



# FUNDING AND AUTHORITY

## 2019 URBAN FOREST AUDIT SYSTEM RANKING

		<u>2019</u>		
	<b>Low</b>	2 of 3	0 of 3	<b>Good</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	1 of 3	0 of 3	<b>Optimal</b>
<b>-- Funding: 81% Authority: 88% --</b>				

### SETTING THE STAGE

**STRENGTHS:** Tacoma's Urban Forestry Program, which has authority over day-to-day tree-related activities, and provides technical support to other City Departments and Work Groups, is budgeted annually and is funded primarily through the City's stormwater program with additional funding through the General Fund.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Phase 1 research indicates Tacoma is well below regional averages in urban forest budget expenditures per capita and per tree, even if expenditures from partnering agencies are included. Tacoma has a strong network of engaged community residents who are in support of reallocating resources for urban forestry and tree stewardship. The actions for the Funding and Authority Chapter focus on standards operating procedures, internal work-flows, policy, staff trainings and technical support.

### WHY IT MATTERS



- **Effectiveness:** Appropriate urban forest funding enables and amplifies implementation of this Plan and related daily operations, resulting in better community outcomes such as increased level of service, better health outcomes, and reduced public hazard potential.
- **Equity:** Equitable resource dispersal balances environmental justice to historically undeserved and lower-income areas.

- **Accountability:** Accurate accounting of urban forest practices, management, and urban forest assets enables performance- and attribute-based funding.
- **Communication:** Standard protocols established for communications among the urban forest stakeholders offer transparency and coordinate efforts.

## **GOAL 3:** City resources and authority enable equitable urban forest management for the preservation and enhancement of tree benefits.

### **SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES**



- 3A) Identify appropriate resource needs and service levels for the management of trees in City-maintained areas.

### **MID-TERM STRATEGIES**





- 3B) Acquire additional City responsibility of street tree maintenance in prioritized corridors.

### **LONG-TERM STRATEGIES**



- 3C) Enable framework for diversified, sustained and dedicated funding to the urban forest.
- 3D) Public tree maintenance responsibility is shared by the City and its residents by City obtaining maintenance responsibility of public trees in priority areas including major arterials, business districts, regional growth areas, and historically underserved neighborhoods.

# TARGETS

Strategy Outcomes	TARGETS		Strategy /Action
<b>Urban forestry funding</b>	<b>2020</b> Analysis of alternative and <b>sustained funding</b> sources <b>research</b> conducted.	 <b>2030</b> Consistent <b>public</b> and <b>private funding</b> enables <b>sustained</b> and flexible urban forest programming.	3A.1 3A.9 3C.5 3A.6
<b>Urban forest management authority</b>	<b>2021</b> Recommended <b>priority maintenance areas</b> are finalized.	 <b>2030</b> All public street <b>trees</b> in <b>all priority maintenance areas</b> are routinely <b>pruned</b> .	3B.3 3A.2  3B.4 3D.7 3D.8
 <b>2021 – 2030</b> <b>600 public street trees</b> are annually <b>maintained</b> (a total of 4,000 public street trees in a <b>7-year rotation</b> ).			



Funding for the urban forest will be at comparable levels for the Western U.S. for cities with similar population levels and number of public trees.

Healthcare and transportation partnerships diversify the funding portfolio of urban forest programs, resulting in increased program resiliency and amplified resource benefits.

A comprehensive inventory of public trees justifies budget, determines ecosystem services, and informs tree maintenance decisions.

Care for the trees in priority corridors and areas will be managed by the City—an estimated 4,000 trees in phase one.



## ACTIONS FOR FUNDING AND AUTHORITY

#	ACTIONS	LEAD/YEAR	CO-BENEFITS
3A.1	Continue to track and annually report urban forestry activities of all partners to apply to budget change requests and continue support of Arbor Day Tree City USA Designation.	<b>PWD</b> , ES, PDS, NCS, MPT, TPU, ENPs	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>High</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Med</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Low</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <span><b>TARGET YEAR:</b></span> <span>▲ ▲ ▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>ANNUAL</span> <span> </span> </div>
3A.2	Implement Action 2A.3 and “develop a business case in 2020 to propose 2021-2022 biennium budget enhancement request for an arborist crew” and include a request for annual urban forest management funding (including City partners) that incrementally aligns more closely with Western U.S. rates. Recommended incremental increase in urban forest management expenditures per capita is \$8.00 (\$1,658,240)—increased from \$7.77 (\$1,610,565) to meet the levels of service required for implementation of this Plan.	<b>ES, PWD</b> , PDS, STC, CMO	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>High</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Med</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Low</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <span><b>TARGET YEAR:</b></span> <span>▲ ▲ ▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>2020</span> <span> </span> </div>
3B.3	Finalize the priority street tree maintenance corridors that were recommended through the lens of environmental justice and equitable ecosystem services (Appendix D).	<b>ES, PWD</b> , PDS, NCS, CED, MPT, TPU	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>High</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Med</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Low</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <span><b>TARGET YEAR:</b></span> <span>▲ ▲ ▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>2021</span> <span> </span> </div>
3B.4	Using guidance from Action 3A.2, implement a City street tree maintenance program and start street tree maintenance in identified corridors and neighborhoods (approximately 4,000 total trees).	<b>PWD</b> , ES, PDS	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>High</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Med</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Low</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <span><b>TARGET YEAR:</b></span> <span>▲ ▲ ▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>2021</span> <span> </span> </div>
3C.5	Beginning in 2021, implement the sustained funding source findings (Phase 3 Plan). Develop or strengthen open channels of communication with non-conventional urban forest partners, including healthcare and transportation partners.	<b>ES</b> , PWD, PDS	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>High</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Med</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Low</span> <span>▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <span><b>TARGET YEAR:</b></span> <span>▲ ▲ ▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>2021</span> <span> </span> </div>
3A.6	Develop a business case in 2022 to propose 2023-2024 biennium budget enhancement request for urban forest management to increase from the 2022 amount to the recommended \$8.76 per capita (\$1,815,773) (see Action 3A.2).	<b>ES, PWD</b> , PDS, STC, CMO	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>High</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Med</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Low</span> <span>▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <span><b>TARGET YEAR:</b></span> <span>▲ ▲ ▲ ▲</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>2022</span> <span> </span> </div>

# ACTIONS FOR FUNDING AND AUTHORITY

#	ACTIONS	LEAD/YEAR	CO-BENEFITS
3D.7	In coordination with the Management Policy actions, establish and sustain efforts with Neighborhood Business Districts, Neighborhood Council District, neighborhood organizations, and civic groups in all Tacoma neighborhoods by 2022 to implement young tree maintenance approaches for the care of 10,500 trees planted annually.	<b>NCS</b> , ES, ENPs, OEHR  <b>TARGET YEAR: 2022</b>	 
3D.8	Starting in 2022, prune approximately 600 established public trees per year along target road corridors to preserve existing mature canopy and train young trees to reduce potential risk.	<b>PWD</b> , ES, PDS  <b>TARGET YEAR: 2022</b>	 
3A.9	Quantify the ecosystem benefits and appropriate appraisal values of public trees to enable completion of cost-benefit analysis. Align this with Action with 4A.1, rotational 5-year public tree inventory.	<b>ES</b>  <b>TARGET YEAR: 2025</b>	 

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*



*Join your neighborhood association and coordinate tree-themed improvement projects. Funding opportunities described at [cityoftacoma.org/urbanforestry](http://cityoftacoma.org/urbanforestry).*



*Learn about the public trees inventoried in Tacoma by visiting [www.pg-cloud.com/TacomaWA](http://www.pg-cloud.com/TacomaWA).*



*Learn about public right-of-way tree maintenance responsibility on the City's urban forestry website.*



*Get involved by joining the Green Tacoma Partnership and local environmental non-profits and find out how you can volunteer.*



Questions about these resources? [trees@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:trees@cityoftacoma.org)