

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Briton S. Williams, Mayor

*J. Robert Brooks, Councilmember
Pat C. Carpenter, Councilmember
Jenafer F. McCauley, Councilmember
David W. McGhee, Councilmember
Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember
Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

STUDY SESSION

The Study Session of November 14, 2022 for the City Council of the City of North Augusta, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Briton S. Williams at 6:00 p.m. and also streamed online for public viewing at the City Facebook page: "City of North Augusta – Public Information" and City YouTube page: "City of North Augusta Public Information." The Study Session adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meetings was sent out by email to the current maintained "Agenda Mailout" list consisting of news media outlets and individuals or companies requesting notification. Notice of the meetings was also posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Members present were Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, Presnell, and Toole.

Member absent was Councilmember Brooks.

Also in attendance were James S. Clifford, City Administrator; Rachele Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly F. Zier, City Attorney; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Lieutenant Verne Sadler, Public Safety; Karl Waldhauer, Superintendent, Facilities, & Programs; James E. Sutton, Director of Public Services; Thomas L. Paradise, Director of Planning and Development; Lynda Williamson, Interim Director of Finance; J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology, and Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

ITEM 1. CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Items for November 21, 2022 Council Meeting – Council Discussion

City Administrator Clifford led Council's discussion of items for the November 14, 2022 regular meeting. **(See Attachment #1)**

ITEM 2. DEPARTMENT DETAILS:

City department directors and managers provided departmental updates. **(See Attachment #2)**

ITEM 3. MAYOR'S MATTERS:

(A) **FOCUS ITEM:** North Augusta Tree Canopy Survey – Presented by: Tanya Strickland, Stormwater Superintendent; Roy Kibler, Property Maintenance Superintendent; and Michaela Canady, Environmental Technician

Staff presented to Council. **(See Attachment #3A)**

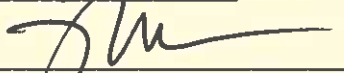
(B) Mayor Williams will share reflections and announcements related to current City events and opportunities.

Mayor Williams highlighted on the following:

- Public Workshop on Georgia Avenue Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Access Study
 - November 15 from 6-8pm at North Augusta Community Center
- Third Thursday – November 17 from 5-8pm
- Christmas Tree Lighting at John C. Calhoun Park, November 29 starting at 5:00pm

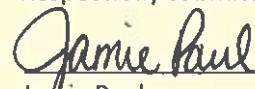
The Study Session adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF
November, 2022.



Britton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Paul
City Clerk



DRAFT AGENDA: CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 21, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. – Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers

The Regular City Council meeting will be streamed for public viewing online at:

- “City of North Augusta – Public Information” on www.Facebook.com
- “City of North Augusta Public Information” on www.YouTube.com

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council on each item listed on this agenda. The Mayor will call for comments prior to Council’s discussion. Speakers shall give their name and address in an audible tone of voice. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza at the entrance for speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.

CITIZEN ASSISTANCE: Individuals needing special assistance or sign interpreter to participate in the meeting, please notify the Administration Department 48 hours prior to the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Regular City Council Meeting minutes of November 7, 2022
- Study Session minutes of November 14, 2022

5. **PERSONNEL:** George Williams, Retirement – Recognition of Service to the City of North Augusta

6. **PROCLAMATION:** Arbor Day – December 2, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

7. **ADMINISTRATION:** Resolution No. 2022-53 a Resolution Authorizing Expenditure of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – Expenditure Request 4

8. **ADMINISTRATION:** Resolution No. 2022-54 Authorizing a Construction Contract with Satterfield Construction Co., Inc. for the Pole Branch Watershed Remediation Project and Establishing the Funding Source for Related Construction Expenses

9. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

10. **PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

A. **Citizen Comments** – At this time, citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council regarding matters not listed on the agenda. Speakers shall give their name and address for the records. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza for speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.

B. **Council Comments** –

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

DEPARTMENT DETAILS*for November 14, 2022***FINANCE:**

- Cycle 1 Disconnect will be November 16th and 17th.
- Cycle 2 Due Date will be November 17th.

PUBLIC SERVICES:

- Materials Recovery Facility
 - Equipment & Progress Report
- Utilities
 - Water Distribution System Flow & Pressure Test

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- Georgia Ave. Traffic Calming Tuesday evening
- Planning Commission Wednesday night

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Golf Tournament today at the River Club
- Citizens Academy Graduation tomorrow at 6:00pm at the Hut
- Accreditation Mock Assessment is going on this week.

PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM:

- Fall youth athletics and senior league softball have concluded. PRT is currently accepting registrations for youth basketball season through the 20th of November. Participants can register at the Activities Center or online.
- Christmas decorations will be distributed throughout the City over the next couple of weeks. The annual Christmas Tree lighting event at Calhoun Park will be held on Tuesday, November 29th.
- The Palmetto Peach ½ Marathon will be hosted at SRP Park on Saturday, November 26th and runners will utilize a few miles of the Greenway as well as some public roads that morning. Details have been addressed and a sizable turnout is expected.

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- Greenway Construction

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- See following page for Employment Opportunities list



**EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES**

Center Program Coordinator – PRT

Grade: 10

Salary/Pay Rate: \$18.17 - \$21.80/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Communications Technician – Public Safety

Grade: 9

Salary Pay Rate: \$17.27 - \$20.73/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Court Secretary – Public Safety

Grade: 8

Salary/Pay Rate: \$16.38 - \$19.65/hour

Closing Date: 11/14/2022

Firefighter – Public Safety

Grade: 3

Salary Pay Rate: \$11.90 - \$14.28/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Grounds Worker II – Property Maintenance

Grade: 6

Salary/Pay Rate: \$14.59 - \$17.50/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Heavy Equipment Mechanic I – Sanitation

Grade: 9

Salary Pay Rate: \$17.27 - \$20.73/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Heavy Equipment Operator I – Property Maintenance

Grade: 9

Salary Pay Rate: \$17.27 - \$20.73/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Laborer – Streets & Drains

Grade: 4

Salary/Pay Rate: \$12.80 - \$15.35

Closing Date: Until Filled

Public Safety Officer – Public Safety

Grade: 15

Salary/Pay Rate: \$21.19 - \$25.43/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Sanitation Worker - Sanitation

Grade: 4

Salary/Pay Rate: \$12.80 - \$15.35/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Trolley Drivers

Grade: UN

Salary/Pay Rate: \$20.80/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Utility Worker I – Water/Wastewater

Grade: 4

Salary/Pay Rate: \$12.80 - \$15.35/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Vehicle Operator I – Sanitation

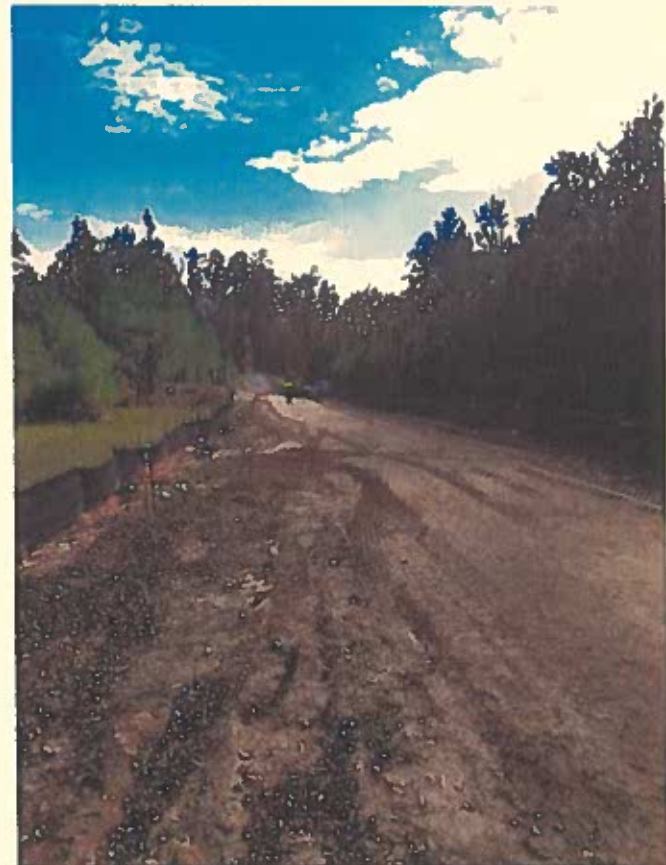
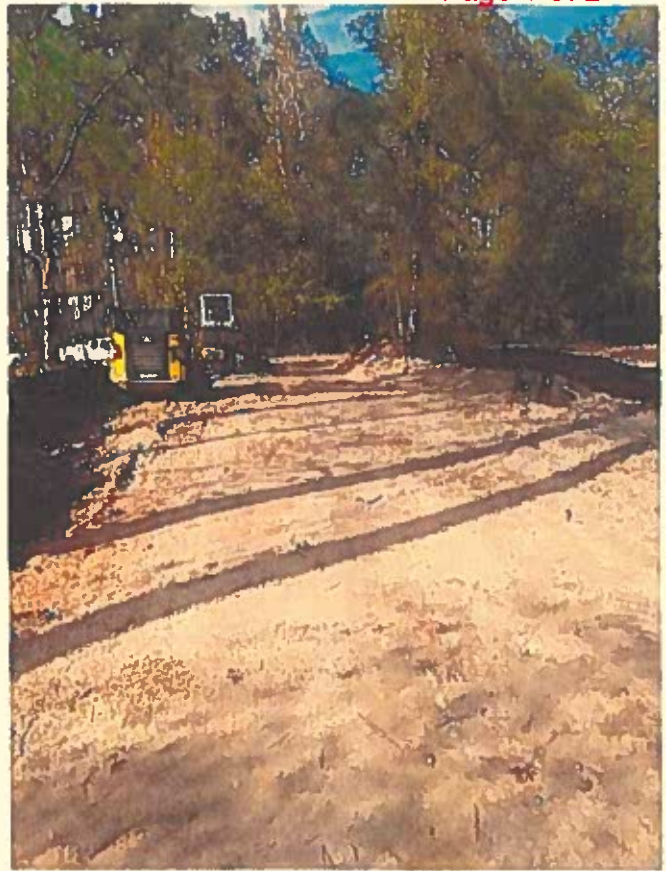
Grade: 6

Salary/Pay Rate: \$14.59 - \$17.50/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

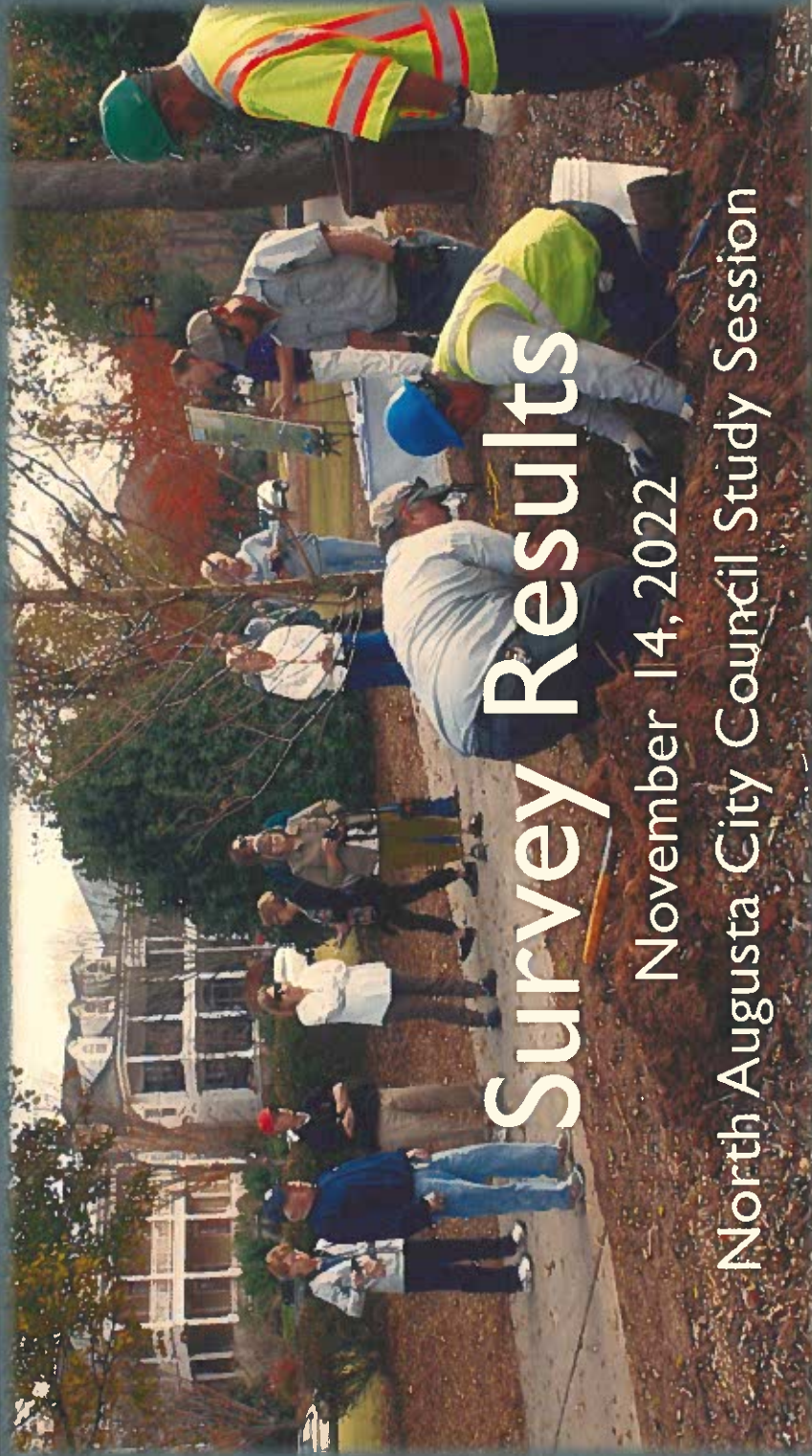
To apply and to see full job descriptions please visit www.northaugustasc.gov/jobs. You may also contact Human Resources for more information at 803-442-5710 or kferguson@northaugustasc.gov.

The City of North Augusta is an Equal Opportunity Employer





NORTH AUGUSTA'S TREE CANOPY



Survey Results

November 14, 2022

North Augusta City Council Study Session

OVERVIEW

- Tree Canopy Study Findings
- Development Pressure
- Residential Survey Results
- Developer Survey Results
- Steps Forward
- Current Practices



Tree Canopy: any area covered by trees when viewed from above, includes forests, trees in a yard or park, trees in an urban setting, orchards, and trees where animal grazing or other agricultural

TREE CANOPY STUDY RESULTS

Current Tree Canopy

53% Overall Tree

Canopy Potential Planting Area

811 acres

Area available

~49,825 small trees

Potential Tree Canopy could be

63% (once mature)

Administration Goal – maintain

45% Overall Canopy

Six GIS layers (shown in study session packet report) were provided to the city and will be used to create an interactive tool for citizens or developers to use when considering tree plantings & canopy in the city.

Example of how we can use the data

CURRENT CANOPY BY PARCEL LAYER

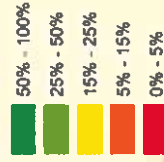
Martintown / Knox Commercial
Corridor

Currently Many Areas are
Red-to Orange
0-15%



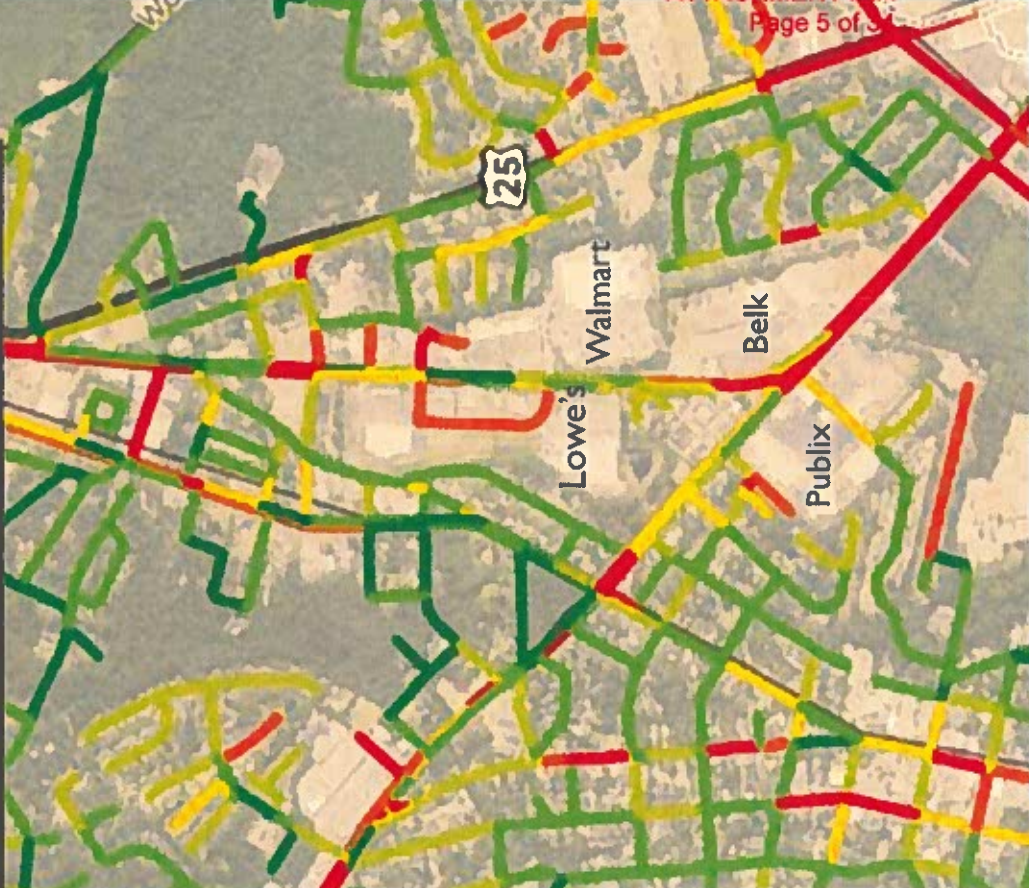
City Boundary

Parcels Tree Canopy



EXAMPLE: CURRENT STREET TREE CANOPY

Martintown / Knox
Commercial Corridor



TREE CANOPY OPPORTUNITIES



Right of Ways are Opportunities
(Canopy = 5 to 15%)

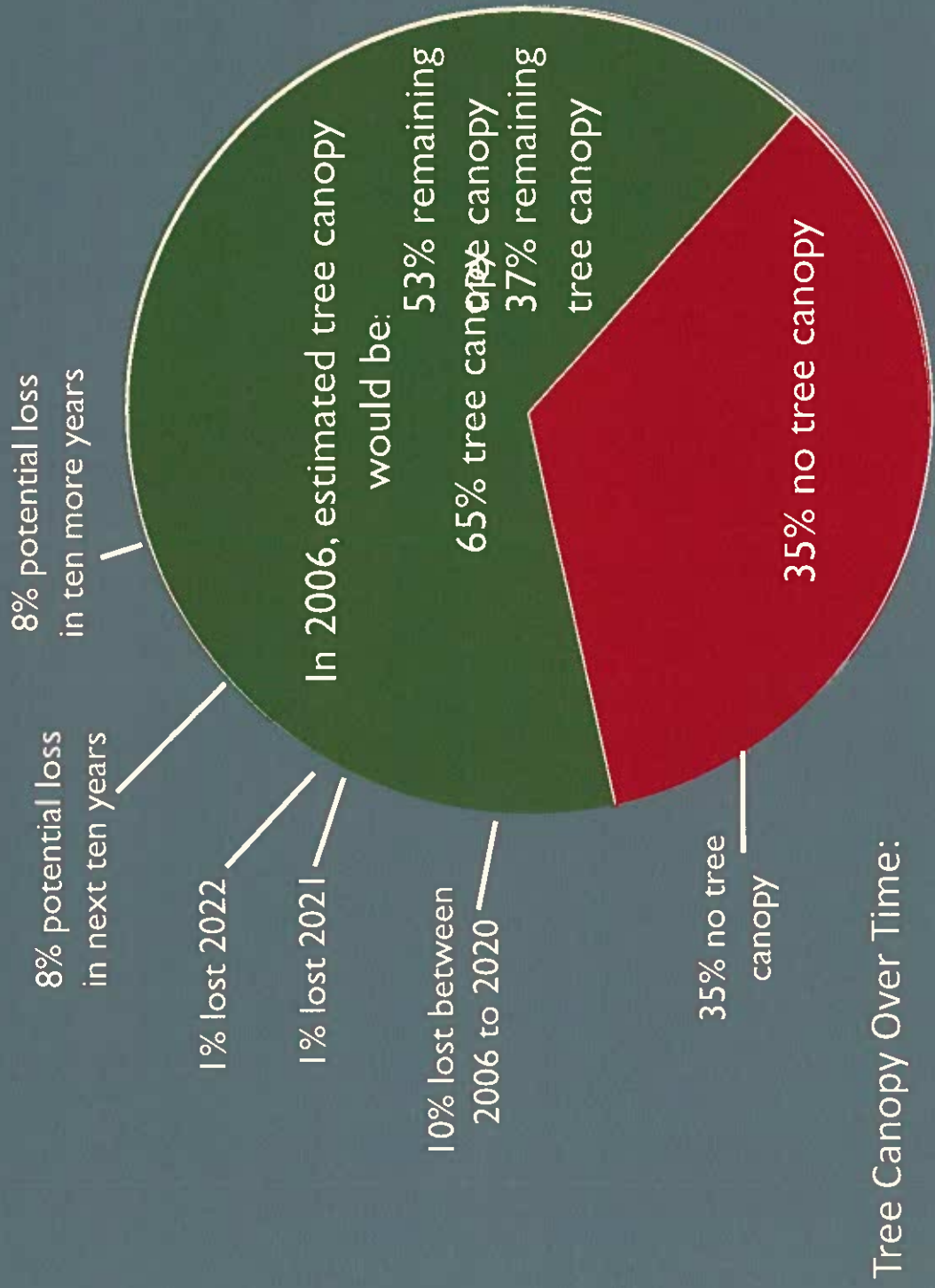
TREE CANOPY EXAMPLE



Across the street – 4 Mature Trees
(Canopy 50-100%)

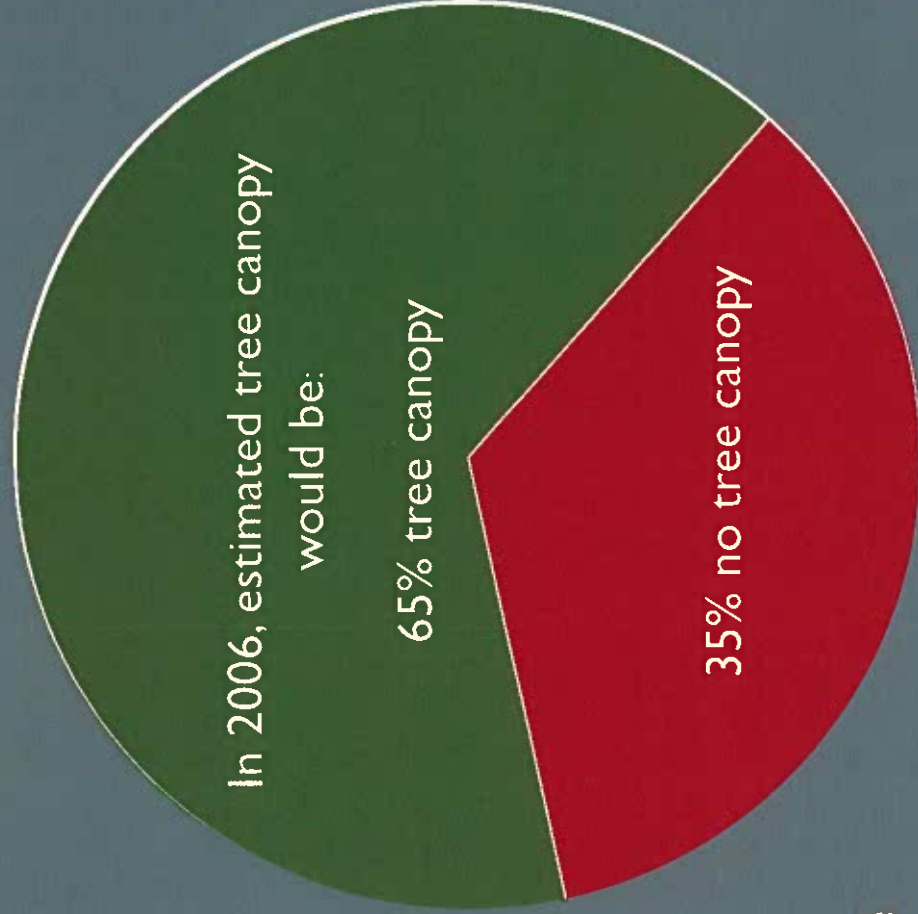
2022 Tree Canopy Results for North of I-20





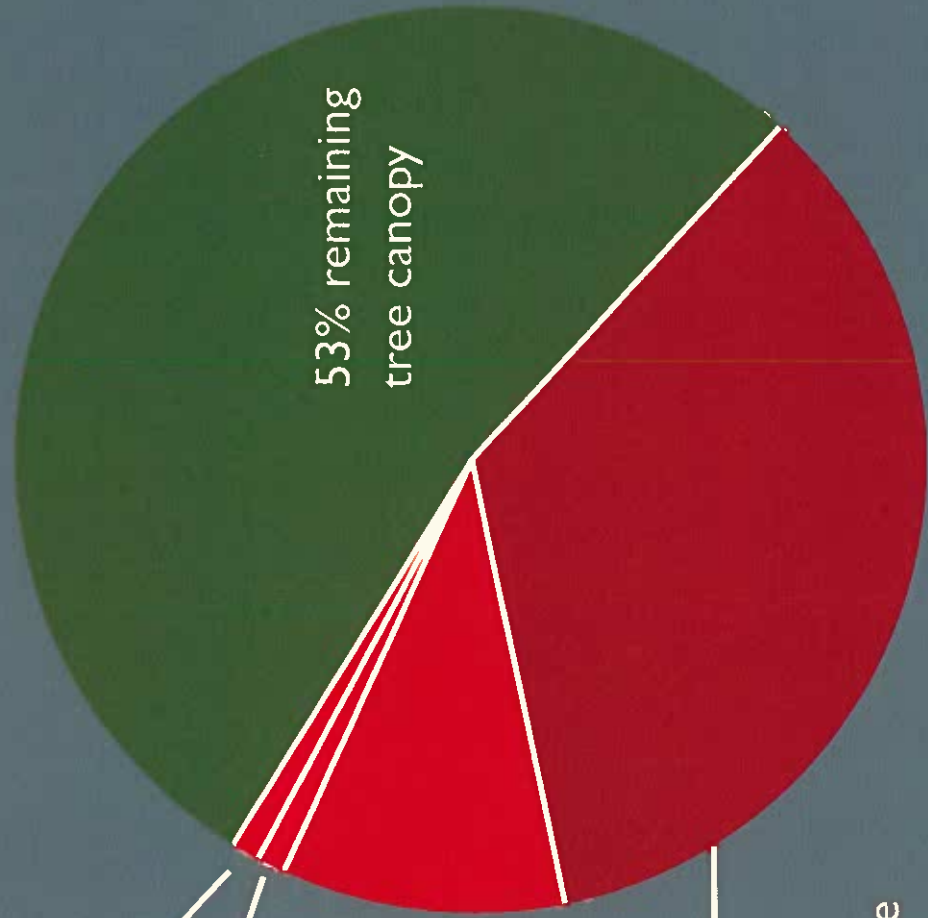
Tree Canopy Over Time:

Estimated Canopy of 2006



Tree Canopy Over Time

Current Canopy



1% lost 2022

1% lost 2021

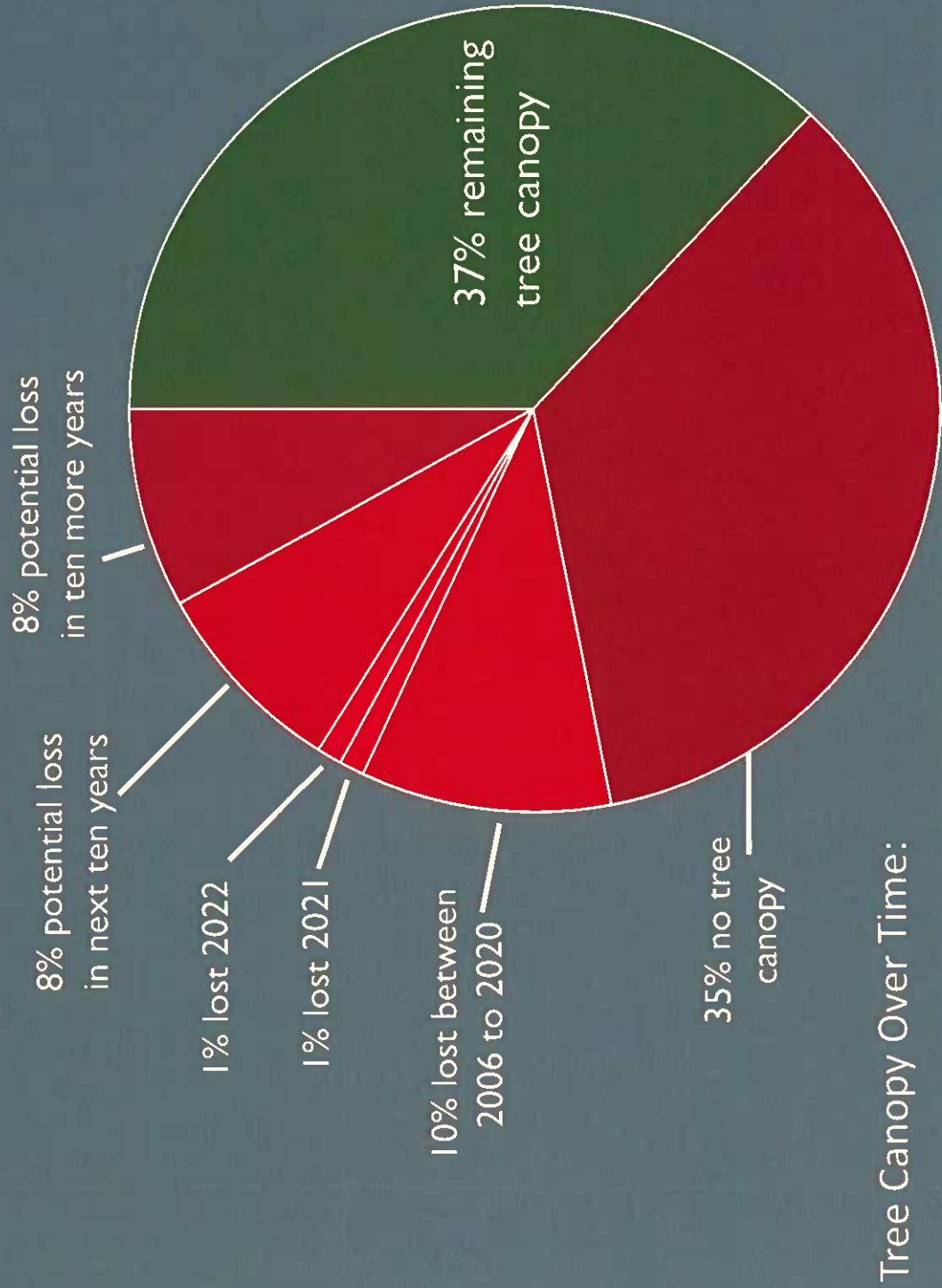
10% lost between 2006 to 2020

35% no tree canopy

53% remaining tree canopy

Tree Canopy Over Time

Estimated
in 2043



Tree Canopy Over Time:

TREE CANOPY OVER TIME

Time Period	Tree Canopy (Estimated)
2006 to 2008	64%
2009 to 2011	62%
2012 to 2014	61%
2015 to 2017	59%
2018 to 2020	57%
2021 to 2022	55%* Estimated 293 disturbed acres
Future Projected Loss	112 ac per year

Estimated
loss of 1,356
disturbed
acres

Estimated loss of 2,237 acres in twenty years

ORDINANCE OR DEVELOPMENT CODE CHANGES CAN INCLUDE WAYS TO PRESERVE AND REPLENISH CANOPY

Options To Consider - Tools to Preserve the Canopy

- Creating a Tree Fund Program
- Impact Fees
- Conducting Tree Surveys for new development
- Establishing Tree Protection Zones
- Conducting Tree Inspections
- Considering City Tree Replacement
- Tree Preservation Ordinance
- Improved Landscape Planning
- Increasing Buffers and Planting Areas

We are working on specifics and more details will be discussed at the Envision Meeting in 2023.



STRATEGIES RECOMMENDED



Preserve Current Overall Canopy

- Engage Residents (Survey) ✓
- Educate – Meet with stakeholders ✓

Reduce Tree Loss & Improve Success of Trees in New Development

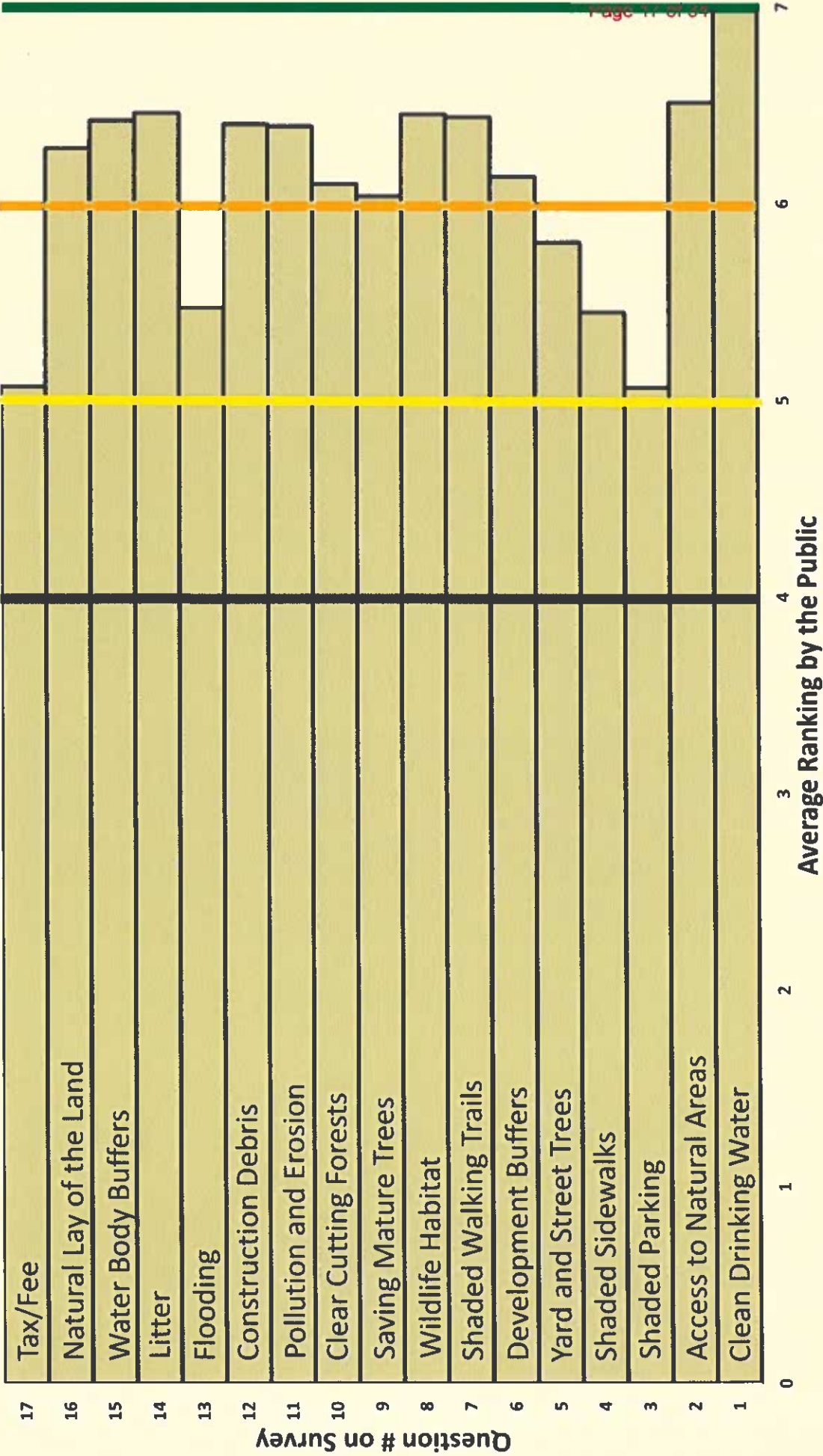
- Engage with Developers (Survey) ✓
- Create & Implement strategies to improve current practices ✓
- Educate - Meet with stakeholders ✓
- Continue to Monitor Canopy

CITY RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES GIVE THEIR FEEDBACK RESOURCE SURVEY RESULTS

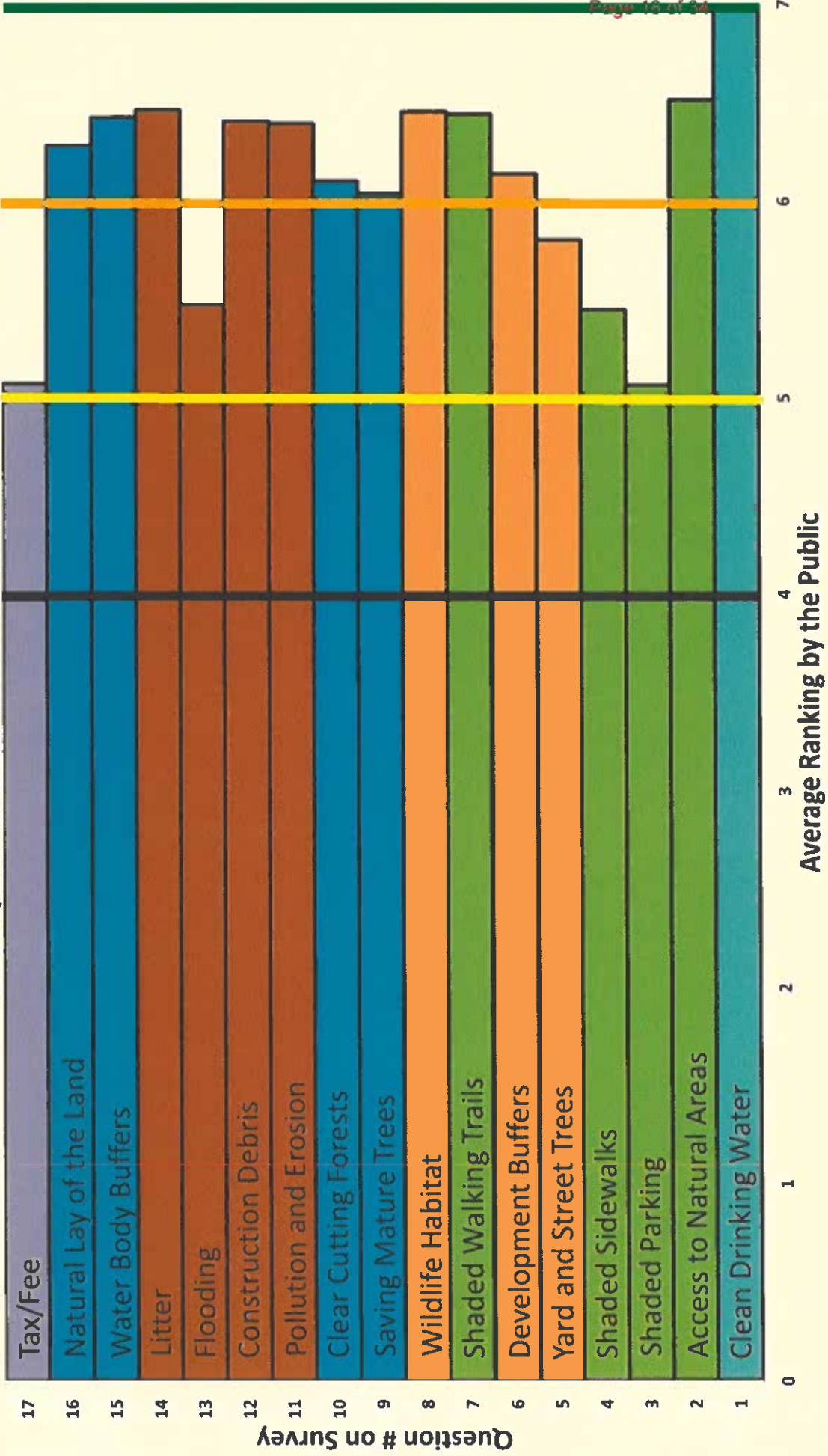
- 793 Responses to date
- Significant Sample Size
 - 99% Confidence Interval with \pm 5% error
- 339 Comments
- Asked to rank on 1 to 7 Scale
(1 = least to 7 = most)



Which Questions Mean the Most to the Public?



Which Questions Mean the Most to the Public?



DEVELOPERS SURVEYED

(Responses rankings (1-7): 1 being no interest, 4 being neutral, to 7 being very interested) Ranked 4 to 7 Ranked (0-3)

1	Consider paying the city a set fee per tree (using landscape plan) during permitting (eliminate the street tree maintenance bond)	100%	0%
2	Consider modifying and improving the way you currently purchase, plant and maintain street trees?	100%	0%
3	Consider paying a street tree inspection fee when pulling building permit.	17%	83%
4	Open to the idea of a tree mitigation fund to increase canopy on commercial properties through a city grant program?	50%	50%
5	Is your company concerned with tree canopy in your developments?	100%	0%
6	Conducting tree surveys as part of the permitting process.	50%	50%

DEVELOPERS SURVEYED

Questions	<u>% YES</u>	<u>%NO</u>
7 Is current practice adequate?	83%	17%
8 Do you budget for full cost of street trees?	83%	0%
9 Subcontractor is hired to install?	100%	0%
10 Do you hire Project Manager to oversee trees?	67%	33%
11 Do you do any street tree planting?	40%	60%
12 If no, do you let builder plant trees?	100%	0%
13 Do you monitor builder planting trees?	40%	60%
14 Would you consider extended buffers in rear lot for trees?	100%	0%
15 Would you consider adding back canopy if a grant program existed?	100%	0%
16 What do you spend per tree for planting and maintenance?	responses average \$415	

CURRENT PITFALLS & COSTS RESTORING CANOPY AFTER CLEARCUTTING



Replacement & Street Tree Overall Cost (Examples)

Subdivision	Trees Planted (req)	Cost per Tree (owner) Avg.	Trees Rejected	Percent rejected (2 or 4 yrs. later)	Replacement Cost	Total Costs Initial + Replacement
Gregory Landing	162	\$415	57	35%	\$23,655	\$90,885
Bergen West	104	\$415	20	19%	\$8,300	\$51,460
Wando Woodlands	174	\$415	27	15%	\$11,205	\$83,415
Rushing Waters	149	\$415	52	35%	\$21,580	\$83,415

An average 26% of the Street Trees don't make it thru the Performance Guarantee (2 yrs) or the Maintenance Guarantee (2 yrs), totaling 4 years before the city starts tree care. During the critical 2 year maintenance guarantee, little to no maintenance occurs, leading to slow growth, disease or the tree eventually dying. The costs to owners or the city is the issue.

Sidewalk Repair Costs Are Growing Due to Poorly Planted Trees

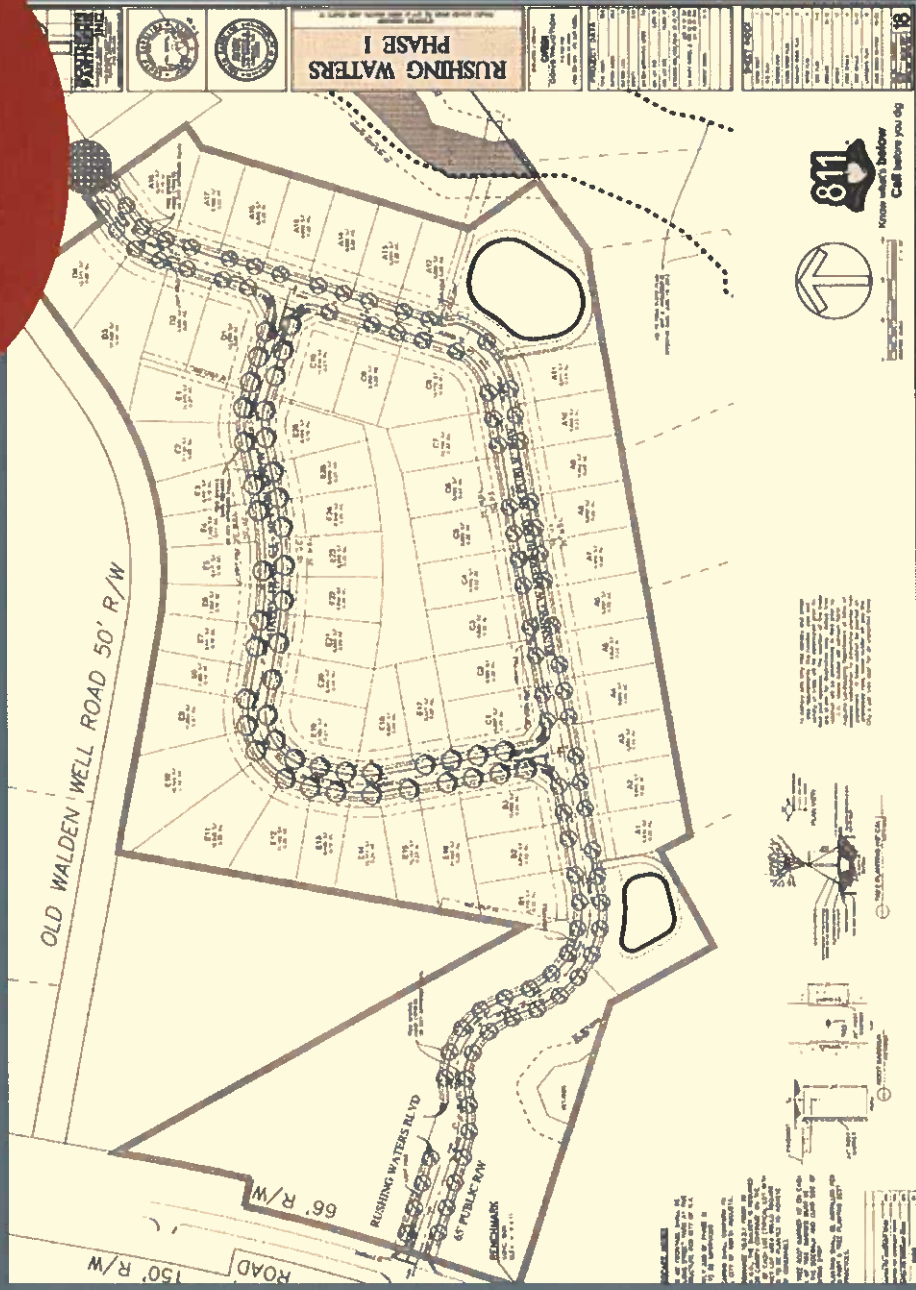
Streets and Drains Time & Costs for Sidewalk Replacement Due to Street Trees								
Category	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	Totals
Concrete	\$8,520	\$5,126	\$7,512	\$8,706	\$8,832	\$9,189	\$12,816	\$60,701
Form Lumber	\$212	\$196	\$270	\$451	\$389	\$487	\$612	\$2,617
Irrigation Repair	\$160	\$52	\$95	\$143	\$152	\$128	\$259	\$989
Employee hours	425	225	375	435	425	580	622	3087

Importance of Tree Root Barrier

Rushing Waters Phase I

52 Trees had to
be replaced.
(35%)

149 Trees Planted



Rushing Waters

2" Caliper



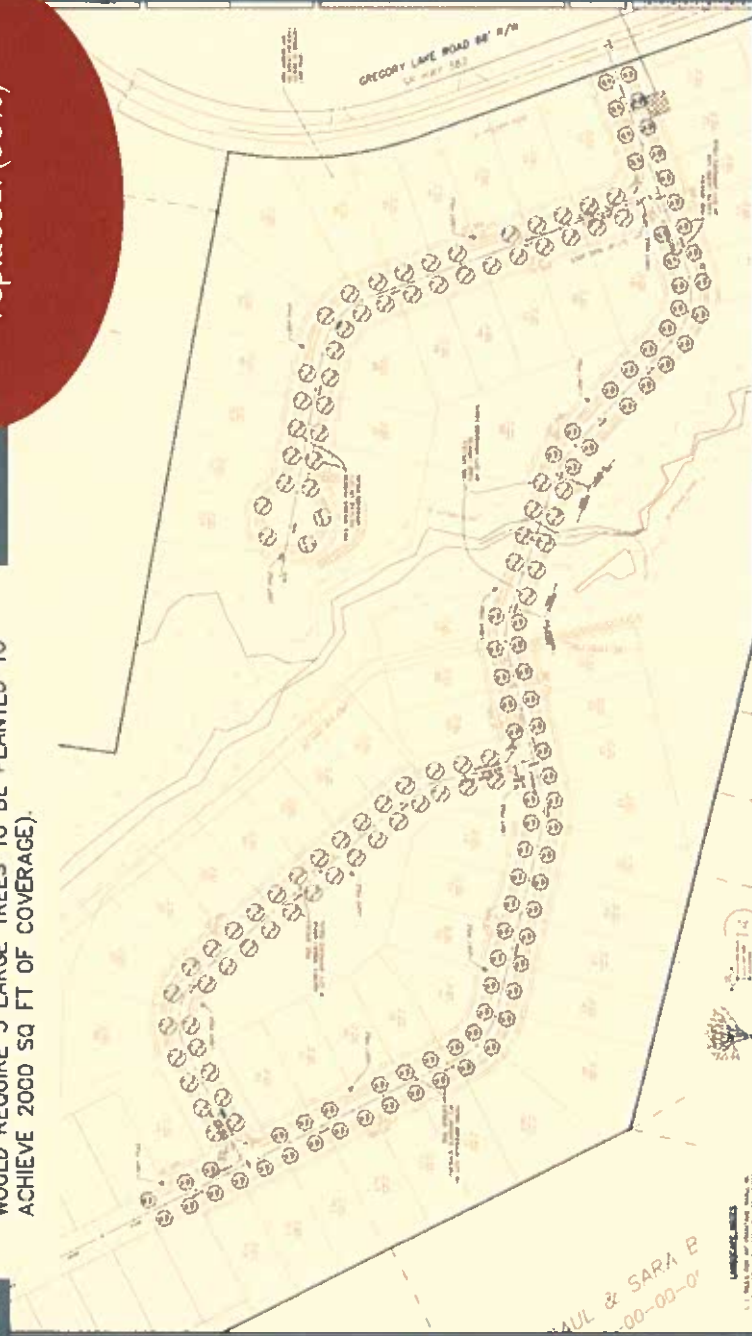
1 Year of growth

Gregory Landing Phase I

162 Trees Planted

3. PER N.A. ORDINANCE 10.9.2.1 PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF A C.C., THE BUILDER IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE 20% CANOPY COVERAGE ON THE NET LOT AREA OF EACH LOT (TYPICAL LOT WITH 10,000 SQ FT NET LOT AREA WOULD REQUIRE 5 LARGE TREES TO BE PLANTED TO ACHIEVE 2000 SQ FT OF COVERAGE).

57 Trees must be replaced. (35%)



Gregory Landing - Harlequin Way



Poor Street Tree Quality

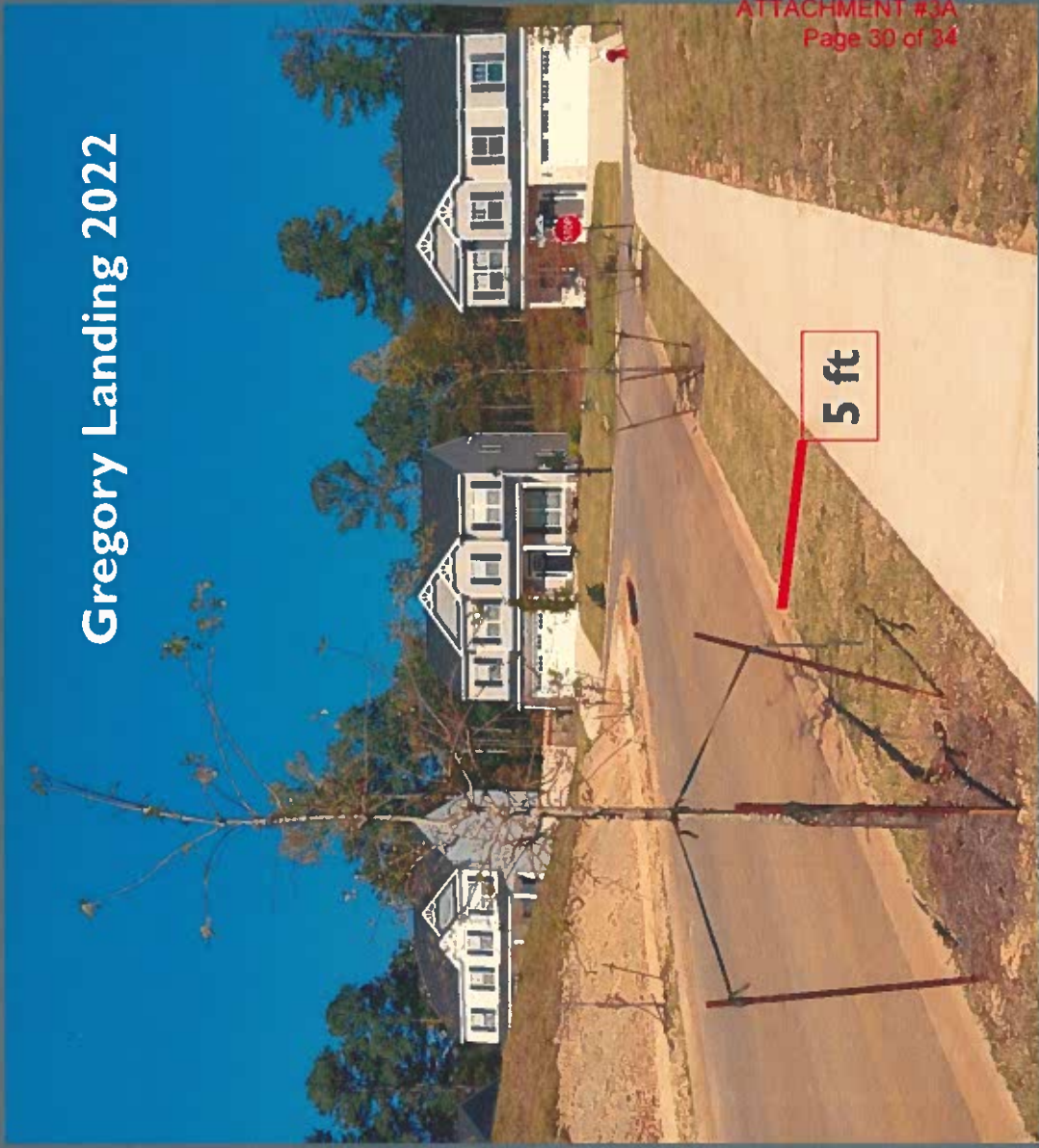


The most important characteristic in a good quality street tree is for the tree to have one (1) main dominant central leader in the canopy. These trees were just installed.

Inconsistent Tree Quality



Gregory Landing 2022



10 Years of Growth



2012 - Bergen West Kenilworth Dr.

2" caliper Live Oaks.

LCR – Live Crown Ratio for any given tree is derived by dividing the vertical length of the tree's live crown by the total height of the tree.



2022 - Bergen West Kenilworth Dr.

9" caliper Live Oaks

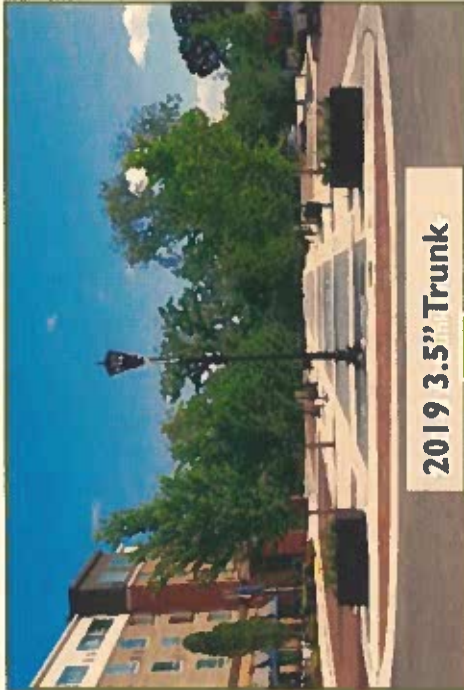
In urban landscapes, we typically want trees to have an LCR of 60% or greater.



Positive Impact From SustainablePlus Shade Trees

2

Select SustainablePlus Jefferson American Elm



illage - North Augusta, SC

Quality street trees planted with care started immediately.

Select SustainablePlus Ascendor® Willow Oak



ruvenauk Village - North Augusta, SC



Select SustainablePlus Highbeam® Overcup Oak



2018 3.5" Trunk

4 years



2022 7" Trunk

Riverside Village - North Augusta, SC



Select SustainablePlus Prominence® Shumard Oak

6 ft. planting strip



2020 4.5" Trunk

3 years



2022 6.75" Trunk

Riverside Village - North Augusta, SC

As you can see in the photos these trees have grown 3 1/2" in caliper in 3 years while care has been provided to them.

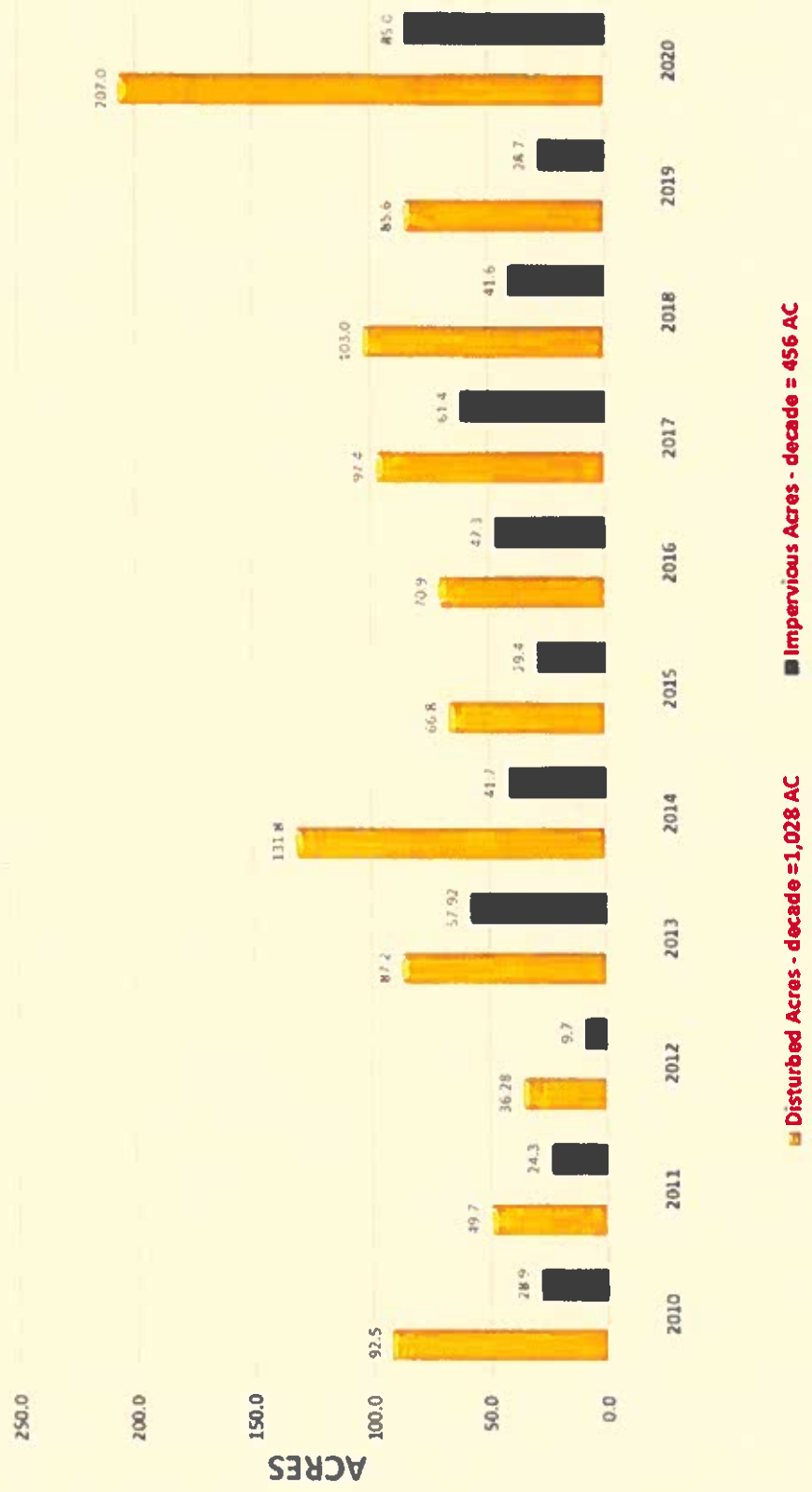
The data is clear,
“purposefully” maintaining
the remaining tree canopy is
important to the citizens, to
the development community,
and to each of us for
stormwater runoff reduction,
walkability, and nature.

It is up to you.



150 year old cork trees
matter!

Construction in North Augusta 2010 to 2020
 (Acres of Land Disturbances & Impervious Area Created per Year)



City of North Augusta Developer Survey

The city has recently completed a tree canopy study and we are looking at ways to maintain what we currently have. The overall tree canopy for North Augusta is currently at 53%. One of the ways we do that is to require you as developers to meet our landscape ordinance so that trees are replanted where clear cutting and mass grading has occurred. Unfortunately, this method takes a long time to regain the canopy lost. Even longer if it is not done with great thought.

The city is concerned with the quality of street tree selection, planting and subsequent maintenance. Poor choices at that stage adds 4 years potentially to how much time we lose in the restoration of the tree canopy from the development. We are considering several options to improve the overall condition and replacement of trees during development. We have spoken with and surveyed our citizens and they find this topic to be of keen interest to them. Your opinion matters as well, so we are sending you this survey for input in the process. Below are several questions we would like you to consider thoughtfully as a company. Please know that all of the information in the questions are not to be implemented, but certain ones may be. We will use your input as additional data in our discussions, considerations and analysis as we move forward with creating ways to maintain the City's tree canopy.

Question:		Response			
<i>On the following questions, please answer based on a 1-7 scale (1 being no interest, 4 being neutral, and 7 being very interested)</i>		<i>(Enter 1 - 7)</i>			
1	Would your company be open to the idea of <u>paying the city a set fee per tree</u> on your approved landscape plan that could be used to cover the cost to purchase, plant and maintain street trees in the planning stage of a development (this would also eliminate the street tree maintenance bond), in place of how you do things now?				
2	Would your company <u>consider modifying and improving the way you currently purchase, plant and maintain street trees</u> that will be dedicated to the City?				
3	Would your company <u>consider paying a street tree inspection fee</u> at the time that the individual lot building permit is acquired?				
4	Would your company be <u>open to the idea of a tree mitigation fund to increase canopy on commercial properties through a city grant program</u> ?				
5	During your development process, <u>is your company concerned with and planning the resulting tree canopy</u> in the communities you are developing?				
6	Would your company be <u>open to the idea of conducting a tree survey as part of the development planning process</u> to identify and preserve very large trees?				
<i>On the following questions, check the box that most accurately reflects your opinion or knowledge of the question.</i>		Yes	No	I don't know	I don't care
7	Do you think that the current way you purchase, plant and maintain street trees is sufficient for your development purposes?				
8	Does your overall budget for your development include the street tree selection, purchase, installation and maintenance?				
9	Does your firm hire a sub-contractor to purchase, install and maintain street trees during the maintenance period prior to dedication to the city?				
10	Does your firm use a project manager to oversee the installation and maintenance of street trees?				
11	Does your firm deal with street tree installation?				
12	If you answered "No" to question 11, do you pass the street tree installation on to the individual builder for a lot?				
13	If you pass the street tree installation on to an individual builder, do you monitor and maintain that tree as the subdivision developer?				
14	Buffer/screening areas with trees are a high priority to homeowners. Would you consider landscape development plans that use the rear of individual lot areas as planting areas for required landscape trees?				
15	Commercial development landscaping is a critical component of canopy cover in the community and many older developments lack canopy cover. Would you consider adding canopy back to these areas in a redevelopment plan if incentives to do so were available?				
16	At today's cost, what do you approximate the cost (purchase, installation, and maintenance) for a healthy street tree? Please enter total here: \$ _____ (per tree).				

16 companies surveyed, 6 responses 38% response rate

If you have any additional thoughts, ideas or comments, please list them below. Thank you for filling out our survey, we appreciate it.