



# Item d.3 - Community Forest Management Plan and Urban Forestry Annual Report

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Transportation and Environment Committee  
June 3, 2024

# 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
- **Audit conducted and findings presented to Council January 2023**
  - Findings in four broad categories
  - Ten recommendations

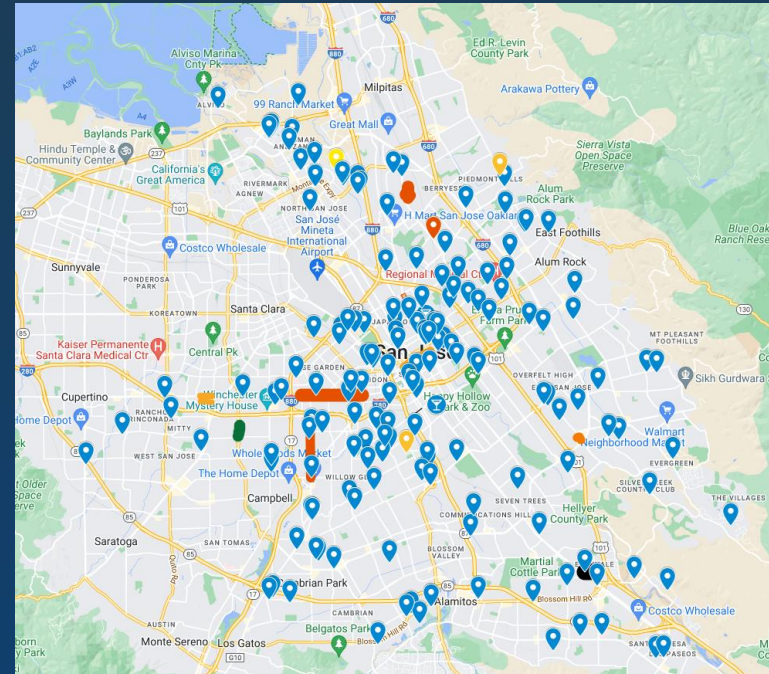
# Accomplishments

- 2,034 trees planted exceeding goal of 2,000
- Added 880 new trees to Parks
- Awarded an Inflation Reduction Act grant from the USDA Forest Service. \$5.6 million for DOT and \$1 million for PRNS
- Two staff members accepted to the Municipal Forestry Institute
- Completed more than 1,000 requested inspections
- Built relationships with partner agencies



# Streamlining Governance

- **Recommendation:** Consolidate tree responsibilities to one division
  - ✓ **Status:** Evaluating
- **Recommendation:** Include trees in the beginning of the design and planning process
  - ✓ **Status:** Forestry Team now integrated at beginning of planning process
- **Recommendation:** Provide an arborist review of all Planning Division tree responsibilities
  - ✓ **Status:** PBCE reaches out to DOT Forestry Team for technical assistance



Development Projects reviewed by DOT staff since Aug 2023

# Ensuring Urban Forest Sustainably

**Recommendation:** Tree planting activities will promote a sustainable urban forest

- ✓ **Status:** Trees selected following the strategy of right tree, right place, right reason in the right way for a future climate

**Recommendation:** Increase tree canopy cover across all census tracts and neighborhoods

- ✓ **Status:** Mitigation funds and Federal grant funds in place to ensure the entire City has access to new trees

• **Recommendation:** Continually review the City recommended tree species list to ensure trees are adapted to climate change and support local habitat and wildlife

- ✓ **Status:** Planting of a wide variety of tree species encouraged to avoid monocultures and even aged stands

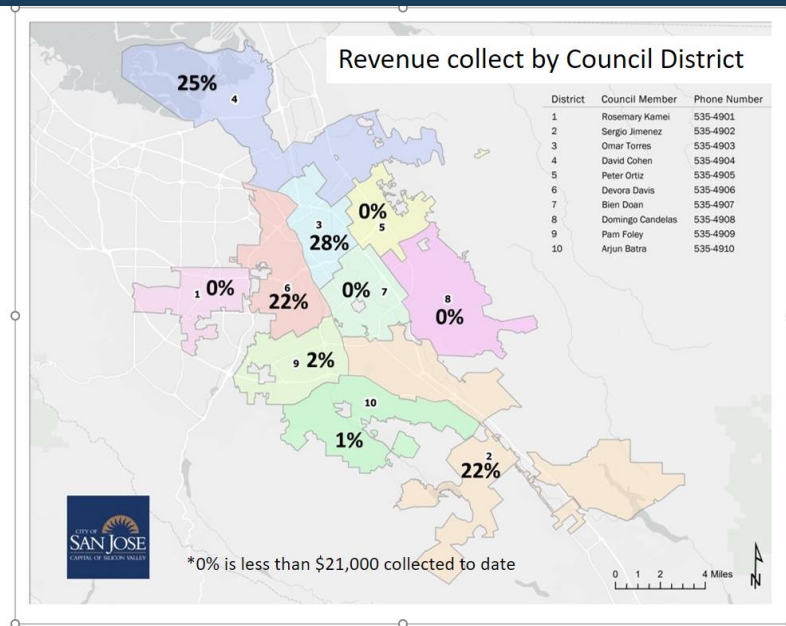


# Tree Planting, Development Conditions, and In-Lieu Fees Audit Report

## Finding 3: DOT Has Not Been Spending In-Lieu Fees Timely

- Unexpected amount collected
- COVID procurement and vendor impacts
- Staff and partner capacity challenges

Council District	Fee Paid
1	\$7,710
2	\$470,678
3	\$581,010
4	\$527,680
5	\$775
6	\$454,780
7	\$5,425
8	\$1,510
9	\$45,660
10	\$12,240
<b>Total collect since FY 18/19</b>	<b>\$2,107,468</b>



### Recommendation

- Identify planting locations or uses for accumulated fees
- Create guidelines for how fees should be spent
- **\$1.27 million spent/obligated**

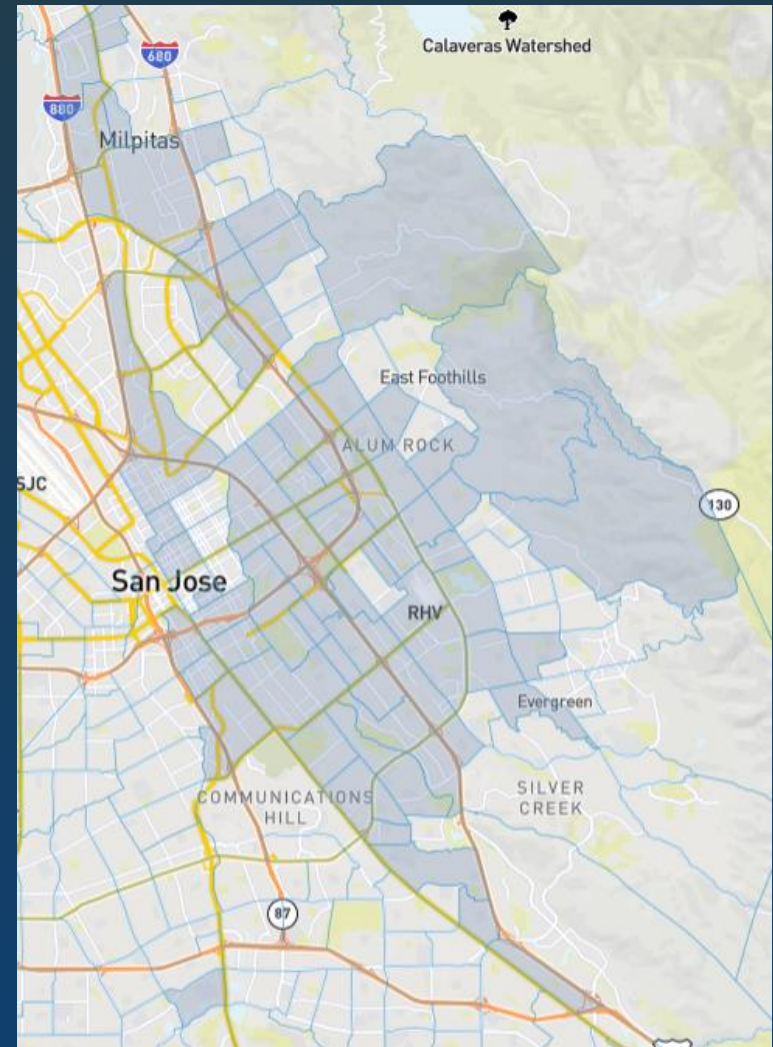
Source: Audit analysis of FMS and AMANDA fee records.

# Efficient and Effective Tree Management

- **Recommendation:** Maintain current community forest information to ensure management decisions based on best available data
  - ✓ **Status:** Funding secured for inventory data collection for one third of City's street trees. All City park trees to be inventoried this year
- **Recommendation :** Ensure City Tree management activities and design standards reflect current understanding of community forest sustainability
  - ✓ **Status :** New Design Standards adopted after CFMP in 2022
- **Recommendation :** Community members and private property owners will understand their role in growing and maintaining the community forest
  - ✓ **Status :** Funding secured for a public awareness of tree campaign.

# Support for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging

- **Recommendation:** Ensure the demographics of the City are represented by stakeholders who participate in guiding the community forest program
  - ✓ **Status:** Progress being made to reach all groups of cultural communities in the City - CFAC
- **Recommendation:** Prioritize increasing canopy cover in disadvantaged communities
  - ✓ **Status:** Funding secured from the USDA Forest Service specifically for the White House's Justice40 disadvantaged census tracts



Justice40 and IRA grant census tracts



# Standardization of Planning and Development Practices

- **Recommendation:** Protect and preserve mature trees
  - ✓ **Status:** Accomplished during plan review process
- **Recommendation :** City planning and development will contribute increasing tree canopy cover
  - ✓ **Status:** Planting ratios continue to be met. Design Standards mandate 50% of parking and public space be shaded

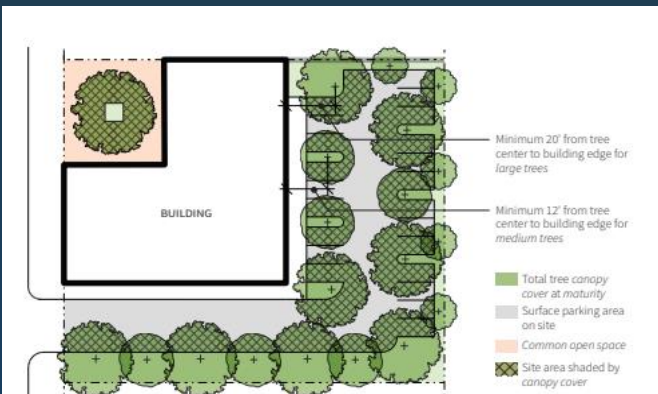


Fig. 2.37 Select trees to create a canopy cover that shades a minimum of 50 percent of all on-site parking areas and common open spaces.

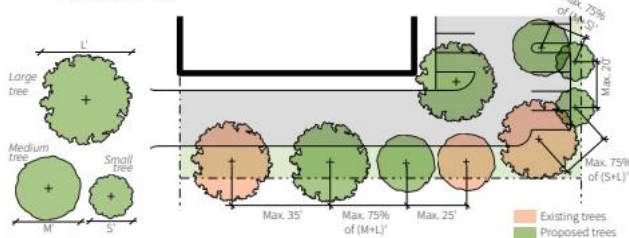


Fig. 2.38 Locate new trees in relation to existing ones to limit the spacing between different tree types to a maximum of 75 percent of the total mature canopy size distance for each tree type center to center.

# Challenges

## New Pest Identified: 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 \$5000 per individual property owner for a large tree
- Data analysis is being performed to guide policy decisions in the future



## Tree Care Industry Practices:

- Subpar practices
- Topping
- Contribution to canopy loss

# Next Steps – thru June 2025

- Finalize 2,000 planted trees every year
- Deliver year 1 plan for the \$5.6 million IRA Grant
- Understand and mitigate ISHB threat
- Update portion of tree inventory
- Seek additional partnerships and funding
- Partner with CMO to update metrics
- Complete remaining audit recommendations
- Launch free tree planting program!





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