

2015 Community Forestry Strategic Management Plan

City of Boise





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Cover photo: Charles Knowles. 'City of trees in full autumn color with the Capital'. No changes were made to the original image. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Community Forestry Goals and Strategies	2
Introduction	6
The Community Forest as a Natural Resource	7
History and Context of Boise’s Community Forestry	10
Assessment of the Current Community Forest	11
Strategic Planning Process	19
Implementation Toolkit	22
Next Steps / Conclusion	23
Appendices	24
A. Community Forestry / City Policy Synthesis	D. Public Strategic Planning Outputs
B. Boise Community Forestry Report Card	June 25 Public Workshop
C. Stakeholder Strategic Planning Outputs	<i>Agenda</i>
Community Forestry Stakeholder Team	<i>Sign-in sheet</i>
Boise’s Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix - Goals & Strategies	<i>Public Workshop FAQ</i>
Stakeholder Identified Priorities	<i>Discussion Session priority votes</i>
Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix Navigator	Public Survey Results
Complete Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix	E. Implementation Toolkit
Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix Outputs & strategies	Strategy Implementation Timeline
	Key Strategies Implementation Table
	Strategy Implementation Background

City of Boise Community Forestry

VISION

Boise's Community Forest is a healthy and resilient resource, critical to making Boise the most livable city in the country, returning essential benefits to the environment and our citizens.

Strategic Management Plan

MISSION

Boise will grow and sustain a healthy and resilient community forest to enrich the lives of our citizens and create a lasting, innovative and vibrant community for all to enjoy.



Executive Summary

Boise, “The City of Trees”, is dedicated to building a thriving community forest that contributes to a healthy and vibrant city. Realizing the community forest is a valued asset, Boise, herein referred to as “the City”, invested in an extensive collaborative planning process, engaging community stakeholders and the public, to develop a clear, concise and timeline oriented Community Forestry Strategic Management Plan. The overall goal of the planning process was to develop a sustainable Community Forestry Program through collaboration and long-term investment. The strategic planning process engaged city staff, a dedicated team of community stakeholders and interested citizens in evaluating all aspects and components of a comprehensive community forestry program. Together, this team of stakeholders and citizens developed goals and strategies to guide the Community Forestry Program over the next ten years (see Community Forestry Goals and Strategies, pages 2-5).

Of the **twenty-four goals** that were developed and **thirty-three strategies** to be implemented, several key priorities were identified:

- Implement neighborhood and citizen engagement initiatives to enhance general awareness of the critical role the community forest plays in creating a healthy and thriving city.
- Enhance agency and stakeholder cooperation by engaging a formal community forest stakeholder team in implementation of key strategies
- Implement key enhancements to critical community forest management tools starting with the city-wide tree inventory
- Collaborate with stakeholders and business owners on a successful plan and funding for downtown street trees

With this vision of how the City and public see the Community Forestry Program evolving, an Implementation Toolkit (Appendix E) has been developed to guide the work of the Community Forestry staff over the next ten years. The toolkit outlines priorities and timelines for implementing the city’s strategies. Staff will use this toolkit to: 1) develop annual work plans and budgets; 2) measure progress annually; 3) report progress to stakeholders, the public and leadership. Through continued collaboration with key stakeholders and implementation of this Strategic Plan, the Community Forestry Unit will successfully accomplish their goal of maintaining a sustainable and resilient community forest and community forestry program.

The 2015 Community Forestry Strategic Management Plan was adopted by Boise City Council on April 5, 2016.

Boise, “The City of Trees”, is dedicated to building a healthy, sustainable and resilient community forest that contributes to a healthy and vibrant city.



Boise Community Forestry Goals and Strategies

24 goals and 33 strategies that will guide the work of the Community Forestry staff over the next ten years.

VEGETATIVE RESOURCE (VR)

This category relates to the composition and condition of the urban forest

1. Relative Canopy Cover – Grow the city’s tree canopy cover to a level between 16-25%, maximizing the potential available planting space

- Develop neighborhood level tree canopy goals
- Develop plans and secure funding for strategic public (parks, streetscapes, right of way) and private (residential and commercial) tree planting
- Assess urban tree canopy (UTC) in 10 years to measure progress since last measurement

2. Age Distribution of Trees - Ensure no single diameter class represents more than 50% of the total tree population

- Update city-wide tree inventory with current diameter classes and GIS locations
- Prioritize and implement strategic tree planting city-wide – focus on pro-active replacement of large, aging tree populations to achieve diverse age distribution city-wide

3. Species Suitability - Ensure greater than 75% of city’s trees are of species considered suitable for the area

- Update City’s recommended tree species list – while always seeking new varieties to diversify the urban forest

- Implement diversified tree species recommendations for streets, parks and city property plantings

- Engage local nursery and landscape industry to collaborate on improved industry standards and outreach to the public

4. Species Distribution – Ensure no single tree genus represents more than 10% of the public tree population city-wide

- Update City’s recommended tree species list – while always seeking new varieties to diversify the urban forest
- Implement diversified tree species recommendations for streets, parks and city property plantings

5. Condition of Publicly-Managed Trees – Develop a complete tree inventory which includes a formalized risk assessment protocol

- Update city-wide tree inventory with a formalized tree condition and risk assessment protocol
- Develop a formalized tree risk assessment policy and protocol

6. Publicly-Owned Natural Areas – Enhance natural areas plans and surveys with urban tree canopy data and include in city-wide Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Quantify structure and function of the community forest in riparian areas within Boise Open Space and along the Boise River

7. Native Vegetation – Use native species in a project-appropriate basis. Recognize invasive species and employ aggressive eradication efforts

- Develop and implement a collaborative plan for establishment of native plants in riparian corridors
- Identify, inventory and reduce populations of invasive or undesirable species from public open space



Note: The strategies, actions that need to be completed in order to reach the goals, are listed under each individual goal. Some strategies, as they are accomplished, will result in progress toward attaining multiple goals.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (RM)

This category speaks to the significant components of a city urban forestry program – staff, funding, resources, planning, policy, and operations.

8. Tree Inventory – Update the public tree inventory to include enhanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capability

- Update city-wide tree inventory with current diameter classes and GIS locations
- Develop a formalized system to keep the city-wide tree inventory current
- Expand current city-wide tree inventory and UTC Assessment to include: all publicly owned properties and areas newly annexed into the city

9. Canopy Cover Assessment – Update the current Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (2013) as needed

- Assess urban tree canopy (UTC) in 10 years to measure progress since last measurement
- Expand current city-wide tree inventory and UTC Assessment to include: all publicly owned properties and areas newly annexed into the city

10. City-Wide Management Plan - Implement a strategic multi-tiered management plan with significant stakeholder and public investment

- Annually review and measure progress toward accomplishing Goals outlined in the Community Forestry Management Plan
- Establish annual work plans and budget requests for measured enhancement of the Community Forestry Program

11. Municipal-Wide Funding - Enhance funding to provide for an increase in stakeholder and public engagement for a measurable increase in urban forest benefits

- Establish a formal multi-disciplinary team (Community Forestry stakeholder team) consisting of key personnel from the City and other agencies to identify and address collaborations toward a sustainable and healthy community
- Establish annual work plans and budget requests for measured enhancement of the Community Forestry Program

12. City Staffing - Develop a multi-disciplinary team with community forestry and other city and stakeholder staff to implement the community forestry management plan

- Establish a formal multi-disciplinary team (Community Forestry stakeholder team) consisting of key personnel from the City and other agencies to identify and address collaborations toward a sustainable and healthy community

13. Tree Establishment, Planning and Implementation – Implement tree establishment plans that are developed collaboratively and guided by needs derived from existing inventory data

- Develop standards and specifications for community projects
- Improve collaborative planning for landscapes in new developments and re-design projects
- Seek and secure plans for creative design of functional landscapes in street and building design

14. Maintenance of Publicly-Managed Trees

- Consistently prune all mature publicly-owned trees on a 6-year cycle and structurally prune young trees as needed
- Improve coordination of tree care in the right of way with ACHD



- Implement contract pruning of juvenile and middle-aged trees throughout the city
- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan and funding for management of downtown street trees

15. Tree Risk Management - Develop a complete tree inventory and formalized risk-assessment protocol

- Develop a formalized tree risk assessment policy and protocol
- Create a public outreach campaign to educate contractors, landowners and residents about tree risk and mitigating that risk

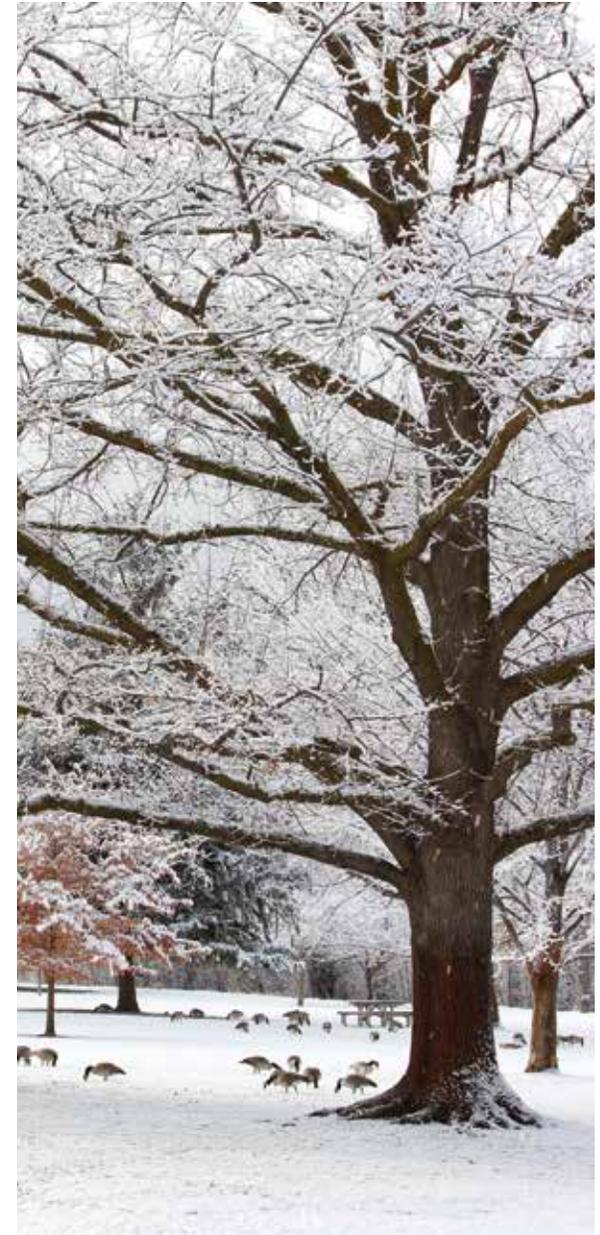
16. Tree Protection Policy Development and Enforcement - Integrate municipal-wide policies that ensure protection of publicly owned trees and increased awareness for protection of privately owned trees

- Establish, educate and enforce policies for tree protection and mitigation for tree removal city-wide
- Create an outreach campaign around community forestry benefits and tree care
- Update city tree ordinance to enhance current Boise Community Forestry Licensed Tree Care Company list and practice

17. Publicly-owned Natural Areas Management Planning and Implementation

- Develop and implement a stewardship plan for each publicly owned natural area focused on sustaining ecological structure and funding

- Quantify structure and function of the community forest in riparian areas within Boise Open Space and along the Boise River
- Develop and implement a collaborative plan for establishment of native plants in riparian corridors
- Identify, inventory and reduce populations of invasive or undesirable species from public open space



Note: The strategies, actions that need to be completed in order to reach the goals, are listed under each individual goal. Some strategies, as they are accomplished, will result in progress toward attaining multiple goals.



COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK (CF)

This category offers all aspects and possible community relationships that impact the sustainability of the urban forest.

18. Public Agency Cooperation - Collaborate with formal interdepartmental and interagency teams to implement municipal policies on community projects

- Establish a formal multi-disciplinary team (Community Forestry stakeholder team) consisting of key personnel from the City and other agencies to identify and address collaborations toward a sustainable and healthy community
- Improve coordination of tree care in the right of way with ACHD – by developing a formalized agreement for maintenance duties and specifications for street tree pruning
- Improve collaborative planning for landscapes in new developments and re-design projects

19. Involvement of Large Institutional Landholders - Develop clear goals for the tree resource with large institutional landholders

- Identify and engage institutional landholders, establish tree planting and maintenance goals

20. Green Industry Cooperation - Collaborate with the green industry on enhanced consumer education

- Create an outreach campaign around community forestry benefits and tree care

- Develop standards and specifications for community projects
- Update city tree ordinance to enhance current Boise Community Forestry Licensed Tree Care Company list and practice

21. Neighborhood Action - Enhance collaboration with and engage neighborhood associations

- Create an outreach campaign around community forestry benefits and tree care
- Develop neighborhood level tree canopy goals
- Prioritize and implement strategic tree planting city-wide
- Expand the Citizen Tree Stewards Program

22. Citizen-Municipal-Business Interaction - Improve formal communication and cooperation with community partners

- Develop standards and specifications for community projects
- Contribute to streetscape design standards and policies that balance tree canopy goals with business and community goals.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan and funding for management of downtown street trees

23. General Awareness of Trees as a Community Resource - Engage the public to help recognize the community forest is vital to the community's environmental, social and economic well-being

- Create an outreach campaign around community forestry benefits and tree care
- Align with Boise's LIV (Lasting, Innovative, Vibrant) Initiative to establish the urban tree canopy as a vital means for enhanced sustainability in the city

24. Regional Cooperation – Continue to enhance regional coordination and planning efforts

- Continue efforts with neighboring communities to establish a common voice to expand and protect our community forests through the Treasure Valley Canopy Network
- Incorporate tree canopy performance measures into COMPASS (Community Planning Association of SW Idaho) dashboard.



Introduction

There are many definitions for an urban forest or community forest, but it most commonly refers to all the trees and associated vegetation in a community. In Boise, the community forest is composed primarily of trees and vegetation planted within the urban environment, but is also augmented by trees and vegetation that grow naturally along our waterways, including the Boise River and throughout the foothills surrounding the city. Sustainable management of this community forest is achieved through collaboration of City staff, other agency partners, stakeholders and the public.

The Plan is a living document that outlines the City's goals for the community forest and strategies to be implemented in order to achieve those goals.

Boise is a very progressive city that is striving to develop a sustainable community forest that maximizes benefits to its citizens. The City has been recognized for its commitment as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA since 1978. Currently the City has tens of thousands of trees providing tremendous benefits to the environment and community. As the City manages these trees they are striving to build a cohesive plan to maximize community forest health and benefits to the community. Recognizing the need for professional strategic planning assistance, the City sought help with developing a strategic management plan. A consulting team organized by a locally based firm, Ecosystem Sciences, was contracted to work with City staff and the stakeholders to develop a strategic plan to address management and maintenance of public trees and lead the City to more specific action plans and budgets over time.

This Community Forestry Strategic Management Plan (The Plan) is a living document outlining the City's goals for the community forest and strategies to be implemented in order to achieve those goals.

Part of this plan includes overarching vision and mission statements under which all goals and strategies align. A sustainable urban forestry model (The Sustainable Urban Forestry Matrix, Appendix C) is utilized to demonstrate the comprehensive nature of the resource management and to identify feasible strategies to be implemented in order to achieve identified goals. The strategies, outlined in the plan's Implementation Toolkit, (Appendix E) are meant to guide the City and stakeholders over the next ten years regarding planning, management and maintenance of public trees. Annual work plans with budget implications will be generated by Community Forestry staff using the tools and information provided in this plan.

The development of this Plan is a collaborative effort between City staff, the stakeholders, and the public, facilitated by the consulting team. The collaborative strategic planning process has built community investment in The Plan. With the continued dedication of all partners, Boise's community forest and Community Forestry Program will grow into an essential component of a lasting, innovative and vibrant city.



The Community Forest as a Natural Resource

The City of Boise recognizes the value of its community forest resource and wants to enhance awareness and management of it to maximize benefits to citizens. Both the City and community understand the importance of managing trees as assets because they provide many tangible benefits to all residents.

Boise's community forest encompasses approximately 7,100 acres, nearly 16% of the City's area (Figure 2).

- 76% of the City's urban tree canopy (UTC) occurs on private lands (which includes residential, commercial, industrial and other areas), exemplifying the importance of engaging residents and business owners in promoting tree care, growth and conservation.
- 24% of the City's UTC is managed or influenced by the City and its agency partners (ACHD, CCDDC, DBA, etc.) The City has direct influence over trees in parks, public areas, open space and schools (13% of UTC). The city also helps manage the street right-of-way which includes another 11% of the City's UTC.

Community Forestry staff coordinate with Neighborhood Associations to ensure forestry goals are met and objectives accomplished. Percent urban tree canopy (UTC) per Neighborhood varies widely in Boise ranging from over 40% in the Harrison Boulevard Neighborhood to under 1% in Riverland East Neighborhood (Figure 3. Map of UTC% per neighborhood in Boise). Overall, most neighborhoods in Boise have less than 20% tree canopy.

Trees in the City of Boise not only beautify streets and neighborhoods and provide respite from the summer heat, but are also essential in providing Ecosystem Services to residents. Ecosystem Services are environmental goods and amenities that provide benefits to the local community (Scwarz et al. 2015). Ecosystem Services provided by tree canopy include: enhanced energy efficiency, stormwater mitigation, improved water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and increased property values, as well as human health benefits. In this plan, Ecosystem Services have been monetized so that City leaders and residents can understand the actual value in dollars that trees provide (see side bar).

Annual Ecosystem Services provided by Boise's community forest:

Reduced stormwater runoff and erosion

\$485,000 in reduced stormwater infrastructure costs

Shade that reduces residential energy costs

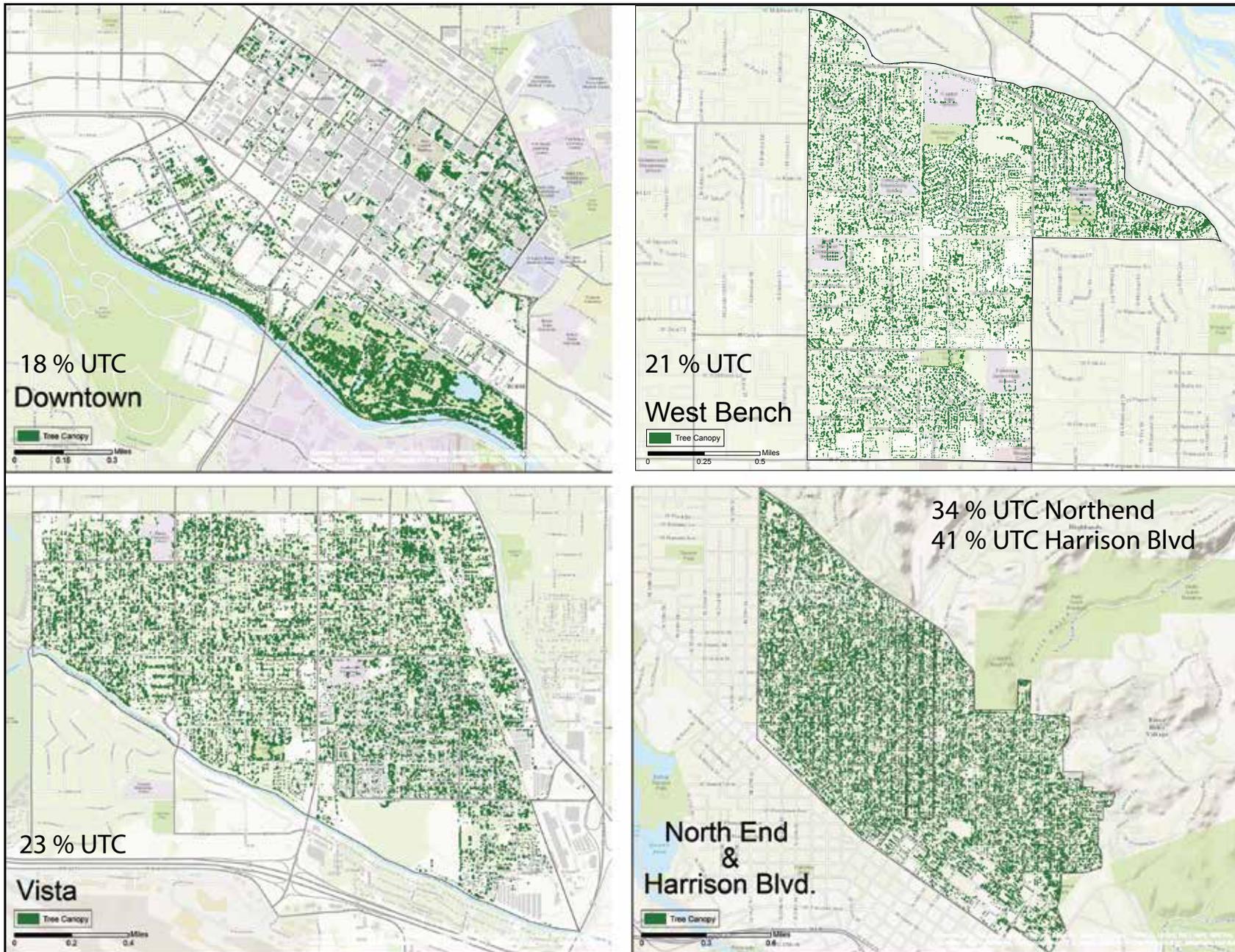
\$381,300 in reduced summer cooling costs

Air quality

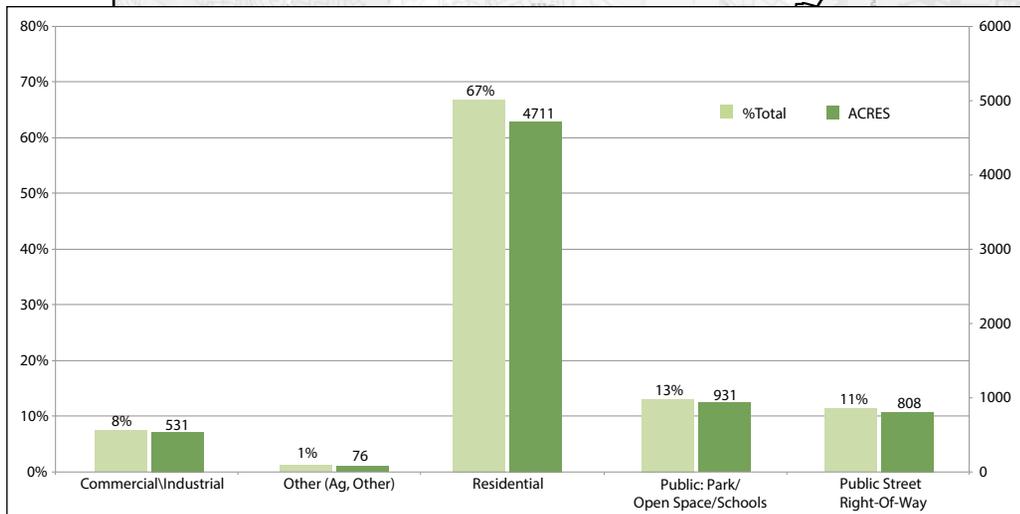
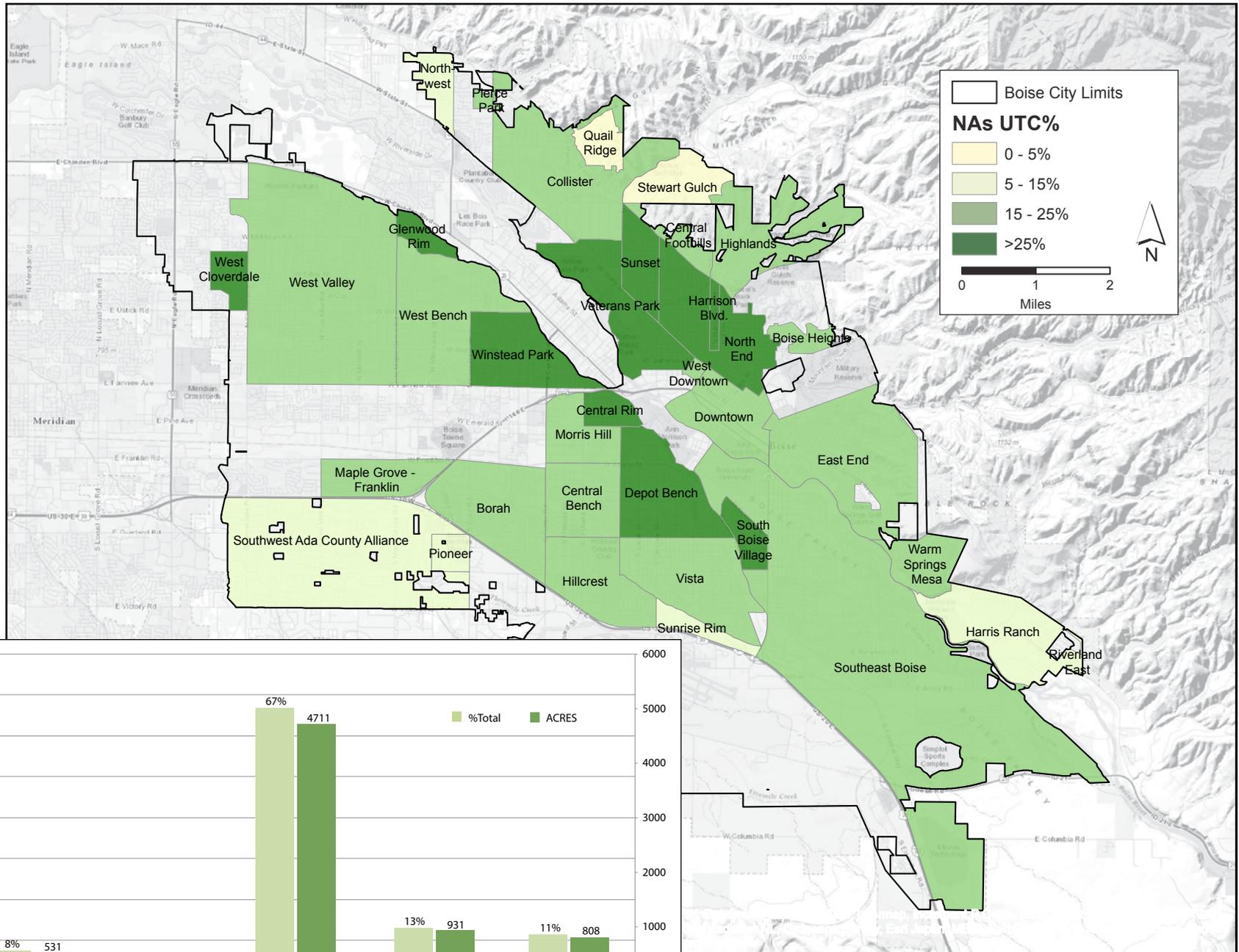
\$3.3 million in reduced health impacts

- (Treasure Valley Urban Tree Canopy Assessment 2013)





■ Figure 1. Boise Urban Tree Canopy (UTC).
The total UTC for the City is 16%.

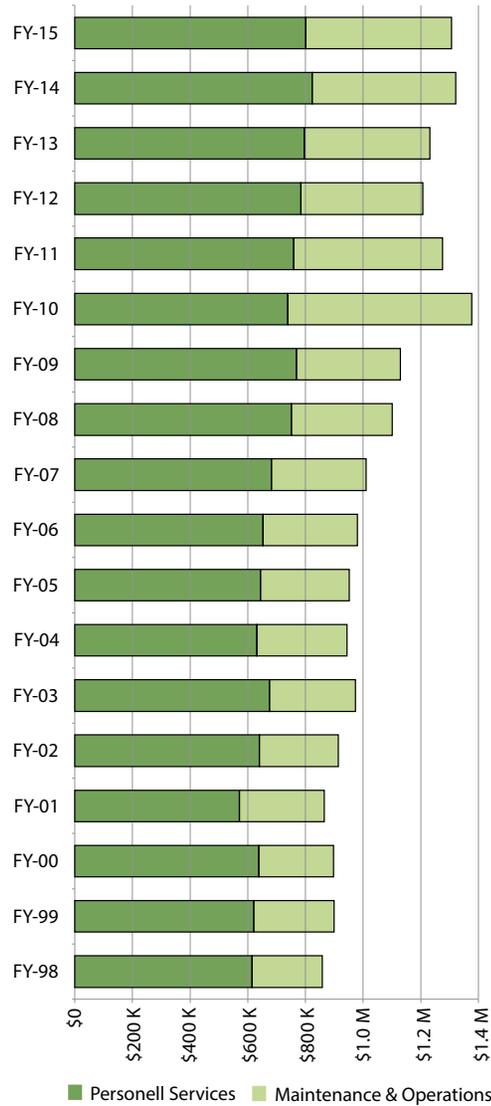


■ Figure 2. Percent UTC by land use

■ Figure 3. Percent UTC by neighborhood
 (For more info visit: <http://www.tvcanopy.net/map-the-canopy>)



History and Context, Boise's Community Forest



■ Figure 4. Community Forestry Unit budget (1998 – 2015)

Boise's Community Forestry Unit (Community Forestry) was established through the Boise Tree Ordinance in 1952 and has provided management and growth worthy of recognition as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA since 1978. As the city's nickname, "The City of Trees", suggests, Boise has a long history of planting and caring for trees.

Since 2006, Community Forestry has been operating under a ten-year management plan developed by the Les Bois Tree Task Force. This plan provided recommendations in four key areas of management: Administrative and Education, Maintenance and Operations, Tree Planting and Downtown Trees. In summary, twenty-three top priority recommendations were agreed upon to guide future management in these areas.

In addition to the 2006 Management Plan, several city policies, procedures and planning processes guide management of the community forest as it interfaces with the community's transportation infrastructure, future planning efforts, citizen initiatives, etc. In order to better understand the interface of these policies and procedures and how they inform community forest management, the planning team developed a Community Forestry – City Policy Synthesis (Appendix A).

The Policy Synthesis outlines all known City documents and policies that impact community forest management in Boise.

These documents are examined to determine how they influence the Community Forestry Unit's actions based on whether they:

- Govern (G) - Documents that govern (G) the Community Forestry Unit's actions are ordinances, management plans or the City's comprehensive plans.
- Address (A) - Documents that address (A) the Community Forestry Unit provide essential data or suggest actions to help manage the forest.
- Mention (M) - Documents that mention (M) the Community Forestry Unit are generally educational materials aimed at explaining the resource but do not mandate action or provide data.

Important documents related to the history of Boise's Community Forest are: the Boise Tree Ordinance (#1), Boise Parks & Recreation Community Forestry Management Plan (#2), Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan (#5), and Blueprint Boise (Boise's Comprehensive Plan) (#6). As City staff implement this Plan, the Policy Synthesis will provide a tool to inform decisions on future Community Forestry policy and planning efforts.



Assessment of the Current Community Forest

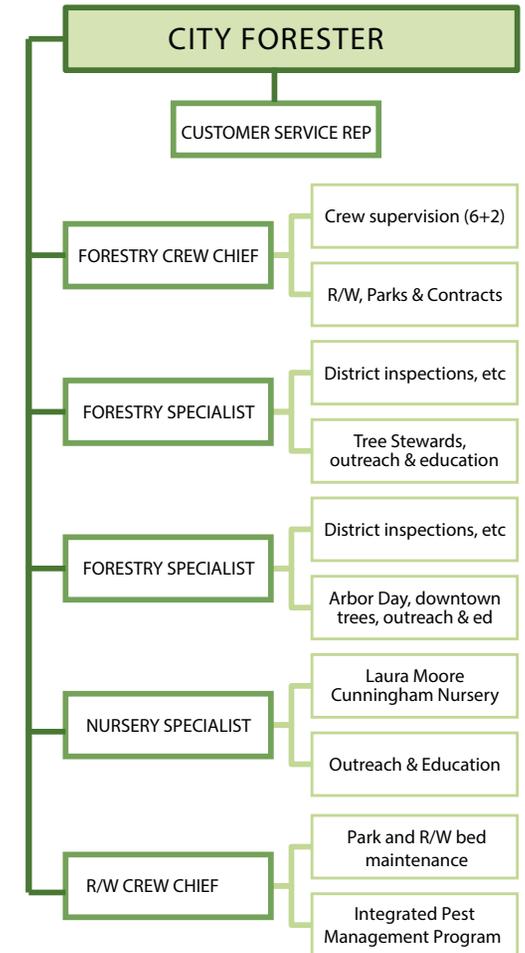
In order to evaluate the effectiveness of a community forestry program, it is valuable to gather data and information to identify where the program currently stands and to create a foundation to build upon. Several key sources of information were gathered to inform this assessment of the current community forest, including:

- Community Forestry programs, staffing and responsibilities, and collaboration with key stakeholders and the community;
- Status of the community forest resource (tree inventory and urban tree canopy assessment);
- Program progress since the 2006 planning process.



Community Forestry Program

Boise’s Community Forestry Unit (Community Forestry) manages all public trees within the city’s street right of way and city parks. Funding for Community Forestry, which includes personnel, operations and maintenance and equipment costs, has fluctuated between \$900,000 and \$1.4 million since 1998 (Figure 4). Management of the community forest resource is conducted through a combination of full-time and seasonal staff (including a City Forester, Forestry Specialists, and an arborist crew) and through private contract (primarily for right of way street tree pruning). Community Forestry staff consists of six full-time administrative employees and an arborist crew composed of six full-time employees and two seasonal employees; ten of the staff are International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists (figure 5). Management activities are organized within eight community forestry districts (figure 6). The core responsibilities of staff include: inspections, maintenance, removal and planting of street right of way and parks; oversight of contracts for right of way tree maintenance; Planning and Development Services (PDS) design review; managing various outreach and education programs, including: Tree Stewards, Spring tree class



■ Figure 5. Community Forestry Staff Organization Chart

Community Forestry works with several city departments and local partners on planning, planting and maintenance of trees in Boise's downtown

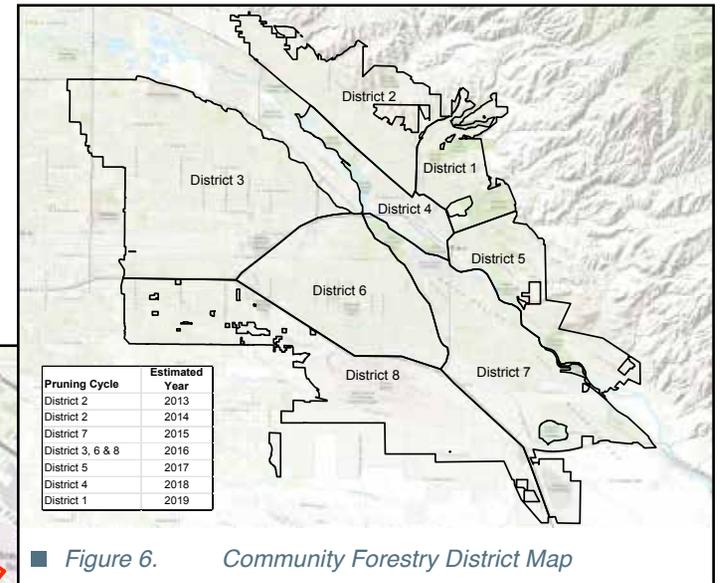


Figure 6. Community Forestry District Map

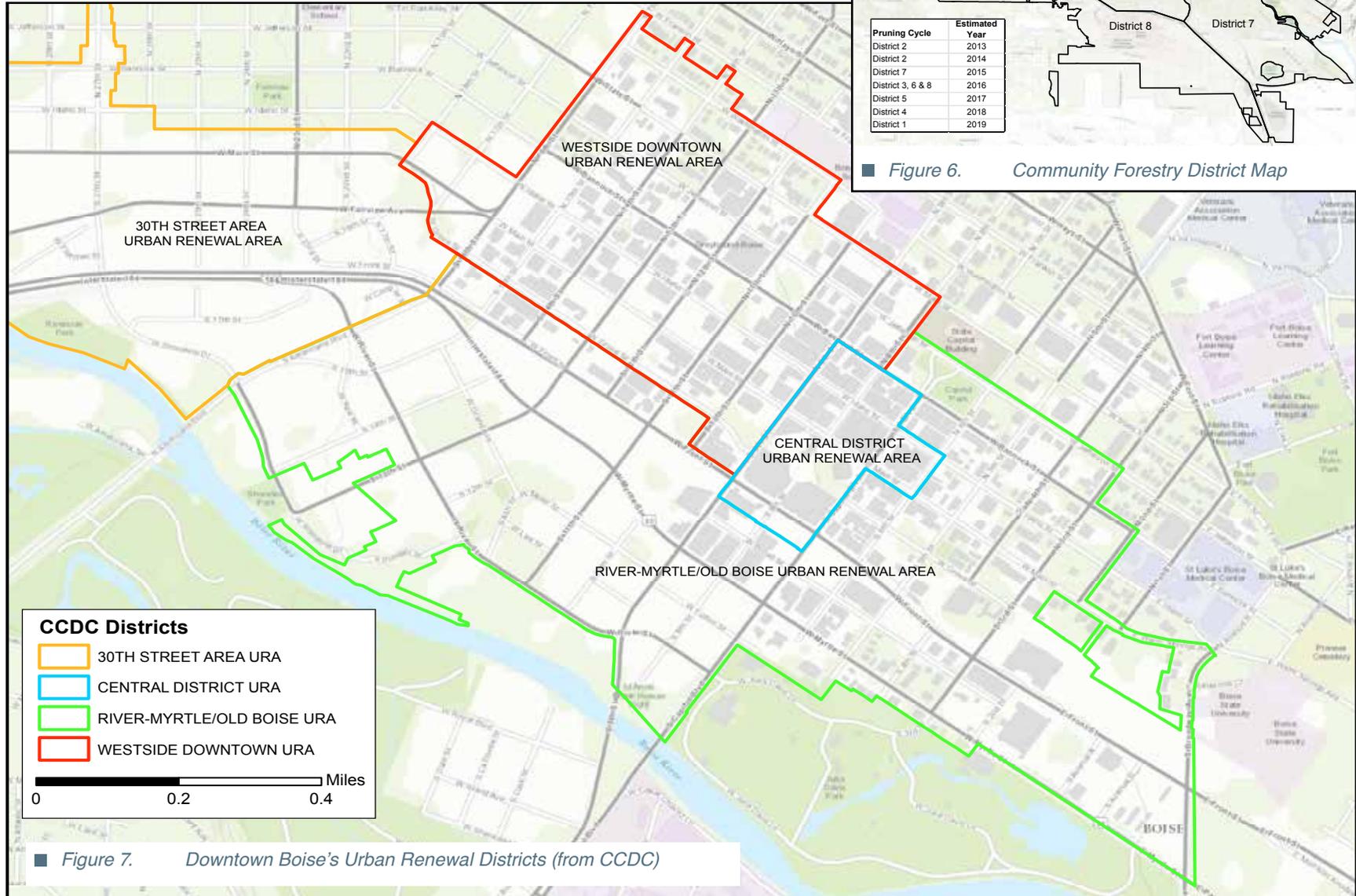
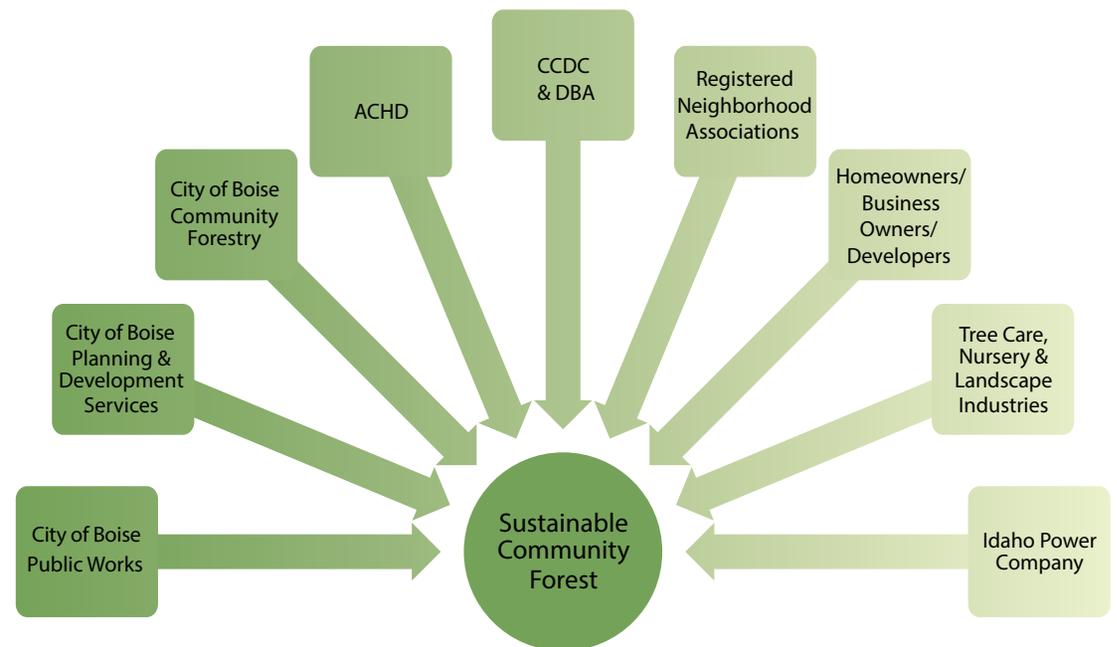


Figure 7. Downtown Boise's Urban Renewal Districts (from CCDC)

series, Arbor Day events and Tree City USA; Administration of community tree planting initiatives, including: ReLeaf Boise and NeighborWoods; and management of the Laura Moore Cunningham Arboretum / Nursery. To learn more about these various programs, visit the Boise Community Forestry website: parks.cityofboise.org/forestry.

In addition to planting and maintenance of city trees, Community Forestry staff play a key role in shaping the future of the city's community forest on both public and private lands. For example, they collaborate with Neighborhood Associations on education, outreach, enhancement and maintenance of trees on public and private lands; and they partner with several city departments (including Public Works and Planning and Development Services (PDS)), and several local partners: Ada County Highway District (ACHD), Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC), Downtown Boise Association (DBA), and downtown business owners on planning, planting and maintenance of trees in Boise's downtown (Figure 7). While the Community Forestry Unit is the city unit primarily responsible for management and oversight of the community forest, it is clear that collaboration with multiple stakeholders is critical to building and sustaining a thriving community forest resource (Figure 8).

Collaboration with multiple stakeholders is critical to building and sustaining a thriving community forest resource



■ *Figure 8. Multiple stakeholders influence Boise's community forest*



The Community Forest Resource

Public Tree Inventory

The Community Forestry Unit's (Community Forestry) public tree inventory was originally completed more than 25 years ago with software called Tree Manager. Staff regularly update the inventory based on field inspections and subsequent management actions. It is estimated to be a 90% complete inventory of public trees and includes data for: species, diameter, condition, location, past maintenance history, next expected maintenance, service requests (both internal and external customer initiated). As of early 2015, the City is transitioning to a new enterprise management system called VueWorks which will enable full integration of the inventory into the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) system.

Throughout the planning process, several key elements of the public tree inventory were highlighted:

- It is estimated that the city has a total of 40,000-50,000 trees including those in open space and not currently inventoried
- 32,500 public trees are included in the public tree inventory
 - 12,000 park trees
 - 20,500 street (right-of-way) trees
- Key inventory outputs and summaries include:
 - Species diversity (figure 9)
 - Age Distribution (figure 10 A and B)
 - Condition (figure 11 A and B)

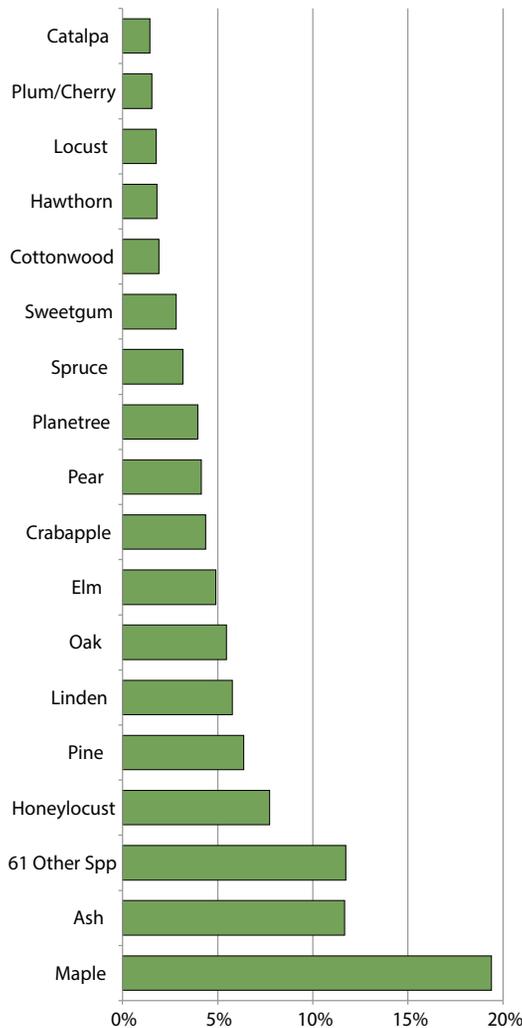
The planning process identified several metrics that need to be updated during the transition of the public tree inventory to the new asset management system. These metrics include: age distribution, current condition and geographic location.

Urban Tree Canopy

The 2013 Treasure Valley Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Assessment (Plan-it Geo 2013) provides valuable metrics about the city's urban tree canopy and the Ecosystem Services it provides. Some of the key metrics used to inform The Plan include:

- Estimated city-wide urban tree canopy (UTC) = 16%
- Distribution of the community forest resource, based on land use = 24% public and 76% private (figure 2)
- Boise's estimated UTC at the neighborhood level (figure 3)
- Potential tree planting locations (figure 12a, 12b, 13)

The UTC metrics were not only valuable in educating stakeholders during the planning process, but the data and tools from the 2013 Treasure Valley UTC Assessment will be valuable for Community Forestry and stakeholders to accomplish some of the agreed upon goals and strategies in the future.



■ Figure 9. Tree Species Diversity

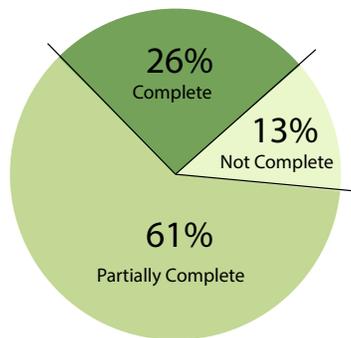


Program Progress Since 2006

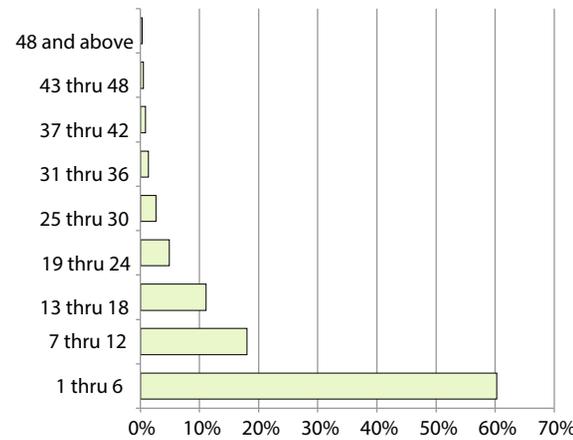
In the beginning stages of the planning process, the staff and consultant team evaluated the previous Community Forestry ten-year plan and produced the 2006 Boise Community Forestry Report Card (Appendix B).

This report card includes analysis of progress achieved toward the 23 priority recommendations in 8 key categories: planting, maintenance, outreach and education, planning and development, neighborhoods, downtown, streets and staff development (figure 14).

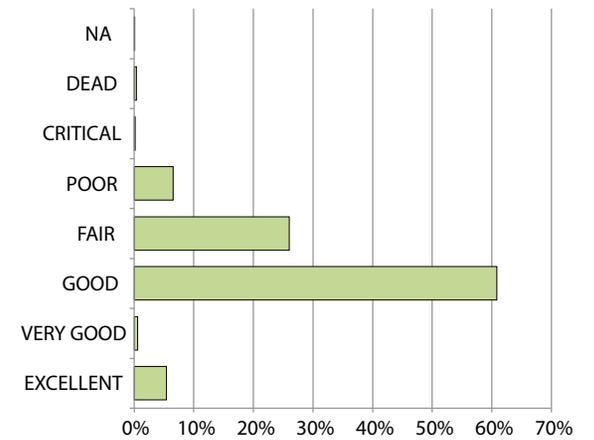
The conclusion of this evaluation recognizes Community Forestry's significant and commendable progress over the last ten years, laying the foundation for even further growth of the program over the next ten years.



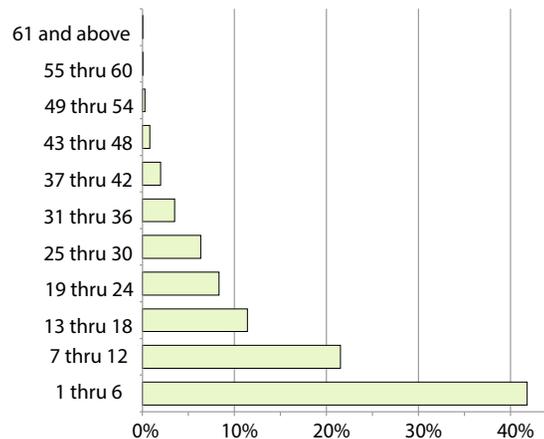
■ Figure 14. 2006 Boise Community Forestry Report Card Summary



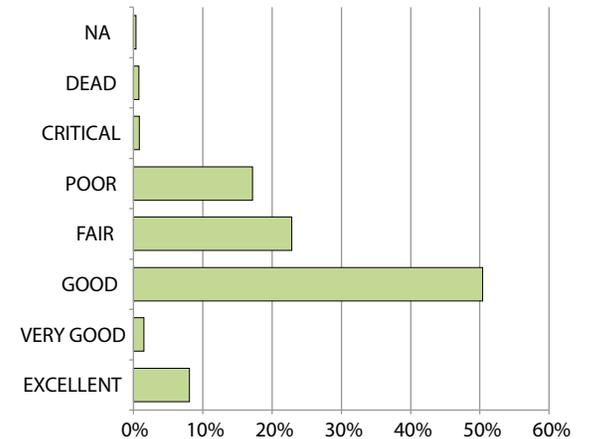
■ Figure 10 A. Park Tree Age Distribution by Diameter Class Percent



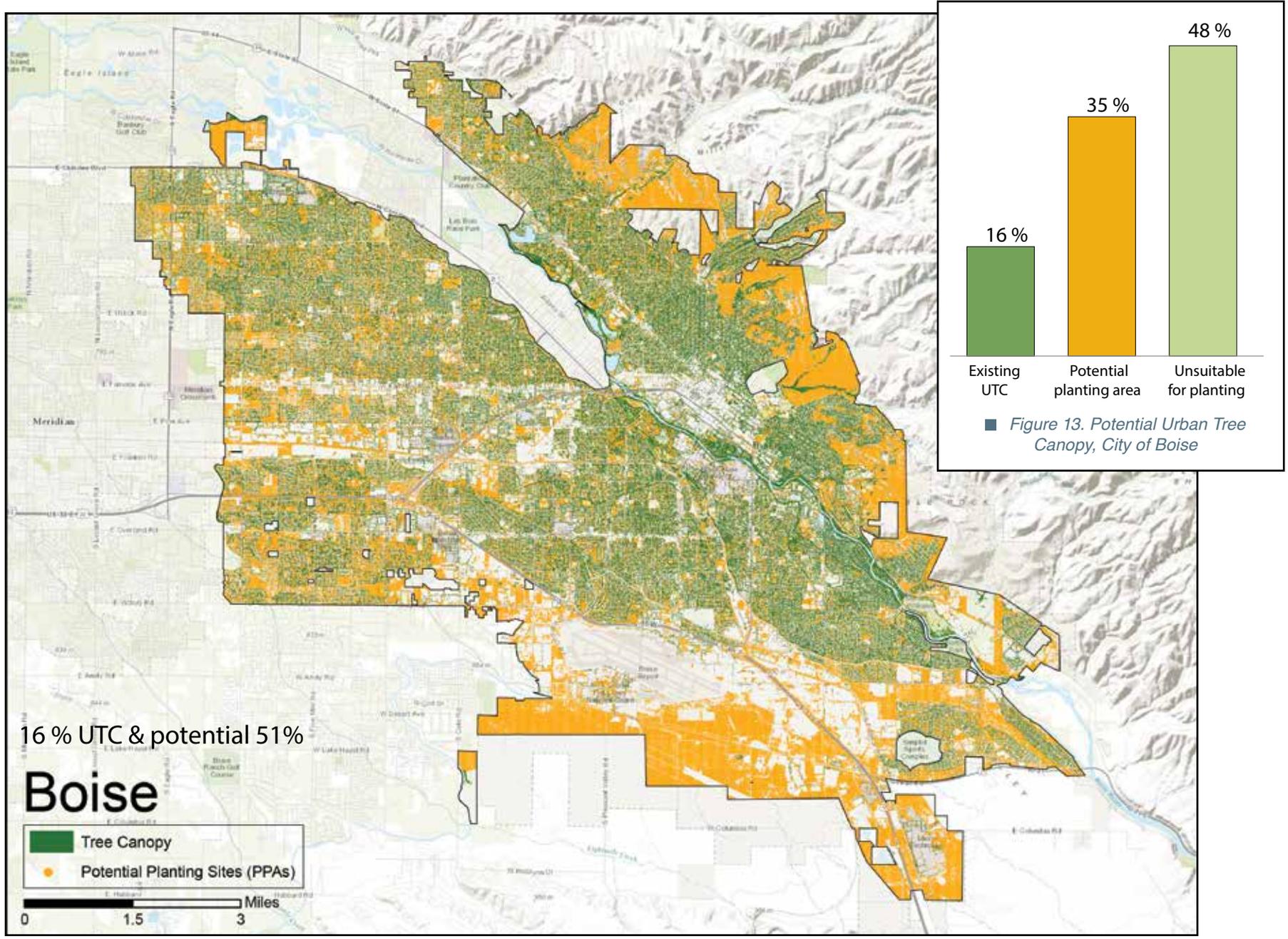
■ Figure 11 A. Park Tree Condition



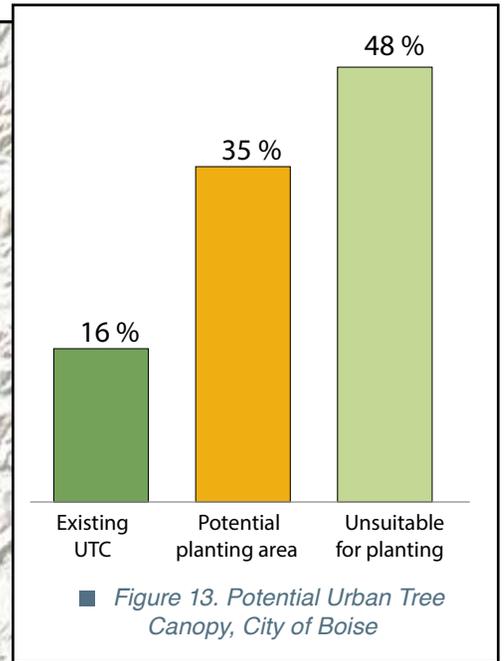
■ Figure 10 B. Street Tree Age Distribution by Diameter Class Percent

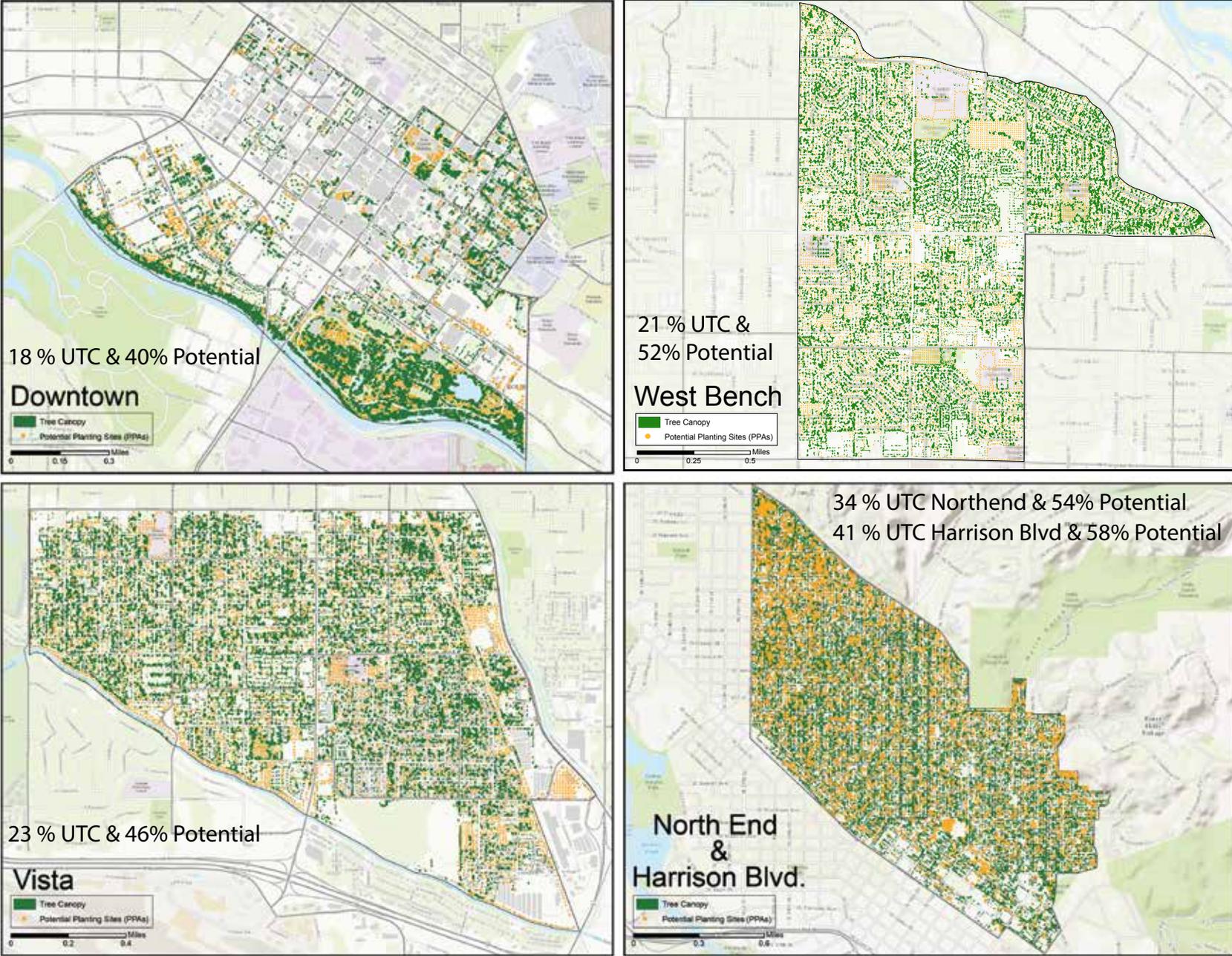


■ Figure 11 B. Street Tree Condition



■ Figure 12a. Map of Boise with Potential Planting Locations





■ Figure 12b. Potential Planting Locations in Specific Neighborhoods

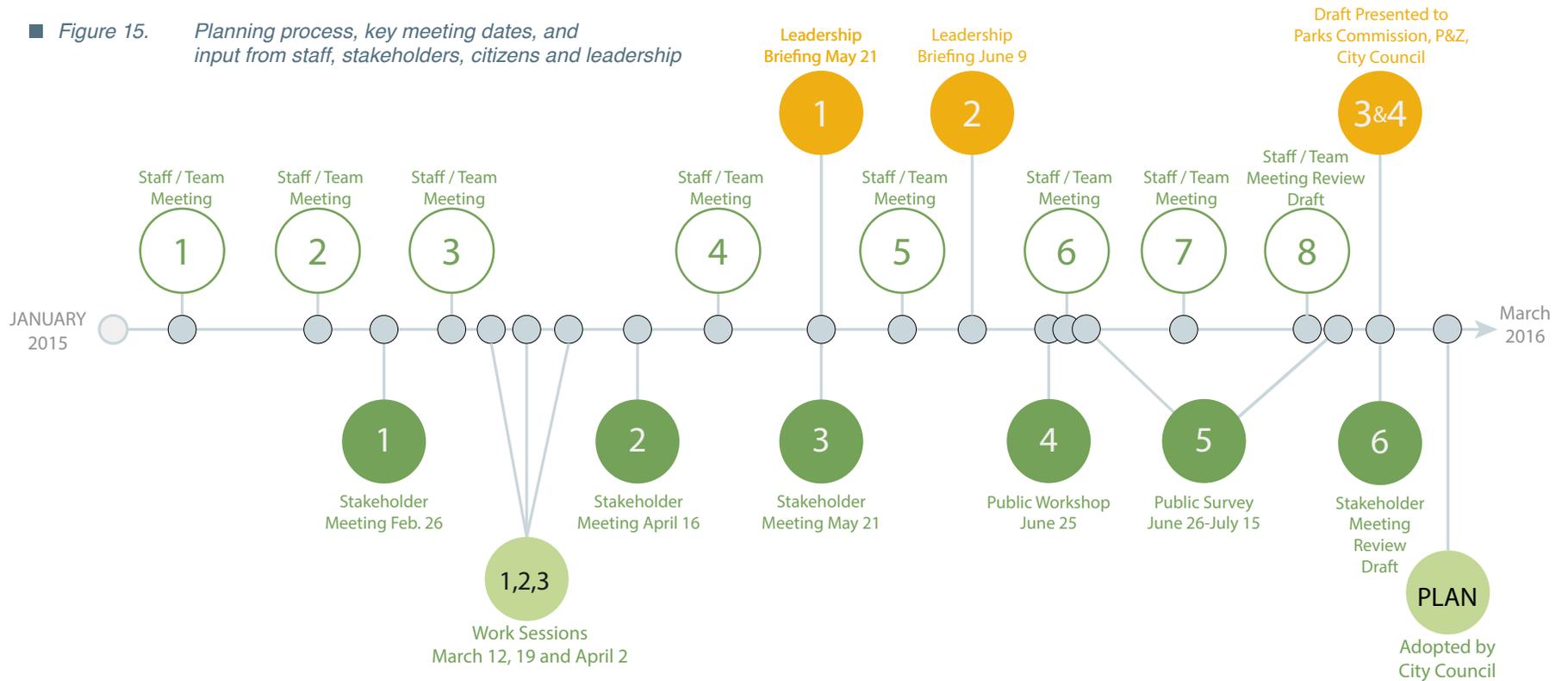


Photo: Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC)



■ Figure 16. Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix process

■ Figure 15. Planning process, key meeting dates, and input from staff, stakeholders, citizens and leadership



Collaborative Strategic Planning Process

The foundation of this planning process was built around active partner and community investment at all stages of plan development (figure 15). Invested city staff, stakeholders and citizens are critical to ensure: (1) this plan is developed collaboratively to serve the community’s needs and (2) these partners are invested in implementing the strategies and accomplishing the goals outlined in the plan over the next ten years.

To engage staff and stakeholders in a collaborative discussion about a sustainable community forestry program, a “Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix” was used (Appendix C). The three categories – Vegetative Resource, Resource Management, and Community Framework, along with performance indicator spectrum and key objectives, are based on a sustainability model (Clark, et al 1997). The criteria in each category are comprehensive in order to demonstrate all the aspects of a community forestry program to consider when setting goals and priorities.

Staff and Stakeholder Engagement

Between January and July 2015, the consultant team facilitated over ten staff team meetings and six stakeholder team meetings and work sessions. The collaborative discussions during these meetings, which followed the “Sustainable Urban Forest

Matrix” strategic planning framework, yielded twenty-four broad goals to guide the City’s community forestry management over the next ten years (figure 16). The outputs from these meetings are included in Appendix C Stakeholder Strategic Planning Outputs.

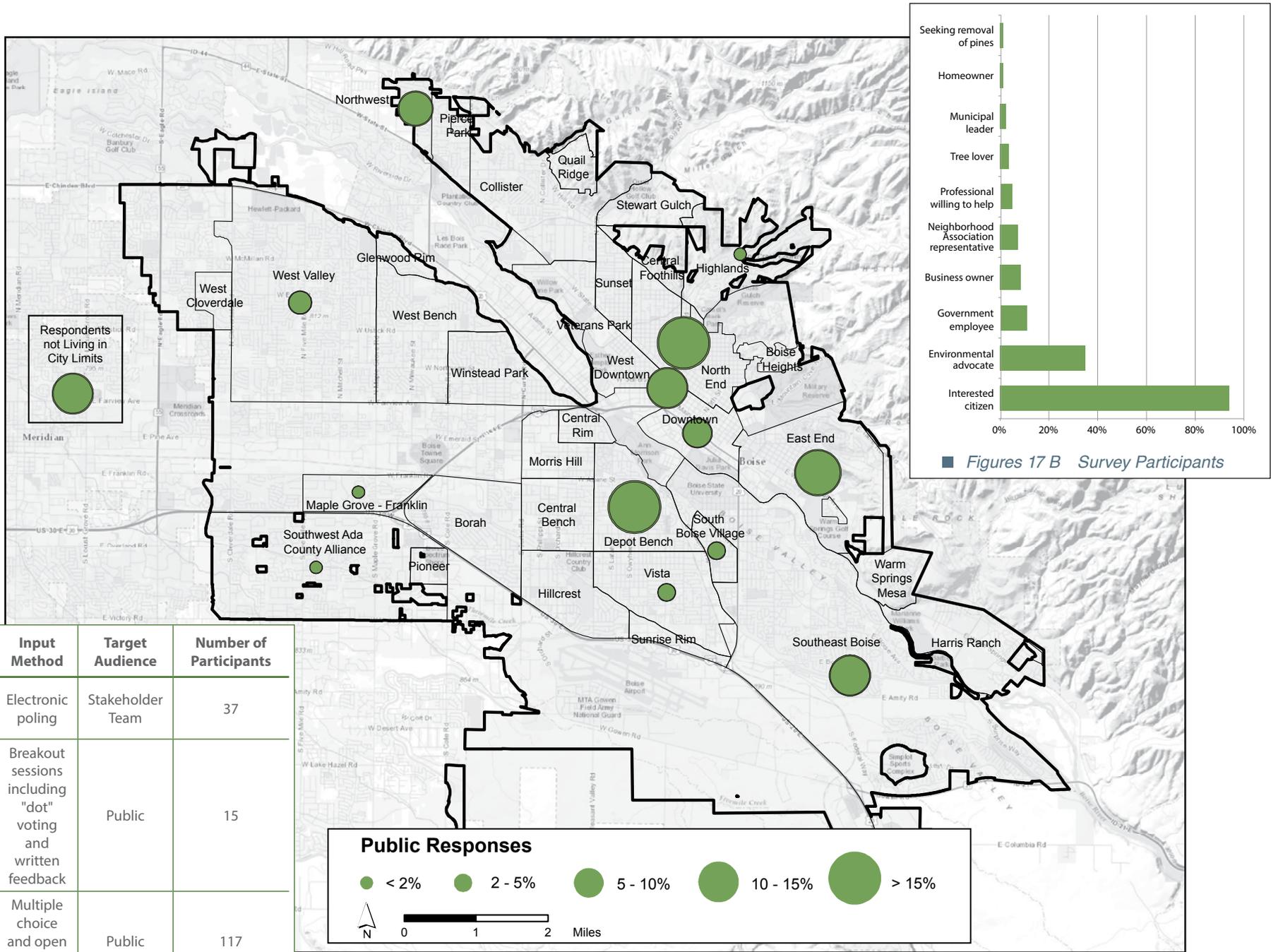
Public Engagement

Using the foundation of goals and strategies created by the Staff and Stakeholder Teams; City staff, the stakeholder team and consultant team hosted a public workshop on June 25 to inform and engage the public in the collaborative strategic planning process. During the workshop a conversation was facilitated around the three categories of the “Sustainable Urban Forest

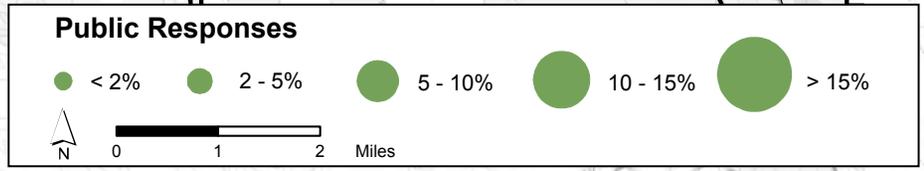
Major themes from the staff and stakeholder engagement process:

- Management of the community forest requires extensive collaboration among city departments, partner agencies throughout the city, the green industry, neighborhood associations and homeowners (including: healthy tree condition and species diversity)
- Stakeholders are engaged and committed to collaborating toward a vibrant, healthy and thriving community forest that maximizes benefits to citizens and the environment
- Top priorities identified through the stakeholder work sessions included:
 - Resource Management: Maintaining sufficient staffing and funding to ensure there is a complete tree inventory that ensures effective maintenance of public trees
 - Community Framework: Enhancing public agency cooperation and neighborhood action to ensure a raised level of awareness about the critical role the community forest plays in creating a healthy and thriving city
 - Vegetative Resource: maintaining and enhancing the urban tree canopy cover in the city, ensuring a healthy and thriving community forest resource





Outreach Event	Input Method	Target Audience	Number of Participants
Series of three work sessions	Electronic polling	Stakeholder Team	37
Workshop at Boise Public Library	Breakout sessions including "dot" voting and written feedback	Public	15
Interactive Online Survey	Multiple choice and open comment survey	Public	117



■ Figures 17 A. Survey Participants

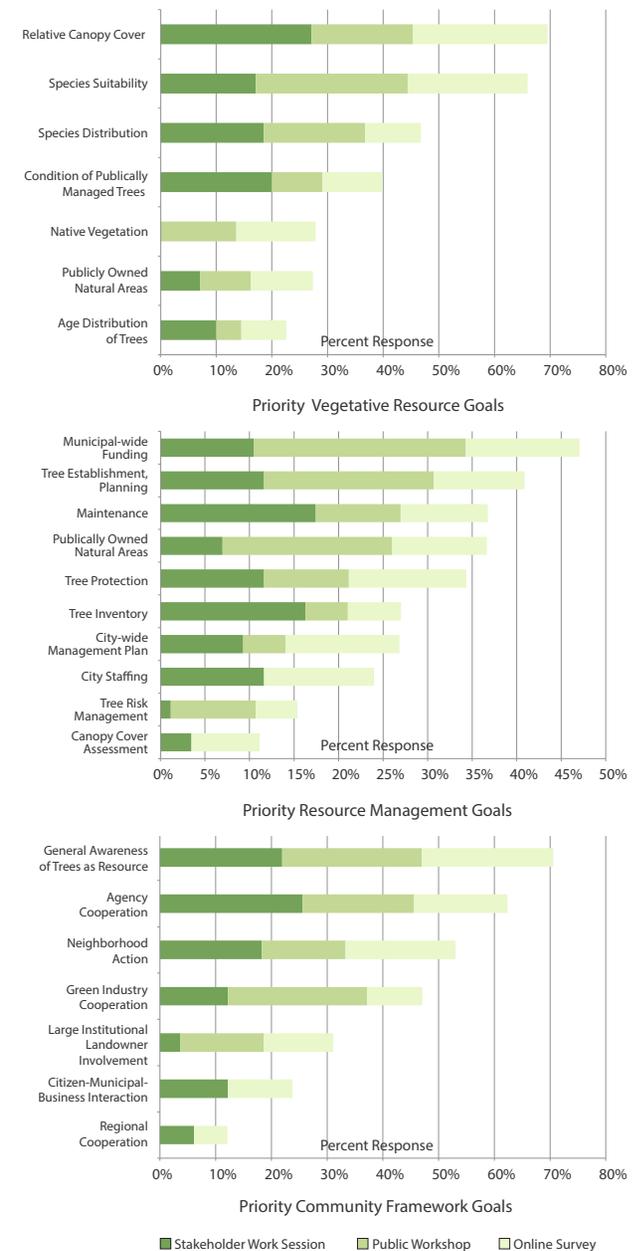
Matrix”: Vegetative Resource, Resource Management and Community Framework. During the facilitated discussion, participants selected priority goals within each category and provided additional input into the development and implementation of the Plan.

Following the workshop, additional public input was solicited through an on-line survey and public website. This on-line

survey yielded extensive input from over one-hundred members of the public (Figure 17A and 17B) and is summarized below. The public input was very informative and resulted in enhancements to the city’s goals and priorities for collaborating with citizens to better manage the community forest. Outputs from the public engagement process are included in Appendix D.

Major themes from the public feedback included:

- Citizens value the city’s public trees and are seeking ways to not only learn more about the community forest, but engage in active management through volunteerism when possible
- Top priorities identified through the public workshop and on-line survey included:
 - Vegetative Resource: Maintaining and enhancing the urban tree canopy cover in the city, ensuring a healthy and thriving community forest resource (including: healthy tree condition and species diversity). The public also expressed interest in additional collaboration with open space management to maintain and enhance native species in the foothills and along the Boise River.
 - Resource Management: Maintaining sufficient staffing and funding to ensure there are sufficient tree protection policies in-place for long-term survivability of the public trees.
 - Community Framework: Most importantly, raise general awareness of the critical role the community forest plays in creating a healthy and thriving city. Through enhanced public agency cooperation and neighborhood action, the respondents feel a raised level of public awareness can be achieved.



■ Figure 18. Stakeholder and Public Priority Goals

Management Plan and Implementation Tools

At the conclusion of the strategic planning process staff, stakeholders and the public identified 33 strategies to be implemented to accomplish 24 goals for the community (see Community Forestry Goals and Strategies, pages 2-5). As the planning team synthesized all stakeholder and public input (Figure 18 Stakeholder and Public Priority Goals), four top priorities emerged:

- Implement neighborhood and citizen engagement initiatives to enhance general awareness of the critical role the community forest plays in creating a healthy and thriving city.
- Enhance agency and stakeholder cooperation by engaging a formal community forest stakeholder team in implementation of key strategies
- Implement key enhancements to critical community forest management tools starting with the city-wide tree inventory
- Collaborate with stakeholders and business owners on a successful plan and funding for downtown street trees

Using these four top priorities as the foundation, the planning team developed an Implementation Toolkit (to be used by Community Forestry Staff) to guide annual work plans and budgeting for the next ten years, ensuring sustained growth of a healthy community forest and Community Forestry Program.



Implementation Toolkit

In order to capture the extensive information gathered throughout the collaborative strategic planning process and ensure effective implementation of identified strategies, the planning team developed an Implementation Toolkit (Appendix E). The toolkit, created for Community Forestry staff, outlines priorities and timelines for implementing the City's strategies. Staff will use this toolkit to: 1) develop annual work plans and budgets; 2) measure progress annually; and 3) report progress to stakeholders, the public and leadership.

The key components of the Toolkit include:

- **Strategy Implementation Timeline**
Provides timeline-oriented prioritization for implementation of strategies identified through the planning process.
- **Key Strategies Implementation Table**
Identifies key collaborators to engage, goals that apply and city policies that impact implementation.
- **Strategy Implementation Background**
Provides background information, gathered from staff, stakeholder and public outreach that will inform strategy implementation.

Conclusion

Starting with the 2016 budget cycle, the Community Forestry Unit will work together with the community forestry stakeholder team to develop annual work plans that focus on accomplishing the plan's top three or four strategies within the first year. This will establish a foundation of success to be built upon annually, continually enhancing the health of the community forest and the services it provides to the citizens of Boise.

Through regular use of the Implementation Toolkit, Community Forestry and stakeholders will exhibit strategic and effective use of public resources, showing leadership and annual progress toward reaching identified goals. The resulting accomplishments, of both the Community Forestry Program and its stakeholders, will play a vital role in maintaining a healthy, sustainable and resilient community forest that contributes to Boise becoming the most livable city in the country.

The 2015 Community Forestry Strategic Management Plan was adopted by Boise City Council on April 5, 2016.



Lasting. Innovative. Vibrant.

The success of this Strategic Plan will be achieved through enhanced public agency cooperation and neighborhood action.



Appendices

A. Community Forestry City Policy Synthesis

B. Boise Community Forestry Report Card

C. Stakeholder Strategic Planning Outputs

Community Forestry Stakeholder Team

Boise's Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix - Goals & Strategies

Stakeholder Identified Priorities

Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix Navigator

Complete Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix

Sustainable Urban Forest Matrix Outputs & strategies

D. Public Strategic Planning Outputs

June 25 Public Workshop

Agenda

Sign-in sheet

Public Workshop FAQ

Discussion Session priority votes

Public Survey Results

E. Implementation Toolkit

Strategy Implementation Timeline

Key Strategies Implementation Table

Strategy Implementation Background





Community Forestry Strategic Management Plan

City of Boise