

SEATTLE NEEDS FORESTS

GREEN SEATTLE
PARTNERSHIP
greenseattle.org

Green Seattle Partnership

10 Year Strategic Plan Update

9 September 2015



Goals for The 10 Year Update

1. Reflect on where we are at today
2. Celebrate our accomplishments
3. Identify how to reach the original goal by 2025
4. Plan for the future beyond 2025



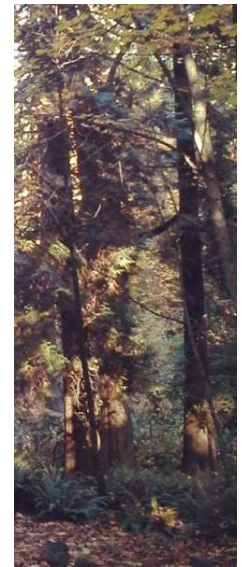
BEFORE



DURING



AFTER



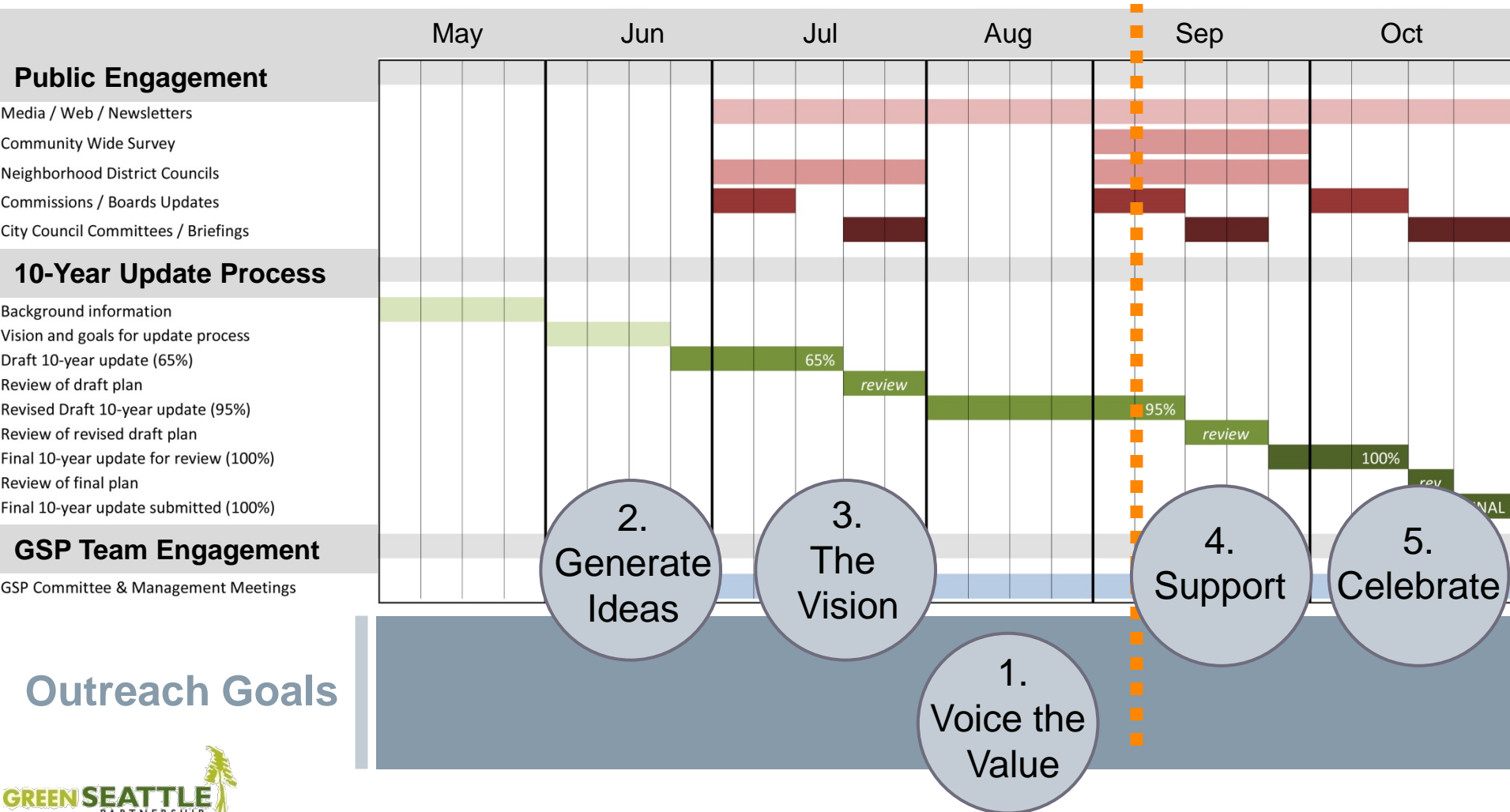
... and AFTER THAT

Engagement Process

2015 Project Timeline

Green Seattle Partnership | 10-YEAR PLAN UPDATE

We are here



Vision

“Promote a livable city by re-establishing and maintaining healthy forested parklands throughout Seattle.”

- GSP 20 Year Strategic Plan



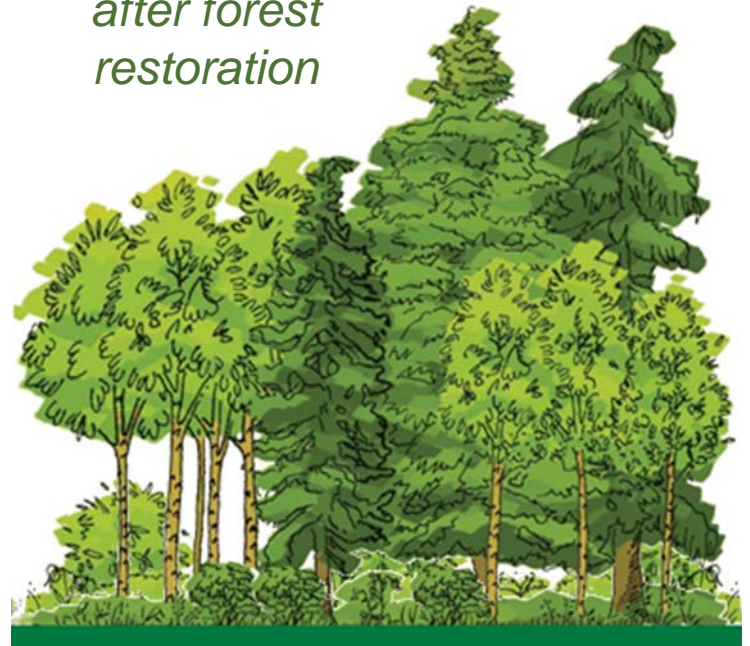
The Problem

- Invasive plants and declining tree canopy
- Increasing urban density
- Maintaining our success
- Increasing public awareness

*before forest
restoration*



*after forest
restoration*



The Solution =



Field Work

- To restore 2,500 forested parkland acres by 2025

Resources

- To ensure long term maintenance and sustainability

Community

- To galvanize an informed, involved and active community

The Solution – *a coordinated effort*

GSP is now part of a city-wide effort, in addition to our partner organizations, spanning multiple departments and programs to support trees and urban forests in Seattle.

Some of these include:

SDOT
OSE
City Light
SPU
Parks

- ReLeaf
- Tree Ambassadors
- Street Tree Program
- Tree Fund
- BTG Program

The Solution – *what we have accomplished to date*

*forested parkland acres
in restoration*

1,232

700,000+ volunteer hours

80 parks

Organization – *Field Work, Resource and Community*

- Seattle Parks & Recreation, Metropolitan Park District, and Partner Organizations
- Advisory Committees – mission and roles
- Youth engagement – committees and Executive Council
- Forest Steward representation
- Reporting, transparency and assessments

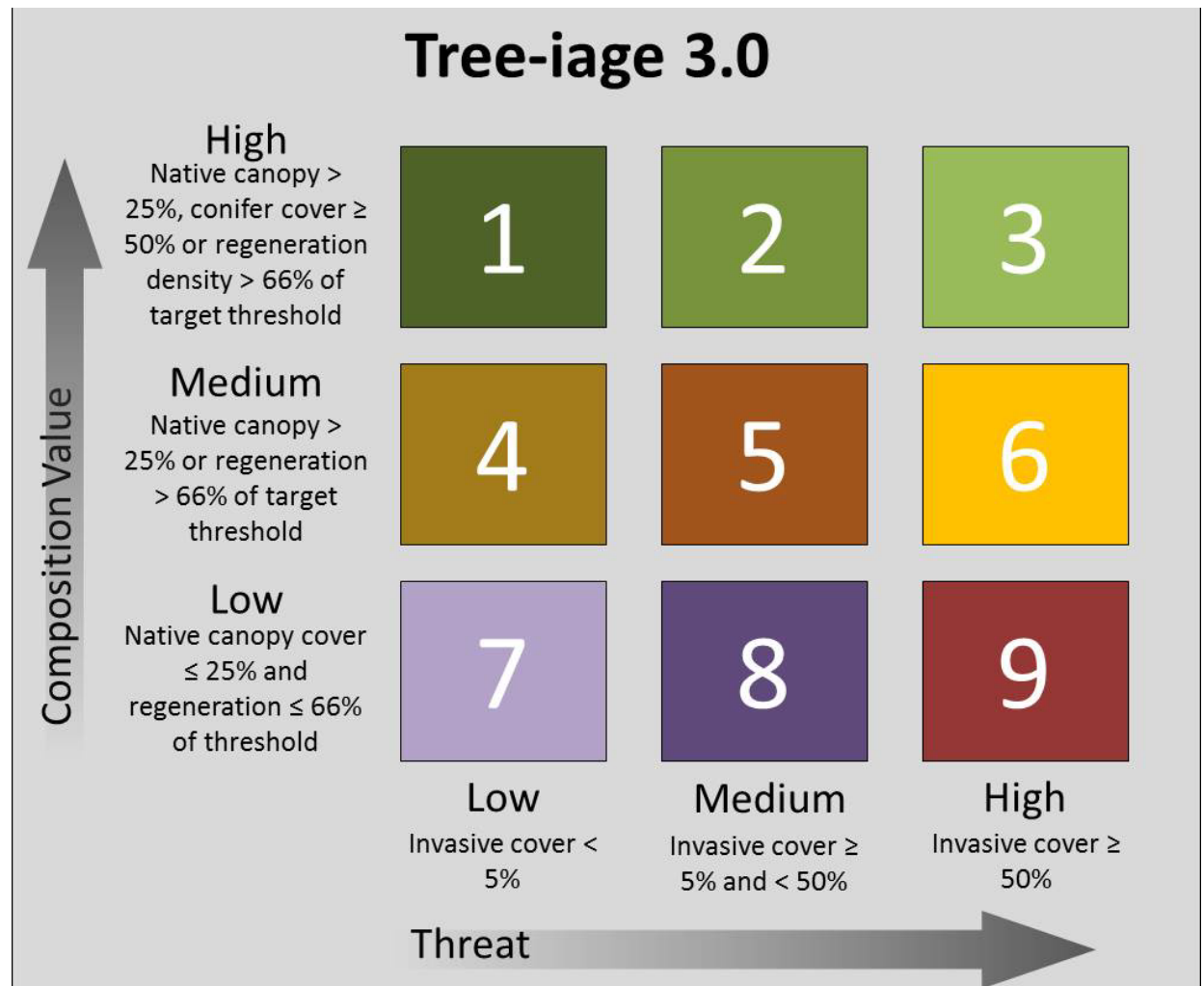


Redefining urban forest assessments

- Canopy cover
- Invasive species
- Regeneration
- Threshold values

*annual inventory by
3rd party determines
Phase IV candidates*

*final assessment by
Plant Ecologists*



Threshold values – *determines Phase IV enrollment*

Threshold	# Zones	% Inventories Zones
Understory Richness	685	82%
Understory Cover	421	50%
Eco Value 3 (Tree-iage)	492	59%
Threat 1 (< 5% Invasive Cover)	163	20%
Invasive Regen	421	50%
Regen Richness	555	67%
Regen Density	553	66%

14 zones meet all thresholds

Field Work

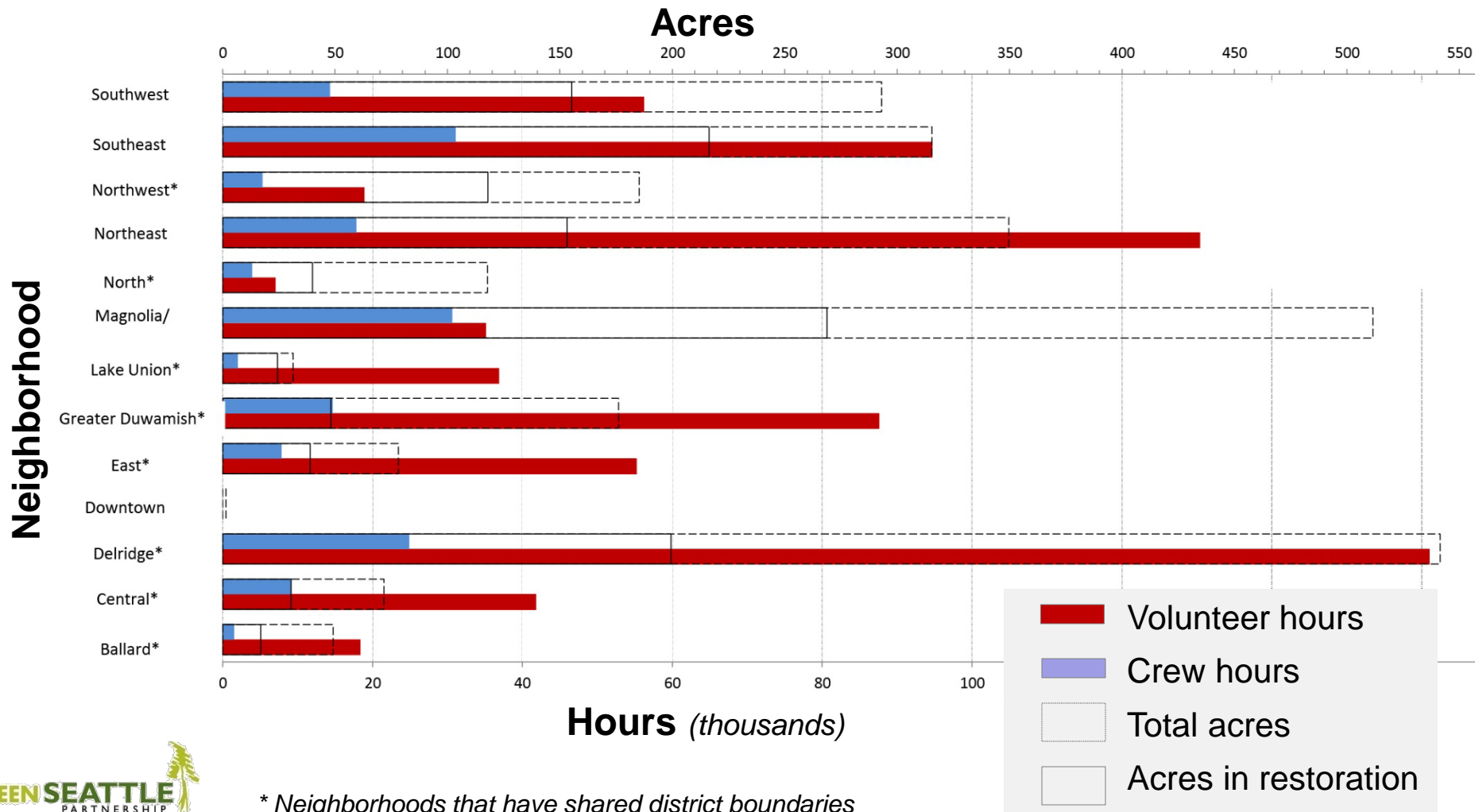
Is restoration working? – *tree-age comparison*

Tree-age of GSP Managed Acres		Baseline Tree-age Value								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Current Tree-age 3.0 Value	1		129.6	1.7		44.2	22.8	2.1	28.6	20.1
	2	14.0	92.9	28.4	25.6	69.3	89.0	2.5	58.3	50.3
	3		6.1	5.7		34.3	42.9		62.0	40.7
	4		26.8	3.6		12.1	8.6		14.4	6.9
	5	1.2	21.9	12.1	11.8	40.6	43.2	2.3	11.4	26.2
	6		10.8	9.0		19.6	54.2		3.3	42.1
	7									0.8
	8		0.5				1.3		7.1	1.3
	9						0.3			0.6

 acres improved **925**

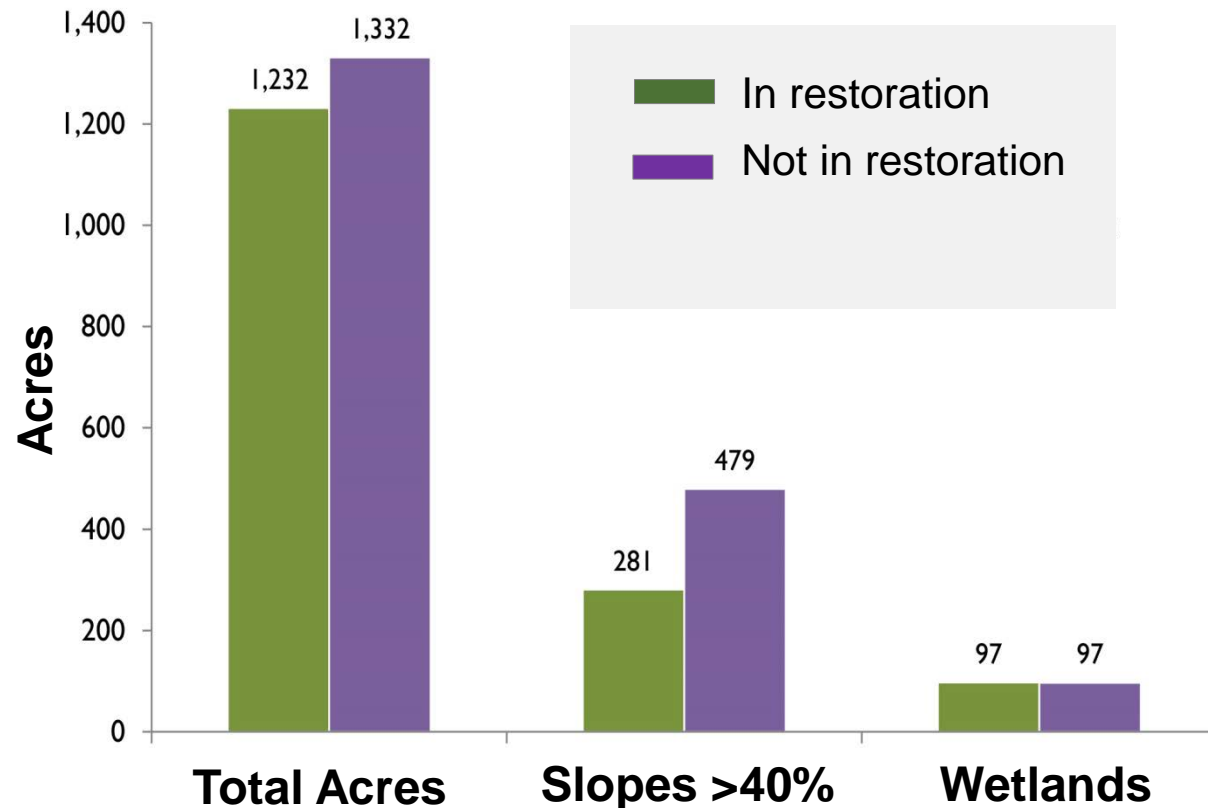
  acres unimproved **340**

Is restoration working? – neighborhood comparison



What's left?

- Cost variability and efficiencies
- Challenging sites
- New BMPs created and updated regularly (*slopes & wetlands*)
- Refined prioritization



Projecting into the future

- Recognize long-term needs for field work
- Evaluate and define equity in restoration
 - resources
 - volunteers
 - geography
- Restoration beyond park boundary
- Addressing the effects of climate change on restoration



Current Funding

Staff

General Fund

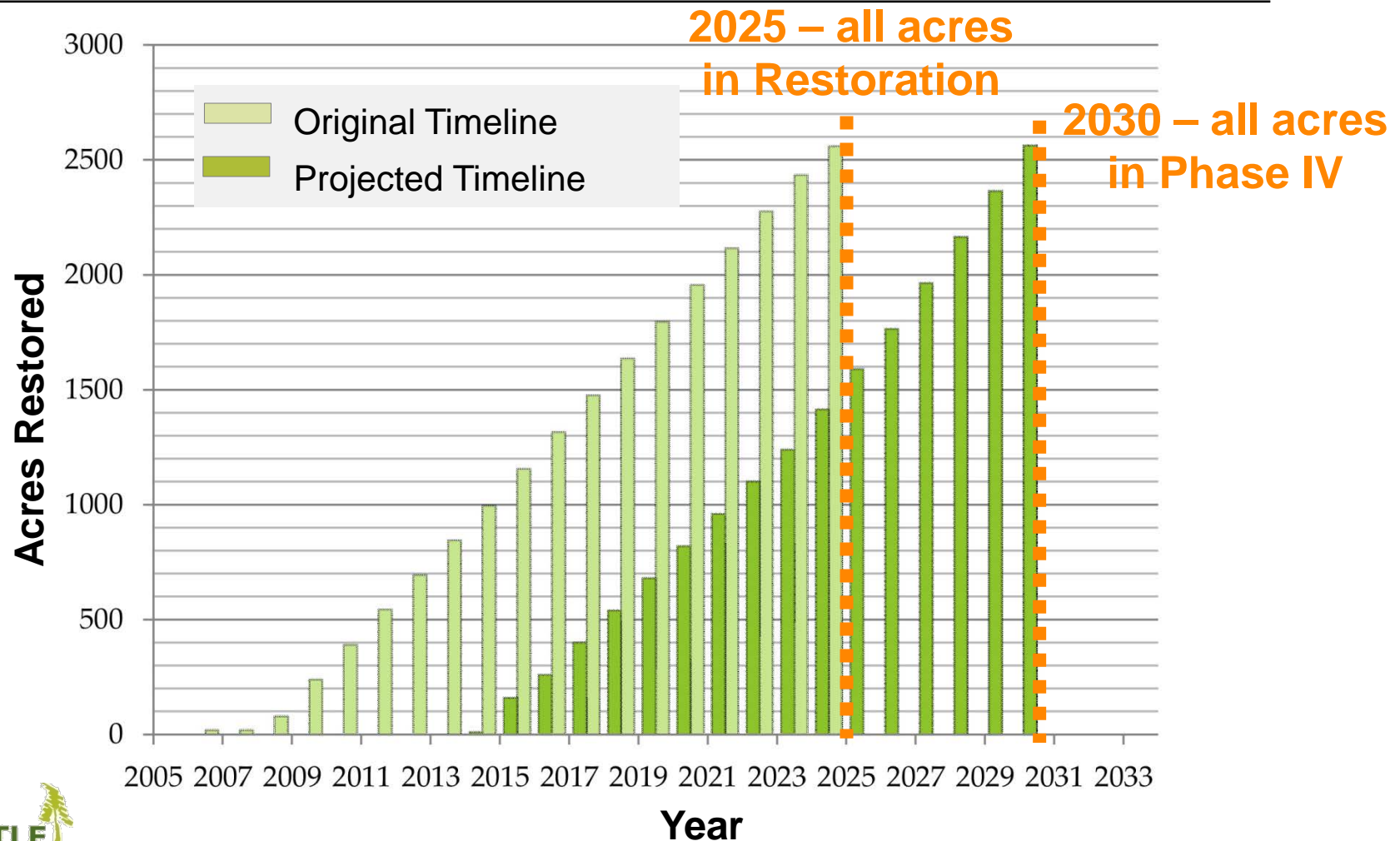
(active restoration) ***CIP***

REET & MPD

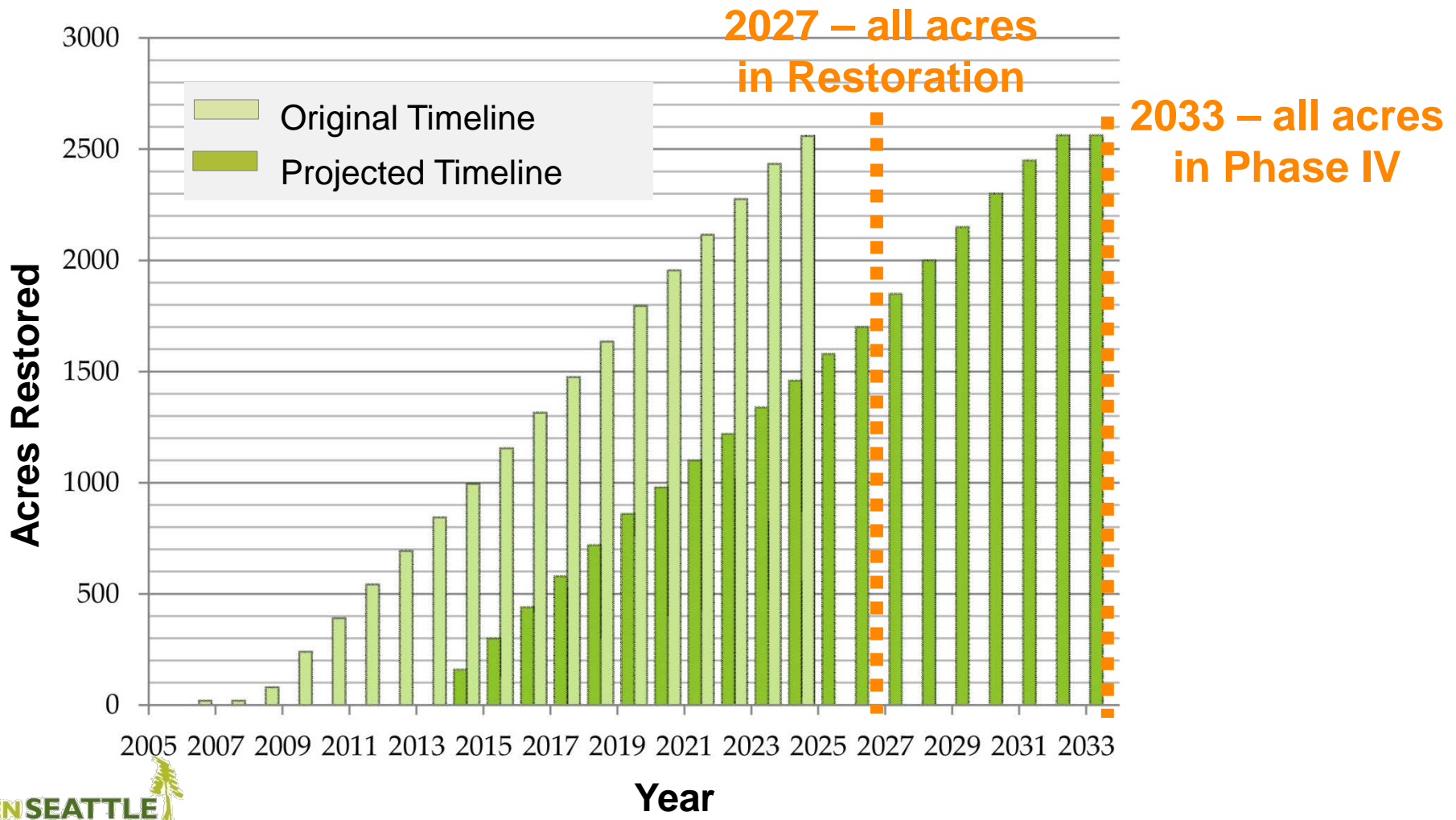
Maintenance

Not funded

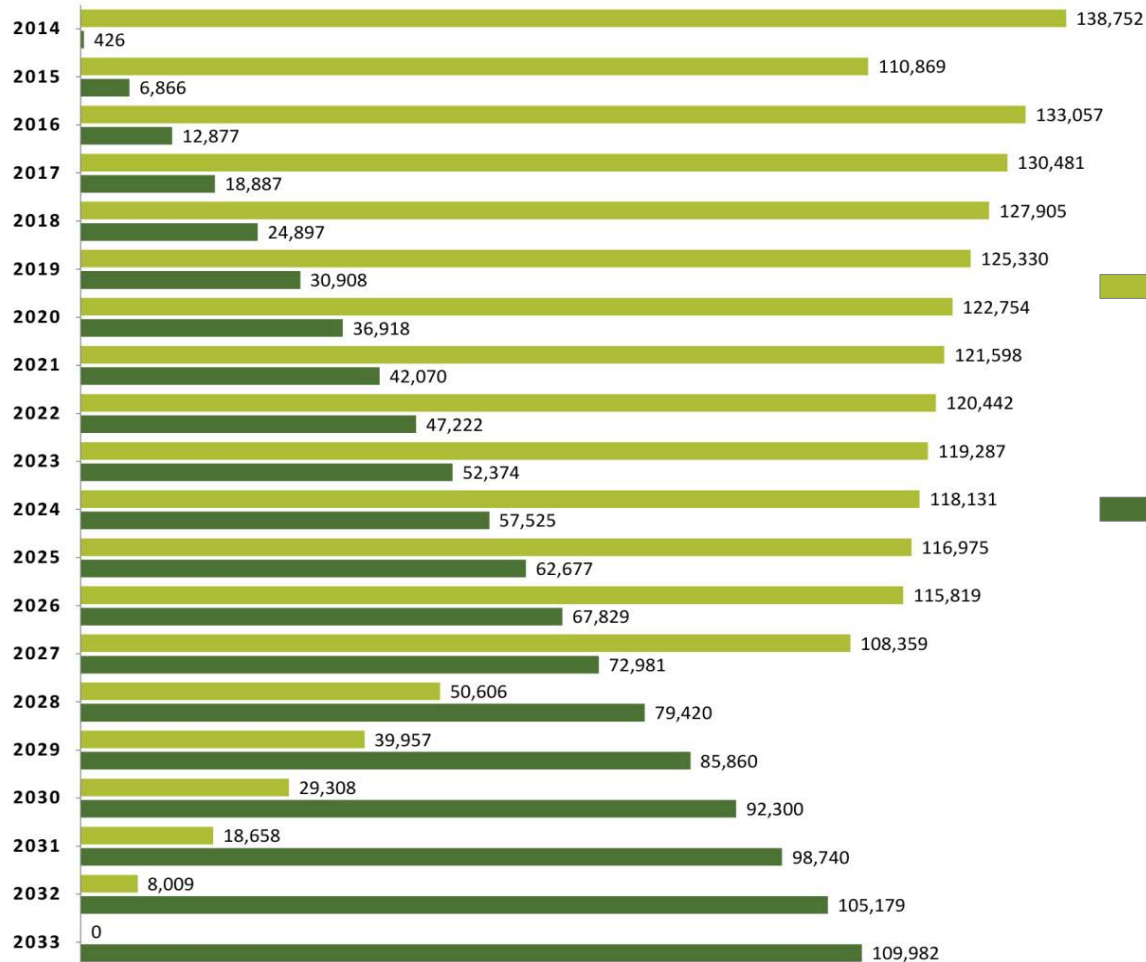
Catch-up scenario – *additional CIP funding needed*



Current budget scenario – *maintain current CIP funding levels*



Restoration and maintenance funding



funded

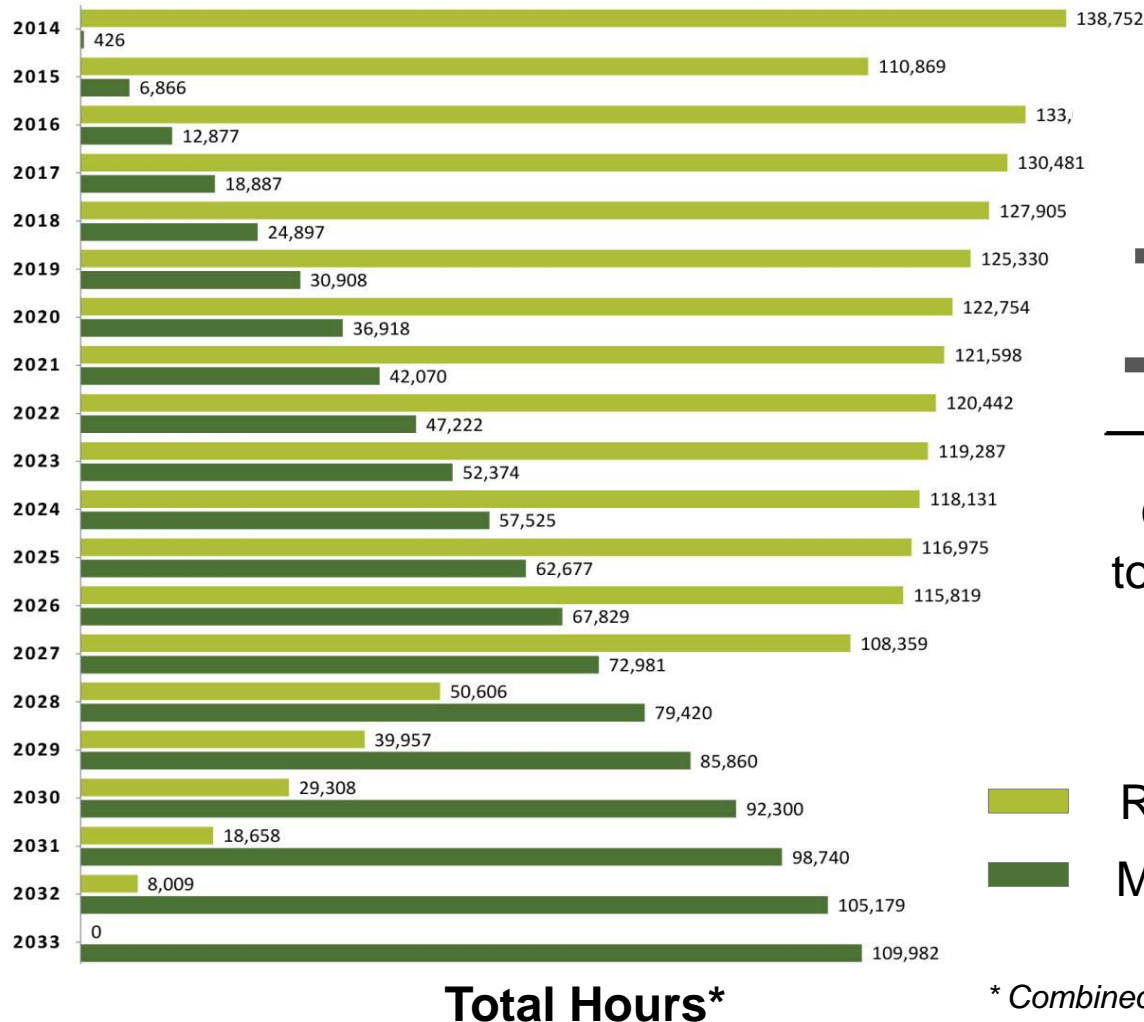
Restoration (Phase I – III)

not funded

Maintenance (Phase IV)

* Combined volunteer
and crew hours

Restoration and maintenance staff needs



+ 3 NAC
+ 1 ecologist

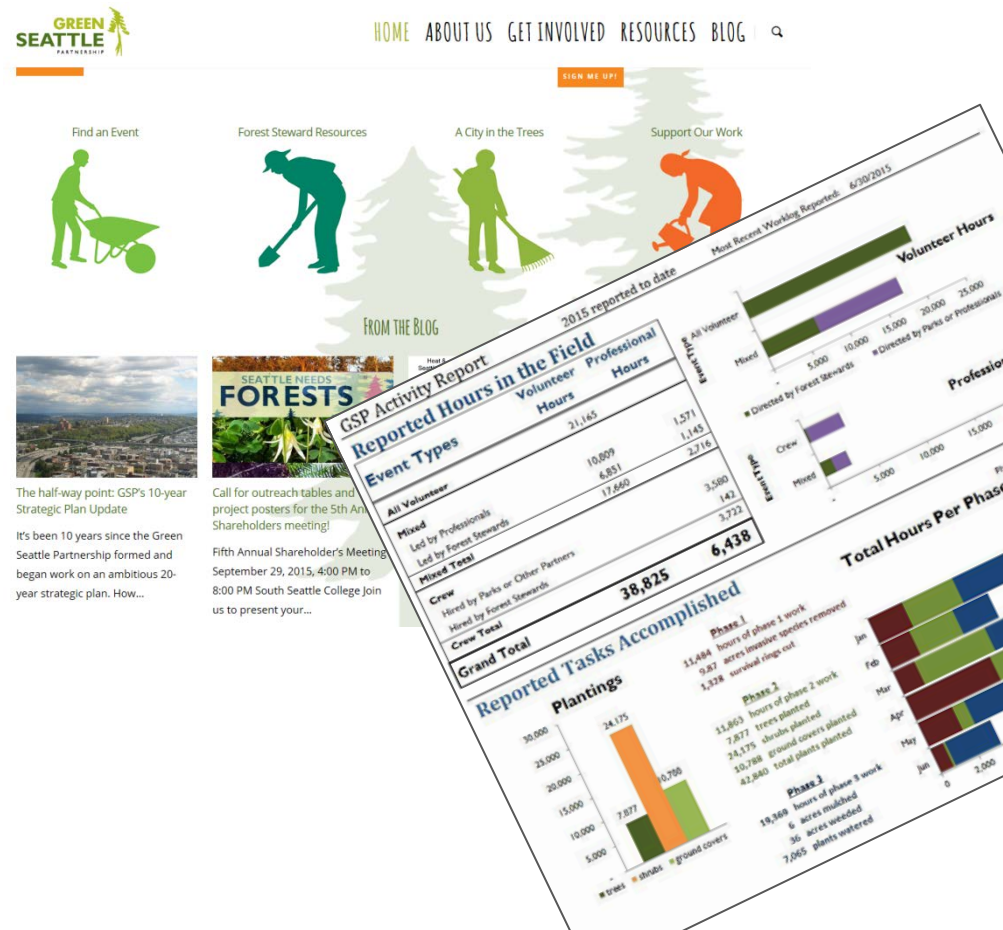
One NAC & Plant Ecologist
total needed for each quadrant
of the city

- Restoration (Phase I – III)
- Maintenance (Phase IV)

* Combined volunteer and crew hours

Communicate more

- Improve brand recognition
- Increase feedback opportunities beyond Shareholder's meeting (annual survey)
- Allocate funding between Field Work and Community
- Improve outreach to race and social justice communities



Engage more youth – *active in 30+ local schools / year*

EXISTING Youth Programs

- Youth Engaged in Service participation
- Environmental Learning Center programming
- Student Conservation Association (employment program)
- Forest Steward and Partner Organization youth events
- Urban Forestry Project

PROPOSED Youth Engagement

- Add youth to GSP Committees and Executive Council
- Support and expand the Urban Forestry Project
- Increase access to programming for underserved youth

The Forest Steward of 2025

- New volunteer opportunities – not all field work
- Demographics of volunteers to match the city-at-large
- Involvement and tracking of Phase IV work
- Recruiting new Forest Stewards and youth in leadership roles



Top 10

urban forests
2013

Beyond 2025

*Continue to lead the nation in urban
forest restoration*



Community Catalyst

award for excellence
2010

5 STAR

community rating
2014

FSC

certification
2012