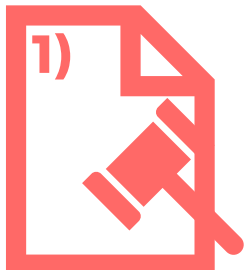


STRATEGIES FOR TACOMA'S URBAN FOREST



ONE
CANY
OPY
20 - 30



MANAGEMENT POLICY, ORDINANCES, STANDARDS, AND PRACTICES

2019 URBAN FOREST AUDIT SYSTEM RANKING

	<u>2019</u>			
	Low	0 of 5	0 of 5	Good
Moderate	5 of 5	0 of 5	Optimal	
-- Management Policy: 85% --				

SETTING THE STAGE

STRENGTHS: Tacoma’s management policy score was relatively high, based on efforts to address climate change and sustainability such as the Climate Action Plan, Tacoma 2025, the Environmental Action Plan, the Urban Forest Manual, tree canopy goals, development standards, and recognition of trees as positive influencers on human health.

OPPORTUNITIES: Proper tree protection and enforcement in the right-of-way (ROW) would support a “no-net-loss” strategy for retaining urban trees. Strengthening Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) and improving urban forest policy would give greater weight to the City’s tree canopy goals.

WHY IT MATTERS



- **Support:** A strategic plan lacking regulatory support is at risk of losing political traction, losing resources and funding, and may lack the enforcement necessary for permanent improvements. A weak or outdated policy framework of policy jeopardizes the success of key projects.
- **Connections:** Alignment of policy, code and existing plans ensures a strong connection among the Tacoma’s strategic urban forestry goals, and the projects and initiatives that realize these goals.

- Holistic: Plans cannot live in isolation. Aligning existing plans, policies, and ordinances brings to light any projects or initiatives that are a misplacement of resources, and provides a foundation for synergistic effort toward City goals.

GOAL 1: Tacoma’s urban forest policies are the foundation for preserving the environmental benefits, management, and the character of Tacoma’s urban forest.

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES



- 1A) Strengthen the Citywide tree canopy goal of 30% by 2030 by aligning urban forest policy with existing policies and plans.
- 1B) Clarify policy for urban forest management and protection.

MID-TERM STRATEGIES

- 1C) Protect Tacoma’s significant/heritage trees.
- 1D) Improve regulations and procedures to encourage tree preservation and protection on private property and in the City right-of-way.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES



- 1E) Achieve a healthy and sustainable 30% tree canopy cover Citywide.
- 1F) Achieve an equitable distribution of urban forest benefits and the level of service provided by the City.

TARGETS

Strategy Outcomes	TARGETS			Strategy /Action
<p>Tacoma Municipal Code updates</p>	<p>2021 Tacoma Municipal Code is updated to align with urban forest policy in One Tacoma.</p>		<p>2030 50 of Tacoma's most significant trees (min) from each Council District are listed on Heritage Tree registry.</p>	<p>1A.5 1C.7</p>
	<p>2022 Inadvertent tree loss during construction is reduced through implementation of the Trees and Sidewalks Operations Plan.</p>		<p>2030 The number of approved tree removal permits is 1% or less of trees planted.</p>	<p>1E.4 1D.1 1D.6 1D.8 1D.10</p>
<p>Tree planting to achieve canopy goals</p>	<p>2020 - 2030 2,000 trees planted annually through City-led capital, open space, or retrofit projects.</p>			<p>1E.2</p>
	<p>8,500 trees planted annually through partnerships and public incentive programs.</p> <p>2021 Pertinent operating procedures and resources such as the recommended tree species list for tree plantings are developed.</p>	<p>2030 A total of 105,000 trees have been planted since 2020 to achieve the 30% canopy goal.</p>		<p>1D.1 1D.8 1D.10 1F.11 1B.3</p>
<p>Urban forest resiliency and equity</p>	<p>2020 Tree policy as recommended by the Tree Risk Management Plan is adopted.</p>	<p>2028 A 1/3rd of wood waste from high-risk tree removals is reused as biomass, woodworking, firewood, and other uses.</p>	<p>2030 90% of public trees are in good condition.</p> <p>2030 Tree canopy goals are achieved in priority areas (Appendix A).</p>	<p>1E.4 1B.9 1E.2 1F.11 1D.12</p>



ACTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

#	ACTIONS	LEAD/YEAR	CO-BENEFITS
1D.1	Monitor tree loss and gain through annual tree removal and planting permit reporting.	ES, PDS, PWD NCS, TPU, MPT	<p>High Med Low</p> <p>TARGET YEAR: ANNUAL</p>
1E.2	Plant 2,000 trees through City projects annually and support 8,500 annual tree plantings through partnerships and public incentive programs. Improved tracking and reporting of partnership plantings will better represent on-the-ground efforts to achieve planting targets.	ENPs, CGs, MPT, TPU, ES, PWD	<p>High Med Low</p> <p>TARGET YEAR: ANNUAL</p>
1B.3	Establish policy, protocols, and standards for priority City tree maintenance within low-income and underserved areas. Evaluate partnership opportunities and a potential cost-share program for hazard tree removals in priority areas (Appendix A and D).	ES, PWD, NCS, OEHR, TPU	<p>High Med Low</p> <p>TARGET YEAR: 2020</p>
1E.4	Implement policy and procedures recommended in the Tree Risk Management Plan.	PWD, ES, TPU, MPT	<p>High Med Low</p> <p>TARGET YEAR: 2020</p>
1A.5	Use the Code Recommendation Prospectus (Appendix F) to establish an Urban Forestry Title to Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) that aligns urban forestry policy with One Tacoma, updates antiquated language and inconsistencies, and requires the use of industry best practices and standards.	ES, PDS, PWD, Legal	<p>High Med Low</p> <p>TARGET YEAR: 2021</p>
1D.6	Implement the Trees and Sidewalks Operations Plan (Plan Phase 3) to eliminate improper tree removals and reduce future hardscape conflicts.	ES, PWD, PDS, Legal	<p>High Med Low</p> <p>TARGET YEAR: 2021</p>

Urban forest policy updates, improvements to TMC, improved standards, and tree planting goals will provide the foundation for achieving the strategies in this Plan.



ACTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

#	ACTIONS	LEAD/YEAR	CO-BENEFITS
1C.7	Update TMC with a Heritage Tree Ordinance.	ES, PDS , Legal, LPC	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> 🏠 ⚖️ ⊕ 🌳 </div>
1D.8	Develop standard operating procedures and permitting processes for urban forest management by 2022 that are aligned with TMC.	ES, PDS, NCS, PWD	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> 🏠 ⚖️ ⊕ 🌳 </div>
1B.9	Establish protocols for tree debris management, wood utilization, and wood waste diversion for routine tree maintenance, removals, and storm response.	PWD , ES, MPT, TPU	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> 🏠 ⚖️ ⊕ 🌳 </div>
1D.10	Align tree protection and design standards in TMC 13.06.502.E with a no-net-loss policy by 2023 to achieve tree canopy goals.	ES, PDS , NCS, Legal, PWD	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> 🏠 ⚖️ ⊕ 🌳 </div>
1F.11	Align neighborhood and priority area planting plans (Action 4B.3) with urban forest policy to address species, locations, timing, climate resiliency, reduced maintenance, higher pest and disease resistance, and equity.	ES, ENPs , PWD MPT, TPU	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> 🏠 ⚖️ ⊕ 🌳 </div>
1D.12	Update post-planting tree care requirements for City projects and developers. Use the Capacity and Training actions to achieve adequate staffing levels for evaluating projects and performance bonds.	ES , PWD, PDS, NCS	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> 🏠 ⚖️ ⊕ 🌳 </div>

Leads (**bold** = primary): CED = Community and Economic Development Department, CG = Civic Groups, CMO = City Manager's Office, ENP = Environmental Non-Profits, ES = Environmental Services Department, IT = Information Technology Department, LPC = Landmarks Preservation Commission, MPT = Metro Parks Tacoma, NCS = Neighborhood and Community Services Department, OACV = Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality, OEHR = Office of Equity and Human Rights, PDS = Planning and Development Services, PWD = Public Works Department, STC = Sustainable Tacoma Commission, TPU = Tacoma Public Utilities.

Co-Benefits: 🏠 = Community, ⚖️ = Equity, ⊕ = Human Health, 🌳 = Environment

ONE TACOMA, ONE CANOPY

Our urban forest needs you



Plant and maintain trees on your property using best practices. Learn about urban trees from the U.S. Forest Service at fs.fed.us/managing-land/urbanforests.



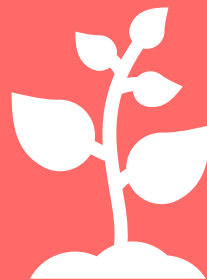
Explore stewardship and volunteer activities with the City, local non-profits, and other organizations.



Be vigilant by contacting Urban Forestry if you see a hazard tree or a tree pest or disease of concern in the right-of-way.



Consider the City's Grit City Trees and Coupon Programs to help Tacoma reach the 30% tree canopy goal.



Questions about these resources? trees@cityoftacoma.org