

DRAFTv2

Dear Mayor and City Council,

The number of trees removed from private land under development in the City is unknown. We would like know the number of trees removed from private land to provide a metric which could be correlated to canopy cover assessments. This correlation would help articulate the need for a future tree code on private property. We would also be able to fulfill the monitoring called for in Urban Forestry Stewardship Plan and provide the Council with data to judge the tenacity of a tree code on private property. There are two specific requests we would like to make to comply with the monitoring efforts of the newly adopted Urban Forestry Stewardship Plan.

1. Regular canopy coverage assessment is integral to the monitoring of the Urban Forestry Stewardship Plan. The last canopy cover assessment was performed in 2009 with 2002 data. Please allocate funding for an updated canopy coverage assessment to Office of Sustainability and the Environment per the short term action item (1-5 years) within the 2013 Urban Forest Stewardship Plan.
2. Accurate tree planting and removal quantities are necessary for monitoring of the Urban Forestry Stewardship Plan within the largest management unit of the city, single family residential areas. The table 8 (attached) is excerpted from page 73 of the plan. The last two columns show that we have a goal of raising the canopy cover substantially throughout the city. There currently is no data available to understand the impacts development has on canopy cover. In order to track our progress to reach our 2037 goal, we ask that DPD:
 - a. Upgrade permit applications within the single family zones to quantify tree removals.
 - b. Report tree removals within the single family zones annually. Geographically located tally data would also be helpful for correlating development with tree canopy losses and gains.

Table 8. Canopy cover goals by management unit

Management unit	MU as % of total city land area	Estimated 2007 canopy cover	2037 canopy cover goal
Single-Family	56%	26%	33%
Multi-Family	11%	17%	20%
Commercial/Mixed Use	8%	10%	15%
Downtown	1%	9% ¹	12%
Industrial	11%	4%	10% ²
Institutional	2%	19%	20%
Developed Parks	4%	25%	25%
Parks' Natural Areas	7%	80%	80%
City-Wide		23%	30%
Right-of-Way ³	27%	18%	24%

¹ The assessment of 2007 satellite data measured downtown canopy at 5%. The process encountered difficulties measuring downtown due to tall buildings casting shadows over trees. SDOIT did a analysis of their inventory and estimated that current downtown canopy cover is closer to 9 percent.

² The assessment of 2007 satellite data suggested higher canopy cover levels than had previously been expected for all management units except for the industrial, which decreased from 8 percent to 4 percent. However, canopy cover goals for management units were not changed as part of this UFSP update. Consequently, the difference between the current canopy and the goal was increased but this shift is not intended to represent a change in the City's overall strategy and the canopy cover goal will be reevaluated as part of the next UFSP update.

³ Right-of-way trees are also included in each of the land-use types