

City of Austin

Urban Forest Program

Presentation to Urban Forestry Committee of the
Environmental Commission



10/12/2023



Overview

- Context
- Priority Programs
- Tree Canopy Cover

Context



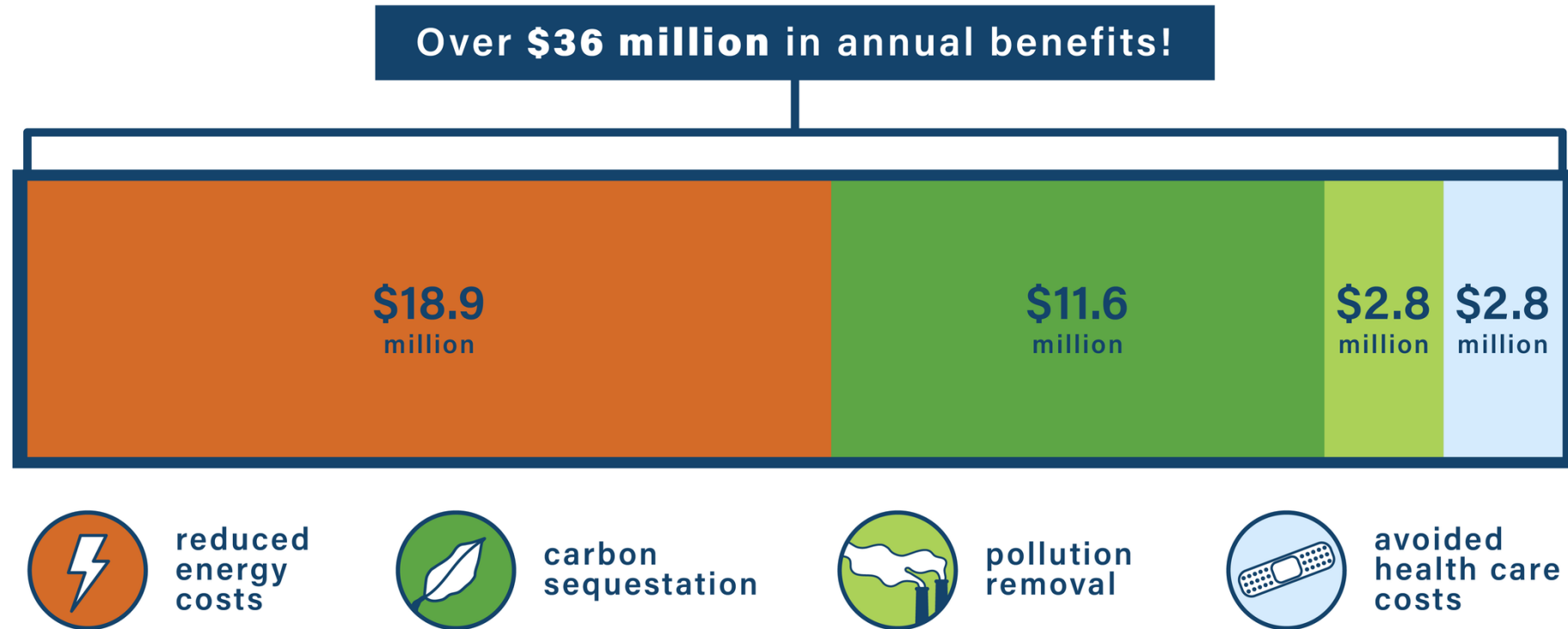
What is an urban forest?

The term "**urban forest**" describes the collection of individual trees that grow within a city.

“**Urban forestry**” is the practice of caring for and managing those trees. All the trees within the City of Austin help make up our urban forest, including trees in parking lots, along streets, in parks, or even in your own yard. Trees play an important role in our urban communities, including cleaning our air and water, providing refuge for wildlife, and improving health outcomes for the people who live there.

Fun facts about Austin's urban forest...

There are **more than 33 million trees** in the City of Austin.



COA Urban Forestry



Development Services	Parks & Recreation	Public Works	Austin Energy	Austin Fire	Watershed Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Forest Program• City Arborist Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parks Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PWD Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utility Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildfire Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Env. Resource Mgmt• Policy & Planning• Field Operations

City Code

§6-3: Trees and Vegetation

- Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan
- Urban Forester
- Public trees

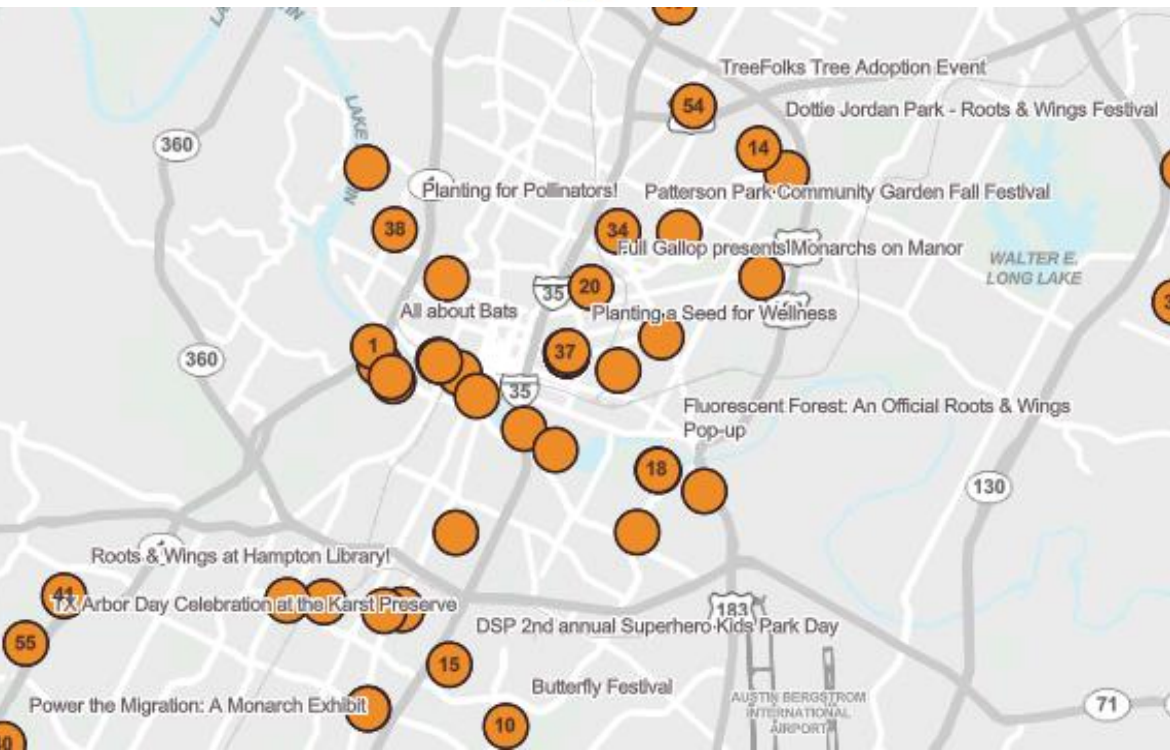
§ 25-8: Land Development; Tree and Natural Area Protection

- Protected & Heritage Trees
- City Arborist

Priority Programs



#ROOTSANDWINGS



Priority Programs

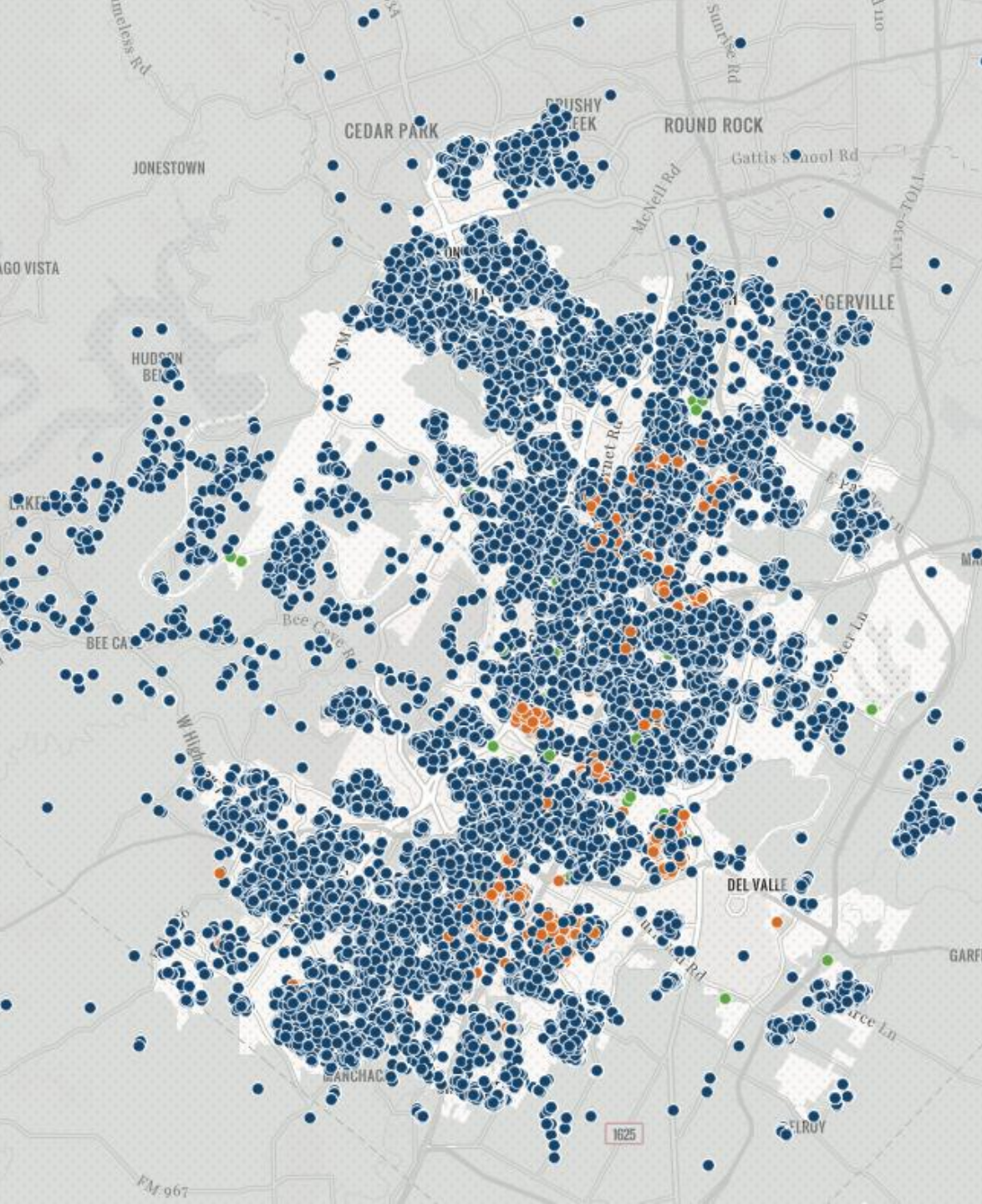
Roots & Wings (10/18 - 11/5)

Youth Forest Council

Youth Education & Engagement

Urban Forest Health

Climate Solutions



Priority Programs

NeighborWoods Program

Certified Arborist Prep Course

Urban Forest Grant +
Urban Forest Funding Portal

Community Engagement

Community Tree Priority Map

Tree Canopy Cover



2022 Tree Canopy & Plantable Space

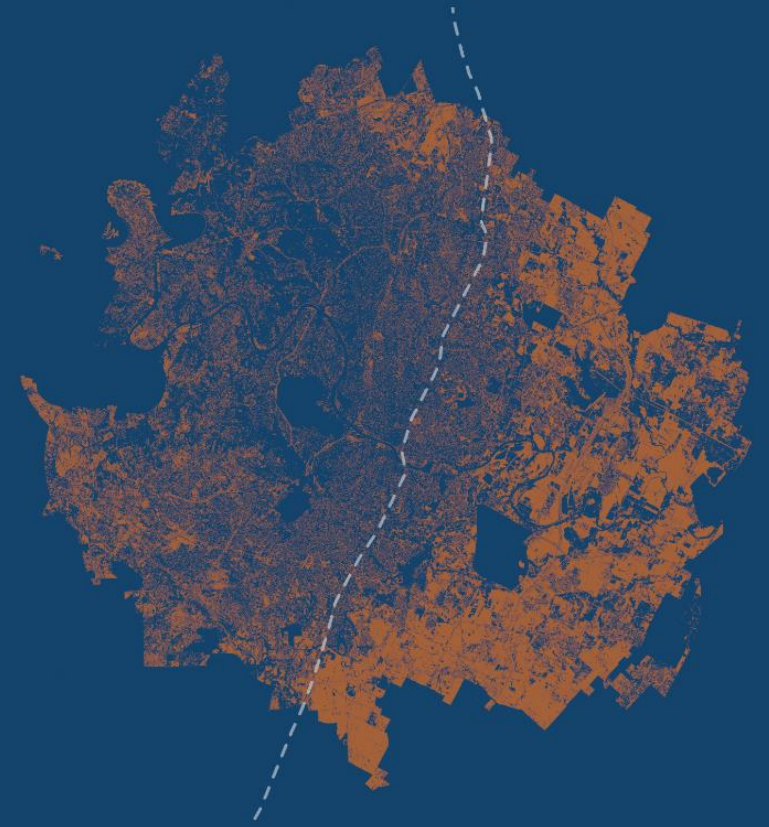
41%

Canopy Cover



39K

Acres of new canopy needed to meet 50% canopy cover goal.



Where can we plant trees? The **greatest planting opportunities reside on private land** mainly because private land makes up the largest share of land ownership in Austin, but also because that's where the majority of plantable space is located. When we look at public land owned by the City of Austin, **street rights-of-ways comprise nearly half of all public land** and offers the largest amount of plantable space compared to other public land uses like parks and libraries. This is partly due to the sheer amount of land occupied by the right-of-way (39K acres) and partly due to **public parkland being already largely planted out.**

AUSTIN CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN

Tracking & Implementation

Goal 3: At least 50% citywide tree canopy cover is achieved by 2050, focusing on increasing canopy cover equitably.

Austin's Climate Equity Plan

Dashboard: <https://data.austintexas.gov/stories/s/nuyq-3h6x>



Links



- Tree Canopy Storymap: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d9ba0b99c60b4b8395414a09c4533949>
- Austin's Climate Equity Plan: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/austin-climate-equity-plan#Implementing>
- Roots & Wings: <https://rootsandwingsfest.com/>
- Community Tree Report: https://data.austintexas.gov/stories/s/2021_Austins_Trees_Community-Tree-Report/rvrw-3yet/
- Community Tree Priority Map: <https://www.austintexas.gov/blog/explore-austins-community-tree-priority-map>

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