

FORT COLLINS

Urban Forest Strategic Plan

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AND SELECT FINDINGS

March 26, 2024

DRAFT

Introduction

The recommendations presented in the Urban Forest Strategic Plan distill lessons into actionable strategies that can guide the Forestry Division over the next 20 years. Data and information that were collected for the Plan spanned many types of inquiry over a period of several months.

As you read through the following themes and strategies, reflect on these questions:

- Have we accurately captured the information and themes?
- Do the recommendations reflect the most important takeaways and priorities?
- Which strategies and alternatives should be elevated?
- Which alternatives can be dismissed out of hand due to lack of feasibility?
- What additional alternatives are possible?

THEMES & OUTCOME AREAS

Three overarching themes were identified during development of the strategic plan that summarize the Forestry Division's vision for the urban forest over the next 20 years.

Urban Forestry Strategic Plan Themes

1. Build resilience & wellbeing of people and trees
2. Sustainably grow the Forestry program
3. Expand the community's appreciation for trees

Additionally, the recommendations of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan reflect seven Outcome Areas that are detailed in the Fort Collins City Plan (2019) and the 2022 Strategic Plan. Because of the many social, economic, and environmental benefits that trees provide, the recommendations of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan relate to all seven of these Outcome Areas. The most relevant Outcome Areas are listed for each recommendation.

Outcome Areas

1. Neighborhood Livability & Social Health (*pending name change*)
2. Culture & Recreation
3. Economic Health
4. Environmental Health
5. Safe Community
6. Transportation & Mobility
7. High-Performing Government

Recommendations

Eight urban forestry strategic recommendations are presented to guide Fort Collins' forestry initiatives over the next 20 years.

Within each recommendation, the current state of Fort Collins' urban forestry program is summarized as it relates to the recommendation. Following each recommendation are two levels of action steps that can support accomplishment of each recommendation.

- **Foundational Initiatives** represent those that may be simpler to implement, or more urgent, or strategies that must be completed before some or all of the Transformational Initiatives can be tackled.
- **Transformational Initiatives** may be more complicated or difficult alternatives to Foundational Initiatives, or they may represent standalone strategies that are complex or on a long implementation horizon. At the same time, Transformational Initiatives may provide more value to the forestry program and the City's larger civic goals and Outcome Areas.

RECOMMENDATION 1. STRATEGICALLY INVEST IN GROWING TREE CANOPY WHERE IT WILL PROMOTE RESILIENCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN FORT COLLINS

While tree canopy is growing in Fort Collins, it is not evenly distributed across the city. Targeted investment in planting and maintenance where trees provide the most value can help Forestry support multiple civic goals. This presents the opportunity to adapt to climate change and the needs of the community in ways that lead the region in preparedness.

Urban forestry activities that tie into other civic objectives—such as encouraging cycling, walking, and public transit use—can demonstrate how urban forestry is intertwined with quality of life in Fort Collins.

Themes: Resilience & Wellbeing, Sustainable Growth

Outcome Areas: Neighborhood Livability & Social Health, Culture & Recreation, Transportation & Mobility

Current State

- Citywide tree canopy cover is 13.7% and has grown 753 acres (17.3%) in the decade from 2011–2021.
- Tree cover in the city + growth management area is 12.6% and has grown 936 acres (17.2%) in the past decade.
- Tree canopy cover ranges widely across Fort Collins. Among 137 US Census block groups (federal geographic areas that are smaller than a census tract), tree cover ranges from <0.1% to 41%.

Foundational Initiatives

- Prioritize planting and maintenance within areas of greatest tree canopy loss that correspond to priority areas for health and social factors and combined human/environmental wellbeing (see the Priority Planting Analysis).
- Implement a parks planting plan to identify and strategically fill vacant planting sites (e.g., Living Tribute Trees) as well as rebuild canopy within new parks.

Transformational Initiatives

- Prioritize planting and maintenance along bicycle routes and around bus stops.
- Coordinate with other city departments to integrate trees into a *complete streets* framework, an urban planning design concept that aims to make streets comfortable and safe for all users.
- Plant along walking/cycling/public transportation corridors to build tree connectivity to parks. Encourage citywide adoption of existing metrics such as the 10-Minute Walk, an initiative that aims to place all city residents within a 10-minute walk of quality parks and nature.
- Plant trees along other transportation corridors, such as Safe Routes to Schools.
- Utilize third-party metrics for social equity such as the Tree Equity Score from American Forests to guide planting and maintenance investments and communicate about equity with the public.
- Develop and set canopy goals for different geographies. For example, set goals that differ by land use type, factoring in variability in potential tree canopy among differing land uses; alternatively, create separate goals by district.

RECOMMENDATION 2. CREATE A TREE PLANTING PLAN

A planting plan can guide tree planting efforts to reach desired levels of planting and more equitably distribute tree canopy across the city. Planning over longer periods of time allows for species selection, sourcing of trees, and spreads out the maintenance needs of tree cohorts over time.

Themes: Resilience & Wellbeing, Sustainable Growth

Outcome Area: Environmental Health, Neighborhood Livability & Social Health

Current State

- In the past 5 years, average annual public tree removals have outpaced public tree plantings: 633 trees removed per year vs. 500 trees planted per year.
- In 2021-2022, tree plantings surpassed removals (556 trees planted vs. 513 trees removed). Two \$50K grants in 2022 and 2023 helped achieve more trees planted.
- The Community Canopy Program (established in 2018) has provided 1,000 trees for \$25/tree to residents within the Growth Management Area.

Foundational Initiatives

- Scale annual tree planting efforts to replace public tree losses due to tree removals and natural mortality.
- Create a planting plan to fill vacant planting spaces over 10 years (2025-2026 BFO cycle).
- Incorporate new species that are recommended for future climate conditions, making considerations for drought tolerance, warmer and more extreme temperatures, and pest/disease tolerance.
- Work with water efficiency experts to create species guidance by irrigation zones.
- Grow the Community Canopy Program to supply more trees to residents for planting on private property.

Transformational Initiatives

- Shift species composition of the urban forest toward more drought-tolerant species.

- Build species-level biodiversity of the public tree inventory. Track the use of cultivars and varieties.
- Explore a citywide tree canopy goal that can inform planting and protection objectives for private property.
- Provide species guidance for tree giveaways and private planting.

RECOMMENDATION 3. COMPLETE THE SHIFT TO PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF FORT COLLIN'S PUBLIC TREES

The Forestry Division strives for a 5-year pruning rotation to improve the health of public trees and create safe public spaces in the community. Additional resources will be needed to continue a 5-year pruning cycle, which reduces the costs of storm and emergency response and helps maintain the health of public trees.

An urban forest management plan can provide operational direction for Forestry and the city for the next 5–10 years. A management plan is more detailed than an urban forest strategic plan; it utilizes data to prioritize tree activities and ensures that trees are integrated into the city's other overlapping plans and outcome areas.

Themes: Sustainable Growth

Outcome Areas: Economic Health, Safe Community

Current State

- From 2018–2022, Forestry pruned 8,670 trees (18.2% of the public tree inventory) per year, on average.
- In 2022, Forestry pruned 10,877 trees (22.4% of the public tree inventory) with the aid resource cost recovery and carry over from 2021 snow storm.

Foundational Initiatives

- Implement a 5-year routine pruning cycle.
- Plan to scale up pruning activities as additional trees are added to the inventory.
- Use the existing tree inventory to inform management decisions based on species and size.
- Create an urban forest management plan that details Forestry operations over the next 5–10 years.

- Incorporate the storm response plan, City Plan, Parks Master Plan, Our Climate Future plan, and other city management plans.

Transformational Initiatives

- Use enhanced inventory data to guide management based on risk rating, recommended maintenance, and/or related metrics.
- Project tree benefits under different management scenarios.
- Integrate natural areas inventory data into natural areas management plans.

RECOMMENDATION 4. STRENGTHEN CITY POLICIES TO PROTECT TREES

Tree protection in Fort Collins currently focuses on the stewardship of public trees, with less policy development around private tree protection. Because a majority of the city's trees are found on private land, additional opportunities to protect trees on private land—whether through policy or incentives—will help curb canopy losses in parts of the city and help protect community tree benefits for all residents.

Themes: Resilience & Wellbeing, Appreciation for Trees

Outcome Areas: Neighborhood Livability & Social Health, Environmental Health

Current State

- The existing city code has provisions for public tree planting, protection, and care.
- A draft land use code adds additional protections and planting requirements for trees during development and additional exploration on trade-offs on other goals, such as the creation of affordable housing and small business preservation, is needed.
- Supplemental documents—e.g. *Tree Management Standards and BMPs*—strengthen city policies but are not referenced in city code.
- Public sentiment about private tree protection lags behind support for trees on public land; however, public opinion is divided, and a large portion of public participants in the UFSP process indicate that they do not know enough about issues such as heritage tree programs to state their opinion.

Foundational Initiatives

- Reference existing supplemental policy documents for Forestry, including the *Tree Management Standards and BMPs* document, in city code.
- Adopt a citywide land use code that improves tree preservation and protection while balancing other priorities and needs of the community.
- Draft a heritage tree program that allows for the elective enrollment of trees that have cultural, historic, or ecological value.
- Create policy summaries or tip sheets that clarify the responsibility for tree maintenance within alleyways.
- Plan for education and outreach that will guide policy development about tree protection for development scenarios on private land.
- Encode existing good practices—best management practices, certified arborist requirements, wood utilization program—in city ordinance.
- Build upon the *Emerald Ash Borer Management and Response Plan (2020)* to create a more generalized insect/disease control plan to address existing and future threats. Reference the plan within city ordinance.

Transformational Initiatives

- Draft a heritage tree policy that protects trees greater than a certain size on private property. Require a permit for, or prohibit, pruning or removal of heritage trees.
 - For reference, 6% of public trees are >24 in DSH and 2% of public trees are >36 in DSH.
 - Connect policy to stormwater and water efficiency public benefits of large trees.
 - Exclude invasive species and those that are prohibited by existing ordinance.
- Clarify the legal responsibility for trees within vacant and boundary areas (land without ownership) to encourage the protection and growth of tree canopy within these spaces.
- Plan for tree preservation and tree canopy expansion within areas in the Growth Management Area that are to remain as future green space as identified by the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.
- Expand tree protection policies within the Land Use Code to apply to non-development scenarios.

- Develop additional policy for tree protection on private land—for example, protecting trees during residential property development scenarios. Educate and engage with the public about policy scenarios to gauge public support.
- Require landfill diversion for wood waste from private land.

RECOMMENDATION 5. COLLECT DATA TO TRACK CHANGES TO TREE CANOPY OVER TIME AND TO INFORM FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

Accurate, up-to-date data can inform sound decision making. Planning for future urban tree canopy assessments and tree inventory updates will provide information that can help the Forestry Division evaluate progress and refine management strategies.

Themes: Sustainable Growth

Outcome Area: High-Performing Government

Current State

- An existing urban tree canopy assessment and public tree inventory provide bottom-up and top-down information about tree canopy.
- Tree inventory information utilizes trained volunteers to provide up-to-date information about public trees.

Foundational Initiatives

- Repeat an urban tree canopy assessment in 5 years using 2026 data (2027–2028 BFO cycle) to measure canopy change.
 - Measure five-class land cover: tree canopy, vegetation, impervious surface, bare soil, open water.
 - Evaluate urban tree canopy within street rights-of-way.
- Map existing public trees under threat from pests and/or drought using inventory data; look for trends that may inform tree activities.
- Complete a sample inventory of natural areas.

Transformational Initiatives

- Repeat an urban tree canopy assessment in 2 years to capture early canopy changes due to emerald ash borer. Advance mapping options:

- Canopy health and broadleaf/evergreen distribution
- Tree canopy cover and change within additional geographies—e.g., riparian and ditch areas, alleyways, land uses, private/public land—to guide and measure the effects of policy changes
- Update the public tree inventory on a 5-year cycle.
- Utilize certified arborists to capture tree inventory data about risk and recommended maintenance, to inform proactive maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION 6. SUSTAINABLY GROW THE FORESTRY DIVISION TO KEEP PACE WITH GROWTH OF THE URBAN FOREST

The Forestry Division currently provides an excellent level of service to the city of Fort Collins. Additional metrics about tree activities will be helpful for internal planning, budgeting, and reporting to both city council and the community.

The public tree inventory reflects the city's sustained commitment to planting. With 60 percent of the public tree inventory consisting of young trees, and new trees being planted every year, it will be necessary to plan for growth of the Forestry program. Additional capacity and a sustainable funding stream will be needed to keep pace with growth of the public tree inventory.

Themes: Sustainable Growth

Outcome Areas: Economic Health, High-Performing Government

Current State

- Access FC allows for and tracks resident requests.
- The Fort Collins 2022 Strategic Plan and Budgeting for Outcomes process require relation of tree activities to Outcome Areas.
- Forestry is providing a great level of service compared with U.S. cities but is approaching the threshold of tree activities that they are able to perform annually with existing resources.

Foundational Initiatives

- Internally track public requests that are submitted via phone and email.
- Regularly report on budget expenditures by tree activity.

- Create work plans to make efficient use of personnel and budget.
- Acquire additional staff for tree planting/preparation and pruning.
- Add capacity for grant writing and reporting.
- Pursue grants and other limited funding opportunities.
- Contribute to local initiatives to expand the green workforce.

Transformational Initiatives

- Use resource management software to track public requests.
- Create an urban forestry planner position.
- Annually or biannually report to the public on tree activities.
- Link tree activities to health, social, and environmental data, and to civic data (transit ridership, cycling/pedestrian stats, city Outcome Areas) as available.
- Implement a staff rotation schedule. Regularly rotate Forestry staff to different teams to provide rest from physical labor and build knowledge across the team.
- Increase the budget for tree maintenance over time as young trees grow.
- Create new sources of sustained funding, such as a Tree Fund, and align with City Give.

RECOMMENDATION 7. DEEPEN ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY ABOUT TREE STEWARDSHIP

There is a great amount of support for trees and urban forestry in Fort Collins from the public, officials, and the surrounding region. This public support can help facilitate conversations about difficult decisions and expand engagement to new community sectors.

Themes: Appreciation for Trees

Outcome Areas: Neighborhood Livability & Social Health, Environmental Health

Current State

- The public shows a high level of support for public trees and the Forestry Division.
- Forestry has established wood waste and tree ambassador programs.

- Public opinion varies on the topic of private property tree protections.

Foundational Initiatives

- Continue to support the wood waste program and grow the network of urban woodworkers and wood utilization partners.
- Engage the public in policy updates that protect trees on private property.
- Continue and grow the urban forest ambassador program.
- Provide educational resources to assist property owners with private tree planting, maintenance, and preservation.

Transformational Initiatives

- Engage in cross-sector coalition-building around trees:
 - Integrate forestry activities with implementation of the Active Modes Plan. Engage with Active Modes stakeholders including the cycling community.
 - Expand engagement and volunteer opportunities into communities with health and social vulnerabilities.
 - Align wood utilization efforts with larger Zero Waste initiatives.
 - Engage with parks advocates; see Nature in the City and 15-Minute Walk campaigns.
 - Engage with the business sector to promote trees for economic development, e.g., Holiday Lights.
 - Enlist community organizations to engage with their networks on topics including tree benefits, tree responsibilities, policy development, and volunteer opportunities.
- Create resources on wood utilization best management practices for the general public.
- Provide financial resources to assist property owners with private tree planting, maintenance, and preservation.
- Expand volunteer opportunities to assist with activities such as young tree pruning, watering assistance during drought, or community education.
- Create tip sheets that explain city ordinances and policies in plain language.
- Create a municipal Urban Forestry Commission with resident appointments.

RECOMMENDATION 8. EXPAND THE NETWORK OF FORESTRY DIVISION PARTNERS

Technical partnerships within urban forestry are abundant across the Front Range—see for example the Colorado Tree Coalition, the Front Range Urban Forestry Council, and the Emerging Pests in Colorado (EPIC) Committee. Increasing Fort Collins' presence and role within these collectives can promote greater knowledge sharing and adaptability for the city while building staff technical skills. Involvement can also promote adoption of the latest guidance and standards.

Themes: Sustainable Growth, Appreciation for Trees

Outcome Areas: Safe Community, High-Performing Government

Current State

- Existing resources for climate- and pest-resilient species selection are established for the Front Range and are in the process of being updated.
- Forestry Division has collaborative relationships with numerous internal and external partners.

Foundational Initiatives

- Continue regional work with nursery growers to secure the quantity and types of climate- and pest-adapted trees that will be needed to meet planting goals.
- Share urban forestry resources and knowledge with neighboring communities.
- Expand staff involvement in regional urban forestry networks; provide additional opportunities for staff that contribute to career development.

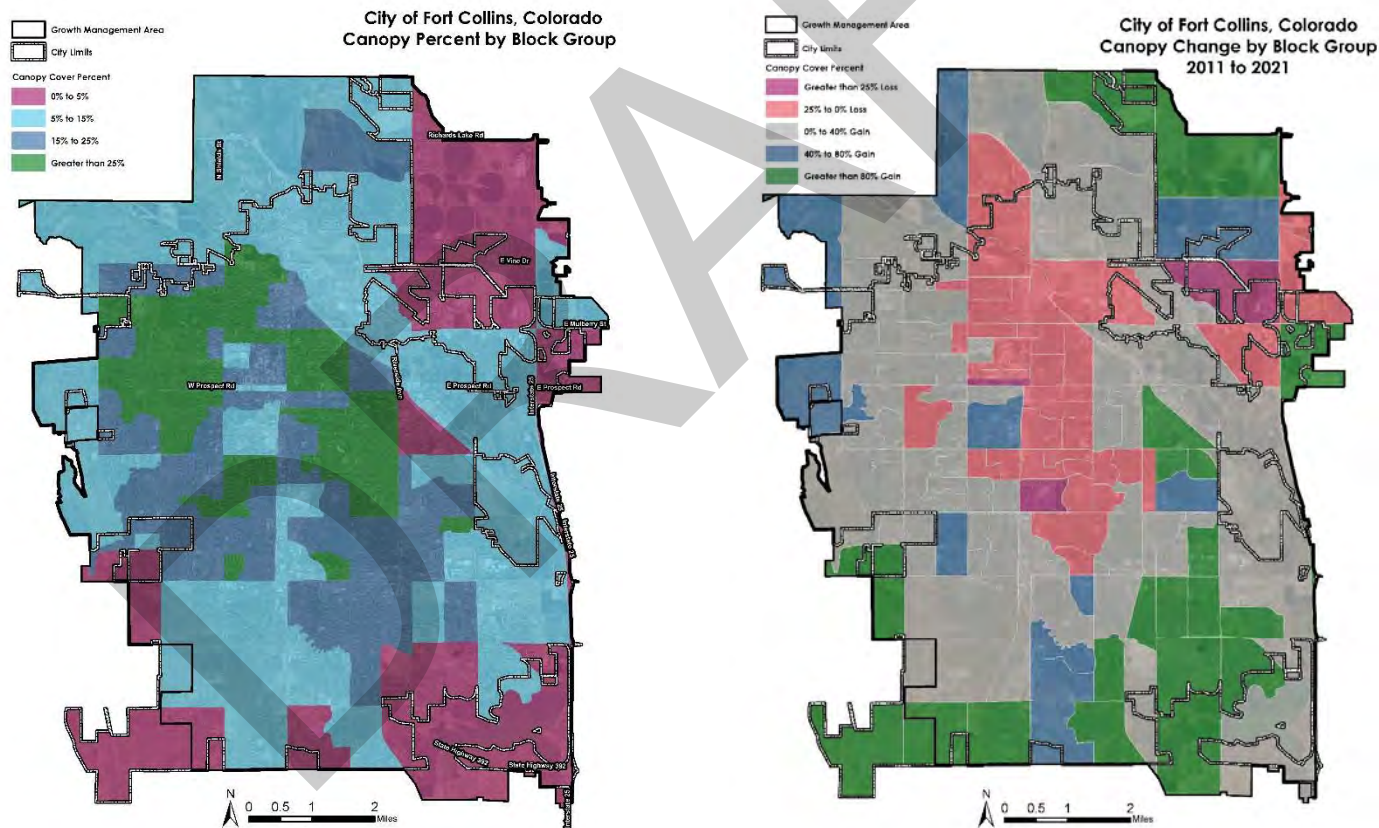
Transformational Initiatives

- Encourage large corporate and institutional campuses to develop tree plans.
- Continue engagement with partners about management of public trees.
- Contribute expertise about trees and urban forestry in regional planning efforts that relate to climate resilience, complete & green streets, human health, wood utilization, etc.

Fort Collins' Trees

TREE CANOPY COVER AND CANOPY CHANGE BY U.S. CENSUS BLOCK GROUP

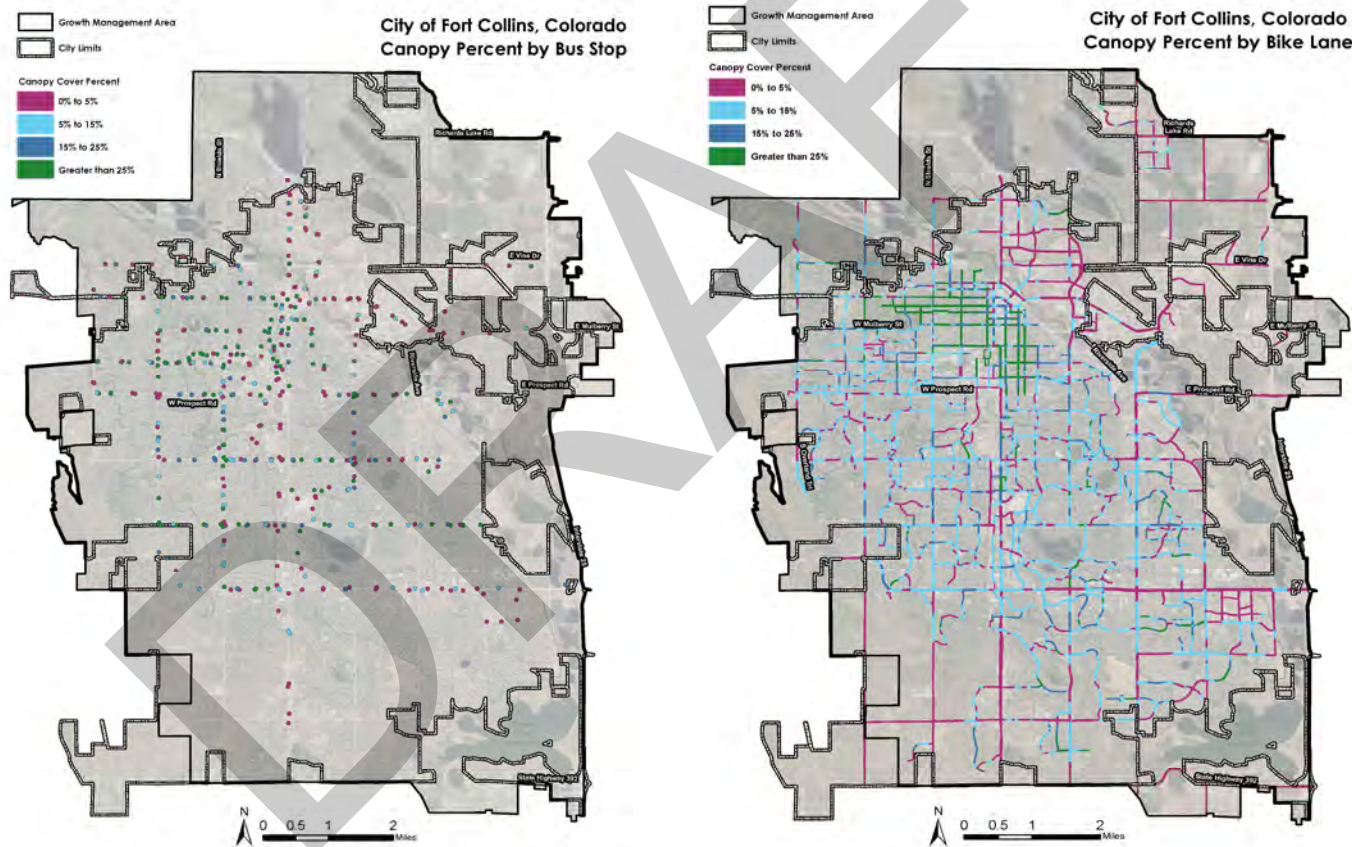
Tree cover ranges from <0.1% to 41% among U.S. Census *block groups*, federally defined geographic areas that typically contain between 600–3,000 residents. From 2011–2021, 69% of block groups experienced tree canopy growth (maximum growth: +378% tree cover), while 30% of block groups lost tree canopy (maximum loss: -53% tree cover).



Canopy Cover at Bus Stops and within Bike Lanes

Average tree cover is 18.3% at 22 bus stations and 423 bus stops across Fort Collins. Among 263 bus stops that did not have a built-in shelter, average tree cover is 21.2%, a loss of 2.3% tree cover since 2011.

Over 267 miles of bike lanes across Fort Collins, average tree canopy cover is 9.5%, approximately the same as it was in 2011 (+0.1%).

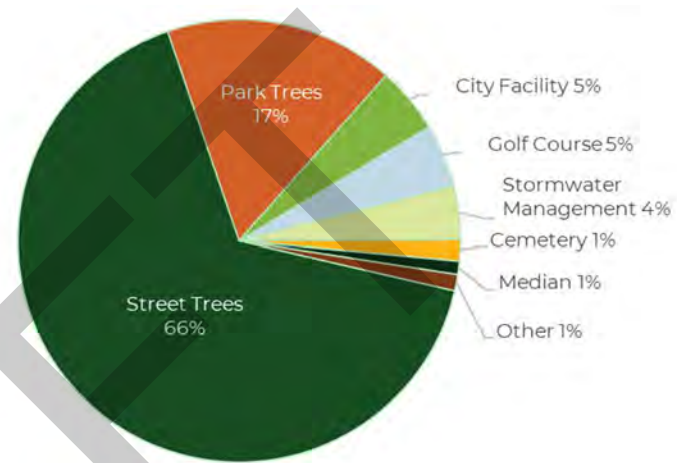


PUBLIC TREE INVENTORY

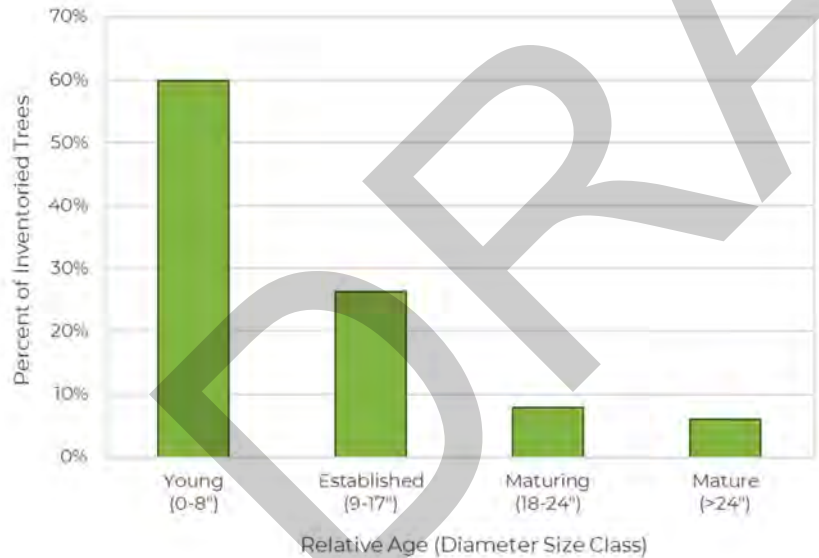
57,991 Public Trees

Two-thirds of public trees are street trees.

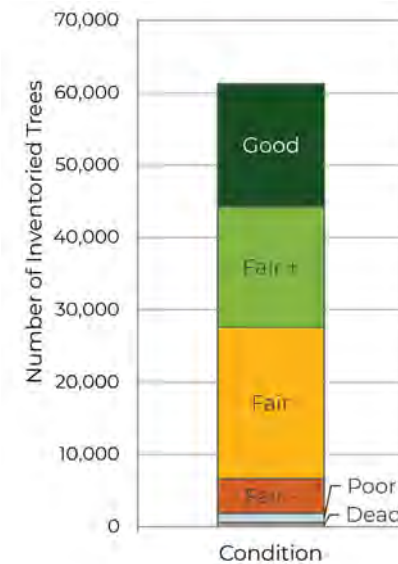
Overall, public trees skew young - sixty percent of public trees are less than 8 inches in trunk diameter. The majority of public trees are healthy, with 89% of trees receiving a canopy condition rating of fair to good.



Public trees by location.



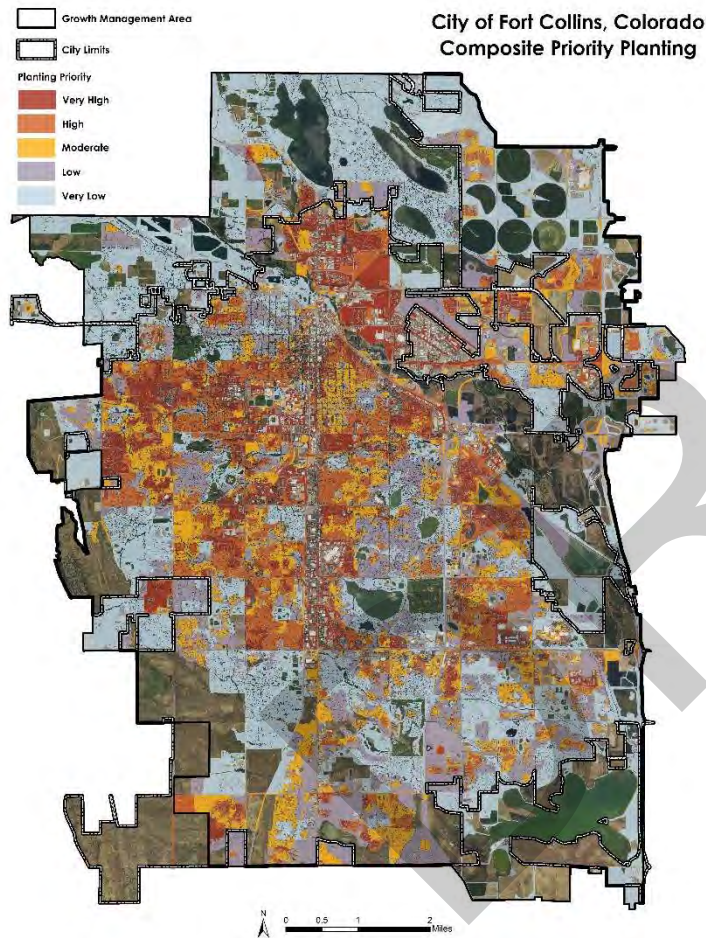
Relative age classes of public trees based on trunk diameter.



Canopy condition of public trees.

PRIORITY PLANTING ANALYSIS

The priority planting analysis ranked 15,418 acres of possible tree planting area on a five-point scale from Very Low to Very High based on environmental, human health, and social factors. The analysis identified 2,251 acres of High or Very High priority area for tree planting.



Priority Planting Factors

Priority planting factors were chosen based on factors that are mitigated by, or disproportionately benefit from, the presence of tree canopy, and are additionally topics of concern in Fort Collins.

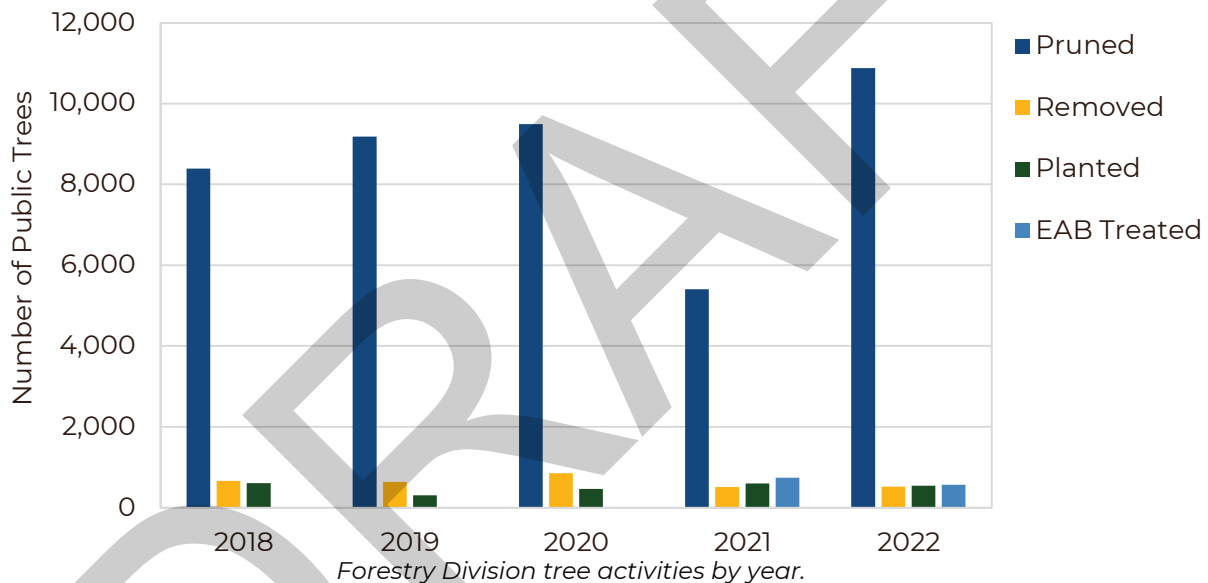
- Environmental: urban heat, stormwater
- Human health: asthma, heart disease, and mental health
- Social: income, population density, BIPOC residents, renters

Forestry Division

PUBLIC TREE ACTIVITIES BY YEAR

Beginning in 2021, public tree planting exceeded tree removals. In this year, the Forestry Division also began treating ash trees for emerald ash borer.

In 2022, the Forestry Division pruned more than 20% of its tree inventory, laying the groundwork for a 5-year pruning cycle. Industry standards recommend a regular pruning cycle of 5–10 years. Only approximately one-half of U.S. cities proactively prune their trees on a regular cycle of any duration.



STAFFING

The Forestry Division currently employs 17 full-time staff, 5 hourly staff, and receives part-time assistance from one office assistant. One additional full-time staff is housed within the Zoning Department.

Additional capacity needs have been identified for development plan review as well as for operations including pruning, removal, planting, stump grinding, potholing, infrastructure conflicts, and contract management.

Forestry Division staffing, 2024

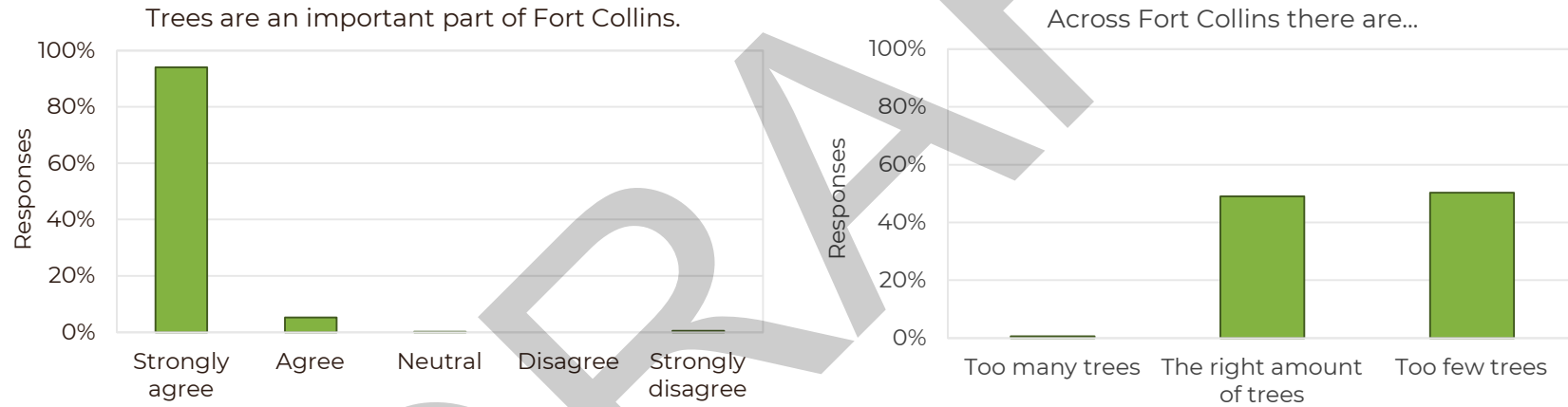
Staff Title	Number of Staff	Number of Vacancies
City Forester	1	0
Assistant City Forester	1	0
Sr Specialist, Forestry	3	0
Forestry Zoning Inspector (Zoning Dept.)	1	0
Sr Supervisor, Forestry	1	0
Crew Chief, Forestry	3	0
Technician II, Forestry	6	0
Technician I, Forestry	2	0
Hourly Staff	5	0
Office Assistant	.25	0

Public Engagement & Outreach

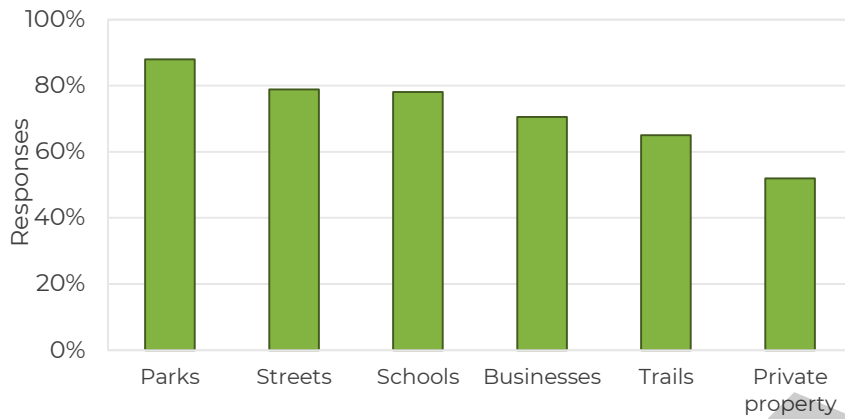
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community Survey

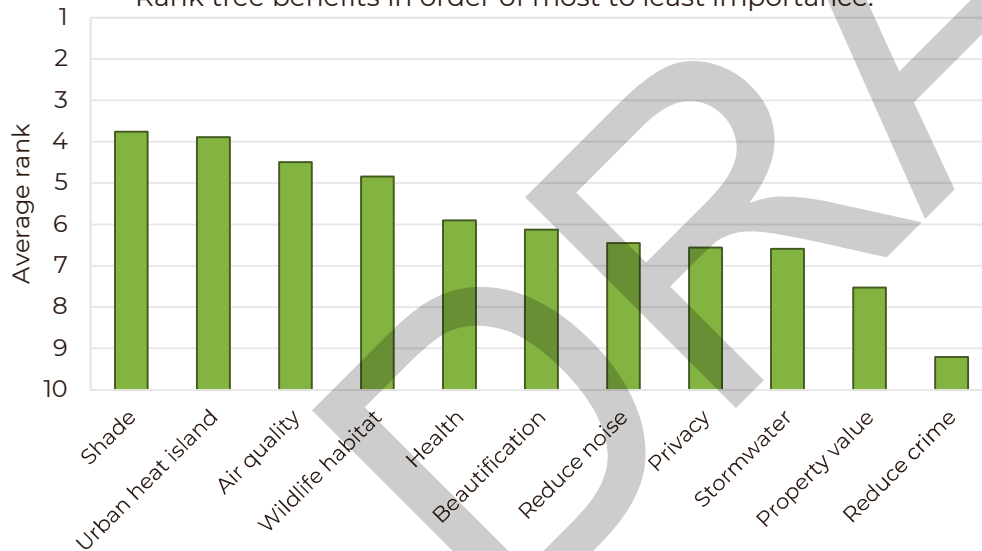
971 survey respondents



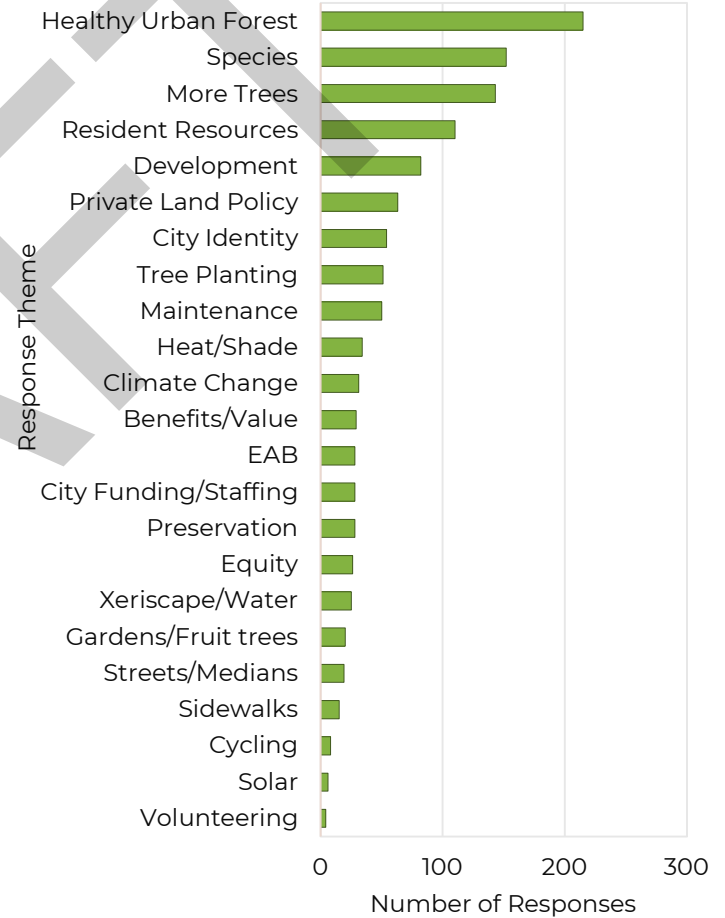
Where is it most important to plant trees?

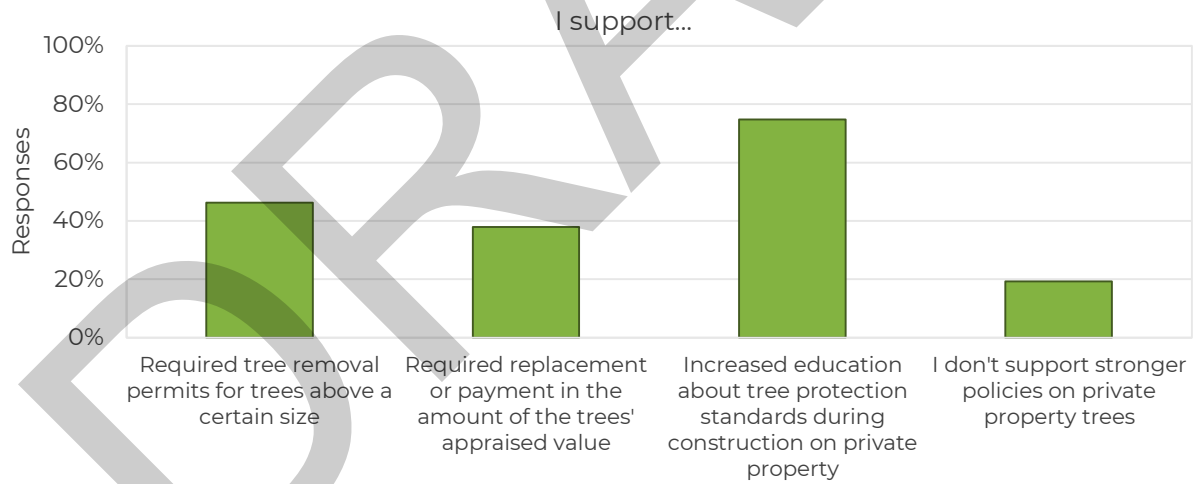
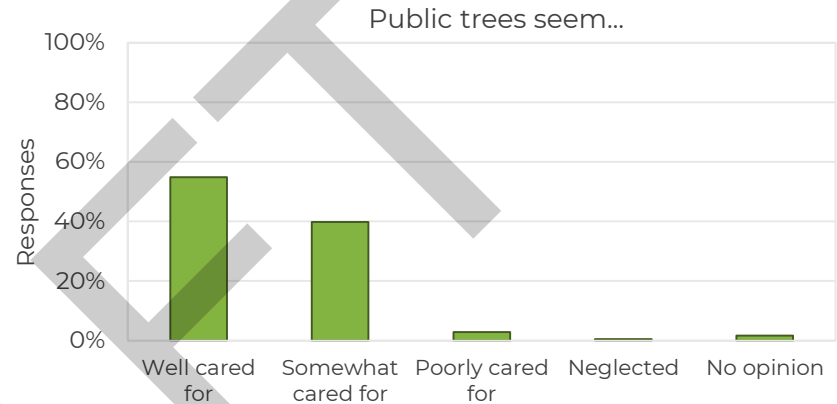
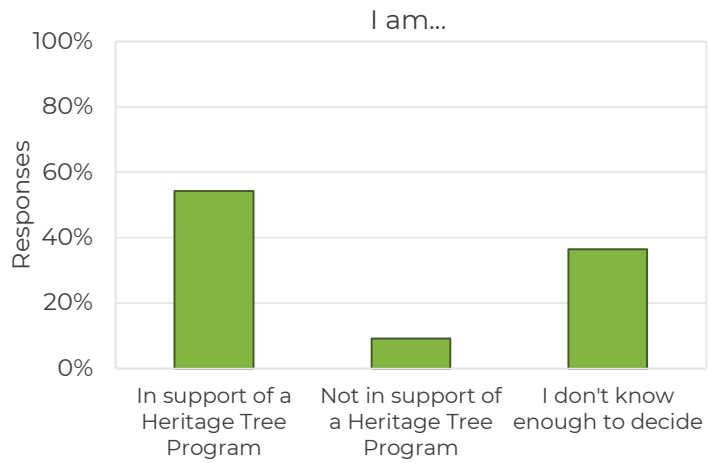


Rank tree benefits in order of most to least importance.



What is your hope for the future of the urban forest in Fort Collins?





Public Meetings

Responses to questions in public meetings were similar to those provided by the public survey.

Other themes:

- Cost is a difficulty many residents face when planting new trees. Tree care and removal costs are a burden to homeowners.
- The community may prefer “carrot” over “stick” approaches to trees on private property, for example, financial resources, mitigation credits, and outreach and education as opposed to stricter ordinances. However, some residents directly support policy mechanisms for enforcement. Many residents indicated they needed more information to make an informed decision.
- Many comments expressed concern over water usage, e.g., which tree species are planted and where.
- Several participants spoke in support of more native trees as well as edible fruit and nut trees.
- The public wants guidelines about preventing trees from blocking solar panels.

Partner Focus Groups

Discussion topics and emergent themes:

- Leverage and expand partnerships with internal and external collaborators.
- Increase public education and outreach.
- Investigate funding sources that can help private landowners maintain trees.
 - Prioritize support for low-income property owners and those within high-priority neighborhoods.
- Integrate the UFSP and trees into future City plans.
- Increase code enforcement.
 - Promote tree protection and mitigation for development projects.
- Increase communication to the public about City Forestry activities.
- Share Forestry resources with surrounding communities.
- Engage with legal experts to clarify any legal uncertainty regarding stewardship of no-man’s-land and alleyways.
- Strengthen planting and maintenance along transportation corridors.
- Work with local and regional nursery growers to promote local nursery stock, species diversity, and availability of key species.

Ordinance Review

TOPIC	ADDRESSED X = Yes (X) = Partial	CHAPTER & SECTION*	COMMENTS
Credentials			
Requires certified arborist for paid private tree work			
Requires Certified Arborist for public tree work	(X)	MC 27-17	This is included in the <i>Tree Management Standards and BMPs</i> document. MC 27-17 allows for the City Manager to implement written rules. A recommended improvement is to mention this document within city code.
Requires licensing of private tree care firms	X	MC 27-34-40	
Defines official authority for public tree management	X	MC 27-17	
Public Tree Management and Protection			
Establishes/Authorizes City Forester to regulate public trees	X	MC 27-17	
Establishes/Authorizes City position (e.g. Mayor, City Administrator, DPW Director) to regulate public trees	X	MC 27-17	
Established a community Tree Board or Commission			
Defines public trees			
Requires annual community tree work plans			
Identifies formula for determining monetary tree value	(X)	LUC 3.2.1 I-7	Applies only to development
Establishes responsibility for public tree maintenance (e.g. City, adjacent property owner)	X	MC 24-42, 27-17, 27-57	Responsibility for public trees is implied but not directly stated
Requires regular public tree maintenance	X	MC 27-57	
Requires particular types of maintenance (e.g., pruning)	X	MC 27-58	

TOPIC	ADDRESSED X = Yes (X) = Partial	CHAPTER & SECTION*	COMMENTS
Requires adherence to ANSI A300 standards and best management practices	(X)	MC 27-17	<i>In Tree Management Standards and BMPs</i>
Establishes permit system for work on public trees	X	MC 27-33	
Requires payment of fees for the removal of public trees			
Establishes provisions for penalties for non-compliance	X	MC 27-59-62	
Restricts tree removal on public property			Permit required; see next line
Permit or approval required for tree removal, pruning or excavating near public trees	X	MC 27-31-32	
Requires protection of public trees during construction, repairs or utility work	X	LUC 3.2.1 G	
Prohibits damage to public trees (e.g. attaching ropes, signs, wires, chemicals, storing materials, excavation etc.)	X	MC 27-19	
Establishes provisions for trimming for overhead utility line clearance			
Restricts burning of solid wood waste			
Establishes a wood utilization program			
Establishes an insect/disease control strategy			Recommended Improvement
Prohibits tree topping	(X)	MC 27-17	<i>In Tree Management Standards and BMPs</i>
Regulates abatement of hazardous or nuisance trees on private property	(X)	MC 27-18(c)	
Regulates removal of dead or diseased trees	X	MC 27-58	
Tree Fund			
Tree Planting			
Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on private property (approved tree list)	X	MC 27-18 LUC 3.2.1 D-4, I-2, I-8	
Requires tree planting around and within parking lots	X	LUC 3.2.1 D, E-4-5	
Requires replacement of removed publicly owned trees	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-2-d	Applies only to development
Permits public tree planting - beyond the right-of-way	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-2-b	

TOPIC	ADDRESSED X = Yes (X) = Partial	CHAPTER & SECTION*	COMMENTS
Requires tree plantings around new developments (see also trees in parking lots)	X	LUC 3.2.1 D, D-1-c	
Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on public property (approved tree list)	X	MC 27-18 LUC 3.2.1 D-1-c, I-8	
Private Tree Protection and Preservation			
Restricts tree removal on private property			
Permit or approval required for tree removal on private property			
Requires preservation of trees during development on private property	X	LUC 3.2.1 F	
Prohibits damage to preserved/protected trees			Recommended Improvement
Prohibits damage or removal of trees on another person's property			
Inventory of trees on site required	X	LUC 3.2.1 F	
Identification of forests/woodlands required			
Specific species and/or size tree regulated (e.g. heritage/significant trees)	(X)	LUC 3.2.1 F	Applies only to development
Location of Critical Root Zone/Dripline required	X	LUC 3.2.1 G-7	
Minimum canopy cover requirement set			
Identification of riparian buffers, natural areas, preservation zones	X	LUC 3.2.1 A, M	
Tree protection/preservation plan required	X	LUC 3.2.1 C	
Identification of prohibited activities in dripline/critical root zone	X	LUC 3.2.1 G-3	
Tree protection fencing required	X	LUC 3.2.1 G-3	
Location/type of other tree protection measures (e.g. root pruning, aeration, vertical mulching, trunk protection, soil protection, irrigation,) on development plans (e.g. site plans, construction plans, etc.)	X	LUC 3.2.1 G, G-7, J-2	
Provide credits/incentives for tree preservation			Recommended Improvement
Landscape plan with proposed landscaping and mitigation trees to be planted	(X)	LUC 3.2.1 C	
Requires Grading plan to include protected/preserved trees			
Utility plan with trees to include protected/preserved trees	X	LUC 3.2.1 K	

TOPIC	ADDRESSED X = Yes (X) = Partial	CHAPTER & SECTION*	COMMENTS
Tree planting requirements for removal of regulated trees	X	LUC 3.2.1 F, F-1	
Fee in Lieu of planting mitigation trees	X	LUC 3.2.1 F	
Tree mitigation survival requirements	X	LUC 3.2.1 I-4-6	
Fine for removal of regulated trees			Recommended Improvement
Penalties established for damage and removal of preserved/saved trees			Recommended Improvement
Bonding to ensure required trees are planted	X	LUC 3.2.1 I-4	
Bonding utilized to discourage tree removals			
Other Ordinances of Note			
Defining 'City Forester'	X	MC 27-16	
Alley ROW maintenance	X	MC 27-31	
Right of entry	X	MC 27-56	
Tree spacing	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-1-c	
Visual clearance	X	LUC 3.2.1 L	
Requirement of ROW planting	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-2-a, D-2-c	
ROW tree spacing from infrastructure	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-2-a, D-2-c, K	
Minimum species diversity for development plans	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-3	
Minimum sizes for trees planted	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-4-5	
Buffering requirements	X	LUC 3.2.1 E-1	
Water conservation requirements	X	LUC 3.2.1 E-3	
Required maintenance for development landscape	X	LUC 3.2.1 I-5	
* CO: Fort Collins, Colorado Municipal Code (February 5, 2024); LUC: City of Fort Collins Land Use Code (December 21, 2023)			