

Urban Forest Management Plan

Colorado Springs, CO City Council



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PlanIT Geo



CITY FORESTRY'S MISSION STATEMENT



To manage our urban forest in a healthy, safe, and sustainable state, which maintains our original forest legacy, manages risk, and increases the canopy coverage for shade, stormwater retention, and property value.



Code Establishing Forestry Obligations: 4.4.101A & 4.4.105B2

PLAN PURPOSE & APPROACH



- Baseline assessment
- Management options
- Strategies
- Case studies
- Adaptive



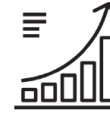
EXISTING POLICIES AND PLANS



CITY STAFF INTERVIEWS



URBAN FOREST BENCHMARKS



DATA ANALYSIS



COMMUNITY INTERESTS & INPUT



URBAN FOREST AUDIT SYSTEM



URBAN FOREST AUDIT SYSTEM



SCENARIOS



OBJECTIVES



TARGETS



ACTIONS



EVALUATION

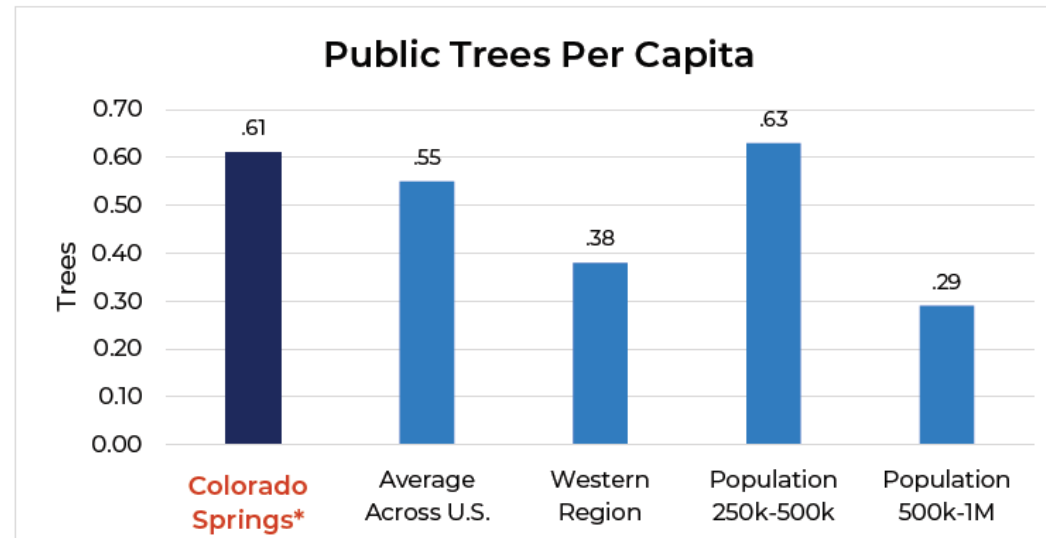
BENCHMARKING



- In this analysis, Colorado Springs is compared with generalized averages of 660 cities of a similar size (250-500K population) and geographic location (Western)
- Colorado Springs was also compared to 3,400 Tree City USA communities across the nation
 - We have been a TCUSA city for 44 years!

➤ Comparison Cities:

- Aurora Boulder Fort Collins
- Longmont Lakewood
- Golden Brighton



WHAT DO WE HAVE?



Resource	Current	Recommended
Budget per public tree*	\$5.77	\$27.41
Total Forestry budget	\$1.6M	\$7.8M
Full-time staff	11	27
Trees per full-time staff*	24,454	10,000

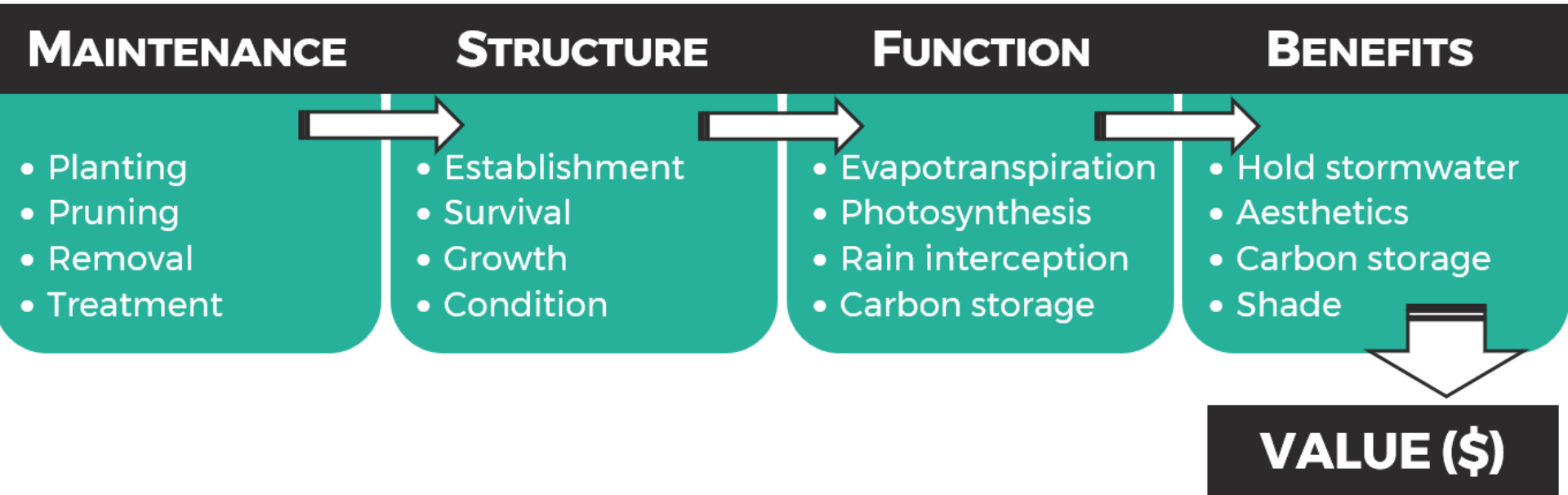
*Note: These numbers are a result of the 7-year pruning rotation study based on ~270,000 public trees estimated by the City during the 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan project. *Actual numbers are unknown.*



WHAT DO WE HAVE?



	Current	Recommended	Difference
Maintenance Budget Update Total	\$1,558,037	\$7,400,650	\$5,842,613
Trees Pruned Per Year	3,700 (1.4%)	38,571 (14%)	34,871
Pruning Cycle	73 years	7 years	-66 years



WHAT DO WE WANT?



UFMP Goals



HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE?



MANAGEMENT SCENARIO A	MANAGEMENT SCENARIO B	MANAGEMENT SCENARIO C	MANAGEMENT SCENARIO D
(MSA)	(MSB)	(MSC)	(MSD)
“Baseline Conditions”	“Additional but Insufficient Funding”	“Tree Maintenance Responsibility Transfer”	“Optimal Support”
Minimum service level, reactive management	Improved service level, reactive and proactive management	High service level, proactive management	High service level, proactive management

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE?



Priority	Effort	Co-benefit	I. Tree Policy Actions	Lead*/Year
A. Code Language				
I.A.1			Update the Forestry Rules and Regulations based on recommendations provided in Appendix V of the 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). Update the Landscape Code and Policy Manual, as necessary.	PRCS, PDD, PWD
				Target Year: 2021

Plan Targets: Management Scenario A

I. Tree Policies	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	20-Year
A. Code Language	(I.A-C)City Council receives Code amendments	(I.A.2-3)City Code updated	(I.A.1)Landscape Code and Policy Manual (LCPM) updated	(I.A.1)FRR updated	(I.A.1)FRR updated
	(I.A.1)Forestry Rules and Regulations (FRR) updated				
B. Code Enforcement	(I.A-C)City Council	(I.B.1)FRR in City Code	(I.B.2-6)Enforcement		(I.B.5)2 Certified

KEY ISSUES

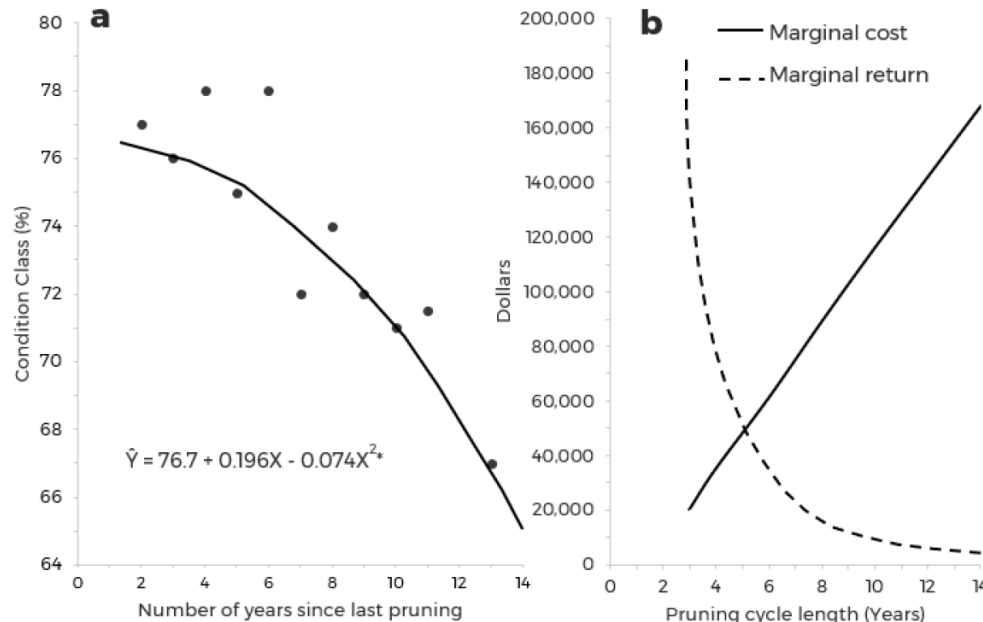


- Budget uncertainty
- Rapidly growing community
- Drought and increased tree mortality, xeric trends, water restrictions and rising costs
- Unknown quantity and status of street tree inventory
- Imminent threat of Emerald Ash Borer
- Unknown community buy-in
- Continued damage from infrastructure repair
- Extensive code, rules and regulations revisions
- Continued deferred maintenance since 2008

KEY FINDINGS



- A municipal street tree program results in net benefits for Colorado Springs residents
- Routine maintenance is more efficient and cost effective than reactive management
- Resources for comprehensive urban forest management are insufficient



RECOMMENDATIONS



- Complete the City's street tree inventory
- Update tree policies
- Evaluate funding options
- Undertake a comprehensive public outreach campaign



Source: Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

CONTACT INFO



THANK YOU

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