

# Memorandum



DATE April 1, 2011

TO The Honorable Mayor Dwaine Caraway and  
Members of the Dallas City Council

SUBJECT Urban Forestation: Regional and City of Dallas Initiatives

You are scheduled to receive a briefing on Urban Forestation: Regional and City of Dallas Initiatives at your April 6, 2011 Council Briefing. Attached is a copy of the briefing for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions.



Jill A. Jordan, P.E.  
Assistant City Manager

C: Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah A. Watkins, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, CPA, City Auditor  
Judge C. Victor Lander, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
A. C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Forest Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager

# Urban Forestation

## Regional and City of Dallas Initiatives

“The best time to plant a tree was  
20 years ago.  
The next best time is now.”  
~Chinese Proverb



# Purpose

- Introduce Texas Trees Foundation's "Tree North Texas" regional initiative
- Provide overview of existing City of Dallas initiatives
- Introduce the Roadmap Model for Urban Tree Planning & Planting
- Staff recommendation for Council resolution to support Tree North Texas

# What is “Tree North Texas”?

## Regional Urban Forestation Initiative

### Largest Regional Tree Planting Initiative in the Country

- 3 Million Trees Planted
- Over 10 Years

### Different Ways to Plant

- Public & Private Land
- Sponsor, Grant, Corporate, or Residential

### Register Your Tree

“For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver”

~Martin Luther

- [VOLUNTEER](#)
- [PLANT](#)
- [LEARN](#)



- Tree North Texas**
- [Tree North Texas Tree Tracker](#)
  - [Tree North Texas Tree Tracker Progress](#)
- Tree the Town**
- [Tree the Town Sponsorship](#)
  - [Right Tree Right Place](#)
  - [Tree the Town Photos](#)
  - [Tree the Town Sponsors](#)
- Super Grow XLV**
- [Super Grow XLV Media Room](#)
  - [Super Grow XLV Partners](#)
  - [Touchdown for Trees](#)
- Calendar of Events**
- [Press Room](#)
  - [Newsletter](#)
  - [Blog](#)

- BLOG CATEGORIES**
- [Uncategorized](#)
- BLOG ARCHIVES**
- [March 2011](#)
  - [February 2011](#)
  - [January 2011](#)

**SEARCH**



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### TREE NORTH TEXAS TREE TRACKER

Step 1: Enter your street address

Address:

City:

Step 2:

Step 3: Drag your tree to the best spot



Step 4: Enter your information and Submit

# Who Partners in “Tree North Texas”?

## Regional Urban Forestation Initiative

- Texas Trees Foundation is the official non-profit of “Tree North Texas”
  - Resource for Advice/Education to Participating Cities
  - Execute Contracted or Volunteer Plantings
  - Facilitate Charitable Giving & Manage Grants
- Up to 70 Cities Will Pledge to “Tree North Texas”
  - Set a Goal for Their City
  - Educate & Promote Planting Trees

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” ~Nelson Henderson

# Tree North Texas

Regional Urban Forestation Initiative

## What Has Been Done?

Contacts w/ Mayors of 70 North Texas Cities

Discussions with Potential Major Donors

Meetings with North Central Texas Council of Governments

“If I knew I should die tomorrow, I would plant a tree today.”  
~Stephen Girard

# 3 Million Tree North Texas Regional Urban Forestation Initiative

## What Next?

Cities Confirm Participation (February-March)

Council Consideration if Needed

Kicking Off “Tree North Texas” (April 2011)

Pledge Signing Ceremony for Participating Mayors

Centralized Website for Overall Initiative

“It’s the little things citizens do. That’s what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees.” ~Wangari Maathai



# 3 Million Tree North Texas Regional Urban Forestation Initiative

## If We Pull This Off...

Largest Regional Tree Planting Initiative in the Country

Major Step Towards Attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Serious Non-Attainment Categorization)

“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” ~Warren Buffett

# Dallas: Tree City USA



- Growing public awareness of the need to reduce our environmental “footprint”
- Many benefits offered by trees
- Support for tree and urban forestry projects continues to grow
- forwardDallas! Comprehensive Plan
  - Goal 6.2: Preserve and Increase Tree Canopy
- Dallas has received “Tree City USA” designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for six years
  - Tree ordinance
  - Tree board (Urban Forest Advisory Committee)
  - Official Arbor Day
- City of Dallas has several ongoing tree initiatives which are described on the following pages

# City of Dallas Initiatives Adopt-A-Median

- Individuals, citizen groups (e.g., homeowner associations) and corporations take ownership of a street median as good stewards and/or good corporate citizens of Dallas
  - Coordinated through Street Services Department's MOWmentum Program

# City of Dallas Initiatives

## Dallas Reforestation Program

- Citizen access to trees provided by the City for planting on public property
  - City of Dallas parks, recreation centers, approved medians and parkways, schools, and other public properties
- Must commit to planting and watering the trees
- During planting season only, October - March

# City of Dallas Initiatives

## Citizen Forester Program

- Trains citizens on basic tree skills to promote tree plantings and advocate the importance of Dallas' urban forests
- Required to return fifteen volunteer hours annually and six hours of continuing education by assisting with a variety of city tree plantings and projects
  - They become the eyes, ears, and hands for the City Arborist
  - Help educate the public by speaking to homeowner associations, schools, garden clubs, and home and garden shows about how to plant and care for trees

# City of Dallas Initiatives

## Other Tree Planting Projects

- Parks, golf courses, and other City-owned properties
  - Trees planted in association with Park and Recreation construction projects
  - Trees planted in cooperation with Civic partners
    - Dallas Mavericks “Trees for Threes”
- Neighborhoods
  - Partner with homeowner groups, Neighborhood Associations, and DISD
  - Trees are planted in parkway open spaces, pocket parks and schools

# Urban Forest Advisory Committee

- Established in 2005 by the Dallas City Council
- Assists in developing best management practices to conserve and properly manage the city's trees and forests
- Educates citizens on trees and organizes tree plantings
- Comprised of citizens, various experts and professionals, and Dallas City officials

# Dallas Development Code

- Tree protection measures
  - If trees are removed, must add back same amount (total diameter) of trees

Or

- Alternative off-site mitigation opportunities
  - Planting within 1-mile of property
  - Donate to Park and Recreation department
  - Contribute to Reforestation Fund
  - Create conservation easement



**The Dallas GIS  
ROADMAP MODEL  
For Urban Tree Planning & Planting:  
The Potential Urban Forest of Dallas, Texas**



**TEXAS TREES  
FOUNDATION**

CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

# The Dallas Roadmap – Results at a Glance:

Urban Tree Canopy (UTC): 30% of land area - *excluding water citywide and ranging from 16-39% within City Council districts*

## Number of Planting Sites by Roadmap Criteria:

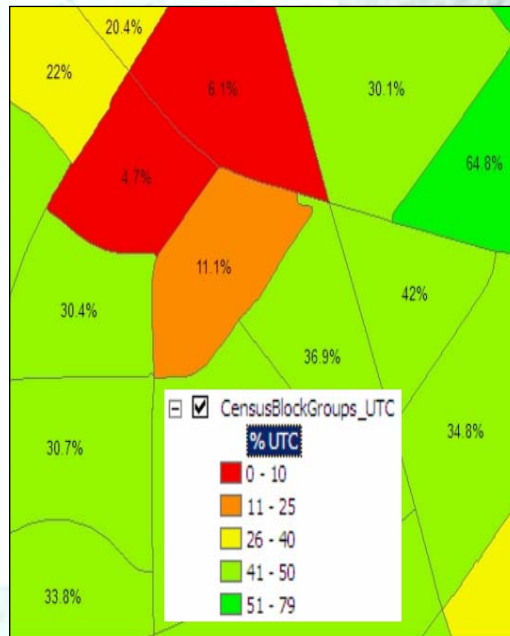
•Maximum Energy Savings Potential:	332,194
•Single Family Residential (SFR) Property:	458,850
•Public rights-of-way (PROW):	480,790
•On Commercial Property:	301,648
•On School Property:	53,019
•In or Adjacent to Parking Lots:	84,577
•Lowest income range (<\$20K):	214,809
•Highest urban heat island range (>140F):	<u>19,097</u>

Total Potential Planting Sites: 1,855,310\*

### Tree Canopy Cover



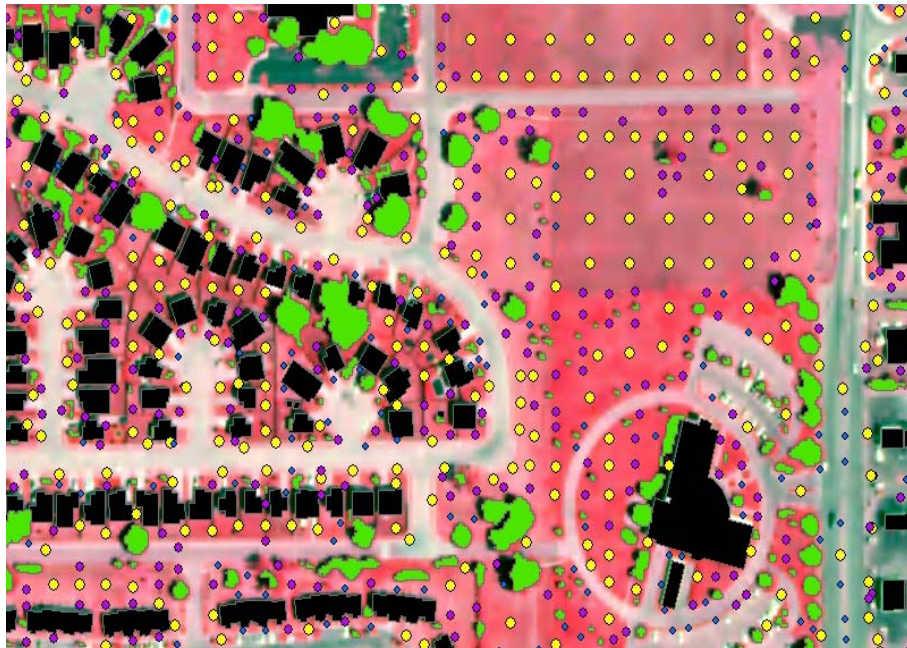
### UTC by Census Block



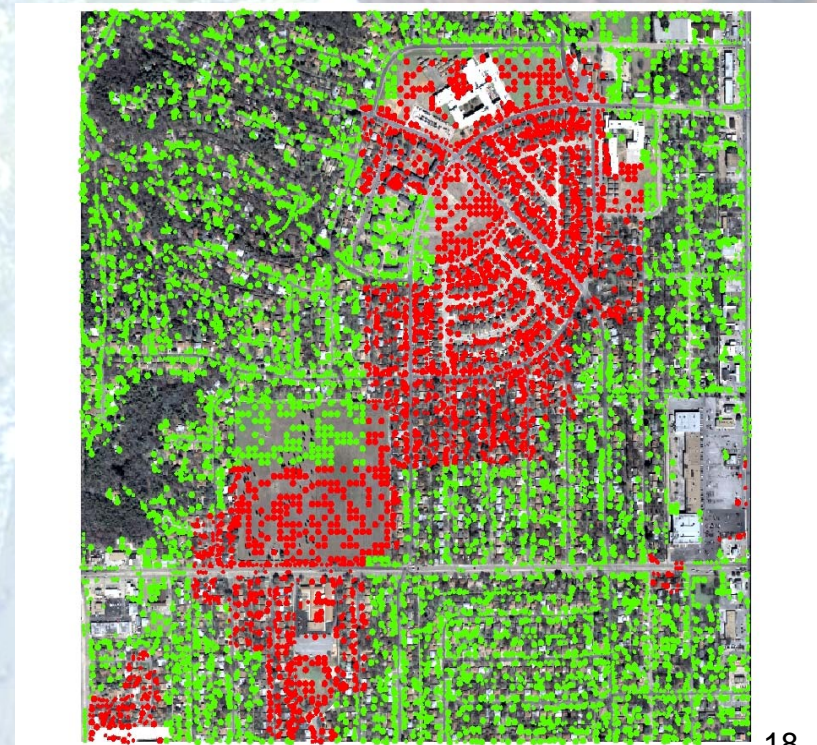
### UTC by Parcel



# Roadmap to Tree Planting and Planning



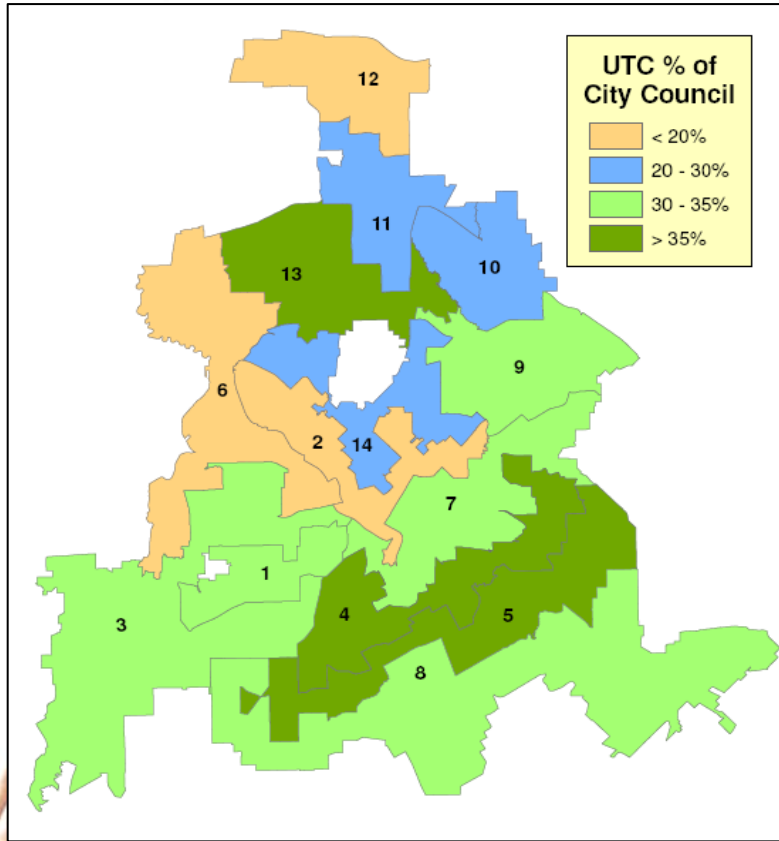
- Planting Sites**
  - Size
    - large
    - medium
    - small
- Tree Canopy**
- Buildings**



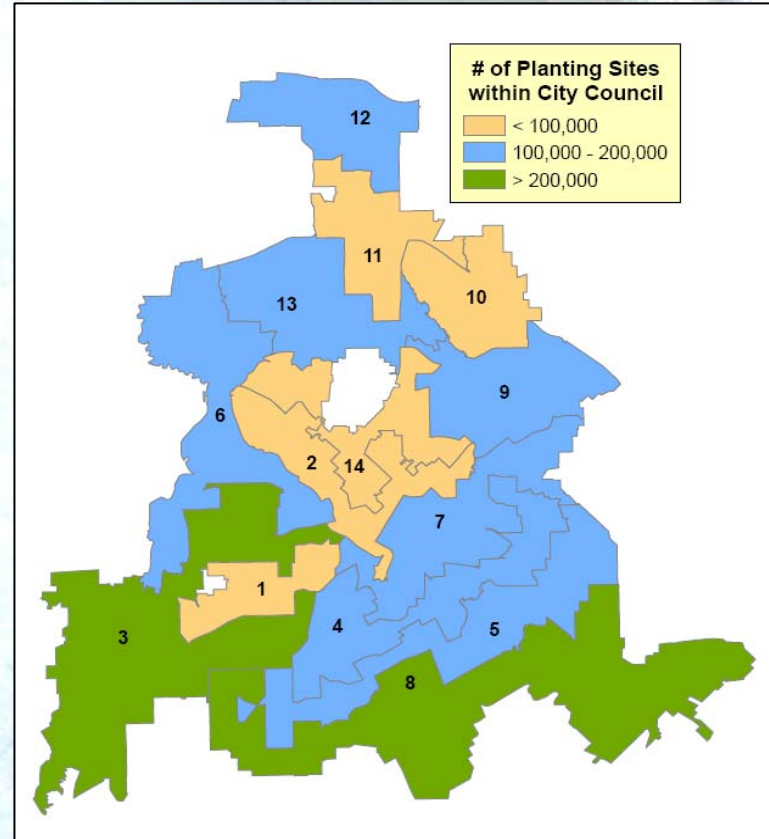
- Harry\_Hines\_Urban\_Heat\_Island**
  - Temp\_Value
    - 110-120
    - 120-130
    - 130-140
    - 140-181



# Roadmap to Tree Planting and Planning



% Tree Canopy by City District



# of Planting Sites by District

# Summary

## Benefits<sup>1</sup>

- Cooling and temperature reduction
  - Reduces energy usage and generation emissions
  - Reduces ozone formation
  - Reduces urban heat island effect
- Air pollutants reduction
- Stormwater run-off reduction

## Current Efforts

- Adopt-A-Median
- Dallas Reforestation Program
- Citizen Forester Program
- Community Tree Planting Projects
- Urban Forest Advisory Committee
- Dallas Development Code

<sup>1</sup>Sources: California Research Board, School of Earth and Atmospheric Study – Georgia Tech, David Novak – USDA Forest Service

# Staff Recommendation

- Council resolution for Tree North Texas