



A San Francisco Success Story

WORLD FORUM ON URBAN FORESTRY
MANTOVA, ITALY

NOVEMBER 28, 2018



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS

Carla Short

Superintendent -

Bureau of Urban Forestry



FRIENDS OF THE URBAN FOREST

Karla Nagy

Program Director



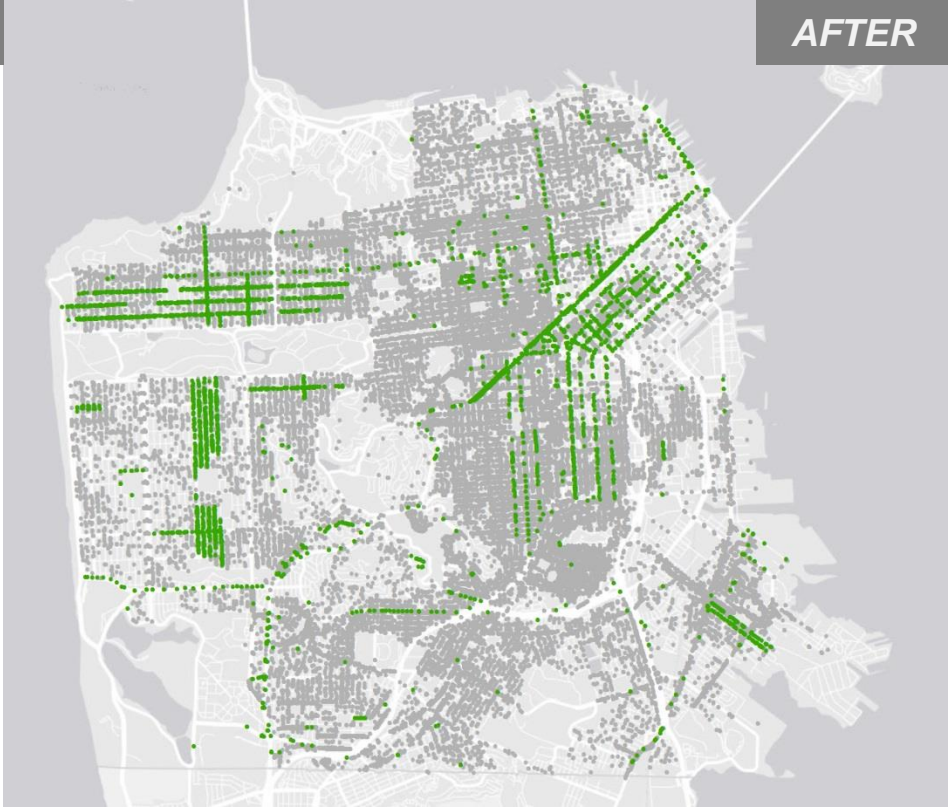
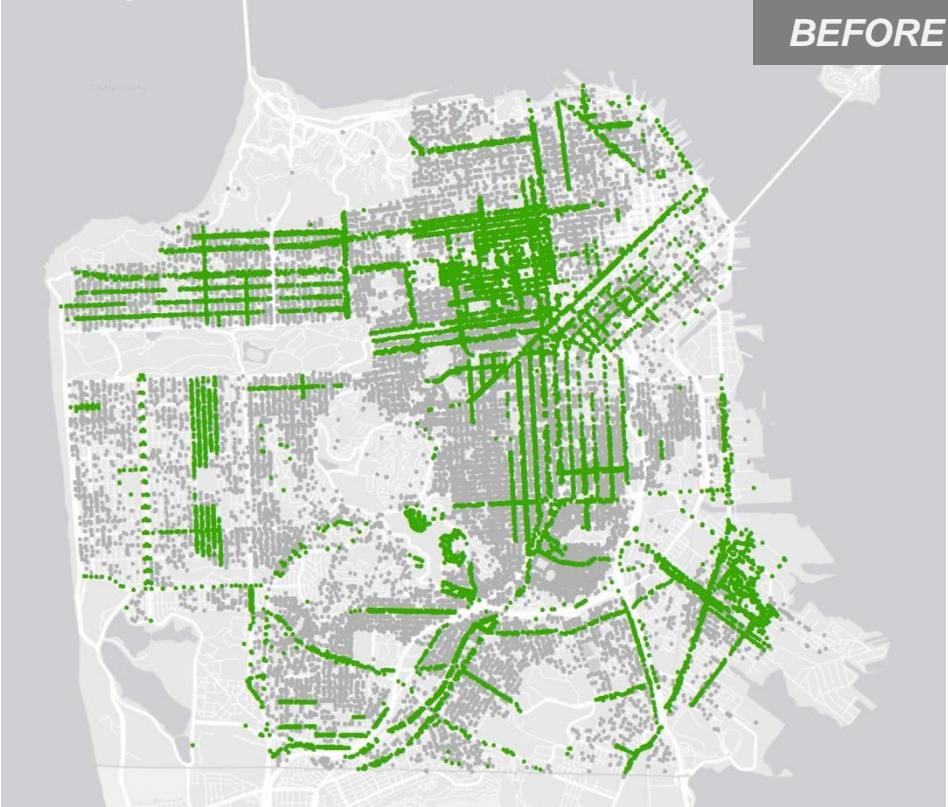
The Problem

For now, property owners stuck with maintaining SF street trees

By Lizzie Johnson and J.K. Dineen | July 20, 2016 | Updated: July 20, 2016 5:18pm



TREE MAINTENANCE TRANSFER



40%
Public



60%
Private

20%
Public



80%
Private

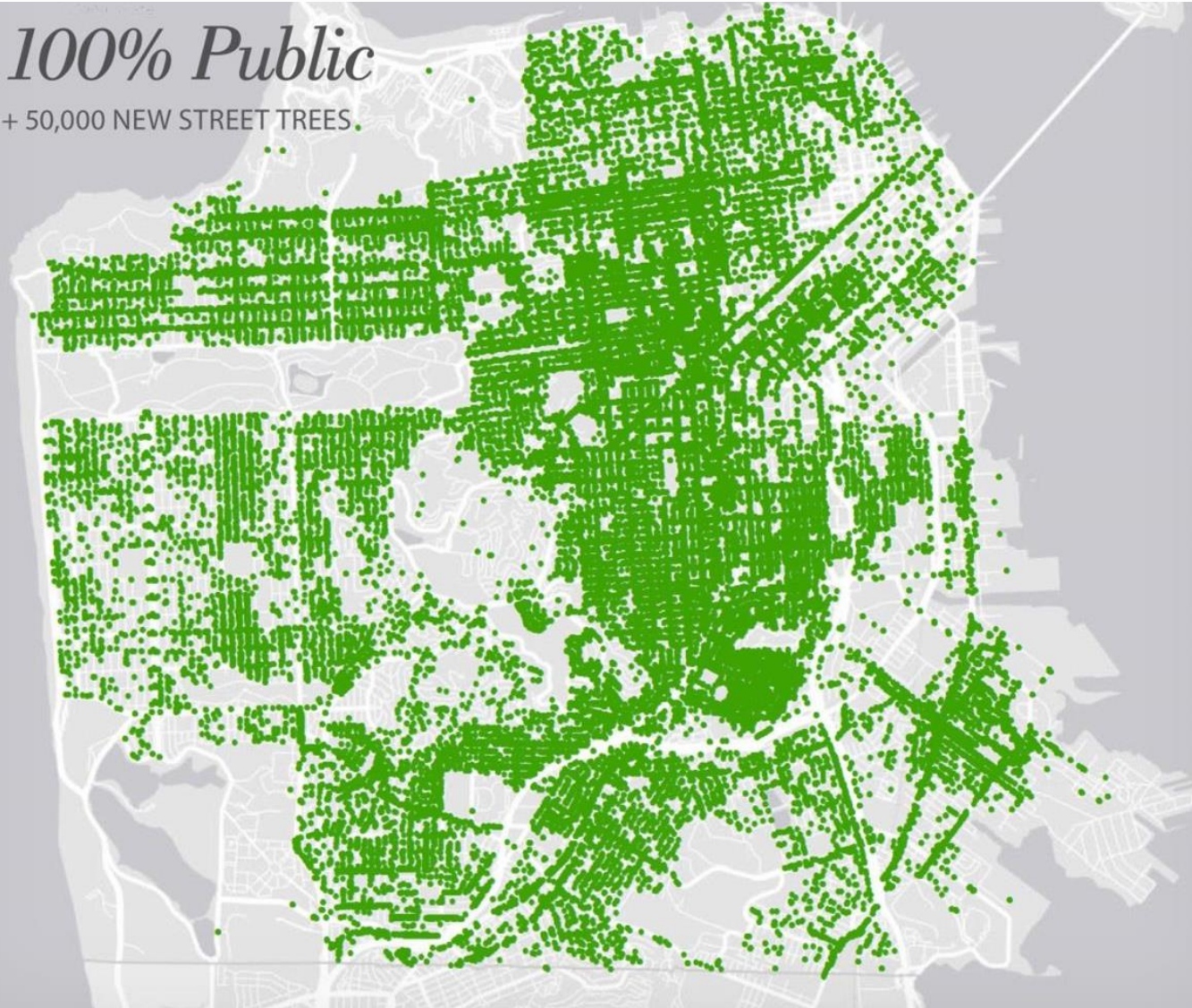
CHALLENGES OF TRANSFER

- Property owners unable or unwilling to care for trees
- Property owners facing new costs they never planned for
- Concerns about quality of tree care and loss of trees
- Higher per tree costs/loss of efficiencies of scale



FUTURE VISION

100% Public
+ 50,000 NEW STREET TREES.



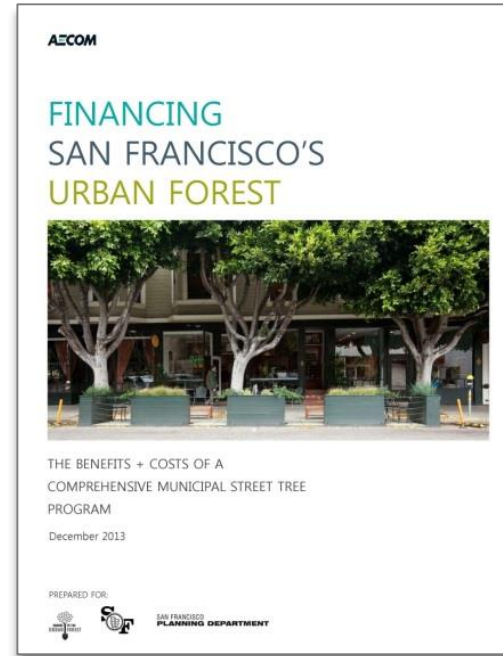


The Plan

URBAN FOREST PLAN: STREET TREES



Policy Document



Finance Study



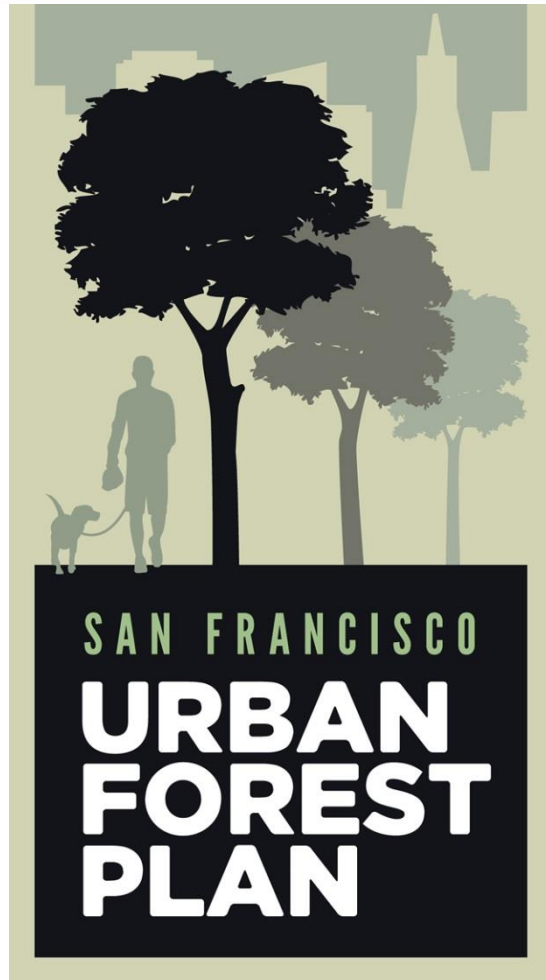
Street Tree Census

SAN FRANCISCO
**URBAN
FOREST
PLAN**



PHASE ONE
**STREET
TREES**

URBAN FOREST PLAN: STREET TREES



- Long-term vision & strategy for street trees
- Unanimously adopted by Board of Supervisors
- Adopted into City's General Plan

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Plan's primary recommendations are summarized below and in the following pages. For a more detailed discussion of specific policy recommendations, please see the Policy Framework.

- ➊ Maximize the benefits of urban trees
- ➋ Grow the street tree population by half (50%)
- ➌ Establish and fund a citywide street tree maintenance program
- ➍ Manage street trees throughout their entire life-cycle

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Maintenance for all street trees
(3-to-5-year avg pruning cycle)



Street tree-related sidewalk repair



Maintenance for up to 50,000 new street trees



Annual inspections by certified arborists



City assumes liability for tree related claims




Funding for tree maintenance at SFUSD schools



COSTS + FUNDING

AECOM


FINANCING
SAN FRANCISCO'S
URBAN FOREST



THE BENEFITS + COSTS OF A
COMPREHENSIVE MUNICIPAL STREET TREE
PROGRAM

December 2013

PREPARED FOR:



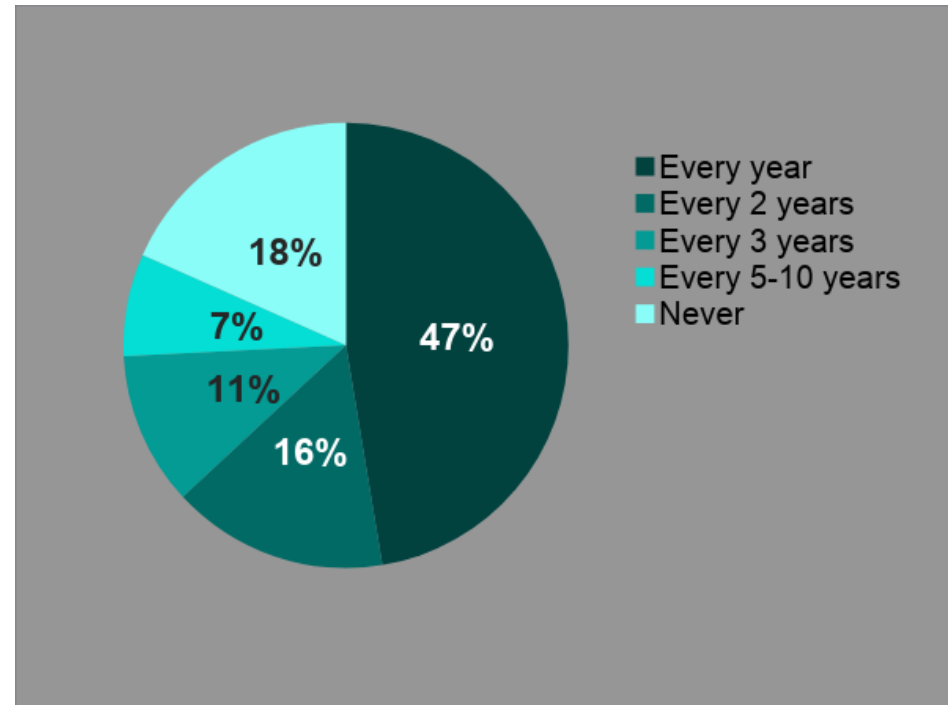
SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- Stable long-term funding for maintenance
- Annual program cost: **\$19M**
- Recommend **parcel tax** based on street frontage

CASE STUDY FINDINGS

- Block pruning is highly efficient
- Routine maintenance decreases costs
- Contractors help control costs + meet capacity
- Municipal programs provide a higher standard of care

PRUNING FREQUENCY – SF PRIVATE STREET



FINANCING - using linear feet to determine tax

- Special assessment or parcel tax for O&M: \$20 - \$1,900 per year depending on parcel size

				Highly Efficient		
				RECOMMENDED FEE (High Efficiency ¹)		
Property Type	Parcel Street Frontage (linear feet)	# of Parcels*	% of citywide parcels	Park Trees	Street Trees	Total Fee
Apartment / Condo	Ultra-small (0-7)	24,245	12.8%	\$5	\$15	\$20
Avg Residential Lot	Small (7-30)	107,805	56.8%	\$14	\$39	\$53
Large Residential Lot	Medium (30-150)	49,555	26.1%	\$29	\$102	\$131
Large Non-Residential Lot	Large (150 - 500)	6,374	3.4%	\$94	\$350	\$444
Ultra-Large Commercial Lot	Ultra-large (>500)	1,864	1.0%	\$299	\$1,585	\$1,884

BENEFITS

Property Owners:

- Reduced costs associated with street trees
- No longer have to maintain street tree(s) fronting property
- No liability for trip and fall
- No fines for improper pruning
- Don't have to pay for tree-related sidewalk repairs

Urban Forest:

- Maintenance for all existing street trees
- Growth of forest up to 50,000 new street trees
- Greener and healthier tree canopy (Schools & Streets)
- Greater public benefits: *public health, air quality, stormwater runoff, carbon sequestration.*



The Partners

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN...



The City



NGO



Politicians

URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Two-year
community
planning process

Council involved
in Plan
development

Public hearings
on Plan



PUBLIC ADVOCACY





The Solution

BALLOT MEASURE (2016)

E

Responsibility for Maintaining Street Trees and Surrounding Sidewalks

Shall the City amend the Charter to transfer responsibility from property owners to the City for maintaining trees on sidewalks around their property as well as sidewalks damaged by the trees, and pay for this by setting aside \$19M per year from its General Fund, adjusted annually based on City revenues?

YES ON



HEALTHY TREES SAFE SIDEWALKS

HealthyTreesSafeSidewalks.org


Paid for by Yes on E, Coalition for Healthy Trees and Safe Sidewalks, with Major Funding by the Friends of the Urban Forest Committee and Mitzi Johnson. Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org.



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – UNDERWAY!



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- 1. The Problem**
 - 2. The Plan**
 - 3. The Partners**



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