Urban Forest: a Major policy emphasis

- Urban Forest Policy Element
- Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element
- Climate Action Plan
- Surface Water Management Plan
- Complete Streets
Urban Forest Policy Element (2010)

- Recognize urban forest as an asset
- 30% city-wide canopy coverage
- Provide flexible regulatory approaches
- Enhance stormwater benefits through landscaping
- Integrate public safety considerations
- Enhance connections between natural and developed areas
- Implementation through cross-departmental program
Policy Implementation

- **Urban Forest Policy Element**
- **Urban Forest Management Plan**
- **Inventory & Assessment** (19% city-wide canopy cover)
- **Education & Outreach** (Benefits of Trees)
- **Regulations** (Update Title 13)
- **Incentives & Assistance**
- **Lead by Example** (Planting, Removals, and Demonstration Projects)
Regulations

- Update Title 13
  - Plantings triggered by development of private property
  - Includes plantings on private property and in adjacent rights-of-way
Regulations

• Previous review
  • Commission review 2011 – 2012
  • Public Hearing May, 2012

• Refocus on Positive Aspects
  • Strong support for goals
  • City leadership
  • Incentives and flexibility
  • Quality not quantity
  • Tree health
  • Reduced emphasis on requirements, particularly in single-family and view areas
Getting more out of Tacoma’s Landscaping Code

- Encourage planting more
- Plant better
- Health, survival and maintenance
- Promote tree retention
- Provide flexibility
- Increase stormwater benefits
- Understandable and predictable
Plant more

• Street trees
  • With new roads and sidewalks
  • Along key corridors in industrial zones

• Parking lots
  • Interior + perimeter landscaping
  • Treat parking lots the same in different districts
  • Often met by other requirements
Plant better

ALL LANDSCAPING

- Native, climate-adapted, invasive
- Safety and visibility
- Remove barriers to LID approaches
- Follow adopted designs

TREES

- Right tree-right place
- Longevity and health
- Small, medium, large trees

SHRUBS & GROUND COVER

- Size, variety
Promote vegetation health

- Landscape Management Plans
- Protection
- Irrigation
- Pruning (no topping)
- Maintenance
- Replacement
- Alterations
- Enforcement
Flexibility

- Tree placement
- Bonding
- Fee in lieu
- Landscaping Master Plan
Tree size flexibility

- Small, medium, large (sliding scale for # required)
  - Small: 15-25 feet mature height
  - Medium: 26-40 feet
  - Large: 41 feet or greater

### Minimum Spacing Requirements for Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Small Trees *</th>
<th>Medium Trees *</th>
<th>Large Trees *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum spacing requirement in ft.:</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* as defined in glossary under “Tree Class Sizes”

### Minimum Soil Volumes and Minimum Unpaved Planting Area per Tree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Small Trees *</th>
<th>Medium Trees *</th>
<th>Large Trees *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum unpaved planting area (sq. ft.):</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard tree pit size (ft.):</td>
<td>4 x 6</td>
<td>4 x 8</td>
<td>4 x 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum soil volume (cu. ft. / cu. yd.):</td>
<td>72 / 2.7</td>
<td>96 / 3.6</td>
<td>120 / 4.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Incentives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desired features</th>
<th>Incentives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larger trees</td>
<td>Sliding scale for size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree retention</td>
<td>Setback flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreens</td>
<td>Reduced quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional soil volume</td>
<td>Reduced area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LID approaches</td>
<td>Location flexibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Setting a baseline - ensure intent still met onsite
  - Reduce, don’t remove requirements
  - Some features may not be subject to reduction (e.g., buffers)
Predictable and understandable

- Organize by subject
- Consistency
- Urban Forest Manual
  - Technical guidance on…
  - planting, maintenance, tree retention, other subjects
  - Landscape Management Plans
  - Small, medium, large tree lists
  - Also education and outreach tool
Canopy cover benefits-why it matters

- Oxygen Production
- Air Temperature Reduction
- Sociological/physiological & Aesthetics
- Noise reduction
- Wildlife Habitat
- Air Quality
- Water Quality (stormwater infiltration and pollution prevention)
- Building Energy Conservation
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction

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## Refining canopy goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Category</th>
<th>Existing Canopy Cover (%)</th>
<th>Recommended Canopy Cover Goal (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial/Mixed Use (CM)</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown (DN)</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed Park (DP)</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Institution (MA)</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family (MF)</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing/Industrial (MI)</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks Natural Area (PN)</td>
<td>74.6%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Family (SF)</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROW/Non-Parceled Areas</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>19%</strong></td>
<td><strong>30%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Outreach

• Metro Parks Tacoma
• Port of Tacoma
• Master Builders Association
• Association of General Contractors
• Tacoma School District
• Chamber of Commerce
• Business Districts
• Neighborhood Councils
• Sustainability Commission
• Green Tacoma Partnership