

Planning Commission Workshop

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

September 26, 2023

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City of Vancouver, Public Works Department



Presentation Purpose

- ❑ **Final opportunity for Planning Commission review and comment prior to Council process**
- ❑ **Planning Commission does not make a formal recommendation to Council on this item, but will be engaged in implementation**



Meeting Agenda

- Project Background**
- Findings & Highlights**
- Outreach**
- Goals & Strategies**
- Next Steps**



Alignment with City Council Priorities



Climate

- Addresses heat island effect, carbon sequestration and improves water and air quality



Equity

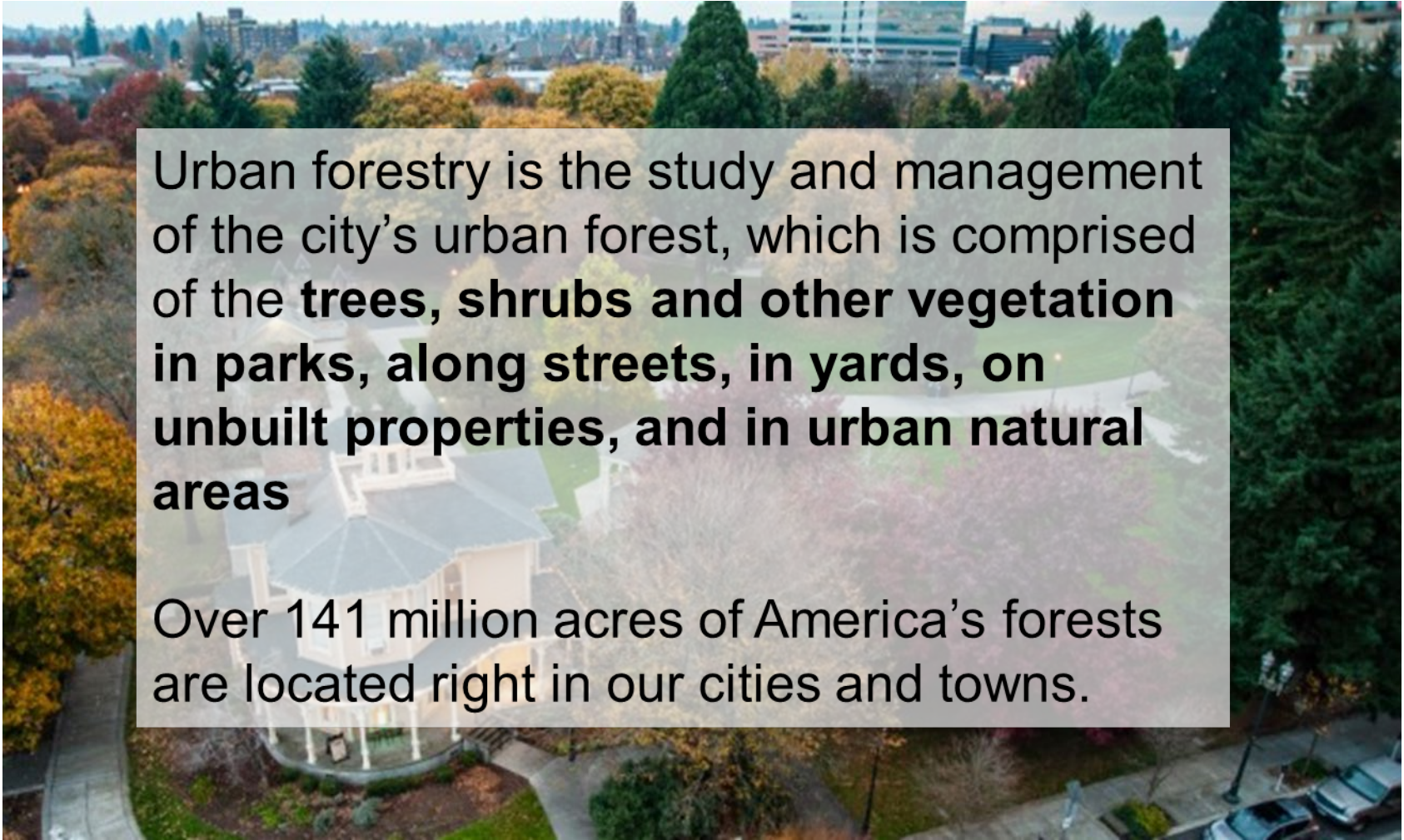
- Ensures that the benefits of trees are distributed equitably throughout the city



Safety

- Improves safety by reducing storm damage, traffic calming and crime reduction

What are urban forests?



Urban forestry is the study and management of the city's urban forest, which is comprised of the **trees, shrubs and other vegetation in parks, along streets, in yards, on unbuilt properties, and in urban natural areas**

Over 141 million acres of America's forests are located right in our cities and towns.

Project Background

Purpose

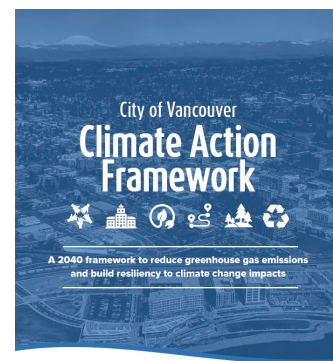
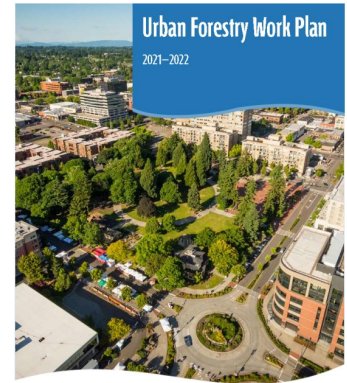
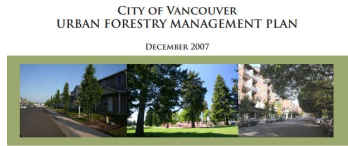
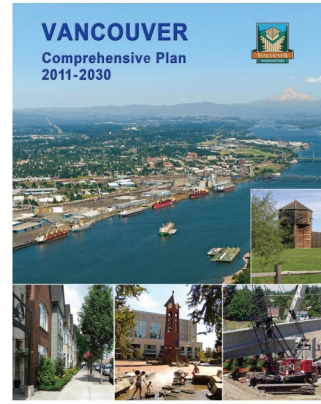
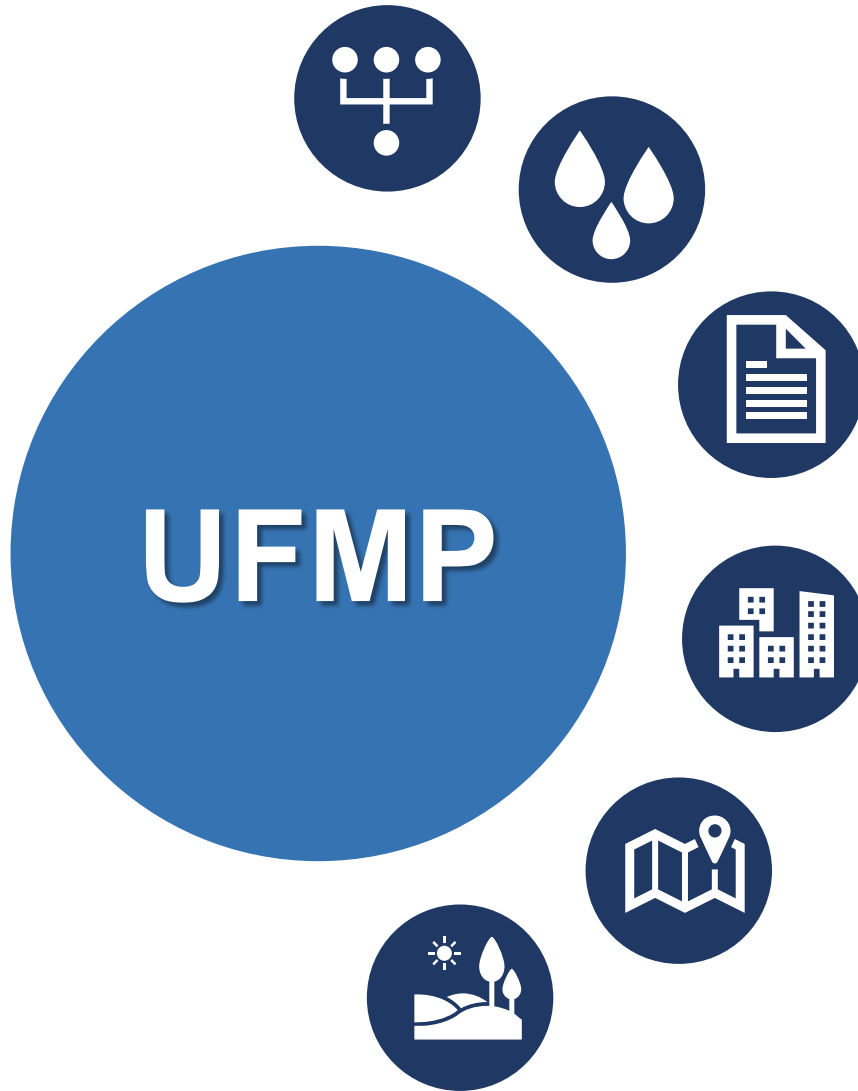
“Urban trees and forests are considered integral to the sustainability of cities as a whole. Yet, sustainable urban forests are not born, they are made. They do not arise at random, but result from a community-wide commitment to their creation and management.”

James Clark et al.: A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability



Project Background

Context



Project Background

Scope & Timeline

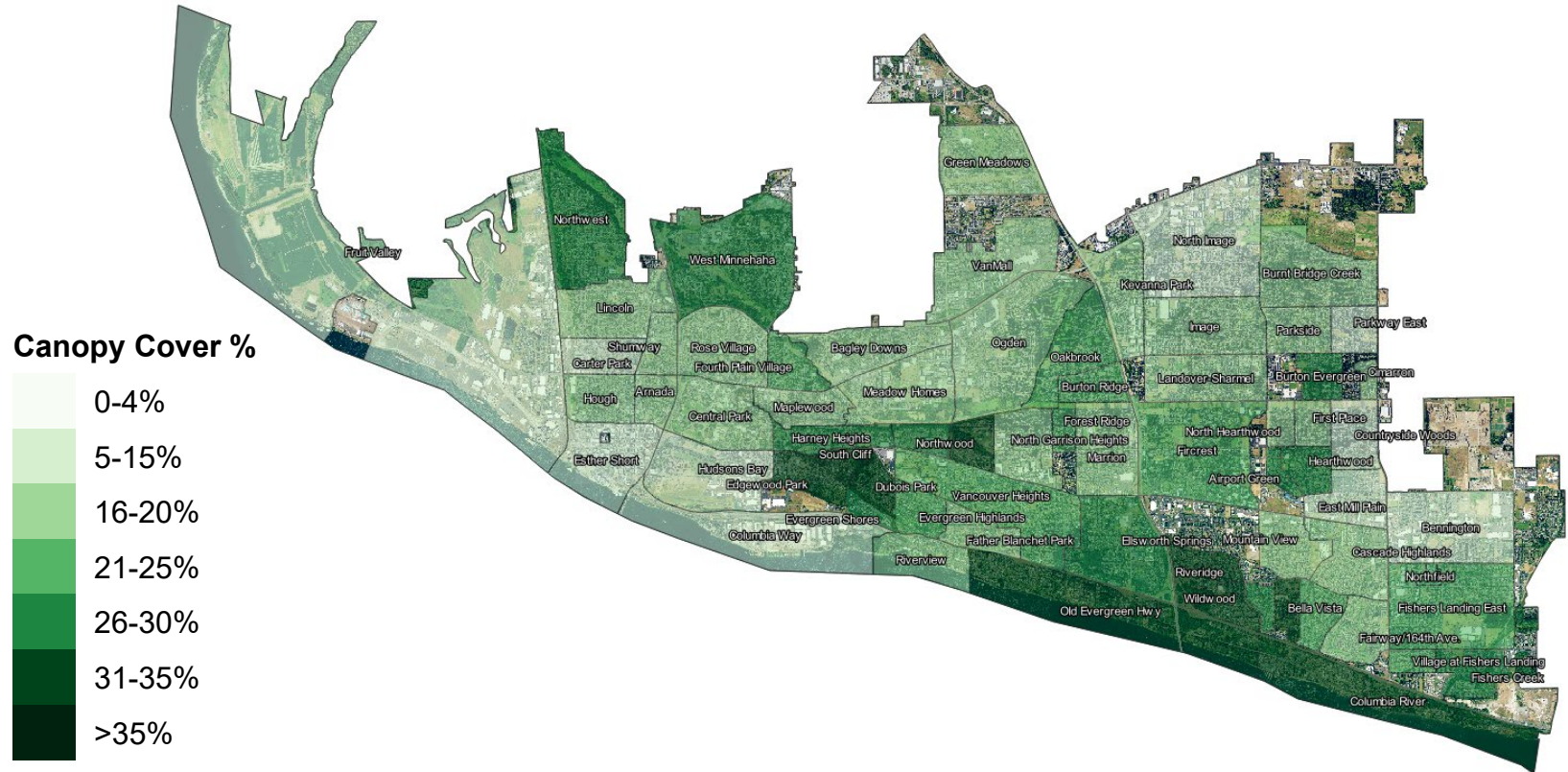
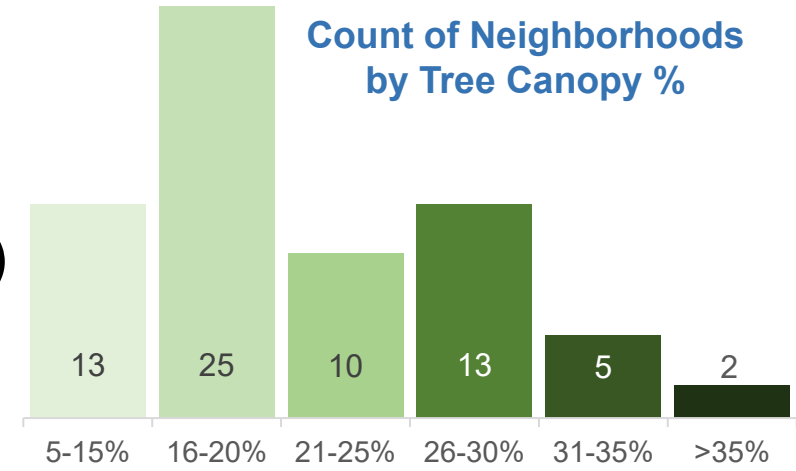


Key Findings

Urban Forest Status

Urban Tree Canopy

- 19% canopy (up 3% from 2011)
- 6,066 canopy acres
- 4,600 football fields of canopy



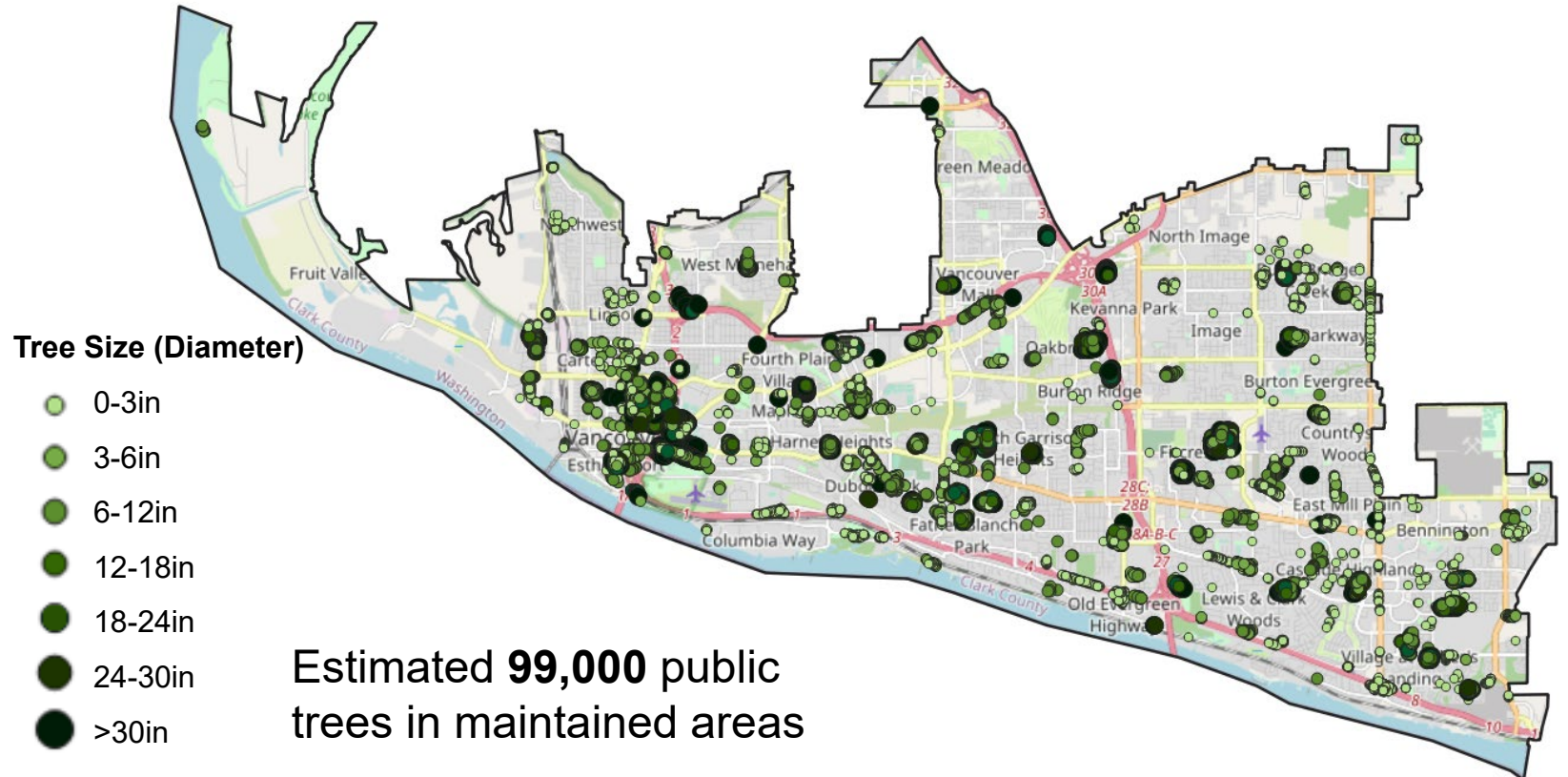
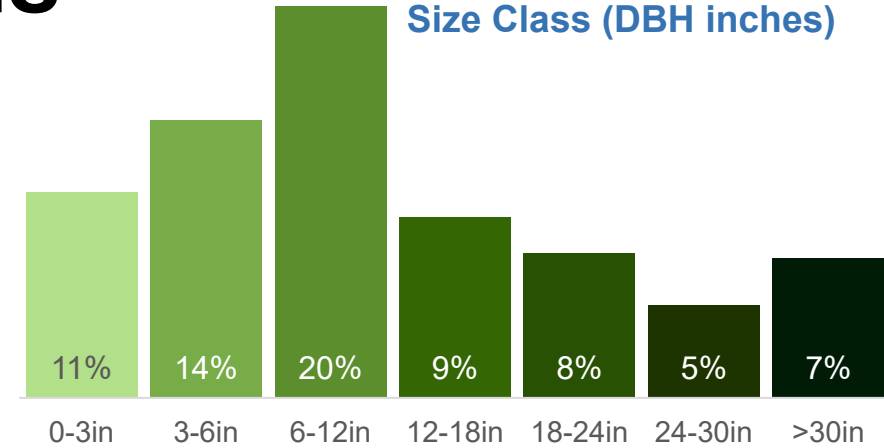
Key Findings

Urban Forest Status

Public Trees

- 12,000 trees added
- 870 trees > 30" diameter
- ~360 unique tree species
- 16% Douglas firs, 15% maples, 7% oaks, 4% western red cedars

Distribution of Trees by Size Class (DBH inches)



Key Findings

Ecosystem Benefits

Citywide Urban Forest (18.9% canopy)

- \$44 million in total benefits
- 224,000 tons of carbon stored
- 7,000 tons of carbon sequestered
- 149 tons of pollutants captured
- 243 million gallons of stormwater prevented

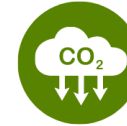
Public Trees (~99k trees)

- \$9.9 million in total benefits
- \$100 per tree
- \$51 per capita
- \$4.12 ROI

Other Benefits

- Property values
- Reduced health care costs
- Reduced crime
- Urban forest replacement value (\$500M)

CARBON STORAGE



In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the amount of CO₂ produced by a car driven 26,000 miles.

STRESS REDUCTION

Workers without views of nature from their desks claimed 23% more sick days than workers with views of nature.



CLEANER AIR

Roadside trees reduce nearby indoor air pollution by more than 50%.



WILDLIFE HABITAT



Planting and protecting trees provides habitat for hundreds of birds and small animals.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



Contiguous tree canopy is estimated to intercept 4" of rain over 1 acre in a typical year— about 108,000 gallons.

SHADE AND COOLING

Shaded surfaces may be 20–45°F cooler than unshaded areas.



LOWER ENERGY BILLS



Residents and businesses can save up to 50% on hot-day energy bills.

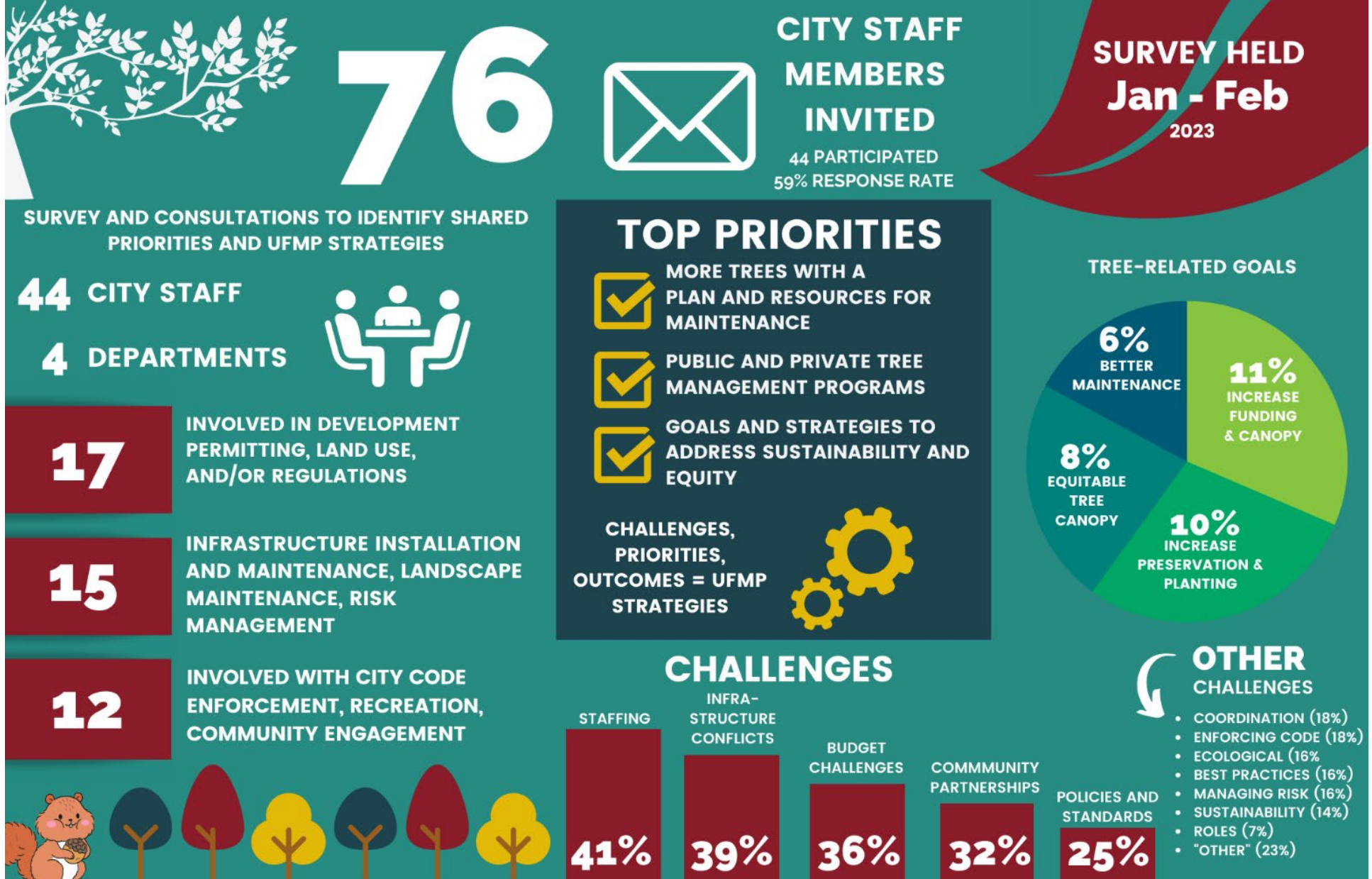
SOIL STABILIZATION



Urban trees remove sediment and chemicals from waterways, stabilize shorelines, and minimize erosion.

Key Findings

City Staff Engagement



Key Findings

External Stakeholder Engagement



Key Findings

Public Engagement

Jan – Feb 2023, 155 Responses

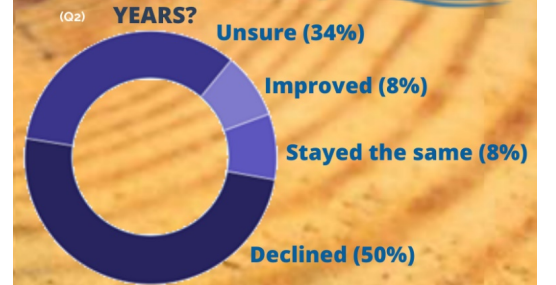
Location of Responses (Zip Codes)



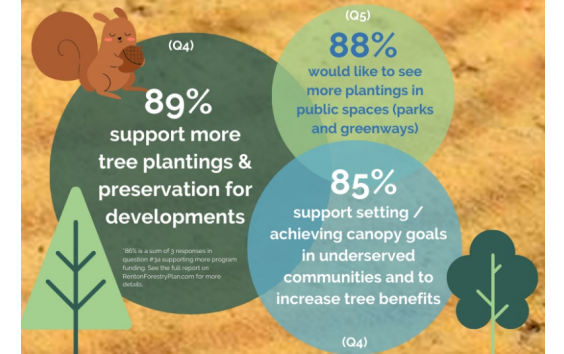
Note: Zip code boundaries were recreated and formatted to Vancouver. Map is not intended for additional use.

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

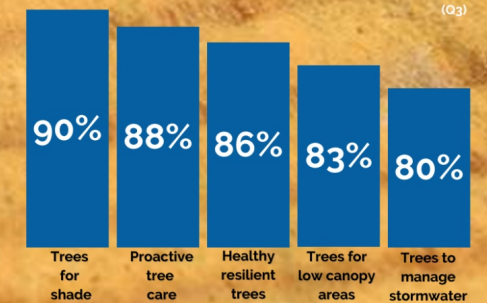
HEALTH AND QUALITY OF TREES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS?



WHERE SHOULD VANCOUVER FOCUS FUNDING?



MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR TREES



155 responses were received
Survey open from January 10 - February 28, 2023
For more details go to [BeHeardVancouver.org/UFMP](https://www.beheardvancouver.org/UFMP)

Opportunities for Public Input

Engagement Sessions

Be Heard Vancouver Website

Urban Forestry Management Plan



Trees are a valuable community asset, enhancing our parks and open spaces, cooling our neighborhoods, capturing air pollution, intercepting stormwater runoff and improving safety in our community. Growing and caring for our city's urban tree canopy is no small task; a healthy tree canopy is the result of proper planning, management and community involvement.

To guide the future of trees in our community, the City is developing an **Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP)**. This plan will engage the community in creating a vision for the future, so that trees can continue to benefit everyone who lives, works and plays in Vancouver for generations to come.

We invite you to share your thoughts by [taking the survey](#) below. You can also join us for a virtual community meeting on January 25 and in person on March 18, RSVP below.



- + What is an Urban Forest?
- + How Does the Urban Forest Benefit our Community?
- + What is an Urban Forestry Management Plan?
- + Meet the Project Team
- + Ways to Get Involved

Let's Talk Trees! Public Meeting



Vancouver, WA Urban Forestry Management Plan

Let's Talk Trees, Vancouver! – Noon Session

Key Dates

Let's Talk Trees: Online Project Kick-Off Meeting
January 25 2023

**March 18th 10-noon @ MLK Elementary
(4801 Idaho St, Vancouver, WA 98661)**

Public Survey



Vancouver, WA Urban Forestry Management Plan

A Public Survey to Support the Development of the City of Vancouver, WA's Urban Forestry Management Plan



A



B



C



D



E

F
Not Applicable

5) Where would you like to see the City prioritize future tree plantings? (Select all that apply)

- A) Street trees (planted in the median or adjacent to the street)
- B) Parks, greenways, and other public spaces
- C) Private residential property
- D) Commercial or industrial areas
- E) School campuses
- F) I do not support adding more trees or canopy cover
- Other: _____

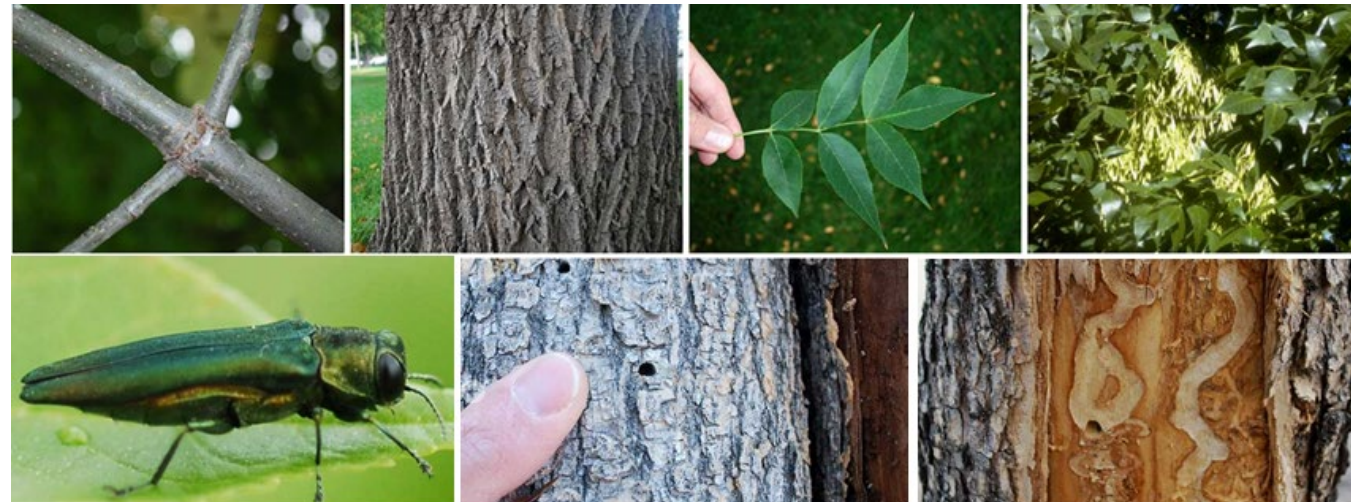


Key Findings

Key Strategies

Key Strategy	SUPPORT?		
	Staff	Stakeholders	Public
Tree Regulations	✓	✓	✓
Proactive Public Tree Maintenance	✓	✓	✓
Tree Planting Initiative	✓	✓	✓
Staffing Levels	✓	✓	✓
Data Management	✓		
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management	✓	✓	

Ash Tree & EAB ID



Key Findings

Urban Forestry Audit

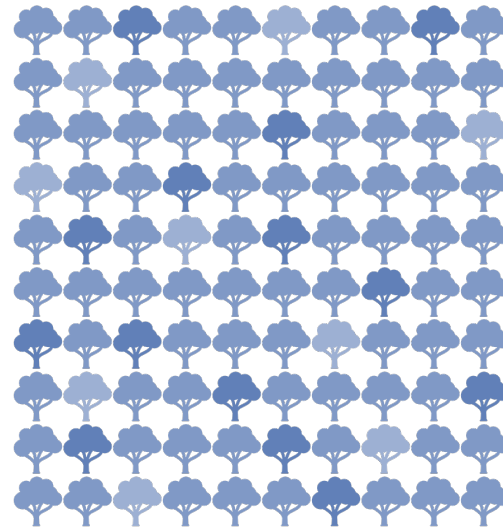


Score
78 out of 100

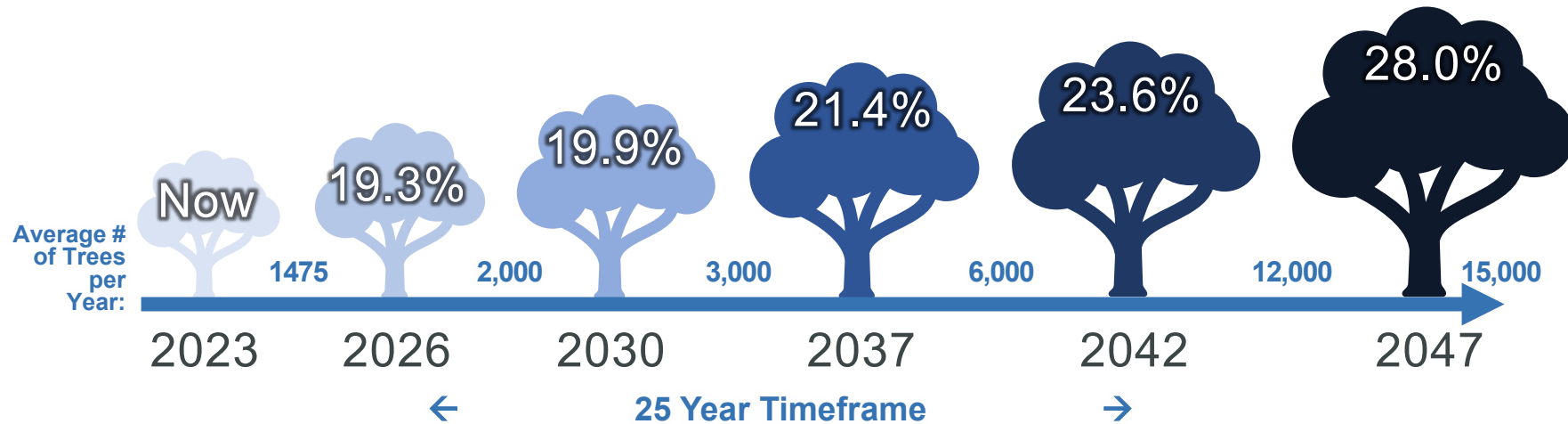
Canopy Goals & Planting Priorities

Canopy Goals

28% by 2047



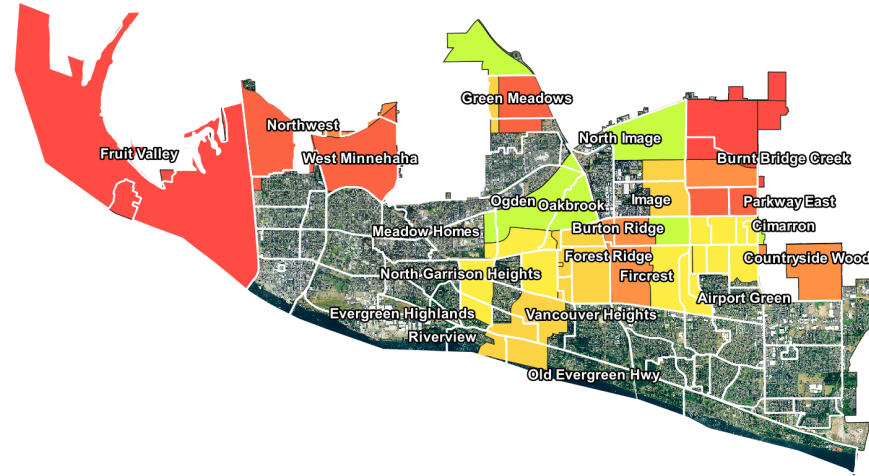
100 trees planted across the City that have large canopy cover at maturity equals 3 acres of new canopy cover. Approximately 3,000 acres of new canopy cover is needed to reach 28%



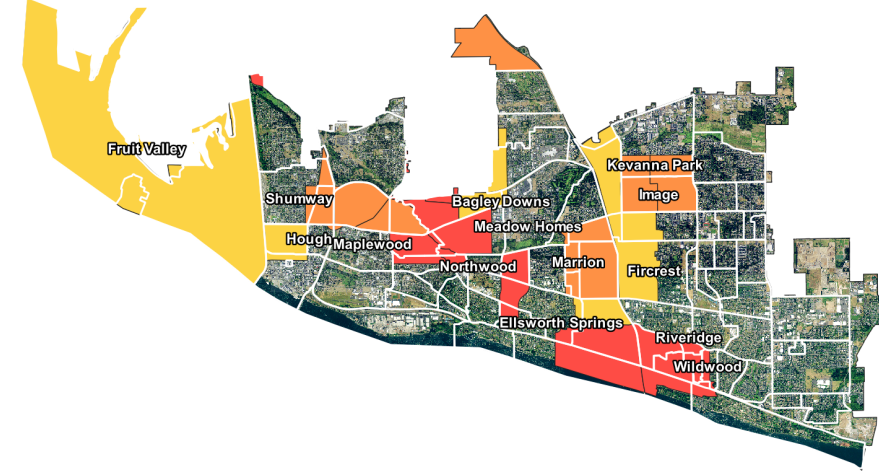
Canopy Goals & Planting Priorities

Priority Planting Areas

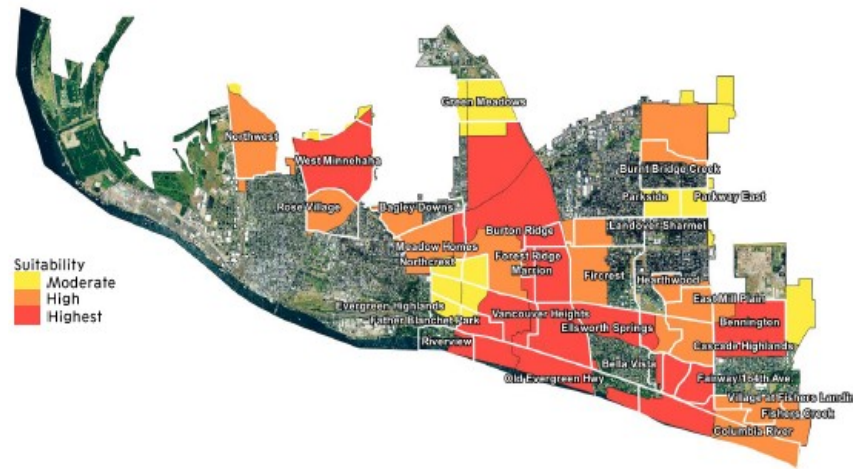
Greatest Available Space



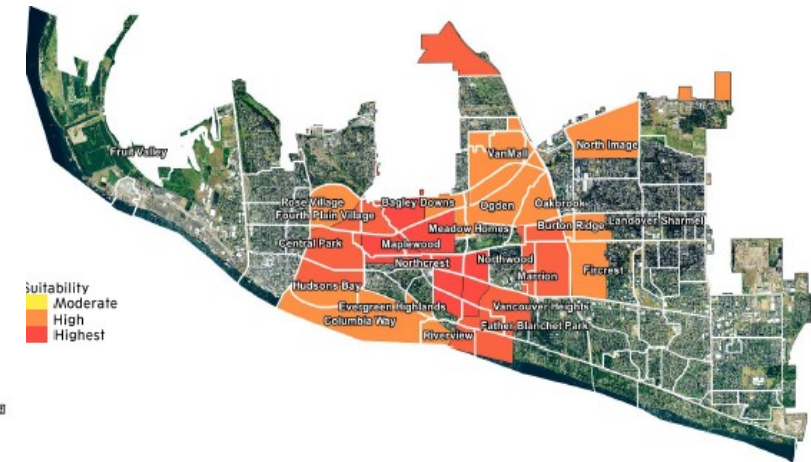
WA Environmental Health Disparities Priorities



Stormwater and Water Quality

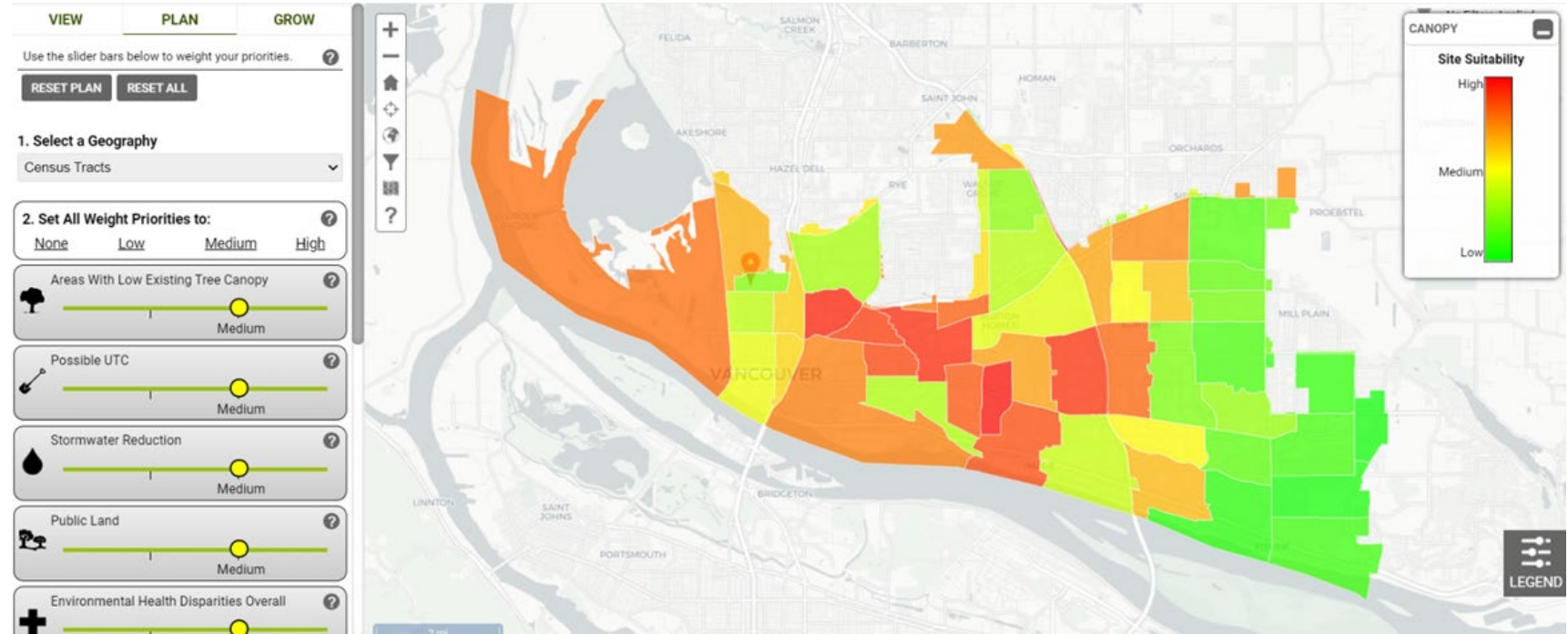


Composite Map of High Priority Areas



Tree Equity: View, Plan, Grow

Tree Equity



Interactive mapping tool that overlays tree canopy, census data, and health disparities to inform urban forestry management

<https://pg-cloud.com/VancouverWA/>

UFMP Long-Term Framework

Long-Term Framework

- ❖ 3 Goals, 8 Objectives, 23 Strategies
and 50+ Actions
- ❖ Short, Mid, Long-Term and Ongoing Actions
- ❖ Implementation Strategy

Long-term Framework

Final Draft Goals & Strategies

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3
Proactively manage public trees, continue to grow and expand a healthy canopy to achieve the 28% citywide canopy goal, maintain public safety, and optimize urban forest benefits.	Achieve environmental justice through a partnership with the City and its residents to improve well-being, human health, local economies, and urban forest sustainability.	Strengthen policies for preserving the environmental benefits, management, and the character of Vancouver’s urban forest.
Update and maintain the public tree inventory.	Maintain Tree City USA recognition.	Protect trees during construction projects.
Utilize current and future canopy assessments.	Maintain active communications with diverse audiences.	Apply a no-net-loss approach to tree canopy cover.
Align staffing levels with the needs of the urban forest and the community.	Provide education and training workshops.	Use tree canopy assessment data for tree management policies.
Establish and implement a proactive pruning cycle and management program for City-maintained trees.	Implement program services through the lens of environmental justice.	Update and strengthen tree-related ordinances, design standards, and protocols.
Ensure newly planted trees receive post-planting care and young tree training.	Expand partnerships and the Neighborhood Tree Stewards program.	Enforce tree regulations.
Formally update the Tree Planting Initiative.	Coordinate Plan implementation and community engagement with the Urban Forestry Commission and local partners.	
Increase citywide tree canopy cover.	Effectively manage volunteers and events.	
Grow a sustainable and resilient urban forest.		

UFMP Draft Review

Review Process for Adoption

- ❖ City Council Workshop May 8th
- ❖ Planning Commission Workshop May 23rd
- ❖ Department of Commerce/SEPA Review

Process May-July

UFMP Next Steps

Steps for Plan Adoption

- ❖ Urban Forestry Commission Sept 20th
- ❖ Planning Commission Sept 26th
- ❖ Seek Adoption by City Council
 - October 23, 2023 1st Reading
 - November 6, 2023 Public Hearing

Final Draft Urban Forestry Management Plan

THANK YOU!

www.beheardvancouver.org/UFMP
www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry



Funding to support this project was provided by the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program.