

# Planning Commission Agenda

Regular Meeting  
**Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 1:15 PM**

City Council Chambers-City Center South  
1001 11th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631  
Zoom Webinar Link:  
<https://greeleygov.zoom.us/j/87097345131>

## NOTICE:

Planning Commission meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month. Meetings are conducted in a hybrid format, with a Zoom webinar in addition to the in-person meeting in Council Chambers.

Members of the public may participate in Planning Commission meetings in the manner that works best for them.

## Watch Meetings:



Meetings are open to the public and can be attended in person by anyone.

## Comment in Real Time:



Join the Zoom webinar (link above). During the public hearing, members of the public may address the Commission.

## Submit Written Comments:



Email comments about any item on the agenda to: [cd\\_admin\\_team@greeleygov.com](mailto:cd_admin_team@greeleygov.com)

Written comments can be mailed or dropped off at the Planning office at 1100 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Greeley, CO 80631. Written comments received prior to or during the meeting will be read into the record in real time.

Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the City's meeting portal at [Greeleyco.municodemeetings.com/](https://greeleyco.municodemeetings.com/)

For more information about this meeting or to request reasonable accommodations, contact the administrative team at 970-350-9780 or by email at: [cd\\_admin\\_team@greeleygov.com](mailto:cd_admin_team@greeleygov.com).



## **Planning Commission**

September 23, 2025, at 1:15 PM  
City Council Chambers - City Center South  
1001 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Greeley, CO. 80631

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### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Approval
4. Approval of September 9, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
5. This is a request to continue an application for the Prairie Hawk Subdivision Preliminary Plat, No. SUB2025-0001 to October 28, 2025. The Subdivision proposes dividing a property 23.99 acres in size into 11 lots. The property is within a Planned Unit Development (Schneider Farm PUD No. 2022-0006).
6. Staff Report
7. Adjournment

### **Workshop**

8. Greeley Urban Forest Strategic Plan, Dana Karcher



## Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025, at 1:15 pm

### 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Andersen called the meeting to order at 1:17 pm.

### 2. Roll Call - Present

Vice Chair Louisa Andersen  
Commissioner Erik Briscoe  
Commissioner Jeff Carlson  
Commissioner Brian Franzen  
Commissioner Larry Modlin

#### **Absent**

Chair Justin Yeater  
Commissioner Christian Schulte

### 3. Approval of the agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.  
The meeting proceeded with the agenda as published.

### 4. Approval of the August 26, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the minutes.

#### **Motion by Commissioner Modlin:**

He moved to approve the August 26, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as published.

**Second:** Commissioner Carlson

**Vote:** Motion carried 5-0

**Absent:** Chair Yeater and Commissioner Schulte

### 5. Staff Report

Don Threewitt (Deputy Director of Community Development) shared that on 9/16/2025 the City Council will hold a hearing on the Cascadia PUD, noting that seating may be limited, and community members are welcome to tune in. On 10/7/2025 the mayor will issue a proclamation recognizing October as *National Community Planning Month*. Staff and partners are encouraged to attend, as it's an opportunity to highlight their vital role in Greeley's planning efforts. Mr. Threewitt also shared that the long-anticipated development code update has officially launched at the staff level. Due to budget constraints, the process will be phased and extend through 2027. The update will be approached in modules, addressing individual chapters in depth with community and stakeholder engagement throughout.

The first chapter under review will cover procedures, focusing on approval processes and related requirements. Work sessions and discussions with consultants and staff are expected in the coming months.

Draft changes will be posted on the *Speak Up Greeley* platform for public review and feedback. Outreach and education will precede formal adoption.

Commissioner Briscoe asked if the Cascadia PUD was presented for first reading to City Council last Tuesday 9/2/2025. Mr. Threewitt confirmed that it was correct and added the second reading and public hearing will take place next Tuesday 9/16/2025.

Commissioner Modlin suggested using this opportunity to take another look at the Comprehensive Plan. While there's no need to start over, the current plan has moved away from where it needs to be. As the city works through code updates one section at a time, there's a good chance to realign parts of the Comprehensive Plan alongside those zoning changes. Because many of these projects are connected, working on them together can save time and effort. This way, parts of the plan can be updated along with zoning rules to better show how one affects the other.

Mr. Threewitt shared that traditionally, cities update their comprehensive plan first, then revise their development code to match. Greeley, however, is currently updating its code based on an older comprehensive plan and several subarea plans.

Mr. Threewitt continued by explaining the city's current strategy involves updating area-specific plans—such as the East and West subareas, with a North subarea and individual neighborhood plans to follow. Each of these plans is built around consistent planning themes, allowing them to be integrated into a full Comprehensive Plan update. Originally planned for 2027, the full update will likely shift to 2028 due to budget constraints. At that point, the collection of subarea and neighborhood plans will form the foundation for a citywide vision. This approach also allows for quicker updates to plans in fast-changing areas, making the city more responsive to development pressures over time.

Commissioner Franzen asked where the department is experiencing financial limitations and whether those are tied to broader funding priorities or other underlying issues.

Mr. Threewitt answered by saying Community Development has the resources to do their work effectively. However, the 2026 budget is still undecided and won't be finalized for at least another month. Recent years have seen lower construction activity, prompting the city to better align projected revenues with expenditure. This year's work plan was ambitious, aiming to fully fund three major projects. As a result, while the West Subarea Plan is fully funded, the East Subarea Plan and code update have been shifted to multi-year timelines. This approach allows for more deliberate planning and community engagement, particularly with the code update. Mr. Threewitt clarified that it's less about current budget cuts and more about adjusting work plans in response to expected revenue trends.

## **6. Adjournment**

With no other questions for staff, Vice Chair Andersen adjourned the meeting at 1:27 pm and moved into the Workshop portion.

## Workshop

7. Culture Parks & Recreation Master Plan, Diana Frick (Director of Culture Parks & Recreation and Jill Krantz (Deputy Director of Culture Parks & Recreation)

Diana Frick (Director of Culture Parks & Recreation) began their presentation by introducing herself, Jill Krantz (Deputy Director of Culture Parks & Recreation) and their presentation as published.

Commissioner Modlin asked what would happen if recreational facilities—both existing and upcoming—were regionalized, particularly those expanding west and southeast. He inquired whether the Metro District tax base could be used to fund new developments in the west, preserving sales tax dollars for maintaining current facilities. Additionally, Commissioner Modlin asked if it's possible to create separate budgets for each region based on known funding sources, enabling more strategic, forward-looking planning.

Ms. Frick answered the first question by saying the department is tracking metro district developments in Greeley, as future programming depends on where growth occurs. With the Family Funplex as the westernmost facility, there are no current plans for expansion. Programming decisions are based on demographics and community input, recognizing shifts in preferences—such as trails and events over playgrounds or rec centers. Ms. Frick answered the second part of the question by saying the development impact fees offer limited support for parks and trails and don't fund cultural or recreation facilities. With rising costs, these fees fall short—like a \$3 million park funded by only \$800,000 in fees. Culture, Parks & Recreation relies on sales, food, and Quality of Life taxes for operations, maintenance, and major projects. The department is exploring long-term funding and reassessing whether small neighborhood parks meet the city's growing need for larger, amenity-rich community parks.

Commissioner Briscoe asked whether any value analysis has been conducted—such as evaluating daily user numbers against potential revenue generation—and where such data might suggest the city should prioritize its efforts. He also asked about the surveys. Ms. Frick answered yes, the team is evaluating its current portfolio to identify the most valuable assets to present to the community.

Ms. Frick responded to Commissioner Briscoe's survey question by saying the same provider conducting the citywide survey is also handling the CPRD survey, and efforts were made to ensure the responses remained distinct. This allows the department to compare focus areas across communities and better understand varying needs. Decision-making involves many factors, as different populations prioritize different programs and facilities. While CPRD aims to offer a broad portfolio, it can't provide everything, so collaboration with partners and awareness of nearby community offerings are key to avoiding duplication and maximizing impact. Conversation ensued between Commissioner Briscoe and Ms. Frick regarding Greeley's swimming pools. Commissioner Briscoe mentioned there are few competitive swimming facilities currently available in Greeley. Ms. Frick shared that many meets are held at the Downtown Recreation Center, and long-term plans include upgrading the centrally located Centennial Pool (built in 1964). The aquatic supervisor sees potential in deepening the pool to enhance its value as both a community resource and an economic driver through swimming meets, tourism, and local use.

Commissioner Briscoe asked how the financial situation reached this point, and whether any funds had been escrowed for deferred maintenance or capital improvements. Ms. Frick noted the city has long struggled with deferred maintenance. Upon her arrival, she directed staff to shift from focusing only on available funding to identifying all facility needs. This new approach led to a comprehensive assessment and the large maintenance estimate recently presented to Council, along with a plan for addressing it.

Commissioner Franzen requested clarification on how parks generate revenue. Ms. Frick shared that field rental revenue is minimal and doesn't cover maintenance or operating costs. An upcoming cost recovery study will evaluate the gap between expenses and revenue, though most park operations are already largely supported by the General Fund. The golf courses were also mentioned by Commissioner Briscoe. Ms. Frick explained that the golf courses are self-sustaining operationally but can't fund capital improvements. Dedicated sales tax supports projects like irrigation replacements and the planned Highland Hills Clubhouse upgrade, which could transform the outdated 1960s facility into a more versatile event venue. Conversation ensued between the Commission and Ms. Frick regarding golf pricing, they addressed the increase in rounds played since COVID, as well as recent golf cart upgrades.

Commissioner Carlson asked, in relation to deferred maintenance, whether there are any imminent safety concerns or if those risks have been effectively managed for now. Ms. Frick indicated that imminent safety concerns have been managed and are being prioritized accordingly.

Commissioner Carlson inquired about the 611 children on the waitlist who were unable to participate, asking whether the waitlist was due to structural limitations such as insufficient facility space or field availability, or if it was related to program fees preventing their inclusion. Ms. Frick confirmed there is a financial assistance program to ensure no one is excluded due to cost. However, the 611 children on the waitlist are primarily due to limited programming space—specifically, no room for additional soccer teams or swim lessons, which had the highest waitlist numbers.

Vice Chair Andersen asked, given that the plan has already been presented to Council, how the Planning Commissions input can assist in refining the process. Ms. Frick expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak, noting a prior scheduling issue. She emphasized the importance of continued advocacy from the group as they work with the community, Council, and city leadership to support services and programming, noting that while advocacy is most helpful. Vice Chair Andersen inquired about the possibility of bonding against the Quality-of-Life tax as a future option and whether this approach would specifically support establishing an escrow fund for quality-of-life capital investments, allowing such funding to be incorporated into capital bond requests. Ms. Frick confirmed that bonding would apply to new projects. Currently, they are inventorying existing facilities to assess maintenance and replacement needs. Discussions about bonding against the Quality-of-Life tax are ongoing with leadership and Council. Ms. Frick noted a recent dedication of funds to the Merge project and expressed interest in bonding as a cost-effective alternative to pay-as-you-go funding for future capital expenses.

With no other questions, the workshop ended at 2:15 pm.

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**(Name) – Chair**

**(Name) – Staff Liaison or Dept Manager**



Community Development  
Planning Division  
MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Greeley Planning Commission

**FROM:** Jeffrey Woeber, Planner III

**DATE:** September 23, 2025

**RE:** Continuance Request

**OVERVIEW**

This is a request to continue an application for the Prairie Hawk Subdivision Preliminary Plat, No. SUB2025-0001. The Subdivision proposes dividing a property 23.99 acres in size into 11 lots. The property is within a Planned Unit Development (Schneider Farm PUD No. 2022-0006).

The property is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

The applicant has submitted a Minor Amendment to the PUD, in order to slightly reconfigure a Planning Area that allows commercial uses.

**REQUEST**

Staff requests the Planning Commission continue SUB2025-0001 to October 28, 2025.

# —CITY OF— **GREELEY** Urban Forest Strategic Plan

Draft, September 2025





## LETTER FROM THE FORESTRY MANAGER

In Greeley, the legacy of planting trees dates back to the city's founding in 1870. Nathan Meeker's vision for Greeley included transforming the arid plains into a lush, green community. His "Village Improvement Campaigns" encouraged colonists to plant trees, which not only beautified the area but also created a shade-filled, livable environment. This sparked a passion for tree planting within the community.

As trees made the journey by railroad to Greeley, the colonists began experimenting with different species, experiencing both successes and numerous failures. Unlike the familiar eastern landscapes, tree survival in the high plains desert critically depended on supplemental irrigation. It was a quick lesson: they wanted trees, they needed trees, but it would take water and strategic care to grow their vision.

As we embarked on developing Greeley's first Urban Forest Strategic Plan, we hoped the process would provide elusive answers to a difficult question: how can we improve the care of our shared and precious tree resource? While there isn't an easy answer to this question, the plan summarizes many small actionable steps available to us as we navigate challenges over the next two decades—one tree and one bucket of water at a time.

Today, we have many advantages in the arboriculture industry that enable us to be successful. Yet, our past has taught us the most important lessons. The work will be hard but fruitful. The challenges will be daunting but rewarding. The benefits trees provide are essential. Future generations of Greeley will be thankful.

Lastly, we are deeply grateful to the participants in this effort who provided their time and passion for the benefit of the community. If you have a desire to contribute to the next generation of Greeley's tree improvement campaign, please let us know, and we will add your interest to our growing list of ambassadors. Opportunities abound to assist with tree inspections, neighborhood awareness campaigns, and planting programs. A continued passion for trees, a tradition in Greeley, will preserve and improve our green legacy for decades to come.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### PLANNING TEAM

Amy Bahar, Communication Specialist  
Dena Egenhoff, Water Conservation Manager  
Meg Oren, Planner  
Ruth Quade  
Shiloh Hatcher, Forestry Manager

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Meg du Bray, Assistant Professor, Geography, GIS and Sustainability  
Gloria Galindo, Lutheran Family Services  
Matt Newell, Owner of Newell Brothers, LLC  
Sandy Magnuson, Greeley resident  
Victoria Leonhardt, Senior Urban Transportation Planner, Public Works  
Becky Safarik, Retired Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager, Greeley resident  
Chelsie Romulo, Associate Professor, Geography, GIS, and Sustainability, University of Northern Colorado  
Robert Molloy, Owner, Planscapes

### CITY PARTNERS

Cemetery  
City Manager's Office  
Clean, Safe, and Beautiful Team  
Code Compliance  
Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department  
Forestry  
Geographic Information Systems  
Neighborhood Resource Office  
Parks  
Planning and Zoning  
Public Works  
Risk and Safety  
Stormwater  
Water Conservation

### PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS

American Turf and Tree Care  
Aims Community College  
City of Cheyenne WY  
City of Fort Collins CO  
Colorado State Forest Service  
Delta Park Coffee Chat  
Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery  
Greater Glenmere Property Owners Association  
Greeley Creative District  
Greeley Downtown Development Authority  
Greeley Evans School District 6  
Greeley Historic Preservation Commission  
Greeley Homeowners Association Workshop Series  
Greeley Morning Garden Club  
Greeley residents  
Greeley/Weld Habitat for Humanity  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Summer Park Homeowners Association  
University of Northern Colorado  
Woody Investments  
Youth Commission

### DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP CONSULTING TEAM

Sam Heywood, Area Manager  
Sandra Albro, Senior Associate Consultant  
Dana Karcher, Business Developer  
Will Ayersman, Project Manager  
Shelby Loy, Senior GIS Analyst  
Nicholas Antenucci, Geospatial Analyst  
Jessica Atsas, Marketing Designer





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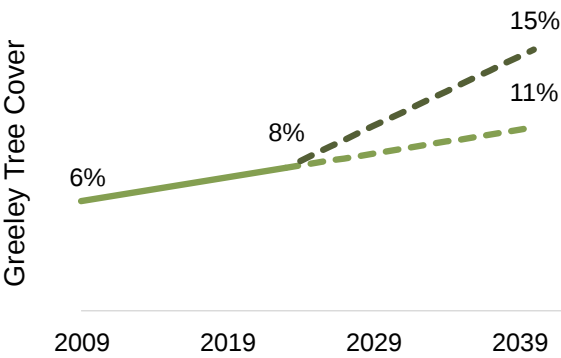
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## GREELEY'S URBAN FOREST

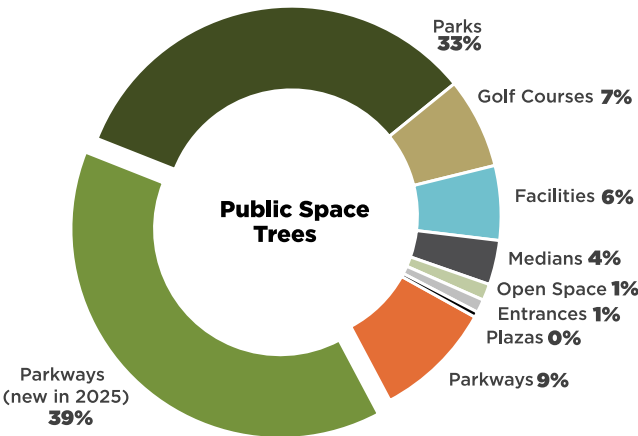
### TREE CANOPY COVER: 8.2%

- Tree cover in Greeley grew by 618 acres from 2009–2023, driven by tree planting on residential land. Residential contains the greatest amount of plantable land area for future tree canopy growth.
- If Greeley were to plant trees on all its High and Very High priority land where the potential for environmental and social benefits is greatest, citywide tree cover would grow to 15%.



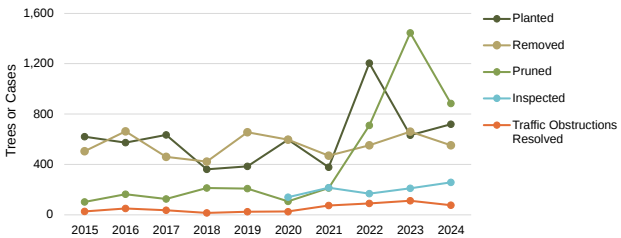
### PUBLIC SPACE TREES

- In 2025, the Forestry Program is transitioning to increased City management of parkway trees adjacent to private property.
- Strategies to improve the resilience of public space trees include increasing tree diversity and planting species that are pest, disease, and climate resilient.



## THE FORESTRY PROGRAM

- In 10 years from 2015–2024, Forestry planted 6,105 trees, pruned 4,168 trees, and removed 5,533 trees.
- To establish a 7- to 10-year routine pruning cycle for public space trees—a long-term cost saving measure that improves the lifespan of trees—the Forestry Program would need to inspect and provide needed care to 2,000–2,850 trees per year.



## FORESTRY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### 1. SUPPORT INFORMED MANAGEMENT OF GREELEY'S URBAN FOREST

Effective and efficient management of natural resources relies on access to updated, high-quality data to guide decision making.

### 2. PROMOTE EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT GROWTH OF CITYWIDE TREE CANOPY

Greeley is on a path of citywide tree canopy growth. Predicted future growth for the city of Greeley presents a mix of challenges and opportunities for future tree canopy.

### 3. INCREASE PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TREES WITHIN PUBLIC SPACE

As Forestry assumes responsibility for more trees in parkways, it will need additional resources to shift to proactive management of trees in public space.

### 4. CONTINUE TO “SHARE THE SHADE” WITH THE COMMUNITY

Public outreach—such as through Forestry’s Share the Shade program—educates residents and helps the City understand the barriers to caring for trees on private property.

### 5. INCREASE CITYWIDE COORDINATION ON URBAN FORESTRY

New channels for communication and tracking will help City staff stay on the same page, implement best practices, and maintain Forestry’s reputation for good customer service.

### 6. EXPAND REGIONAL AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Coordinating with local partners and contributing to regional conversations will help Greeley’s Forestry Program benefit from regional networks of capacity and expertise.



# **SECTION ONE** **INTRODUCTION**

# INTRODUCTION



Since its founding as Union Colony, Greeley residents have been planting and caring for trees. Early village improvement campaigns brought in trees by boxcar and transplanted them from the Cache la Poudre River, foothills, and mountains to provide shade, fruit, and lumber. Newly planted trees struggled to establish in Greeley’s naturally arid climate until the 1880s, when irrigation ditches supplied water that aided in their survival. Today, several state champion trees in Greeley—including a pecan, an Amur cork tree, and a Kentucky coffeetree—stand as living witnesses to these earliest plantings in Colorado.

Greeley was first recognized in 1981 as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to trees. It has maintained that status for 45 consecutive years. In 17 of those years, it earned additional growth awards from the Arbor Day Foundation for a higher level of tree care and community engagement.

Today, Greeley has a well-respected Forestry Program, part of the Parks Division in the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department. Historically, the Forestry Program planted and maintained trees on city-owned land. Beginning in 2025, however, it is expanding its role

to include responsibility for thousands of parkway trees located in public easements on private property. Through its award-winning Share the Shade community outreach program, the Forestry Program is providing residents with resources to further expand tree canopy on private property.

Because of the sustained efforts of the Forestry Program and the community, citywide tree canopy continues to grow. From 2009–2023, Greeley added 618 acres of new tree canopy—an increase of 30%. Meanwhile, the city itself is growing rapidly; its population is predicted to rise by more than 50% over the next two decades. With Greeley’s expected growth come both challenges and opportunities for its urban trees. Some older trees will

inevitably be lost to development, and many homeowners will need guidance to successfully establish trees in the sometimes harsh conditions of the Front Range. At the same time, trees that are planted through new development remain the city’s largest source of new tree canopy.

As Greeley expands, and as city government assumes greater responsibility for trees in public space, the Forestry Program will need to grow to serve more residents, manage more trees, and protect the urban forest against emerging threats. With continued investment in its Forestry Program, Greeley can ensure its tree canopy continues to expand and thrive, promoting the wellbeing of the community and future generations.



## MISSION & VISION

The *Culture, Parks, and Recreation Strategic Plan* establishes a mission and vision statement for Greeley’s park system that have been adapted for Greeley’s urban forest:

### FORESTRY PROGRAM MISSION

Improve Greeley’s tree canopy and steward an urban forest that promotes community, health, and wellbeing for all.

### VISION FOR GREELEY’S URBAN FOREST

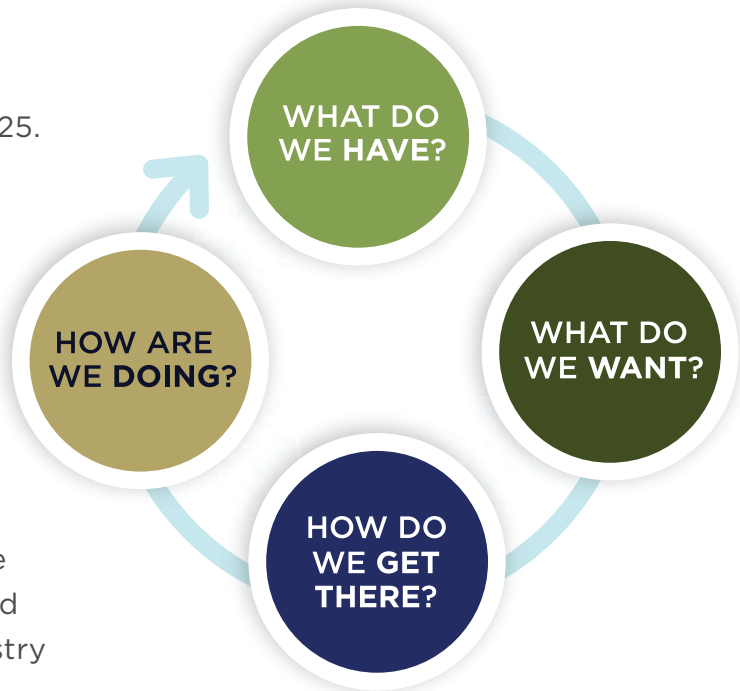
A thriving and vibrant community connected through trees and nature.

# ABOUT THE URBAN FOREST STRATEGIC PLAN

The Greeley Urban Forest Strategic Plan was developed by the Forestry Program and Davey Resource Group, Inc., in collaboration with City departments, external partners, and the community between July 2024 and September 2025. The Plan’s purpose is to set and work toward a 20-year vision for Greeley’s Forestry Program.

The Plan was developed using an adaptive management approach. This method involves ongoing cycles of evaluation, goal setting, planning, and review to help better understand and improve a system (figure 1). As the Plan is put into action, new insights and lessons can be incorporated into Forestry operations, encouraging innovation and allowing the Forestry Program to adapt to changing conditions to care for Greeley’s growing urban forest.

**FIGURE 1.** THE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT CYCLE, USED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREELEY URBAN FOREST STRATEGIC PLAN.



## PLAN OVERVIEW

The Urban Forest Strategic Plan begins with the state of Greeley’s urban forest in 2025. It details the City’s existing Forestry Program and establishes strategic objectives and initiatives for implementation.

- The section, “Greeley’s Urban Forest”, describes Greeley’s citywide tree canopy, public space trees, and potential environmental threats to the urban forest over the next 20 years.
- “The Forestry Program” section describes the structure and operations of the Forestry Program, the City’s policy and planning framework, and partnerships.
- “Forestry Strategic Objectives” and “Plan Implementation” sections detail strategic objectives, strategic initiatives, and an implementation framework to achieve Greeley’s vision of a thriving and vibrant community that is connected through trees and nature.





## **SECTION TWO**

# **GREELEY'S URBAN FOREST**



# GREELEY'S URBAN FOREST

Greeley’s urban forest experienced significant growth and change from 2009 to 2025, reflecting sustained tree planting and stewardship. An urban tree canopy study and tree inventory analysis highlight where canopy growth is occurring, the types and distribution of trees in Greeley, and opportunities to improve the health and resilience of

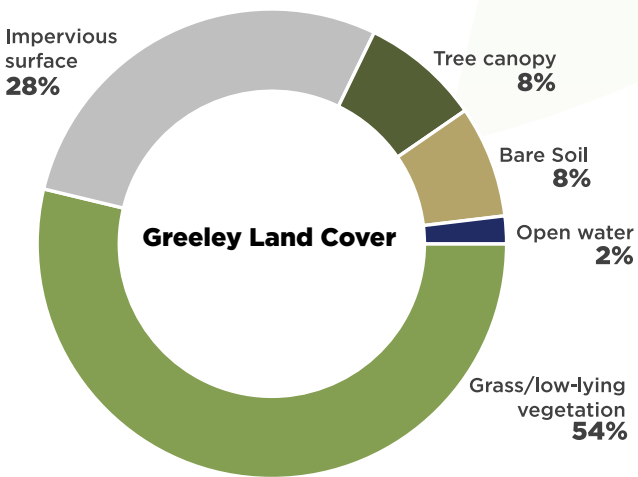
the urban forest. The Forestry Program can use detailed, up-to-date information about its trees to guide management decisions. Over the next 20 years, Greeley can improve the resilience of its urban forest by continuing to diversify its tree population and provide proactive care that helps trees survive and grow.



## CITYWIDE TREE CANOPY

Land cover, including tree canopy cover, was evaluated using GIS analysis of 2009 and 2023 high-resolution imagery from the USDA National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). The analysis examined the location and extent of tree canopy cover in Greeley and how tree cover has changed in Greeley over 14 years. The analysis used 2023 city limits at both time points to facilitate comparison between the two dates.

FIGURE 2. LAND COVER IN GREELEY.



### LAND COVER

The analysis of high-resolution aerial imagery assigned five classes of land cover in Greeley (table 1, figure 2):

- **Tree canopy:** the leaves and branches of trees as viewed from above. In Greeley, 8.2% of city land area is tree canopy cover.
- **Grass/low-lying vegetation:** grass, shrubs, and other vegetation. This is the most common land cover type in Greeley, comprising 53.7% of total city area.
- **Impervious surface:** paved surfaces including roads, buildings, and parking lots. In Greeley, 28.4% of the city is impervious surface.
- **Open water:** areas of open water including lakes, ponds, and rivers; 2.0% of Greeley.
- **Bare soil:** exposed soil as seen in agricultural fields, baseball diamonds, and construction sites; 7.7% of Greeley.

TABLE 1. GREELEY LAND COVER.

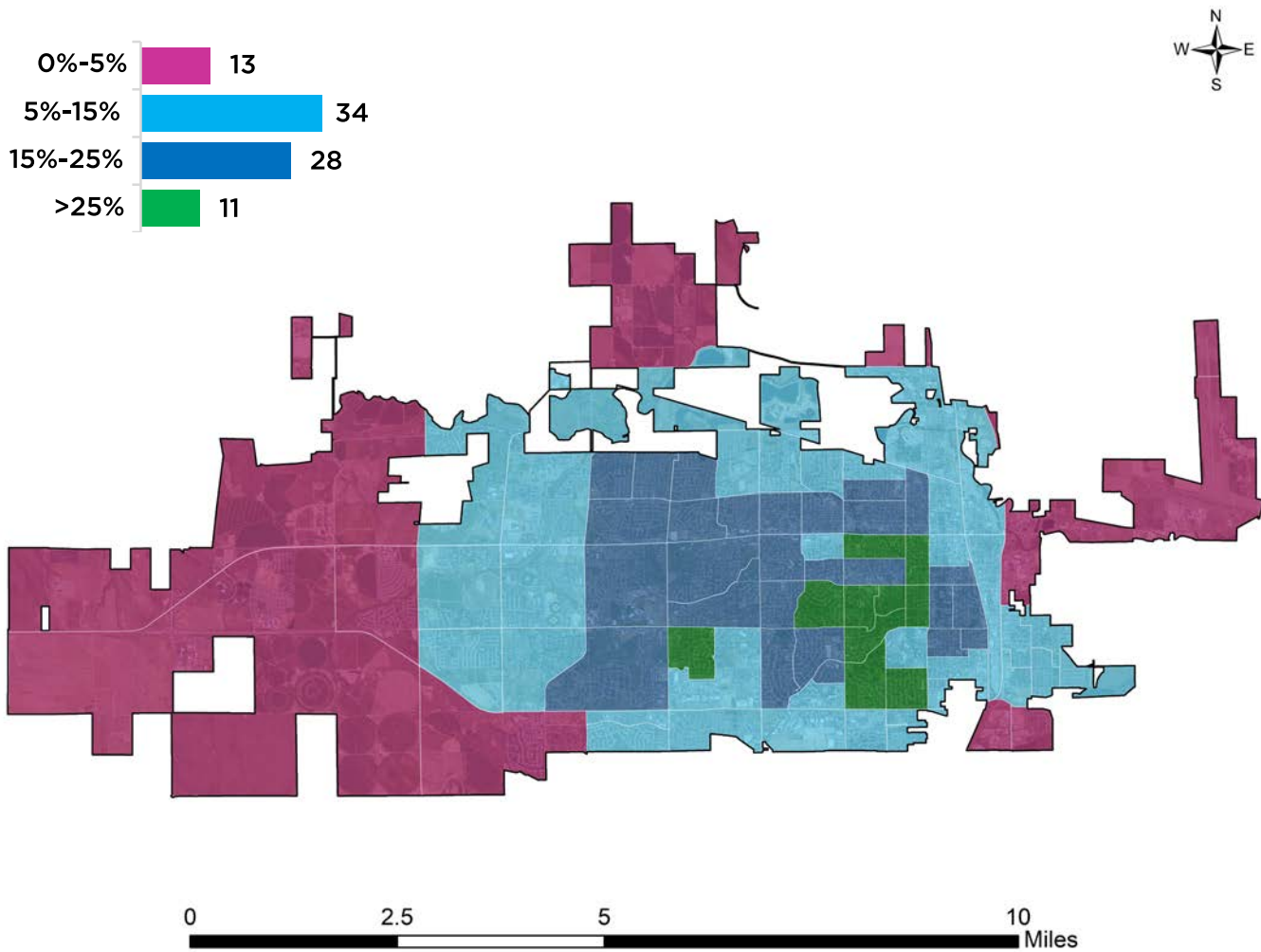
| LAND COVER CLASS           | ACRES         | PERCENT OF CITY AREA |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Tree canopy                | 2,650         | 8.2%                 |
| Grass/low-lying vegetation | 17,355        | 53.7%                |
| Impervious surface         | 9,176         | 28.4%                |
| Open water                 | 629           | 1.9%                 |
| Bare Soil                  | 2,502         | 7.7%                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>32,311</b> | <b>100%</b>          |

TREE COVER AND CHANGE

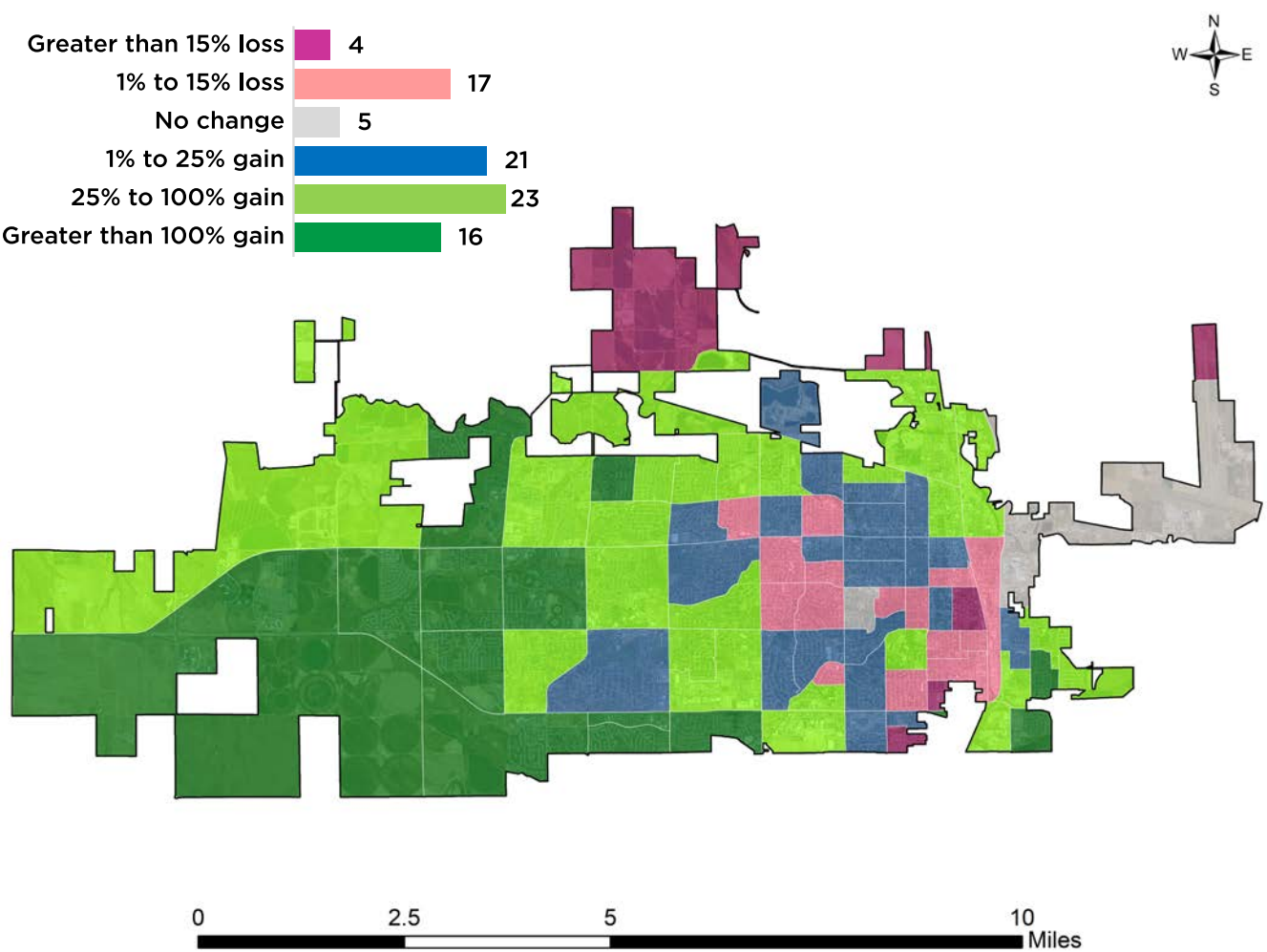
In 2009, citywide tree cover was 6.3%. Across Greeley, tree canopy cover grew by 618 acres (+30.4%) over 14 years. By 2023, tree cover had grown to 8.2%. Downtown Greeley and the area near the University of Northern Colorado campus have the greatest amount of tree

canopy cover, ranging from 15% to 39% tree cover (map 1). These same areas experienced moderate change from 2009-2023 varying from -5% to +5%. The largest growth of tree canopy occurred within dense residential housing west of downtown, where some US Census block groups added more than 30 acres of tree canopy each over 14 years (map 2).

MAP 1. TREE CANOPY COVER BY U.S. CENSUS BLOCK GROUP (2023).



MAP 2. TREE CANOPY CHANGE BY U.S. CENSUS BLOCK GROUP, 2009-2023.



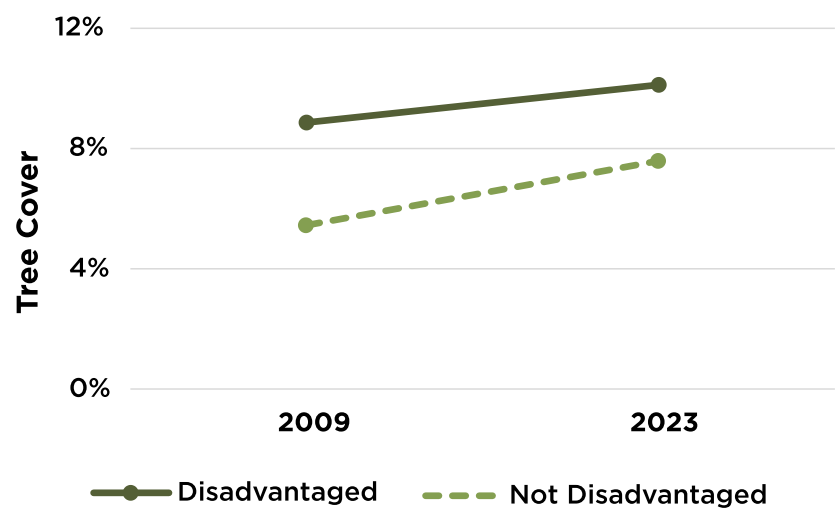
**TREE EQUITY**

The U.S. Climate and Economic Justice Tool (CEJST 2025) was used to identify disadvantaged census tracts in Greeley, where residents may be particularly sensitive to the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of low tree canopy. Fifteen of 40 census tracts in Greeley are designated as disadvantaged by CEJST due to a combination of housing conditions, legacy pollution, and low household income.

On average, disadvantaged census tracts have greater tree canopy cover than non-disadvantaged census tracts in Greeley—10% tree cover versus 8% tree cover in 2023 (table 2). Both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged census tracts added tree canopy between 2009-2023; the rate of canopy growth was highest within non-disadvantaged census tracts (figure 3).

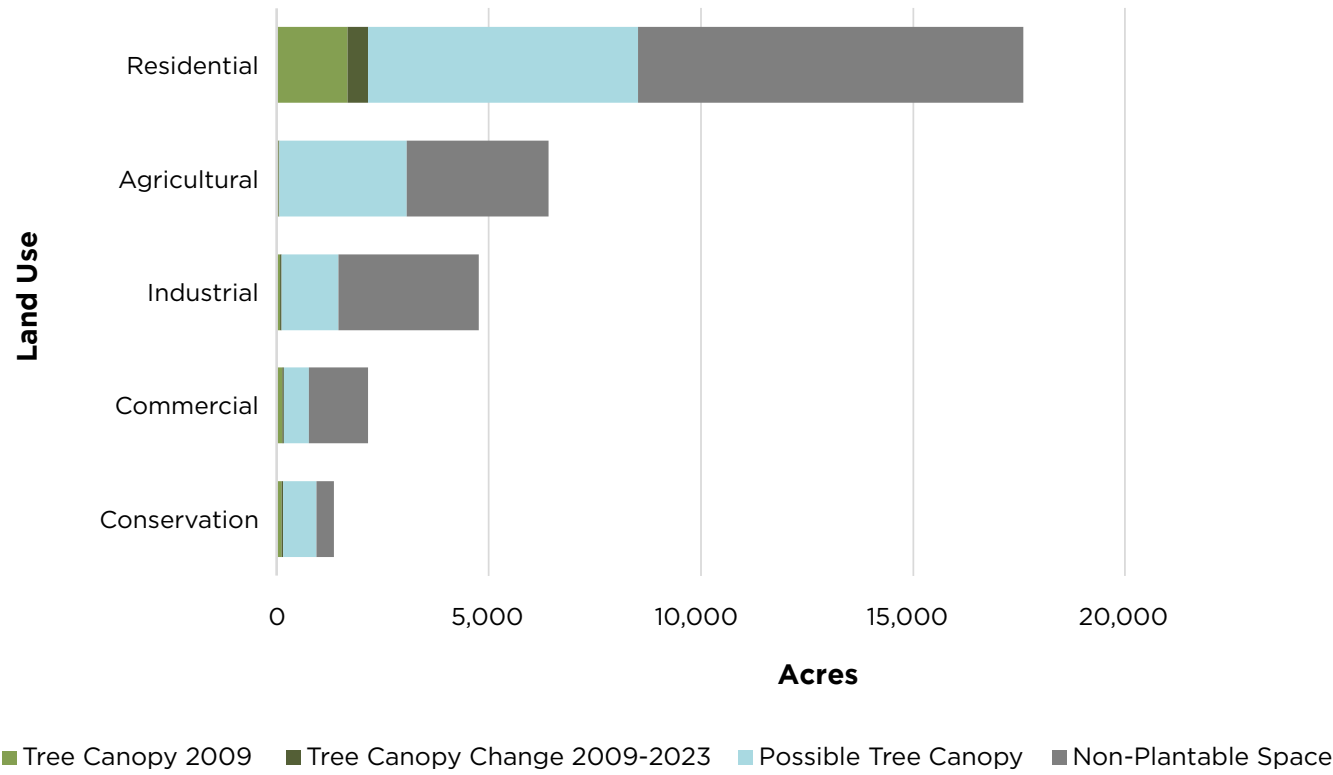
**TABLE 2.** TREE CANOPY COVER AND CHANGE WITHIN CENSUS TRACTS THAT ARE DESIGNATED AS DISADVANTAGED IN THE US CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE SCREENING TOOL.

| CENSUS TRACTS     | ACRES  | TREE COVER 2009 | TREE COVER 2023 | POSSIBLE TREE CANOPY ACRES | MAXIMUM TREE COVER | CHANGE IN ACRES 2009-2023 | PERCENT CHANGE 2009-2023 |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Disadvantaged     | 7,980  | 9%              | 10%             | 2,447                      | 41%                | 99                        | +14%                     |
| Not Disadvantaged | 24,326 | 5%              | 8%              | 9,642                      | 47%                | 520                       | +39%                     |



**FIGURE 3.** AVERAGE TREE CANOPY COVER AMONG CENSUS TRACTS THAT ARE DISADVANTAGED OR NOT DISADVANTAGED ACCORDING TO THE US CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE SCREENING TOOL.

**FIGURE 4.** TREE CANOPY, CANOPY CHANGE FROM 2009-2023, POSSIBLE TREE CANOPY, AND NON-PLANTABLE SPACE BY LAND USE TYPE IN GREELEY.



**TREE CANOPY BY LAND USE**

Residential land in Greeley contains the most existing tree canopy—as well as the most potential to add more. In 2023, residential land contained 2,154 acres of tree canopy, equal to 81% of the city’s urban forest (figure 4). From 2009-2023, tree cover within residential land grew by 492 acres (+30%).

Within residential land, there is an additional 6,356 acres of vegetated area or bare ground that could potentially be planted in trees. Factors including the availability of irrigation and other resources to care for trees limit how much of this area is practical for tree planting.

Within residential land use, low-density residential and planned unit development zoning types had the largest impact on citywide tree canopy growth from 2009-2023, likely driven by trees that were planted after development.

**TREE CANOPY IN PARKWAYS**

Parkway (street rights-of-way) in Greeley are home to 40% of the city’s existing tree canopy. Since 2009, there has been an addition of 265 acres (+33%) of tree canopy within parkways. This makes planting and stewardship of parkway trees an important component of the Forestry Program.

PRIORITY PLANTING AREAS

A priority planting analysis classified 12,038 acres of potential tree planting area within Greeley. Potential tree planting area was identified from land cover that is currently grass/vegetation or bare soil, subtracting areas where trees might conflict with existing land uses, such as agricultural fields, major utility corridors, and sports fields.

The planting priority analysis is a tool for decision making about where to spend limited resources for tree planting and preservation by prioritizing locations where trees will have the greatest public benefit.

Low-density residential land and planned unit developments had the largest impact on citywide tree canopy growth from 2009–2023, driven by trees that were planted after development.



PRIORITY PLANTING FACTORS

Potential planting area was prioritized on a five-point scale from Very Low to Very High based on the ability for trees to address the following environmental and socioeconomic priorities.

Environmental Priorities

- **Stormwater:** Areas where trees can intercept and reduce stormwater runoff.
- **Urban heat island:** Areas where trees can reduce summer temperatures through shade and evaporative cooling.



Social Equity Priorities

- **Racial minority population, low median income, low educational attainment, age (children and seniors), home rentership:** Each of these socioeconomic factors relates to people who experience socioeconomic hardship and/or who are particularly vulnerable to environmental factors that can be affected by tree canopy. In these areas, additional trees can complement a variety of efforts that are aimed at reducing inequality.
- **Mental health, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and heart disease incidence:** Trees have been shown to help alleviate each of these health conditions by reducing stress and cleaning the air.

All Priorities

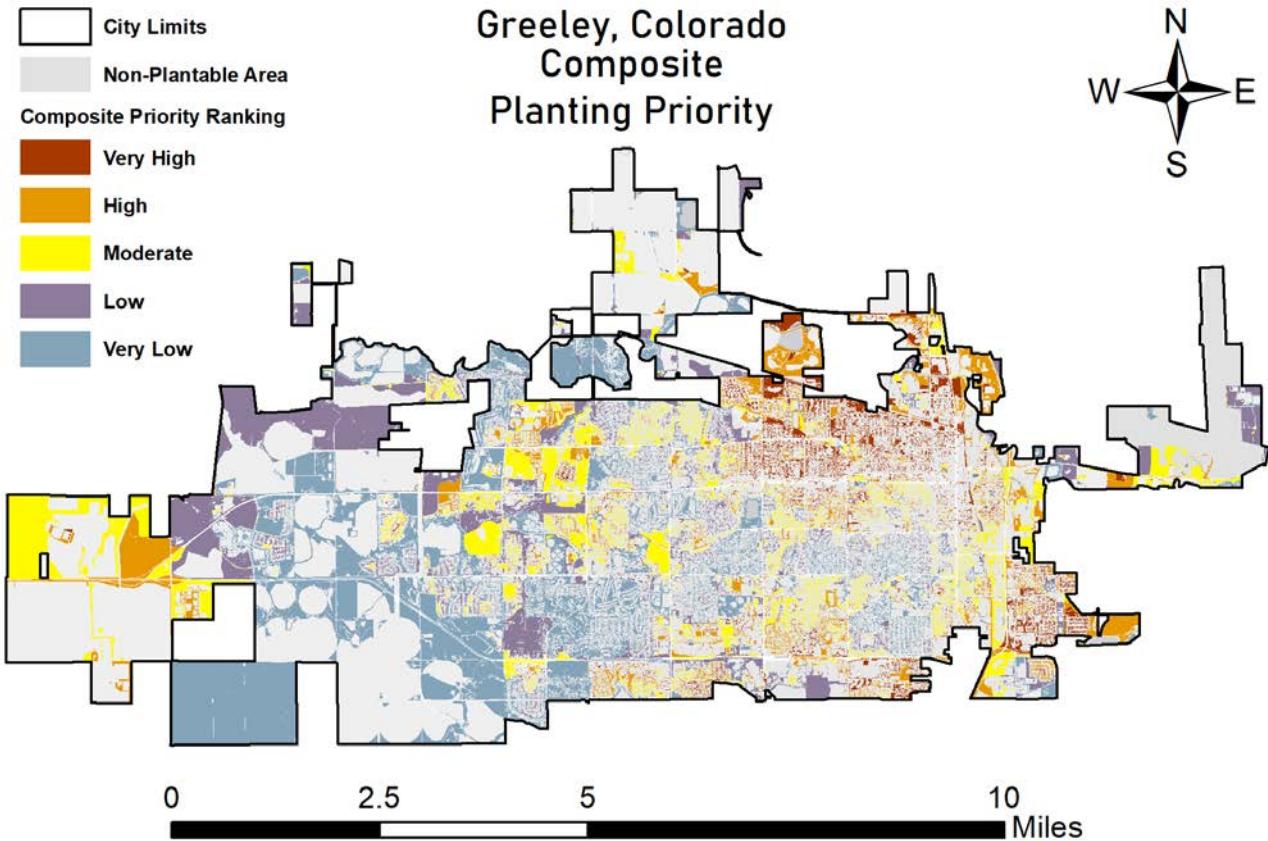
The above factors were combined to identify priority planting areas where trees can address multiple priorities in Greeley. The analysis ranked 2,406 total acres of city area as High (1,628 acres) or Very High (778 acres) priority for additional tree canopy (map 3, table 3). Approximately 323 acres equals 1% of city land area. If all 2,406 acres were planted in trees, citywide tree canopy cover would increase by 7 percentage points.

A tree placement analysis estimated the number of small, medium, and large trees that priority planting areas could hold if fully planted, with priority given to the largest tree a space can hold. It estimated that planting High and Very High priority land area would require an estimated 79,577 trees—no small feat! This demonstrates that there is a lot of potential land area within Greeley where trees can have a large community benefit. This provides options to identify suitable tree planting sites where trees can reduce urban heat, capture stormwater, and build social equity on both public and private land.

TABLE 3. ACRES OF POTENTIAL TREE PLANTING AREA, RANKED BY THE POTENTIAL FOR TREES TO HELP ADDRESS CITY PRIORITIES. IN GREELEY, 323 ACRES EQUALS 1% OF CITY LAND AREA.

| PRIORITY FACTOR             | VERY LOW PRIORITY | LOW PRIORITY | MODERATE PRIORITY | HIGH PRIORITY | VERY HIGH PRIORITY |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Stormwater capture          | 7,650             | 1,535        | 880               | 1,086         | 886                |
| Urban heat island reduction | 1,981             | 3,030        | 4,074             | 2,640         | 313                |
| Social equity               | 3,952             | 4,749        | 988               | 1,366         | 983                |
| Composite (all) priorities  | 4,729             | 2,800        | 2,103             | 1,628         | 778                |

MAP 3. PRIORITY TREE PLANTING AREA RANKED BY THE ABILITY FOR TREES TO ADDRESS A COMBINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND HUMAN HEALTH PRIORITIES.



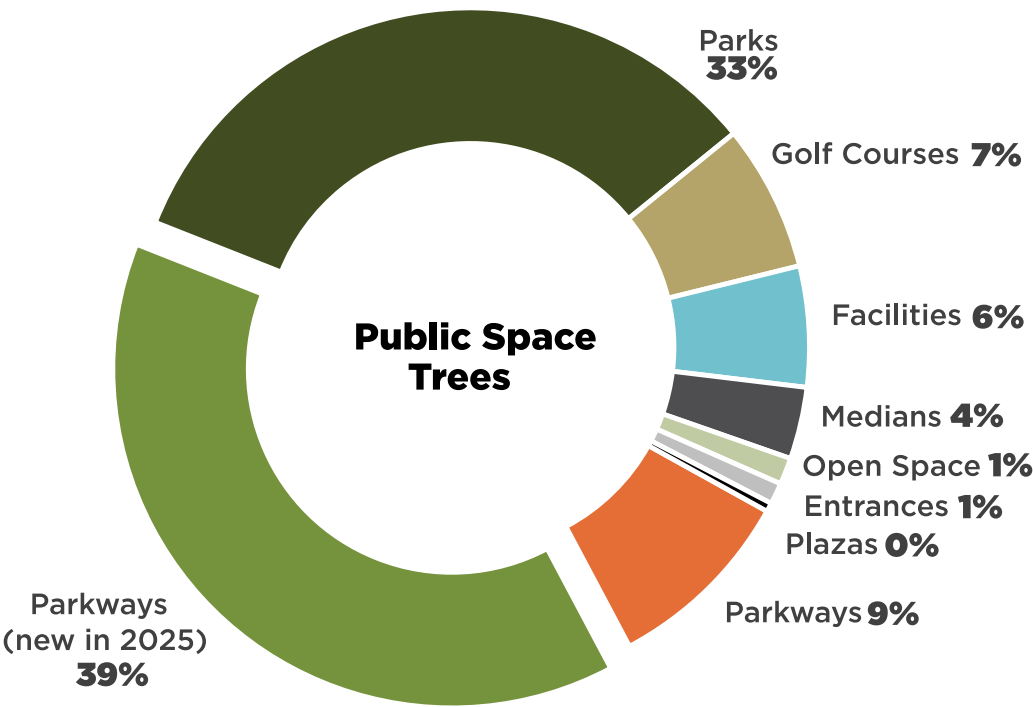
# TREES IN PUBLIC SPACE

Collectively, public property and public easements that transverse privately owned land in Greeley—such as street rights-of-way or “parkways”—comprise **public space** where the Forestry Program owns or manages trees.

The City of Greeley has maintained an inventory of public space trees since 2005. As of spring 2025, the City maintains 20,650 trees, including 12,784 trees on public property and 7,866 trees in parkways adjacent to private property (figure 5).

**Public property and public easements that transverse private property comprise public space where the Forestry Program manages trees.**

FIGURE 5. PUBLIC SPACE TREES BY LOCATION, 2025.

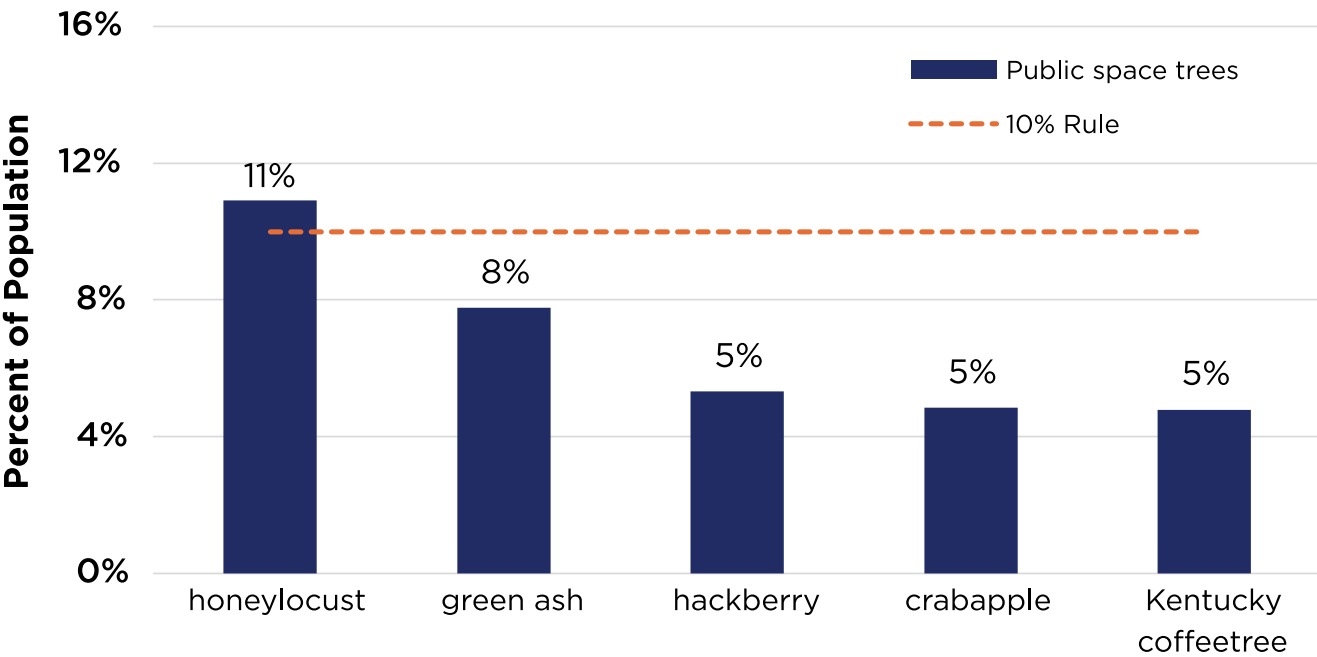


## TREE DIVERSITY

The diversity of an urban forest is one indicator of its resilience to, or susceptibility to, pests and diseases. Tree pests and pathogens often have a limited range of hosts—typically within a species, genus, or family. For this reason, urban forestry industry standards for diversity recommend that no single species of tree should exceed 10% of the total inventory, no one genus should exceed 20%, and no one family should exceed 30% of the total tree inventory (Santamour 1990).

The five most abundant species of trees in public space are honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*, 11%), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, 8%), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*, 5%), crabapple (*Malus* species, 5%), and Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*, 5%). Honeylocust abundance exceeds the recommended threshold for a single species (figure 6). No one genus or family exceeds recommended thresholds.

FIGURE 6. TOP FIVE SPECIES OF INVENTORIED TREES IN GREELEY, COMPARED TO A RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD OF 10% ABUNDANCE OF ANY SINGLE SPECIES.



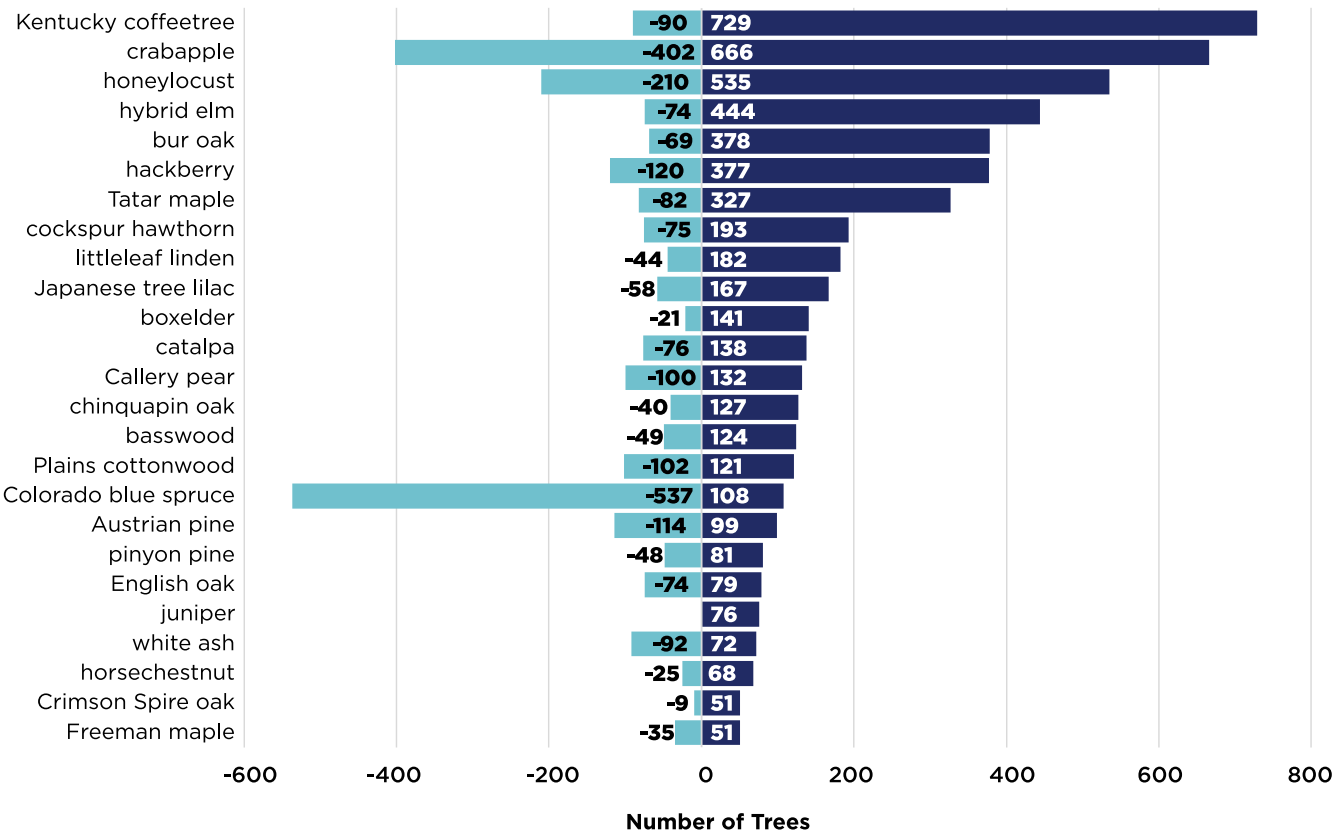
TREE SPECIES CHANGE OVER TIME

The Forestry Program maintains detailed information about trees that are planted and removed each year. These data show how tree removal and replacement shifted the species composition of the public tree population from 2015-2024 to include more Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*), elm, and other species (figure 7). Crabapple and honeylocust were heavily planted and, in 2025, are also highly abundant within the public tree population (see figure 6). Becoming more selective about where

these species are planted in the future can help reduce their overabundance in the inventory.

From 2015-2024, crabapple and Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) were removed more than other species of trees. The reasons for removal were not always documented but could provide insight into selection of these species in future plantings. For example, it is known that many blue spruce removals were due to *Ips* beetle mortality; planting blue spruce in areas where they are less likely to become stressed can reduce their susceptibility to *Ips* infestation.

FIGURE 7. NUMBER OF TREES BY SPECIES THAT WERE PLANTED AND REMOVED WITHIN PUBLIC SPACE, 2015-2024.



INVASIVE SPECIES

Three tree species that are found within the Greeley tree inventory are listed as noxious weeds by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (2025). There are 348 specimens within the Greeley tree inventory belonging to these species:

- Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), 9 trees, Noxious Weed List C
- Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), 39 trees, Noxious Weed List B
- Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), 300 trees, Noxious Weed List C

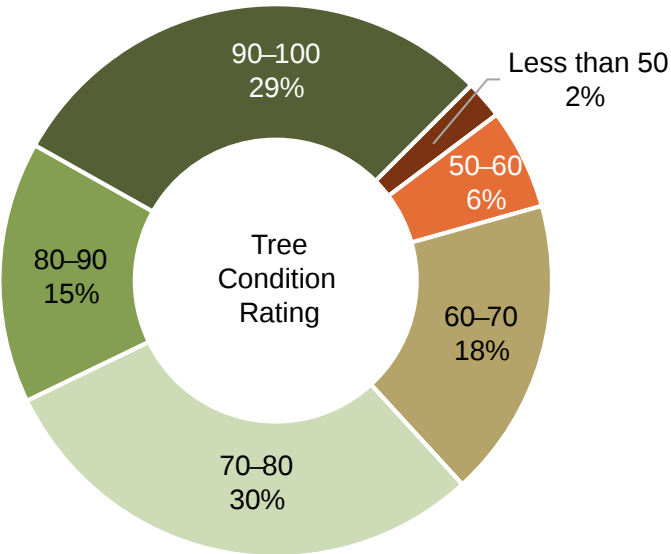
The state management goal for List B species is to stop the spread of these species. This means that the City and community of Greeley should not intentionally plant Russian olive and should remove any seedlings of these trees as they are encountered. Established trees should be replaced with new species as they die or are removed in the course of normal management.

State goals for List C species include supporting jurisdictions that elect to control these species. The *Forestry Program Standard Operating Procedures* manual (2022) prohibits the planting of Russian olive and Siberian elm. At this time, it is not necessary to remove these trees solely based on their species.

TREE CONDITION

City of Greeley staff assigned a condition rating to inventoried trees ranging from 0 to 100, with 100 representing perfect condition and 80 considered average (figure 8). Trees rated 60 or lower are monitored more frequently, while those below 50 are considered marginal and may be considered for removal based on additional factors such as size, species, and location. The median condition rating of public space trees is 85.

FIGURE 8. PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC SPACE TREES BY CONDITION RATING. 100 REPRESENTS PERFECT CONDITION.



TREE SIZE AND ESTIMATED AGE

Trunk diameter measured at breast height (DBH) can be used to estimate tree age. A recommended age distribution of approximately 40% young trees, 30% established trees, 20% maturing trees, and 10% mature trees can help to ensure succession and spread out the maintenance needs over a tree population over time (Richards 1983).

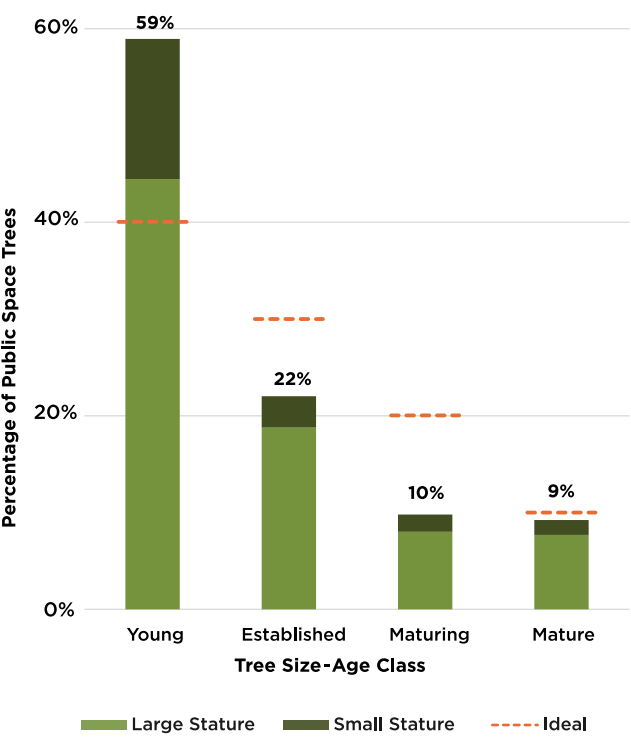
Two size class groupings were used to estimate the age of trees based on whether they are large- or small-stature species at maturity (table 4). Examples of large-stature species include honeylocust and green ash. These trees require significant space both above and below ground, but they also have the potential to provide greater benefits to the community. In contrast, small-stature species can often be planted in tighter spaces, such as sidewalk pits or near buildings, and are valuable for providing shade and habitat in small areas. Examples include crabapple and serviceberry (Amelanchier).

TABLE 4. SIZE-AGE CLASS GROUPINGS FOR LARGE- AND SMALL-STATURE SPECIES BASED ON TRUNK DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH).

| SIZE-AGE CLASS | LARGE STATURE | SMALL STATURE |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Young          | 0–8"          | 0–4"          |
| Established    | 9–17"         | 5–8"          |
| Maturing       | 18–24"        | 9–12"         |
| Mature         | > 24"         | >12"          |

Nearly two-thirds (59%) of Greeley’s inventoried tree population is young, while there is a shortage of trees within established and maturing age classes (figure 9). The abundance of mature trees (9%) is close to the recommended proportion of the population. In the near term, the abundance of young trees will require the Forestry Program to increase resources that are devoted to tree establishment and young tree training. Over time, the growth of young trees into larger age classes can help to right-size the age distribution.

FIGURE 9. PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC SPACE TREES BY STATURE AND AGE CLASS. AGE CLASSES WERE DETERMINED BY TRUNK DIAMETER (DBH). LARGE STATURE: >35 FT HEIGHT AT MATURITY; SMALL STATURE: ≤35 FT.



TREE BENEFITS

The i-Tree software suite was used to quantify the benefits that citywide tree canopy and public space trees provide (i-Tree 2023). i-Tree Eco models (estimates) tree benefits based on data inputs about the location and quantity of tree canopy cover and the species, size, condition, and location of inventoried public trees (table 5).

Greeley’s tree canopy provides ecosystem benefits that are valued at more than \$15 million per year in savings to residents and businesses. The value of these benefits is calculated from avoided costs to remove air pollution, capture carbon, and treat water that would otherwise be paid by the Greeley community if trees did not perform these services. Annual savings have increased by \$99,341 since 2009 with growth of tree canopy across the city. Of these benefits, public space trees account for \$53,723 in annual savings and have an estimated replacement value of \$40 million.

TABLE 5. SELECT ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS PROVIDED BY GREELEY’S CITYWIDE TREE CANOPY AND PUBLIC SPACE TREES.

| TYPE             | ECOSYSTEM BENEFIT                       | CITYWIDE QUANTITY | CITYWIDE VALUE | CITYWIDE 2009–2023 CHANGE | PUBLIC SPACE QUANTITY | PUBLIC SPACE VALUE |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Annual Benefits  | Air quality: pollution removal (pounds) | 144,800           | \$6,562        | +\$1,640                  | 6                     | \$30,090           |
| Annual Benefits  | Carbon sequestration (tons)             | 2,270             | \$387,875      | +\$96,969                 | 99                    | \$16,801           |
| Annual Benefits  | Stormwater: avoided runoff (gallons)    | 327,740           | \$2,929        | +\$732                    | 764,569               | \$6,832            |
| Annual Benefits  | Total annual benefits                   | n/a               | \$397,366      | +\$99,341                 | n/a                   | \$53,723           |
| Structural Value | Carbon storage (tons)                   | 88,720            | \$15,130,677   | +\$3,782,669              | 6,215                 | \$1,060,052        |
| Structural Value | Replacement Value                       | n/a               | n/a            | n/a                       | n/a                   | \$39,957,775       |

# BENEFITS OF TREES

## TREES IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT

**Trees Clean the Air.** Trees act as natural air filters, intercepting particulates and removing pollutants from the air, saving 850 lives and preventing 670,000 incidents of acute respiratory illness each year in the US.<sup>1</sup>

**Trees Cool Cities.** High temperatures in urbanized areas contribute to urban heat island effect, which occurs when impervious surfaces such as roads, buildings, and sidewalks trap and hold heat. The cooling effects of trees prevent an estimated 250–350 heat-related deaths each year in the US.<sup>2</sup>

**Trees Absorb Stormwater.** Trees intercept, absorb, and retain stormwater, which helps to remove water pollutants, reduce erosion, and lower the risk of flooding. In Greeley, mature trees in public space capture an average of 166 gallons of water per year.

**Trees Reduce Irrigation Use.** Although trees need water to survive, the cooling effects of trees reduce the loss of irrigated water due to evapotranspiration, which reduces the overall water needs of irrigated landscapes.

**Trees Increase Biodiversity.** Trees provide habitat and food for a wide variety of wildlife, supporting biodiversity and maintaining the health of local ecosystems.

## TREES BUILD COMMUNITY

**Trees Increase Safety & Community.** Trees enhance neighborhoods by adding to neighborhood character, strengthening ties between neighbors, reducing violent crime, and providing an overall sense of safety.<sup>3</sup>

**Trees Promote More Sustainable Travel.** Trees growing in street rights-of-way slow traffic and cool pavement, making streets safer and more comfortable for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit users.<sup>4</sup>

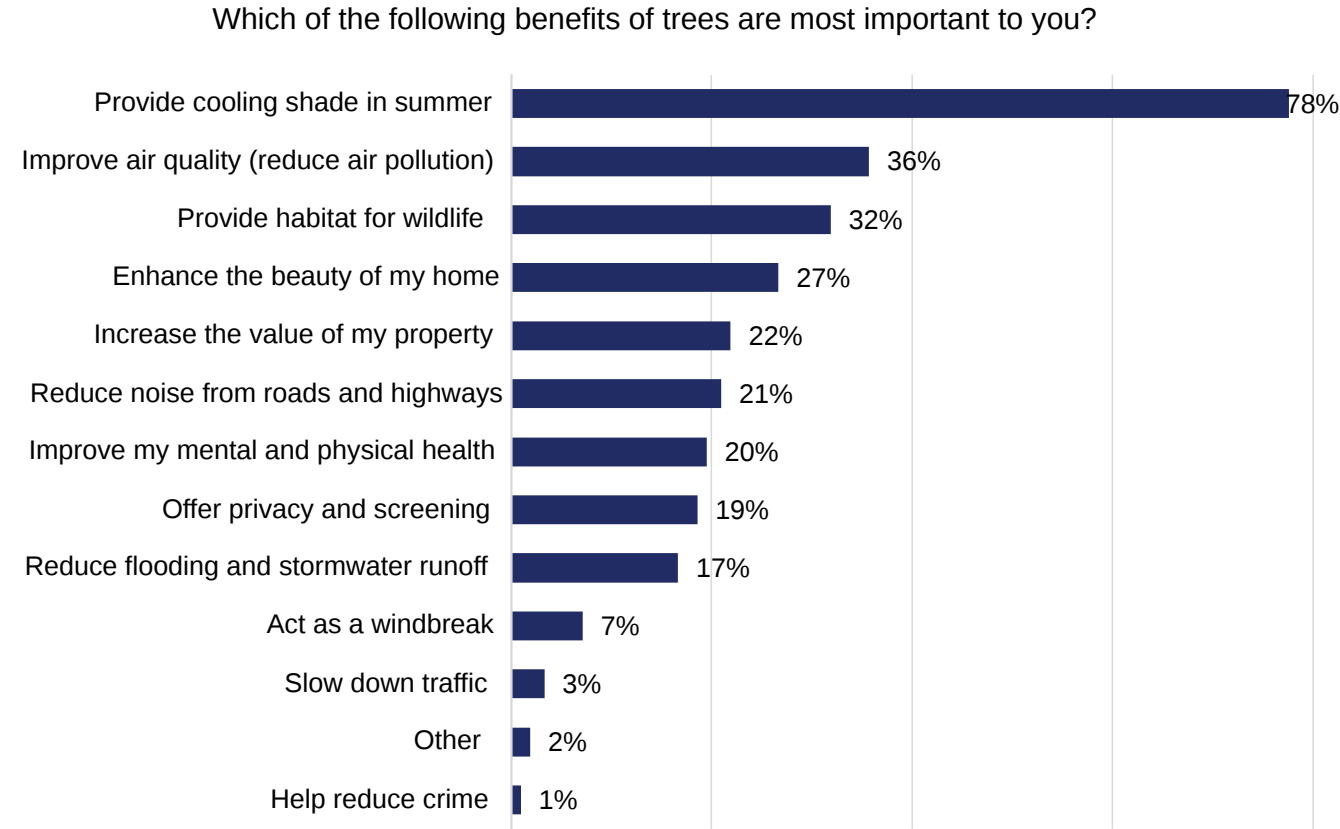
**Trees Enhance Commercial Districts.** Shoppers spend more time in shaded shopping districts and are willing to spend more on products, services, and parking at businesses with trees in front of them.<sup>5</sup>

**Trees Improve Public Health.** Living in neighborhoods with more trees is associated with better overall health, including lower rates of obesity, more social cohesion, less stress, and lower blood pressure.<sup>6</sup>

**Trees Save Energy.** Strategically placing trees around a home can reduce energy costs for the average household by \$100 to \$250 per year.<sup>7</sup> At a city scale, trees reduce the energy costs associated with water treatment and air purification.

**Cultural Heritage.** Trees have a rich cultural history along the Front Range, with species such as Ponderosa pine and cottonwood having a strong cultural and historical significance.

FIGURE 10. COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS ABOUT PRIORITY TREE BENEFITS (207 RESPONDENTS).



Sources: 1 Nowak, David J. et al. 2014. "Tree and forest effects on air quality and human health in the United States." Environmental Pollution 193: 119-129. 2 McDonald, Robert I. et al. (2020) "The value of US urban tree cover for reducing heat-related health impacts and electricity consumption." Ecosystems 23, no. 1: 137-150. 3 Kuo, F. E. 2003. The role of arboriculture in a healthy social ecology. Journal of Arboriculture, 29(3), 148-155. 4 Ewing, R., Dumbaugh, E. 2009. "The built environment and traffic safety: a review of empirical evidence." Journal of Planning Literature, 23(4), 347-367. 5 Wolf, K.L. 2005. Business district streetscapes, trees, and consumer response. Journal of Forestry, 103(8), 396-400. 6 Ulmer, J.M. et al. 2016. Multiple Health Benefits of Urban Tree Canopy: The Mounting Evidence for a Green Prescription. Health & Place, 42, 54-62. 7 U.S. Department of Energy. 2003. Low-Income Community Energy Solutions. State and Local Solution Center, Washington.

# PEST AND DISEASE VULNERABILITY

Tree pests and diseases often prefer certain species and genera of trees. The vulnerability of a tree population to pests and diseases can be estimated from its species and genus composition. Tree diversity helps to protect a tree population against large losses.

The replacement value of Greeley’s public space trees was estimated using i-Tree Eco (2023) software from actual tree attributes including trunk diameter. Of the pests and diseases of most concern over the next 20 years, the three with the greatest potential impact have not yet

been detected in Greeley (table 6). Asian longhorned beetle poses the greatest threat to public trees, targeting one third of Greeley’s public space trees with predicted economic impacts of up to \$20 million. As of 2025, Asian longhorned beetle has not been detected in Colorado. However, it tolerates a broad range of climate conditions and targets many different tree hosts, making it a potential pest of concern in Greeley in the future.

Additional pests and diseases not listed below may affect the tree population in Greeley, and many more trees, including those on private property, may be susceptible to damage or loss.

TABLE 6. VULNERABILITY OF GREELEY PUBLIC SPACE TREES TO PESTS AND DISEASES OF CONCERN, AND THE ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT VALUE OF TREES FROM I-TREE ECO.

| PEST NAME               | NUMBER OF SUSCEPTIBLE TREES | PERCENT OF TREES | REPLACEMENT VALUE (\$) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Asian longhorned beetle | 7,206                       | 36%              | \$20,004,877           |
| Spotted lanternfly      | 3,197                       | 16%              | \$6,306,594            |
| Emerald ash borer       | 1,991                       | 10%              | \$8,065,887            |
| Oak wilt                | 1,606                       | 8%               | \$1,496,513            |
| Western spruce budworm  | 1,332                       | 7%               | \$4,335,105            |
| Pine wilt nematode      | 1,240                       | 6%               | \$3,452,818            |
| Dutch elm disease       | 1,021                       | 5%               | \$3,646,974            |
| Spruce beetle           | 924                         | 5%               | \$3,288,698            |
| Ips beetle              | 856                         | 4%               | \$3,214,158            |
| Mountain pine beetle    | 561                         | 3%               | \$1,010,695            |

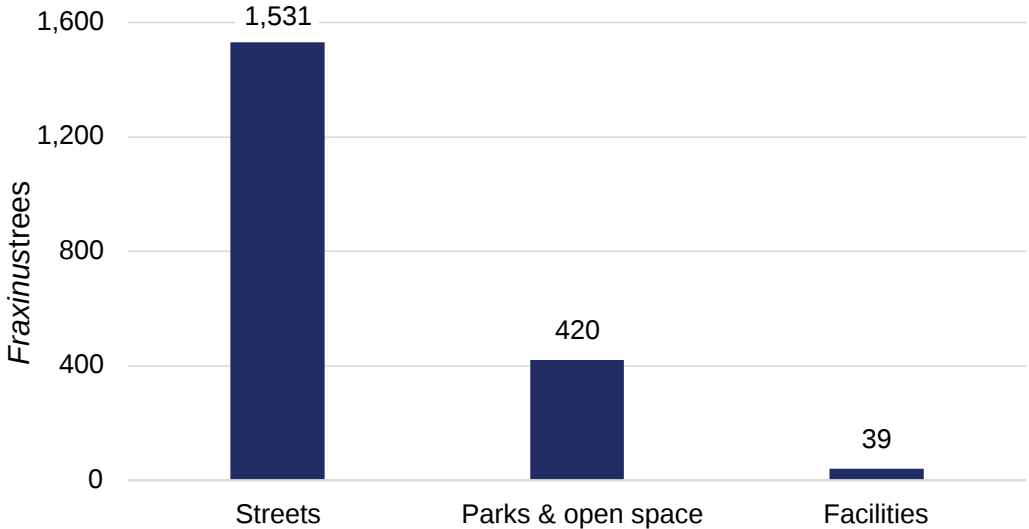
# PEST SPOTLIGHT: EMERALD ASH BORER

Based on 2024 tree inventory data, 1,991 ash (Fraxinus) trees within public space will require treatment or removal due to emerald ash borer (EAB) over the next two decades (see callout box, “Emerald Ash Borer”). The estimated replacement value of these trees is \$8.1 million (table 6). Three quarters of public space ash trees are located in street rights-of-way adjacent to private property, where ash comprises 19% of inventoried street trees (figure 11). These figures do not include ash trees on private property.

A comprehensive management plan for EAB can serve as a model for future responses to tree pests and diseases by the City of Greeley. A selective inventory of ash trees on private property can help the City estimate the total impact of EAB in the coming years. Ash trees should be routinely inspected for EAB infestation on both public and private land. Education campaigns can teach residents to monitor private trees.



FIGURE 11. ASH TREES IN PUBLIC SPACE THAT ARE AT THREAT OF LOSS DUE TO EAB.



# EMERALD ASH BORER

Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*, EAB) is an exotic, invasive beetle that feeds on ash (*Fraxinus*) trees, resulting in decline and death of nearly all local ash trees within 5-10 years of its arrival. EAB larvae feed on tree tissues that transport nutrients and water, effectively girdling trees. Adult beetles exit bark via characteristic D-shaped holes. They prefer to lay their eggs on the bark of isolated, stressed trees, which makes EAB particularly successful in cities. They have few natural predators outside of their native range of northeastern Asia.

As of 2025, emerald ash borer has not been confirmed in Greeley. It was first documented in Colorado in 2013 and has since been found in Fort Collins (2020), Loveland (2024), and Denver (2025). Individual ash trees can be treated with insecticide injections every 2-3 years for the remainder of their lives to protect them against EAB. Other management techniques to slow the spread of EAB include removing infected trees and releasing parasitoid wasps as biological control agents.

EAB has already resulted in the loss of hundreds of millions of ash trees throughout North America and threatens to kill 99% of the ash population of 8.7 billion trees over time. The projected economic impact of EAB within urban areas is \$900 million in management costs.

Sources: Michigan State University 2025; Hudgins and colleagues 2024



Once EAB is active in Greeley, a treatment approach must be defined that helps the Forestry Program choose from among possible courses of action for ash trees in public space that include doing nothing, removing infected trees, or treating trees. Economic impacts include the cost of pruning, removal, and treatment of ash trees as well as replacing removed trees. Indirect economic impacts include the loss of tree benefits such as shade and wind protection that reduce electricity costs.

Where resources allow, individual ash trees in good condition can be regularly treated with insecticide to extend their lifespan. It is recommended that the City maintain a list of trees that are receiving treatment on public and private land to ensure continuity in treatment across land transfers and personnel changes.



# CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Greeley’s semi-arid climate means that many tree species that are suitable for urban planting require irrigation or supplemental water to thrive. The Colorado Climate Center (2024) predicts that future environmental stressors to trees in Greeley include increasing temperature, more frequent and prolonged drought, and more frequent extreme weather events.

## DROUGHT TOLERANCE

In 2024, irrigation status was documented for 65% of tree sites within Greeley public space. Data about the presence and type of irrigation for all planting sites can assist with tree species selection and drought response.

Drought tolerance information is available for 109 species in the public space tree inventory, comprising 75% of trees (table 7):

- Low drought tolerance: 22 species, 851 trees
- Medium drought tolerance: 65 species, 9,018 trees
- High drought tolerance: 22 species, 5,248 trees

Choosing from among species with high and medium drought tolerance will increase the resilience of the tree population to drought while reducing water requirements.

TABLE 7. TREE SPECIES WITH LOW DROUGHT TOLERANCE, AND THE NUMBER OF TREES WITHIN GREELEY PUBLIC SPACE.

| SPECIES: LOW DROUGHT TOLERANCE | NUMBER OF TREES |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Populus deltoides              | 384             |
| Salix babylonica               | 103             |
| Acer rubrum                    | 99              |
| Abies concolor                 | 84              |
| Populus tremuloides            | 57              |
| Populus angustifolia           | 51              |
| Ulmus davidiana                | 17              |
| Prunus maackii                 | 17              |
| Magnolia stellata              | 10              |
| Salix matsudana                | 5               |
| Prunus padus                   | 4               |
| Diospyros virginiana           | 3               |
| Aesculus flava                 | 3               |
| Betula occidentalis            | 3               |
| Fraxinus nigra                 | 2               |
| Picea abies                    | 2               |
| Betula nigra                   | 2               |
| Betula pendula                 | 1               |
| Cornus alternifolia            | 1               |
| Acer palmatum                  | 1               |
| Salix alba                     | 1               |
| Nyssa sylvatica                | 1               |

## EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Extreme temperatures that impact trees include high summer temperatures, low winter temperatures, and short-lived, extreme fluctuations that may occur in spring and fall. The resilience of a tree population to temperature extremes is dependent on complex factors including individual tree traits, overall tree diversity, and site conditions. Continuing to increase the diversity of trees in public space and collecting information about the reasons for tree mortality and removal can provide information about tree species that are locally suited to changing temperature conditions in Greeley.

## GENERAL SUITABILITY

The Front Range Tree Recommendation List® (2024) is published by a coalition of green industry partners in Colorado. It evaluates tree species for suitability in the Front Range based on a variety of factors including cold hardiness, salt tolerance, water needs, and native status. Plant Select® (2025) is another regional resource for tree species recommendations. Plant Select promotes trees that are suitable based on their performance at test sites across Colorado over 3–5 years.

In total, 133 tree species are “Recommended” or “Recommended for Most Sites” by one or both of these resources. Nine of these species (46% of the inventory) are already abundant within Greeley public space, having at least 500 specimens in the tree inventory (figure 12). An additional 74 species have at least one specimen in the Greeley public space inventory (26% of the inventory), and 50 species are not present in Greeley public space at all. Species that are recommended but not

abundant can be evaluated for suitability in Greeley to increase tree species diversity; however, there may be practical reasons why these species are not already present.

Of species that received a rating of “Not Recommended”, eight are present within the Greeley public space tree inventory, comprising 2,730 trees or 14% of the tree inventory. Of these, most are ash trees that are no longer recommended for planting in Colorado due to the threat of emerald ash borer.



## SAVING WATER IN GREELEY

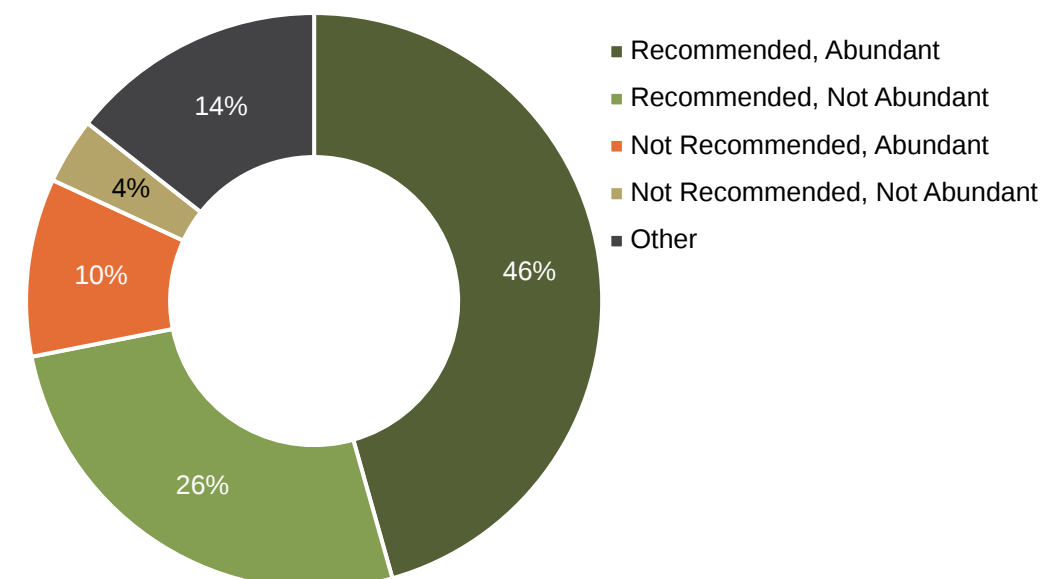
**Did you know that irrigation makes up 50%–70% of Greeley’s annual water use? Trees can be an important tool for reducing irrigation needs. While trees need**

**water to survive, they also provide shade and cool the air, which can reduce the overall water needs of irrigated spaces.**

Tree-friendly water conservation is supported by a number of Greeley programs and policies. For example, tree watering is exempted from drought restrictions, and new developments are required to provide drip irrigation for trees. Greeley’s Life After Lawn program successfully promoted trees as shrubs as bluegrass replacements. That program is in need of new funding to continue advocacy for water conservation in Greeley..

Sources: Shashua-Bar, Pearlmutter, and Erell 2009; Rasmussen and colleagues 2021; Greeley Water Conservation

**FIGURE 12.** PORTION OF GREELEY’S PUBLIC SPACE TREES THAT ARE RECOMMENDED OR NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SUITABILITY IN THE FRONT RANGE BY REGIONAL TREE SPECIES SELECTION RESOURCES, AND WHETHER THEY ARE ABUNDANT (≥500 SPECIMENS) OR NOT ABUNDANT (<500 SPECIMENS) IN THE 2025 INVENTORY.



# NATURAL AREAS

The City of Greeley owns 1,000 acres of natural areas. Trees within these areas have not been surveyed and are mostly not under active management. As of 2025, management of natural areas does not fall under the Forestry Program. However, information about trees within natural areas—such as the abundance

and potential loss of ash trees—may affect Forestry’s management decisions within public space. In the future, a sample inventory of natural areas can provide data to help guide the effective management of trees within natural areas.



# SUMMARY: GREELEY’S URBAN FOREST

The tree canopy study and public space tree inventory provide important information about Greeley’s trees to help guide management of the urban forest.

- From 2009–2023, citywide tree canopy cover grew by 618 acres (+30.4%) to 8.2%.
- A majority of the city’s recent growth in tree cover took place within low-density residential land and planned unit developments in Wards 3 and 4. Low-density residential land also contains the largest amount of existing tree canopy and the most land for potential tree canopy growth.
- A priority planting analysis identified 2,406 acres of land in Greeley (7% of city area) as High or Very High priority for tree canopy to address environmental and social priorities.
- Public Space trees are dominated by young trees (63%), while established and maturing trees are underrepresented.
- The five most abundant tree species comprise 34% of the Public Space tree population. Eleven percent of trees are honeylocust, which is more than a recommended 10% limit for any one species.
- Eight percent of the public space tree inventory (1,992 trees) are ash trees that will require treatment or removal due to emerald ash borer over the next several years. This does not include ash trees on private property, where ash may be more abundant.
- Shifting the species composition of Greeley’s urban forest toward species that are resilient to pests, diseases, drought, and storm damage will help protect the urban forest against future threats.



**SECTION THREE**  
**THE FORESTRY  
PROGRAM**



# THE FORESTRY PROGRAM

Greeley's Forestry Program is housed within the Parks Division of the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department. In 2025, Forestry is in a period of transition toward increased stewardship of parkway trees that are adjacent to private property. Prior to this, planting and management of parkway trees was the responsibility of private property owners, with the City helping to oversee private stewardship through code compliance.

This transition will increase the resources that are required to shift to proactive management of trees within public space. Proactive management includes routine tree maintenance, structural pruning of young trees, and thoughtful species selection during tree planting. It is a cost-saving and risk-reducing investment that can also extend the lifespan of trees.

**Proactive management is a cost-saving and risk-reducing investment that can also extend the lifespan of trees.**



## FORESTRY OPERATIONS

As of 2025, the Forestry Program stewards 12,784 trees on public property. Through the City's move toward expanded maintenance of parkway trees adjacent to private property, Forestry is assuming responsibility for an additional 7,869 trees.

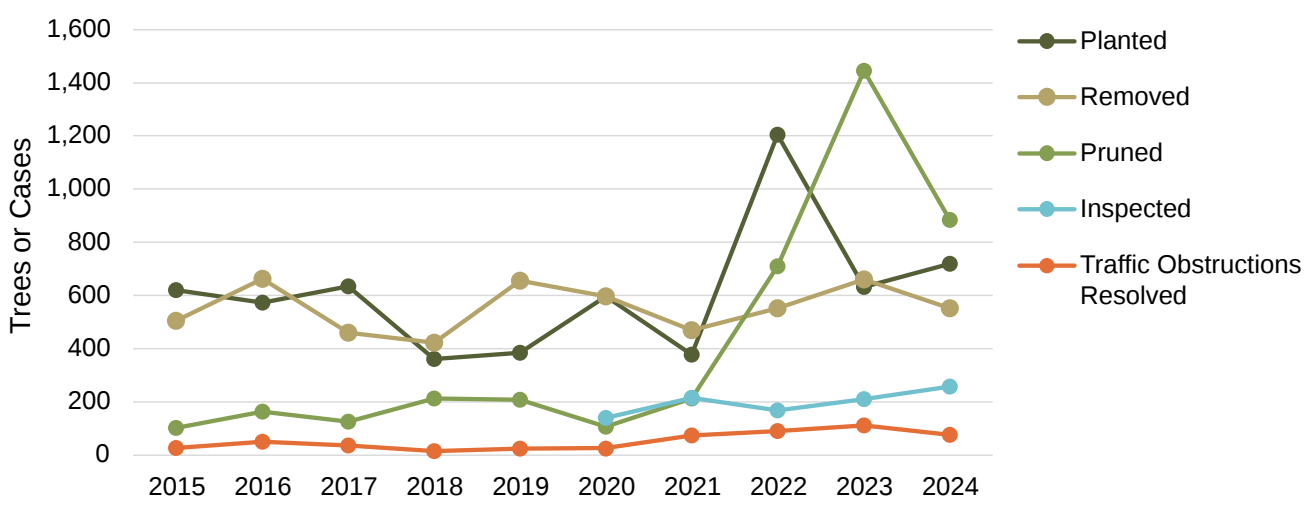
### FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

Over 10 years from 2015–2024, Forestry planted 6,105 trees, pruned 4,168 trees, and removed 5,533 trees (figure 13).

### Inspection

The Forestry Program is data driven, prioritizing the use of information in decision making. Forestry maintains a current, GIS-based tree inventory that is updated on a five-year cycle. The inventory captures information about attributes including tree species, size, condition, location, and site information.

FIGURE 13. ANNUAL FORESTRY ACTIVITIES, 2015–2024.



Planting & Removal

Forestry plants an average of 611 trees per year. Since 2021, it has provided free trees to residents to be planted on private property through its Share the Shade program.

Forestry removes an average of 553 trees per year. In future years, the number of required tree removals is predicted to increase with expanded stewardship of parkway trees, and with ash mortality due to emerald ash borer, which will increase tree removal needs by an estimated 200–400 trees per year for 5–10 years after its arrival. This will also increase demand for planting to replace lost trees.

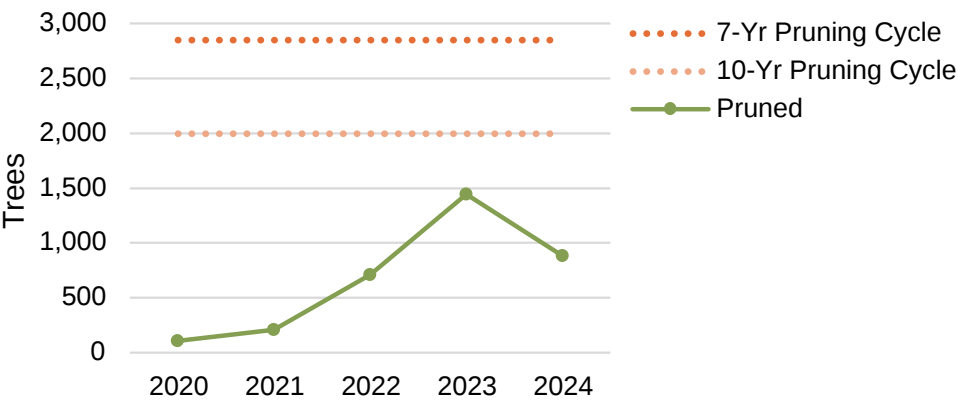
Pruning

Forestry conducts a mixture of reactive and proactive pruning (trimming) of trees. Young tree care, including watering, mulching, and structural pruning, tends to be more proactive, while mature tree care tends to be more reactive.

In the seven years from 2015–2021, Forestry pruned an average of 161 trees per year (figure 13). From 2022–2025, the average increased to 1,013 trees per year as Forestry allocated more resources toward tree maintenance to reduce the proportion of tree care that is reactive.

To establish a 7- to 10-year routine pruning cycle for public space trees, the Forestry Program would need to inspect and provide needed care to approximately 2,000–2,850 trees per year (figure 14). This is a conservative estimate of maintenance needs, as not every tree that is inspected will require care.

FIGURE 14. FORESTRY PROGRAM ANNUAL PRUNING (TRIMMING) COMPARED TO ESTIMATED PRUNING NEEDS UNDER A 7-YEAR AND 10-YEAR MAINTENANCE CYCLE.



THE IMPORTANCE OF ROUTINE TREE MAINTENANCE

While deferring routine maintenance can save money in the near term, lack of maintenance creates problems that are more expensive to address down the road.

COST SAVINGS

- Structural pruning of young trees costs a fraction of pruning mature trees and can prevent costly problems later in life. Young tree pruning helps to save between \$25–\$54 per tree in pruning costs 20 years later.
- Storm damage and emergency requests cost up to 50% more than preventative tree maintenance.
- Inadequate street clearance caused by low-hanging branches damages street sweepers, snow plows, buses, and trucks.
- Private property damage from public trees can result in damage claims against the City.

Inspecting and providing needed maintenance to trees on a regular cycle (every 3 years for young trees and every 5–10 years for established trees) can improve the condition and reduce maintenance costs of the urban forest.

Sources: Miller and Sylvester 1981; AECOM 2013; Ryder and Moore 2013; Vogt, Hauer, and Fischer 2015 (adjusted for inflation)



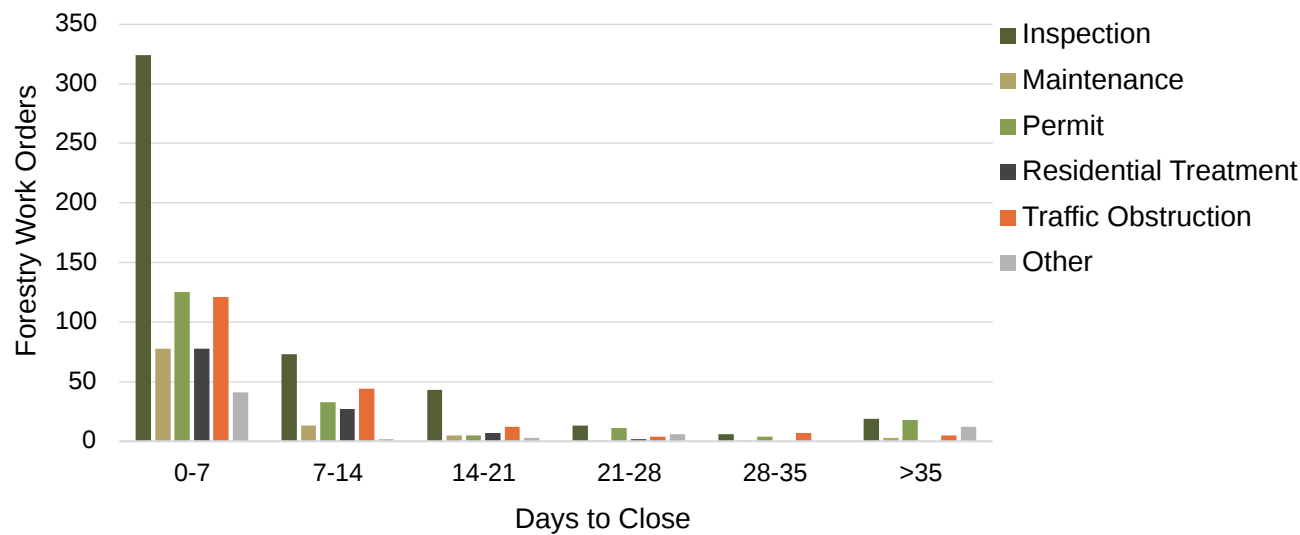
WORK ORDERS

The Forestry Program uses CityWorks to track work order requests across City departments. Forestry screens requests for language that may indicate risk, including words such as “cracked”, “split”, “roots upheaving”, “cavity”, “rotten”, and “power line”. The target resolution time for these emergency requests is 24–48 hours.

In an analysis of CityWorks data from July 2023 to December 2024, Forestry received 1,146 work order requests (figure 15). Tree inspections were the

most common request, comprising one-half of work orders over the 18-month period. Two-thirds of work orders were closed within 7 days. A small portion of work orders (57 or 5%) took 5 weeks or longer to close—these reflect complicated requests with involvement from multiple City departments. For example, Forestry permits typically require a traffic control plan. In these cases, the work order stays open until all project properties are complete.

FIGURE 15. FORESTRY WORK ORDERS BY TYPE AND NUMBER OF DAYS TO CLOSE.



STAFFING

In 2025, the Forestry Program employs 9 staff members who conduct forestry-related activities (table 10). The Forestry crew is highly trained, holding advanced credentials from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) including Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Climber, and Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.

Accounting for the portion of staff time that is spent on tree care, these 9 staff positions comprise 8 full-time equivalents (FTE). This is on par with average forestry capacity for 508 US cities that provided staffing information to a national study

of urban forestry programs (7.2 FTE among programs of all sizes and levels), including 145 cities in the West region, but lower than average (11.8 FTE) for 87 cities that are of a similar size to Greeley (Hauer and Peterson 2016; figure 16).

FIGURE 16. FORESTRY-RELATED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STAFF POSITIONS AMONG 508 US CITIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN A NATIONAL MUNICIPAL TREE CARE CENSUS AND GREELEY.

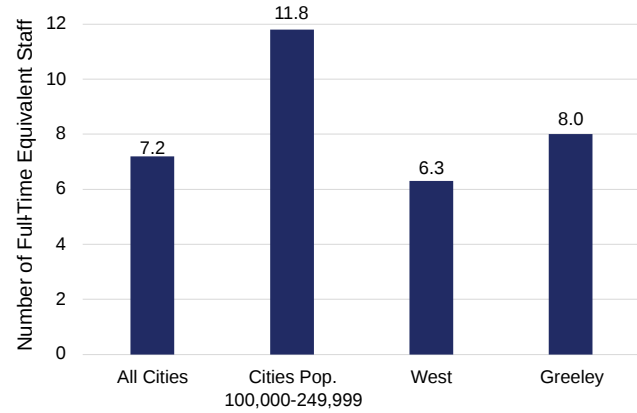


TABLE 10. FORESTRY PROGRAM STAFF, 2025.

| TITLE                        | NUMBER OF POSITIONS | FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS | CREDENTIALS                                                                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forestry Technician I        | 2                   | 2                     |                                                                              |
| Forestry Technician II       | 3                   | 3                     | ISA Certified Arborist (3)<br>ISA Certified Tree Climber (1)<br>ISA TRAQ (1) |
| Administrative Assistant III | 1                   | 0.5                   |                                                                              |
| Forestry Crew Supervisor     | 1                   | 1                     | ISA Certified Arborist<br>ISA TRAQ                                           |
| Forestry Program Supervisor  | 2                   | 2                     | ISA Certified Arborist<br>ISA TRAQ                                           |
| Forestry Manager             | 1                   | 0.5                   | ISA Certified Arborist<br>ISA TRAQ                                           |
| TOTAL                        | 10                  | 9                     |                                                                              |

Contracted Tree Care

Forestry utilizes contractors to perform routine pruning of mature trees on public property. From 2019–2023, the Forestry Program spent an average of 19% of its annual budget on contracted tree care services, or \$2.20 per capita. This is below average expenditures of \$4.20 per capita from among 410 US municipal forestry programs for which there is data (Hauer and Peterson 2016, adjusted for inflation).

Staffing Needs

Upon filling a staff vacancy for a Forestry Technician I, Forestry plans to divide tree care activities between two 2-person crews. Forestry anticipates that these crews will provide adequate capacity for the next 3–5 years. After that time, it is expected that growth in the number of trees that Forestry manages will require expansion to two 3-person crews, and later expansion to additional crews.

In addition to hiring staff, it is recommended that Forestry provide opportunities for training, credentials, and career advancement to maintain good retention. In addition, the Forestry Program currently shares the Administrative Assistant II and Forestry Manager positions with horticulture responsibilities. Over time, growth in Forestry will require full-time administrative support from these positions.

Within the 20-year timeframe of the UFSP, the Forestry Program is expected to require a succession plan for the Forestry Manager’s eventual retirement. Over his career, Shiloh Hatcher has built expertise and partnership that contributes to the Forestry Program’s regional reputation. A succession plan will need to outline not only how the Forestry Manager position will be filled but also provide continuity for the many roles that Hatcher currently fills in regional forestry networks.

EQUIPMENT

In 2025, Forestry is well equipped for anticipated program needs over the next several years. Forestry has access to equipment that is in new or good condition, with an active replacement plan, and that is suited to the specialized work that it performs. No near-term equipment needs were identified. Over time, equipment needs are expected to increase as the Forestry Program grows.

FACILITIES

Forestry has adequate office and storage space for staffing, equipment, and materials for the foreseeable future (table 11). However, Forestry’s space is spread across six sites in Greeley (figure 17). It is a 15-minute drive (6 miles) from the Forestry main office on 52PndP Avenue Court to the Parks Equipment Lot on C Street. Driving between multiple sites for materials and equipment at the beginning and end of each workday requires significant time and fuel.

Consolidating Forestry office and storage sites to fewer sites that are in closer proximity would build program efficiency by reducing fuel costs and staff driving time.

FIGURE 17. FORESTRY OFFICE AND STORAGE FACILITY LOCATIONS, 2025.

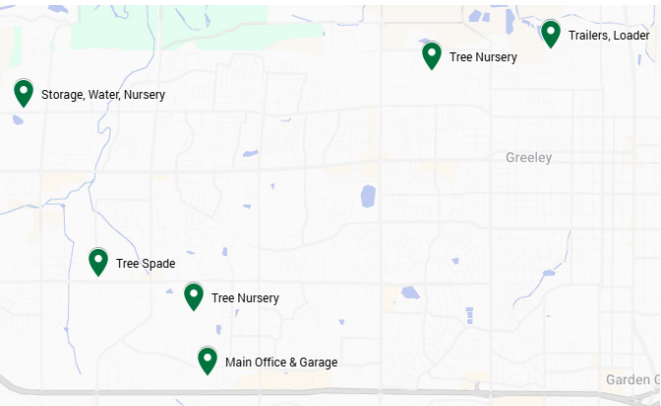


TABLE 11. FORESTRY PROGRAM FACILITIES, 2025.

| FACILITY                   | ADDRESS           | AREA (SQ FT) | FUNCTION                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forestry Office            | 2631 52nd Ave Ct  | 2,544        | Staff offices; uncovered vehicle storage                                                                |
| Forestry Garage            | 2631 52nd Ave Ct  | 650          | Indoor heated parking for 2 vehicles; tool, pesticide, irrigation supply storage; chain saw maintenance |
| Forestry Bullpen           | 7309 4th St       | 1,237        | Chip truck and brush chipper storage; water supply; irrigation, staking, watering tank storage          |
| Horticulture Greenhouse    | 7309 4th St       | 1,100        | Temp-controlled plant storage; water supply                                                             |
| Forestry Shed              | 7309 4th St       | 165          | Pesticide sprayer storage                                                                               |
| Forestry Cold Storage      | 7309 4th St       | 900          | Tree stake storage                                                                                      |
| Youth Sports Bullpen       | 6503 20th St      | 400          | Tree spade storage                                                                                      |
| Parks Equipment Lot        | 1607 C St         | 1,200        | Tilt and dump trailer, Avant loader and attachments storage                                             |
| Ramseier Park              | 2828 C St         | 22,000       | Tree nursery, flood-irrigated for 200 trees                                                             |
| Highland Hills Golf Course | 2200 Clubhouse Dr | 10,500       | Tree nursery, overhead-irrigated for 110 trees                                                          |
| Boomerang Golf Course      | 7309 4th St       | 3,000        | Tree nursery, drip-irrigated for 30 trees                                                               |

BUDGET

The Forestry Program is supported by the City's general fund, with supplemental funding from development cash-in-lieu, Community Development Block Grant funds, and state and federal grants.

Over five years from 2019–2023, the Forestry Program budget nearly doubled, bringing it to \$1.87 million (figure 18). This figure includes a one-time allocation

of \$340,000 to the Forestry Program for work that is unrelated to trees (improvement of horticulture landscape beds). Personnel expenses made up 58% of the annual budget in 2023.

Forestry's 2023 budget comprised 0.31% of Greeley's total municipal budget, which is below the average for 463 US municipal forestry programs for which there is comparative data (figure 19). Raising the annual Forestry Program budget to \$3 million would bring it in line with the national average of 0.5% of total municipal budget.

FIGURE 19. TREE ACTIVITY BUDGET AS A PORTION OF TOTAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR US CITIES AND GREELEY.

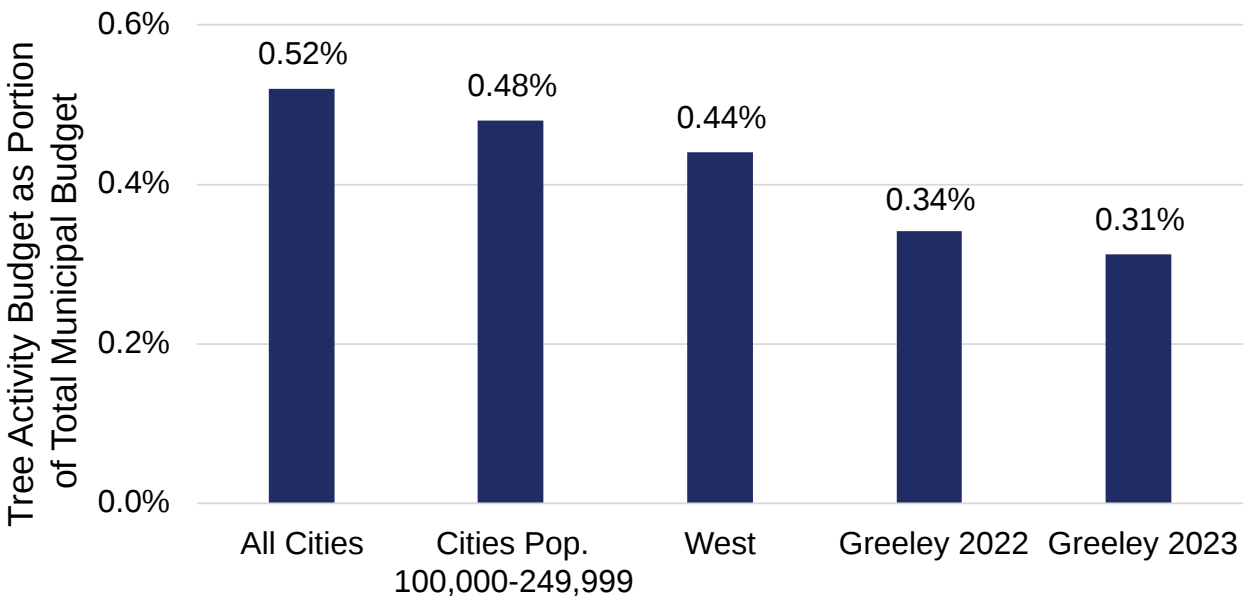


FIGURE 18. FORESTRY PROGRAM EXPENDITURES, 2019–2023.

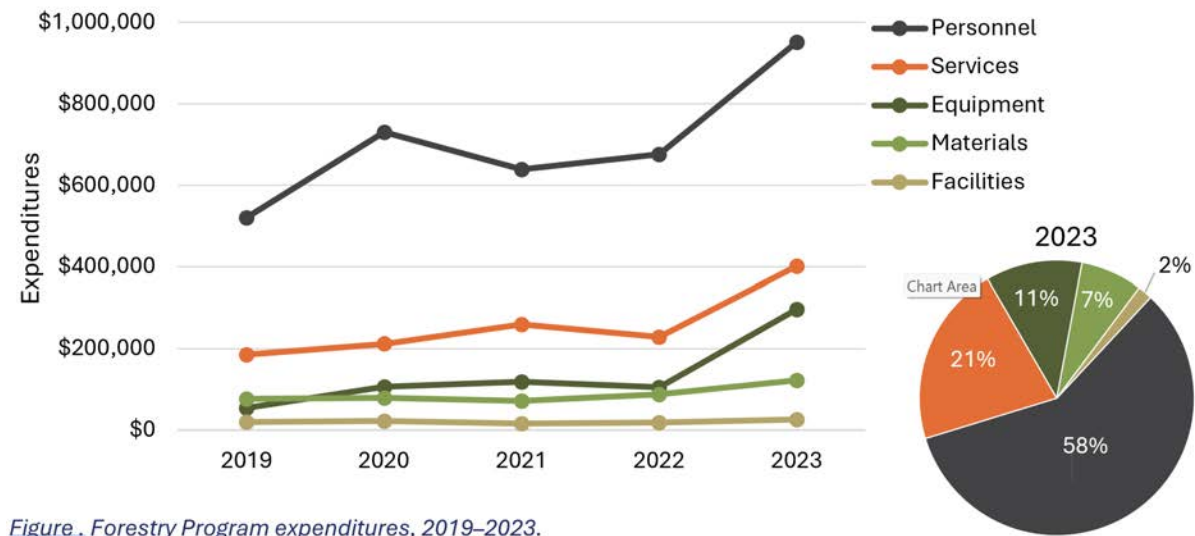


Figure. Forestry Program expenditures, 2019–2023.

# POLICY AND PLANNING

The Forestry Program maintains an updated library of specifications and technical guidance documents for operations that help to ensure that tree care is conducted according to urban forestry best management practices.

- Specifications
  - EAB Treatment Program
  - Hourly Line Clearance
  - Hourly Pruning
  - Per Tree Planting Services
- Forestry Program Operations Manual
- Forestry Program Standard Operating Procedures
- Greeley ROW Maintenance of Trees
- Greeley All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan
- Greeley, Colorado Municipal Code

Guidance about species selection and planting requirements is provided by city code, the ROW Planting Permit Application, and the landscape manual. The City regulates tree planting and maintenance within public space through a permit system.

It is recommended that Forestry plan to continue to update these documents regularly to reflect advances in technology, science, and best practices.

## POLICY AND PLANNING NEEDS

The Forestry Program lacks an urban forest management plan, which provides detailed information about annual forestry activities that are based on tree inventory data. In addition, the All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan (2019) does not contain detail about urban forestry, debris management, etc., that could strengthen emergency response that involves trees.

City code includes many provisions that protect trees in public space and during development. Possible opportunities to strengthen city code include, but are not limited to, the following updates:

- Directly reference Forestry SOPs within city code, with provisions for ownership and updates. Forestry SOPs contain important policies for private tree care and tree protection that are not in city code but that help to ensure that tree maintenance on private land is conducted according to industry standards. For example, Forestry SOPs prohibit topping and require licensing of private tree care companies.
- Require protection of public space trees during construction, repairs, or utility work or protection from damage due to ropes, signage, or chemicals.
- Prohibit damage to protected trees and detail activities that are prohibited within the tree protection zone.
- Include a penalty for removal of protected trees.

# RECOGNITION OF HERITAGE TREES

Recognizing special or “heritage” trees can serve as a tool for public education, community pride, and tree preservation. While many cities have programs to recognize heritage trees, Greeley does not yet have such a program.

Twenty-three municipal heritage tree programs were evaluated to help the Forestry Program explore what a heritage tree program might look like in Greeley. Unlike some heritage tree programs, in which municipal code requires the protection of trees above a certain size, the programs that were studied for these recommendations allow for the elective enrollment of heritage trees with or without additional protections.

## GREELEY HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM

A heritage tree program in Greeley could choose from among the following attributes:

- Heritage trees could be nominated for recognition based on their size, species, and/or cultural or historic significance.
- Nominations could be from City staff and/or the community. Nominated trees on private land would require the agreement of the landowner.
- Heritage trees could be accepted into the program with the approval of the Forestry Manager and/or City Council.
- Once accepted into the program, heritage trees could be recognized for the rest of their lives until they die or become hazardous.
- Heritage trees in public space could be provided with extra protection against damage or removal.
- The profiles of heritage trees could featured on a web site. An interactive map could show the locations of heritage trees in public space.

Additional program attributes are possible, such as requiring the protection of heritage trees on private land or recognizing heritage trees with a plaque or marker. Greeley can create a program that honors its special trees in whatever way it chooses.

Potential code updates should include engagement of City staff and the public to help identify costs, benefits, and opportunities to reduce unintended consequences.

Lastly, establishing a program to recognize heritage trees can provide a mechanism for public education and tree preservation (see box, “Recognition of Heritage Trees”)

## FORESTRY PARTNERSHIPS

The Forestry Program has a reputation for community partnership in the Front Range that is built on collaboration within City government, with external partners, and with the community.

### CITY INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

During the development of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan, urban forestry stakeholders noted that City operations are in a period of transition away from leveraging personal connections toward creating standardized processes as Greeley's population and city government

grows. City staff turnover also contributes to a need for standardized processes, as information about operations has been lost over time.

As Greeley continues to grow, City government will need to create processes to coordinate urban forestry goals and efforts across multiple departments—for example, by establishing formal avenues for coordination among City departments about urban forestry activities. Several City departments outside of the Forestry Program have programs and initiatives that relate to trees, including Public Works, Water Conservation, and other divisions and programs within the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department.

### SHARE THE SHADE

Through its award-winning Share the Shade program, established in 2021, the Forestry Program has provided 755 free and reduced-cost trees to residents and homeowners associations for planting on private property. In the process, Share the Shade is raising awareness about tree benefits and the importance of planting on private property.

In 2024, Share the Shade was recognized by the Rocky Mountain chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture for outstanding community landscape beautification, receiving a regional Gold Leaf award.



### EXTERNAL PARTNERS

Greeley's Forestry Program is highly regarded in the region. Among Front Range cities, Greeley's Forestry Program has been noted by regional forestry partners to uniquely integrate traditional urban forestry with agricultural forestry practices. This balances the practical benefits of trees—such as windbreaks and irrigation management—with urban values such as beautification, walkability, and energy efficiency.

Strengthening relationships with the private sector can result in the exchange of valuable information and expertise while providing added capacity to City Forestry staff. However, Forestry staff and stakeholders both note that the size of the local green industry is small, which places pressure on Forestry to provide private consultation.

Coordinating with local partners and contributing to regional conversations have helped the Forestry Program benefit from larger networks of capacity and expertise. Examples of existing partnerships of the Forestry Program illustrate the value of continued collaboration and serve as a model for City partnership:

- Regional forestry networks are helping to create alignment on urban forestry topics of shared interest across the Front Range, including pest and disease response, wood utilization, wildfire, and climate resilience. Many of the threats and opportunities faced by Greeley's urban forest are shared among cities in the Front Range.
- The Forestry Program provides regional training opportunities—such as the Tree Care Workshop and Tree Climber Specialist Certification—that are widely attended, underscoring its strong regional influence and commitment to advancing forestry practices.
- The University of Northern Colorado is a Tree Campus USA and a Level I ARBNET arboretum. Involvement of Forestry in student-led projects and training programs has fostered deeper collaboration between the City and academic institutions, helping to build a pipeline of potential forestry professionals and/or advocates and sharing data and resources to address broader community challenges.
- Forestry has provided trees and consultation to HOAs and has helped several HOAs respond to emerald ash borer.
- Forestry has partnered with Greeley Weld Habitat for Humanity on tree placement, species selection, and public education. In the Hope Springs mixed-income housing development, for example, the City contributed trees and provided consultation about water-wise and native landscaping.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Greeley’s Forestry Program is well-regarded in the community and known for strong customer service. Public feedback during the development of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan reflected general support for trees and a desire for more City involvement in tree care (Figure 20a-c). Because Greeley has not had extensive tree canopy in the recent past, opinions

and knowledge about trees likely vary across Greeley’s diverse population.

The City uses tools such as the Speak Up Greeley website and social media to share updates and engage with residents. However, many new residents are unfamiliar with local forestry policies. There is a need to strengthen homeowner awareness and expand public education efforts as Greeley grows.

(C) DO YOU SUPPORT THE CITY OF GREELEY IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND FUNDING TO MAINTAIN PARKWAY TREES?

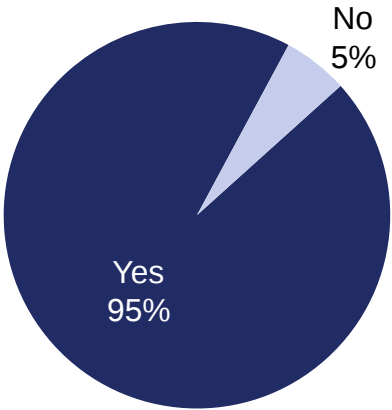
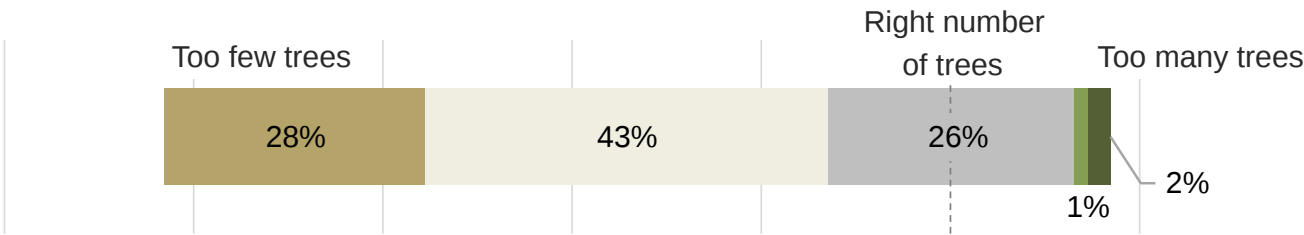
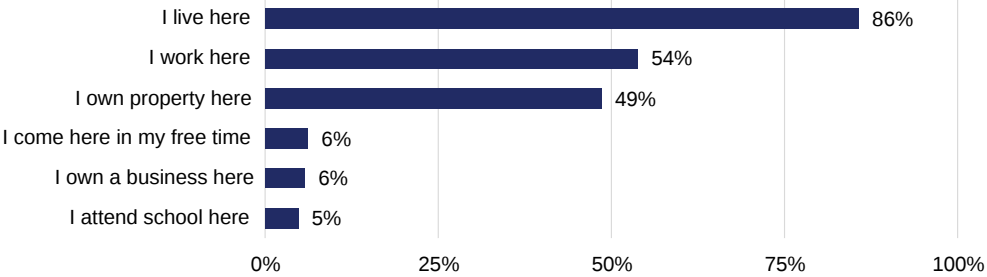


FIGURE 20. SELECT COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS, COLLECTED VIA SPEAK UP GREELEY (207 RESPONDENTS).

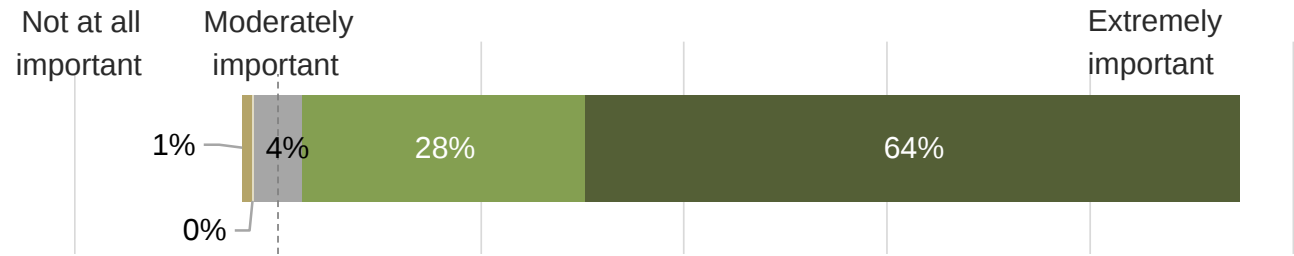
(A) HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE NUMBER OF TREES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



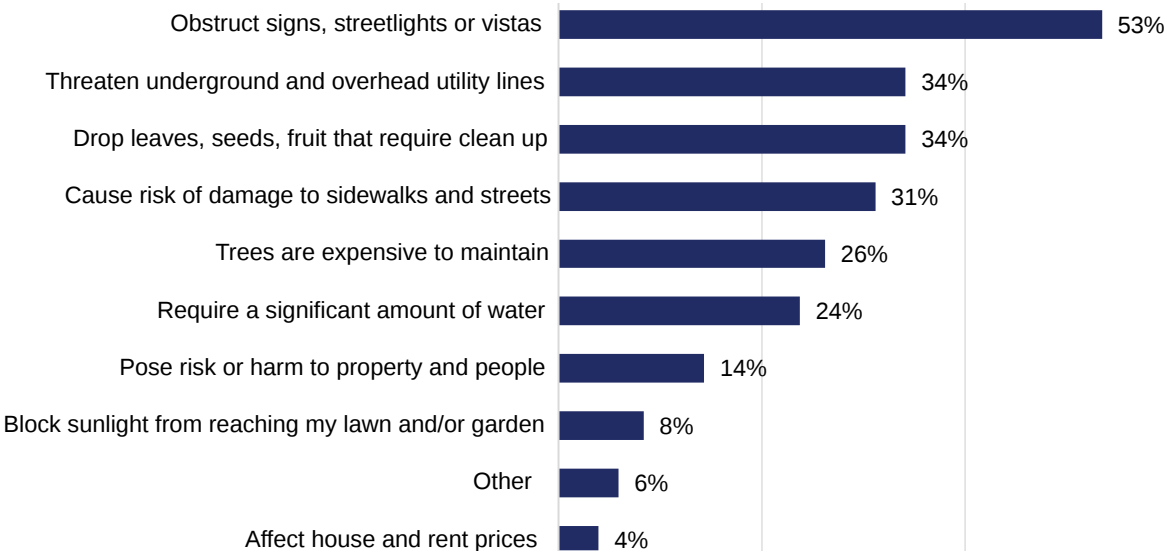
(D) WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO GREELEY?



(B) HOW IMPORTANT IS HAVING TREES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



(E) WHICH OF THESE POSSIBLE DOWNSIDES OF TREES CONCERN YOU MOST?

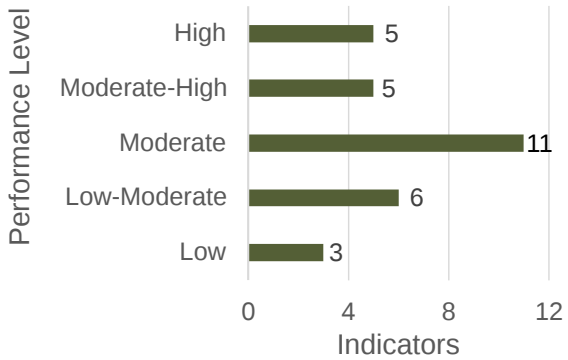


# INDICATORS OF A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST

The Indicators of a Sustainable Urban Forest is a peer-reviewed program assessment tool that uses industry standards and best management practices to evaluate the performance level of an urban forestry program (Kenney, Van Wassenaer, and Satel 2011). The tool was updated and adapted to evaluate Greeley’s forestry program based on its trees, the degree of community involvement in urban forestry, and the management approach.

The most common performance level rating for Greeley was Moderate (figure 21).

FIGURE 21. THIRTY INDICATORS OF A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST BY PERFORMANCE LEVEL RATING.



## THE TREES: LOW-MODERATE

Tree cover in Greeley is growing. The Share the Shade program provides free trees and outreach to increase tree canopy across Greeley (see box, “Share the Shade”). The City has a current, GIS-based tree inventory of Public Space trees that informs management decisions. Within Public Space, trees skew young, and honeylocust and ash trees are overly abundant. There are opportunities to increase data collection to evaluate the suitability of tree species within different spaces. Collecting information about trees within natural areas and private property can help the community better understand the entire urban forest.

FIGURE 22. PERFORMANCE LEVEL RATINGS FOR 8 FORESTRY PROGRAM INDICATORS THAT RELATE TO TREES AND TREE CANOPY.

| INDICATORS:<br>THE TREES                   | LOW | MODERATE | HIGH |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|
| Urban Tree Canopy                          |     |          |      |
| Equitable Distribution                     |     |          |      |
| Size/Age Distribution                      |     |          |      |
| Condition of Public Trees - Streets, Parks |     |          |      |
| Condition of Publicly Owned Natural Areas  |     |          |      |
| Trees on Private Property                  |     |          |      |
| Diversity                                  |     |          |      |
| Suitability                                |     |          |      |



## THE PEOPLE: MODERATE

Tree canopy in Greeley is relatively new; likewise, community awareness about the importance of trees and proper tree care is also under development. Among large institutions, utilities companies, funders, local green industry leaders, and community groups, there is little engagement, communication, and collaboration in advancing urban forestry initiatives. The larger Greeley community has an opportunity to form a set of unified goals and priorities for urban tree canopy and work together to achieve those.

**FIGURE 23.** PERFORMANCE LEVEL RATINGS FOR 9 FORESTRY PROGRAM INDICATORS THAT RELATE TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN URBAN FORESTRY.

| INDICATORS: THE PEOPLE                               | LOW | MODERATE | HIGH |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|
| Neighborhood Action                                  |     |          |      |
| Large Private & Institutional Landholder Involvement |     |          |      |
| Green Industry Involvement                           |     |          |      |
| City Department/ Agency Cooperation                  |     |          |      |
| Funder Engagement                                    |     |          |      |
| Utility Engagement                                   |     |          |      |
| Developer Engagement                                 |     |          |      |
| Public Awareness                                     |     |          |      |
| Regional Collaboration                               |     |          |      |



## THE MANAGEMENT APPROACH: MODERATE-HIGH

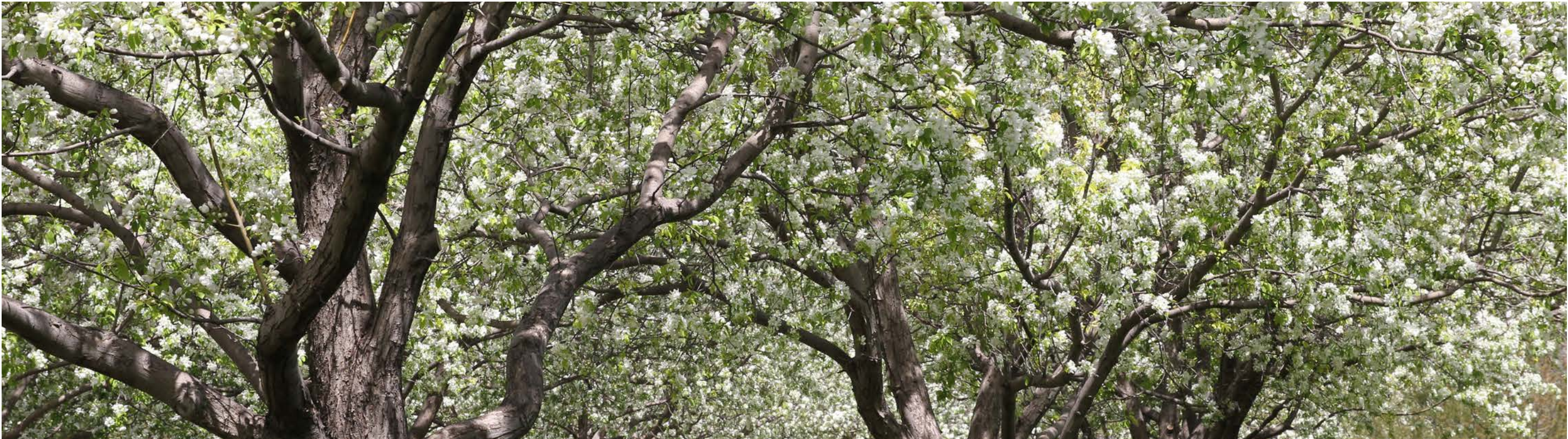
The City of Greeley has a current tree canopy study and tree inventory to guide decision making. An updated management plan would provide the Forestry Program with a guide for day-to-day operations and annual tree activities as it assumes more proactive maintenance of a growing number of trees. The City could investigate mechanisms to provide additional protections for parkway trees, heritage trees, and trees on development sites, and to increase coordination among City departments for urban forestry.

**FIGURE 24.** PERFORMANCE LEVEL RATINGS FOR 13 FORESTRY PROGRAM INDICATORS THAT RELATE TO URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT.

| INDICATORS: MANAGEMENT                      | LOW | MODERATE | HIGH |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|
| Tree Inventory                              |     |          |      |
| Canopy Assessment                           |     |          |      |
| Management Plan                             |     |          |      |
| Risk Management Program                     |     |          |      |
| Maintenance of Publicly-Owned Trees (ROWs)  |     |          |      |
| Maintenance of Publicly-Owned Natural Areas |     |          |      |
| Planting Program                            |     |          |      |
| Tree Protection Policy                      |     |          |      |
| City Staffing and Equipment                 |     |          |      |
| Funding                                     |     |          |      |
| Disaster Preparedness & Response            |     |          |      |
| Resilience                                  |     |          |      |
| Communications                              |     |          |      |

# SUMMARY: THE FORESTRY PROGRAM

- In 2025, the Forestry Program stewards 12,749 trees on public property. Through the City’s move toward expanded maintenance of parkway trees adjacent to private property, Forestry is assuming responsibility for an additional 7,869 trees.
- The Forestry Program is data driven, prioritizing the use of information in decision making. It maintains a current, GIS-based tree inventory that can be used to create an urban forest management plan that details a management approach for the next 5 years.
- Forestry conducts a mix of reactive and proactive maintenance. In 2025, Forestry is reducing the proportion of work that is reactive by increasing maintenance of trees in public space.
- The Forestry crew has the staff, training, and equipment in place to manage the urban forest for the next 3-5 years. Near-term needs include filling open positions, dedicating staff time to forestry, and preparing a succession plan for Shiloh Hatcher’s (Forestry Manager) retirement.
- As a proportion of the total municipal budget, the Forestry Program budget is small when compared to that of other US municipal forestry programs. Increasing the budget to approximately 0.5% of the total municipal budget, or \$3 million, would bring Forestry’s budget in line with US average.
- As Greeley grows, City government will require more efficient processes to coordinate forestry goals and efforts across multiple departments, led by experts in the Forestry Program.
- Greeley’s Forestry Program is highly regarded in the region.
- With population growth, new resources and increased outreach are needed to educate residents about tree benefits and City tree policies as well as to address barriers to tree care.
- Relationships with the private sector result in valuable information and expertise exchange while also providing added capacity to the Forestry Program. However, the local green industry is small.
- Many of the threats and opportunities faced by Greeley’s urban forest are shared among cities across the Front Range. Coordinating with local partners and contributing to regional conversations will help Greeley’s Forestry Program benefit from larger networks of capacity and expertise.





**SECTION FOUR**  
**FORESTRY**  
**STRATEGIC**  
**OBJECTIVES**



# FORESTRY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



Six strategic objectives for Greeley’s Forestry Program can help it achieve its mission of “a thriving and vibrant community connected through trees and nature”. Each objective can be achieved through implementation of multiple strategic initiatives. This plan does not include an exhaustive list of strategic initiatives. As Greeley works through the adaptive management cycle,

over 20 years of implementation, it is expected that additional initiatives will be identified.

Each objective relates to one or more cross-cutting strategic themes from the 2024 Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department Strategic Plan (figure 25). Relevant themes are listed under each objective.

**FIGURE 25.** THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN URBAN FOREST STRATEGIC PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND THE CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN (2024) STRATEGIC THEMES.

| UFSP Objective                                                 | Clean, Safe & Beautiful | Thriving, Vibrant & Connected | Opportunities for All | Placemaking & Activation | Sustainable Growth & Financial Resilience |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Support informed management of Greeley's urban forest          |                         |                               |                       |                          |                                           |
| Promote equitable and resilient growth of citywide tree canopy |                         |                               |                       |                          |                                           |
| Increase proactive management of trees within Public Space     |                         |                               |                       |                          |                                           |
| Continue to "share the shade" with the community               |                         |                               |                       |                          |                                           |
| Increase citywide coordination on urban forestry               |                         |                               |                       |                          |                                           |
| Expand regional and strategic partnerships                     |                         |                               |                       |                          |                                           |

## OBJECTIVE 1.

### SUPPORT INFORMED MANAGEMENT OF GREELEY’S URBAN FOREST

Effective and efficient management of natural resources relies on access to updated, high-quality data to guide decision making.

**CPRD Strategic Theme:** Organizational Excellence

#### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Update the urban tree canopy assessment every 5-10 years to monitor areas of tree canopy gain and loss and track citywide trends.
- Expand the collection of planting site attributes within the Public Space tree inventory to document overhead utilities, site size, irrigation status, and the presence of rocks or xeric landscaping to support evaluation of right-tree, right-place.
- Expand the collection of tree attributes within the Public Space tree inventory to document tree risk and/or priority maintenance needs to inform work plans.
- Utilize enhanced tree inventory data to create an urban forest management plan that details pruning, planting, removal, and other activities over 5 years.
- Conduct a sample inventory of private trees to inform specific management decisions, for example, to refine the City’s ongoing response to emerald ash borer.
- Conduct a sample inventory of trees within natural areas to characterize the tree population and identify management strategies within these spaces to manage fuel load, reduce risk, manage pests/disease, and promote climate resilience.

# OBJECTIVE 2.

## PROMOTE EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT GROWTH OF CITYWIDE TREE CANOPY

Greeley is on a path of citywide tree canopy growth. Predicted future growth for the city of Greeley presents a mix of challenges and opportunities for future tree canopy.

**CPRD Strategic Themes:** Financial Stewardship, Organizational Excellence

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Utilize the priority planting analysis from the urban tree canopy assessment to identify priority areas for tree planting and preservation that promote the wellbeing of people and the environment.
- Create a planting plan for Public Space to replace removed trees, gradually fill vacant planting spots, and shift the species composition of trees toward higher diversity and resilience.
- Prioritize planting within irrigated spaces.
- Continue the award-winning Share the Shade program to support tree planting on privately owned property.
- Create a nomination-based Heritage Tree Program to recognize and encourage the preservation of special trees based on size, species, and/or cultural significance.
- Investigate reasons for canopy loss within downtown and university districts and create a canopy growth strategy that is tailored to those areas.
- Prohibit damage to trees within Public Space and require tree protection measures during construction, repairs, or utility work.
- Require mitigation for damage or removal of trees that are required to be protected and preserved under existing municipal code.
- Establish minimum requirements and specifications for planting within Public Space during development to achieve successful tree establishment, long-term survival, and tree canopy growth.
- Create planting specifications for compatibility with underground utilities in Public Space. Incorporate Forestry expertise into City planning efforts to convert more Public Space to underground utilities.
- Set urban forestry goals that are customized to land use types, neighborhood typologies, and/or geographic districts in Greeley.
- Maintain updated tree species lists to promote diversity and resilience within public and private tree plantings.

# OBJECTIVE 3.

## INCREASE PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TREES WITHIN PUBLIC SPACE

The City of Greeley is in a period of transition away from private stewardship of trees in parkways toward City stewardship. This transition will increase the resources that are required to shift to proactive management of trees in public space—a cost-saving and risk-reducing investment that can extend the lifespan of trees.

**CPRD Strategic Themes:** Financial Stewardship, Organizational Excellence, Create Opportunity to Inspire Greatness

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Dedicate Forestry staff time to forestry activities to effectively manage the addition of approximately 8,000 City-managed trees within Public Space.
- Create a sustainable growth plan for the Forestry Program that scales resources, equipment, and capacity with future increases in the number of City-managed trees.
- Gradually increase the number of trees within Public Space that are under proactive management as resources allow.
- Create annual work plans based on tree inventory data that detail how priority tree care and routine maintenance will be addressed.
- Summarize Forestry progress in annual reports that are shared with the public and City Council.
- Establish a 10-year pruning cycle for mature trees within Public Space. Over time, gradually increase proactive maintenance to reach a 7-year pruning cycle.
- Provide young tree training of trees less than 6 inches diameter on a 3-year cycle to promote establishment and reduce maintenance costs as trees mature.
- Continue inspection of City trees on a 5-year cycle.
- Provide tree training to staff across City departments to promote proper handling of minor tree maintenance within other departments—e.g., resolving clearance issues and sign conflicts.
- Regularly update the Forestry Program Operations Manual and the Forestry Program Standard Operating Procedures to reflect new information about best management practices.
- Consolidate and centralize Forestry facilities to reduce the time and fuel that is spent driving between sites.
- Align the Forestry Program budget more closely with national averages to provide resources for expanded stewardship of Public Space trees.

# OBJECTIVE 4.

## CONTINUE TO “SHARE THE SHADE” WITH THE COMMUNITY

Community awareness of the value of trees and proper tree care is increasing alongside growth of Greeley and its urban forest. Public outreach will play a more critical role in educating residents about tree care and City policies, while also helping the City to better understand the challenges that community members face with maintaining trees.

**CPRD Strategic Theme:** Inspired Engagement



### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Leverage the Share the Shade program to educate the community about “right-tree, right-place” and other principles to successfully grow tree canopy on private land.
- Periodically evaluate the successful establishment of trees that are planted through Share the Shade.
- Develop multi-lingual educational materials about trees.
- Create a brochure for new residents of Greeley that contains information about tree care, local laws and policies about trees, and educational resources.
- Share resources about water-wise tree care, including drought-tolerant species, drip irrigation, and tree-friendly, low-water landscaping.
- Create guidance for species selection and species diversity for housing and commercial developments.
- Develop inclusive messaging that is tailored to communities that would benefit from expanded tree canopy and tree benefits, ensuring that new plantings align with resident needs and preferences.
- Regularly update the Forestry website with seasonal reminders and resources about tree care.
- Collaborate with the Neighbor Labor program to match volunteers with residents who want assistance with minor tree care.
- Provide free wood chips or compost to residents.
- Engage landlords about providing irrigation and maintenance for trees on rental properties.
- Provide residential rebates or other incentives for water-wise tree irrigation.
- Promote arboriculture as a good, green career choice to resident populations who are underrepresented in urban forestry. Create entry-level positions that can be trained on the job.
- Launch an awareness and marketing campaign to increase perception of Greeley as a tree city.
- Increase education and outreach to large landowners and HOAs to encourage tree management planning.
- Promote the benefits of trees, especially as they relate to climate resilience and energy cost savings.
- Foster increased local volunteer and nonprofit involvement in urban forestry to assist with planting, young tree training, advocacy, and public outreach and education.
- Tell the early history of Greeley as “The Garden Spot of the West” and promote it as a Tree City USA.

# OBJECTIVE 5.

## INCREASE CITYWIDE COORDINATION ON URBAN FORESTRY

New channels for relationship-building, communication, and tracking will help City staff stay on the same page, implement tree care according to urban forestry best practices, and maintain Forestry’s reputation for good customer service.

**CPRD Strategic Theme:** Create Opportunity to Inspire Greatness

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Create an interdepartmental working group about urban forestry and/or nature-based solutions to establish avenues for ongoing, regular dialog among agencies and city departments about trees.
- Update the All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan and the Forestry Standard Operating Procedures to detail emergency response procedures for urban forestry.
- Increase Forestry’s involvement and expertise in the City’s Emergency Preparedness Team.
- Periodically revisit the Forestry Program’s position with the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department organization hierarchy to reflect and facilitate Forestry’s expanding scope.
- Use the citywide work order system to promote interdepartmental collaboration on routine tree maintenance and storm response.
- Develop a Forestry Program staffing succession plan to build continuity and provide advancement opportunities for forestry staff.
- Investigate sustainable funding mechanisms for urban forestry such as an updated fee schedule, a dedicated tree fund, and/or payment-in-lieu options.
- Establish a tree commission, or a tree committee within the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, to guide urban forestry decisions and advocate for the Forestry Program.
- Enlist the City’s Clean, Safe, and Beautiful team in the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan.
- Promote a culture of trees across city departments, ensuring alignment and coordination on forestry goals.
- Add support for urban forestry topics within Greeley’s 311 call center. Encourage users to upload photographs for Forestry consultation requests.

# OBJECTIVE 6.

## EXPAND REGIONAL AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Many of the threats and opportunities faced by Greeley’s urban forest are shared among cities across the Front Range. Coordinating with local partners and contributing to regional conversations will help Greeley’s Forestry Program benefit from larger networks of capacity and expertise.

**CPRD Strategic Themes:** Inspired Engagement, Organizational Excellence, Create Opportunity to Inspire Greatness

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Continue the Forestry Program’s participation and leadership in regional urban forestry conferences, trainings, and workshops.
- Contribute to developing standardized regional land use policies that prioritize tree protection, water efficiency, and sustainable urban planning.
- Participate in regional coordination among cities on topics such as proactive management, local sourcing of resilient tree species, funding mechanisms, urban wood utilization, climate resilience, pest response, and education and outreach (examples: Front Range Urban Forestry Council, Northern Colorado Pest Group).
- Collaborate with the Colorado Climate Resilient Trees project to enhance Greeley’s access to critical data on tree water usage and climate resilience.
- Build community partnerships with groups that are addressing topics of local interest including access to nature, recreation, bird watching, and quality of life to align urban forestry with community priorities.
- Recruit local green industry partners into urban forestry efforts.
- Connect with regional networks of landscape architects and water conservation groups to contribute to recommendations about tree planting and care within waterwise and xeric landscapes.



**SECTION FIVE**

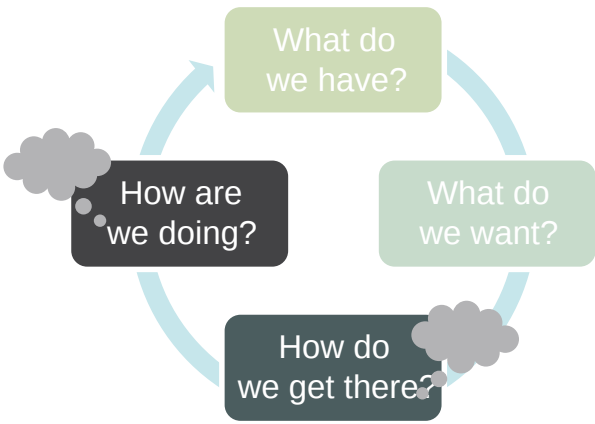
**PLAN**

**IMPLEMENTATION**

# PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## PROJECTED CITYWIDE TREE COVER

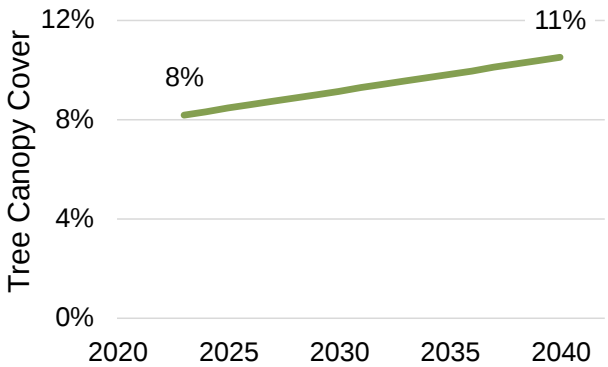
Greeley’s tree canopy cover is projected to reach 11% by 2040 if it continues to grow at the same rate that was observed from 2009 to 2023 (figure 26). Increasing tree planting, proactive tree maintenance, community outreach, and tree protection and preservation are all methods to increase the rate of canopy growth over time. Tree canopy cover is one metric by which the City can measure program success—best used in combination with other indicators that provide a view of trees and Forestry from the ground up.



Adaptive management cycle

Projected timelines for key initiatives as well as evaluation metrics and success indicators are given for each of the six strategic objectives. Together, this information provides a roadmap for early implementation of the plan. As Greeley works through the adaptive management cycle over 20 years, it is expected that this information will change as new initiatives are identified.

FIGURE 26. PROJECTED TREE CANOPY GROWTH BASED ON THE RATE OF OBSERVED GROWTH FROM 2009–2023.



## 1. SUPPORT INFORMED MANAGEMENT OF GREELEY’S URBAN FOREST

### TIMELINE

| INITIATIVE                             | YEAR 1 |   | 5 |  | 10 |   | 15 |  | YEAR 20 |
|----------------------------------------|--------|---|---|--|----|---|----|--|---------|
| Measure citywide tree canopy           |        |   | ✓ |  | ✓  |   | ✓  |  | ✓       |
| Update the public space tree inventory |        |   | ✓ |  | ✓  |   | ✓  |  | ✓       |
| Sample private elm trees               |        | ✓ |   |  |    |   |    |  |         |
| Sample trees in natural areas          |        | ✓ |   |  |    | ✓ |    |  |         |

### METRICS

- Tree canopy cover and change
- Number of public space trees
- Number of elm trees
- Tree diversity
- Tree population age classes, condition, and risk
- Number of vacant planting sites

### SUCCESS MEASURES

- The City tracks tree canopy growth and change over time.
- The City creates targeted strategies in response to tree canopy gains and losses within specific land uses.
- The Forestry Program understands the management needs of trees within public space and natural areas.
- The Forestry Program understands citywide vulnerability to emerald ash borer.

## 2. PROMOTE EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT GROWTH OF CITYWIDE TREE CANOPY

### TIMELINE

| INITIATIVE                                                                 | YEAR 1 |   | 5 |   | 10 |   | 15 |   | YEAR 20 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---------|
| Create a planting plan for public space                                    | ✓      |   | ✓ |   | ✓  |   | ✓  |   | ✓       |
| Update species lists and planting specifications                           |        | ✓ |   | ✓ |    | ✓ |    | ✓ |         |
| Evaluate policy mechanisms for tree planting, protection, and preservation |        | ✓ |   |   | ✓  |   |    | ✓ |         |

### METRICS

- Tree canopy cover citywide, by land use, and on public vs. private property
- Frequency of tree species list updates
- Number of engagement events and residents engaged about policy changes
- Number of trees that are protected and preserved in construction and development projects

### SUCCESS MEASURES

- Citywide tree canopy grows and becomes more evenly distributed.
- Tree species diversity increases within public space. No single species exceeds 10% of the total population.
- The City leads in providing current tree species recommendations that are specific to Greeley.
- Tree losses are minimized during development and construction projects.

## 3. INCREASE PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TREES WITHIN PUBLIC SPACE

### TIMELINE

| INITIATIVE                                            | YEAR 1 |   | 5 |   | 10 |   | 15 |   | YEAR 20 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---------|
| Inspect all public space trees                        | ✓      |   | ✓ |   | ✓  |   | ✓  |   | ✓       |
| Create annual Forestry work plans                     | ✓      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓       |
| Provide young tree training (3-yr cycle)              | ✓      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓       |
| Complete routine pruning cycle for public space trees | ✓      |   |   |   | ✓  |   |    |   | ✓       |
| Update Forestry SOPs and operations manual            |        | ✓ |   | ✓ |    | ✓ |    | ✓ |         |
| Publish annual reports                                | ✓      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓       |
| Grow Forestry Program                                 |        |   | ✓ |   | ✓  |   | ✓  |   | ✓       |

### METRICS

- Number of trees pruned and removed
- Forestry Program FTEs
- Forestry equipment condition
- Forestry Program budget
- Emergency pruning and removal expenditures

### SUCCESS MEASURES

- Every public space tree receives required maintenance at least once every 10 years.
- The mortality rate of public space trees decreases.
- Emergency pruning and removal expenditures decrease over time.
- Horticulture maintenance responsibilities are moved out of the Forestry Program.

# 4. CONTINUE TO “SHARE THE SHADE” WITH THE COMMUNITY

## TIMELINE

| INITIATIVE                                                                  | YEAR 1 |   | 5 |   | 10 |   | 15 |   | YEAR 20 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---------|
| Continue the Share the Shade program                                        | ✓      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓       |
| Create multilingual educational materials                                   |        | ✓ |   | ✓ |    | ✓ |    | ✓ |         |
| Launch a public awareness campaign                                          | ✓      |   | ✓ |   | ✓  |   | ✓  |   | ✓       |
| Support volunteer & nonprofit involvement in urban forestry                 | ✓      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓       |
| Conduct targeted outreach to specific community segments/on specific topics |        | ✓ |   | ✓ |    | ✓ |    | ✓ |         |

## METRICS

- Number of trees distributed through Share the Shade
- Number of community members engaged
- Number of CityWorks Forestry-related requests
- Cubic yards of free mulch distributed

## SUCCESS MEASURES

- Public awareness about tree benefits and care grows.
- Greeley amplifies its reputation as a tree city.
- Tree canopy and tree diversity on private property grows.

# 5. INCREASE CITYWIDE COORDINATION ON URBAN FORESTRY

## TIMELINE

| INITIATIVE                                                                      | YEAR 1 |   | 5 |   | 10 |   | 15 |   | YEAR 20 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---------|
| Establish a UFSP implementation team                                            | ✓      |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |         |
| Establish a tree committee                                                      | ✓      |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |         |
| Update City emergency plans                                                     |        | ✓ |   | ✓ |    | ✓ |    | ✓ |         |
| Implement/update tools for urban forestry collaboration across City departments |        | ✓ |   |   | ✓  |   |    |   | ✓       |

## METRICS

- Number of tree implementation team/committee meetings
- Emergency response time
- Number of work order requests
- Work order close time

## SUCCESS MEASURES

- The Forestry Program receives counsel and support from an interdisciplinary team.
- Tree-related emergency response time and expenditures decrease.
- Urban forestry best management practices are implemented across City departments.
- City Council is frequently updated about Forestry Program plans, practices, and needs.

# 6. EXPAND REGIONAL AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## TIMELINE

| INITIATIVE                                                   | YEAR 1 |   | 5 |   | 10 |   | 15 |   | YEAR 20 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---------|
| Continue collaboration with regional urban forestry networks | ✓      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓       |
| Connect with networks on adjacent topics                     | ✓      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓       |
| Build community partnerships                                 | ✓      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓  | ✓ | ✓       |

### METRICS

- Number of regional collaborative events led by Greeley staff
- Number of regional collaborative events attended by Greeley staff
- Regional urban forestry recommendations (e.g., tree species lists)
- Number of volunteers and partnering organizations

### SUCCESS MEASURES

- Greeley provides urban forestry expertise and leadership to regional networks.
- Greeley contributes to the development of recommendations for the Front Range.
- Greeley staff gain training and experience in new urban forestry solutions.
- Volunteers and nonprofits provide capacity to implement the Greeley Urban Forest Strategic Plan.



# CONCLUSION

Greeley's urban forest has seen substantial growth and transformation over the past 14 years, driven by actions of both the Forestry Program and the broader community. In 2025, the Forestry Program is shifting toward a more proactive approach to managing public space trees, including the addition of thousands of parkway trees as the City assumes additional maintenance for trees within public easements. Effective management of public space trees will require additional resources as Greeley's tree canopy continues to grow.

The development of this Urban Forest Strategic Plan resulted in six strategic objectives to guide the Forestry Program over the next 20 years. By carrying out the strategic initiatives under each objective—as well as future initiatives that emerge through the ongoing process of adaptive management—Greeley can fulfill its mission of stewarding an urban forest that promotes community, health, and wellbeing for all.

Although this plan centers on the Forestry Program's role and the care of public space trees, Greeley's continued canopy growth will also depend on tree planting and maintenance on private property. This is because most of the city's current tree canopy—and the greatest potential for new trees—exists on private residential land. As Greeley experiences significant population growth in the coming years, residents, businesses, and community partners can take important steps to support the continued vitality of Greeley's shared urban forest. By establishing a community vision for Greeley's urban forest, recognizing the leadership role of the Forestry Program, and applying this plan's strategic objectives to public and private property, Greeley can realize its vision of a thriving and vibrant community connected through trees and nature.

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# GLOSSARY

**Block group:** A federally defined geographic area that is variable in size and typically contains between 600–3,000 people.

**Carbon sequestration:** The removal of carbon from the atmosphere to be stored within tree tissues.

**Census tract:** A federally defined geographic area that is a subdivision of a county; it typically contains between 1,200–8,000 people.

**Conservation:** The careful preservation and protection of a resource, such as water or natural areas.

**Diversity:** Variety within a population of organisms.

**Equity:** Equal access within a community to the same benefits, opportunities, and outcomes, factoring in systemic inequalities.

**Genus (plural, genera):** A grouping of closely related species.

**Geographic information systems (GIS):** Technology that is used to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, and display geographic data.

**Habitat:** The sum of the physical, chemical, and biological environment occupied by a particular species, population, or community.

**Land use:** Describes the human use of land for cultural and economic purposes.

**Possible planting area:** An area of land where it is possible to plant trees; excludes places where tree canopy would conflict with existing land uses.

**Priority planting analysis:** A process to rank possible tree planting area based on the potential for trees to benefit the environment, human health, and social equity.

**Resilience:** The ability to withstand and recover from stressors such as pests, diseases, and drought.

**Stewardship:** The responsible care and management of a resource.

**Stormwater runoff:** Surface water that is not absorbed after a rainstorm or snow melt that flows into local waterways.

**Tree:** A woody plant that reaches a height of 15 feet or more at maturity.

**Tree benefit:** A service that trees provide that improves the environment for people, plants, and wildlife.

**Tree canopy:** The upper layer of foliage and branches of trees as seen from above.

**Tree canopy change:** A measure of how tree canopy cover differs from one point in time to another, expressed in acres and/or as a percentage.

**Tree canopy cover:** The amount of land that is covered by tree canopy as seen from above, expressed as a percentage of the total land area.

**Urban forest:** The collection of trees growing along streets, in public parks and natural areas, and in the yards of homes, schools, and businesses.

**Urban heat island:** Urban areas that experience higher temperatures than nearby rural areas due to buildings and paved surfaces that trap and hold heat.

**Vulnerability:** Being susceptible to damage or harm.



**Urban Forest Strategic Plan**  
**Plan Estratégico de Bosques Urbanos**

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
**September 23, 2025**

# Presentation Outline

- Community engagement
- UFSP planning findings
- Strategic objectives & initiatives



# Community Engagement

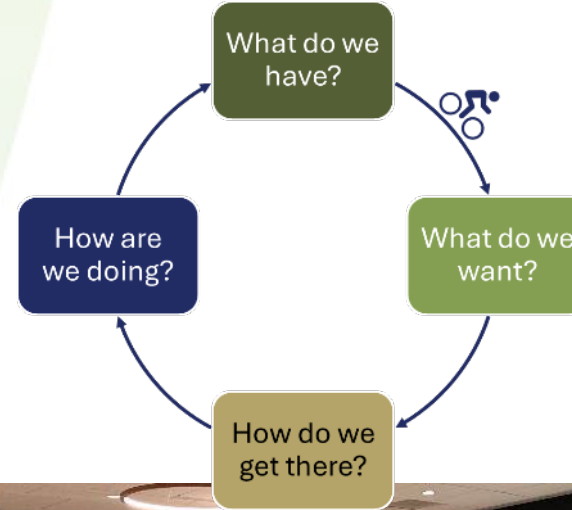
# Engagement Activities

Involvement of 311 community members to date:

- Stakeholder focus groups (7)
- UFSP public meetings (2)
- Community group presentations (8)
- Community survey (1)

Planned future engagement:

- UFSP public meeting (1)
- UFSP public review and input via SpeakUp



# Engagement Findings

Which **benefits** of trees are most important to you?



**79%**

Create cooling shade



**27%**

Beautify my property



**36%**

Reduce air pollution/  
Improve air quality



**23%**

Increase property values



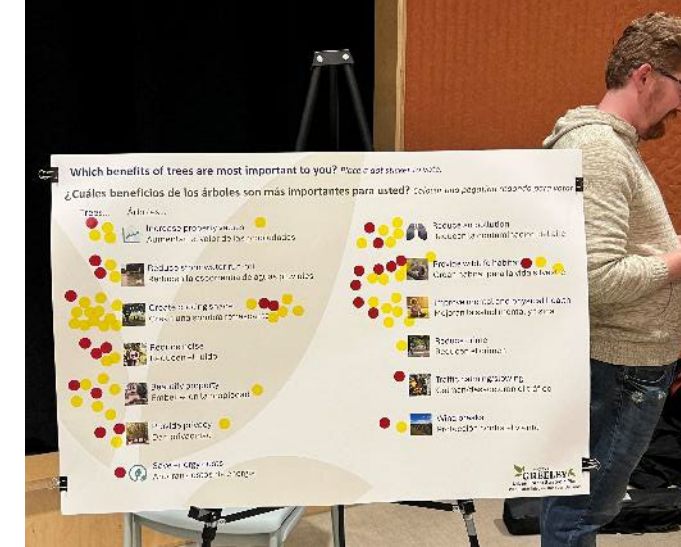
**32%**

Provide wildlife habitat



**21%**

Reduce noise



# Engagement Findings

Which *possible downsides* of trees most concern you?



**53%**

Obstruct signs, streetlights, or vistas



**31%**

Damage sidewalks and streets



**34%**

Drop leaves, seeds, or fruit



**26%**

Are expensive to maintain



**34%**

Threaten utility lines

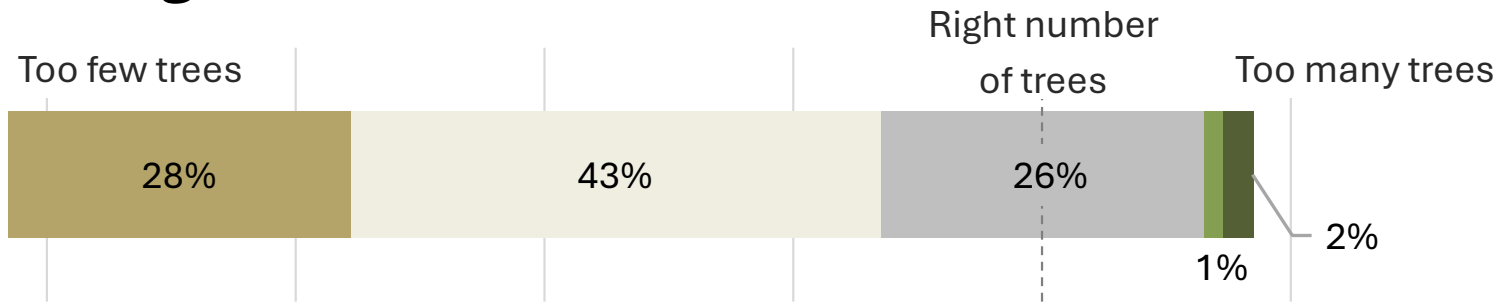


**24%**

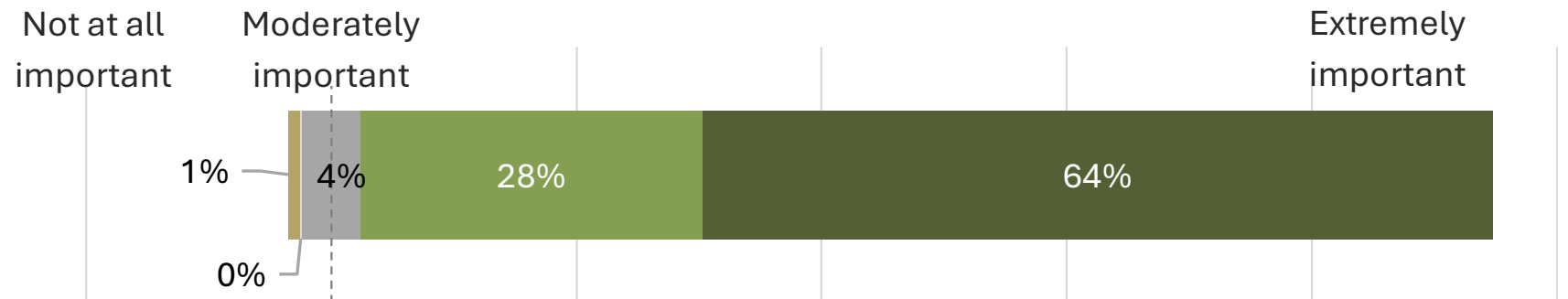
Require water

# Engagement Findings

*How do you feel about the number of trees in your neighborhood?*

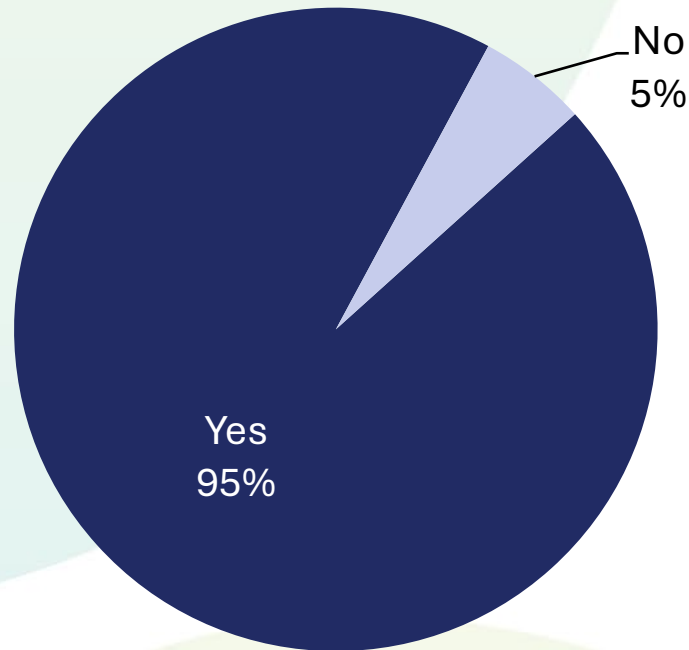


*How important is having trees in your neighborhood?*



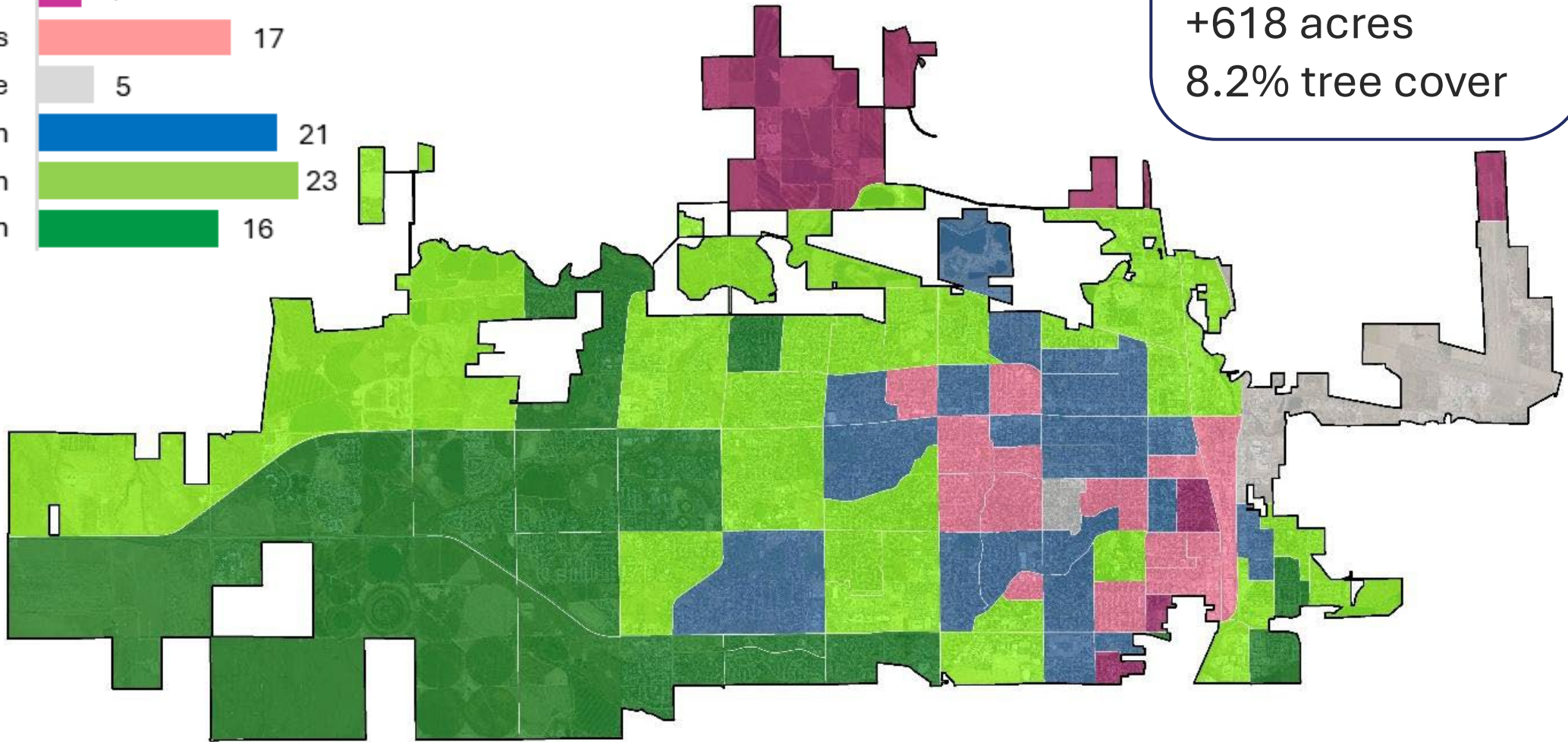
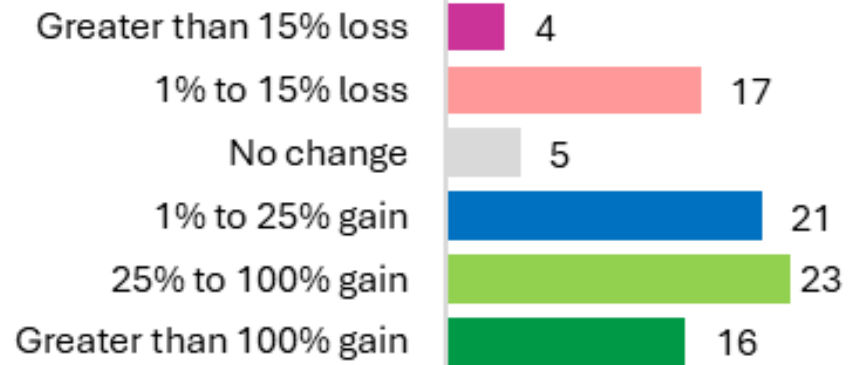
# Engagement Findings

*Do you support the City of Greeley in providing additional services and funding to maintain parkway trees?*



# UFSP Planning Findings

# Tree Canopy is Growing



**2009**

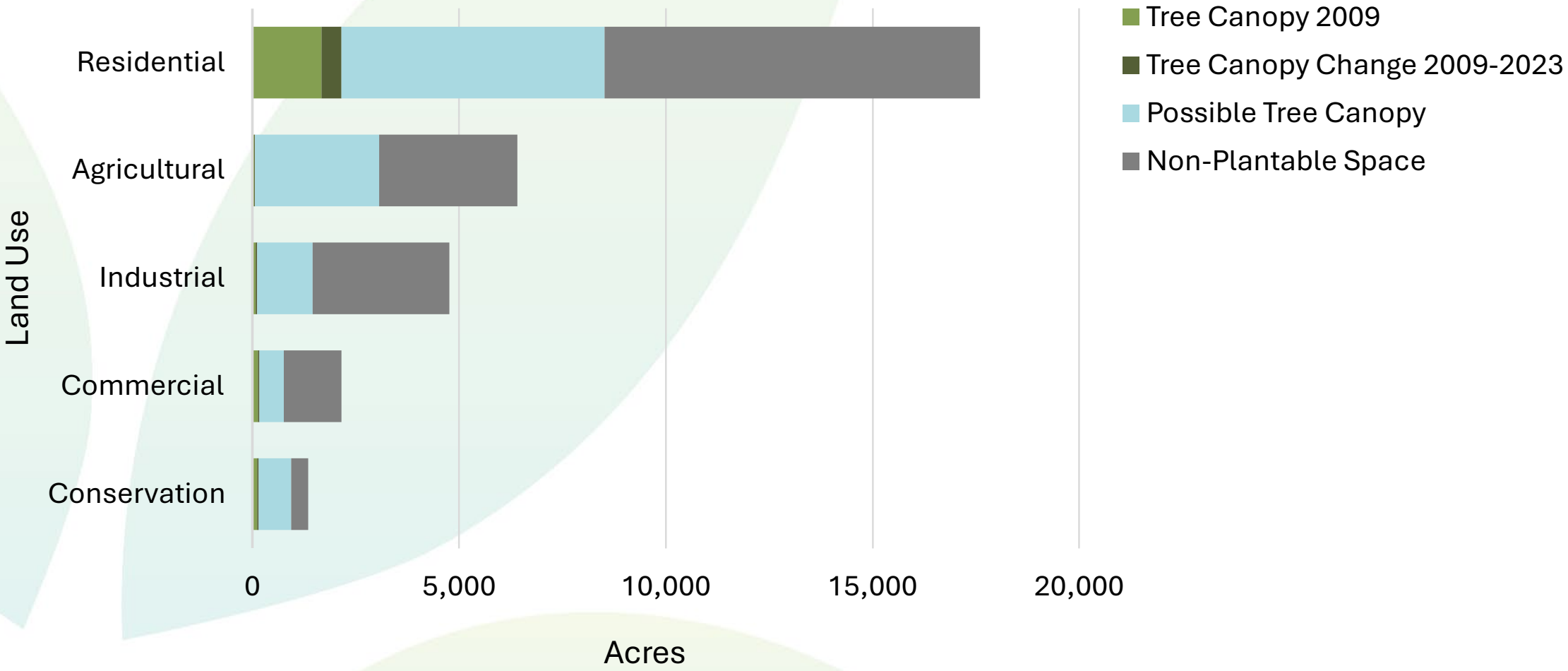
6.3% tree cover

**2023**

+618 acres

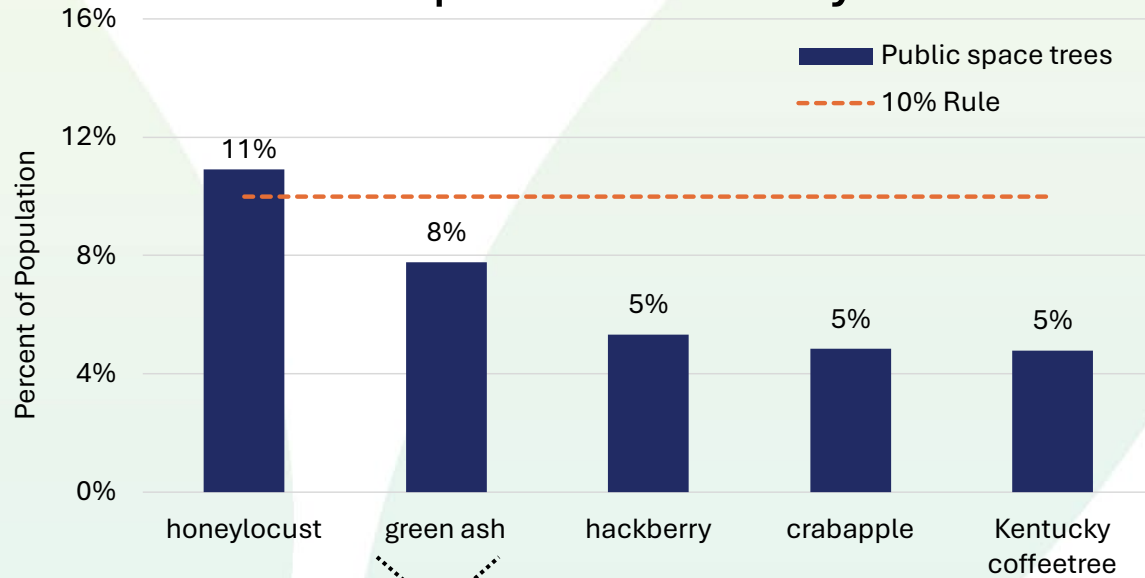
8.2% tree cover

# Residential Land is Key

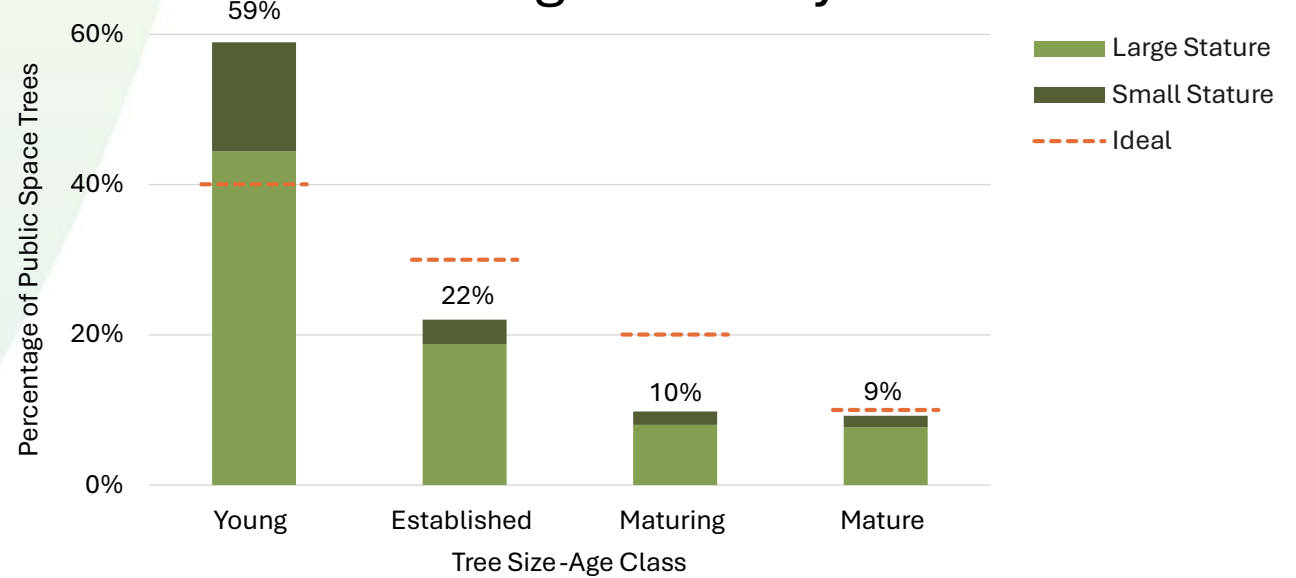


# Continue to Build Urban Forest Resilience

## Species diversity



## Age diversity

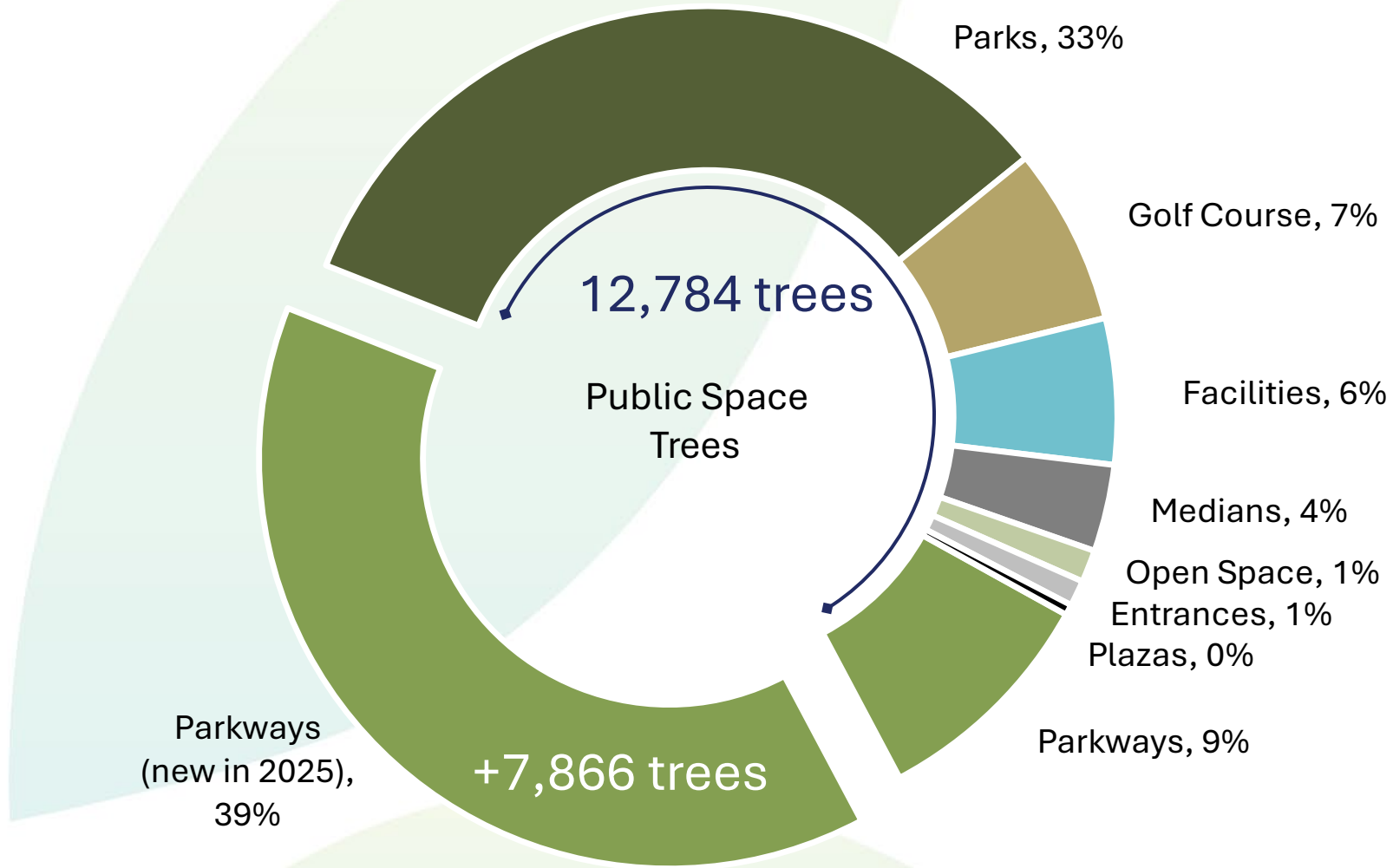


Drought resistance

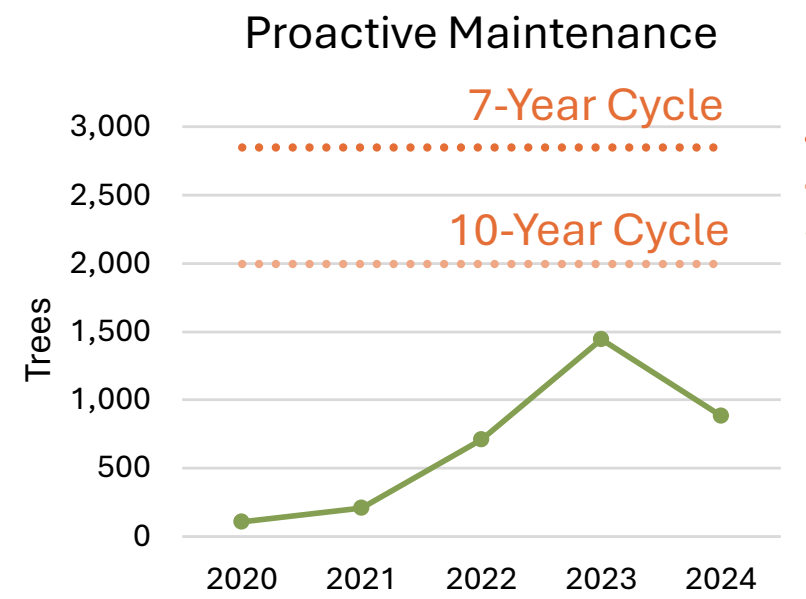
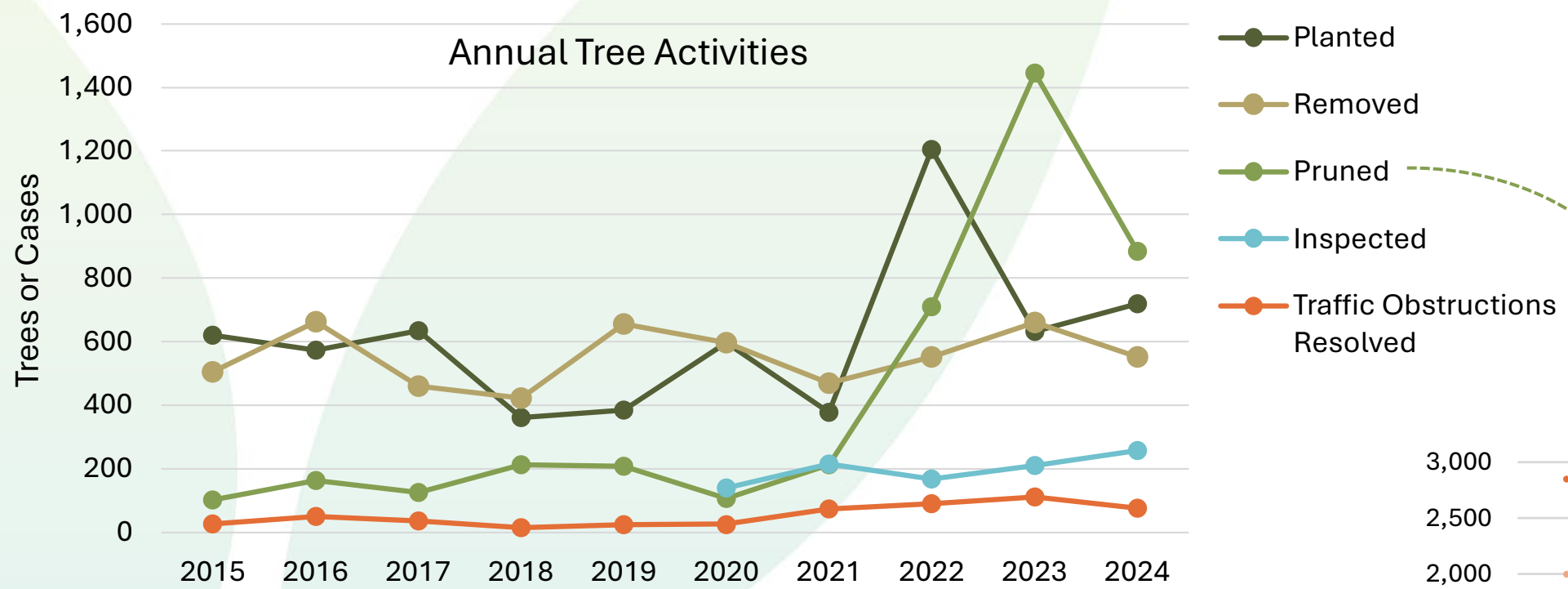


Climate resilience

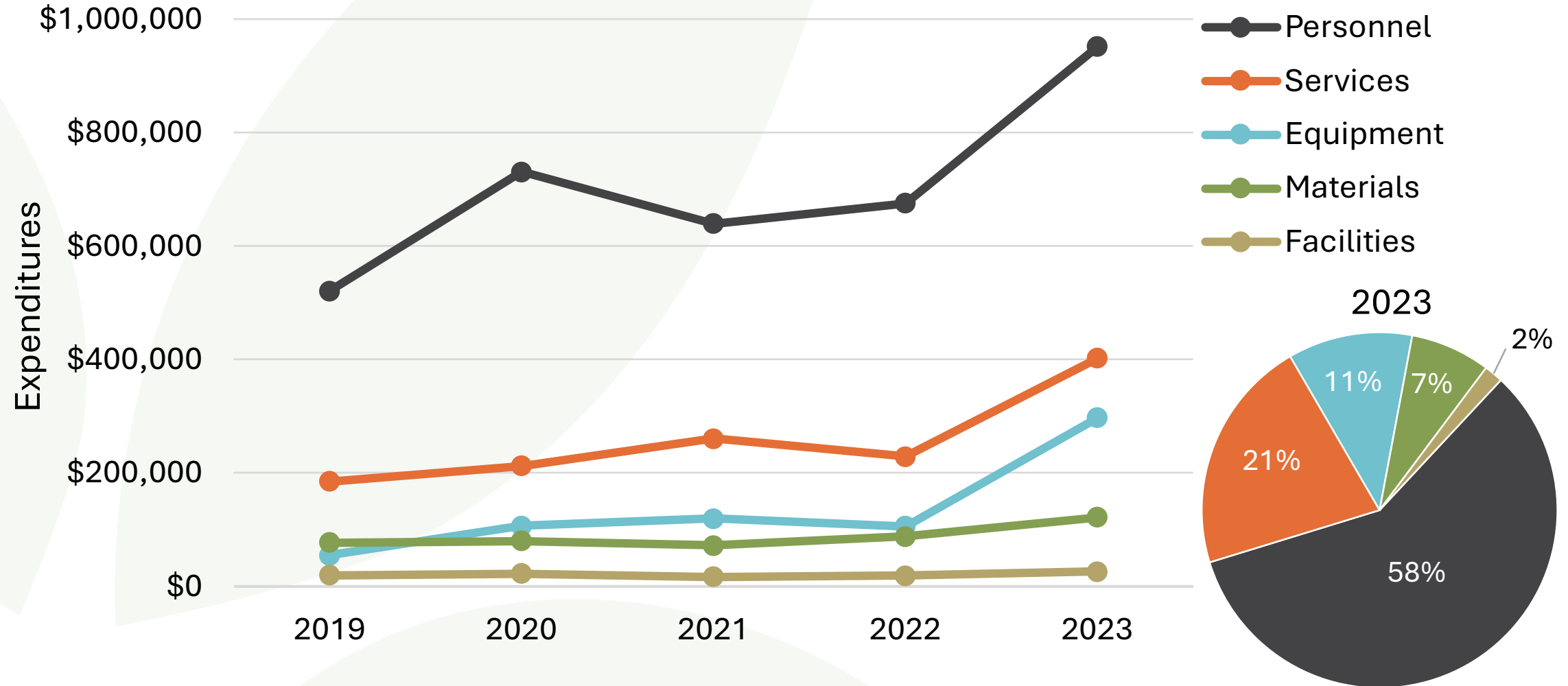
# Forestry's Responsibilities are Growing



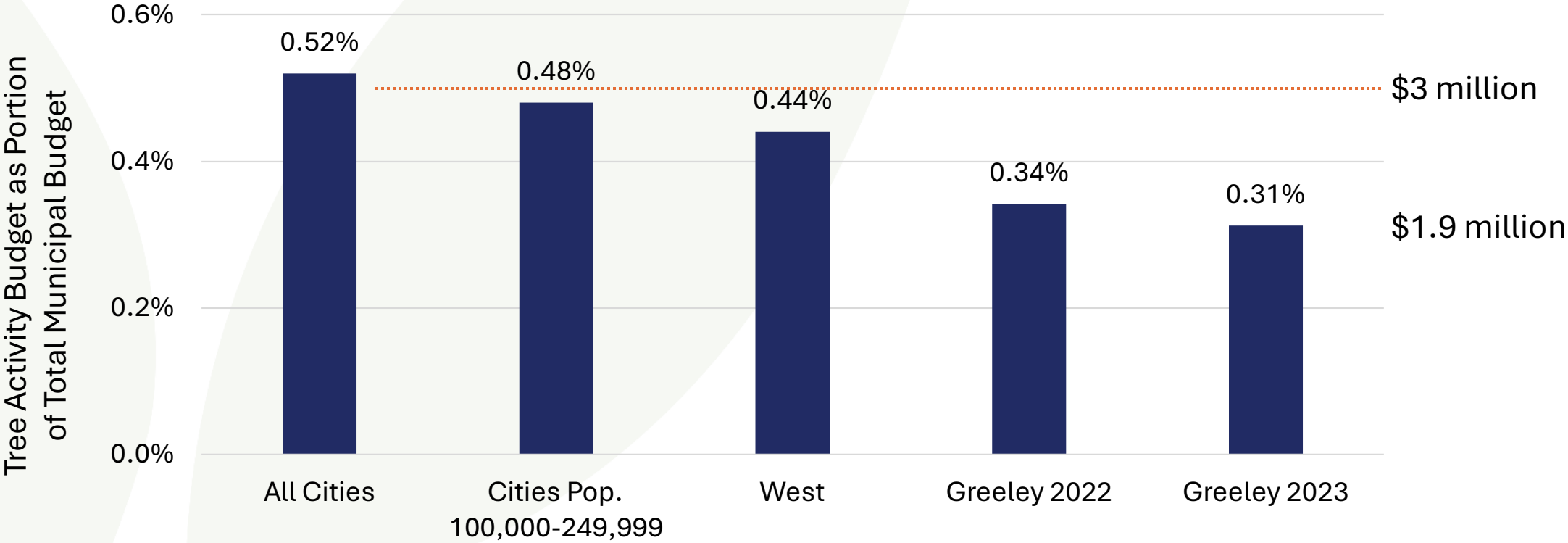
# Forestry's Responsibilities are Growing



# Forestry's Responsibilities are Growing



# Plan for Sustainable Growth



# Strategic Objectives

# Mission & Vision

## **FORESTRY PROGRAM MISSION**

Steward an urban forest that promotes community, health, and wellbeing for all.

## **VISION FOR GREELEY'S URBAN FOREST**

A thriving and vibrant community connected through trees and nature.

# Objective 1. Support informed management of Greeley's urban forest

**CPRD Themes:** Clean, Safe, and Beautiful; Sustainable Growth and Financial Resilience

## Example initiatives

- Measure citywide tree canopy cover every 5–10 years.
- Collect more data about planting sites to gauge “right tree, right place”.
- Study a sample of trees on private land and in natural areas.

# Objective 2. Promote equitable and resilient growth of citywide tree canopy

**CPRD Themes:** Thriving, Vibrant, and Connected; Opportunities for All

## Example initiatives

- Create a recommended tree species list.
- Plant where trees have the greatest impact.
- Continue the Share the Shade program.
- Recognize heritage trees in Greeley.

# Objective 3. Increase proactive management of trees within Public Space

**CPRD Themes:** Clean, Safe, and Beautiful; Sustainable Growth and Financial Resilience

## Example initiatives

- Sustainably grow the Forestry Program.
- Evaluate and prune public trees every 7–10 years.
- Create annual Forestry reports.

# Objective 4. Continue to “share the shade” with the community

**CPRD Themes:** Placemaking and Activation; Opportunities for All

## Example initiatives

- Expand public outreach.
- Educate the public about “right tree, right place”.
- Provide free wood chips.

# Objective 5. Increase citywide coordination on urban forestry

**CPRD Theme:** Sustainable Growth and Financial Resilience

## Example initiatives

- Create an interdepartmental urban forestry group in City Hall.
- Update the City's emergency plans to address trees and woody debris.
- Establish a tree commission or committee.

# Objective 6. Expand regional and strategic partnerships

**CPRD Themes:** Placemaking and Activation; Sustainable Growth and Financial Resilience

## Example initiatives

- Coordinate with regional forestry partners.
- Build alignment with Greeley groups that are working on other priority issues, e.g., access to nature, recreation, quality of life, water conservation.

# Next Steps

- Spanish-language translation of the Plan
- Plan implementation

# Q & A





Thank you!



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Greeley Speak Up



[greeleygov.com/forestry](https://greeleygov.com/forestry)



Urban Forest Strategic Plan

Plan Estratégico de Bosques Urbanos