Urban Forest Management Plan Update

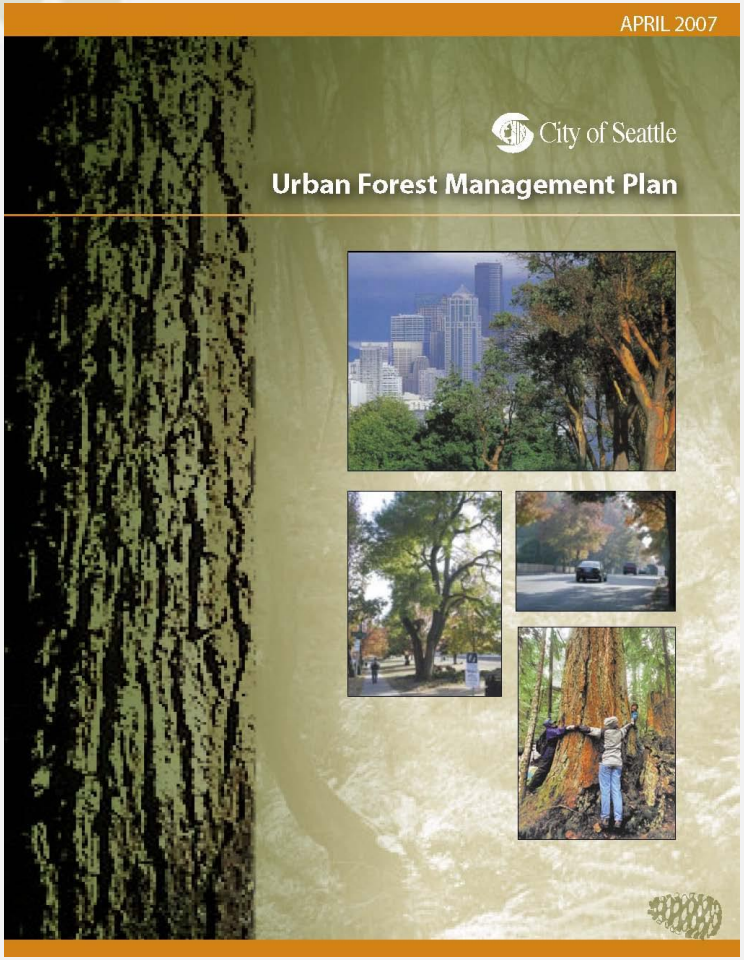
Thornton Creek Watershed Oversight Council

September 26, 2012

Seattle’s urban forest goal

Seattle’s urban forest is a thriving and sustainable mix of tree and understory species and ages that creates a contiguous and healthy ecosystem that is valued by the City and all Seattle residents as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset.

Urban Forest Management Plan



- Created in April 2007
- Being updated in 2012
- Establishes 30% citywide canopy goal
- Long-, mid-, and short-term strategies for achieving goals
- Implemented through annual workplans
- Managed via an inter-departmental team

What's new since 2007

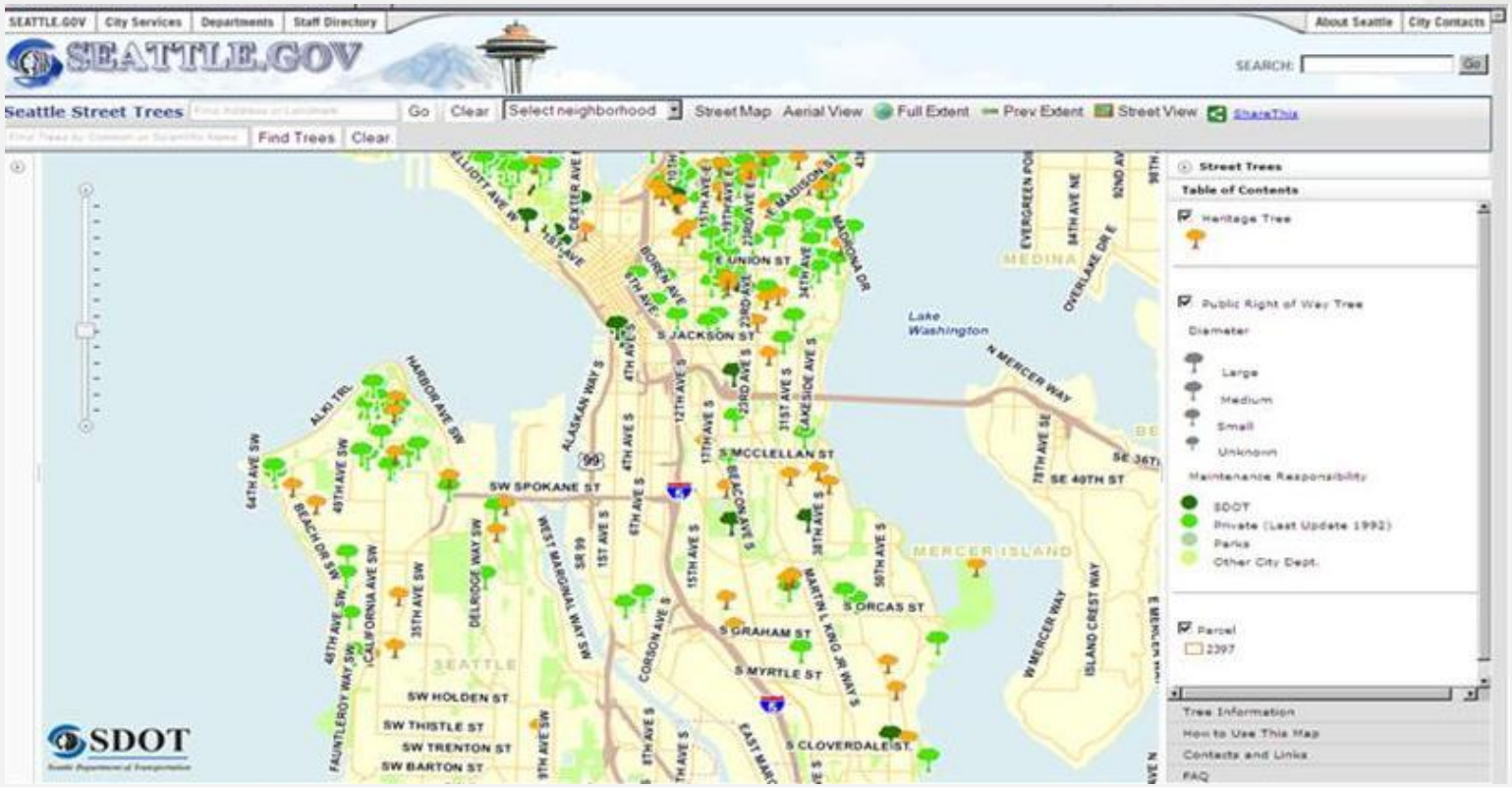
- **Urban Forestry Commission created in 2009**
- **Created a new, permanent position in 2011 to manage Seattle reLeaf program**
  - Outreach and engagement
  - Trees for Neighborhoods – 2,300 trees to date
  - Tree Ambassador – 40 in 13 neighborhoods
  - Urban Orchards Stewards – 58 in 5 orchards

Tree Ambassador

Seattle reLeaf
keep the emerald city green

What’s new…

- **Seattle Department of Transportation:**
  - Street tree online map
  - Planted close to 4,500 trees with BTG funding
  - Street Tree ordinance and Manual update



What's new…

- **Parks and Recreation Department:**
  - Green Seattle Partnership:
    - Over 800 acres in restoration
    - Over 500,000 volunteer hours
    - 130 Forest Stewards

GREEN SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP

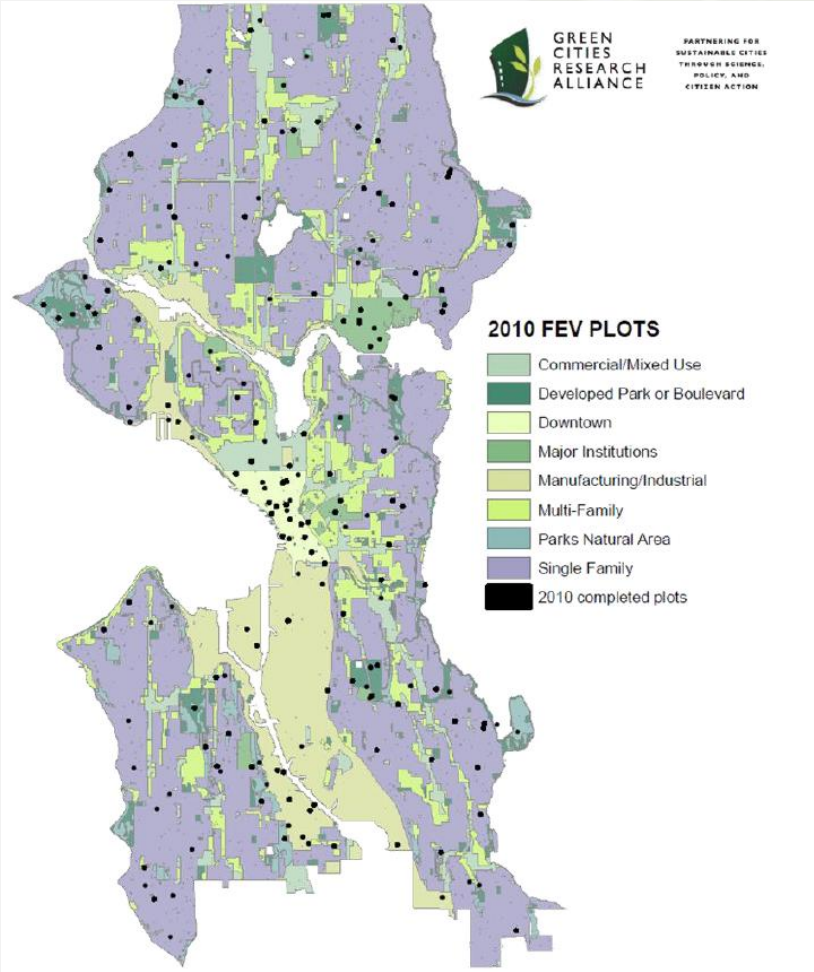
What's new…

- **Department of Planning and Development:**
  - GreenFactor
  - Stormwater regulations and rates (with SPU)
  - Private property tree regulations update

SEATTLE×green factor

What's new…

- **iTree sampling survey**
  - UW, King County, City of Seattle, and Forterra
  - 2010/2011 data from 223 plots
  - Information included in UFMP update:
    - Condition
    - Evergreen/deciduous breakdown
    - Size
    - Invasive species



UFMP 2012 update

- Citywide canopy goal remains 30%
- Broad strategies remain the same, including focusing on outreach and engagement in residential areas
- Incorporated new information on condition of urban forest (health, species, size, invasives) provided by i-Tree sampling survey
- Updated short-, mid-, and long-term actions in the Action Agenda
- Research Agenda added

Canopy cover goals

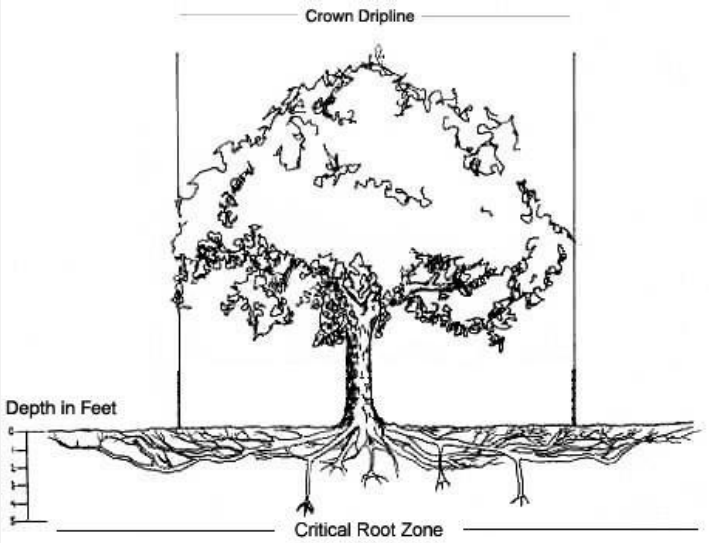
Land Use Category	2002 Canopy Cover	2007 Canopy Cover	UFMP Canopy Cover Goal
Commercial/ Mixed Use	8.4%	9.7%	15%
Developed Park	25.9%	25.5%	25%
Downtown	9.0%	9.0%	12%
Major Institution	18.4%	19.4%	20%
Industrial	3.8%	4.3%	10%
Multi-Family	16.6%	17.1%	20%
Parks Natural Area	82.5%	80.4%	80%
Single Family	25.2%	25.7%	33%
Total	22.5%	22.9%	30%

2012 update strategies

- Broad strategies remain the same but are reframed to create a consistent message:
  - Understand
  - Coordinate
  - Preserve and restore
  - Regulate
  - Inspire, inform, and engage

Action Agenda

- Notable short-term actions:
  - Canopy cover assessments every five years
  - Continue two-for-one tree replacement
  - i-Tree data analysis
  - Tree planting potential data “ground-truthing”
  - Develop policy to prioritize expenditures
  - Explore expansion of tree planting incentives
  - Encourage right tree in the right place
  - Expand volunteer opportunities



Research Agenda

- Life-cycle costs of deferred tree planting and maintenance
- Costs/benefits of different pruning cycles
- Monetizing urban forest benefits (i.e. public health, energy, climate change)
- Method to quantify stormwater and water quality benefits

UFMP update contact

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Public comment open through October 1, 2012