



Urban Forest Strategic Plan Categories and Goals 2023

A. VEGETATIVE RESOURCE

The criteria in this category relate to the composition and condition of the urban forest. The performance indicators range in the level of diversity and known health of the trees across the community. These are generally used as performance benchmarks to assess the effectiveness of resource management and the community framework, the other categories.

Canopy Cover

Shoreline's Goal: *Maintain the current 37% average tree cover for its optimal ecosystem benefits, while planting future canopy in appropriate public planting spaces.*

- ✓ Perform regular tree canopy assessments to track change and identify opportunities of enhancement through planting projects and stewardship. (2009, 2018, 2023)
- ✓ Design and implement a robust tree planting plan to compensate for tree loss with the Sound Transit light rail project.
- Identify potential planting spaces in public land to enhance tree cover.

Species Suitability

Shoreline's Goal: *More than 75% of the public trees are of species considered suitable for climate resilience.*

Shoreline's Goal: *Native species are specified where appropriate in publicly managed areas; invasive species are aggressively eradicated.*

- ✓ Update ROW Tree Species List (Engineering Development Manual 2022 – App. G)
- Regularly discuss interdepartmentally suitable climate-ready tree species, including native species, for city-managed land and projects.
- Analyze the species distribution of the trees in the rights-of-way (ROW)

Tree Inventory

Shoreline's Goal: *A comprehensive tree inventory of right-of-way (ROW) trees that includes detailed tree condition and risk ratings and is a mapped layer in GIS.*

- Coordinate the integration of ROW tree inventory data into the city's asset management system and GIS layers.

- Inventory available planting spaces to be considered for new ROW plantings.

B. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The criteria in resource management speak to the significant components of a city urban forestry program – staff, funding, resources, planning, policy, and operations.

Management Plan & Policies

A comprehensive urban forest management plan provides a specific road map for annual work and budget for public tree management that is aligned with the vision, mission, and goals of an urban forestry program.

Shoreline’s Goal: *A comprehensive plan for publicly managed forest resources developed and implemented.*

- ✓ Develop and implement stewardship/regeneration plans for parks and open space.
- Develop a proactive work plan from inventory addressing priority actions – hazard tree removal, replacement, and new tree plantings.
- Develop a tree risk management program for street trees and parks.
- Develop policy for ROW trees - removal, replacement, proper pruning, etc.

Funding

Shoreline’s Goal: *Funding to provide for a measurable increase in urban forest benefits and contribution to climate resilience.*

- Develop annual program work plan connected to resource management priorities for biennial budget discussion.
- Conversation with Surface Water Utility for program funding.
- Develop framework and budget for a city program.
- Explore forest carbon credits.

Staffing

Shoreline’s Goal: *Dedicated staff are certified and qualified with regular professional development.*

- Staff to Municipal Forestry Institute or Green Communities Leadership Institute.
- Recognize and support a full-time City Forester position and other needed staff resources to implement city forest management program for public trees and forested spaces.

C. COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK

This category offers aspects and relationships that impact the sustainability of the urban forest. The criteria stress the importance of cooperation and deep understanding of the value of the urban forestry for a successful program.

Public Agency Coordination

The key objective is to ensure all city departments cooperate with common goals and objectives around the proper management of the urban forest. The city's Climate Action Plan offers many opportunities for inter-departmental coordination.

Shoreline's Goal: Policies and best practices are developed and implemented by formal interdepartmental/interagency teams on all municipal projects and activities.

- Revive City 'Tree Team' with guidelines/policy for inter-departmental and inter-agency coordination
- ✓ Continue to review annual tree work plan from Seattle City Light to anticipate interagency coordination and public awareness.

Neighborhood Engagement

The key objective is citizens understand and cooperate or participate in urban forest management, ideally at the neighborhood level. The most effective way to achieve this is to engage the neighborhood associations with the program through education, advocacy, and active stewardship.

Shoreline's Goal: City-wide coverage and interaction, particularly engagement of neighborhood associations with forest restoration and stewardship in nearby forested parks and open space.

- ✓ Green Shoreline Stewardship – volunteer training, invasive removal, events
- Promote current restoration efforts in nearby spaces at the neighborhood association level – opportunities for education and participation.

Increased Community Awareness

The most effective way to get the general public to understand the role of the urban forest is through education and participation. A successful outcome is public support of a City urban forestry program and City Council approval for adequate funding of a program.

Shoreline's Goal: The urban forest is recognized as vital to Shoreline's environmental, social, and economic well-being.

- ✓ Combined Arbor Day with Green Shoreline celebrations (October 28, 2023)
- ✓ Expand urban forestry presence on city website with benefits, tree care information, and local resources.
- Highlight the critical relationship between the city's urban forest and climate resilience through the Climate Action Plan and the Urban Forest Strategic Plan.