

Tree Canopy Strategic Plan Update

Attachment A: 2021 Progress to Date

The Tree Canopy Strategic Plan (TCSP) includes seven strategies to increase canopy with appropriate tactics called out for each. Below is summary of progress to date by each strategy.

Strategy A: Education and Awareness of the strategic plan.

- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

○ 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.

- **City-led Planting:** 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 evaluate to propose a program in the 2023-24 biennium.

Strategy D: Regulations

- **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:
 - 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
- Maintain the City's tree canopy responsibly while supporting necessary growth and equitable opportunities for housing

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.

Strategy F: Partnerships and Volunteers

- 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.

Strategy G: Data Analysis

- **Current Tree Canopy Coverage:** 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. 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). A canopy coverage map will be included in the Environmental Sustainability Dashboard.
- 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.