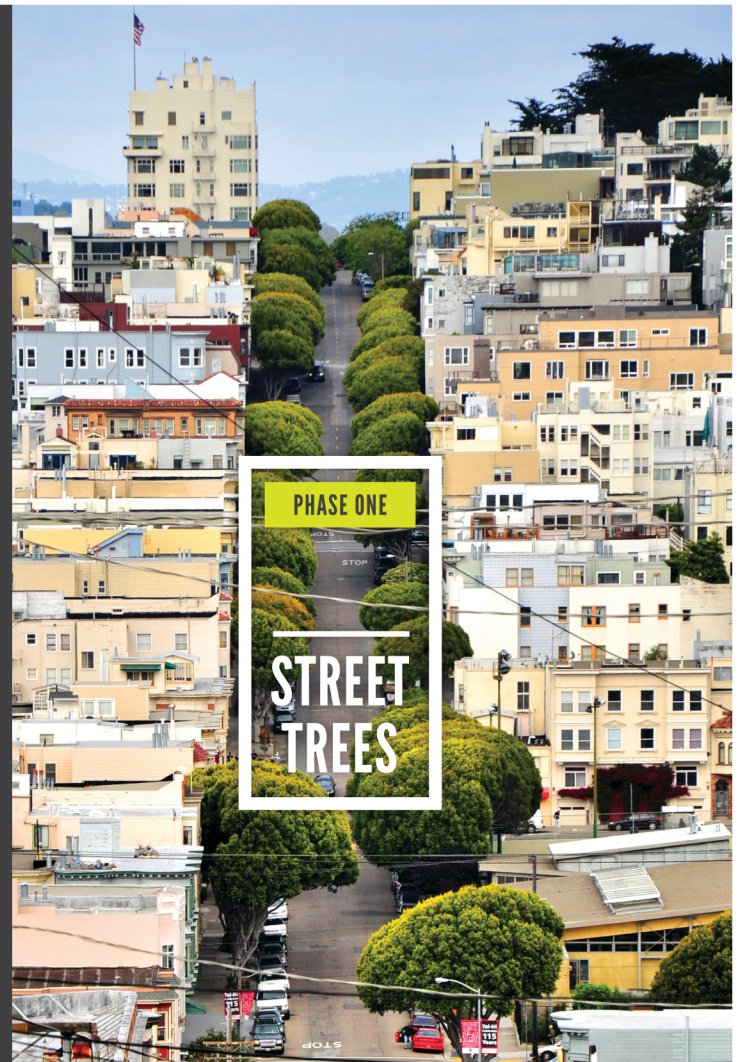


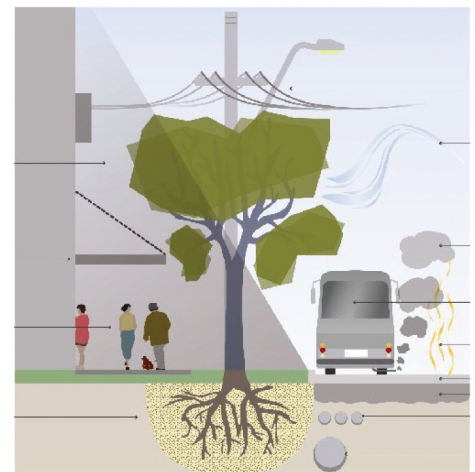
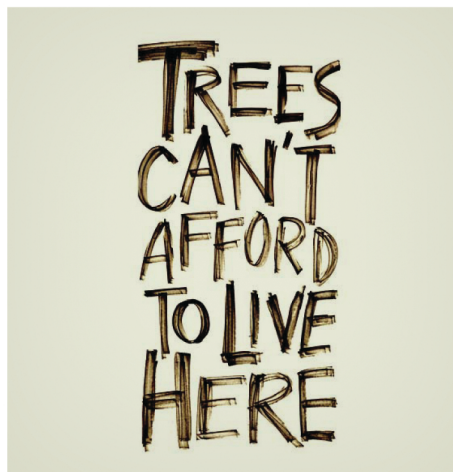
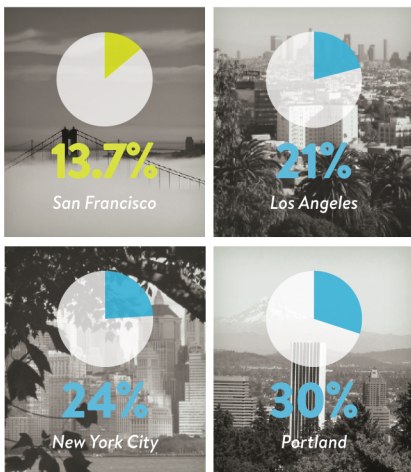
SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FOREST PLAN

Healthy tree-lined streets are a key component of San Francisco's urban forest. Approximately 105,000 trees grow along the city's streets. These trees green our neighborhoods, clean our air and water, absorb greenhouse gases, improve public health and provide wildlife habitat. The benefits provided by street trees are estimated at millions of dollars annually.

The Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) provides a long-term vision and strategy to improve the health and sustainability of the city's urban forest. Adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2015, the Plan identifies policies and strategies to create an expanded, healthy and thriving street tree population for all of San Francisco.



WHY A PLAN?



SMALL & SHRINKING TREE CANOPY

San Francisco has one of the smallest tree canopies of any major U.S. city and it's actually shrinking. New street tree plantings are not keeping pace with tree removals and mortality. Tens of thousands of potential street tree planting spaces remain empty.

INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE FUNDING

Due to declining urban forestry funding, San Francisco Public Works can no longer care for all the street trees under its purview. As a result, Public Works is transferring maintenance responsibility for thousands of street trees to fronting property owners. This controversial program has raised concerns about the long-term health of the city's street trees.

HARSH GROWING ENVIRONMENT

San Francisco's streets are a difficult place for trees to take root and flourish. Small growing spaces, compacted soil, drought, neglect, improper care and vandalism make it hard for street trees to survive and reach maturity.

Key Recommendations

The Plan provides a long-term vision and strategy for the city's street trees focused on these key recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1

Maximize the benefits of street trees

San Francisco's street trees provide a wide range of benefits - social, economic and environmental. The Plan recommends selecting trees species and planting locations to maximize:

- » pollution removal (air + water)
- » carbon sequestration
- » habitat creation
- » traffic calming
- » walkability
- » public health
- » stormwater capture
- » neighborhood beautification



RECOMMENDATION 2

Grow the street tree population by half (50,000 new trees)

The Plan recommends planting 50,000 new street trees over the next 20 years. This will expand the street tree population by half - from 105,000 to 155,000 street trees. Approximately 2,500 new street trees per year will need to be planted on top of replacement trees. An associated funding and maintenance program is required to carry out this expanded planting program to ensure the long-term health of these new trees.



RECOMMENDATION 3

Establish & fund a citywide street tree maintenance program

The Plan recommends centralizing maintenance responsibility for 100% of the city's street trees under the Department of Public Works. Under such a program, homeowners would be relieved from maintaining street trees and repairing tree-related sidewalk damage. City residents and visitors would also see significant growth of the urban forest over time.

Creating a citywide street tree maintenance program would require securing long-term and dedicated funding. Possible funding tools include general obligation bonds, an assessment district, parcel tax and General Fund revenue.



EXISTING MOSTLY PRIVATE

DPW is in the process of transferring the bulk of street tree maintenance responsibility to fronting property owners.



FULLY FUNDED PROGRAM 100% PUBLIC

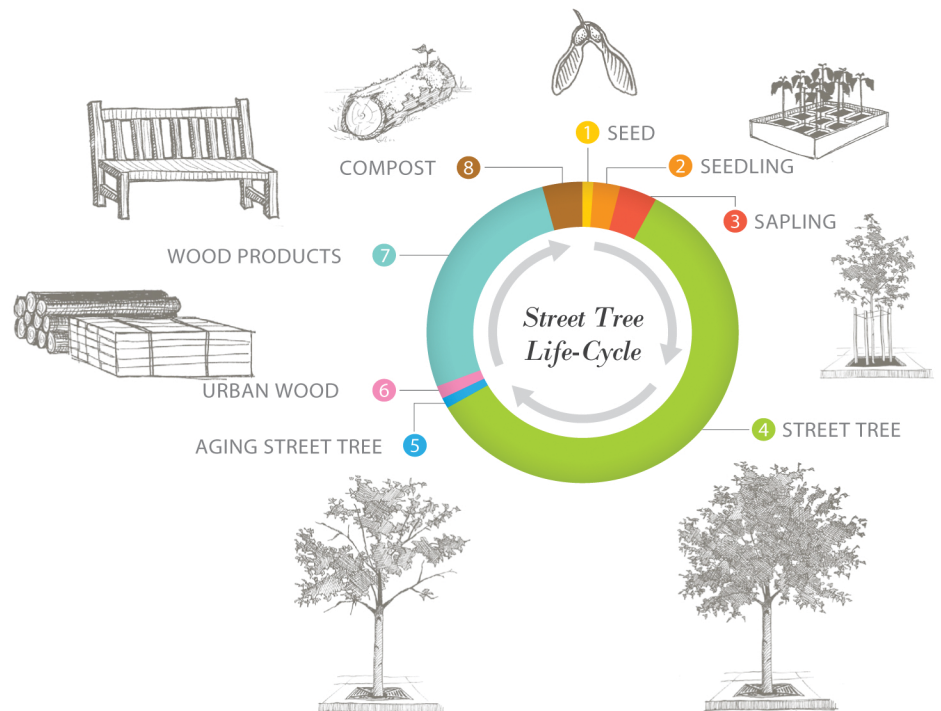
The Plan recommends the City assume maintenance responsibility for 100% of San Francisco's street trees including 50,000 new street trees.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Manage street trees throughout their entire life-cycle

The Plan recommends managing San Francisco's street trees throughout their entire life-cycle including:

- » A Street Tree Nursery to grow street trees locally through a community partnership that creates green jobs, education and skill development opportunities.
- » Tree Removal & Succession Plantings to prevent potential hazards from dying or aging trees and to stabilize tree canopy and ensure age diversity.
- » Urban Wood Re-use to create second-life products from trees removed from city streets such as furniture, building materials, mulch, art or other uses.



NEXT STEPS:



STREET TREE WORKING GROUP SUMMER/FALL 2015

Supervisor Scott Wiener has organized a working group of neighborhood and business organizations to help formulate a long-term funding solution for street tree maintenance in San Francisco. The group will identify finance and policy recommendations.



STREET TREE NURSERY STUDY SUMMER 2015

The Planning Department and Public Works are conducting a study to explore creation of a Street Tree Nursery in San Francisco. The study will identify site requirements and operating models to promote a local community-based system of tree propagation and care.



CITYWIDE STREET TREE CENSUS 2015 - 2016

The Planning Department and Public Works are conducting an inventory of every street tree in San Francisco - all 105,000 trees. The Citywide Street Tree Census marks the first time data on species, age and location has been collected for the entire street tree population.

FOR MORE INFO:



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