

## **PLAN TO ACHIEVE A 5 PERCENT CANOPY GOAL**

The Community Tree Master Plan recommends the City Council adopt a goal to increase overall canopy by 5 percent over the next 15 years, increasing canopy coverage from 17.7 percent to 22.7 percent. It is estimated that would require an additional 11,000 new trees planted over the next 15 years. To meet this goal, new trees would need to be planted through the City's Street Tree Program, in new development, and in private residences.

### Forestry Street Tree Program

The current stocking level of the City's street trees is at 82 percent, or a total of 26,166 trees. An industry standard goal for stocking levels is approximately 90 percent. If the City increased its stocking level to 91 percent, that would add approximately 3,000 new trees and increase the City's inventory to 29,166 trees. Increasing current stocking levels would increase the City's overall canopy by approximately 1.4 percent. The remaining 3.6 percent would need to come from new development and private trees.

Each year, approximately 240 trees are lost due to age or damage. Current funding levels support the replacement of these trees. However, to increase tree plantings, additional funds would be needed.

### New Development/Construction Projects

Because of all the new development, there is a concern that the City may be losing canopy coverage in the short term. Where possible, the Plan is recommending tree mitigation be set at replacing lost canopy at a 2:1 ratio for development projects. For instance, if a tree has a canopy of 30', the replacement canopy would be 60' at full maturity. Even with the proposed canopy mitigation, replacement trees are young and will take approximately 15 to 20 years to reach full maturity and canopy coverage.

### Private Trees

Additional hourly support is needed to partner with nonprofit organizations to increase community awareness and appreciation of trees through marketing efforts, web page enhancements, community workshops, and outreach materials. Hourly support is also needed to work with homeowners to promote additional tree plantings and to educate the public on proper tree care and maintenance. Residents responded in the survey and at the community meeting that they may be more inclined to plant trees if the City provided the trees for free and offered community workshops on proper tree maintenance.

## Plan for Canopy Enhancement

The Plan estimates that 11,000 new trees would need to be added to reach the City's goal of a 5 percent canopy increase. That would equate to approximately 733 new trees each year. That is in addition to the estimated 240 trees planted to replace trees that are removed each year due to age or damage. The City would need to plant approximately 973 trees each year over the next 15 years to meet canopy goals. Staff proposes the following annual plan to meet this goal:

<b>Number of Trees</b>	<b>Actions Needed</b>
500 Street Trees	Forestry Division plants 500 trees each year; 240 to replace removed trees and 260* new street trees.
200 Private Trees	Number of private trees provided to residents (Arbor Day, tree workshops, other events and programs).
273 Development/Construction Projects	New trees through development and construction projects. Staff proposes a goal of 2:1 canopy mitigation where possible.
973 Total	Number of trees needed each year to reach 5 percent canopy goals.

\* Once the City's street tree stocking levels reach the maximum, new trees would need to come from development/construction projects and private tree plantings.