

From: [Mark Garlock](#)
To: [Andrew Winje](#)
Cc: [Michael Klein](#)
Subject: Information on Increasing Canopy Cover
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:04:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Andy,

Increasing canopy cover requires strategic tree planting in parkways, parks and other public spaces. Private property can also be considered for increasing canopy cover by incentivizing or requiring tree planting on private property through policies or providing trees to private property owners. Canopy cover objectives can be driven by stakeholders in the community, environmental goals or a component of a climate action plan.

The following should be considered when developing a plan to increase canopy cover in a City.

Assessing and Quantifying the Urban Forest

- Quantify the urban forest through inventory data. This includes tree count, condition, recommended maintenance and vacant sites
- Quantify Canopy cover through Lidar data
- Quantify benefits of the urban forest with software such as iTree

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Planning The Urban Forest

- Develop urban forest canopy goals. Most coastal cities in southern California have a goal of 15%-25% canopy cover.
- Urban Forestry Master Plans identify short and long term goals for the planning and management of the urban forest. These plans can range anywhere from \$30k-\$70k
- Develop a management plan which defines how the goals in the master plan will be accomplished within a time frame
- Prioritize planting locations using data collected to identify areas with significant needs for planting
- Develop ordinances that require a minimum percentage of tree canopy for new developments

Implementing Planting and Maintaining the Urban Forest

- Identify and develop funding through budgets or grants for planting and future maintenance
- Develop and implement a "Young Tree Maintenance" program during the tree establishment period
- Promote species diversity and appropriate selection based on microclimate and parkway size
- Collaborate with local tree advocacy groups such as California Urban Forest Council for expertise and resources
- Educate the community on tree benefits through Arbor Day celebrations, community outreach and obtaining recognition as a Tree City USA

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Please let me know if you need any additional information.

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