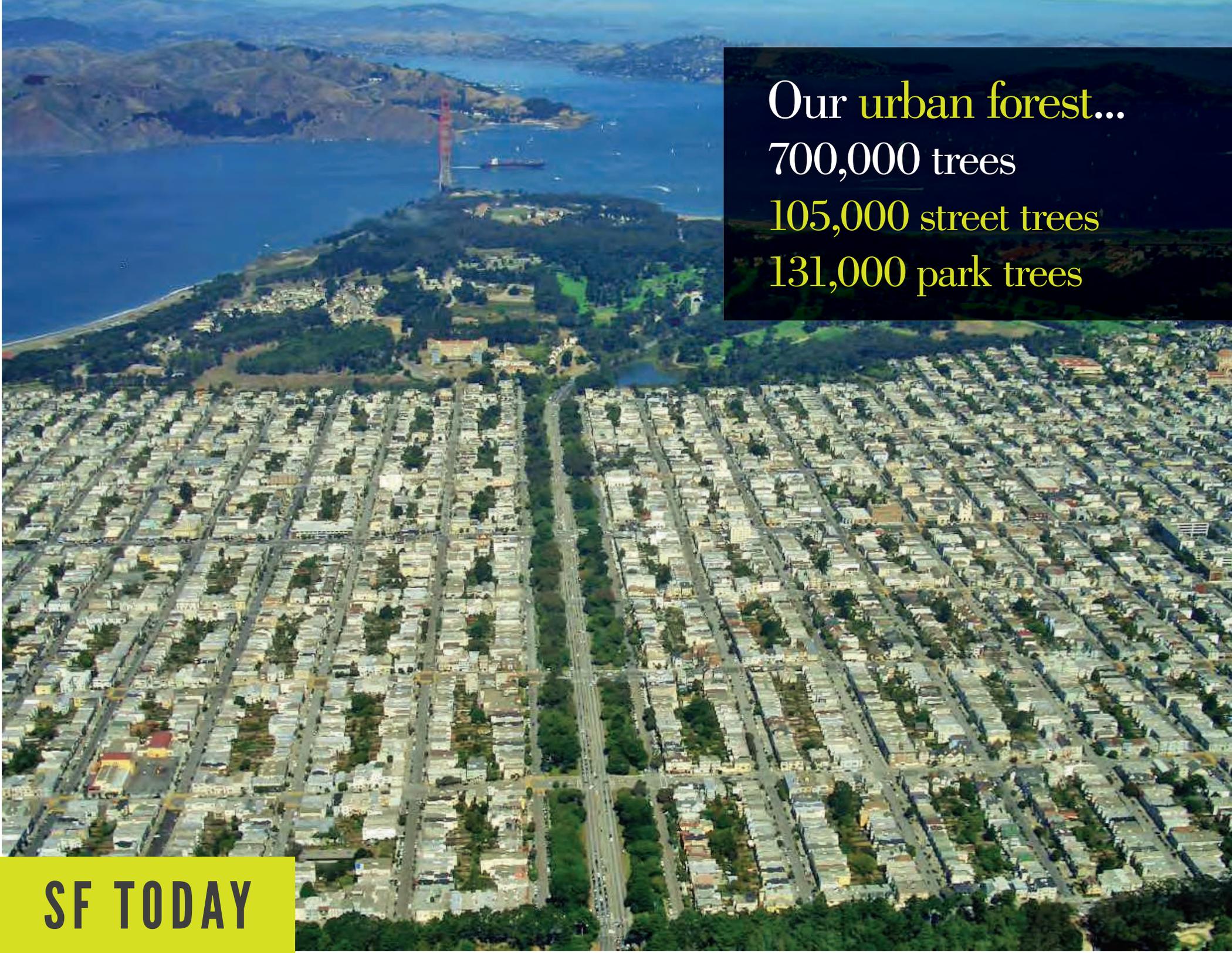




SAN FRANCISCO

**URBAN  
FOREST  
PLAN**



Our urban forest...

700,000 trees

105,000 street trees

131,000 park trees

SF TODAY

An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely San Francisco, with a semi-transparent overlay. The text is positioned on the left side of the image.

**\$1.7B** Estimated capital value

**\$9.5M** Annual benefits

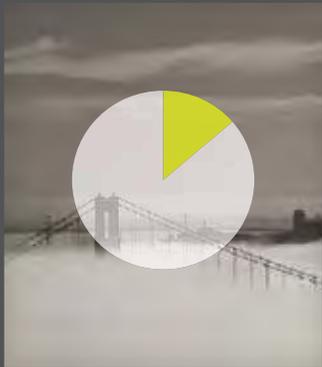
**\$100M** Property values

*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*



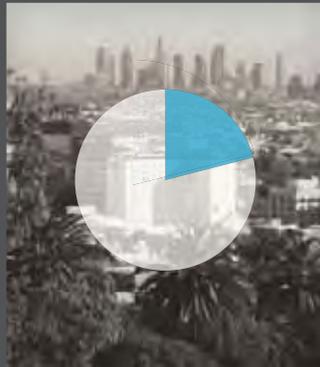
13.7%

*San Francisco*



17%

*Chicago*



21%

*Los Angeles*



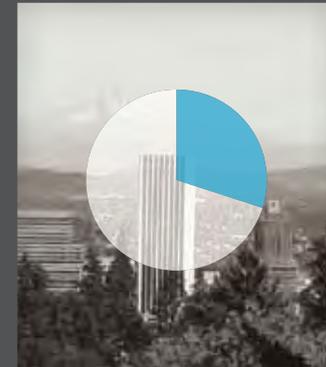
23%

*Seattle*



24%

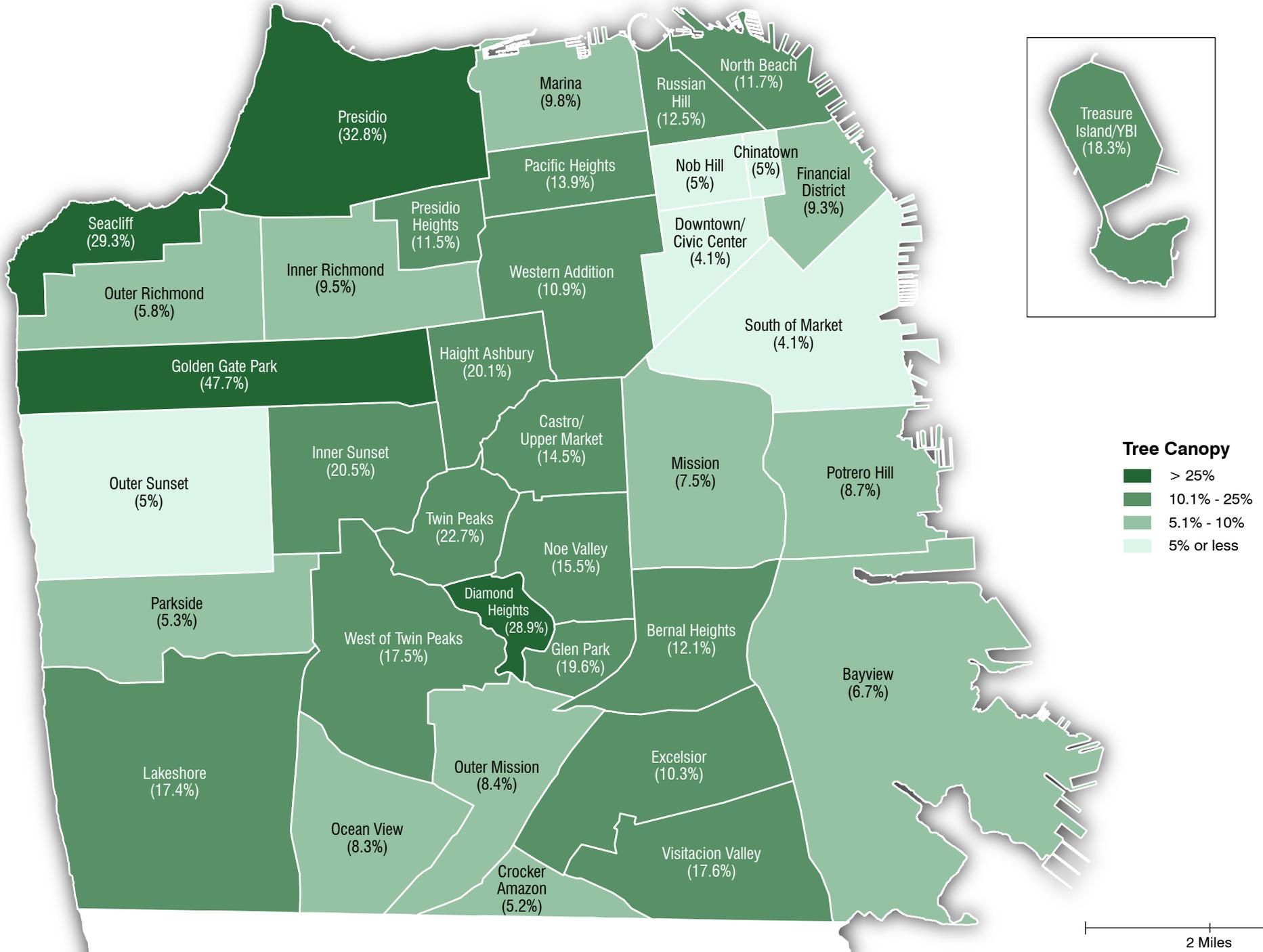
*New York City*



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.

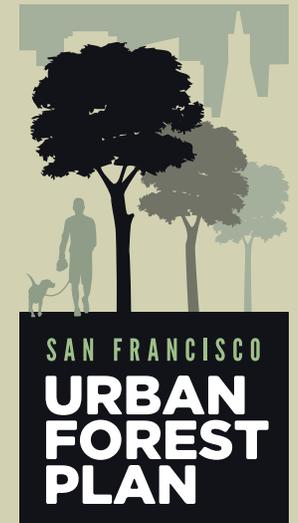
A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THESE AGENCIES:

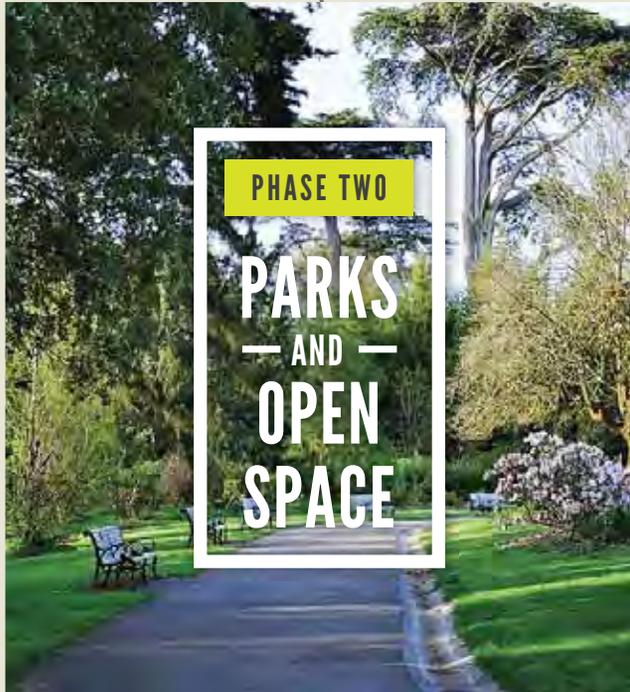
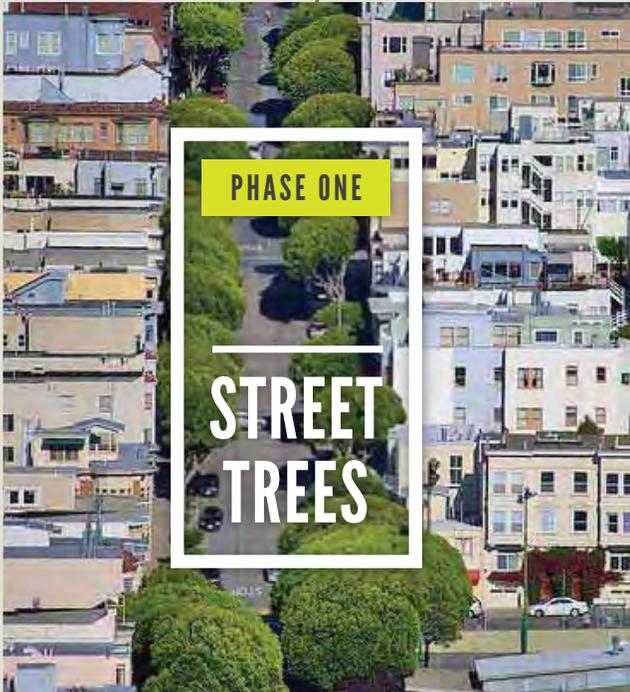
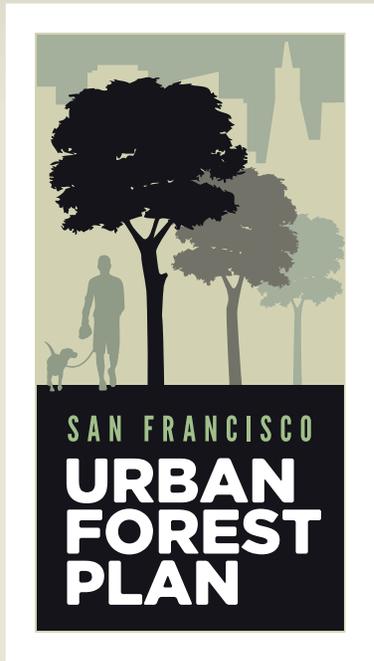


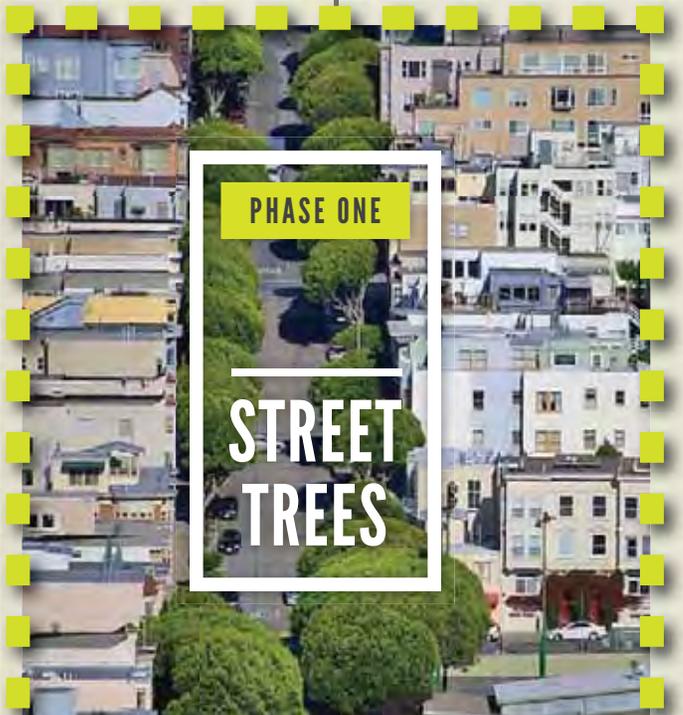
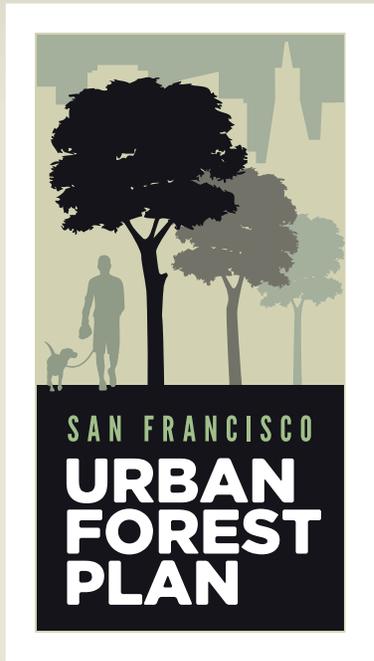
SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT



URBAN  
FORESTRY  
COUNCIL







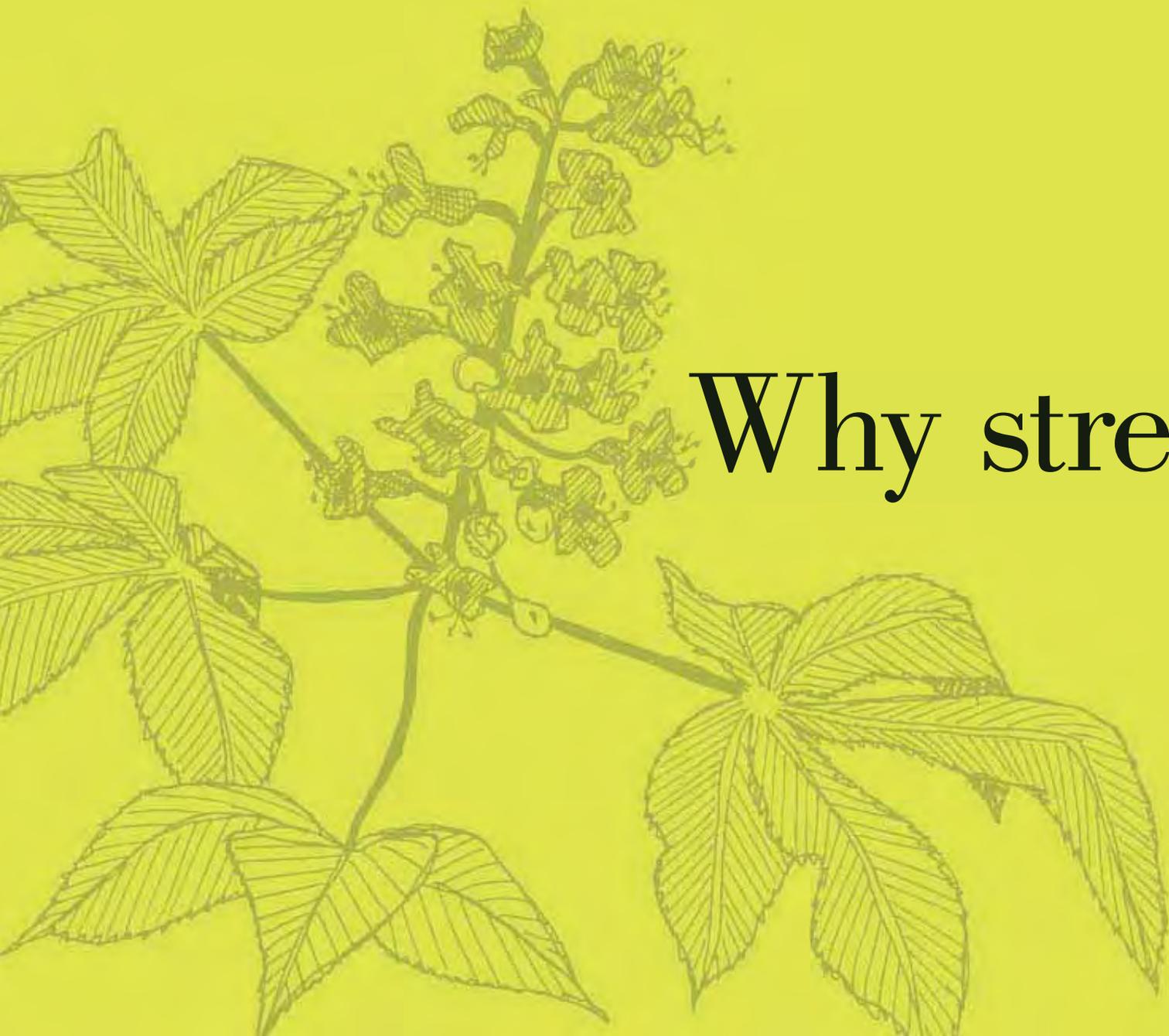
2014



To Come

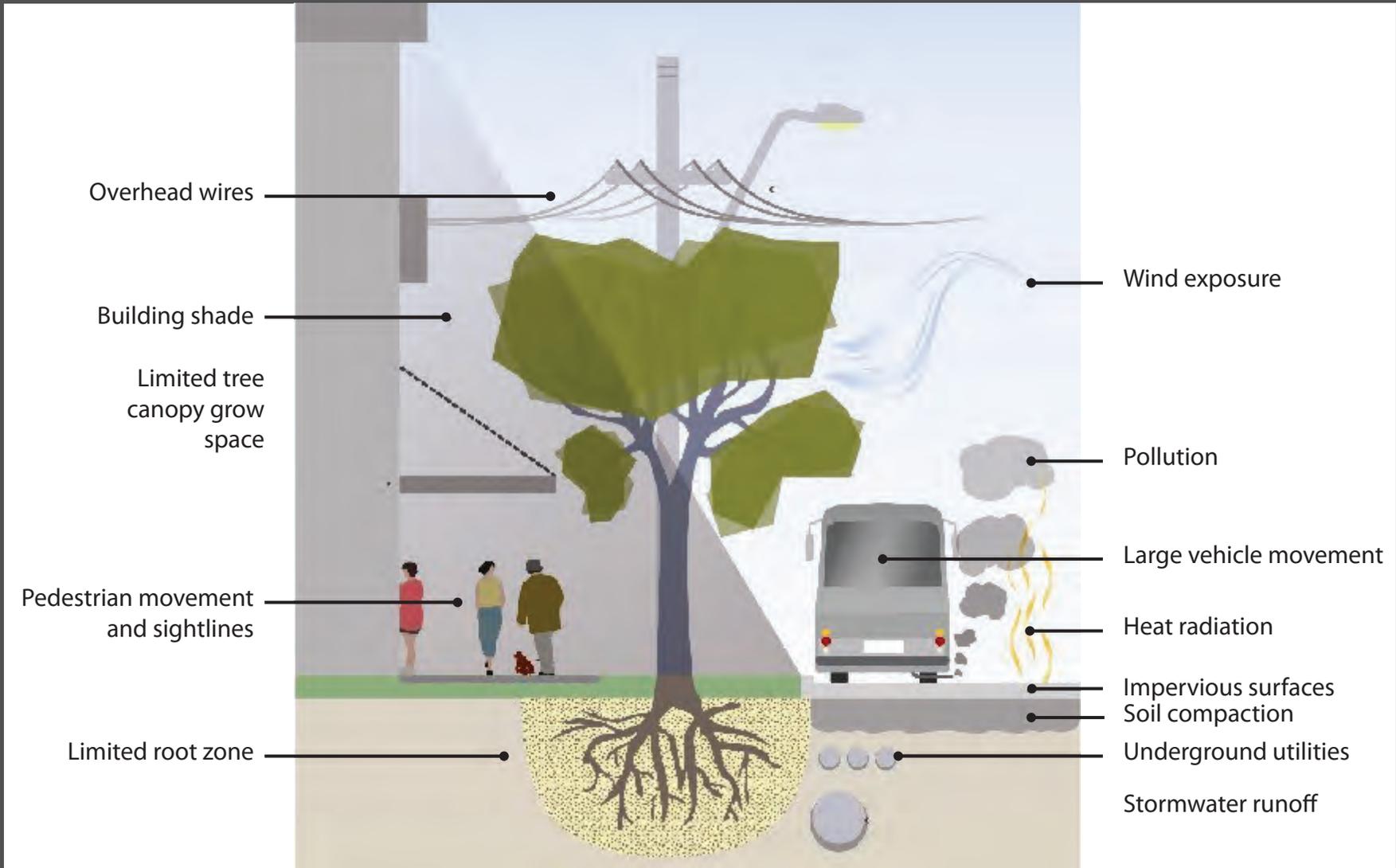


To Come



Why street trees?

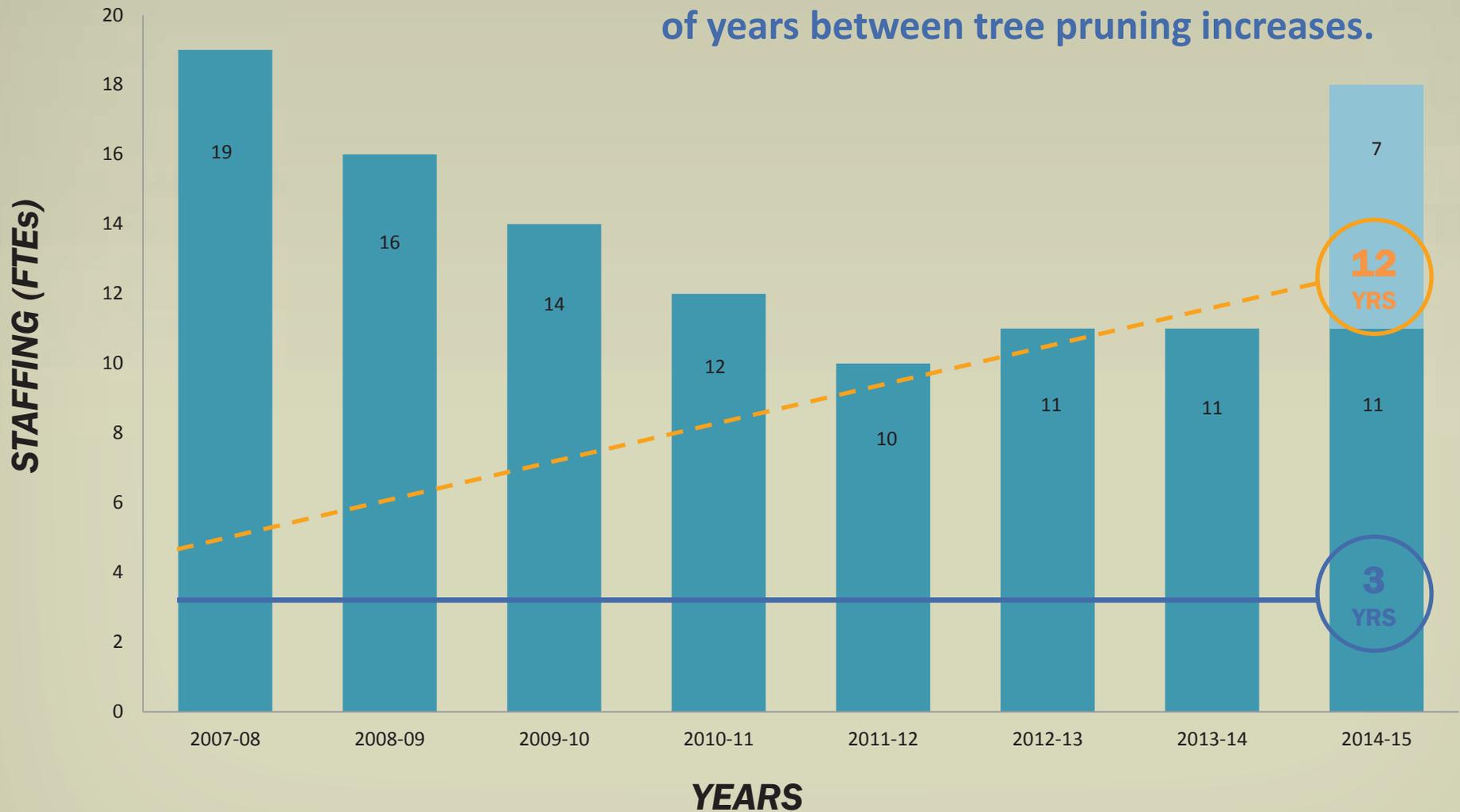
# HARSH GROWING ENVIRONMENT



# INADEQUATE FUNDING

## Public Works Resources for Tree Care

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



Base Design from the Urban Forest Project  
Arborist Crews (FTEs) Average Street Tree Maintenance Cycle (years) Recommended Maintenance Cycle (years)  
Arborist Apprentices (FTEs)

# INADEQUATE FUNDING



# NEGLECT + DAMAGE



© 2013 Google Image Date: March 2013

Report a problem

# NEGLECT + DAMAGE

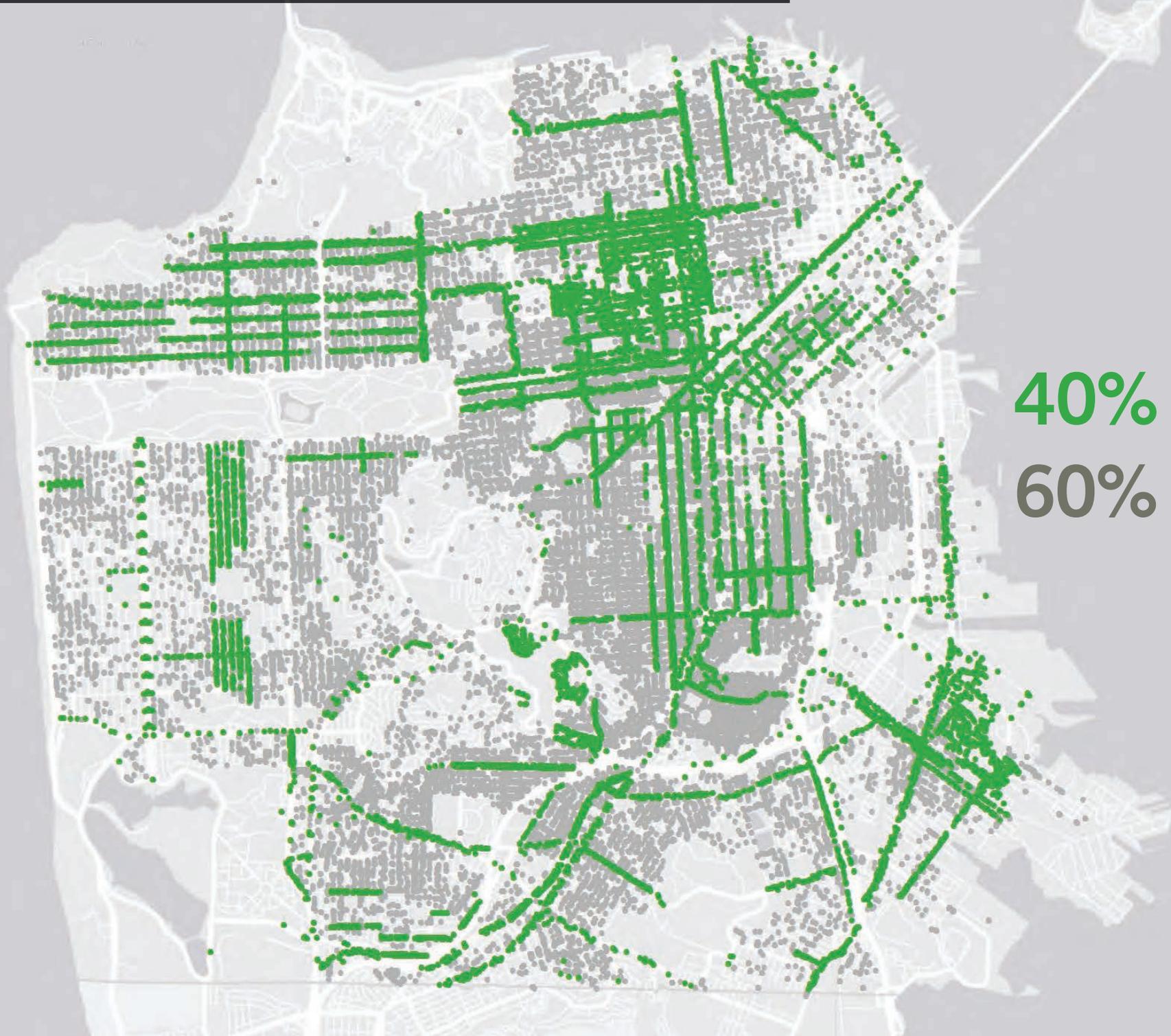


# STREET TREES



**105,000**  
street trees

# MAINTENANCE



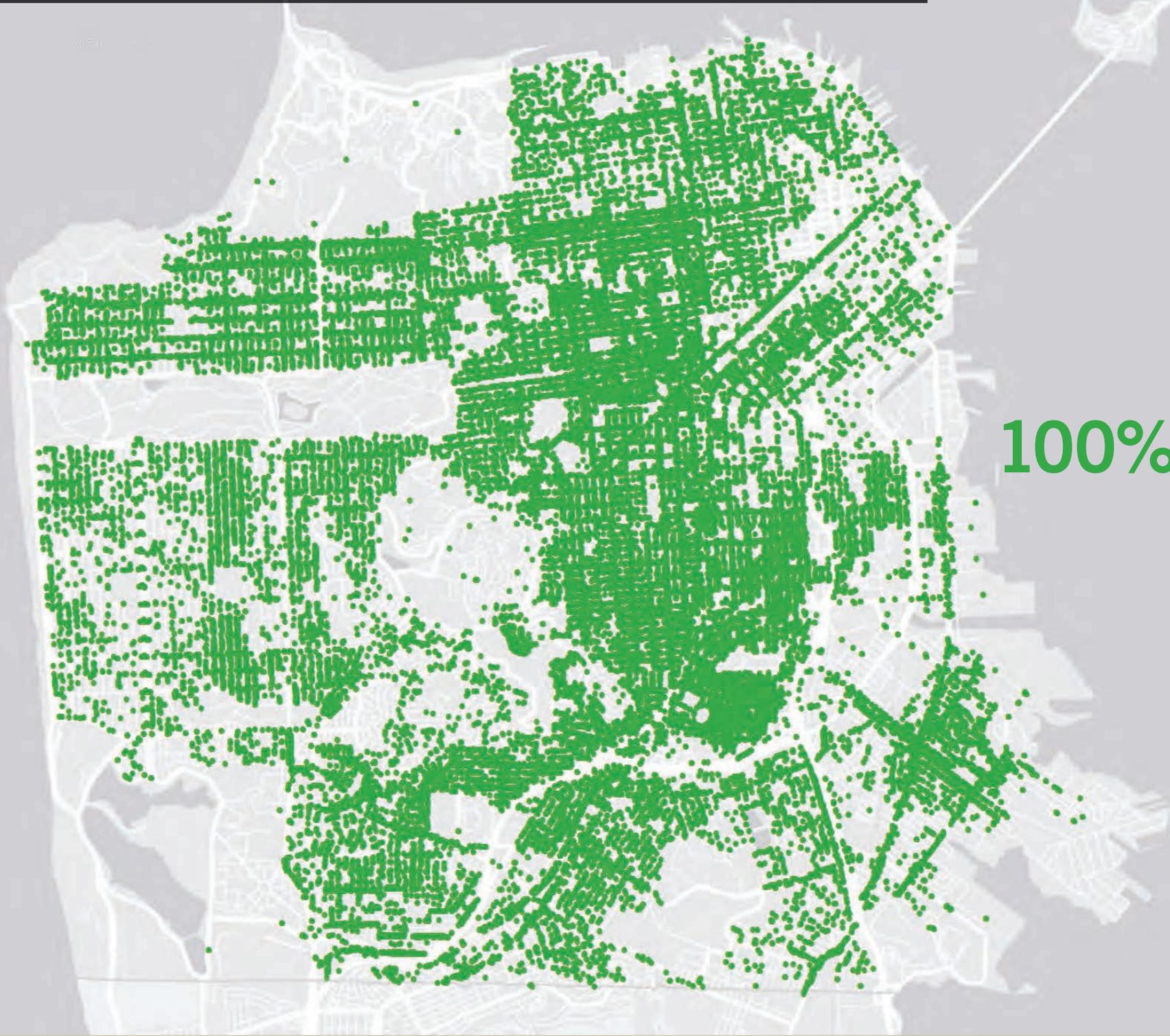
40% public  
60% private

# AFTER TRANSFER



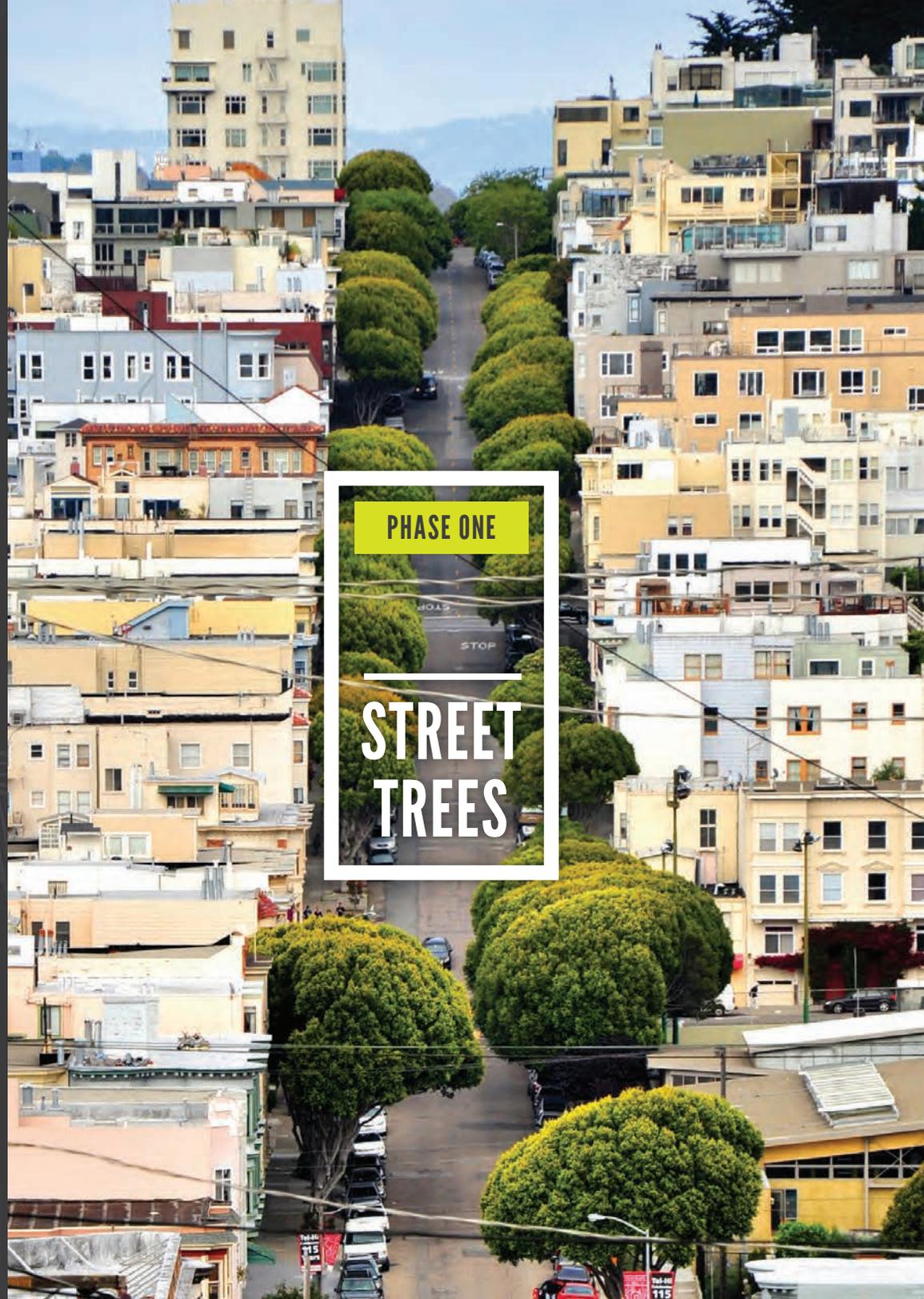
**20% public**  
**80% private**

# MUNICIPAL STREET TREE PROGRAM



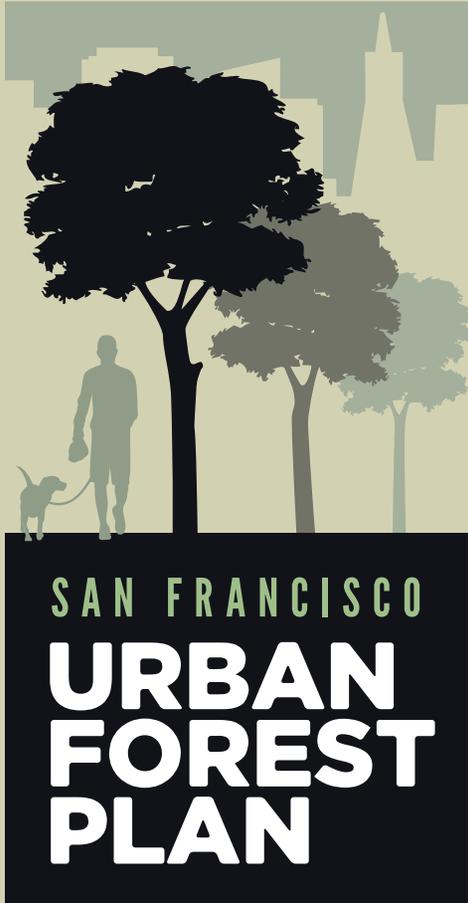
100% public

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  
ENORMOUS

*benefits*

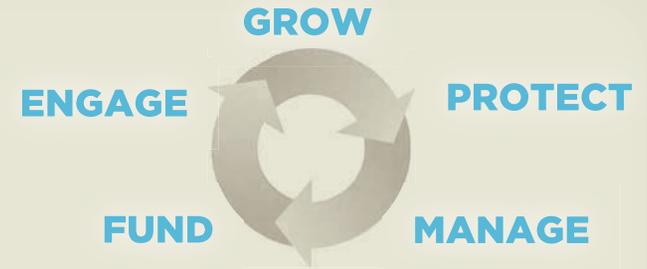
TO THE  
PEOPLE OF

**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.

**GOAL 2**

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

**GOAL 3**

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

**GOAL 4**

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

**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**
- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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**

Home » Programs & Services » Advocacy » FUF Advocates



## 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, Visitacion 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

### SUBSCRIBE TO E-NEWSLETTER

First name\*

Last Name\*

Email\*

[Subscribe](#)

### FOLLOW US!



 Friends of the Urba...  
[Like Page](#) 5.3k likes

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

**San Francisco**

**Urban Forest Wood Re-Use Study**



Prepared for  
San Francisco Planning Department  
May 2014

Presidio Graduate School  
Jonathan Dirrenberger  
Cheryl Dorsey  
Ryan Miller  
Sonia O'Claire

2014



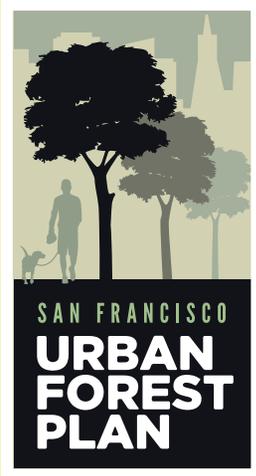
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**STREET TREE NURSERY STUDY**

Stephanie Ng, *Summer Intern*

San Francisco  
**Planning**  
SUMMER 2015

2015

**STREET  
TREE  
CENSUS**



**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**URBAN  
FOREST  
PLAN**

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



**SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FOREST PLAN**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY 15, 2014  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
@ THE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER  
1800 MARKET STREET

PHASE ONE  
STREET TREES

# 4 Is a plan the right vehicle?

**FINANCE  
STUDY**

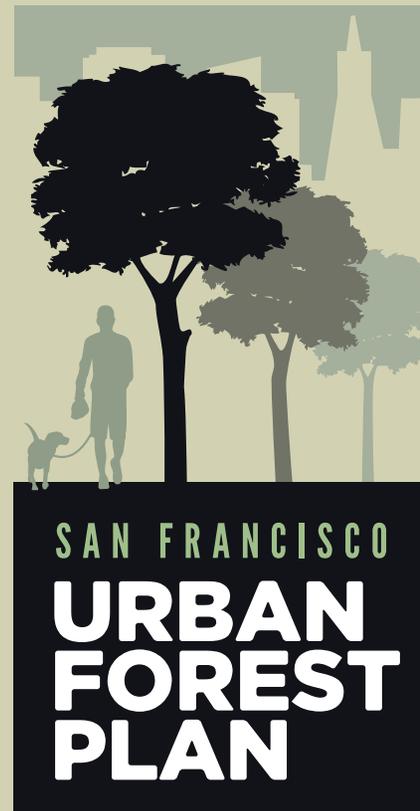
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**STREET  
TREE  
CENSUS**

=

+

**URBAN  
FOREST  
PLAN**



# 5 Plan implementation is where real work is



SAN FRANCISCO  
URBAN  
FOREST  
PLAN

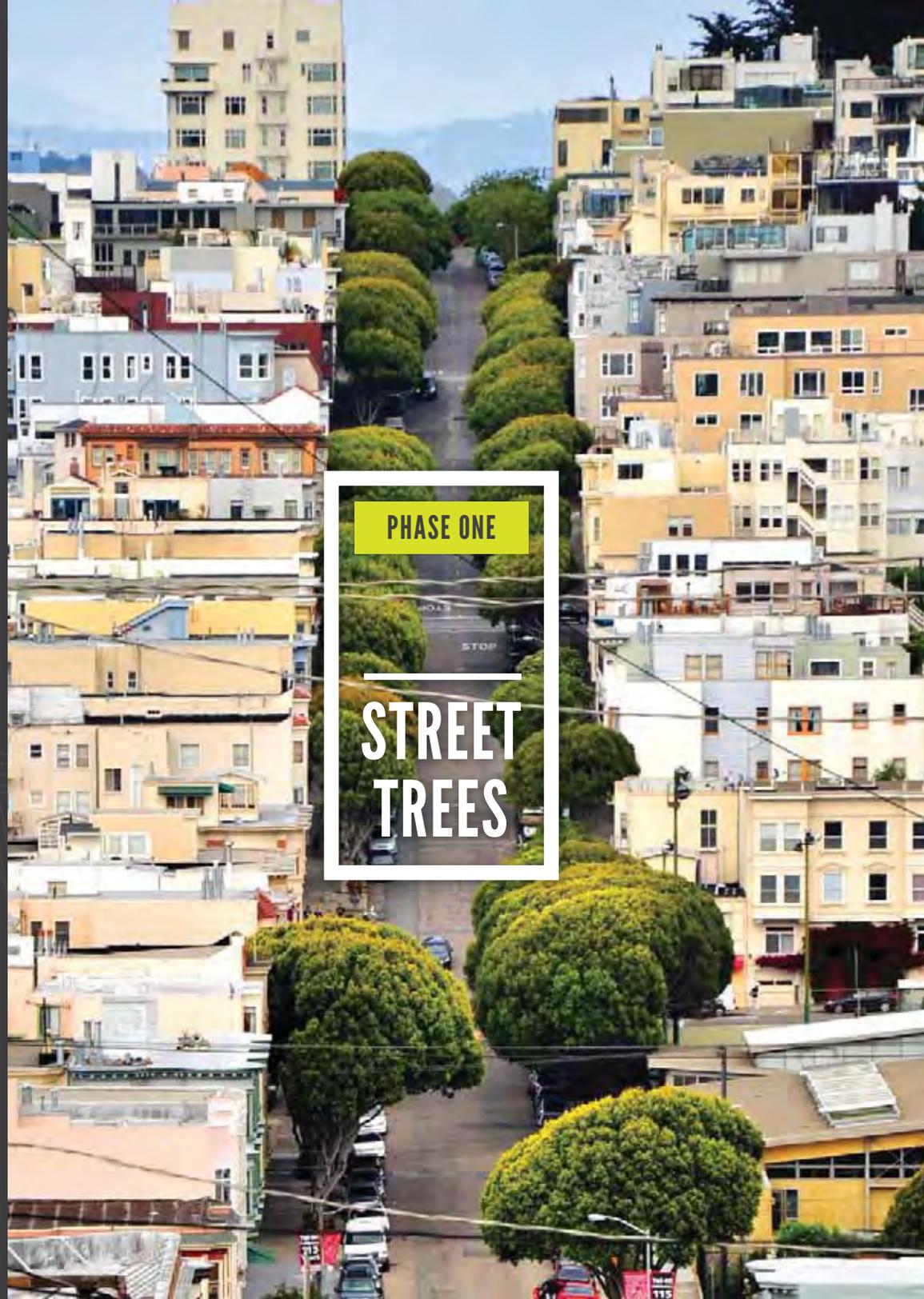


<http://urbanforest.sfplanning.org>

Jon Swae  
*Plan Manager*  
SF Planning Department  
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415.575.9069

SAN FRANCISCO

# URBAN FOREST PLAN



PHASE ONE

STREET  
TREES