

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission
From: Jeff Aken, Senior Planner 425-556-2406
Date: November 6, 2019
Subject: Tree Canopy Strategic Plan

BRIEFING PURPOSE:

The purpose of this briefing is to inform the Planning Commission of the process used to develop the *Tree Canopy Strategic Plan* and the resulting goals, timeline, strategies, implementation plan and early results. The briefing will provide background for upcoming comprehensive plan amendments to reflect these goals and future code review.

BACKGROUND:

The *Tree Canopy Strategic Plan* is one of the Environmental Investment Strategies stated in the *Community Strategic Plan* that the City is prioritizing this biennium. The project was initiated by the 2017 *Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation (PARCC) Plan* update to address the community's goals of improving the visual quality of a growing city and the overall quality of life in Redmond. Increasing tree canopy can also provide several environmental benefits including water, air, and habitat improvements.

An inter-departmental team consisting of staff from Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Planning and Community Development conducted community outreach, analyzed data, developed strategies and drafted an implementation plan. This work is captured in the *Tree Canopy Strategic Plan* adopted by City Council on January 15, 2019. The document includes:

- Six-year and 30-year implementation plans along with a matrix of strategies.
- Updated tree canopy numbers based on 2017 aerial photographs, representing 38.1 percent citywide (including all parks properties east of the city). This indicates a decrease of .3 percent or 32 acres since 2015.

Later this winter, the Planning Commission will review proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan to reflect the goals of the *Tree Canopy Strategic Plan*. It is anticipated that in 2020 - 2021, the Planning Commission will also be involved in developing a recommendation regarding proposed amendments to tree codes to ensure they support intended outcomes and are consistent with overall tree canopy goals.

Please contact Jeff Aken (jaken@redmond.gov, 425-556-2328) with comments or questions.

Attachments: Tree Canopy Strategic Plan