



# Sustaining Tacoma's Urban Forest

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services Department

Infrastructure Planning and Sustainability

July 16, 2018

ITEM 1



## OVERVIEW



- Recap "State of Tacoma's Urban Forest"
- Recommend specific actions for urban forest improvement
- Focus on near term actions



## TACOMA CANOPY COVER



2009 canopy cover assessment shows

**19%**  
canopy cover  
in Tacoma, the  
**Lowest**  
assessed canopy  
in the  
**Puget Sound  
Region**

### PNW Tree Canopy

City	Canopy
Mercer Island	41%
Kirkland	40.7%
Redmond	38%
Bellevue	36%
Shoreline	31%
Renton	28.6%
Seattle	28%
Tukwila	25%
Puyallup	24%
<b>Tacoma</b>	<b>19%</b>

## ADOPTED POLICY



### Urban Forest Policy Element (2010)

- 30% tree canopy cover goal by the year 2030, "30 by 30"
- Tree retention/preservation
- Leading by example through care of City-owned trees



### Environmental Action Plan (2016)

- Increase healthy urban forest canopy
- Improve regulations for tree protection on private property and City right-of-way.



		SEAL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA	
EFFECTIVE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT			
	Near Term	Mod. Term	Long Term
	<b>Plan</b> *Landscape Architect (Planner) plan review, inspections, enforcement	<u>City Arborist</u>	<u>Arborist Mgmt. Zones</u>
	<b>Regulate</b> *Code Cleanup remove inconsistencies between codes and policies	<u>Urban Forestry Ordinance</u>	<u>Regular Ordinance Updates</u>
	<b>Protect</b> *Right-of-Way Tree Protection clarify tree protection in the right-of-way, intent and responsibilities	<u>Significant Tree Protection</u>	<u>Tree Density &amp; Removal Requirements</u>
	<b>Enforce</b> *Enforce Violations develop clear process for enforcement	<u>Mitigation/ Fees</u>	<u>Commensurate Penalties</u>
			7

		SEAL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA	
PROACTIVE TREE CARE			
	Near Term	Mod. Term	Long Term
	<b>Maintain</b> *Arborist Crew maintain ~5,000 trees currently located on City property	<u>Expand Maintenance Areas</u>	<u>Right-of-Way Tree Maintenance</u>
	<b>Manage</b> *Asset Management (Inventory) inventory public trees and develop asset management program	<u>Trees &amp; Sidewalks Operations Manual</u>	<u>Geographic Management Plans</u>
	<b>Keep Safe</b> *Hazard Tree Assistance low-income cost share (50/50) for hazardous right-of-way tree removal	<u>ROW Hazard Tree Removal</u>	<u>ROW Tree Removal &amp; Replacement</u>
			8



## STEWARDSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

	Near Term	Mod. Term	Long Term
	<b>Incentivize</b> <u>Incentive Programs</u> Expand existing Tree Coupon and Grit City Trees program	<u>Stewardship Group</u>	<u>Tree-Centric Non-Profit</u>
	<b>Partner</b> <u>Tree Planting Partnerships</u> focus tree planting in priority areas based on environmental justice	<u>Tree Planting Master Planning</u>	<u>Community Lead Tree Planting</u>
	<b>Advise</b> <u>Tree Advisory Committee</u> coordinate with partner agencies for urban forest management	<u>Urban Forest Commission</u>	<u>UF Commission &amp; Advisory Boards</u>

9



## SUMMARY

- A sustainable urban forest is rooted in **effective urban forest management**, **proactive tree care** & **stewardship & engagement**
- This requires changing the way we do business in Tacoma and how we engage and support the community
- With a focus on long term impact, we need to start with achievable near term actions



10



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