City Council Work Session

Documents:

1 - WORK SESSION AGENDA.PDF
2 - TREE ORDIANCE UPDATE.PDF

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE
WORK SESSION MEETING

Monday, August 28, 2023 - 3:30 p.m.

Greenville City Hall, 206 S. Main Street

Citizens may access the meeting at the following web address:
https://www.greenvillesc.gov/1694/Online-Meetings

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Knox White; Councilmembers Wil Brasington, John DeWorken, Dorothy Dowe, Lillian Flemming, Ken Gibson, Russell Stall

CITY STAFF: City Manager Shannon Lavrin; City Attorney Leigh B. Paoletti; City Clerk Camilla G. Pitman

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AGENDA

1.	**Call to Order**	**3:30 p.m.**
2.	**Tree Ordinance Update** *(Presented by Principal Landscape Architect Edward Kinney)*	**3:30 p.m.**
3.	**Executive Session (S.C. Code §30-4-70):** *NOTE: City Council will leave the Work Session to conduct an Executive Session which is not open to the public. The Work Session meeting will adjourn following the completion of the Executive Session. No action will be taken prior to adjourning the meeting.*	**4:00 p.m.**
	a. Economic Development / Legal Briefing **b. Boards and Commissions / Personnel Update**	
4.	**Adjourn**	**5:15 p.m.**

TREE ORDINANCE UPDATE

TREE ORDINANCE HISTORY

2019

- Initiated by City Council to address the depletion of the tree canopy.
- Tree canopy had decreased from 41% to 35% over the past 10 years.
- Staff researched best practices, sought neighborhood and professional feedback, and held City Council work sessions.

2020

- City Council retreat, key stakeholder meetings, public surveys

2021

- Planning Commission approval
- City Council adoption in June

TREE ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

REQUIREMENTS

Established new planting requirements.

MITIGATION

Established mitigation components for the removal of some trees.

- $50/inch for trees greater than 6”
- Additional $45/inch for heritage trees

TREE FUND

Established Tree Fund with caveats on spending.

REVIEW

Established mandatory review period in 2023.

2023 ORDINANCE UPDATES

STREAMLINED

Adjustments were made to definitions, processes, protections and exemptions.

FEE REDUCTIONS

Allowed a percentage of tree fee reductions for affordable housing projects.

INSTALLATION COSTS

Added landscape installation costs for affordable housing projects as an acceptable expenditure of the Tree Fund.

VIOLATIONS

Added on after-the-fact violations section for retroactive tree fees.

TREE FUND OVERVIEW
PREVIOUS ALLOWANCES

- Tree purchase and installation of new trees;
- Maintenance of existing tree canopy on public property and rights-of-way;
- Purchase of real property for the purposes of tree plantings; or
- Administration of the above

TREE FUND OVERVIEW – CURRENT ALLOWANCES

INSTALLATION

Tree purchase and installation by the City.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of existing tree canopy on public property and rights-of-way.

OPEN SPACE

Purchase of real property for the purposes of tree plantings or dedicated open space.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Percentage of new tree & landscape material & installation costs for affordable housing developments (as defined by the City's Economic Development Dept.); executed via development agreements with City.

GVL2040
OUR HOME. OUR FUTURE.

TREE FUND

FY2021 – FY2023

	BALANCE	DONATIONS	PERMITS	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
FY2021	$4,290*	$6,945	$5,200	$12,145	$6,156	$10,279
FY2022	$10,279	$2,365	$607,840	$610,205	$14,677	$605,807
FY2023	$605,807	-	$559,779	$559,779	$35,762	$1,129,824**

*Beginning balance from previous park donations.

**Current balance, subject to the spending requirements of the Tree Fund, Sec 19-5.2.2 (B)(5).

TREE PLANTINGS & GIVEAWAYS

2021

- $5,900 – Newly planted trees
- $250 – Tree giveaways
- Total = $**6,150**

2022

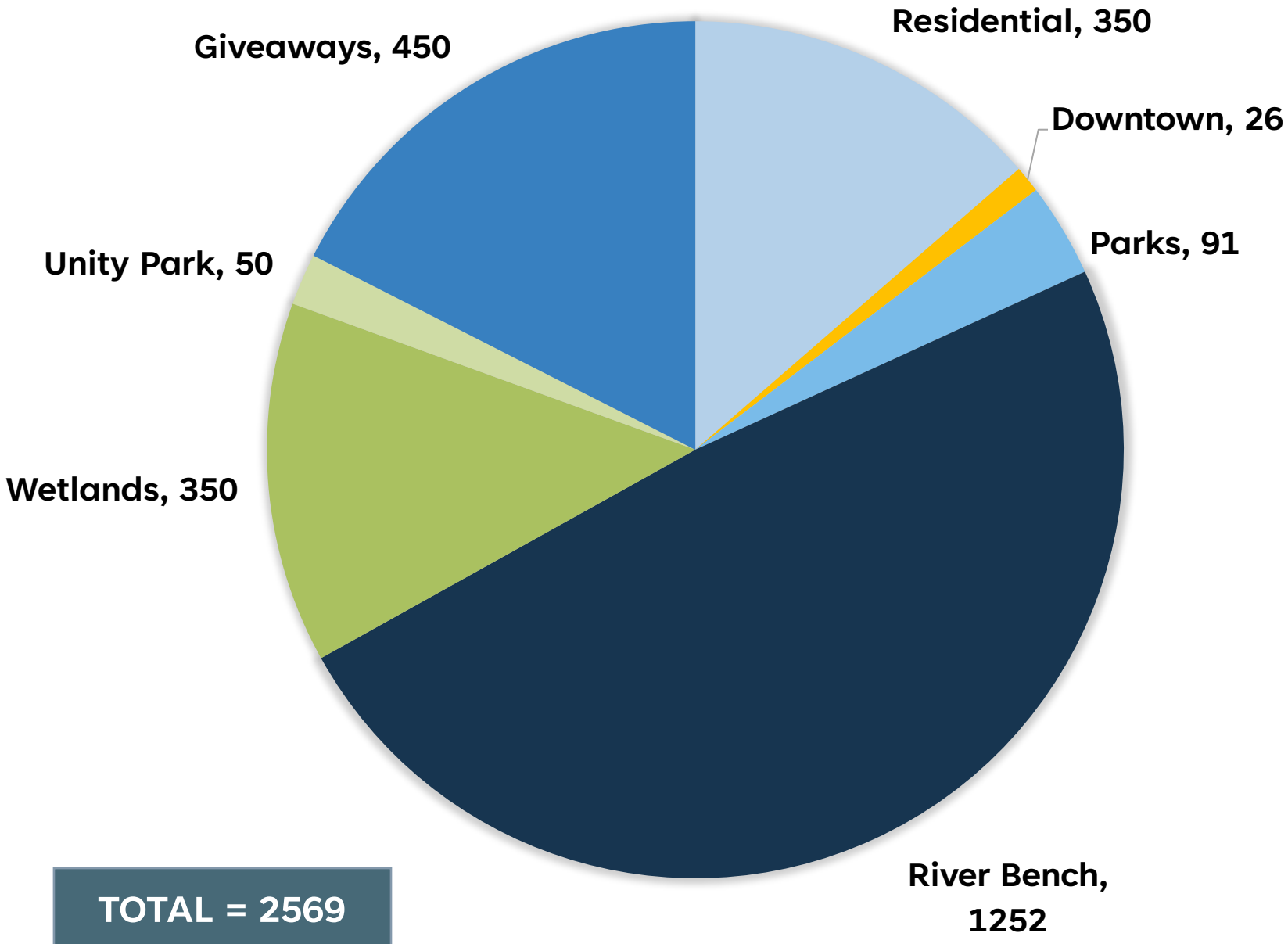
- $14,300 – Newly planted trees
- $300 - Tree giveaways
- Total = $**14,600**

2023

- $31,300 – Newly planted trees
- $450 – Tree giveaways
- $4,000 – Maintenance
- Total = $**35,750**

TREE PLANTINGS AND GIVEAWAYS

October 2022 – May 2023

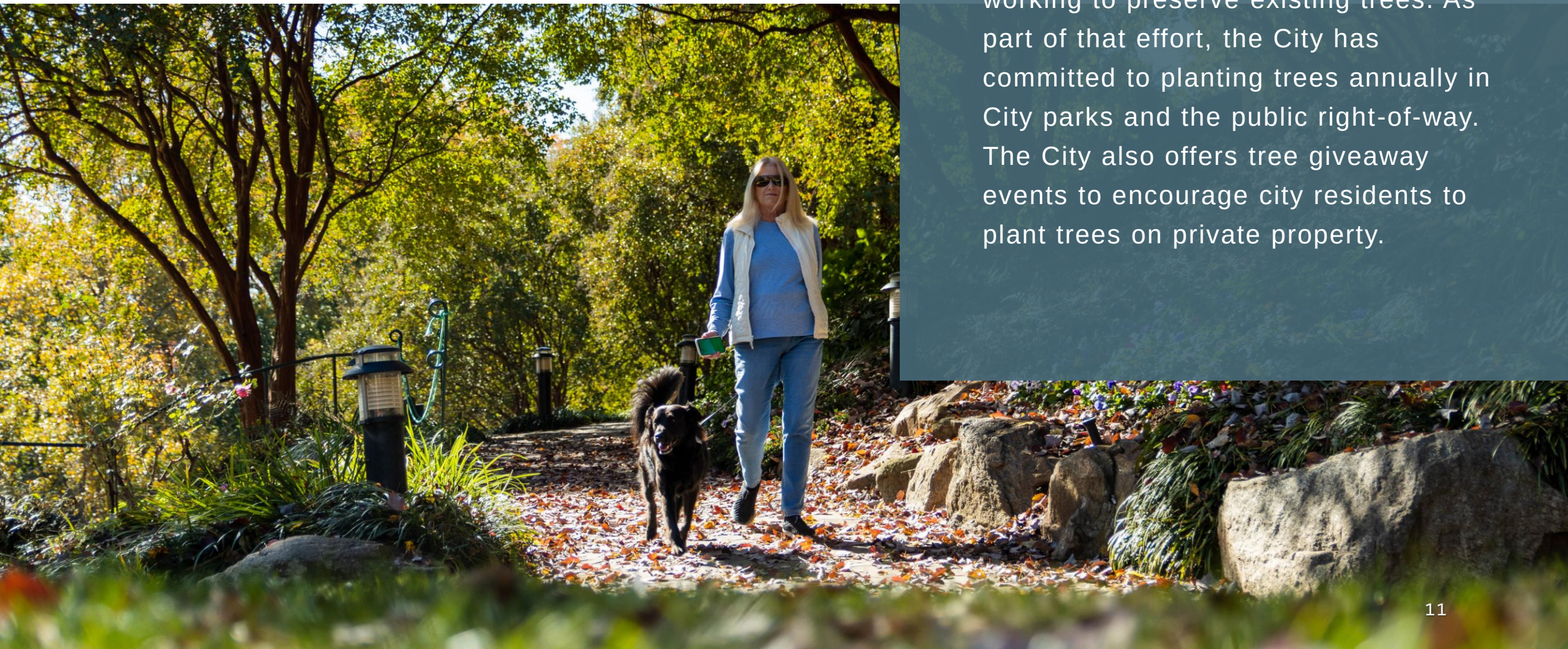


TOTAL = 2569

TREE PLAN

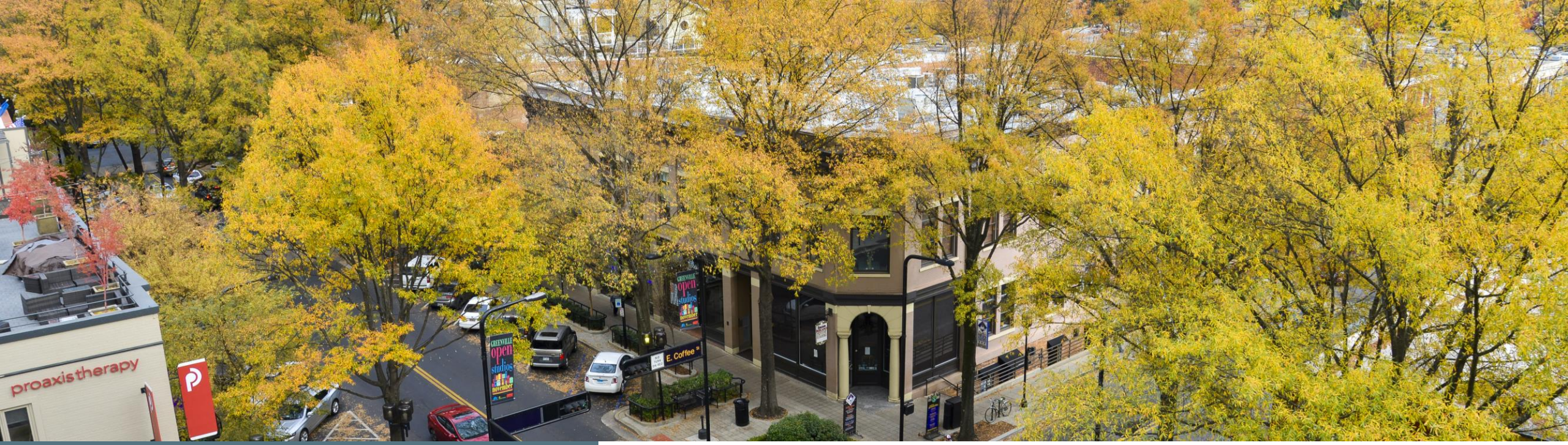
ROOTED IN GREENVILLE

Growth Strategy



To protect and enhance the natural environment and aesthetic beauty of our community, the City is actively working to preserve existing trees. As part of that effort, the City has committed to planting trees annually in City parks and the public right-of-way. The City also offers tree giveaway events to encourage city residents to plant trees on private property.

- **Gower Park** - Remove 28 Virginia Pines behind the restrooms and replace with **30** trees.
- **Timmons Park** - Remove 44 Virginia Pines behind the ballfield and replace with **120** trees.
- **Watts Park** – Plant **12** trees in open space.
- **Falls Park –** Plant **5** trees on the east bank of the park.
- **McPherson Park** - Plant **20** new evergreen trees and holly trees.
- **West Greenville Community Center** – plant **12** canopy trees.
- **Paperclip** - Plant **377** trees in open space.
- Additional plans to include **Nicholtown Community Center**. Size and scope TBD post-center construction.
- **Total = 576 trees**



CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT + ROW

Main Street:

- Prune **1,154** trees for building clearance and deadwood on a rotational basis (400 per year).
- Plant growth regulator treatments and scale treatments every 3rd year.

Garages:

- Remove and replace **6** trees at the Richardson Street Garage

ROW:

- Remove and replace **38** trees in tree islands along North Main. Replace trees removed from ROW that have died, failed or were high risk of failure.
- Work with neighborhood associations to identify planting areas within ROW.

INVENTORY

SPECIAL EMPHASIS NEIGHBORHOODS

- Inventory tree canopy of the remaining neighborhoods: Arcadia Hills, Brutontown (City portion), Viola, Southernside, Sterling, Green Avenue and Haynie-Sirrine.

- Inventory and acquire planting locations ROW.

TREE CANOPY STUDY

- Contract with the Green Infrastructure Center to conduct a tree canopy study with exact methods as the previous study completed five years ago. This will help the City realize canopy loss or gain in that time period.

TREES UPSTATE

- One year funding for planting on private property within the City limits with an initial focus on Special Emphasis Neighborhoods.

GVL2040
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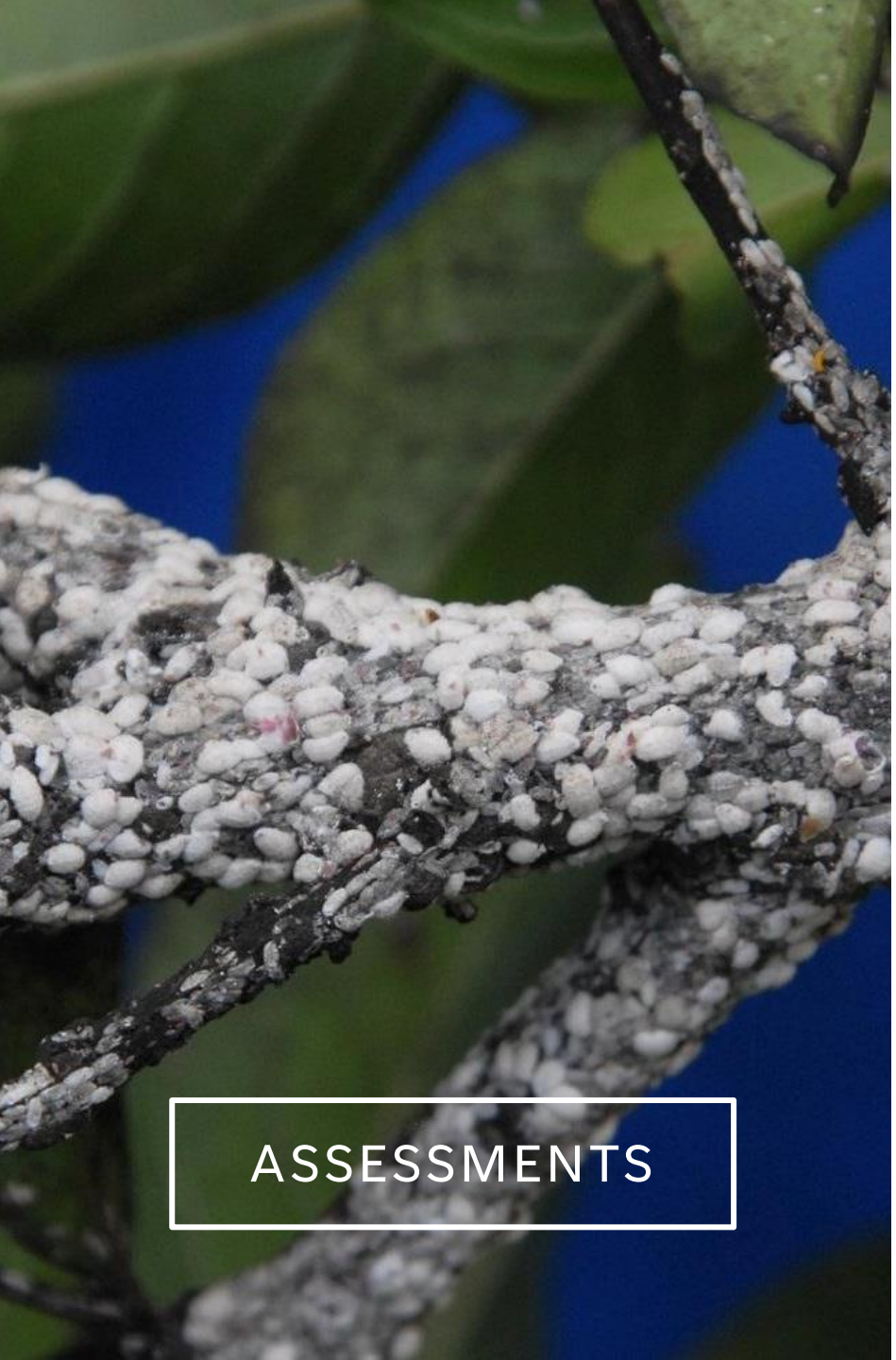
OPEN SPACE

- GVL2040 established the goal to preserve as much as **35%** of Greenville's remaining vacant land. In 2020, that equated to 945 acres with an estimated average cost of **$120,000/ac.**
- In November of 2022, Council voted to purchase a 3.8-acre parcel on Mauldin Road near Conestee Park with the intent of open space preservation.
- Additional properties have been identified with input from Economic Development, Parks and Planning staff and are being evaluated based on the open space scoring matrix that was presented at the July 11, 2022 Council Work Session.

TREE GIVEAWAYS



ASSESSMENTS

CRAPEMYRTLE BARK SCALE

- An emerging threat to crepe myrtle, this scale pest attacks the bark of the crepe myrtle.
- A native of Asia, it was first confirmed in Texas.
- Since then, the pest has gradually expanded its range to the southeastern states.
- Treat with horticulture oil.
- Final number of tress still being established for RFP.

EMERALD ASH BORER

- The Emerald Ash Borer is responsible for the destruction of tens of millions of ash trees.
- Native to Asia, it likely arrived in the United States hidden in wood packing materials.
- There are a variety of treatment options that can serve as a control measure for the EAB, but they are not a cure.

TREE PLANTINGS AND MAINTENANCE FINANCIALS

	COST
Gower Park	
• Removal 28 trees	$11,500
• Stump grinding	$3,000
• Planting 30 trees	$18,000
Timmons Park	
• Removal 44 trees	$18,000
• Stump grinding	$4,500
• Planting 120 trees	$65,000
Unity Park Wetlands	
• Emerald Ash Borer treatment	$8,000
Watts Park Plantings (12 trees)	$6,300
Paperclip	
• 86 B&B trees	$46,500
• 291 three gallon container trees	$20,300
McPherson Park Plantings	$10,000
Falls Park – East Bank Plantings (6 trees)	$6,000

	COST
W. Greenville Community Center (12 trees)	$6,000
Richardson Street Garage	
• Stump grinding	$2,725
• 6 tree plantings	$3,500
Central Business District Trees	
• Pruning	$100,000
• Growth regulator	$30,000
Inventory Remaining SEN	$45,000
Tree Canopy Study	$20,000
Trees Upstate (One year)	$10,000
Crapemyrtle Bark Scale Treatment	$50,000
North Main Tree Planting	$21,000

TOTAL = $507,545

QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK