch bearable for pedestrians. Preferably trees over 3 years old to expedite the timeline to benefitting from a mature canopy.

District 5

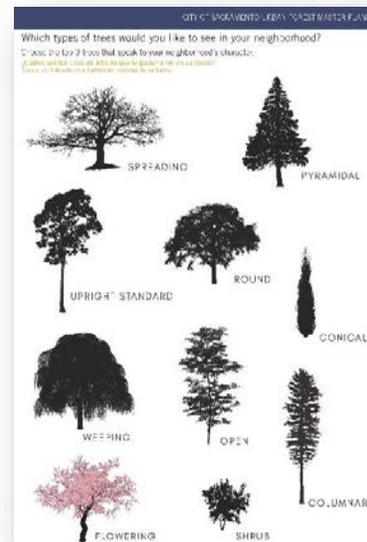
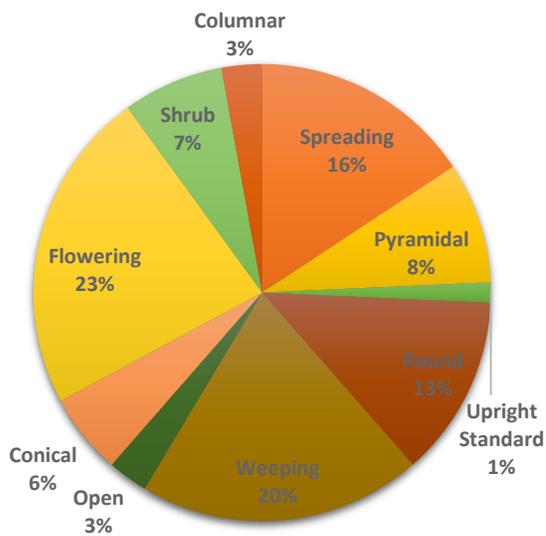
The project team held one pop-up workshop in District 5, at the Saturday morning Oak Park Farmer’s Market, at McClatchy Park on Saturday, September 22.

The project team received input from more than 25 community members from this pop-up workshop.

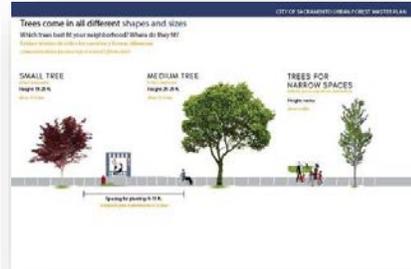
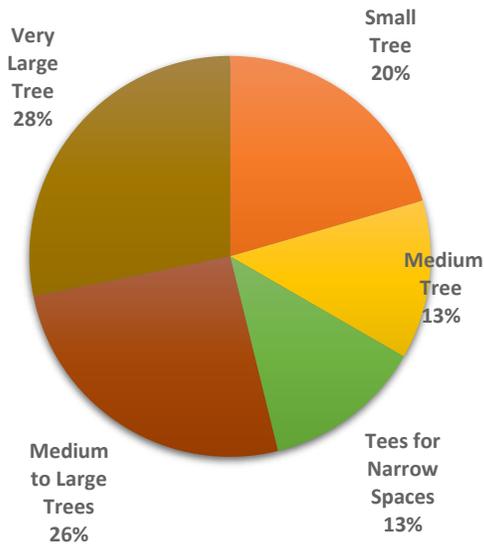
Below is a compilation of feedback received from District 5.



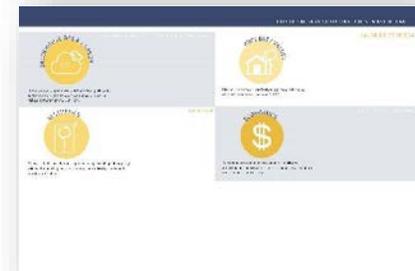
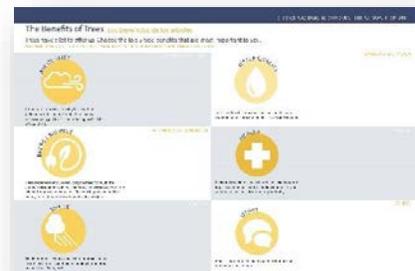
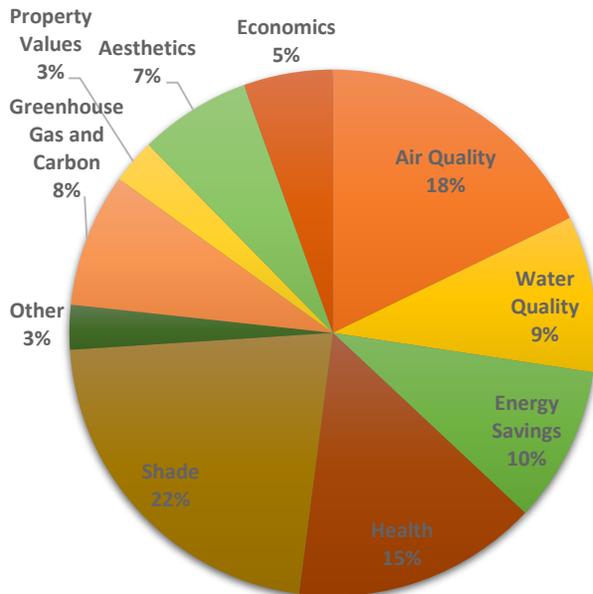
What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?

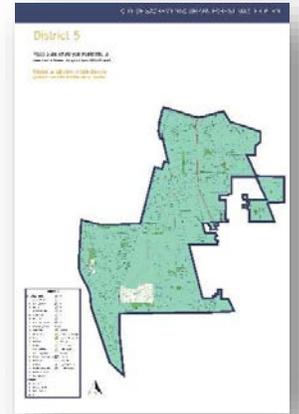


Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?



Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

- 3rd Avenue and Santa Cruz Way
- 6th Avenue by C.K. McClatchy Park between 33rd Street and 37th Street
- 20th Avenue and 52nd Street 53rd Street Alley
- 49th Street and Lawrence Drive
- 25th and 25th Avenue between 36th Street and Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard
- 23rd Avenue and 36th Street
- 28th Street and Fruitridge Road
- Norman Way and Fruitridge Road
- Helen Way and Fruitridge Road
- 35th and 38th Avenue and Freeport Boulevard
- Police Station at Blair Avenue and Belleua Wood Lane
- Pony Express School Park at Los Cerros Drive between San Augustine Way and 58th Avenue
- Woodfield Avenue and South Land Park Drive
- Silver Oak Way and Mooncrest Way



Additional Comments

- Trees at public libraries.
- Along Freeport Boulevard and other major roads (Fruitridge Road, 12th Avenue, Sutterville Road).
- Small to medium trees south of McClatchy Park.
- Near Christian Brothers High School. People walk around a lot there.
- 14th Avenue and Lisetta Avenue. There is a church there and bus stop. Twelve to 15 people ride it, and there is no shade.
- In schoolyards throughout the city.
- Senior community on Broadway.
- 55th Avenue by EDD (Sacramento Job Services).
- Transit stop past Stockton Boulevard.
- By Gerber Road and Florin area



District 6

The project team held three pop-up workshops in District 6 with the help of the Sacramento Tree Foundation. The three events included Councilmember Guerra’s State of the Trees, a Sacramento Tree Foundation Mulching Event, and the District 6 Resource Fair.

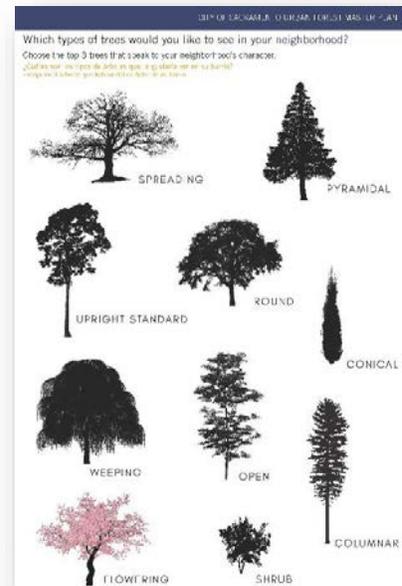
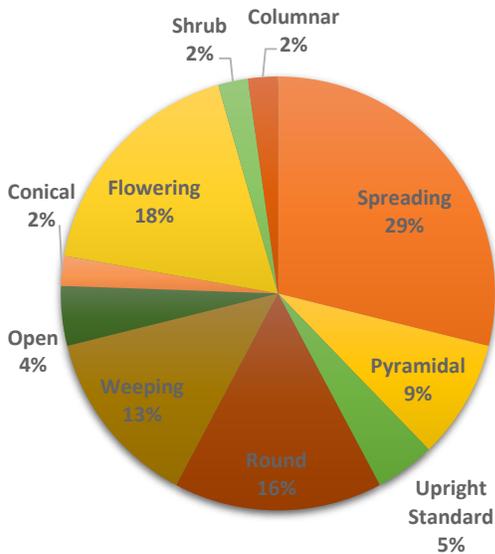
- State of the Trees: Saturday, July 28
- Mulching Event: Saturday, August 18
- Resource Fair: Friday, September 7



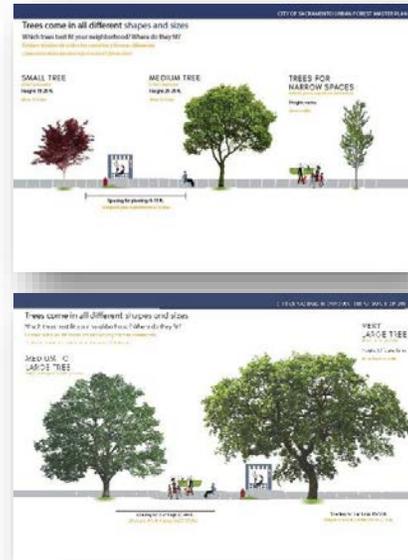
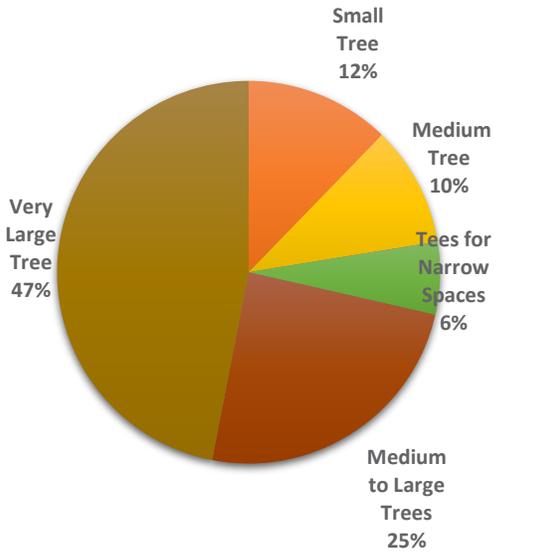
The project team received input from more than 50 community members from all three pop-up workshops.

Below is a compilation of feedback received from District 6.

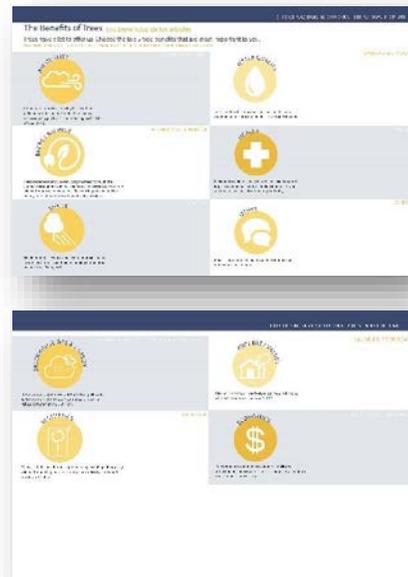
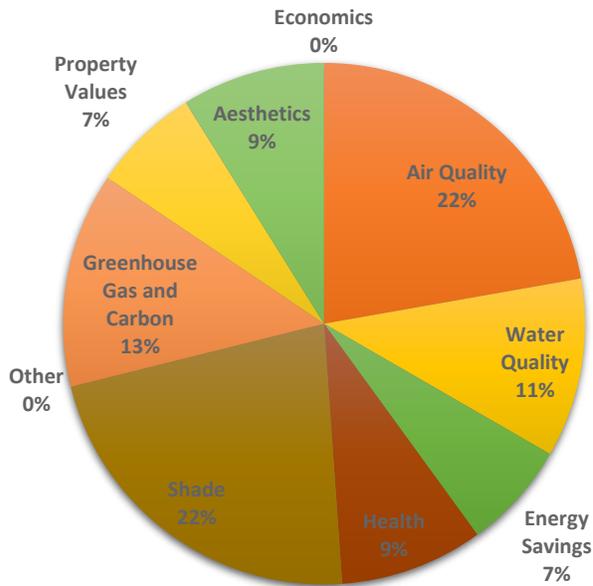
What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?

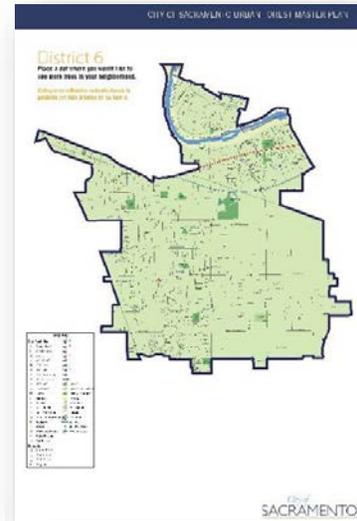


Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?



Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

- Fruitridge Road
- Fruitridge and Power Inn
- 21st Avenue and 65th Street Expressway
- 21st Avenue at 20th Avenue
- T Street by the freeway
- Coloma Park
- Tahoe Park
- Hiram Johnson High School
- Power Inn Road and 32nd Avenue
- Power Inn Road and 37th Avenue
- Sun River Drive by George Sims Park
- Camellia Park
- Elder Creek Road



District 7

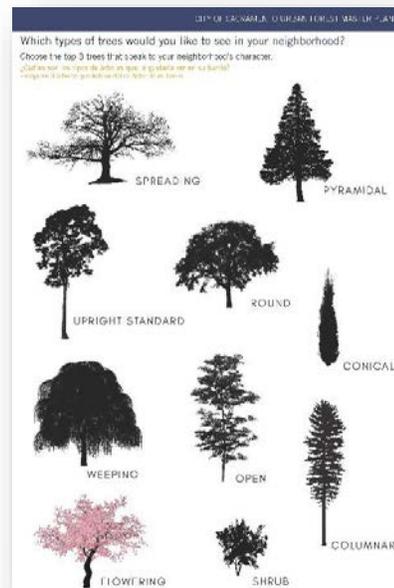
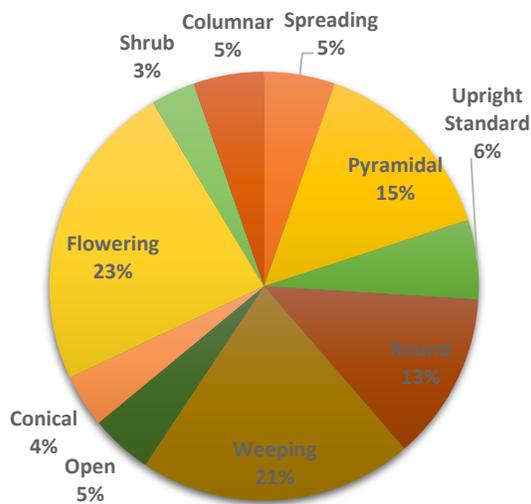
The project team held one pop-up workshop in District 7 at Councilmember Jennings Trucks & Such Foodtruck Mania and Backpack Giveaway, on Friday, August 17, at Garcia Bend Park.

The project team received input from more than 40 community members from this pop-up workshop, including young students and their parents.

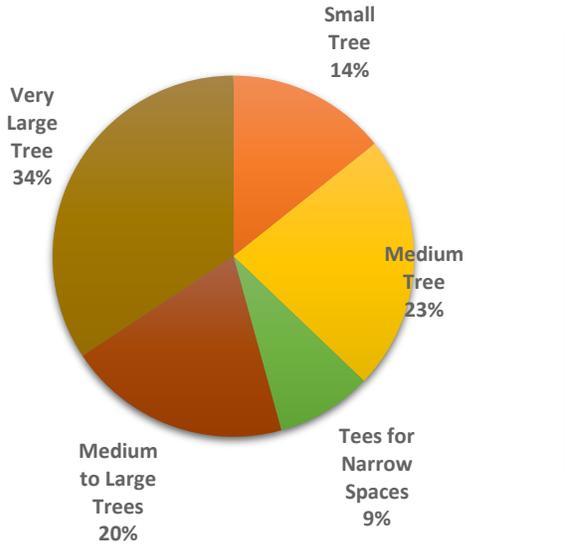
Below is a compilation of feedback received from District 7.



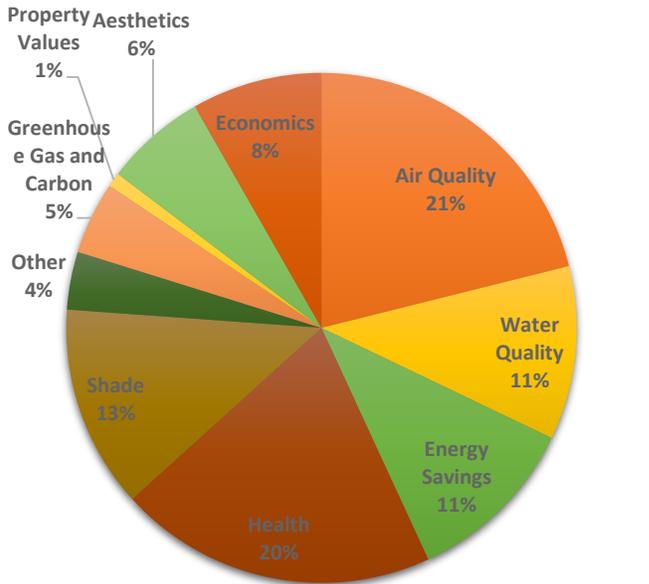
What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?



Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?



#454

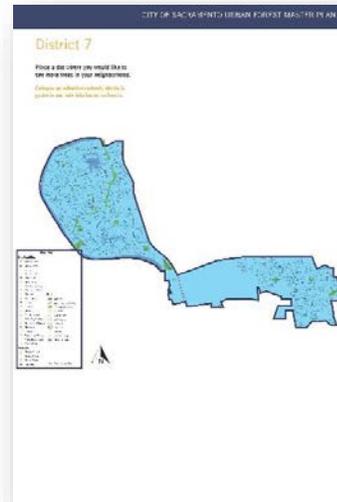
Posted by **Martha W Moon** on **04/30/2024** at **7:32pm** [Comment ID: 2226] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This is a well written and organized Plan. I wholeheartedly agree with the Plan and hope that it will be accepted for implementation. Thanks to all who worked on it.

Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

- Riverside Boulevard and Havenside Drive
- School of Engineering and Sciences
- Riverside Boulevard and Pocket Road
- Along the river at Marina Parkway
- Garcia Bend Park
- Gloria Drive and Florin Road
- Rush River Drive by Summerwind Way
- Maryhill Park City Middle School
- South Lan Park Drive and Corporate Way
- Bill Conlin Regional Youth Sports Complex
- Valley Hi Community Park
- Rocklin



District 8

The project team held two pop-up workshops in District 8 with the help of the Sacramento Tree Foundation. The pop-up workshops included the ECOS Council Meeting and the Valley Mack Farmers Market.

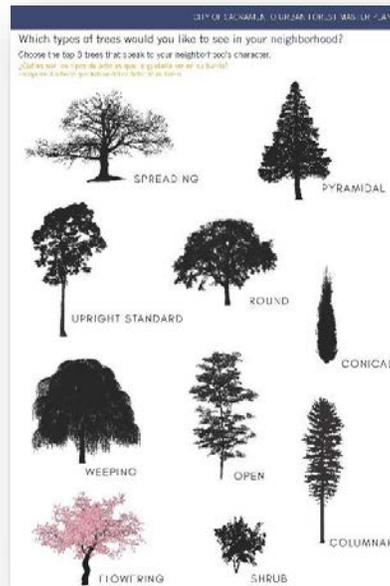
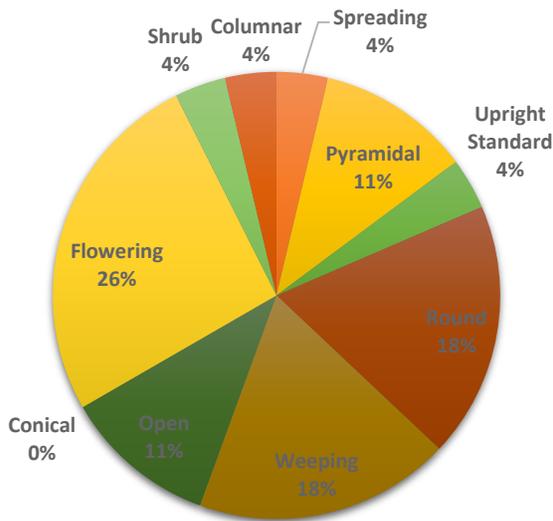
- ECOS Council Meeting: Thursday, September 6
- Valley Mack Farmers Market: Friday, September 7

The project team received input from more than 20 community members from both pop-up workshops.

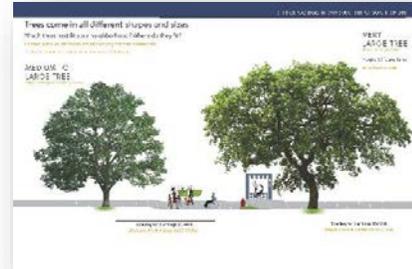
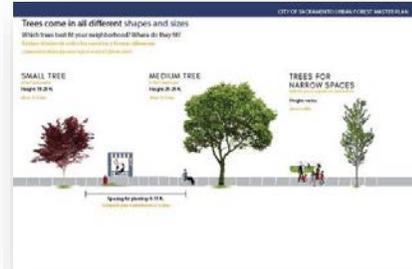
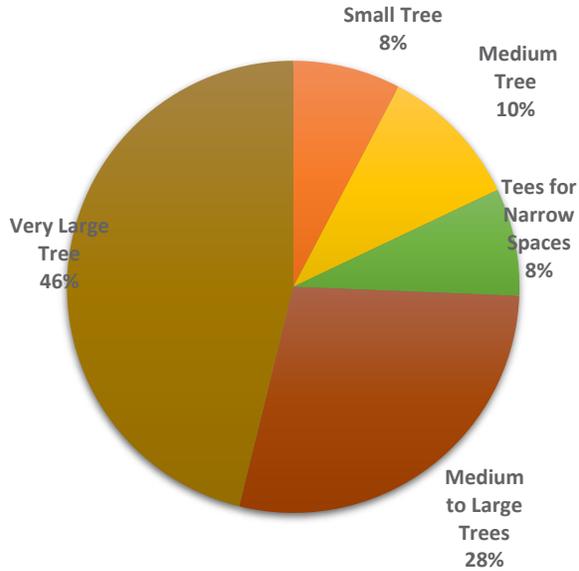
Below is a compilation of feedback received from District 8.



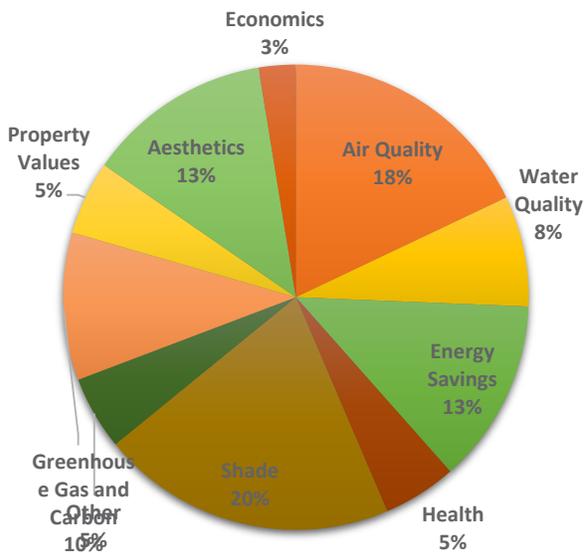
What types of trees would you like to see in your neighborhood?



Trees come in all different shapes and sizes. Which trees best fit your neighborhood?

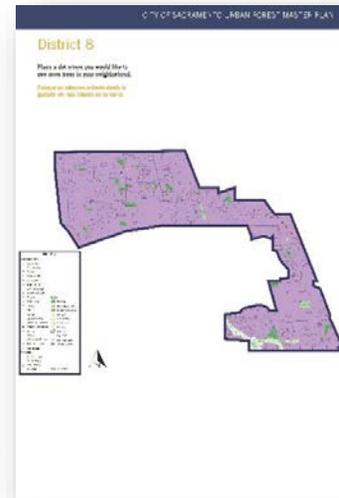


Trees have a lot to offer us. Choose the top three benefits that are most important to you?



Where would you like to see more trees in your neighborhood?

- Beyond Meadowview Road and John Still Drive
- Pannell Meadowview Community Center Park
- Steve Jones Park
- Chesterbrook Drive and Laguna Star Drive
- El Terraza Drive and Gerber Road (Florin, CA)
- 24th Street Bypass Park
- 67th Avenue and 24th Street
- 24th Street and Meadowview Wood Circle
- Manuel E. Silva Park
- Steve Jones Park
- Along Meadowview Road, by the Pannell Center
- John Still Drive



Additional Comments

- Only small trees at Steve Jones Park.
- At the schools.
- Places with grass.
- We have enough trees.



Notification

Each pop-up workshop was advertised through the City of Sacramento’s Urban Forest Project webpage as well as through email notifications sent to the project’s Stakeholder Representative Group and interested community members who signed up for updates through the project website and at the pop-up events with their email. The Sacramento Tree Foundation, which helped the project team hold additional pop-up workshops, also shared information to their organization.

Councilmember Angelique Ashby of District 1, Councilmember Jeff Harris of District 3, and Councilmember Rick Jennings of District 7 shared information about the pop-up workshop series through the promotion of their community events that the project team attended.



City of
SACRAMENTO

#455

Posted by **Seth Henderson** on **06/12/2024** at **10:04am** [Comment ID: 2794] - [Link](#)

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This project needs to start with the most disenfranchised areas first. Del Paso Heights, Meadowview, Antelope, Arden, North Highlands, etc. These areas blaze in the summer with little to no protection.

#456

Posted by **Victoria Vasquez** on **06/21/2024** at **11:58pm** [Comment ID: 3145] - [Link](#)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

This plan is very easy to access and read and I appreciate the transparency of sharing the comments of others. Thank you for the 60 day comment period!