City of Huntington Park

Urban Forest Management Plan

TreePeople

Acknowledgements

City of Huntington Park

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Contents

Executive Summary

The urban forest provides many benefits to the community. This plan is structured around nine benefits that directly influence community health and well-being: Mental Health, Outdoor Activities, Stormwater Management, Shading & Cooling, Climate Resilience, Social Cohesion, Privacy & Quiet, Food Forest, and Biodiversity. These benefits play a key role in framing the community engagement, analyzing the urban forest, and informing strategies and goals.

The plan reflects community perspectives through the results of a survey that was conducted at three workshops and the Farmer's Market. The survey revealed that residents thought the benefits of Outdoor Recreation, Shading & Cooling, and Mental Health were most important. Community members most want to see more trees along Streets and Sidewalks, in Schools, and in Public Parks. Maintenance of trees was the highest concern among residents, followed by damage caused by trees.

The urban forest in Huntington Park depends on the social and ecological contexts that shape it. Huntington Park was not historically forested, but rather had a coastal sage scrub habitat, composed primarily of low shrubs. Trees were important to the indigenous peoples that lived in the area who cultivated oak trees for acorns. The area began to urbanize in the 20th century, with the construction of the railroad and the use of Pacific Boulevard as a connection between Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Huntington Park has a climate of hot dry summers and wet, mild winters, which supports many types of trees, especially those that are drought tolerant. Climate change is altering that balance by increasing temperatures and making precipitation more variable. Not everyone will feel the impacts of climate change equally, with vulnerable populations including low-income residents, older adults, and those with existing medical conditions facing greater risks. Policies both at the state and local level influence the ability to fund and grow the urban forest.

Huntington Park has an existing tree canopy of 11%, which is distributed unevenly across the city. Different land uses have differing levels of canopy cover, with industrial areas having the least canopy and parks having the most canopy. Even within land use, canopy cover varies significantly, leaving low canopy neighborhoods that are highest priority areas for tree planting. Looking specifically at street trees in the public right-of-way, some neighborhoods and major streets have high canopy cover, while others have almost no public canopy.

Huntington Park has a very diverse urban forest, with over 200 species, and no one species comprising more than 10%. The forest has a good distribution of different sizes of trees. Huntington Park's urban forest is mostly healthy, with 90% of trees in good or fair condition and less than 10% of trees in dead or poor condition.

There are many opportunities to plant new trees in Huntington Park including on existing vacant sites in the public right-of-way, and by modifying existing vegetated and hardscape landscapes to accommodate more trees. Additionally, design of the right-of-way can be adjusted to accommodate more trees, and zoning codes can be modified to create more space for the urban forest on private property.

Based on the results of the community engagement and analysis of the urban forest, canopy targets have been set for each land use. To accomplish these targets, strategies have been outlined (see next page) that are supported by specific recommendations for City operations or policies to support the urban forest.

Implementing the plan will require coordinating people and funding. Stakeholders across the city have different roles in realizing the urban forest laid out in the plan. Achieving that urban forest will take time as trees grow, with differing responsibilities through time as the plan unfolds. Finally, funding to support the planting, maintenance, and engagement of the urban forest will need to be allocated to act on the strategies.

Key Takeaways by Chapter

COMMUNITY VOICES

- Mental Health, Shading & Cooling, and Outdoor Activities were the most desired benefits with 86% of resident ranking them as highly desirable
- Public land including Streets & Sidewalks, Schools, and Public Parks are the highest priority planting locations
- Tree maintenance is the highest area of concern of the urban forest
- Community members are supportive of the project and would like to see more trees in Huntington Park, as well as more engagement around the urban forest

CONTEXT

- The landscape of Huntington Park has gone through many transitions from Indigenous managed oak woodlands to an urban city
- Huntington Park has a warm, semi-arid climate that is projected to become hotter and less predictable with climate change
- Environmental burdens are disproportionately felt by vulnerable populations
- State regulations influence the resources dedicated to the urban forest and local regulations influence the land use available for tree planting

EXISTING FOREST

- The existing public urban forest is diverse, young, and mostly healthy
- Tree canopy varies considerably by land use
- There is unequal distribution of canopy cover within land uses requiring some areas to be prioritized to create an equitable urban forest

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

- There is a lot of potential to increase tree canopy in Huntington Park, realizing much of this potential will require modifying existing paved areas
- More space can be created for the private urban forest by adjusting residential, commercial, and industrial zoning requirements
- More plantable spaces can be added to the public right of way by allocating space from cars to trees

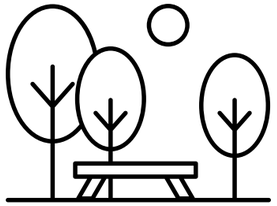
GOALS AND STRATEGIES

- Prioritizing planting trees early in the project will allow time for tree growth throughout the project
- Coordinating stakeholders will help achieve a common goal
- Funding will be required to implement strategies
- The plan is a living document that will change over time

IMPLEMENTATION

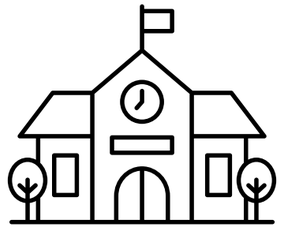
- Citywide canopy goal is supported by goals for each land use based on community priorities and existing canopy
- Planting large trees will make it easier to achieve canopy goals with fewer planting spaces
- Strategies support canopy goals with specific operations and policy recommendations

Goals



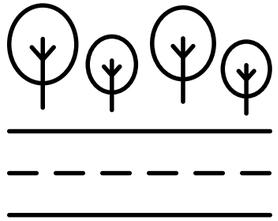
30%

canopy in
public parks



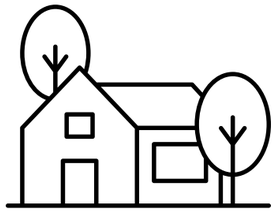
30%

canopy in
school zones



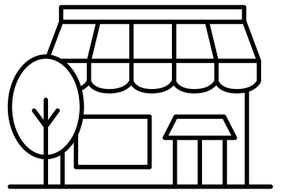
25%

canopy along
the right-of-way



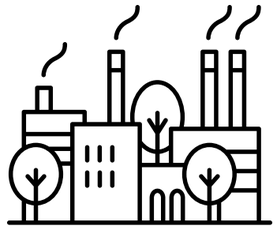
20%

canopy in residential
neighborhoods



15%

canopy in
commercial districts



10%

canopy in
industrial zones

20%

canopy citywide

Strategies

Plant	1. Maximize shade in the public right-of-way
	2. Provide green areas for recreation in parks and around schools
	3. Ensure industrial areas maintain beneficial canopies
	4. Create canopied commercial corridors
	5. Create immersive green neighborhoods for all residents
	6. Pursue opportunities to expand the urban forest
Protect	7. Conserve the existing public urban forest
	8. Conserve the existing private urban forest
Partner	9. Partner with agencies outside the City to coordinate tree planting
	10. Engage the community with the urban forest

Vision

A future where trees are abundant throughout the City and accessible to the whole community, providing opportunities for outdoor recreating, providing cooling on hot days, promoting safe, inviting streets, and creating immersive green spaces in all neighborhoods

Tree planting

Tree care in Huntington Park

"Urban forest is important to the health and wellness of the community."

"Deberíamos abrazar mas los arboles."

"We should embrace trees more."

Introduction

Importance of having a plan for managing and growing the urban forest

Trees on public land and private property collectively form the urban forest of Huntington Park. The urban forest serves as part the City's critical infrastructure, which, like sidewalks and utilities, provides essential services that must be invested in and maintained. As such, a solid and agreed upon plan for managing the urban forest is needed to guide policy, investments, and effective management practices.

Urban forest management planning creates a road map towards an urban forest that provides a multitude of benefits to all residents of Huntington Park and is cared for in a way that allows the trees and the community they serve to thrive.

The importance of planning for the urban forest is essential now more than ever. Environmental hazards like climate change mean we need resilient living infrastructure like trees to help adapt to the changes happening now and in the years ahead.

A good plan guides smart investing in the urban forest to realize a greener and more resilient Huntington Park in the future. Maintaining and growing a forest in the urban fabric requires being intentional about making space for trees. Planning for the future of the urban forest will require finding more opportunities to plant trees and creating the capacity to care for those trees over the course of their lives.

Creating the City of Huntington Park Urban Forest Management Plan

This plan was created with input from community members, guidance from the City, and analysis of existing forest conditions and policies. Together, these insights informed recommended strategies to grow and sustain the urban forest over the next 50 years with expectation that the plan will be updated every 10 years based on progress made and changing community needs.

Trees in Huntington Park provide many benefits—a background of bird song, shady places to rest, or calming green scenery—and so naturally that they can go unremarked upon in daily life. Unremarked or intentionally beloved, the urban forest has a profound impact on community resilience, personal health and well-being, business success, and overall quality of civic life in Huntington Park.

While by no means inclusive of all the services of the urban forest, nine existing or potential benefits of the urban forest—listed and described in the **Urban Forest Benefits** chapter—are used extensively to develop Huntington Park's urban forest management plan. Selection of benefits was guided by several considerations with priority for benefits that residents could reasonably be expected to have experienced directly and could provide input based on this experience in Huntington Park.

To realize specific benefits, especially those important to the Huntington Park community, strategies for growing the urban forest can be optimized by species selection, location of trees, and the extent of tree canopy in different parts of the city. However, trees can provide multiple benefits simultaneously and, therefore, a healthy and growing urban forest can improve all.

Workshop surveys asked members of the Huntington Park community to prioritize which of the nine benefits were most relevant to them and where in the city it was most important to gain more of urban forest benefits. See the **Community Voices** chapter.

The current urban forest was assessed for its contributions to these benefits. See the **Existing Forest** chapter.

Plans for future action were created to move the existing forest to better support the benefits prioritized in community surveys. See the **Goals & Strategies** chapter.

Benefits of the Urban Forest

Mental Health
Provides immersive green spaces that are accessible to all residents

Outdoor Activity
Supports a wide array of recreation outdoors

Stormwater Capture
Helps reduce flooding issues and creates additonal water resources

Shade and Cooling
Tree canopy provides shade and cooler temperatures

Climate Resilience
Thrives in a hotter, drier climate

Social Cohesion
Encourages gatherings in spaces like public squares and parks

Privacy and Quiet
Provides screening and buffering of pollution to create privacy and filter noise

Food Forest
Provides culturally relevant fruits and nuts

Biodiversity
Supports biodiversity and provides a wildlife habitat

Community Voices

Key Takeaways

- Outdoor Activity, Shading & Cooling and Mental Health were the most desired benefits of the urban forest
- Streets & Sidewalks, Schools, and Parks are the highest priority tree planting locations
- Maintenance is the highest area of concern of the urban forest
- Community members are supportive of the project and would like to see more trees in Huntington Park as well as receive more information about the urban forest

“In the past years, there has been a great involvement to plant trees. I welcome more of these activities to green our city more.”

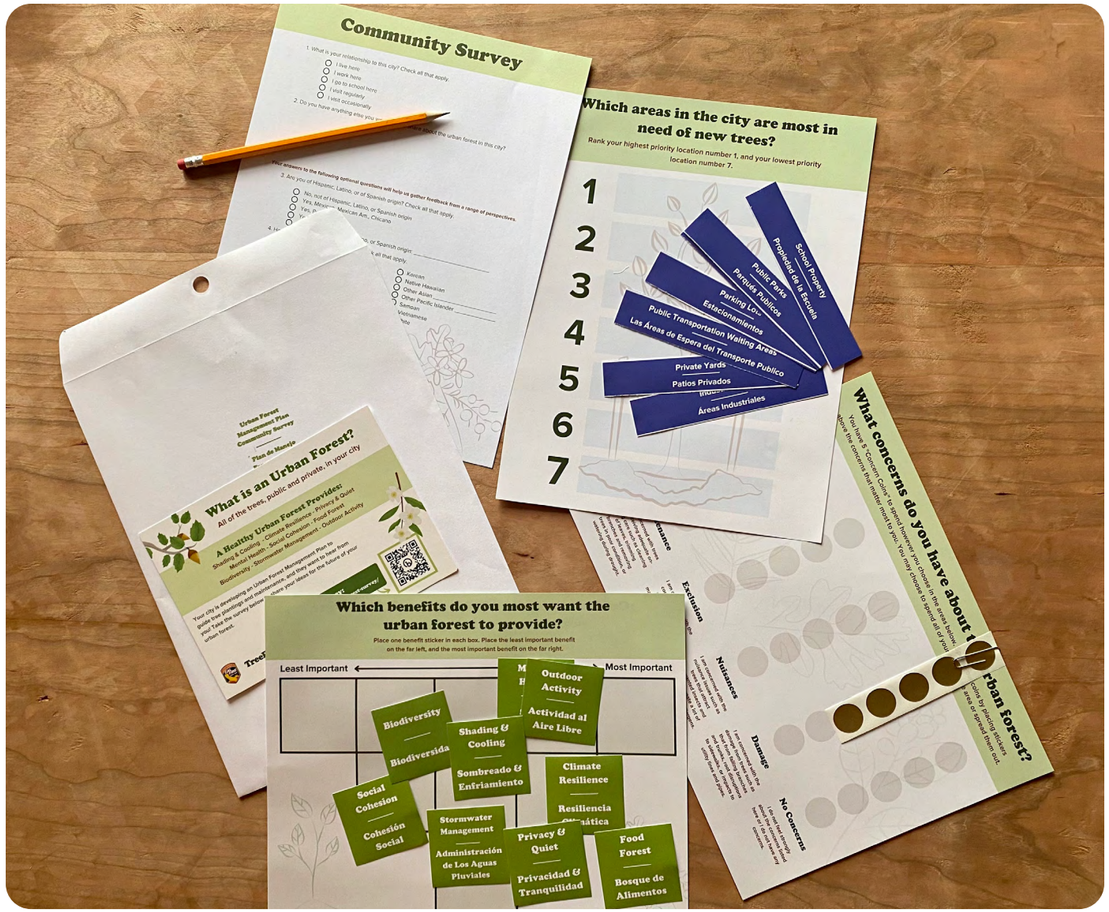
“More trees would be great, as long as they're maintained.”

WORKSHOPS

Members of the Huntington Park community were engaged to understand their priorities and concerns regarding the urban forest. Community engagements included outreach to recruit participants with a broad range of perspectives to participate in workshops with an activity-based survey.

Three workshops conducted in English and Spanish were held at Huntington Park Community Center and the Freedom Park Recreation Center in March and April 2023. Workshops included an educational presentation on nine benefits of the urban forest as listed and described in the **Benefits of the Urban Forest** chapter as well as a summary of Huntington Park's existing forest and a description of the urban forest management planning process. Following the presentation, participants completed activities in a survey packet. Workshops concluded with a tree planting and care demonstration after which participants were invited to take home a free fruit tree.

Huntington Park Fruit Tree Adoption



Activity Packets

SURVEY ACTIVITY PACKETS

The surveys included three one-page activities that asked 1) which benefits of the urban forest are most important to community members, 2) where it is the highest priority to plant new trees, and 3) what are the top concerns about the urban forest. The colorful worksheets were provided in Spanish and English with stickers to indicate selections. Packets also included a brief demographic questionnaire with an opportunity for participants to give additional open feedback.

Outside of the three community workshops, community members completed the survey at the Huntington Park Farmer's Market in April 2023. Participants were given a free fruit tree in exchange for completing the survey at the market. Further, some community members completed the survey online, through a link distributed via the workshop take-home flier or through digital promotion. In total, 74 surveys were completed.

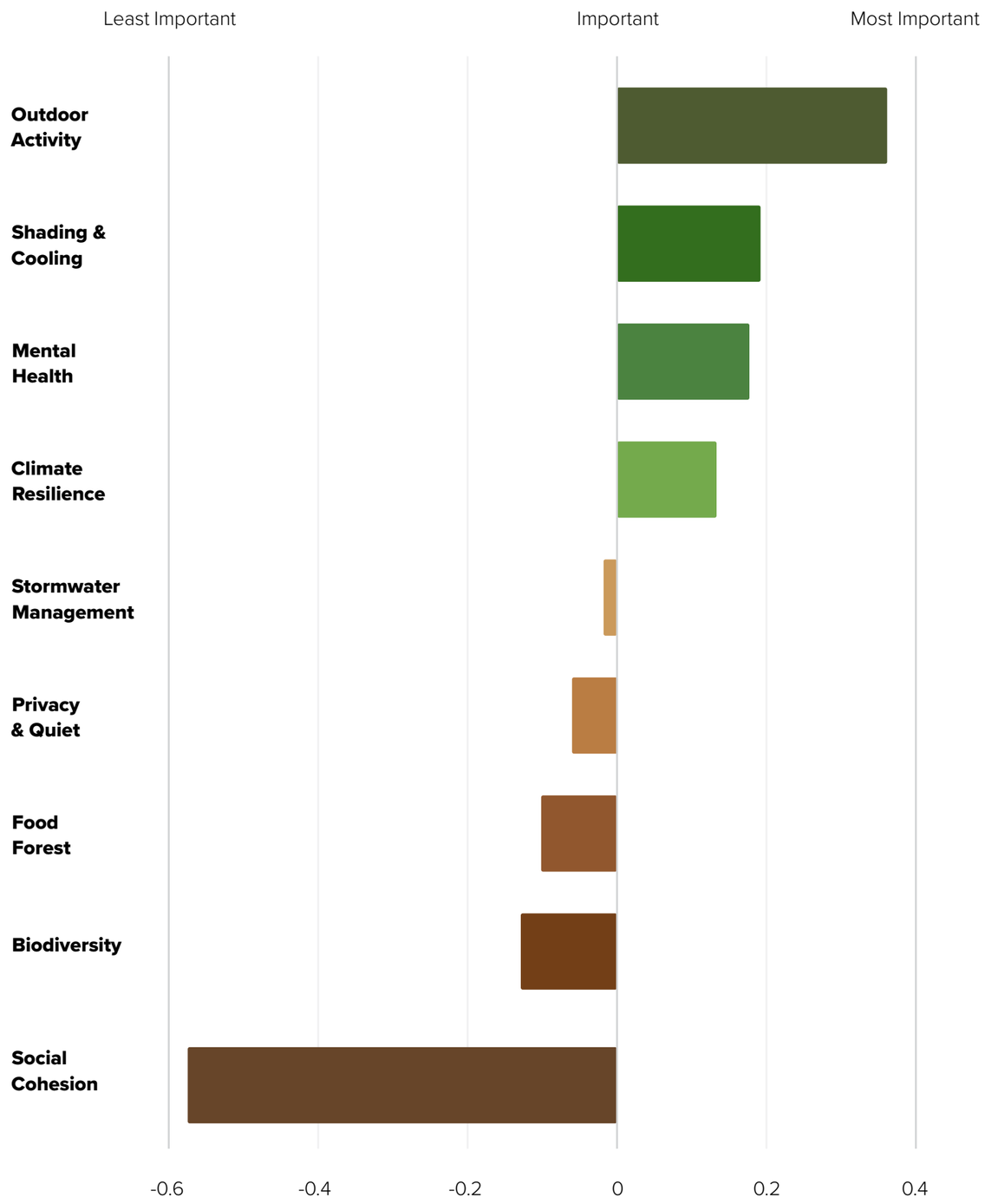
What benefits do you most want the urban forest to provide?

This survey activity asked participants to rank the nine benefits of the urban forest, as listed and described in the **Benefits of the Urban Forest** chapter, from most to least important. The question was structured such that participants had to create a hierarchy of benefits, such that not all benefits could be considered of high importance. Benefits rated lower were still potentially important benefits for the urban forest to provide, but they were considered less important than other benefits.

While the benefits collectively identified as most important carry a lot of weight in this plan, it is also relevant that many participants had rated benefits performing lower overall as among the benefits most important to them.

Benefit	**Top 3 Choice** (% of participants)
Outdoor Activity	45%
Shading & Cooling	39%
Mental Health	36%
Climate Resilience	34%
Stormwater Management	34%
Privacy & Quiet	34%
Food Forest	30%
Biodiversity	24%
Social Cohesion	18%

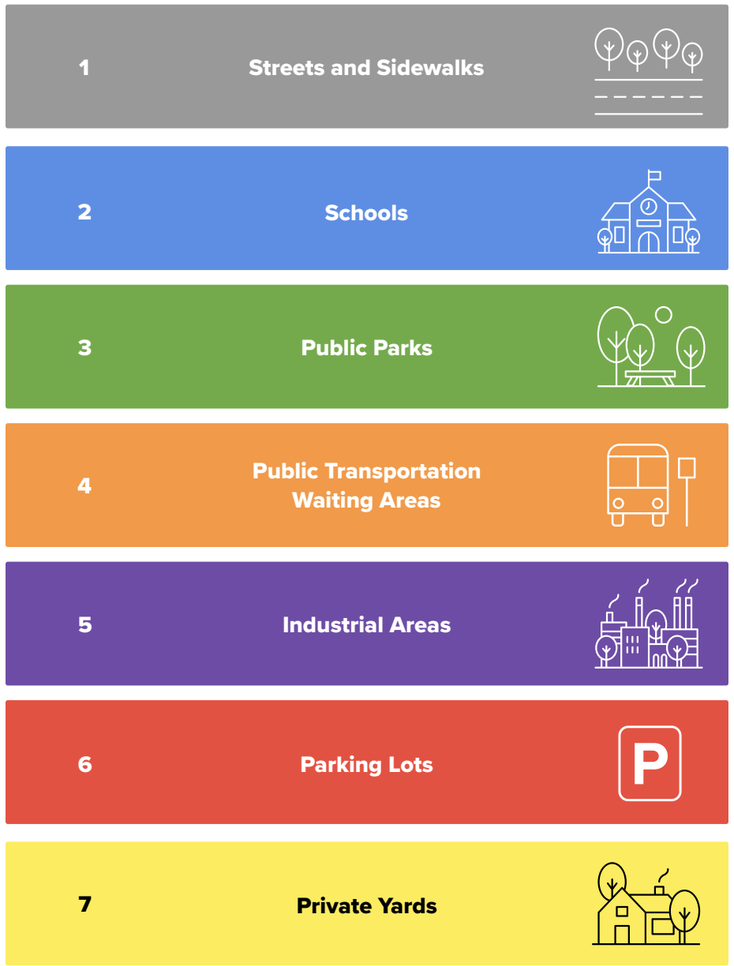
Percent of participants with a benefit in their top three most important



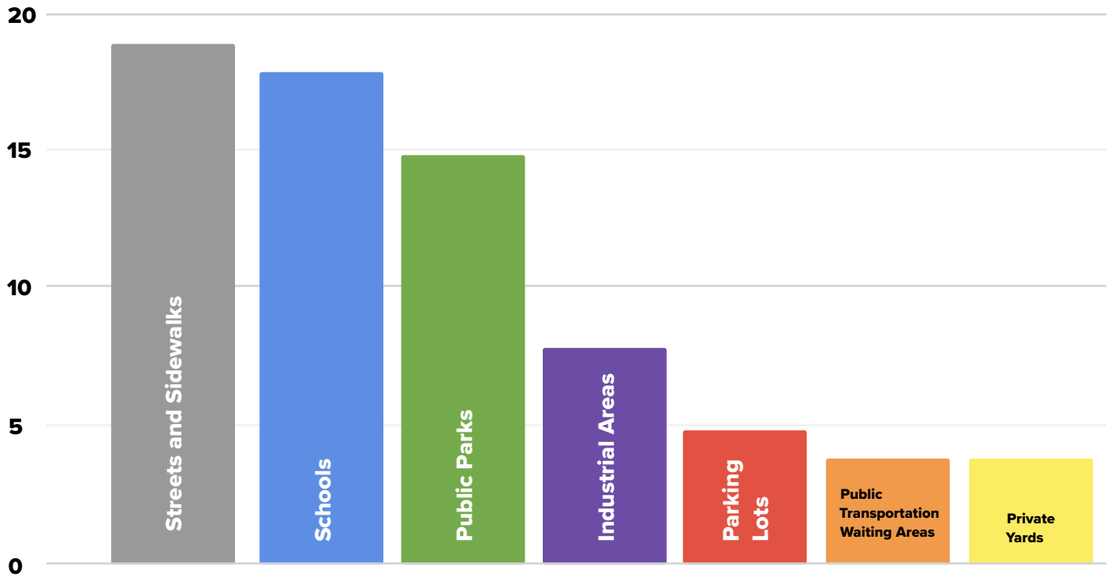
Overall community rankings for relative importance of benefits for the urban forest to provide

Which areas in the city are most in need of new trees?

Survey participants ranked the types of locations in Huntington Park most in need of new trees. Streets & Sidewalks followed by School Property and then Public Parks were ranked the highest priority areas to grow the urban forest. Private Yards and Parking Lots were ranked the lowest priority areas to plant new trees with Industrial Areas as ranked similarly low in relative priority.



Overall community rankings for priority locations to plant more trees and grow the tree canopy



Number of participants ranking each location as their top priority for planting more trees

What concerns do you have about the urban forest?

Survey participants were asked to allocate five ‘concern coins’ over five categories. More coins placed in a category indicated this was a greater concern. The categories were titled and described as:

Maintenance
I am concerned with trees not receiving adequate on-going care such as cleaning of leaves, trimming of branches and removing trees in poor condition, or watering during drought.

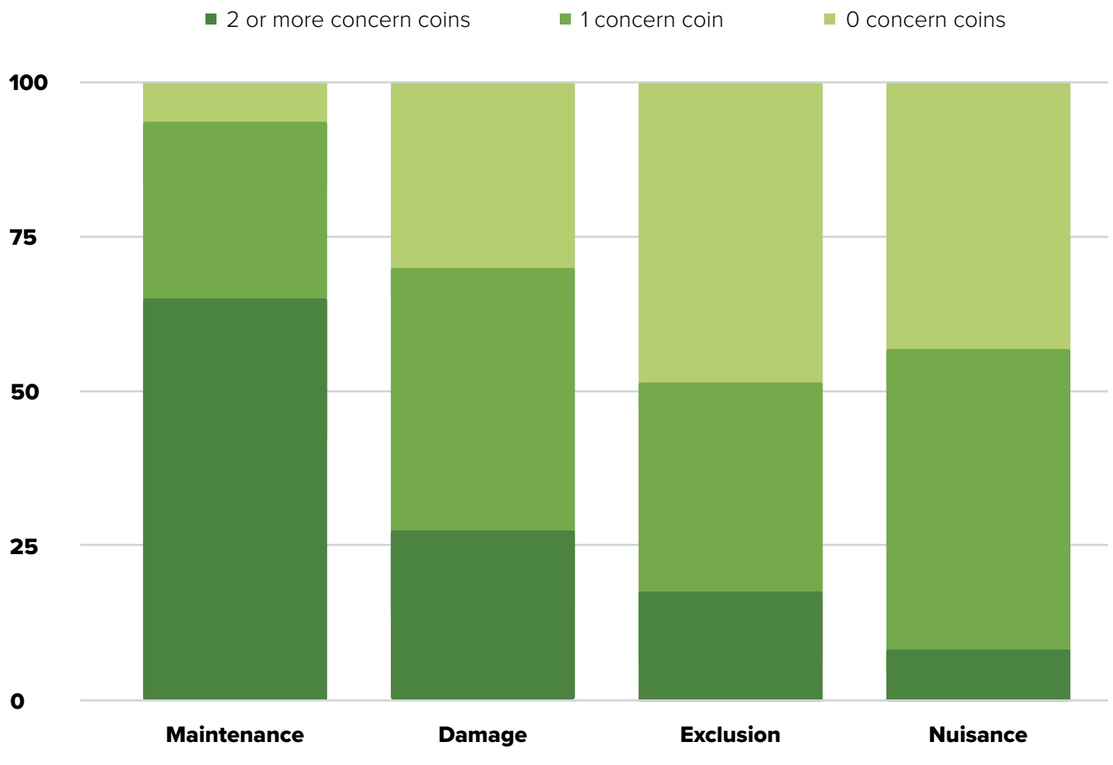
Damage
I am concerned with the damage from trees such as that from falling branches and trunks, root disruptions to sidewalks, or impacts to utility lines and pipes.

Nuisances
I am concerned with the nuisance issues such as trees that attract unwanted insects and pests or create a lot of pollen and other allergens.

Exclusion
I am concerned with the community not being consulted in forest management decisions or not being included in stewardship activities.

No Concerns
I do not feel strongly about the concerns listed here or I do not have any concerns.

Maintenance is the clear top concern as 94% of participants spent at least one concern coin in the category and 65% allocating two or more of their five concern coins, twice as many as the next highest category. Damage is the second biggest concern as marked by over two-thirds of participants. The results indicate that ongoing care and repair is central to urban forest management in Huntington Park.



A majority of survey participants expressed concern for all issues with over half emphasizing maintenance of the urban forest as a top concern.

Do you have anything else you would like to share about the urban forest in Huntington Park?

Survey participants were provided the opportunity to provide written comment to this open ended question as an opportunity to provide feedback that was not captured by the activities.

Out of 74 completed surveys, 35 respondents provided written input in response to this prompt.

Twelve comments voiced a desire for more trees.

Other commenters provided personal reflections on the urban forest, specific directives about what they would like to see, and other guidance. Specific themes mentioned included the following.

- Wanting more engagement with the community around environmental stewardship and tree care
- Reinforcing the findings by further voicing concern regarding the maintenance of city trees in support of tree survival, protection against pests, and pruning as well as sharing feelings of sadness over tree removals
- Advocating for more trees, some for public places like parks, schools, and along sidewalks, others in areas where the City lacks greenery such as next to the freeway and industrial areas, and others advocating for more trees on private property
- Voicing a desire for a greater diversity of trees

"We need more shading around pedestrian centers."

"Citizens need to be made aware of and provided access to trees and plants for their homes and neighborhoods."

"It would be nice to know what types of trees there are in this neighborhood."

"I want to be involved in beautifying Huntington Park."

Context

Key Takeaways

- The landscape of Huntington Park has gone through many transitions from Indigenous managed oak woodlands to urban city
- Huntington Park has a warm, semi-arid climate that is projected to become hotter and more variable with climate change
- Environmental burdens are disproportionately felt by vulnerable populations in Huntington Park
- State regulations affect resources for urban forestry and local regulations influence the land use available for tree planting

NATURAL HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON PARK

Natural history and past ecological relationships are important to acknowledge when managing the urban forest as it now becomes part of that story. While it is not present within Huntington Park today, the historical ecosystem of Huntington Park was coastal sage scrub.

Coastal sage scrub ecosystems in the region contained few trees and were primarily composed of low-growing shrubs. It is sometimes known as 'soft chaparral' due to the prevalence of species with soft, drought-deciduous leaves, compared to the hard waxy leaves of more drought-tolerant and fire-resistant chaparral ecosystems. Plants in coastal sage scrub are adapted to capture water from fog and light rain.

Common coastal sage scrub plants include sagebrush, black sage, purple sage, and buckeye. Coastal sage scrub supports a diversity of wildlife, including 150 species of butterflies, 1500 species of bees, and 150 species of birds including the endangered California Gnatcatcher.

SOCIAL HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON PARK

Huntington Park is on the ancestral lands of the Chumash and Tongva-Gabrielino people, who have lived in the region for around 9,000 years. Indigenous people shaped the ecological landscape through low-intensity managed burning that converted shrubland to grassland mixed with oak woodland.

Beginning in 1769, Spanish colonizers settled in the area. The oak groves were logged, and orchards or vineyards planted in their place. Fields were used to graze livestock leading to replacement of historical meadow species with invasive grasses from Europe adapted to the Mediterranean climate and livestock grazing.

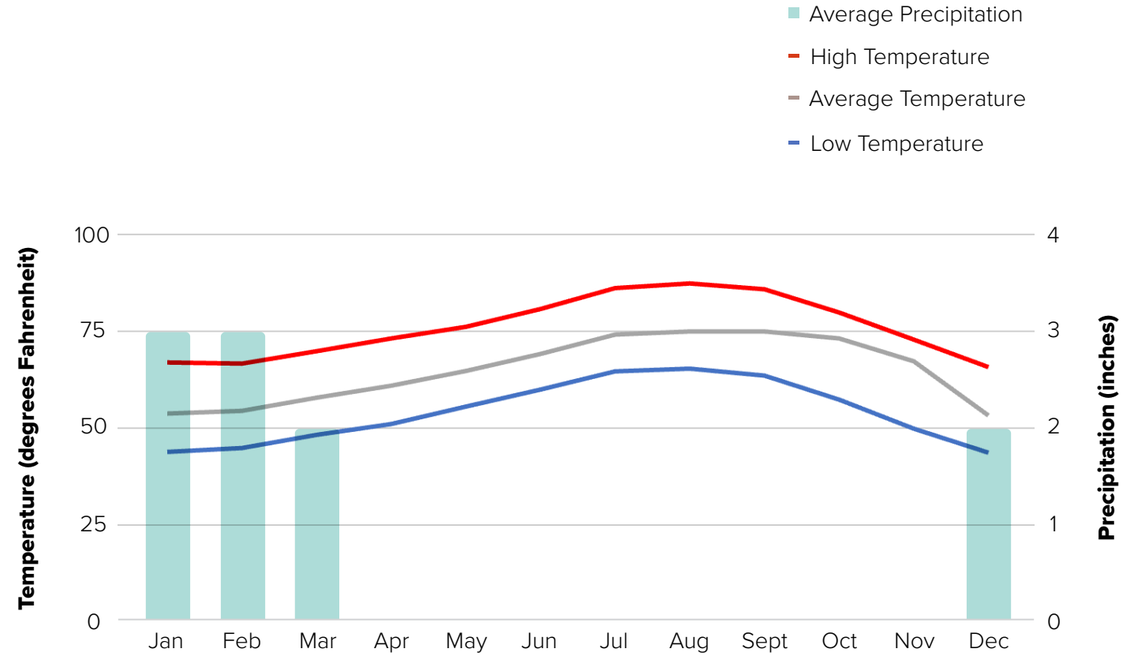
The land proved to be unsuitable for grazing in the long term due to the unpredictable climate. In the face of these challenges, agriculture gave way to urban development. A railroad was built through Huntington Park and Pacific Boulevard became a thoroughfare for travelers between Long Beach and Los Angeles. Huntington Park adopted its motto of “A City of Perfect Balance,” referring to the combination of residential, retail, and industrial activities in the city.

Image: Pacific Boulevard 1925 (Source:Los Angeles Public Library)

CLIMATE OF HUNTINGTON PARK

Huntington Park is classified as having a Hot-Summer Mediterranean climate. It has a temperate climate with dry, hot summers and mild winters. Huntington Park receives an average of 14 inches of rain annually, which primarily falls between the months of December and March.

The climate of Huntington Park is important because it determines what kinds of trees can thrive here. Fortunately, due to the mild winters, many tree species can grow in Huntington Park with the right care. In particular, trees require regular irrigation during their establishment years and for some species irrigation can reduce drought stress during dry or especially hot periods.



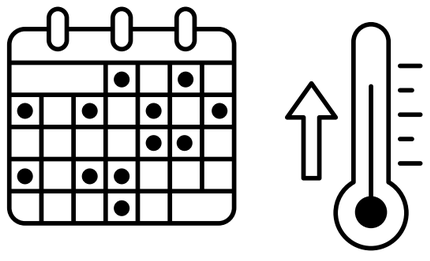
Mild winters mean many tree species can grow in Huntington Park and thrive with good tree care through hot or dry periods.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Climate change is creating more extreme heat days for Huntington Park. In urban areas, hot days are made hotter as pavements hold more heat limiting nighttime cooling.

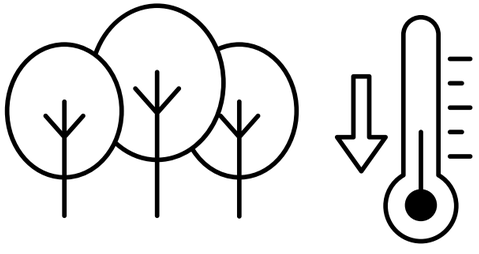
A healthy urban forest with big trees and widespread canopy cover can help build resilience to extreme heat because trees provide shade, which is not only wonderful to stand under but also reduces heat absorbed by hard surfaces. In addition to reflecting away heat, healthy trees cool the air through evapotranspiration. The extent of the cooling benefits of trees depend on the type of tree, their size, and their health as dependent on care and maintenance.

The number of days above 90°F each year is expected to increase to 78 days per year before the end of the century



The average high temperature is projected to increase up to 8°F by the end of the century

Shade from trees can cool surfaces 20–40°F compared to surrounding surfaces



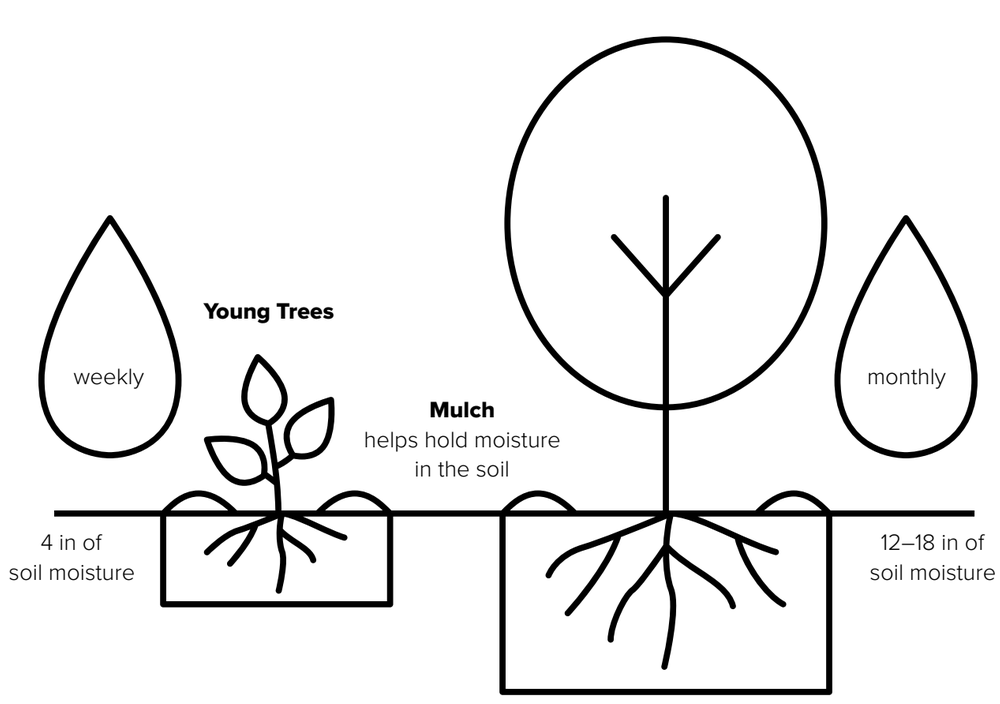
Water evaporated from trees can cool the surrounding air up to 9°F

Higher temperatures are expected as climate change amplifies the urban heat effect. More trees create shade and cool the air which buffer against rising temperatures.

WATER NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

Established urban trees typically do not require extensive irrigation support as their deep roots access below ground water resources. In some cases, trees can even be a water-saving measure when they replace or shade high water demand landscapes, such as lawns. There are two situations where trees need supplemental water to survive and thrive long term: young trees in their first 3–5 years after planting and mature trees during dry stretches. In all cases, maintaining an organic layer of mulch at the surface improves retention of soil moisture and is a recommended practice.

Drought-tolerant trees, especially once they reach maturity, are more likely to survive dry periods without supplemental watering than those whose water requirements are greater. As such, drought tolerant trees are highly recommended in planting situations where supplemental watering over a tree's lifespan is unlikely. Drought tolerant trees could be used in more situations, but it comes with the tradeoffs of limiting the number of species planted and traits that confer drought tolerance often mean trees are slow growing or have less potential for providing shade and cooling.



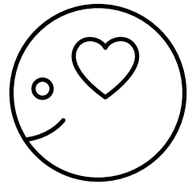
Young trees need light watering up to weekly in the absence of rain. Mature trees would benefit from deep, but less frequent waterings and only during prolonged dry periods.

CONSIDERING SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

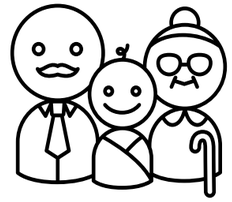
It is critical that the urban forest and its benefits reach all of the Huntington Park community. To do so means focusing on growing trees in low canopy areas and not depending on communities with social vulnerabilities to overcome hurdles in order to have trees and their benefits where they live, work, and recreate. The vulnerability of communities can be driven by health, economic, and social factors. For health factors, community members with pre-existing health conditions, people older than 65, infants and young children, pregnant women, and outdoor workers are all at increased risk of adverse impacts from environmental stressors. Economic factors such as home ownership, employment, and income influence access to resources. Homeowners may be able to choose to plant trees in their yards, while tenants may rely on landlords to make such improvements. Finally, social factors, such as language, education, and race or ethnicity can impact community members' access to resources and opportunities to influence policy changes.

Health

18% of residents report physical health not good

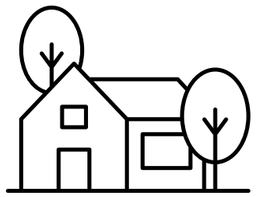


18% of residents report mental health not good

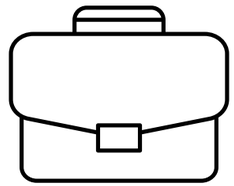


5% of residents are under 5 and 9% are over the age 65

Economic



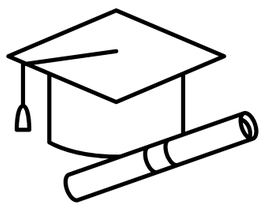
27% of residents are homeowners



71% of residents are employed

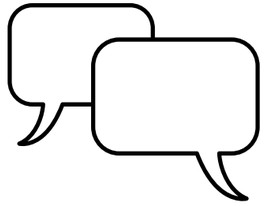
44% earn more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

Social



6% of residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher

99% of residents identify as People of Color



92% of residents have a primary language other than English

Some Huntington Park community members are more vulnerable to environmental stressors or have less capacity to access resources.

Policies relevant to urban forest management in Huntington Park

The potential for the urban forest is shaped by the forces of the regulatory landscape. State legislation allocates resources for the urban forest, such as funding and technical assistance. It also sets standards for what local municipalities must consider for local land use planning. Local policy drives most land use decisions and sets local priorities and initiatives. Plans chart a vision for a community while codes establish the rules. Together, state and local policies play an important role in determining how and where the urban forest is developed.

STATE POLICIES

California Urban Forestry Act: The Urban Forestry Act was passed in 1978 in response to declining urban forests. It directs CalFire to provide technical assistance and grant money for urban forestry projects. This led to the creation of the Urban and Community Forest Program under Cal FIRE, which funds urban forestry workforce education, expansion and management activities.

California Solar Shade Control Act: The Shade Control Act was originally passed in 1978 and then amended in 2008. The act is intended to prevent existing solar panels from being shaded by trees or shrubs planted after the solar panels were installed. Under the act, maintaining a tree that shades more than 10% of a solar collector between 10 am and 2 pm constitutes a private nuisance. Municipalities may pass an ordinance exempting themselves from the Act, which would prevent any trees planted and maintained by the municipality from violating the Act.

Integrated Climate Action and Resiliency Program: Senate Bill 246, passed in 2015, directed the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to form the integrated Climate Action and Resiliency Program. The program creates a State Adaptation Clearing House and Technical Advisory Council (TAC). The clearinghouse is a searchable database of research and plans relating to climate adaptation. The TAC coordinates climate adaptation efforts between state, regional, and local agencies.

Environmental Justice in Local Land Use Planning: Passed in 2016, SB 1000 requires jurisdictions to identify disadvantaged communities and address environmental justice in their general plans. The California Environmental Protection Agency defines disadvantaged communities as census tracts with the highest 25% CalEnviroScreen scores.

LOCAL POLICIES

General Plan: Adopted in 2017, the Huntington Park 2030 General Plan serves as a 10 to 20 year guide for developments. All other planning documents must be consistent with the General Plan. Of particular relevance to this UFMP are the Mobility and Circulation, Land Use and Community Development, Resource Management, and Housing elements.

Zoning Code: The zoning code designates permitted uses and development standards for land uses in different districts across the City. Through these regulations, it aims to promote public health and safety, general welfare, and aesthetic quality of the City, consistent with the goals of the General Plan.

Downtown Specific Plan: Adopted in 2008, the Downtown Huntington Park Specific Plan provides a detailed guide for development in the district surrounding Pacific Boulevard between Randolph and Florence Avenues. The goal is to create a unique, economically vibrant, and pedestrian friendly downtown district.

Municipal Code: The municipal code sets out the rules and regulations of the City. Of particular relevance to this plan is Title 7, Chapter 5 which details regulations regarding street trees. These include provisions to establish a list of approved street trees and planting specification, as well as outlining procedures for removing or retaining public trees.

Complete Streets: In 2016, the City completed a Complete Streets plan, which aims to tailor roadways to meet the needs of all users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. This plan is relevant to the urban forest in that it reimagines how street space could be used.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Adopted in 2008, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan sets a vision for the development of parks in the City and identifies improvement projects.

Existing Forest

Key Takeaways

- Tree canopy is most bountiful in parks and residential areas and most lacking in industrial and commercial areas.
- Residential neighborhoods, parks, and schools are prioritized for tree planting based on existing tree canopy.
- The existing public urban forest is diverse, young, and relatively healthy.

Senior Citizen Park Tree Canopy

The urban forest of Huntington Park consists of all the trees within the City, including both public and private trees. Public trees are trees on land managed by a public agency and include trees in public rights-of-way and city parks. Private trees are trees on private property parcels. To manage the urban forest, it is important to know the makeup of the existing urban forest. Two data sets are available that quantify Huntington Park's urban forest: a public tree inventory and citywide tree canopy cover.

Public Tree Inventory

An inventory of the public trees in Huntington Park was conducted in 2023, inclusive of street trees and trees in parks. The inventory characterized each tree's species, size, and condition as well as attributes of the planting site such as width of the planting strip in parkways and presence or absence of overhead utilities. In addition, vacant tree planting sites were included.

Tree Canopy Cover

The canopy assessment uses data from remote sensing to measure the extent of the forest canopy in Huntington Park as a whole, including both the public and private forest. This is valuable in understanding how the benefits of trees are distributed throughout Huntington Park.

While both public trees and private trees are integral to the vitality of the urban forest, they are addressed separately in this plan due to the different involvement the City has in managing each.

Tree Canopy Cover Data over Huntington Park City Hall (Source: Maxar, LA County)

Public Trees in Huntington Park

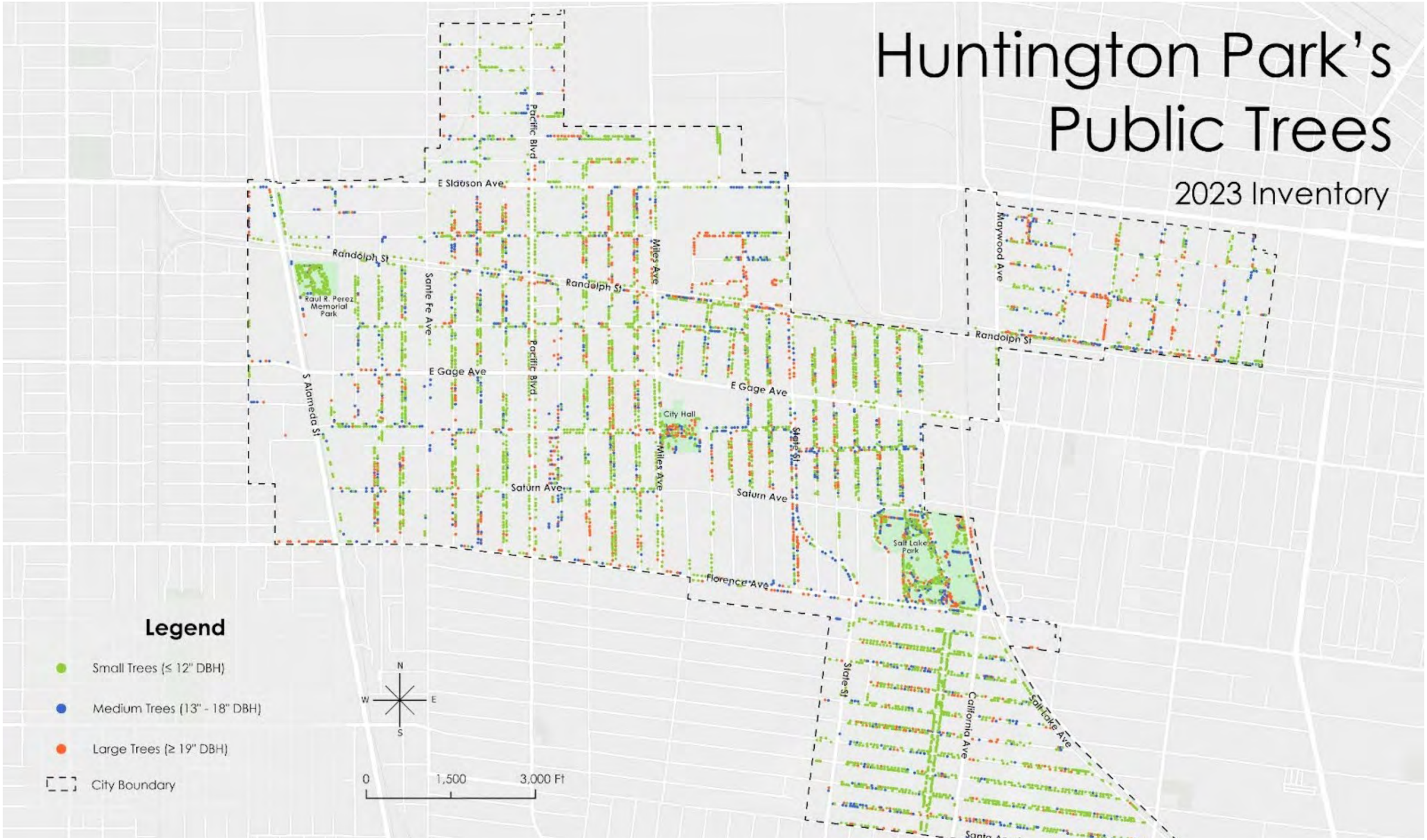
Australian Willow trees grow along Salt Lake Avenue

Italian Stone Pine trees in Perez Park

Large New Zealand Christmas Tree on Zoe Street.

Huntington Park's Public Trees

2023 Inventory

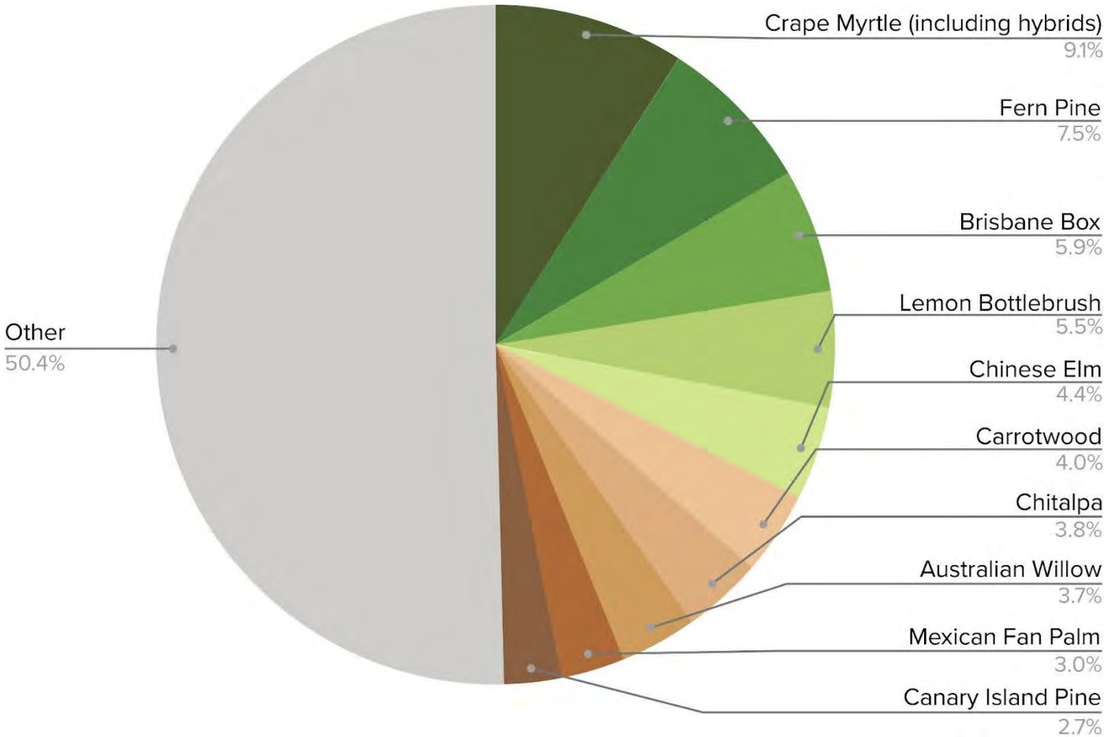


Map provides locations of public street trees in Huntington Park and their size class based on trunk diameter. Data is from the 2023 Tree Inventory.

Characterizing Huntington Park's existing public trees

TREE SPECIES AND THEIR ABUNDANCE

Huntington Park has 7,436 public trees representing almost 200 species of trees. Biodiversity is essential to the health of the urban forest because a diverse urban forest is more resilient to disasters such as disease and drought. Best practice in urban forestry recommends no more than 10% of tree from a single species. Huntington Park's urban forest fulfills this criteria with the Crape Myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*) making up the largest proportion of the existing forest at 9.1%.

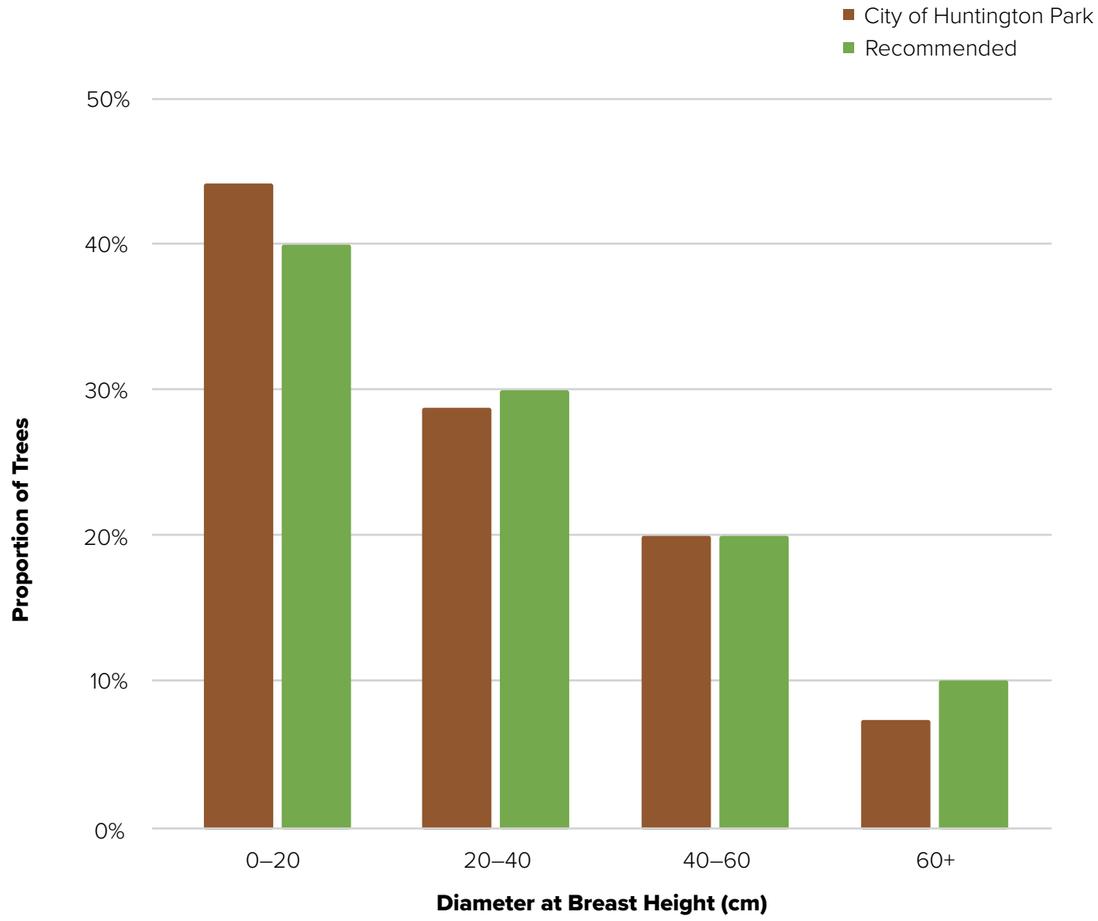


Huntington Park has a *diverse* urban forest.

TREE SIZE

Size is an important metric for trees in the urban forest as an indicator of their benefits, but also as a proxy for gauging their age. Tree trunk diameter at breast height (DBH; measured about 4.5 ft above the ground) is a common measure that correlates with overall tree size. A healthy urban forest should have the highest proportion of small, young trees that will grow into larger trees replacing aging trees.

Huntington Park has a good distribution of trees across sizes, and ages. This is good news, as it indicates long term growth in the urban forest. However, this relies on the assumption that small trees will grow into large trees. Trees with a small mature size, as is the case with many trees in Huntington Park, will not grow to replace large trees. This can be addressed by planting young trees now that will grow to a large mature size in the future.

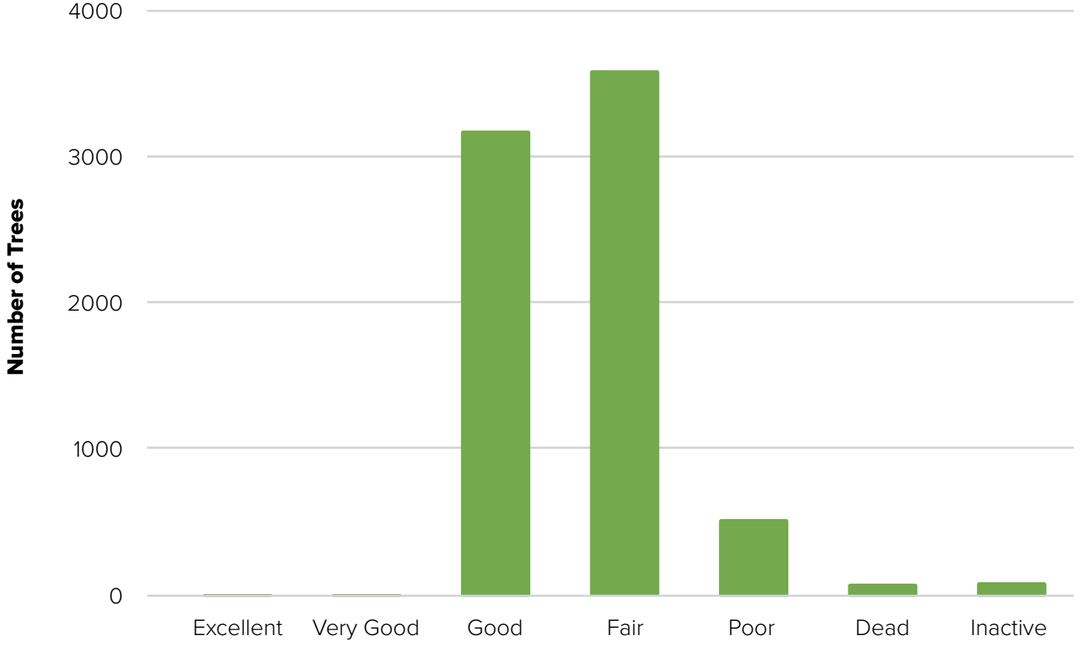


Adding young trees that will *grow into large mature trees* is critical.

TREE HEALTH

Huntington Park has a mostly healthy urban forest. Less than 10% of trees were assessed as in "Dead" or "Poor" condition, and over 90% of trees were assessed as in "Good" or "Fair" condition. This indicates that the majority of trees in Huntington Park require only routine maintenance to remain healthy.

Tree condition is measured by the proportion of foliage that is dead or dying, known as tree dieback. There are a number of potential causes of dieback including drought, pests, physical damage, or pollution damage. It can be difficult to discern with certainty the cause of dieback. However, drought is often cited as the primary cause of tree dieback and is consistent with recent dry conditions in Southern California. Watering trees during periods of extended drought can improve tree health.



Huntington Park's public tree forest is *mostly healthy*.

Trees in **Good** condition should be inspected and maintained on regular grid trimming cycle.

Trees in **Fair** condition should be inspected and maintained on a regular grid trimming cycle.

Trees in **Poor** condition should be inspected closely and frequently to achieve an action that mitigates the poor condition or liability.

Dead trees should be removed, stump ground and replaced. *(Image source: Google Maps)*

Characterizing Huntington Park's existing tree canopy cover

EXISTING CANOPY

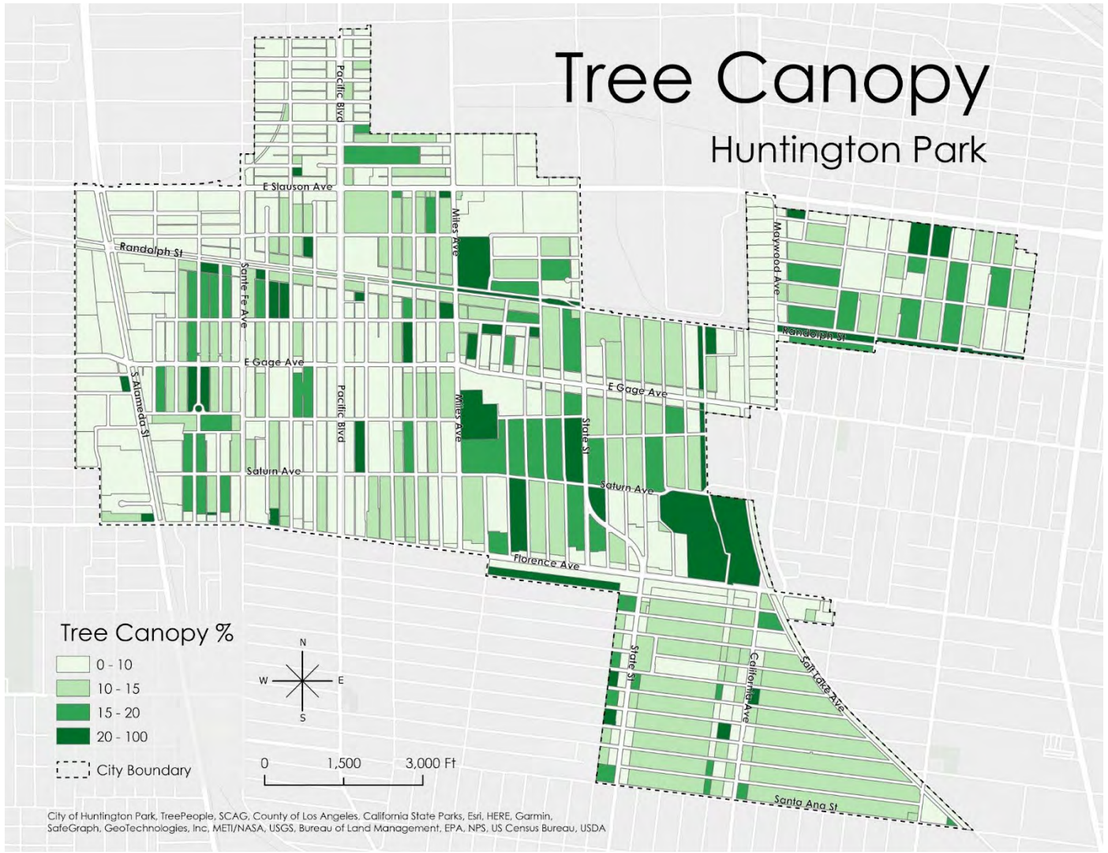
Based on 2016 data, Huntington Park has 11% tree canopy cover citywide. This is lower than the total Los Angeles County canopy cover of 18%.

Canopy is not distributed equally throughout the city. Neighborhoods in the east and southeast of the city have higher canopy cover, while much of the west, north, and center regions of the city have lower canopy coverage. These trends can be explained to a significant extent by land use patterns.

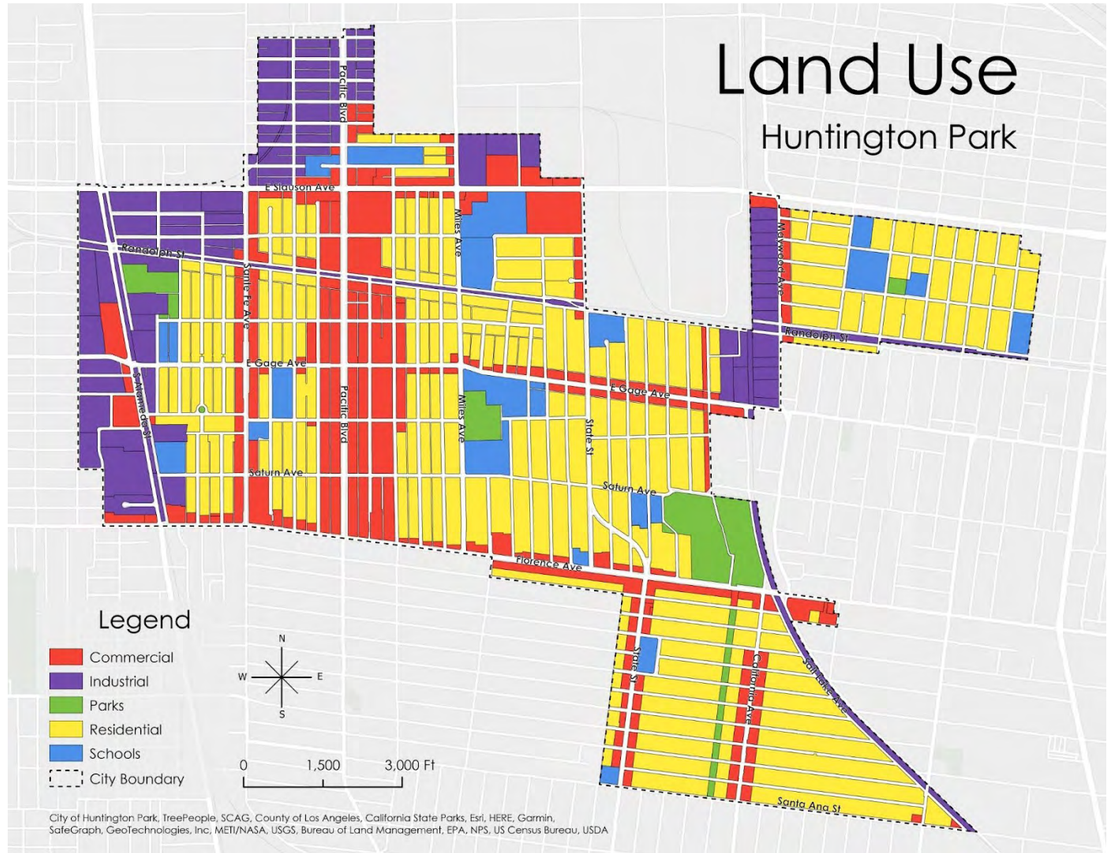
LAND USE

Land use is a useful way to organize urban forest management planning. For the purposes of this plan, land use is classified into five categories: Parks, Schools, Residential, Commercial, and Industrial.

Comparing tree canopy and land use maps, Industrial and Commercial areas account for the majority of areas with the lowest tree canopy, while Residential neighborhoods tend to have higher tree canopy. Parks stand out as areas with some of the highest tree canopy.



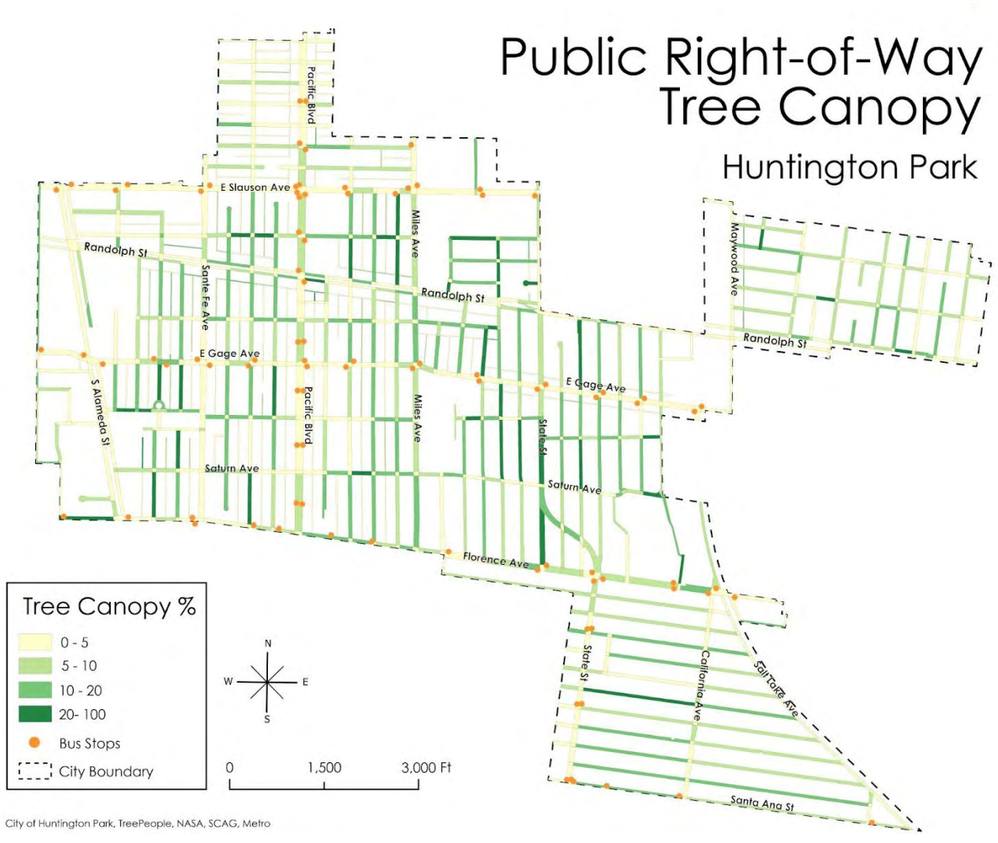
The citywide tree canopy cover in Huntington Park is *11%* but there are substantial differences in tree canopy across the city.



Land use is an important factor in tree canopy cover.

PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY CANOPY

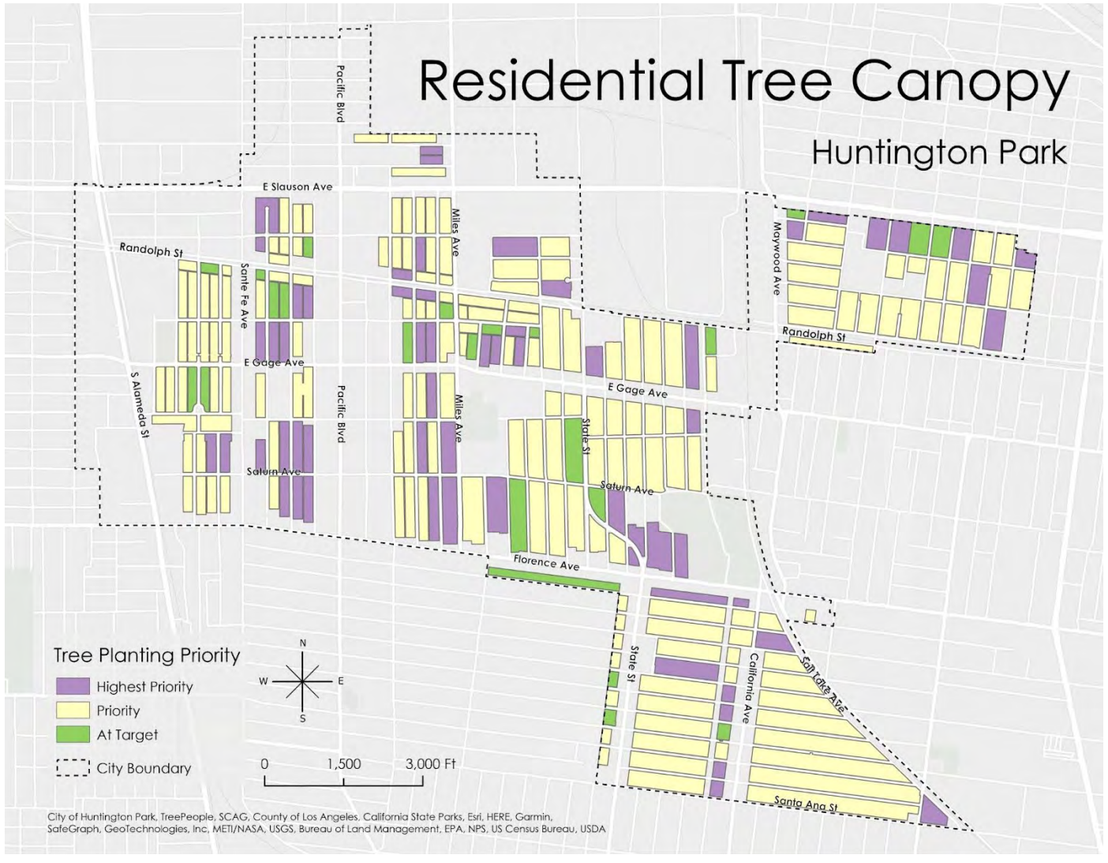
The public right-of-way is the second largest land use in Huntington Park and by far the largest publicly managed land use. It consists of all the streets and sidewalks that connect the city. Currently, there is 9% canopy cover across the right-of-way. Trees in the right-of-way create shaded corridors for people to move through, which is especially important for public and active transit users. Right-of-way trees promote outdoor activity by creating a comfortable and appealing environment to walk, bike, or roll. Additionally, trees offer screening from the road, providing privacy. Trees are also valuable for capturing stormwater from an area otherwise dominated by hardscape. Finally, trees in the right-of-way can promote social cohesion by providing a comfortable public space for community members to interact, and enhance mental health by increasing access to greenery in neighborhoods.



Major thoroughfares have some of the lowest tree canopy.

RESIDENTIAL CANOPY

Residential is the largest land use in Huntington Park so tree canopy in residential neighborhoods has a significant impact on canopy in the city as a whole. Currently, there is 13% canopy cover in residential neighborhoods. Trees in residential areas act as a buffer between traffic and neighboring uses, providing privacy and quiet. Being visible and accessible to residents, they can also improve mental health. Trees in residential districts can also help capture stormwater runoff from homes and driveways. As residential neighborhoods are comprised of private property, increasing tree canopy in residential areas requires partnering with property owners. Providing information and resources, including tree giveaways, to property owners can encourage them to increase tree canopy on private property.



Highest priority neighborhoods (purple) should be planted first based on low existing canopy. Lowest priority neighborhoods already meet or exceed canopy goals.

PARK CANOPY

The City of Huntington Park has 7 public parks. Parks in Huntington Park have some of the highest levels of tree canopy in the city, but not all parks are equally forested. Canopy cover ranges from a high of 52% in Chelsea Park to just 2% in Raul Perez Memorial Park. While Chelsea Park may be the most canopied park by proportion of the park that is shaded, it is also the smallest.

As parks tend to be already vegetated areas, they are some of the easiest places to plant new trees. They also have particular value as places for outdoor recreation and community gathering. Existing parks with relatively lower tree canopy such as Freedom Park would be good candidates for initial tree planting initiatives.

Park	Size	Canopy	Residents within 10 minute walk
Raul R. Perez Memorial Park	4.5 acres	3%	3,095
Freedom Park	2.5 acres	6%	12,361
Senior Citizen Park	0.8 acres	14%	-
Robert Keller Park	2 acres	22%	13,797
Salt Lake Park	23 acres	28%	17,250
Chelsea Park	0.2 acres	52%	9,262
*Veterans Park	0.8 acres	35%	3,947

**Perez Park has received tree plantings since baseline canopy data was gathered and so is not listed as a priority location for future plantings*
***Veterans Park has been created since baseline canopy data was gathered and is not included in this analysis*

***Two parks* in Huntington Park have tree canopy meeting or exceeding goals already (green).**
***Two parks* are considered highest priority (purple) based on low existing canopy.**

Perez Park
Since canopy data was collected in 2016, tree plantings have taken play in Perez Park. Thirteen trees were planted in 2015 and 31 trees were planted in 2019. While still relatively small, these 44 trees will grow into large mature trees that will transform the park into a cool and shady oasis with time.

Young trees in Perez Park 2022

Veterans Park 2022

Veterans Park
Veterans Park opened in 2021 as a linear park in southeast Huntington Park under a utility easement. The park is landscaped with primarily native trees and vegetation, including redbuds, willow, and toyon. Informational signs provide information about the native plants. This park serve as a regional precedent for transforming underused space into multi-purpose green spaces.

School	Type	Canopy
Aspire Pacific Academy	Middle & High	1%
St. Matthias Elementary School	Elementary	2%
Aspire Ollin University Preparatory Academy	Middle & High	2%
Huntington Park Elementary School	Elementary	3%
Nimitz Middle School	Middle	4%
Linda Esperanza Marquez High School	High	4%
Lucille Roybal-Allard Elementary	Elementary	4%
Alliance Collins Family College Ready High/ Aspire Centennial College Preparatory Academy	High/ Middle	5%
Aspire Antonio Maria Lugo Academy	Elementary	6%
Aspire Titan Academy/ Aspire Junior Collegiate Academy	Elementary	7%
Middleton Street Elementary	Elementary	8%
San Antonio High School	High	9%
Gage Middle School	Middle	9%
Renuevo Elementary School and Leadership Academy	Elementary, Middle & High	10%
Middleton Primary Center	Preschool	10%
Hope Street Elementary	Elementary	12%
San Antonio Elementary and Magnet	Elementary	12%
State Street Early Education Center	Preschool	12%
Miles Ave Elementary School	Elementary	14%
Pacific Boulevard School	Elementary	16%
Miles Avenue Early Education Center	Preschool	23%
Huntington Park High School	High	26%

***Six campuses* are highest priority (purple) for new tree plantings based on low existing canopy.**

SCHOOL CANOPY

Public schools in Huntington Park are run by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). There are 28 schools within Huntington Park, 25 schools are run by LAUSD including charter schools, and three are private schools.

Many of these schools have predominantly asphalt play areas, though some also have grassy areas or playing fields. Most have very low tree canopy, with over half of schools having less than 10% tree canopy. Schools are important locations for increasing tree canopy because they have landscaped areas that can accommodate trees with minimal modification. In addition, existing hardscape play areas can be depaved to accommodate more trees and create healthier play areas.

Green school yards not only help achieve urban forestry initiatives, but can lead to healthier, happier students. Children are more at risk from heat exposure than adults, which can impact their mental health, physical health, and ability to focus. Children are more likely to engage in active play on green schoolyards than on blacktop.

***Huntington Park High School* offers a model for green schoolyards.**
(Source: Huntington Park High School Facebook)

Opportunities to Grow

Key Takeaways

- There is a lot of potential to increase tree canopy in Huntington Park, but it will require modifying existing paved areas
- More space can be created for the private urban forest by adjusting residential, commercial, and industrial zoning requirements
- Reallocating space in the public right-of-way from cars to trees can create space for more public trees, allow larger trees to be planted, and reduce conflict between trees and sidewalks

Tree planting in Huntington Park

Expanding the urban forest in Huntington Park will require making more spaces for trees in the city. Existing infrastructure and policy constraints lead to a narrow definition of 'right tree' and a shortage of 'right places.' Squeezing more trees into a physical and regulatory landscape that had not been designed to accommodate them will result in a small and sparse urban forest. Fortunately, there are many opportunities for Huntington Park to modify policies and infrastructure to support a thriving urban forest.

Possible Canopy

In addition to measuring Existing Tree Canopy, the 2016 Los Angeles Tree Canopy Assessment identified Possible Tree Canopy. Possible Tree Canopy measures places where it is theoretically possible to plant trees, based on land use. Possible tree canopy is further split into two categories: Vegetated Possible Canopy and Paved Possible Canopy. Vegetated Possible Canopy measures the proportion of land that is currently permeable, but not planted with trees, encompassing grass, shrub, and bare soil land use classifications. Paved Possible Canopy measures the proportion of land that is currently impervious, but is not developed with buildings or roads, encompassing the "other paved surfaces" land use classification. These analyses give insight into where opportunities exist to increase tree canopy in Huntington Park.

Land Use

There are opportunities to create space for the urban forest in different types of land use by changing the way we design and regulate space. The public right-of-way has traditionally been designed around the passage of cars, but reallocating street space can create more room for trees, and people. Zoning regulations shape how space on private property is designed, determining where space is (or is not) available for the urban forest on different land uses. The development of new zoning regulations is a participatory process that involves city leadership and community voices, any reallocation of the public right-of-way would be informed by the broadest possible consideration of community priorities.

Vacant Sites

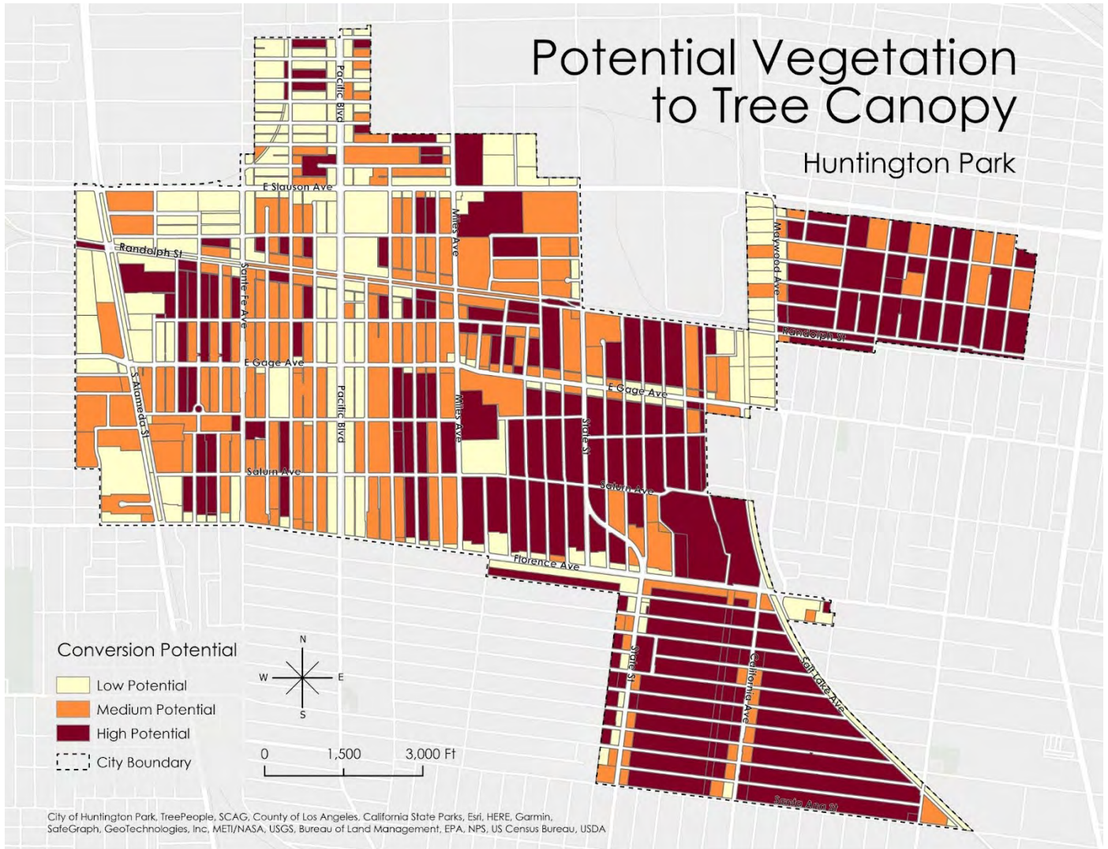
The 2023 tree inventory identified 1,307 vacant sites in Huntington Park that are available to be planted with new trees. Planting appropriate trees in these spaces is a start to growing the urban forest, but to significantly expand the forest more plantable space must be created.

POSSIBLE VEGETATION TO TREE CANOPY TRANSITION

Areas of Huntington Park already covered in vegetation, such as lawn or shrubs, are some of the most accessible areas to grow the urban forest. The most widespread opportunity is the lawn areas of residential parcels, but there are many others as well, including projects in parks, schoolyards, and railroad corridors. All the parks in Huntington Park are classified as having high potential for more tree canopy. However, parks make up a relatively small fraction of Huntington Park. Expanding park space would not only create space for the urban forest, but also provide space for outdoor recreation, the most desired benefit of the urban forest.

Many schools in Huntington Park are classified as having high or medium potential for more tree canopy, and were ranked the second highest priority location for new trees by community members. Many schools in Huntington Park include landscaped areas as well as recreation lawns and playing fields. While some areas of open grass need to be maintained to be used for sports, trees can be added to surround these spaces.

As discussed on the next page, schools also have high potential for converting hardscape to tree canopy. Many schools have large extents of asphalt play areas. Converting these areas to canopied play areas can create cooler and healthier schoolyards.

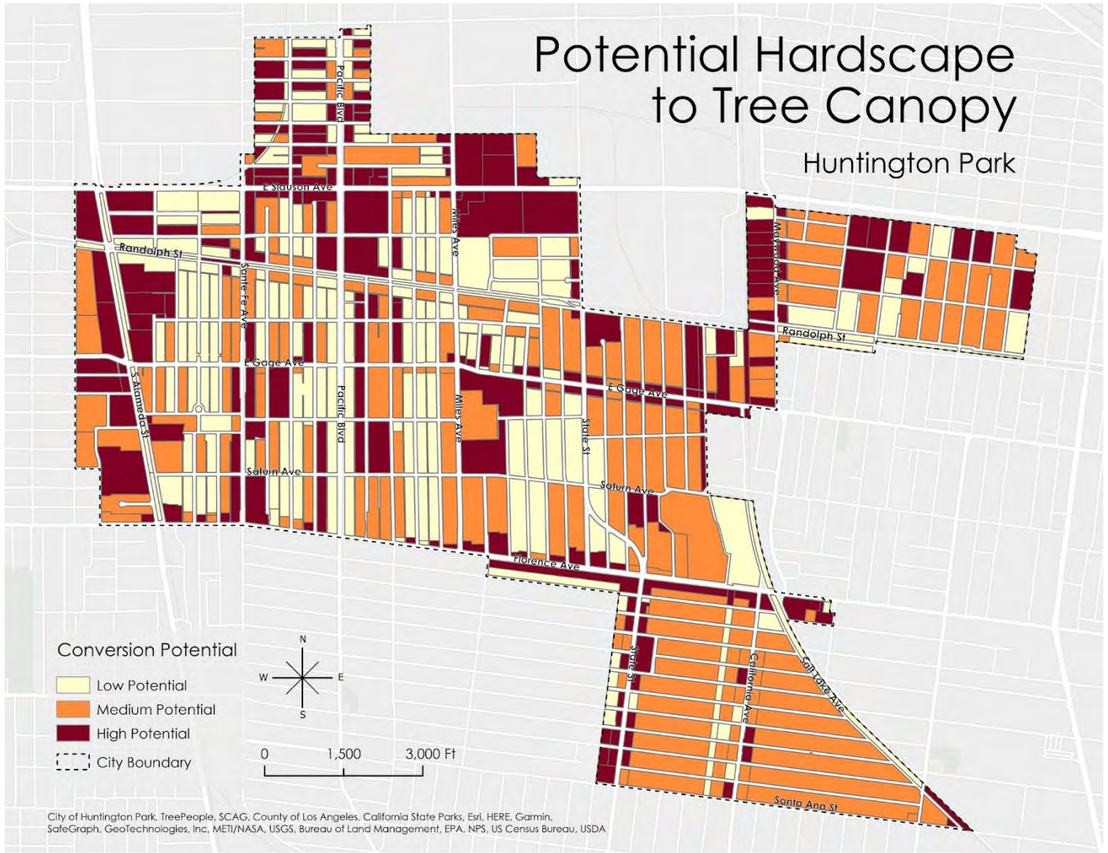


Huntington Park has a lot of land existing as lawns or open space that can be planted with trees, especially in residential yards and utility corridors.

Grassy area at Huntington Park Elementary School provides opportunity for tree canopy.

POSSIBLE HARDSCAPE TO TREE CANOPY TRANSITION

Paved areas (i.e., hardscapes) can be more difficult to add tree canopy to because these areas need to be modified before planting. However, given their extent and that they amplify urban heat, paved areas are great opportunities for canopy expansion and often most prevalent in areas the most in need of more trees. The map shows parcels with differing potentials for adding tree canopy by removing pavement, based on the proportion of the area that is currently hardscape, not including buildings or roads. Schools, industrial zones, and some commercial areas have high potential to convert hardscape to tree canopy.



Creating new spaces for trees is important for growing the urban forest. Removing pockets of pavement for trees is an opportunity of great potential especially in places with a lot of hardscape.

A major opportunity for increasing tree canopy in hardscapes is in parking lots. As largely private land, tools such as zoning regulations and incentive programs may be the most effective ways to increase tree canopy in these areas. Trees in commercial and industrial zones could provide screening between industrial uses and residential uses and shading of public right-of-way as well as bolster the well-being of those who work in these areas. It is important to note that while trees can provide air quality benefits, the capacity of trees is often insufficient in meaningfully mitigating air pollution from industrial operations or vehicle exhaust. Consequently, expanding tree canopy in industrial areas or along highways is not a substitute for more direct measures of mitigating air pollution.

Parking lots in commercial and industrial zones pose opportunities to increase tree canopy on existing impervious surfaces.

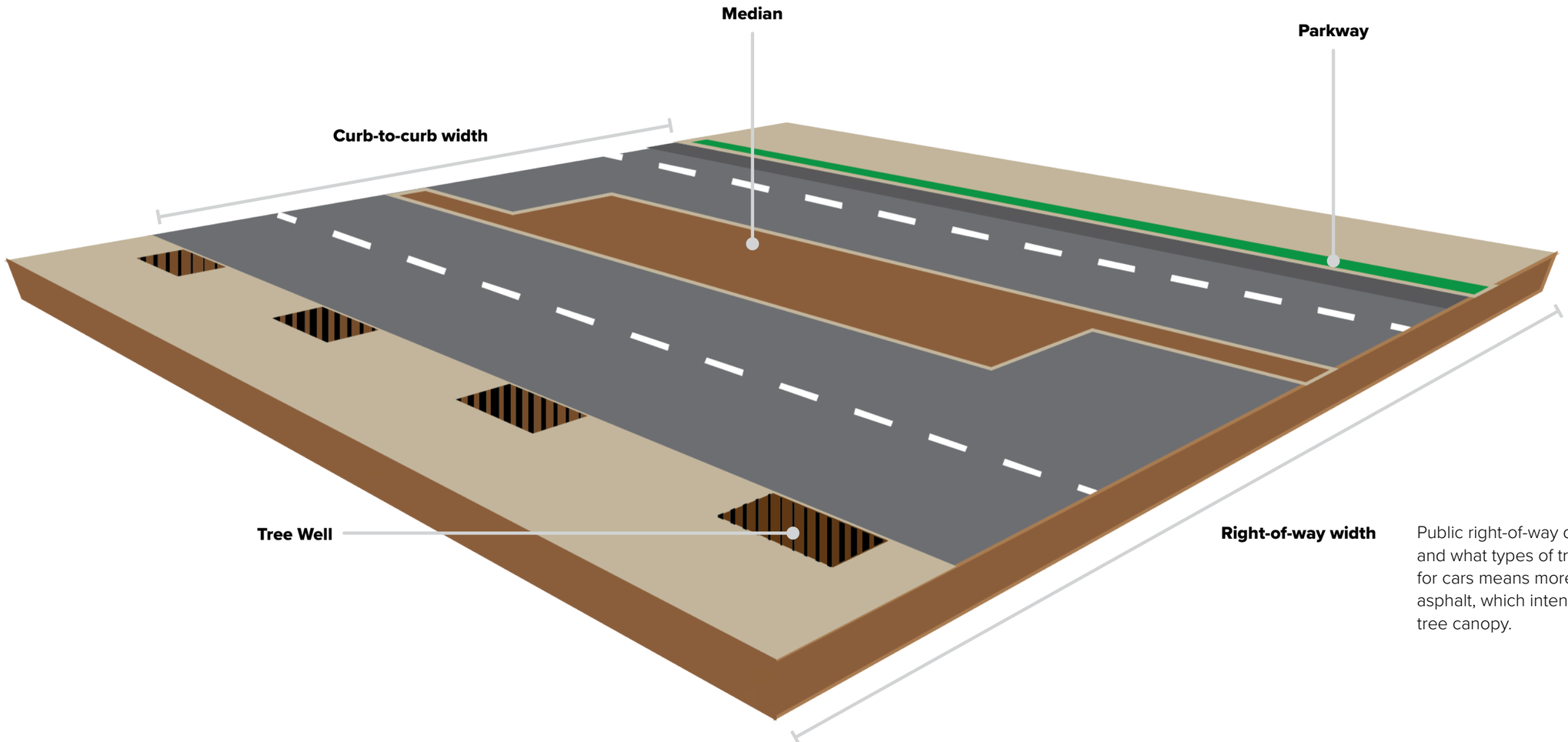
(Source: Google Maps)

PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Public street trees are planted in the right-of-way. Trees are usually planted between the sidewalk and the street in a parkway or tree well, but can also be planted along center medians or in planting strips between sidewalks and private property. With the exception of medians, trees are usually planted in curb space rather than road space. Therefore, the space available for urban trees is the difference between the right-of-way width and the curb-to-curb (road) width, as illustrated in the diagram to the below.

More space for urban trees can be created by decreasing the curb-to-curb width, or installing medians. Decreasing the curb-to-curb width can be accomplished by reducing the width or number of traffic lanes and parking lanes. Travel lane widths in urban areas are recommended to be 10 ft, but are in Huntington Park currently designed to be 12 ft wide on major arterials. Reducing existing lane width from 12 ft to 10 ft would create 12 ft of additional space on major arterial roads and 8 ft of additional space on secondary arterial roads. Some of this space could be dedicated to creating plantable area for the urban forest.

Plantable space can be created in the public right-of-way by building parkways or constructing curb extensions, installing tree wells, and converting center turn lanes to medians. While these interventions may take away space for car travel, they will increase road safety and encourage multi-modal transportation, creating a right-of-way that supports a diversity of movement. Planning for any such intervention would be sensitive to communities' needs, including parking challenges. These interventions would likely be part of a capital improvement project that would follow required processes and involve both city leadership and community voices to ensure the broadest possible consideration of community priorities.



Public right-of-way design influences how many and what types of trees can be planted. More lanes for cars means more space must be dedicated to asphalt, which intensifies heat and reduces potential tree canopy.

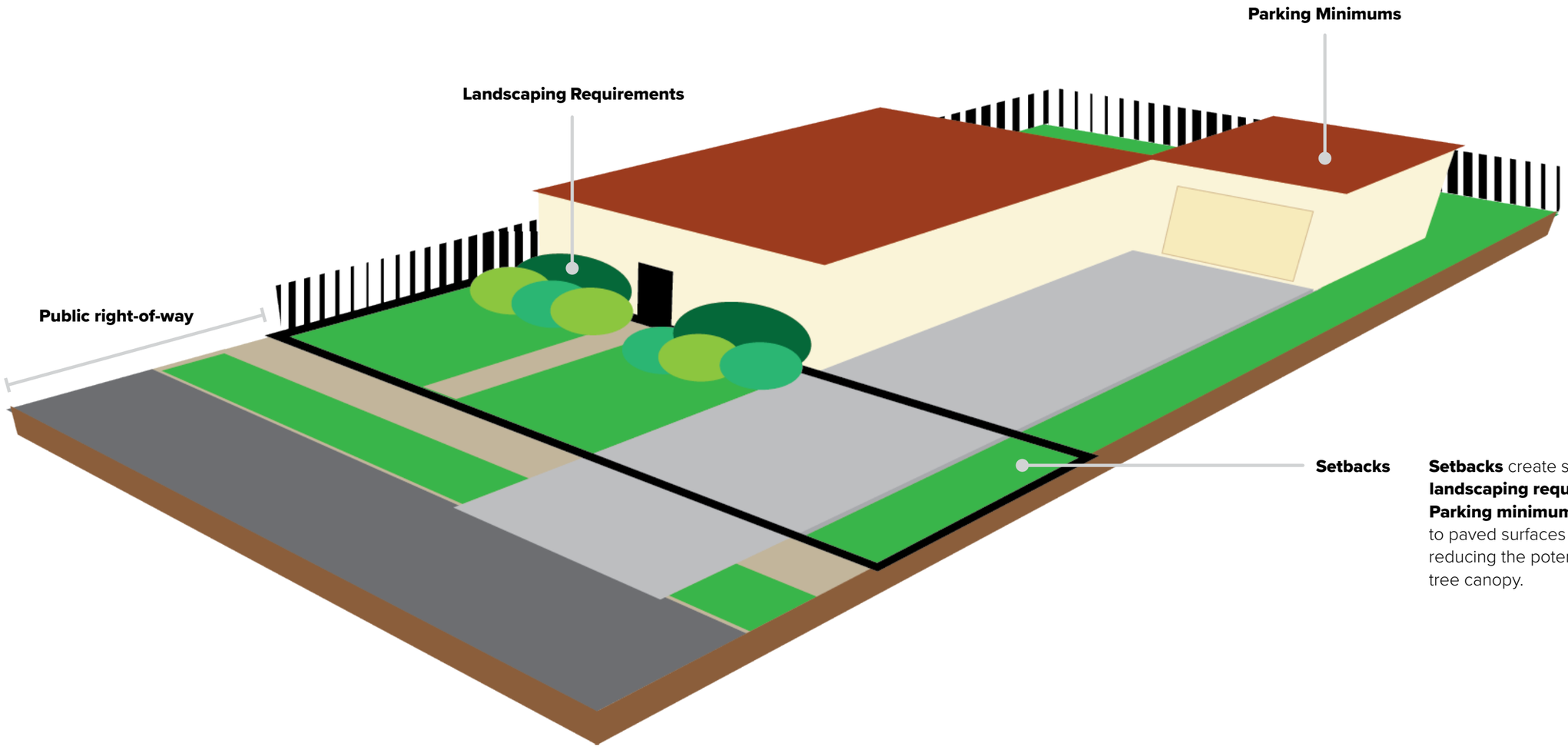
RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

Residential neighborhoods are the largest land use within Huntington Park and so guiding tree planting on residential property will go a long way to increasing tree canopy in the City as a whole. Existing zoning standards can be adjusted with the urban forest in mind to create more space for trees on residential parcels.

Landscaping Requirements: Requiring trees to be incorporated in residential landscaping is a valuable provision for promoting the private urban forest. There are existing requirements regarding drought-tolerant landscaping. These requirements could be expanded to be canopy-oriented by encouraging trees with large canopies to be planted in private yards for all residential densities.

Setbacks: The required front setback on single-family residential parcels creates at least 900 square ft of open space in front of every single-family home in this zone. Aside from driveways and paths, much of this space is dedicated to lawns in many homes. These swathes of permeable surfaces hold tremendous tree-planting potential. Trees in residential setbacks have many community benefits. Replacing or shading lawns with trees is an important water-saving strategy and trees' proximity to sidewalks and homes would enhance mobility and energy-saving benefits.

Parking Minimums: Parking requirements increase the amount of impervious surfaces on a lot and reduce the amount of space available for trees. This is especially true for high-density housing where relatively more space must be dedicated to parking. Reducing or eliminating parking minimums allows for more green space in residential neighborhoods.



Setbacks create space typically vegetated, while **landscaping requirements** guide what is planted. **Parking minimums** require space dedicated to paved surfaces and garages for cars, directly reducing the potential area for green space and tree canopy.

COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

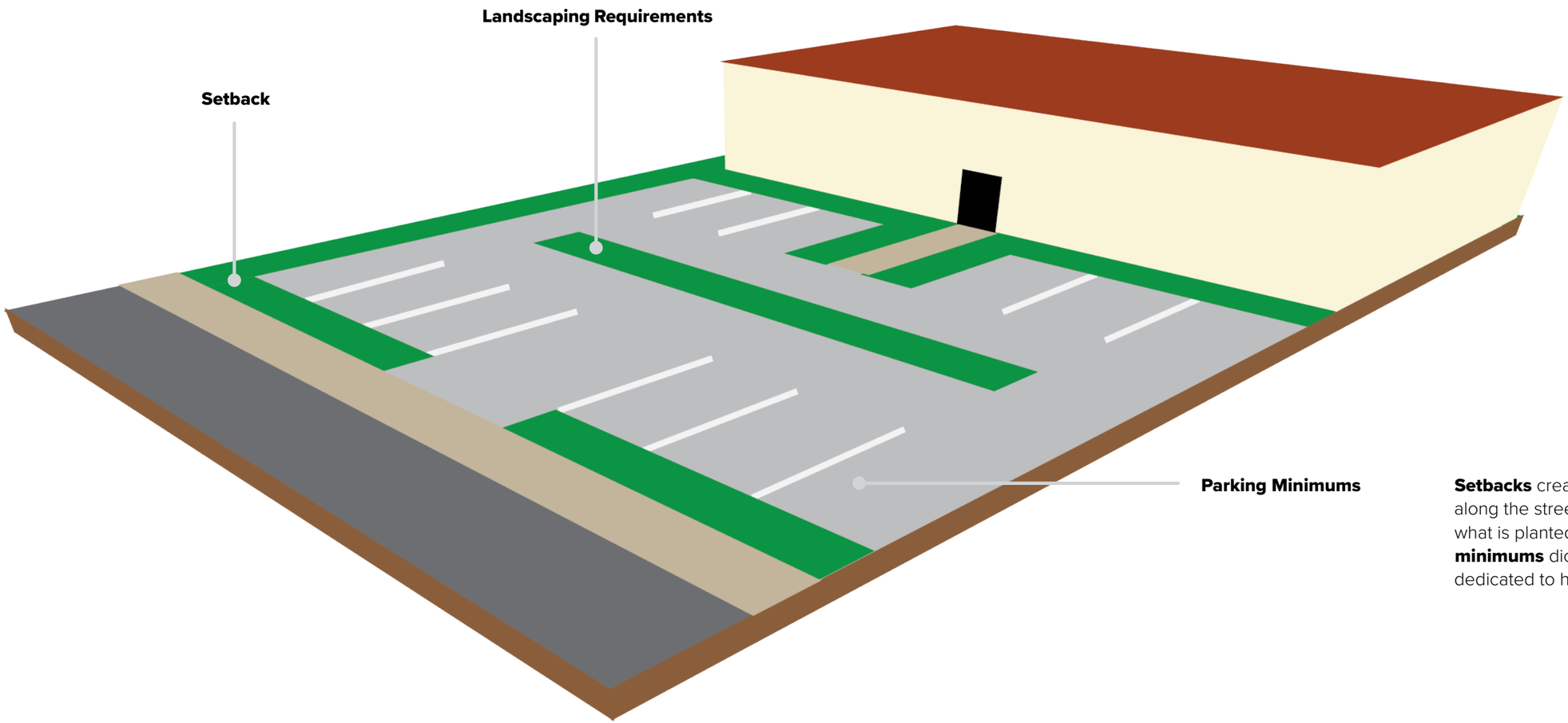
Commercial areas are the third largest land use in Huntington Park and hold a lot of potential to increase tree canopy, especially in parking areas.

Setbacks: Commercial developments in Huntington Park are required to have a 5 ft front setback with an average of at least 3 ft of landscaping. This requirement makes room for the urban forest in commercial zones.

Parking Minimums: The zoning code stipulates minimum parking requirements for commercial developments depending on the size and use of the development. Minimum parking standards can increase the size of parking lots, competing with other uses of space, like landscaping. Relaxing parking requirements can be paired with increasing landscaping requirements in order to create greener commercial districts.

Landscaping Requirements: Given the extent of parking lots in commercial districts, one way to provide tree canopy in these areas is to require shade trees throughout parking lots. The zoning code currently requires one tree for every 10 parking spaces. Increasing this requirement would provide more tree canopy.

The benefit of both the setbacks and the landscaping could be more fully realized by including details about the mature size of trees to be planted so that the maximum canopy benefit is achieved from the landscaped space. Additionally, enforcement of this standard would help ensure trees are replaced as they die, maintaining the canopy over longer timescales.



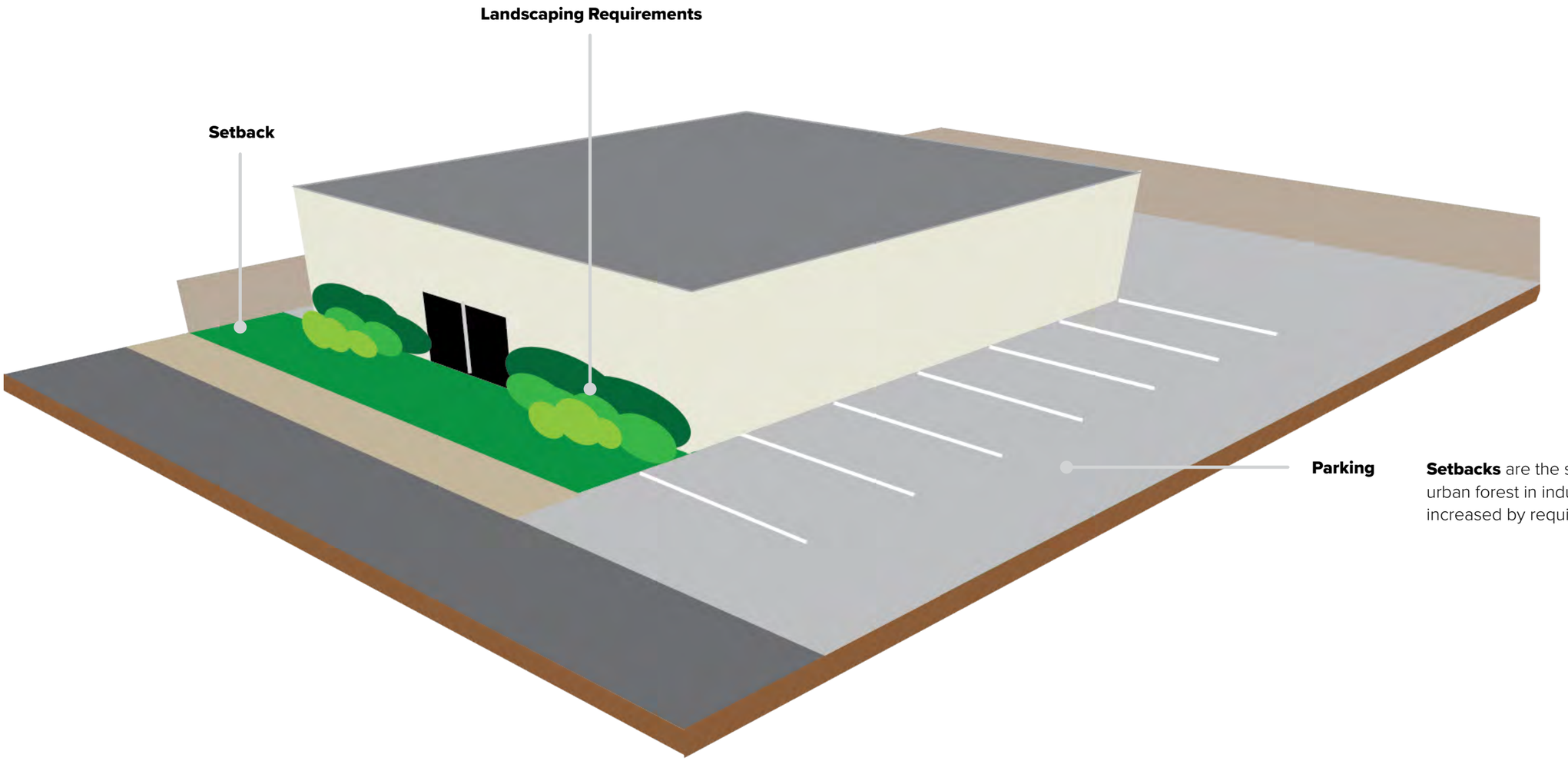
Setbacks create space to grow the urban forest along the street. **Landscaping requirements** guide what is planted throughout the parking lot. **Parking minimums** dictate how much of the lot needs to be dedicated to hardscape for cars.

INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

Industrial zones have the lowest levels of existing canopy. Therefore, it is especially important to consider trees in patterns of development for this zone. Many industrial lots consist of large buildings and paved lots. Adding trees to industrial areas is not just important to expand tree canopy across the City as a whole, it is also locally important in thinking of the welfare of community members who work in these areas.

Setbacks: Industrial areas are required to have front (and sometimes side) setbacks from the right-of-way. The size of the setback depends on the length of the lot, with larger lots requiring longer setbacks. There are existing landscaping requirements for these setbacks laid out in Article 4 of the zoning code. Setbacks are the main source of existing canopy in industrial zones.

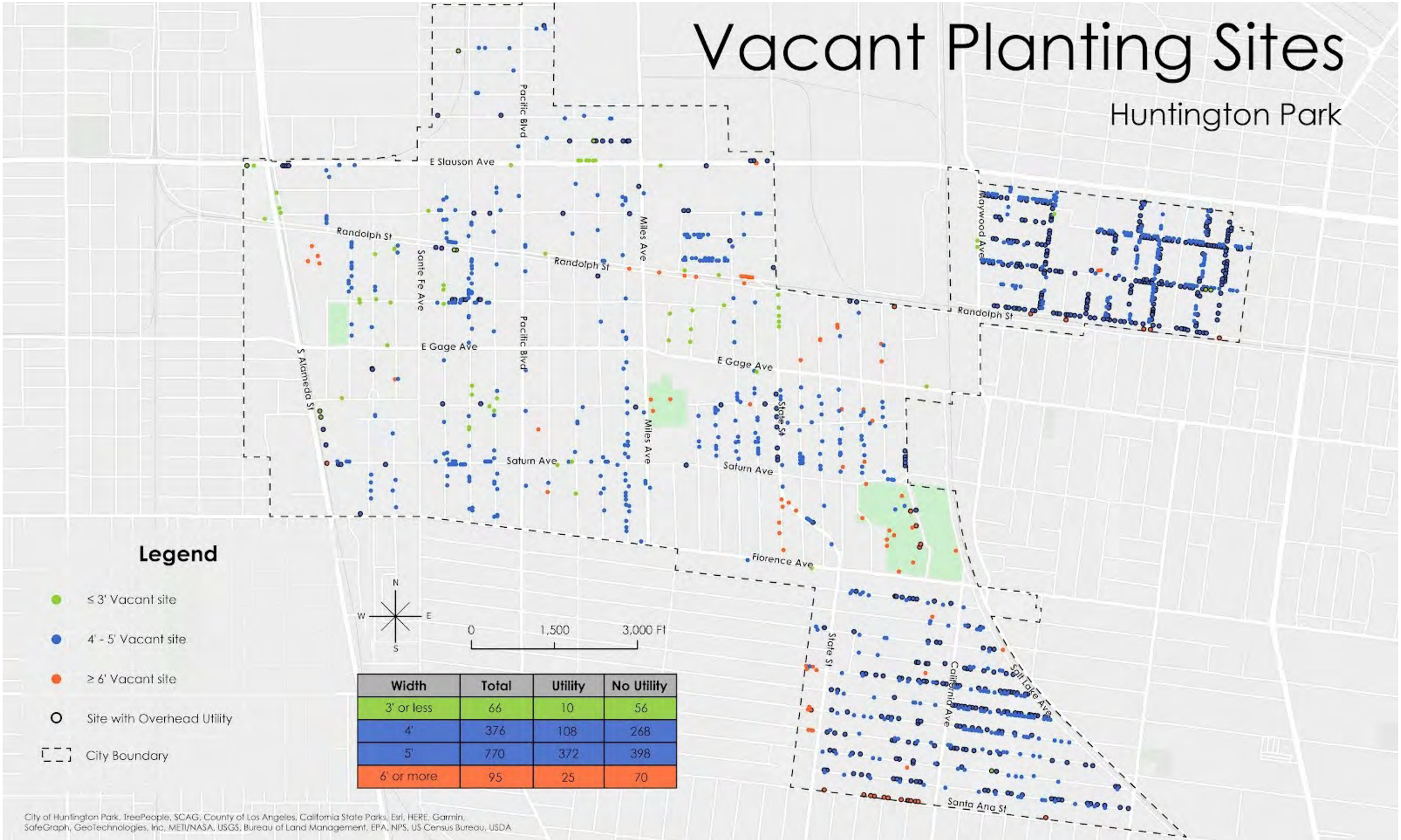
Parking lots: Many industrial lots also have large parking lots with currently little to no tree cover. Increasing tree cover requirements in these parking lots could help increase canopy in these areas.



Setbacks are the source of much of the existing urban forest in industrial lots. Urban canopy could be increased by requiring **landscaping in parking lots.**

Vacant Planting Sites

Huntington Park



Legend

- ≤ 3' Vacant site
- 4' - 5' Vacant site
- ≥ 6' Vacant site
- Site with Overhead Utility
- City Boundary

Width	Total	Utility	No Utility
3' or less	66	10	56
4'	376	108	268
5'	770	372	398
6' or more	95	25	70

City of Huntington Park, TreePeople, SCAG, County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

Goals & Strategies

Key Takeaways

- Citywide canopy goal is supported by goals for each land use based on community priorities and existing canopy
- Planting large trees will make it easier to achieve canopy goals with fewer planting spaces
- Strategies support canopy goals with specific operations and policy recommendations

The many opportunities for growth in the Huntington Park urban forest can be realized by setting ambitious but achievable goals. This plan lays out a set of goals for canopy cover by land use that come together to form a canopy cover goal for the city as a whole. This building block model of goal setting is used to better reflect community priorities, feasibility based on the existing forest, and alignment with City operations.

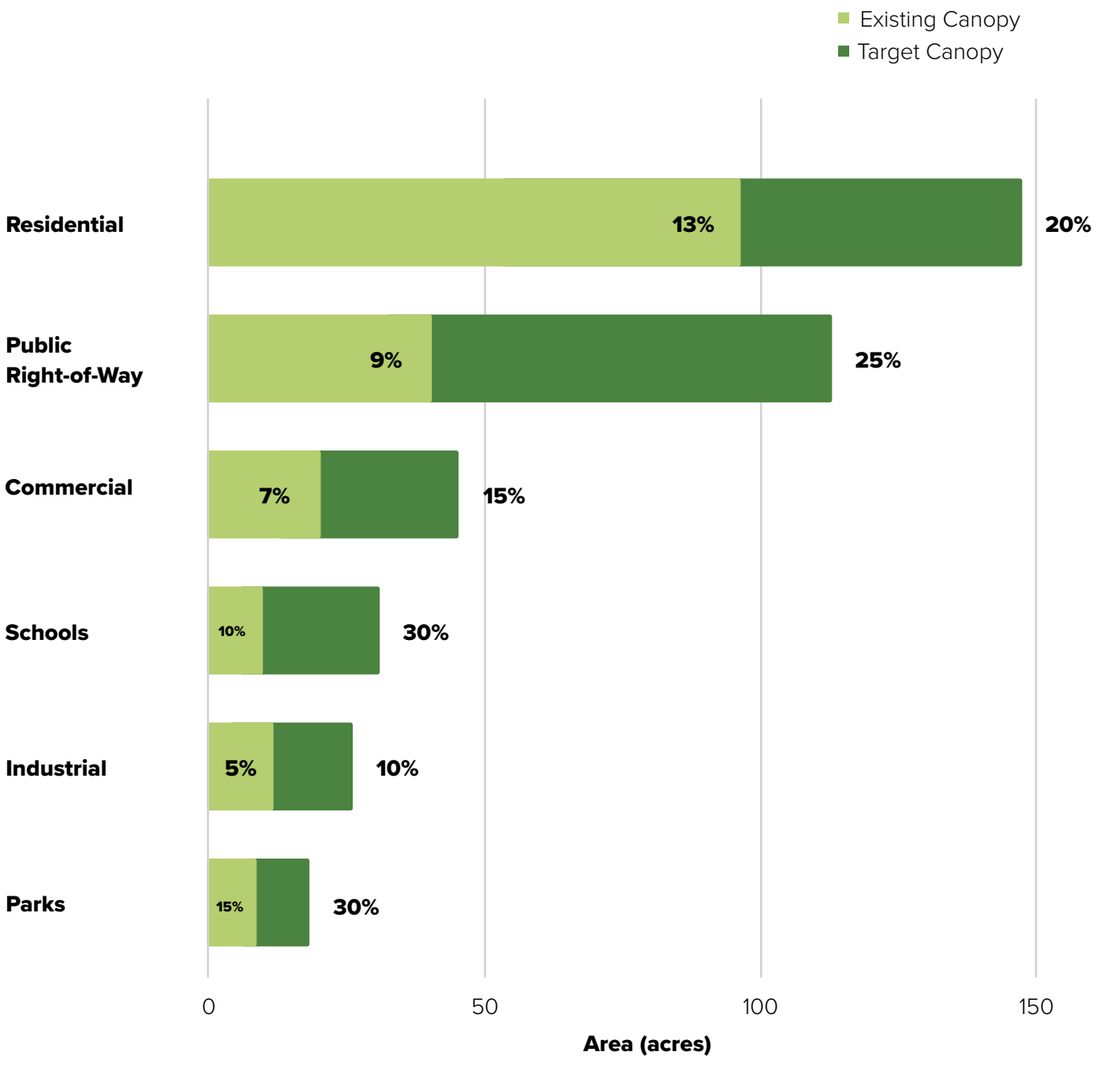
These goals are supported by strategies that lay out specific actions the City can take to increase canopy in each land use. Canopy goals are translated into tree planting guidance. Beyond urban forest expansion, these strategies also include provisions for caring for the urban forest and engaging partners to support the vision of the urban forest.

These strategies will be implemented over three phases. The first phase sets the foundation for the plan by making policy and operations adjustments to prepare for a larger forest. The second phase of the plan focuses on growing the urban forest through sustained tree planting and creation of plantable space. The third and final phase of the plan focuses on maintaining the planted trees so they grow large and healthy, and provide an abundant canopy for Huntington Park.

Huntington Park's Future Forest

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

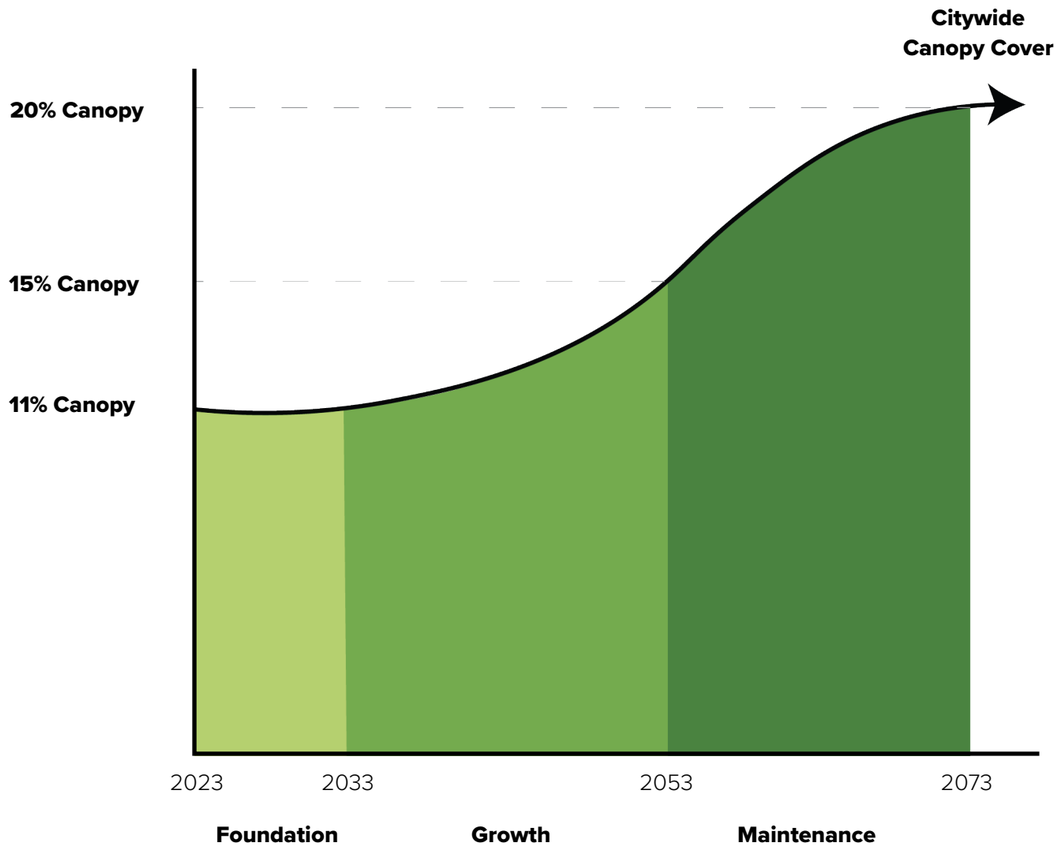
Huntington Park's canopy goals are set to be achievable yet **ambitious and meaningful**, focused on **where canopy is needed**, and grounded **with practical management strategies**.



Canopy targets by land use combine to achieve the citywide target in a way that integrates community priorities on where canopy is needed most.

20%
Tree Canopy Cover Citywide

192
Added Acres of Tree Canopy Cover

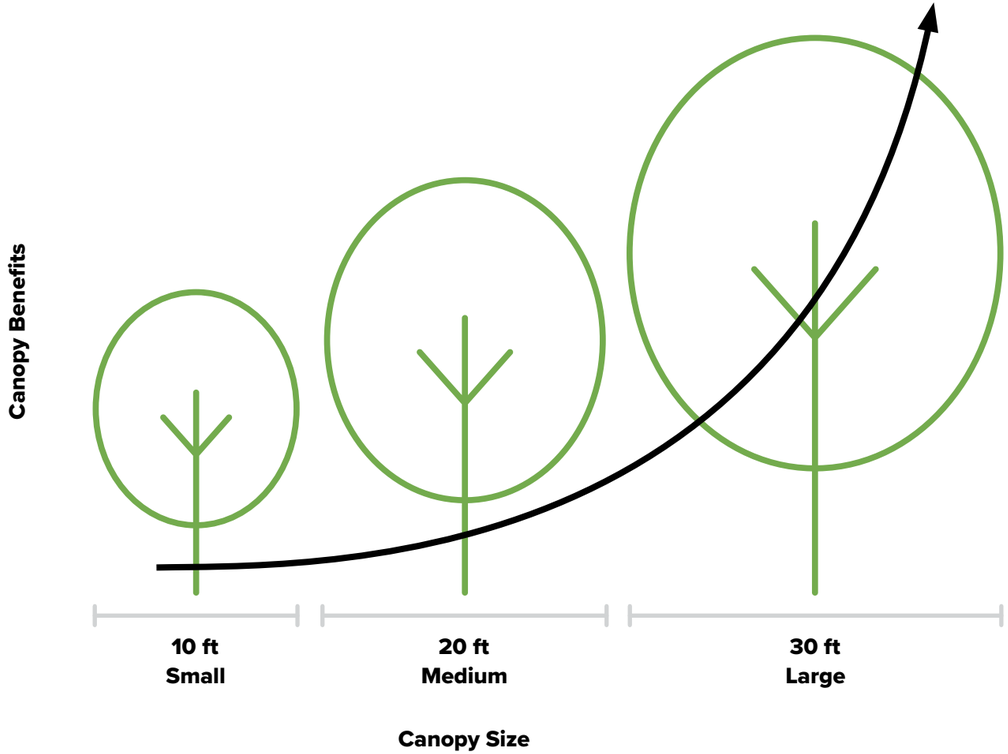


The pathway to realizing the future forest of Huntington Park is divided into three management phases of Foundation, Growth, and Maintenance.

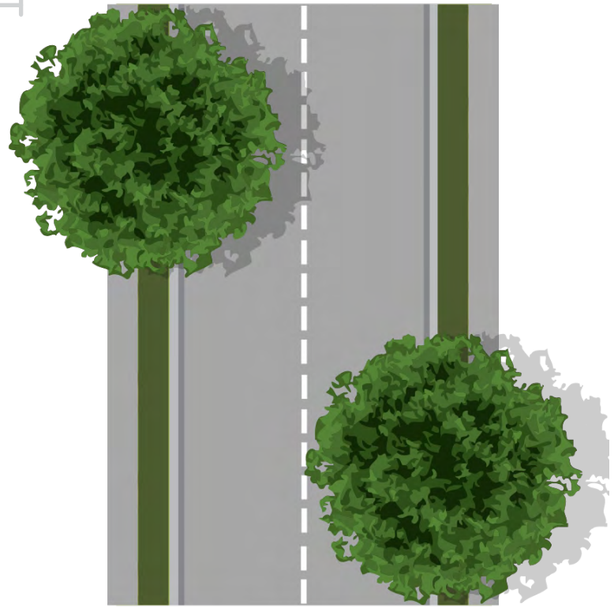
The Importance of Counting Trees Planted and Large Trees for Realizing Canopy Goals

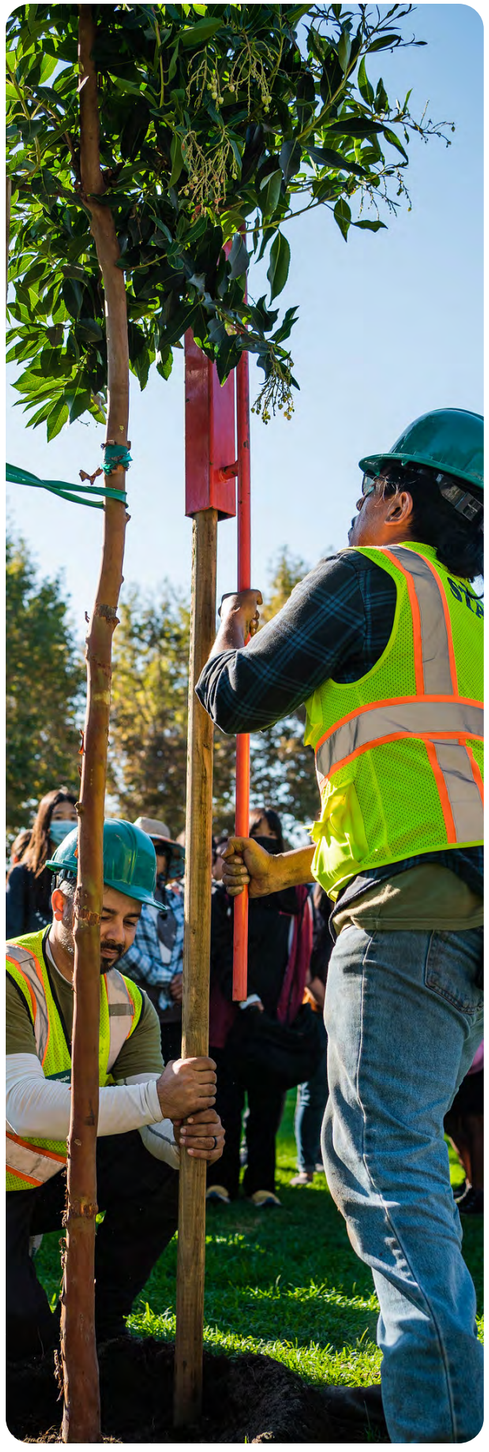
Canopy goals are powerful because they correspond closely with many benefits trees provide and communicate big picture objectives. However, canopy goals are difficult to measure from a human perspective, and they are not fully realized until decades after the initial tree planting. Achieving canopy goals in the long term is most practically accomplished with tree planting goals. Therefore, canopy goals and management strategies are translated into numbers of tree plantings for feasible implementation.

To realize canopy goals with a practical number of trees planted, it is critical to plant tree species that mature into large trees and create planting spaces that accommodate large trees. While planting large trees is not always possible due to space constraints, planting the largest trees appropriate for a given space will help ensure available tree planting spaces maximize canopy benefit.



Larger trees can help achieve canopy goals with fewer plantable spaces. To reach the 25% Public Right-of-Way goal for a 100 ft length of a 40 ft wide local road would require 14 small (10 ft) trees, four medium (20 ft), or two large (30 ft) trees.





Specific strategies for meeting tree canopy goals

Ten specific strategies have been identified to meet the tree canopy goals in alignment with the desires of the community as established in the Community Voices chapter. These ten strategies emphasize three types of actions: Plant, Protect, and Partner. Importantly, consideration of equity is a cross-cutting theme to be incorporated into all strategies.

PLANT

Six of the ten strategies involve planting trees as planting more trees is essential to expanding the Huntington Park urban forest. Planting strategies are grouped by land use in order to give specific guidance depending on how the land is managed by different stakeholders and which policy tools are appropriate. Planting strategies are ordered according to the priorities identified in the community surveys.

PROTECT

Protecting existing trees is essential to ensure young trees grow into healthy mature trees that generate the most benefits. Similarly, responsibility to protect existing trees depends on where a tree is planted. Trees on public land are maintained by Public Works and sub-contractors while trees on private land are the responsibility of private residents. Policies around removing and replacing trees each on public and private land is important to ensure the forest is maintained through time.

PARTNER

Partnering with other agencies and the community creates a shared mission to grow and care for Huntington Park's urban forest that can shape projects from the regional scale to the personal. Working together to foster a culture of tree care throughout Huntington Park will help the urban forest thrive for years to come. Importantly, many government agencies have jurisdiction over land in Huntington Park where some of the greatest need and best opportunities for adding trees exists.

Plant	1. Maximize shade in the public right-of-way
	2. Provide green areas for recreation in parks and around schools
	3. Ensure industrial areas maintain beneficial canopies
	4. Create canopied commercial corridors
	5. Create immersive green neighborhoods for all residents
	6. Pursue opportunities to expand the urban forest
Protect	7. Conserve the existing public urban forest
	8. Conserve the existing private urban forest
Partner	9. Partner with agencies outside the City to coordinate tree planting
	10. Engage the community with the urban forest

MAXIMIZE SHADE IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY	
Target: 25% canopy cover along the public-right-of way *Lead Agency: Public Works*	
Plant all existing vacant planting sites	Reference the vacant site map for location of vacant planting sites as of the 2023 tree inventory
	Plant vacant sites with trees from Street Tree Palette according to the size of the planting site.
	Prioritize greening on blocks with low canopy, blocks with large available planting sites, around schools and in neighborhoods with low existing canopy. See canopy prioritization map.
Replace low-benefit trees with high-benefit trees	Identify trees that are undeserving the urban forest. This includes: 1. Palm trees 2. Small canopied trees planted in large planting spaces in poor or fair health
	Prioritize replacements in neighborhoods with low existing tree canopy
	Replace low-benefit trees with trees from Street Tree Palette according to the size of the planting site
Install additional planting sites where existing planting sites are insufficient to meet the target	Install planting spaces such that there is room for 26 trees for every 650 ft residential block
	Tree wells should be as large as the existing sidewalk can accommodate. Sidewalks must maintain 5 ft of unobstructed pedestrian access
	New planting strips should be designed to be a minimum of 5 ft wide
Prioritize canopy along multi-modal transit routes	Install tree wells and plant trees with large canopies near bus stops
	Prioritize filling vacant sites, replacing low-benefit trees, and creating additional planting spaces along streets with existing or proposed bikeways in line with the Bicycle Master Plan and Complete Streets Plan as active transportation routes are implemented
Promote the survival of planted trees	Include three years of watering after planting by the City, sub-contractor, or community-based organizations in contracts and cost calculations
	Engage with residents when new street trees are planted outside a residence to inform them what to expect from a healthy street tree and how to contact the City if the tree is experiencing any issues

PROVIDE GREEN AREAS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN PARKS AND AROUND SCHOOLS	
Target: 30% Tree canopy in parks and around schools *Lead Agency: Public Works, Los Angeles Unified School District*	
Promote cool routes to school	Plant trees at a frequency of one tree for every 30 ft along school property and along streets within 0.15 miles of schools
	Create curb bump-outs at intersections within 0.15 miles from schools to create room for trees and calm traffic, increasing road safety for children
	Prioritize greening in and around school with low existing tree canopy and in neighborhoods with low existing canopy: 1. Aspire Pacific Academy and Aspire Ollin University Preparatory Academy 2. Huntington Park Elementary 3. Nimitz Middle School 4. Linda Esperanza Marquez High School 5. Lucille Roybal-Allard Elementary 6. Alliance Collins Family College Ready High & Aspire Centennial College Preparatory Academy
Develop parks as immersive green spaces	Increase tree canopy in parks with low existing canopy: 1. Freedom Park
	Plant large sized trees in parks given relatively fewer infrastructure constraints
Work with Los Angeles Unified School Districts to develop green schoolyards	Encourage LAUSD to plant trees around existing green play areas and use large canopied trees in line with the recommended tree list for landscaping
	Facilitate projects for LAUSD to depave existing asphalt play areas and replace them with shaded green play areas through permitting and grant funding support

ENSURE INDUSTRIAL AREAS MAINTAIN BENEFICIAL CANOPIES

Target: 10% canopy cover on industrial parcels
Lead Agency: Planning

Require tree planting in the zoning code for new development and major renovations in Manufacturing Plan Development Districts	Modify existing landscaping and tree planting requirements to require one tree for every 3,000 sq ft of lot area Require one tree for every 30 linear ft of property frontage. Can be counted towards total required trees Require one tree for every four parking spaces. Setback plantings cannot count towards parking lot trees. Parking lot trees can be counted towards total required trees
	Trees used to meet zoning requirements must have a mature canopy size of at least 20 ft and be drought tolerant Palm trees do not fulfill the requirement
	Require trees to be planted in a space large enough to accommodate their mature size, including tree wells
	Tree planting requirements are not affected by drought declarations
	Follow up with survival of required trees after 3 years Trees that have not survived establishment must be replaced
Encourage trees on existing industrial development	Work with The Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce to host workshops with local businesses about the benefits of tree planting
	Provide local businesses with resources to encourage tree planting, including tree benefits, tree care guidelines, and Street Tree Palette
Plant along the public right-of-way in industrial zones	Install tree wells in the sidewalks where feasible in industrial zones
	Prioritize streets where industrial zones are adjacent to residential zones

CREATE CANOPIED COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS

Target: 15% canopy cover along commercial corridors
Lead Agency: Planning

Require tree planting in the zoning code for new development and major renovations in Commercial General, Commercial Professional, and Commercial neighborhood districts	Modify existing landscaping and tree planting requirements to require one tree for every 2,000 sq ft of total area in commercial lots Require one tree for every 30 linear ft of property frontage. Can be counted towards total tree requirement Require one tree for every four parking spaces, not including required setback trees. Can be counted towards total tree requirement.
	Require trees to be at least 24 in box size at time of planting
	Require trees used to meet zoning requirements to have a mature canopy size of at least 20 ft diameter and be drought tolerant Palm trees do not fulfill requirements
	Require trees be placed in planting strips or tree wells large enough to accommodate their mature size
	Tree planting requirements are not affected by drought declarations
	Follow up with survival of required trees after 3 years Trees that have not survived establishment must be replaced
Encourage trees on existing commercial development	Work with The Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce to host workshops with local business about the benefits of tree planting
	Provide local businesses with resources to encourage tree planting, including tree benefits, tree care guidelines, and Street Tree Palette
Plant along the public right-of-way in commercial corridors	Install tree wells as large as the sidewalk will accommodate at a density of one for every 50 linear ft of block length along commercial corridors if there is no existing parkway

CREATE IMMERSIVE GREEN NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL RESIDENTS	
Target: 20% average canopy cover on residential parcels *Lead Agencies: Planning, Public Works*	
Establish and enforce tree zoning requirements for new development and major renovations	Require one tree for every 1,500 square ft of lot area for all residential zoning districts to be planted during development or major renovations
	Offer density bonuses for developments that substantially exceed minimum tree requirements
	Require trees used to meet zoning requirements have a mature canopy size of at least 20 ft diameter or provide edible fruit Palm trees do not fulfill requirements
	Require trees to be at least 24 in box size at time of planting
	Tree planting requirements are not affected by drought declarations
	Follow up with survival of required trees after 3 years Trees that have not survived establishment must be replaced
Give trees to residents for planting on private property	Give away shade and/or fruit trees in spring and fall at City events including: 1. Farmer's Market
	Promote tree giveaways through town channels and local organizations to reach residents

PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND THE URBAN FOREST	
Target: 10% increase in the number of publicly managed planting sites by 2050 *Lead Agencies: Public Works, Planning, City Council*	
Include tree planting in capital projects	Review capital improvement plans for tree planting potential, including transportation improvements, school renovations, park upgrades, or landscape remodeling
Invest in new green spaces	Explore potential for new public green spaces including leveraging small spaces such as pocket parks and parklets
	Solicit and incorporate community feedback in the location and design of new green spaces
Retrofit right-of-ways	Add curb bump outs and extensions to parking lanes on streets without space parkways or tree wells to create tree planting space
	Install or expand parkways during major road infrastructure projects such that parkways are at least 4 ft wide to accommodate large trees

CONSERVE THE EXISTING PUBLIC URBAN FOREST	
Target: No public tree needs to be removed before the end of its lifespan *Lead Agency: Public Works*	
Adopt City policy around public tree removal criteria and replacement	Public street trees may be removed in cases of death, disease, excessive infrastructure damage, or substantial threat of damage Public street trees may not be removed in cases of unsubstantiated requests, litter, shadow or personal preference Requests for street tree removals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by Public Works
	Replace each removed street tree with two new tree plantings At least one tree planting must be on the same block as the removed tree New trees are planted according to guidance outlined in this plan
Provide adequate care to maintain trees in good condition	Increase grid trimming to a 4-year cycle
	Water trees during periods of extended dryness
	Adhere to Best Management Practices outlined in this plan (pp. 117-118)
Hire sufficient City staff dedicated to tree care to supplement sub-contractor services	City tree staff responds to requests for off-cycle tree inspections, remove reported dead trees, and plant replacement trees
	Train tree staff on proper tree care practices in line with ANSI A300 and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) industry standards
Find the highest and best use of urban wood waste	Prioritize sending wood waste to vendors who reclaim, salvage, or upcycle wood waste into high quality, durable goods
	Send wood waste that cannot be reclaimed to be recycled into bio products such as mulch, compost, or feedstock

CONSERVE THE EXISTING PRIVATE URBAN FOREST DURING DEVELOPMENT	
Target: Residential development results in a net increase of tree canopy *Lead Agency: Planning*	
Adopt City policy on the removal and replacement of trees on private property	Healthy trees removed during private development must be replaced by planting two replacement 24 in box trees with a mature tree canopy of at least 20 ft and low water requirements
	In cases where planting replacement trees is deemed infeasible, an 'in-lieu' fee may be paid to the City, relative to the size of the tree removed, to cover the planting and establishment of additional public trees.
Preserve trees during construction	Construction projects that will impact more than 500 sq ft of land must submit a Tree Plan to the City outlining what measures will be taken to protect existing trees during construction. The Tree plan should include: • The location of trees • The Tree Protection Zone for all trees to be preserved • Tree fencing • Erosion control • Tree pruning • Soil compaction mitigation • Irrigation • Tree maintenance schedule Tree plans should be approved and overseen by a certified arborist.
	Any tree that dies or is removed as a result of construction must be replaced with two 24 in box size trees
Support residents in caring for mature trees	Provide educational materials on the benefits of mature trees as well as tree care resources, such as professional arborist contact information
	Allow residents to request City tree care services for trees in the front set back, including inspection and pruning

PARTNER WITH AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE CITY TO COORDINATE TREE PLANTING	
Target: City partners support and contribute to achieving tree canopy goals *Lead Agencies: Public Works, City Council*	
Coordinate tree planting protocols on easements through the City	Continue to work with LADWP to manage utility easements as green public spaces as in Veterans Park
	Work with Union Pacific to plant trees along the railroad easement in line with the standards and guidelines of this plan
Work with service providers to implement tree planting agreements	Include the price of planting and maintaining trees when creating contracts that include the provision of trees with third party service providers such as waste haulers or utility companies.
	Provide guidance on tree care best management practices for third parties who perform tree maintenance including subcontracts and utility providers. Trees judged to have died from improper maintenance performed by third parties must be replaced by that party
Work with agencies developing infrastructure projects in Huntington Park to include tree planting	Work with Metro to ensure that trees consistent with the guidelines laid out in this plan are included in any proposed infrastructure projects including the proposed Randolph Rail-to-River bike route and West Santa Ana branch light rail and bikeway projects

ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY WITH THE URBAN FOREST	
Target: Engage with at least 100 residents annually *Lead Agencies: Public Works*	
Make information about the urban forest publicly available	Create a page on the City website dedicated to trees and include the following information: • Urban Forestry Management Plan • Approved tree list • Tree care guidelines • Tree zoning requirements • Upcoming urban forestry events • Most recent completed tree inventory
	Ensure information about the urban forest is available in both English and Spanish.
Hold community tree planting events	When multiple trees are scheduled to be planted in public places such as parks, schools, and residential parkways, hold a community planting event and involve residents in tree planting
Engage in discussions about the urban forest at public events	Introduce the Urban Forest Management Plan at a public workshop
	Periodically solicit feedback from community members about the urban forest, both during Urban Forest Management Plan revisions and between revisions
	Inform residents about tree care practices and available tree resources at public events such as the Farmer's Market
Partner with Community-Based Organizations	Work with community based organizations to coordinate volunteer opportunities for tree planting, tree care, and community events

Implementation

Key Takeaways

- Prioritizing planting trees early in the project will allow time for tree growth throughout the project
- Coordinating stakeholders will help achieve a common goal
- Funding will be required to implement strategies
- The plan is a living document that will change over time

The success of this plan hinges on the ability of the strategies to be implemented. Making the plan a reality will require coordination of people, time and money. Many partners will need to come together to enact different elements of the plan. A phased timeline must account for time for trees to grow to their full size by the canopy target date. Funding will need to be allocated to pay for planting new trees as well as the increased costs of maintaining a larger urban forest. Planning these logistics will enable smoother translations of strategy into action.

To guide tree planting implementation, resources are included in this plan advising on which trees should be planted where. The street tree map identifies the size of planting space along streets with public trees in Huntington Park, and where utility lines exist. These factors play a major role in determining which trees are suitable for given planting sites. The Street Tree Palette can then be used to identify trees that are suitable for each site. The Street Tree Palette is organized by required plantable space and contains relevant traits of each tree including mature size, water requirements, and representation in the existing urban forest. These two resources together can be used once planting sites have been identified to make decisions about how they should be filled.

Tree Planting in Huntington Park

Implementation Timeline

Trees take time to grow. The trees planted today will not reach their mature size for at least twenty years. As such, it is important to take the long view when planning for the urban forest. The timeline of this plan is structured to prioritize planting new trees in the first thirty years of the plan. Then, by the end of this plan's lifespan in 2073, those trees will have reached their mature size. In the later years of this plan, emphasis will shift from expanding tree canopy to maintaining tree canopy. Annual tree plantings will still be important, because as trees die naturally they will need to be replaced; however, the scale of planting will decrease and careful maintenance of the expanded forest will be the priority.

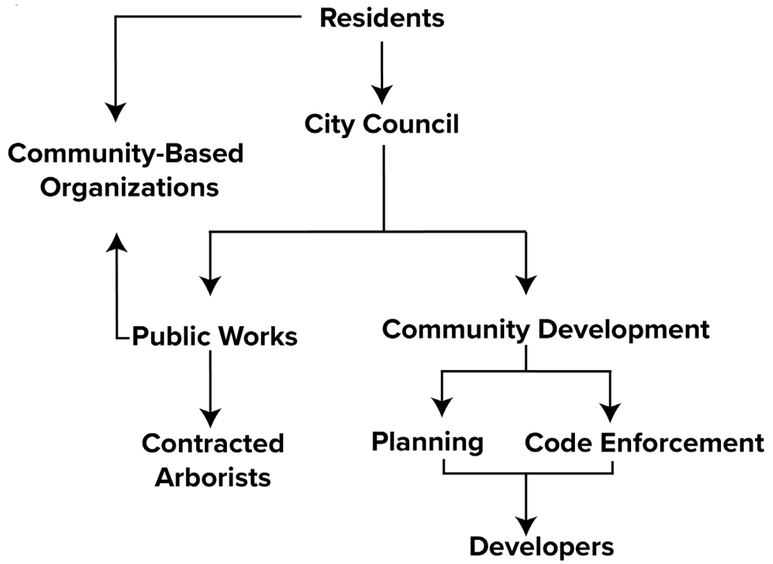
Capacity for the urban forest, both physical and human, will also take time to grow. There are not nearly enough existing plantable sites to achieve the goals laid out in this plan. Therefore, infrastructure changes will need to be made from the beginning of the plan timeline to accommodate more trees. These projects will likely require greater staff time and funding. Coordinating major tree planting improvements with other capital projects or regional initiatives can help set in motion the creation of plantable space for trees down the line. Planning for plantable space today will allow for more tree plantings tomorrow, which will support a greater tree canopy in the future.

Phase	Years	Planting	Maintenance	Engagement
Foundation	2023–2032	Create new places to grow trees Plant 300 trees/year Adjust zoning code to require tree planting on new developments	Adopt policy outline criteria for public tree removals Adopt policy outline criteria for private tree removals	Establish web page to host urban forest information Regular outreach at community events Give away 200 trees to residents per year
Expansion	2033–2052	Create new places to grow trees Plant 300 trees/year	Increase maintenance budget to accommodate care for more trees	Focused engagements as part of plan review Regular outreach at community events Give away 200 trees to residents per year
Maintenance	2053–2072	Plant 50 trees per year or as many as required to replace removed trees and keep vacant sites filled	Remove and replace trees as needed	Focused engagements as part of plan review Regular outreach at community events

Partners

Many partners must come together to make this plan a reality. City Council importantly sets necessary local policy and allocates funding. Departments across the City of Huntington Park must coordinate to carry out the strategies outlined in this plan. Residents must support, guide, and engage in urban forestry initiatives including incorporating more trees on residential land. Businesses and developers must incorporate trees on their properties, in their projects, and support the addition of more space for trees in industrial and commercial zones. Community-based organizations must be active and trusted in order to bridge local government and residents by amplifying community voices. Together, each role plays an important part in realizing a thriving urban forest.

Partner	Responsibility
Public Works	Oversee street tree and park planting and maintenance Respond to requests for off-cycle inspections and pruning
Planning	Support implementation of tree zoning requirements Verify development landscaping plans Update tree zoning requirements as needed over time
Public Safety	Enforce tree zoning regulations
City Council	Adopt UFMP Adopt tree zoning requirements Allocate funds for the urban forest Set urban greening as a priority for City operations
Arborist contractors	Perform routine grid pruning Perform routine inspections Provide tree care services as directed by Public Works
Residents	Care for trees on private property Care for trees on parkways adjacent to private property Support tree planting initiatives Participate in planting events and engagement
Developers	Comply with tree zoning requirements Seek to exceed tree zoning requirements
Community-Based Organizations	Plant trees Engage community



Relationships between partners of the urban forest in Huntington Park

Funding

Expanding the urban forest will require additional investment. Creating space for trees, planting trees, and maintaining those trees will all cost money. As the urban forest grows, so too must the budget allocated towards the urban forest.

There are three categories of costs associated with caring for the urban forest. The first is tree maintenance, which includes regular pruning as well as additional tree trimmings and tree removals. These costs will increase as the size of the forest as a whole increases because more trees will need to be maintained.

The next category is tree planting, which includes the cost of planting and staking a sapling, three years of watering during establishment, and creating space for trees through minor site modifications such as installing tree wells in sidewalks. Tree planting costs depend on the number of new trees planted in a given year. The numbers in the table to the right are estimates, as costs can vary considerably based on how trees are planted.

Finally, community engagement covers the cost of giving trees to residents as well as the staff time and materials needed to connect with residents about the importance of tree care and the urban forest. Community engagement costs do not depend on the size of the urban forest.

These three numbers can be combined to estimate the funding needs for the urban forest each year based on the size of the existing forest and the number of anticipated tree plantings. While a larger urban forest will require a larger budget, fortunately there are many grant resources available to help fund urban forestry.

Recommended Annual Budget			
Service	**Unit Cost**	**Total Cost**	**Funding**
Tree Maintenance (per tree per year) Contracted Maintenance City Staff Time Supplies & Equipment	$80 $45 $10 $25	$600,000	*General Fund*
Tree Planting (per tree) Tree Planting (tree + supplies + labor) Establishment Minor Site Modification (creation of new tree wells)	$1780 $400 $380 $1000	$534,000	*General Fund, Grants*
Community Engagement (per year)	$15,000	$15,000	*General Fund, Grants*
Total	**$1,149,000**		

Fruit tree distribution in Huntington Park

Grants

FEDERAL

USDA U.S. Forest Service
- Administers federal funding related to urban and community forestry.

NON-PROFIT

Arbor Day Foundation
- Small grants for arbor day events and community-based organization tree planting events

California ReLeaf
- Small grants for arbor day events and community-based organization tree planting events

American Forests
- Small grants for arbor day events and community-based organization tree planting events

STATE

California Natural Resources Agency
Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Grant Program
- Aimed at mitigating impacts caused by new or modified transportation facilities including urban forestry projects that offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide

Urban Greening Program
- Aimed at reducing greenhouse gasses while also transforming the built environment into places that are more sustainable, enjoyable, and effective in creating healthy and vibrant communities

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Urban and Community Forestry Program
- Planning and/or implementing projects for urban forest expansion and health with a focus on extreme heat, environmental, economic, and social benefits to underserved communities

Office of Planning and Research
Extreme Heat Program
- Invests in efforts to reduce the impact of heat

California Strategic Growth Council
Transformative Climate Communities Program
- Funds ambitious measures to build climate adaptation and resilience through planning, research, capacity building, restoration, and sustainable infrastructure

California State Parks
Statewide Local Parks Program
- Projects must develop or acquire and develop a new park, expand an existing park, or renovate an existing park

Tree Planting Site Options & Costs

Filling the 1,307 vacant sites available in Huntington Park is the most cost effective way to grow the urban forest, but it will not be nearly enough to reach the goal of 25% tree canopy in the right-of-way. Therefore, creating more plantable space in the right-of-way, especially in low canopy neighborhoods, will be necessary to reach canopy and equity goals. There are a number of ways plantable space can be created, as detailed in the table to the right. Design, planning and implementation of proposed interventions would necessarily follow city processes and incorporate the broadest possible consideration of community needs and priorities.

Suitability for installing tree wells—cutouts in the sidewalk to plant trees—depends on the size of the sidewalk, as 5 ft of path must remain unobstructed for pedestrian use. Larger tree wells can support larger trees. As such, it is best to install tree wells where a 4 ft minimum well width is possible.

Curb extensions are a great option where the existing curb is too narrow to support trees and a sidewalk. Planting spaces are constructed in the existing road, usually into an existing parking lane, or by converting the right most travel lane to a parking lane with curb extensions. The construction of curb extensions requires significantly more investment than tree wells. However, curb extensions can also have benefits beyond the urban forest such as a traffic calming measure to improve safety for all street users.

Similarly, center medians convert road space in the center median to landscaped space that can support tree canopy. Center medians are best suited for major arterial roads with an existing center turn lane, such as Pacific Boulevard. Medians also provide traffic calming benefits.

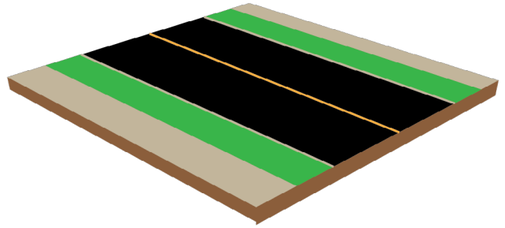
Finally, where more space cannot be created, it is worth analyzing whether existing plantable space is being used to the highest benefit. Existing planting sites that currently house palm trees, trees in poor condition, and/or trees that are significantly smaller than their planting size could feasibly support should be considered to be replaced with larger, more beneficial trees.

Tree Planting Site	Potential Locations	*Planting Cost Estimate
Vacant sites	See Vacant Sites Map	$400
New tree wells	State Street Alameda Street	$1,400
Curb Extensions	Near schools Gage Ave. - existing curb extensions but no landscaping	$6,000 to $20,000 per 6 x 20 ft
Medians	Pacific Boulevard Santa Fe Avenue Slauson Ave	$15,000 to $30,000 per 100 ft
Tree replacement	See Tree Replacement Map Residential Parkways	$700

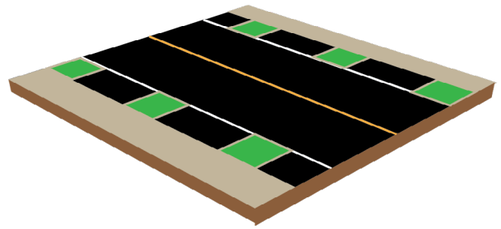
**Planting cost only, does not include establishment or maintenance care. Costs are highly variable.*

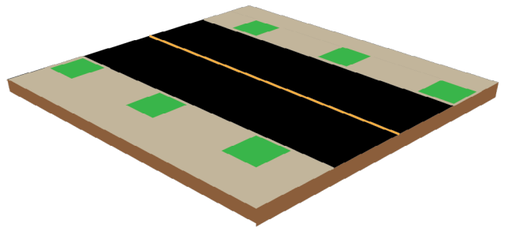
Focusing on only the most cost effective sites will result in an inequitable urban forest that continues to leave some areas of Huntington Park with a lower than desired tree canopy.

Creating More Plantable Space



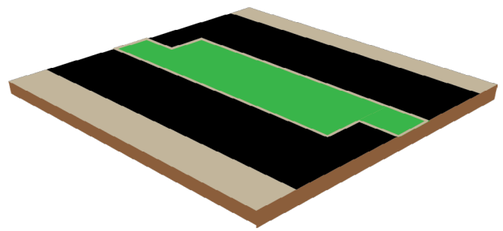
Parkways, where they exist, require the least site preparation to plant vacant sites.





Curb Extensions are suitable for when there are no existing parkways and the sidewalk is too narrow to install tree wells.

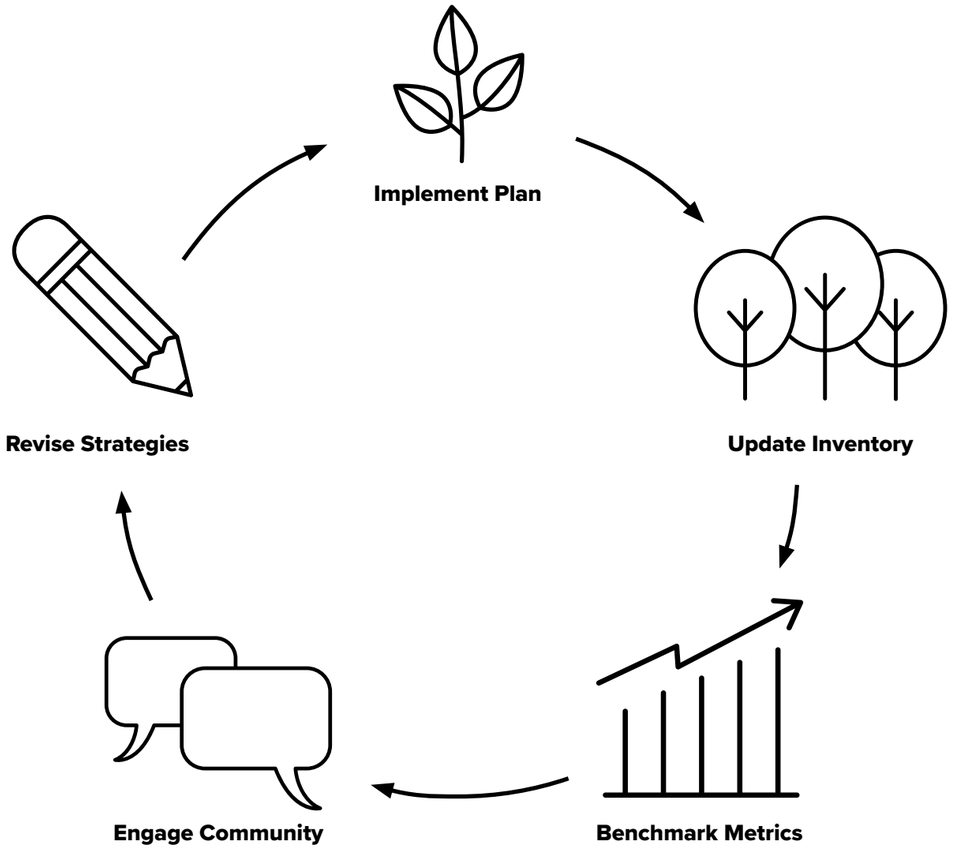
Tree Wells are best suited when there is no existing parkway and the sidewalk is at least 9 ft wide.



Medians are well suited for major arterials with center turn lanes.

Plan Review

The plan will need to be periodically updated to remain relevant to Huntington Park's circumstances and priorities. The plan should be reviewed and revised every 10 years. The review process should include benchmarking the progress of the urban forest through a comprehensive inventory of public trees and a canopy assessment based on the most recent available LiDAR data. The review process should also include meaningful public engagement that reflects the current priorities of community members regarding the urban forest to adjust the strategies of this plan.



The plan should be reviewed and revised with the steps outlined in the diagram every *10 years*.

Evaluation

Ensuring progress towards the goals will require periodic benchmarking to monitor the state of the urban forest. As goals are primarily reported as canopy extent, measuring tree canopy over time for the city as a whole as well as by land use will be an important marker of progress. The first detailed canopy measurement for LA County was conducted in 2016 and is included as the baseline metrics for this report. Subsequent canopy mapping is planned and can be used to benchmark City canopy, and further analysis of this data can benchmark City canopy by land use.

Additionally, it will be important to collect detailed information about the public urban forest through regular tree inventories. This information should be used to benchmark species diversity, tree size and tree health. This information can be used to adjust planting and maintenance practices as needed.

Finally, community priorities should continue to be surveyed. Unlike other metrics, there is no 'goal' to benchmark against. Rather, as the plan is revised, it should continue to reflect the changes in priorities of the community.

Metric	Baseline	Target	Data Source
Total Tree Canopy	11%	20%	Canopy Assessment
Tree Canopy by Land Use	Schools Parks Right-of-way Residential Industrial Commercial	30% 30% 25% 20% 10% 15%	Canopy Assessment
Species Diversity	Most common species 9.1%	Most common species <10%	Tree Inventory
Tree Size		40% young trees	Tree Inventory
Tree Health	42% Good condition	=>90% Good condition	Tree Inventory
Community Priorities	-	-	Community Survey

Street Tree Planting Implementation Tools

STREET TREE PRIORITIZATION MAP

The Street Prioritization Map depicts which blocks on the Public Right-of-Way Tree Planting Priority Map are the highest priority to plant street trees based on criteria of existing canopy, planting size, and whether the block is in a high priority residential neighborhood. The map also shows vacant sites. It can be used to plan where planting initiatives should take place first.

STREET TREE PLANTING MAP

The Street Tree Planting Map illustrates the size of planting sites along the public right-of-way in Huntington Park. The map can be used in conjunction with the Street Tree Palette to determine what species are suitable for planting locations. It also illustrates the location of utility wires above planting spaces, where data is available. Sites located under utility wires should be planted with trees approved by Southern California Edison (SCE) as marked in the Street Tree Palette.

STREET TREE PALETTE

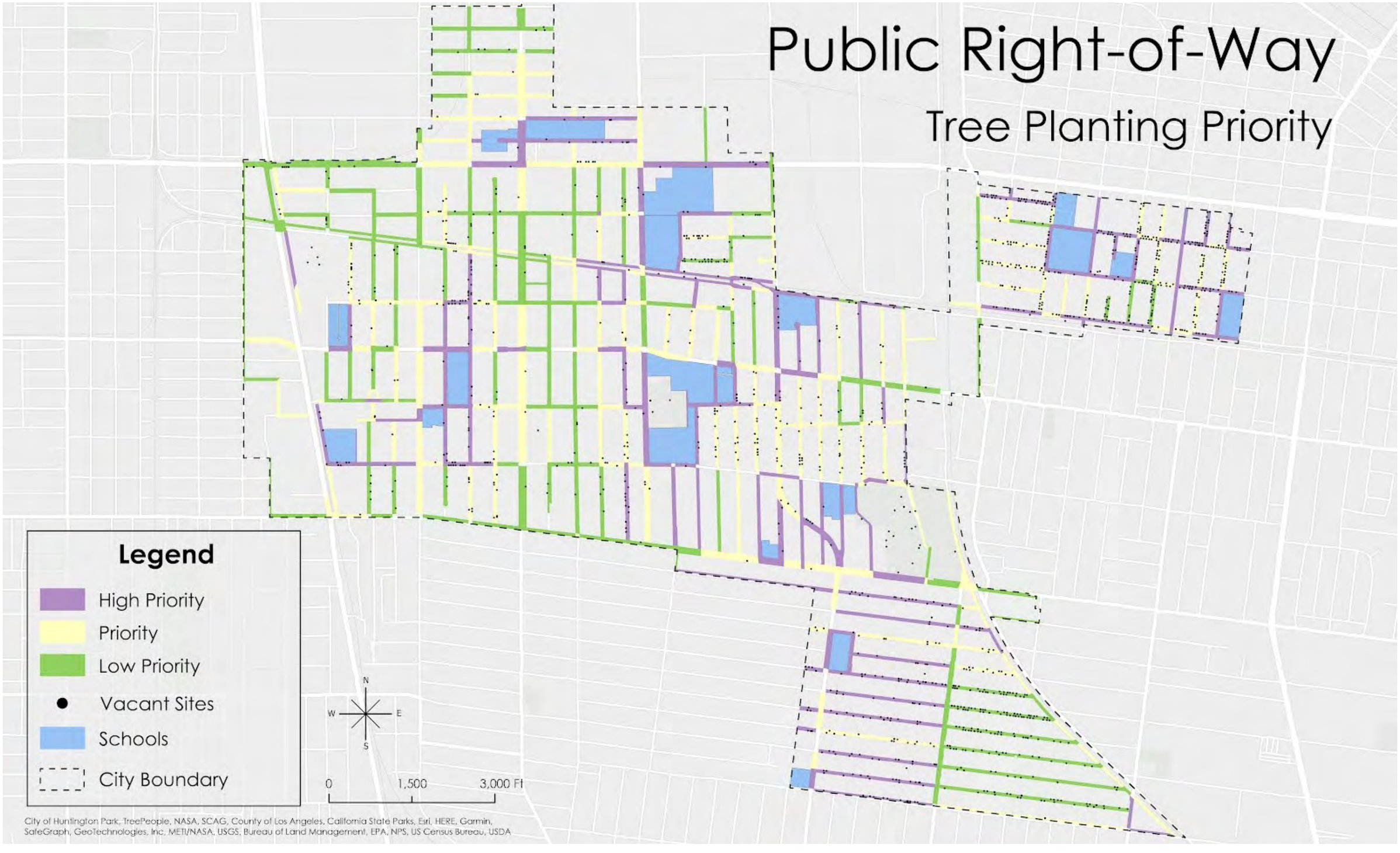
The Street Tree Palette is a list of recommended trees to plant along the public right-of-way in Huntington Park. Species are recommended based on suitability to Huntington Park climate, water requirements, and infrastructure compatibility, among other factors. The list is organized by recommended planting size for each tree. The list is color coded to match the planting sizes illustrated on the Street Tree Planting Map. Trees should be chosen corresponding to the plantable space of the site. Trees that require a larger plantable area than the site offers may damage infrastructure while trees that require a smaller plantable size for the site will not provide the most benefit the site can offer. For planting sizes where there are no native species or trees approved for utility wires, trees from one planting size smaller may be chosen to meet these criteria.

The Street Tree Palette is intended to be a living guide to street tree species selection. Over time, the palette may be updated in response to knowledge shared by those planting and tending to Huntington Park's street trees and local nursery availability. While some major characteristics relevant for street tree management are included here, urban forest stewards may consider a broader range of characteristics when making case-by-case management decisions.

Tree Planting in Huntington Park

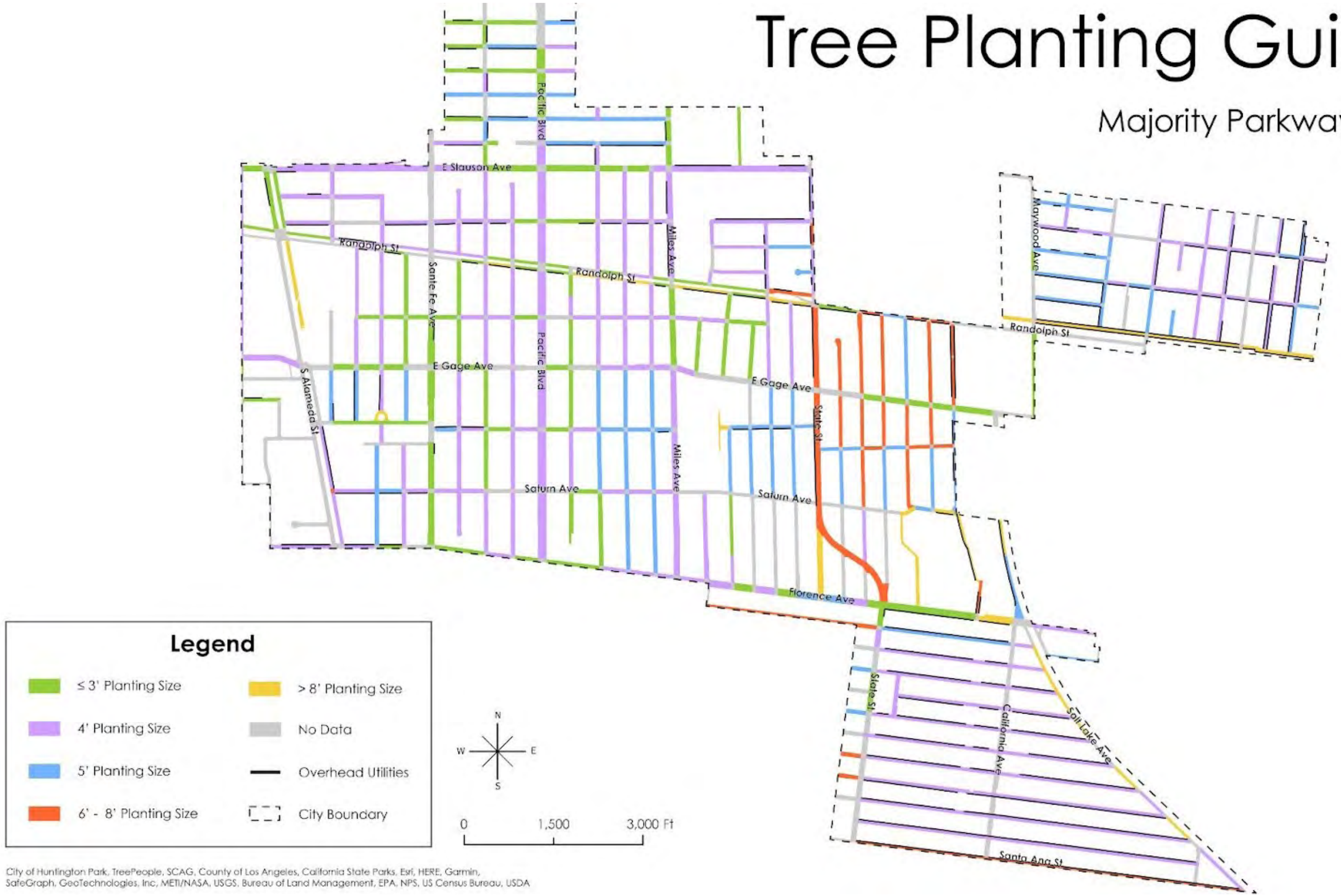
Public Right-of-Way

Tree Planting Priority



Tree Planting Guide

Majority Parkway Sizes



Legend

- ≤ 3' Planting Size
- 4' Planting Size
- 5' Planting Size
- 6' - 8' Planting Size
- > 8' Planting Size
- No Data
- Overhead Utilities
- City Boundary

City of Huntington Park, TreePeople, SCAG, County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

Street Tree Palette

DATA DICTIONARY	
Parkway Size	Growing area measured from curb to sidewalk. This minimum is up to the discretion of the city's street tree inspector.
SCE Approved Tree	Utility-friendly tree species recommended by Southern California Edison for Coastal, Valley, Mountain & Desert regions.
Evergreen, Deciduous, Semi-deciduous	**E** - Evergreen. The tree has leaves year-round. **D** - Deciduous. All leaves lost in one season. **S** - Semi-deciduous. Most, but not all leaves lost.
Spacing	Distance from tree to tree, measured from center of trunk to the next trunk center.
Sunset Climate Zone	From the Sunset Western Garden Book. Zone 24 is the immediate coast, zones 21–23 are the L.A. Basin, zones 18–20 are the Valley.
Sun	S = full sun; P = part sun/part shade; Sh = shade
Water: Ratings from WUCOLS IV **(Water Use Classification of Landscape Species)** **LA Basin = Sunset Climate Zones 22–24** **Valley/Inland = Sunset Climate Zones 18–21**	**VL** - Very low. Trees should not need water other than natural rainfall. Prolonged drought may require a deep watering once or twice if severe wilting is exhibited. **L** - Low. One deep watering per summer month, or every other month in dry season if needed. **M** - Moderate. Two deep waterings per summer month. Perhaps one deep watering in spring and fall. **H** - High. One deep watering per week in summer months. One deep watering every other dry season month. **VH** - Very High. The soil needs to be kept moist. These trees naturally occur in riparian zones - stream or lakeside.
Soil	C = Clay; L = Loam; S = Sand; WD = Well drained
Root Damage Potential	These ratings obtained from the Cal Poly Web site: **selectree.calpoly.edu**. L = Low; M = Moderate; H = High
Allergy Potential	These ratings (1–10) from Thomas Ogren's OPALS (Ogrens Plant Allergy Scale) System in Allergy Free Gardening. The increasing incidence of asthma and allergies in the Los Angeles area has prompted us to include this information. Some trees are now outlawed on school campuses because of their high allergy potential. In the flower, it is the male anther that produces pollen, the biggest allergy issue. Most flowers are complete, meaning they have both male and female parts. Some species, however, have flowers that are only male or female. These species have either separate male and female trees (dioecious - two houses), or they have those male-only and female-only flowers growing on the same tree (monoecious - one house, like corn), and yet others have separate male and female flowers and also some bisexual flowers. Over the years, male trees have been chosen for street trees and for campuses to avoid the mess of fruit drop from female trees. This has resulted in an increase in male trees, and therefore an increase in pollen. 1 = lowest rating, least allergenic pollen. 10 = highest rating. These trees are usually wind-pollinated or have very fine pollen grains. f = female; m = male; b = bisexual, having both male and female flowers
Growth Rate	S = Slow - up to 12"/year; M = Moderate - 24"/year; F = Fast - 36"/year; VF = Very fast - more than 36"/year

Scientific Name	Common Name	Parkway Size (ft)	SCE Approved Tree	California Native	Evergreen, Deciduous, Semi	Height x Width (ft)	Spacing (ft)	Sunset Climate Zone	Sun	Water-LA Basin	Water - Valley/ Inland	Soil	Root Damage Potential	Allergy Potential (Low 1 - High 10)	Growth Rate	Existing Percentage in Urban Forest	Notes	Vacant Planting Sites
Cercis canadensis	Eastern redbud	3	x		D	25–35 x 25–35	25–30	18–20	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	L	5	F	0.1%	Pink flowers. Yellow fall color. 'Forest Pansy' has red-purple leaves.	66
Cercis occidentalis	Western redbud	3	x	x	D	15–25 x 10–25	25–30	18–24	S–P	L	L	C,L,S	L	5	M-F	0.1%	Often multi-trunk. Magenta flowers, seed pods. Yellow fall color. Rounded leaves.	
Eriobotrya deflexa	Bronze loquat	3	x		E	25–30 x 25–30	25–30	18–24	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	L	3	F	0.3%	White fragrant flowers Dec–March. ⅝" non-edible fruit. Best with moist soil.	
Lagerstroemia indica and cultivars	Crape myrtle	3	x		D	25 x 25	25–30	18–21	S	M	M	C,L,S	L	5	M	6.9%	Orange fall color. Indian cultivars resist mildew, zones 22–24. Many flower colors.	
Rhapiolepis x 'Montic'	Majestic Beauty Indian hawthorne	3	x		E	15–25 x 8–10	15–20	18–24	S–P	M	M	WD C,L,S	L	4	M	0.2%	A large shrub with pink flowers. Issues of fire blight, aphids and root rot.	
Chionanthus retusus	Chinese fringe tree	3			D	20 x 20	25–30	18–24	S	M	M	C,L	L	1 f 10 m	M	0.1%	White, fringe flowers June–July. Males, larger flowers. Yellow fall color.	
Melaleuca citrina (Callistemon citrinus)	Lemon bottle brush	3			E	25 x 20	25	18–24	S–P	L	L	C,L,S	L	9	F	0.8%	Red flowers attract hummingbirds. Lemon-scented leaves.	
Photinia x fraseri	Photinia, Fraser's photinia	3			E	10–15 x 12–20	25–30	18–24	S	M	M	C,L,S	L	4	M-F	0%	White spring flowers. Red new leaves. No berries. Susceptible to aphids.	
Tristaniopsis (Tristania) laurina	Swamp myrtle, water gum	3			E	20–35 x 15–30	20–25	19–24	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	L	5	S	0.4%	Slow grower. Yellow flowers. Narrow leaves. Shaggy bark. Prefers moist soil.	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Parkway Size (ft)	SCE Approved Tree	California Native	Evergreen, Deciduous, Semi	Height x Width (ft)	Spacing (ft)	Sunset Climate Zone	Sun	Water-LA Basin	Water - Valley/ Inland	Soil	Root Damage Potential	Allergy Potential (Low 1 - High 10)	Growth Rate	Existing Percentage in Urban Forest	Notes	Vacant Planting Sites
Bauhinia x blakeana	Hong Kong orchid tree	4			S	20–40 x 20–25	20	19,21 23,24	S–P	M	M	WD L,S	L	4	S–M	0%	Fragrant 5–6" pink flowers in bloom fall to spring! No fruit. Butterfly-shaped leaves.	376
Bauhinia variegata 'Candida'	White orchid tree	4			S	20–25 x 15–20	25–30	18–24	S–P	M	M	L,S	L	4	S–M	0%	Semi-deciduous mid-winter. White, lightly fragrant flowers Jan–April.	
x Chitalpa tashkentensis	Chitalpa	4			D	20–35 x 20–30	25–30	18–24	S–P	L	L	L,S	L	6	F	0.1%	Large pink trumpet flowers. Stake for a few years. Aphids on new growth.	
Eriobotrya deflexa 'Coppertone'	Bronze Loquat	4	x		E	15–25 x 15–25	15	8–24	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	L	2	F	0.01%	Showy, white spring flowers. Copper-colored new growth.	
Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. asplenifolius	Santa Cruz island ironwood, Catalina	4		x	E	30–60 x 20–40	30–35	19–24	S–P	L	L	WD L,S	M	4	M	0%	Red, peeling bark. White flowers. Needs excellent drainage. Great near the coast.	
Melaleuca saligna (Callistemon salignus)	White bottle brush	4			E	25 x 15	25–30	18–24	S	L	?	C,L,S	L	9	F	0%	Peeling bark. Cream flowers attract hummingbirds. Dense canopy.	
Podocarpus henkelii	Long leaf yellow wood	4			E	25–50 x 15–20	25	18–24	S–P	M	M	WD C,L,S	L	1 f 9 m	S–F	0%	Long, drooping linear leaves. Separate male and female trees. Red flaky bark.	
Podocarpus macrophyllus	Yew pine	4			E	20–50 x 15–40	25–30	18–24	P	M	M	C,L,S	L	1 f 9 m	M	0.1%	Like *Afrocapus falcatus*, but wider, longer leaves held upright. Red edible fruits.	
Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii	Catalina cherry	4		x	E	25–35 x 20–30	30–35	18–24	S–P	VL	VL	C,L,S	L	6	M	0%	White spring flowers. Edible fruit can be a litter issue.	
Stenocarpus sinuatus	Firewheel tree	4			E	20–30 x 8–12	25–30	16–17 20–24	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	L	1	S–M	0%		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Parkway Size (ft)	SCE Approved Tree	California Native	Evergreen, Deciduous, Semi	Height x Width (ft)	Spacing (ft)	Sunset Climate Zone	Sun	Water-LA Basin	Water - Valley/ Inland	Soil	Root Damage Potential	Allergy Potential (Low 1 - High 10)	Growth Rate	Existing Percentage in Urban Forest	Notes	Vacant Planting Sites
Arbutus 'Marina'	Marina strawberry tree	5	x		E	25–40 x 25–40	35–40	18–24	S–P	L	M	C,L,S	L	3	S–M	0%	Red peeling bark. Red 1" round, edible fruit. White-pink bell-shaped flowers.	
Handroanthus impetiginosus (Tabebuia impetiginosa)	Pink trumpet tree	5	x		D	30–50 x 30–40	30–35	20–24	S	M	M	WD C,L,S	M	5	S–M	0.2%	Pink trumpet flowers in late winter/early spring before the leaves.	
Agonis flexuosa	Peppermint tree	5			E	25–35 x 15–40	35–40	20–24	S–P	L	L	C,L,S	M	6	M–F	0.1%	Weeping branches. 6" peppermint scented leaves. White flowers in June.	
Bauhinia variegata (Bauhinia purpurea)	Purple orchid tree	5			S	20–35 x 15–20	25–30	18–24	S–P	M	M	WD L,S	L	4	S–M	0.3%	Semi-deciduous mid-winter. Lightly fragrant purple/pink flowers Jan–April.	
Celtis reticulata (C. laevigata var. reticulata)	Western hackberry, netleaf hackberry	5			D	25-35 x 25-30	25–30	18–24	S	L	VL	L,S	M	8	M–F	0%	Needs lots of water to establish. Birds love fruits. Best in climate zones 18–21.	
Fraxinus angustifolia (oxycarpa) 'Raywood' or "Fan Tex"	Raywood ash	5			D	35–50 x 20–30	30–35	18–24	S-P	M	M	C,L,S	M	1	M	0%	Seedless and smog tolerant. Purple-red fall color. Small leaflets give refined look. "Fantex" may lack dieback tendency of "Raywood."	770
Geijera parviflora	Australian willow	5			E	40 x 25	30–35	18–24	S	L	M	WD C,L,S	L	6	M–F	4.3%	Low maintenance. Deep roots. Pest-free. Drooping, willow-like, thick leaves.	
Ginkgo biloba (Male only)	Ginkgo, maidenhair tree	5			D	35-80 x 20-60	30–35	18–24	S-P	M	M	C,L,S	M	7	S–M	0%	Smog tolerant. Summer water till 10–20' tall. Yellow fall color. Long-lived.	
Laurus nobilis	Sweet bay	5			E	40 x 30	25–30	18–24	S–P	L	L	C,L,S	M	2 f 9 m	S–M	0.1%	Culinary. Multi-trunk. Scale, psyllids. 'Saratoga' - 25' single trunk, psyllid-resist.	
Lophostemon confertus (Tristania conferta)	Brisbane box	5			E	30–45 x 20–40	30–35	19–24	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	M	5	M–F	6.6%	Red, peeling bark. White flowers. Not for windy areas. Smog tolerant.	
Macadamia integrifolia	Smoothshell macadamia	5			E	25–30 x 15–20	30-35	19–24	S	M	M	L,S	M	3	M	0%	White pendulous flowers. Edible nuts late fall to May. Best near the coast.	
Melaleuca linariifolia	Flaxleaf paperbark	5			E	30 x 30	30–35	18–23	S–P	L	L	C,L,S	L	7	F	0.1%	White flaky bark. Small white summer flowers. Small, narrow leaves.	
Melaleuca styphelioides	Prickly paperbark	5			E	20–45 x 20–35	25	18–24	S–P	L	M	C,L,S	L	9	F	0%	Spongy tan to brown peeling bark. White spring flowers. Stiff prickly tipped leaves.	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Parkway Size (ft)	SCE Approved Tree	California Native	Evergreen, Deciduous, Semi	Height x Width (ft)	Spacing (ft)	Sunset Climate Zone	Sun	Water-LA Basin	Water - Valley/ Inland	Soil	Root Damage Potential	Allergy Potential (Low 1 - High 10)	Growth Rate	Existing Percentage in Urban Forest	Notes	Vacant Planting Sites
Parkinsonia 'Desert Museum'	Desert Museum palo verde	5			D	30 x 30	25–30	18–24	S	VL	L	WD L,S	L	6	F	0%	Yellow flowers attract bees. Light, airy canopy cover and smooth green bark.	
Melaleuca viminalis (Callistemon viminalis)	Weeping bottle brush	5			E	25 x 20	25–30	14–24	S–P	L	M	C,L,S	L	9	F	0.1%	Red flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Pendulous branches.	
Metrosideros excelsus	New Zealand Christmas tree	5			E	30 x 30	25–30	20–24	S–P	M	M	L,S	M	6	S	0%	Red flowers May–July. White leaf underside. Aerial roots. Smog tolerant.	770
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese pistache	5			D	60 x 50	35–40	18–23	S	M	M	WD C,L,S	L	1 f 8 m	M	0.4%	Scarlet & orange fall color. Round 1–1½" fruit is red, then blue.	
Searsia (Rhus) lancea	African sumac	5			E	30 x 30	30–35	18–24	S–P	L	L	C,L,S	L	7 f 10 m	M	0%	Rough cinnamon bark. Heat/wind tolerant. Suckers in youth. No pests.	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Parkway Size (ft)	SCE Approved Tree	California Native	Evergreen, Deciduous, Semi	Height x Width (ft)	Spacing (ft)	Sunset Climate Zone	Sun	Water-LA Basin	Water - Valley/ Inland	Soil	Root Damage Potential	Allergy Potential (Low 1 - High 10)	Growth Rate	Existing Percentage in Urban Forest	Notes	Vacant Planting Sites
Chilopsis linearis	Desert willow	6	x	x	D	15–40 x 15–40	30–35	18–23	S	VL	L	WD L,S	L	5	M-F	0%	Long-blooming fragrant, pink trumpet flowers. Attracts hummingbirds.	
Jacaranda mimosifolia	Jacaranda	6	x		D to S	25–40 x 25–40	35–40	18–24	S	M	M	L,S	L	4	M	2.2%	Purple flowers April–Sept. Lots of leaf/flower litter. Poor bloom at coast.	
Melaleuca (quinquenervia)	Cajeput tree	6			E	20–40 x 15–30	30–35	20–24	S–P	L	M	C,L,S	L	7	M	0.5%	White, spongy peeling bark. Summer–fall white flowers. Weeping habit.	
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island pine	7			E	65–80 x 30–40	35–40	18–24	S–P	L	M	L,S	M	4	F	10.0%	Smog tolerant. Tall narrow pine. 9–12" weeping needles. 4–9" cones.	
Afrocarpos falcatus (Podocarpus gracilior)	African fern pine, fern pine	8			E	60 x 45	30–35	18–24	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	L	1 f 9 m	S–M	4.4%	1–2" narrow leaves, very little leaf litter. Pest/disease-free. Lawn watering ok.	
Celtis australis	European hackberry	7			D	25–70 x 25–40	35–40	8–16, 18–20	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	L	8	M	0%	Birds love fruits.	
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense cedar	8		x	E	75–90 x 40	30–35	18–24	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	M	8	S–M	0.1%	Columnar conifer. Fragrant leaves. Tolerant of heat and poor soils.	
Pinus brutia var. eldarica	Eldarica pine, Afghan pine, Mondell pine	8			E	65 x 30	35-40	18–24	S–P	VL	L	C,L,S	M	4	F	0%	5–6" dark green needles. For desert or coast. "Christmas tree" shape.	95
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo pine	8			E	30–65 x 45	35–40	18–24	S–P	L	L	C,L,S	M	4	M–F	0.7%	Light green, 2½–4" soft needles. Poor soil and heat ok. Susceptible to mites.	
Pinus patula	Jelecote pine, Mexican weeping pine	8			E	40–80 x 30–50	35–40	18–24	S–P	M	M	L,S	M	4	F–VF	0%	Graceful, weeping 12" needles. Can become chlorotic. Great at the coast.	
Pinus roxburghii	Indian longleaf pine	7'+			E	60–80 x 30–40	35–40	5–9, 12–24	S–P	M	M	L,S	M	4	MF–F	0%	Heat and drought-tolerant. Light green needles. Attracts birds and squirrels.	
Olea europaea	Olive (fruitless only)	6–8			E	30 x 30	25–30	18–24	S	L	L	WD C,L,S	M	10	M	0.2%	Grey-green linear leaves. Round to vase-shaped canopy. Swan Hill = no pollen.	
Quillaja saponaria	Soapbark tree	6–8			E	25–60 x 10–35	30–35	18–24	S-P	L	?	WD C,L,S	L	4	S	0%	White flowers, better with water. Bark is toxic if eaten. Weeping branches.	
Umbellularia californica	California bay laurel, California laurel	6–8		x	E	25–75 x 20–60	35–40	18–24	P–Sh	L	M	C,L,S	M	8	S–M	0.4%	Strong scented leaves ok for cooking. More shade/water needed inland.	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Parkway Size (ft)	SCE Approved Tree	California Native	Evergreen, Deciduous, Semi	Height x Width (ft)	Spacing (ft)	Sunset Climate Zone	Sun	Water- LA Basin	Water - Valley/ Inland	Soil	Root Damage Potential	Allergy Potential (Low 1 - High 10)	Growth Rate	Existing Percentage in Urban Forest	Notes	Vacant Planting Sites
Araucaria heterophylla (Araucaria excelsa)	Norfolk Island pine, star pine	8+			E	100 x 60	30–35	21–24	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	M	8	M	0.1%	Not a pine. Large and symmetrical. Cones fall apart as they mature. Single trunk only.	749
Cedrus atlantica	Blue Atlas cedar	8+			E	40–60 x 30–40	35–40	18–23	S–P	M	M	C,L,S	M	2	S–M	0.2%	Conifer. Stiff branches; short ⅔–1" stiff needles. 'Glauca' is a blue cultivar.	
Cedrus deodara	Deodar cedar	8+			E	60–80 x 30–50	35–40	18–24	S–P	L	M	C,L,S	M	1f, 3b 5m	F	0.1%	Conifer. Soft 1–2" needles. Drooping leader, low sweeping branches.	
Cedrus libani	Cedar of Lebanon	8+			E	60–80 x 30–50	35–40	18–24	S–P	L	M	C,L,S	L	2	S	0%	Conifer. Irregular crown with long branches and short ¼–1¼" needles.	
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor	8+			E	50 x 60	35–40	18–24	S–P	M	M	WD C,L,S	H	8	M	3.1%	Camphor scented leaves. Massive tree. Susceptible to Fusarium dieback. Recommended for one-on-one replacement.	
Pinus pinea	Italian stone pine	8+			E	40–80 x 30–50	35–40	18–24	S–P	L	L	L,S	M	4	M–F	0.2%	Massive, broad-canopied tree. Great at the coast/valleys. Edible pine nuts.	
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak	8+		x	E	20–70 x 30–85	35–40	18–24	S–P	VL	L	WD C,L,S	M–H	9	M	0.6%	No lawn watering. The most widely used oak for southern CA.	
Quercus engelmannii	Engelmann oak	8+		x	S	60–70 x 80–120	35–40	7–9, 14–21	S–P	L	L	L,S.C	M	7	M	0%	Thick trunks covered in furrowed grayish-brown bark support a low, broad canopy of leathery bluish-gray leaves with smooth, wavy edges.	
Quercus ilex	Holly oak	8+		x	E	40–60 x 30–60	35–40	4–24	S–P	M	M	L,S.C	L	7	M	0,02%	Umbrella-shaped canopy. Underside of leaf is silvery-white.	
Quercus suber	Cork oak	8+				50–70 x 50–70	35–40	5–16, 18–24	S–P	L	L	L,S.C	M	7	M–F	0.01%	Underside of leaf is light gray. Typical spring leaf drop. Bark is the source of commercial cork.	
Tipuana tipu	Tipu	8+			S	50 x 50	35–40	18–24	S–P	L	M	C,L,S	M	3	M–F	0.6%	Yellow-orange flowers June–July. Fast. Earlypruning needed. Best with heat.	
Pinus torreyana	Torrey pine	10		x	E	40–60 x 15–30	35–40	18–24	S–P	L	M	C,L,S	M	4	F	0%	8–13" dark gray-green needles. Open habit. OK coastal or high desert.	

Best Management Practices

All tree related practices shall adhere to the International Society of Arboriculture and ANSI A300 standards as outlined in their best management practices or publications.

PLANTING

Tree planting species selection and location should conform to the street tree palette and the street tree map included in this plan.

Materials: All trees should be at least 24 in box size, or 15 gallon for grant funded projects, at time of planting. Trees may be staked with 2 in diameter untreated wood stakes with no cross braces. Tree ties should be tied in a figure eight to support the tree to the stakes. Mulch (untreated, 0.5 in to 1 in size) should be applied to an area two times the diameter of the root ball with 2 in to 4 in depth. Linear root control barriers may be used for trees planted along the sidewalk, on the sidewalk facing side only. Root control barriers that encircle the tree should not be used. Mower guards should be used for trees surrounded by turf that requires regular mowing. Tree grates should be installed at grade where the sidewalk is less than 8 ft to reduce the risk of tripping.

Site Preparation: All debris, wood chips, pavement, concrete and rocks should be removed from the planting pit to a depth in line with the size of the root ball. In sites with turf grass, the turf must be kept at least one foot from the tree. In sites with unsuitable soils to facilitate healthy tree growth, alternative soils may need to be approved.

Planting: Dig a flat bottomed hole as deep as the root ball and two to three times the width. Remove the tree from the container and cut away any circling roots. Fill the hole with the original soil (unless alternative soils have been deemed necessary), gently packing and applying water throughout. Remove the nursery stakes and install stakes at the edges of the root ball, driven 2 ft into the ground and secured to the tree with two tree ties in a figure eight. Build a watering berm out of mulch 3 to 4 in high at the edge of the root ball in areas without irrigation. Mulch around the root ball, staying at least 6 in away from the trunk. Fill the berm with 15 to 20 gallons of water.

REMOVAL

Public trees should only be removed when there is a demonstrated need in line with local policy. Demonstrated needs may include death of the tree, presence of pests, excessive risk or damage posed by the tree, or an undesirable species (e.g. palm trees). Public trees should not be removed for litter, personal preference, or conflicts that may be solved through other feasible means. Trees that are removed must be done so in a way that mitigates damage to neighboring trees. This includes considering if tree branches are intertwined and if roots are intertwined when removing stumps. Stumps should be removed by grinding the stump and the roots to at least 24 in soil depth and removed.

WOOD RECYCLING

Wood from removed public trees should be repurposed for their highest and best use, including habitat, art, durable products, or lumber. Wood not able to be repurposed should be converted into biomass such as mulch, compost, or feedstock. City capital projects should consider the use of urban wood to create a market for reclaimed lumber. More information on recommended urban wood uses and standards is available from the Urban, Salvaged or Reclaimed Woods Network.

INSPECTIONS

Inspections should be performed every four years as part of the regular grid-pruning cycle. These regular inspections should by Level 1: Limited Visual Assessments according to ISA standards. This level of assessment is conducted to identify high and extreme risk trees. Some elements that should be inspected in a routine Level 1 inspection include:

- Leaning Trees
- Root problems
- Multiple Trunks
- Decay
- Cracks in trunks or branches
- Weak, Broken or dead branches
- Pests

Trees that are flagged as high or extreme risk may be recommended for a follow-up Level 2: Basic Assessment and/or Level 3: Advanced Assessment inspection. A Level 2 inspection includes a more detailed account of tree condition including site factors, tree health, load factors, tree defects, and risk categorizations. Level 3 inspections are used to understand conditions of a tree that cannot be identified visually through specialized tests and is typically reserved only for high-value trees.

PRUNING

The appropriate type of pruning based on the tree and intended goal should be employed in each situation. Trees should ideally be pruned during the fall and winter months, when they are dormant. There are seven accepted methods of pruning trees listed below. Each method is described in depth in the ANSI 3000 (Part 1) Pruning and ISA Best Management Practices Pruning standards (see Resources chapter for more information).

Pruning should be carried out as needed, regardless of the time that has lapsed between the last pruning event. Deciduous trees should be pruned when they are dormant. No specimens, with the exception of native oaks and certain fruit trees, should be pruned in the summertime. If pruning must occur during the summer for whatever reason, only specimens scheduled for crown raises, rather than crown thins/cleans, should be scheduled.

In all cases, whether pruning after 2 or 10 years, no more than 25% of the living volume (this excludes dead, broken, or blighted tissues) shall be removed during a single pruning event. Discretion should be exercised on the necessity of a pruning event on the ground. When pruning is deemed necessary, remove only enough volume to achieve the specified objective (i.e. pedestrian/vehicle clearance, training prune, utility clearance, hazard mitigation).

GRID TRIM CYCLE

Pruning should be conducted routinely as part of the three-year grid trimming cycle, as well as between prunings as deemed necessary by inspection to mitigate tree risk or improve tree structure. A three-year cycle is within industry standards and is considered sufficient for protecting the health of trees while also maintaining tree condition to avoid nuisances and damage to resident property.

Permitted Actions:

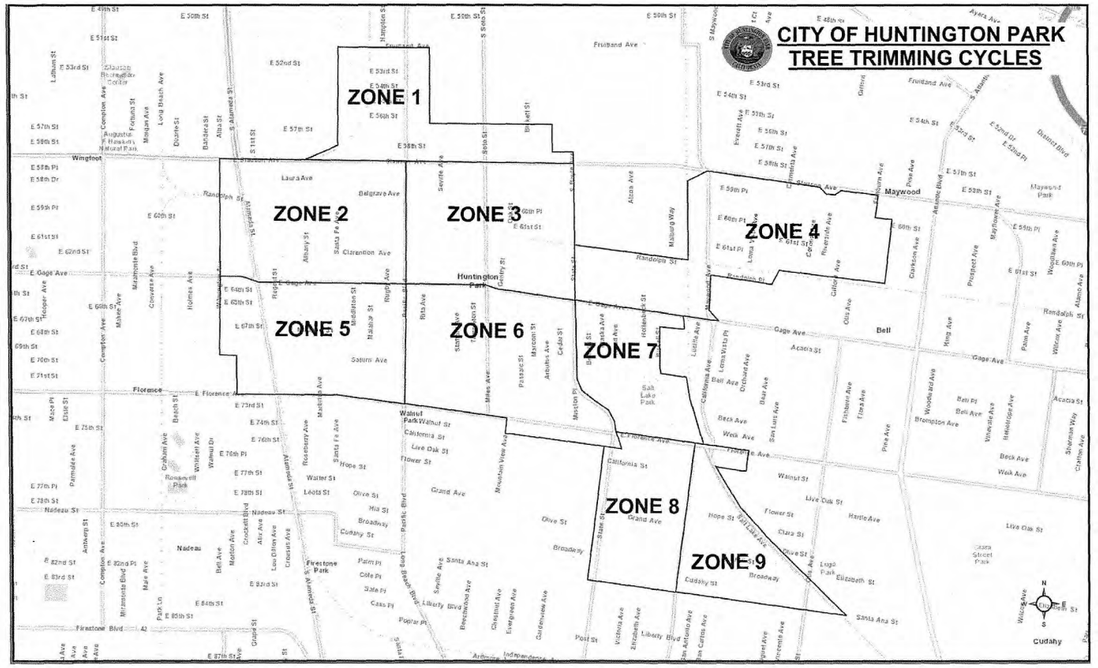
- Structural Pruning: Pruning for your trees
- Crown Cleaning: Recommended pruning for mature trees to remove dead, diseased and broken branches only
- Crown Thinning: Reducing crown density by removing no more than 25% of live foliage
- Crown Raising: Creating vertical clearance by selective removal of low branches
- Crown Restoration: Removal of branches, sprouts and stubs from topped trees
- Crown Reduction: Decreasing the height and spread of a tree
- Utility Pruning: Reducing growth near utility lines

Prohibited Actions:

- Excessive Pruning
- Topping
- Actions that could lead to the death of tree including cutting, pruning, over-watering, unauthorized relocation of a tree, or structurally modifying the ground within the dripline area of the tree

Best Management Practices Resources

HUNTINGTON PARK GRID CYCLE MAP



RESOURCES

Detailed best management practices can be found in the ANSI 3000 standards which are industry consensus standards developed by the Tree Care Industry Association. Additionally, the International Society of Arborists publishes Best Management Practices manuals with industry standard guidance.

TCIA TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION Advancing tree care businesses.

ISA International Society of Arboriculture

The Tree Care Industry Association and the International Society of Arboriculture publish industry standard tree care resources.

Additional Information

Engagement Evaluation

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the community engagement workshops, participant observation of the workshop and conversational interviews with the community members that attended were conducted. Overall, the workshops were very successful. Residents felt that they learned valuable information from the presentation and found completing the activity packets fun while also causing them to think carefully about their answers. The only critique on the activity packets was that the stickers were difficult to deal with logistically. Providing a tablet option at similar events in the future could address the issue.

Participants also expressed that they wished more community members were able to attend the workshops. The people that were interviewed believed that others would benefit from learning about the urban forest and how it could change in Huntington Park. The tree inventory data was important to collect before the workshop because residents appreciated the data and are excited that the inventory will help more trees to be planted. Hosting more events on these topics to allow community members to engage with one another and learn more about urban forestry in Huntington Park would be valuable. Especially because the workshops helped community members to feel that their opinions were valued and that their city cared about them, since they knew that Huntington Park was collaborating with TreePeople to put them on. Strategies used in the development of Urban Forest Management Plans for other cities that could strengthen community engagement in the plan development process include the formation of a community advisory committee or neighborhood ambassador program that facilitates resident-led community engagement and education.

"...doing this, you change the aspects of how you think, oh, they do care. Okay. They have, they do want to know what we think and what we want from the city."

"I work at the school with children and I'm the gardening club leader. Yeah, so our campus has zero trees, like, nothing. And so I was like, I definitely want to come and like, try to get one and bring it back for the kids."

"I liked that they had a map, kind of showing exactly... what areas you want to focus on and it actually allows the community to get informed on why we need trees in our community, right?"

"It's good that you get the feedback, that you're able to, that you're interested to know what the community of the residents feels."

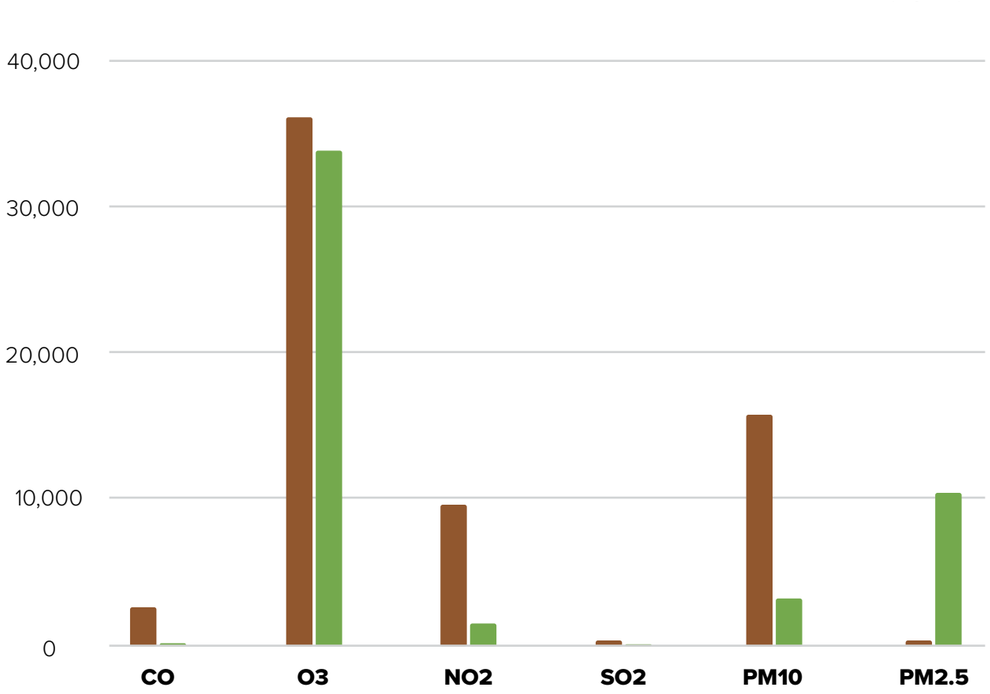
Quantified Ecosystem Services

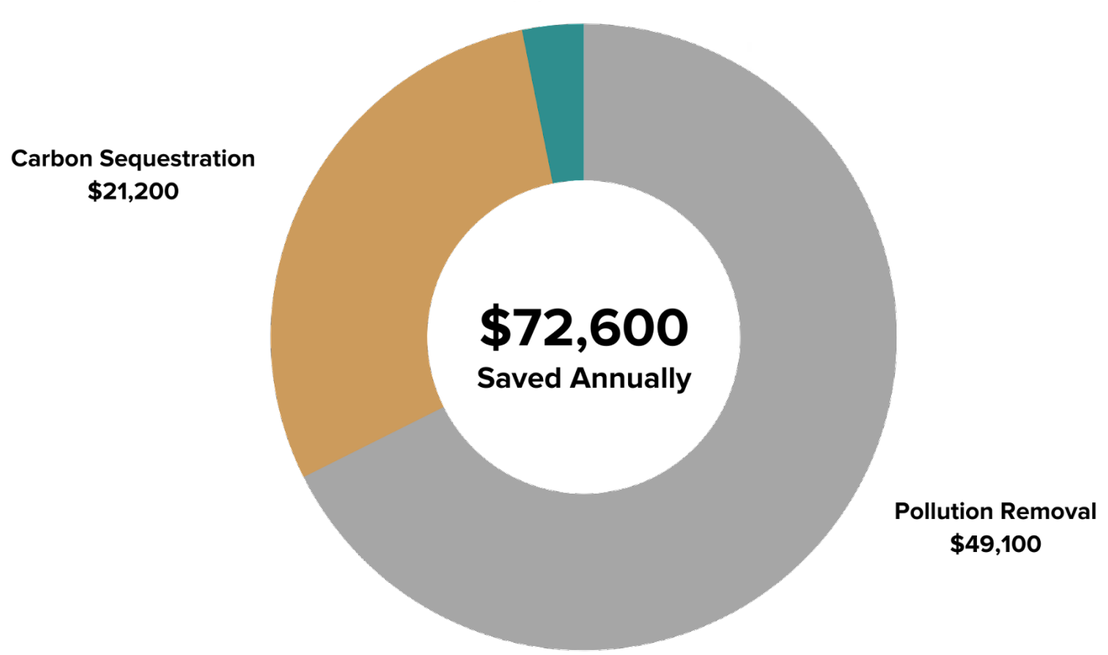
Certain benefits of the urban forest can be quantified as both metrics and economic value. i-Tree Eco is an industry standard tool that uses tree inventory data to calculate ecosystem services and value to the community. i-Tree uses standard measures of ecosystem services, as well as a standard dollar value for these services and applies them to the urban forest based on the size and species of trees. Species and DBH are required variables, while several supplementary variables are available to provide additional information for the calculation. Based on the information available in the public tree inventory, species and DBH were used as inputs for the analysis. The results are a reflection of the inventory as a whole and does not account for or assess the distribution of trees throughout the community.

i-Tree quantifies the annual benefits of carbon sequestration, pollution removal, and avoided runoff. Together, these contribute to the overall "functional value" of the urban forest in Huntington Park, which is estimated at $72,600 per year. Among these services, pollution removal is the most economically valuable, generating an annual value of $49,100 and removing approximately 2 tons of pollutants per year. Carbon sequestration contributes an estimated value of $21,200 in annual savings, with a gross annual sequestration of approximately 125 tons. Additionally, avoided runoff adds an additional estimated value of $2,300 in annual savings, preventing the runoff of approximately 260 thousand gallons of water per year. Strategies to improve pollution removal by the urban forest include increasing the number of healthy trees, sustaining large trees, and using long-lived, low maintenance trees.

In addition, i-Tree provides an assessment of the replacement value associated with the urban forest, indicating the cost of replacing each tree with a comparable one. The estimated replacement value for Huntington Park's urban forest stands at $23.6 million. This significant figure underscores the significance of preserving the current urban forest and preventing the need for tree replacement. It also highlights the value of nurturing mature trees, as they are more costly to replace and offer greater benefits compared to their younger counterparts.

While not all benefits provided by the tree canopy can be quantified, they still hold significant value for the community. The economic estimation of these benefits is an understatement, as it fails to consider the social value attributed to trees.





Appendix

Yard Trees in Huntington Park

TreePeople

12601 Mulholland Drive | Los Angeles, CA 90210
www.treepeople.org