

TO: City Council  
FROM: Brian Caughlan, Urban Forester  
DATE: June 2, 2026  
SUBJECT: Canopy Equity Program

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1) Recommended Action:

No action requested. This is an opportunity for discussion on the topic.

This item was recommended for discussion at a City Council meeting under the consideration calendar by the Public Works Committee at their May 7, 2026 meeting.

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2) Background:

In 2024 the city was awarded a pass-through grant from the U.S. Forest Service (River Network) to fund several programs and 50% of the Urban Forester's salary and benefits. Milestone 3 of this grant is to plan and launch a Canopy Equity Program. Staff will implement this program by inviting residents of identified target neighborhoods to participate in the program, hosting a workshop to teach proper planting and tree care, and then distributing trees, irrigation bags, mulch, and compost to the residents. The goal of reaching out to property owners directly is to encourage them to follow through with the program. Neighborhoods were identified on the basis of grant requirements which center on equity, existing canopy, and urban heat island effect.

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3) Policy Support:

2026 City Council Strategic Plan / Be a leader in environmental health and sustainability:  
Implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

- Action 1.1 (A). Increase canopy cover in the city to expand the community and urban forest.
  - Objective 6.3. Provide education and incentives for maintaining and enhancing the number of trees in community and urban forests on private property.
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4) Alternatives:

For information only, no alternatives are suggested. The program was designed to meet grant requirements and has little room for alterations at this time.

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5) Fiscal Notes:

This two-year project is entirely funded through the U.S. Forest Service (River Network) grant budgeted in the General Fund (25%) and Stormwater Utility Fund (75%). The estimated cost (not including staff time) is \$67,000.

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6) Attachments:

N/A