



CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

Vancouver Urban Forestry

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Agenda

Urban Forestry in our communities

Why trees?

Urban Forestry program



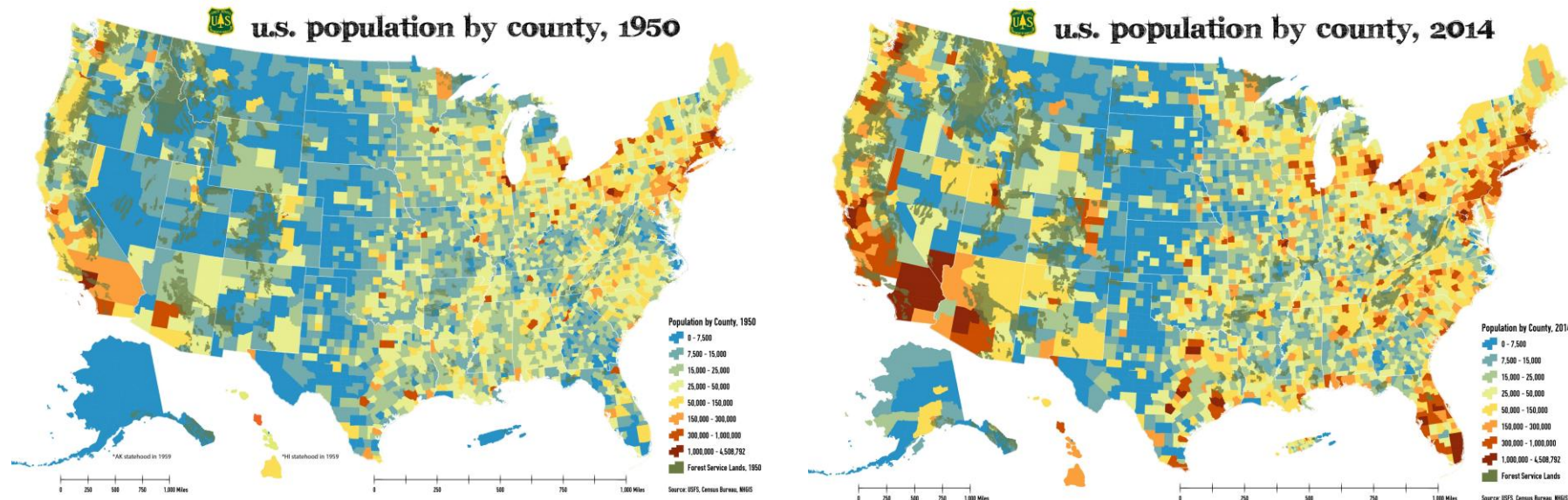
Urban Forestry

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**

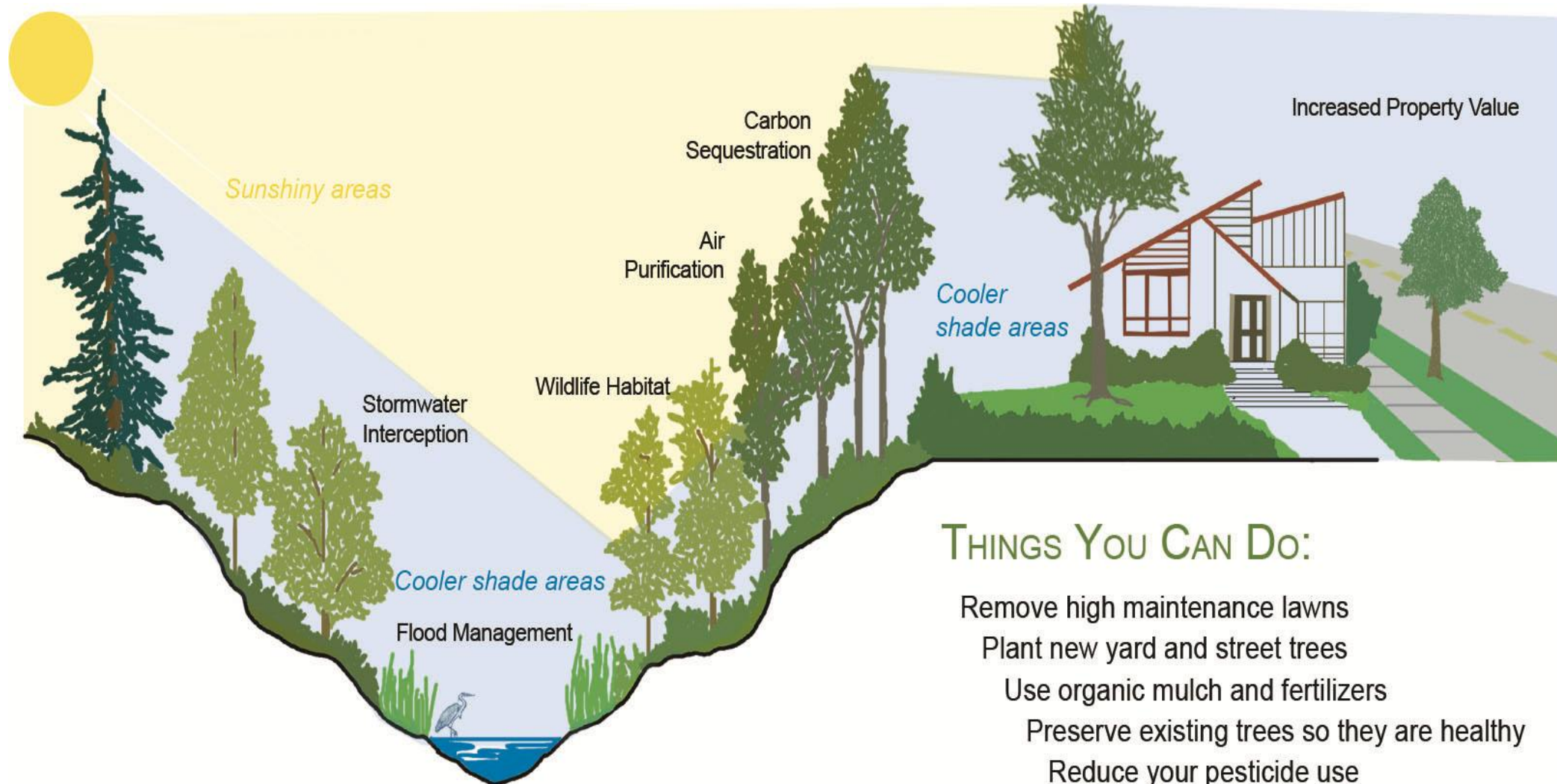


Urban Forests across the U.S.

- Over 141 million acres of America's forests are in our cities and towns.
- More than 80% of the U.S. population lives in urban areas.



Benefits of trees in our landscapes



THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- Remove high maintenance lawns
- Plant new yard and street trees
- Use organic mulch and fertilizers
- Preserve existing trees so they are healthy
- Reduce your pesticide use



Trees provide valuable ecosystem services



ECO BENEFIT SAVINGS

**\$44 Million
in Annual
Savings**

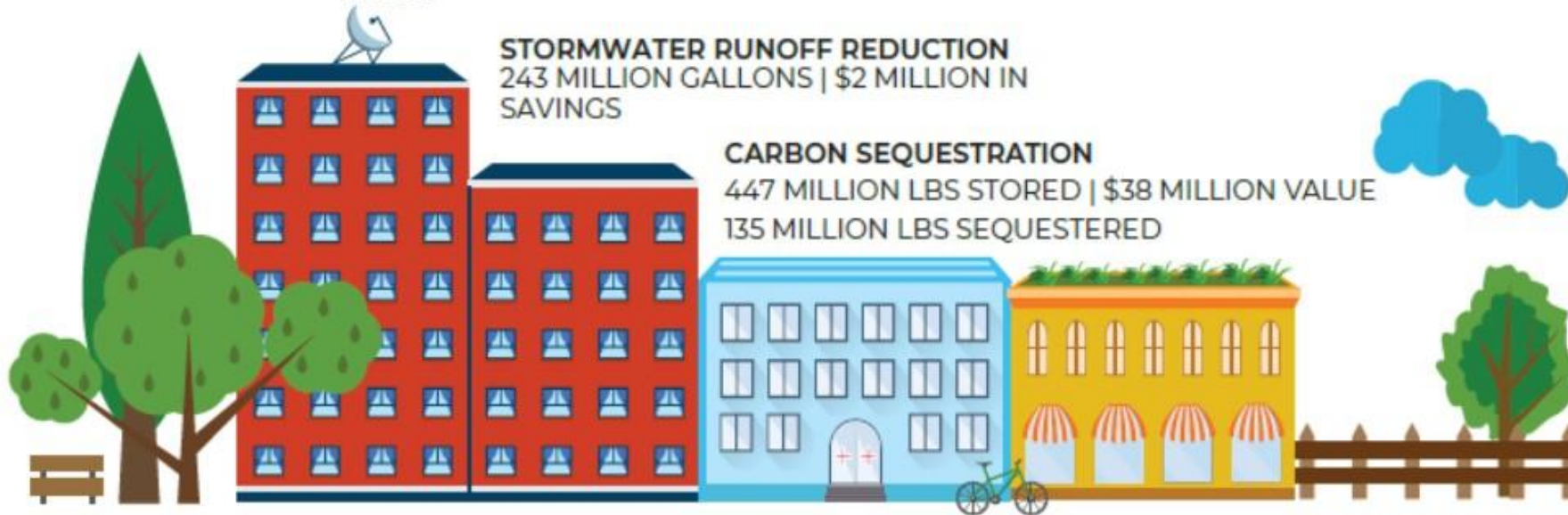
AIR QUALITY

297K LBS OF POLLUTANTS REMOVED | \$2 MILLION
VALUE

STORMWATER RUNOFF REDUCTION
243 MILLION GALLONS | \$2 MILLION IN
SAVINGS

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

447 MILLION LBS STORED | \$38 MILLION VALUE
135 MILLION LBS SEQUESTERED



Trees are vital to community health

Tree-filled neighborhoods encourage increased physical activity

Tree-filled landscapes reduce stress

Trees absorb high-frequency noise and shade streets and sidewalks



Green Cities: Good Health website with studies and articles on the benefits to human health and well-being provided by access to nature

<http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/>



Trees provide habitat

Tree shade improves habitat,
especially in streams

Trees provide food and shelter for
birds, insects and small mammals

Native trees and shrubs help
preserve native wildlife populations



Trees increase property values

Large, healthy trees can increase property values from 3% to 15%

From enhancing curb appeal to improving air quality and even fostering a sense of community & well-being, the value that trees bring to properties is undeniable.

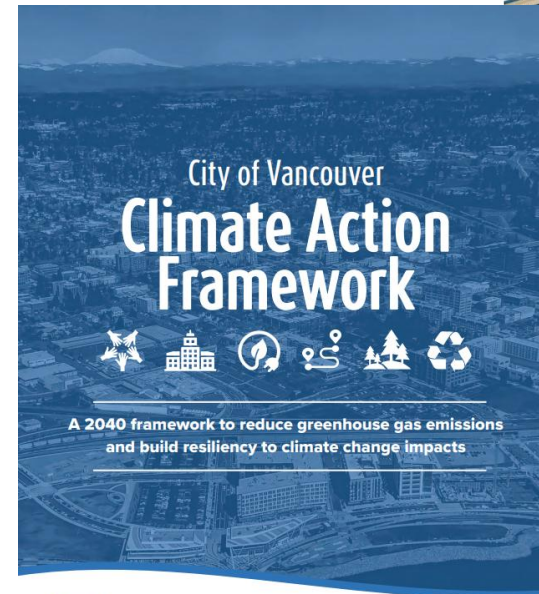
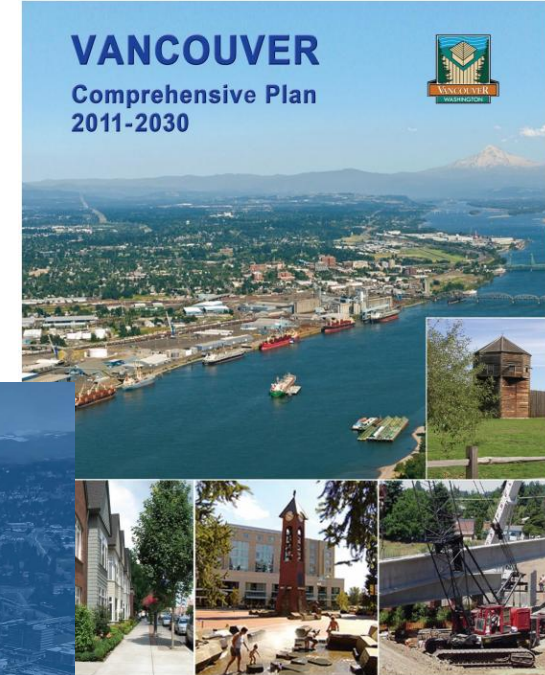
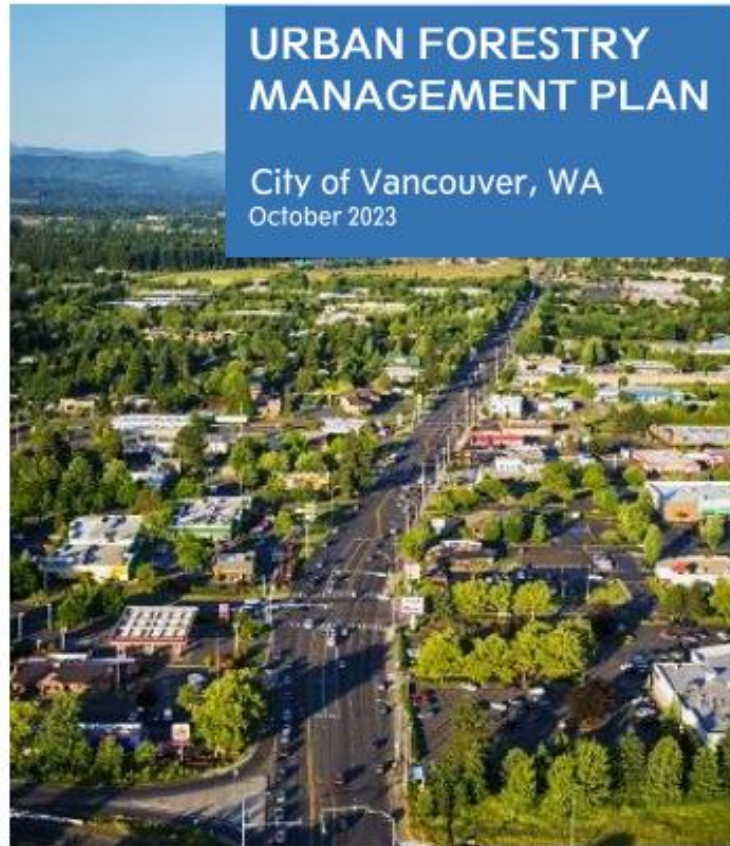


Vancouver Urban Forestry goals

- Maintain and preserve existing trees
- Grow the tree canopy
- Build environmental stewardship through education and public involvement



Urban Forestry Management Plan



December 2022



Tree permits

Street tree permits

For trees within the public right-of-way, permits are required for planting, removal, or major pruning.

Private tree permits

For trees on private property, removal permits are required for trees on properties that are:

- Zoned commercial, industrial, or multi-family
- Residential (single-family)
 - > 1 acre
 - Able to be sub-divided, based on underlying zoning
 - Built after 1997, if trees were identified to be retained on Tree Plan
- Protected under Critical Areas Ordinance; wetlands, wildlife habitat, steep slopes, or other designated sensitive areas, Garry oak



Right tree, right place



Hiring a professional

- Pruning is for people
- Have a clear objective
- Structurally prune trees when they are young
- Hire an ISA certified arborist

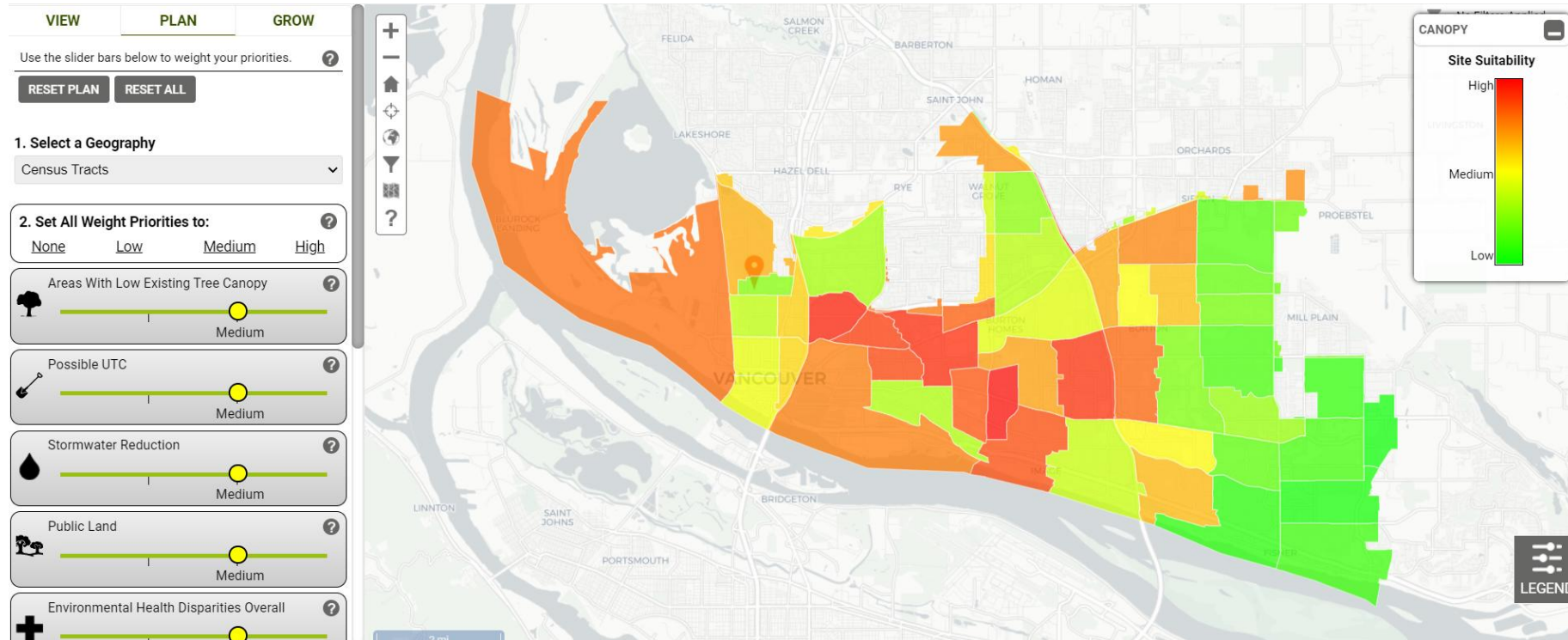
For tree work, solicit bids from multiple *qualified* tree care providers; the lowest bid is not always the best. Require a written job proposal and estimate. Check references, licensing and insurance.

Visit www.cityofvanocuver.us/urbanorestry for tips and resources on hiring a professional tree care provider



Growing Vancouver's Urban Forest

Tree Canopy: View, Plan, Grow



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

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



Growing Vancouver's Urban Forest

Planted over 2,000 trees in 2024. Growing plantings to reach the goal of 30% canopy by 2045



Growing Vancouver's Urban Forest

Proactive Street Tree Management Program

In Partnership with
Transportation

- Prune all street trees for clearance and structure
- Remove and replace hazardous trees
- Offer new street trees
- 10-year cycle



Growing Vancouver's Urban Forest

Witness Tree Program

Dedicate a tree in honor or memory of a special person or a memorable event.

Yard Tree Giveaway

Receive a native or climate-adaptive tree to plant on your residential property in Vancouver.

Treefund Program

Plant an approved tree on a private, residential lot and receive a 50% refund, up to \$50 (up to \$100 for new eBilling customers).



Growing Vancouver's Urban Forest

Local non-profit **Friends of Trees** organizes 5 large-scale community tree plantings across Vancouver each year.



- Get a tree: select your tree and get it planted for only \$35 per tree.
- Not looking for a tree this year? No problem! Help build community by volunteering to plant trees, sign in volunteers, drive your pick-up truck, or donate refreshments.



Environmental stewardship

TreeTalk Workshops are free educational workshops all about trees hosted by Vancouver Urban Forestry. Topics include: proper tree pruning, tree planting, tree Identification, and more.



Heritage Tree Bike Ride
Thursday, June 26
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



Emerald Ash Borer Workshop
Thursday, July 10
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



Summer Tree ID Walk
Thursday, July 24
Noon to 2 p.m.



Environmental stewardship

Neighborhood Tree Stewards is a free six-session training from local arboriculture experts on tree identification, biology, regulations, planting, proper tree care, and the benefits of trees. After the training, the Tree Stewards will be equipped to take on the task of sharing information about trees in their neighborhoods.



Environmental stewardship

Outreach campaigns to create community awareness on various tree-related topics. Campaigns include 'no topping' and 'tree of heaven' awareness.



No Topping Trees, Please

Prune Properly

Healthy Trees = Healthy Communities



Vancouver Urban Forestry
Public Works Department
cityofvancouver.us/trees
360-487-8332



Urban Forestry Commission

The Urban Forestry Commission was established to advise the Mayor and City Council on local and regional tree related issues. The 7-member commission assists the city to develop good management practices to conserve the city's trees and forests, educate citizens on the importance of urban trees and organize tree plantings



Urban Forestry Commission meeting



Commissioners assessing Heritage Trees



Thank You

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Summary

Trees help make our community healthier and a better place to live.

They clean the air and water, provide shade, slow down traffic, manage rainwater, support wildlife and contribute to human well-being.

