



SAN FRANCISCO

URBAN FOREST PLAN



Our urban forest...

700,000 trees

105,000 street trees

131,000 park trees

SF TODAY



\$1.7B Estimated capital value

\$9.5M Annual benefits

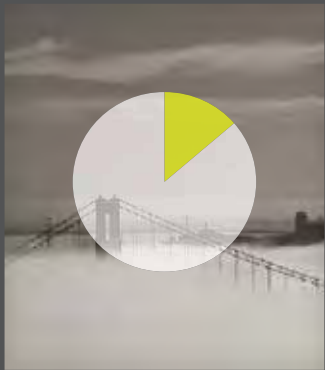
\$100M Property values

SOURCES:
City of San Francisco Resource Analysis of Inventoried Public Trees, Davey Resource Group (2013).
Assessing Urban Forest Effects and Values: San Francisco's Urban Forest, United States Forest Service (2007).
San Francisco Bay Area State of the Urban Forest Report, USDA Forest Service (2007).



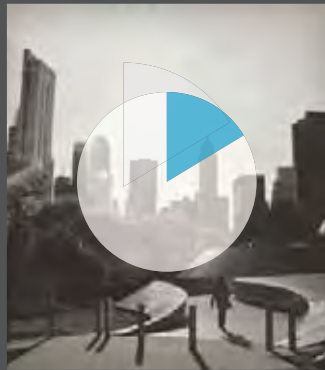
World's 'Greenest' City?

Urban Tree Canopy



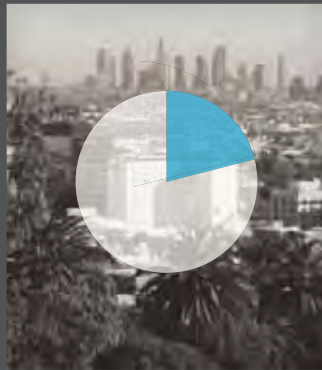
13.7%

San Francisco



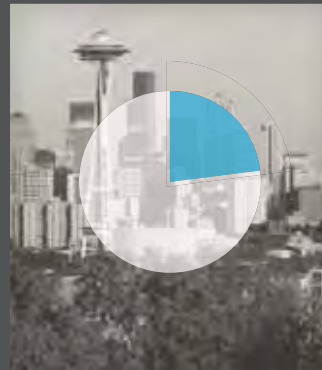
17%

Chicago



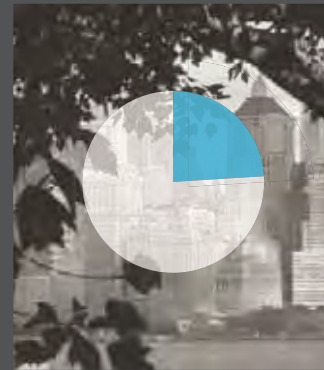
21%

Los Angeles



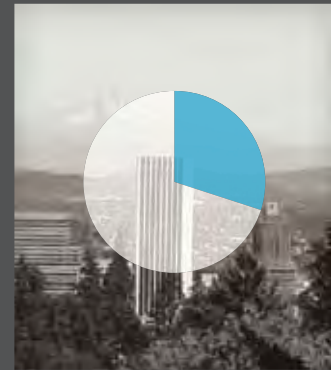
23%

Seattle



24%

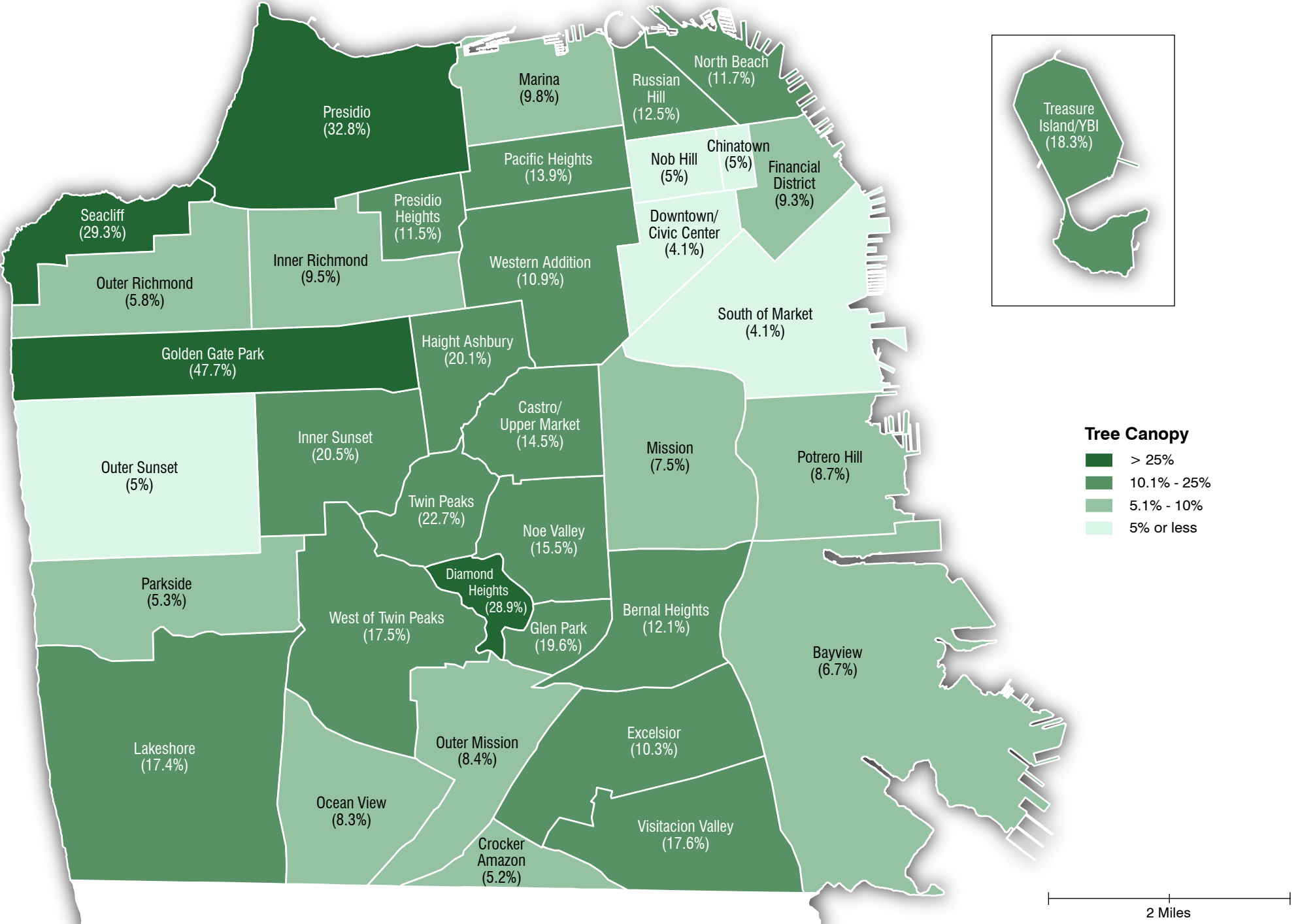
New York City



30%

Portland

San Francisco Neighborhood Tree Canopy





A Plan for our trees

THE PLAN

The Urban Forest Plan will identify policies and strategies to *proactively manage and grow* the City's street tree population. The goal of the Plan is to create an expanded, healthy and thriving urban forest now and for the future.

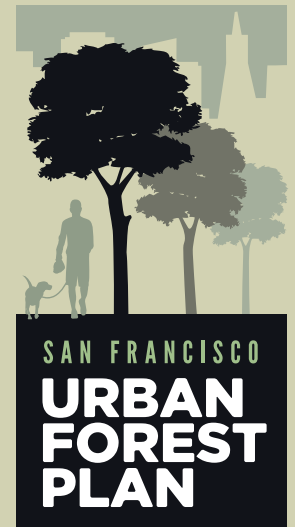
A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THESE AGENCIES:



SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING
DEPARTMENT



URBAN
FORESTRY
COUNCIL





SAN FRANCISCO
**URBAN
FOREST
PLAN**

PHASE ONE

**STREET
TREES**

PHASE TWO

**PARKS
— AND —
OPEN
SPACE**

PHASE THREE

**BUILDINGS
— AND —
PRIVATE
PROPERTY**



SAN FRANCISCO
**URBAN
FOREST
PLAN**

PHASE ONE

**STREET
TREES**

2014

PHASE TWO

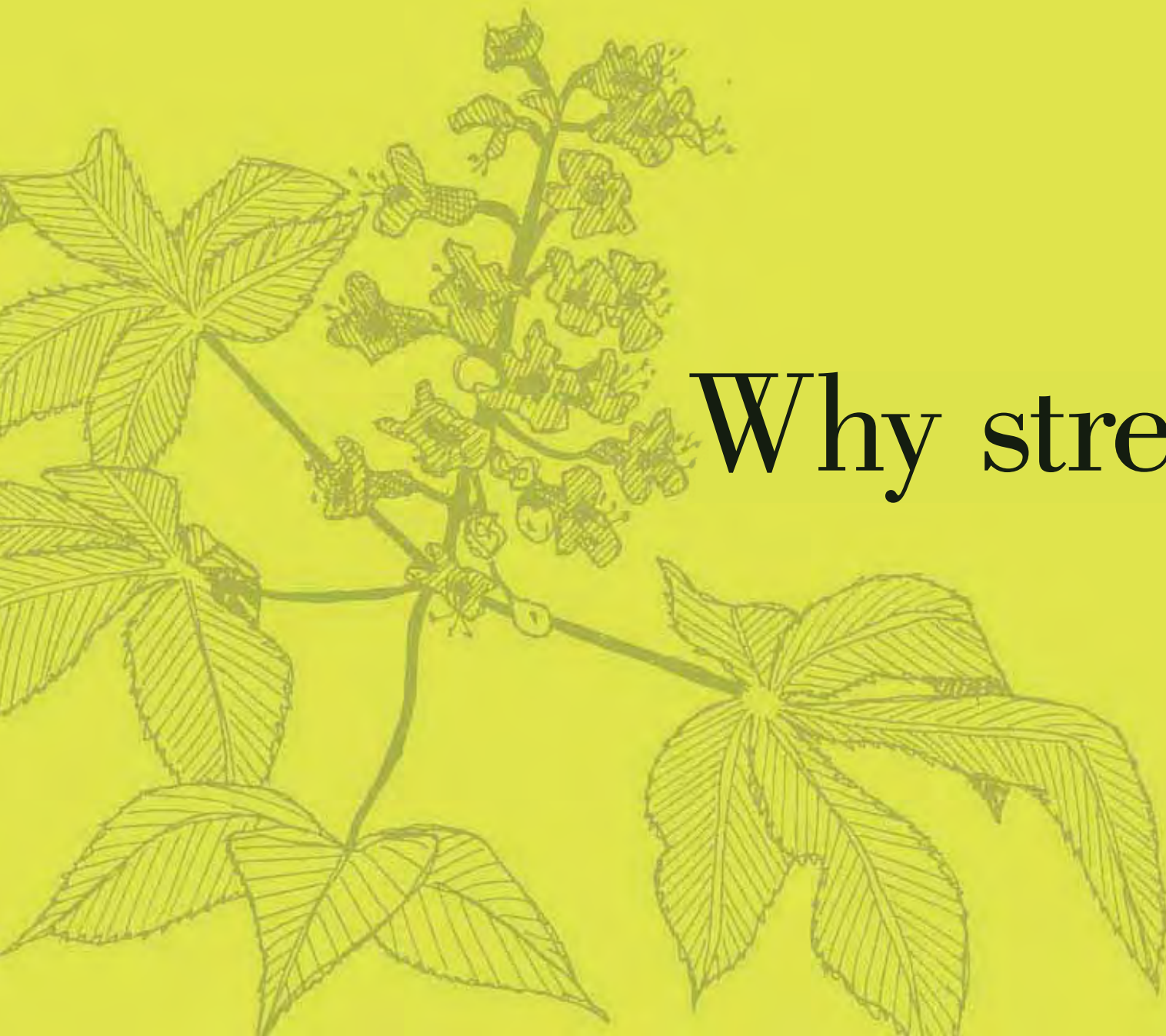
**PARKS
— AND —
OPEN
SPACE**

To Come

PHASE THREE

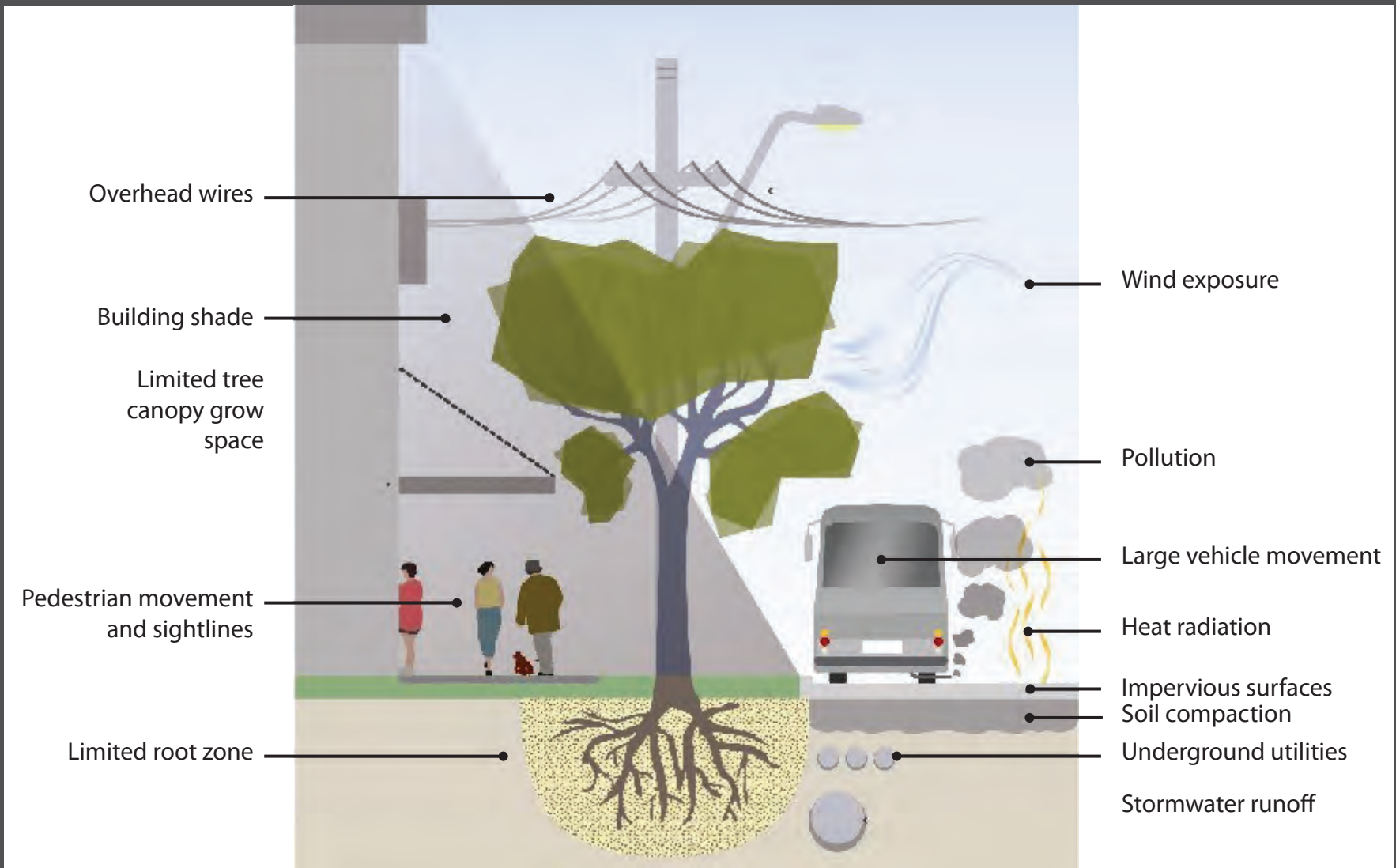
**BUILDINGS
— AND —
PRIVATE
PROPERTY**

To Come



Why street trees?

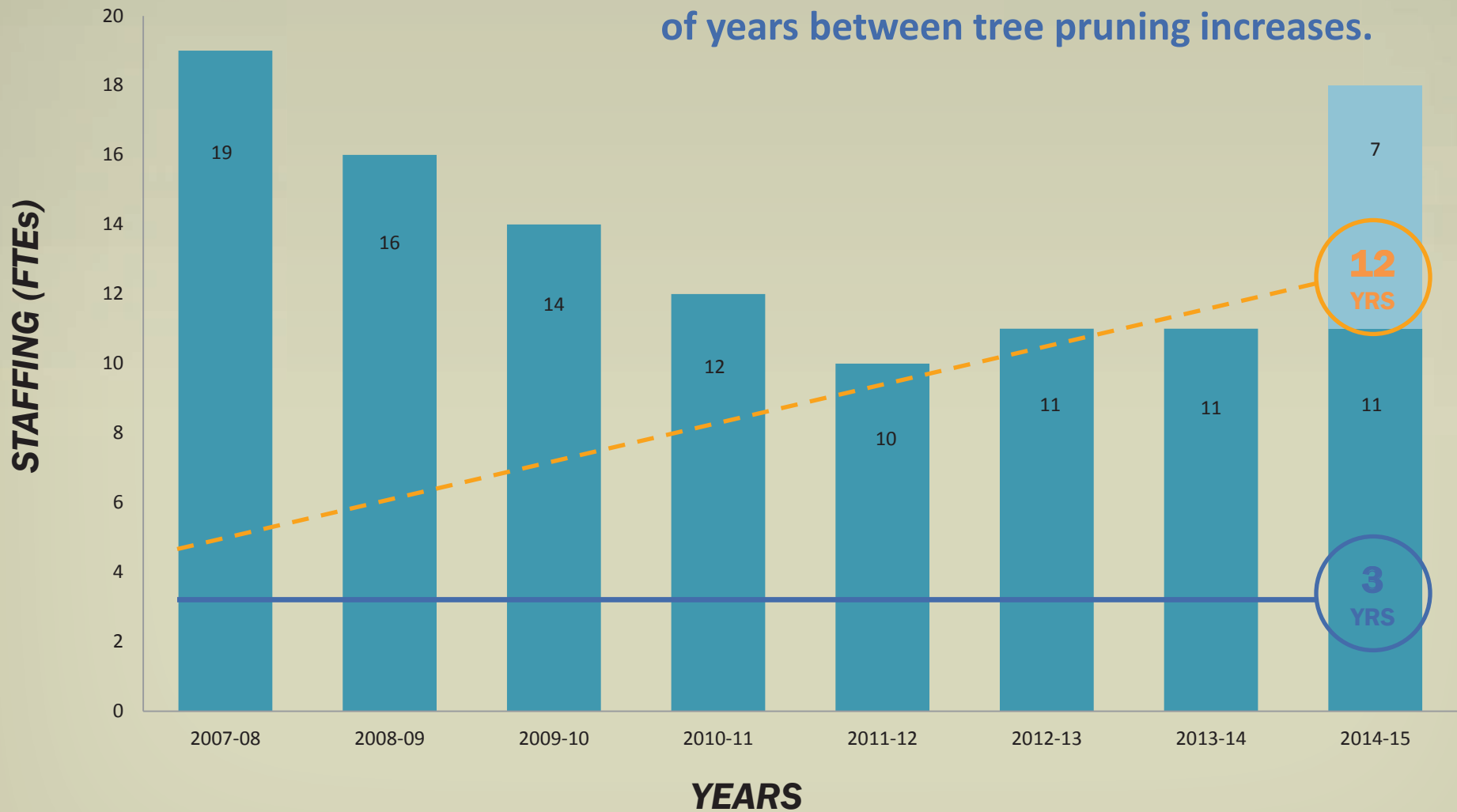
HARSH GROWING ENVIRONMENT



INADEQUATE FUNDING

Public Works Resources for Tree Care

As resources decline, the average number of years between tree pruning increases.



INADEQUATE FUNDING

san francisco's urban forest

[illegible]

INADEQUATE FUNDING

**NOTICE TO TRANSFER TREE
MAINTENANCE
RESPONSIBILITY
TO
THE ADJACENT PROPERTY
OWNER**

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO WEBSITE

LOCATION: [illegible]

DESCRIPTION: [illegible]

ACTION: [illegible]

san francisco's urban forest

BY ORDER OF THE
KING

From this point on all PEASANTS
 are now required to care for the
 trees planted by the KING

Resistance is futile

CHOICE TO TRANSFER TREE
 MAINTENANCE
 RESPONSIBILITY

URBAN
 FOREST
 PLAN

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CHOICE TO TRANSFER TREE
 MAINTENANCE
 RESPONSIBILITY

URBAN
 FOREST
 PLAN

NEGLECT + DAMAGE



NEGLECT + DAMAGE



san francisco's urban forest

URBAN
FOREST
PLAN

STREET TREES



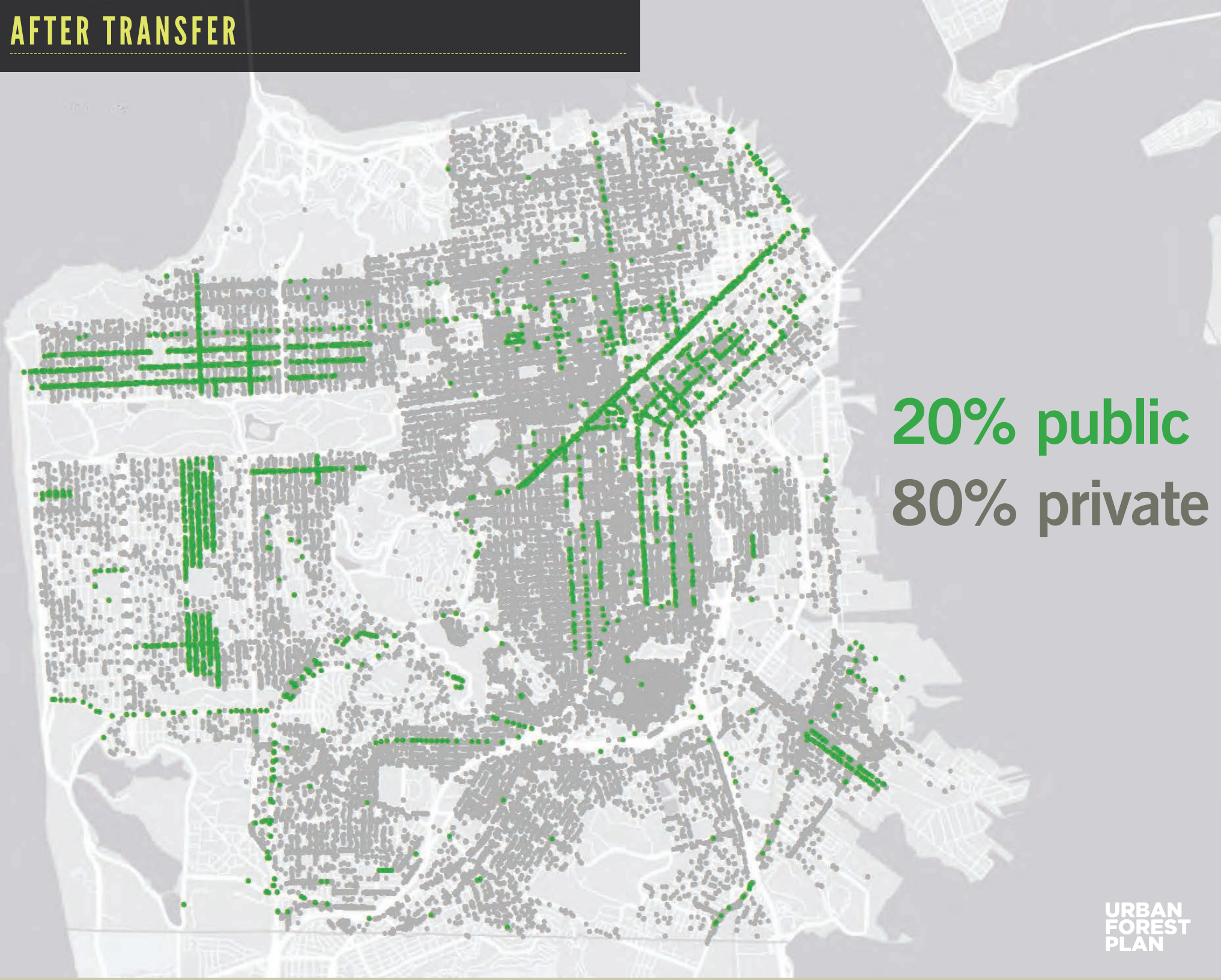
105,000
street trees

MAINTENANCE

40% public

40% public
60% private

AFTER TRANSFER



20% public
80% private

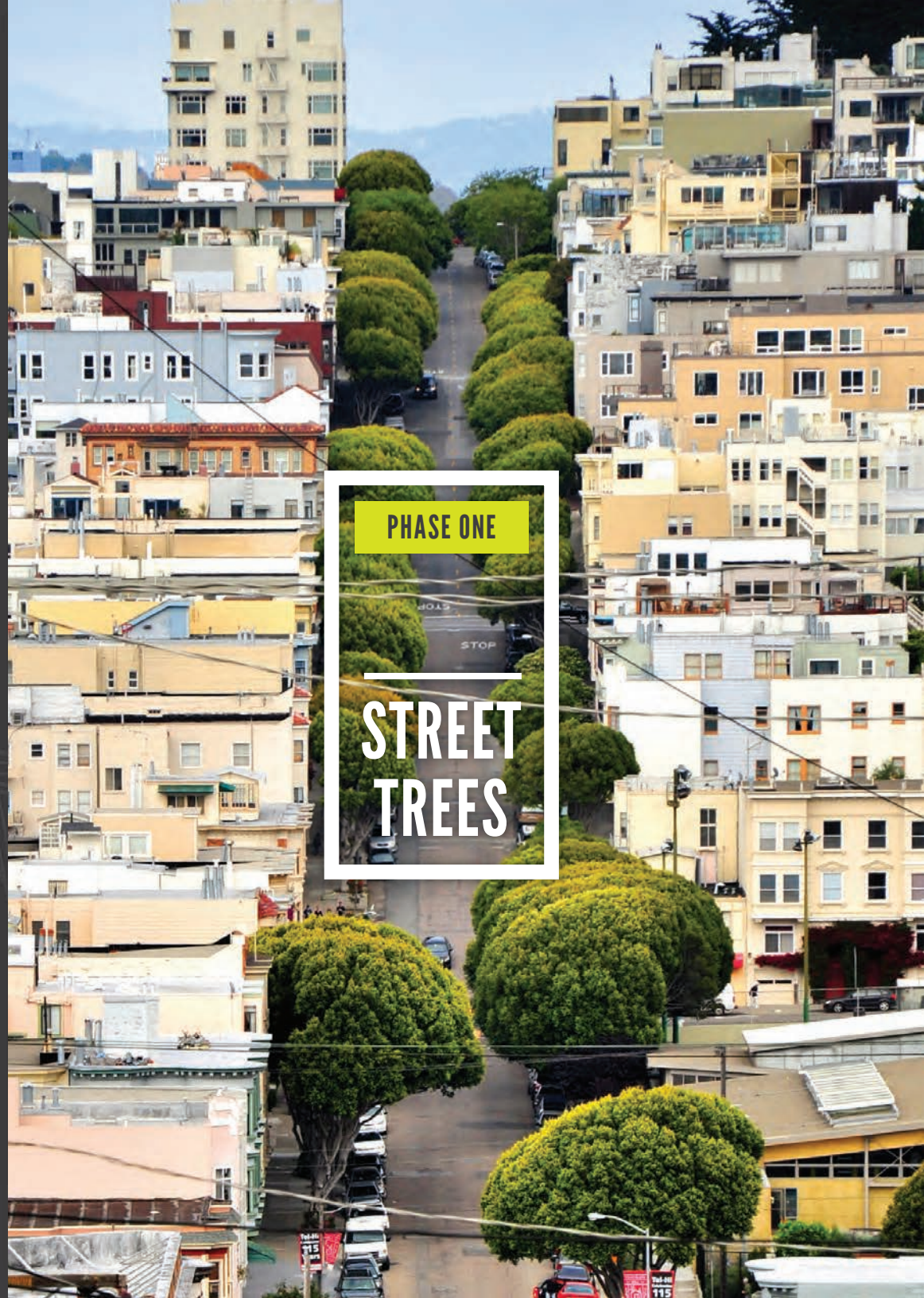
MUNICIPAL STREET TREE PROGRAM

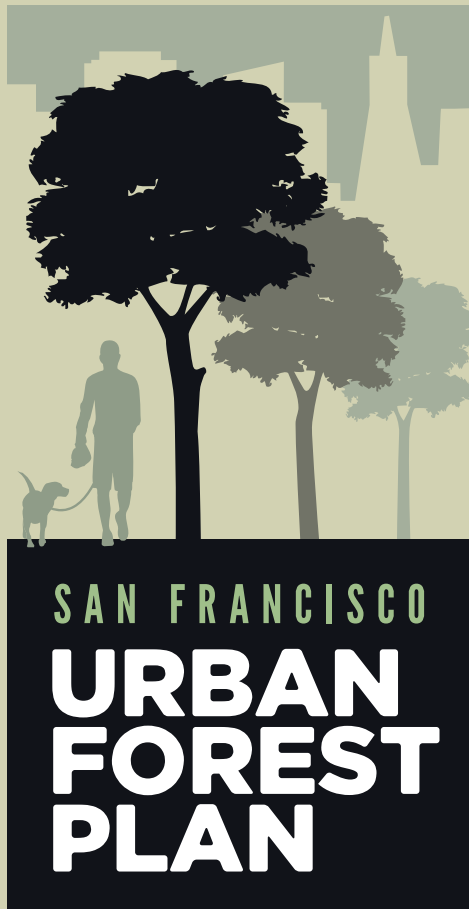


SAN FRANCISCO
**URBAN
FOREST
PLAN**

PHASE ONE

STREET
TREES





=

**FINANCE
STUDY**

+

**STREET
TREE
CENSUS**

+

**URBAN
FOREST
PLAN**

STREET TREE FINANCING STUDY

AECOM

FINANCING SAN FRANCISCO'S URBAN FOREST



THE BENEFITS + COSTS OF A
COMPREHENSIVE MUNICIPAL STREET TREE
PROGRAM

December 2013

PREPARED FOR:



SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The **Street Tree Financing Study** evaluated strategies for creating a **long-term funding** stream for tree maintenance, planting and care.

- benefits of municipal program
- routine maintenance is cost-effective
- funding for capital costs & maintenance

Cost: **\$50,000**

A CENSUS FOR TREES



The City lacks comprehensive data on San Francisco's street trees. As part of the Urban Forest Plan, **a census of 27,000 street trees was conducted.** Information on location, age, species type and condition will be collected.

Cost: **\$100,000**

OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT:

- *Public Hearings + Endorsement*
Urban Forestry Council
(2012-14)
- *Series of 'Think Tanks'*
(2012)
- *Lakeshore Elementary School*
Urban Forest Project (2013)
- *SPUR Public Forums*
(2012 & 2013)
- *Arbor Day & Earth Day*
(2014)
- *Public Open House*
(Jan 2014)
- *Public 'Office' Hours*
(Feb 2014)



The Plan presents the following vision for San Francisco's urban forest:

URBAN FOREST VISION

Our
urban forest

will be **a healthy, well-maintained and
sustainably financed**

— *collection of* —
TREES & GREENERY

that improves the city's **ecological function**

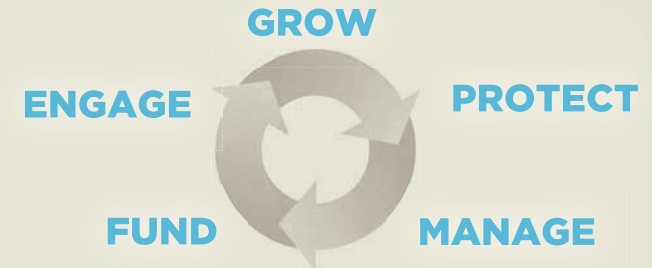
& BRINGS *benefits* TO THE
ENORMOUS PEOPLE OF

San Francisco.



PLAN GOALS

The Plan is based on the following five goals for the urban forest. Each goal is accompanied by a series of strategies and actions required to achieve it.



GOAL 1

GROW THE URBAN FOREST THROUGH NEW PLANTING TO MAXIMIZE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF TREES AND URBAN GREENING.

STRATEGIES

- 1.1 PURSUE AN EXPANDED AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TREES AND GREENING THROUGHOUT THE CITY.
- 1.2 MAXIMIZE BENEFITS OF THE URBAN FOREST – SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC.
- 1.3 PROMOTE A RANGE OF GREENING TOOLS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.



GOAL 2

PROTECT THE URBAN FOREST FROM THREATS AND LOSS BY PRESERVING THE CITY'S EXISTING STREET TREES.

STRATEGIES

- 2.1 STABILIZE THE URBAN FOREST BY ACHIEVING A NET ZERO LOSS OF TREES.
- 2.2 REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE URBAN FOREST.
- 2.3 DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO COMBAT DISEASES AND PESTS.
- 2.4 PROMOTE PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF STREET TREES.

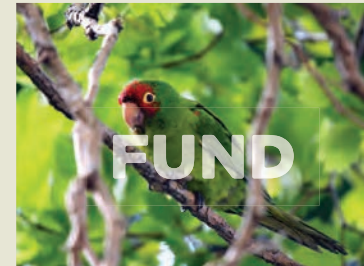


GOAL 3

MANAGE THE URBAN FOREST THROUGH COORDINATED PLANNING, DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE TO ENSURE ITS LONG-TERM HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY.

STRATEGIES

- 3.1 CREATE A COHESIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CITY'S STREET TREES.
- 3.2 EMPLOY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN STREET TREE MAINTENANCE TO CREATE A MORE COST-EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAM.
- 3.3 MANAGE AND CARE FOR STREET TREES THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE LIFE-CYCLE.
- 3.4 PLAN FOR THE LONG-TERM HEALTH AND BEAUTY OF THE URBAN FOREST.
- 3.5 COLLECT AND USE DATA TO MANAGE AND MONITOR THE URBAN FOREST.
- 3.6 IMPROVE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AGENCIES, POLICY MAKERS AND THE COMMUNITY.



GOAL 4

FUND THE URBAN FOREST BY ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM FUNDING STRATEGY FOR THE CITY'S TREES.

STRATEGIES

- 4.1 SECURE FUNDING FOR TREE PLANTING, ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE.
- 4.2 SEEK PRIVATE FUNDING AND OTHER SOURCES FOR THE URBAN FOREST.
- 4.3 CONSIDER NEW AND INNOVATIVE FUNDING SOURCES.



GOAL 5

ENGAGE RESIDENTS, PUBLIC AGENCIES, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN CARING FOR THE URBAN FOREST AND DEEPENING THEIR CONNECTION TO NATURE.

STRATEGIES

- 5.1 PROMOTE URBAN FOREST EDUCATION AND EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES.
- 5.2 ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANTING, ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES.
- 5.3 RECOGNIZE TREES WITH SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (ECOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, SOCIAL OR AESTHETIC) TO SAN FRANCISCO'S LANDSCAPE.



PHASE ONE

STREET TREES

Key Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 2

Grow the street tree population by half.
50,000 new street trees

2014



105,000

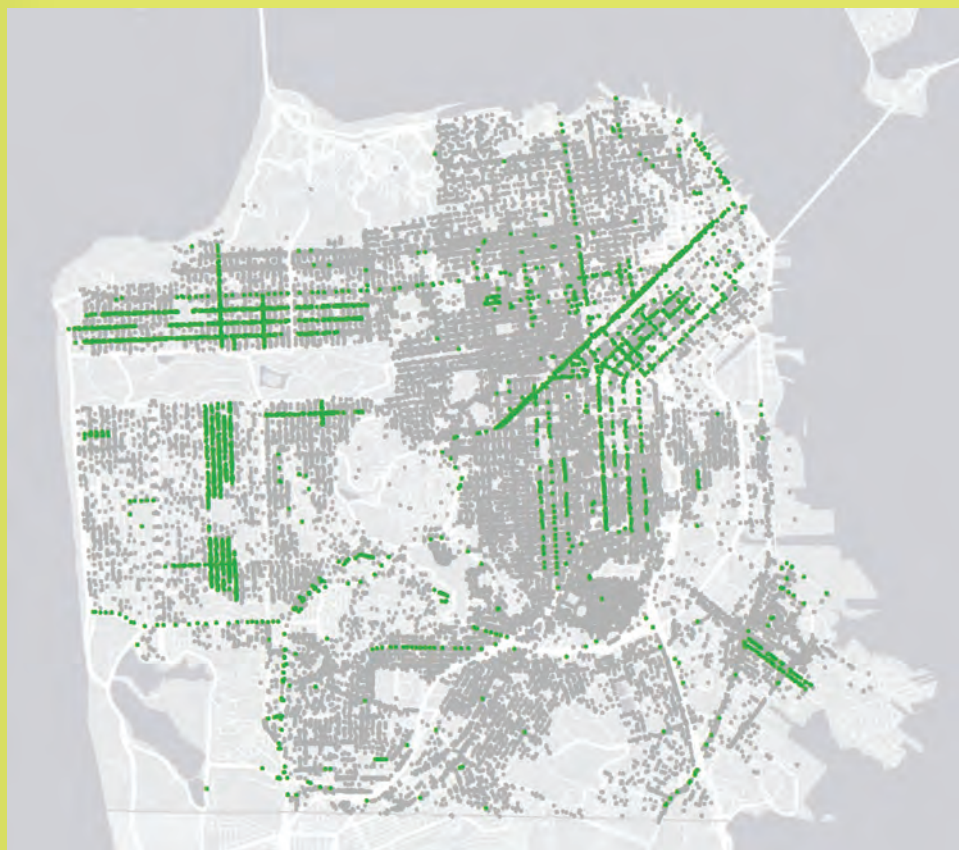
2034



155,000

RECOMMENDATION 3

Establish and fund a citywide street tree maintenance program.



Value of Plan?

- 1 Draw awareness to issues & create visibility
- 2 Educate policymakers on needs
- 3 Catalyze community support
- 4 Gain support for further work
- 5 Spark political action & structural change



**“TREES DON’T COMPETE WELL IN
THE BUDGET, AND I HAVE COME TO
THE CONCLUSION THAT WE NEED
LOCK-BOX, DEDICATED FUNDING.”**

Scott Wiener
SF Board of Supervisors

Possible Ballot Measure: **2016**



FUF Advocates

We envision San Francisco covered in healthy trees and sidewalk gardens. Sadly, current City Hall policies are harming — not helping — our urban forest.

The Problem

Did you know that San Francisco has one of the **smallest urban forests** of any major city in America?

Even worse, it's **currently shrinking**.

And worst of all, the trees we do have are often uncared for, rendering them **dangerous**.

Over the last 30 years, the City has dramatically cut the budget for tree maintenance to the point where individual trees don't get inspected or pruned for a dangerously long time. This increases the risk for limb drops and tree falls, which endanger people and property. Further, while other cities provide street tree maintenance as a public service, like street and sewer maintenance, San Francisco is unfairly **transferring** responsibility for street tree maintenance to property owners, most of whom don't have the resources, knowledge or desire to maintain trees. And because the City plants so few new trees, our existing trees are not being replaced as fast as they're dying — which means that San Francisco's urban forest, already among the sparsest of any major U.S. city, is **currently shrinking**.

Our Solution

FUF worked with a team of experts and stakeholders to help craft the **San Francisco Urban Forest Plan**, which outlines a revolutionary set of policies that will:

- Grow our urban forest by planting 50,000 new street trees
- Secure funding to enable the City to adequately care for **ALL** its street trees
- Relieve property owners of liability for personal injuries and property damage caused by street trees
- Ensure sidewalks remain safe for pedestrians **AND** trees
- Remove responsibility for tree-related sidewalk repair from property owners
- End the disastrous "tree transfer" policy



Join Us

This is where you come in! To get from "the problem" to "our solution," we need you. Our FUF Advocates program is a grassroots group of volunteers dedicated to spreading the word and engaging with local leaders. We meet regularly for strategic updates and to collaborate towards making meaningful policy changes.

To get involved:

Programs & Services

- **Greening**
- **Community Engagement & Education**
- **Advocacy**
 - » FUF Advocates
 - » "Speak for the Trees" Petition

Donate today and help us continue to increase the number of trees we plant!

Donate Now

501(c)(3) Non-Profit

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 26, 2015 — **Wednesday Tree Care**

August 27, 2015 - August 28, 2015 — **Sidewalk Landscaping, Mission Valley**

[See all upcoming events »](#)

We just can't say THANK YOU enough! This has been such a life-changing, street-transforming, neighborhood-lifting experience."
— Lori Hébert & Thaddeus Homan

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Last Name*

Email*

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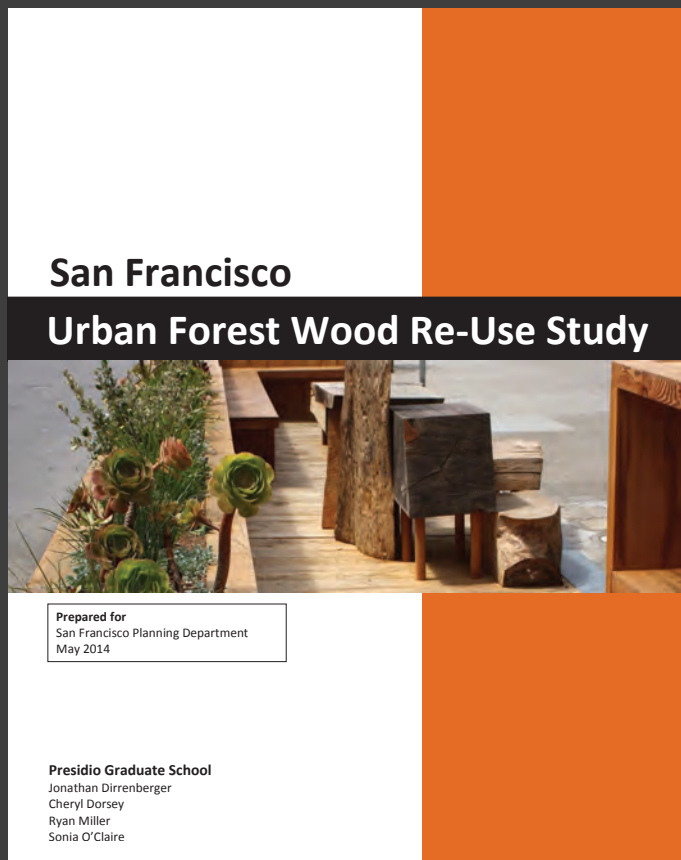


Friends of the Urban Forest

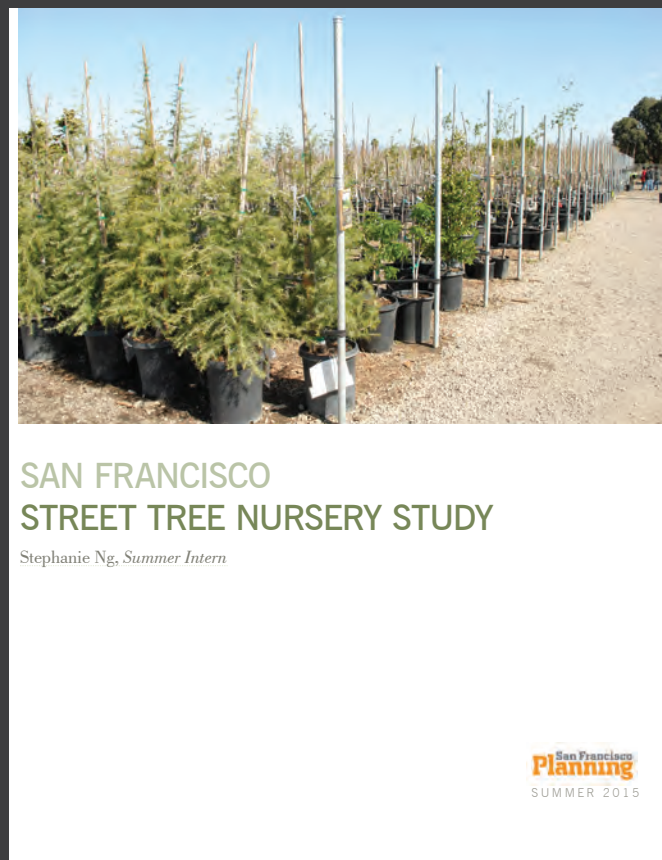
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5.3k likes

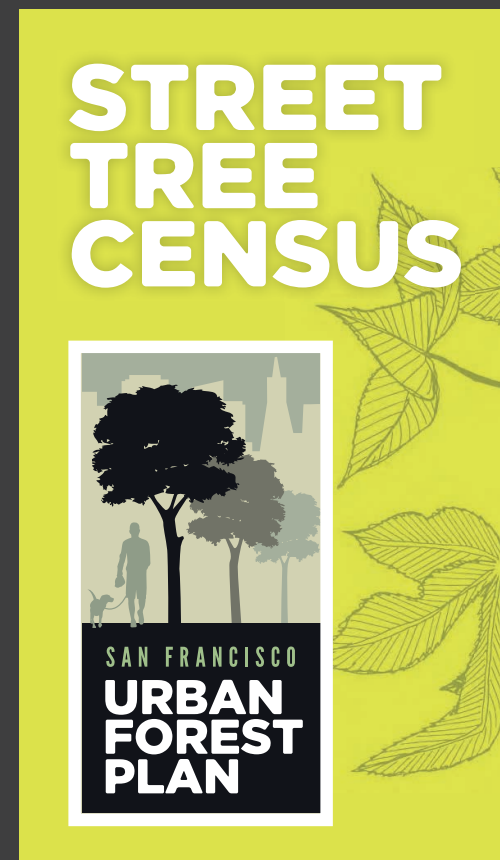
Friends of the
Urban Forest:
**FUF Advocates +
Speak for the Trees**



2014



2015



2015-16

1 Strong partnerships are required

URBAN
FORESTRY
COUNCIL



Policymakers & politicians



San Francisco
Planning

City agencies



Funders



Non-profits

2 Get clear on priorities

Funding Plan?

Planting Plan?

Code requirements?

Streets?

Parks?

Private Trees?

3

Create meaningful engagement



4 Is a plan the right vehicle?

**FINANCE
STUDY**

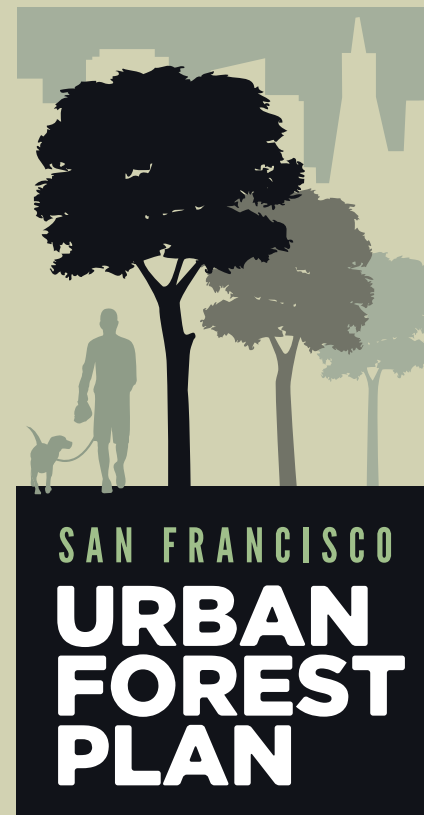
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**STREET
TREE
CENSUS**

=

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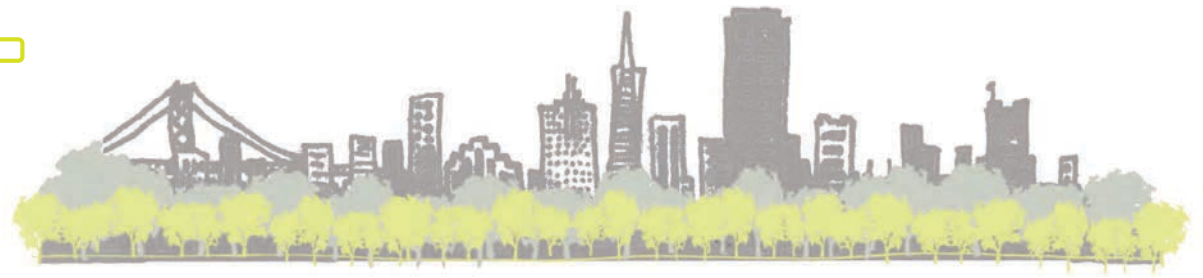
**URBAN
FOREST
PLAN**



5 Plan implementation is where real work is



SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FOREST PLAN



<http://urbanforest.sfplanning.org>

Jon Swae
Plan Manager
SF Planning Department
jon.swae@sfgov.org
415.575.9069

A large, faint, stylized leaf pattern in a light gray color, serving as a background for the left half of the image.

SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FOREST PLAN

An aerial photograph of a steeply sloping street in San Francisco, lined with dense, multi-story residential buildings. The street is flanked by rows of mature, rounded trees. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

PHASE ONE

STREET
TREES