

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

urban forest strategic plan

Kendra Boot

City Forester
Forestry Division





The Benefits of Trees



Fort Collins' Trees Provide \$2.2 Million in Benefits each Year

TABLE 2. ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS PROVIDED BY FORT COLLINS' TOTAL TREE CANOPY AND ITS PUBLIC TREES, AS ESTIMATED BY I-TREE TOOLS.

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS	ALL TREES			PUBLIC TREES	
Annual Benefits	Quantity	Value	2011-2021 Change	Quantity	Value
Air quality: pollution removal (pounds)	570,300	\$942,949	\$145,068	21,320	\$32,038
Carbon sequestration (tons)	5,810	\$991,666	\$152,564	276	\$47,013
Stormwater: avoided runoff (gallons)	35,130,000	\$313,902	\$48,292	2,318,837	\$20,721
Total Annual Benefits		\$2,248,517	\$345,924		\$69,374
Structural Value					
Carbon storage (tons)	226,820	\$38,684,069	\$5,951,395	18,616	\$3,175,046
Replacement Value				\$112,489,358	



Public Trees

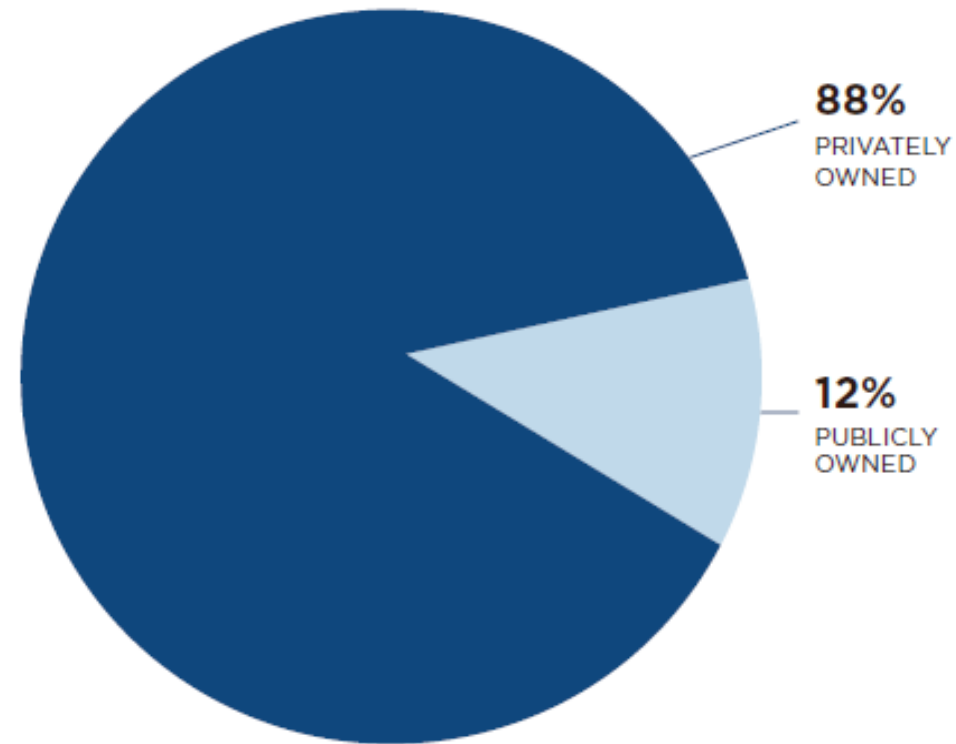
- 60,165 public trees
- 18 Professionals
- ISA Certified Arborists

Private Trees

- Over 500M trees in City Limits
- Indirectly maintain via Arborist Licensing
- Commercial development plan review



FIGURE 2. FORT COLLINS TREE CANOPY COVER BY TYPE OF LAND OWNERSHIP.





What does the Forestry Division do?

Public Urban Forest



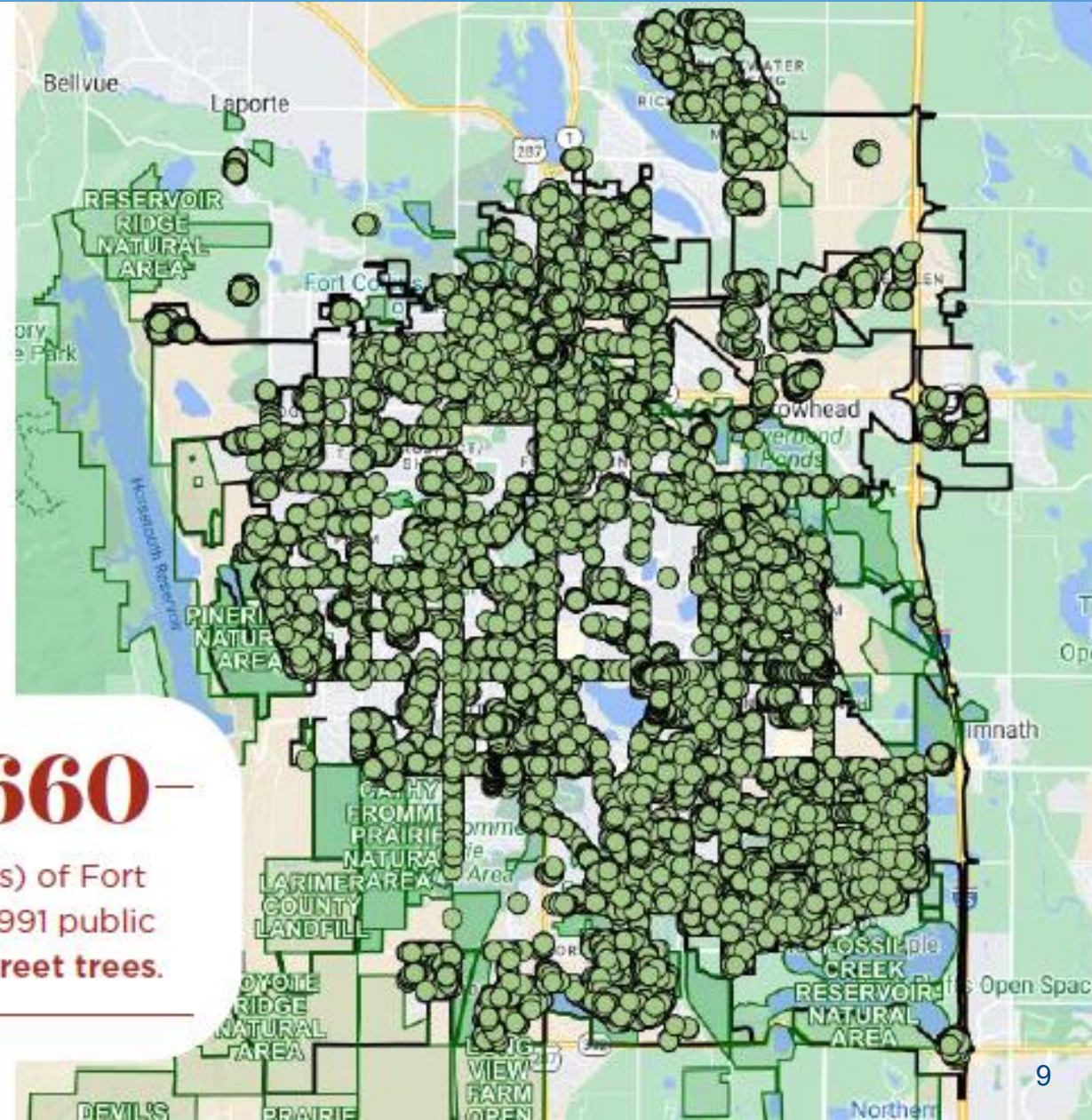
Google:

TreeKeeper 8 System Fort
Collins

- Accessible to ALL!

—38,660—

(two thirds) of Fort
Collins' 57,991 public
trees are **street trees**.



What are we up to?



Tree Planting

- Good seed sources and species selection
- Plant quality trees
- Drought tolerance
- Climate adapted
- Little susceptibility to insect & disease
- Right tree right place
- Community Canopy Program

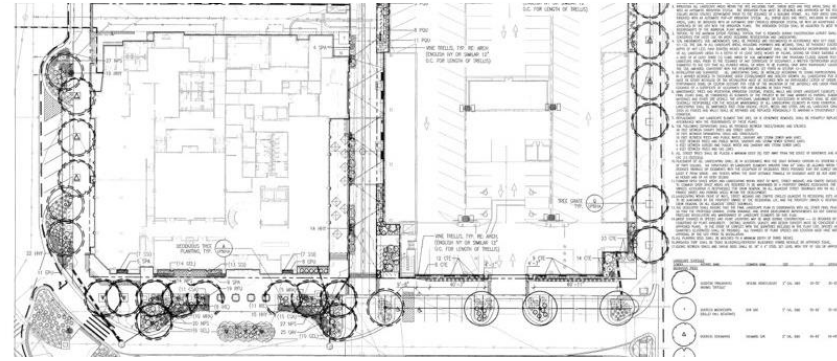
Maintain

- 5-year pruning rotation
- Strong, healthy trees
- Better resilience
- Safe community
- Remove unhealthy trees
- Emergency Response

Preserve

- Insect and Disease
- Construction and trees
- Collaborating with other departments
- Competing infrastructure
- Tree Risk Assessments

What are we up to?



Tree policy

- Municipal Code
 - Safety
 - I&D
 - Arborist Licensing
- Land Use Code
- Larimer County Urban Area Streetscape Standards

Influence

- Development Review
 - All commercial development
- Tree preservation
- Species diversity
- Replacing and growing canopy
- Wood utilization and zero waste

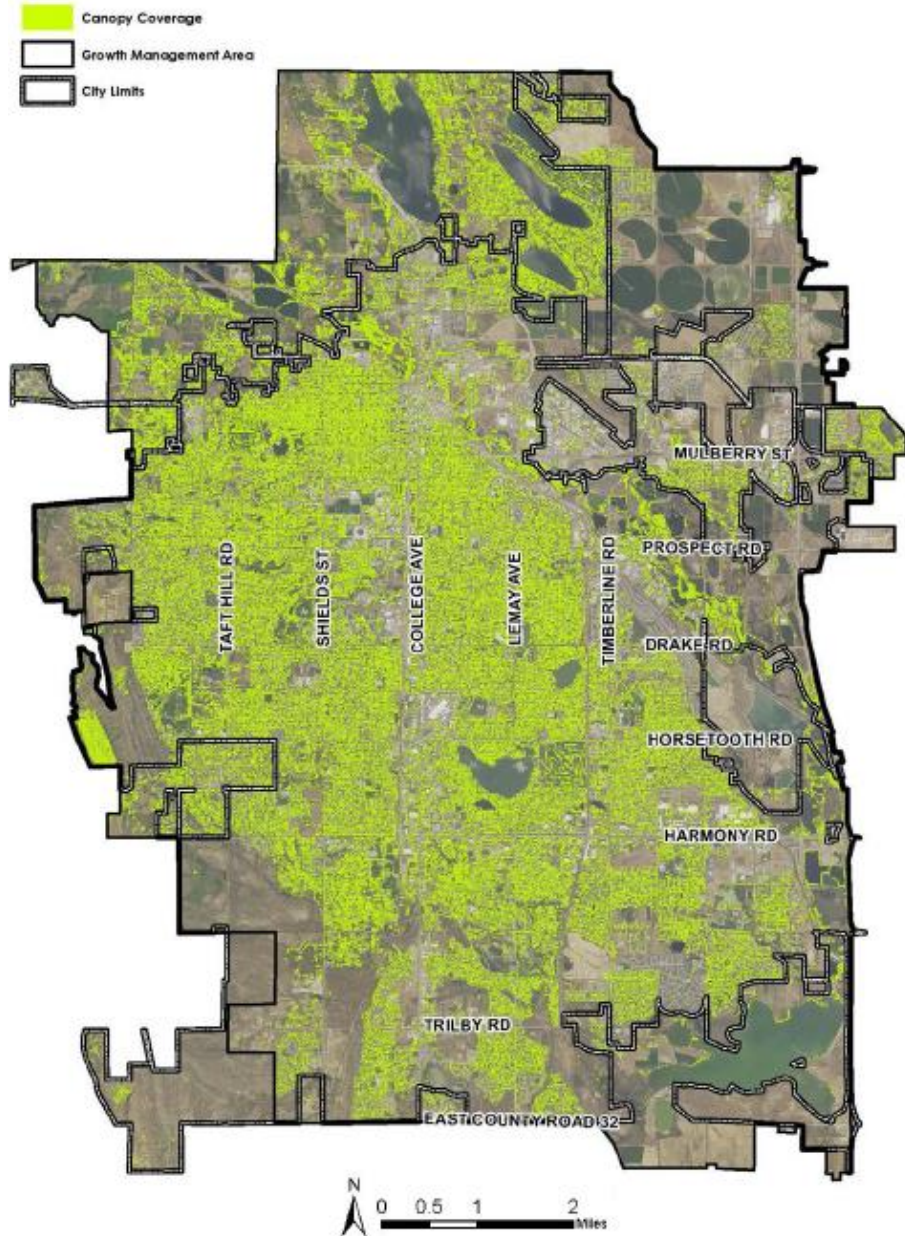
Looking Forward

- Analyze the data
- Plan, Do, Check, Act
- Info share with our neighbors
- Strategic planning



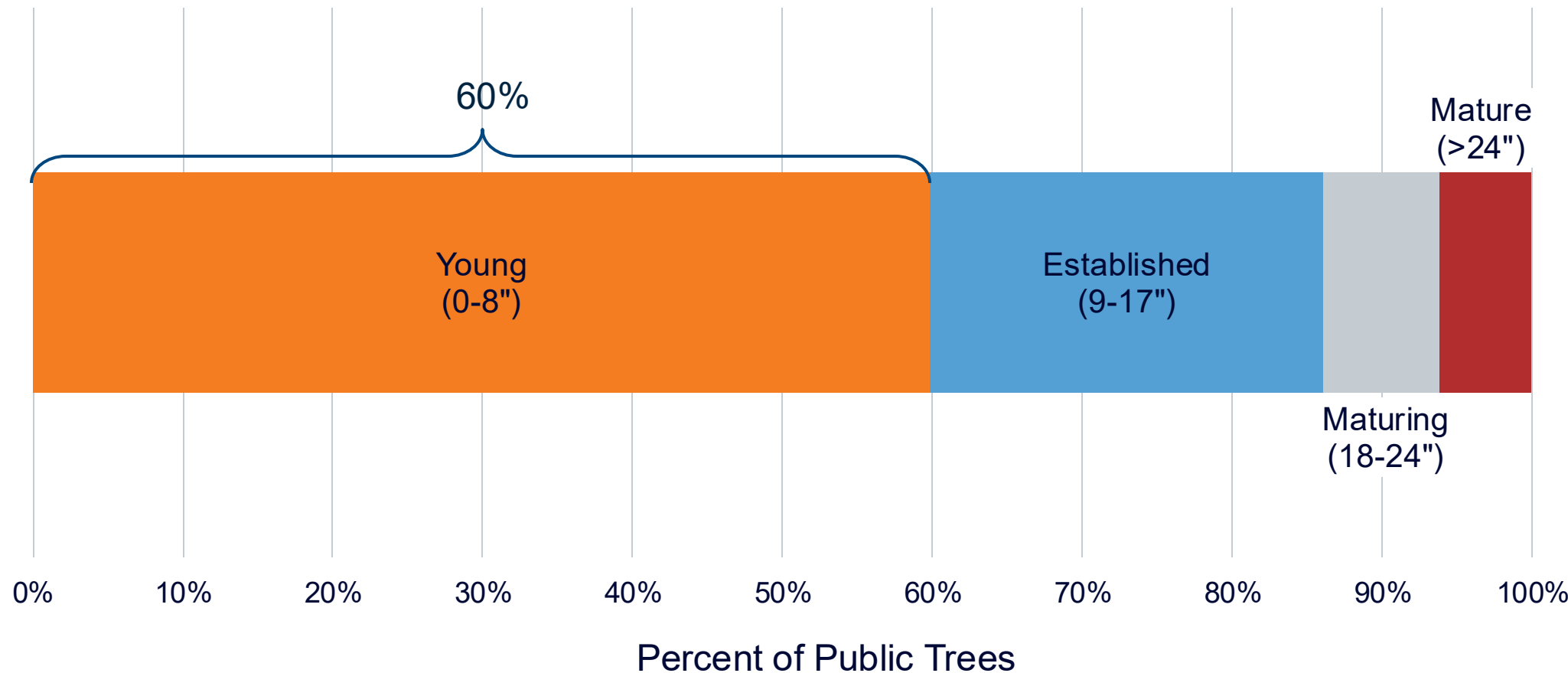
State of the Urban Forest

Tree Canopy Cover

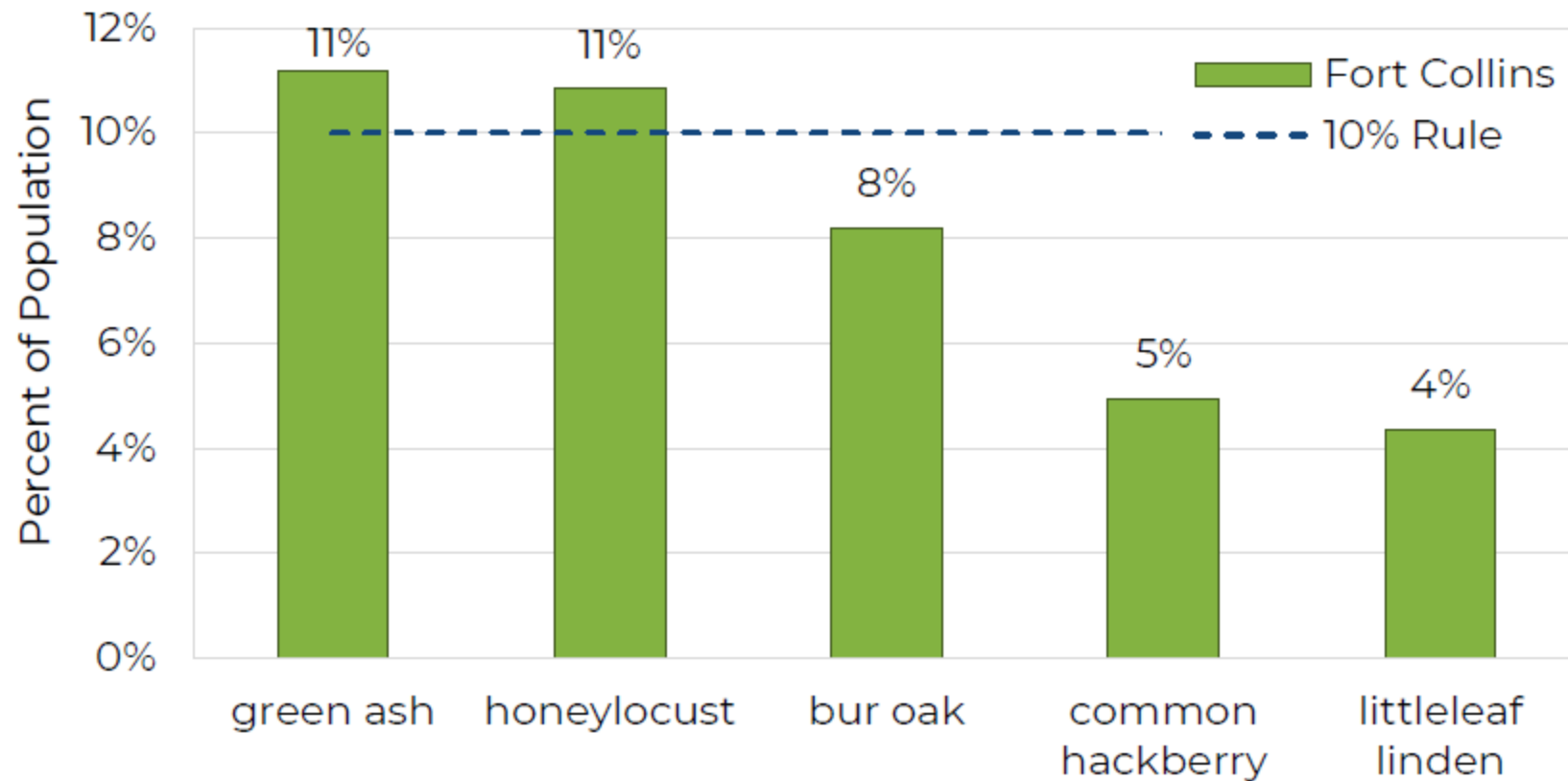


PUBLIC TREES BY SIZE/AGE

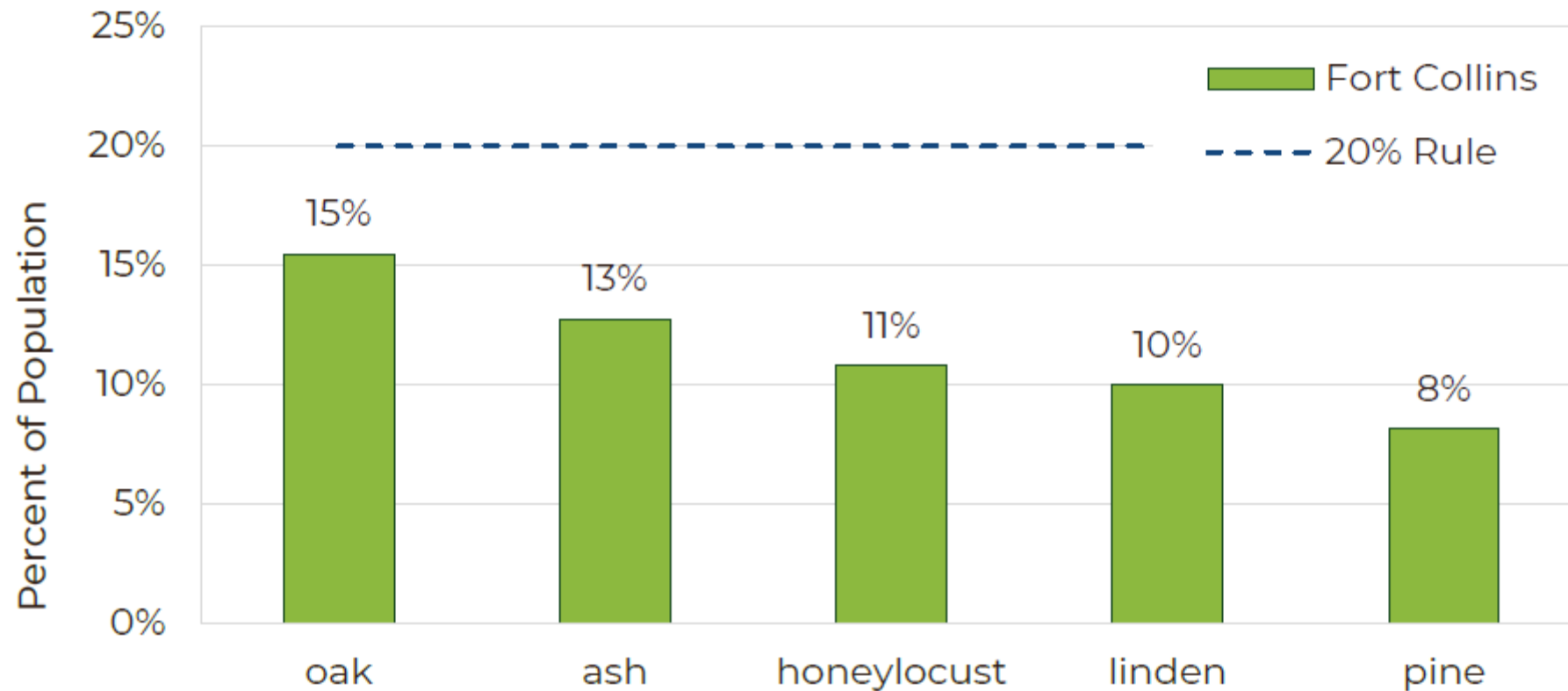
60,165 PUBLIC TREES



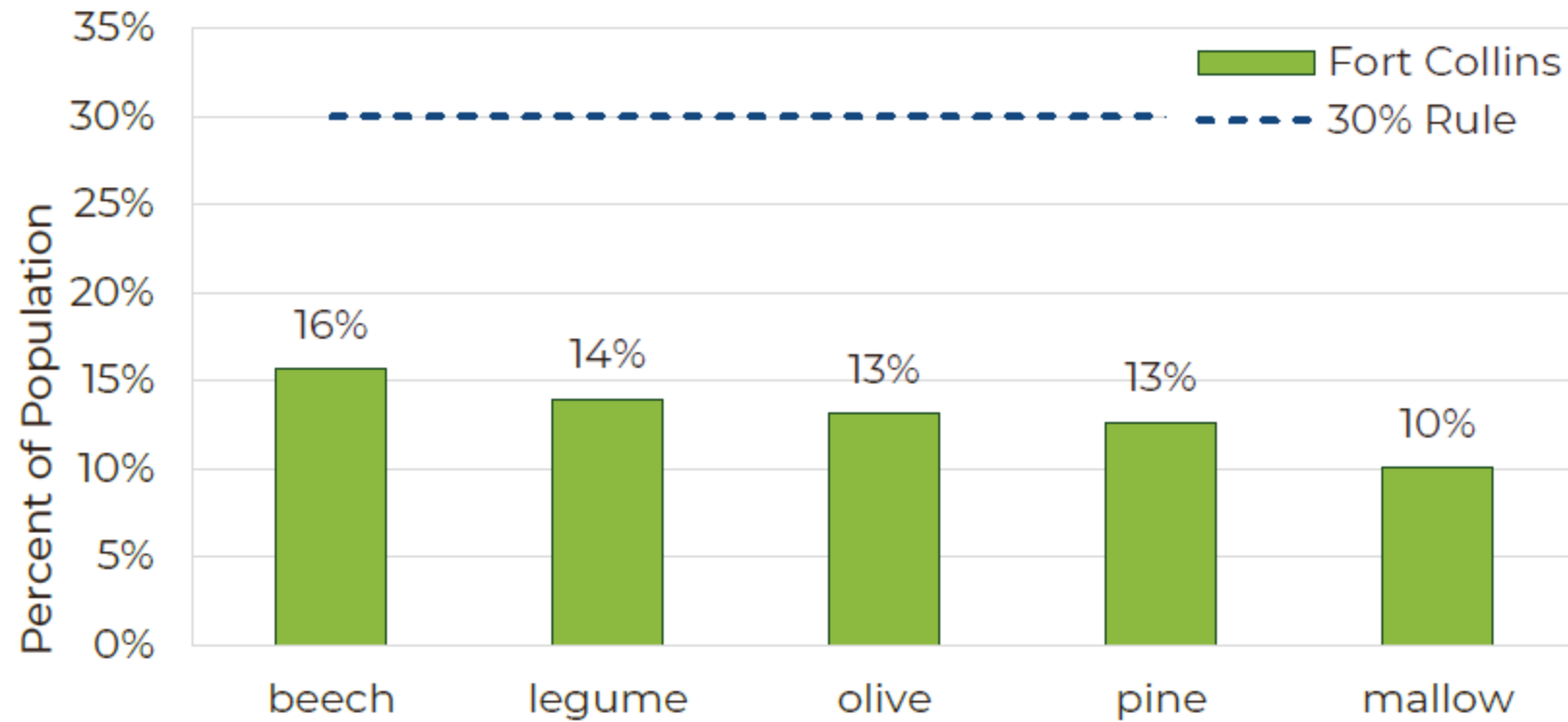
TOP 5 PUBLIC TREE SPECIES



TOP 5 PUBLIC TREE GENERA

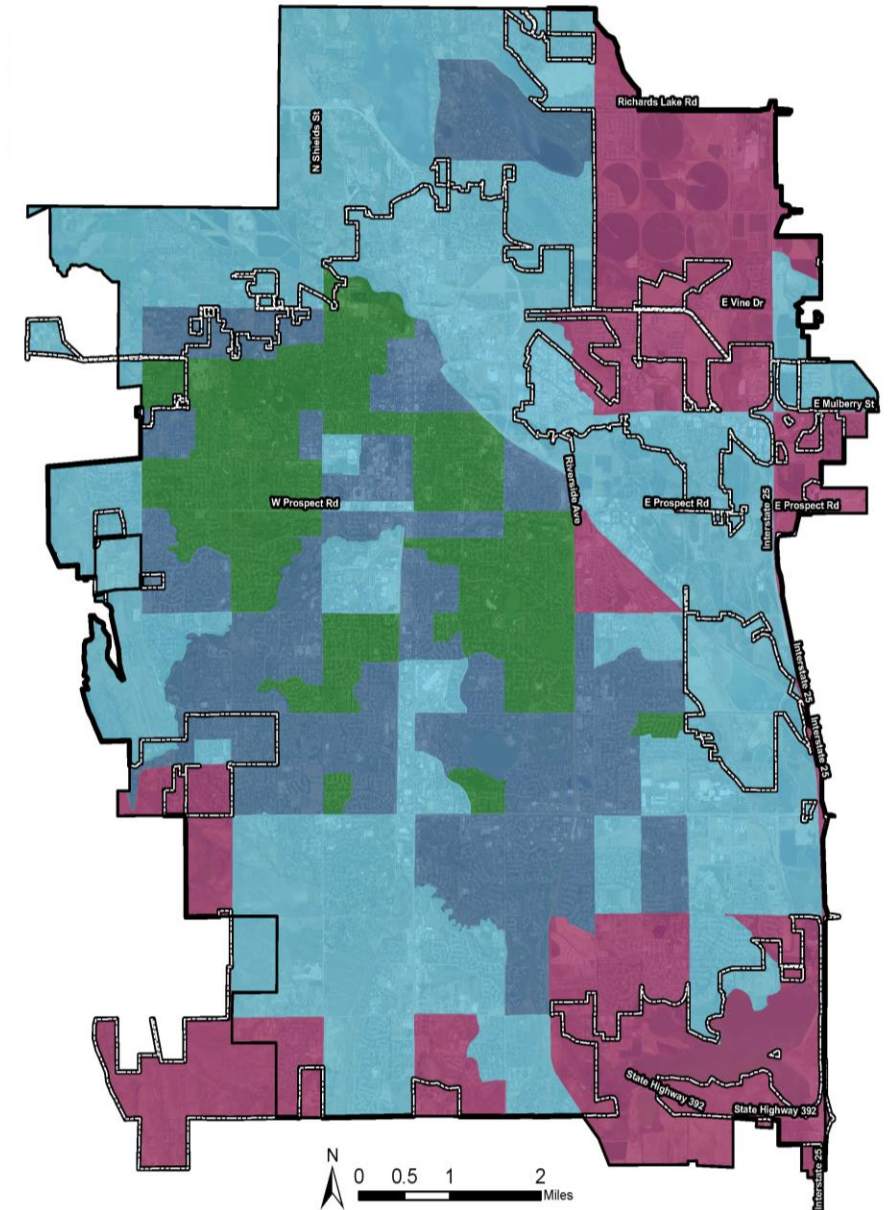
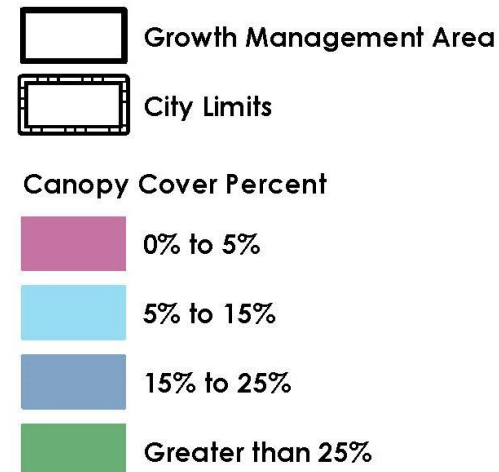


TOP 5 PUBLIC TREE FAMILIES



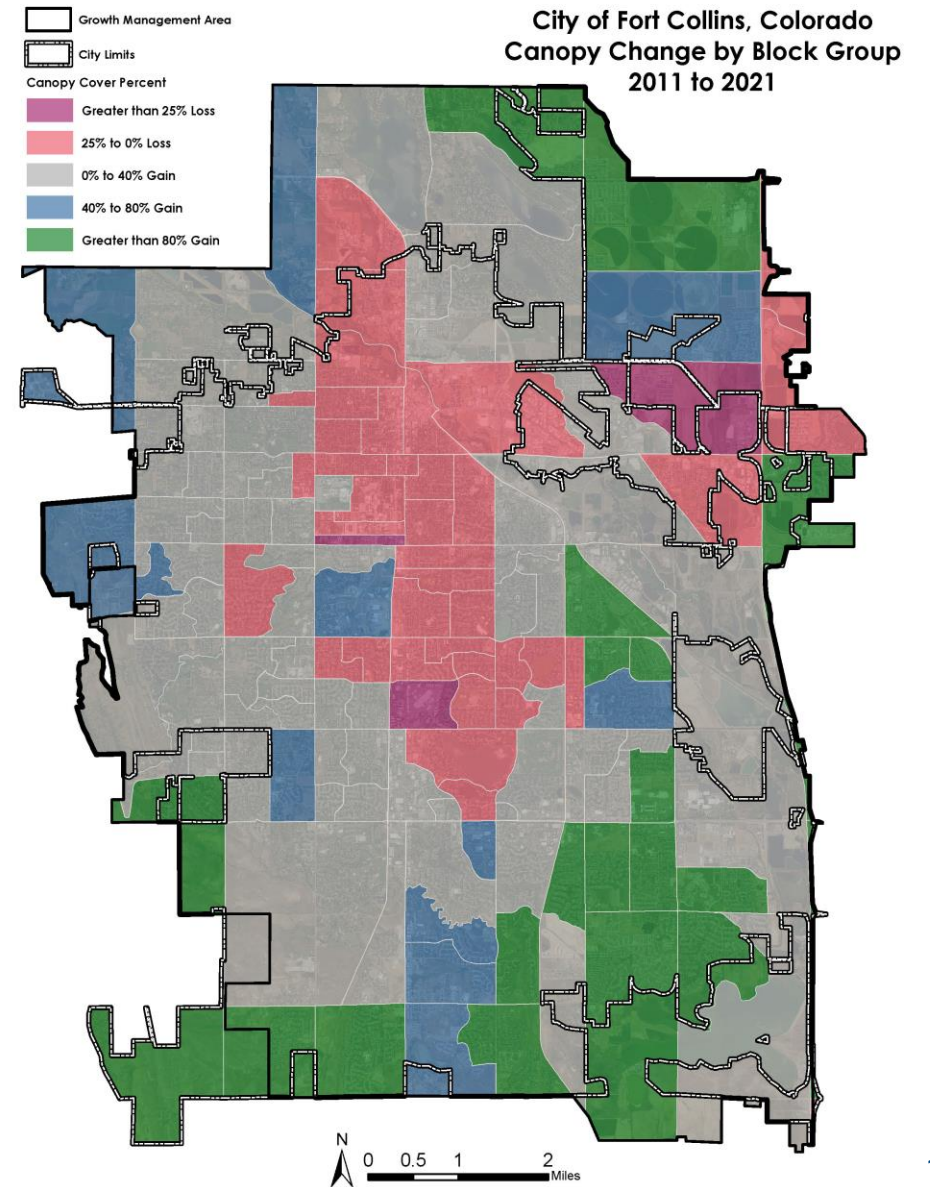
CANOPY PERCENT BY BLOCK GROUP

- Citywide: 13.7%
- City + GMA: 12.6%

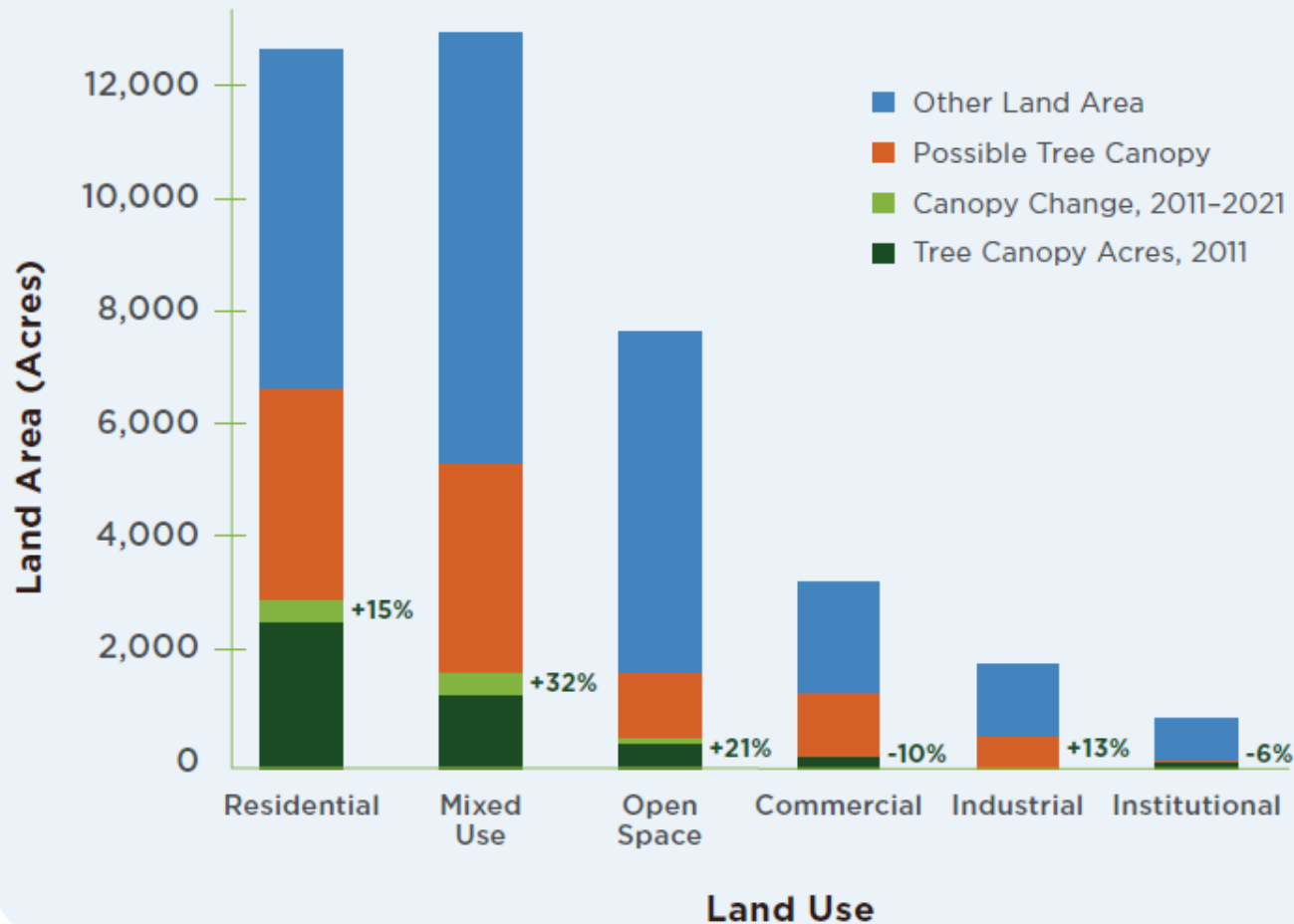


TREE CANOPY CHANGE 2011–2021

- City Limits: +753 acres (+17.3%)
- City + GMA: +936 acres (+17.2%)



TREE CANOPY COVER BY LAND USE TYPE, 2011-2021



ACROSS FORT COLLINS

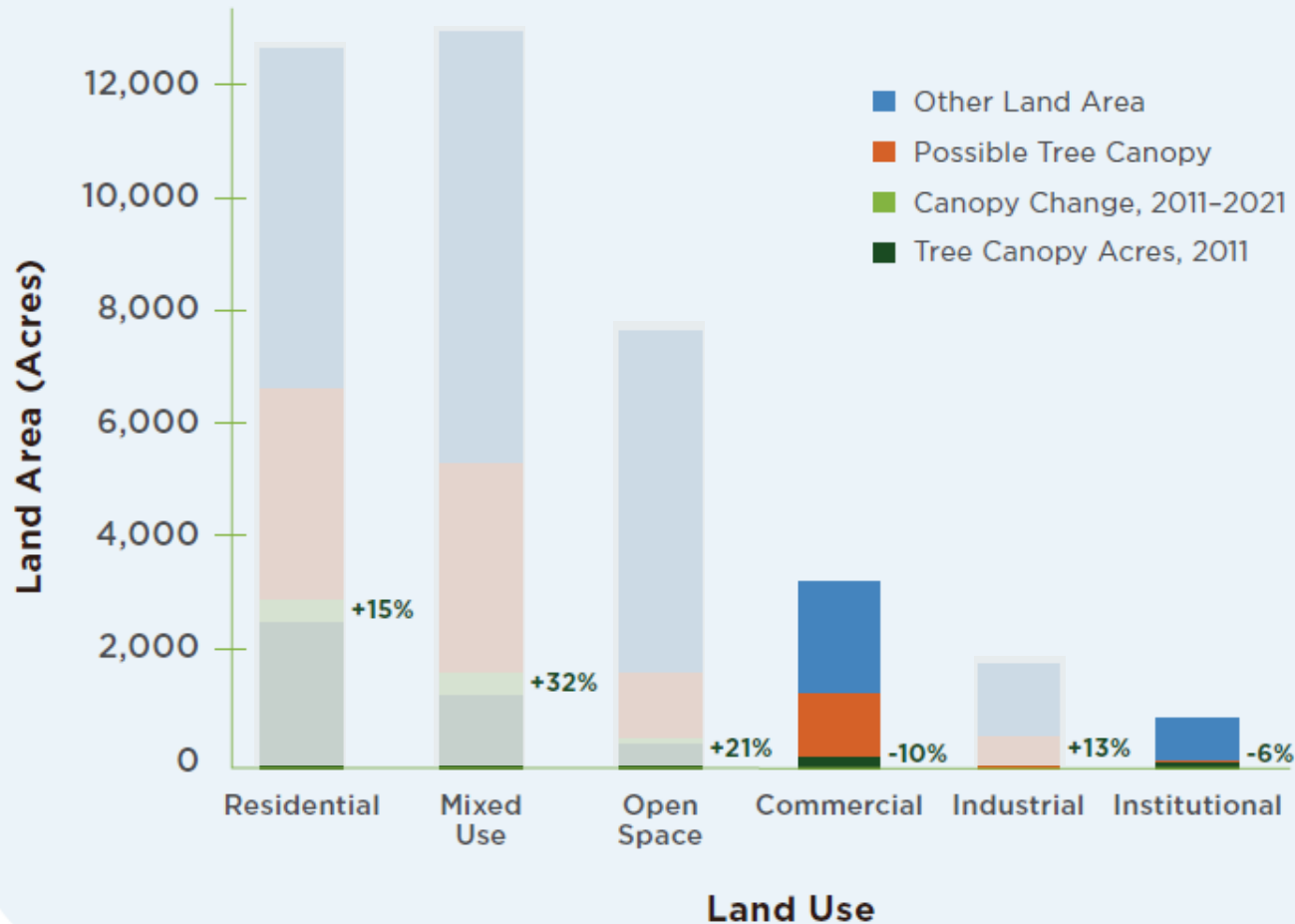
- Canopy has grown in most Land Use Types
- Residential and Mixed-use greatest opportunity
 - 8,083 acres of potential tree canopy
- Commercial and Institutional have lost canopy

ACROSS FORT COLLINS

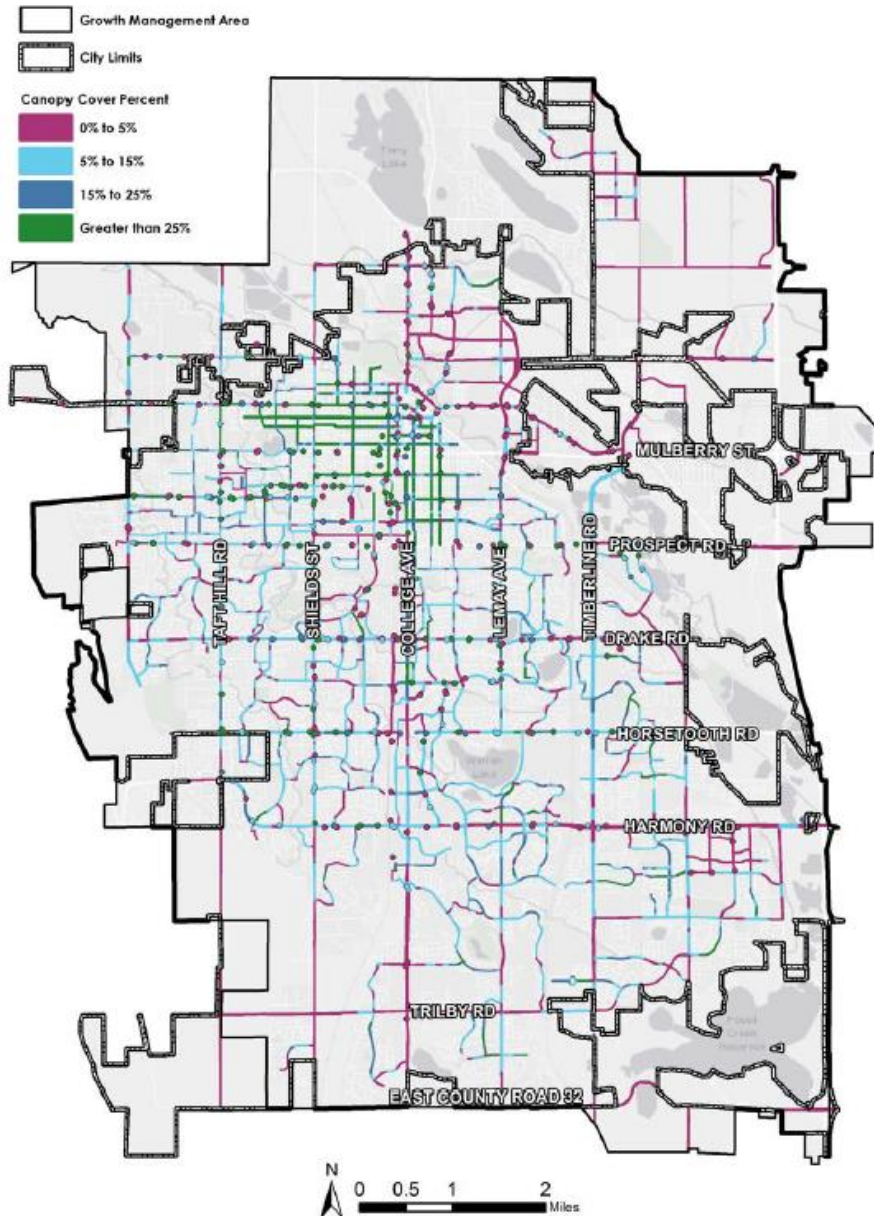
Possible drivers for canopy loss:

- Trees aging out
- Urban environmental stressors
- Development (both new and infill)

TREE CANOPY COVER BY LAND USE TYPE, 2011-2021



Trees Support the Shift to Active Modes



Bike lanes

- 9.5% average tree cover
- Consistent with 2011

Bus stops

- 18.3% average tree cover
- Have lost 3.7% since 2011



Urban Forest Strategic Plan



Why plan?

The UFSP outlines:

- A 20-year vision for Fort Collins' trees
- Has goals that balance other community priorities
- Recommends strategies moving forward



-  Build resilience & wellbeing of people and trees.
-  Sustainably grow the Forestry Division.
-  Expand the community's knowledge about tree benefits and stewardship.

Vision

The City of Fort Collins is committed to bringing **trees and their benefits to people** where they are **needed most to support human health, reduce urban heat, and build climate resilience.**

Rooted in Community outlines a set of strategies that will build upon the stewardship of Fort Collins' urban forest over the last 160 years. **Investments in urban tree canopy** will ensure that tree benefits will grow and become more equitable, **improving the lives of the people of Fort Collins for generations to come.**

Future Challenges

- Equitable distribution of canopy
- Insect and Disease
- A changing climate
- Development/Redevelopment
- Sixty percent (60%) “young” public urban forest

Insect and Disease

- Asian longhorn beetle - \$51.3M
- Spotted lanternfly - \$13.1M
- Emerald ash borer - \$22M
- Pine wilt nematode - \$10M
- Dutch elm disease - \$14.8M
- Spruce Ips beetle - \$9.1M



Climate Resilience

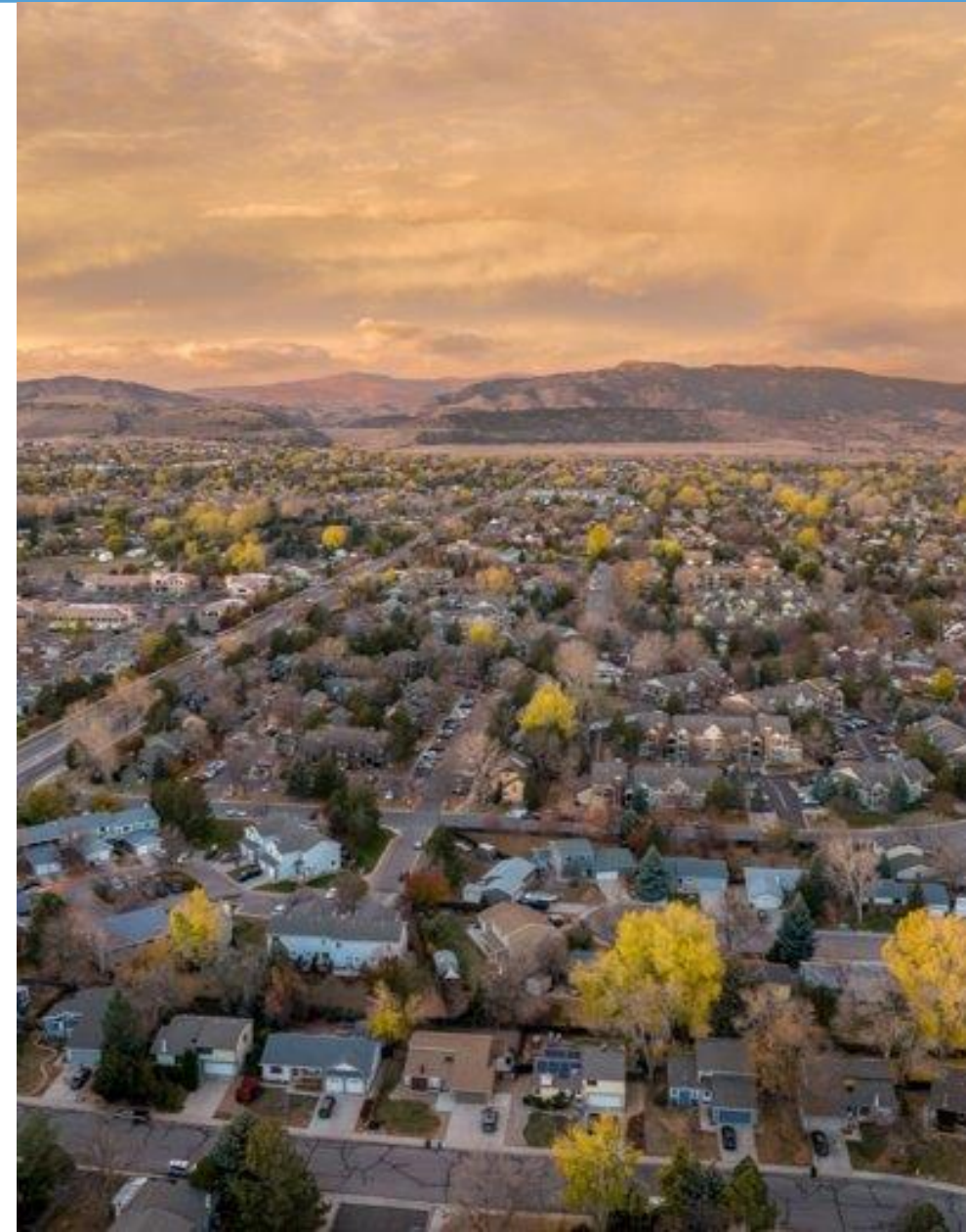
- Focus on young tree establishment
- Dedicated irrigation to trees
- Drought response plans
- Drought-tolerant, urban-adapted tree species

Fun Fact:

Close to **70%** of public trees are **drought tolerant**.

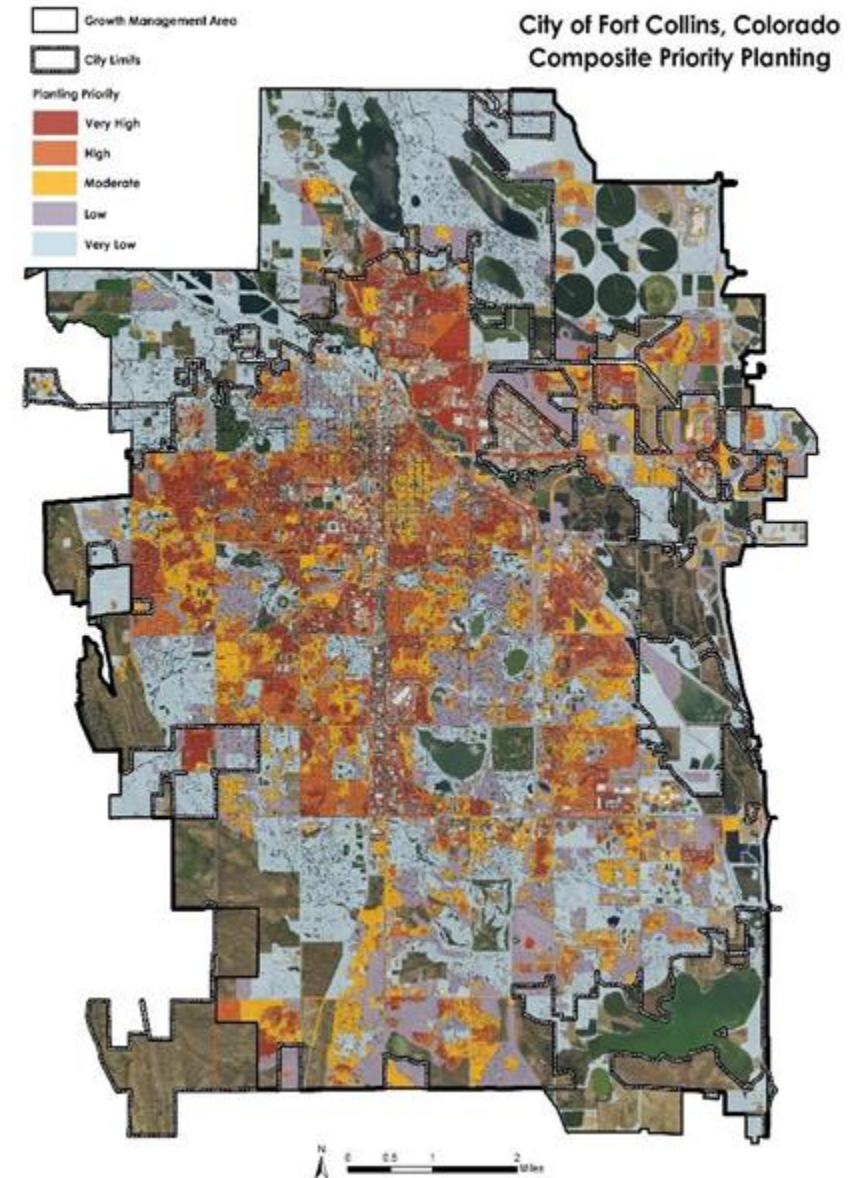
Fun Fact:

Mature tree canopy can **reduce outdoor water consumption** by up to **50%**.



15,418 POTENTIAL NEW CANOPY ACRES

- Classified from Very Low to Very High priority
 - Social, Health and Environmental
- 2,251 acres of High or Very High priority
- Can help City plant trees for outcomes



Proposed Growth Strategies

1

Strategically invest in growing tree canopy where it will promote resilience and quality of life in Fort Collins.

2

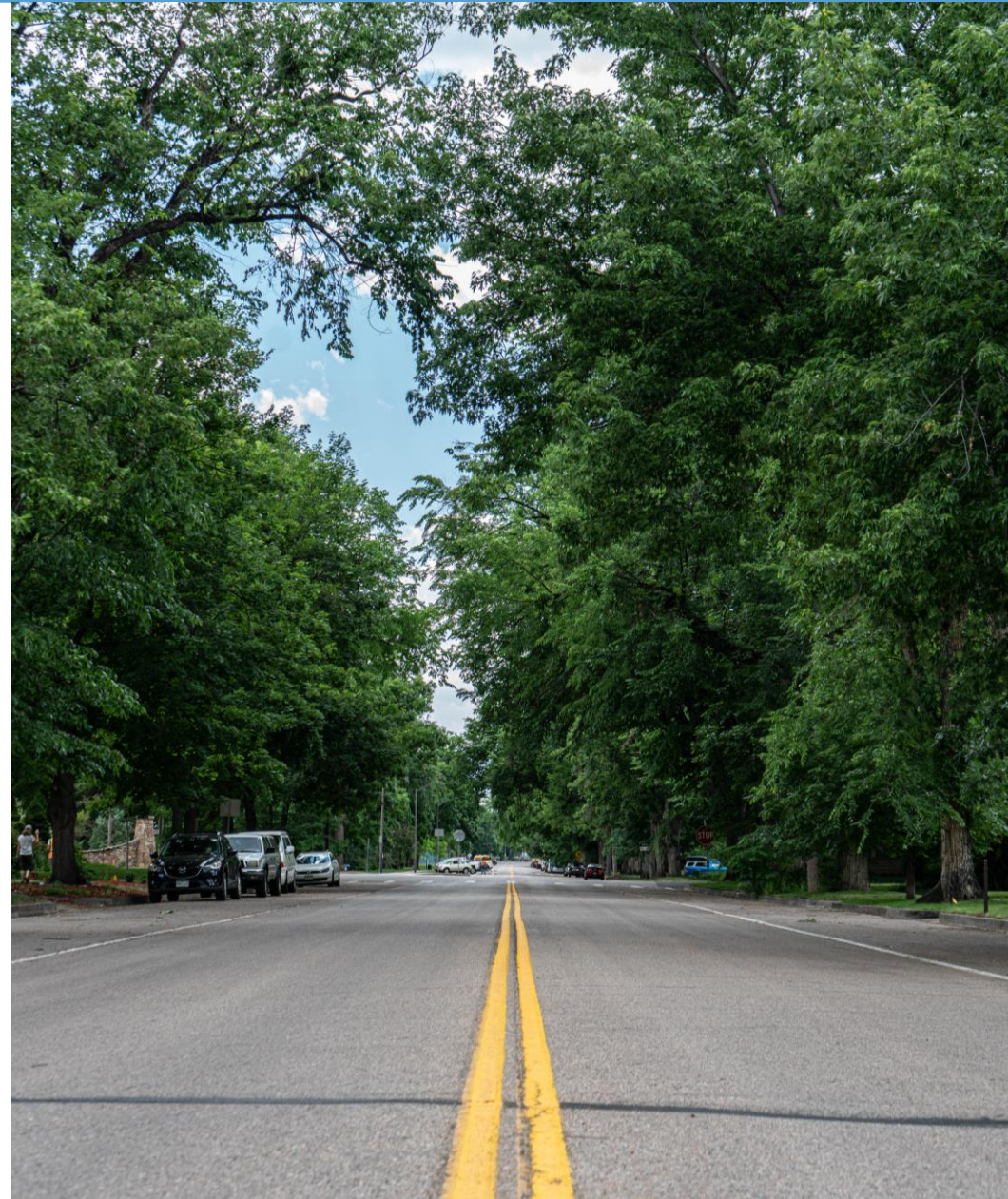
Complete the shift to proactive management of Fort Collins' public trees.

3

Strengthen City policies to protect trees.

4

Collect data to track changes to tree canopy over time and to inform Forestry activities.



Proposed Growth Strategies

5

Sustainably grow the Forestry Division to keep pace with growth of the urban forest.

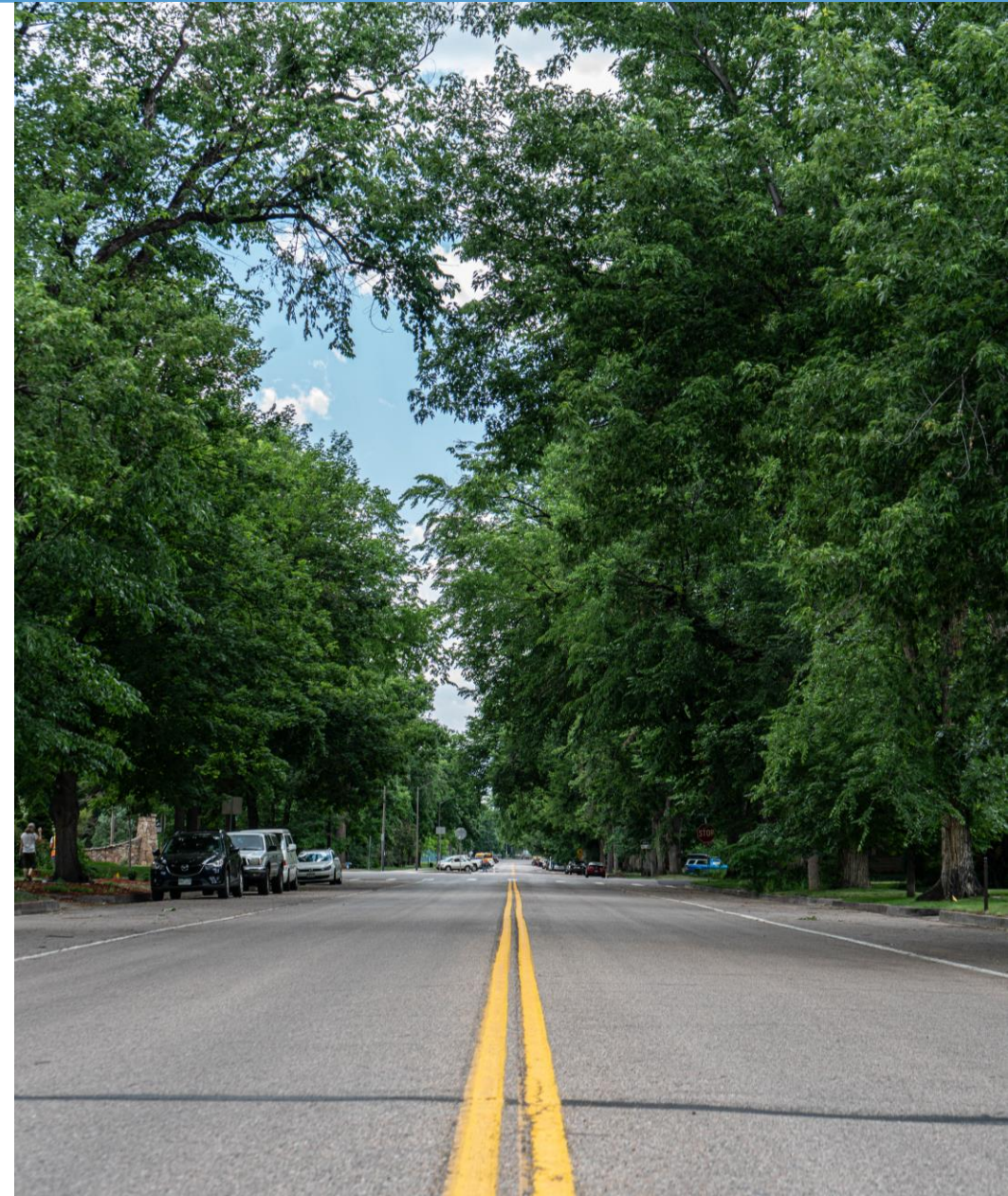
6

Deepen engagement with the community about tree stewardship.

7

Expand the network of Forestry Division partners.

fcgov.com/forestry



- Give us a call/email – we're here for you and your trees!
 - 970-221-6660, forestry@fcgov.com
- Licensed Arborists
 - fcgov.com/forestry/arborists
- Front Range Tree Recommendation List
 - fcgov.com/forestry
- Community Canopy Program
 - Plan(t) for the Future – Trees go on sale in August!
 - fcgov.com/forestry/treecanopy



Questions?

kboot@fcgov.com | 970.221.6361 | fcgov.com/forestry/