



Urban Forest Strategic Plan

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Timeline



Outcome Area and Council Priority Alignment



Previous Council Priorities 2021-2023

- Tree planting subsidy (GS1, GS6)
- Improve tree policies (GS3, GS5)

Current Council Priorities 2024-2026

- Improve human and social health for vulnerable populations (GS1, GS2, GS6, GS7)
- Advance a 15-minute City igniting neighborhood centers and accelerating shift to Active Modes (GS1, GS4, GS6)
- Reduce climate pollution and air pollution through best practices (GS1, GS2, GS3, GS6, GS7)

Other Council Priority Alignment

- Zero waste (GS3, GS6)
- Protect community water systems in an integrated way to ensure resilient water resources and healthy watersheds (GS1)
- Modernize and update City Charter (GS3, GS6)

Note: GS = Growth Strategy from Urban Forest Strategic Plan draft

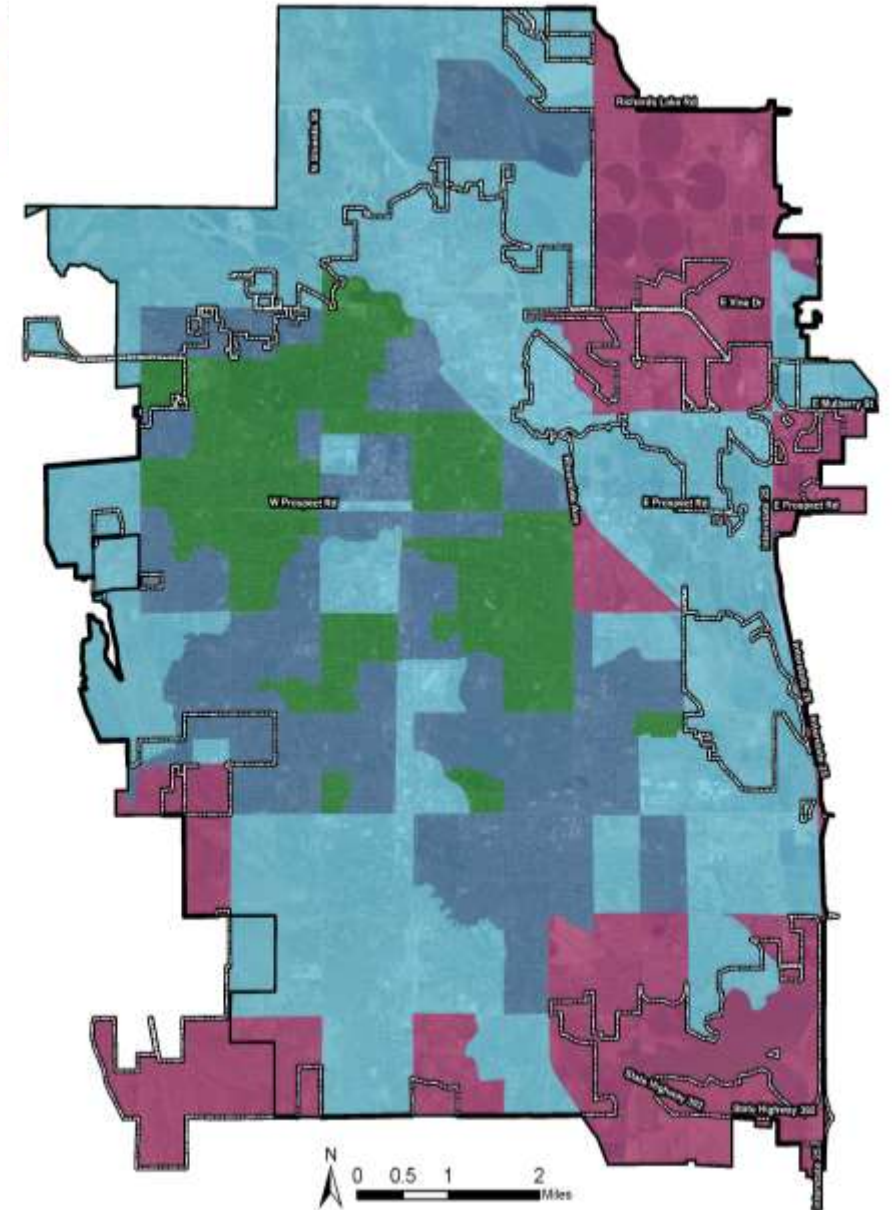
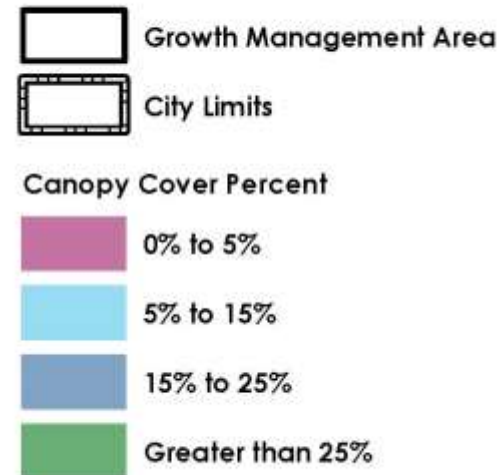


2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

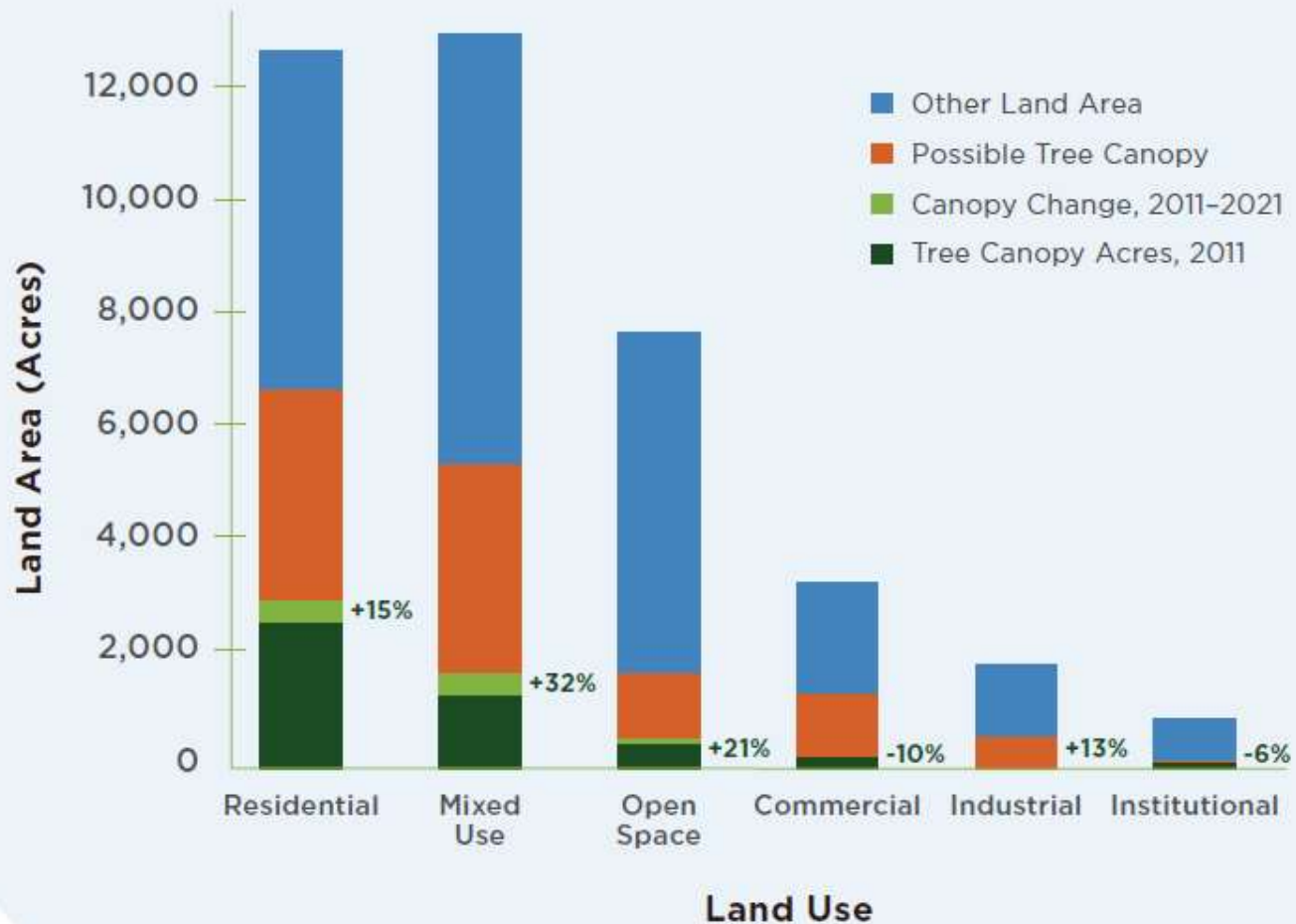


CANOPY PERCENT BY BLOCK GROUP

- Citywide: 13.7%
- City + GMA: 12.6%



TREE CANOPY COVER BY LAND USE TYPE, 2011-2021

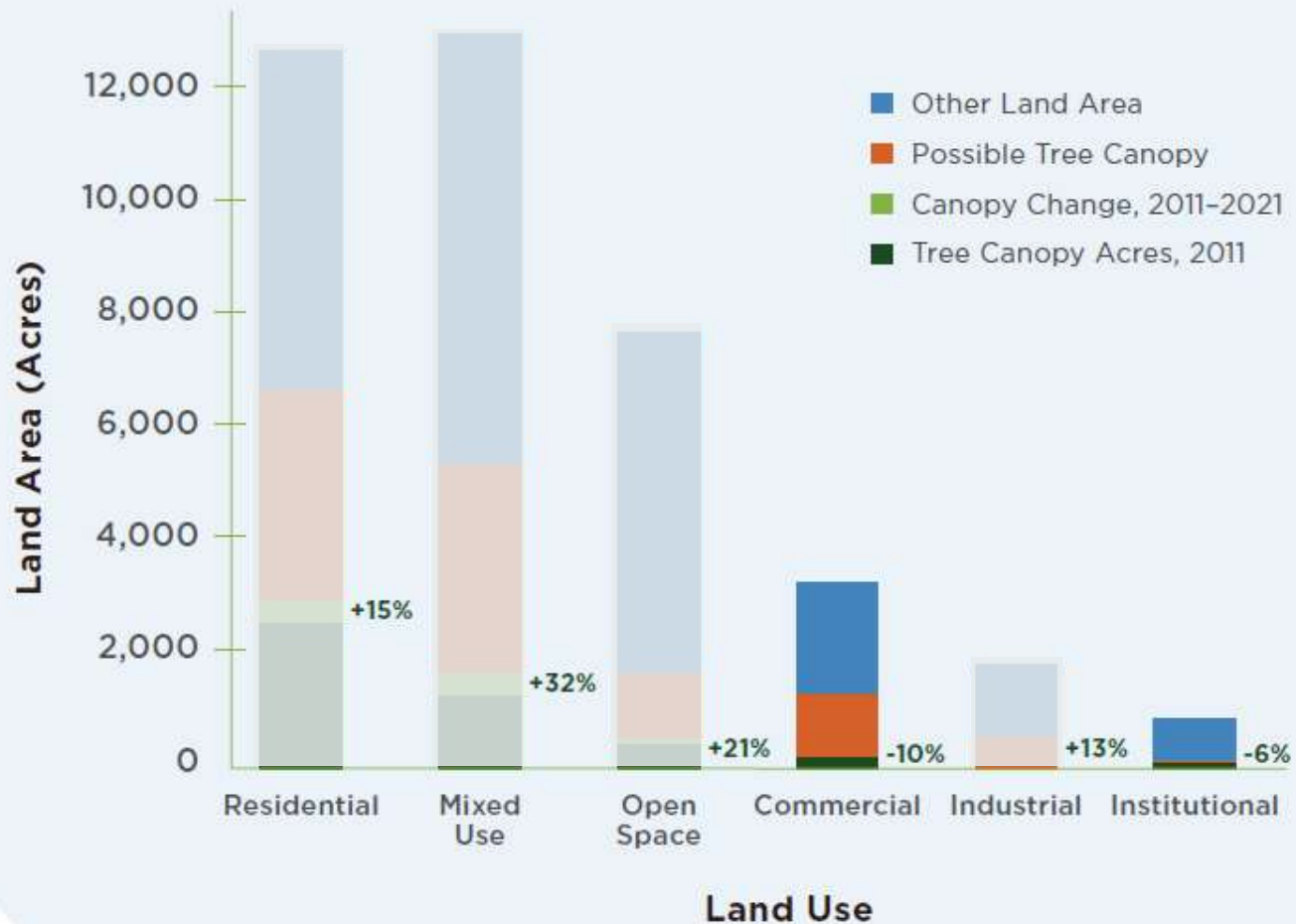


ACROSS FORT COLLINS

- Canopy has grown in most Land Use Types
- Residential and Mixed-use greatest opportunity
 - 8,083 acres of potential tree canopy
- Commercial and Institutional have lost canopy

ACROSS FORT COLLINS

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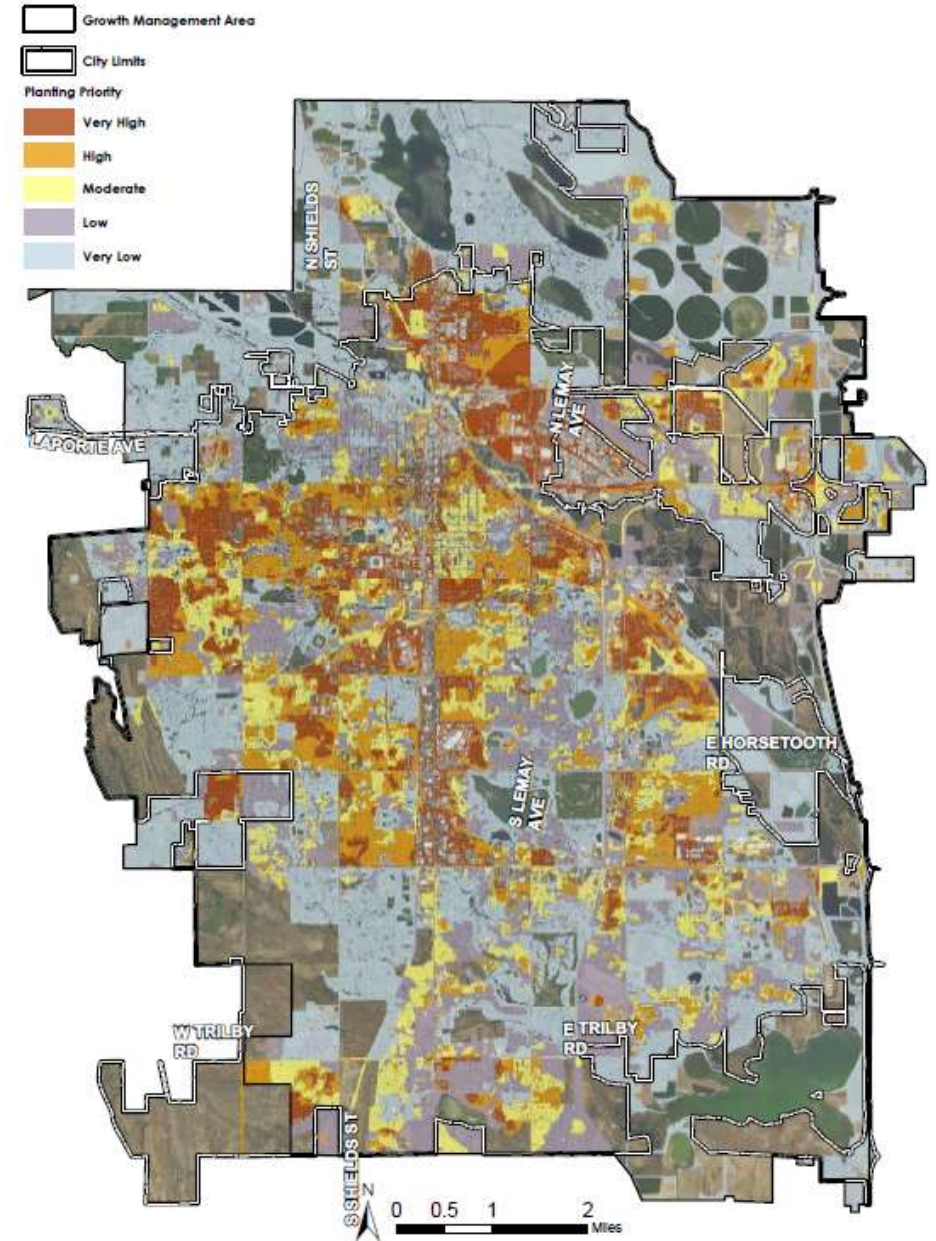


Possible drivers for canopy loss:

- Trees aging out
- Urban environmental stressors
- Development (both new and infill)

15,418 POTENTIAL NEW CANOPY ACRES

- Classified from Very Low to Very High priority
 - **Social:** income, population density, BIPOC, renters
 - **Health:** asthma, heart disease, mental health
 - **Environmental:** urban heat and stormwater
- 2,251 acres of High or Very High priority
- Can help City plant trees for outcomes



7 Proposed Growth Strategies

1. Strategically invest in growing tree canopy where it will promote resilience and quality of life in Fort Collins.

2. Complete the shift to proactive management of Fort Collins' public trees.

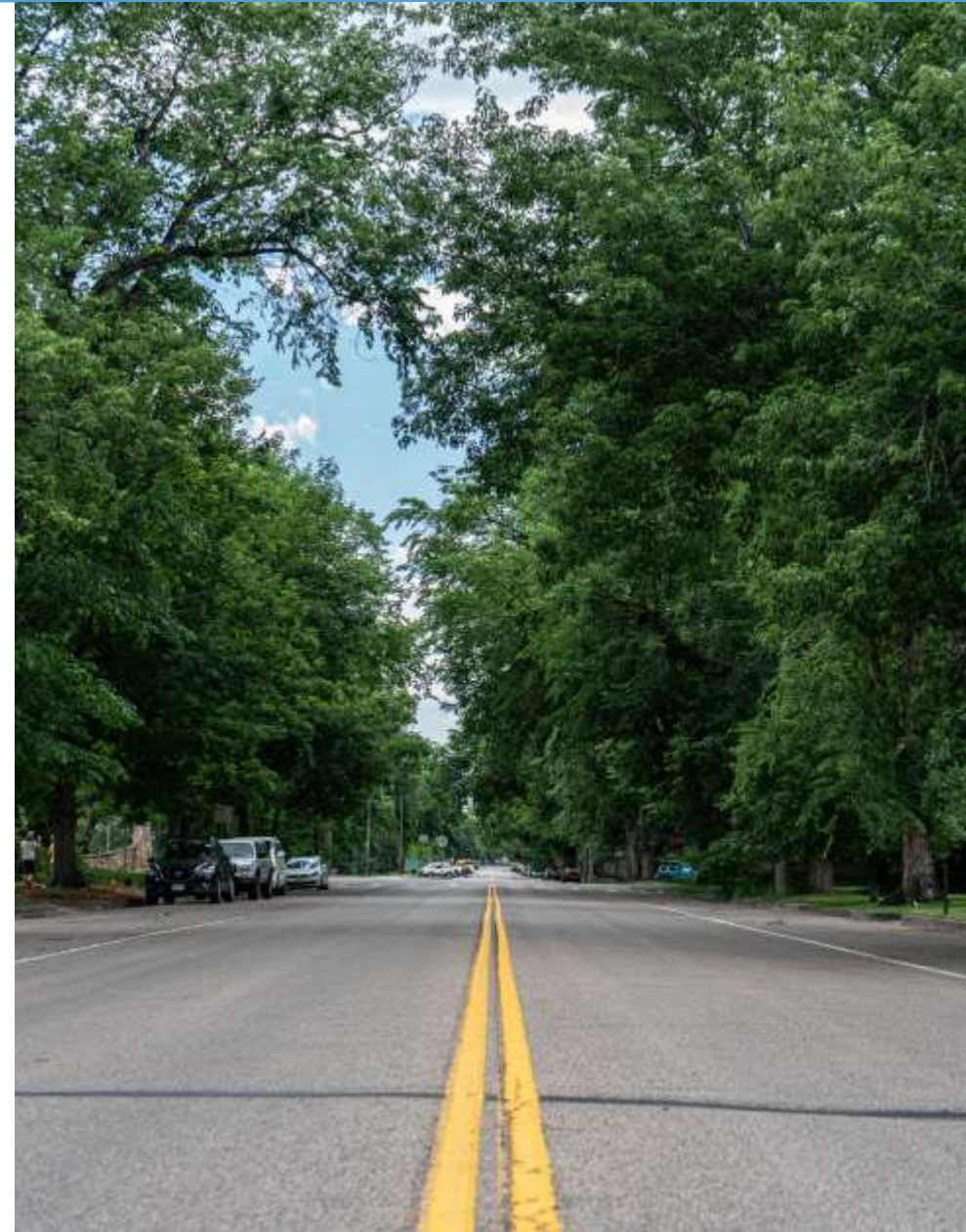
3. Strengthen city policies to protect trees.

4. Collect data to track changes to tree canopy over time and to inform forestry activities.

5. Sustainably resource the Forestry Division to keep pace with growth of the urban forest.

6. Deepen engagement with the community about tree stewardship.

7. Expand the network of Forestry Division partners.



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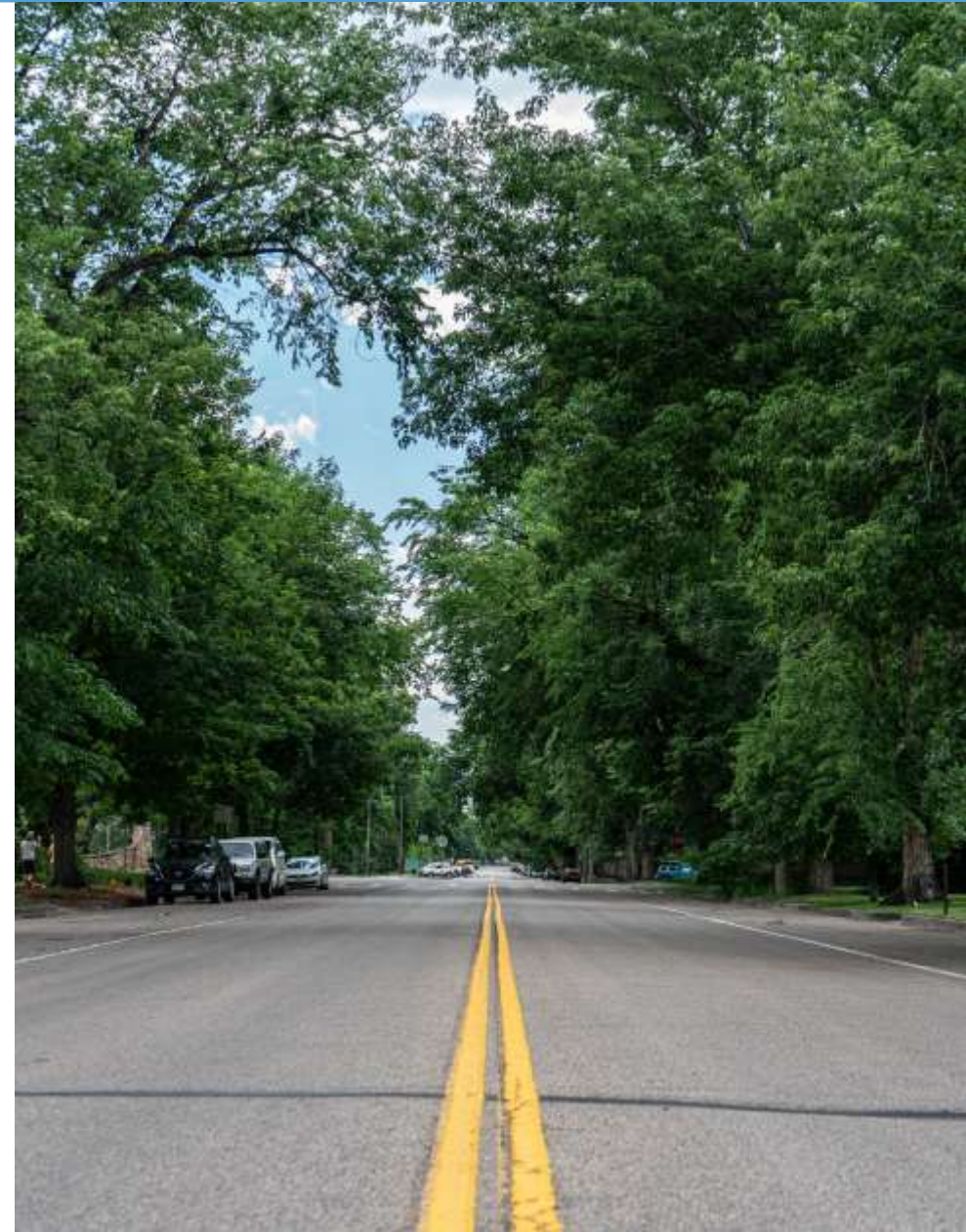
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STRENGTHEN CITY POLICIES TO PROTECT TREES

Foundational Initiative Examples

- Engage and adopt policies balancing other priorities.
- Draft a heritage tree program with elective enrollment.
- Reference existing good practices in city code.

Transformational Initiative Examples

- Clarify the responsibility for trees.
- Demonstrate role of trees in water smart landscapes.
- Explore and expand tree protection policies into Municipal Code.

STRENGTHEN CITY POLICIES TO PROTECT TREES

December 2024 Council Feedback: Adjusted Transformational Initiative to say...

“Create educational support, incentives and potential policy improvements to support homeowners and other private property owners achieve long-term success in preserving and planting trees.”

More exploration around tree policy...

How this might be achieved:

- Utilize case studies of past projects for analysis
- Identify potential policy options for infill, greenfield, and other development types
- Analysis will include feasibility study including proforma analysis for various policy scenarios
- Engage with frequent code users to understand pain points for development related to tree policy and test updated policy options
- Present code user supported options at a Council Work Session in 2025



- Seek Council consideration for plan adoption as a Component of City Plan
 - February 4 – 1st Reading
 - March 4 – 2nd Reading

- Seek recommendation from Planning & Zoning Commission
 - February 20



Thank you!



Additional slides

Following slides are in Council's read before packet

Community Engagement

971 Community Survey responses

3 Community Meetings

8 Community Events

20 City Departments Engaged

29 External Partners Engaged

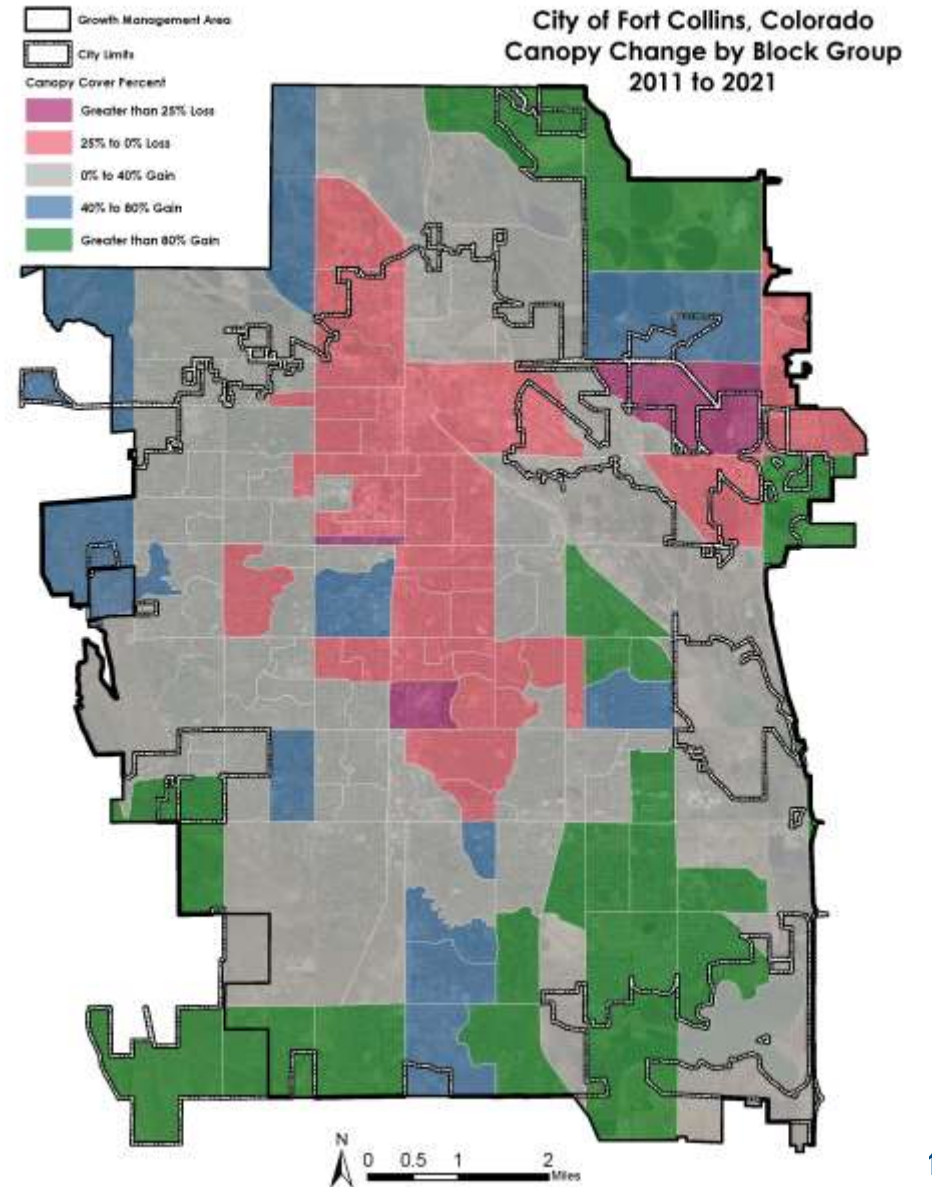
5 Different Boards

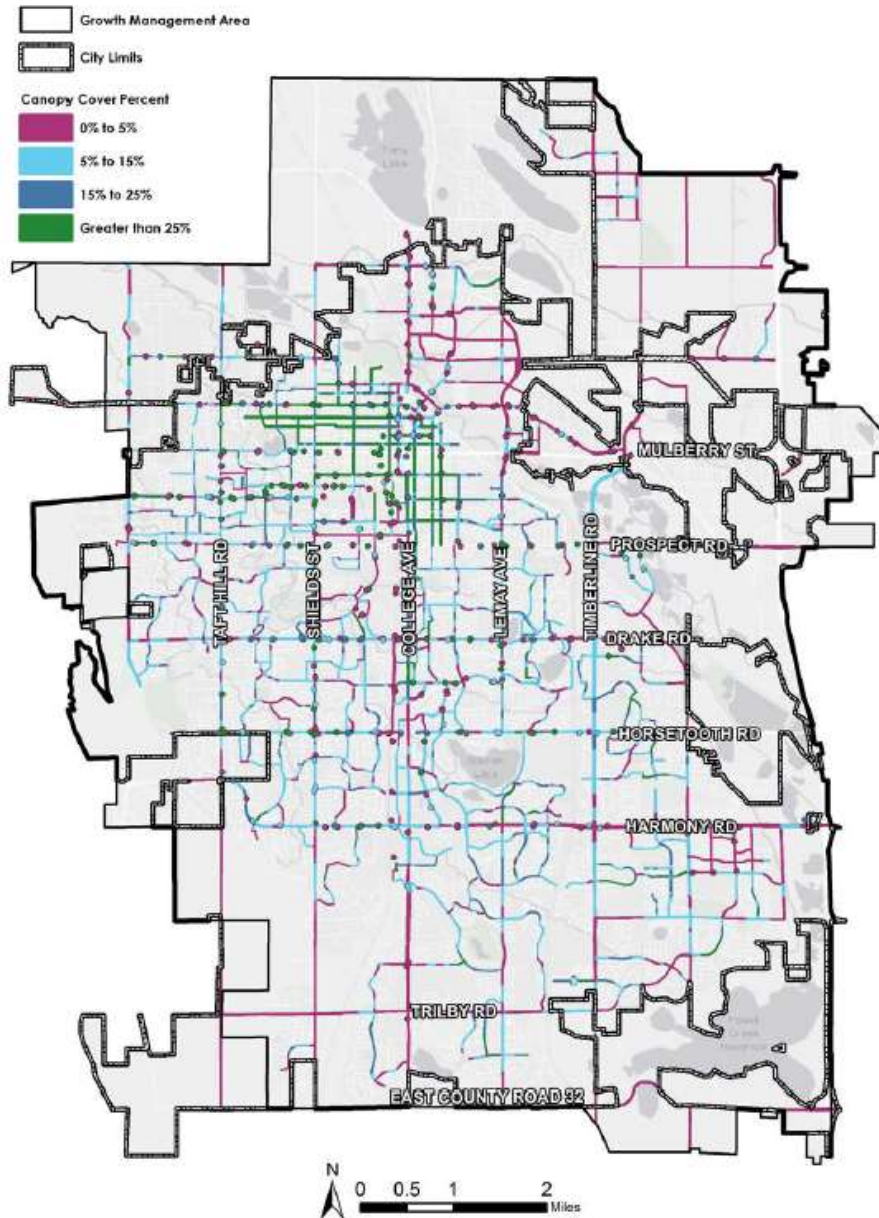
2 Public Draft Previews



TREE CANOPY CHANGE 2011–2021

- City Limits: +753 acres (+17.3%)
- City + GMA: +936 acres (+17.2%)





TREES SUPPORT THE SHIFT TO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- Bike lanes
 - 9.5% average tree cover
 - Consistent with 2011
- Bus stops
 - 18.3% average tree cover
 - Have lost 3.7% since 2011

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Focus on young tree establishment
- Dedicated irrigation to trees
- Drought response plans
- Drought-tolerant, urban-adapted tree species

Fun Fact:

Close to **70%** of public trees are **drought tolerant!**

Fun Fact:

Mature tree canopy can **reduce outdoor water consumption** by up to **50%**.



- More emphasis on broad benefits of trees, including bird and wildlife habitat
 - p. 36 and p. 39
- More connection of how the urban forest supports the 7 City Strategic Outcome Areas (e.g. Economic Health)
 - Throughout the plan, p. 18, p. 60
- Clarify trees and water
 - Drought/climate adaptation section and alignment with Water Efficiency Plan (WEP)
- Clarify and educate on private tree/property owner responsibilities
 - Several plan initiatives, GS3, GS6
- LUC and tradeoffs/tensions between community/organization priorities
 - GS3 and Tree Protection Policies work session in Q1/Q2 2025

Forestry Budget Offers



	2019	2023-24	2025	2026	Notes
Urban Forest Management	\$2,080,000	\$2,196,000	\$3,112,000	\$3,202,000	Ongoing Budget
Tree Infrastructure Replacements	(\$75,000)	\$197,000	\$222,000	\$228,000	Ongoing Budget 640 trees planted each year
Increased Contractual Pruning	\$200,000	-	-	-	Moved to Ongoing in 2025-2026 at \$300K
Emerald Ash Borer	\$50,000	\$273,000	-	-	Moved to Ongoing in 2025-2026
Forestry Continuing Enhancements	-	\$500,000	-	-	Moved to Ongoing in 2025-2026
Urban Forest Strategic Plan (One-time)	-	\$230,000	-	-	Seeking Council Adoption on October 15
1.0 FTE Urban Forestry Planner, .5 Hourly, and Tree Infrastructure Replacement	-	-	\$569,000*	\$314,000	Climate 2050 tax Additional 360 trees planted each year *Equipment purchase
3.0 FTE and Equipment (Unfunded)	-	-	\$629,085	\$723,234	Unfunded
Total	\$2,255,000	\$3,166,000*	\$3,902,000	\$3,744,000	ALL funded or proposed to be funded offers (* Includes one-time funding for strategic plan)