

Tree Canopy Strategic Plan Update

Strategy A: Education and Awareness of the strategic plan Increase understanding and awareness among all community members around the value of trees for social, environmental, and economic reasons. Cost estimates for strategy are low, medium, high given that there is no direct correlation to a per acre canopy cost.	
2023 Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redmond 2050 Comprehensive Plan Update and the 2023 PARCC Plan update support the continued implementation of the Tree Canopy Strategic Plan.
2021 Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tree canopy webpage has been updated to include information on suggested trees, tree selection, planting tips, care, and watering along with volunteer opportunities. Updates to the Redmond Comprehensive Plan, describing the 40% canopy goal, timeline, and key strategies were adopted by City Council on November 17, 2020.
Strategy B: Increase City Led Planting. City led planting involves canopy enhancement projects on City-owned land, such as parks, rights-of-way and stream restoration corridors within contiguous boundaries.	
2023 Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Climate Resiliency & Sustainability in Vegetation Management Plan is under development. It is anticipated this plan will provide a detailed, centralized inventory of where future canopy enhancements can be established on City Properties. Park Operations completed an evaluation and inventory on the health of street trees and trees in the City Right of Way. In 2023, Public Works planted 1,655 trees on 2.6 acres of regulatory stream buffers. Along stream buffers, the tree canopy went down by 1.1 acres between 2019 and 2021 for a total tree canopy coverage along streams of 56.5%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree removal in regulated buffers was associated with Sound Transit and the Proctor Willows development
2021 Update	<p>The 2021-22 budget included \$150,000 for Carbon Footprint Reduction/Tree Canopy Expansion in the biennium. To date, 1.71 acres have been cleared in the Monticello watershed with 1.21 acres planted (540 trees) in the spring of 2021. The remaining .5 acre will be planted in fall/winter 2021-22. Additional plantings are being considered on park properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, Public Works has planted 150 trees at Keller/Bear Creek using stormwater funds and over 100 trees will be planted at Smith Woods through Parks/Stormwater funds. In 2020, the following number of trees were planted on City owned land.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natural Resources planted 1,240 ○ Parks 230 ○ Forterra (Green Redmond Partnership) 509 ○ Adopt-a-Stream Foundation 840 ○ Total trees planted: 2,819
Strategy C: Increase Planting on Private Property. Half of the opportunity to increase tree canopy coverage in the City of Redmond exists on private parcels. Meeting canopy goals will require commitment and collaboration and will not be possible without working with private property owners to assist in this effort. These opportunities will be voluntary at the discretion of the landowner.	
2023 Update	\$200,000 in funding was secured in 2023 which will support programs to pursue plantings on private properties. Initial plans are to use the funds to establish a as a tree giveaway program for fall 2024. This effort will be led by Parks Planning and supported by cross departmental efforts.
2021 Update	Staff has conducted research on a variety of incentive programs to provide trees or discounts to purchase trees along with estimated costs to manage the program based on current models in use around the region. Opportunities are being evaluated to propose a program in the 2023-24 biennium.
Strategy D: Regulations Regulations can be used to understand tree removal, ensure care of urban trees and set standards for removal and replacement.	
2023 Update	Tree Regulations are on hold pending the outcome of the Master Builders v. City of Kirkland Growth Management Hearings Board Case. The Master Builders filed the petition with the GMHB regarding Kirkland's Tree Regulations on 5.18.2022. The GMHB has granted seven extensions. The hearing is scheduled for 2.5.2024. The final decision and order is expected 3.6.2024.
2021 Update	Regulations: The City is updating RZC 21.72, Tree Protection and associated definitions in RZC 21.78, Definitions. The main goals of the update are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clarity in the regulations where there are conflicts or areas the regulations don't address to ensure consistent implementation and predictability • Ensure the proposed regulations are reflective of community values • Align with the Community Strategic Plan so that regulations are complementary and don't conflict with the greater vision

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the City's tree canopy responsibly while supporting necessary growth and equitable opportunities for housing <p>The regulations are currently being reviewed by the Planning Commission, which has had two study sessions and will hold a public hearing on November 10, 2021. The Planning Commission will potentially make a recommendation to City Council on December 15, 2021</p>
Strategy E: City Acquisition of Lands Acquisition of lands within contiguous city boundaries can be used to conserve existing forested parcels or could be used to acquire open space that could be used to increase canopy through mitigation planting or other mechanisms.	
2023 Update	The City is continuing to work with WSDOT to purchase two parcels north of Redmond Way along Bear Creek. WSDOT is working to clear up the titles prior to Redmond purchasing the parcels, likely in 2024.
2021 Update	N/A
Strategy F: Partnerships and Volunteers Partnerships engage the community in tree planting and forest restoration. They provide an opportunity to leverage funding and broaden the coalition helping to preserve and enhance Redmond's tree canopy. Partnerships will be essential to accomplishing the goals of the tree canopy strategic plan.	
2023 Update	2022 Green Redmond statistics: Volunteer Occurrences: 607 Adult: 344 Youth: 263 Volunteer Hours: 2624.85 # of Events: 37 # Trees Planted: 486 # Shrubs Planted: 392 2023 Green Redmond stats (to date): Volunteer Occurrences: 284 Adult: 203 Youth: 81 Volunteer Hours: 1343 # of Events: 22 # Trees Planted: 121

	<p>#Shrubs Planted: 0</p> <p>Green Redmond Day (10/28/2023):</p> <p><i>Anticipated</i></p> <p><i>Volunteers</i> 50</p> <p><i>Volunteer Hours</i> 150</p> <p><i>Trees Planted</i> 500</p> <p>Parks also hosted an Arbor Day event which included planting a 2 ½' caliper tree at Grass Lawn Park, a demonstration and explanation of proper tree planting technique, and mulching of park trees.</p>
2021 Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Redmond Partnership planted nearly 2,000 plants and engaged 438 volunteers across 17 parks for a total of 1,264 hours of volunteer engagement. As noted above, they planted 509 trees in 6 parks in 2020. • Earth Corps has also been a partner on planting and community engagement.
<p>Strategy G: Data Analysis</p> <p>Canopy enhancement contains many variables and will need to be tracked on multiple scales (per tree, per acre and overall coverage) to ensure overall goal can be achieved.</p>	
2023 Update	<p>The most recent analysis in 2023, shows that Redmond's 2021 canopy coverage was 37.5% for a total of 4,001 acres. This includes parks within the incorporated City limits but not contiguous city limits.</p> <p>This represents a decrease of .3% or 36.6 acres between 2019 and 2021.</p>
2021 Update	<p>The most recent analysis in late 2020, shows that Redmond's 2019 tree canopy coverage is 37.9%, this includes parks within the incorporated City limits but not contiguous city limits.</p> <p>This represents a decrease of .2% or (24.7) acres from 2017. The changes in canopy cover occurred within the contiguous city boundary. The tree canopy coverage in the contiguous city boundary is 32.9%, down from 33.2 (24.7 acres).</p> <p>Staff updates tree canopy coverage on a 2-year basis in even years. The data is updated using aerial photographs that are captured in odd-years (2019) and the data is available in even years (2020). The next update would be in 2022.</p>