



SF Environment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

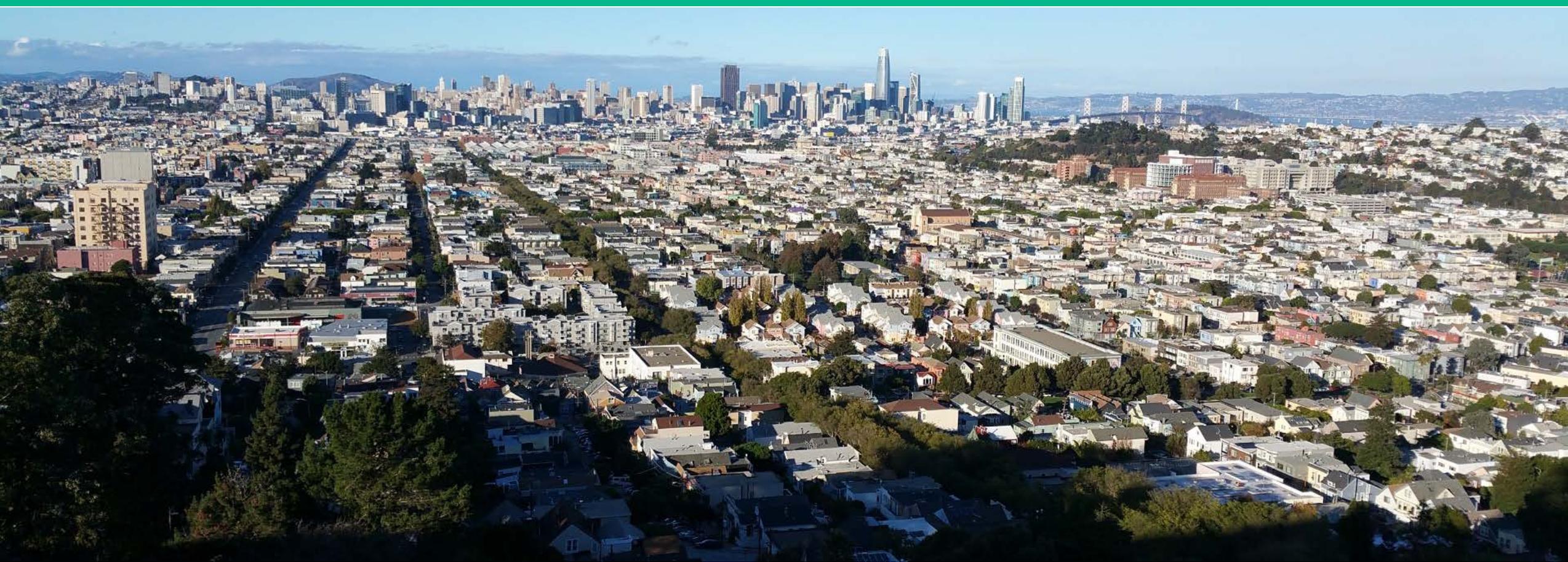
A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

Trees and Climate Benefits

Policy Committee, Commission on the Environment
November 13, 2019



What is the “Urban Forest”?



San Francisco Public Works Code ARTICLE 16: URBAN FORESTRY ORDINANCE

"Urban Forest" is trees on public streets, right-of-ways and on land subject to the jurisdiction of Public Works.

What is the Urban Forest?



Trees not everywhere

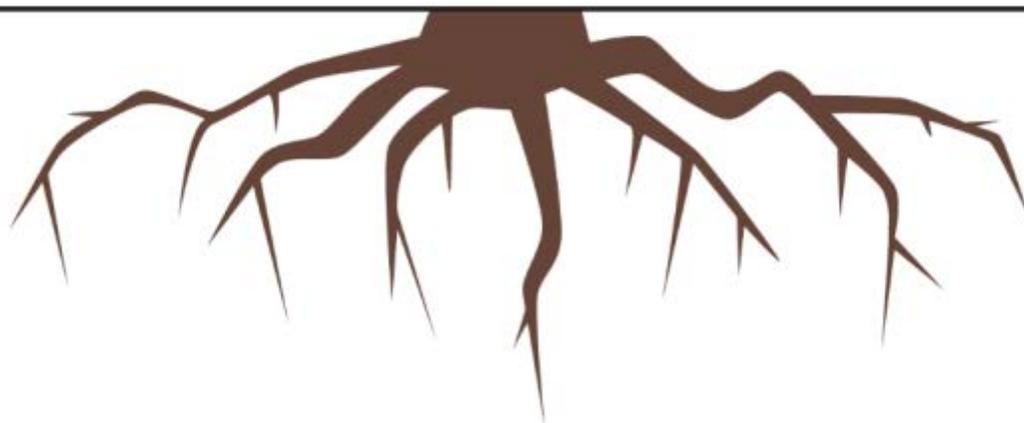


San Francisco Climate Action Strategy



SAN FRANCISCO CLIMATE ACTION

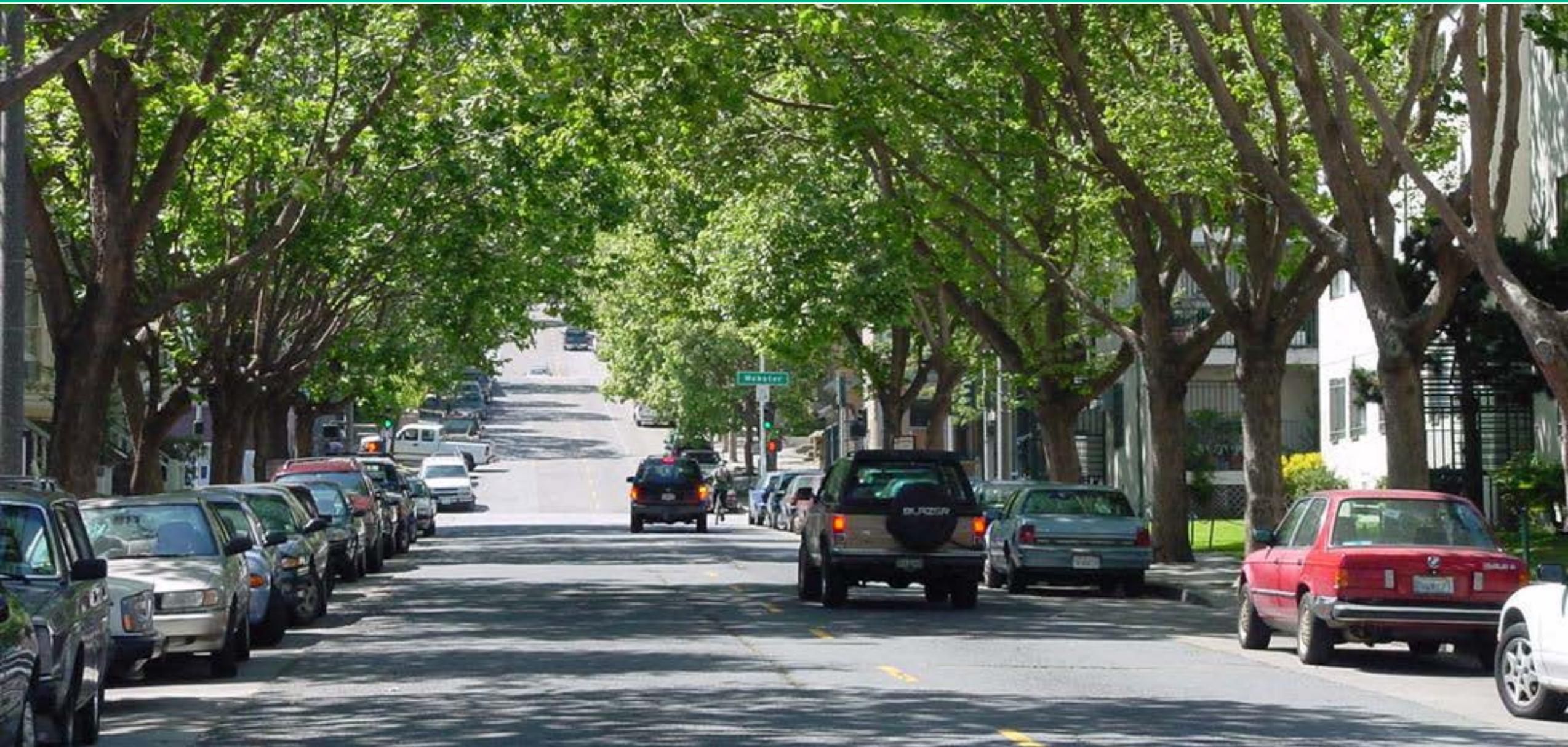
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Carbon Storage



Shade - Heat Island Mitigation



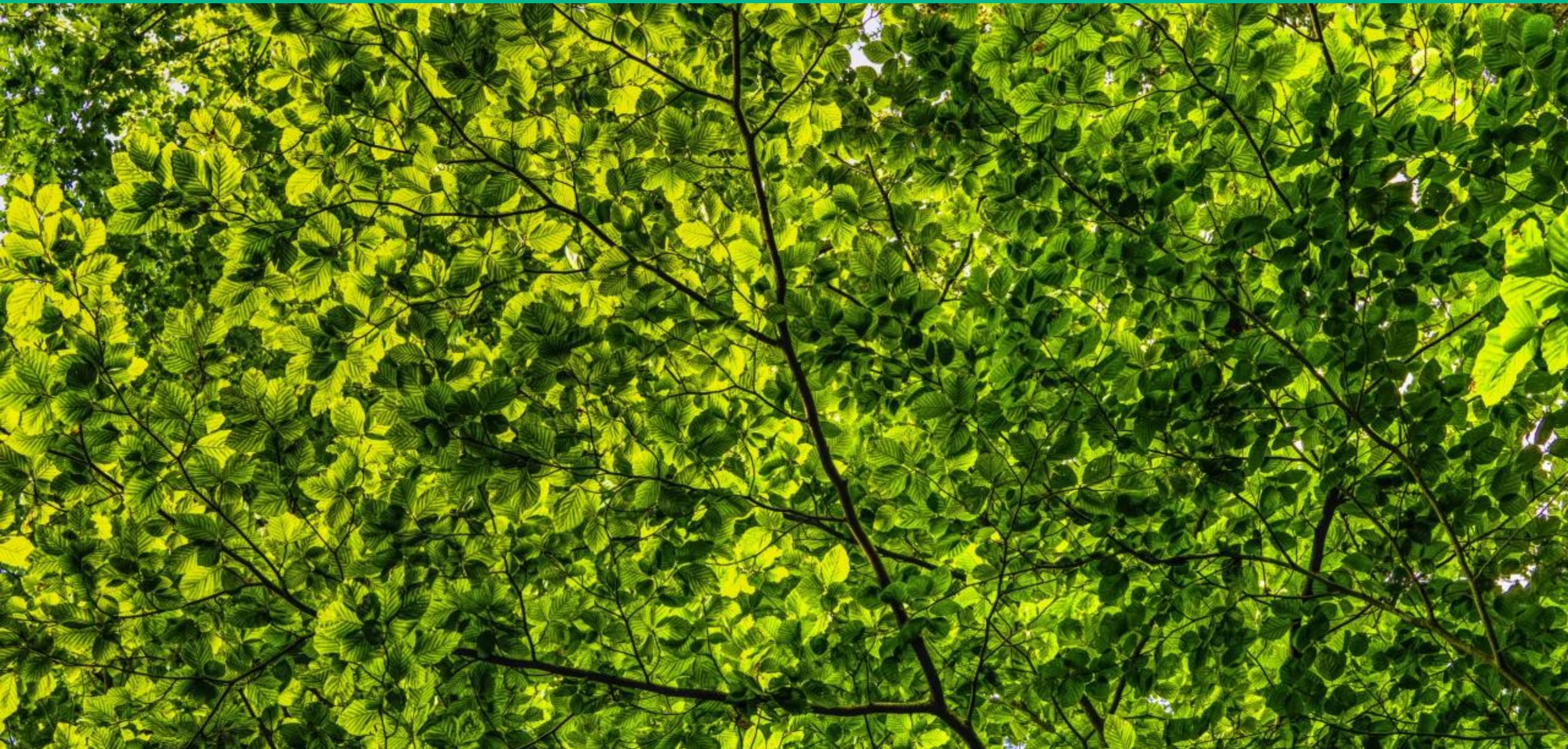
Energy Savings – Building Cooling



Stormwater Capture



Produce Oxygen and Clean the Air



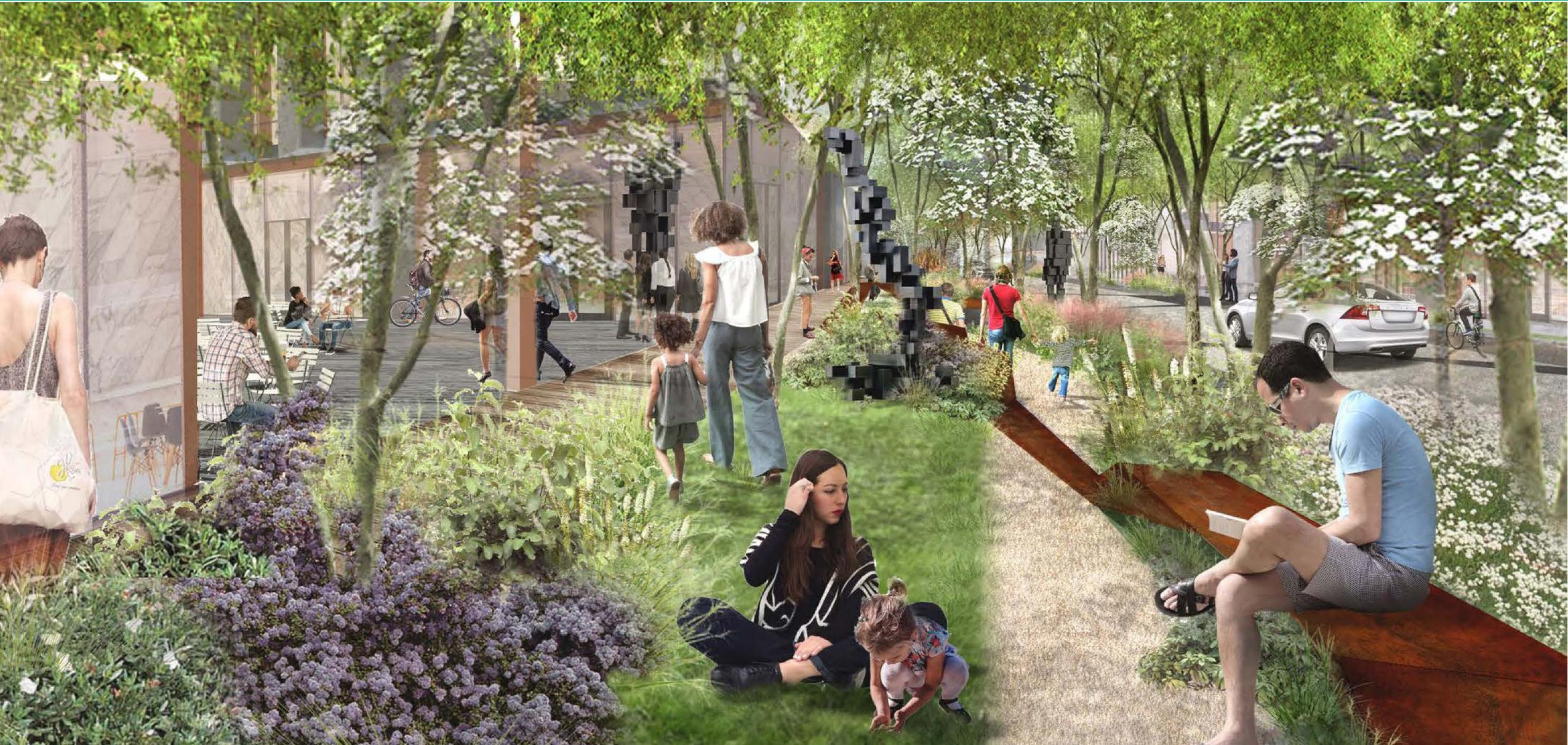
Wildlife Habitat



Quality of Life



Trees for People and Wildlife



A Time for Trees



Dan Flanagan

Chair, San Francisco Urban Forestry Council
Executive Director, Friends of the Urban Forest

A Time for Trees



“The best available technology for pulling carbon dioxide from the air is something called a tree.”

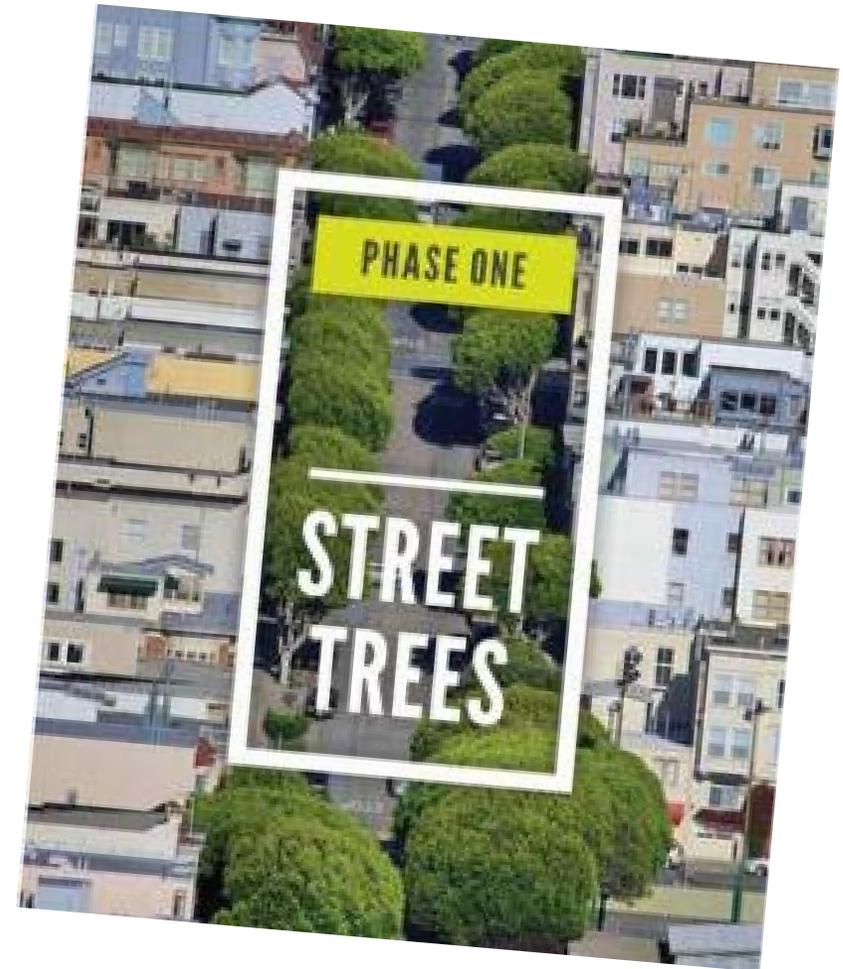
--Al Gore, New York Times, September 20, 2019



Our road map: San Francisco Urban Forest Plan



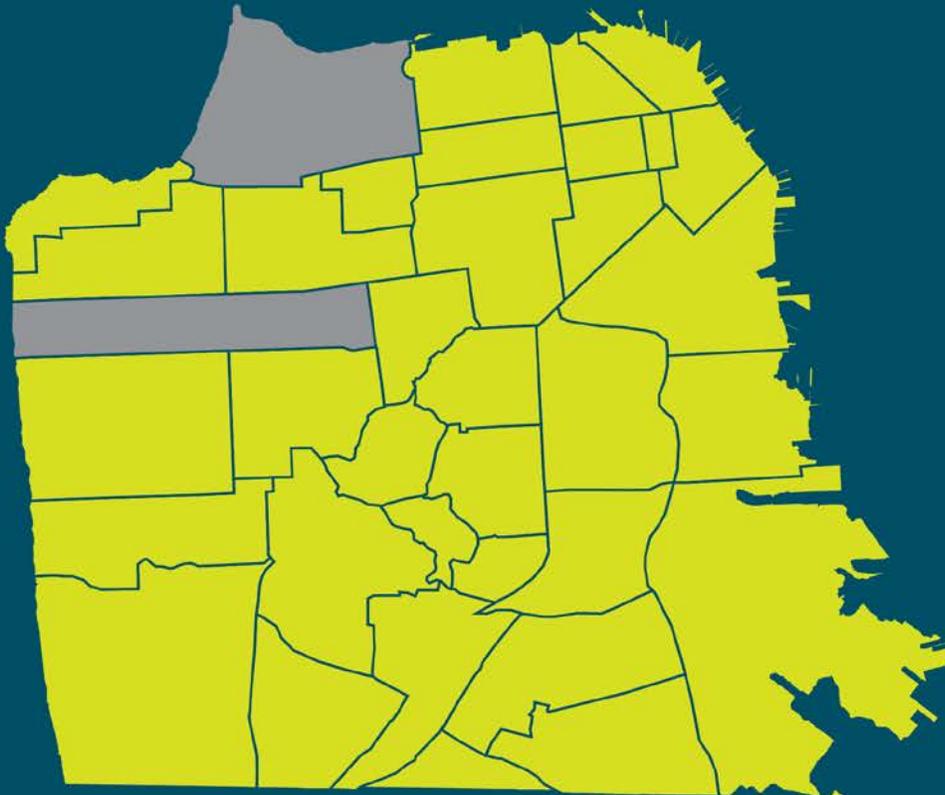
- Goals:
 - Maximize the benefits of urban trees
 - Grow the street tree population by half (50%)
 - Establish and fund a citywide street tree maintenance program
 - Manage street trees throughout their entire life-cycle



Street Tree Census



ALL OF THE STREET TREES IN SAN FRANCISCO ARE COUNTED!



STREET
TREE
TICKER



124,795
street trees

COMPLETED NEIGHBORHOODS 33

VACANT PLANTING SITES 39,783

DIFFERENT TREE SPECIES >500

SIDEWALK DAMAGE LOCATIONS 32,705

UPDATED MARCH 13, 2017

Opportunities revealed by Street Tree Census



San Francisco votes for tree maintenance funding



- Important to San Franciscans (78.6% vote)
- Only city with dedicated tree maintenance \$
- Starts in third year post-planting



Budget Gap



- Dedicated funding for Tree Maintenance = \$23M



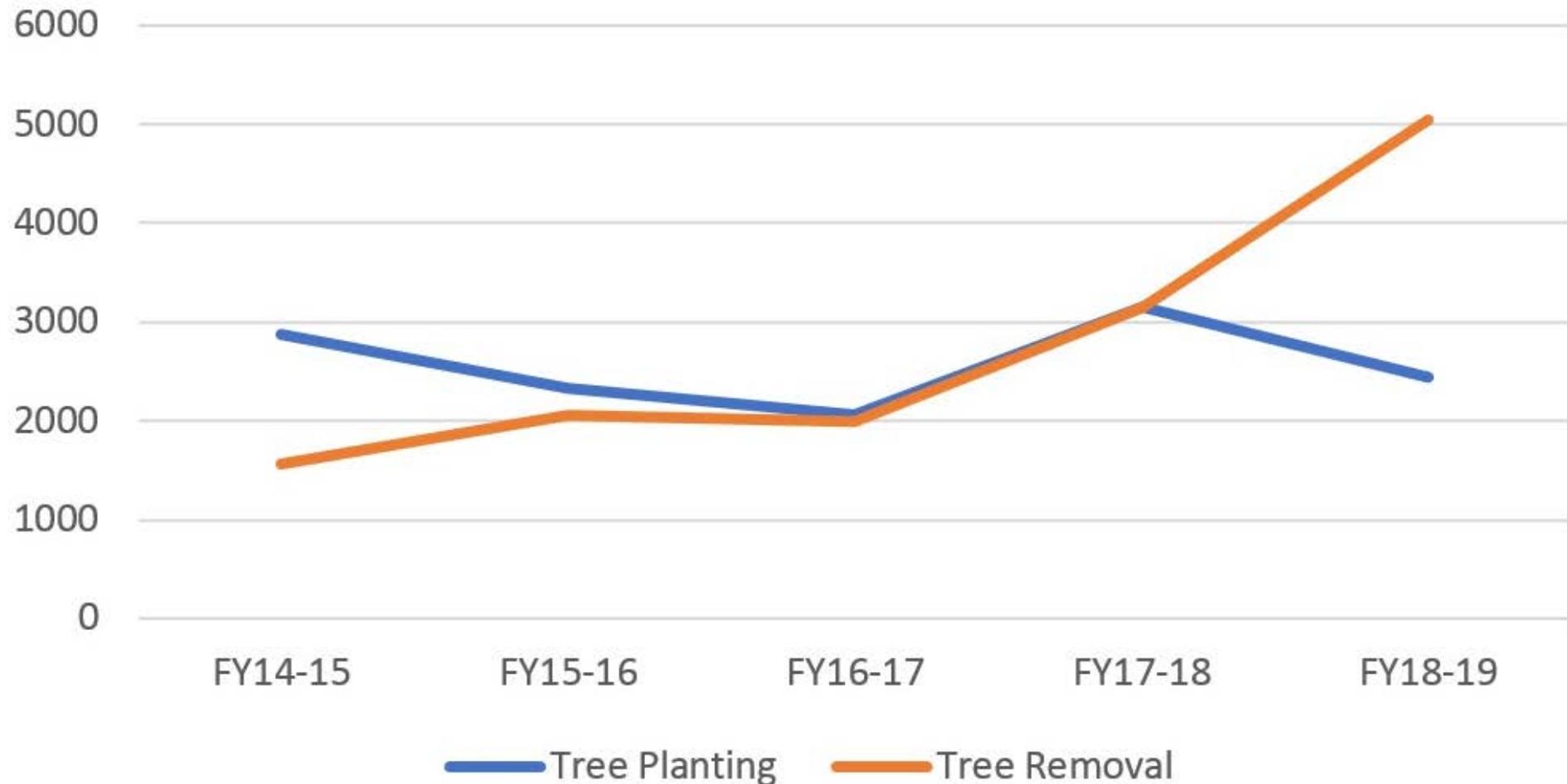
- Dedicated funding for Planting = \$2.3M



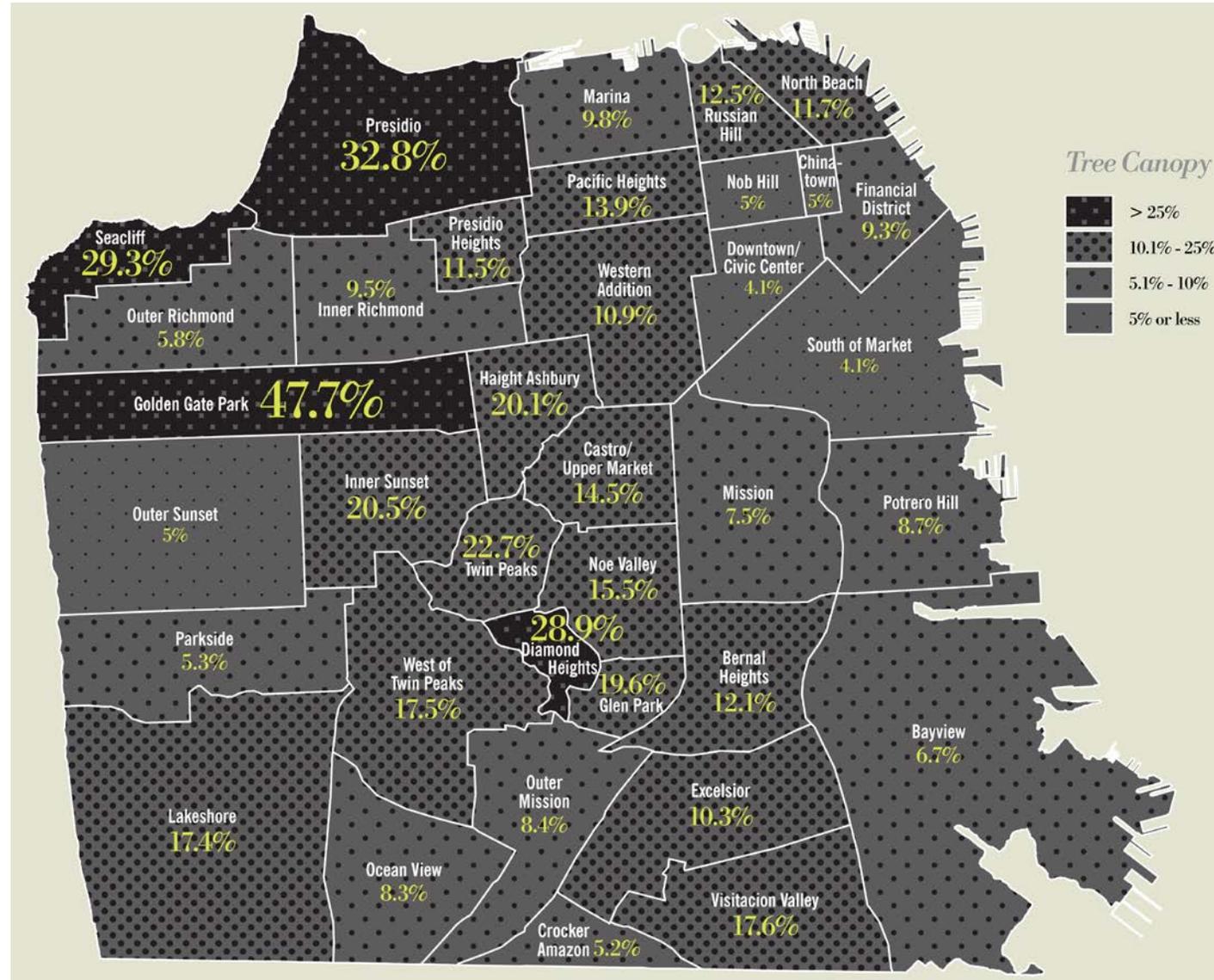
Trees Planted and Removed



Trees planted & Removed (5 years)



Our mandate: equitable distribution of canopy



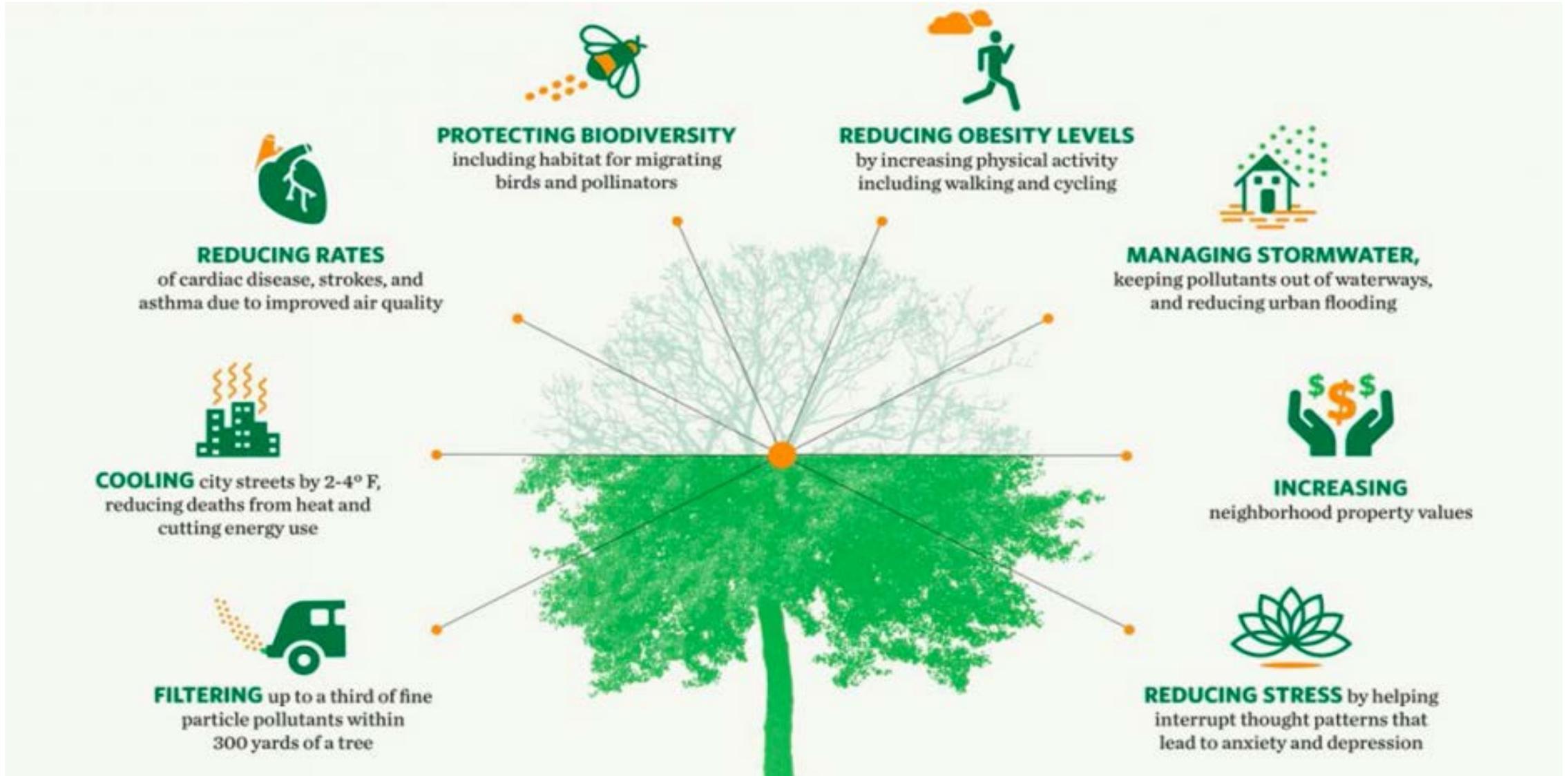
Climate Emergency



- City declared climate emergency April 2019
- NOW is the time to use trees to mitigate global warming
- It's imperative that we invest in planting



The Benefits of Urban Trees



We need replacement trees AND new trees

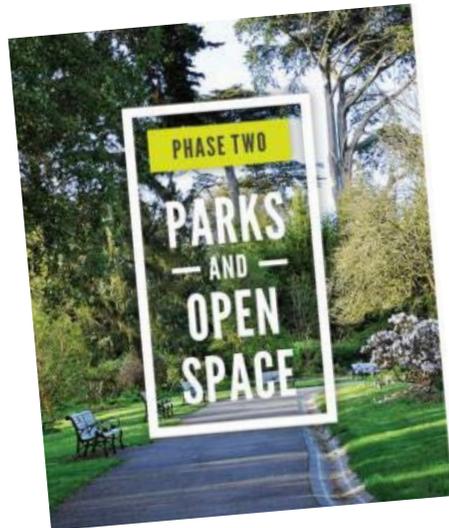


- Urban Forest Plan calls for 6 thousand trees to be planted annually
- More may be required -- we're studying now
- What we know for sure: current funding is insufficient

Urban Forest Plan, Phase 2: Park Trees



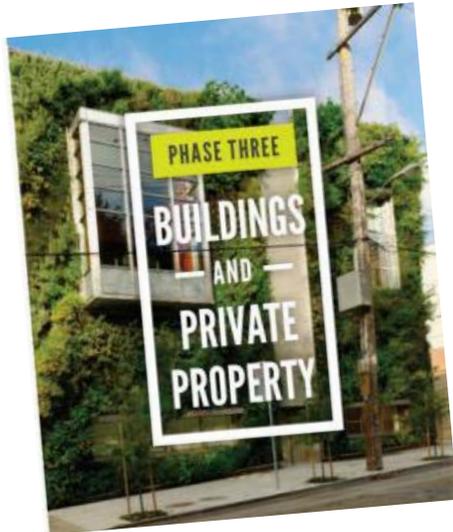
- Park trees planted over a 100 years ago and many are at end of life
- Losses will accelerate
- Restocking is imperative
- Time to develop the Plan



Urban Forest Plan, Phase 3: Back Yard Trees



- A large percentage of the canopy is in back yards
- How to protect?
- Balancing community interest with property rights



Walking the talk: SF's environmental leadership



- We could be one of the best-managed urban forests in the U.S.
- We must invest in technology
- Better data coordination and management

In Conclusion



- Secure planting funds for replacement trees and new trees to equalize our canopy
- Protect the trees we have
- Secure funds to restock park trees
- Invest in tech to manage all public trees
- Protect backyard trees

Thank you

