

# Cambridge Urban Forest Master Plan

## Technical Report Review

November 12, 2019



CAMBRIDGE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC  
**THE  
WORKS**





# URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

## Process overview

Builds upon findings of the CCVA

Attempts to deepen the City's understanding of the anticipated risks to the urban forest

Proposed strategies were conceived to support goals of CCPR: building infrastructural, economic, and social resilience that integrates the built and natural environments.

Task Force met 11 times during 2018-2019 to review progress, pose questions, and provide advice to the consultant team, and the interaction with the Task Force has significantly shaped the content of this report, the approach to the subject, and the components of the response strategies.

UFMP is as a unique project, one that other communities are looking to emulate in planning for the future



## TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Barbara Murphy-Warrington, Resident

Louise Weed, Resident

Caitlin McDonough Mackenzie, Resident

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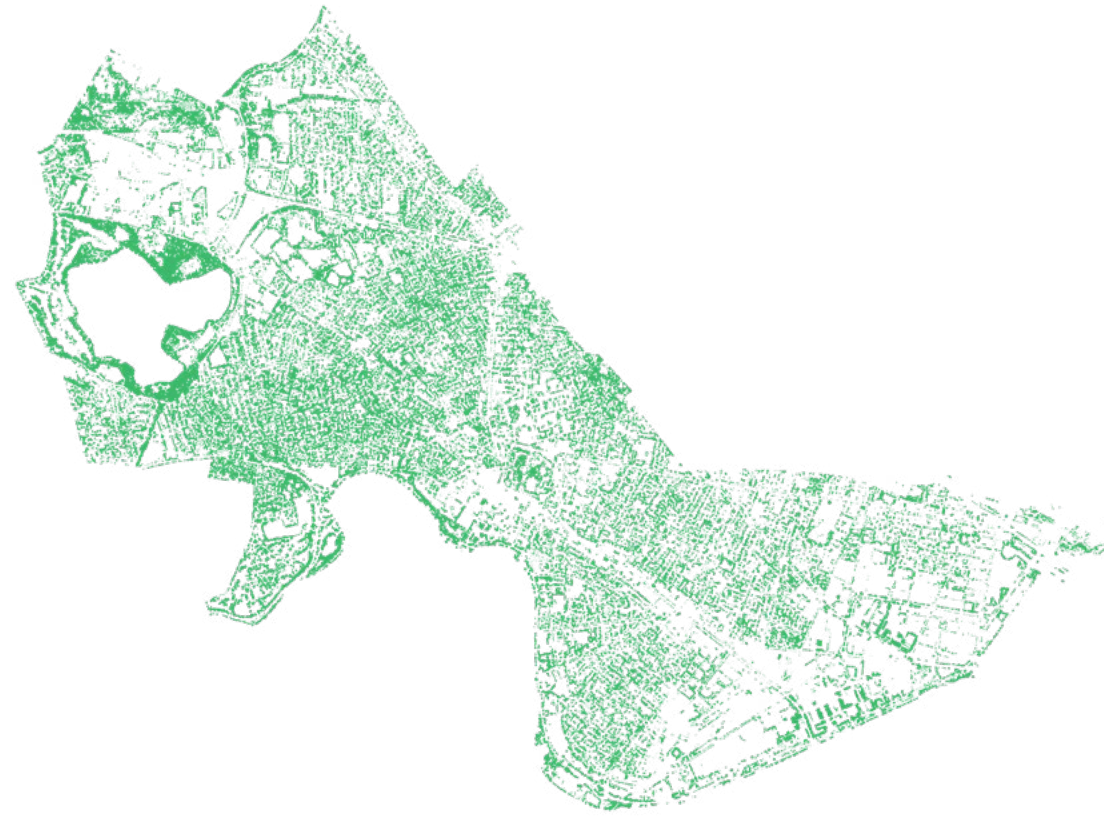


## FINDINGS

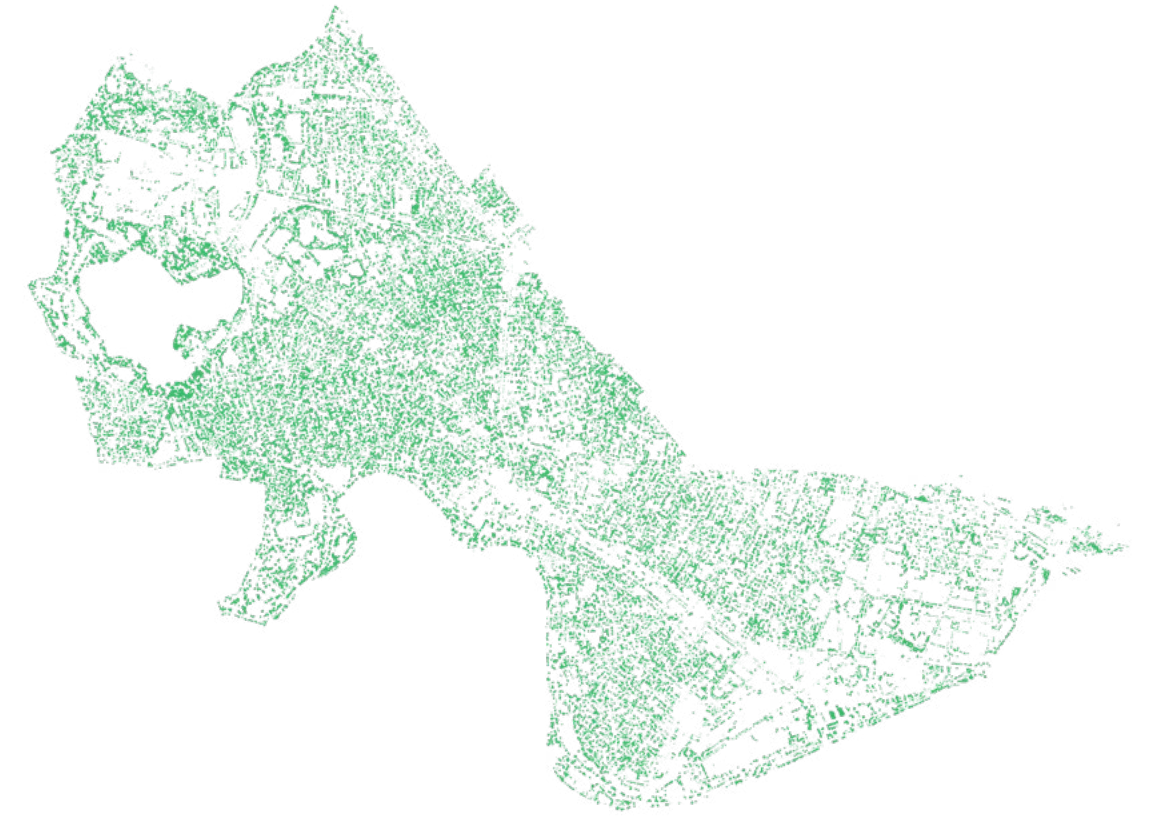
Average canopy loss has been 16.4 acres per year since 2009



2009 — 30%



2018 — 26%

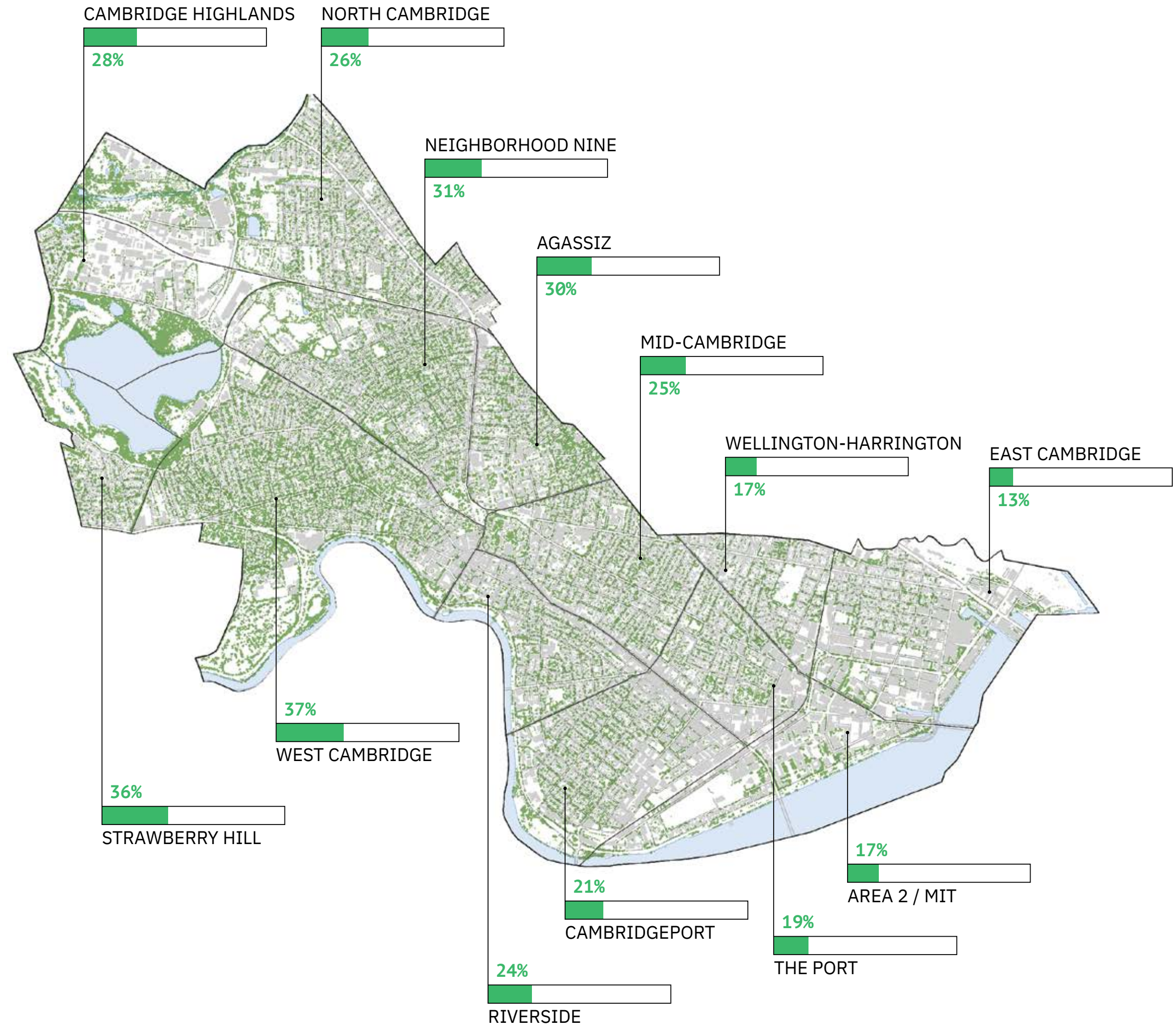


2030 — 17% to 21%  
(PROJECTED)



# FINDINGS

Canopy cover is not equitably distributed





# FINDINGS

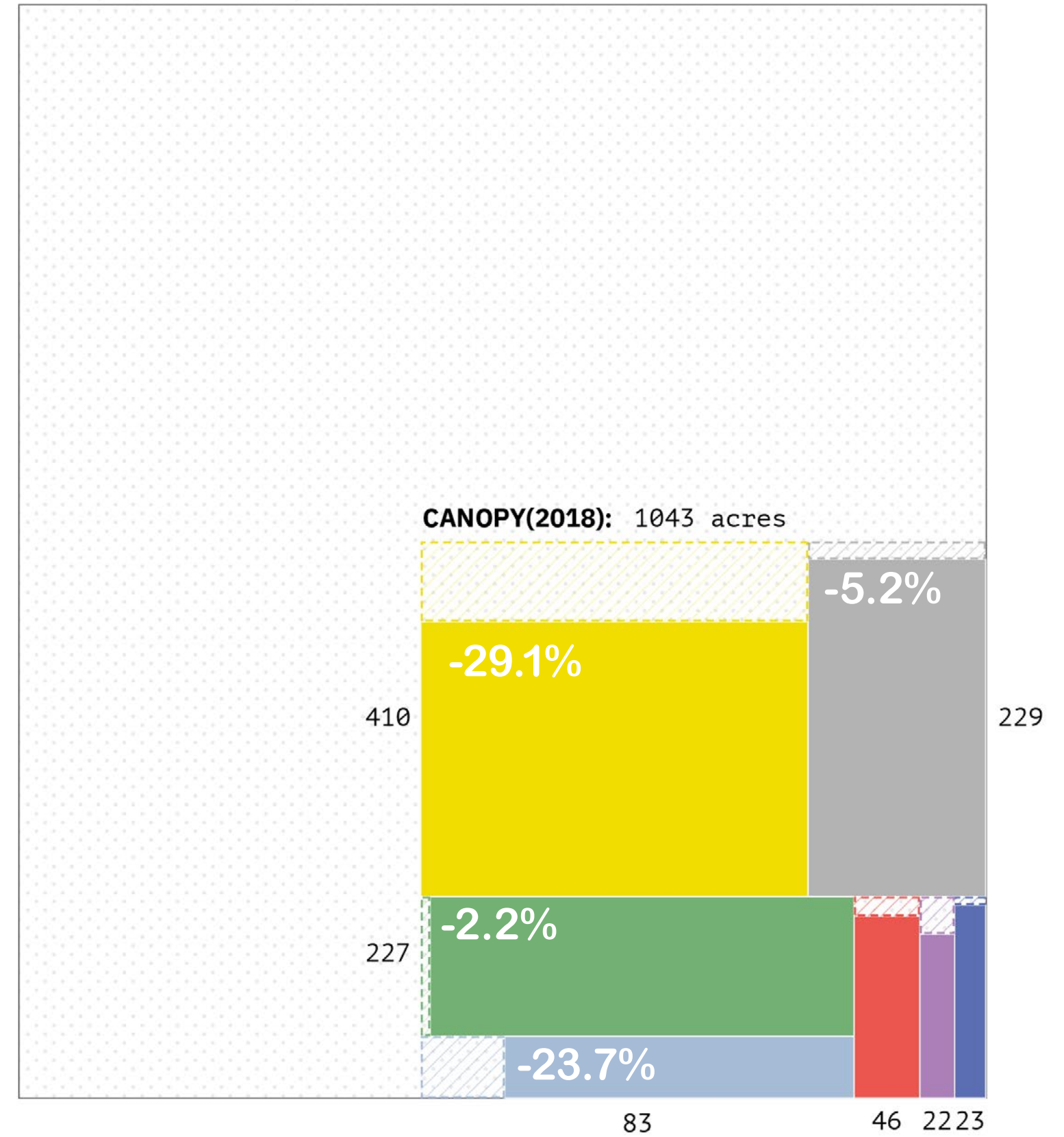
Private property represents 72% of the total loss since 2009 and 58% of the total 2018 canopy



## 2018 CANOPY

- CITY AND STATE OWNED TREES
- PRIVATE TREES

## AREA OF CAMBRIDGE CITY

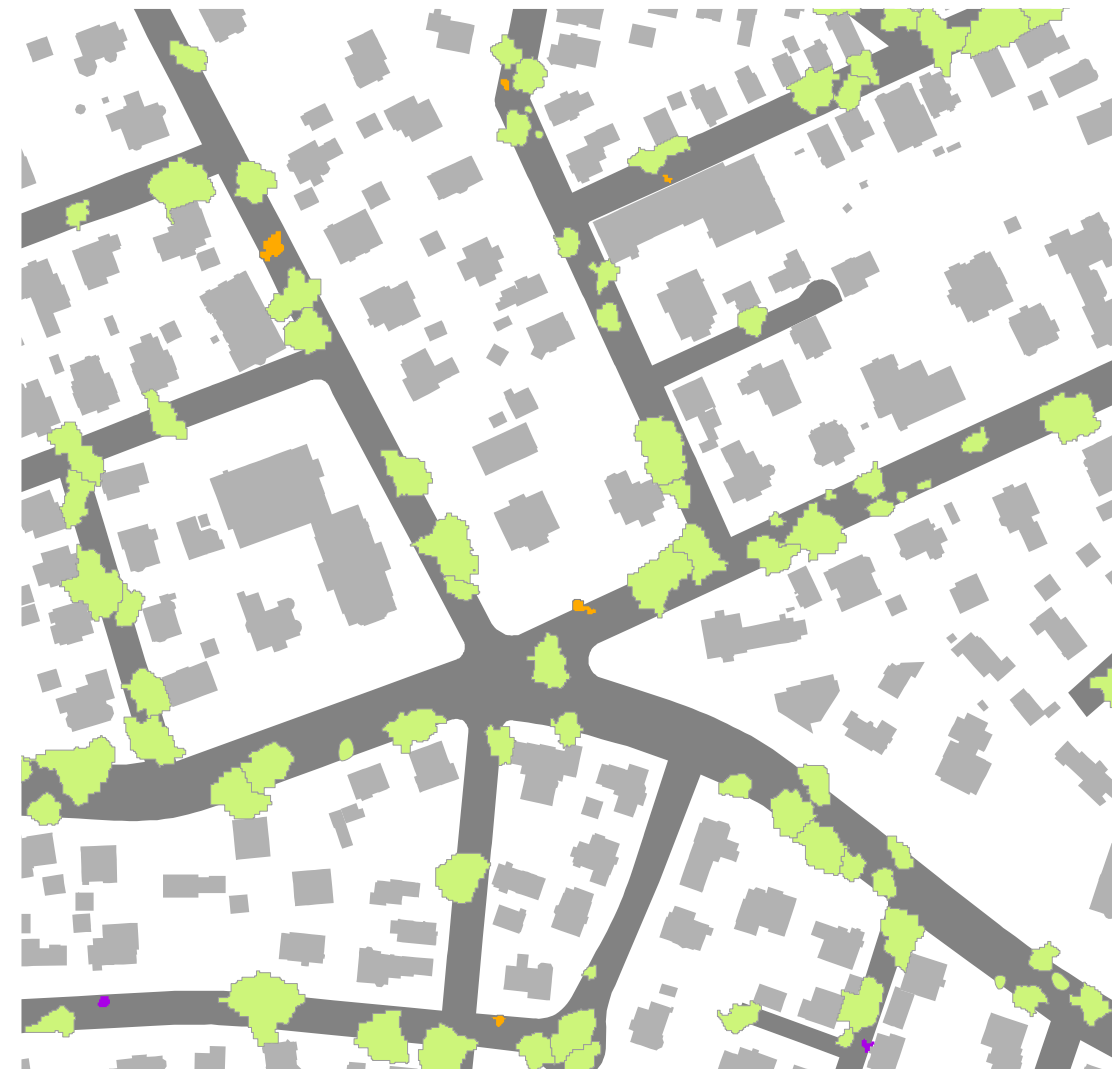
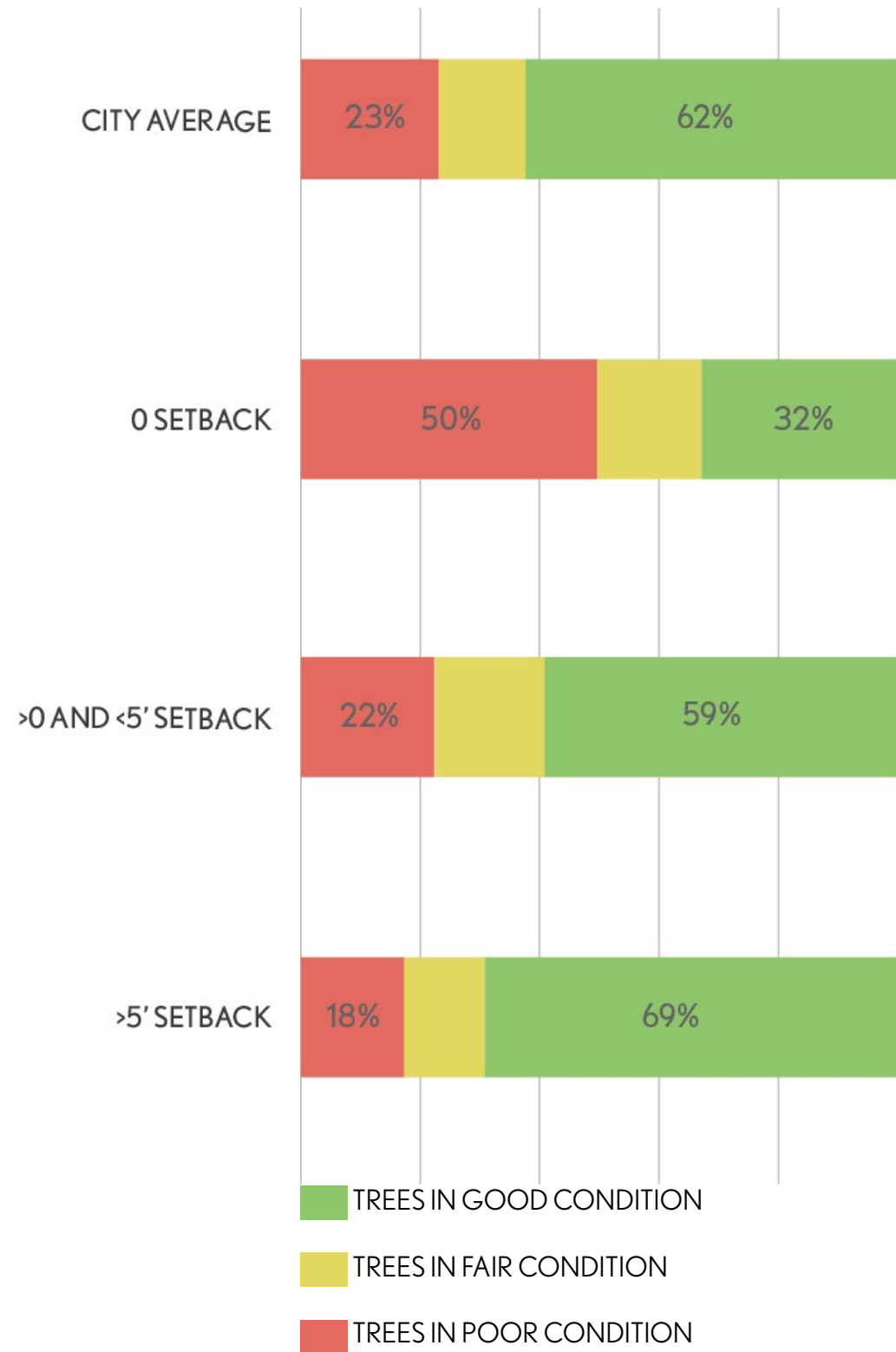


- RESIDENTIAL
- ROW
- OPEN SPACE
- INSTITUTIONAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- PUBLIC

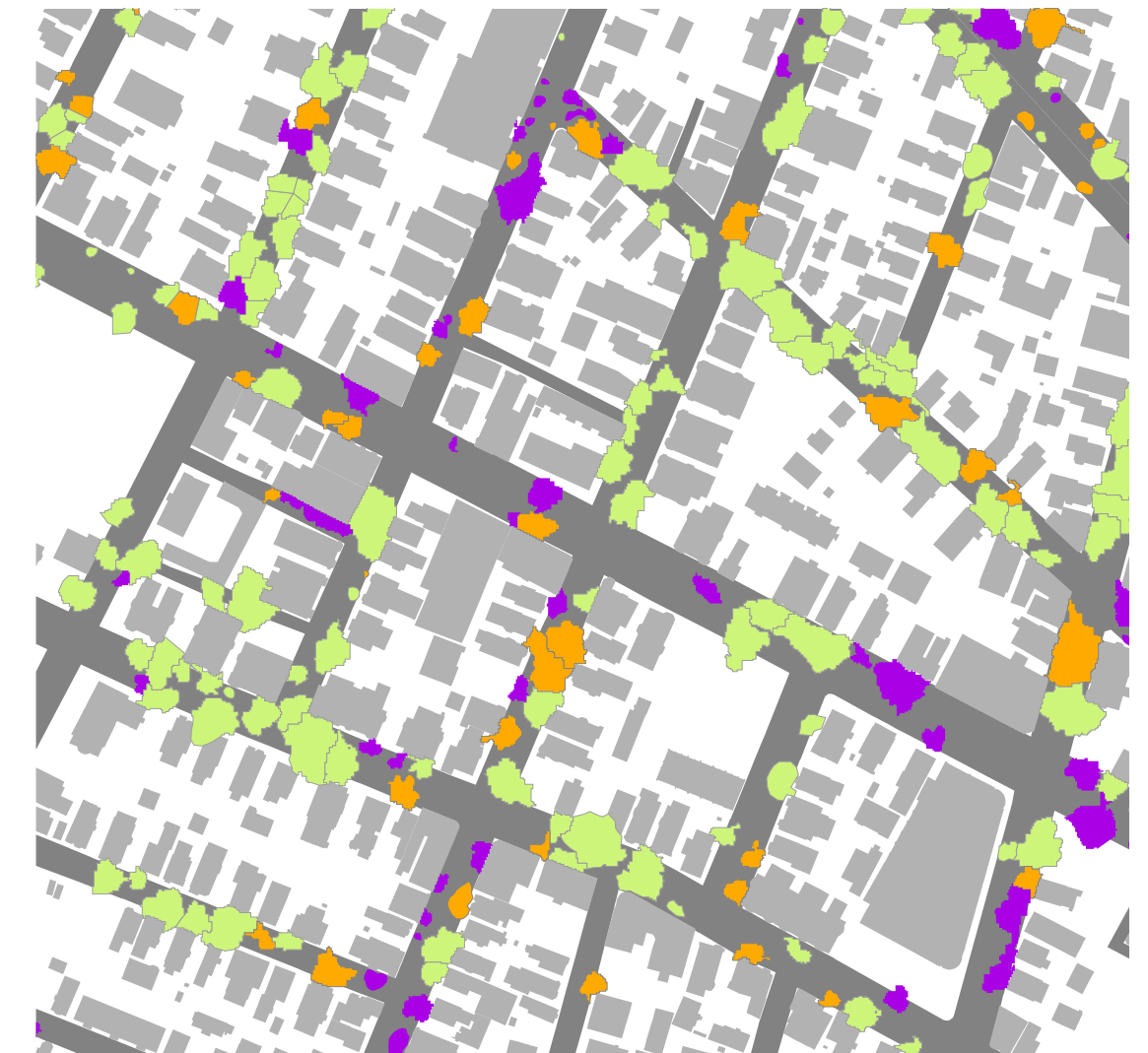


# FINDINGS

Areas with front yard setbacks have street trees in better condition



West Cambridge



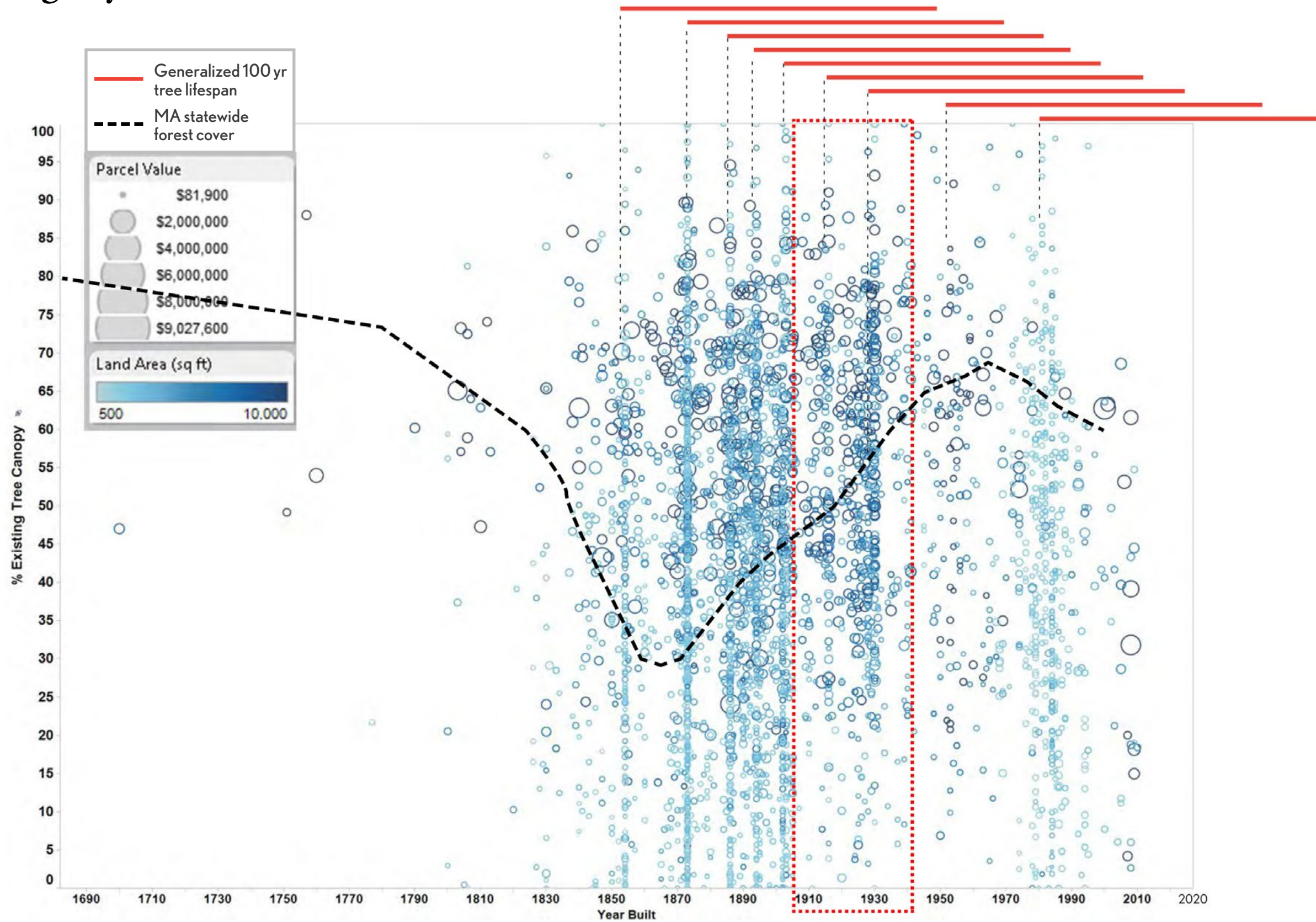
East Cambridge





# FINDINGS

## Urban canopy goes through cycles of boom and bust



*Properties containing homes built around 1920 have an unusually high percentage of tree canopy*



## FINDINGS

Multiple factors impact the future condition of the forest

### 2030, 2050 and 2070 Baseline

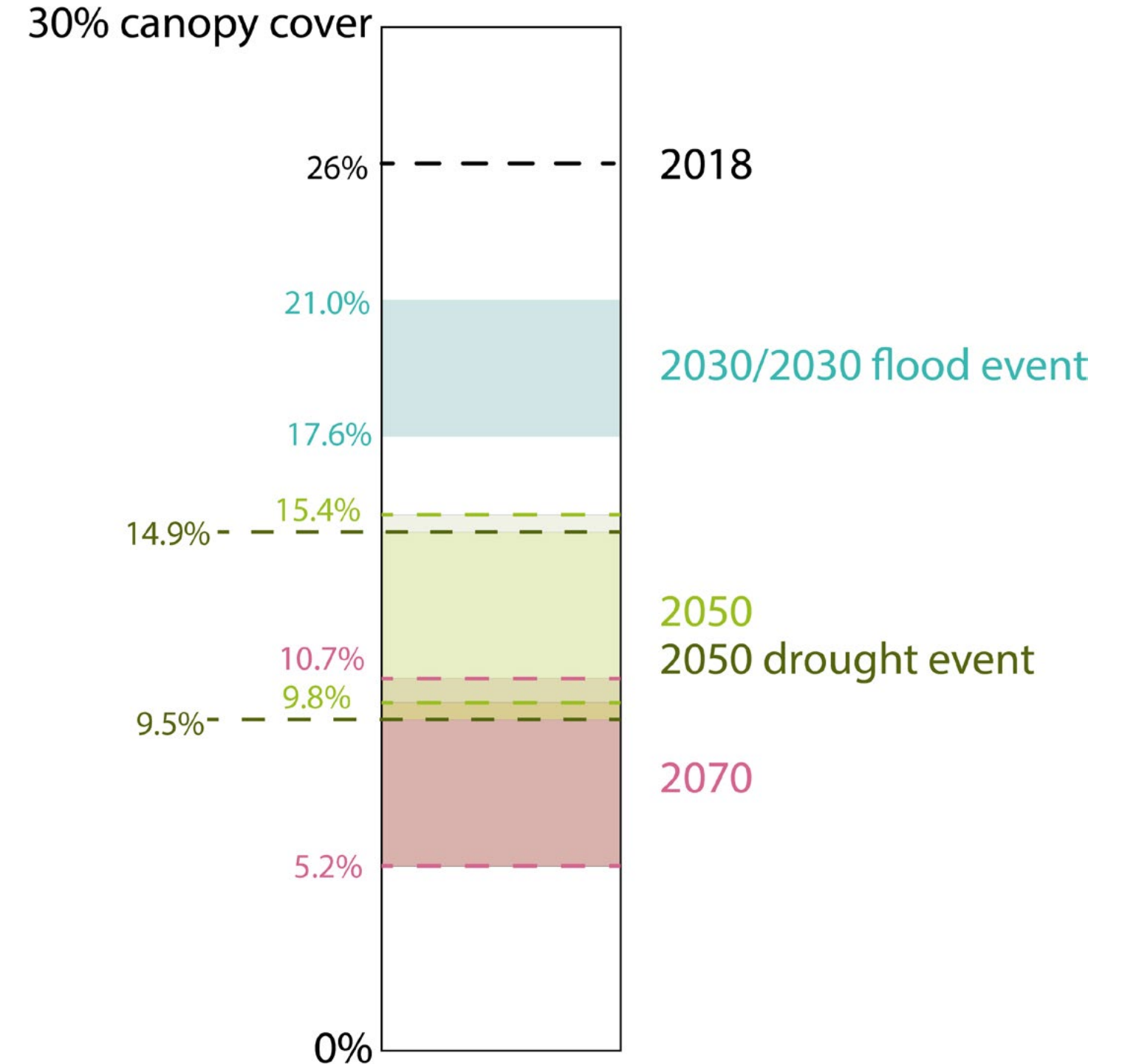
- existing and potential pests and diseases
- temperature change and hardiness zone shift
- uses existing replanting and growth rates

### 2030 Flooding

- areas experiencing standing water > 24 hrs in a simulated 100 yr flood event

### 2050 Drought

- a moderate drought event is projected to occur once every 30 years within the 2035 to 2064 timeframe (Hayhoe et al 2006)



*Annual net loss rate in canopy models ranges from 1.8% to 3.2%.*



## FINDINGS

Climate change will alter the character of the forest

The **species composition** of the future forest is influenced by susceptibility of individual species to climate risks, particularly pests and diseases.

**Flooding** was found to have a potentially **minimal impact** on the canopy.

**Drought** was found to have a potentially **moderate impact** on the existing tree canopy.



# Core Concepts

To maintain, plan, build, and sustain a  
healthy, connective urban forest

**1**

**Understand the forest as  
a living system**

**2**

**Value the forest as a  
public resource**

**3**

**Invest in canopy in  
the public realm**

**4**

**Share responsibility  
for a healthy forest**



# APPROACH

## Draft goals and targets



### EQUITY

**Goal**  
Minimum 25% cover per neighborhood

**Target**  
Each year, plant X\* trees in neighborhoods deficient in canopy

**Feasibility Analysis**  
Six neighborhoods do not currently meet the target. Will be difficult to achieve in East Cambridge.

### SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

**Goal**  
City, residents, universities, developers all to increase their canopy cover by 10 to 25% by 2050

**Target**  
Each year, each constituent plants X\* number of trees

**Feasibility Analysis**  
There is enough plantable area to achieve this goal.

### RESILIENCE

**Human resilience goal**  
1. 60% of sidewalks canopy covered.  
2. 50% reduction in the number of hotspots (92 degrees when 90 degree average) in the R.O.W.

**Target**  
Each year, plant X\* trees in the R.O.W.

**Forest Resilience Goal**  
No more than 10% of a single species, 20% of a genus and 30% of a family.

**Target**  
Each year, plant more of X\* species on recommended list, fewer of X\* species

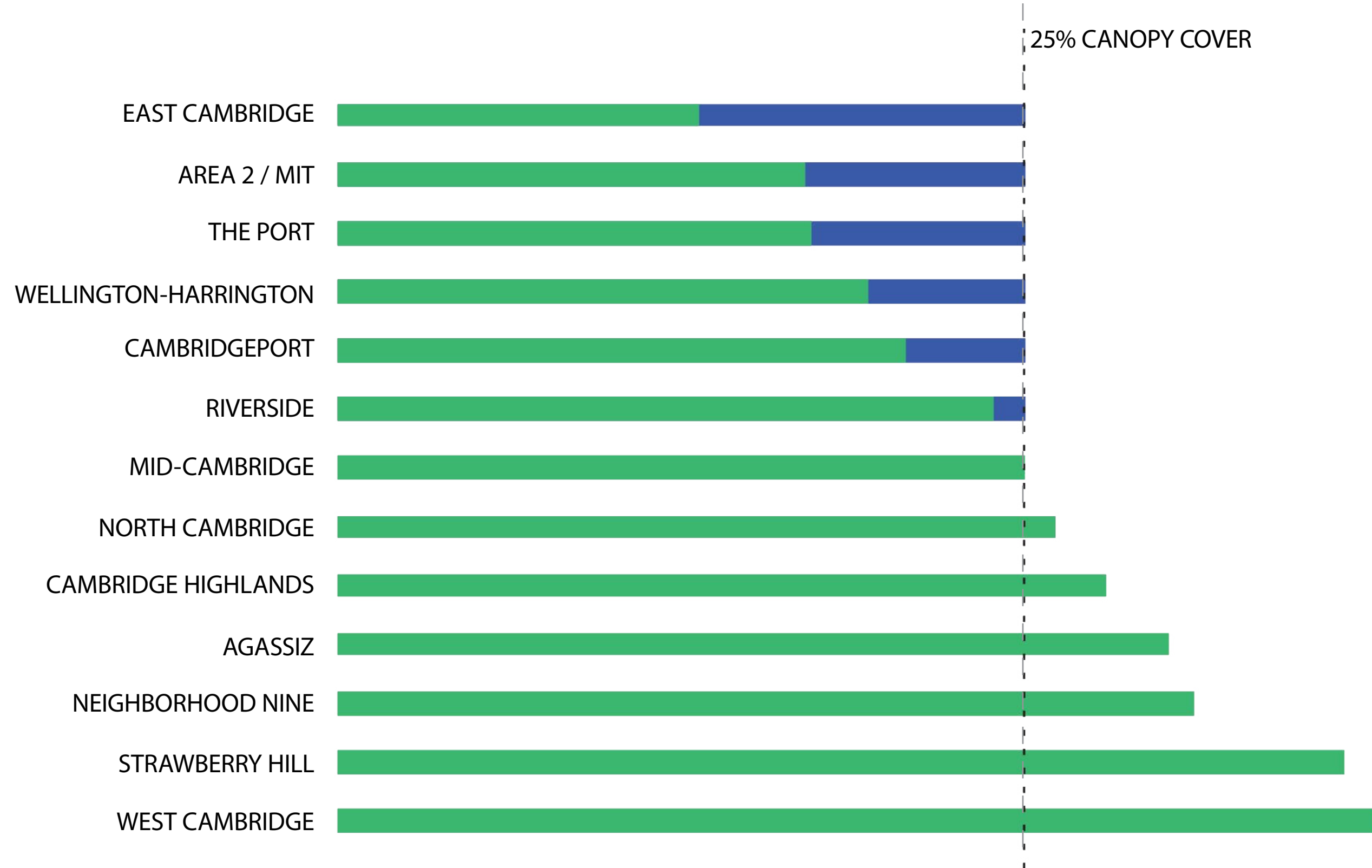
\*Planting target numbers will fluctuate depending on a number of factors such as neighborhood, constituent type, and most recent data on loss rates.

±30%  
CANOPY  
COVER  
CITYWIDE



# EQUITY

## Set a minimum canopy cover goal by neighborhood

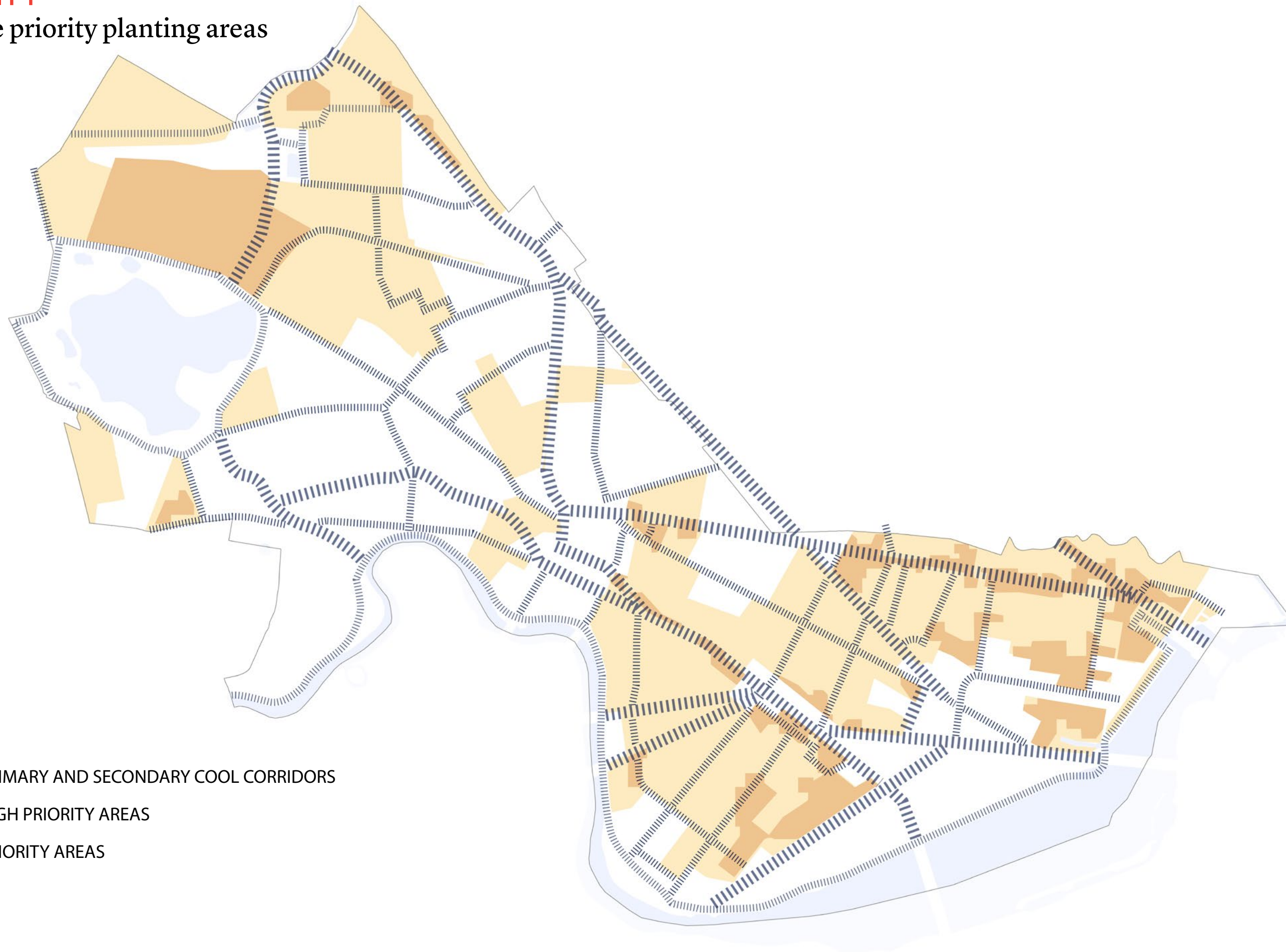




# EQUITY

## Define priority planting areas

- ||||| PRIMARY AND SECONDARY COOL CORRIDORS
- HIGH PRIORITY AREAS
- PRIORITY AREAS



### POPULATIONS AT RISK

- Minority population, Low Income population, Non-English speaking population



### HEAT ISLAND HOT SPOTS

- Greater than 92 degrees on a 90° day



### COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Public Schools and Hospitals



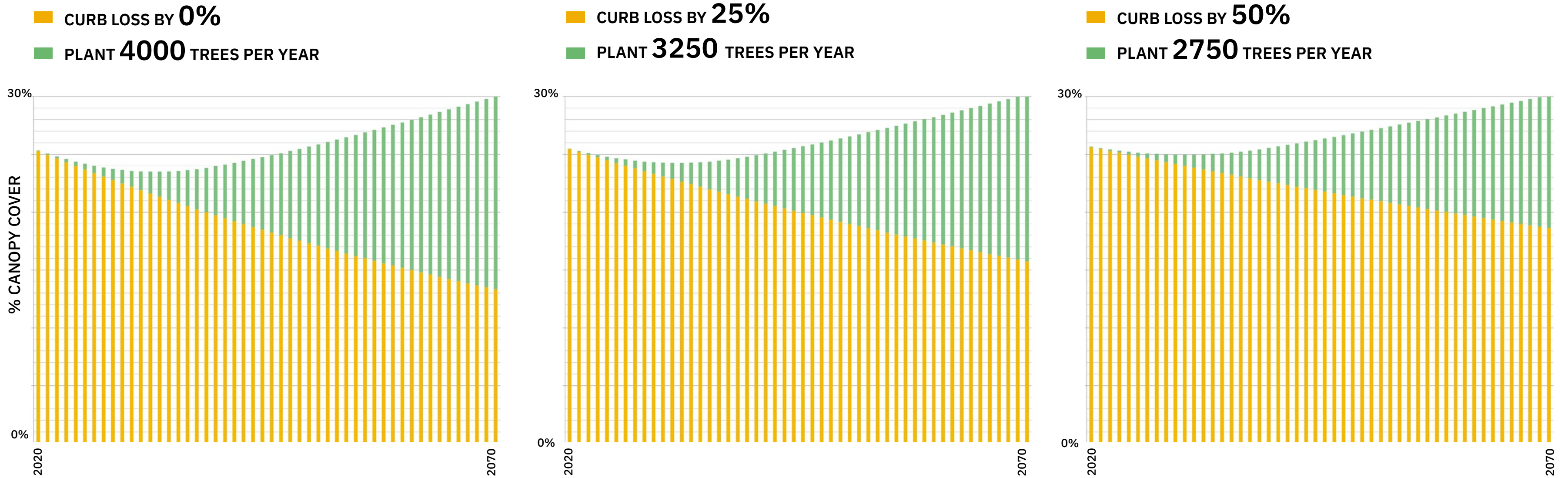
### CANOPY CORRIDOR

- Primary and secondary traffic routes



# SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Understand the importance of curbing loss to reaching 30% canopy cover





## SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

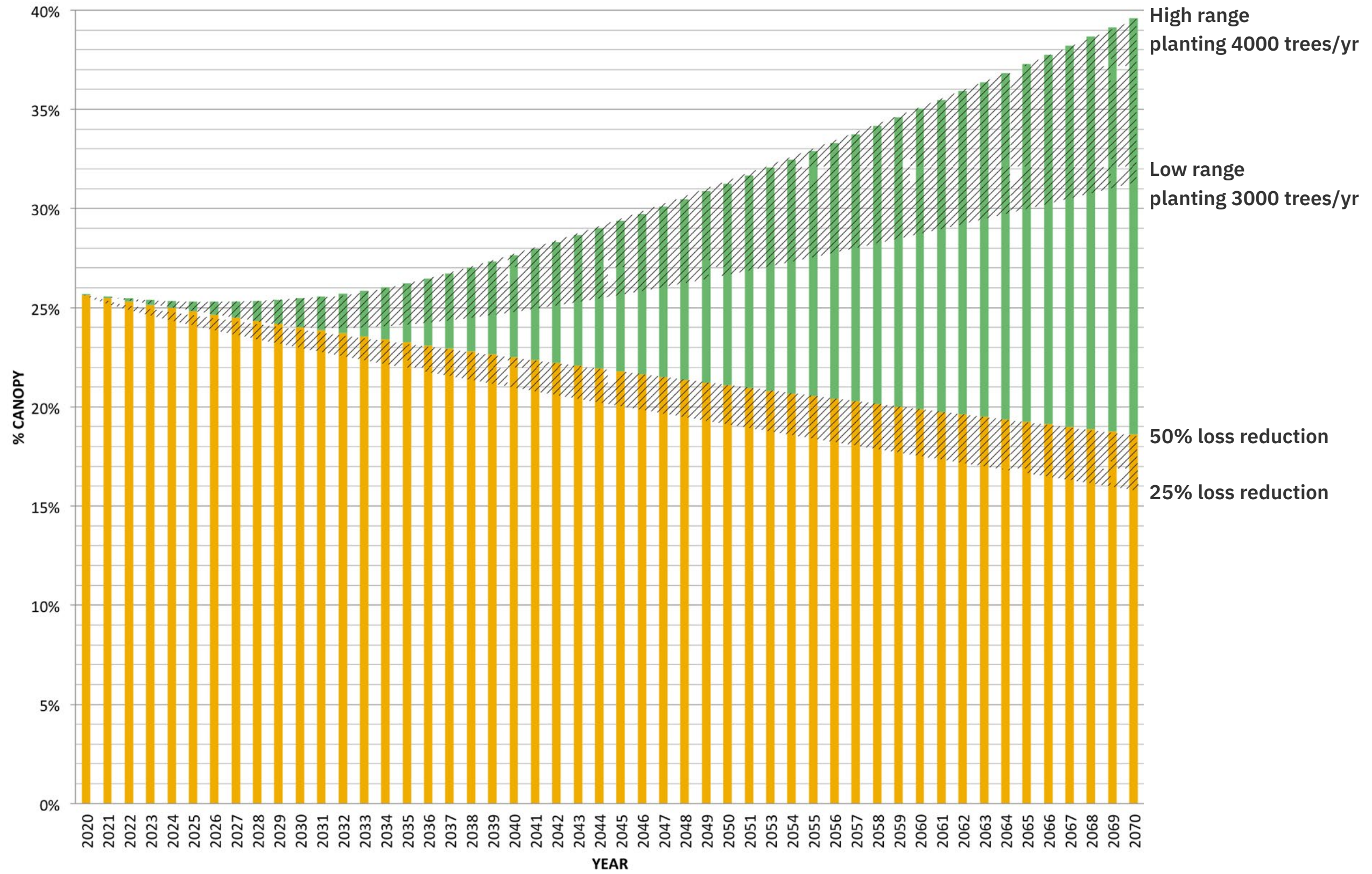
Set targets for curbing loss and planting more trees

Plant ___ Additional New Trees Per Year	Reduce Net Loss by ___%	Canopy Cover In 2030	Canopy Cover In 2050	Canopy Cover In 2070
0 (do nothing scenario)	0%	22.8%	17.5%	13.5%
0	25%	23.5%	19.4%	15.9%
0	50%	24.3%	21.4%	18.7%
2,000	0%	23.4%	22.4%	24.0%
2,000	25%	24.2%	24.2%	26.4%
2,000	50%	24.9%	26.2%	29.2%
4,000	0%	24.0%	27.2%	34.5%
4,000	25%	24.8%	29.0%	36.9%
4,000	50%	25.5%	31.0%	39.7%



# SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

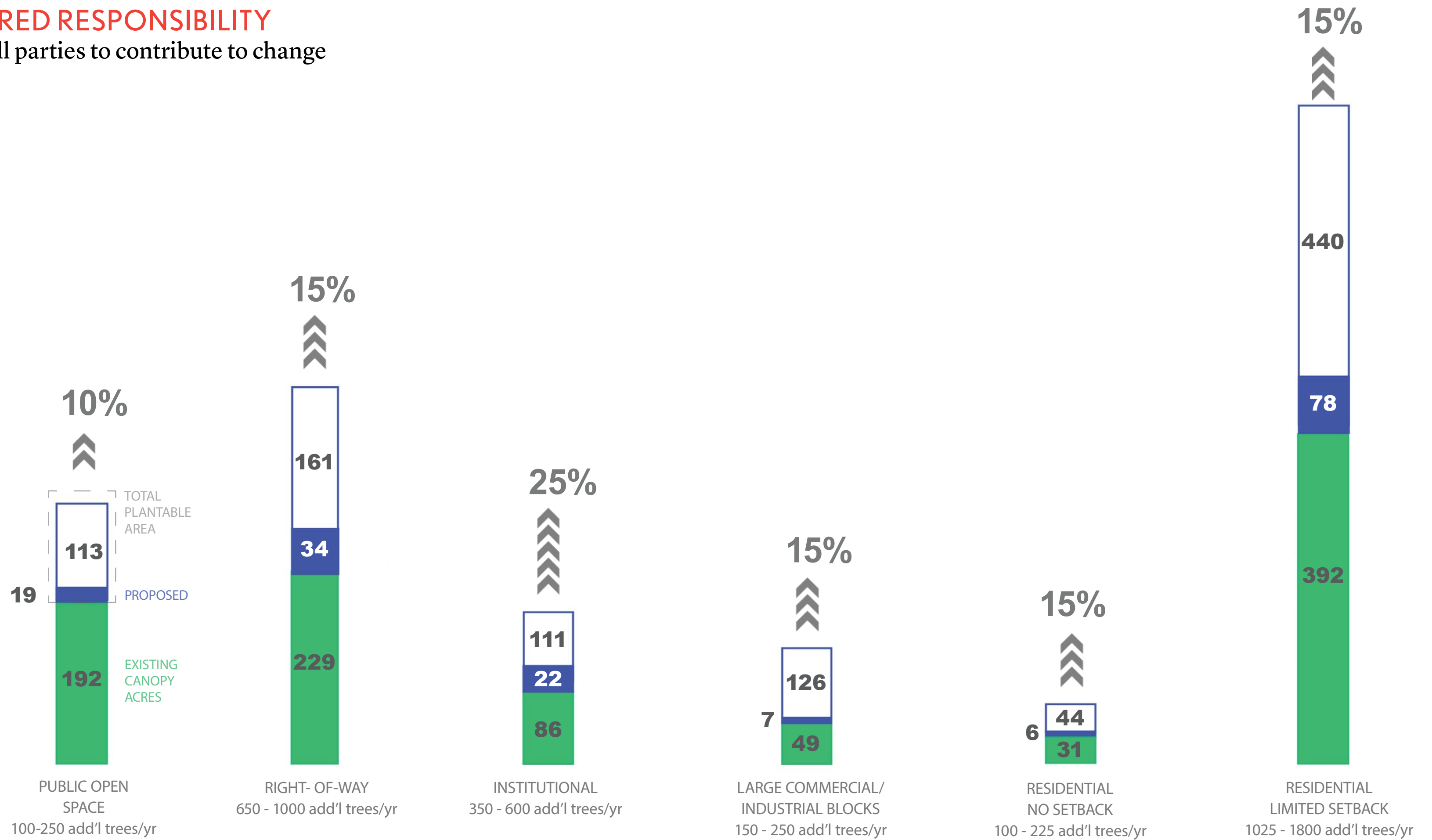
Assess impacts to 2070 with a range of changes and impacts





# SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

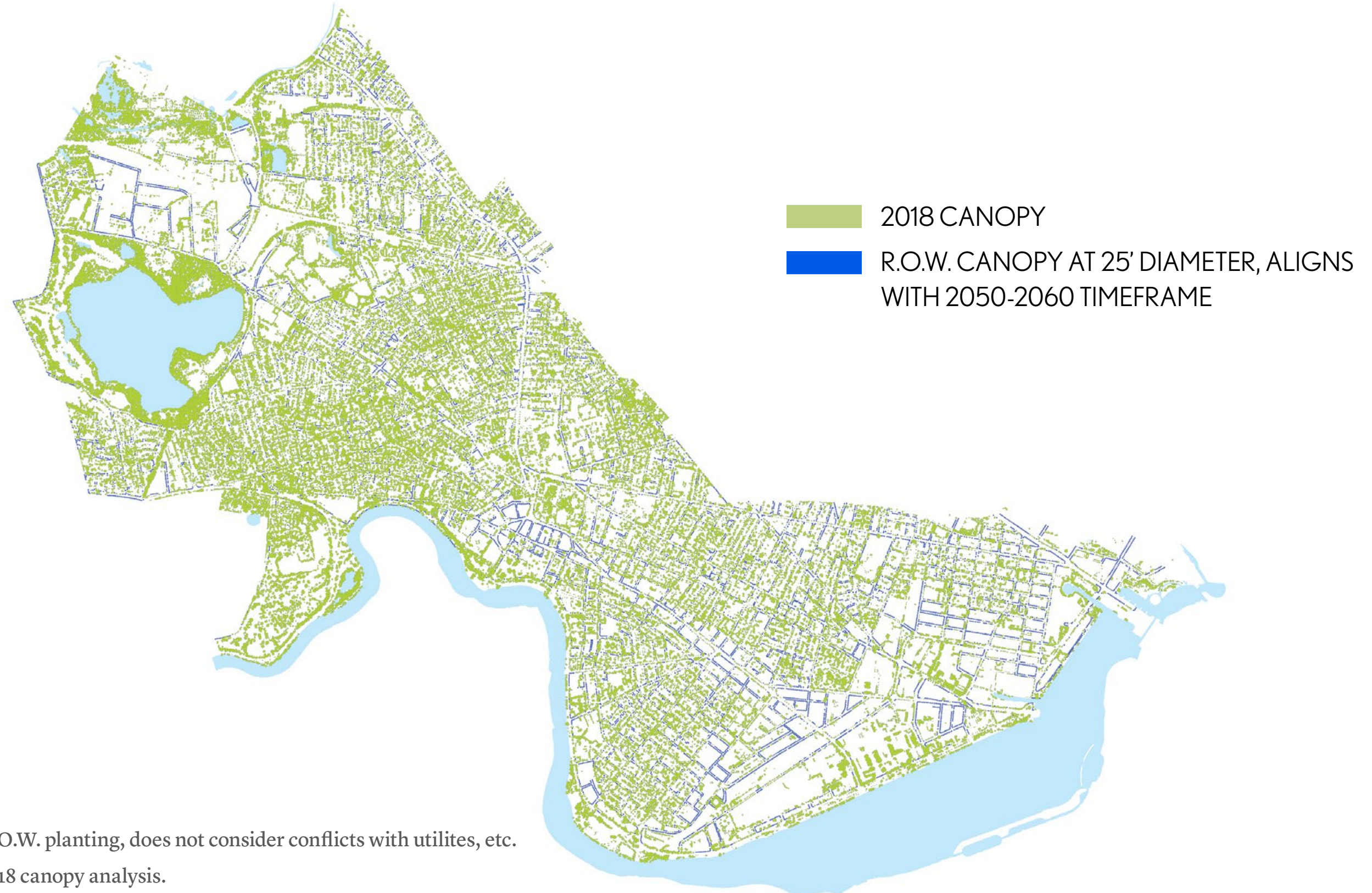
Ask all parties to contribute to change





## RESILIENCE

12,000 new Right of Way trees at maturity increase canopy cover from 26% to 29.4%\* citywide



\*Idealized scheme of R.O.W. planting, does not consider conflicts with utilities, etc.

Source: and CUFMP 2018 canopy analysis.



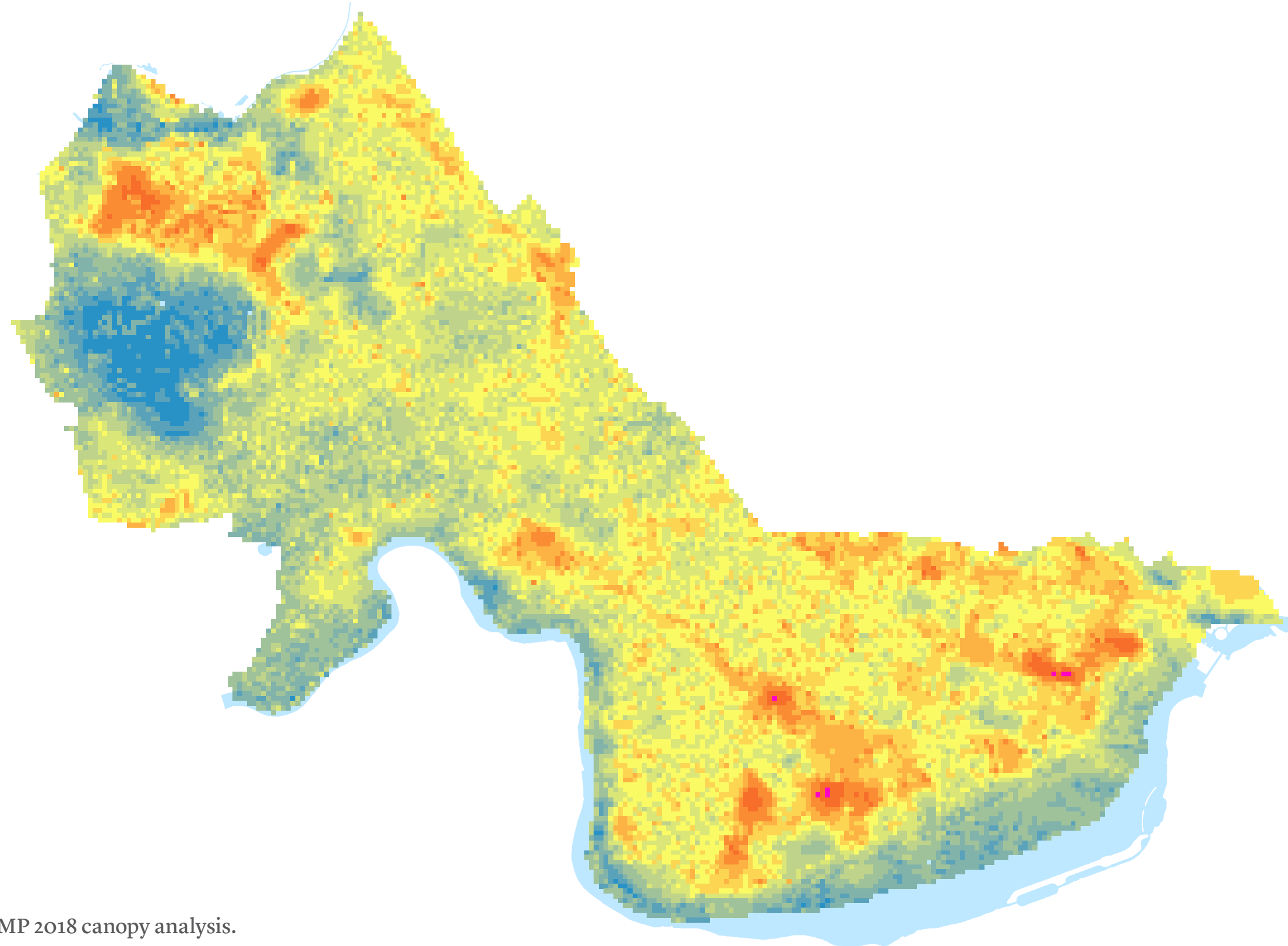
# RESILIENCE

Heat island as felt in 2018 is not evenly distributed

ESTIMATED  
AMBIENT AIR  
TEMPERATURE  
OF A 90°F DAY

- 80 or Below
- 80 - 82
- 82 - 84
- 84 - 86
- 86 - 88
- 88 - 90
- 90 - 92
- 92 - 94
- 94 - 96
- 96 - 98
- 98 - 100

Source: CCVA and CUFMP 2018 canopy analysis.





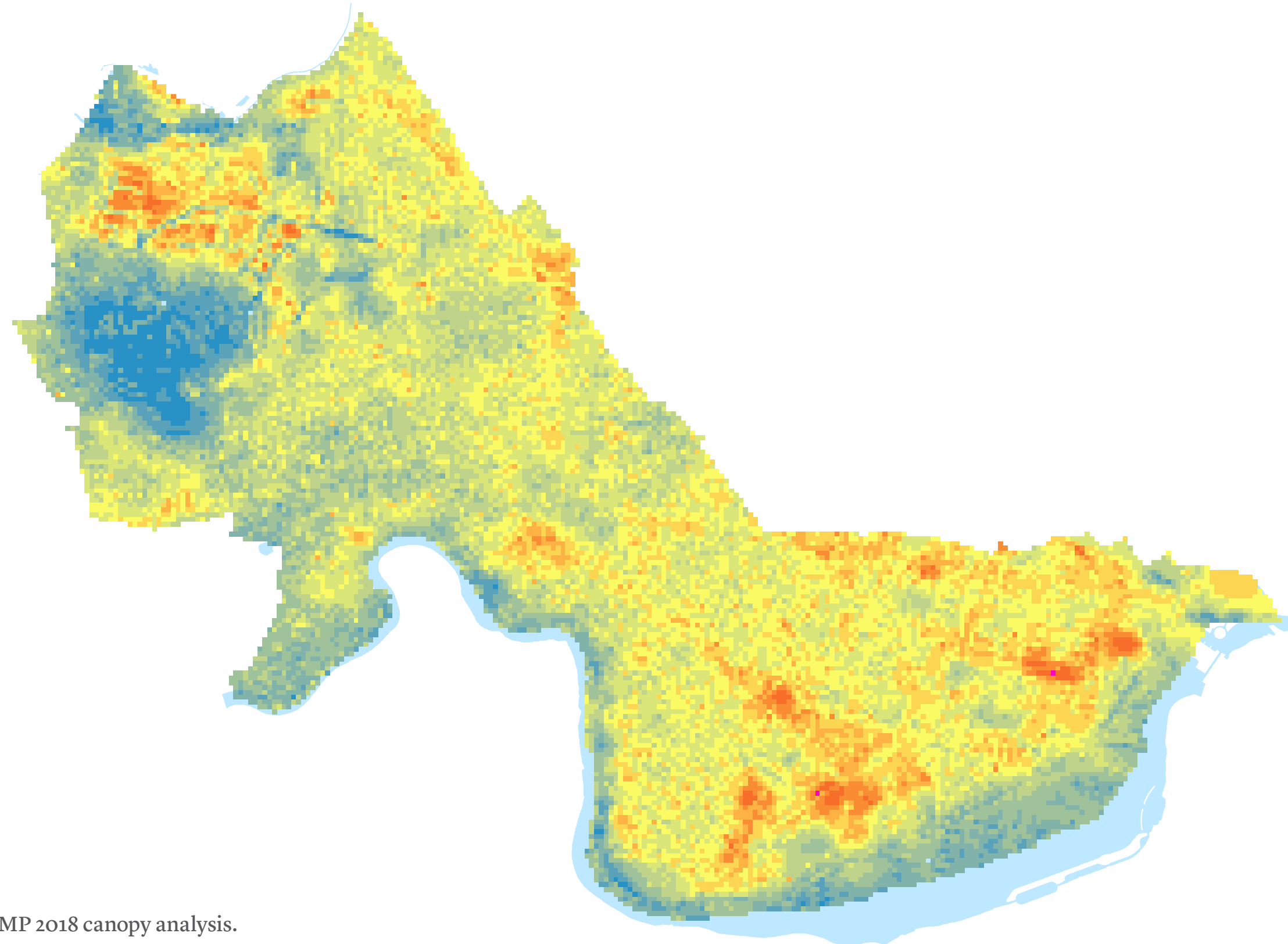
# RESILIENCE

12,000 new ROW trees at maturity reduce heat island along important corridors

ESTIMATED  
AMBIENT AIR  
TEMPERATURE  
OF A 90°F DAY

- 80 or Below
- 80 - 82
- 82 - 84
- 84 - 86
- 86 - 88
- 88 - 90
- 90 - 92
- 92 - 94
- 94 - 96
- 96 - 98
- 98 - 100

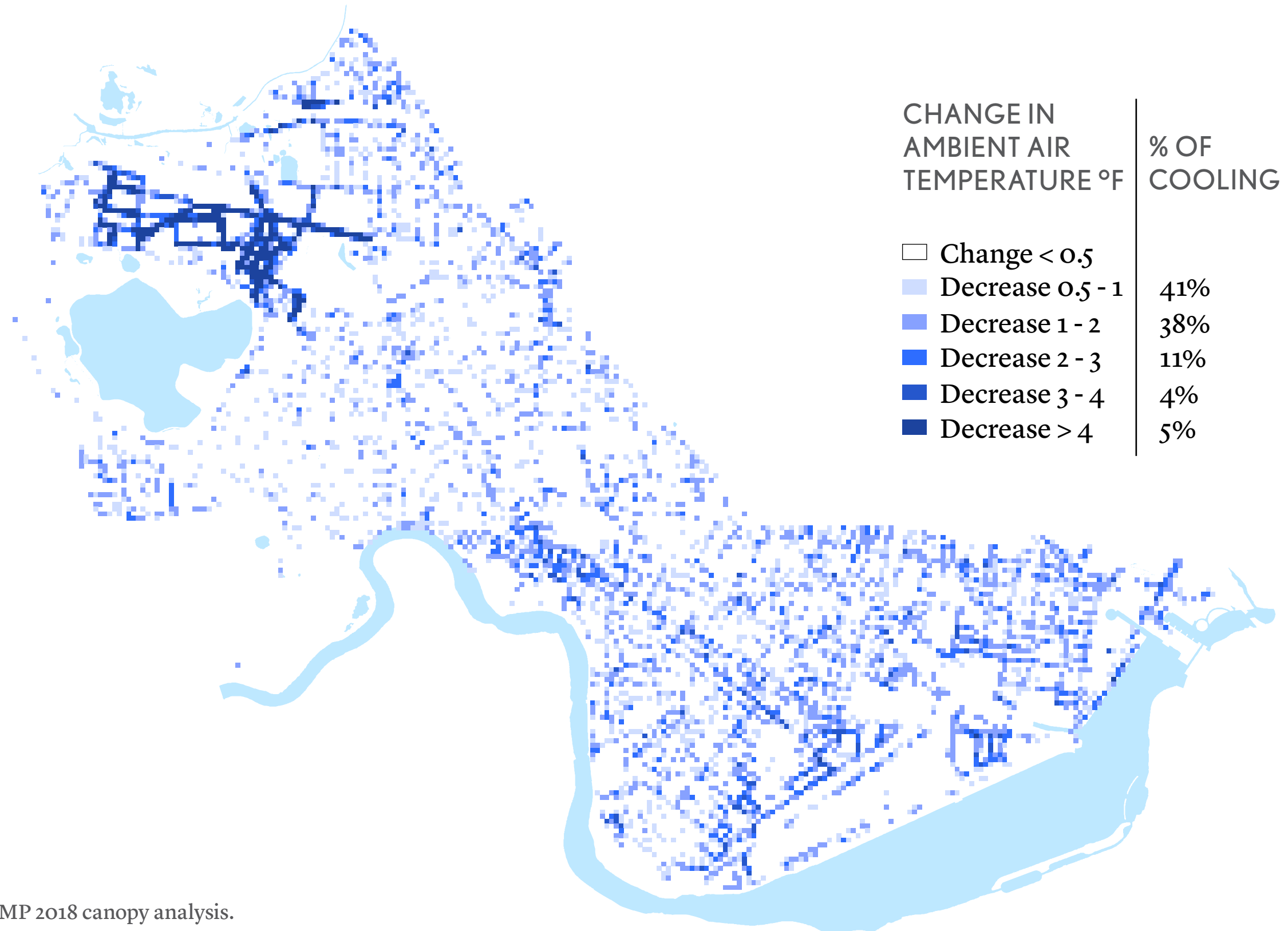
Source: CCVA and CUFMP 2018 canopy analysis.





## RESILIENCE

25% of the city would experience 0.5 °F or more decrease in temperature with 12,000 new trees



Source: CCVA and CUFMP 2018 canopy analysis.

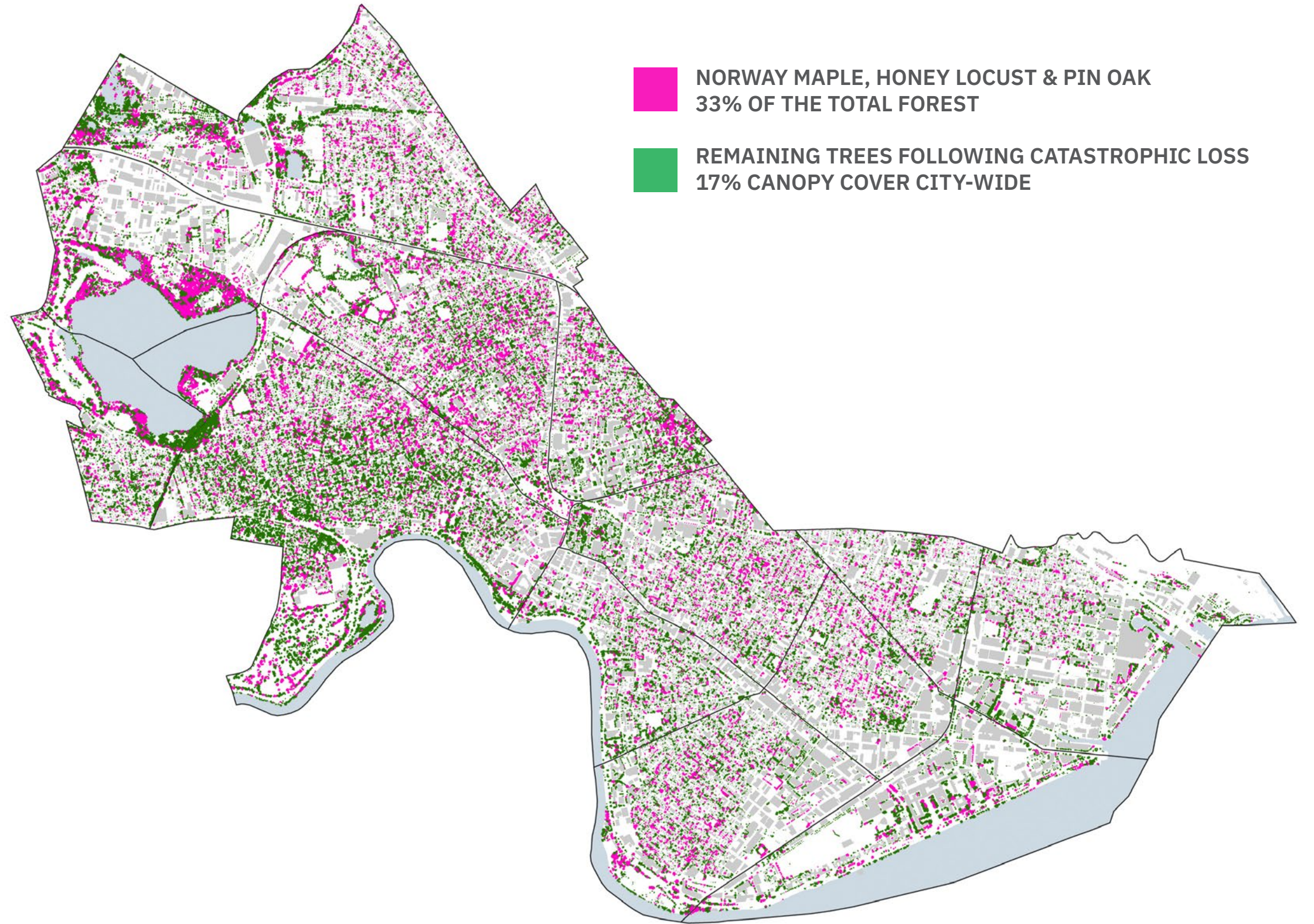


# RESILIENCE

Diversify the Cambridge forest to better withstand catastrophic events

## TOTAL FOREST

30 % FAMILY  
20% GENUS  
10 % SPECIES



# CURB LOSS + GROW CANOPY

An all-of-the-above approach

A menu of 47 strategies:

19 Policy

7 Design

9 Practice

12 Outreach & Education

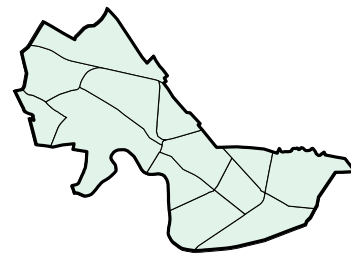
1	Enhance and Expand the Tree Protection Ordinance	Policy
2	Formalize Practices for Planting and Inspection	
3	Leverage Land Use Requirements	
4	Leverage Public-Private Partnerships	
5	Institutionalize Tree Priorities	
6	Plant Resilient Species	Design
7	Street Tree Planting Strategies	
8	Site New Parks and Open Space Strategically	
9	Improve Monitoring	Practices
10	Expand Maintenance	
11	Expand Planting Practices	
12	Invest in Educational Programs	Outreach
13	Build Community Partnerships	
14	Seek Alternative Green Strategies	Other
15	Integrate UFMP into Complementary Planning Studies	



**POLICY STRATEGY 3A**

**Redefine  
Significant Trees  
to 6” DBH**

IMPACT AREAS



**SUMMARY**

For projects requiring a special permit from the Planning Board or development projects subject to large project review (25,000 sq. ft. or more), the city’s tree protection ordinance provides certain protections. These protections only apply to “Significant Trees,” which are defined as trees greater than 8” DBH.

Other cities and towns locally and across the country offer protections for trees with a lower DBH. In particular, protections for trees with 6” DBH or greater is common.

**ANALYSIS**

The statistical sample of Cambridge’s tree population completed as part of this study found that of 4,118 trees inventoried, 41 percent measured greater than 8 inch DBH versus 60 percent which measured 6” DBH or greater. If the city were to redefine Significant Trees as 6” DBH or greater, this would increase the number of trees captured under the ordinance for the purposes of new or redevelopment by about 49 percent.

**PROS**

**Increases the number of trees protected by the ordinance**

**Burdens large projects rather than individual residents or the City**

**CONS**

**Applies to more proposed development projects and thus requires additional city resources to review and approve plans**

**Adds cost to certain projects, including those which provide housing and other community values**

**PRECEDENTS**

National:

Atlanta, Georgia  
Seattle, Washington  
Oakland, Florida  
Miami, Florida  
Anna, Texas

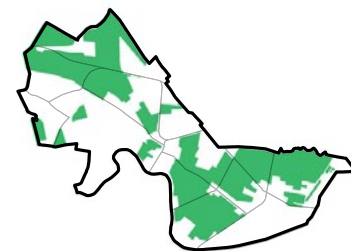
Local:

Concord, Massachusetts  
Lexington, Massachusetts  
Brookline, Massachusetts

POLICY STRATEGY 3B

## Increase front setback and open space requirements in priority areas through Zoning Ordinance

IMPACT AREAS



**SUMMARY**

Various tree-related requirements and landscape mandates are currently scattered throughout City zoning. Most of these requirements are tied to narrowly defined site uses (such as parking facilities or townhouses) and limited districts (such as the Parkway or Prospect Street Overlay Districts).

The Zoning Ordinance also includes requirements for setbacks and open space, which have implications for the amount of area available for planting on sites, but do not specifically define the amount of planting required.

The concepts behind this strategy have been taken under consideration by the Resilient Zoning Task Force.

**PROS**

Increases plantable area on new development sites

Targets high priority areas

**PRECEDENTS**

National:

Baltimore, MD\*

Austin, TX\*

\*Note that these cities did not increase setbacks and open space requirements for the sole purpose of facilitating planting in high priority areas but did use sociodemographic and other factors to determine high priority planting areas.

**ANALYSIS**

The City of Cambridge could increase the minimum front setback and open space requirements for all or certain zoning districts to increase the amount of space available for planting on lots. While many of the City's residential districts have substantial requirements, most industrial and business districts in the city have little or no front setback and open space requirements. This would not require the implementation of a new concept; rather it would simply involve a revision to the existing minimum requirements. The city could coordinate increased requirements to match the areas designated as "high priority" for planting and preservation. The City could customize enhanced planting areas based on building typology, land use, urban form, and other factors.

**CONS**

Conflicts with other City goals of density and consistency with existing urban form

Require amendments to zoning, which is likely to be a complex political process

Places burdens on redevelopment projects

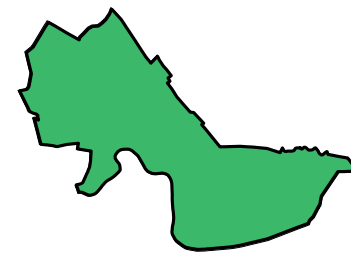
Applies only to new development and construction projects, having impact only over the long term



**POLICY STRATEGY 3A**

**Establish canopy coverage requirements by parcel through Zoning Ordinance**

IMPACT AREAS



**PRECEDENTS**

National:  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Providence, RI  
Manassass, VA  
Augusta, GA

**SUMMARY**

Today, Cambridge has 26 percent of its land area covered by canopy. Between 2009 and 2018, the canopy declined on average by 16.4 acres every year. At this rate, canopy cover will be 21.6 percent in 2030.

This is also a time period in which significant redevelopment has taken place, and long-term plans such as Envision Cambridge are currently setting out a vision for the next areas of significant development. Zoning is the most effective way to influence development, but currently Cambridge zoning has little specific direction about trees or canopy cover.

The concepts behind this strategy have been taken under consideration by the Resilient Zoning Task Force.

**ANALYSIS**

If the City amended the Zoning Ordinance to require specific canopy coverage percentages by land use or district, future development would be structured to contribute to overall City-wide goals. Emphasis or higher percentages could be applied to priority areas such as canopy corridors through an overlay district. If cover requirements were to apply citywide, they could be incorporated into the existing requirements/standards for open space or established as a separate minimum requirement alongside the existing setback and open space requirements applied to each zoning district and land use type.

Land Use Type	2018 Acres of Land Use Overall	2018 canopy cover	Canopy cover target (DRAFT)	Plantable area (not currently canopy covered)	New canopy acres to meet canopy cover targets
Residential - no setbacks	192	16%	20%	44	17
Residential - setbacks	1363	29%	35%	440	86
Institutional	436	20%	30%	111	44
Commercial/industrial	558	9%	15%	126	34

**PROS**

Creates more consistency and predictability for property owners and developers

Focuses coverage goals in high priority areas

Targets areas where canopy growth is most appropriate

**CONS**

Conflicts with competing priorities in the zoning/development processes

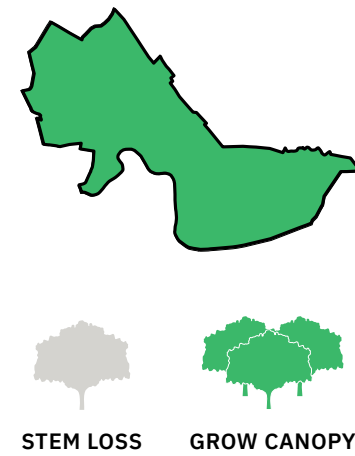
Requires amendments to zoning, which is likely to be a complex process

Applies only to new development and construction projects, having impact only over the long term

**DESIGN STRATEGY 2B**

**Plant bare root trees in expanded and enhanced tree ways where possible**

IMPACT AREAS



**SUMMARY**

Street trees establish more quickly and survive longer, especially in the face of drought conditions, when they have larger soil volumes. In cases where the back of sidewalk condition is pervious, it is beneficial for the long term health of the tree to connect the tree pit soil to the back of the sidewalk, providing a larger continuous soil volume for the roots to access.

**ANALYSIS**

Unless infeasible, the City should improve planting pits before installing new trees. New or amended soils should be placed in the open tree pit, with structural soils under sidewalks for root growth into adjacent areas. Bare root trees are field grown and shipped without soil around the roots. Bare root trees are recommended over balled and burlapped trees due to the ability to plant a larger number of bare root trees and bare root trees being quicker to establish.

**PROS**

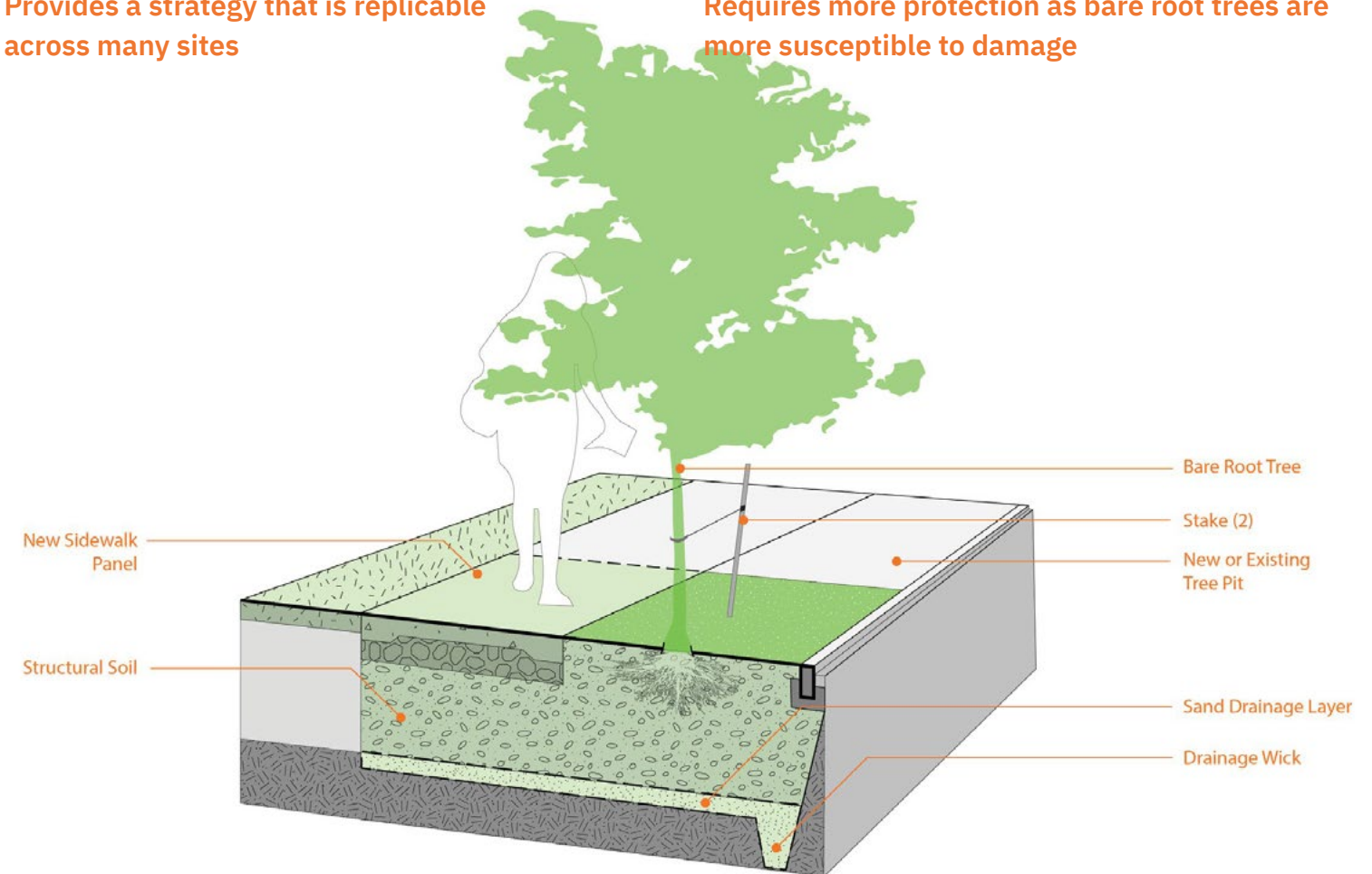
**Improves establishment success and life-span**

**Provides a strategy that is replicable across many sites**

**CONS**

**Requires additional investment in each replanting**

**Requires more protection as bare root trees are more susceptible to damage**





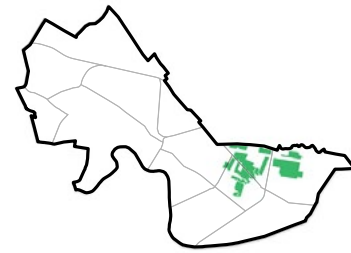
# STRATEGIES

## Design strategy 2C

### DESIGN STRATEGY 2C

## Narrow sidewalks: reduce roadway to increase planting

### IMPACT AREAS



EXISTING

### RESIDENTIAL STREETS

#### EXISTING:

Narrow residential streets with no setback

#### PROPOSED:

Remove street pavement by shifting two-way traffic to one-way; push the curb out to get a wider planting zone

#### PROS

New space and soil volume for tree planting

More livable street

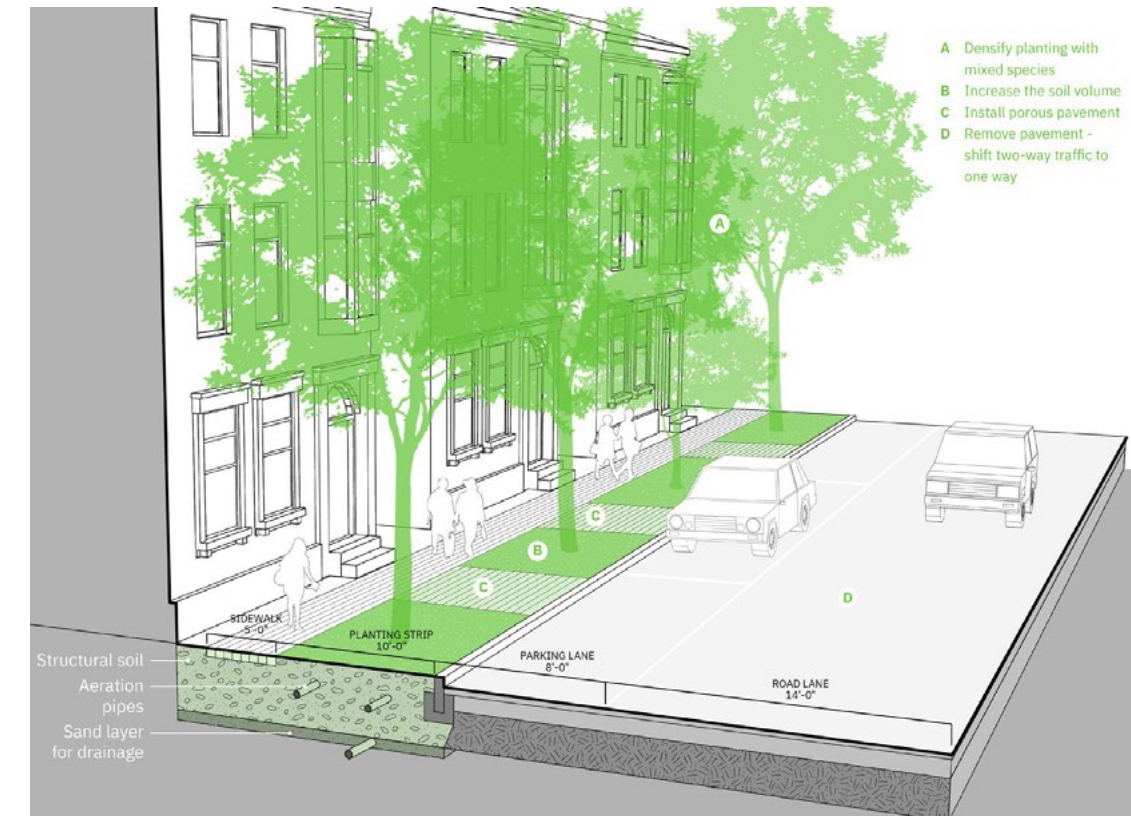
Healthier trees due to greater soil volume

#### CONS

Reduced connectivity for vehicle traffic (one way)

The cost of redesigning the street

Utility conflicts



PROPOSED

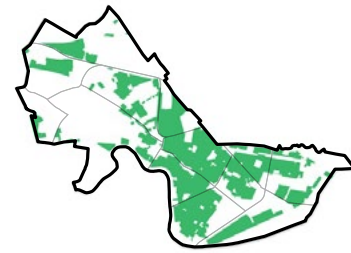
# STRATEGIES

## Design strategy 2C

### DESIGN STRATEGY 2C

## Average sidewalks: create planting area in parking spots

### IMPACT AREAS



### RESIDENTIAL STREETS

#### EXISTING:

Narrow residential streets with front yards

#### PROPOSED:

Turn some parking spaces into green spaces to plant trees

#### PROS

Creates more space for trees

Reduces impervious area

#### CONS

Reduces parking space

The cost of redesigning the street

Utility conflicts

### PRECEDENTS

Western Avenue, Cambridge  
San Francisco



EXISTING



PROPOSED



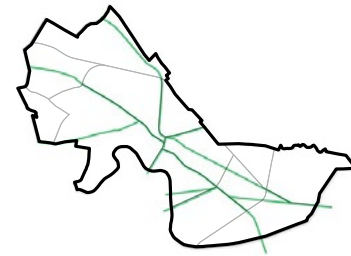
# STRATEGIES

## Design strategy 2C

### DESIGN STRATEGY 2C

## Wide sidewalks: integrate bike lanes and tree plantings

### IMPACT AREAS



### COMMERCIAL STREETS

EXISTING: Major commercial streets with a wide sidewalk, parking and bike lane

PROPOSED: Relocate the curb, move the bike lane off the street and increase the soil volume

### PROS

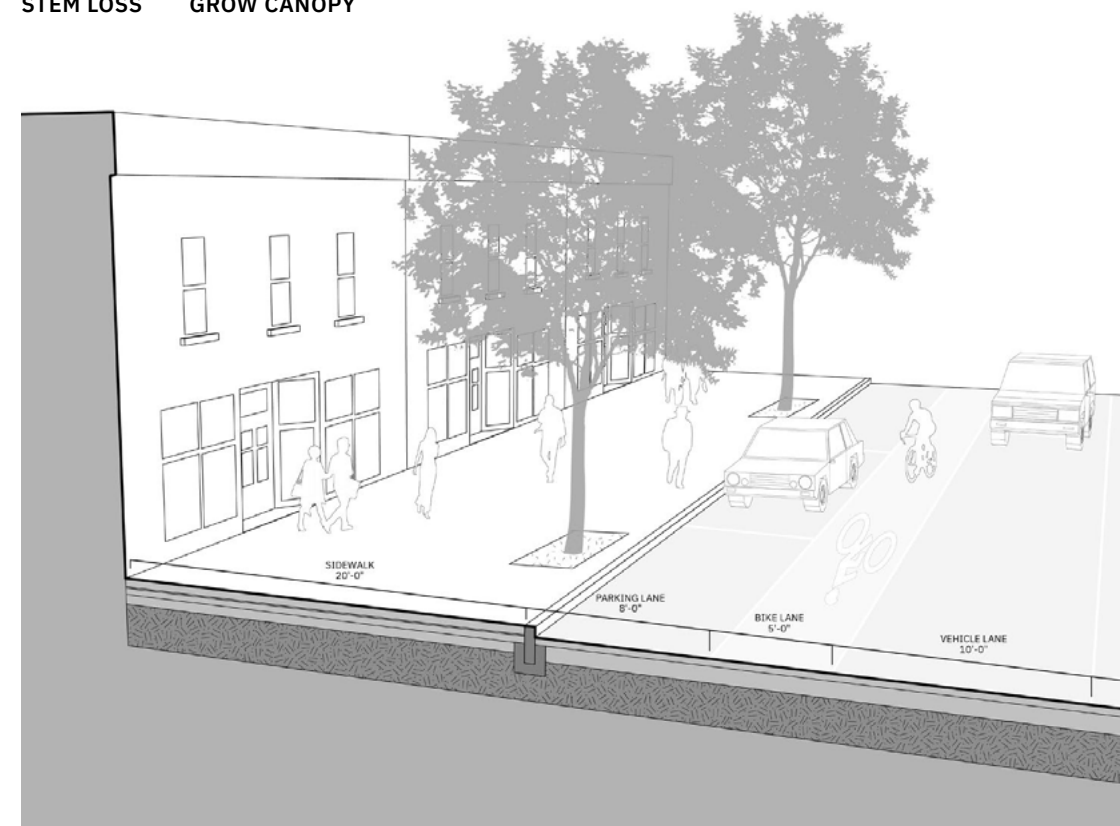
Incentivizes biking by providing a safer bike lane

Expands continuous soil volume

### CONS

Requires complex utility coordination

The cost of redesigning the street



EXISTING



PROPOSED

# STRATEGIES

## Practice strategy 2B

### PRACTICE STRATEGY 2B

## Implement structural pruning for young trees

### IMPACT AREAS



### SUMMARY

The City does not currently conduct structural pruning for young trees and this represents a significant opportunity to improve the long term health of street and park trees.

### PROS

Avoided long term costs

### ANALYSIS

Structural pruning is a type of pruning typically performed on young to middle-aged shade and ornamental trees. The objective is to create a strong and healthy structure so that trees are sturdier under wind, snow and ice loads, and less prone to failures, and so they can live full and useful lives in the landscape. The sooner in the life of the tree that structural pruning is started, the easier and less expensive it is. Waiting until the tree is mature often means larger more disfiguring pruning cuts, cabling and much greater expense.

### CONS

New operational costs



# STRATEGIES

## Practice strategy 2A

### PRACTICE STRATEGY 2A

## Establish a soils management program

#### SUMMARY

Currently the City mulches some of its trees on a regular basis, which is a good way to support organic matter renewal and good soil function. The City has also begun to monitor the impact of salts on street tree soil.

Implementing a program to improve soils health represents an important opportunity to reduce tree mortality and increase canopy growth.

#### ANALYSIS

Injecting liquid biological amendments (compost tea) is an effective method of improving and maintaining soil health. The City is currently in the process of establishing an in-house liquid biological amendment program to treat all newly planted trees. Long term, the City could develop the capacity to treat all street trees once a year on a two year cycle.

#### IMPACT AREAS



#### PROS

Increased survival rates

#### CONS

Cost, primarily for staff time

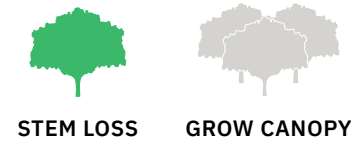
# STRATEGIES

## Practice strategy 2C

### PRACTICE STRATEGY 2C

## Expand watering program

#### IMPACT AREAS



#### SUMMARY

Water availability is the primary determinate of tree health. Providing sufficient water during establishment, when roots are expanding to find additional sources of water is critical to their long term success.

The current tree contract requires the contractor to water newly planted trees for three years, and the City currently utilizes the Tree Ambassador program to water trees for two summers following this initial three year period.

#### PROS

Increased survival rates

#### ANALYSIS

Given the increased planting targets, the City will need to increase its watering program to cover an increased number of new trees. In addition, the City should consider emergency watering during drought.

#### CONS

Increased labor hours



# STRATEGIES

## Practice strategy 3

### PRACTICE STRATEGY 3

## Establish a gravel bed nursery

#### IMPACT AREAS



STEM LOSS    GROW CANOPY

#### SUMMARY

With municipal tree planting, especially at large scale, there is an inevitable holding period between digging and acquiring the trees and planting them. Balled and burlapped trees are less likely to survive if they have extended periods out of the ground, so their planting season is constrained to a few weeks in spring and a few in the fall. If cared for properly, bare root trees enjoy the benefit of an extended planting season. Root dessication is the most critical disadvantage to planting bare root trees, however, proper care in a gravel bed nursery mitigates the risk.

#### PROS

Increases root mass at planting

Increases survival rates

Extends planting season

#### PRECEDENTS

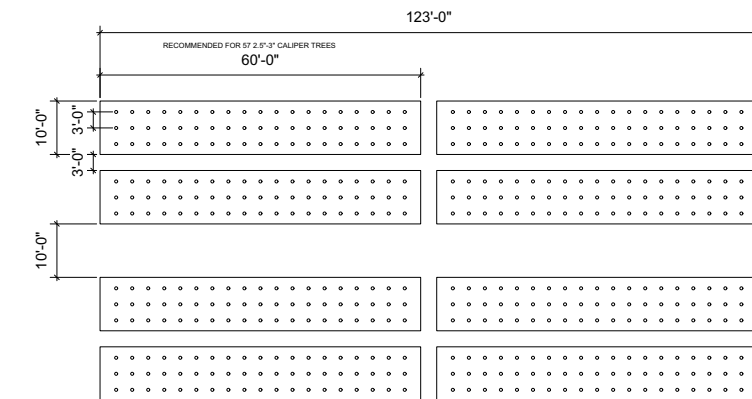
PHS, Philadelphia

Various municipalities in Minnesota

#### ANALYSIS

A gravel bed is an irrigated bed of gravel to place and safely hold bare root or washed containerized stock (aka “heeling in”) for up to 3-6 months. Doing this dramatically increases fibrous root volume, decreasing transplant shock and increasing survivability of the plant. Since bare root stock is typically only available during spring, this also allows for staged plantings throughout the year.

8,200 sf of space is required to store 456 bare root trees



#### CONS

Initial capital outlay to build beds

# STRATEGIES

## Outreach and education strategy 4B

### OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY 4B

## Support community tree planting efforts

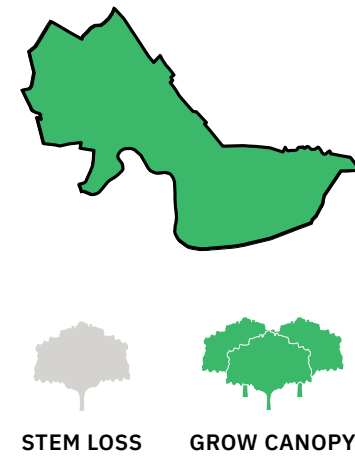
#### SUMMARY

Supporting community tree planting efforts may lead citizens to work together and create more energy and momentum behind planting trees. This may result in groups advocating and planting trees within neighborhoods that are underserved today.

#### PRECEDENT

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful is a nonprofit organization. They offer a community forestry program which residents can apply for tree planting if they find at least 20 spots for trees in their neighborhood. Applicants need to form a small group and need to agree with their neighbors and local business owners to commit to tree preservation.

#### IMPACT AREAS



#### PRECEDENTS

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful





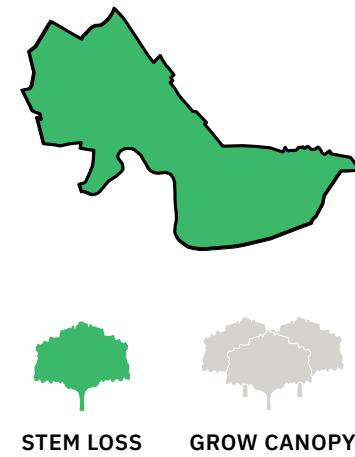
# STRATEGIES

## Outreach and education strategy 1C

### OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY 1C

## Educate local businesses about the dangers of pest outbreaks

#### IMPACT AREAS



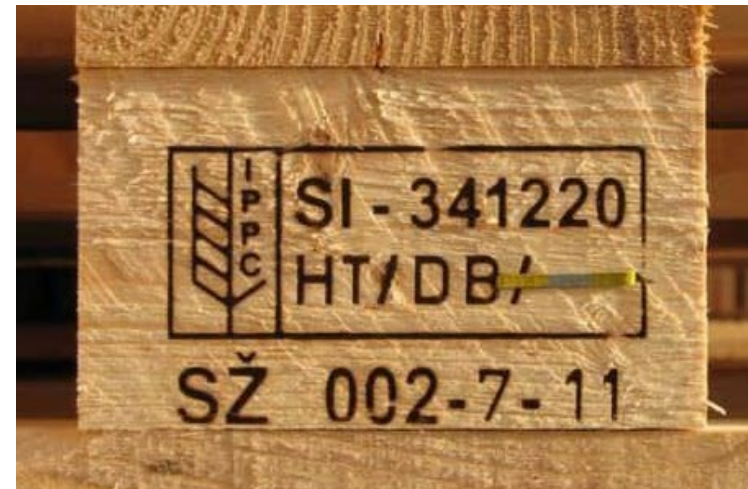
#### SUMMARY

Businesses can help protect the forest by ensuring all wood products are pest free by using ISPM 15 regulated wood packaging material in international trade.

#### ANALYSIS

In 2008, the Asian Longhorn Beetle was found in Worcester, MA, presumably brought in through wood pallets. The city lost 35,000 trees either killed by the beetle or felled by foresters working to contain the infestation.

The ISPM 15 standard describes phytosanitary measures that reduce the risk of introduction and spread of quarantine pests associated with the movement in international trade of wood packaging material made from raw wood.



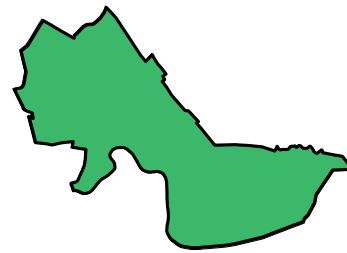
# STRATEGIES

## Outreach and education strategy 1B

### OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY 1B

# Organize tree tours for citizens to engage with trees

#### IMPACT AREAS



STEM LOSS



GROW CANOPY

#### SUMMARY

Organizing tree tours could foster good working relationships between the community and DPW. This is something that the City has implemented in the past but currently is not in practice.

#### ANALYSIS

There are examples of guided walking and biking tree tours in neighborhoods and parks in various cities. For example, the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, organizes guided tours once every season, or four times a year. There are also self-guided tours that allow citizens to access a tree map by using smart phones in some cities such as Seattle (Tree Walk app), Nevada City, Sacramento, and Atlanta.

#### PRECEDENTS

Friends of the Urban Forest, San Francisco  
Tree Walk app, Seattle



Have you ever seen a beautiful tree and wondered what it was? Have you ever wanted to impress your friends by naming trees as you walk down the street? Now, with TreeWalk, you can. This app includes a complete map showing trees around you, their common and scientific names, street addresses, and often leaf image and additional links to websites with further information about the respective trees.

This app is free to use and does not show annoying ads.

Try it on this page - the map on the right is live!

Seattle

~ 166,000 trees

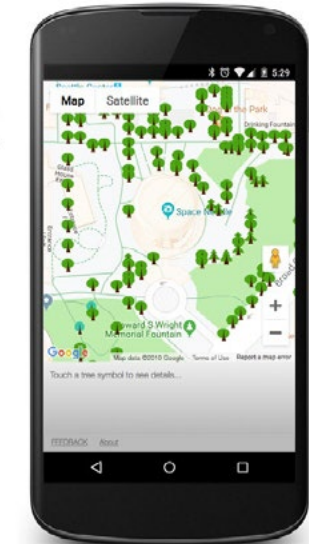
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Tree data provided by [City of Seattle](#), [UW Botanical Gardens](#)





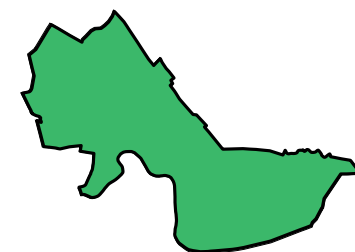
# STRATEGIES

## Outreach and education strategy 2B

### OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY 2B

# Publish annual reports to document progress

### IMPACT AREAS



### SUMMARY

A yearly report card that evaluates the efforts to expand the urban forest, communicate the goals of the state of the forest, communicate the goals of this report, and hold communities accountable for reaching their goals.

### PRECEDENTS

Tree Report Card, Washington, D.C.  
Cambridge MA Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### ANALYSIS

As an example, Casey Trees' tree report card rates Washington DC's urban forest based on four metrics: Tree coverage, tree health, tree planting and tree protection. It also compares previous years' grades.

As with the Cambridge Water Department's Drinking Water Quality Report, the Urban Forest report card could be mailed to all residents.



#### How is Your Water Purified?

The source waters of the Cambridge reservoir system undergo extensive treatment at the Water Pollution Treatment Facility at Fresh Pond Reservoir before drinking water is delivered to your home or business. The water is treated to exceed all state and federal drinking water standards.

- 1) Pre-treatment:** The first steps in the treatment process combine preoxidation with coagulation and dissolved air flotation (DAF) to remove manganese, natural color, sediment and particles, algae, protozoa, viruses and bacteria.
- 2) Ozonation:** Fine bubbles of ozone are dissolved into the water to kill bacteria, viruses, and protozoa.
- 3) Filtration:** The water passes through granular activated carbon (GAC) to remove organic compounds. Filtration also acts as a "polishing step" to remove additional particles, color and protozoa.
- 4) Disinfection:** Chlorine is used to provide the second step of disinfection for redundancy in the overall process and monochloramine is added to maintain a disinfectant residual throughout the distribution system.
- 5) Post Treatment:** The pH of the water is adjusted for corrosion control and fluoride is added for dental health.

The Cambridge Water Department's state-certified laboratory continuously monitors the effectiveness of the treatment process and makes adjustments to the treatment to ensure the highest quality water.

**Come see it for yourself!** Timothy MacDonald, Director of Water Operations, leads tours of the City's beautiful treatment facility. Tours are scheduled for July 8, August 13, September 17, October 15, and November 5, and run from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

#### Did You Know?

- The City of Cambridge owns ~1,400 trees that are protected and nurtured by the City.
- Every year, our watershed parks are home to 1.1 million visitors who enjoy our water resources.
- The City has achieved 177 acres of land for water supply protection since 2012.

#### Go Green with Your Machine

- There are many ways you can save water while still getting clean clothes. Combine laundry to run only full loads, and check out the settings on your machine to select the right water levels and load selection. Also, by switching to an EPA WaterSense washing machine, you can save an average of 21 gallons per cycle, which adds up to around 10,000 gallons per year, enough to fill a 500-gallon water tank!
- To learn more about EPA WaterSense, go to [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

#### How Much Energy Does it Take?

- The Water Pollution Facility (WPF) has the largest electrical usage for a single municipal facility in the City of Cambridge.
- The WPF uses an average of 8 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year, or enough to power over 1,000 homes!

We took a look in 2012 to see how we use energy at the Water Pollution Facility, and got right to work on reducing the "Biggest User" pumping.

As of 2012, we have reduced that by over 50% since 2012.

#### Where Does Your Water Come From?

**Reservoirs**  
The Cambridge Water System extends across four towns and includes four bodies of water: the Hobbs Brook Lower Reservoir and connects with the Stony Brook Reservoir. The water then flows to the Fresh Pond Reservoir through an underground aquifer. The Stony Brook Reservoir watershed extends from Weston north to the town of Lincoln. The watershed for the Fresh Pond Reservoir is completely within the City of Cambridge. Storm drainage modifications were implemented to divert street runoff away from Fresh Pond Reservoir. The contributing watershed area is the first step in a multi-barrier program to protect our drinking water. The combined capacity of the Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook reservoir system is 1.1 billion gallons an additional 1.1 billion gallons of water is stored in Fresh Pond Reservoir. Our water supply is backed up by interconnections to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) system. For a more detailed map of our water sources and their protection areas, please visit [cambridge.gov/water](http://cambridge.gov/water).

**Watershed Protection**  
As part of our ongoing commitment to protecting the water supply, we participated with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in preparing a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report completed in 2013. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of our public water supply and notes the key land use and protection issues, including: Zoned A Land Uses, Residential Land Uses, Transportation Corridors, Hazardous Material Storage and Use, and Presence of Oil or Hazardous Materials Contamination Sites. A copy of the Cambridge SWAP Report can be found on the MassDEP website at [mass.gov/dep/assessments/swap](http://mass.gov/dep/assessments/swap) or at the Cambridge Water Department. Because of the developed nature and types of land uses within the Cambridge watershed, our source waters are considered as having "high" susceptibility to contamination. Susceptibility is a measure of a water supply's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within its recharge watershed area. A source is susceptible to contamination, it does not necessarily mean that recharge watershed has poor water quality. The Cambridge Water Department has taken the following actions to minimize contamination threats to our water supply:

- Work cooperatively with watershed towns on emergency response and stormwater management.
- Place catch basins at strategic points within the watershed.
- Actively monitor source water quality throughout the watershed, using the data to target source protection.
- Work cooperatively with businesses in the watershed to encourage source protection.
- Adopted the Fresh Pond Master Plan, which includes long-term protection measures for the Fresh Pond Reservoir.
- Can provide actual (not estimated) water bill readings quarterly. The MFU is the device connected to your water meter that transmits meter readings to the Water Department. The "high flow" program notifies our customers soon after we detect unusually high water usage, which is typically caused by a leak. This notification allows property owners to make repairs quickly, saving your money and conserving water!
- We need property owners to update their contact information to the Water Department as soon as a "high flow" is detected. Please call Brian McCay at 617-349-4217 or email him at [brian.mccay@cambridge.gov](mailto:brian.mccay@cambridge.gov) with your name, account number, phone number, mailing address, and email address.

#### You Can Save Money!

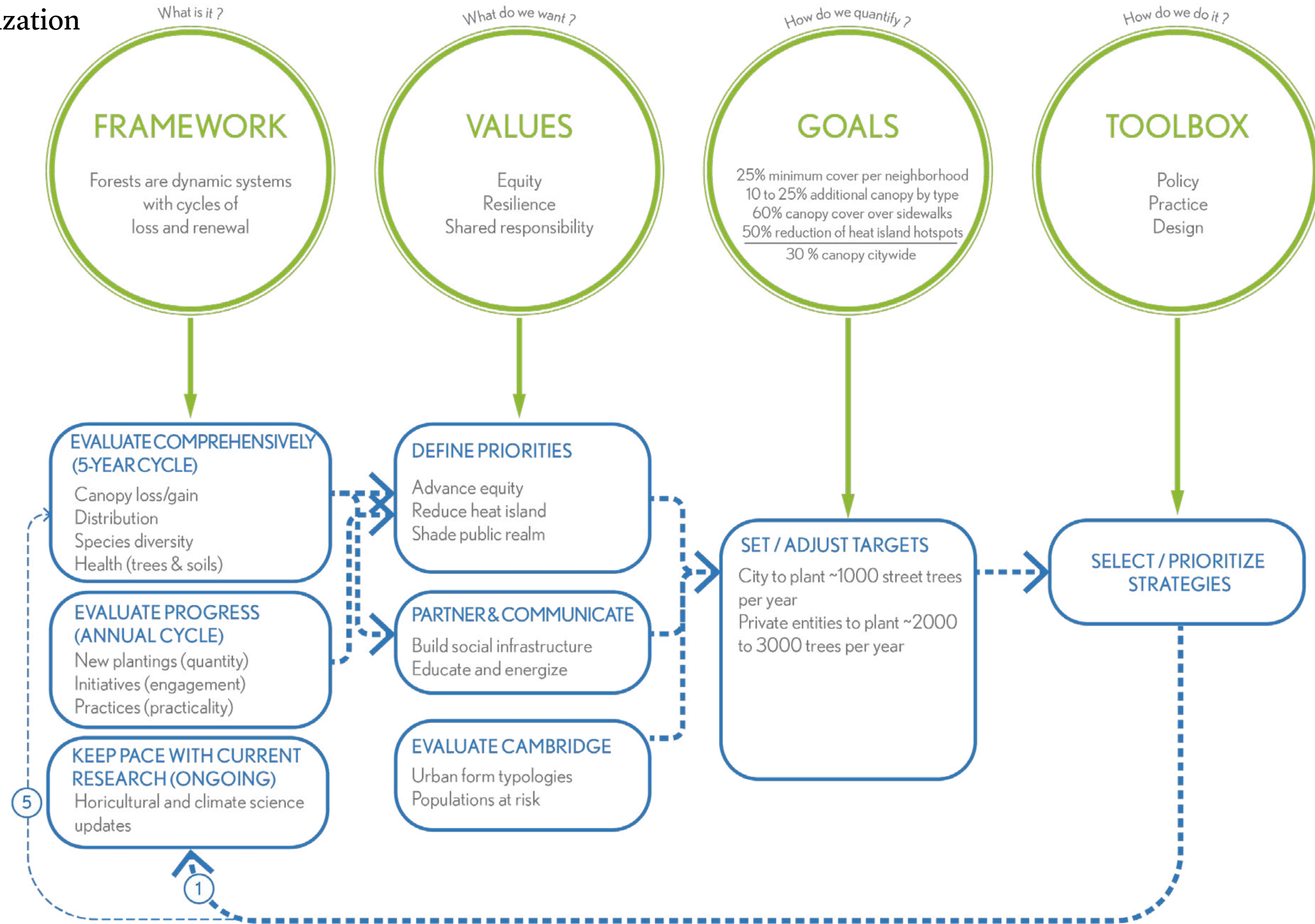
The Water Department is updating the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) System for improved service. We are replacing the Meter Transmitter Units (MTUs) so we can provide actual (not estimated) water bill readings quarterly. The MFU is the device connected to your water meter that transmits meter readings to the Water Department. The "high flow" program notifies our customers soon after we detect unusually high water usage, which is typically caused by a leak. This notification allows property owners to make repairs quickly, saving your money and conserving water!

#### Water Department

For questions about our source water and our protection efforts, please contact Watershed Manager David Kaplan: [dkaplan@cambridge.gov](mailto:dkaplan@cambridge.gov) or 617-349-4799.

# DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Regular evaluation and prioritization





# TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

## Values

### **Trees are a shared resource**

Everyone is subject to the tree ordinance

### **Trees provide benefits to the city**

Voluntary removals necessitate a fee that reflects the value of the lost resource

### **Large trees provide greater benefits and take longer to regrow**

Mitigation requirements are proportionately higher for larger trees, and

The city's largest trees receive special protection

### **The process should be simple and objective**

Homeowners and small projects can use a streamlined replacement formula, and

Large projects use the existing special permit process and a standard valuation formula

### **Not all trees are equal**

Fees are computed based on health, location, and species of tree

### **The process should be equitable**

Owner-occupied properties have reduced mitigation requirements, and

Those on financial assistance have all fees waived

### **Replanting in kind is preferred, but not all sites and project types are equal**

The ordinance encourages on-site replacement,

Allows off-site mitigation planting, and

Makes fees paid to the tree fund the most expensive option

# TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

## Proposed revisions

### **Everyone should be subject to the ordinance**

all property types are under the jurisdiction of the ordinance

### **Protect more trees**

all trees over 6" dbh are covered by the ordinance (currently 8")

### **Protect the largest trees**

protect very large trees (over 30" dbh) from removal in most cases

### **Value trees more accurately**

Use the trunk valuation formula

### **Ensure equitable application of the ordinance**

retain cost mitigation measures

### **Encourage replanting on private property**

expand the uses of mitigation funds (enable a Trust that can plant on private property)



