SAN JOSE
COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

(d)1. Community Forest Management Plan and Urban Forestry Annual Report

John Ristow
Director, DOT

Jennifer Seguin
Deputy Director, DOT

Sara Davis
City Forester, DOT

Transportation and Environment Committee
June 2, 2025

Community Forest Management

Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) adopted in February 2022

- Set new direction for forestry management
- Added staff in DOT and PRNS
- Established 12-year pruning cycle
- Funding allocated to plant 1,000 trees per year
- DOT funding an additional 1,000 trees for total of 2,000 annually

Community Forest Management

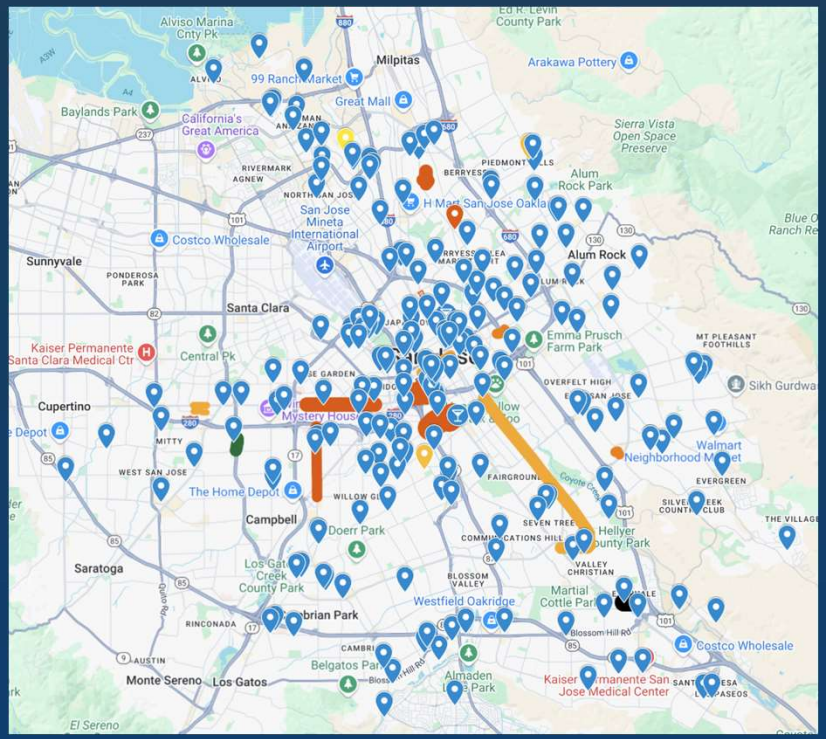
CFMP Core Themes

- Streamlining governance
- Ensuring the sustainability of the urban forest
- Support for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging
- Efficient and effective tree management
- Standardization of planning and development practices

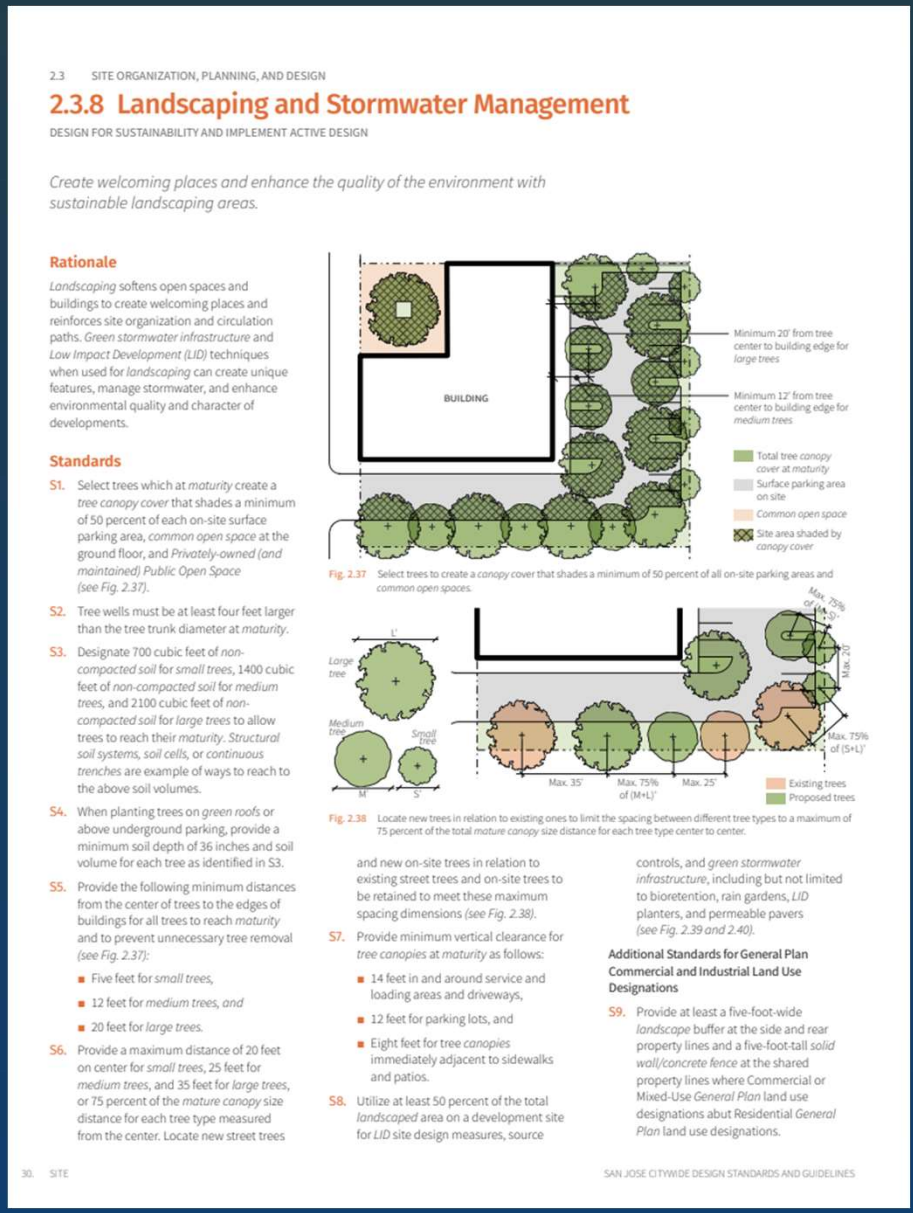
Streamlining Governance

Municipal Code Section 13

- 240 development reviews
- Consulting for all departments
- Combined contracting



Development Projects reviewed by DOT staff since Aug 2023



2.3 SITE ORGANIZATION, PLANNING, AND DESIGN

2.3.8 Landscaping and Stormwater Management

DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPLEMENT ACTIVE DESIGN

Create welcoming places and enhance the quality of the environment with sustainable landscaping areas.

Rationale

Landscaping softens open spaces and buildings to create welcoming places and reinforces site organization and circulation paths. *Green stormwater infrastructure* and *Low Impact Development (LID)* techniques when used for *landscaping* can create unique features, manage stormwater, and enhance environmental quality and character of developments.

Standards

S1. Select trees which at *maturity* create a *tree canopy cover* that shades a minimum of 50 percent of each on-site surface parking area, *common open space* at the ground floor, and *Privately-owned (and maintained) Public Open Space (see Fig. 2.37).*

S2. Tree wells must be at least four feet larger than the tree trunk diameter at *maturity*.

S3. Designate 700 cubic feet of *non-compacted soil* for *small trees*, 1400 cubic feet of *non-compacted soil* for *medium trees*, and 2100 cubic feet of *non-compacted soil* for *large trees* to allow trees to reach their *maturity*. *Structural soil systems, soil cells, or continuous trenches* are example of ways to reach to the above soil volumes.

S4. When planting trees on *green roofs* or above underground parking, provide a minimum soil depth of 36 inches and soil volume for each tree as identified in S3.

S5. Provide the following minimum distances from the center of trees to the edges of buildings for all trees to reach *maturity* and to prevent unnecessary tree removal *(see Fig. 2.37)*:

- Five feet for *small trees*,
- 12 feet for *medium trees, and*
- 20 feet for *large trees*.

S6. Provide a maximum distance of 20 feet on center for *small trees*, 25 feet for *medium trees*, and 35 feet for *large trees*, or 75 percent of the *mature canopy* size distance for each tree type measured from the center. Locate new street trees and new on-site trees in relation to existing street trees and on-site trees to be retained to meet these maximum spacing dimensions *(see Fig. 2.38)*.

S7. Provide minimum vertical clearance for *tree canopies* at *maturity* as follows:

- 14 feet in and around service and loading areas and driveways,
- 12 feet for parking lots, and
- Eight feet for tree *canopies* immediately adjacent to sidewalks and patios.

S8. Utilize at least 50 percent of the total *landscaped* area on a development site for *LID* site design measures, source controls, and *green stormwater infrastructure*, including but not limited to bioretention, rain gardens, *LID* planters, and permeable pavers *(see Fig. 2.39 and 2.40)*.

Additional Standards for General Plan Commercial and Industrial Land Use Designations

S9. Provide at least a five-foot-wide *landscape* buffer at the side and rear property lines and a five-foot-tall *solid wall/concrete fence* at the shared property lines where Commercial or Mixed-Use *General Plan* land use designations abut Residential *General Plan* land use designations.

Fig. 2.37 Select trees to create a *canopy* cover that shades a minimum of 50 percent of all on-site parking areas and *common open spaces.*

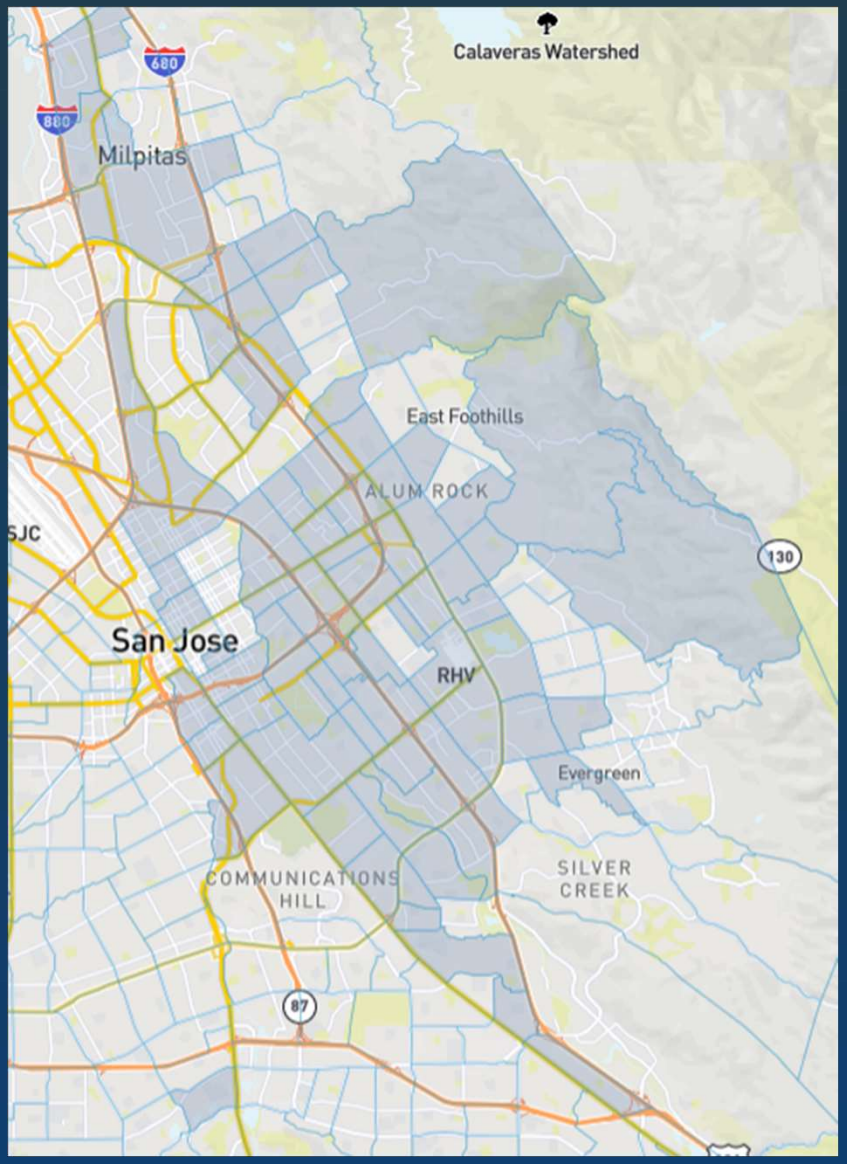
Fig. 2.38 Locate new trees in relation to existing ones to limit the spacing between different tree types to a maximum of 75 percent of the total *mature canopy* size distance for each tree type center to center.

Ensuring Urban Forest Sustainability

Tree Planting and maintenance

- 2,500 trees planted by DOT and PRNS
- FY 2025/2026 goal 1,500 plantings
  - Shifting resources to ISHB mitigation
- 3,000 DOT managed trees pruned

Ensuring Urban Forest Sustainability



Justice40 and IRA grant census tracts

Inflation Reduction Act Grant Goals

- Prune 5,000 & plant 2,800 trees
- Focus on Justice40 areas
- Provide job training
- $5.6 million frozen

Grant Update

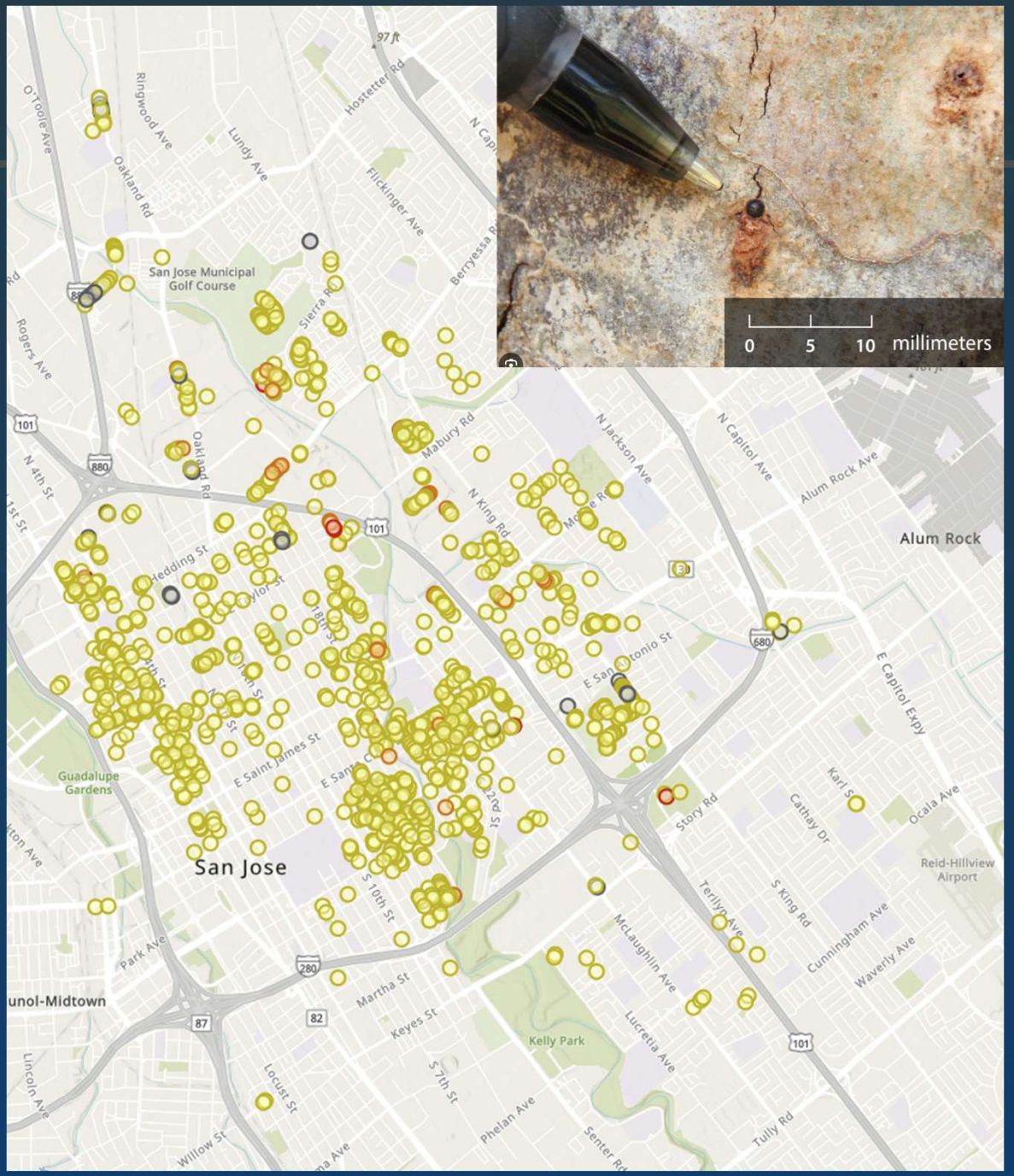
- $1 million cancelled for PRNS
- AmeriCorps funding canceled

Efficient and Effective Tree Management

Invasive Pest Mitigation Efforts

Invasive shot hole borer *Fusarium* dieback

- Found in November 2023
- Affects possibly 15% of urban forest
- Could cost at least $19.7 collectively for property owners
- Approximately $5,000 per individual property owner for a large tree
- Data analysis being performed to guide future policy decisions



Invasive Pest Mitigation Efforts

ISHB Outreach Material

- Immediate notification
- Direct notification to property owners
- Multilingual

Invasive Pest Mitigation Efforts

Invasive beetles have been found in trees in your neighborhood

CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

These beetles, called invasive shot hole borers, carry a fungus that can kill trees. The beetles tunnel into trees and infect the trees with the fungus. This can cause branch dieback and even lead to tree death.

What to look for:
Many trees, including sycamores, oaks, box elders, maples and willows are at risk of infestation. The beetles make perfectly round holes in the bark the size of the tip of a ball point pen. There is sometimes staining near the holes. Other signs may be present depending on the tree species.

What now?
Private property owners should work with a certified tree care professional to have all privately owned trees inspected and monitored in case of infestation.
City staff are surveying and mapping all infested street trees in your neighborhood and are treating moderately infested trees to control the fungus and prevent the spread.

Prevent the spread!
Debris from infested trees must be disposed of properly to prevent the beetles from spreading. Learn how to properly dispose of infested wood at ISHB.org.

Learn more at bit.ly/ISHB or scan the QR code to learn more and to check the monitoring or treatment status of your street tree(s).

Next Steps – thru June 2026

- Plant at least 1,500 trees
- Mitigate ISHB threat
- Update portion of tree inventory
- Seek additional partnerships and funding

SAN JOSE
COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

(d)1. Community Forest Management Plan and Urban Forestry Annual Report

John Ristow
Director, DOT

Jennifer Seguin
Deputy Director, DOT

Sara Davis
City Forester, DOT

Transportation and Environment Committee
June 2, 2025