

*Milwaukie Tree Board
Community Outreach Summary Report*

Prepared by: EnviroIssues

October 8, 2018

Table of Contents

- Overview..... 1**
- Outreach tactics and reach..... 1**
- Key take-aways..... 2**
- Survey results 4**
 - Who we heard from 4
 - Perceptions of Milwaukie’s urban forest 7
 - Forest size 9
 - Forest health..... 14
 - Age and species diversity 16
 - Street tree management..... 18
 - Outreach and stewardship..... 20
 - Final comments 22
- Drop-in session feedback..... 22**
- Conclusions and next steps 23**

Overview

The City of Milwaukie recently created a Tree Board to develop the community's first Urban Forest Plan and advise on updates to the City tree code. To gather feedback from the community on the draft Urban Forest Plan and proposed tree code changes, the City of Milwaukie contracted with EnviroIssues to conduct an outreach survey and support broader community engagement planning. This report summarizes the community feedback received during the outreach period in August and September 2018.

Outreach tactics and reach

The Tree Board consulted the community in a variety of ways over the two-month period, including: tabling at community and neighborhood events; conducting an outreach survey; and hosting an informational drop-in session on September 26, 2018. The table below summarizes the reach of these engagement efforts.

Community engagement "by the numbers"	
204	Survey responses (148 complete, 56 partials)
7	Drop-in session attendees
13	Community events attended by Tree Board members
300+	Approximate number of community members reached between August and September 2018

Community events

Tree Board members attended 13 events between August and September, including two Neighborhood District Association (NDA) picnics, three NDA concerts, six NDA meetings, the Milwaukie Farmer's Market, and a Parks and Recreation Board meeting. At these events, Tree Board members spoke to community members about the purpose of the board, the draft Urban Forest Plan and key board priorities. Attendees could sign up to receive email updates and take a fact sheet with background information.

Outreach survey

EnviroIssues conducted an outreach survey between August 27 and September 26, 2018. The survey included 32 questions related to the policies and near-term actions proposed in the draft Urban Forest Plan. A link to the online survey was distributed via the Tree Board email update list, the City of Milwaukie's social media accounts, the *Milwaukie Pilot*, and publicized by Tree Board members during community outreach events. It was also featured on the City of Milwaukie's website. Hard copy surveys were made available at the drop-in session. To encourage participation, everyone who completed the survey had the opportunity to enter to win a \$50 gift card to Wind Horse Coffee.

Overall, 222 people began the survey: 148 completed the questionnaire and 56 submitted responses to at least one question (204 responses total). The survey was designed as an outreach

questionnaire with the goal of engaging as many members of the Milwaukie community as possible. The results are not statistically representative, meaning the respondent sample is not predictive of the opinions of the Milwaukie population as a whole.

Community drop-in session

On September 26, Tree Board members held a “drop-in” style public comment session to discuss the Tree Board’s work thus far, the draft Urban Forest Plan, and the proposed tree code updates with community members. Peter Passarelli, the Tree Board’s City staff liaison, kicked off the session with a presentation on the Tree Board’s history and the benefits of a healthy tree canopy. He explained Milwaukie has a goal to increase its tree canopy from 26 percent to 40 percent by 2040. In total, seven community members joined the Tree Board’s drop-in session.

The results of all the outreach will be used to inform further refinement to the draft Urban Forest Plan and proposed tree code updates by the Milwaukie Tree Board.

Key take-aways

Milwaukians engaged through this process value trees for their aesthetic value, health and ecological benefits, and connection to Milwaukie’s local identity.

- The majority of people who provided open-ended feedback on the survey discussed trees as a valued part of the community landscape that should be protected. Tapping into these values that resonate with the public will be important for future Tree Board outreach.
- When asked which species should be prioritized in planting efforts, many respondents selected Western Redcedar, Oregon White Oak and Dogwoods because of their beauty and because they are recognized as local, native species.

Respondents are concerned about the impact of development on Milwaukie’s tree canopy.

- A significant majority (92 percent) of survey respondents said it is important to save large, mature trees from being cut down on both public and private property (67 percent said this is *very important*, while 25 percent said it is *somewhat important*).
- Concerning the forest size goal, respondents prioritized policies that would protect trees and implement standards during development and construction.
- In open-ended comments, many respondents expressed concern about needless canopy removal during construction and cited specific, recent examples where developers have removed a significant number of trees.

While survey respondents are generally supportive of restrictions on tree removal to protect canopy, most want to retain rights to maintain trees on their own property.

- Most respondents (80 percent) indicated they want to maintain the right to prune their own trees, while 70 percent were in favor of a permit system related to tree removals on private property.

- Several open-ended comments advocated for a balance between protecting property owners' rights and advancing tree protection goals. Some suggestions for striking this balance included rolling out restrictions slowly and ensuring the rationale for all changes is well communicated.
- Several comments suggested the City should consider the added cost burden and time delays associated with new code restrictions, and some raised questions about situations where fast action may be needed for safety and structural risk reasons.
- Most respondents (72 percent) said it is not very or not at all important for them to harvest trees on their property for timber resources.

There is an awareness of the intersection between tree protection and other City goals (e.g. encouraging housing development, increasing density, planning for natural hazards, etc.).

- Some commenters wanted more information about how these goals will be balanced. It is important that City-wide messaging is aligned and consistent.
- Concerning street tree management, survey respondents prioritized proactively planning for mature tree preservation and new tree planting in all public infrastructure improvement projects as the top draft policy by a wide margin.
- Survey respondents prioritized policies that would encourage planting of climate change-resilient species, and some drop-in session attendees also discussed the importance of planning for climate change. This may indicate an awareness among the public of the need to think longer term and plant drought tolerant species.

Overall, many respondents are in favor of tree preservation efforts, but feel there is a need for more affordable, accessible support from the City for them to act.

- Many commenters called for more education about proper care and maintenance. Concerning street trees, several respondents stated they were unsure who is responsible for maintaining these trees and what the "right of way" is. More education is needed to clarify these responsibilities and encourage residents to seek support.
- Several commenters advocated for more financial support to encourage proper tree care. This could come in the form of incentives or discounts that support individual action or financial assistance to hire arborists and maintenance experts.
- Concerning the forest health goal, respondents strongly prioritized policies that would lead to more creative support for property owners to maintain their own trees over requiring professionals to do this work.

There is a desire for further engagement, outreach and education, particularly to explain the motivation behind new tree protections and ways people can get involved.

- Several commenters acknowledged change may be difficult and increase burdens on property owners. Clear, consistent and transparent communication from the Tree Board will be essential for explaining why and how any updates are being implemented.
- People feel more support and outreach is needed to reach underrepresented populations and people who live in areas with minimal tree coverage.

Survey results

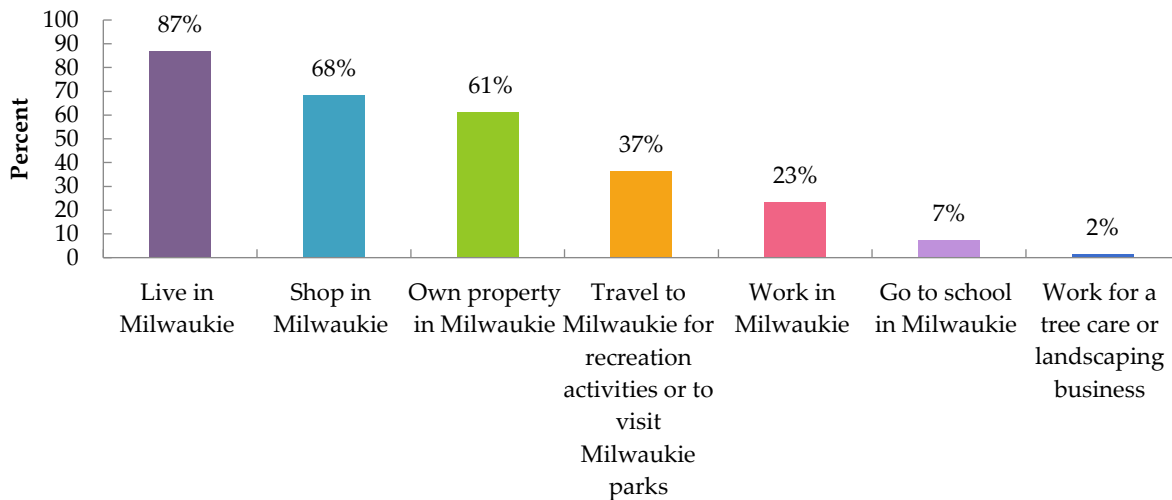
Who we heard from

This section summarizes the demographic characteristics of online survey respondents. Overall, survey respondents were more likely to be white, longer-term residents and have higher incomes.

Residency

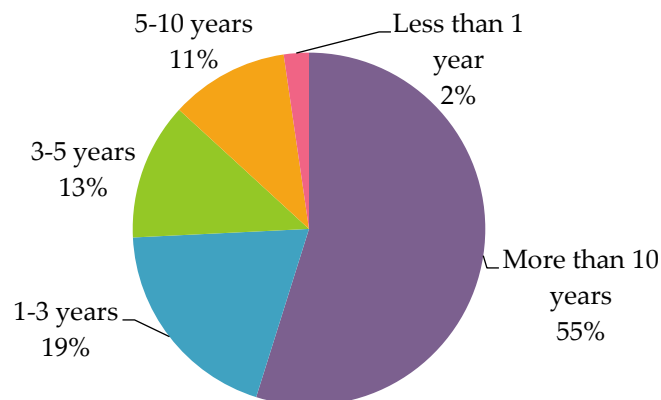
To begin, respondents were asked to identify their connection to Milwaukie. Most respondents live in, shop in and/or own property in Milwaukie (Figure 1). A third of respondents (37 percent) travel to the city to recreate, and 23 percent work in Milwaukie.

Figure 1: Survey respondents' connection to Milwaukie (N= 202)



More than half of all survey respondents (55 percent) have lived in Milwaukie for more than 10 years (Figure 2). Relative newcomers (0-3 years) represented 20 percent of the responses.

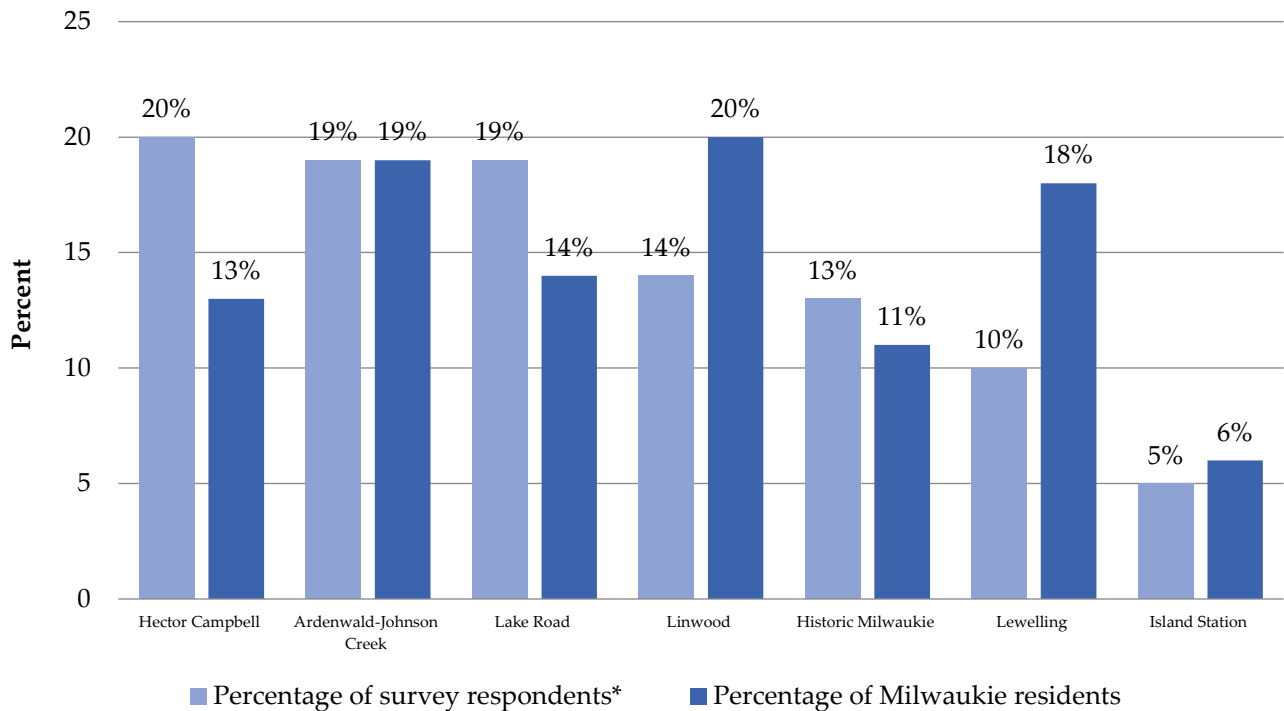
Figure 2: Years living in Milwaukie of survey respondents (N= 175)



Respondents were asked which neighborhood they live in. Most respondents (89 percent) chose one of Milwaukie’s seven neighborhoods, while 11 percent selected “other” and wrote in the following responses:

- Oak Grove
- Naef-Oatfield
- Off Overland Street
- River Road
- Unincorporated Milwaukie

Figure 3: Survey respondents by neighborhood compared to neighborhood populations (N = 194 within Milwaukie limits)

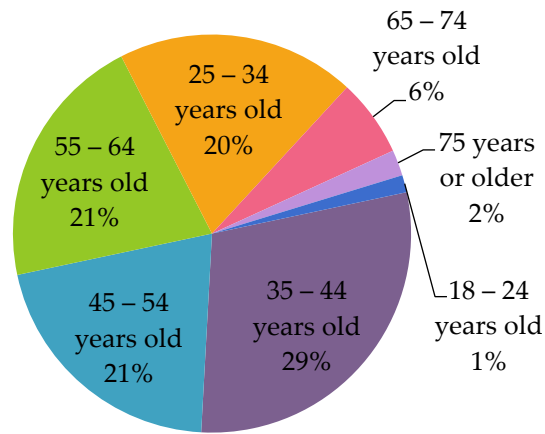


*Percentages of respondents who live in Milwaukie. Eleven respondents (11% of all respondents) live outside the city limits.

Age

Figure 4 shows the distribution of survey respondents by age. Around half (50 percent) of respondents are over 45, with a plurality aged 35-44 (29 percent) followed by 45-54 and 55-64 at 21 percent each. Respondents aged 18-24 years of age were the least represented.

Figure 4: Age distribution of survey respondents (N = 144)



Income

Figure 5 shows the distribution of household income among survey respondents. Respondents tend to have higher incomes than Milwaukie residents as a whole, with 44% earning more than \$100,000. Low income respondents were very underrepresented (18 percent report a household income under \$50,000 compared to 45 percent of all Milwaukie residents according to the US Census Bureau).

Figure 5: Income distribution of survey respondents (N = 137)

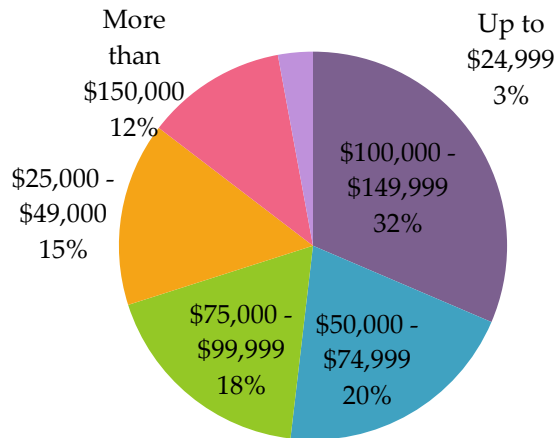
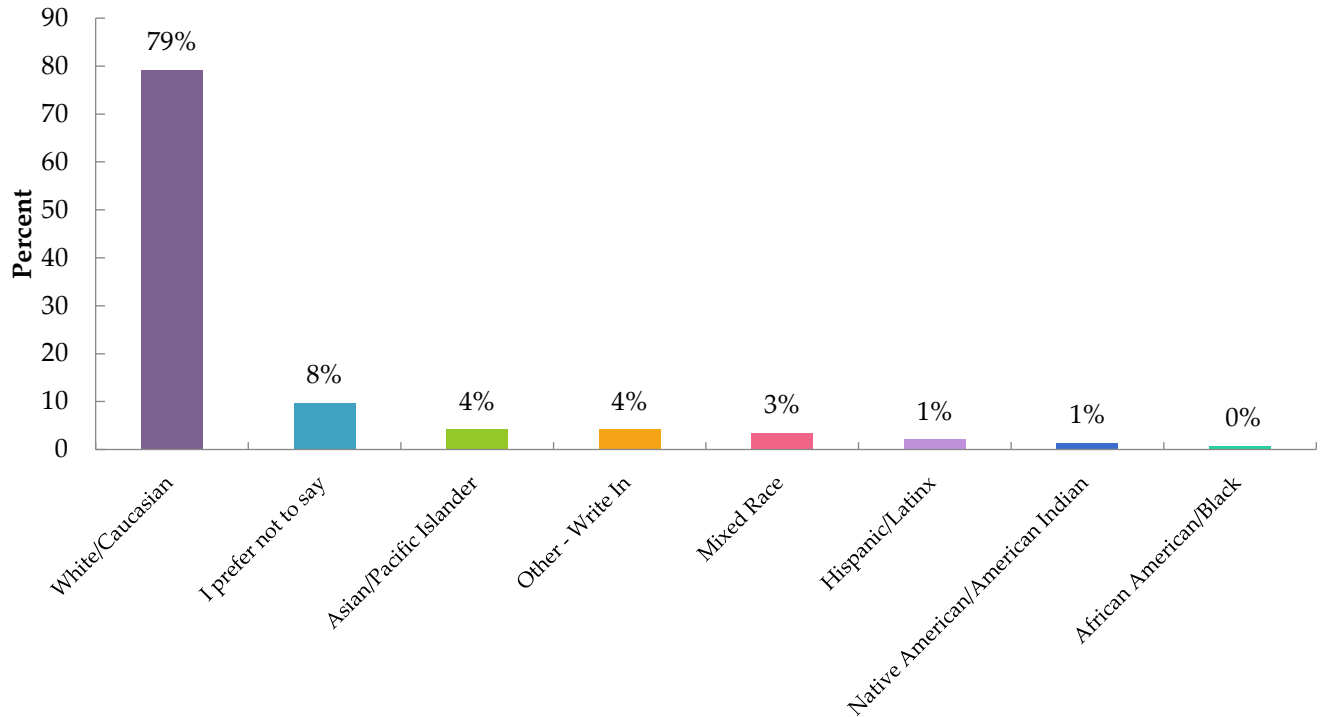


Figure 6 shows the race/ethnicity of survey respondents. Most respondents were white at 79 percent. Compared to US Census data, people of color are underrepresented in this sample size.¹

¹ According to American Community Survey (2012-2016) data, 8 percent of Milwaukie residents are Hispanic/Latino(a) and 2 percent are African American/Black. North Clackamas School District data for students in the Milwaukie feeder school system indicate 30 percent of students are Hispanic/Latino(a) and 3 percent are African American/Black.

Figure 6: Race/ethnicity of survey respondents (N = 144)

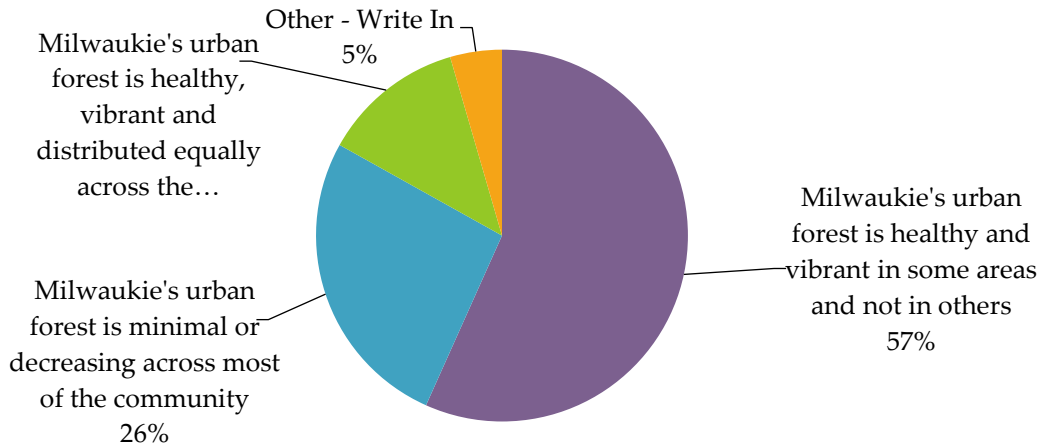


Perceptions of Milwaukie's urban forest

Respondents were asked to share how they would describe Milwaukie's urban forest (Figure 7). Most respondents (57 percent) said the urban forest is thriving in some places and not in others, while around a quarter (26 percent) said the canopy is minimal or decreasing. Few (12 percent) said it is healthy, vibrant and distributed equally across the community. Five percent of respondents shared the following "other" thoughts:

- The urban forest is endangered
- Canopy coverage fluctuates based on development patterns
- Many healthy, mature trees are being cut down
- The urban forest is not entirely healthy, but it is evenly distributed

Figure 7: How would you describe Milwaukie's urban forest? (N = 210)



Respondents were asked to identify the top three benefits they value most about Milwaukie's trees (Figure 8). More than half (61 percent) of respondents prioritized the aesthetic value of trees. Other top values include their function as wildlife habitat and health benefits. Approximately 5 percent opted to write in another response. Many of these respondents expressed difficulty choosing three top benefits because all listed options were considered important. Others noted trees are important to our regional identity, and one person expressed the value of balancing private property rights and conservation.

Figure 8: What do you value most about Milwaukie's trees? (N = 202)

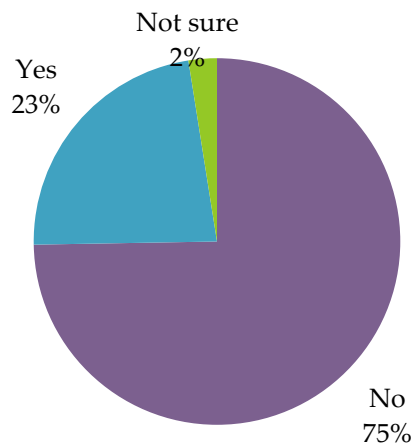
Value	% ranked in top three
They are beautiful and improve the look and feel of our community	61%
They provide habitat for wildlife	56%
They provide health benefits (e.g. trees clean our air)	48%
They fight climate change by storing carbon and making our community	45%
They provide shade from the weather	33%
They capture stormwater and help prevent floods	21%
They make Milwaukie a nice place to visit and live, boosting our economy	19%
Other (comments included): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the above They are why it's nice to live here Trees define Milwaukie, Oregon or the Pacific Northwest I value trees, but what matters most to me is balancing property owners' rights and city regulations 	5%

Respondents were asked to share any concerns they have about Milwaukie's trees. In total, 149 respondents provided comments (verbatim comments are presented in Appendix B). Comments varied but fell under the following general themes:

- Many stated Milwaukie’s trees are increasingly being removed due to development and expressed not enough are being replanted.
- Many expressed concern that mature, large trees are not being protected.
- Many expressed a desire for more trees in general throughout the city.
- Several voiced concern about the fairness of potential restrictions on private property owners.
- Some noted the existing canopy is relatively old, meaning trees often have health and maintenance needs. These commenters suggested there is a need to ensure a diversity of ages among the canopy.
- Some raised concerns over loss of wildlife habitat as trees are removed.
- Some said tree health in general is declining due to lack of knowledge or resources to property care for them.
- Some said older, taller trees and large root systems may pose safety risks to structures and impact roads and sidewalks.
- A few mentioned invasive species and pests are negatively harming native tree species.
- A few said a stronger tree code is needed to preserve trees from being cut down and ensure proper care.
- A few noted some neighborhoods lack trees and said distribution is not even.
- A few called for partnerships with more organizations, such as Friends of Trees, to work on improving tree health.

Respondents were asked if they had ever contacted the City regarding tree maintenance, planning or removal (Figure 9). A majority (75 percent) said they had not, while around a quarter (23 percent) said they had.

Figure 9: Have you ever contacted the City for tree maintenance, planting or removal? (N = 202)



Forest size

Respondents provided feedback on policies and actions related to the “forest size” goal in the draft Urban Forest Plan: *Foster urban forest growth to achieve 40 percent aerial canopy coverage by 2040 and sustain that level through time.*

Policy-level feedback

Respondents were asked to rank the top three policies from the draft Urban Forest Plan that they felt were most important to achieving the forest size goal. Based on the ranking, each policy received a weighted score (for each respondent, the top ranked policy received a weight of 3, and the third ranked policy received a weight of 1). The results are summarized in Figure 10.

Figure 10: Ranking of policies related to the forest size goal (N = 153)

Policy	Weighted score
Preserve and protect trees on properties in development	254
Promote sustainable design principles in site development and redevelopment to integrate tree canopy into future built environments	216
Maintain existing tree canopy cover by restricting needless canopy reductions	150
Require replanting for dead and removed trees whenever possible	137
Make tree planting affordable to residents	113

Policy priorities indicated a strong interest in addressing the impact of development on tree canopy. Respondents selected preserving and protecting trees on properties in development as the most important policy to ensure the forest goal size is met, followed by promoting sustainable design principles and restricting needless canopy reductions. Making tree planting affordable to residents was the least prioritized policy.

Action-level feedback

Respondents were presented with the actions outlined in the draft Urban Forest Plan related to forest size. They were then asked what the Tree Board should consider as it develops an action plan related to forest size.

<p>Actions from the draft Urban Forest Plan related to the forest size goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt provisions to the Milwaukie Municipal Code addressing removal, maintenance, and planting of trees on public and private land.• Develop a tree planting program and plant 22,000 trees in Milwaukie by 2025.• Conduct a public tree inventory to support the tracking, maintenance and planting of trees on public land.• Establish a monitoring protocol to track trends in Milwaukie’s urban forest canopy.• Amend the Comprehensive Plan to support the tree canopy goals for Milwaukie.

In total, 91 respondents provided comments. Commenters shared considerations around the following themes:

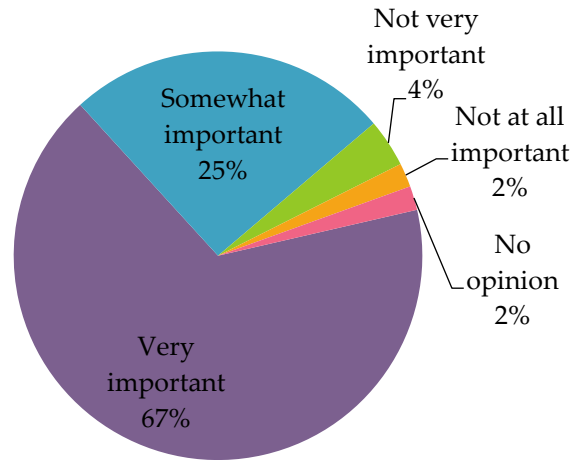
- Many stated the importance of protecting the existing canopy, particularly larger, more mature trees.

- Many said the City should consider costs and provide tree planting and maintenance support that is equitable and financially feasible for residents.
- Several said trees should be selected that are appropriate for the setting so they do not need to be removed because of impacts to infrastructure.
- Several advocated for programs that could highlight the benefits of trees for community members and business owners.
- Several suggested promoting partnerships with Friends of Trees or other similar organizations to help engage the community. Some of these comments suggested more community events (such as Arbor Day) would help raise awareness.
- Several advocated for the importance of protecting, maintaining, and enhancing native tree species.
- Several advocated against implementing restrictions on the removal of trees on private property (some felt rules should be different for residential and commercial land owners, with more rights given to residential owners). Some said the City should consider the pace of regulation change so it is not too much at once.
- Some suggested increasing inspections and oversight to hold developers accountable and implementing penalties for unauthorized tree removal.
- A few suggesting clarifying and strengthening tree removal mitigation measures, such as requiring trees of a certain size to be replanted.
- A few suggested clusters of trees should be planted on public land parcels or in industrial areas where feasible.
- A few said it is important to balance tree protection with the need for growth.
- A few advocated for a heritage tree plan.
- A few said the City should engage young people in tree planting.
- A few discussed the impacts of weed control and other chemicals on trees.
- A few said the City should consider impacts to solar access.
- A few said there needs to be a plan for removing dead or rotting trees that may pose potential safety hazards.
- A few suggested consulting with watershed groups to align urban forest and watershed management practices.

Code considerations

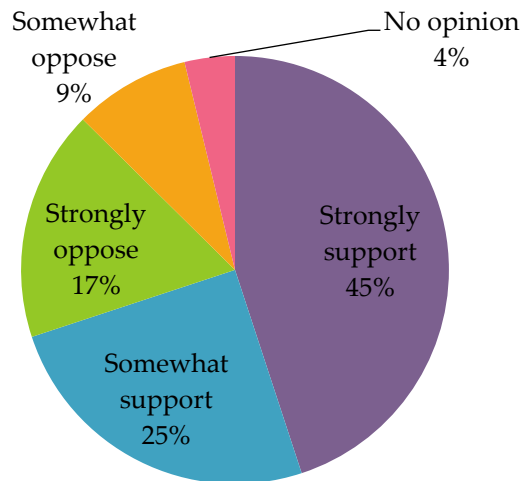
Respondents were asked how important they feel it is to save large, mature trees from being cut down on both public and private property (Figure 11). Approximately two-thirds (67 percent) of respondents thought this was **very important**, while a quarter (25 percent) said it was **somewhat important**. Few (10 percent) thought it wasn't important or didn't have an opinion on large, mature tree preservation on public and private property.

Figure 11: How important is it to you to save large, mature trees from being cut down on both public and private property? (N = 160)



Respondents were also asked whether they would support a permitting system for large tree removal on private property (Figure 12) given that approximately 80 percent of Milwaukee’s trees are located on private property. More than half (70 percent) of respondents expressed **strong or somewhat strong support**, while a quarter (26 percent) expressed **strong or somewhat strong opposition**.

Figure 12: Would you support a permit system for large tree removals on private property? (N = 160)



Respondents shared the following reasons for why a permit system would be advantageous:

- A permitting system would allow the development of a large tree tracking system and help support the City with proper large tree removal compliance.

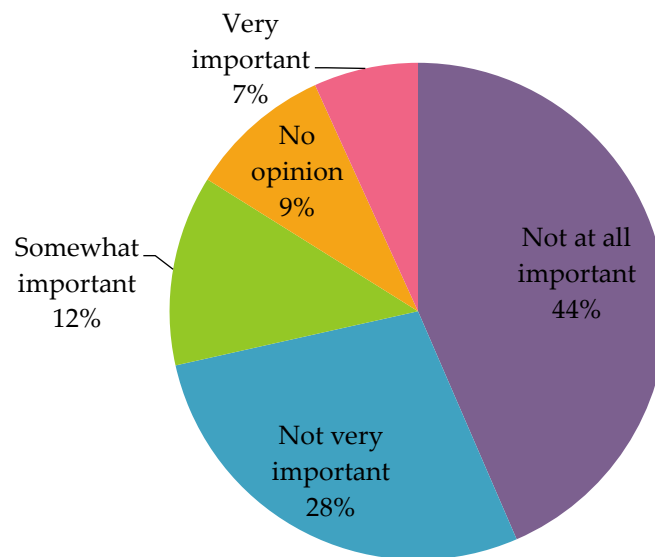
- Large, mature trees provide many benefits including aesthetic value, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and health benefits. A system like this would help educate property owners about the importance of trees to our local ecosystems.
- A permitting system would establish an accountability measure to protect much needed large, mature trees.
- A permitting system would help slow down tree removal due to development.

Commenters shared the following reasons why they may not support a permit system:

- The fees associated with a permitting system could be burdensome and this would add an additional level of bureaucracy and complexity.
- Property owners should not be regulated on what they can or can't do on their property.
- There are times when large trees need to be removed due to safety risks or threats to other structures. A permitting system could slow property owners' ability to act.
- Education and incentives are better ways to approach large, tree removal rather than regulation.

The final question in this section asked respondents to share how important it is for them to harvest trees on private property for their timber resource (Figure 13). More than half (72 percent) of respondents thought this was **not very or at all important**, while a little under a quarter (19 percent) said it was **somewhat or very important**. Around one in ten said they had no opinion.

Figure 13: Survey respondent's feedback on tree harvesting on private property for timber resources (N = 161)



Forest health

Respondents provided feedback on policies and actions related to the “forest health” goal: *Maintain trees in a healthy condition through good practices.*

Policy-level feedback

Respondents were asked to identify the top three policies they felt the City should adopt to help achieve the draft Urban Forest Plan forest health goal (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Ranking of policies related to the forest health goal (N = 150)

Policy	Weighted score
Promote proactive tree maintenance by supporting residents with creative resources (e.g. financial incentives, free materials, etc.)	278
Protect trees on property in development through tree protection plans and an auditing process.	256
Manage Milwaukie’s urban forest as a functional ecosystem and factor climate change into urban forest management plans.	233
Require certified professional arborists to perform tree maintenance and restrict improper pruning practices.	68

Supporting residents to promote proactive tree care was considered top priority by survey responses. Requiring certified professional arborists to perform tree maintenance and restrict improper pruning practices was the least prioritized policy by a significant margin.

Action-level feedback

Respondents were asked to review the actions outlined in the draft Urban Forest Plan related to forest health and to share their thoughts on what the Tree Board should consider as it develops an action plan.

- Actions from the draft Urban Forest Plan related to the forest health goal:
- Adopt provisions to the Milwaukie Municipal Code detailing tree protection measures and auditing requirements for properties under development.
 - Strengthen existing regulations regarding tree pruning in Milwaukie Municipal Code.
 - Develop invasive pest management strategies.

In total, 78 respondents submitted feedback on these actions. Comments discussed the following themes.

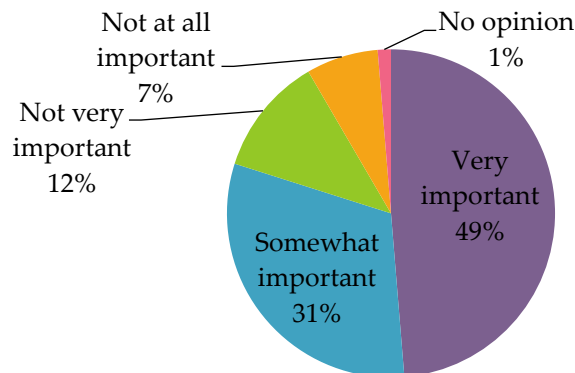
- Several said it is important to consider the impacts of construction, development and disturbance on surrounding tree health and broader ecosystem vitality.
- Several said the City should consider actions or programs that support the removal of invasive tree species.

- Several advocated for ongoing community engagement with community members and business owners. Some suggested developing classes and materials to educate residents about proper tree care and maintenance and highlights tree benefits.
- Several advocated for financial support such discounts or subsidies to support pruning and maintenance costs.
- Several said it is important for private property owners to retain the right to remove trees for reasons of health and safety.
- Some suggested the City consider opportunities for bulk buying resources and services to alleviate costs to individual homeowners.
- Some discussed the connection between stormwater management, erosion and tree health.
- Some raised questions about how monitoring and enforcement would occur.
- Some said the City should consider the impact (additional costs, administrative burden, etc.) on parks and school districts who have significant portions of urban canopy to maintain.
- A few said code should consider addressing the impact of chemicals on tree health.
- A few advocated for involving utilities and other agencies that do much of the pruning work currently.
- A few said the City should consider flood zones and other natural hazard risks when planning tree planting efforts.
- A few advocated for resource and information sharing among neighbors and community groups to more proactively manage tree health.

Code considerations

The final question in this section asked respondents to share how important it is for them to be able to prune their own trees beyond routine maintenance (Figure 15). More than three-quarters (80 percent) of respondents said this important, with around half (49 percent) saying it is “very important.”. Less than a quarter (20 percent) said this was either not very or not at all important.

Figure 15: How important is it to be able to prune your own trees beyond routine maintenance? (N = 154)



Age and species diversity

Respondents provided feedback on policies related to the draft age and species diversity goal: *Manage the urban forest for a diversity of ages and species.*

Policy-level feedback

Respondents were asked to rank the three policies identified the draft Urban Forest Plan related to this goal. The results are summarized in Figure 16.

Figure 16: Ranking of policies related to the age and species diversity goal (N = 146)

Policy	Weighted score
Encourage the planting of climate change-suited native tree and vegetation species wherever appropriate	318
Strengthen the City's climate resilience through tree planting and maintenance that improves the adaptive capacity of our urban forest	250
Require new trees to be planted to replace dead trees on a continuous basis	247

Survey respondents prioritized planting of climate change-resilient species. This was the most popular policy by a significant margin of 68 points compared to the next highest ranked policy. The other two policies were similarly ranked by respondents.

Action-level feedback

Respondents were asked to review the actions related to age and species diversity outlined in the draft Urban Forest Plan and to share their thoughts on what the Tree Board should consider as it develops an action plan.

Actions from the draft Urban Forest Plan related to the age and diversity species goal:

- Identify priority species for special protection from removals through new provision to the Milwaukie Municipal Code.
- Update the current species list for planting street and public trees.
- Strengthen and expand the language in the Milwaukie Municipal Code regarding required replantings.
- Create a program to acquire and grow tree and shrub species which show promise for being adapted to the predicted climate of 2100.
- Establish and maintain an urban forest nursery.

In total, 59 respondents submitted comments. These commenters addressed the following general themes.

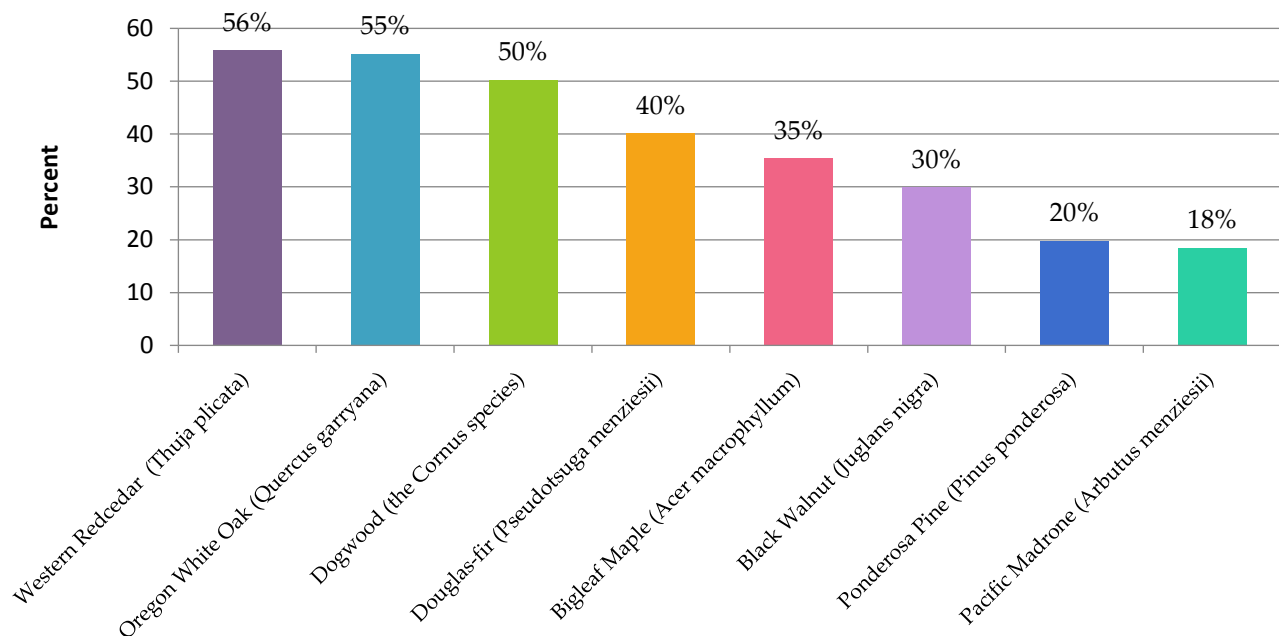
- Many advocated for planting trees that will be resilient, withstand drought, and help combat climate change.
- Many advocated for prioritizing native species.

- Several discussed the balance between promoting certain tree species and over-regulating property owners’ rights. Some commenters said recommendations may be more appropriate than requirements.
- Some advocated for using an equity lens to ensure regulations do not have disproportionate impact to vulnerable populations.
- Some suggested developing a local nursery.
- A few said the City should consider wildlife needs when determining species priorities.
- A few suggested matching up species recommendations with planting placement (i.e. plant the right things in the right places).
- A few advocated for identifying funding sources to support this work.
- A few suggested more education around the importance of species diversity and why certain species are more resilient than others.
- A few commenters said any introduction of new regulation should be balanced with a proactive education campaign that explains why this is important.
- A few said the code should focus not only on species diversity but also diversity *within* species.

Code considerations

The final question in this section asked respondents to select the top three tree species they feel are most important to maintain as part of the community tree canopy out of a list of eight options (Figure 17). Respondents were also asked to explain why they selected these species.

Figure 17: Ranking of tree species to maintain in Milwaukie’s community tree canopy (N = 147)



Just over half of all survey respondents selected Western Redcedar (56 percent), Oregon White Oak (55 percent) and Dogwood (50 percent) as species they would prioritize. The least prioritized species were Ponderosa Pine (20 percent) and Pacific Madrone (18 percent). In total, 118 people provided comments to support their selection. Key criteria discussed are summarized below in relative order (a full list of comments and the specific answer options associated with each theme is in Appendix B):

- Aesthetic preferences and beauty
- Diversity
- Resiliency to drought and climate change
- Community identity (e.g. Milwaukie is the Dogwood City of the West)
- Consistency and tradition (preference for what is here already)
- Emotional and cultural ties
- Preference for native species
- Preference for different sizes of trees
- Ability to provide habitat for wildlife
- Ability to provide shade
- Amount of leaves
- Seasonality (e.g. ability to provide year-round habitat)
- Suitability for an urban city
- Resiliency to disease and pests

Street tree management

Respondents provided feedback on the policies and actions related to the street tree management goal outlined in the draft Urban Forest Plan: *Manage street trees appropriately to maximize benefits and minimize hazards and conflicts with infrastructure.*

Policy-level feedback

Respondents were asked to rank the policies in the draft Urban Forest Plan related to street tree management based on how well they felt they would help achieve this goal. The results are summarized in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Ranking of policies related to the street tree management goal (N = 140)

Policy	Weighted score
Proactively plan for mature tree preservation and new tree planting in all public infrastructure improvement projects	330
Manage street trees as necessary green infrastructure	254
Track all planting, maintenance and removals of street and public trees to ensure proper tree care	198

By a significant margin, respondents prioritized planning for preservation and new tree planting in all public infrastructure projects as the top policy. The least prioritized policy was tracking all planting, maintenance and removals of street trees.

Action-level feedback

Respondents were asked to review the actions outlined in the draft Urban Forest Plan related to street tree management and share their thoughts on what the Tree Board should consider as it develops an action plan related to this topic.

Actions from the draft Urban Forest Plan related to the street tree management goal:

- Adopt provisions to the Milwaukie Municipal Code to create a street and public tree care permitting system independent of the current encroachment permitting system.
- Update the Public Works Standards to preserve mature trees and maximize planting densities.

In total, 71 respondents submitted comments. Respondents suggested the following considerations:

- Several said the City should be mindful of associated fees or other potential burden/impacts to community members for establishing the public tree care permitting system.
- Several advocated for more education or other tools to support community members in managing trees in the right-of-way.
- Some noted the need to clarify and communicate responsibility for maintenance to increase accountability and efficacy of enforcement.
- Some noted the importance of considering impacts to taxpayers and City budgets of increasing street tree management efforts.
- Some discussed the connection between proper tree maintenance and safety issues.
- Some discussed when tree planting requirements should be triggered and ensuring regulations are relevant to avoid unnecessary administrative burden and public opposition.
- Some advocated for choosing species that do not need frequent maintenance to avoid impacts to commerce and traffic flow.
- Some suggested species selection and tree placement should be considered for each individual situation (e.g. be mindful of power lines, potential for root systems to disrupt infrastructure, etc.).
- Some discussed the importance of increased monitoring of trees during construction and development.
- A few said it is important to consider the impacts on traffic views and safety.
- A few discussed the impacts of falling leaves on stormwater systems, sidewalks, etc.
- A few advocated for maximizing planting densities where possible.
- A few suggested the ability for trees to provide shade to be considered when picking street tree species.

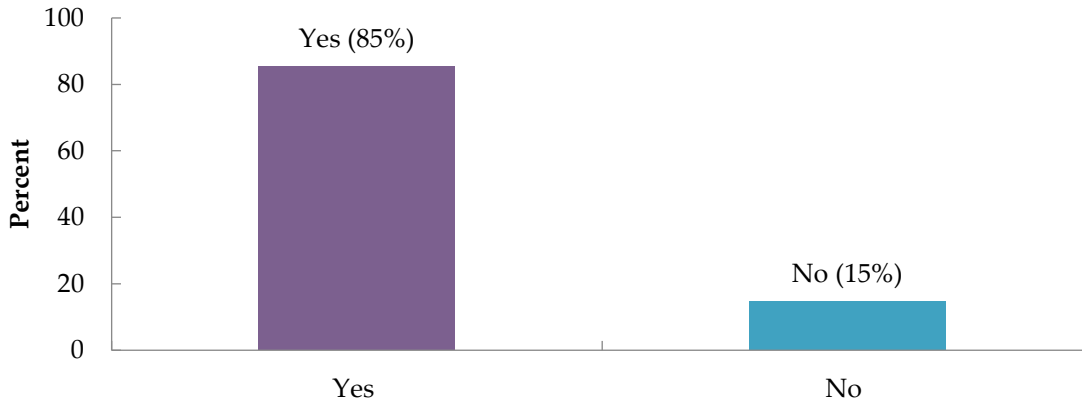
Code considerations

Respondents were asked what would make them more likely to maintain trees in the right-of-way. In total, 93 survey takers submitted comments, suggesting the City consider the following:

- Educate property owners about proper tree care and maintenance needs, including through community events and neighborhood “pruning days”.
- Provide, incentives and financial assistance to encourage proper behavior (e.g. discounts on your water bill, tax credits, etc.).
- Address cost barriers related to pruning gear, mulch and supplies by providing discounts, supporting property owners employ contractors, or bulk purchasing and distribution.
- Offer as-needed and as-requested support and expert advice for property owners.
- Make it easier for property owners to dispose of leaves and branches (current yard waste bin capacity may not be sufficient). More education is needed on what the “right of way” refers to and who is responsible for doing what.

The final question in this section asked respondents whether they would support bump-outs, chicanes, one-way streets, and other creative street design features to save mature trees. A significant majority of respondents (86 percent) said they would support these design features (Figure 19).

Figure 19: Would you support bump-outs, chicanes, one-way streets or other creative street design features to save mature trees? (N = 144)



Outreach and stewardship

Respondents provided feedback on policies and actions related to the outreach and stewardship goal outlined in the draft Urban Forest Plan: *Foster community support for the local urban forestry program and encourage good tree management on privately-owned properties.*

Policy-level feedback

Respondents were asked to rank the three policies from the draft Urban Forest Plan related to the outreach and stewardship goal. The results are summarized in Figure 20.

Figure 20: Ranking of policies related to the outreach and stewardship goal (N = 135)

Policy	Weighted score
Foster an appreciation for trees and our urban forest among residents, developers, and businesses of Milwaukie.	272
Link stormwater management with conservation and growth of our urban forest.	256
Develop a Heritage Tree program driven by the Tree Board and resident volunteers.	239

Respondents ranked the three policies fairly evenly. Fostering an appreciation for trees and the urban forest was prioritized among survey takers, followed by linking stormwater management with the urban forest and developing a Heritage Tree program.

Action-level feedback

Respondents were asked to review the actions outlined in the draft Urban Forest Plan and to share their thoughts on what the Tree Board should consider as it develops an action plan related to street tree management.

<p>Actions from the draft Urban Forest Plan related to outreach and stewardship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new community outreach and education programs regarding urban forest stewardship, such as invasive and native species and tree care. • Inform tree ordinance updates with public input while empowering the community with knowledge of developments. • Formalize and maintain partnerships with various county, state, Federal, and non-governmental agencies and divisions to, among other things, meet the goals established in the Urban Forest Plan. • Adopt provisions to the Milwaukie Municipal Code institutionalizing a Heritage Tree program. • Engage developers on sustainable design principles. • Maintain Tree City USA designation and strive for a Tree City USA Growth Award.
--

In total, 59 people submitted comments on this question. Survey respondents suggested the Tree Board consider the following:

- Several advocated for providing support (education and financial) to community members living in tree scarce areas.
- Several suggested the City continue soliciting feedback and ensure ongoing outreach and community engagement that is authentic, transparent and accessible to all community members.
- Several said the Tree Board should keep community values and needs top of mind and celebrate positive accomplishments no matter the size. These commenters suggested ways to help people celebrate their efforts (e.g. signs to let others know someone is part of the tree stewardship program).

- Several suggested engaging youth in these efforts.
- Some noted the intersection with other priorities for the City and the need to align messaging and outreach efforts (e.g. around facilitating housing development and protecting trees).
- Some suggested the Tree Board should reach out to new residents with “welcome kits” or other resources that educate and promote proper tree care.
- Some advocated for getting people excited about participating in efforts to protect and grow Milwaukie’s canopy.
- Some suggested establishing volunteer programs to allow wider participation beyond the Tree Board.
- A few recommended using social media to spread the word.
- A few suggested working proactively with developers to discourage bad behavior and help them be part of the solution.
- A few said the City should emphasize the collective benefits and impact of efforts of each resident, business and community member.
- A few said the City should prioritize clarity and accessibility of information.
- A few said it is important to understand there will be a diversity of opinions on these issues and work to respect and balance these.

Final comments

Respondents were asked at the end of the survey if they had any final thoughts or comments they wish to share with the Tree Board. In total, 50 respondents provided comments touching on the following themes:

- Support and appreciation to the Tree Board for the proposed tree code updates, draft Urban Forestry Plan, and championing work to support a healthy tree canopy.
- Calls to expand engagement tactics (e.g. distribute a survey by mail) and continue engaging community members to ensure a wide range of perspectives provide input on the proposed tree code updates and draft Urban Forestry Plan.
- The importance of encouraging tree planting and protection with developers and support for offering incentives that support this behavior.
- Calls to consider property owner rights and be mindful of associated fees or other potential burden/impacts to community members for establishing a permitting system or additional regulation.

Drop-in session feedback

At the September 26 drop-in session, seven community members provided verbal feedback to Tree Board members. The themes of these comments are summarized below:

- Several attending community members showed concern about the expense associated with tree removal permits. Someone shared a story of a tree removal costing thousands of dollars in Portland. The tree care professional in attendance assured that most tree removals in Portland only cost a relatively inexpensive administrative fee, but large healthy tree removals may be expensive.

- One community member and tree care professional who works with regional tree codes believes Lake Oswego's code attains the best results. This person said Portland has actually lost canopy since implementing its Title 11 tree code. This person explained that Portland allows permits for almost any tree removal requested, while Lake Oswego often reviews and denies permits. Another person expressed concern about the ability to pay for any tree removal permit, like Portland's system, rather than being flat-out denied; this grants access to cut trees to wealthier members of the community.
- Another community member and land developer said he would strongly object to any code resembling Lake Oswego or Portland, saying those codes were too difficult to navigate as a developer. This person wanted to see incentives and support from the City, rather than regulations limiting individual's rights. They wanted the City to lead by example; including increased care for public and right-of-way trees by the City.
- Several community members showed concern about which trees are protected. One community member explained that native tree species define the character of Oregon and wanted these trees to be preferentially considered somehow. The impact of climate change of species' resiliency was also discussed.
- Some attendees discussed what size of trees should be regulated through the permitting process. Several community members said more education and information about the permitting process is needed before they could form an opinion about this.

Conclusions and next steps

City staff and Tree Board members will utilize the feedback from this community engagement to refine the draft Urban Forest Plan and develop recommended updates to Milwaukie's tree code.

In addition to the key takeaways summarized in this report, the following lessons should be considered for future engagement efforts:

- Email and social media are helpful tools for disseminating online engagement opportunities.
- More direct engagement of low-income, non-white and younger community members is needed to reach a more representative survey sample.
- A significant proportion of respondents are interested in providing policy-level feedback. Providing it as an option worked well for survey takers.
- Respondents appreciate being able to provide open-ended feedback, but themes did not vary significant across open-ended questions. Open-ended opportunities should be consolidated in future surveys.