



MEMO TO: Parks and Human Services Committee of the Whole

FROM: Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner

DATE: December 4, 2018

SUBJECT: Final Tree Canopy Strategic Plan

I. PURPOSE ☐ For Info Only ☐ Potential Agenda Item ☒ Scheduled for Council Action

II. RECOMMENDATION

During the January 15, 2019 New Business Agenda item, staff proposes a brief overview of the plan and will seek support from the City Council to adopt the plan.

III. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Rachel Van Winkle	Director Parks and Recreation	425-556-2334
Erika Vandenbrande	Planning Director	425-556-2457
Martin Pastucha	Public Works Director	425-556-2200
Carolyn Hope	Park Planning & Cultural Arts Manager	425-556-2313
Jeff Aken	Senior Park Planner	425-556-2328

IV. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

The Tree Canopy Strategic Plan is one of the Environmental Investment Strategies that the City has prioritized this biennium.

The project was initiated in the 2017 Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation (PARCC) Plan Update to address the community's goals of improving the visual quality of a growing city and the overall quality of life in Redmond. Increasing tree canopy will also provide environmental benefits including water, air, and habitat improvements.

Extensive community outreach was conducted in 2017 and 2018, including community events such as So Bazaar and Redmond Lights, two polls and an online open house. Nearly 500 poll responses were tallied and input from over 300 community members was captured.

An inter-departmental team consisting of staff from Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Planning & Community Development, and Communications conducted community outreach, analyzed data, developed strategies and an implementation plan. This work is captured in the Draft Tree Canopy Strategic Plan which includes:

- Six-year and 30-year implementation plans are proposed along with a matrix of strategies.
- Current tree canopy numbers were updated based on 2017 aerial photographs, which is 38.1 percent citywide (including all parks properties east of the city). This indicates a decrease of 0.3 percent or 32 acres since 2015.

A. Analysis

Since the inception of this project, staff has briefed the City Council on the purpose, public engagement (process and outcomes), data analysis, goal setting, and strategies including:

- June 2017 on the process being undertaken to create the plan
- October 2017 on outreach, goals, and strategies
- March 2018 on the second round of community outreach and a proposed goal, timeline, and strategies
- September 2018 on the Draft Tree Canopy Strategic Plan

In addition, the City Council's Parks and Human Services Committee was briefed on the project status three times in the past year and the Parks, Planning, and Public Works Committee was briefed once.

Staff briefed and sought input on the plan from the Parks and Trails Commission six times. In terms of service delivery, this plan will serve as an implementation guide to increase and maintain Redmond's tree canopy. The plan provides strategies on tracking, maintaining, and planting trees across the city and highlights continued partnership with the community, organizations, and neighboring cities.

The plan proposes strategies and implementation measures that were reflected in a 2019-2020 budget offer under the Clean & Green priority.

V. TIME CONSTRAINTS

Staff strive to have the City Council adopt the Tree Canopy Strategic Plan in first quarter 2019 to begin implementing the strategies within the plan in 2019 that are approved in the 2019-2020 budget.

VI. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Final Redmond's Tree Canopy Strategic Plan