Urban Forest Management Plan Update

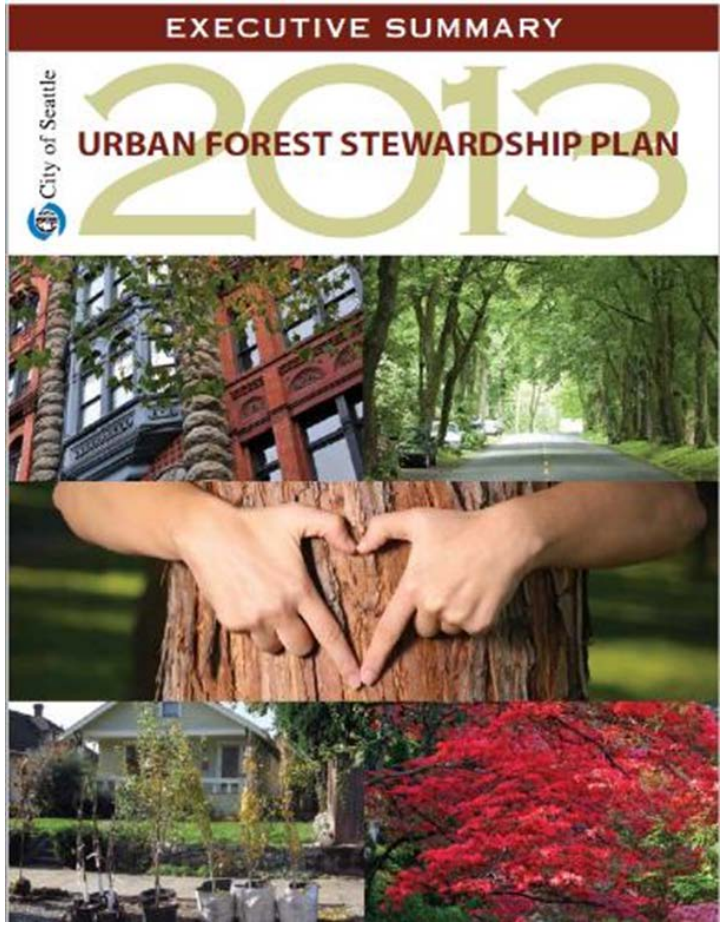
Urban Forest Commission Listening Session

September 5, 2018

City of Seattle

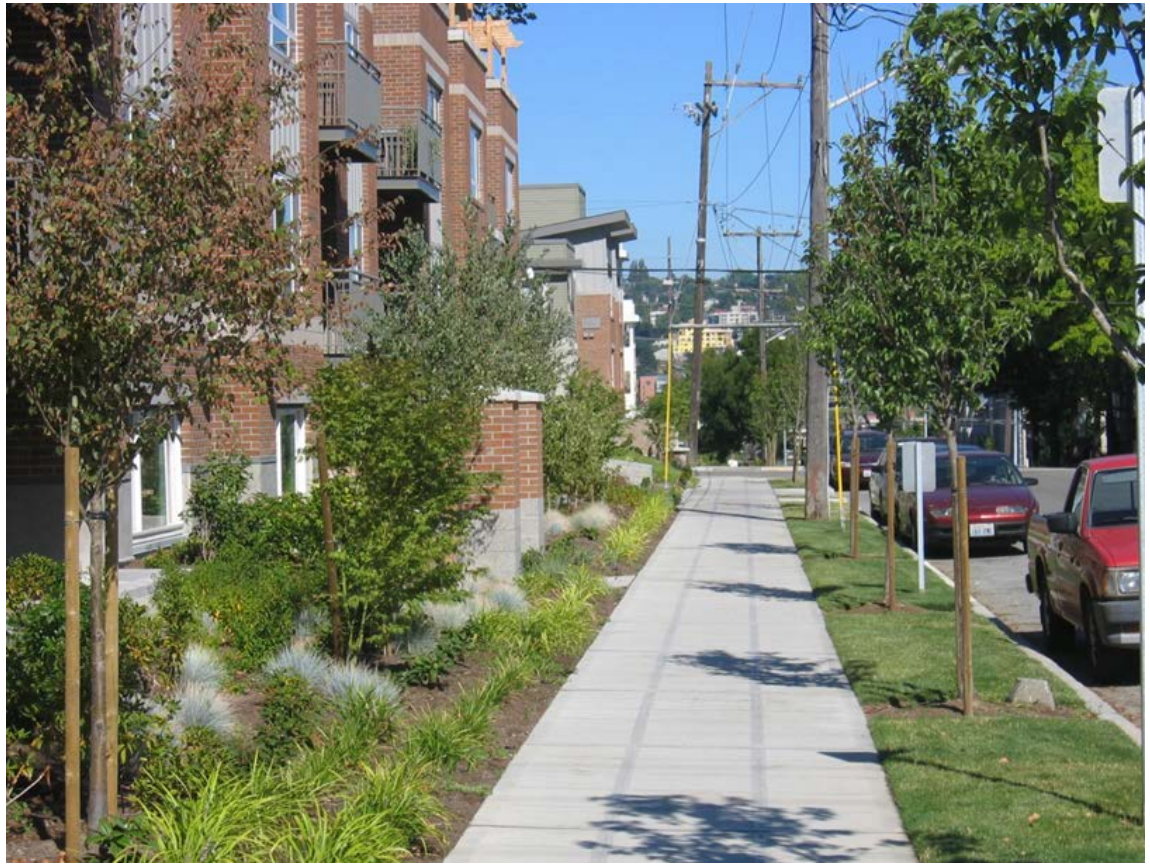
Urban Forest Management Plan

- Management of trees:
  - Along streets
  - In parks
  - On private property
  - Near power equipment
- Work across 9 departments
- Guides goals and actions



Hopes for New Plan

- Data driven approach
  - Canopy cover
  - Street tree inventory
- Emphasis on equity
- Impacts of climate change
- Measurable actions / accountability
- Robust public engagement

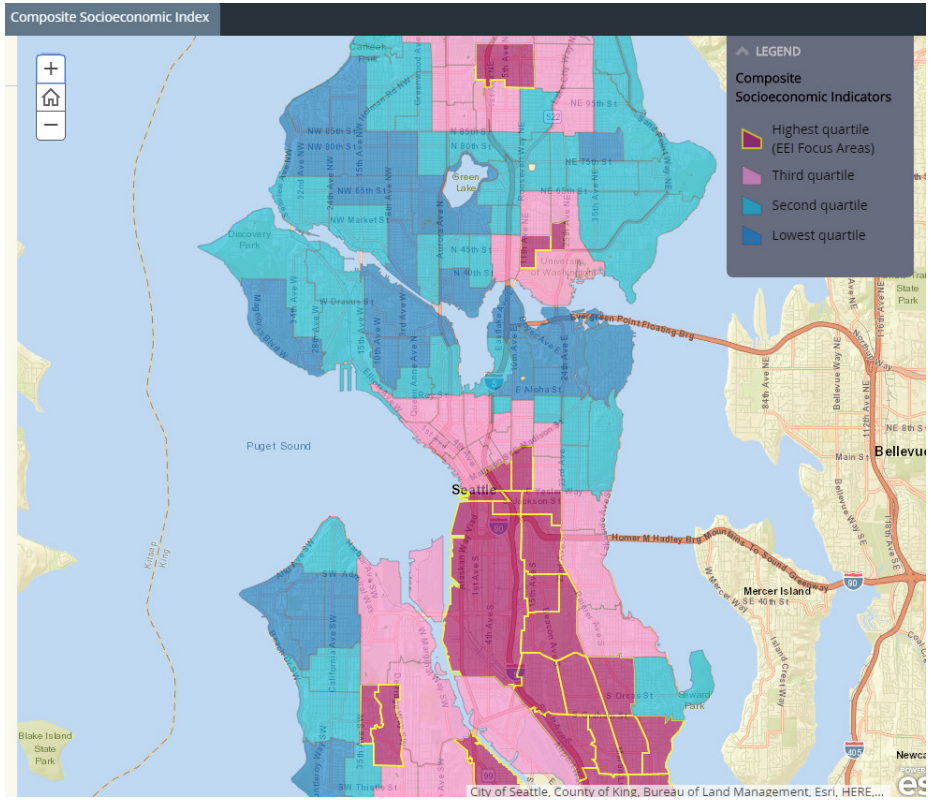


Focus on Equity

- Committed to:
  - Dedicating most resources to engaging historically under-represented communities
  - Seeking input prior to drafting goals or actions
  - Valuing feedback equitably
  - Transparency

Equity & Environment Initiative Communities

- People of color
- Low-income populations
- Linguistically isolated households
- Foreign-born populations
- Native populations



Inclusive Public Engagement Phase I

- Public input prior to plan drafting
- Engaging EEI communities:
  - SPU's Community Connections
  - DON's Community Liaisons
- Online comment input form

Inclusive Public Engagement Phase I

- Stakeholders listening sessions:
  - Tree advocates
  - City implementation partners
  - Government agencies
  - Private arborist companies

Inclusive Public Engagement Phase I

- City Boards & Commissions:
  - Urban Forestry Commission
  - Environmental Justice Committee
  - Pedestrian Advisory Board
  - Planning Commission
- Urban Forestry Management Team

Urban Forestry Commission Involvement

- Listening session: September 5
- Update plan content
  - 2-3 Commissioners
  - Key strategic conversations

Outside Technical Review

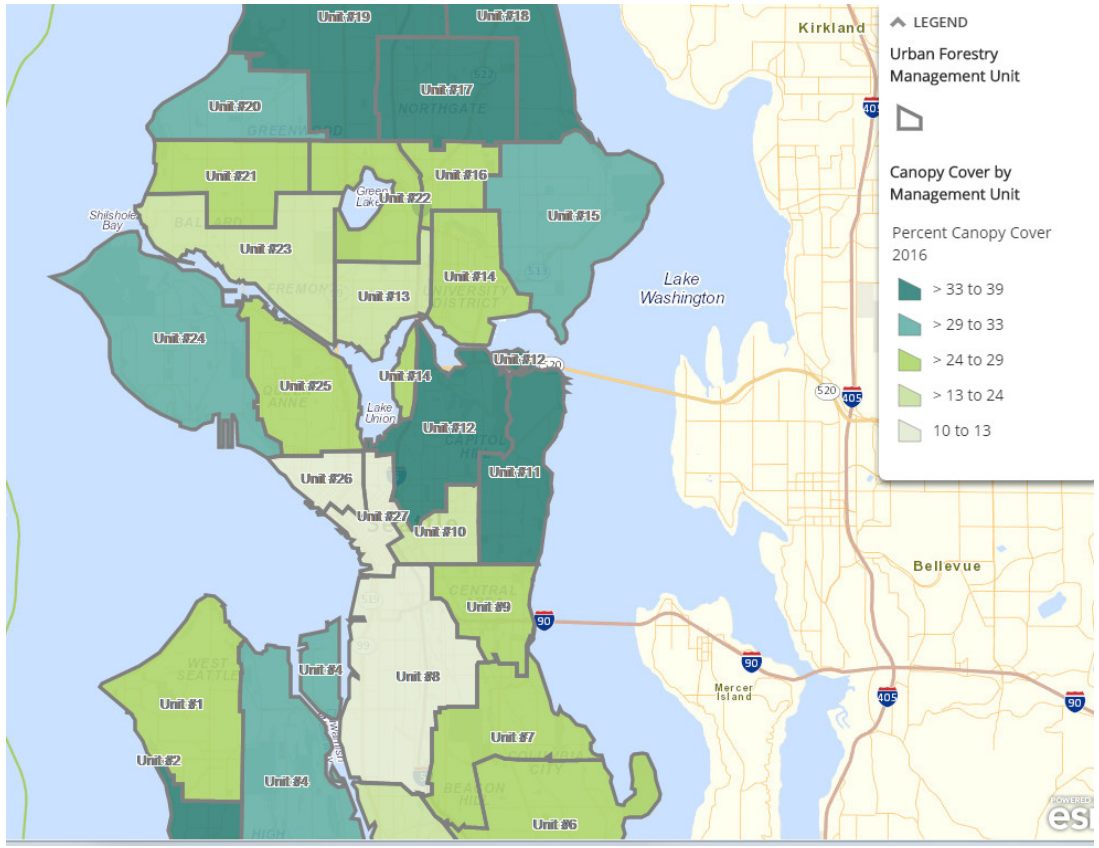
- Gap analysis of current polices & programs now

- Draft review in comparison to BMPs winter 2019

VIBRANT CITIES LAB

Plan Development

- Data sources:
  - Public input
  - Canopy cover
    - Analysis of canopy cover by land use and management unit
  - SDOT street tree inventory
  - Gap analysis findings



City of Seattle

Inclusive Public Engagement Phase II

- Spring / Summer 2019
- Public comment on draft plan
- Participants from Phase I will be invited to Phase II

Timeline

- Now – end of October: Public input period
- November - March 2019: Plan drafting
- April - June, 2019: Public engagement phase II (draft plan review)
- July - November, 2019: Final plan production
- November, 2019: Submittal to Mayor's Office for adoption

Questions?

Urban Forest Management Plan Values

- ***Ecosystem and human health***: maximizing the mental health and human well-being, air quality, water quality, storm water runoff reduction, carbon sequestration, recreation, wildlife habitat, beauty, and other benefits of trees
- ***Commitment to equity***: including diverse perspectives and equitable distribution of urban forestry resources and program
- ***Community stewardship***: engaging the Seattle community, including residents and businesses, in appreciating and caring for the urban forest
- ***Tree health, human safety, and property protection***: keeping the urban forest healthy using best management practices with a focus on public and crew safety
- ***Good governance***: working in conjunction with other City and community goals such as transportation, utility provision, and housing