



URBAN FOREST Strategic Plan

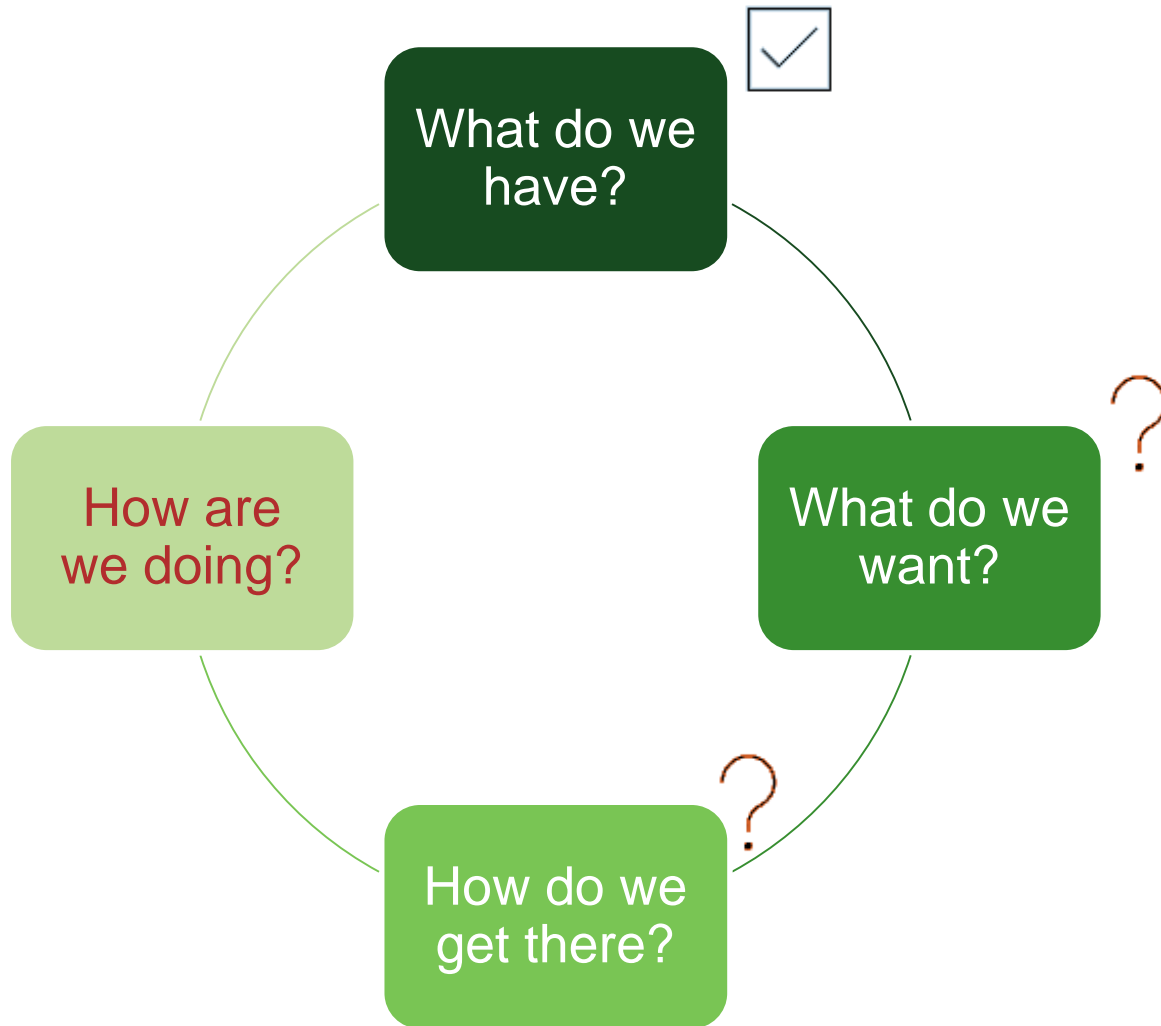
Kendra Boot

City Forester
Forestry Division

Dana Karcher

Project Developer
Davey Resource Group

- Do Councilmembers support the general direction of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan effort?
- What feedback do Councilmembers have regarding the Urban Forest Strategic Plan?



WHY PLAN?

The Urban Forest Strategic Plan (UFSP) will serve as a guiding document to:

- Summarize the state of the urban forest
- Create a 20-year vision for trees in Fort Collins
- Set goals
- Recommend next steps

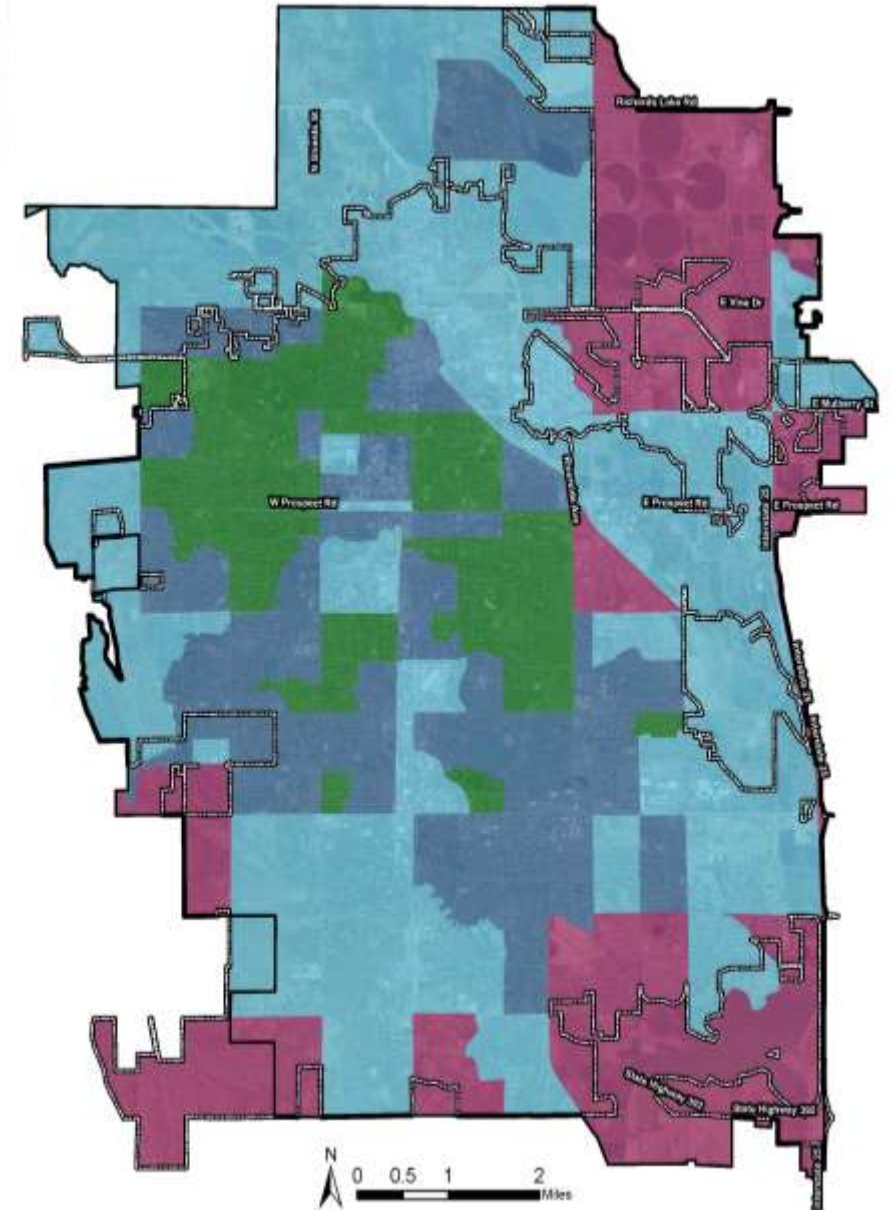
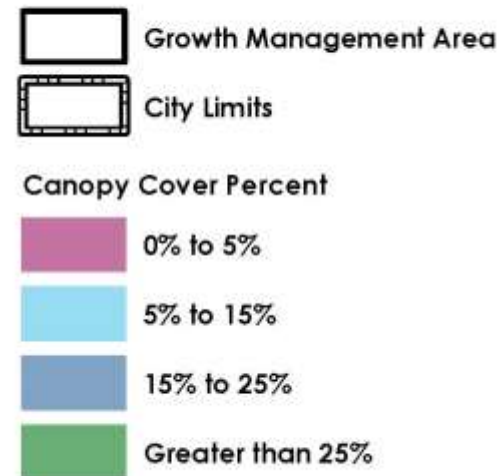




WHAT DO WE HAVE?

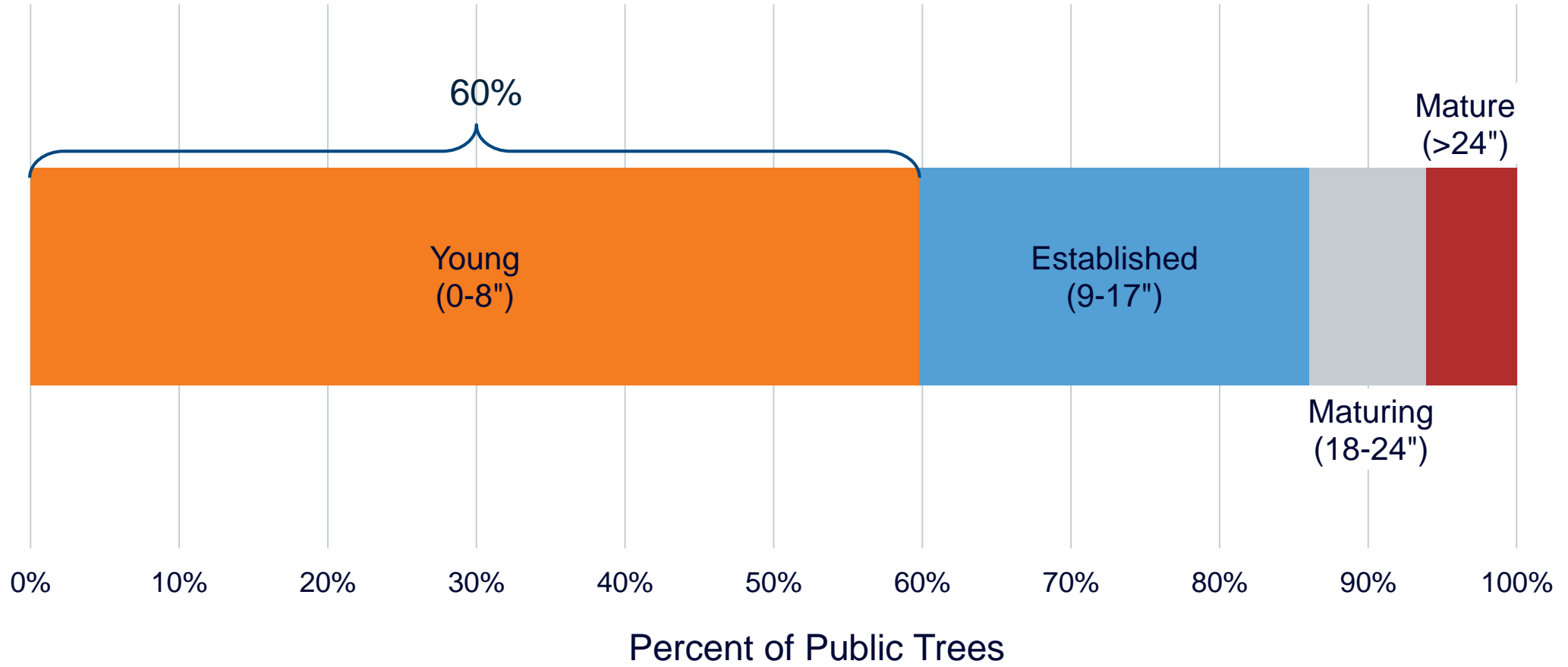
CANOPY PERCENT BY BLOCK GROUP

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



PUBLIC TREES BY SIZE/AGE

59,144 PUBLIC TREES



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Public Sentiment about Trees

- Trees are an integral part of Fort Collins
- People love trees on public property
- The City's Forestry Division is viewed favorably
- Residents want resources for planting & tree care on private property
- Concerns about development & trees

3 PUBLIC MEETINGS

- October 2023 & March 2024
- North & South Fort Collins
- 160 participants
- 8 different community events

1 COMMUNITY SURVEY

- September–December 2023
- 965 respondents
- 657 write-in comments





SUMMARY

- Forestry Division provides a high level of service.
- The public tree inventory trends young.
- Forestry Division will need to plan for sustainable growth to keep pace with the urban forest.
- Mixed public opinion about regulation of trees on private property.



WHAT DO WE WANT?

Vision

Fort Collins will be home to a healthy and equitably distributed urban forest woven throughout the built environment creating safer and cooler neighborhoods with increased climate resilience.

Trees in Fort Collins are recognized as a vital part of city infrastructure that provide health, social, environmental and economic benefits for all present and future people who live, work, and visit Fort Collins.

Future Challenges

- Equitable distribution of canopy
- Insect and Disease
- A changing climate
- Sixty percent (60%) “young” public urban forest
- Development/Redevelopment



HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Recommended Strategies

1. Strategically invest in growing tree canopy where it will promote resilience and quality of life in Fort Collins.
2. Create a tree planting plan.
3. Complete the shift to proactive management of Fort Collins' public trees.
4. Strengthen City policies to protect trees.



Recommended Strategies

5. Collect data to track changes to tree canopy over time and to inform Forestry activities.
6. Sustainably grow the Forestry Division to keep pace with growth of the urban forest.
7. Deepen engagement with the community about tree stewardship.
8. Expand the network of Forestry Division partners.





Tree preservation and protection

- Appraised value of trees is utilized across the country to protect urban tree canopy
- Other incentives have been used to encourage tree protection and preservation
- Trade-offs exist and more engagement and analysis will be needed

Next steps for policy

- April 2 - Council Meeting
 - Foundational Land Use Code Updates
- June 11 - Council Work Session
 - Phase II Discussion

UFSP Project Timeline



- Do Councilmembers support the general direction of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan effort?
- What feedback do Councilmembers have regarding the Urban Forest Strategic Plan?



Thank you!

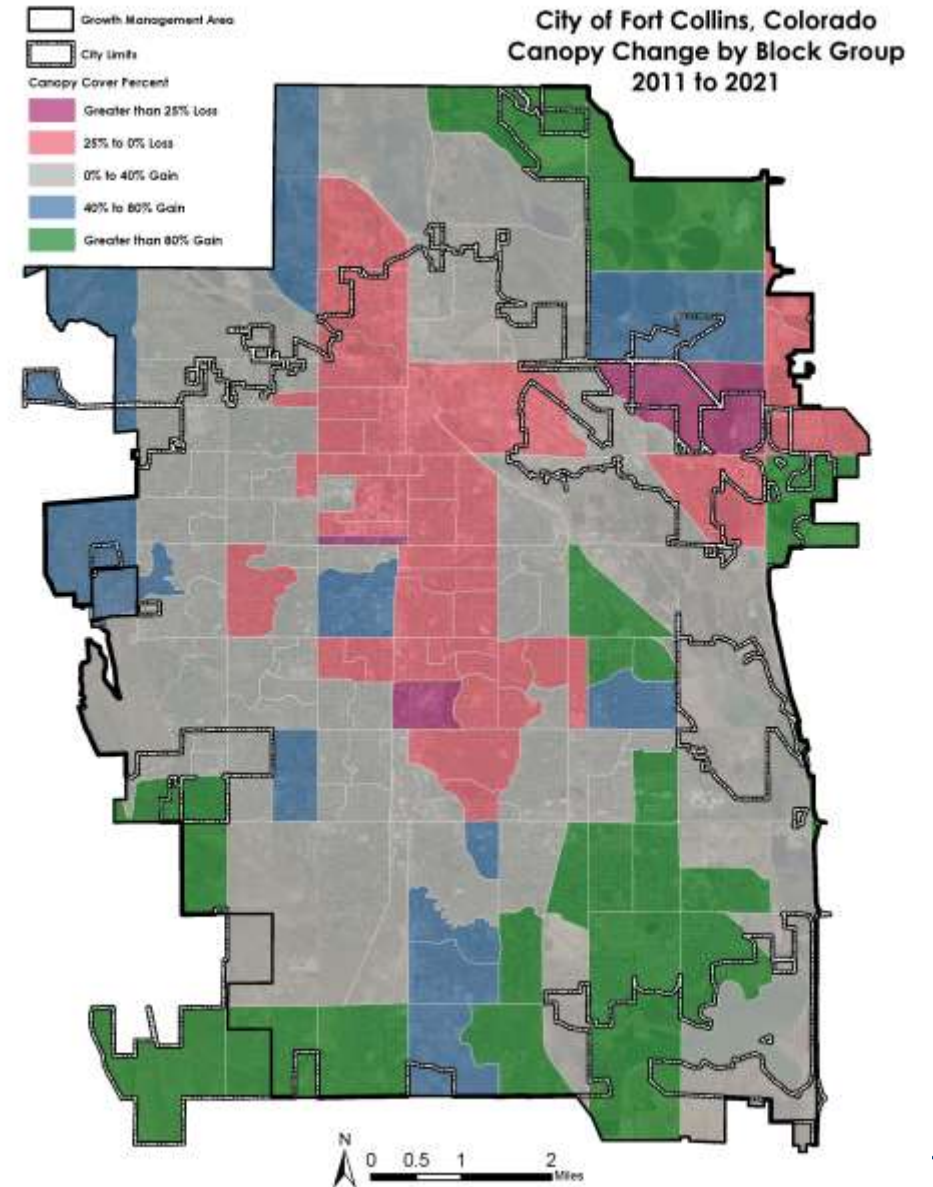


Additional slides

Following slides are in Council's "UFSP Draft Recommendations and Select Findings" document

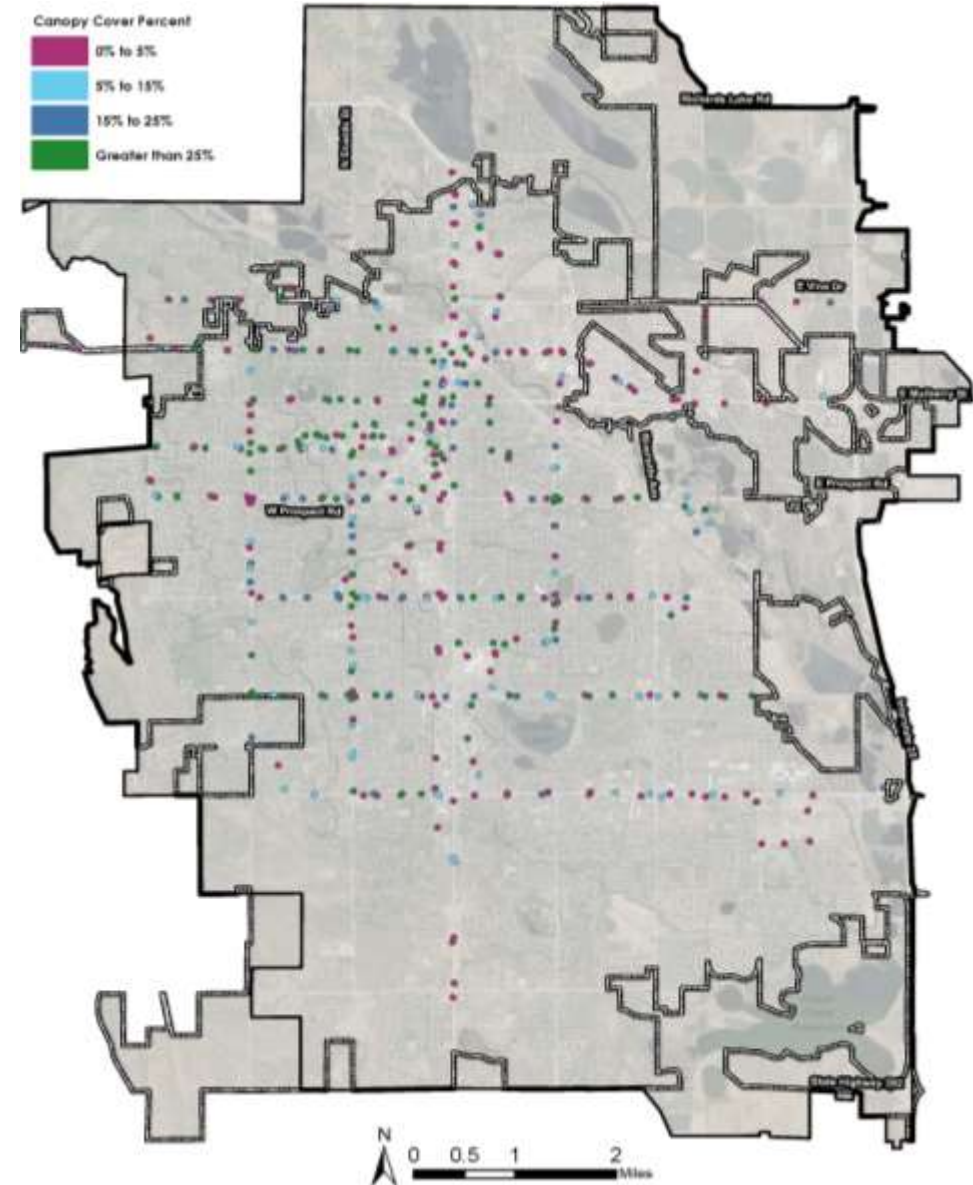
TREE CANOPY CHANGE 2011–2021

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



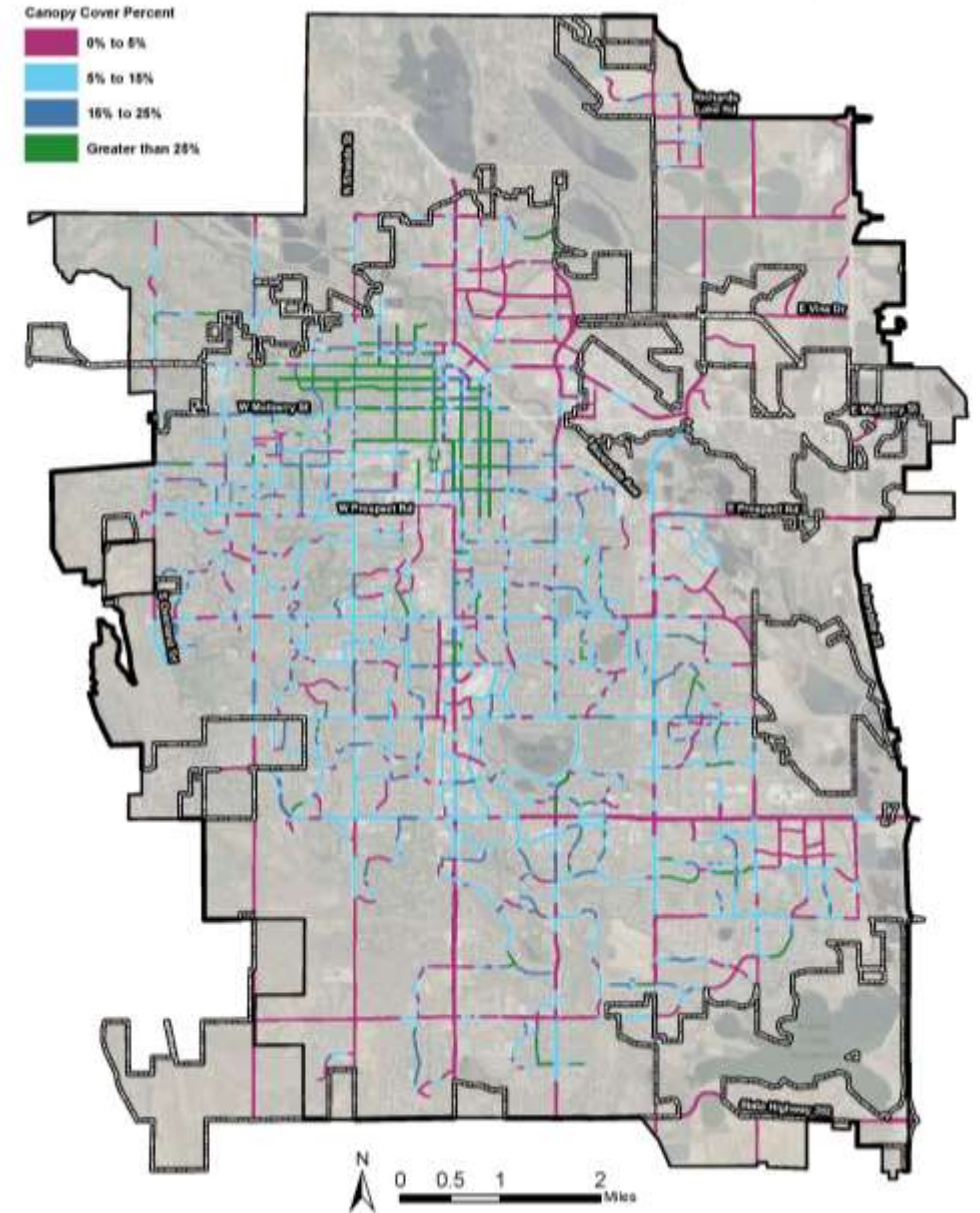
TREE CANOPY AT BUS STOPS

- 423 bus stops
- Canopy cover (no shelters): 21.2%
- Canopy change: -2.3%



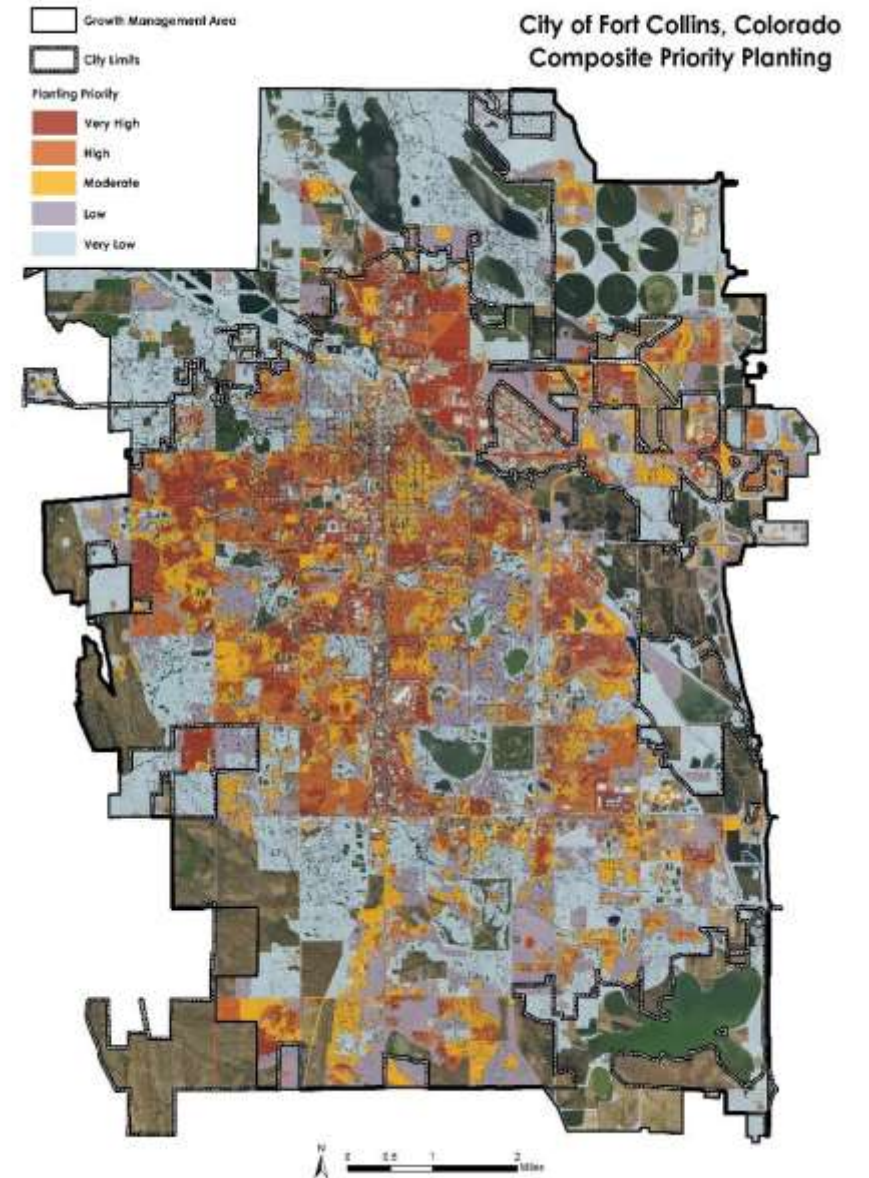
TREE CANOPY IN BIKE LANES

- 267 miles
- Canopy cover: 9.5%
- Canopy change: +0.1%



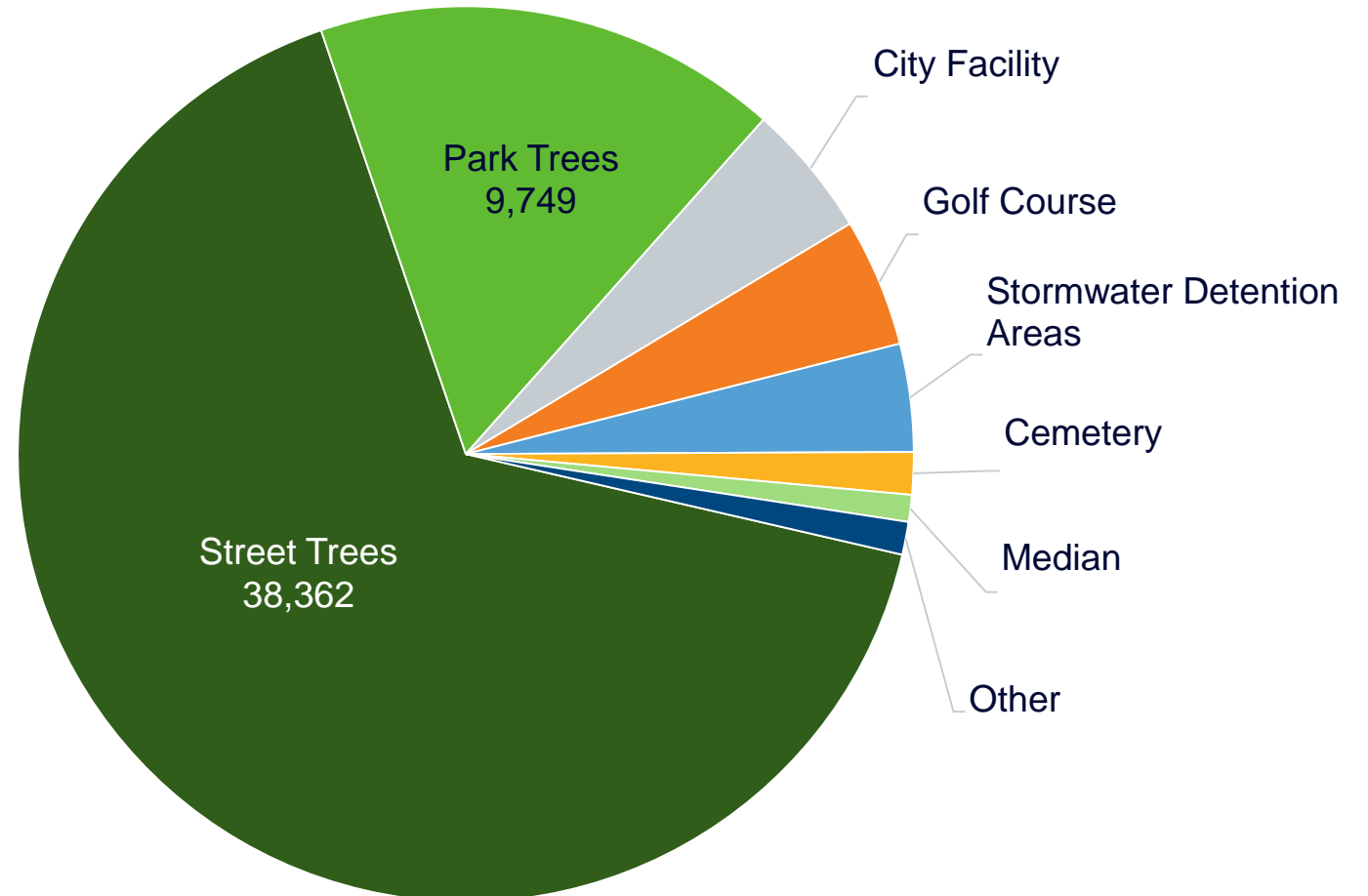
15,418 POTENTIAL NEW CANOPY ACRES

- Classified from Very Low to Very High priority
 - **Social, Health and Environmental**
- 2,251 acres of High or Very High priority
- Can help City plant trees for outcomes

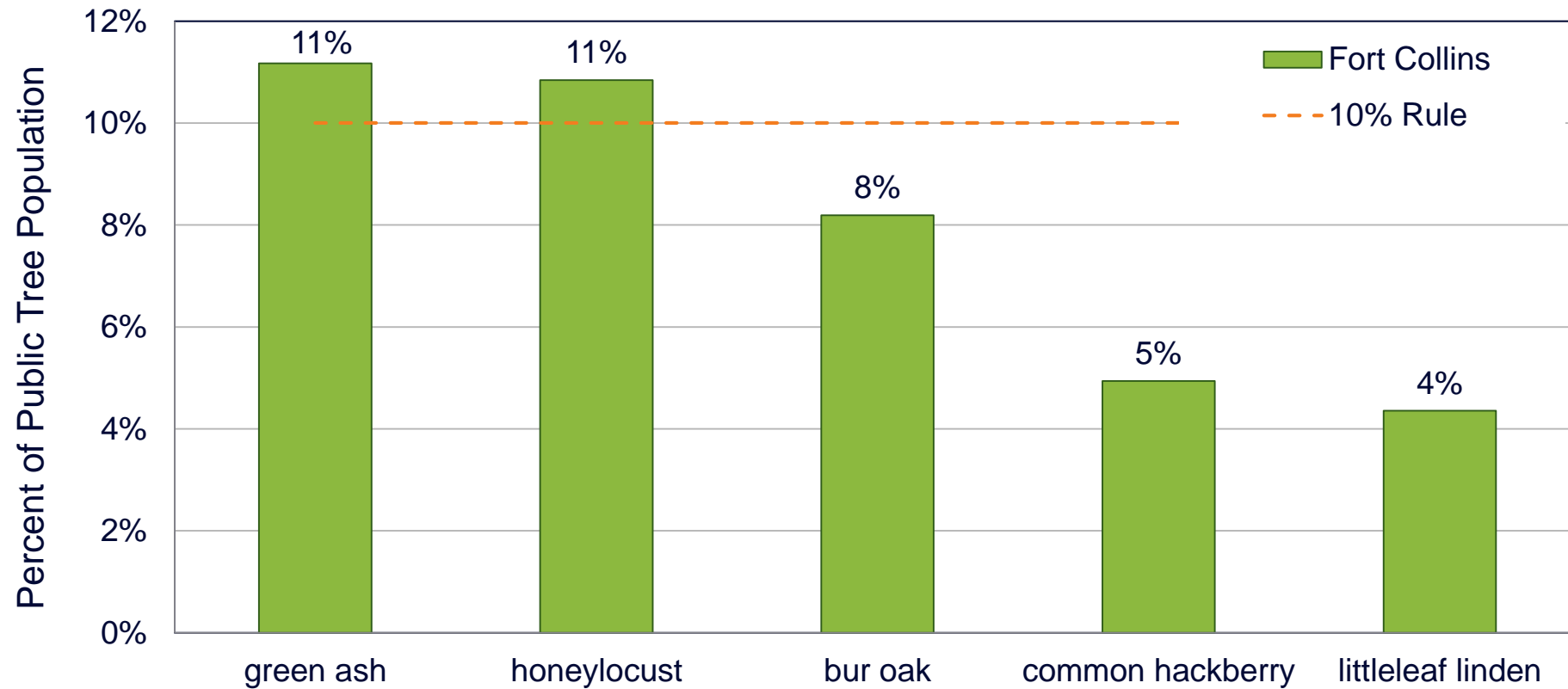


59,144 PUBLIC TREES

- Two-thirds are street trees



TOP 5 PUBLIC TREE SPECIES



PUBLIC TREE ACTIVITIES BY YEAR

