

SETTING SEATTLE'S URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT GOALS

CONTEXT:

Excerpts from the American Forests website:

<http://www.americanforests.org/resources/urbanforests/treedeficit.php>

Based on current landcover percentages in urban areas across the country and in our judgment, reasonable increases, American Forests has developed suggested tree canopy guidelines as a starting point for communities to set their own goals. **While the goals listed below provide general guidelines, each community must measure their current canopy cover and then develop tree cover targets based on their unique mix of climate, geography, land cover, and land use patterns.**

For metropolitan areas east of the Mississippi and in the Pacific Northwest:

Average tree cover counting all zones	40%
Suburban residential zones	50%
Urban residential zones	25%
Central business districts	15%

GOAL SETTING PROCESS:

Excerpt from the Urban Forest Management Plan:

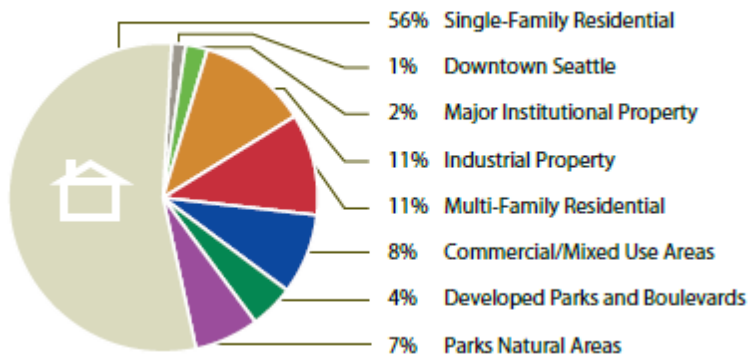
3.2. How Did We Derive Canopy Cover Goals?

American Forests, a leading urban forest management, conservation and research group, measured tree cover in 440 communities. Their research recommends that a canopy cover goal of 40% would be appropriate for Seattle and other cities in the Pacific Northwest. In developing canopy cover goals for Seattle, the Urban Forest Coalition started with the American Forests recommendation and went through the following process to define an ambitious but doable goal for the Urban Forest Management Plan 30-year planning horizon:

- Considered American Forests' recommendations and benchmarked with other cities
- Considered land-use mix in Seattle and other City land-use goals (e.g. encouraging density, facilitating freight mobility, etc.)
- Considered current canopy cover and planting opportunities
- Defined goals for each land-use type
- Factored in the percentage of the total land base within each land-use
- type and individual land-use goals to calculate the recommended citywide
- goal of 30%
- Consulted with external experts from other cities, consultants, the University of Washington, and the public

MANAGEMENT UNITS

Percentage of City



Seattle's Tree Canopy Cover Goals by Land Use Category

Land Use Category	UFMP Goal Tree Cover
Single- Family	33%
Multi-Family	20%
Commercial/Mixed Use	15%
Downtown Seattle	12%
Industrial	10%
Institutional	20%
Parks: Developed Sites	25%
Parks: Natural Areas	80%
Citywide	30%
Transportation Corridors/Street ROW	24%

Table 4: Citywide Canopy Cover by Land Use Category

Land Use Category	2002 Canopy Cover	2007 Canopy Cover	Goal Canopy Cover	Estimated # of New Trees Needed
Commercial/ Mixed Use	8.4%	9.7%	15%	33,410
Developed Park or Boulevard	25.9%	25.5%	25%	0
Downtown	4.2%	4.7%	12%	8,220
Major Institution	18.4%	19.4%	20%	560
Manufacturing/ Industrial	3.8%	4.3%	10%	48,780
Multi-Family	16.6%	17.1%	20%	22,970
Parks Natural Area	82.5%	80.4%	80%	0
Single Family	25.2%	25.7%	31% (33%)	192,870
Total	22.5%	22.9%	30%	306,810