



PARTNERING FOR
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
THROUGH SCIENCE,
POLICY, AND
CITIZEN ACTION



City of Seattle



Pacific NW
Research Station



USDA Forest
Service

Seattle Urban Forest Canopy :: Data & Management

What is an Urban Forest?

The urban forest includes trees that are found in parks, open spaces, streetscapes, natural areas, commercial settings, and on residential properties. These trees collectively make up the canopy cover of the city.

Urban Ecosystem Services

City trees provide a wide range of ecosystem services. Research describes environmental benefits (such as stormwater management and better air quality), social benefits (such as faster healing, reduced stress response, and better worker productivity), and economic benefits (such as increased property values and shopper spending).

How are Ecosystem Services measured?

One way to measure services is to conduct a tree canopy analysis across an entire city. Using aerial photography or digital remote sensing data, the extent of tree canopy cover is measured across public and private property and all land uses.

What do we know about Tree Canopy in Seattle?

A canopy analysis was done across the City of Seattle in 2009, based on 2007 data. The map shows the distribution of canopy across the city. It also identifies places of planting potential, due to on-the-ground data collection. The table shows existing canopy cover by land use type, respective canopy goals, and the number of trees needed to meet goals.

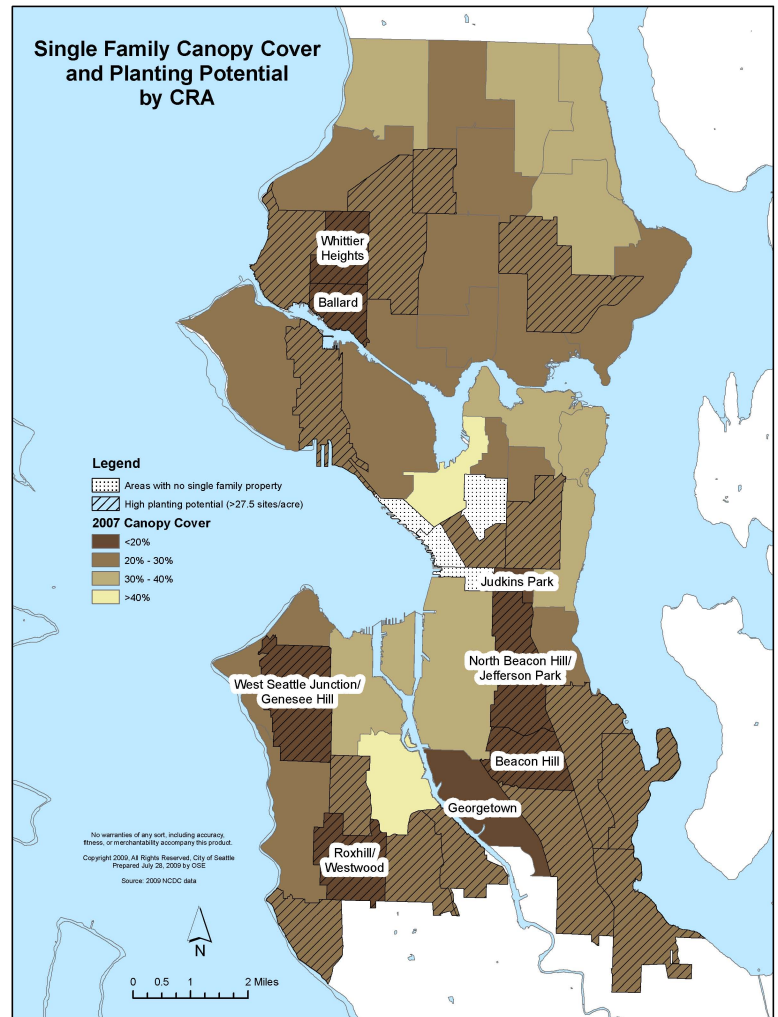
What happens next?

Single family residential makes up 56% of the land cover of the City of Seattle. Programs are now underway to encourage tree planting by homeowners.

For more information:

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Land Use Type	Current Canopy Cover	Canopy Goal	# Trees Needed
Commercial	9.7%	15%	33,000
Developed park	25.5%	25%	0
Downtown	4.7%	12%	8,000
Industrial	4.3%	10%	49,000
Institutional	19.4%	20%	600
Multi-family	17.1%	20%	23,000
Parks natural areas	80.4%	80%	0
Single family	24.7%	33%	193,000
Citywide	23%	30%	306,600