



# RISK AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

## 2019 URBAN FOREST AUDIT SYSTEM RANKING

	<u>2019</u>			
	<b>Low</b>	1 of 4	0 of 4	<b>Good</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	3 of 4	0 of 4	<b>Optimal</b>
<b>-- Risk: 50% Disaster Plan: 57% --</b>				

### SETTING THE STAGE

**STRENGTHS:** Several current staff are trained in tree risk assessment methods. Management of post-disaster debris is outlined in the Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Grounds maintenance crews and Tacoma Power conduct post-storm cleanup as resources allow.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Tacoma-specific standard operating plans and additional technical support for assessing potential tree risk will improve efficiency, resourcefulness and avoid tree-related risk. Accurate tree inventories of trees in rights-of-way are necessary to identify, monitor, plan, prioritize and mitigate risk. Tree canopy assessments and comprehensive tree inventories help inform Tacoma's assessment of vulnerabilities to tree pests, diseases, climate change, storm events, and invasive species. Tacoma will establish tree risk management procedures and an urban forest disaster readiness plan in Phase 3 of the Urban Forest Management Plan project.

### WHY IT MATTERS



- Due Diligence: It is the City's responsibility to appropriately manage risk in the public rights-of-way to maintain public health.
- Preparation: Natural disasters cannot be prevented but the impact of, mitigation for, and recovery from the disaster can be controlled through appropriate planning.

- Safety: Proper proactive planning and managing of risks and disaster response reduces the public safety risk and long-term costs.
- Savings: Actively managing tree risk likely reduces tree failure, City liability, and potential for human or property damages. Proper planning for disaster response enables resourceful and efficient mitigation and recovery procedures.

**GOAL 5: Proactively manage tree-related risk throughout the urban forest and equip urban forest leaders with resources to address risks and disasters.**

### SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES



- 5A) Effectively monitor threats from urban forest disturbances such as pest and disease outbreaks.

### MID-TERM STRATEGIES

- 5B) Reduce tree-related risk through risk avoidance, prioritized hazard elimination, and accurate tree inventories.
- 5C) Risks to the urban forest are properly planned for and appropriately addressed or mitigated with adequate resources to maintain public health and urban forest sustainability.

### LONG-TERM STRATEGIES



- 5D) Sustain urban forest resiliency through emergency preparedness.

# TARGETS

Strategy Outcomes	TARGETS	Strategy /Action
<p><b>Urban forest risk and disaster planning</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2021 - 2030</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">600 public trees are annually assessed for potential risks and mitigation is prioritized in City-maintained areas.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>2020</b> 4,000 City-maintained trees are assessed for risk and mitigation is prioritized.</p> <p><b>2020</b> Tree Risk Management Plan is completed that includes guidance for risk trees, pest and disease threats, and disasters.</p> </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"> <p><b>2022</b> Urban Forest Manager receives Urban Forest Strike Team Training from the U.S. Forest Service or similar training.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>2030</b> High risk trees from the City's newly acquired management areas (public trees) are effectively mitigated.</p> <p><b>2030</b> Less than 5% of the tree inventory population has record of signs or symptoms of tree pest and diseases of concern.</p> </div> </div>	<p>5A.3</p> <p>5A.1 5D.4 5B.5</p> <p>5C.2 5A.6</p>



Tree risk assessments for public trees are used to prevent, mitigate, respond, and recover to maintain public safety and a sustainable urban forest.

A plan that addresses harmful tree pests and diseases reduces the risk of significant loss of urban forest ecosystem services and benefits and maintains the health and sustainability of the resource.



# ACTIONS FOR RISK AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

#	ACTIONS	LEAD/YEAR	CO-BENEFITS
5A.1	In 2021, assess potential tree-related risks for all 4,000 public street trees the City is starting to maintain. Then conduct annual routine inventories in line with maintenance schedules with intent to document, monitor, prepare, and mitigate current and future risks to the urban forest (i.e. tree structure issues, exotic pests and diseases, climate change impacts).	<b>ES, PWD, PDS</b>  <b>TARGET YEAR:</b> 2021, ANNUAL	  ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low
5C.2	Work with environmental non-profit organizations and other partners to provide resources and annual training regarding tree pest and disease management as well as invasive species management. Provide resources to private landholders on an as-needed basis.	<b>ENPs, ES, MPT, NCS</b>  <b>TARGET YEAR:</b> ANNUAL	  ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low
5A.3	Use the elevated urban forest management staffing levels (see Action 2D.2) and 2025 (see Action 2A.3) for the assessment of potential tree risks in priority areas (outlined in 5A.1).	<b>ES, PWD, PDS</b>  <b>TARGET YEAR:</b> 2021	  ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low
5D.4	Implement the Tree Risk Management Plan that relates to planning for structural tree risks, exotic tree pest and disease threats, and disasters.	<b>ES, PWD, PDS, ENPs, CGs, NCS, Legal</b>  <b>TARGET YEAR:</b> 2021	  ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low
5B.5	Mitigate high-risk trees in the City's newly acquired maintenance areas (public trees) by incrementally (25% by 2021, 50% by 2025, 75% by 2028) addressing high-risk trees annually with the appropriate maintenance activity.	<b>PWD</b>  <b>TARGET YEARS:</b> 2021, 2025, 2028	  ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low
5A.6	Use Citywide tree inventory data and best available science for long-term planning and management of existing and future tree pests and diseases impacting Tacoma's urban forest (training obtained from Action 2C.8). Use results from 5D.4 to inform decisions on this Action.	<b>PWD, ES, ENPs</b>  <b>TARGET YEAR:</b> 2023, ANNUAL	  ▲ High ▲ Med ▲ Low

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, 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*



*Are you prepared for natural disasters and other emergencies? Learn more about personal preparedness here: [co.pierce.wa.us/945/Personal-Preparedness](https://co.pierce.wa.us/945/Personal-Preparedness) and stay alert by signing up for Pierce County's ALERT program: [co.pierce.wa.us/921/Pierce-County-ALERT](https://co.pierce.wa.us/921/Pierce-County-ALERT).*



*Did you know Tacoma manages almost 500 acres of passive open space, including many forests and natural areas? Learn more at [cityoftacoma.org/openspace](https://cityoftacoma.org/openspace). Consider volunteering to help manage these vital open space areas at [EarthCorps.org/Volunteer](https://EarthCorps.org/Volunteer).*



*Did you know there is an international standardized method for assessing trees and their potential risks? Learn more at [PNWISA.org/Certification](https://PNWISA.org/Certification).*



*Learn your invasive trees and shrubs and how to manage them at [PierceCountyWeedBoard.org](https://PierceCountyWeedBoard.org).*



*Report an invasive tree pest or disease by contacting the state plant health director at [aphis.usda.gov](https://aphis.usda.gov).*



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