



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2019 URBAN FOREST AUDIT SYSTEM RANKING

		<u>2019</u>		
	Low	1 of 4	0 of 4	Good
	Moderate	3 of 4	0 of 4	Optimal
-- Community: 86% --				

SETTING THE STAGE

STRENGTHS: The City collaborates with environmental organizations for tree planting and tree walk events, has an extensive network of stakeholders, and engages the public through social media, websites, radio and other communication platforms. This Plan was informed through nearly 2,000 public survey responses, three public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and multiple public working group sessions.

OPPORTUNITIES: Community feedback and concerns, gathered from surveys and meetings, surrounding urban forest operations and planning can be used to inform future urban forest management strategies. Recurring feedback includes interest in City right-of-way tree maintenance responsibility, a heritage tree program, and resources in alignment with the industry, among other interests. Efforts should align with ongoing planning efforts and initiatives.

WHY IT MATTERS



- **Inclusivity:** Residential property contains 44% of Tacoma’s total tree canopy cover. Sustaining Tacoma’s urban forest requires residential collaboration and feedback, and fostering long-term relationships to improve outcomes.
- **Transparency:** Program and funding transparency are essential in building resilient community partnerships.

- Resourcefulness: Public participation and insight provide resourceful and impactful urban forest program growth.
- Community: Active participation in nature-related efforts foster community pride and ownership, and breaks down walls, helping bring communities closer together as they become closer to nature.

GOAL 6: Sustainable urban forest management and equity is achieved through a partnership with the City and its residents resulting in improved well-being, human health outcomes, and stronger local economies.

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES



- 6A) Continue to build trust and strong partnerships between the City, partners, and the community.
- 6B) Revisit public engagement methods to retain open lines of communication.

MID-TERM STRATEGIES

- 6C) Include the community in the decision making process for urban forestry efforts throughout Tacoma’s neighborhoods.
- 6D) Seek inclusive outlets for City members to actively steward and value their urban forest.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES



- 6E) Secure non-conventional partners in urban forestry, including public health, tribes, and transportation sectors.
- 6F) Provide equitable access to urban forest resources for all Tacomans, ensuring all residents and visitors alike share the benefits of trees.

TARGETS

Strategy Outcomes	TARGETS			Strategy /Action	
Comm- unity outreach and education	2020 - 2030				
	<p>Biannual community survey results demonstrate improved levels of service regarding urban forest management.</p> <p>Annual Plan implementation progress reports provided to City Council.</p> <p>Annual Tree City USA Award and celebration.</p> <p>Continue a presence on social media to engage new audiences and reach a broader community.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>2020</p> <p>Tree canopy goals are integrated into Grit City Trees Program.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>2025</p> <p>First annual urban forest stewardship recognition award.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>2030</p> <p>Engagement of high school students expands access to nature and a greater understanding of our impact on our environment.</p> </div> </div>			<p>6C.2</p> <p>6A.4</p> <p>6B.3 6B.6</p> <p>6A.10</p> <p>6A.11</p> <p>6A.4 6A.12</p>	
Partner- ships	<p>2021 ←</p> <p>Non-conventional partnerships established that represent all Tacoma neighborhoods.</p>	<p>2025 ←</p> <p>Coordinate tree planting or tree maintenance projects in each neighborhood or area by utilizing partnerships with neighborhood groups and non-conventional partners.</p>	<p>2030</p> <p>Neighborhood tree planting and stewardship groups established in each neighborhood and supported by non-conventional partners.</p>	<p>6E.9</p>	
Steward- -ship	<p>2020 →</p> <p>Increase number of volunteers by 10% from 275 volunteers (2018) due to outreach and partner- ships.</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>Fruit trees and gleaning approved for the right-of-way under specific circum- stances.</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>Volunteers, City, and partners are providing post-planting care for the 10,500 trees planted annually to achieve canopy goals.</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>Green job training and placement program is implemented providing tree maintenance and planting assistance while training a new, diverse work force.</p> <p>First City-led project including fruit trees supported for priority area.</p>	<p>6A.1</p> <p>6F.8</p> <p>6D.5</p>



ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#	ACTIONS	LEAD/YEAR	CO-BENEFITS
6A.1	Support and sustain partnerships with local and regional participatory organizations. Encourage and support horizontal volunteer collaboration between organizations. Increase the number of community volunteers annually from 275 recorded in 2018.	ES and listed partners (next page) TARGET YEAR: ANNUAL	
6C.2	Conduct biannual community surveys (starting in 2021) to gauge public viewpoints and receive feedback on Plan implementation and program success. Survey responses should inform future urban forest decision making.	ES, CMO, ENPs, CGs TARGET YEAR: BIANNUAL	
6B.3	Every quarter, share informative urban forestry and tree-related content to a social media, City website, and other communication platforms.	ES, CMO, PWD, ENPs, CGs TARGET YEAR: QUARTERLY	
6A.4	Encourage youth participation in Arbor Day and Green Tacoma Day events. Encourage and provide technical support to enable tree-related curriculum and plantings at schools. Pilot high school project by 2021, all 10 high schools by 2030.	ES, ENPs, CGs, CED, NCS TARGET YEAR: 2021, 2030	
6D.5	Establish a young adult job training, urban forest stewardship program to facilitate the planting and/or care of 10,500 trees annually (City-led and partnership plantings).	ES, NCS, CED, ENPs, CGs, PWD TARGET YEAR: 2021	
6B.6	Prepare a minimum of 4 new audience-specific (business owner, developer, resident) urban forest and/or tree-related outreach and education materials based on research from this Plan .	ES, CMO, ENPs, CGs, PDS, PWD, NCS, CED TARGET YEAR: 2021	
6C.7	Update role of Landmarks Preservation Commission as necessary to implement Heritage Tree Program Action described in the Management Policy section of this Plan.	LPC, ES TARGET YEAR: 2021	

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6F.8	Identify appropriate parks, rights-of-way, and other public spaces in Tacoma that feasibly can support healthy and safe fruit trees to support gleaning initiatives. Initiate feasibility study in supportive low-income neighborhoods in 2023, progressing to other supportive neighborhoods by 2025. Consider the use of vacant City lots and brown-fields for community-oriented orchards in supportive neighborhoods.	ES , NCS, PWD, ENPs, CGs TARGET YEAR: 2023-25	
6E.9	Establish non-conventional partnerships that serve single and/or multiple Tacoma neighborhoods. All 8 neighborhoods should be supported.	ES, ENPs, PWD, CGs , PDS, MPT, TPU, NCS, CED TARGET YEAR: 2025	
6A.10	Hold biannual tree-related stewardship events with neighborhood associations, councils, working groups, and districts in each of the 8 Tacoma neighborhoods. Use meetings to grow Grit City Tree and Tree Coupon programs and increase volunteer participation.	NCS, ENPs, CGs , ES TARGET YEAR: 2025	
6A.11	Recognize exemplary urban forest stewards and volunteers representing youth, residents and business owners. Consider a tree donation or tree fund framework for costs associated with this program.	ENPs, CGs , ES, TARGET YEAR: 2025	
6A.12	Encourage and support sustainable urban forest planning and practices on all academic institutions through approval of an institution-specific Urban Forest Management Plan or adoption of this Plans relevant strategies and actions. Academic institutions should have a tree inventory by 2027 and be actively contributing to Tacoma's 30% tree canopy goal.	ENPs , NCS, ES TARGET YEAR: 2027	

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



Trees need people just as much as people need trees. Consider volunteering a local environmental organization.



Engage your local parks and enjoy the restorative effect of our urban forest. Visit MetroParksTacoma.org to find a park near you.



Sign up for EnviroNews with Citizens for a Healthy Bay to learn about workshops, training, and news at HealthyBay.org.



Participate in biannual urban forest surveys. Your feedback is influential to current and future programs.



See how this Plan's actions align with One Tacoma at cityoftacoma.org/planning and Tacoma 2025 at cityoftacoma.org/tacoma_2025.

A shared vision for the urban forest can be accomplished by implementing community outreach and education, strengthening partnerships, and enhanced stewardship from the community.



In addition to public land, sustainable urban forest management must occur on institutional grounds, commercial property, and residential land; supported by the City and its partners.

Urban forest sustainability and increased tree canopy cover can only be accomplished through partnerships with the City and the residents.

Questions about these resources? trees@cityoftacoma.org