CITY OF RICHMOND

Urban Greening Master Plan

Community-Based Opportunities & Solutions Panel
INTRODUCTIONS

• Lina Velasco, Project Manager, City of Richmond
• Greg Hardesty, Parks and Landscaping Superintendent, City of Richmond
• Marcia Vallier, Principal, Vallier Design Associates, Inc.
• Sarah Calderon, Executive Director, GroundWork Richmond, UFAC
• Lee Micheaux, Richmond Trees, UFAC Chair
• Lorenzo Plazola, Program Manager, GroundWork Richmond
OVERVIEW

- About Richmond
- Urban Greening Master Plan
- City-Community Partnership
- Key Takeaways
- Majority people of color
- City Manager led City
- 32 miles of Bay shoreline, Port, Refinery, and other industrial uses
- Central neighborhoods are park-deficient
- I-80 and I-580 bisect City, along with railroads
In 2011, Richmond received a Proposition 84 Grant to develop an Urban Greening Master Plan.

In 2012, the city completed a street tree inventory, identified potential planting sites, and updated a real-time database that allows for tree canopy analysis.

The city engaged residents by forming a Project Advisory Group (PAG), having neighborhood council meetings, launching the video "Greening Richmond Together", and hosting Arbor Day in addition to other events.

"REVITALIZE OUR COMMUNITIES AND MAKE THEM MORE SUSTAINABLE AND LIVABLE BY INVESTING IN SOUND LAND USE PLANNING, LOCAL PARKS, AND URBAN GREENING"
The City engaged residents by attending neighborhood council meetings and hosting Arbor Day and other events.
The city engaged residents by launching the video “Greening Richmond Together”

https://youtu.be/2fMEhO0BBxQ?list=PLG6EvY3GDcRJKxdaPTjfdOUtmarKG3p9T
Urban greening provides cities with aesthetic, environmental, social and economic benefits.

What is urban greening?

Urban greening encompasses a range of sustainable practices related to the establishment of green streetscapes and open space to create cleaner, healthier, safer and more aesthetically-pleasing neighborhoods.

What is an urban forest?

The urban forest is a complex system of trees and smaller plants, wildlife, associated organisms, soil, water and air, street trees, park trees, forested park land and natural areas, trees in parking lots, on private property, landscaping around homes and businesses.
The **Urban Greening Master Plan** is the culmination of six years of research and action to understand and support Richmond’s urban forest.

The Plan:

- **inventories and documents** the state of Richmond’s urban forest;
- **identifies connections** between the urban greening elements of recent and current planning efforts, as well as greening initiatives undertaken by community groups; and
- **provides a road map** for expanding and integrating the urban forest into the urban landscape to ensure that the benefits of the urban forest are distributed equitably among Richmond residents.
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**ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**
- Reduced air temperatures
- Improved air quality
- Carbon sequestration
- Improved watershed function
- Habitat creation

**ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
- Increased property values
- Savings to city through watershed management
- Decreased energy costs

**SOCIAL BENEFITS**
- Increased recreational opportunities
- Enhanced sense of community
- Reduced crime, increase safety
- Reduced noise and stress
PROCESS

- INVENTORY of all City-owned trees
- ANALYSIS of data - tree health, coverage, species allocation, size, site conditions, vacancies, zones, benefits
- ESTABLISHMENT OF VISION AND GOALS for stewardship of the urban forest
- COORDINATION with other City plans and initiatives

Development and recommendation of IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES and projects for urban greening and best practices, updated tree list, etc.
Inventory, Analysis & Plan Preparation
• 2030 General Plan
• Bike, Pedestrian and Parks Master Plans
• Livable Corridors Form-Based Code
• Climate Action Plan
• Health In All Policies Ordinance

Release of Plan
• The UGMP final draft and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration released for comment

Adoption of Plan
• The UGMP and IS/MND anticipated to be adopted in October
ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

- City of Richmond occupies 22,500 acres. 7,880 acres or about **38% is impervious surface**.

- **22,000** City-owned trees and **13,000** opportunity sites. Of those
  - 40% have a DBH of 6” or less
  - 61% are in planting strips with **8%** causing damage
  - 30% are in lawns/parks
  - 9% are in medians, islands or planters
  - 79% have no overhead lines
  - 83% require routine horticultural pruning
  - 580 trees are recommended for removal due to structural or other issues
ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

- **92%** of City-owned trees are in good to fair health
- Overall tree canopy cover is an average of **11%**
- The inventory includes 139 different genera with over **270 species**. Five most abundant are *Platanus x acerfolia*, *Prunus cerasifera*, *Pyrus calleyana*, *Pyrus kawakamii* and *Ulmus parvifolia*
**GOALS**

- **Protect** the urban forest
- **Expand** the urban forest through urban greening initiatives
- **Manage and support** the urban forest and urban greening
- **Educate and promote stewardship** of the urban forest
- **Fund** the urban forest and urban greening initiatives
GREENING OPPORTUNITIES

- Planting within 13,000 opportunity sites
- Street tree planting
- Storm water management
- Green infrastructure
- Creek daylighting and habitat restoration
- Urban agriculture and community gardening
- Traffic Calming
- Green alleys
- Parks
- Green roofs
IMPLEMENTATION

Planting within 13,000 opportunity sites
- Joint grant applications to fund tree planting and green infrastructure projects
- City partners and contracts with non-profit partners to assist/lead in education, outreach, coordination, and tree planting projects
- City approves trees to be planted and tree planting sites
- Partners help do early tree care maintenance under city supervision
Shared knowledge/Tree planting standards/Training
- Oversight by City required
- Open lines of communication required between City and partners
- Clear Expectations/Accountability
- Maintenance Costs/Early Tree Care needs to be considered in grant applications
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Regular planning and coordination meetings with City and partners
- If multiple partners, one lead coordinator/hub is needed
- Continue to have joint events to build and maintain relationships
- Flexibility to address issues and reporting requirement changes