

URBAN FOREST ACTION PLAN CONCLUSION

Trees are an integral part of our community and the ecological systems in which they exist. They provide significant economic, social and ecological benefits, such as carbon sequestration, reduction of the urban heat island effect, energy savings, reduction of stormwater runoff, improvement of water quality, provide healing and calming qualities, and increase the value of business and residential properties. Planting and maintaining trees help Tacoma become more sustainable and reduce the negative impacts on the ecosystem from urban development. Trees are as necessary as water, infrastructure, and energy to sustaining healthy communities. The health of the urban forest is directly linked to the health of the Puget Sound.

Tacomans recognized this in 1924 when the City passed one of Washington State's first tree protection ordinances. In 2019, Tacoma once again demonstrated its commitment to long-term urban forest sustainability through the implementation of a nationally recognized discovery and audit system to develop this Urban Forest Action Plan, one of the first cities in the Puget Sound to conduct such an audit.

This Plan supports the City's Urban Forest Policy Element and a multitude of plans such as One Tacoma, Tacoma 2025, and the Climate Action Plan. The planning elements in Tacoma's Urban Forest Action Plan are based on outcomes of the audit system and in alignment with existing plans to allow the City to incrementally implement, effectively monitor progress, and efficiently adapt in an everchanging environment. Successful implementation of this Plan will bring Tacoma to a higher level of service that is equitably distributed across the City resulting in a sustainable and thriving urban forest that benefits all residents and future generations.

The vision for Tacoma's urban forest:

One Tacoma, One Canopy

Tacoma's trees and forests are recognized as integral to sustaining life and health for all City residents. A healthy, thriving, and sustainable urban forest is a community priority, to be thoughtfully managed and cared for by partnerships between the City and its residents to maximize public safety and benefits that include a thriving ecosystem, vibrant economy, and livable communities shared by all Tacomans.