

City of Bellingham

Urban Forestry
Management Plan
**Phase 2 Engagement
Summary APPENDICES**



October 2022



DIAMOND HEAD

3559 Commercial Street
Vancouver, BC 604.733.4886

Table of Contents – Engagement Plan Appendices

- APPENDIX A – IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITY BOARDS..... 2**
- APPENDIX B – VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE MURAL BOARD COMMENTS 10**
- APPENDIX C – FOCUSED LISTENING SESSIONS 15**
 - 1.1 Activity Board 1 – Vision for the urban forest.....15
 - 1.2 Activity Board 2 – Mapping the urban forest.....16
 - 1.3 Activity Board 3 – Priorities for urban forest management.....20
- APPENDIX D – TECHNICAL WORKSHOP MURAL BOARD RESULTS..... 24**
- APPENDIX E – SURVEY RESULTS 32**
- APPENDIX F – MAPPING TOOL PHOTOS 52**
- APPENDIX G – STORIES TOOL RESPONSES 53**
- APPENDIX H – ONLINE OPEN HOUSE POLL 55**
- APPENDIX I: LESSONS LEARNED 57**
 - 1.4 Future improvements58

Appendix A – In-person open house activity boards

Activity Board 1, page 1 – In-person open house

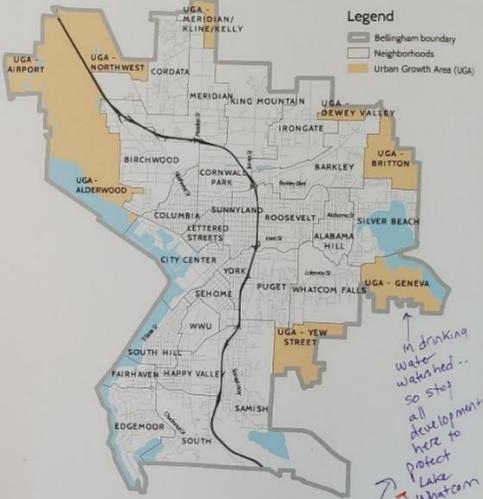
ACTIVITY BOARD 1 - Vision for the urban forest

What do you want Bellingham's urban forest to look like in 50 years?
¿Cómo quieres que se vea el arbolado urbano de Bellingham dentro de 50 años?

- * More big old trees everywhere. (today only 6% are old mature trees)
- * Ditto to the above comment plus urban killing of a new wave of trees to ease then cooperate for urban development loss that will occur.
- * Preservation of residual forest areas that are just outside residential hydrologically to cell lines.
- * Increased canopy in neighborhoods that have less.
- * I strongly suggest the consultants spend extensive time on the ground in various neighborhoods - to provide their understanding beyond literature analysis.
- * Addition of URBAN FOOD FORESTS (NUTS, FRUITS, BERRIES, ETC) FOR LONG TERM CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY AND THE REALITY OF PEAK OIL
- Strands of strategically chosen Native conifer spread throughout the city. Forested greenways offering corridors for perpetuity wildlife to move around the area.
- MORE "HERITAGE" AND "GIANT TREES" - more tree parks (undeveloped with forest areas - preserved)
- Urban food forests, preservation of old trees & current urban forests, incorporation of more trees of urban forests in the inequitable regions of Bellingham. focus most on those with least cover
- Increase canopy in % areas in downtown
- Preservation of existing trees and increase in all areas - ask if owners to plant trees in edge of their property, example Erie St Close to park entrance.

Instructions: Draw or write your vision for the future urban forest below. Your answers will help us draft a vision for Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan.





CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
www.cob.org/ufmp



Activity board 1, page 2 – In-person open house

ACTIVITY BOARD 1 - Vision for the urban forest

What do you want Bellingham's urban forest to look like in 50 years?
¿Cómo quieres que se vea el arbolado urbano de Bellingham dentro de 50 años?

I would love to see large native conifers integrated into even the most 'urban' areas of Bellingham, including downtown, commercial districts & residential neighbourhoods!

5,000 percent of the year it is dark by 4:00pm-6:00pm I love walking through the tunnels of trees in our parks, but during darker months most fewer people are out. I think it would be worth considering creating lighted park loops highlights mature trees in our parks. Also creating greater opportunities for people to appreciate the benefits of our forested parks.

Plagues about trees - Age, type etc could be a step to people valuing them more.

I'd like the urban forest to be diverse enough to handle changes from climate shifts.

Yes, but also focus on places where climate change will be felt & seen more prevalently than some neighborhoods

- increased diversity, planning species based on current environment, not what the environment was
- Invasive species trying change & ~~resistant~~ to what is ~~best~~ priority to human change.
- More in low-income areas, especially in urban core

- Prioritize maintenance of existing forests over unaffordable housing developments ex. Northern Heights trails are being cut down for housing

More trees downtown

Improvements on Samish way Happy Valley

Instructions: Draw or write your vision for the future urban forest below. Your answers will help us draft a vision for Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Legend

- Bellingham boundary
- Neighborhoods
- Urban Growth Area (UGA)

CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

www.cob.org/ufmp

Board 3, page 1 – In person open house

ACTIVITY BOARD 3 - Priorities for urban forest management

Setting goals will be a key component of developing Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan. The plan will present implementation strategies for five urban forest goals that are described below.

Instructions: For this activity, please write down your priorities for each goal. Your comments will help us determine what priorities, concerns, or improvements need to be addressed in Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan.

<p>Growing the urban forest Crecimiento del arbolado urbano</p> <p>Current approved Street tree list is inadequate. doesn't allow large trees doesn't prioritize native trees</p> <p>* replacement trees are often laughably different from trees that are lost</p> <p>Size and scale of replacement trees, and number of replacement trees needed to replace large trees need to be made explicit. Plans need to be in place for care of replacement trees.</p> <p>use more and quality land - (AS indicate that I also agree with a previous writer) Community College Valley on some of Rowley's completed proposals. ABANDONED for the city. Appoint neighborhood associations to take on that role since they are already in charge of neighborhood planning & tree planting.</p> <p>Low-income housing developments often have shockingly low numbers of trees. Their residents deserve better canopy cover.</p>	<p>Managing the urban forest Manejo del arbolado urbano</p> <p>Currently, large trees can be removed without any permit/evaluation permitting should be required</p> <p>ABSOLUTELY</p> <p>No removal of large conifers - replant should collect specimens of same</p> <p>YES - you should not be able to remove trees. city planning dept needs to not accept building permits w/o looking at tree loss.</p>	<p>Protecting the urban forest Protección del arbolado urbano</p> <p>Large native conifers should receive intense protection.</p> <p>Yes, and in public AND private lands</p> <p>- like on the Rowley (show) that ran through the middle of my property</p> <p>agreed to the tree</p> <p>Yes!</p> <p>Protect large conifers - ferns along viewshed from large housing development</p> <p>Identify categories of tree value (in old/mature/young) and apply appropriate protection or means to increase % based on it</p>	<p>Partnering to steward the urban forest Socio para el cuidado del arbolado urbano</p> <p>Bellingham Public Works NEEDS A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM THAT THE PUBLIC CAN PARTICIPATE IN. BIRKS HAS THIS. PUBLIC WORKS DOES NOT. THEIR PROPERTIES ARE TYPICALLY INFESTED WITH INVASIVE SPECIES AND DYING TREES. PW needs a tree management plan!!!</p> <p>Partner with Bellingham public schools.</p> <p>Include the Lummi nation's voice and inclusion of their community is essential. YES, very important</p> <p>Include forestry educated partners to help identify deficits in canopy and recommendations for interventions</p> <p>PW needs oversight/input from tree management by conservative interventions rather than just cutting trees down or over pruning</p> <p>Partner w/ WWU</p> <p>I'VE BEEN SAYING THE SAME THING!</p> <p>work w/ Lummi Nations, direct input needed if their land & practices of their local practices would be a major loss, and further colonization</p>	<p>Other priorities, concerns, or suggestions Otras prioridades, preocupaciones o sugerencias</p> <p>Great idea!</p> <p>FUND & DELIVER STREET TREES TO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS AND PROPERTY OWNERS MAKE IT EASY AND FREE. Includes how to get the trees, who to get them from, how to get them, how to get them planted, how to get them maintained, how to get them watered, how to get them pruned, how to get them replaced.</p> <p>- Creating safe park policies to manage a diverse legal environment in the parks. valuable commitment in our parks.</p> <p>- invite and utilize other sources of information rather than just standard modern science, miles out on valuable info otherwise YES!</p>
---	---	---	--	--



Board 3, page 2 – In person open house

ACTIVITY BOARD 3 - Priorities for urban forest management

Setting goals will be a key component of developing Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan. The plan will present implementation strategies for five urban forest goals that are described below.

Instructions: For this activity, please write down your priorities for each goal. Your comments will help us determine what priorities, concerns, or improvements need to be addressed in Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan.



Growing the urban forest Crecimiento del arbolado urbano

Planting the right trees in the right places w/ understanding of shifting definitions of "native" due to climate changes

City making planting trees on parking strip illegal unless they fit some very short list - my neighbor applied for a permit and was denied for 2 beautiful trees so she put them in her own yard. One neighbor was threatened to be fined if he didn't remove a tree on the parking strip that had been there for decades (1 of the only on our block). I had about 10 trees planted on our block at great expense, and have to worry I could be fined. Let's hear it for quercus tree-planting!

Allow/plan for shifts in forest composition due to climate change.

Share species suitability info with Tree Keepers (site specific)

Work with nurseries to make tree right trees available

Can we restore larger commercial parking lots with trees?



Managing the urban forest Manejo del arbolado urbano

Protecting old growth trees. Understanding that new developments within watersheds are/ may be designed for all storm-water runoff will harm plants/trees in wetlands

Yes All old growth / or historic trees need to be protected, in all aspects - yes

Remove all invasive trees (English ivy etc)

Possible solutions on planting methods:
1. maintain a notebook
2. invasive control
3. invasive control



Protecting the urban forest Protección del arbolado urbano

Some
Strip developments like Hammer from tearing down trees and old houses.
Protective for private property trees on private property.
Establish heritage tree program

Invasive species removal + replanting of native trees



Partnering to steward the urban forest Socio para el cuidado del arbolado urbano

Requires combined/collaborative planning with all City offices and neighborhoods and County

Formal tree advisory group to COB
Partner with WADOT on tree planting + invasive removal on all state ways
Partner with Audubon LEADPS on list of native trees + pollinator structures



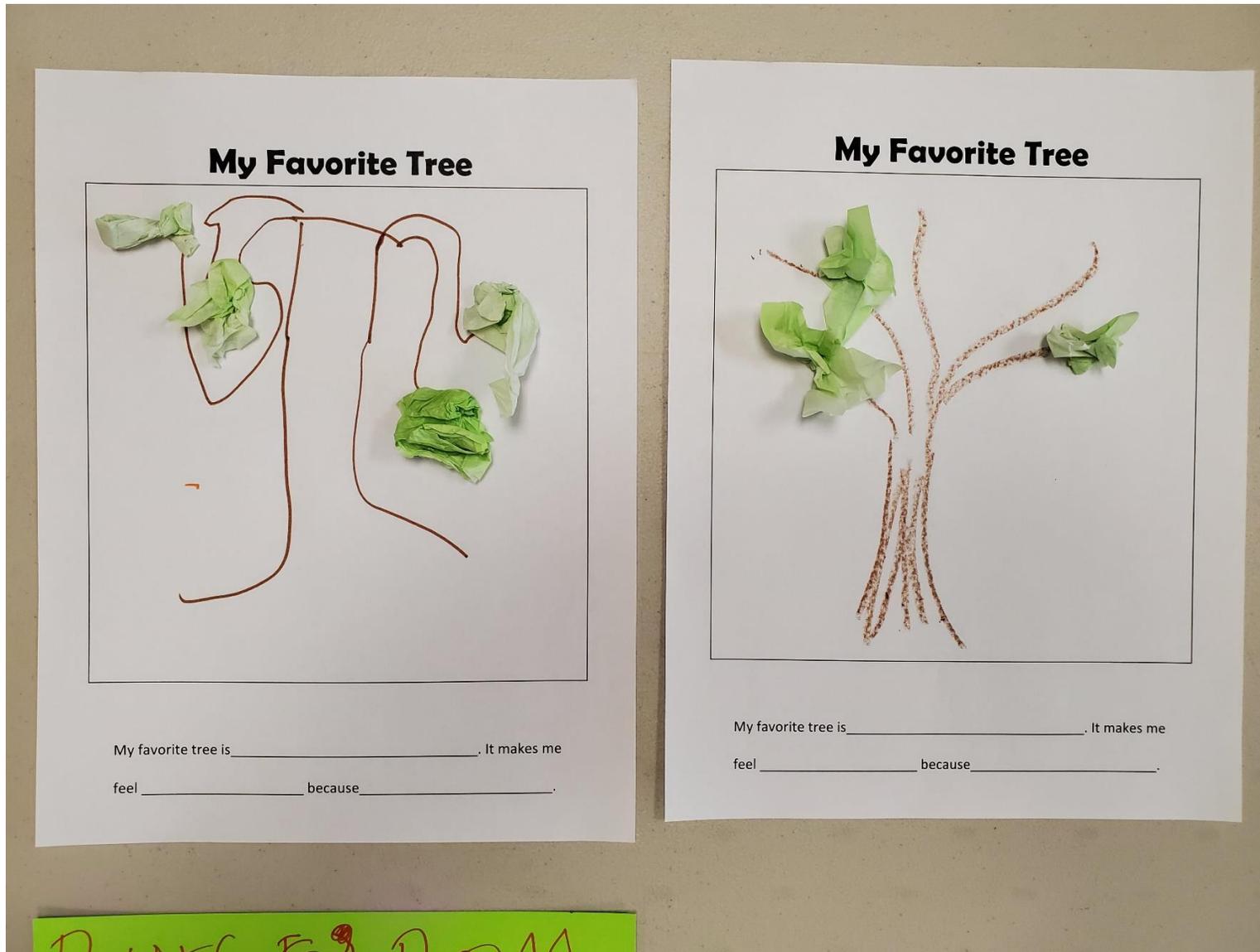
Other priorities, concerns, or suggestions Otras prioridades, preocupaciones o sugerencias

Can we explore idea of micro forests in ROWs?

Devote value of trees by larger annual Arbor Day celebration in fall, planting trees everywhere!



Kids activity – My Favorite Tree



Appendix B – Virtual open house Mural board comments

Activity #1 – Priorities for urban forest management

Growing the urban forest

I'm very upset that I could be busted for planting trees in my barren neighborhood of Sehome Hill.
Affordability and livability are both important! Trees will be important to make housing livable
Learn what is already working to make the urban forest sustainable in the future
Neighbour bought trees for street but was then refused permit
Not happy with the short list of trees residents can plant
Food/useful trees can create more local resilience and reduce food scarcity
City is a barrier to planting trees
Start a tradition/program for funding or planting public memorial trees for Bellinghamsters who have died, have an anniversary, etc. as a way to encourage canopy replacement.

Managing the urban forest

We should talk about "restoring" canopy cover
I am very concerned about english ivy overtaking many trees on our public (and private) lands. How is the city addressing this problem?
Store winter water for use in summer
I'm very upset that I could be busted for planting trees in my barren neighborhood of Sehome Hill.
I live in an area with many magnificent fir trees. one neighbor has three separate 4x10 piles of very flammable blow downs and fir needles, etc. if we live under this wonderful canopy, how can we trust the forest will be safely and properly managed.
I used to be employed by City of Bellingham and one of many of my jobs was enforcing against encroachment of park property. It's a very difficult long slow procedure to go through. It was difficult for management to keep consistent leadership on how firm we were on the related code. The position could only be successful during periods when management stood behind staff. Otherwise, a waste of time. I assisted reclaiming 5 acres public forest over 15 years.. mostly focused on a 7-10 year period of strong management.
We have beautiful old trees that should be maintained and protected - lots of maintenance work for homeowners
Could the City incentivize tree maintenance and pruning? Especially for elderly folks
Could Public works help pick up the leaves and use it as compost to make up for the costs?

Regulate size of trees that can be planted directly underneath powerlines. I live next to COB owned land. They just planted some trees directly below the powerlines and I think the trees will grow very tall. Seems silly to plant them directly underneath since Bellingham does a poor job trimming trees under powerlines.
Regulate the size of trees planted under powerlines.
Mycelium is of tremendous importance to trees! They also break down toxins. Could we do industrial scale remediation for tree health? If sludge isn't safe for gardens, might be ok for trees
What about public safety, avoiding homeless camps. Conflict with housing to address housing issues, and services to existing housing. The pole questions should include none of the above. I believe that this was covered in a prioritization of all city services
How much does the Urban Forestry Management Plan address forest fire management plans particularly concerning the larger tracts of forest on edges of the city that may be at higher risk of forest fire? I would like to learn more about this.
Are we storing water from winter months for summer. Could we have water tanks?
Could Bellingham require arborists and other who remove trees for a living to complete some limited training that would ensure they consider pruning and that they have some basic understanding of the value of trees.
English ivy is damaging trees

Protecting the urban forest

Assess what's already working in the landscape! Acknowledge the trees + forest that is already here and care for it
Importance of weather mitigation is key, including for winds, stormwater, sun
Importance of cedar trees - they are sick! How much canopy do we expect to loose from disease, water stress, cold
Pace of deforestation is problematic
Mitigation of forest impacts from stormwater runoff
I live in Sunnyland and have witnessed 3 trees cut down since I attended the Urban forest event at library past wkend. Please put a moratorium on removing trees now. One of these trees was damaged, the second in same yard was apparently taken down as it no longer matched the other side of sidewalk. Tree company that remove trees should be stopped and peoples private property needs to go through some sort of permitting process to try and find better ways for them to manage their trees on their property.

<p>more older growth trees preserved. The trees we are planting now will not be "heritage" size for 50 or more yrs into the future. We need to respect the Ancient ones.</p>
<p>2nd. one of my neighbors torn their house down a built a new one. Ton after ton of concrete, building waste and building materials were driven over the roots of many 80 foot fir trees compacting the soil. To add insult to injury the builders dug a 5 foot deep trench under the lane and roots of the firs. Will there be new laws which truly protect the trees and the people and homes which live under them?</p>
<p>Stop Stopping developers from cutting down trees for unaffordable housing.</p>
<p>Issue: clearing forest for development and replacing with impermeable land. Clearcutting doesn't have to happen e.g., Semiahmoo homes nestled in the forest</p>
<p>How is the UFMP going to address enforcement of use of public forests? Or address the city's need to increase resources to do so? Our favorite forest is Stimpson Preserve, where we don't have to ask neighbor kids not to ride their bikes through the woods, and we don't have to confront dog owners whose dogs are off leash in the public woods where they're required to be on leash. (We are also so grateful for the city removing the "party pad" - sofa, chairs, mattress - that appeared last year in the public woods behind our house. It took a few months, no doubt because the city has an overwhelming load.)</p>
<p>more older growth trees preserved. The trees we are planting now will not be "heritage" size for 50 or more yrs into the future. We need to respect the Ancient ones.</p>
<p>It seems to be standard practice in the region to completely clear cut before developing homes/housing. It would be ideal if there could be more preservation, especially for very old native trees which are removed frequently. Also, trees are frequently removed during the bird/bat nesting season, which may not be in compliance with best practices for species protections and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for example.</p>

Partnering to steward the urban forest

<p>Potential partnership with WWU to explore beneficial fungi.</p>
<p>Urban forest to mitigate stormwater runoff - where should canopy cover increased to help with mitigation?</p>
<p>Use i-naturalist or other apps to educate the public!</p>
<p>Train + educate community members so they: plant the right trees, don't plant invasive species</p>
<p>Educate industry: Nurseries, arborists to ensure they help with education of the public</p>
<p>school programs so our children are educated to keep trees and continue</p>
<p>school programs so our children are educated to keep trees and continue there are</p>

A similar effort of public input is done during Parks and Recreation planning efforts. Can the Huge volumes of that public visioning could be incorporated to this effort.
Is there any effort to set up a free public process to have a conversation regarding the importance/impacts of old urban trees so that all positives/negatives can be made transparent and evaluated and debated.

Other priorities, concerns, or suggestions

Public safety from wind damage and disease.
Regulate size of trees that can be planted directly underneath powerlines. I live next to COB owned land. They just planted some trees directly below the powerlines and I think the trees will grow very tall. Seems silly to plant them directly underneath since Bellingham does a poor job trimming trees under powerlines.
Make sure you can maintain what you create
homeless in forested areas
Homeless and risk of forest fires
How to balance canopy with housing. Trees need space and resources
Why did COB turn down my neighbor's request for a permit to plant 2 expensive trees.? So she planted them in her yard instead of the parking strip..... on Sehome Hill. I've been planting anyway, and spent \$3500 of my own money and broke 3 bones in my back putting up trees. (I am a cancer patient, and could be busted for this).
ensure that resource s for canopy cover are balanced with resources for other city services
Avoid clear cutting. retain fringes of trees when developing
How much does the Urban Forestry Management Plan address forest fire management plans particularly concerning the larger tracts of forest on edges of the city that may be at higher risk of forest fire? I would like to learn more about this.
Urban forests can be groupings of single trees not necessarily natural forests
A similar effort of public input is done during Parks and Recreation planning efforts. Can the Huge volumes of that public visioning could be incorporated to this effort.

Activity #2 – Vision for the urban forest

What authority does the City have with developers building on forested lands? King mountain area - lots of forest was clearcut; next phase talks about 'clearing', i.e. clearcutting and replace with impervious surfaces
Queen mountain seems still possible to save from clearcutting!
In Semihamoo, it looks like houses in the forest - not clearcut. It's possible!
Interaction + synergies between urban forest and greenway program
My vision is to have all the neighborhoods that need more trees to be filled with trees!!!
land use in riparian areas is prioritized for canopy cover with multiple benefits for recreation, wildlife and stormwater.
Housing is affordable and livable
Maintain what we have! Protect the existing forest
North Bellingham forests are mostly deciduous; some of which are more healthy - not mature YET but should be protected to become mature!
My vision is to have all the neighborhoods that need more trees to be filled with trees!!!
Sprawl is restricted and urban density is increased
Our urban forest supports mental and physical health!
Everyone can walk to a green space in max 10-20 minutes!
Street trees: plant 200-300 trees that have a long lifespan
City to collaborate with experts to choose the appropriate species and care for them well!
Trees on Holly are an example well cared trees
Have been planting lots of trees on the streets and could be busted for it
Some people get turned down when applying for permits to plant trees! City has ben
Plant food and nut trees to increase food security! Nut trees also have a long lifetime

Appendix C – Focused listening sessions

1.1 Activity Board 1 – Vision for the urban forest

Focused Listening Session #2 – Apartment dwellers and families living in low canopy areas

ACTIVITY BOARD 1 - Vision for the urban forest

What do you want Bellingham's urban forest to look like in 50 years?
¿Cómo quieres que se vea el arbolado urbano de Bellingham dentro de 50 años?

PREPARE OUR TREES!
PLANT NEW ONES!
MANAGE WATER RESOURCES!

Instructions: Draw or write your vision for the future urban forest below. Your answers will help us draft a vision for Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan.



CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
www.cob.org/ufmp



1.2 Activity Board 2 – Mapping the urban forest

Focused Listening Session #1 – ADA Accessibility, Elders, and Caregivers

ACTIVITY BOARD 2 - Mapping the urban forest

We would like to learn about urban forest locations you value in Bellingham and locations where you think the urban forest needs improvement.

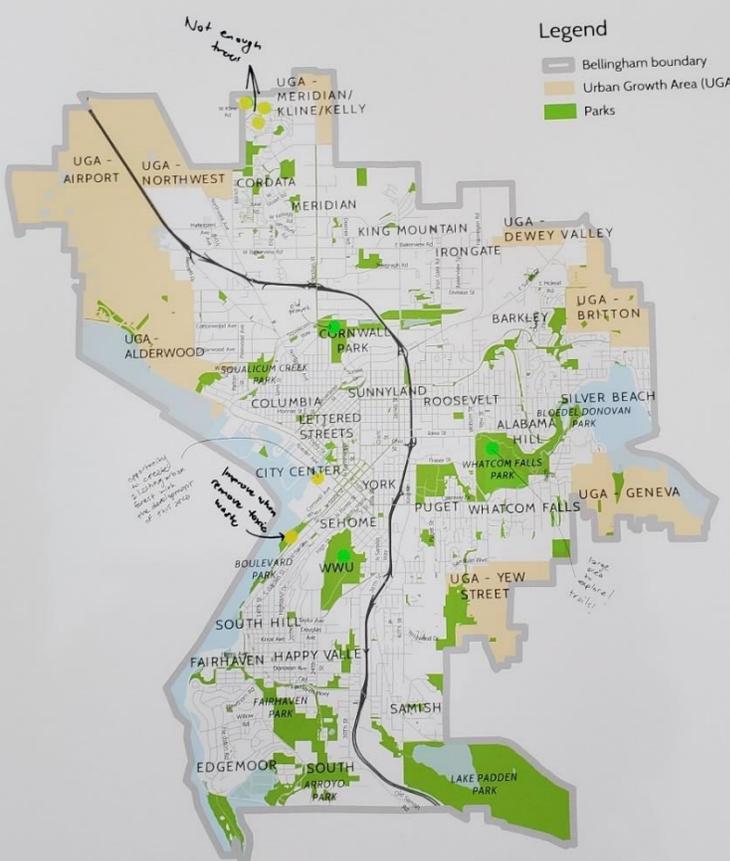
- = Places I value / lugares en los que valora la presencia del arbolado urbano
- = Places needing improvement / lugares que este necesita mejoras

Instructions: Place as many stickers as you would like on the map. Use **GREEN** to show urban places you value and **YELLOW** to show places that need improvement. Your answers will help us identify important places to protect and improve the urban forest.



Legend

- Bellingham boundary
- Urban Growth Area (UGA)
- Parks



May 16

CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
www.cob.org/ufmp



Focused Listening Session #2 – Apartment dwellers and families living in low canopy areas

ACTIVITY BOARD 2 - Mapping the urban forest

We would like to learn about urban forest locations you value in Bellingham and locations where you think the urban forest needs improvement.

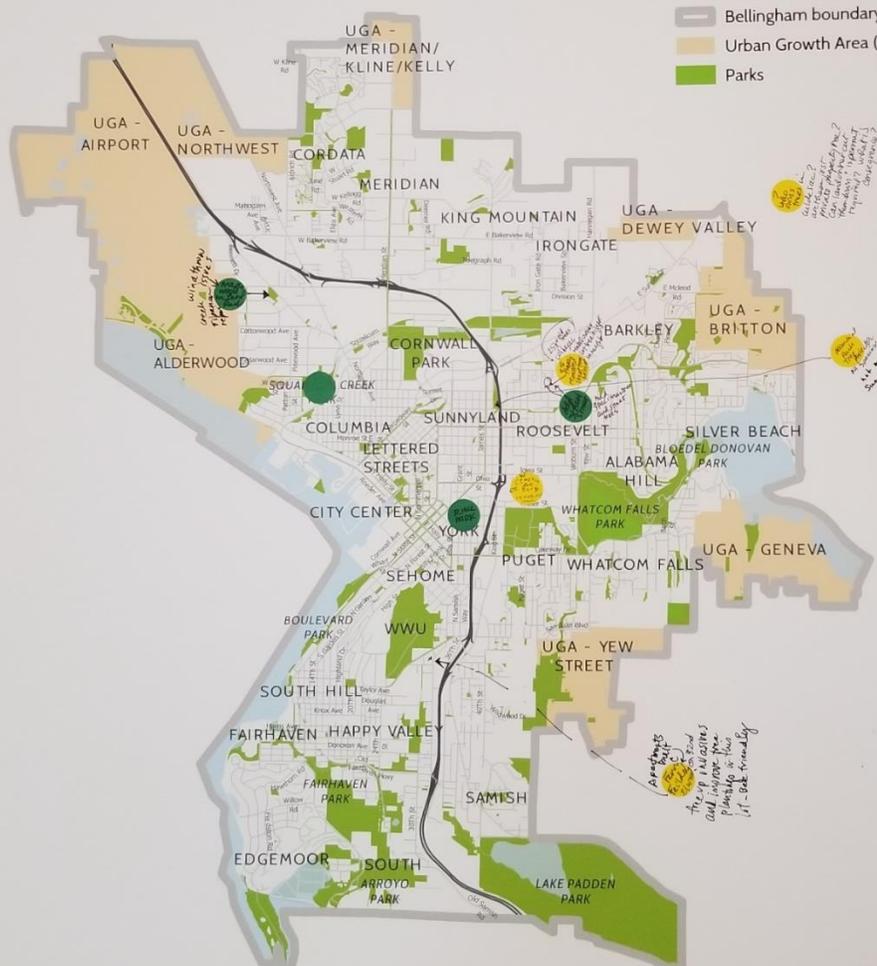
- = Places I value / lugares en los que valora la presencia del arbolado urbano
- = Places needing improvement / lugares que este necesita mejoras

Instructions: Place as many stickers as you would like on the map. Use **GREEN** to show urban places you value and **YELLOW** to show places that need improvement. Your answers will help us identify important places to protect and improve the urban forest.



Legend

- Bellingham boundary
- Urban Growth Area (UGA)
- Parks



The map displays various Urban Growth Areas (UGA) in Bellingham, including Airport, Northwest, Cordata, Meridian, King Mountain, Dewey Valley, Irongate, Barkley, Britton, Alderwood, Cornwall Park, Sunnyland, Roosevelt, Silver Beach, Lettered Streets, City Center, York, Whatcom Falls, Geneva, Sehome, Puget, Yew Street, South Hill, Fairhaven, Happy Valley, Edgemoor, South Arroyo, and Lake Padden. Parks are marked in green. Handwritten notes and stickers are present: a green sticker in the Airport area with the note 'Wine & Honey'; a green sticker in the Lettered Streets area with the note 'Great urban forest'; a green sticker in the York area with the note 'Great urban forest'; a yellow sticker in the Dewey Valley area with the note 'This area is a great place to live but needs more trees and more parks'; a yellow sticker in the Whatcom Falls area with the note 'This area is a great place to live but needs more trees and more parks'; and a yellow sticker in the Happy Valley area with the note 'This area is a great place to live but needs more trees and more parks'. A yellow star sticker is also visible in the top right corner.

CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
www.cob.org/ufmp



Focused Listening Session #3 – BIOC and immigrants families

ACTIVITY BOARD 2 - Mapping the urban forest

We would like to learn about urban forest locations you value in Bellingham and locations where you think the urban forest needs improvement.

- = Places I value / lugares en los que valora la presencia del arbolado urbano
- = Places needing improvement / lugares que este necesita mejoras

Instructions: Place as many stickers as you would like on the map. Use **GREEN** to show urban places you value and **YELLOW** to show places that need improvement. Your answers will help us identify important places to protect and improve the urban forest.



Legend

- Bellingham boundary
- Urban Growth Area (UGA)
- Parks



CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
www.cob.org/ufmp



Focused Listening Session Poster post Café drop-in

ACTIVITY BOARD 2 - Mapping the urban forest

We would like to learn about urban forest locations you value in Bellingham and locations where you think the urban forest needs improvement.

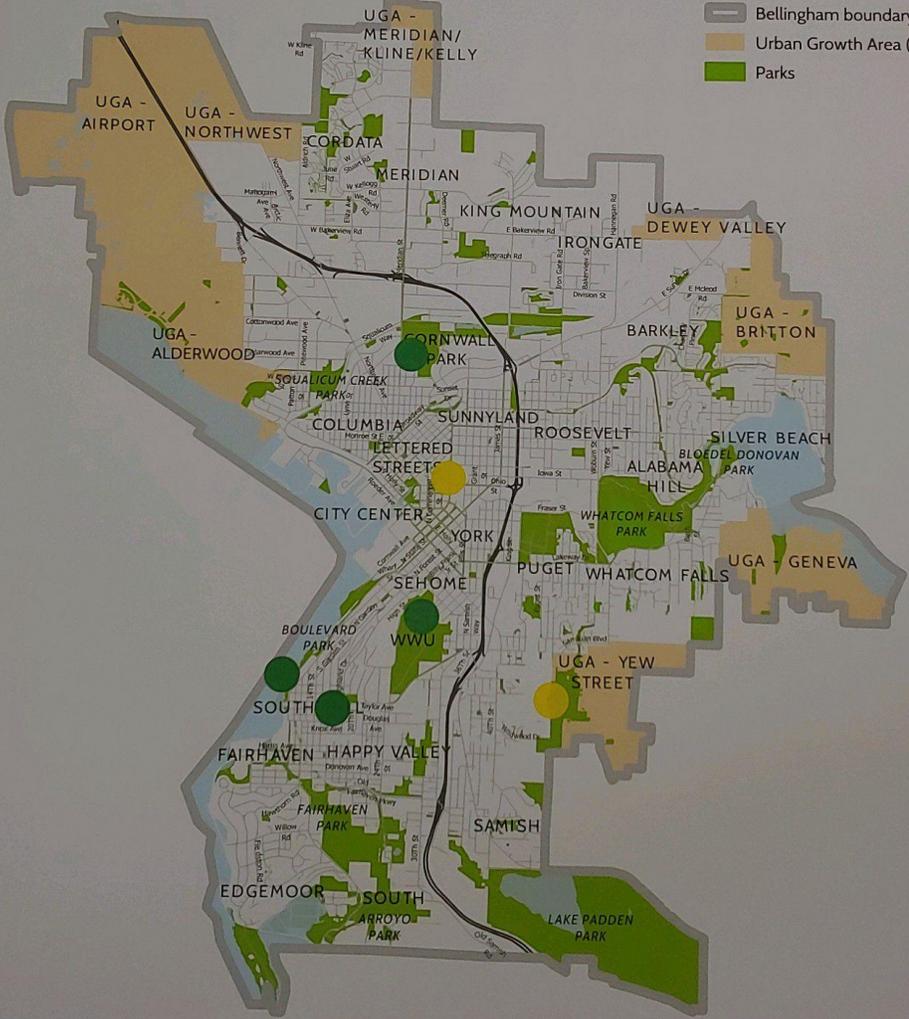
- = Places I value / lugares en los que valora la presencia del arbolado urbano
- = Places needing improvement / lugares que este necesita mejoras

Instructions: Place as many stickers as you would like on the map. Use **GREEN** to show urban places you value and **YELLOW** to show places that need improvement. Your answers will help us identify important places to protect and improve the urban forest.



Legend

- Bellingham boundary
- Urban Growth Area (UGA)
- Parks



CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
www.cob.org/ufmp



1.3 Activity Board 3 – Priorities for urban forest management

Focused Listening Session #1 – ADA Accessibility, Elders, and Caregivers

ACTIVITY BOARD 3 - Priorities for urban forest management

Setting goals will be a key component of developing Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan. The plan will present implementation strategies for five urban forest goals that are described below.

Instructions: For this activity, please write down your priorities for each goal. Your comments will help us determine what priorities, concerns, or improvements need to be addressed in Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan.

<p>Growing the urban forest Crecimiento del arbolado urbano</p>	<p>Managing the urban forest Manejo del arbolado urbano</p>	<p>Protecting the urban forest Protección del arbolado urbano</p>	<p>Partnering to steward the urban forest Socio para el cuidado del arbolado urbano</p>	<p>Other priorities, concerns, or suggestions Otras prioridades, preocupaciones o sugerencias</p>
<p>Community Parks should be providing large areas of trees and shade</p> <p>Underground utility wires</p> <p>Planting native trees as much as possible</p>	<p>More follow-up on developer maintenance</p> <p>Developers should be required to water new trees</p> <p>Spacious to re-visit minimize tree planting</p> <p>Cornwall Park needs more places to rest</p>	<p>Developers should have to leave a buffer of trees - smaller footprint but tree equity for residents</p> <p>More protection for trees on private land</p> <p>Clearing for new development on Needham - by gift course - will result in a much better street</p>	<p>Information + resources to support private tree planting</p> <p>Most information coming from garden centres - they sell trees - need disease info.</p>	<p>Covered playground for rain/firm protection</p> <p>Solar panels over parking lots - arrays for cooling + EV charging</p> <p>Prepare for heat - white roofs, green roofs, Solar</p>

May 16

CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

www.cob.org/ufmp



Focused Listening Session #3 – BIOPC and immigrants families

ACTIVITY BOARD 3 - *Priorities for urban forest management*

Setting goals will be a key component of developing Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan. The plan will present implementation strategies for five urban forest goals that are described below.

Instructions: For this activity, please write down your priorities for each goal. Your comments will help us determine what priorities, concerns, or improvements need to be addressed in Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan.

 <p>Growing the urban forest Crecimiento del arbolado urbano</p> <p><i>We should ^{plant} grow native tree species</i> <u>Food Forest</u></p>	 <p>Managing the urban forest Manejo del arbolado urbano</p>	 <p>Protecting the urban forest Protección del arbolado urbano</p> <p><i>protect all trees!</i></p>	 <p>Partnering to steward the urban forest Socio para el cuidado del arbolado urbano</p> <p><i>work with property owners! adopt a tree!</i></p>	 <p>Other priorities, concerns, or suggestions Otras prioridades, preocupaciones o sugerencias</p>

CITY OF BELLINGHAM | URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
www.cob.org/ufmp



Focused Listening Session Poster post Café drop-in

ACTIVITY BOARD 3 - Priorities for urban forest management

Setting goals will be a key component of developing Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan. The plan will present implementation strategies for five urban forest goals that are described below.

Instructions: For this activity, please write down your priorities for each goal. Your comments will help us determine what priorities, concerns, or improvements need to be addressed in Bellingham's Urban Forestry Management Plan.



 <p>Growing the urban forest Crecimiento del arbolado urbano</p>	 <p>Managing the urban forest Manejo del arbolado urbano</p>	 <p>Protecting the urban forest Protección del arbolado urbano</p> <p><i>Enforcement requiring better zoning supports this - with a focus on UOE.</i></p>	 <p>Partnering to steward the urban forest Socio para el cuidado del arbolado urbano</p>	 <p>Other priorities, concerns, or suggestions Otras prioridades, preocupaciones o sugerencias</p> <p><i>Using the forest survey - Encouraging neighborhoods to do a bio survey of the Urban Forest. This would be a great initiative to work together and also memorandum.</i></p> <p><i>If possible, making a flow chart of what depends on what - to create a better system. Also works with departments to protect the system.</i></p>
--	--	--	--	--



Appendix D – Technical Workshop Mural Board Results

AFTERNOON SESSION – Urban Trees

Theme #1 – Growing the urban forest

Don't want to plant a tree and have to rip it off; once they grow sometimes leave little room to move around
Requires long-term thinking for what you want the property to look like to plant the right tree in the right place
Private lots are pretty small! More opportunities to plant urban trees than forests
Trees also impact neighbors (positively or negatively) - potential conflict
Street tree program for boulevard tree without overhead utility might also lead to conflicts with neighbors
Allowing planting by the water in the Port - might be tricky to maintain views
Climate Action Plan language - would be good to know how the Port can best support tree planting efforts
Information about what species to plant; tree heights might be a concern
Lots of overhead utilities on streets! Limits opportunities to plant taller trees
Permit program to plant a tree on the ROW; list of species is not all native and it's unclear whether or not they consider issues from fruits, etc.
Could the City place constraints on which side of the street utilities go onto to preserve opportunities?
Some opportunities are taken to consolidate utilities; often legacy poles from communication companies stay there
Already prioritize higher poles, further from the roadway.
When wrong tree is planted, leads to conflict because removal or harder pruning is required
People not necessarily choosing trees that will be large canopy trees
But also not planting in the right place

Theme #2 – Managing the urban forest

Mature trees often being removed because expensive to maintain
City help to maintain large second growth trees would help!
Education about who's responsible for tree maintenance + availability of resources would go a long way
Lack of public education on how to maintain a tree!
How to dispose of raked leaves (stormwater impacts!)

Proper pruning for trees hanging over e.g. sidewalks
Tree watering during tree establishment e.g. on filling out water bags
Lots of interest! Might get a lot of interest from groups (neigh. association) to create friends of trees groups
Puget Sound has 4-year pruning cycle in urban areas; 6 years in suburban-rural
Growing season lengthening - growth as early as February! Ends in November.
Concern re branches touching the conducting wire (top wire) - they are not all insulated. Tree wire is insulated but not used everywhere.
Sparking wildfire is an an issue with trees contacting conducting wires
May need support for lower income residents to maintain their trees when they are becoming hazardous
Need to educate people for what they are responsible for (trees far enough from powerlines)

Theme #3 – Protecting the urban forest

If target for preservation is taller, older trees, then inventory those on private property to identify where people need support with maintenance or protection of those trees
Many larger, older trees aren't being well maintained
Significant loss of benefits when these larger trees are lost
Partner with schools, make all upcoming owners and citizens tree lovers and protectors. This may also lead to public shaming, if kids love trees then their parents will feel guilty about removing or not maintaining trees.

Theme #4 – Partnering to steward the urban forest

Urban forestry for dummies handout
Powerlines, foundation, species, placement
Port of Bellingham would be interested in a team to coordinate work - website could be used to share information from the City
Holistic look at opportunities on the waterfront
Port, County and City are all potential partners that could support each other in achieving goals
Inventory of priority areas; develop a program with tools (e.g. incentive for maintenance for folks that can't afford it); identify partners to do door-to-door/ other outreach
If priority is to keep older trees and their benefits, prioritize that! Those larger coniferous trees might not be planted anymore; important to keep them and plant them in the right locations
E.g. where county counts forest protection towards carbon sequestration; stormwater benefits

Members of the city are thinking about the next Greenways levy. There might be an opportunity to include trees/forestation in the levy and its philosophy.
Co-benefits (and funding) for climate, stormwater, etc. goals.

AFTERNOON SESSION – Natural forests

Theme #1 – Growing the urban forest

Consider using a different term than natural forest - forest communities
Natural areas all have opportunities for restoration.
Need to connect isolated patches of forest so wildlife can make use of all areas
Given that most forest is natural, and natural forest is unequitably distributed, what are strategies to improve tree/forest equity across city? People other than rich folks should be able to live near (larger) trees/forests.
How about just "forest" -- would differentiate from planting strips, etc
Develop a greenways network
Best practices for invasive species mgt
Credits or incentives for private owners to grow a forest
WWU students maybe review other jurisdictions and determine what codes are working well. (McLaughlin and Tuxill)

Theme #2 – Managing the urban forest

It will be a challenge to leverage resources for forest management.
Douglas fir dieback is a concern for Sehome Hill
Enforcement should be improved - enforced for City work as well as private.
Resources for managing trees
Replacement /compensation should require equivalent benefit
Replacement saplings do not compensate for mature tree loss
Think connectivity (micror.)

Theme #3 – Protecting the urban forest

Enforcement of the City's own codes
Trees cut without permission. City staff and landscapers
Doug-fir dieback in arboretum. Need data on other similar dieback areas around the City.

Theme #4 – Partnering to steward the urban forest

A lot of invasive species removal work does not include replanting
Partner with non profit organizations to protect and enhance
A lot of good infrastructure is in place. Build on current relationships
NSEA is doing a good job, especially in riparian areas.
WWU's LEAD does a good job removing invasives but need to have best practices and long-term plan for re-forestation.
Scale up the current partnerships that are working.
pollinator pathways!
Goal should be 70% cover in riparian areas.
Public education will be important.
make use of students to carry out studies and analysis
Build on what we have - AmeriCorps and community work parties.

EVENING SESSION - All

Theme #1 – Growing the urban forest

Diversity of habitat: douglas fir + hemlock typical ecosystem - need a diversity of ecosystems beyond that!
identify what habitats can be met when there are limitations due to utilities etc
deciduous understory trees create beneficial habitat
create a mosaic of habitats that would have been here before and species rely on
conifers are needed for resiliency in soil saturation conditions
Large trees are most resilient and provide greatest ecosystem service protections, e.g. stormwater
11 acre site - Cityview redevelopment will take largest trees out so remainder trees are not highest quality
City parks and recs haven't been sufficiently resourced
coherence between city depts when it addresses tree impacts
what are the habitats of priority?
do not just rely on LIDAR be on the ground in Bellingham
infill toolkit - needs to address mature trees protection
Ned to increase habitat diversity in forests.

Smaller deciduous trees are not as efficient as absorbing stormwater during high rainfall events
There are many non native tree species that provide good habitat for wildlife. Also non forested shrub communities
Need to recognize the largest trees as being the best tools against climate change
Organizations try to fill the gaps where they can
Lots of stressors on the urban forest! (including climate change) Few seedlings naturally regenerating in natural parks, e.g. lake Padden
Assisted regeneration will increasingly be needed
Consultants to spend more time on the ground - as much as possible
Some of the largest trees that occur individually or in smaller groups than 5 ha groups will be important to protect for benefits they provide
Replacement trees are often smaller - problematic particularly for stormwater management
Need large conifers for stormwater interception
Observing localized flooding in heavy rainfall
800 trees cut for Galbraith parking lot - would like to see retention of older, larger trees prioritized
Example across from Cornwall Park, Meridian - similar trees to park itself
Example of Meridian development - 68 units 1-3 storey - toolkit calls for 30% land as open space buffer; not specifying if tree covered or not!
Cityview
Create policies that are more integrated; instead of maxing out the site, preserve more of existing trees with fewer units
Incentives for keeping trees and the benefits they provide; e.g. allow increased building height in exchange for keeping trees
Bellingham need to accommodate more growth; most of the City is single-family; only higher density is in new greenfield development
More clarity on what the City want to maintain; habitats that need to be protected; ones that we're willing to sacrifice
Preservation needs to prioritize larger, older trees that are difficult to replace
In areas where a big tree can't be planted (e.g., conflicts) - there are still native species and understory habitats that could be provided
Distinction between natural and urban forests is not always necessary
There are diverse values and needs that trees can provide; can provide various needs with a diversity of trees + avoid issues related to lack of diversity
Look at areas of worst air quality - noted in school areas near highway corridor

Theme #2 – Managing the urban forest

Street maintenance can be more accommodating to street trees
make permits to plant street trees less intimidating
Increase diversity of street trees
Regeneration! See above
Need to understand forest character from the ground level, not just LiDAR
tremendous invasive species taken hold on lands in distress
Permits dissuade people from planting trees
Cornwall park provide LOTS of habitat + important connector - no regeneration taking place.
Trampling issues (disk golf!)
Lots of forest - assess the state now + impact of loss of mature trees in particular
English ivy strangling trees
Whatcom million tree project launching an initiative to manage this - under the radar issue with serious implications for mature trees
Awareness of invasives is low - on public and private lands
Forest health concerns: Windthrow, insect damage
More investigation and monitoring of climate impacts, causes
WWU/Sehome Hill Arboretum
Example of a trail windthrow that might have been caused by roots being removed to build a trail
Lack of City capacity to look at those risks
Bigleaf maples
Building trails, allowing compaction - need to be more aware of those impacts
Cornwall Park example of compaction
Street tree list needs to be updated - doesn't include many coniferous or many trees in general
In some places people plant small trees when there would be space for a larger tree
Largest tree suitable for the site
Heat island effect = benefits
Maintenance department sometimes overwhelmed; if trees aren't on the list because they shed too many leaves could revise that
Are maintenance concerns preventing certain types of trees from being planted?
Need to streamline process/make it more encouraging to plant trees
Permit as a word = scaring folks

Theme #3 – Protecting the urban forest

Heat and drought stress. Natural regeneration is low.
Windthrow has impacted some areas. One case of trail development impacted tree roots causing them to fail.
Need to prioritise protection of larger trees when developing
More insect impacts and need be studied
Invasive species. Ivy climbing up trees and impacting them.
Conservation easements being offered to land trust - small lots with large trees
Barriers for Nature Trust being able to take that on - easements aren't the best tool
Not infrequent - people in City want to be able to protect trees but don't know how
What is the appropriate tool?

Theme #4 – Partnering to steward the urban forest

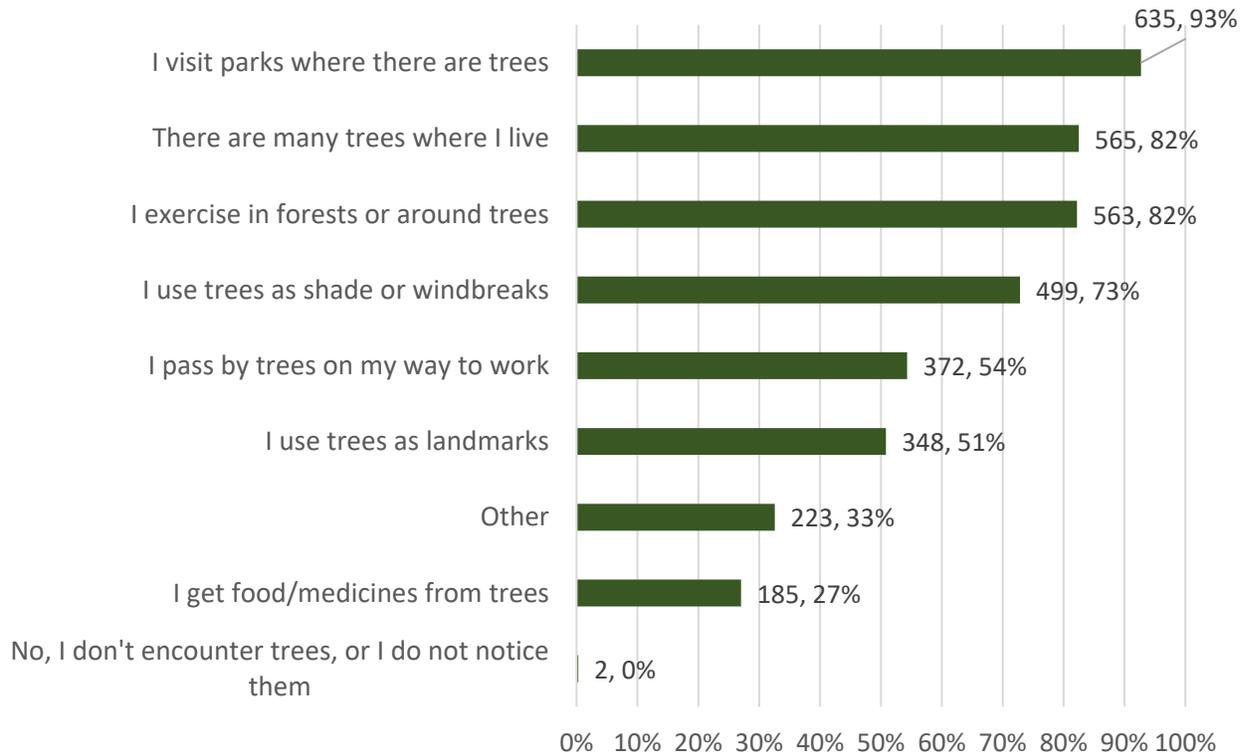
People interested in a conservation easement approaching Land Trust - small lots in urban areas is not ideal for the Trust but happens commonly
Major land owners (port, hospice, etc.) - are they being contacted about opportunities for protection + tree planting
How can the City address finding ways to help people protect trees on their properties?
Seek partnerships with major institutional landowners who could reforest their parcels and b involved in the process
Areas with poor air quality could benefit!
Whatcom million trees initiatives
Partner with volunteers to plant trees and remove invasives
Schools would be good partners!
York neighbourhood maps large specimen/ heritage trees + hosts tree walks
landowners with smaller parcels desire a conservation easement, but scale is not a fit for WLT size easement tools
genuine desire to help exists, tools at planning & development level are not in place to preserve trees into perpetuity
WWU/Sehome Hill Arboretum - opportunity for partnership on research
Doing research on insect damage
Not for profits can do work to fundraise in ways the city cannot
Partnership opportunities to expand capacity

Portland example - Friends of Trees
Neighborhood association partnerships would be great to map important trees
Sunnyland neighborhood also has an inventory
Don't rely overly about neighborhoods; some don't have capacity
Equity
Planting trees is a popular activity!
Carl Cozier School - adjacent to I5 = air quality concerns
Associated costs

Appendix E – Survey Results

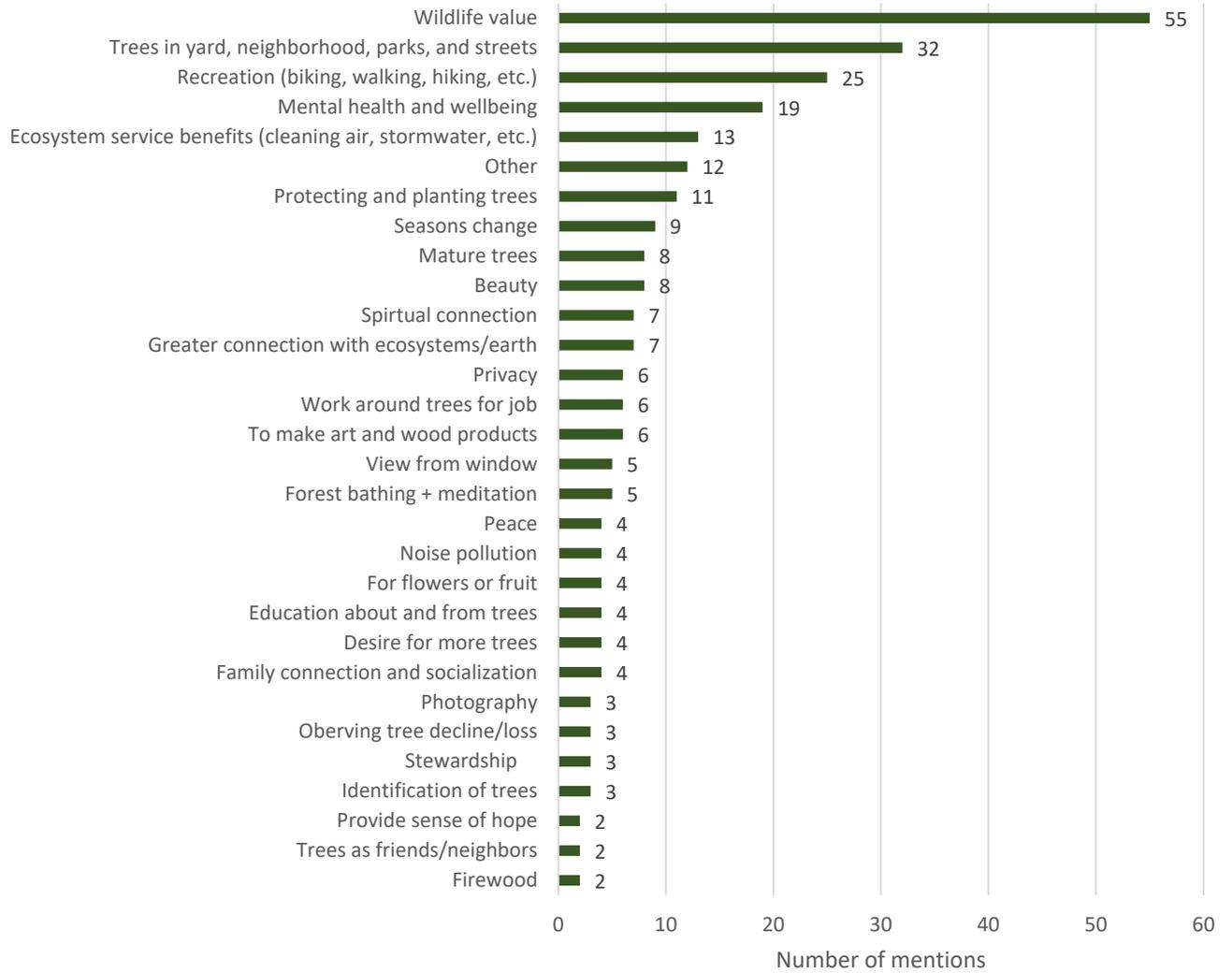
What is Bellingham’s urban forest?

Do you encounter trees in your daily life? If so, how? Select as many options as you would like.



‘Other’ tree encounters selected for the previous question

Note – Numbers represent the number of mentions



The urban forest on my street

For questions 2 and 3, please consider the following photos:



A. Few or no trees



B. Regularly spaced small trees



C. Regularly spaced, medium-sized trees



D. Mixed spacing and species, medium-sized trees

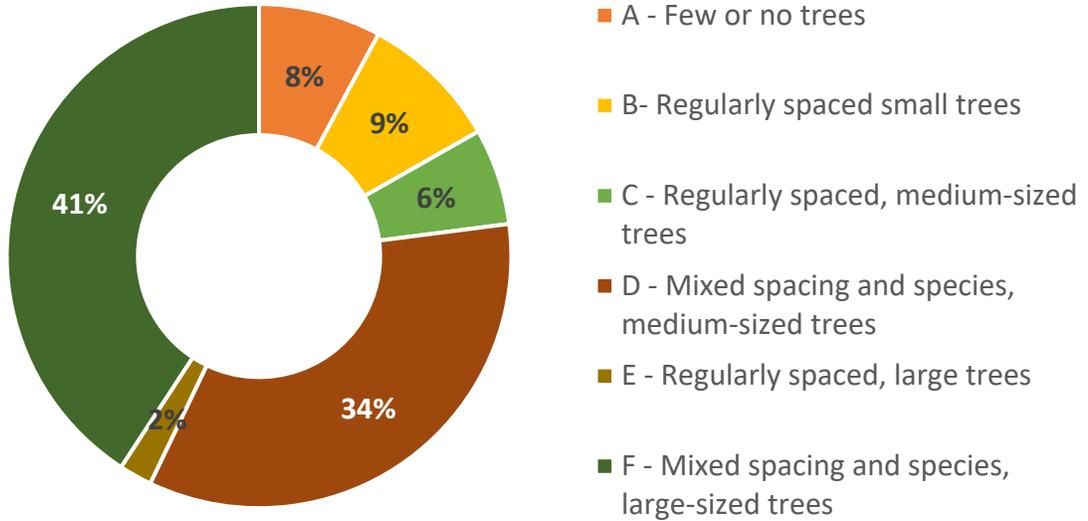


E. Regularly spaced, large trees

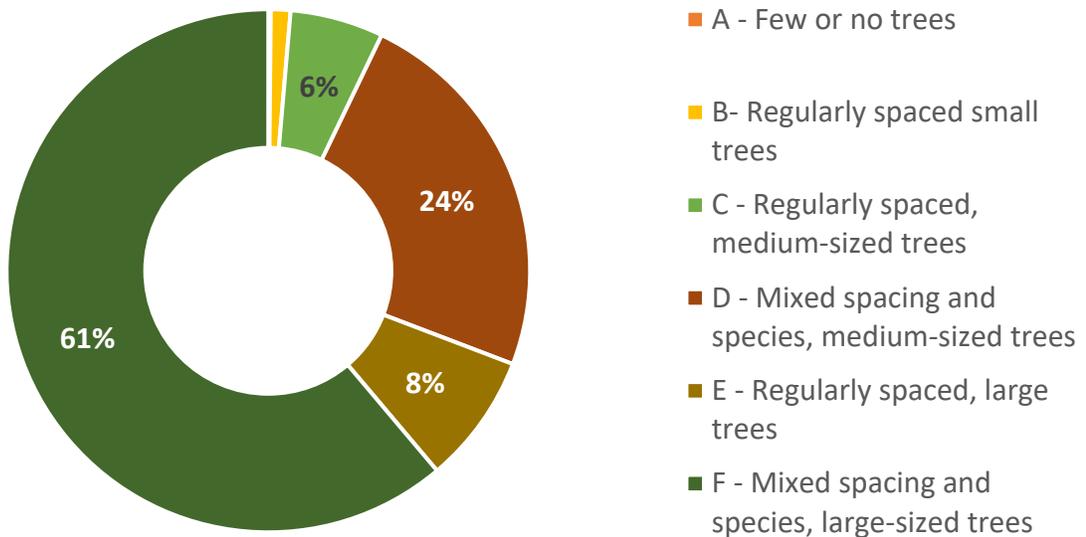


F. Mixed spacing and species, large-sized trees

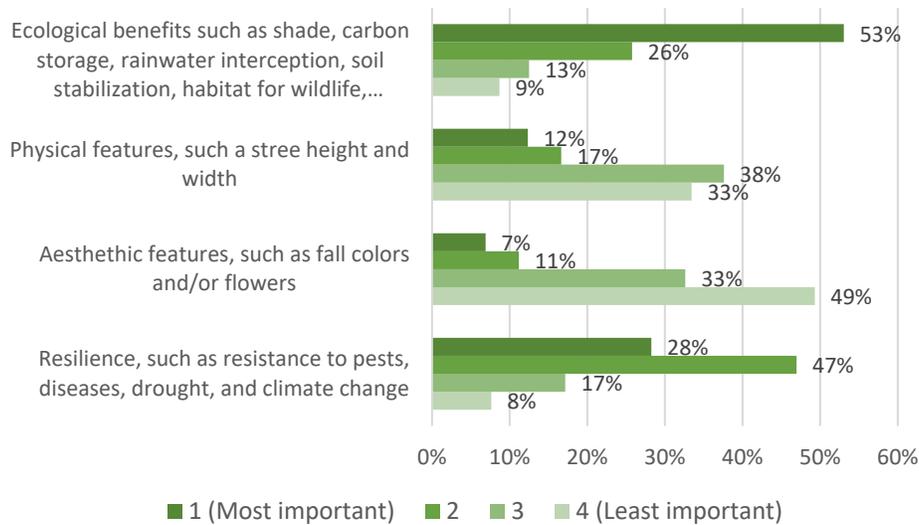
Review the pictures above. Select the picture (A-F) that currently looks the most like the street where you live. Select one answer.



Review the pictures above. Select the picture (A-F) that most looks like how you would like your street to look: Select one answer.

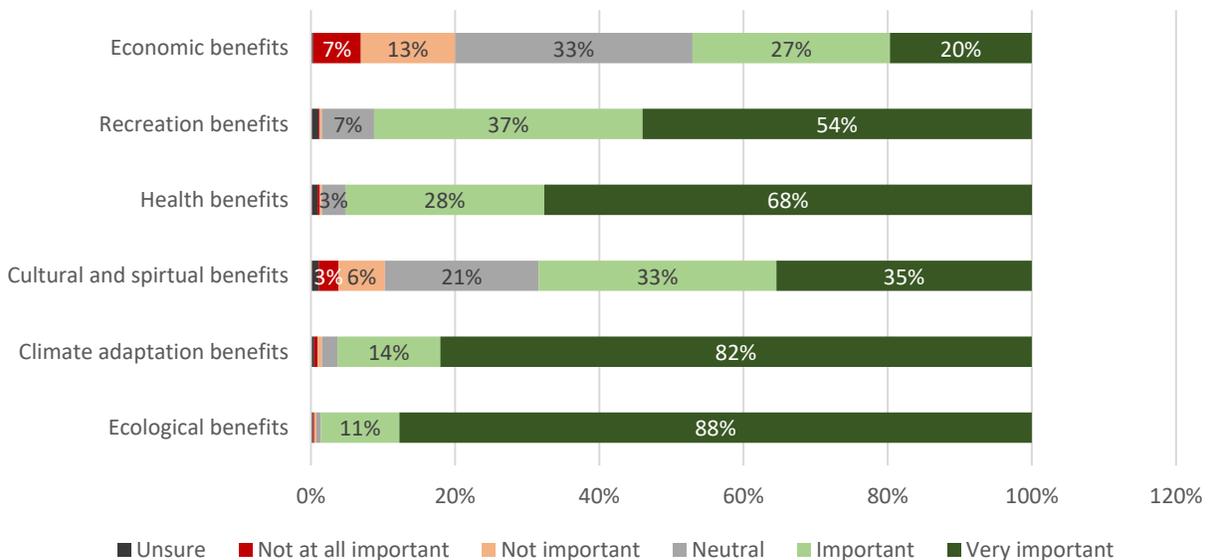


When the City selects a tree to plant alongside a street, what are the most important characteristics the City should consider? Please rank the following benefits from 1 (Most important) to 4 (least important).

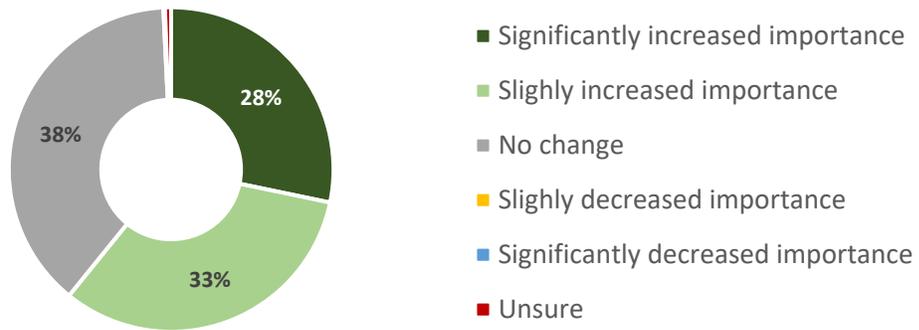


The value and benefits of Bellingham’s urban forest

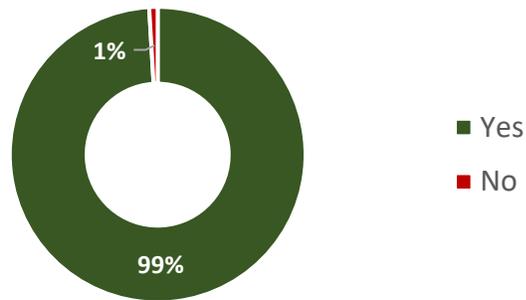
What types of urban forest benefits do you value the most in your community?



During the pandemic, did your relationship with forests and trees change?

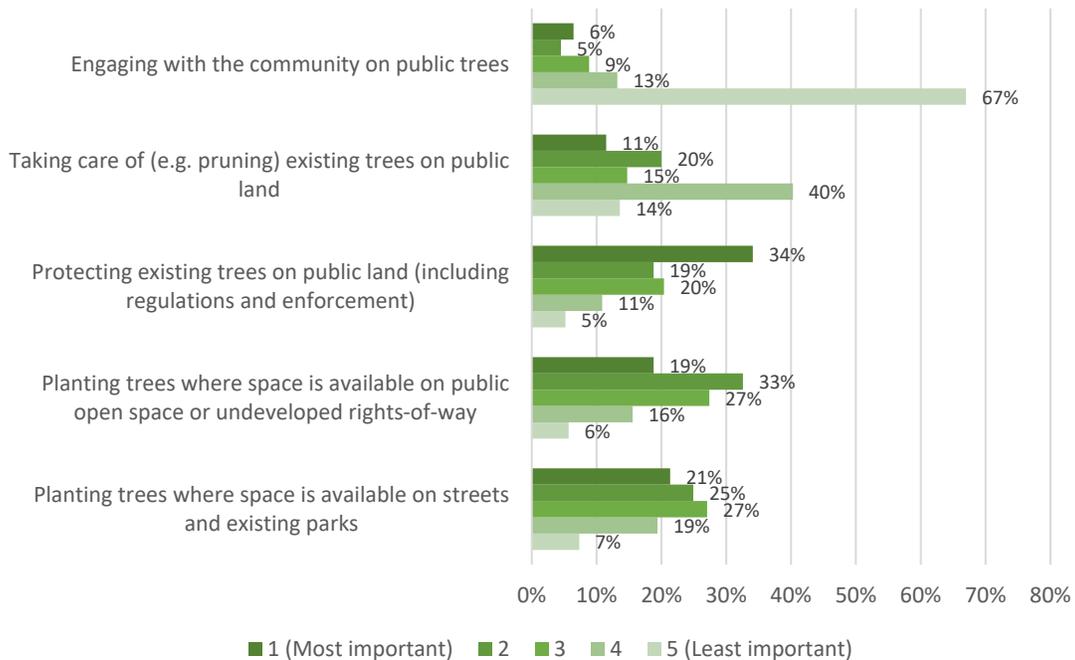


Do you believe trees and/or forests help make Bellingham a special place?

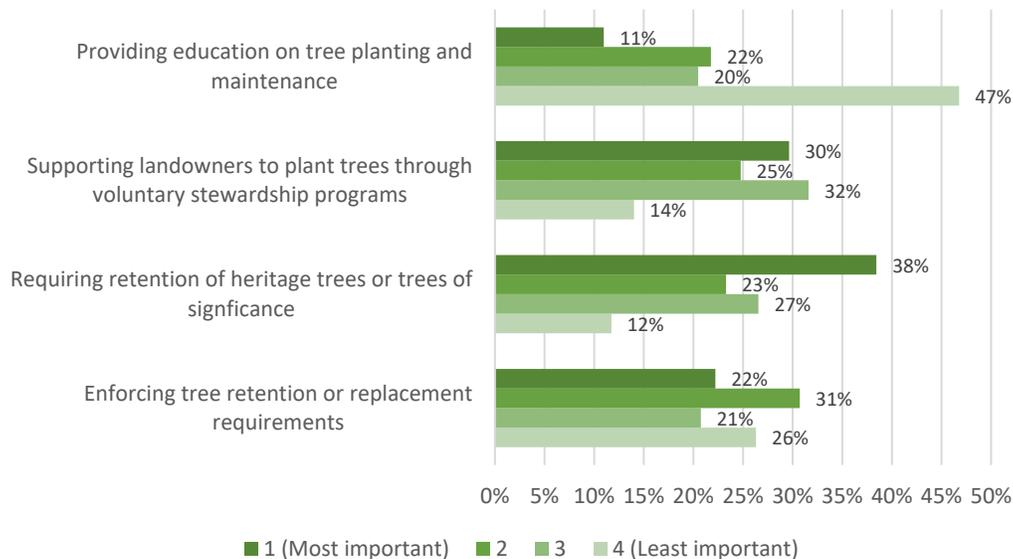


Managing the urban forest

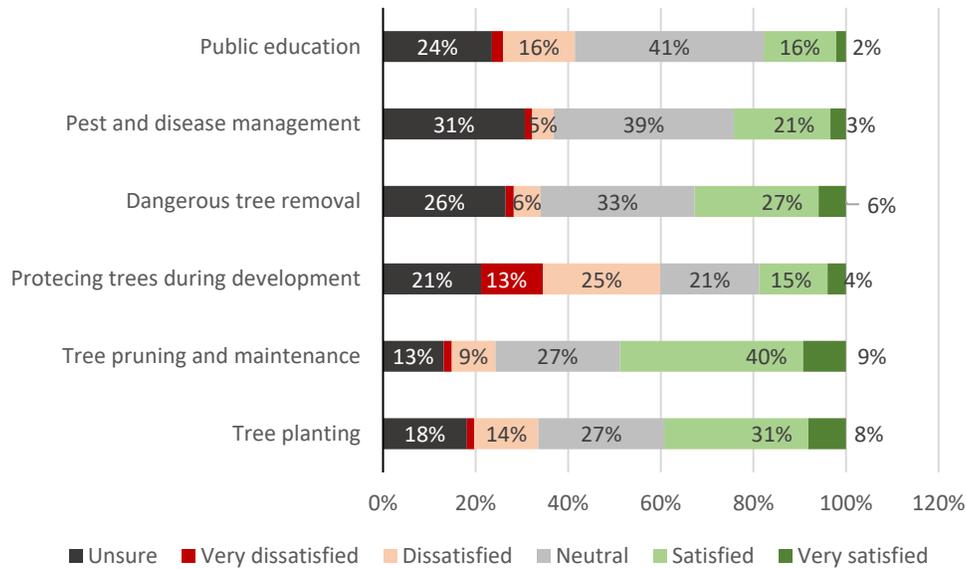
On public land, I would like the City to prioritize: Please rank the following measures from most (1) to least (5) important.



On private land, I would like the City to prioritize: Please rank the following measures from most (1) to least (4) important.

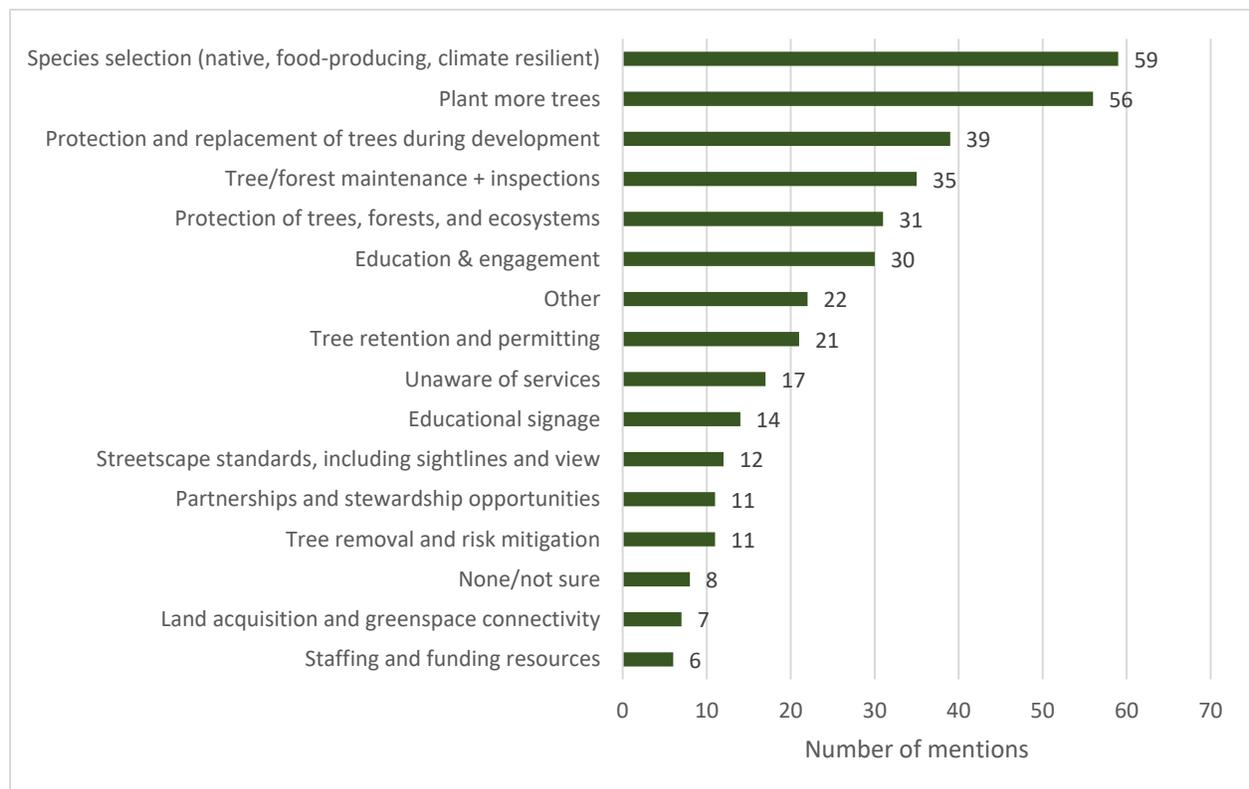


How satisfied are you with the current levels of service provided by the City on public land for:

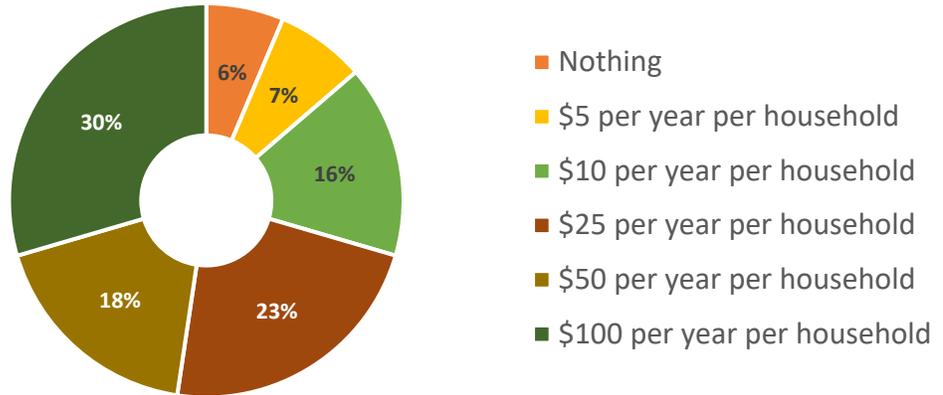


Please share ideas for improving the level of service on public land to reach your satisfaction and preference. Describe ideas for trees on streets or in parks & open spaces.

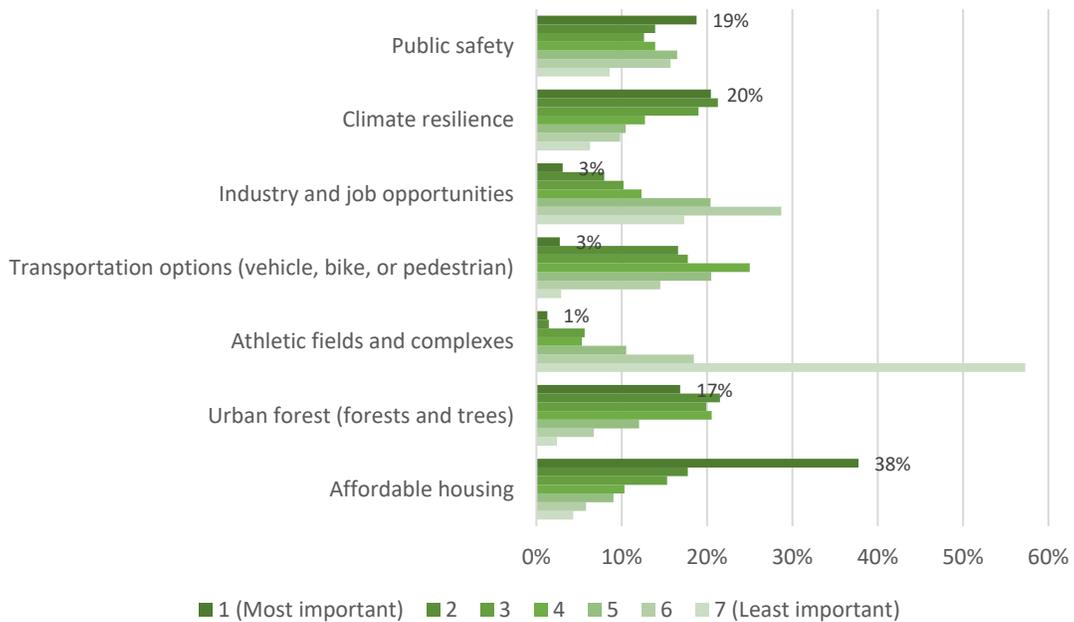
Note – Numbers represent the number of mentions



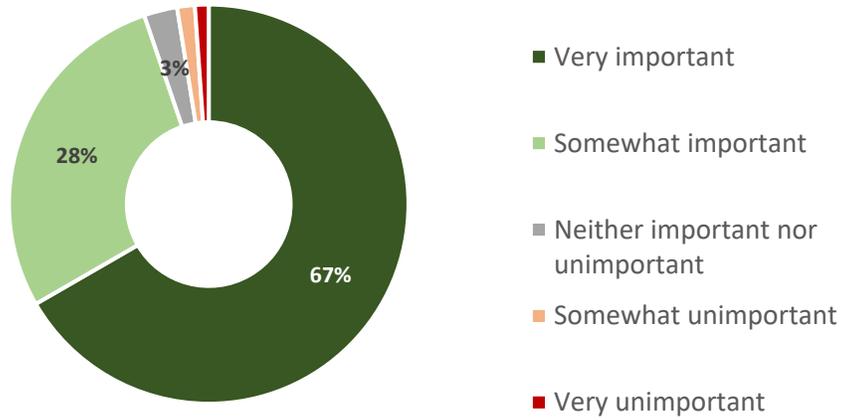
Considering your responses to questions 10 and 11, how much money would you be willing to pay the City to deliver the service levels on public land that you are satisfied with?



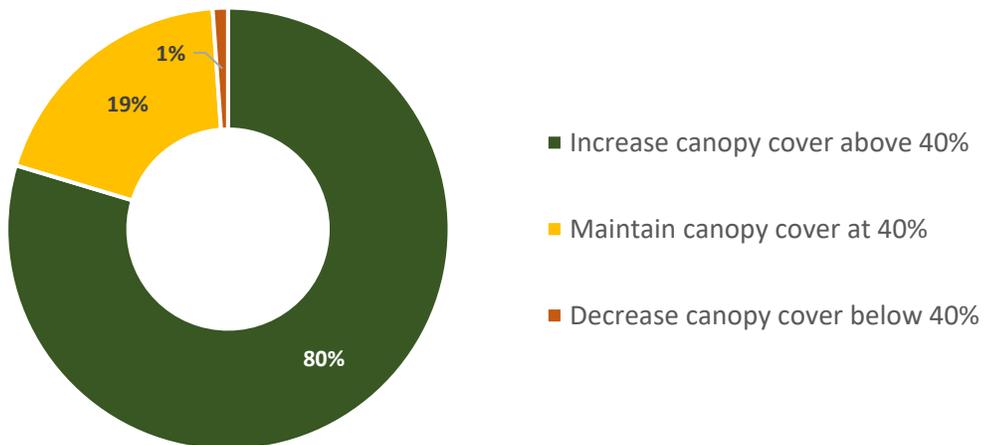
While we try to maximize all public benefits, sometimes our community values conflict and we must prioritize how to best utilize time, money or space. How would you prioritize the following community values? Please rank the following goals from 1 (most important) to 7 (least important).



Among the services that the City of Bellingham provides to its community (utilities, transportation, safety, library, etc.), I would rate the urban forest as:

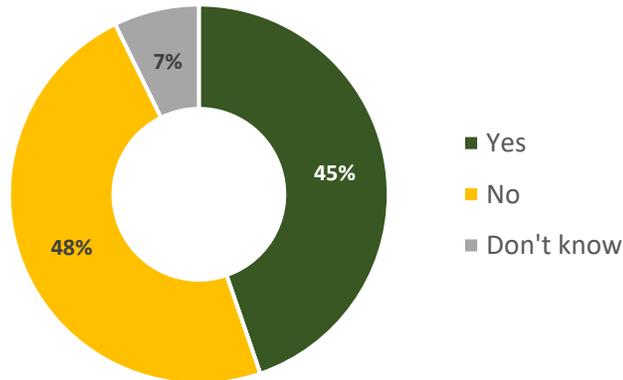


How would you like Bellingham’s canopy cover to change in the future?

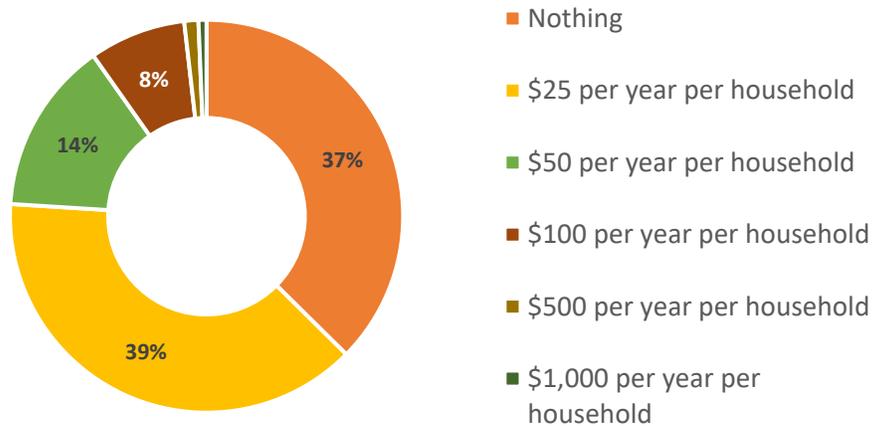


Community stewardship

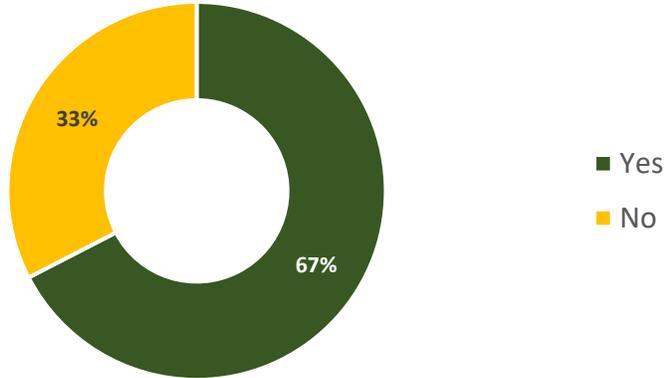
Have you planted or maintained (i.e. watered or pruned) trees in the city rights-of-way over the last five years?



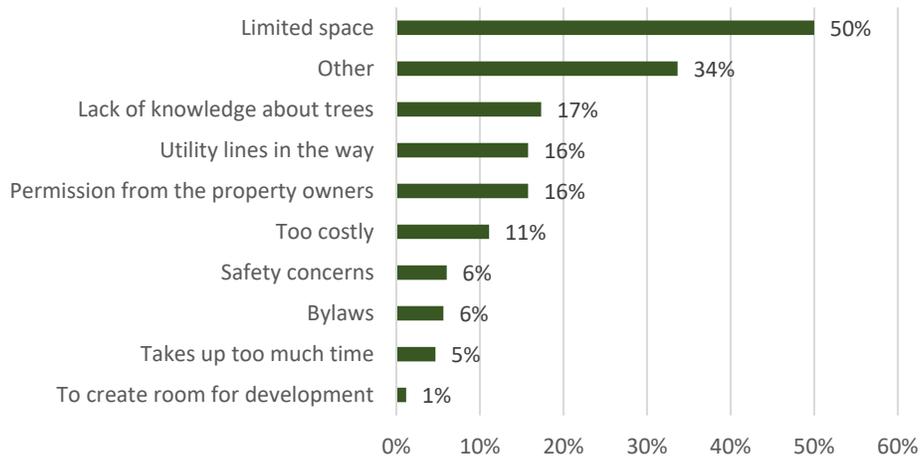
How much would you be willing to pay to receive training or materials to maintain a street tree on or adjacent to your property?



Have you planted at least one tree on your private property in the last five years?

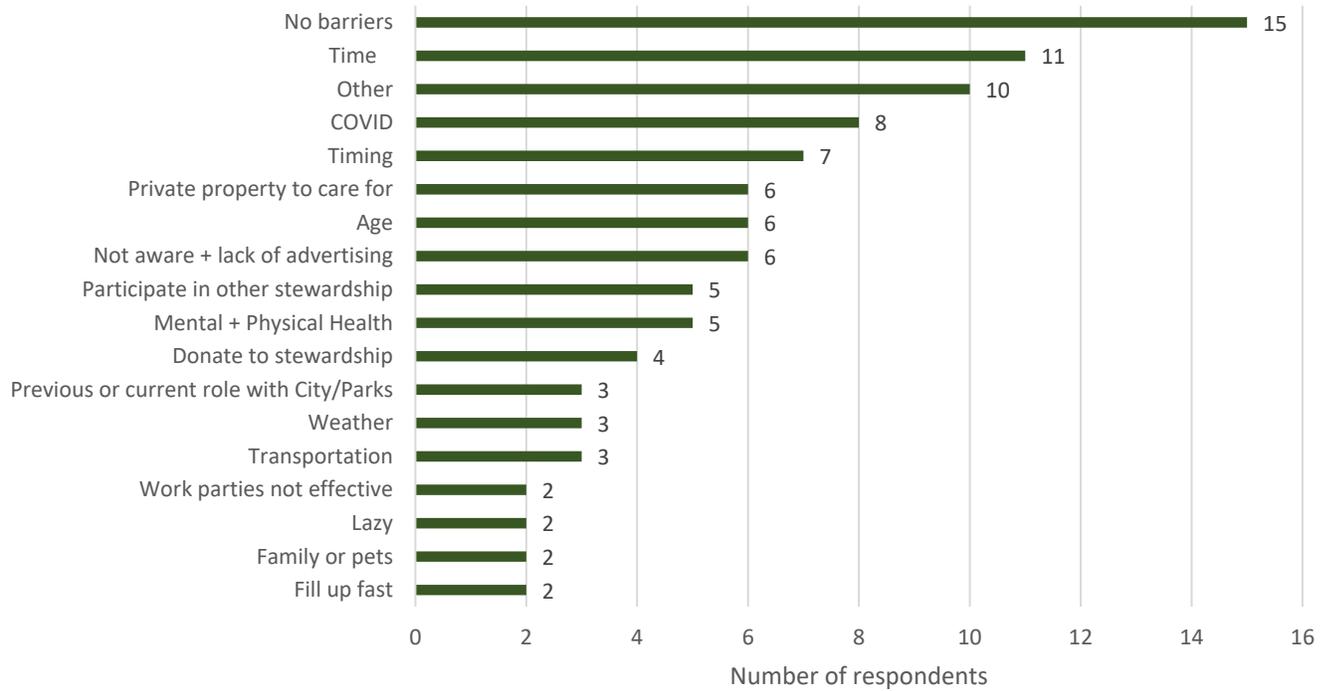


***Are there barriers that prevent you from planting and maintaining a tree on your property?
Select all that apply.***

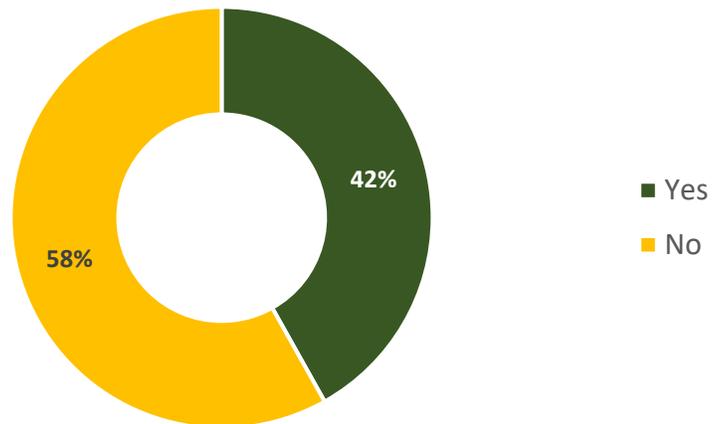


‘Other’ barriers selected in the previous question

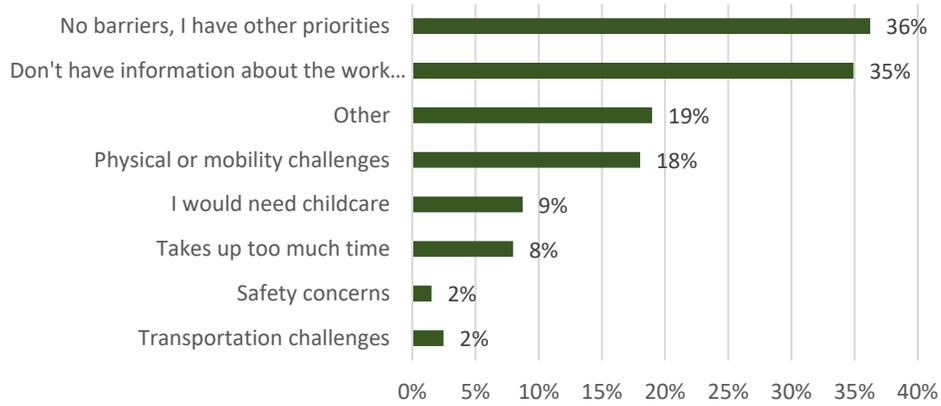
Note – Numbers represent the number of respondents



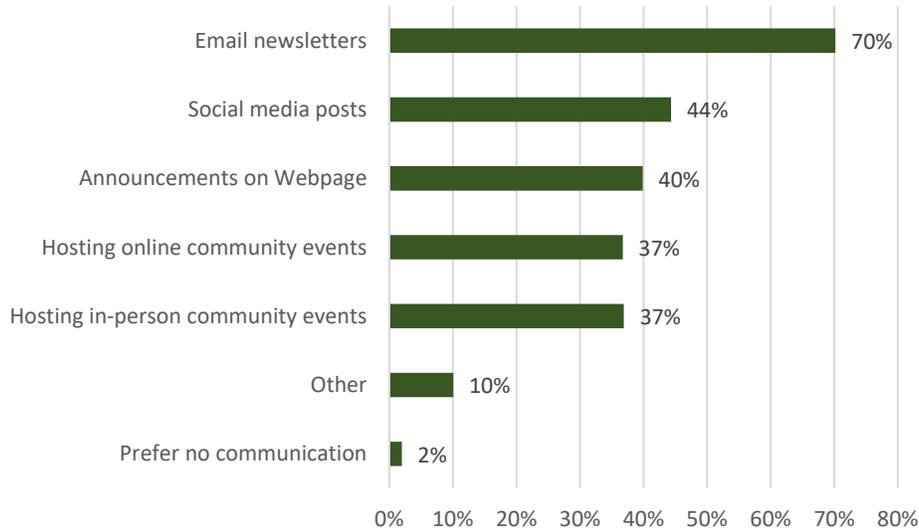
Have you attended a community work party to plant trees, mulch, or remove invasive species in the last five years?



Are there barriers that prevent you from attending community work parties? Select all that apply.

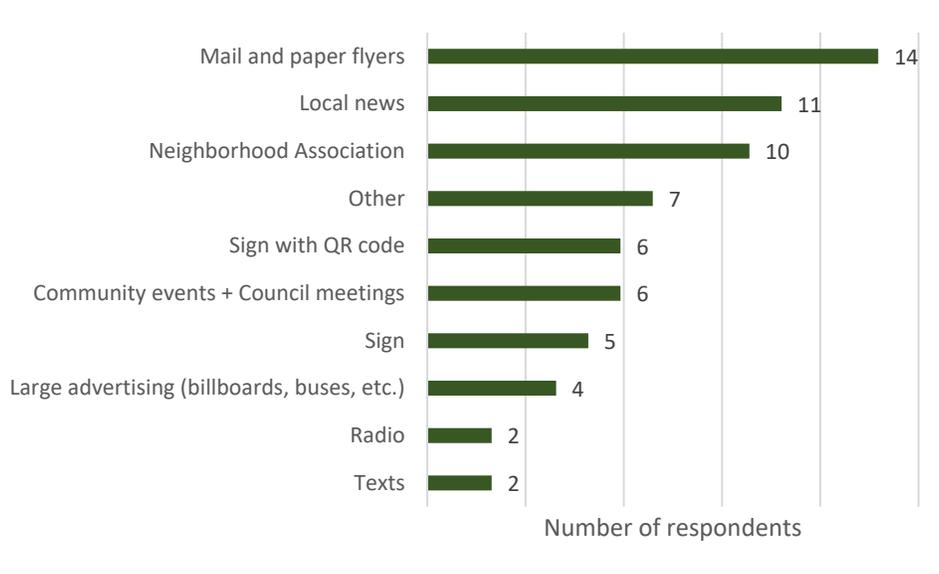


What are the best ways for the City to communicate with you and you community about the Urban Forestry Management Plan? Select as many options as you would like.



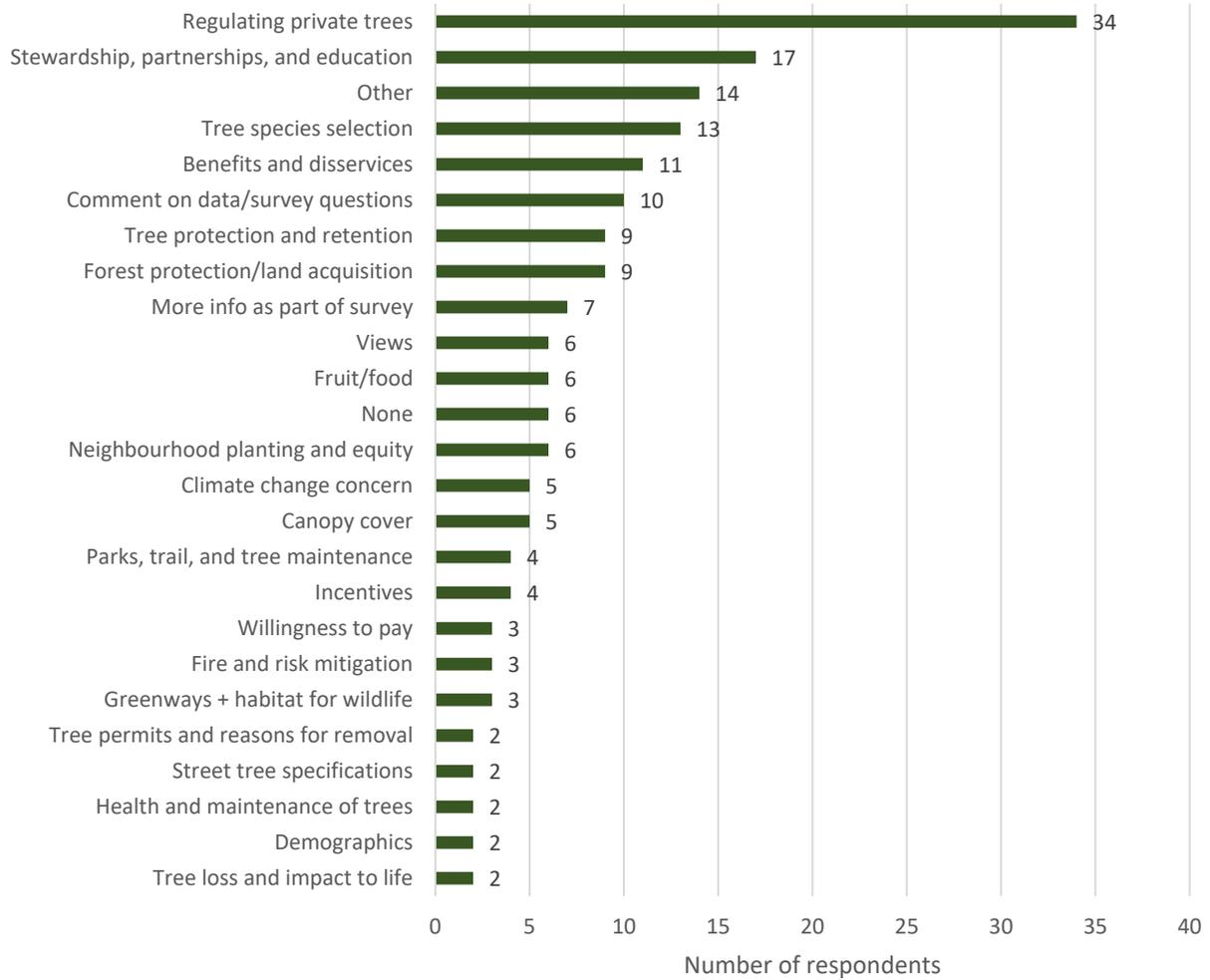
‘Other’ ways to communicate selected in the previous question

Note – Numbers represent the number of respondents



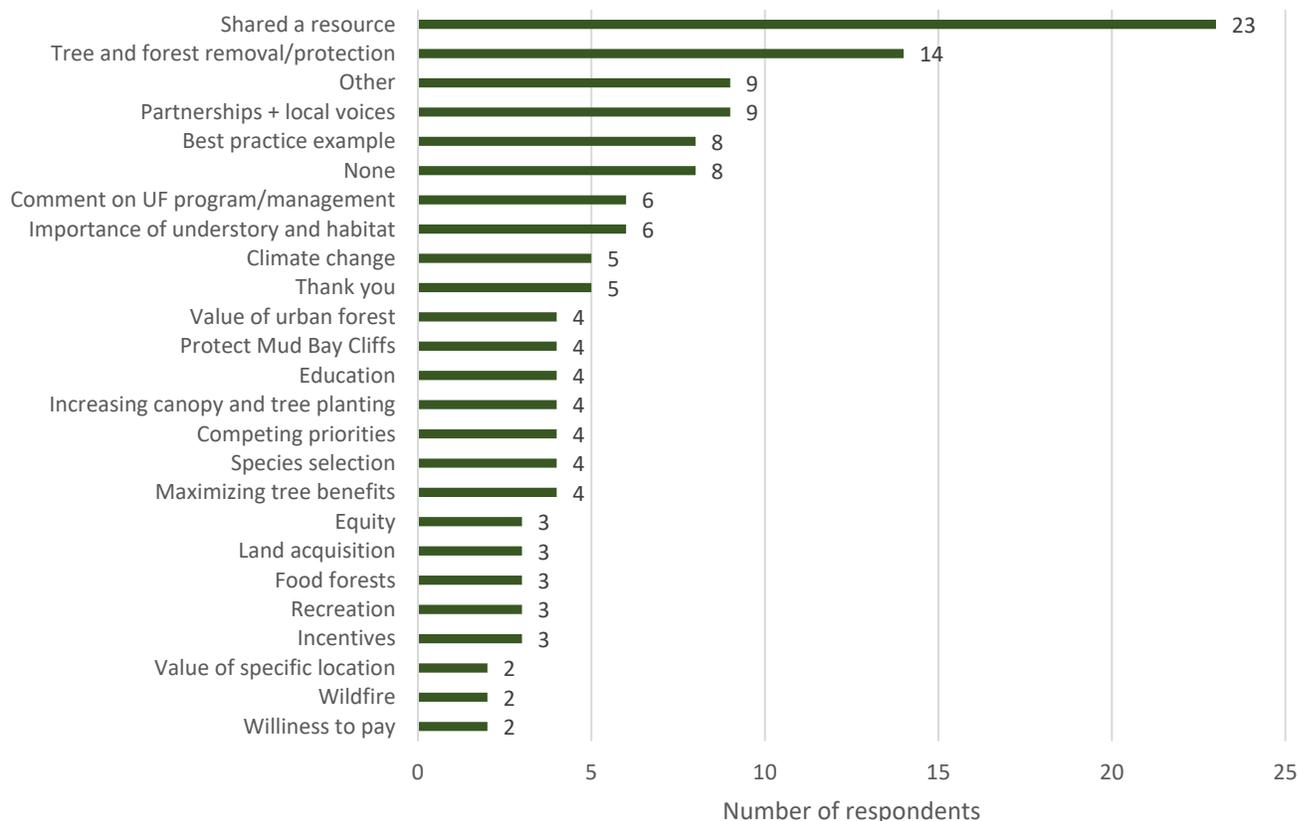
Please share any questions you wished that were asked on this survey and your response to them.

Note – Numbers represent the number of respondents



Do you have information you’d like us to know about while developing the Urban Forestry Management Plan? Add link or shared description of resource.

Note – Numbers represent the number of respondents



List of resources shared:

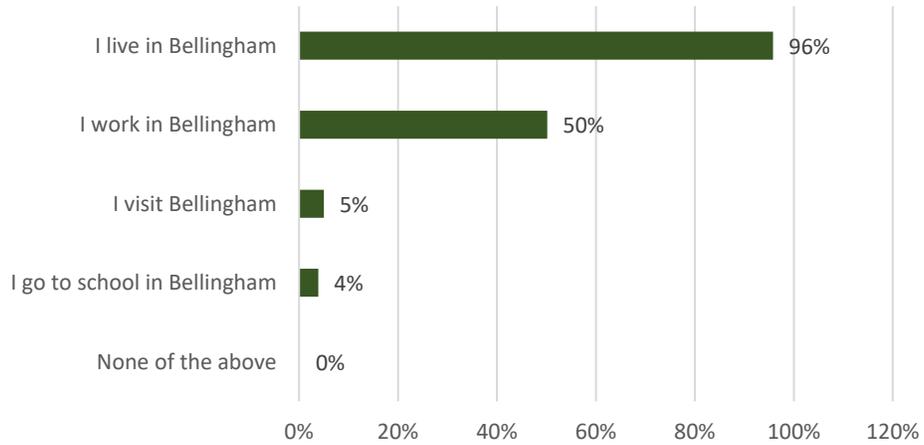
- www.trees-and-stormwater.org
- **PBC documentary on tree planning in Cleveland**
- **Permaculture design in forest restoration:** <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=permaculture+design>
- **Turenscape -**
https://www.turenscape.com/en/home/index.html?mc_cid=a325e373d5&mc_eid=f9e62d8864
- **Trees are crucial to the future of our cities:**
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190325173305.htm>
- **The Association between Green Space and Adolescents’ Mental Well-Being: A Systematic Review:**
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7557737/#:~:text=Synthesis%20suggests%20beneficial%20associations%20between,decreased%20psychological%20distress%20in%20adolescents>
- **Dr. MacLaughlin natural systems presentation:**
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HK6Y9T6ARVz6uzY2LIoTvclYNmaxzi6/view>
- **Making the most of green space for people’s health: summary of evidence:**
<https://beyondgreenspace.net/making-the-most/making-the-most-evidence-and->

[resources/#:~:text=Physical%20health%20benefits%20of%20greenspace&text=Greener%20living%20environments%20are%20linked%20to%20less%20physiological%20stress%20symptoms,incidence%20of%20type%202%20diabetes](#)

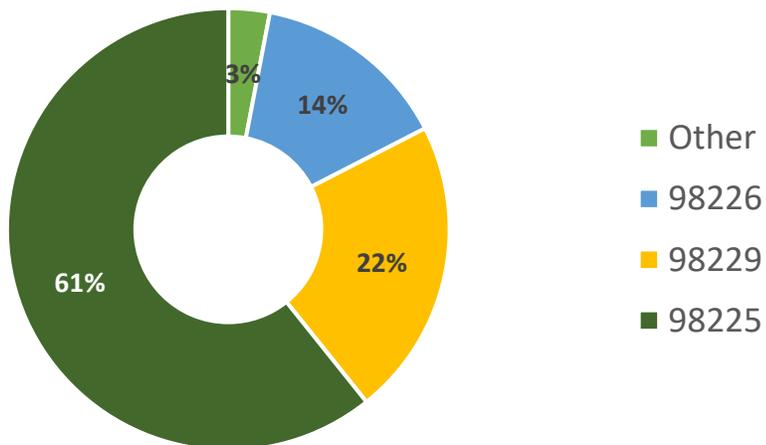
- **Four family-friendly Keweenaw sledding hills:** <https://www.keweenaw.info/keweenaw-sledding-hills/>
- **Forest Preserves of Cook County – sledding:** <https://fpdcc.com/things-to-do/sledding/>
- **Western red cedars die off as extended dry spells continue, say experts:** <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/western-red-cedars-death-dry-climate-change-1.5134262>
- **How to Cut 10,000 Parking Spaces Without Anyone Complaining:** <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-06-05/amsterdam-s-amazing-disappearing-parking-spaces>
- **How to Start a Food Forest – The Ultimate Low-Maintenance Garden:** <https://morningchores.com/food-forest/>
- **Warming Saabath -** <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=RSIXNWwfJPU>
- **Growing Equity in City Green Space -** <https://eos.org/features/growing-equity-in-city-green-space>
- <https://cescos.fau.edu/observatory/lightpol-Plants.htm>
- **International Dark-Sky Association – Light Pollution:** <https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/>
- **UBC Greenheart Treewalk -** <https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/visit/greenheart-treewalk/>
- **USDA Urban Fruit for Urban Communities -** <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2011/12/16/urban-fruit-urban-communities>
- **Tree City**
- **Washington State Department of Natural Resources – Urban and Community Forestry -** https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewiurdjqpqz4AhX0IX0KHblMAvYQFnoECAUQAw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dnr.wa.gov%2Furbanforestry&sg=AOvVaw1t2QXWr6hKc6_a_Nye6SAY
- **Friends of Trees -** <https://friendsoftrees.org/>
- **Center for Responsible Forestry -** <https://www.c4rf.org/>
- **US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program -** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>
- **"The Hybrid tree that conquered the world"** Zaria Gorvett, BBC Future, June 3, 2022 article
- **American Forests Tree Equity -** <https://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/tree-equity/>

About you (optional)

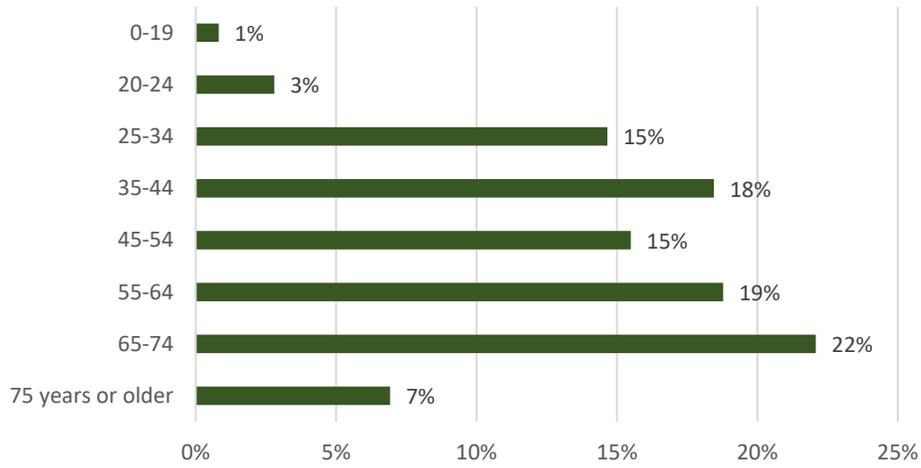
Do you live in Bellingham?



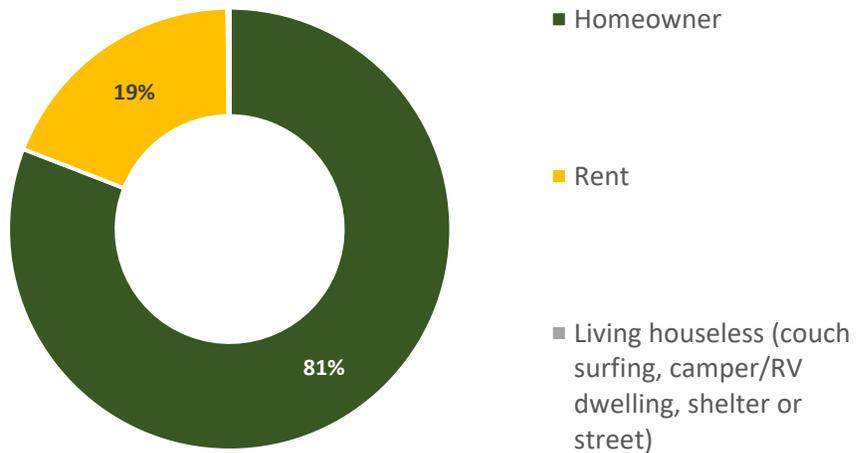
What is your postal code?



What age bracket do you fall under?



What is your current living situation?



Appendix F – Mapping tool photos

Photos submitted by respondents:



Appendix G – Stories Tool Responses

I love trees. I built many a treehouse as a kid. I even built one as a college student. I have built a treehouse with my 5 year-old, here on my property. Trees are part of what makes Bellingham a beautiful place to live. However, no Urban Forestry Management Plan should be enacted without a provision for "view corridors". Bellingham is one of the few cities, nationwide, without a View Ordinance. People buy homes in Bellingham and pay up to a 30% premium for a view of the water, sunsets, islands, mountains. That view can be almost spiritual. It goes well beyond the monetary value of the property. A view, if you have chosen one by virtue of the home you have bought, can bring peace, serenity, respite. It is not something to give up because neighbors are reluctant to trim their treetops. As part of any Urban Forestry Management Program views should be respected and revered. They are a treasure. They, in part, are what makes Bellingham an ideal place to live. Please include a View Ordinance into any plans going forward.

I would like to respectfully agree with the comment below. I am thankful that Bellingham does not have a view ordinance. This type of legislation frequently leads to a culture of petty conflicts between neighbors and unnecessary lawsuits. If you have a problem with a neighbor's trees, talk to them about it. If you can reach a mutually agreeable solution, awesome! And if you can't, well, that's life.

During the pandemic, we walked many streets, parks and trails throughout Bellingham and were struck by the variety, beauty and age of the trees in the City, both on public and private property. I have two questions resulting from our "tours": 1) is there any consideration for a Heritage Tree program in Bellingham that would serve to protect the trees that are of significance? And 2) we know of the Greenways Program. But, green spaces that are presently undeveloped throughout the city serve valuable purposes for wildlife. I think we all know when the latest condo project is being built how more raccoons show up either as road kill or menacing our small pets. And birds need vacant trees for nesting. Do contractors have requirements for retaining trees (where they are present) at their development site? I am concerned that as more and more of this undeveloped land is developed that these pockets for wildlife will disappear. Retaining some trees on those sites would ameliorate the loss of habitat.

I, too, love trees. Therefore, if an Urban Forestry Management Plan is to be enacted, and if that plan includes a provision for "view corridors", then I respectfully submit that it should also include a provision for "maximum alteration of tree density" - limiting the negative change in tree density to say, 15% per year. If neighbors can be forced to trim their trees to maintain their neighbors' views, then the reverse ought to apply, as well. If a certain tree density pertains in a given neighborhood, it ought to be unlawful for anyone to move into that neighborhood and proceed to denude a property of the trees that previously contributed to that neighborhood's character. This practice amounts to a kind of "bait and switch", encouraging people to move into an area with a certain character, only to abruptly change that character after those people have invested in it. If "view corridors" are called for, then I believe the reverse is correspondingly called for.

We are truly blessed to live in a lush forested part of the world BUT the very thing that attracts people to this area often ends up being the thing that is sacrificed in order to build homes/facilities to

accommodate this growth. My wish is for those in positions of power to consider forest ecosystems as “persons” with rights in that they are filled with sentient life. Trees and the life they support are not inanimate objects. It would be great if every time something is being cleared or cut it was considered from this viewpoint. Plus, plants instead of tarmac and tree canopies keeps things cooler and supports life. I believe that changing our people first/ extraction mindset would help us get out of the climate conundrum we find ourselves in.

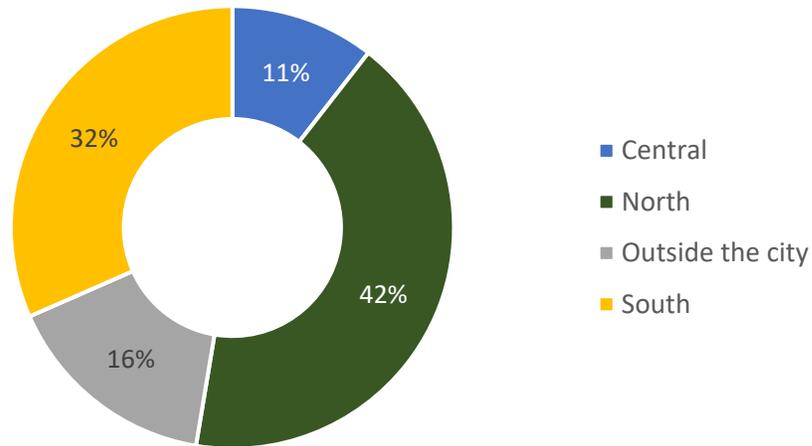
The trees are part of what initially drew me to move to Bellingham. Here was a city that seemed to respect their trees, as so many old growth trees are here to be appreciated, listened to and learned from. These trees are also a connection to the past of this city, they were here through some rough and painful times for its inhabitants, yet have persevered and I believe they are now actually part of an illuminated present that we are taking our first baby steps into, as we speak. Let's care for and show our love to these sacred elders.

I used to keep a tally of large/mature trees that were cut down for "development" within a two- block radius of the rental where I live in Fairhaven. When the number approached three dozen, I gave up counting because it became too depressing! On multiple occasions the neighborhood organized to try and prevent the removal of large street trees, but to no avail. Although it seems pretty late to get started with an Urban Forestry Management Plan, I support the effort and I would like to see it incorporate some of the progressive actions being taken by the Whatcom Million Trees Project.

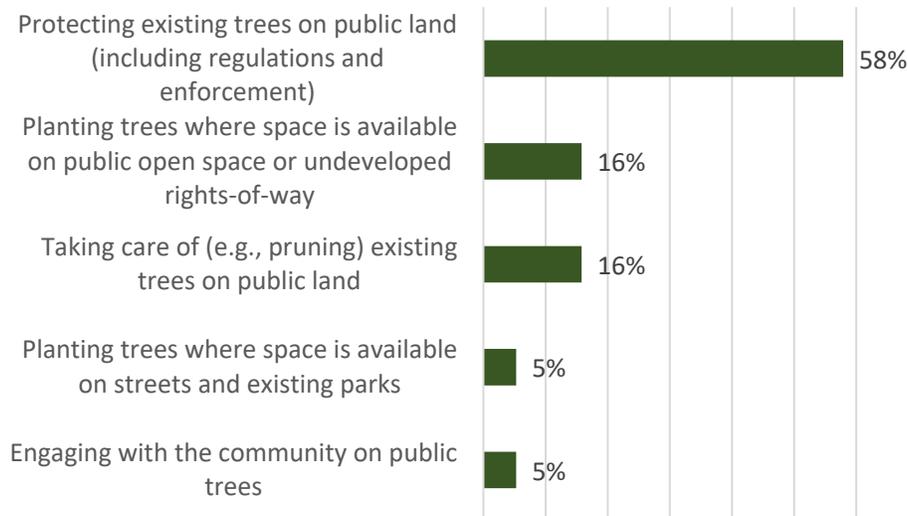
Little brings more peace and joy that the beauty of lush ferns and symphonic melodies of the stream near my home that flows down a forested ravine of the Galbraith foothills. Roaring during recent deluge, it was reduced to murmuring trickle last summer. I wonder if or when it may go bone dry, taking with it the haunting pre-dawn calls of owls and birdsong that stirs me awake into a new day. Increasingly stirred also are fears of what "cut-it-all and start anew" permitting has meant for trees and all our relations. While thin buffers of brambles and catchment basins may balance out mathematically, they are impoverished substitutes for habitat and hydrological benefits of urban forests. Rather than cleared hillsides and maximal footprints and profits, I envision a healthy and equitable community, grounded -- literally and figuratively - in aesthetics along with modest impact. I long for planning and development that incentivizes townhouses that are integrated within shared forested landscapes, and accessible to families and younger residents who today have fading hopes for having homes in Bellingham. A lone tree towering above a new development on a hillside above Lakeway was recently cut, mercifully no longer condemning it to isolation. Maybe its final service will be to help shift priorities away from short-sightedness, and toward living well within an interdependent living system.

Appendix H – Online open house poll

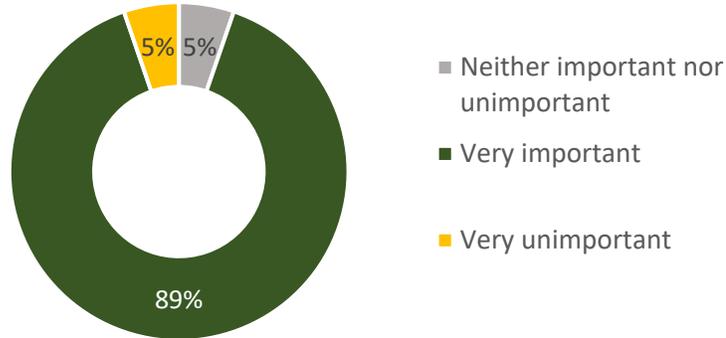
Where in Bellingham do you live?



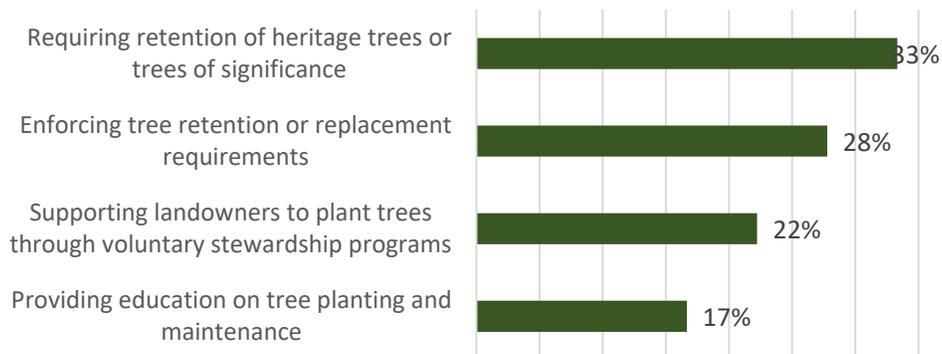
On public land, what is the first thing you would like the City to prioritize?



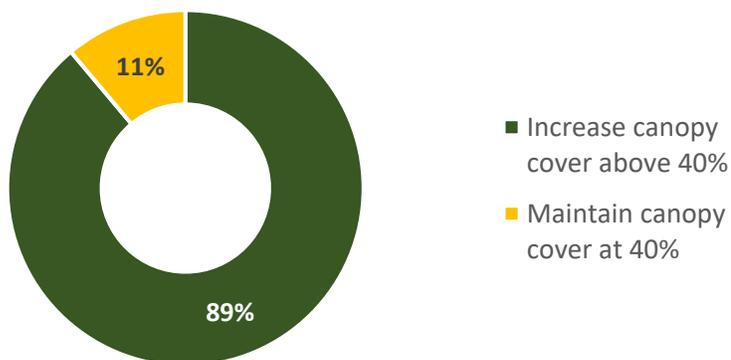
Among the services that the City of Bellingham provides to its community (utilities, transportation, safety, library, etc.), I would rate the urban forest as:



On private land, what is the first thing you would like the City to prioritize?



How would you like Bellingham’s canopy cover to change in the future?



Appendix I: Lessons Learned

The Phase 2 engagement offered several lessons that can help refine future engagement efforts. The following methods were used in Phase 2 and are recommended for use in future community engagement:

- **Online opportunities:**
 - Continue to provide opportunities to provide input online at events and with tools accessible at any time. Most participants contributed online during the Phase 2 engagement process.
 - Offer a shorter, less technical survey. The project team received comments about the survey being too long or too complex to some community members.
- **In-person events:**
 - Continue co-hosting events or providing a booth at other events. The highest and most diverse in-person participation was recorded with that format.
- **Promotion:**
 - Continue advertising engagement on multiple platforms, media, and through community groups. When asked to describe the best ways for the City to communicate about the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP), most survey respondents indicated a preference for email newsletters (70%) followed by social media posts (44%) and announcements on the webpage (40%). Other preferred methods included mail and paper flyers, local news sources, and communication at the neighborhood scale (e.g., Neighborhood Associations).
 - Continue to use the UFMP contact list to develop long-lasting partnerships for forest education and stewardship.

The equitable engagement review created opportunities to improve the City's engagement with protected classes, vulnerable populations, and typically under-represented and marginalized communities. The iterative approach used to design community engagement for the UFMP allowed the project team to promote a culture of continuous improvement and integrate new learning throughout the implementation of Phase 2.

The following engagement methods were used in Phase 2 and are recommended for future community engagement to build ongoing relationships that will promote meaningful and timely participation of marginalized communities and vulnerable populations in ongoing UFMP development:

- **Events – continue to:**
 - Host joint in-person events for multiple projects at a single time and community location to use participants' time more efficiently. The highest participation was recorded at those events, and participants shared positive comments about the format.
 - Provide simultaneous Spanish interpretation at online and in-person events. Low use in the Phase 2 events is likely due to a lack of awareness for this service. As the City continues to provide this service, usage is expected to increase. The City would also

need to provide promotional materials, informational materials, and feedback tools in Spanish.

- Provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and live captioning at online and in-person events. Low use in the Phase 2 events is likely due to lack of awareness for this service. As the City continues to provide this service, usage is expected to increase.
- **Tribal notification and consultation:** continue sending notifications and invitations to all Native American Nations and Tribes with usual and customary areas in the planning area
- **Promotion:** Continue to develop relationships with churches, temples, housing and public health organizations, libraries, schools, parks, and local businesses to reach under-represented communities and get their input.

1.4 Future improvements

The project team considered additional approaches to improve engagement that were not feasible to implement during Phase 2. In future engagement processes, the City could consider:

- Establishing City-wide equitable engagement goals and minimum project outreach expectations (e.g., what translation/interpretation services are expected). The City could create a Language Assistance Plan to help standardize approaches across departments.
- Providing translation and interpretation services for other most spoken languages (Punjabi, Russian, and Vietnamese) in addition to the Spanish and ASL.
- Translation of key indigenous place names and tribal names where appropriate as determined with the Native American Nations and Tribes.
- Identifying partners to create a local pool of approved, contract-ready translators. The project team identified potential partnerships that the City could explore in the future to improve their access to translation and interpretation services.

The City could consider those approaches as it continues to improve community engagement and engagement of protected classes, vulnerable populations, and typically under-represented and marginalized communities.