

# **2013 Urban Forest Stewardship Plan**

## **PLUS Committee Briefing**

August 14, 2013

# Purpose of the Plan

- Sets framework
  - Identify priorities
  - Develop and guide policies and programs



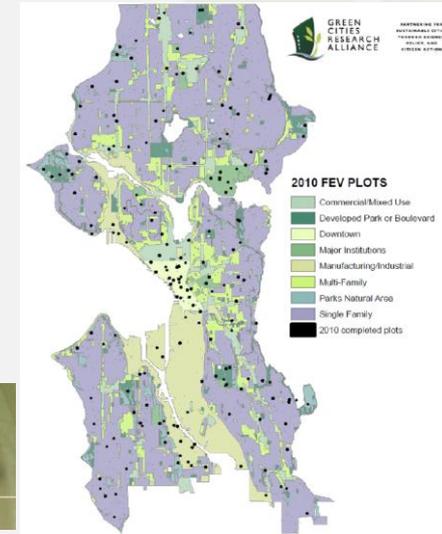
# Goals

1. Create an ethic of stewardship
2. Replace and enhance functional benefits
3. Expand canopy cover to 30% by 2037
4. Increase health and longevity, remove invasives, improve age and species diversity



# Differences between the 2007 and 2013 Plans

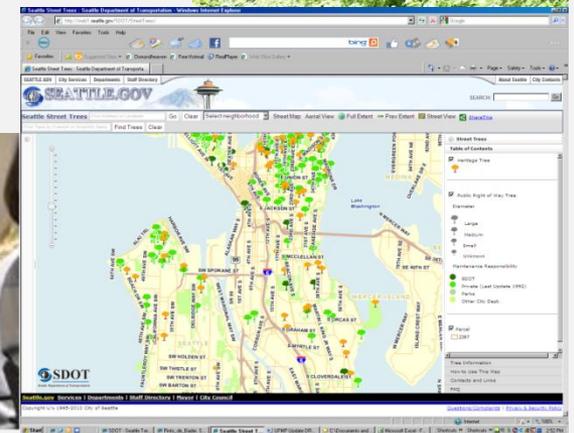
1. 2007 Management - 2013 Stewardship
2. Guiding principles
3. i-Tree survey data
4. Expanded goals
5. Priority actions
6. Monitoring
7. Research needs



**2013**  
**URBAN FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN**

# Accomplishments since 2007

1. Urban Forestry Commission
2. reLeaf Program
3. Street Tree online map and Ordinance update
4. 1,000 acres in restoration
5. Green Factor and tree regulations for private property
6. i-Tree survey



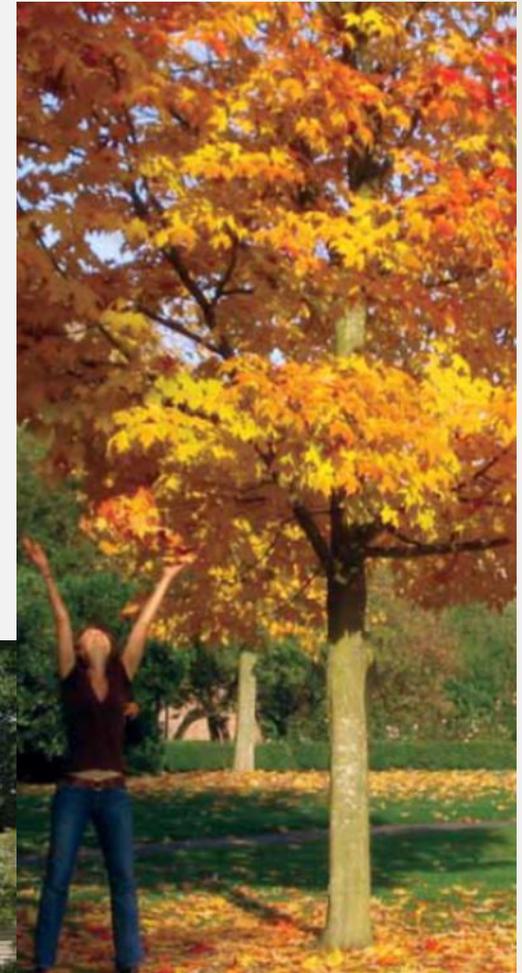
# Update Collaborative Approach

- Urban Forest IDT (DPD, FAS, OSE, Parks, SCL, SDOT, Seattle Center, SPU, Zoo)
- Public comment
  - Open House (8/1/12)
  - Community meetings
  - Comment input through 10/1/12
- Urban Forestry Commission
- Academics (UW, BGI, Antioch)
- Working group (City Council, Central Staff, UFC, OSE, Parks, SDOT, DPD, SPU)



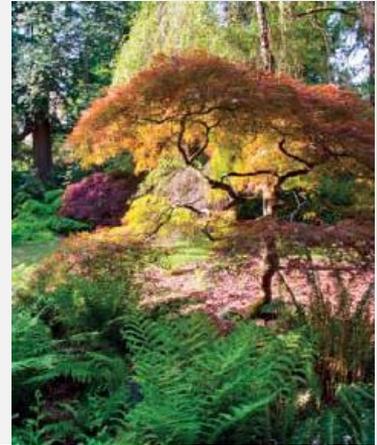
# UFSP Structure

- Purpose of the Plan
- Importance of the Urban Forest
- Seattle's UF Today
- Current Stewardship and Management Efforts
- A Path Forward
- Future Research Needs



# Guiding Principles

- Trees are part of natural ecological systems
- High-quality habitat areas
- Human stewardship
- Ecology of place
- Coordinate efforts
- Support actions and behaviors
- Regeneration is an ongoing process



# Integrated Approach

- Community
- Ecological
- Resource Management



# Functional Benefits

Annual benefits of Seattle's urban forest:

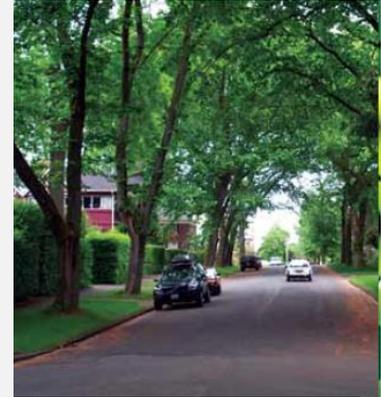
- \$10.9M carbon storage
- \$5.9M energy savings
- \$5.6M pollution-removal
- \$760K carbon sequestration
- Other benefits: storm water reduction, habitat, steep slope stability, economic vitality, public health, livability, food production, etc.



# Seattle's Urban Forest Today

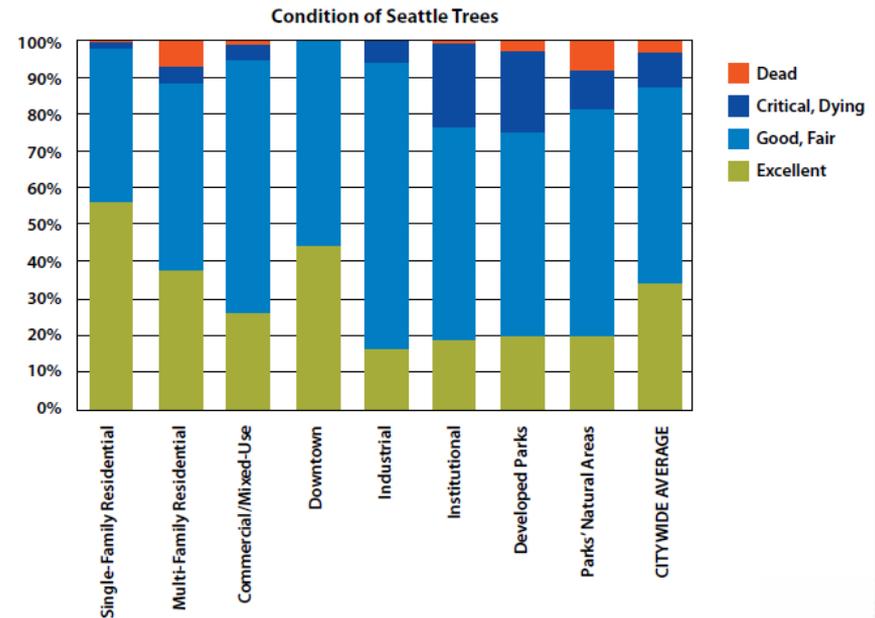
## Forest Ecosystem Values (i-Tree)

- 2010-2011 data
- 223 random plots across all MUs
- Provided data on tree condition, size, species diversity, and invasives



## Condition of Public Trees

- Developed parks
- Parks' natural areas
- Right-of-way



# Challenges

## City-wide goals

- Growth management, transportation, urban design, utilities

## Property owners goals

- Solar access, views and property rights, urban ag

## Other challenges

- Soil condition and availability
- Invasive species and pests
- Climate change



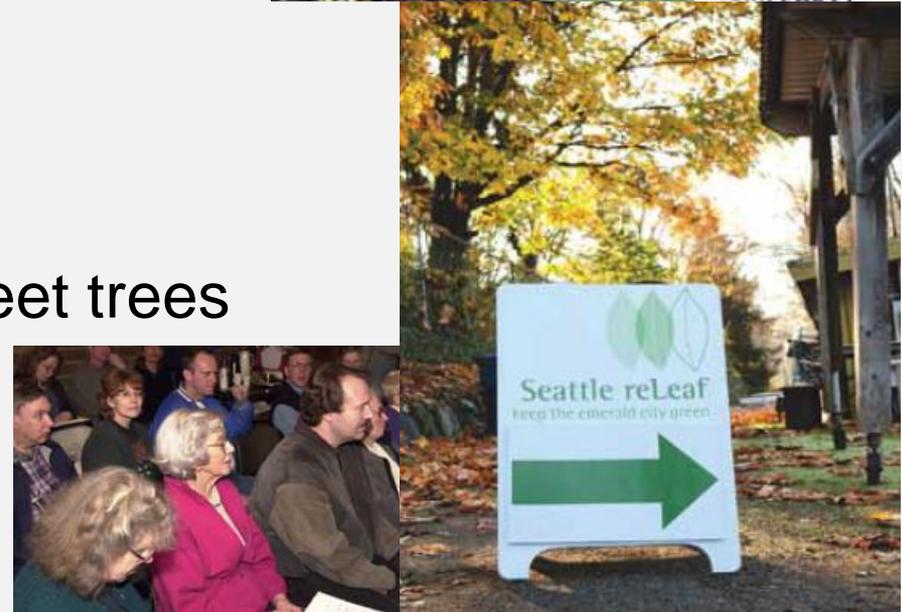
# Existing Programs & Policies

## Community engagement

- Planning and Policy efforts
- Seattle reLeaf
  - Tree Ambassador
  - Trees for Neighborhoods
- Green Seattle Partnership
- Urban Orchard Stewards

## Management of public and street trees

- Regulations
- Incentives



# Green Seattle Partnership

If our natural areas are not restored, invasive species will take over, and eventually our trees will be gone

## If forested natural areas are not restored

Aggressive non-native vegetation will dominate the urban forest unless removed. In 100 years, the trees will be gone. City officials estimate that potentially billions of dollars in services such as stormwater control will be lost.



## If urban forests are Restored

Removing invasive plants and planting native firs and cedars will return forest to more natural and healthy condition that will be fully mature in 100 years.



When we remove invasive species and plant native trees our forested parklands will return to a more sustainable condition.

# Priorities

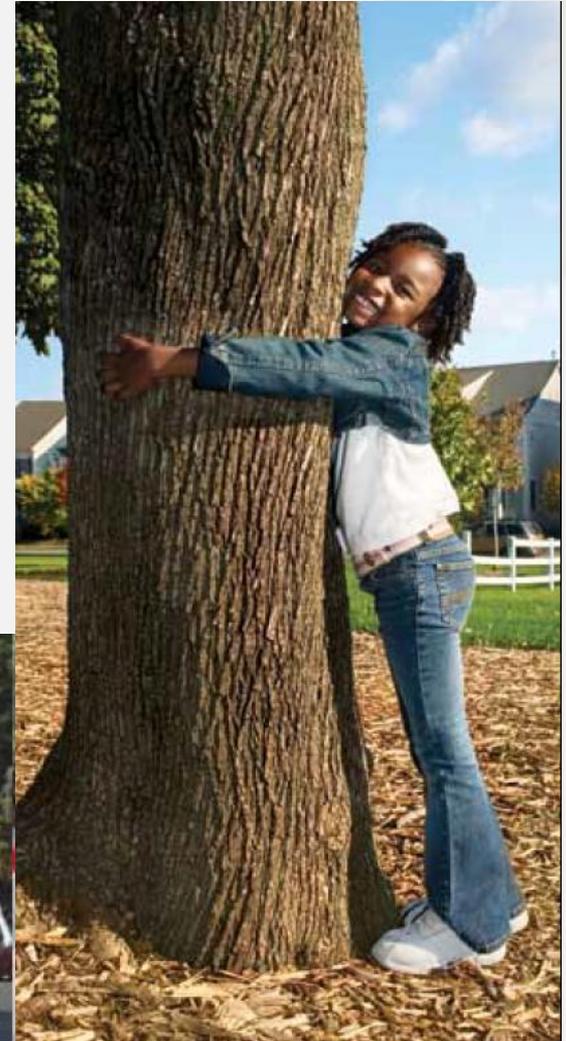
- Increase awareness
- Preserve existing trees
  - Evergreen
  - Mid and large
  - Groves
  - Unique wildlife habitat
- Maintain existing trees
- Restore
- Plant new trees



# Strategies

Derived from the integrated approach:

1. Inspire, inform, and engage
2. Understand
3. Coordinate
4. Preserve, restore, and enhance
5. Regulate



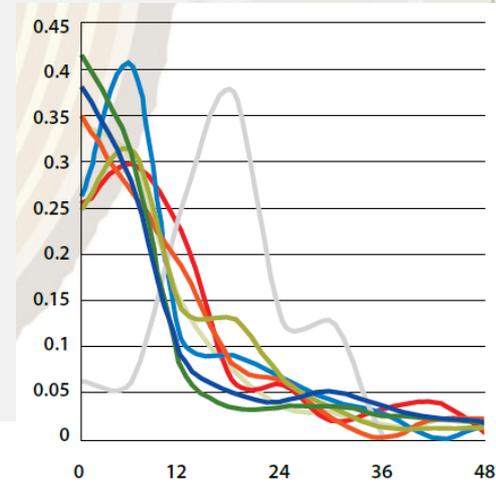
# Action Agenda

- Steps to take to implement UFSP
- Over 100 action items (Short-, mid-, and long-term)
- Over 70 actions to be completed by 2018
- Areas: community stewardship, UF resource knowledge, departmental coordination, resource management, and regulation

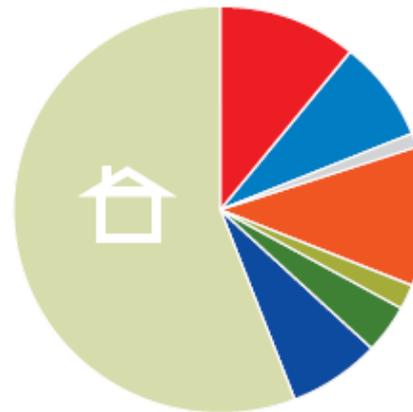


# Monitoring

- Plan implementation
- Effectiveness
- Performance
  
- Indicators
  - Forest function indicators
  - Canopy cover indicators
  - Management unit goals
  - Forest health indicators



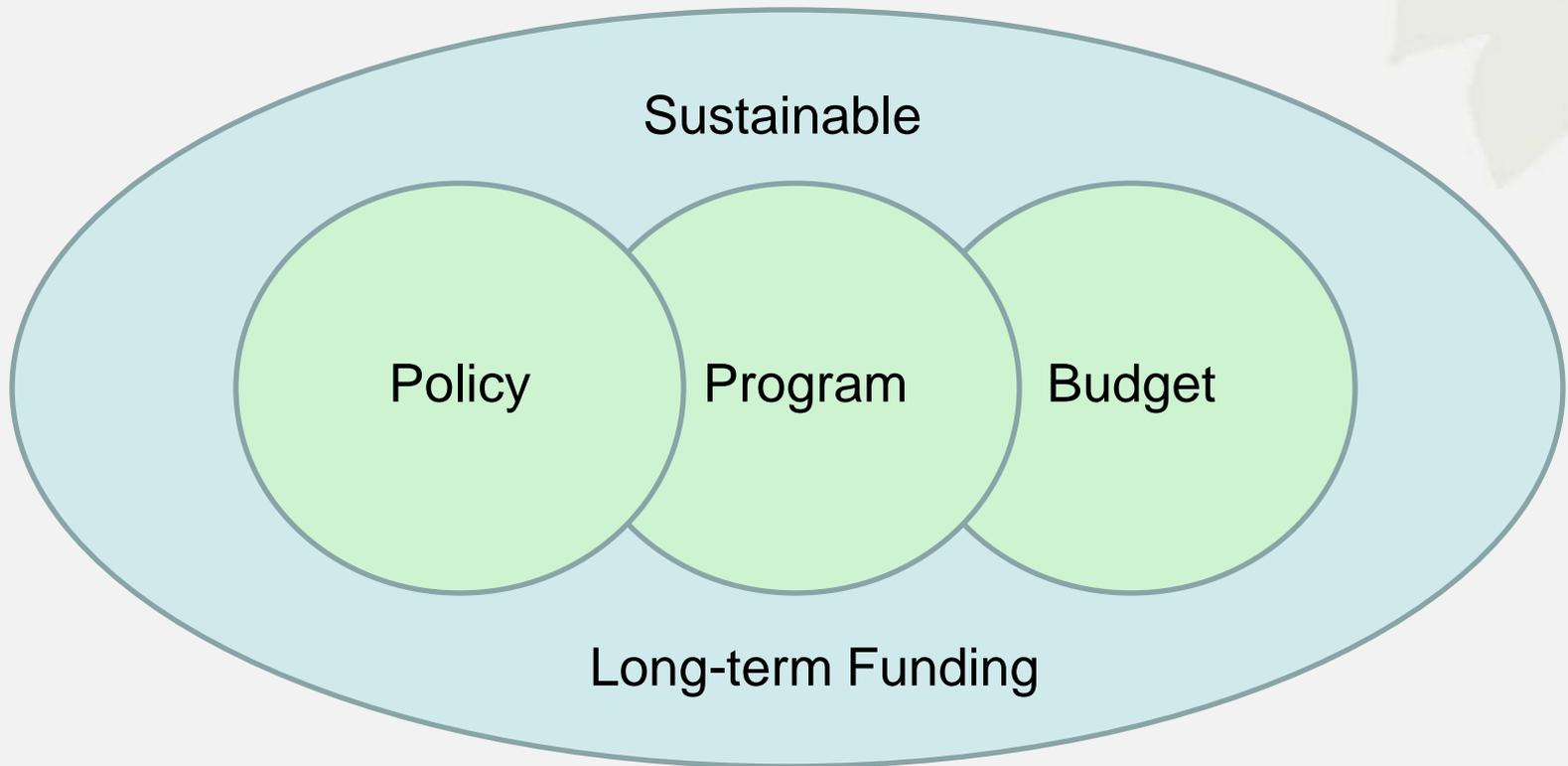
**Management Units**  
Percentage of City



- Single-Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Commercial/Mixed-Use
- Downtown
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Developed Parks
- Parks' Natural Areas

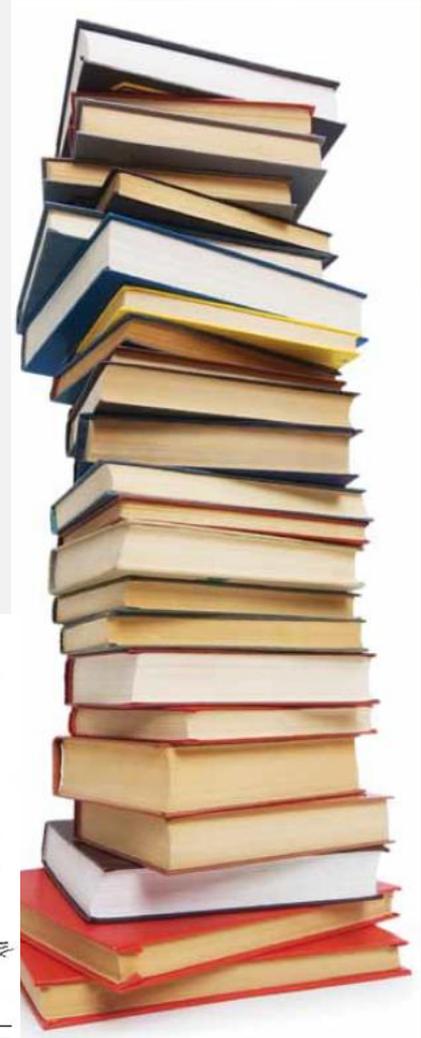
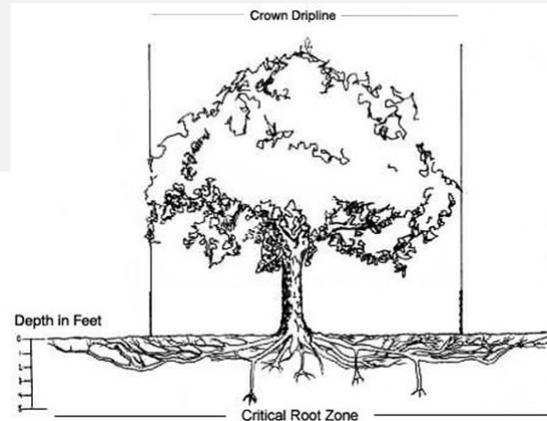
# Funding

Action Agenda implementation



# Future Research Needs

- Life-cycle costs
- Pruning cycles costing tools
- Monetizing UF benefits
- Storm water and water quality benefits
- Race and Social Justice



# UFC Support

- UFMP adoption letter to Council - (Mar '11)
- Plan update deliberations - (Dec '11/Feb '12)
  - Position Paper letter to IDT (Mar '12)
- Briefed on draft update – (Jul '12)
- Small group revision – (Nov '12/Jan '13)
- Input on revised UFSP – (Jul '13)
  - Letter of support - (Aug '13)



Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

# Questions?

