

*City of*  
**SACRAMENTO**

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# Sacramento Urban Forest Plan

Partner Advisory Committee  
Meeting #4  
December 13, 2023



# Agenda



Welcome & Introductions



Summary of survey responses & comments



How staff will respond to comments



Next steps for the draft and PAC

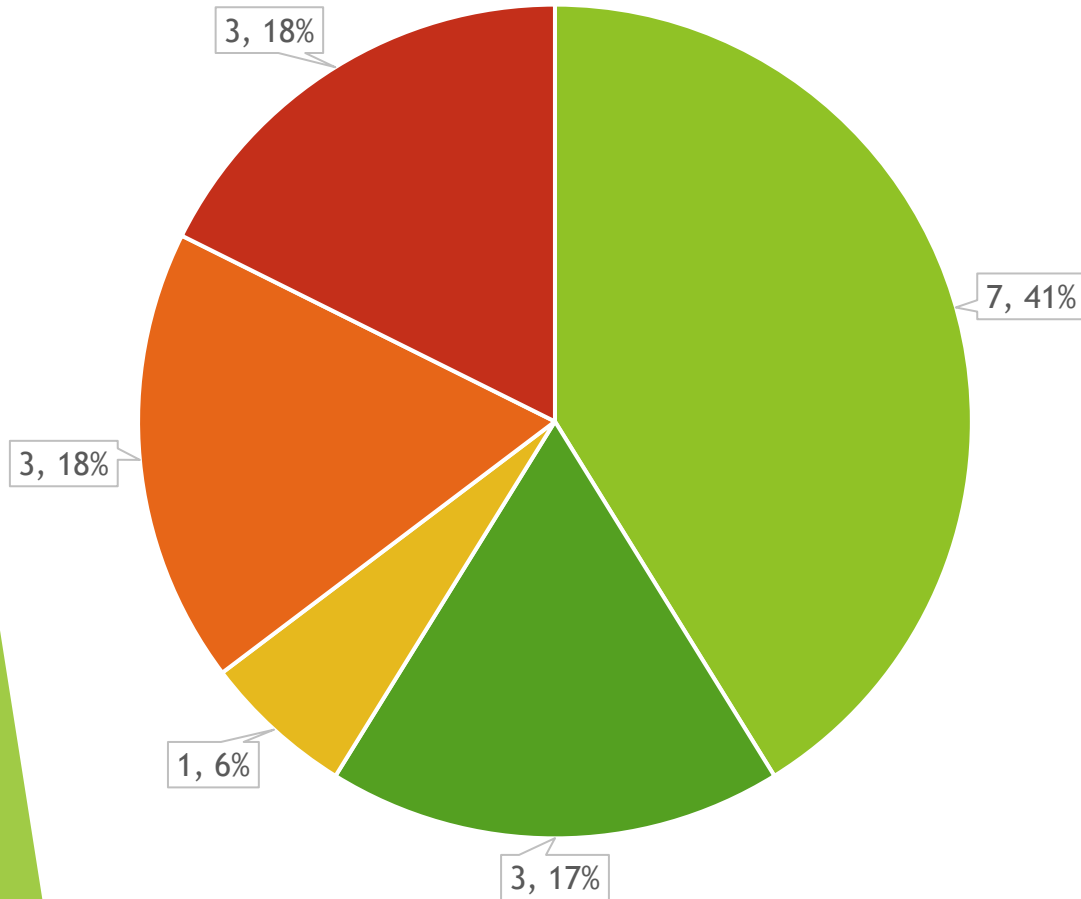


Discussion/Q & A



# Summary of Survey Responses

# 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 Actions

Funding for UFP strategies

Shading streets and sidewalks

Supporting disadvantaged  
communities

Protecting native trees

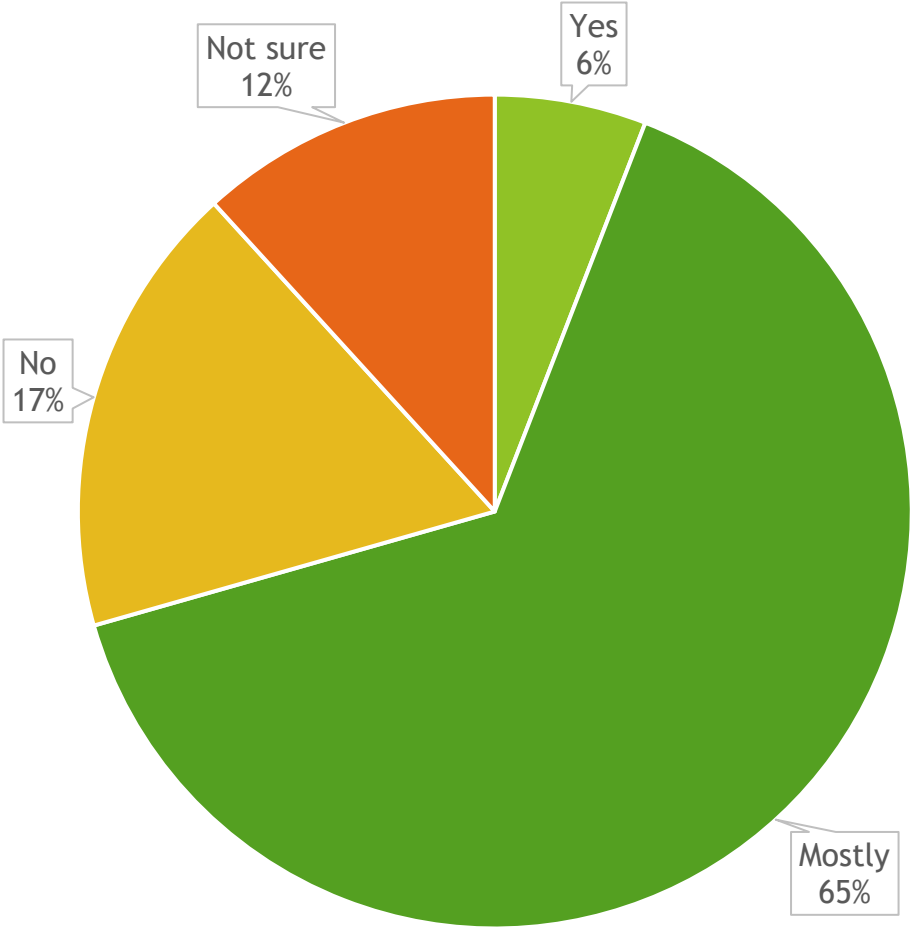
# Priority Implementation Actions

- ▶ **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.

# Priority Implementation Actions

- ▶ **1.3.2** Support and facilitate canopy expansion efforts on private property across the City with focus in priority communities.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **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







# General Feedback



# 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 this 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.
- ▶ **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 does 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.

# City Maintenance of Private Trees

- ▶ 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:
  - **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.

# Continued Involvement of the PAC

- ▶ 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

# How staff will respond to comments

Incorporate changes  
into public review draft

Respond to comments  
during public review



# Next Steps



- ▶ Staff finalize Public Review Draft
- ▶ Public review to begin Winter/Spring of 2024



# Q & A



# Thank you!

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