



# **METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE URBAN FORESTRY AND LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN**

**The vision, goals and guide for the future of Nashville's Urban Forest.**

**URBAN FORESTRY**  
*is the care and  
management of tree  
populations in urban  
settings for the purpose  
of improving the urban  
environment.*

**JULY 2016**



## VISION STATEMENT

*To protect, restore, preserve and enhance Nashville's greatest natural asset, its Urban Forest, and to fulfill the vision of Nashville as a 'Green City'.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Metro Nashville Urban Forestry and Landscape Master Plan is a road map to manage and grow Nashville's urban forest and to inspire and engage others in the care and protection of trees and landscape.

This plan provides guidance for tree and landscape programs for both public and private lands through government and non-government partnerships.

A healthy urban forest for Nashville will provide sustainable benefits of

- Cleaner air and water,
- Reduced flooding,
- Less noise,
- Lower energy consumption,
- Cooler temperatures,
- Better wildlife habitat,
- Beautiful streets and neighborhoods,
- Increased property values, and
- Improved health and well-being of our citizens.



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## DID YOU KNOW ?

### Trees Provide **ECONOMIC** Benefits

- Research reveals that many business owners regard the urban forest as an “outdoor extension of a business’ customer service commitment” and sends a “message of care,” improving the retailer’s or company’s overall image.
- Increased business value: Trees enhance community economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists.
- Customers are willing to pay as much as 10 percent more for certain goods and services if businesses are located on tree-lined streets.
- Consumer product testing in shopping areas with large numbers of shade trees were rated 30 percent higher than identical products rated in shopping areas that were barren of trees.
- Tree-lined business and retail districts encourage patrons to linger and shop longer.
- Workers without a view of nature from their desks reported 23% more instances of illnesses than those with a view of greenery.
- Increased home value: The presence of trees has a positive effect on occupancy rates and residential home sales. Neighborhood greenspaces or greenways typically increase the value of properties located nearby.
- Healthy trees can add up to 15 percent to residential property value.
- Strategically placed trees around a building can reduce summer cooling costs by as much as 30%, while winter heating costs can be reduced by a similar percentage by the use of trees as windbreaks.
- Trees absorb and store an annual average of 13 pounds of carbon each year. Community trees across the United States store 6.5 million tons of carbon per year, resulting in a savings of \$22 billion in control costs.
- Streets with little or no shade need to be repaved twice as often as those with tree cover.
- Both business/commercial land and farm/forest land pay more than \$1 in taxes for every \$1 they get back in services. However, residential land costs more in services than it pays in revenues. So when a county cuts down trees or converts farmland to build a subdivision, it is actually poorer.

<http://www.southernforests.org/urban/benefits-of-urban-trees>



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This master plan is the result of recommendations put forward in the 2008 Metro Tree Advisory Committee's Proposal- *Managing Nashville's Urban Forest*. It was presented to the Mayor's Office and City Council in that same year. Its recommendations to develop and maintain an Urban Forest Program were adopted into the 2009 Green Ribbon Committee's- *Report on Environmental Sustainability*. This master plan was funded by a donation to the non-profit Keep Nashville Beautiful from the Atticus Foundation. Work began in January of 2014.

The Nashville Urban Forest and Landscape Master Plan provides a road map to manage and grow Nashville's tree canopy. It creates a shared vision for the future of the urban forest to support Metro efforts and engage the community in the care and protection of trees and landscapes.

There is a need to address the impact that rapid development is having on our cities' natural resources. The duty to protect, restore, and maintain our tree canopy is important because of the beneficial services trees provide such as cleaner air and water, shade as well as economic, psychological, health, and aesthetic benefits.

When comparing Nashville to other cities of similar size, we find that Nashville lacks a citywide, comprehensive tree program to support Metro landscape efforts and fund tree related projects. Increasing tree canopy on private land can only be done with the involvement of our citizens and business owners.

## GOAL 1

### STANDARDS

**Update and Implement Landscape Standards and Enhance the Metro Landscape Coordination Program**

Expand and organize into three areas of service:

- **OPERATIONS**
- **PLANNING AND REVIEW**
- **OUTREACH**

**OPERATIONS-** assist Metro Public Works operations with vehicles, equipment and personnel needed to plant and maintain Nashville's street trees.

**PLANNING AND REVIEW-** partner with Metro Code's, Public Works, Planning, Parks and non-Metro groups to review plans to ensure they meet the goals approved by Metro and set forth in this master plan. Emphasis is on planning, Global Information System (GIS) mapping and monitoring of projects.

Other roles include developing a Street Tree Program, standards for planting and maintenance, job classifications and requirements and training programs for front line workers.

## GOAL 2

### OUTREACH

**Engage the Public in the Metro Landscape Coordination Program**

**OUTREACH-** interface with volunteer and community groups to facilitate projects on private land, engage non-profit partners in tree programs, education, fundraising, open platform GIS mapping, tree seedling nurseries, and maintenance.

## GOAL 3

### CANOPY GOALS

**Implement Tree Density Goals**

The **Tree Canopy Target Percentage Goals** and **Priority Area Maps** are a tool to guide the city to high priority areas suitable for preservation and tree planting projects. They are intended to be used by organizations such as Metro and TDOT as well as non-profit groups and citizens.

### SOME REASONS FOR THIS PLAN

To facilitate better communication between landscape managers.

To streamline more efficient use of funding, personnel and resources.

To use as a tool to acquire funding from various sources.

To illustrate the benefits of a well-managed Urban Forest and landscape.

To emphasize the role of trees in stormwater reduction and quality.

To use for education, outreach and volunteer efforts.

To guide us into the future.



### DID YOU KNOW ?

Trees produce **OXYGEN** and clean and cool the air.

- In exchange for giving oxygen, trees absorb carbon dioxide produced from the combustion of fuels.
- Trees remove or trap lung-damaging dust, ash, pollen and smoke from the air.
- Trees provide shade which reduces temperatures.
- Recent research has demonstrated that urban heat islands alter rainfall patterns. Urban trees lessen the impact of the urban heat island effect and reduce changes in weather patterns.
- One acre of trees produces enough oxygen for 18 people every day.

<http://www.southernforests.org/urban/benefits-of-urban-trees>



# INTRODUCTION

## PURPOSE

As Nashville continues to grow at an accelerating rate, the need to protect, restore, and maintain its tree canopy becomes increasingly important and time sensitive. Trees provide many proven beneficial ecosystem services such as cleaner air and water and reduced temperatures as well as psychological, health, and aesthetic benefits to people.

The **Nashville Urban Forest and Landscape Master Plan** will provide a road map to effectively and pro-actively manage and grow Nashville's tree canopy and enliven its landscapes. It will facilitate better coordination and communication between landscape managers and promote more efficient use of funding, personnel, and resources. It will provide a shared vision for the future of the urban forest to inspire and engage the community and its leaders in the care and protection of trees. This master plan is a starting point rather than an end point. Implementation of the plan is necessary to accomplish its goals. This requires ongoing financial and administrative support, advocacy, monitoring, and making adjustments as needed.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

**Nashville's Urban Forest and Landscape Master Plan** was funded by a generous grant from the Atticus Foundation. It is an outgrowth of the 2008 report prepared by the Metro Tree Advisory Committee entitled *Managing Nashville's Urban Forest* which analyzed the city's role in preserving, growing, and maintaining the urban forest, revealed shortcomings, and made short and long-term recommendations. The recommendations were carried forward in the Green Ribbon Committee's *Report on Environmental Sustainability*, 2009.

The **Nashville Urban Forest and Landscape Master Plan** also builds on the previous actions, studies, and reports listed below: Links to these documents can be found at [trees.nashville.gov](http://trees.nashville.gov)

- Green and Complete Streets Program- 2016
- Nashville Next- *General Plan for Nashville*- 2015
- Metro Nashville Code of Ordinance review- 2014
- *Street Tree Inventory of Nashville's Inner Loop*- July 2013
- Nashville Next- *Natural Resources and Green Spaces*- March 2013
- *Nashville Landscape Guidelines and Best Management Practices* - March 2013
- Creation of a position for a Metro Landscape Coordinator- January 2013
- *Nashville Open Space Plan*- March 2011
- *Metro Nashville Tree Canopy Assessment Project*- 2010
- *Nashville Green Infrastructure Master Plan*- November 2009

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The project advisor is Jennifer Smith, Metro Landscape Coordination Program.

The planning consultants are:

Carol Ashworth- Ashworth Environmental Design, LLC, Civic Engineering & IT, INC., and  
Neil Letson- Village Trees, LLC.

The Metro Tree Advisory Committee is involved in all aspects of the planning process to provide assistance and recommendations. Other collaborators are:

- Cleanwater Nashville
- Cumberland River Compact
- Hands On Nashville
- Metro Parks, Water Services, Planning (Nashville Next), General Services, and Codes
- Nashville Civic Design Center
- Nashville Tree Foundation
- Nature Conservancy
- TN Environmental Council
- TN Urban Forest Council
- Trees Nashville

## NASHVILLE PLANNING DOCUMENTS THAT SUPPORT THE URBAN FOREST

At the present time there is an exciting synergy in Nashville involving environmental issues that brings together many diverse groups and agendas but almost all have trees as a common element. Many of these groups have conducted surveys to collect public opinion on matters related to the Urban Forest. Several Metro planning documents produced in recent years show support for the Urban Forest.

Trees play an important role in reclaiming public space as detailed in **Nashville Next- Natural Resources & Hazard Adaptation Goals, Policies, and Actions Report, Review Draft March 2015**. Preserve and expand upon Nashville's existing tree canopy including urban trees, street trees and larger tracts of forested lands.

- *Implement the Metro Nashville Urban Forestry and Landscape Master Plan to promote diverse tree plantings. Create a street tree policy, residential tree ordinance, maintenance program, and preservation policy. Enact a planting program to supplement cases where trees must be removed. Fund and train more interdisciplinary inspectors to handle enforcement of these regulations.*
- *Support the ecological integrity and public enjoyment of Nashville's wildlife habitats, watersheds, open spaces, floodplains, and tree canopies.*
- *Fund a tree planting and maintenance program to meet Nashville's tree canopy goal. This program is a collaboration between Metro Public Works, Metro Parks and Greenways, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, utility providers, and private stakeholders to plant trees along available space in highway and street rights-of-way, within parks and public lands, in parking lots, and on Metro-owned property. Emphasis on this partnership should be placed within the urban core, ensuring the survival of trees, providing shade and stormwater retention, and adding aesthetic value.*

**Nashville Next- Growth Preservation Survey, January 2014** responses shows the majority of Nashville citizens support preservation of the Urban Forest.

### **Reclaiming Public Space- A Report by the Nashville Civic Design Center, March 2013**

- *In the center is downtown, which should become a heart of green. A green, thriving urban core will have*

*more parks and greenways, a revitalized riverfront with a network of open spaces, a substantial increase in tree canopy, and innovations such as green roofs and rain gardens that capture and filter stormwater.*

### **Nashville Open Space Plan by Nashville Naturally, March 2011**

- *By 2012, designate a full time Metro staff person to develop and manage an urban forestry program (to manage urban tree planning, planting and maintenance as well as work to improve tree ordinance enforcement and coordination with non-profit tree groups such as the Nashville Tree Foundation, Trees Nashville, and the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council).*
- *Integrate Metro department activities related to forest and water resource protection issues, specifically tree planting and maintenance, community parks and gardens, public works streetscape improvements and parks and greenways planning.*
- *Double the downtown tree canopy in the next 10 years (85 acres).*
- *According to Metro Water Services, in the urban core alone, there are 475 acres of potential green roofs, 811 acres of suitable urban tree planting locations, and 1,175 acres of surface parking that could be made more permeable. Imagine the difference that could be made if these strategies were used throughout Davidson County.*

### **Mayors' Office- Green Ribbon Report, June 2009**

- *We would like to plan for a Nashville that will have a robust tree canopy and significantly improved air quality.*
- *Develop and maintain an Urban Forest Program.*
- *Plant 100,000 trees in the Metro area to help with cooling.*
- *Plant 250,000 trees downtown.*
- *Mayor's Pledge- I pledge to plant and care for at least one tree this year.*



## HOW NASHVILLE COMPARES TO OTHER CITIES

As part of the evaluation of Nashville's Urban Forest, it is important to see how we compare to other cities of similar size and amenities. From our assessment it shows that Nashville has room for improvement, especially in the areas of tree preservation and making trees a priority in all areas of development. The mission of this master plan to provide a road map to make Nashville competitive in all areas of Urban Forestry protection, establishment and maintenance and to promote all the benefits trees provide in creating a better quality of life for all who live and work here.

WHAT ARE OTHER CITIES DOING?										
City	Oversight	Design Guidelines	Maintenance	Regulatory Staff	Master Plan	Non-profit Support	Trees Recognized in Green Infrastructure	Outreach	Tree Recognition Program	Dedicated Funding
Atlanta	Tree Conservation Commission (TCC)	Yes, permit required to remove trees > 6"	Yes, with Tree Atlanta	Arborist in plans review, public property regulated in Parks	2014	Tree Atlanta with \$2 million annual budget	Yes	Community programs and grants thru Tree Atlanta	Yes	Tree Trust Fund funds TCC, Trees Atlanta & municipal
Austin	Urban Forestry Board	Yes, permit required to remove trees > 6"	In Parks	Arborist in plans review	Covers city property	TreeFolks	yes, specific tree support in Division of Watersheds	Planting Grants & Community programs, trains urban forest stewards	Yes	Municipal & nonprofit
Chattanooga	Tree Commission	Yes	In Public Works and Contracted	LA in plans review	2014	Take Root Chattanooga	yes	Community planting & education programs	yes	Municipal
Charlotte	Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission	15% tree save guideline	Landscape Management Department	Land Development Dept.	No	Trees Charlotte	Yes	Community programs, grants and education thru Trees Charlotte	Crown Tree Awards, Champion Trees	In lieu, Trees Charlotte & municipal
Murfreesboro	Urban Env. Commission and Tree Board	Yes	Urban Environmental Department	Arborist does plans review	No	No	Yes	Education Programs	Landscape awards	Municipal
Nashville	Metro Landscape Coordination Program and Codes Dept.	Yes	Parks Dept., Contracted and Public Works	Urban Forester in Codes Dept.	2016	Cumberland River Compact and Nashville Tree Foundation	Stormwater LID Manual and Complete Streets	Metro Tree Advisory Committee & Public Works	George Cate Award and Big Old Tree Contest	Tree Bank in Landscape Codes



## HOW THIS PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

The master planning process was conducted in three phases: Inventory and Data Collection, Assessment and Analysis, and Development of Goals and Recommendations.

Data collected include the current state of the Nashville's Urban Forest and its management. The data provides answers the following questions:

- How much tree canopy do we have, where is it, and who maintains it?
- What are our current methods of maintaining trees on city properties?
- What are the current codes and regulations guiding development?
- How do we protect or not protect existing trees?
- How do we encourage tree and landscape maintenance?
- What are other cities doing ?

Analysis includes assessment of the current extent of tree canopy and its diversity in Nashville, current policies and procedures that govern both public and private maintenance and development, current landscaping regulations and maintenance guidelines, and environmental factors that impact tree growth and development.

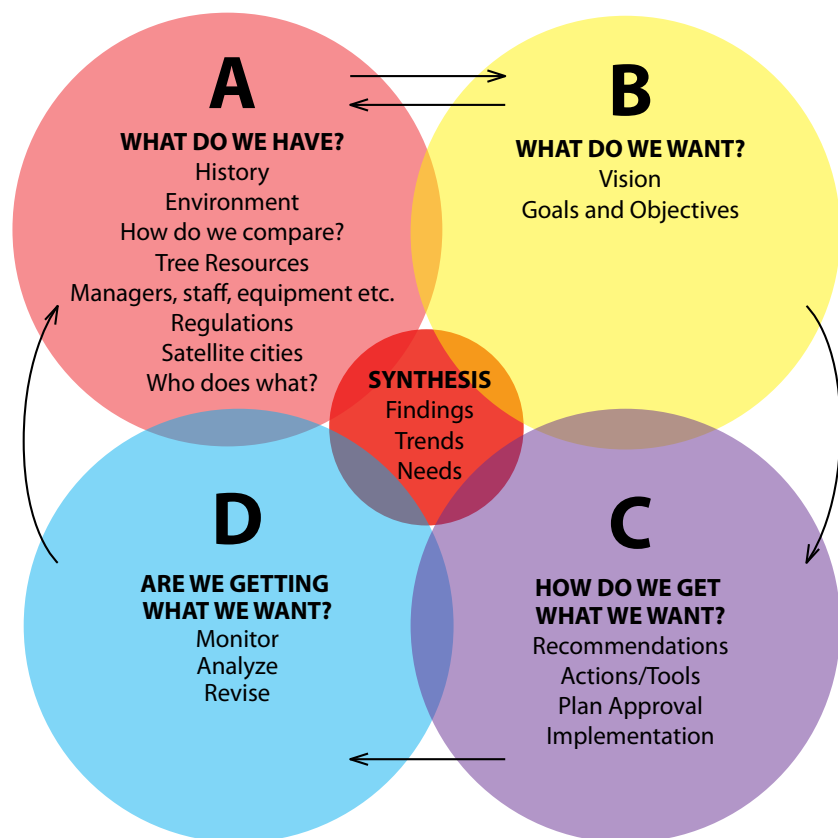
Data was also collected through meetings, interviews, surveys, a steering committee, Metro round-table groups, stakeholders, and the public. Research was conducted for such topics as current management policies, responsibilities, and practices within Metro departments and codes and outside Metro such as NES, contractors, non-professional landscapers, and emergency services. The data includes a brief history of events that changed the area's landscape.

The next step was to identify needs, goals and values to develop recommendations and the tools to implement them.

This management plan will set goals and objectives, which provide the overall destinations of the plan. It also will list actions needed to accomplish the goals and objectives. For each action, the implementation plan will spell out:

- Overall priority ranking
- Funding
- Budgets
- Personnel responsible for administering
- Time schedule

After the management plan is in place, it is important to evaluate how it is working. Monitoring procedures should be implemented. This brings the process to a full cycle. This cycling allows the plan to adapt to changing conditions.



## THE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

Although the steps shown are represented as a continuous cycle, it is common to go back and forth between the first three steps when developing a plan





Jennifer Smith

28th - 31st Avenue Connector Complete Street





### DID YOU KNOW ?

Trees and bioretention gardens **REDUCE FLOODING** and **WATER POLLUTION**

- Trees as riparian buffers reduce and slow stormwater runoff, trapping soil sediments, nutrients and other pollutants, thus preventing them from entering receiving bodies of water.
- Trees reduce erosion of soil from fields, hills and stream banks and reduce water temperatures, protecting aquatic habitats.
- Trees allow rain to infiltrate the soil, reducing pollutants from runoff and recharging soil moisture and aquifers, which result in a more consistent quantity of potable water.
- Infiltration rates for forested areas are 10-15 times greater than for equivalent areas of turf and grass.
- Trees maintain groundwater and stream base flows.
- Trees trap airborne pollutants and particulate matter, thus preventing them from entering receiving bodies of water.
- Trees reduce volume and peak flow of stormwater runoff, and thus reduce flooding and the cost of constructing stormwater control infrastructure.
- Trees can be used to actively treat many forms of wastewater.
- Bioretention areas filled with trees utilize “green engineering” to delay or eliminate the need for municipalities to build costly underground stormwater management infrastructure.

Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, Trees Make a Difference- Benefits of Urban Forestry, 2010  
Benefits of Urban Forestry



# WHAT DO WE HAVE ?

## CULTURAL AND NATURAL PREHISTORY OF NASHVILLE

The first known settlers in the area of modern Nashville were Native Americans of the Mississippian culture, who lived in the area from about 1000 to 1400 BC. They sowed and harvested corn, made great earthen mounds, and painted richly decorated pottery. They then mysteriously disappeared. Other Native Americans, the Cherokee, Chickasaw and Shawnee, followed and used the area as a hunting ground.

Pre-European Davidson County was entirely forested with an Oak-hickory dominant forest type. Various species of upland Oaks made up two-thirds of the volume. Today trees cover 47 percent of the county. Eastern Red Cedar is the dominant conifer and makes up ten percent of the woodland both in pure stands and mixed with hardwoods. The pure stands of Red Cedar are typically on soils that are shallow over limestone or on limestone outcrops.

## TIME LINE OF EVENTS THAT HAVE IMPACTED THE NASHVILLE URBAN FOREST

- 1700's** European settlement began with fur traders in early 1700 when the territory was still part of North Carolina. The first permanent settlement began in 1770 at Bluff Station/Fort Nashborough. The settlers cleared land for building material and farming. Nashville was founded in 1779 by the Robertson-Donelson party of 60 families. It quickly became a cotton center, river port, and railroad hub.
- 1800's** In 1819 the Cumberland Agricultural Society was formed as a conservation group of farmers to improve crop production. Cotton was the major crop pre-civil war. During the Civil War, Nashville fell to Union forces in February 1862. The military cleared a considerable amount of land. The Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition, held in 1897 at the present day Centennial Park, displayed the new farming technology of the day. As farming became more industrialized additional acreage was cleared.
- 1900's** Nashville's population exploded, rising from 16,988 in 1860 to 80,865 by 1900, and created a major impact on the land. Cotton production declined by 1900 and tobacco became a major crop produced on the Highland Rim. Dutch Elm disease and Chestnut blight appeared in the 1930's and decimated this species from this area.
- 1960's** The demographic shift from city to suburbs from the 1960's until present has a huge impact to large tracts of land. Houses replaced farmland and took a heavy toll on natural resources and infrastructure. Nashville's Urban Renewal also took a toll on trees in the urban core. Homes with yards and trees were demolished and replaced by large paved areas.
- 1980's** Several efforts in recent years have aimed to restore and enhance Nashville's tree canopy. The Nashville Tree Foundation, founded in 1986, facilitates civic projects and has planted thousands of trees.
- 1990's** After the April 1998 tornado which felled about 20,000 trees, ReLeaf Nashville was established by the Nashville Tree Foundation with Metro Parks and Metro Beautification. They planted 6,757 trees in three years and replaced 50 trees along Main Street in their fourth year. The annual tree planting ReLeafing Day is the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
- 1990's** Green Infrastructure (GI) and Low Impact Development (LID) began in late 1990's with a focus on protecting water resources through mimicking natural systems. Trees and vegetation are important components in LID systems. Both GI and LID are encouraged by



# WHAT DO WE HAVE ?

current Metro stormwater regulations. The demographic trend to return to city from suburbs also began in the 1990's and continues until present. While 'Infill' development reduces the effects of sprawl, it is taking a toll on Urban Canopy through the shrinking of lawn sizes as well as frequent destruction of large trees. In 1999 the Nashville Civic Design Center was formed to elevate the quality of design in Nashville.

- 2000's** Nashville Electric Service's (NES) accelerated tree trimming program began in 2002. It has significantly reduced the number of tree-related outages at the same time reducing the viability of many of Nashville's street trees. NES Tree Replacement Program was started to replace removals with power line compatible trees.
- 2005** The Nashville Civic Design Center published the *Plan of Nashville* as a guide to future growth in Nashville.
- 2008** The Metro Tree Advisory Committee presented its *Managing Nashville's Urban Forest* proposal to the Mayor's office in 2008. This master plan is an outgrowth of recommendations from the proposal.
- 2009** The Green Ribbon Committee's- *Report on Environmental Sustainability* aimed to ensure that Nashville continues to be "a livable city with clean air, clean water, open spaces, transportation infrastructure, and energy use profile necessary to provide a prosperous community for current and future generations." The report included all recommendations from the 2008 *Managing Nashville's Urban Forest* proposal.
- 2010** The Flood of May 2010 devastated the city with \$2 billion in damage. Rebuilding efforts since then have focused on flood control. Many trees were lost to the flood and have not been replaced. The Metro Nashville Tree Canopy Assessment Project was done as a baseline for data to use in Urban Forestry planning efforts. Metro stormwater policies have adopted protective floodplain buffers and tree planting plans to enhance their stormwater services. The Complete Street program was started in October of 2010 to include bike, pedestrian, vehicle and transit facilities in street design.
- 2011** The Metropolitan Landscape Coordination Program was created in 2011 to align the work of Metro Departments and community stakeholders involved in the management of Nashville's landscapes and green spaces to preserve, develop, expand, and enhance Nashville's natural beauty by supporting ongoing and future projects. Also in 2011, the *Nashville Open Space Plan* was completed by Nashville Naturally to conserve the natural environment's benefits and quality of life in Nashville.
- 2012** The Metro Planning Department started work on Nashville Next, to address the exploding population growth and future of Nashville. The report *Vision, Trends, & Strategies* was released in March of 2015. In 2012, Metro added to its Stormwater Management Manual with *Volume 4 - Best Management Practices* and included Green Infrastructure guidance and incentives. Also started in 2012, the Urban Riparian Buffer Program, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry to raise awareness and restore riparian buffers.
- 2013** Metro General Services and Public Works departments developed the Metro Nashville Landscape Guidelines and Best Management Practices manual.
- 2014** In November, Metro Stormwater received approval from the City Council for a new ordinance pertaining to stormwater management regulations for infill development. The bill includes incentive for tree preservation to mitigate stormwater runoff.

Links to these documents  
can be found at  
[trees.nashville.gov](http://trees.nashville.gov)

# WHAT DO WE HAVE ?

- 2015** Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization- *Climate Change Resiliency and Action Plan*. As part of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan update, Nashville is participating in a national smart planning program, Climate Solutions University. This program will develop an environmentally, economically and fiscally sustainable plan which accounts for our region's natural resources and vulnerability to climate change. This plan will identify the regions important ecosystem processes and benefits, identify the anticipated impacts of climate change in our region, and create an action plan to create resiliency for vulnerable populations and key environmental resources.
- 2016** Mayor Megan Berry announced the Historic & Specimen Trees Program for protection of the city's oldest and most important trees and the Green and Complete Streets Program which calls for the inclusion of street trees. The Nashville Civic Design Center produced *Shaping the Healthy Community, the Nashville Plan*, exploring the relationship between the built environment and public health. The noted strategy for urban forestry is to "plant trees and maintain existing canopy throughout downtown to offset the urban heat island effect, alleviate stormwater runoff, and create a better pedestrian walking experience."

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Davidson County lies within the northwestern portion of the Central Basin Geologic Province. The Central Basin is moderately rolling with elevations ranging from 400 to 700 feet above mean sea level (MSL) and is surrounded by the Highland Rim. The Highland Rim is hilly and marked by many narrow ridges and steep-sided valleys. Elevations range between 700 and 800 feet above MSL. The Cumberland River meanders from east to west across the center of the county.

The south and east portion of Nashville-Davidson County is located in the EPA's Ecoregion known as the Inner Nashville Basin. This is a lower elevated portion of the state where limestone outcrops and shallow soils are common. The soil chemistry favors a rich diversity of native hardwoods and cedar glade species.



**The Cumberland River**

Bob Butters

Most hilltops in the northwest section have about 2 to 3 feet of wind deposited loamy soil. Most soils in the central and southeastern sections formed in material weathered from the underlying limestone bedrock. There are many rock outcrops and sinkholes in this region. Soils along the Cumberland River and its tributaries formed in alluvial (water) deposits.

Metro Davidson County has a total area of 525.94 square miles. At present, the population estimate of Nashville-Davidson County as of the 2014 census is 668,347. Nashville is the capital and second largest city in Tennessee.



# WHAT DO WE HAVE ?

## Climate:

Nashville has a humid subtropical climate with cool to moderately cold winters, and hot, humid summers. Monthly averages range from about 38 °F in January, typically the coldest month, to 80 °F in July, typically the warmest month. The highest recorded temperature was 109°F in 2012. In recent decades, due to urban development, Nashville has developed an urban heat island; temperatures are up to 10 °F warmer in the heart of the city than in rural outlying areas. The entire Nashville region lies within USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7a which is based on the average extreme temperature during the past 30 years.

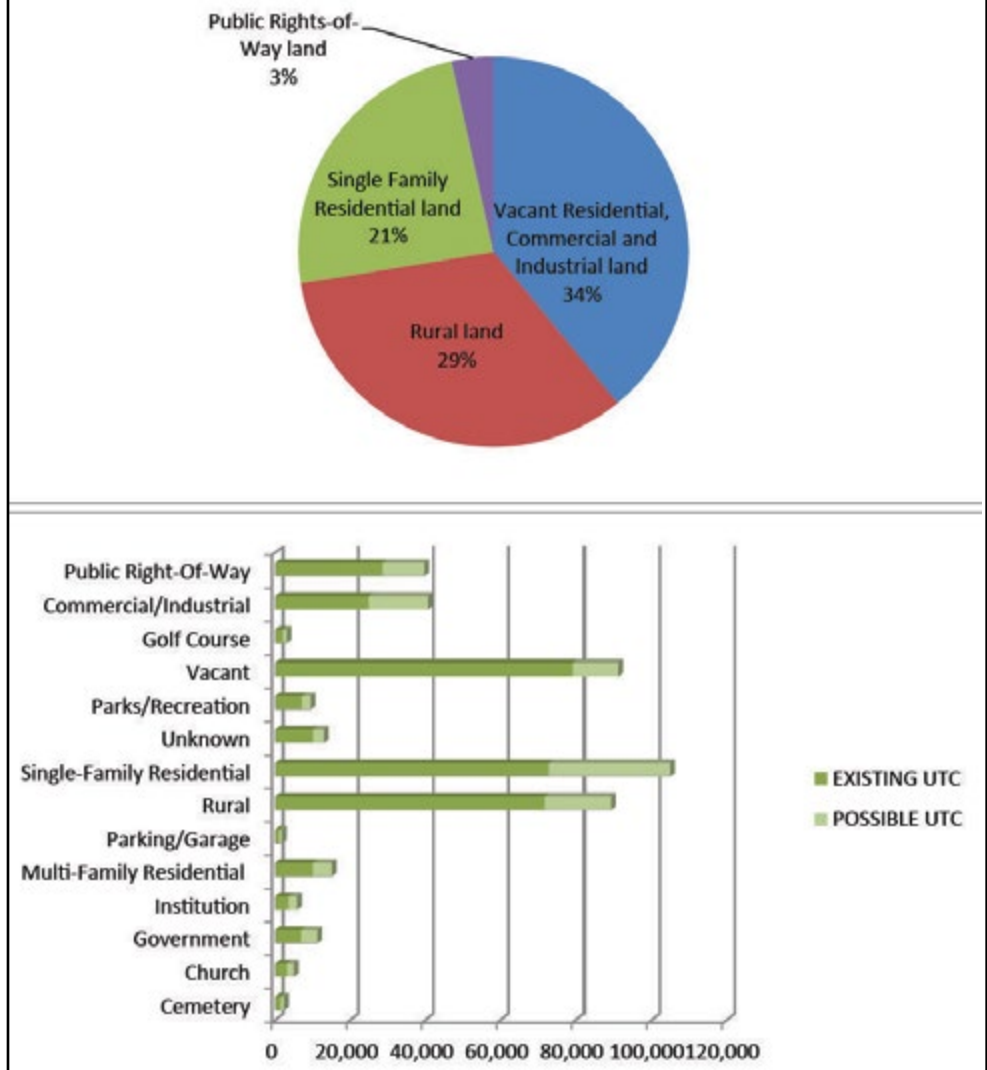
Rainfall averages 47.3 inches annually. It is greater in winter and spring while autumn is the driest. Spring and fall are prone to severe thunderstorms, which occasionally bring tornadoes. The most rainfall typically occurs in May. In the winter months, snowfall does occur in Nashville but is usually not heavy. Average annual snowfall is about 5.8 inches, falling mostly in January and February and occasionally March and December.

## NASHVILLE'S CURRENT TREE RESOURCES

Metro Nashville is composed of 336,268 acres of land. The most recent analysis of Nashville's Urban Tree Canopy was done in 2010. The results show that the overall existing Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) is 157,947 acres or 47% UTC. There are 118,741 acres of land or 35% UTC suitable for planting. This shows room for improvement. The land use categories showing the most room for improvement are all on private land, Commercial and Industrial and Single-Family Residential. This will require public involvement to increase UTC in these areas. The tree density unit goals section of this plan will focus on the location of potential planting sites on a sub-community level.

For a detailed analysis of the existing tree canopy, the Metro Nashville Tree Canopy Assessment Project can be found at: [trees.nashville.gov](http://trees.nashville.gov)

## EXISTING CANOPY COVER BY LAND USE -



## ASSESSING METRO'S URBAN FORESTRY AND LANDSCAPE COORDINATION PROGRAM

The effectiveness of any local government depends on how well it is structured and directed to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. The more organized and focused Metro's employees are, the more beneficial Metro Nashville's natural resources will be to its citizens.

Before any steps can be taken to improve Metro Landscape Coordination Program, there has to be an understanding of how the many departments and its partnering non-government organizations currently operate. This requires knowing the key players, what part they play, and how they interact with each other. With this foundation of knowledge, recommendations to improve Metro Landscape Coordination Program can be structured in a way that everyone can accept and adopt.

### Assessment Goal

The purpose of this assessment is to better understand how Metro government currently administers and delivers its urban forestry and landscape services. One-on-one interviews were held with Metro department representatives and non-Metro nonprofit organizations to get their perspectives. Each person was asked to describe their department's or group's urban forestry and landscape role within Metro government and with the general public. They also provided valuable input on how to make Metro landscape coordination program better and more efficient.

### Methodology, Questions, and Limitations

Information about Metro landscape coordination program was collected through personal one-on-one interviews with:

- Sixteen (16) Metro employees representing eleven (11) local government departments.

In addition, personal interviews were completed with:

- Seven (7) non-Metro employees representing five (5) nonprofit organizations and one state agency.

A detailed 48-question interview was used with Metro employees having primary urban forestry and landscape program responsibilities. A simpler set of questions was used with employees having limited greenscape responsibilities. Questions were designed to understand:

- Each person's greenscape role,
- How their department organization is structured,
- What relationships they have with other groups and departments,
- What are their program strengths and limitations.

All of the interview results were tabulated, processed, and then analyzed.

### Observations and Findings

As with any organization, there are many strengths in Metro Landscape Coordination Program. But as can be expected, there are also areas that can be improved.

#### Trends:

- Metro area is expected to experience continued urban growth and development .
- Urbanization has increased demands on Metro's urban forest and landscape services.
- Urbanization is degrading local natural resources and is impacting environmental quality.
- Metro Landscape Coordination Program resources (e.g. budget, personnel, equipment, training) have not kept up with added program service demands.
- Nonprofit tree groups have increased their capacity to provide financial and volunteer resources.

### INTERVIEW RESULTS

#### Most Urgent Needs Are:

- Maintenance Plan & Funding
- Better communication and coordination within Metro
- More Manpower
- Training Programs
- Engage Public in Tree Programs

# WHAT DO WE HAVE ?

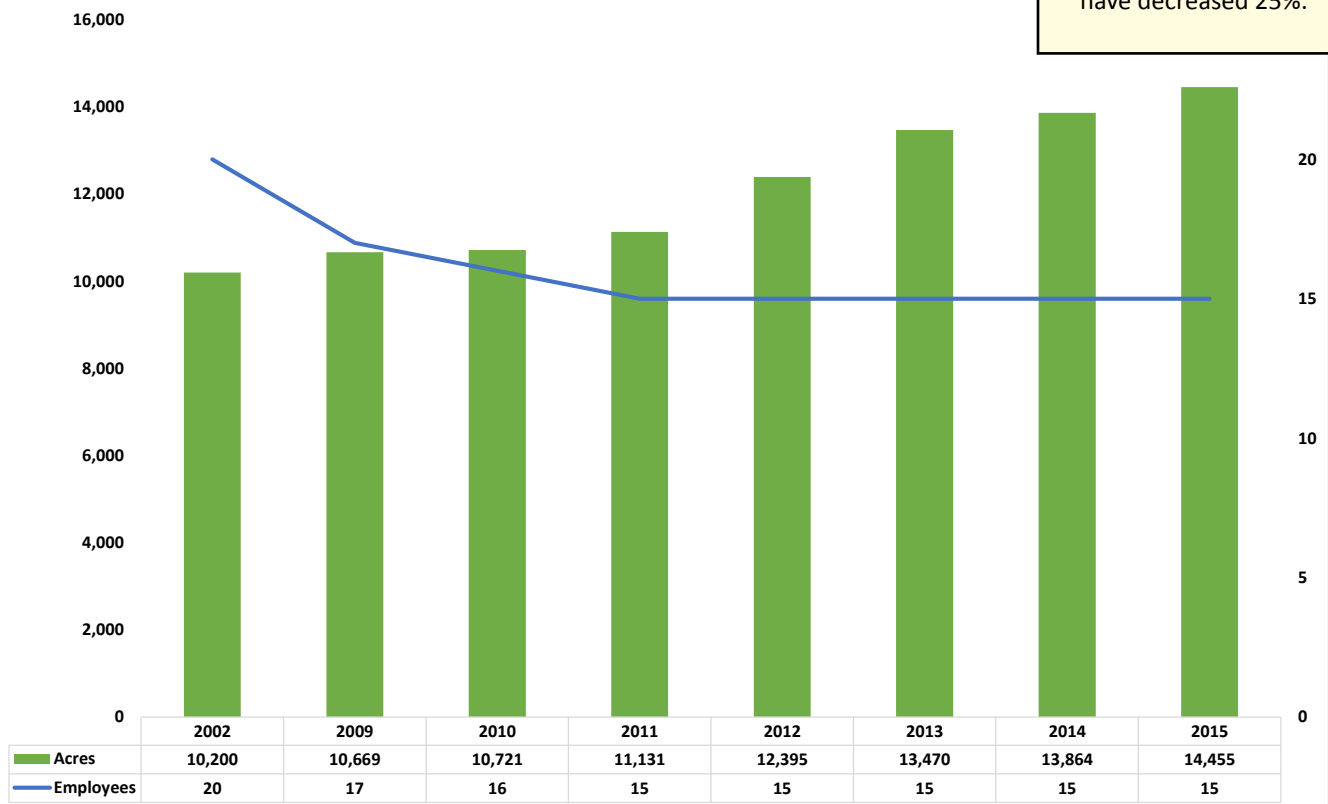
## Strengths:

- The Metropolitan Landscape Coordination Program was started in 2012.
- Metro government has many dedicated employees who work very hard to maintain the community's urban forest and landscape.
- Metro has employees who have expertise in their field regarding urban forestry, horticulture, and landscaping.
- There are Metro employees who have thoughtful ideas and willingness to improve their effectiveness.
- There is a receptiveness among several Metro departments to improve collaboration and sharing resource services.
- There are many good examples of Metro employees crossing departmental lines to collaborate and support each other.
- There are also good examples of Metro employees supporting nonprofit and citizen tree groups.
- Supportive administration and planning support as outlined on [page 7](#).
- Metro General Services and Metro Public Works developed the Metro Nashville Landscape Guidelines and Best Management Practices manual in 2013.

Since 2002, Metro Parks and Greenways acreage has increased by 4,255 acres (+ 35.9%).

Since 2007, the number of Metro Parks has increased from 108 to 122, meanwhile employees have decreased 25%.

## METRO NASHVILLE'S STAFFING vs. LAND ACQUISITION TRENDS for Parks, Greenways and Open Space



Metro's landscape resources such as staff, budget, personnel, equipment and training have decreased while service demands have increased due to additional land acquisitions.



# WHAT DO WE HAVE ?

## Weaknesses:

- Lack of accountability. With many departments involved in landscape services, there is a lack of central oversight.
- Metro does not have the capacity to provide maintenance for new tree plantings and existing mature trees and landscape plantings.
- Metro does not have a mechanism in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of its Urban Forestry and Landscape Program.
- Metro has some capacity to respond to immediate critical events (e.g. catastrophic storms, insects and pests), but no response plans related to Urban Forestry.
- Metro's landscape ordinances are weak and have little tree protection included.
- Metro responds to Urban Forest issues in a reactive not proactive manner.

## SATELLITE CITIES

Within the geographic boundaries of Nashville-Davidson County Metro government, there are six satellite cities that existed before the formation of the Metropolitan Government in 1963 and did not consolidate into Metro. While the parts of these cities that fall within Davidson County are considered part of Nashville, they still retain their own municipal governments. Because of their independent form of government, these cities provide their own urban services (e.g. police protection, garbage collection, and zoning).

Their landscape services and policies also vary from Metro government's and with each other, making development practices inconsistent. In some cases, a satellite city has higher landscape standards than Metro government's. But in most cases, the satellite cities standards for landscape services and policies are weaker than Metro government. The following table lists each of the six satellite cities in Davidson County with a breakdown of their landscape services and policies and how they compare to Metro Nashville government.

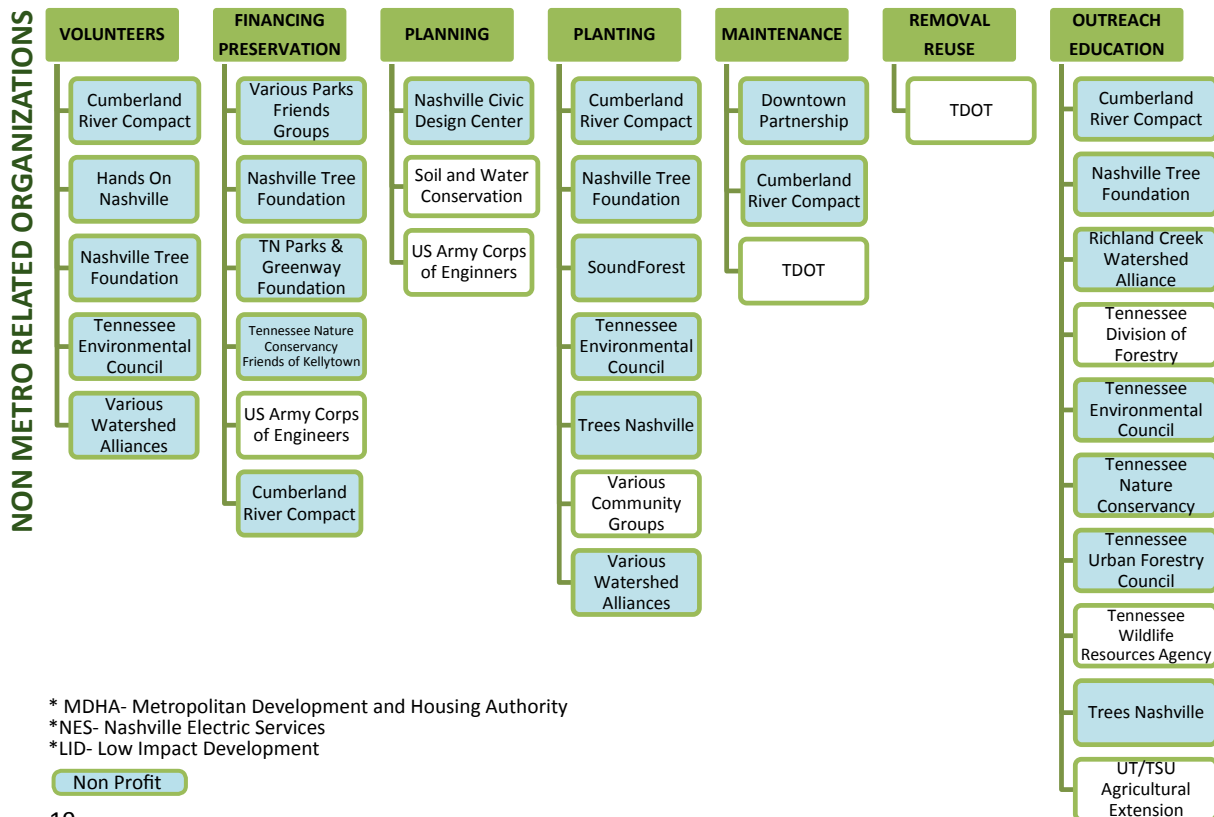
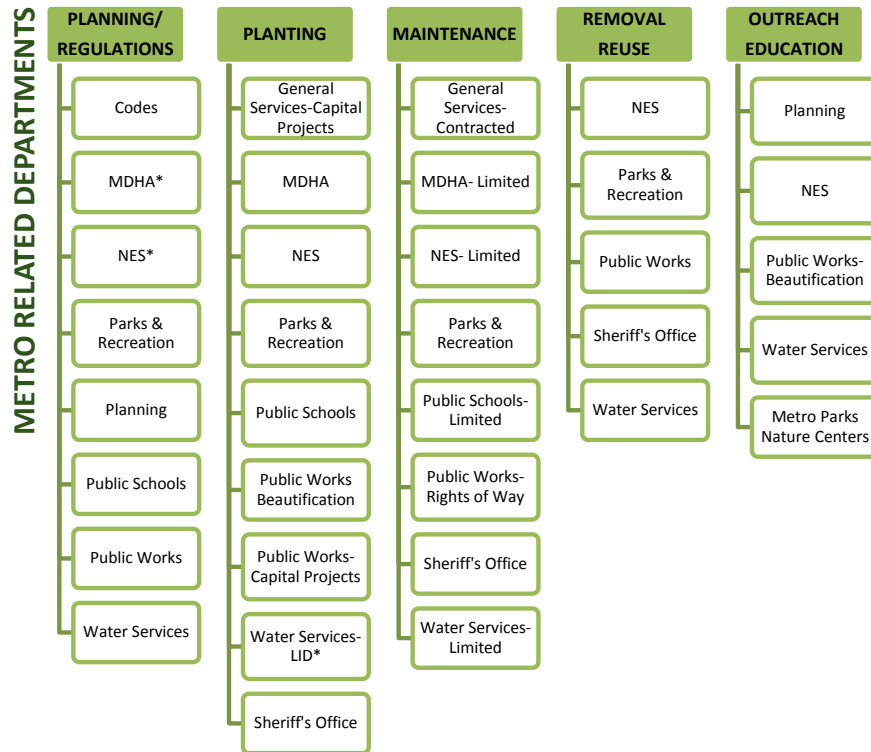
Satellite City	Design Guide-lines	Contract for Main-tenance Services	Staff Horticulturalist and/or PW Labor	Landscape Ordinance	Licensed Landscape Architect Required	Tree Protection Ordinance	Specimen Tree Regulations	Green Infrastruc-ture	Buffers and Tree Density Required	Water Quality Buffer Required	Tree Bank Fund	Leaf & Brush Pick up	Paid from City Funds
Nashville	yes	some	both	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Goodlettsville	yes	yes large jobs	1 horticulturist PW labor	yes	yes	yes. Permit 8" cal. or larger	18" or larger	yes	yes	yes	yes. \$150/cal. In.	yes	yes
Berry Hill	yes	yes	2 workers in Public Works	yes-limited	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Oak Hill	no	volunteer garden clubs	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Forrest Hill	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Belle Meade	no	yes	no	no	no	ROW removal only	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
Ridgetop	no	yes large jobs	3 workers in PW, 1 in Parks	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes

# WHAT DO WE HAVE ?

## DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT IN NASHVILLE

Nashville/Davidson county is a large and diverse area lacking any central oversight of the Urban Forest. Only a small percentage, 4.3%, is owned and managed by Metro government. These charts list the main groups that have a role in the Urban Forest both within and outside Metro government.

**Only a small percentage , 4.3% of the county's land is controlled by Metro government. Private citizens must take the lead in preserving and growing the Nashville Urban Forest.**



\* MDHA- Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority

\*NES- Nashville Electric Services

\*LID- Low Impact Development

Non Profit

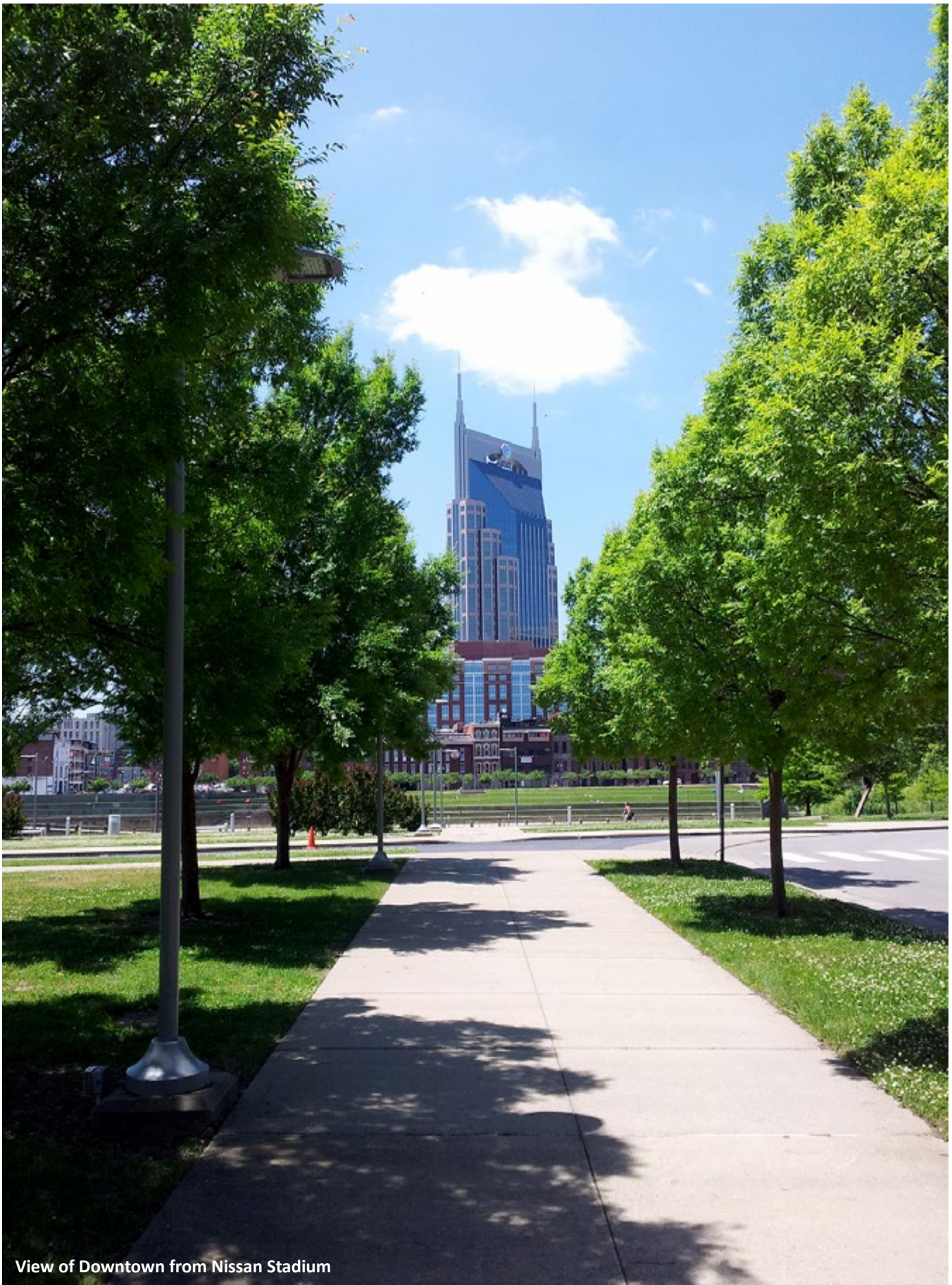


### DID YOU KNOW ?

Trees Provide **CRIME REDUCTION** and Social Benefits

- Public buildings with high levels of greenery had 48% fewer property crimes and 56% fewer violent crimes.
- Residents who live near trees have significantly better relations with and stronger ties to their neighbors, compared to treeless neighborhoods.
- Trees have the potential to reduce social service budgets, decrease police calls for domestic violence, strengthen urban communities, and decrease the incidence of child abuse, a study in Chicago found.
- Fewer reports of physical violence come from homes that have trees outside, compared to barren conditions.
- Green spaces with trees bring people together outdoors, increasing surveillance and discouraging criminals.





Neil Letson

View of Downtown from Nissan Stadium

## ELEMENTS OF A COMPLETE URBAN FORESTRY AND LANDSCAPE PROGRAM

In its most generic form, there are seven basic elements to a complete urban forestry and landscape program. Each one has an impact on the other. For example, good planning upfront can insure that the right tree and plant material are established in the right spot. With poor or no planning, trees and plant material have a higher risk of needing costly maintenance to mitigate conflicts or incompatibility with its site.

### 1- Planning and Regulatory

Good planning can be as simple as a landscape plan or as complex as determining ordinances, budgets, staffing, and equipment needed to accomplish program tasks and activities. Regardless, planning provides direction and focus to guide Metro assets toward a sustainable urban forestry and landscape resource.

### 2- Planting

Installing trees and plant material is, by far, the most popular urban forestry and landscape activity. But like any other activity, it requires a thoughtful approach that takes into account its future impact. Done right, someone will assess the potential planting site, select the right species and cultivars, select quality plant material, prepare the planting site, use proper planting techniques, and provide post planting care.

### 3- Maintenance and Training

Maintenance is the most overlooked part of a complete urban forestry and landscape program, with watering and pruning being the main activity. Other maintenance activities include irrigation, weed control, mulching, fertilization, pest management, and growth regulation. A complete tree and landscape program will improve plant health. A complete program can also help mitigate costs due to catastrophic events and future infrastructure conflicts. For younger trees and plants, trained volunteers can help augment Metro staff and their limited resources. For larger trees and plants, maintenance activities should be either in-house or contracted. Where conflicts exist between trees and infrastructure, repair and replacement of sidewalks and curbs should be factored in.

### 4- Removal

Eventually, all trees and landscape plant material will require removal. The hope is that through a complete maintenance program, the life of a tree or plant can be extended to its maximum potential. When trees and plants do die, are unsound, in decline, have serious pest issues, or interfere with infrastructure, they should be safely removed using trained qualified personnel and equipment. Professional decisions to remove a tree or plant should be made by qualified personnel using science-based guidelines and protocol in each case.

### 5- Recycling and Reuse

Managing wood waste produced by urban trees and landscape plants is the final stage of a life cycle maintenance program. Urban wood waste can be utilized as compost, firewood, wood products, and energy production. The dual benefit is that the urban wood waste is utilized for an added purpose while extending the life of landfills.

### 6- Monitoring

A municipal urban forestry and landscape program is not complete if it doesn't have a systematic means to observe, track, and record activities or data related to its objectives. Having this capability enables the municipality to measure the success and progress of its programs. There are two key areas where monitoring is needed. One is monitoring the state of its urban forest and landscape. On-the-ground tree inventories, an urban forest

# WHAT DO WE ENVISION ?

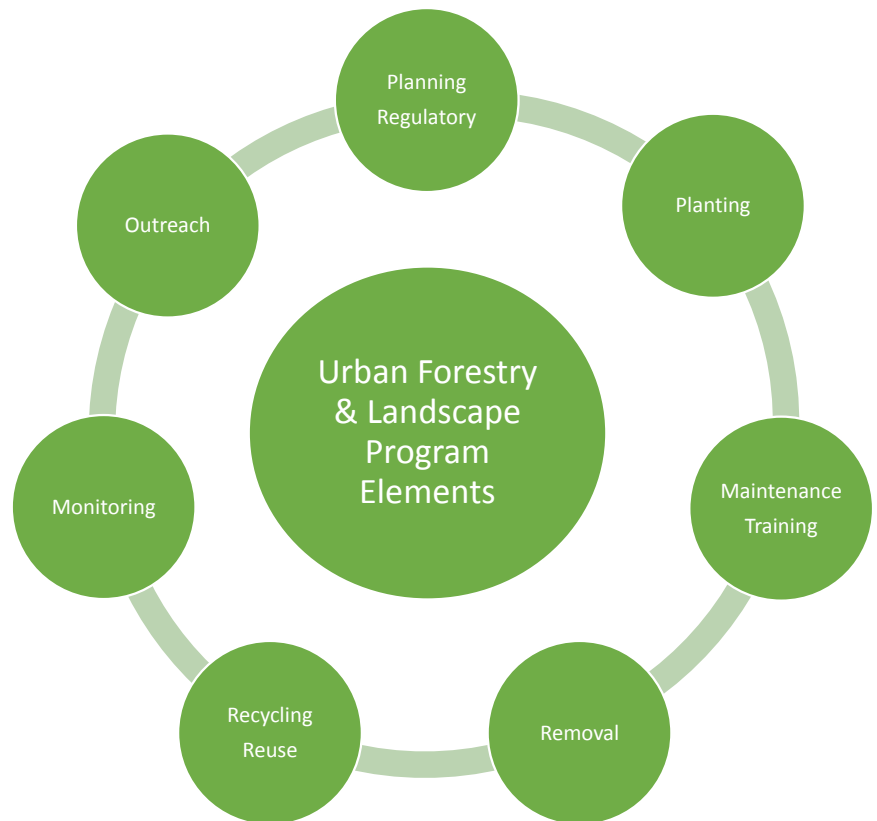
canopy analysis, and ecosystem analysis are good examples. The second is monitoring and evaluating the administrative side of the program. This can help assure that resources are used efficiently, effectively, and strategically. Both can be used to enhance accountability and transparency with government officials, department personnel, non-government partner groups, and citizens.

## 7- Outreach

An urban forestry and landscape program will never be totally successful unless it involves citizen participation. Citizens benefit because the more they are involved, the better they understand their own civic responsibilities and how government works. Local government benefits because civic engagement helps officials and employees to become more responsive with their decision-making that solves community issues. The result is a greater degree of understanding between local government and its citizens.

To foster and promote a culture of civic engagement,

- Partner with a local non-profit to take the initiative in Urban Forestry related programs.
- Cultivate relationships and build partnerships within and outside of Metro government.
- Create an advocacy strategy within Metro.
- Develop communication strategy with various media tools such as social networking, print, newspaper, TV, etc.
- Engage in fundraising activities.



**THE SEVEN ELEMENTS OF A COMPLETE  
URBAN FORESTRY AND LANDSCAPE PROGRAM**





## DID YOU KNOW ?

### Trees Provide **HEALTH** Benefits

- Studies have found a correlation between community forests and the average amount of physical activity exerted by neighborhood residents. People are more inclined to get outdoors and exercise when their surroundings are greener. Logically, greater physical activity leads to fewer cases of obesity, which in turn may help reduce other health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.
- Children who spend more time outside pay better attention inside. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) children, in particular, are better able to concentrate, complete tasks, and follow directions after playing in natural settings.
- Trees filter airborne pollutants and can reduce the conditions that cause asthma incidents which increase in urban communities where trees are eliminated in favor of new roads, homes or commercial developments.
- Trees relieve stress, creating significant drops in blood pressure and muscle tension in as little as five minutes.
- The canopy of urban trees eliminates exposure to 40% to 60% of harmful UV-B rays, compared to direct sunlight.
- Trees reduce noise pollution by acting as a buffer and absorbing on average 50% of urban noise.
- Post-operative hospital stays are shortened when patients have a view of trees and open spaces.



Neil Letson

## DID YOU KNOW ?

Since the start of the **Metro Landscape Coordination Program** it has partnered with many Metro departments, non-profits, institutions, and citizens. The staff has completed *Partnership Listening Tours* and is now involved in outreach, education, and directed planting projects.

Some of these partnerships include:

- Urban Forestry Educational Exhibit – Earth Day, Lawn and Garden Show and Urban Garden Festival
- Metro Tree Advisory Committee Expanded Format
- Historic and Specimen Tree Program
- Betty Brown Tree Trail within the new Riverfront Park
- Urban Riparian Buffer Program – Clean Water from Urban Forest
- Green Alleys
- Nashville Next – Natural Resources
- Weed Wrangle Nashville – controlling invasive plants in our community
- Cheekwood’s Garden Committee
- Landscape, Buffering and Tree Replacement Workshop
- Tree Density Goals and Priority Area Maps Workshop
- *Shade the City, Plant More Trees* public relations campaign
- *How to Organize a Successful Tree Planting* booklet for Nashville
- Emerald Ash Borer Task Force
- Tree Seedling Program

### Tree Planting Partnerships and Grants

- ReLeafing Day Neighborhoods
- Flood Recovery
- Old Hickory Boulevard
- Air Quality Response
- Downtown Inner Loop

### Complete Streets

- Gateway to Heritage on Jefferson Street
- Koreans Veteran’s Boulevard and Roundabout
- 28th Avenue Connector at Centennial Park
- 5th Avenue of the Arts
- Murphy Road and Roundabout
- 11th Avenue in the Gulch
- Division Street Extension

### Statewide Partners

- Nashville Green Tour to personnel from other cities – Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
- Presentation on the Metro Tree Advisory Committee at statewide conference

### National Partners

- Arbor Day’s Tree City Growth Award
- Arbor Day’s Tree Campus USA Awards
- American Forest
- Alliance for Community Trees
- Arbor Day Sustainable Workshop and Campus Tree Plantings

# HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

## NEEDS, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The current pressures from urban growth and development place enormous challenges to the remaining urban forest and landscape resources. Another source of pressure on Metro are land acquisitions. Since 2007, the number of Metro Parks has increased from 108 to 122. Since 2002, the number of acres in Metro Parks and Greenways has increase by 4,255 acres (35.9%) (See chart page 17). Unfortunately, Metro Government's capacity to service its municipal landscape has not kept up with increased demand. Staffing in its Parks, Public Works, and other departments has remained stable and in some cases lower than prior to the 2009 recession. New sources of funding and additional budget allocations are needed to implement planning goals.

Communication is a challenge with at least ten different Metro departments playing a role in landscape services. (See page 19). A protocol for communication is needed along with regular coordination and update meetings among departments involved in landscape services.

To address these issues we have identified the following key goals:

**Goal 1- STANDARDS- Update and Implement Landscape Standards and Enhance the Metro Landscape Coordination Program**

**Goal 2- OUTREACH- Engage the Public in Metro Landscape Coordination Program.**

**Goal 3- CANOPY GOALS- Establish and Implement Tree Density Goals**

As part of the Metro Nashville Urban Forestry and Landscape Master Plan, we have examined and analyzed how Metro Government is currently structured to deliver landscape services to its citizens. Much of the analysis is rooted in the feedback heard from both Metro employees and non-Metro representatives involved with landscape services. It became clear that even though different departments and groups were interviewed, their comments were at times consistent with each other and had common themes.

To Metro's credit, there is a lot of good will between departments when it comes to urban forestry and landscape services, but it tends to be reactive and lack an overall plan. The following objectives are the basis of this plan.

- Update and adopt *Metro Nashville Landscape Guidelines and Best Management Practices*, 2012.
- Adopt Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) standards for all Metro development projects.
- Create a Tree and Landscape Crew within Public Works department.
- Create additional staff positions to oversee Metro Landscape Coordination Program.
- Adequately fund personnel, equipment, and training needs of Metro Landscape Coordination Program through a dedicated source of funding and non-profit partnerships.
- Initiate better communication and coordination with Metro Landscape Coordination Program and other Metro Departments.
- Implement Urban Canopy Target Percentage Goals and Priority Areas to guide tree planting efforts.
- Upgrade Metro's use of new technology, geospatial mapping, and equipment.
- Review and update existing Metro landscape ordinances.
- Work with Satellite Cities to develop landscape ordinances and standards.

There is a need for Metro Government to make better use of its resources and provide increased services that improve the environmental, social, and economic quality of life for all its citizens.

Between 1960 and 2013, the Davidson County-Nashville's population grew 58.7% from 399,743 to 634,464 (U.S. Census).

It is estimated the population will grow to 752,326 by 2035, an increase of 14.9% (Woods & Poole Economics; Washington D.C.).

***Fragmentation of its landscape services delivery is one of the biggest obstacles within Metro.***

***No one department is responsible for landscape activities.***

***Instead, services are provided at the individual department level and only if it is consistent with that department's mandated purpose.***

***As a consequence, service delivery is not uniform and is unevenly weighted toward planting with maintenance often being overlooked.***



## GOAL 1:

### STANDARDS- Update and Implement Landscape Standards and Enhance the Metro Landscape Coordination Program

To fill the present voids in services and increase capabilities, the Metro Landscape Coordination Program could be organized into three areas of oversight:

- **OPERATIONS**
- **PLANNING AND REVIEW**
- **OUTREACH**

#### OPERATIONS

Landscape Coordination Program **Operations** will work, as budget allows, with the existing Operations section in Public Works and add equipment and personnel to provide additional landscape services of planting, watering, pruning, and mulching trees.

Landscape Coordination Program **Operations** will train a specialized Tree Crew to implement a Street Tree Program.

As an alternative to beefing up the Operations division in Public Works, landscape planting and maintenance tasks can be done by a full service private landscape company contracted by Metro. This system is currently being used by Metro General Services, Water Services and Public Works to manage some properties they oversee.

#### PLANNING AND REVIEW

The **Planning and Review** arm of the Metro Landscape Coordination Program would, in partnership with Metro Code's One-Stop Shop for permitting and Metro Public Works Engineering Division, review plans for Metro projects to ensure they meet the goals approved by Metro and set forth in this master plan. These goals include Tree Density Units, Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) ratings, Metro Landscape Guidelines and Best Management Practices and tree preservation. Planning and Review staff will also work with non-Metro organizations to assist these groups with meeting these same goals. The Planning and Review arm should have an emphasis on planning, Global Information System (GIS) mapping and can carry out monitoring of projects.

**Planning and Review** will work closely with Public Works Engineering/Sidewalk Division to develop a Street Tree Program to develop proper street tree engineering techniques and oversee the integration of trees into new construction and sidewalk retrofit projects.

Also **Planning and Review** will develop standards for planting and maintenance, develop job classifications and requirements and develop training programs for front line workers.

#### OUTREACH

The **Outreach** arm of the Metro Landscape Coordination Program will continue to work alongside all landscape related Metro departments, Metro Tree Advisory Committee, and non-profit groups to facilitate projects on private land. As stated earlier, this is the majority of land in the county and it is imperative to develop a program to preserve and build the tree canopy on a broad scale to reach our Urban Canopy Target Percentage Goals. The **Outreach** arm will provide promotion of the program to the public, Urban Forestry related education and training, open platform tree mapping, and fundraising, as well as continue to work with other Metro departments involved in landscape activities such as Parks, Water Services, Codes, Schools, NES, General Services and Planning to develop a protocol for communication.

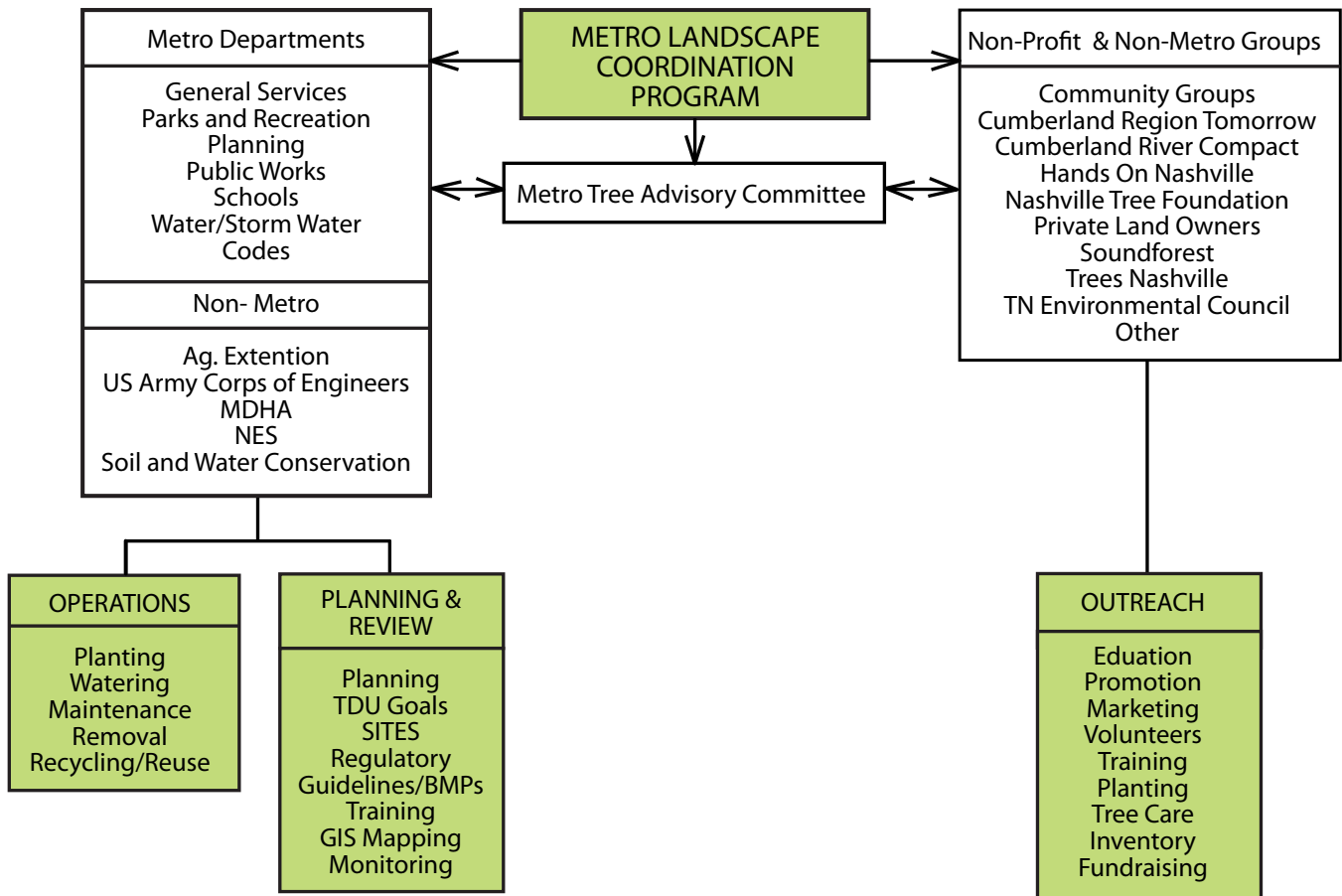
Metro can improve its services by partnering with citizens, private businesses, and nonprofits to provide service providers that augment government's landscape programs.

Already, there are eight local nonprofit groups, seven state organizations, and one federal agency that provide some level of urban forestry and landscape service to Metro-Davidson County citizens.

Some of these service activities are done as Metro partnerships, while many others are not.

# HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

## ENHANCED METRO LANDSCAPE COORDINATION PROGRAM



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### GOAL # 1- STANDARDS- QUICK WIN

1-4 months

#### Update and adopt Metro Landscape Standards and Best Management Practices

Form a committee of Metro representatives with landscape responsibilities to review current Metro Landscape Guidelines and the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) standards and develop updated Metro Landscape Guidelines. Determine cost for each department to implement the new standards. Assist departments with implementation.

#### Develop Training Modules and Certification Program

Front line maintenance workers need to be trained in Metro Landscape Guidelines and Best Management Practices as well as proper safety and horticulture practices such as pruning techniques, pests, watering, mulching, mowing, etc. Working with Metro Human Resources, develop training workshop sessions and additional training materials such as charts and videos. A cost analysis needs to be carried out to determine funding. Potential sources of funds should be identified.

#### Review Job Classifications and Titles

Work with Metro Human Resource Department to review and update all Metro landscape and tree management related classifications and make recommendations. Review job titles of related positions and make recommendations for more accurate description of the job's

# HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

duties. An example is the title of Landscape Enforcement Officer would better describe the current Metro Codes Urban Forester title. Adjust compensation to retain trained workers.

## **Identify Maintenance Hot Spots**

Identify and prioritize highly visible public areas that are in need of maintenance and develop a plan of action.

## **Develop a Maintenance Plan for Significant Complete Streets**

Working with related departments such as Parks and Public Works, develop a maintenance plan and determine cost to implement.

## **Reinstate Landscape Ordinance requirements to include Metro Public School properties**

In 2013, Metro Codes allowed Metro Schools to be exempted from meeting Metro Landscape Ordinances. This decision should be reexamined and school properties should be required to meet, or exceed, code requirements as are all other Metro properties.

***Currently there is no system within Metro Public Works to plant, water and maintain trees in Right Of Ways, outside of the Complete Street Program.***

## **GOAL # 1- STANDARDS- MID TERM**

**6 months to 1 year**

### **Tree Crew**

Create a Tree Crew within Public Works Operations section to carry out a Street Tree Program on rights-of-ways. Develop tree crew job descriptions, staff and equipment requirements, and budget. Request funding for tree crew during Metro budget cycles.

### **Update Metro Landscape Codes**

The landscape codes should be reviewed and updated as needed or every five years. Some of the most obvious improvements to the codes are:

- Require a Licensed Landscape architect for submittal drawings.
- Change parking lot tree requirements to be based on percentage of shade, not on the number of trees as is currently required.
- Include TDU goals from this master plan.
- Develop a landscape ordinance that includes tree protection for healthy mature existing trees.
- Develop a system to implement and enforce Ordinance 2.104.070 - *Permitting of Arborists* that requires qualified arborist to have a permit before providing tree services. This will reduce tree topping and other unsound practices.
- Assess and improve current codes pertaining to development on slopes and the relationship to impacts on trees.
- Create an educational program for citizens to support the on-line 'Report a Violation' for Building Inspection permits to report violations of Tree Replacement Procedures as prescribed in ordinance Article 4, Chapter 17.24.100.
- 'Green Berets'- Develop a program to train citizens who assist the Metro Urban Forester and Build Inspectors with tree related compliance issues such as tree replacement violations and certifies them to issue a tree violation citation.

### **Designate Funds from existing Metro fees**

It is recommended that some of these funds collected through environmental related activities be earmarked to support urban forestry and landscape projects that enhance Davidson County environmental quality.

### **Develop Tree Related Resources for Metro Departments**

Create technical publications such as Rights-of-Way/Street Tree Design Guidelines and Best Management Practices and proper Pruning Handbook for front line workers.

Based on information gathered in interviews we have identified some of the components missing in the city's landscape delivery system.

- Maintenance Plan and Funding.
- Central oversight of Metro Urban Forestry and Landscape services.
- Better communication and coordination within Metro.
- More personnel.
- Training Programs.
- Public Urban Forestry Program.



## GOAL # 1- STANDARDS- LONG TERM

1 -2 years

### Consider Hiring a Landscape Architect/Planner

Conduct a feasibility study for adding a landscape architect/planner to serve in the Planning and Review arm of the Metro Landscape Coordination Program. Most comparable cities' staff includes this technical expertise.

### Develop Protocol for communication between MDHA and other Metro departments

Although MDHA is not funded by Metro, many of their projects are maintained by Metro. This usually falls to the Parks department. A protocol of review and communication during the design and construction phases should be established to coordinate future maintenance needs.

### Create Sustainable Funding Sources

A dedicated source of funding, such as a percentage of tax base, as well as non-Metro partnerships should be considered to sustain this program to help Nashville become "the greenest city in the Southeast". See page 8 for comparison to other cities.

### Require all new Metro design/build projects to meet SITES certification at a minimum of a Silver rating

Just as all new Metro buildings are required to meet LEED standards, all Metro owned site development should be required to meet SITES standards. Sustainable Site Initiative (SITES) is the equivalent of LEED but for the development of landscape projects with or without buildings. Following SITES guidelines requires a project to be considered from a holistic perspective and will eliminate most problems associated with unsustainable landscape design. [www.sustainablesites.org](http://www.sustainablesites.org)

### Agricultural Extension Service to include urban forestry in their educational services

Past year's Metro budgets have included funding to the Agricultural Extension Service to promote its Master Gardener program, provide pesticide safety educational programs, increase citizen horticultural skills and knowledge, and inform Davidson County residents about horticultural educational services and products. Urban Forestry should also be considered.

### Soil & Water Conservation to include urban forestry component to their services

Past year's Metro budgets have included funding to the Soil & Water Conservation agency to provide education, training, technical services and funding to the following: homeowners, landowners, developers, engineers, and businesses regarding conservation of Davidson County's water and natural resources. Urban Forestry should also be considered.

### Performance measures should be developed for Nashville's Urban Forest

Metro requires all departments and funded entities to follow a strategic planning and performance measurement initiative through the Finance Department's Office of Budget. The same should be done to track citizen participation through their voluntarism and financial support of urban forestry to make data driven decisions to achieve goals and see value in the way their dollars are spent.

### SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE 'SITES'

Metro General Services has adopted SITES principles for its properties' landscape maintenance.

Just as LEED (Green building rating system) has become the standard for all new Metro building construction, SITES is recommended for Metro land development and maintenance.

The central message of the Sustainable Sites Initiative program is that any landscape holds the potential both to improve and to regenerate the natural benefits and services provided by ecosystems in their undeveloped state.

SITES is a systematic comprehensive set of guidelines and a rating system to define sustainable sites, measure their performance, and ultimately elevate the value of landscapes.

<http://www.sustainablesites.org/>



## HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

GOAL # 1 –IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE-	PRIORITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET	LEADER
Update Standards and Best Management Practices.	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager
Develop Training Modules and Certification Program.	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	Grant	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog . Planning & Review Manager, Premier Building Maint.
Review Job Classification	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager
Identify Maintenance Hot Spots	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager
Develop a Maintenance Plan for Complete Streets	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Operations Manager
Reinstate Landscape Ordinance requirements to include Metro Public School properties	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager and Metro Codes
Tree Crew	<b>MID TERM</b>	to be determined	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Operations Manager
Update Metro Landscape Codes.	<b>MID TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	Codes (MTAC to assist)
Designate Funds from existing Metro fees.	<b>MID TERM</b>	Metro fees	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager
Develop Tree Related Resources for Metro Departments.	<b>MID TERM</b>	Grant	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager
Consider hiring Metro Landscape Architect	<b>LONG TERM</b>	to be determined	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager
Develop Protocol for communication between MDHA and other Metro departments concerning LS issues.	<b>LONG TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager
Create Sustainable Funding Sources.	<b>LONG TERM</b>	Tax, Grants, Donations	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog . Outreach Liaison
Require all new Metro design/build projects to meet SITES certification at a minimum of a Silver rating.	<b>LONG TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	Mayor to mandate all LS related Metro Depts. Just like LEED.
Agricultural Extension Service to include urban forestry in their educational services.	<b>LONG TERM</b>	Reallocate a portion of \$282,200	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog . Outreach Liaison
Soil & Water Conservation to include urban forestry component to their services.	<b>LONG TERM</b>	Reallocate a portion of \$80,800	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog . Outreach Liaison
Performance measures should be developed for Nashville's Urban Forest.	<b>LONG TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager

## GOAL 2:

### OUTREACH- Engage the Public in Metro Landscape Coordination Program.

Only a small percentage of land in Davidson County is overseen by Metro. Therefore it is essential to engage private landowners in implementing the goals of this plan. A reorganized Metro landscape program will still face challenges to effectively manage the community's urban forestry and landscape resource (e.g., budget limitations, citizen needs, catastrophic events). Partnerships are needed with the many non-Metro groups and resources that could help fill gaps and augment Metro's capacity. These groups can provide personnel, equipment, technology, and funding resources. Metro government should work to identify, recruit, and form formal agreements with public, nonprofit, and private sector groups to strengthen the community's urban forest and landscape resources.

- Identify non-Metro groups with assets to enhance Metro's greenscape program.
- Develop formal agreements that commit and bind non-Metro resources with Metro's Landscape Coordination Program.
- Identify greenscape projects and needs where non-Metro resources can be used.
- Outsource greenscape activities to qualified vendors and nonprofits.
- Enhance nonprofit involvement.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### GOAL #2- OUTREACH- QUICK WIN

1-4 months

#### Promote and Implement Metro Historic and Specimen Trees Program

This program to protect mature trees was officially announced by Mayor Megan Berry in 2016. It gives authority to Metro Tree Advisory Committee to designate historic and specimen trees. [Metro code 17.40.450 - Designation of Historic and Specimen Trees.](#)

#### Develop Handbooks and Resources for Community

- Tree species, planting, pruning, and maintenance including power line approved trees.
- No tree topping document.
- Green Infrastructure Design for Home Owners.

#### Create a citizen based Citywide Urban Forestry Program. (See outline pg. 36)

To fulfill the vision of this master plan, Nashville needs a high-profile, citywide Urban Forestry program. Metro should expand their partnerships with a local non-profit group to take the lead role in executing the program. This program should be the clearinghouse of all related activities, information, advice, and education on issues concerning landscape in Nashville such as:

- Outreach – Complement Metro education, marketing and promotional efforts.
- Fundraising – Grants, annual campaigns, fundraising events.
- Mapping – Tracking tree canopy over time and identifying tree planting locations.
- Tree Seedling Nursery – Through partnerships, provide seedlings as a resource.
- Volunteers – Recruitment and appreciation.
- Planting – Proper tree planting and tree maintenance.
- Planting Campaigns – Lead by non-profit partners.
- Grants – from organizations such as Keep America Beautiful.
- 'Tree Ambassadors' – Representatives from council districts, neighborhoods, and individuals to lead Urban Forestry activities and oversee the Historic and Specimen Tree program for their jurisdiction.



# HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

## GOAL #2- OUTREACH- MID TERM

6 months to 1 year

### Advocacy of Urban Forestry and Landscape Goals

If recommendations from this plan are to be accepted and implemented, advocacy is needed to create change. This is done through public education (e.g. information pamphlets, websites, workshops, and seminars), media activity (news conferences, interviews, and publishing articles), coalition building and grassroots activities.

### Assist Satellite Cites in adopting a landscape code

Some of the satellite cities currently have no landscape ordinances leaving their tree canopy vulnerable to development and other pressures. The Metro Tree Advisory Committee could provide assistance to satellite cites to write and adopt a landscape code for their jurisdiction.

### Develop a plan of action for pest outbreaks

A plan of action needs to be developed to address invasive pests that enter our ecosystem. This is currently happening with the Emerald Ash Borer. A good resource for helping develop this plan is the TN Dept of Agriculture- Integrated Pest Management Program.

GOAL # 2- IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	PRIORITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET	LEADER
Promote Citywide Historic and Significant Tree Program	QUICK WIN	N/A	to be determined	MTAC
Develop Handbooks and Resources for Community	QUICK WIN	Grant	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager, UF/LS Coord. Prog. Operations Horticulturist
Create a citizen based Citywide Urban Forestry Program	QUICK WIN	Dedicated Tax, Grants, Donations	\$53,000 start-up, \$20,000 annually (salaries not included)	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Outreach Liaison
Advocacy of Urban Forestry and Landscape Goals	MID TERM	Dedicated Tax, Grants	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Outreach Liaison
Assist Satellite Cites in adopting a landscape code	MID TERM	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review and Outreach Liaison
Develop a plan of action for pest outbreaks.	MID TERM	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Operations Horticulturist



Neil Letson

## OUTLINE OF A CITYWIDE CITIZEN-BASED URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

Some specific tools needed to create a Citywide Urban Forestry and Landscape program are:

### **Branding/Logo**

An identity for the program or 'branding' in the form of a name and logo is needed to be used in educational and promotional material.

### **Website**

There is currently no consistent way to coordinate landscape information that is often widespread and hard to access. Under this brand /identity clearinghouse, we have identified the need for a web-based program to house, distribute and gather information from the public, to and from Metro government and to and from non-profit tree organizations. A website will serve as a central location to access and input information and educate the public.

These are only some of the possibilities.

### **Programs:**

- Historic and Specimen Trees- Voluntary program to protect notable quality trees thru MTAC
- Tree Ambassadors- Citizens who lead Urban Forestry activities and oversee the Historic and Specimen Tree program for their jurisdiction
- Rights of Way planting
- Replacement and Maintenance Requests- Metro and private property
- Streetscaping- programs beyond solely trees.
- Emergency Tree Care
- Adopt a Tree
- Schools
- Memorial Trees
- Internships
- Foodscaping- combining farming and landscaping to produce food with the focus on fruit trees
- Advocacy- to improve public policies to support Urban Forestry
- Volunteers

### **Introduction:**

- General Information
- History
- Boards, Committees, Partnerships, Supporters

### **Education/Outreach:**

Produce educational handbooks for print and to download from the website. Subjects are:

- Tree Planting, Pruning and Maintenance
- Parent/Teacher Association Tree Planting
- Arborist Guidelines
- How to start a Neighborhood Tree Program
- Tree Care for Commercial Landscapes
- Tree Protection on Private Lots for developers

### **Events (calendar):**

- Educational training with Certifications
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Corporate Work Days
- Tree Walks
- Meet-Ups- socialize while doing tree projects

### **Interactive Tree Mapping:**

Within the website, there is a need to develop an open source mapping, or do-it-yourself program, so citizens can actively participate in tree inventory and planting programs. This will build interest, participation and a community around municipal and privately owned trees as people add data, maintenance and monitoring tasks, leave comments, and upload images. This system will educate citizens and be a collaborative platform for crowd-sourced tree inventory, ecosystem services calculations, urban forestry analysis, and community engagement. It will also be a tool to manage planning on a scale from street, yard, block, neighborhood, community, to county.

Currently the only software on the market that is open sourced, meaning anyone can add data, is OpenTreeMap. Many cities are currently using this for their urban forest management programs. Some of those cities include: Philadelphia, Grand Rapids, Tampa, Sacramento, and San Francisco among others. To learn more go to: <https://www.opentreemap.org/>

### **Additional Website Headings:**

#### **Support:**

- Partnerships
- Memberships
- Sponsors
- Donations

#### **Resources:**

- Certified Arborist
- Ag Extension
- 811- Call Before You Dig
- Metro Contacts

#### **Contact:**

- Location, phone, email, etc.
- Job Opportunities
- Volunteer Sign-up

#### **Downloads:**

- Forms and permits
- Documents
- Financial Reports

#### **Q & A:**

#### **News:**

## GOAL 3:

### CANOPY GOALS- Establish and Implement Tree Density Goals

The primary goal of this Master Plan is to increase the size and health of Metro's Urban Forest Canopy. The result is more economic, environmental, and social benefits. To do this requires a coordinated, targeted approach that uses limited resources in an effective and efficient manner.

According to the 2010 Metro Tree Canopy Study, Davidson County has a 47% Urban Tree Canopy (UTC). Unfortunately, the UTC is not uniform across the county. The percentage is highest in less developed areas of the county, while at its lowest in the downtown core. To address these disparities, we have developed a series of Tree Density Goals and Priority Area Maps to analyze the county on a community scale. See page 44 for Priority Area Maps.

#### STRATEGY

A careful plan, method, or set of activities to achieve a particular goal usually over a long period of time

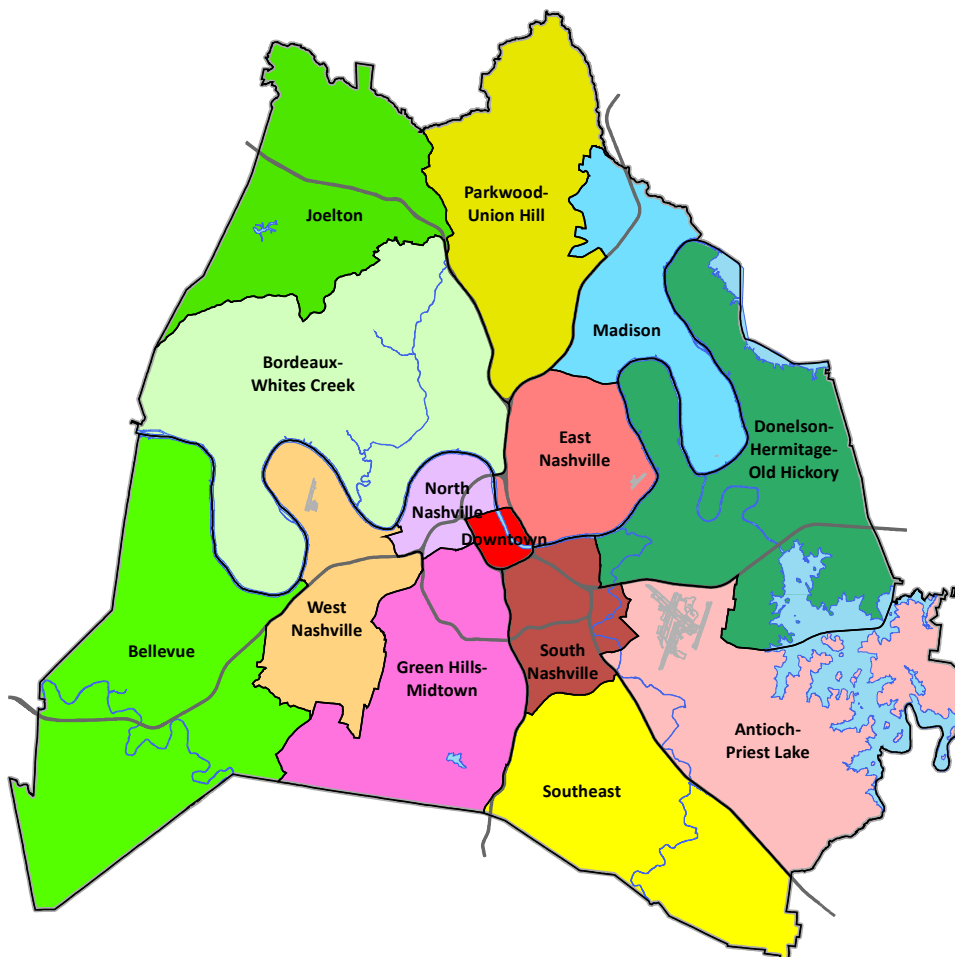
#### Methodology

To create the Tree Density Goals and Priority Area Maps we worked with the Metro Planning Department's Community Subareas system of organization and it's Community Character Transects Categories for analysis of the county.

There are fourteen Community Planning Areas. Each one has its own community plan or Community Character Manual that goes into great detail on all topics of future planning.

Link to Metro Community Planning-

<http://www.nashville.gov/Planning-Department/Community-Planning-Design.aspx>



The 14 Community Subareas of Metropolitan Nashville

# HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

The Community Character Policies in the Community Character Manual (CCM) are based on a planning tool called the Transect. The Transect is a system for categorizing, understanding and guiding the various development patterns of a region, from the most natural and rural to the most urban. The Transect is an ordering system, which calls for all elements of the natural and built environment to be consistent with the character of the Transect Category that they are within.

## **Transect Elements:**

### **T1- Natural-**

Natural open space

### **T2- Rural-**

Rural open space,  
Rural neighborhoods,  
Rural neighborhood centers

### **T3- Suburban-**

Suburban open space,  
Suburban neighborhoods,  
Suburban neighborhood and  
Community centers,  
Suburban residential and mixed-use corridors

### **T4- Urban-**

Urban open space,  
Urban neighborhoods and mixed-use,  
Urban neighborhood and community centers,  
Urban residential and mixed-use corridors

### **T5 Centers-**

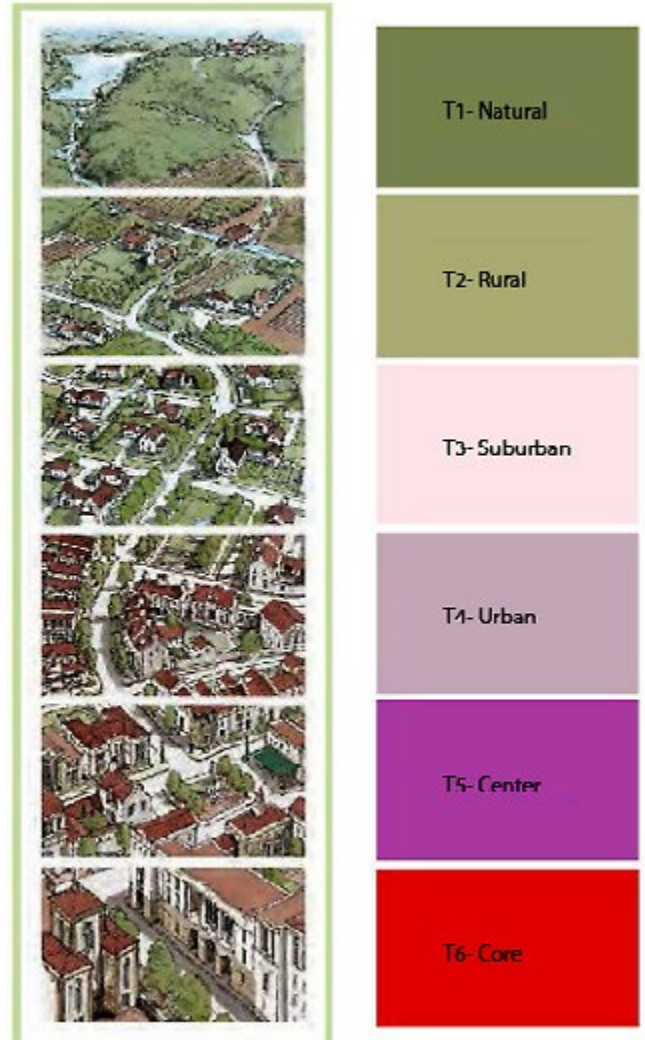
Centers open space,  
Regional and super-regional centers,  
Center mixed-use neighborhoods

### **T6 Core/Downtown-**

Downtown open space,  
Downtown neighborhood,  
Civic

### **D- District-**

Industrial,  
Institutional,  
Mixed business,  
Office concentration



The Nashville/Davidson County Transect consists of seven categories of natural and built environments:

- T1 Natural,
- T2 Rural,
- T3 Suburban,
- T4 Urban,
- T5 Center,
- T6 Core/Downtown, and
- D District.



# HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

## Setting Urban Tree Canopy Target Goals

Although there is no universally agreed upon target value for canopy cover, here are some guidelines.

- 1- The target should fit the characteristics of the local environment.
- 2- Derive a value that is statistically appropriate for the data.
- 3- Recognize potentials and constraints of various land use.
- 4- Maximize potential benefits by setting a high goal.
- 5- Suggest a strategy for reaching the targets.
- 6- Targets must be unambiguous and easily understood.

The Metro Urban Tree Canopy Target Percentage Goals for each transect type are as follows.

Transects	UTC Goal
D District	Site Specific
T1 Natural	65%
T2 Rural	65%
T3 Suburban	50%
T4 Urban	35%
T5 Center	20%
T6 Downtown	10%

D- District will be determined on a case by case basis.

The percentages are a synthesis of recommendations from:

- Proceedings from the Chesapeake Bay Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee's Urban Tree Canopy Workshop August 2004
- Urban Forest Canopy Cover in Portland, Oregon, 1972-2002, Final Report, Joseph Poracky and Michael Lackner, April 2004
- Nashville Tree Canopy Study- AMEC, 2010
- Street Tree Inventory of Nashville's Inner Loop-Village Trees, 2013

See page 44 for Priority Area Maps



Nashville needs more trees in the downtown area.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### GOAL #3- CANOPY GOALS- QUICK WIN

1-4 months

#### **Include Urban Forest Canopy Goals and Strategies in Comprehensive Metro Parks Master Plan Update**

Metro Parks and Recreation is updating its Comprehensive Parks Master Plan in 2016. It includes a tree inventory of all Metro Parks. Goals from this Master Plan should be incorporated.

#### **Present Urban Forest Master Plan Goals and Strategies to City Council representatives and give support for implementation**

Public involvement will be required to achieve the goals set forth in this Master Plan. Each community in Nashville will need to find leaders to oversee neighborhood 'Green' projects. An Outreach team from Metro Landscape Coordination Program will meet with City Council representatives and neighborhood leaders to educate them on the master plan goals and provide support for implementing its strategies.

#### **Involve TDOT with Urban Forest Master Plan Goals and Strategies to reforest Right-of-Ways**

An Outreach team from Metro Landscape Coordination Program will meet with TDOT to educate them on the master plan goals and find opportunities to reforesting highway rights of ways.

#### **Determine strategy and funding source to produce current tree inventory**

This is a high priority. It is imperative that a strategy be created to produce a leaf-on tree survey of the county and a sustainable source of funding be found to manage the data in an open format data base such as [Open Tree Map](#).

### GOAL #3- CANOPY GOALS- MID TERM

6 months to 1 year

#### **Involve Clean Water Nashville and Metro Stormwater with the Urban Forest Master Plan Goals and Strategies**

Metro Landscape Coordination Program will work with the Metro Clean Water program to implement green infrastructure in the combined sewer areas, which would include trees and tree boxes, and continue to work with Metro Storm Water and the satellite cities to plant trees in the remaining areas of the county.

#### **Work with Metro Public Schools (MPS) to include tree planting in property management and tree programs in curriculum**

An Outreach team from Metro Landscape Coordination Program will meet with MPS to educate them on the master plan goals and find opportunities to partner in tree programs.

#### **Work to retrofit existing parking lots with more trees**

The design of many parking lots in Nashville precede the Metro Parking Area Landscape ordinances ([Chap. 17.24, Art. III](#)) or Green Infrastructure practices. This is the case citywide but in particular Community Subarea 10- Green Hills-Midtown, Transect T5 Center is an area of focus. It has an existing tree canopy of 9.3%. The target goal is 20%. It is primarily treeless parking lots.

#### **Increase slope provision in Metro ordinance that restricts development from 15% to 20%**

The more restrictive standard was recommended by the Natural Resources & Hazard Adaptation Resource Team through the NashvilleNext process. The increase would help minimize disturbances on land that is sensitive and retain more natural slopes and tree cover. This helps our goal of investing and increasing our natural environment for beauty, biodiversity, recreation, food production, resiliency, and response to climate change through mitigation and adaptation strategies.

#### **The Clean Water Nashville Overflow Abatement Program**

is an initiative led by Metro Water Services (MWS) in coordination with partner agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for the purpose of meeting the Clean Water Act requirements and, in the process, ensuring the environmental health of the Cumberland River and its tributaries for future generations.

# HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

## Accelerate efforts to purchase more open space and get more natural areas under conservation

An Outreach team from Metro Landscape Coordination Program will meet with Metro Parks to educate them on the master plan goals and support their efforts to acquire more conservation areas. Metro Landscape Coordination Program will work with the Tennessee Land Trust to promote conservation easements on remaining open land. MLCP will work with the Metro Assessor's office to identify Greenbelt properties and encourage development of forestry management plans for these lands with the area forester.

## GOAL #3- CANOPY GOALS- LONG TERM

1 -2 years

### Update tree inventory and monitor projects

Once a complete tree inventory has been achieved, it will need to be updates at least every five years. By using an open format data base, ([Open Tree Map](#)) some of this work can be done by citizens. Monitoring of projects is crucial to show progress or problems. Protocol, staff, and funding should be established for monitoring tree related projects.

### Increase trees in stream buffers along impaired streams and watersheds.

Metro Landscape Coordination Program will provide education about the goals of this master plan and support to Metro Stormwater and Metro Codes to illustrate how increasing trees in stream buffers can help to meet these goals. See [Priority Area Maps recommendations](#) page 44.

GOAL # 3- IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	PRIORITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET	LEADER
Include Urban Forest Canopy Goals and Strategies in Comprehensive Metro Parks Master Plan Update.	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager
Present Urban Forest Master Plan Goals and Strategies to City Council representatives and give support for implementation.	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager and Outreach Liaison and MTAC
Involve TDOT with Urban Forest Master Plan Goals and Strategies for reforestation Right-of-Ways.	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager and Outreach Liaison and MTAC
Determine strategy and funding source to produce current tree inventory .	<b>QUICK WIN</b>	to be determined	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager, MTAC & others
Involve Clean Water Nashville with Urban Forest Master Plan Goals and Strategies.	<b>MID TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager and Outreach Liaison and MTAC
Work with Metro Public Schools to include tree planting in property management and tree programs in curriculum.	<b>MID TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Operations Horticulturist and Outreach Liaison
Look for opportunities and incentives to retrofit existing parking lots with more trees.	<b>MID TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager and Metro Planning
Increase slope provision in ordinance that restricts development from 15% to 20%.	<b>MID TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager, Metro Codes and Metro Planning
Accelerate efforts to purchase more open space and get more natural areas under conservation.	<b>MID TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Manager and Outreach Liaison and Metro Parks
Update tree inventory and monitor projects.	<b>LONG TERM</b>	to be determined	to be determined	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager
Increase stream buffers along impaired streams and watersheds.	<b>LONG TERM</b>	N/A	N/A	UF/LS Coord. Prog. Planning & Review Manager and Metro Stormwater

# HOW DO WE GET THERE ?

## ASSESSMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

To implement the objectives of the master plan additional tools and manpower will be required.  
The following are specific recommendations per department:

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT				
CURRENT	Current Quantity	DESIRED	Quantity New	Total
<b>Staff</b>		<b>Staff</b>		
Maintenance Crews	2	Maintenance Crews	0	2
Special Maintenance Crew	1	Special Maintenance Crew	0	1
Mowing Crews	2	Mowing Crews	1	3
Community Service Workers	varies	Community Service Workers	varies	Avg. 18
Program Director	1	Program Director	0	1
Planner/GIS	0	Planner/GIS	1	1
Public Information Officer	1	Public Information Officer	0	1
Operational Employees	288	Operational Employees	40	328
<b>Equipment</b>		<b>Equipment</b>		
Bucket Trucks	2	Bucket Truck (2-man crew)	2	4
Chippers	1	Chippers (2-man crew)	0	1
Knuckle-Boom Loaders	2	Knuckle-Boom Loader (2-man crew)	1	3
Crane Truck	1	Crane Truck (1-man crew)	0	1

URBAN FORESTRY AND LANDSCAPE COORDINATION PROGRAM				
CURRENT	Current Quantity	DESIRED	Quantity New	Total
<b>Staff:</b>		<b>Staff</b>		
Director	0	Director	1	1
Operations Horticulturist	1	Operations Horticulturist	0	1
Planning & Review Manager	0	Planning & Review Manager	1	1
Outreach Liaison	0	Outreach Liaison	1	1

CODES DEPARTMENT				
CURRENT	Current Quantity	DESIRED	Quantity New	Total
<b>Staff</b>		<b>Staff</b>		
Regulatory Urban Forester	1	City Landscape Enforcement Officer	0	1
Field Crew Supervisor	0	Field Crew Supervisor	1	1
Dedicated Landscape Ordinance Inspector	0	Dedicated Landscape Ordinance Inspector	2	2

PARKS DEPARTMENT				
CURRENT	Current Quantity	DESIRED	Quantity New	Total
<b>Staff:</b>		<b>Staff</b>		
Landscape Maintenance Employees	16	Landscape Maintenance Employees	14	30
<b>Equipment:</b>		<b>Equipment</b>		
Landscape Truck (1-8 yrs old)	4	Landscape Truck	1	5
Grapple Mounted Truck	0	Grapple Mounted Truck	1	1
5-Yard Dump Trucks (8-yrs old)	2	5-Yard Dump Trucks	1	3
Bucket Truck	1	Bucket Truck	2	3
Chipper Truck (5 yrs old)	1	Chipper Truck	1	2
Chipper (6 yrs old)	1	Chipper	1	2
Stump Grinder (5 yrs old)	1	Stump Grinder	0	1
Small Tractor (2 yrs old)	1	Small Tractor	0	1
Dingo style Landscape skid steer	0	Dingo Style Landscape Skid Steer	1	1
Bobcat Loader (12 & 1 yr old)	2	Bobcat type Skid Steer Loader	1	3
<b>Bobcat Attachments:</b>				
backhoe	1	backhoe	0	1
auger	1	auger	0	1
stump grinder	1	stump grinder	0	1
bucket	2	bucket	0	2
25-gallon sprayer (3 yrs old)	2	25-gallon sprayer	0	2
100-gallon sprayer (15 yrs old)	1	100-gallon sprayer	0	1

Note: Currently inspections for Landscape Ordinance Street Tree compliance are done by Building Code Inspectors.



## IMPLEMENTATION

A successful strategy starts with leadership towards a vision for the future and planning tools such as this master plan. Resistance to change is natural. To manage change effectively it is important to involve those affected and to get their understanding and support. Each of the recommendations in this master plan are ways to improve the way Metro provides services and the quality of life in Nashville.

Implementation of the plan's recommendations can be done through Metro Landscape Coordination Program and its non-Metro partnerships to implement these recommendations through an internally facilitated process.

- Internal review
- Stakeholder Review
- Mayor's Office review
- Budget requests

See pages 33, 35 & 41 for implementation schedules.



## MONITORING

Progress towards changing Metro government's urban forestry & landscape related departmental structure and service delivery can be measured by monitoring the implementation process. Effective monitoring with a "hands on" approach by Metro Government officials will insure that organizational changes are done as intended, kept on schedule and that corrective actions can be taken in a timely manner. Monitoring sends a signal to those responsible for implementing organizational changes that Metro government leaders are serious about the process and expect these recommendations to become reality.

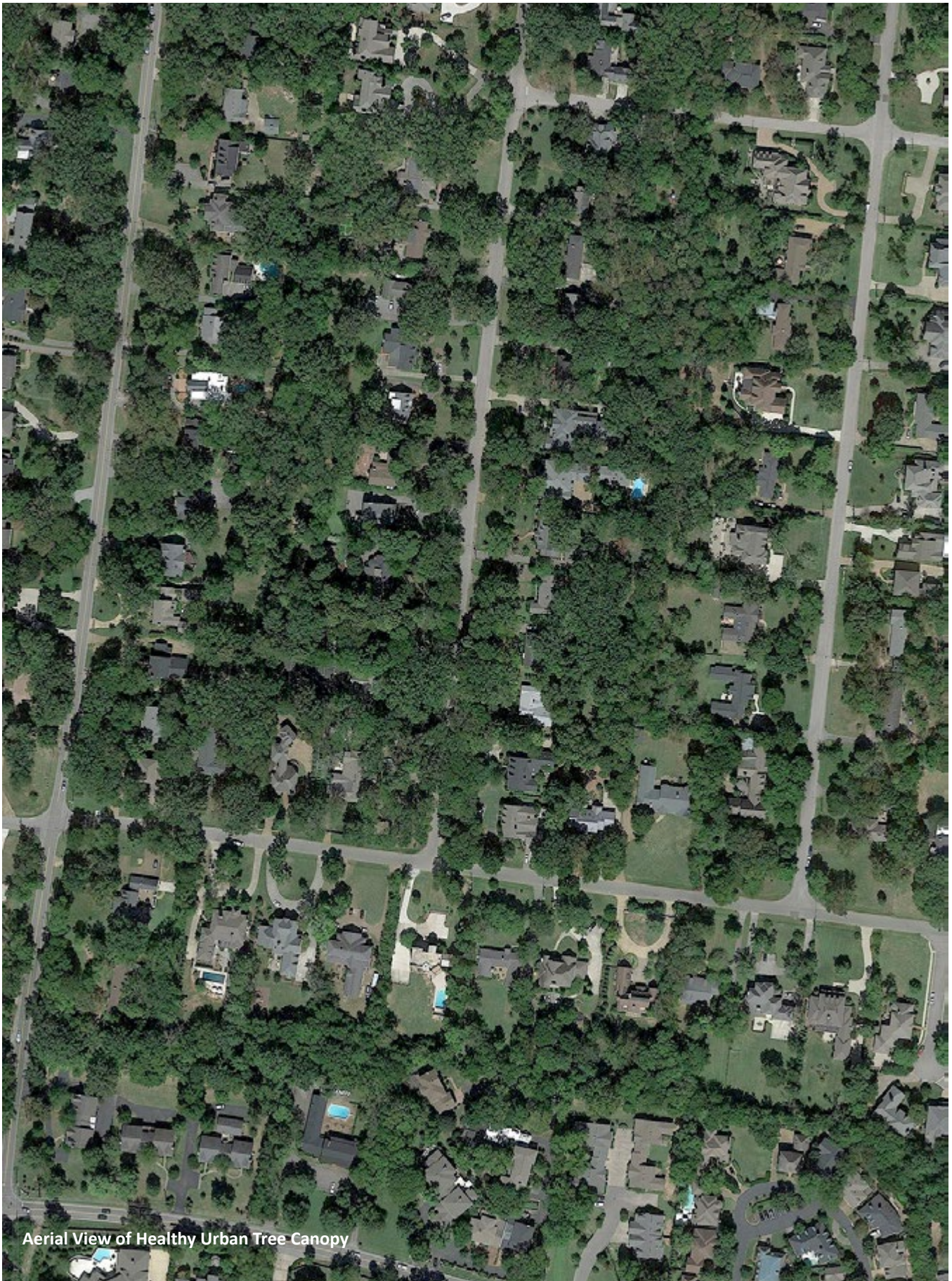
Monitoring should include measuring work performance, budget efficiency, citizen satisfaction, and worker satisfaction.

Monitoring should also be done to improve the body of knowledge on long-term Urban Forestry sustainability by observing and documenting practices to evaluate their performance over time. The process should be transparent to everyone involved.

Specific elements of the monitoring process include:

- Implementing goals specific to each Metro department involved in landscape issues.
- A plan or policy that can demonstrate ongoing performance monitoring and reporting.
- A checklist of benchmark results to be evaluated such as:
  - Scope of the monitoring activities
  - Frequency of data collection
  - Methods for collecting data
  - Type of data storage and analysis
  - Reporting method and use of the results
- A means of determining achievement based on a monitoring plan or policy to report the performance monitoring evaluation; negative findings will not affect achievement of this or other prerequisites or credits.
- Corrective action to be taken if the implementation of this plan's recommendations do not perform as intended.
- A plan to increase the body of knowledge on long-term Urban Forestry sustainability by widely communicating the results on the website and in professional publications.





Aerial View of Healthy Urban Tree Canopy

Google Earth



# PRIORITY AREAS

## SETTING URBAN TREE CANOPY PRIORITY AREAS

In addition to determining the appropriate Urban Tree Canopy Target Percentage Goals, the community subareas were analyzed to determine High Priority Areas for tree planting and preservation efforts.

On January 14, 2016 a stakeholder workshop was held, with a diverse group of Metro and non-metro people involved in the urban forest, to determine the priority areas.

The same base maps used for setting tree density percentage goals were analyzed with additional layers of information to determine areas of high priority for tree planting.

These layers are:

- Transect areas below Urban Tree Canopy Target percentage goals.
- Metro Water Services Visual Stream Assessment.
- Metro Building Permits Maps.
- Cumberland River Compact- Best Management Practices areas along Sugartree Creek.
- Cumberland River Compact Watershed Water Quality Maps.
- Recent Park and Recreation Open Space acquisitions.

The following criteria is used also as a guideline in decision making:

THE THREE P's:

Possible, Potential, and Preferable, provide a useful sequence for structuring the goal setting and implementation process. The three Ps are defined as follows:

1. Possible: Where is it biophysically feasible to plant trees?
  - All land that was not covered by water, a road, or a building was considered a "possible" planting location.
2. Potential: Where is it economically likely to plant trees?
  - Which areas have regulatory constraints that conserve tree cover or have incentive supports for adding tree cover? (example: Riparian buffer ordinances near streams or tax incentives for conservation easements)
  - Which areas are most effective for achieving water quality or other goals?
3. Preferable: Where is it socially desirable to plant trees?
  - Where will tree cover make neighborhoods more attractive?
  - Where will tree cover address other issues such as air quality?

## TREE CALCULATOR

In addition to these maps, we have developed a handy calculator for determining how many actual trees a percentage number represents.

To download go to: [trees.nashville.gov](http://trees.nashville.gov)

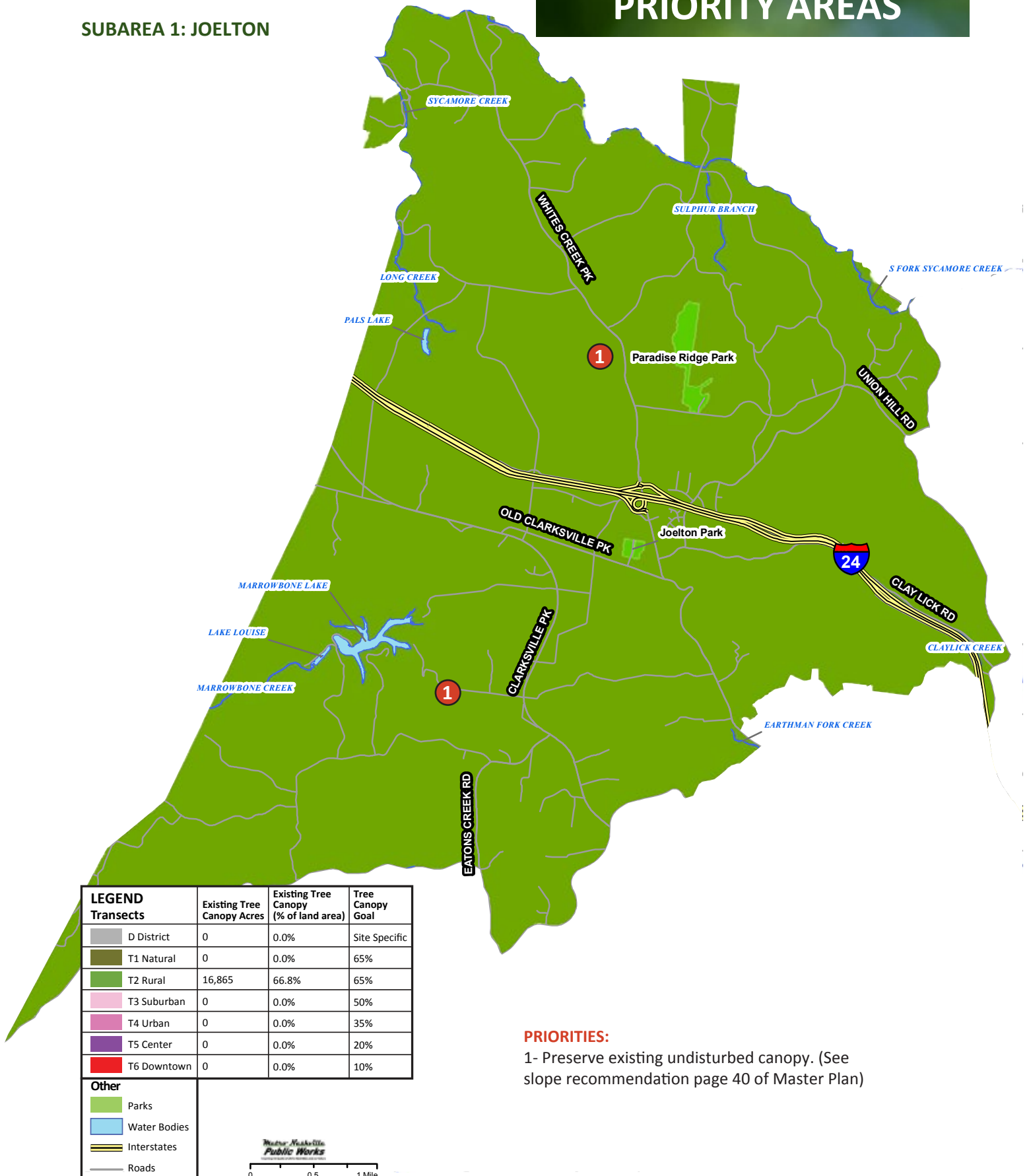
### Sub Area 8

User Inputs	Increase UTC % By	Update UTC % To	Update Number of Trees by:
D District			
T3 Suburban		50.0%	
T4 Urban		35.0%	
T5 Center		20.0%	
Estimated Crown Diameter (ft):	30		
Estimated Crown Areas (Acres):	0.016219		



# PRIORITY AREAS

## SUBAREA 1: JOELTON



### PRIORITIES:

1- Preserve existing undisturbed canopy. (See slope recommendation page 40 of Master Plan)

# PRIORITY AREAS

## SUBAREA 2: PARKWOOD - UNION HILL



### PRIORITIES:

Increase T3 canopy from 39.8% to 50%. \*(26%)

1- Work with TDOT to plant Rights-of-Ways.

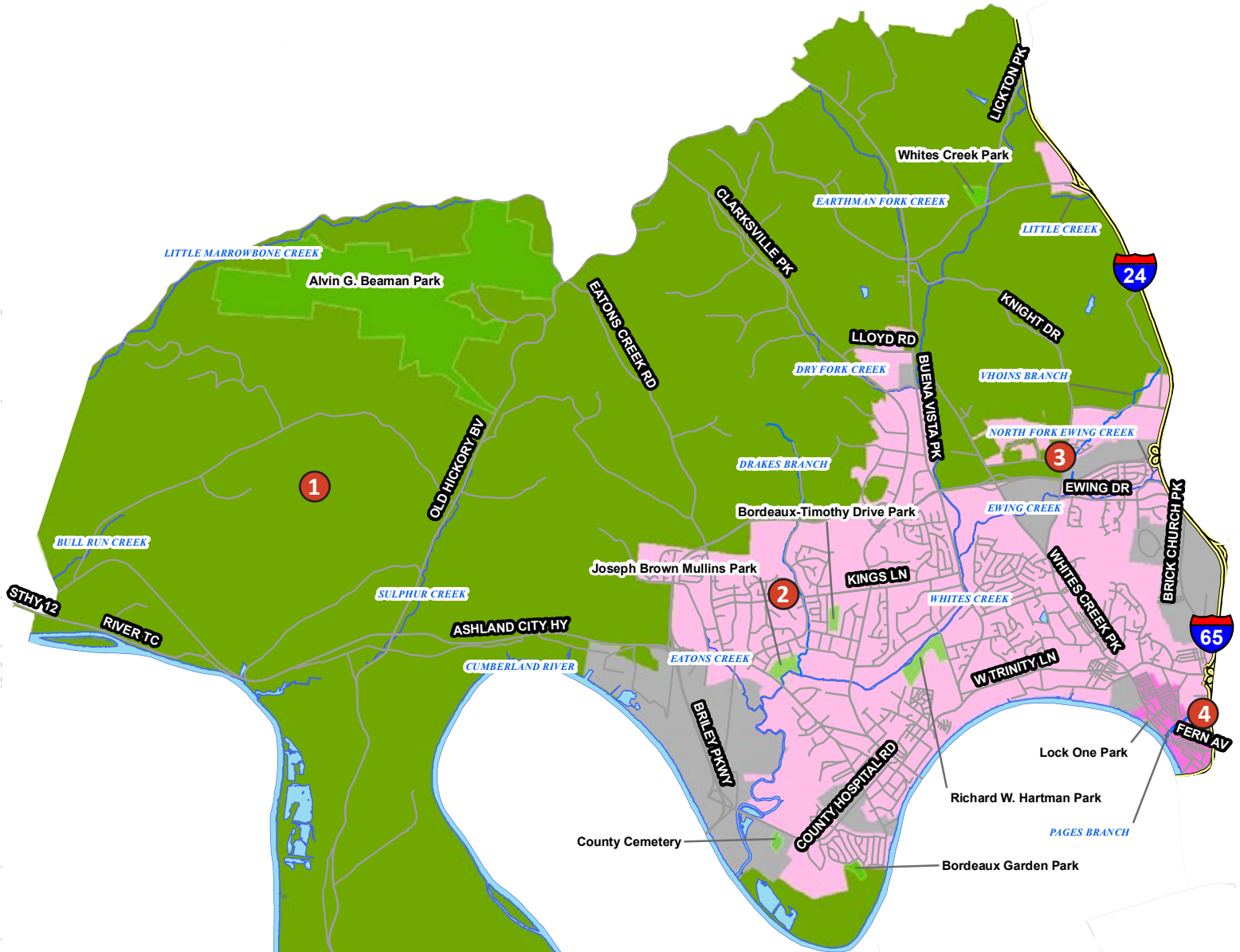
2- Preserve existing undisturbed canopy. (See slope recommendation page 40 of Master Plan)

3- Revegetate disturbed areas along North Fork Ewing Creek between Old Hickory and Winchester Drive.

4- Revegetate disturbed areas along North Fork Ewing Creek near Belshire Road crossing.

# PRIORITY AREAS

## SUBAREA 3: BORDEAUX - WHITES CREEK

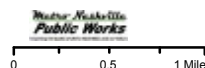


LEGEND	Existing Tree Canopy Acres	Existing Tree Canopy (% of land area)	Tree Canopy Goal
D District	524	18.8%	Site Specific
T1 Natural	1,794	73.3%	65%
T2 Rural	22,782	73.7%	65%
T3 Suburban	3,188	37.5%	50%
T4 Urban	73	27.8%	35%
T5 Center	0	0.0%	20%
T6 Downtown	0	0.0%	10%

Other	
Parks	
Water Bodies	
Interstates	
Roads	

\*percentage of increase



### PRIORITIES:

Increase T3 canopy from 37.5% to 50%. \*(33%)

Increase T4 canopy from 27.8% to 35%. \*(26%)

1- Preserve existing undisturbed canopy.  
(See slope recommendation page 40 of Master Plan)

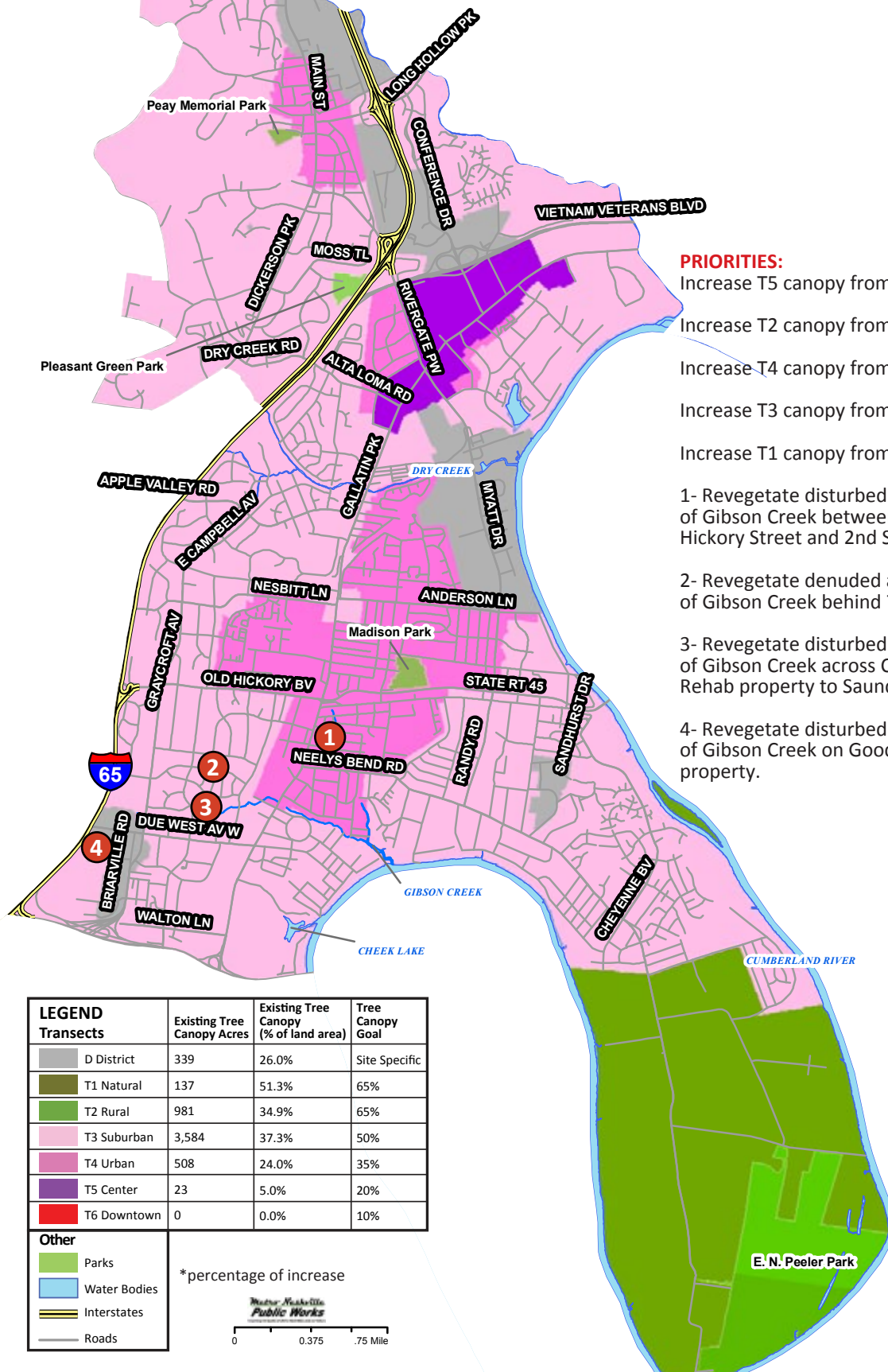
2- Revegetate disturbed areas along Drake Branch of Whites Creek north and south of King Lane.

3- Revegetate disturbed areas along Vohins Branch of Ewing Creek between Brick Church Lane and Briley Parkway.

4- Revegetate disturbed areas along Page Branch near Brick Church Pike and I-24.

# PRIORITY AREAS

## SUBAREA 4: MADISON



### PRIORITIES:

Increase T5 canopy from 5.0% to 20%. \*(300%)

Increase T2 canopy from 34.9% to 65%. \*(86%)

Increase T4 canopy from 24% to 35%. \*(46%)

Increase T3 canopy from 37.3% to 50%. \*(34%)

Increase T1 canopy from 51.3% to 65%. \*(27%)

1- Revegetate disturbed areas along Tributary of Gibson Creek between Maple Street and Hickory Street and 2nd Street.

2- Revegetate denuded area along Tributary of Gibson Creek behind 714 Vantrease Road.

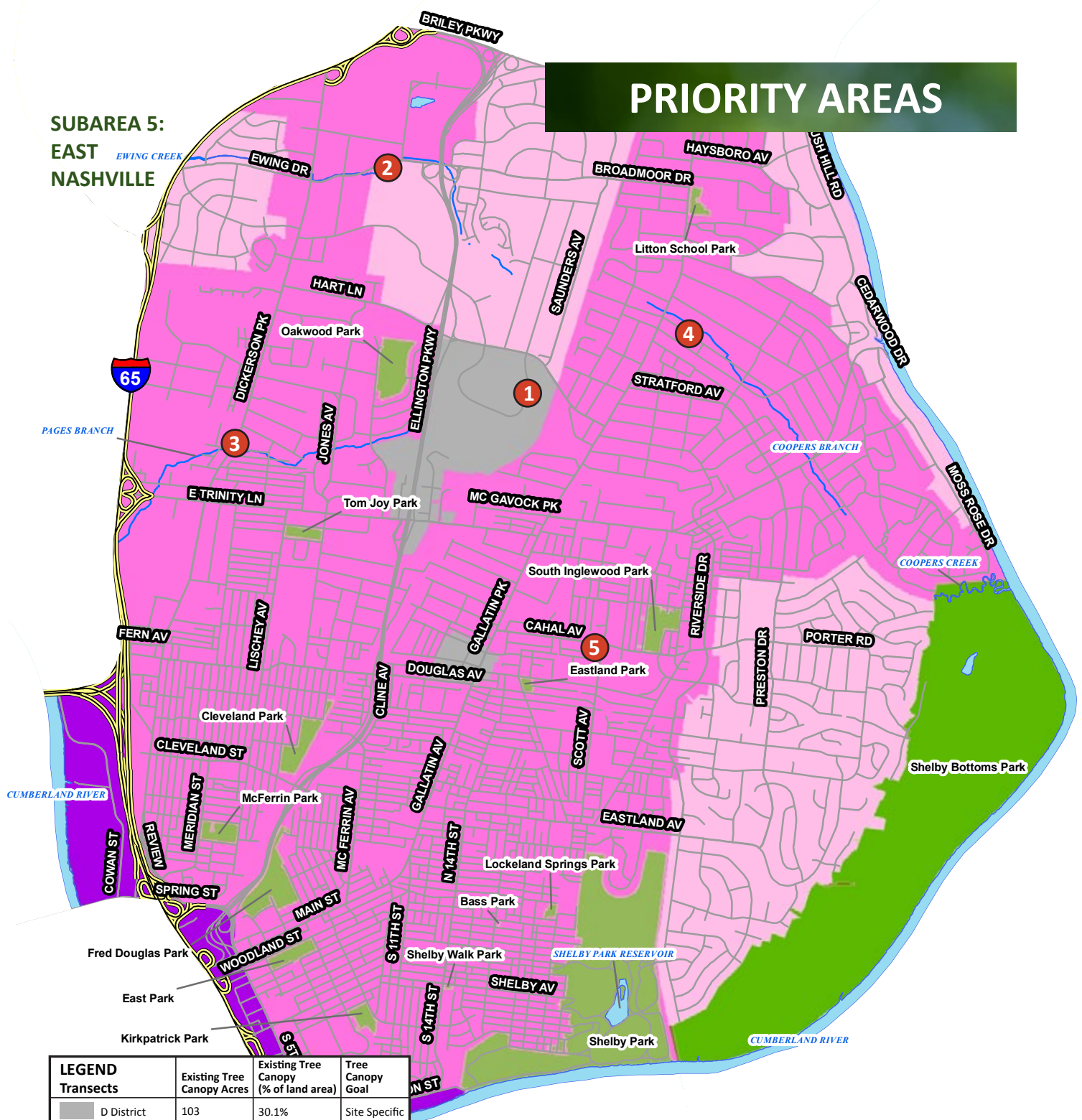
3- Revegetate disturbed areas along Tributary of Gibson Creek across Creekside Health and Rehab property to Saunders Avenue.

4- Revegetate disturbed areas along Tributary of Gibson Creek on Goodpasture School property.



# PRIORITY AREAS

## SUBAREA 5: EAST NASHVILLE



LEGEND	Existing Tree Canopy Acres	Existing Tree Canopy (% of land area)	Tree Canopy Goal
D District	103	30.1%	Site Specific
T1 Natural	443	46.5%	65%
T2 Rural	0	0.0%	65%
T3 Suburban	1,042	37.7%	50%
T4 Urban	2,627	31.3%	35%
T5 Center	27	6.0%	20%
T6 Downtown	0	0.0%	10%
Other			
Parks			
Water Bodies			
Interstates			
Roads			

\*percentage of increase



### PRIORITIES:

Increase T5 canopy from 6.0% to 20%. \*(233%)

Increase T1 canopy from 46.5% to 65%. \*(40%)

Increase T3 canopy from 37.7% to 50%. \*(33%)

Increase T4 canopy from 31.3% to 35%. \*(12%)

1- Revegetate lawn of TN Bureau of Investigation.

2- Revegetate disturbed areas along Ewing Creek paralleling Broadmoor Drive from Dickerson Pike to Ellington Parkway cloverleaf.

3- Revegetate disturbed areas along Pages Creek paralleling Dickerson Pike from Kingston Street to Donald Street.

4- Revegetate disturbed areas along Cooper Creek on properties 1209, 1211 & 1212 Ardee Avenue and at Ardee Avenue crossing.

5- Area of concentrated development. Focus on tree preservation and revegetation.

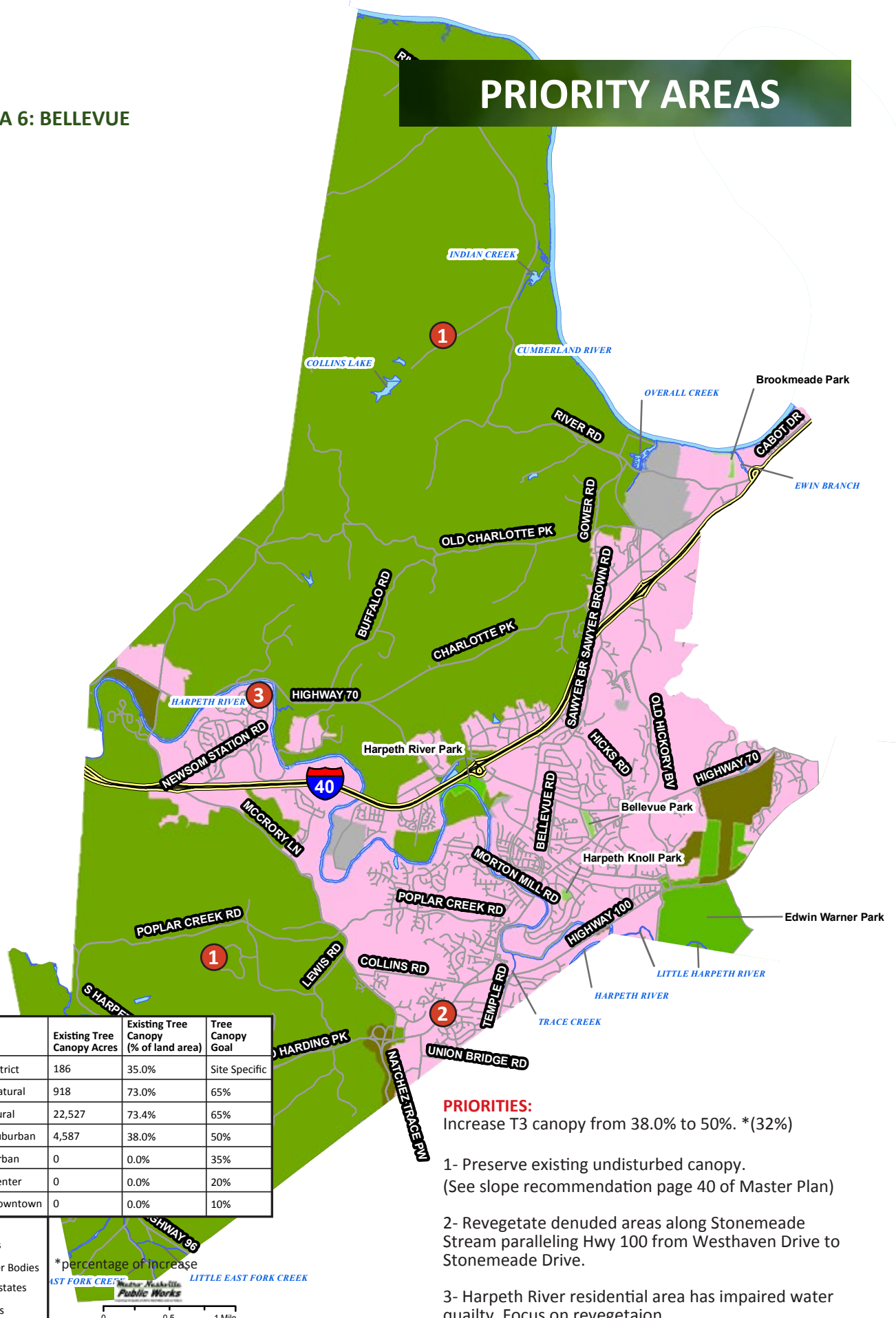
# PRIORITY AREAS

LEGEND Transects	Existing Tree Canopy Acres	Existing Tree Canopy (% of land area)	Tree Canopy Goal
D District	186	35.0%	Site Specific
T1 Natural	918	73.0%	65%
T2 Rural	22,527	73.4%	65%
T3 Suburban	4,587	38.0%	50%
T4 Urban	0	0.0%	35%
T5 Center	0	0.0%	20%
T6 Downtown	0	0.0%	10%

Other
Parks
Water Bodies
Interstates
Roads

\*percentage of increase



## PRIORITIES:

Increase T3 canopy from 38.0% to 50%. \*(32%)

1- Preserve existing undisturbed canopy.  
(See slope recommendation page 40 of Master Plan)

2- Revegetate denuded areas along Stonemeade Stream paralleling Hwy 100 from Westhaven Drive to Stonemeade Drive.

3- Harpeth River residential area has impaired water quality. Focus on revegetation.

**SUBAREA 7:  
WEST  
NASHVILLE**

# PRIORITY AREAS

LEGEND Transects	Existing Tree Canopy Acres	Existing Tree Canopy (% of land area)	Tree Canopy Goal
D District	665	17.1%	Site Specific
T1 Natural	1	35.5%	65%
T2 Rural	0	0.0%	65%
T3 Suburban	4,347	46.7%	50%
T4 Urban	755	27.0%	35%
T5 Center	0	0.0%	20%
T6 Downtown	0	0.0%	10%
Other			
Parks			
Water Bodies			
Interstates			
Roads			

\*percentage of increase

0 0.5 1 Mile

## PRIORITIES:

Increase T1 canopy from 35.5% to 65%. \*(83%)

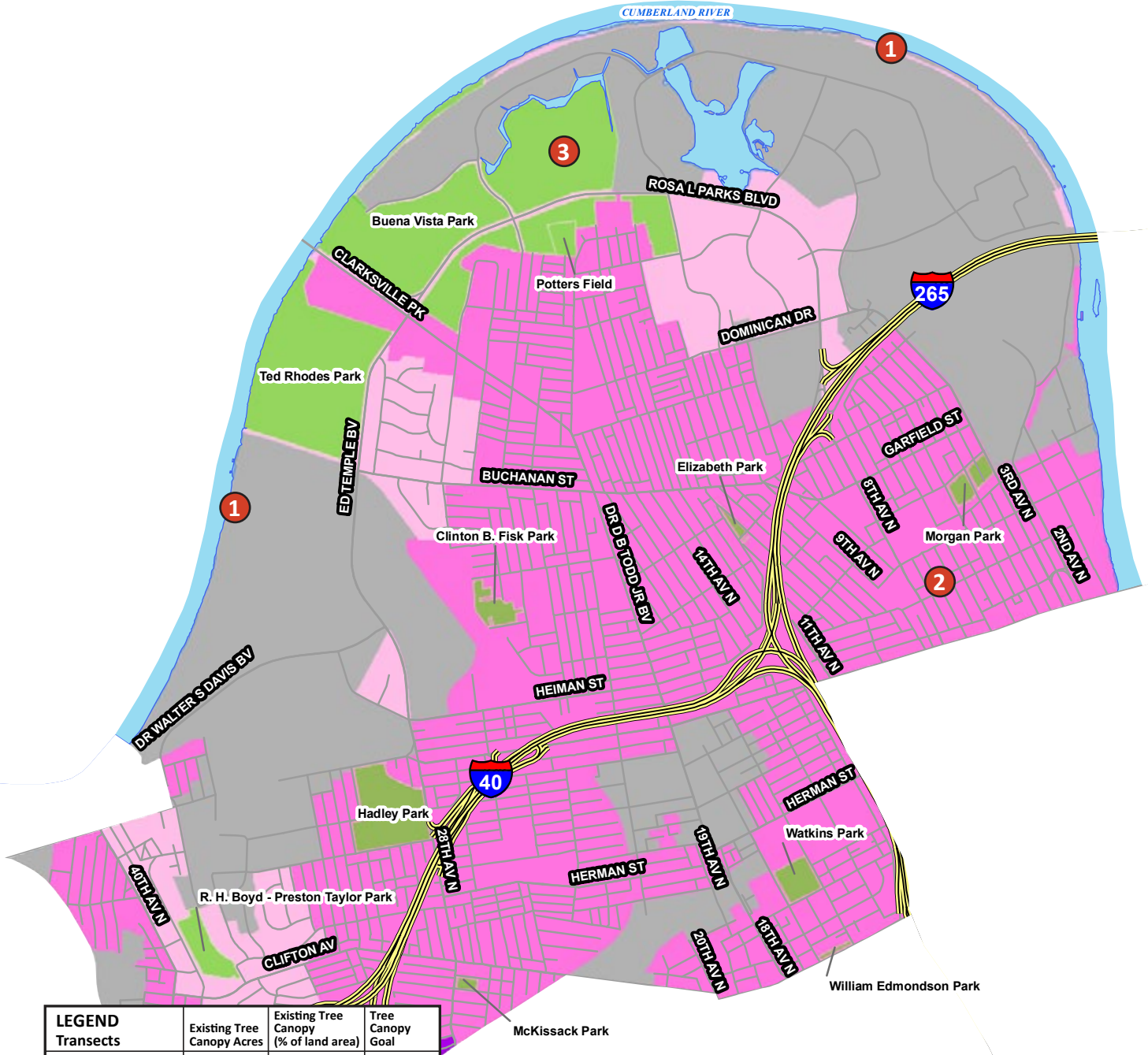
Increase T4 canopy from 27.0% to 35%. \*(30%)

Increase T3 canopy from 46.7% to 50%. \*(7%)

- 1- Increase riparian buffer along Cumberland River.
- 2- The Nations- area of concentrated development. Focus on tree preservation and revegetation.
- 3- Revegetate denuded areas along Vaughns Gap Branch between Vaughns Gap Road and Hwy 100 to St. Henry Drive.
- 4- Revegetate Richland Creek that runs thru Belle Meade Country Club golf course. Create riparian buffer.
- 5- Revegetate denuded areas of Richland Creek Tributary paralleling Knob Road from Kendall Drive to Highland Park Church.
- 6- Revegetate denuded areas of Richland Creek north and south of I-40 from Charlotte Avenue to England Park.
- 7- Restore riparian buffer of Richland Creek north of Quikrete Plant.



# PRIORITY AREAS



LEGEND Transects	Existing Tree Canopy Acres	Existing Tree Canopy (% of land area)	Tree Canopy Goal
D District	181	12.1%	Site Specific
T1 Natural	0	0.0%	65%
T2 Rural	0	0.0%	65%
T3 Suburban	133	16.8%	50%
T4 Urban	589	25.2%	35%
T5 Center	1	5.0%	20%
T6 Downtown	0	0.0%	10%
<b>Other</b>			
Parks			
Water Bodies			
Interstates			
Roads			

\*percentage of increase



## PRIORITIES:

Increase T5 canopy from 5% to 20%. \*(300%)

Increase T3 canopy from 16.8% to 50%. \*(198%)

Increase T4 canopy from 25.2% to 35%. \*(39%)

1- Increase riparian buffer along Cumberland River.

2- Area of concentrated development. Focus on tree preservation and revegetation.

3- Revegetate edged of sports fields at Ted Rhodes Park.



# PRIORITY AREAS

## SUBAREA 9: DOWNTOWN



LEGEND Transects	Existing Tree Canopy Acres	Existing Tree Canopy (% of land area)	Tree Canopy Goal
D District	0	0.0%	Site Specific
T1 Natural	0	0.0%	65%
T2 Rural	0	0.0%	65%
T3 Suburban	0	0.0%	50%
T4 Urban	13	17.0%	35%
T5 Center	0	0.0%	20%
T6 Downtown	68	4.3%	10%
<b>Other</b>			
Parks			
Water Bodies			
Interstates			
Roads			

\*percentage of increase

Metropolitan Nashville  
Public Works

0 0.10 .20 Mile

### PRIORITIES:

Increase T6 canopy from 4.3% to 10%. \*(133%)

Increase T4 canopy from 17% to 35%. \*(105%)

Recommendations for this subarea are in:  
Street Tree Inventory of Nashville' Inner Loop-  
Village Trees, LLC, 2013

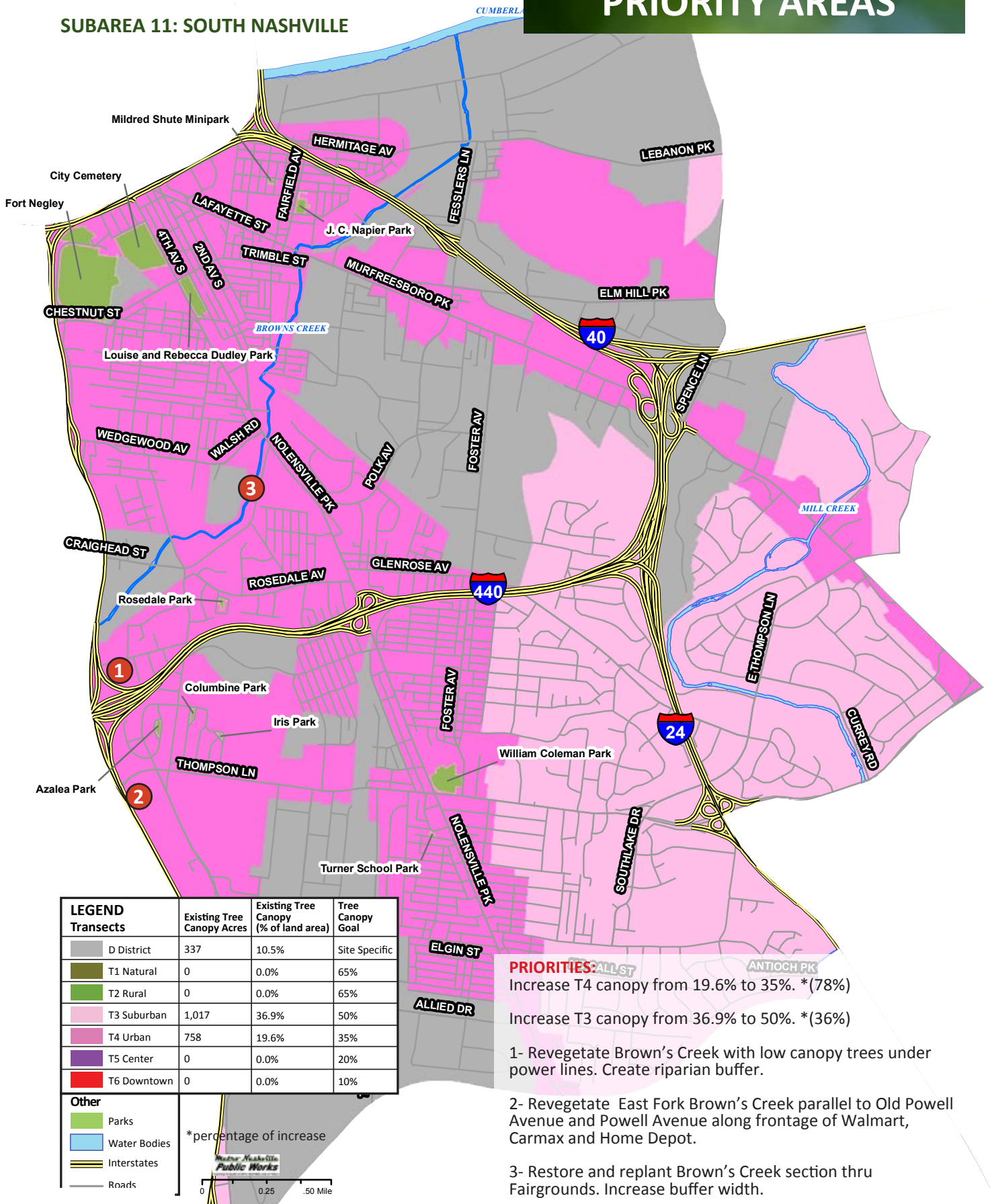
<http://www.nashville.gov/Public-Works/Community-Beautification/Tree-Information.aspx>

## PRIORITY AREAS



# PRIORITY AREAS

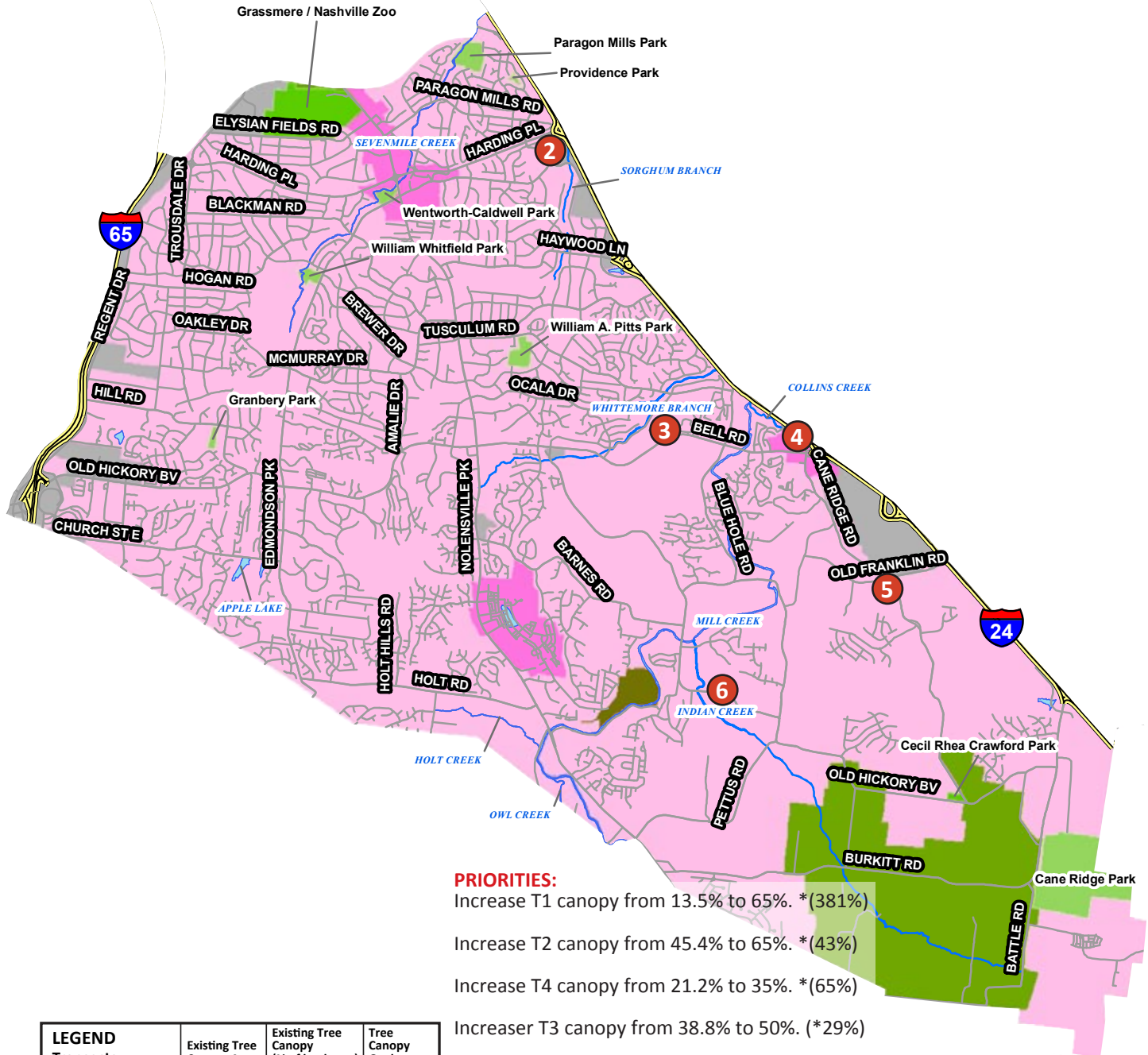
## SUBAREA 11: SOUTH NASHVILLE





# PRIORITY AREAS

## SUBAREA 12: SOUTHEAST



1- Area of new land acquisition for Metro Parks and Recreation. 591 acres. Focus on revegetation.

2- Revegetated denuded section of Sorghum Creek thru Southbook Apartments at Linbar Drive.

3- Widen riparian buffer along entire length of Whittemore Branch. Section of creek to Nolensville Road is denuded and need revegetation.

4- Revegetate Collins Creek parallel to I-24.

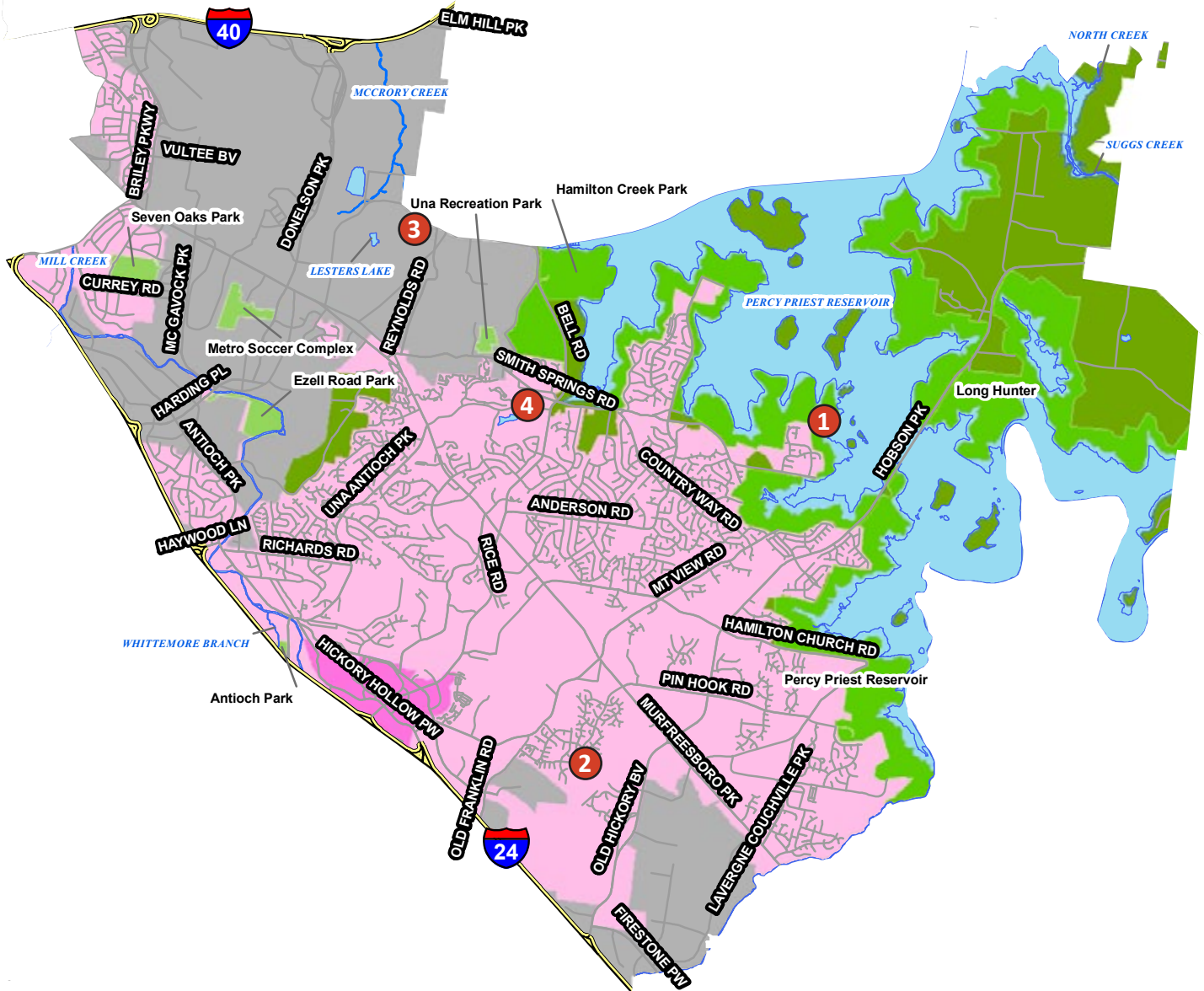
5- Revegetate Collins Creek parallel to Cane Ridge Road at Old Franklin Road.

6- Revegetate tributary of Indian Creek thru field near Whittemore Lane and Old Hickory Boulevard.



# PRIORITY AREAS

## SUBAREA 13: ANTIOCH - PRIEST LAKE



LEGEND Transects	Existing Tree Canopy Acres	Existing Tree Canopy (% of land area)	Tree Canopy Goal
D District	2,490	27.1%	Site Specific
T1 Natural	0	0.0%	65%
T2 Rural	4,951	66.1%	65%
T3 Suburban	5,072	34.0%	50%
T4 Urban	59	13.5%	35%
T5 Center	0	0.0%	20%
T6 Downtown	0	0.0%	10%
<b>Other</b>			
Parks			
Water Bodies			
Interstates			
Roads			

\*percentage of increase

Metropolitan Nashville Public Works

0 0.5 1 Mile

### PRIORITIES:

Increase T4 canopy from 13.5% to 35%. \*(159%) (Global Mall)

Increase T3 canopy from 34.0% to 50%. \*(47%)

1- Work with US Corps of Engineers to increase riparian buffers around Percy Priest Reservoir.

2- 600 acre area of new land acquisition for Metro Parks and Recreation. Focus on revegetation.

3- Revegetate denuded section of McCrory Creek thru field at Couchville Pike and Reynolds Road.

4- Revegetate West Fork Hamilton Creek at Nashboro Boulevard and Bell Road and end section inside the boulevard at Long Hunter Court.

**SUBAREA 14:  
DONELSON - HERMITAGE**

# PRIORITY AREAS

