COLORADO SPRINGS

TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT

TOTAL STUDY AREA

124,949 ACRES

TREE CANOPY

2017: 21,331 ACRES, 17%

2009: 16% | 1999: 14%

PLANTABLE SPACE

35,584 ACRES, 29%

The urban forest in Colorado Springs is a valuable asset that provides residents and visitors with many ecological, environmental, and community benefits. This assessment analyzed the City's urban tree canopy (UTC), possible planting area (PPA), and change in UTC over a 20-year period, and also included a public survey and field inventory component. The results provide baseline data to develop strategies to protect trees and expand canopy coverage in our urban and natural areas in Colorado Springs during planning and development. The maps and project report help to concentrate efforts in areas where needs are greatest, tree planting space is available, and benefits can be realized.

LAND COVER

17% TREE CANOPY

30% NON-CANOPY VEGETATION

32% IMPERVIOUS

21% SOIL & DRY VEGETATION

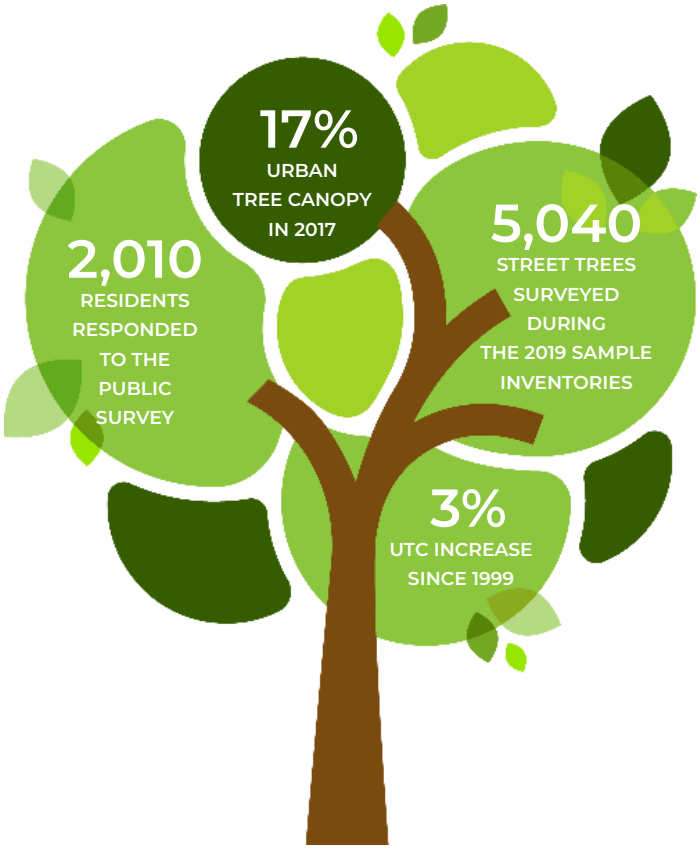
<1% WATER

Note: Land cover percentages are based on total area. Urban tree canopy percentages are based on land area only.

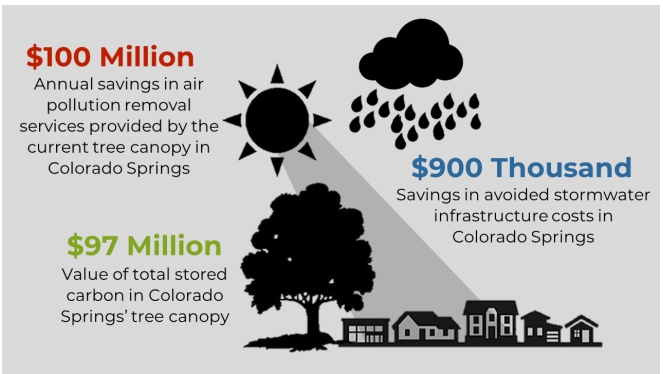
Assessment funded by the City of Colorado Springs and the Lyda Hill Foundation | Assessment conducted by Plan-It Geo, LLC | www.planitgeo.com | info@planitgeo.com
Prepared for Colorado Springs City Forestry | 1401 Recreation Way, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80905 | (719) 385-5942 | Full report at https://coloradosprings.gov/treecanopy

Tree canopy data were analyzed for the 17 generalized land use categories in Colorado Springs to determine the distribution of existing and potential urban tree canopy throughout the city. Low- and medium-density residential areas had the highest canopy coverage at 37% and 33%, respectively, and comprised more than half the City's total canopy when combined, but vacant land contained 51% of the City's total plantable space.

Land Use	Urban Tree Canopy		
	Acres	%	Dist.
Commercial	341	8%	2%
Drainage Easement	203	21%	1%
Golf Course/Cemetery	433	19%	2%
High-Density Residential	589	21%	3%
Industrial	295	8%	2%
Institution	319	4%	2%
Low-Density Residential	4,668	37%	25%
Medium-Density Residential	5,101	33%	27%
Office	236	13%	1%
Other	79	14%	0%
Parking	23	8%	0%
Parks, Trails, Open Space	3,051	30%	16%
Police/Fire	7	10%	0%
Private Common Residential	698	31%	4%
Right-of-Way	89	10%	0%
School	391	12%	2%
Vacant	2,457	7%	13%
Totals	**18,980**	**18%**	**100%**



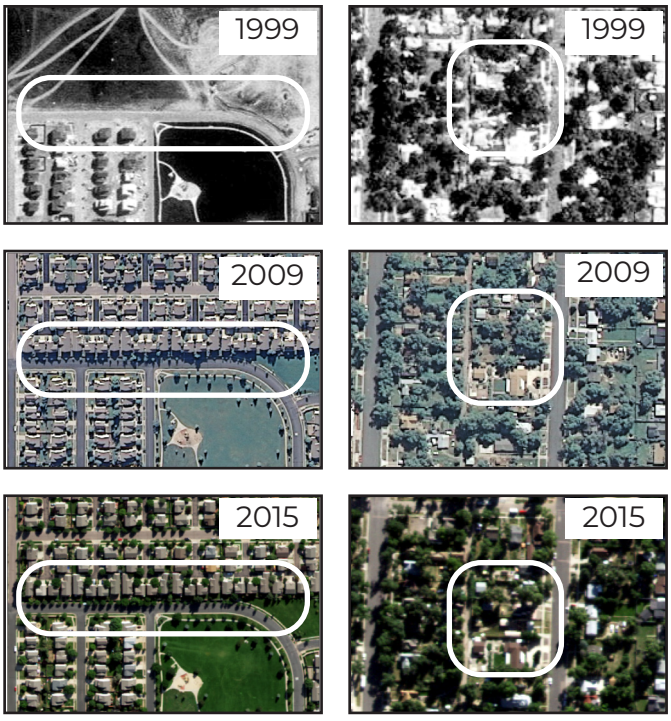
ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS
OF COLORADO SPRINGS' URBAN FOREST



**Possible Planting Areas (PPA) were defined as vegetated areas without tree canopy and impervious surfaces such as parking lots and sidewalks. These areas may not be suitable for planting to increase canopy due to slope, views, soils, or other limitations. Field surveys to identify suitable planting areas are advised.*

EXAMPLES OF CANOPY CHANGE
IN COLORADO SPRINGS FROM 1999-2015

GROWTH: NEW PLANTINGS | **LOSS: LARGE TREE REMOVAL**



COLORADO SPRINGS OLYMPIC CITY USA | LYDA HILL PHILANTHROPIES | PLANIT GEO mapping a greener future

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