

Civil Grand Jury Report: Maintenance Budgeting and Accounting Challenges for General Fund Departments

UFC Response

July 20, 2016

Findings Ref.	Item for required response	Suggested Response
F:II.C1b.	San Francisco’s canopy cover at 13.7% lags far behind other major cities, and varies widely between neighborhoods.	<p>The Urban Forestry Council agrees.</p> <p>The Urban Forest Plan: Phase 1, Street Trees conducted an analysis of the urban forest and found that the City has a canopy of 13.7%, that this level of canopy coverage lags behind other major cities, and that forestry cover and management varies widely between neighborhoods. The UFC affirmed these finding in UFC Resolution No. 001-14-UFC, endorsing the Urban Forest Plan, Phase 1: Street Trees, and urging the Board of Supervisors and City Departments to adopt and implement the Plan.</p>
F:II.C1c.	The Urban Forestry Council notes in its annual Urban Forest Reports that San Francisco’s urban forest managers consistently identify their highest priority as the lack of adequate resources to effectively maintain the city’s trees. Recreation and Parks Department and Department of Public Works face the same challenge: both are significantly underfunded to do their needed maintenance work.	<p>The Urban Forestry Council agrees.</p> <p>To produce the Annual Urban Forest Report, the Urban Forestry Council conducts an annual survey of urban forest managers to collect information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resources used to manage the urban forest, including funding and staffing levels; - The number of trees planted, removed, and maintained; and - The opportunities and challenges faced by urban forest managers. <p>As stated in all of the Annual Urban Forest Reports adopted by the UFC, reporting organizations consistently identified lack of funding and staffing to adequately maintain the urban forest as their chief concern and highest priority to address.</p> <p>In particularly, the Recreation and Park Department and Department of Public Works, which have the largest municipal forestry programs in terms of number of trees overseen by a municipal agency, each consistently report that significant lack of funding and staffing prevent their forestry programs from adequately managing the trees within their jurisdictions.</p>
F:II.C4a.	The Urban Forestry Council urges completion of Phase 2 of the Urban Forest Plan related to Parks and Open Spaces.	<p>The Urban Forestry Council agrees. In UFC Resolution No. 001-14-UFC, the Urban Forestry Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urges the Board of 5 Supervisors, Planning Department and other City Agencies to prioritize funding and 6 support for the completion of the next two phases of the Urban Forest Plan; and, - Urges the Planning Department to work with the Recreation and Parks Department and the Department of the Environment to complete the Urban Forest Plan: Phase Two, Parks and Open Spaces and the Urban Forest Plan: Phase Three, Greening Buildings and Private Property.