



# **Tree Canopy Policy Update - Tree Canopy Action Plan 2.0**

**Transportation, Planning, & Development Committee**

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# Tree Canopy Policy

## ▶ Council Priority Alignment

- Transportation and Planning

## ▶ Purpose

- Information only

## ▶ Key takeaways

- Present on Tree Canopy Action Plan (TCAP) 2.0 policy initiative related to project scope, timeline and partnership model



# Tree Canopy Policy

## ▶ Previous Council Communication

- October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024: TPD presentation

## ▶ Future Council Communication

- Winter 2026 – Review tree canopy analysis results

## ▶ Future Council Action

- Late 2026 – Council adoption of Tree Canopy Action Plan



# Outline

## ▶ **Tree Canopy Action Plan (TCAP) 2.0**

- What is TCAP?
- Why now?
- Project scope & timeline

## ▶ **Partnership opportunities**



# Tree Canopy Action Plan 2.0

## ► What is TCAP?

- TCAP 1.0 (2021) completed as part of 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Analysis project, policy initiative & strategic plan
- Playbook that will guide public/private tree canopy efforts



**Tree Canopy Action Plan (TCAP)  
Summary Report**



# TCAP 2.0

## ► Why now for a canopy policy update?

- UDO lessons learned – implemented June 2023
- Data – current leaf-on data needed
- SEAP+ – build on current sustainability work
- Policy review & consolidation
  - 2021 - TCAP 1.0 & 2040 Comprehensive Plan
  - 2017 - Urban Forest Master Plan
  - 2011 – *50 by 2050 Tree Canopy Goal*

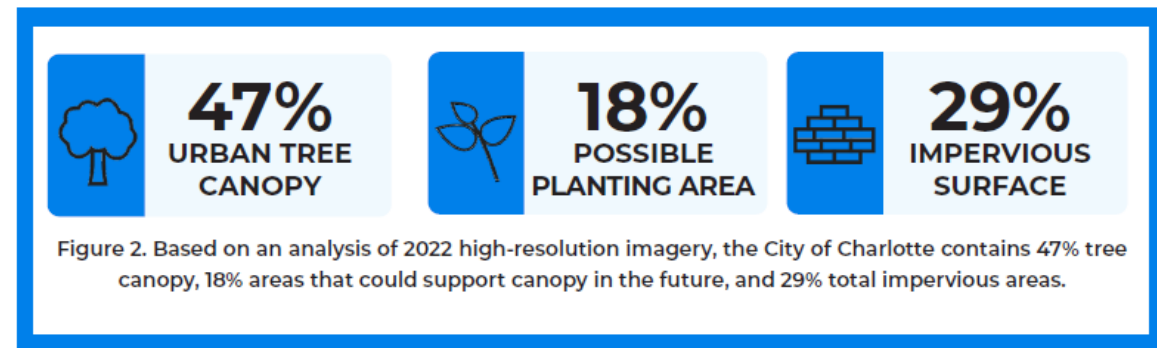
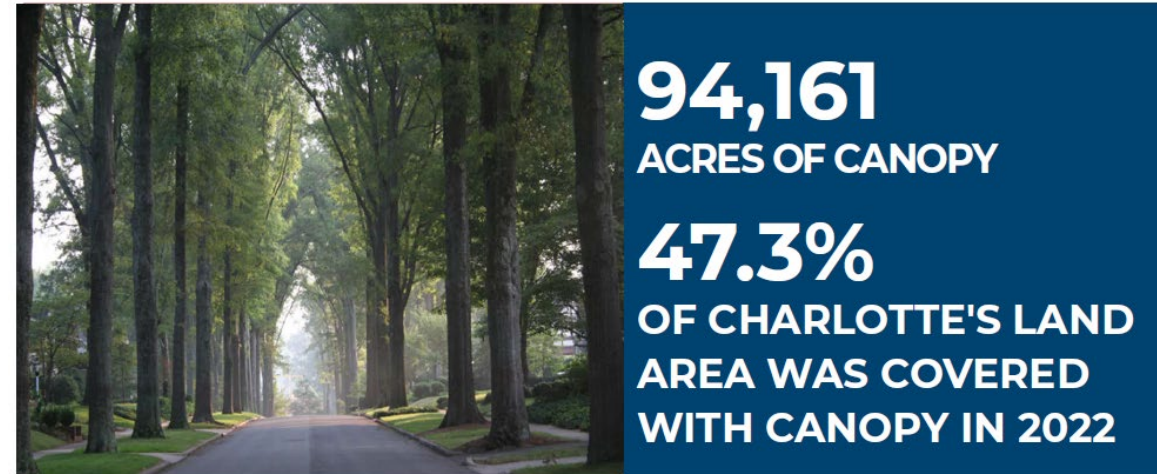


Urban Forestry staff assessing UDO-required street tree preservation at a residential in-fill site. 2024.



# Recent Canopy Data

- ▶ **Canopy analysis report – November 2023**
  - Source data - 2022
- ▶ **Charlotte still has a robust canopy**
  - Significant ecosystem benefits
- ▶ **Results - Canopy is still declining**
  - Decline slower than previously thought
  - Canopy efforts having impact





# Canopy Efforts Having Impact

## ▶ **Regulatory – planting & preservation requirements in UDO**

- Increased tree preservation and planting requirements
- Residential development – regulating for first time

## ▶ **Programs, Services, & Projects**

- Tree Canopy Preservation Program (TCPP) protected 400+ acres
- City tree planting efforts
- Partner and stakeholder canopy efforts





## TCAP 2.0 Project Timeline

Milestone Description	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Winter 25/26	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Fall 2026
Data collection	Active					
Data processing		Active				
Data analysis - baseline			Active			
Data analysis - targeted				Active		
Kick-off meeting			Active			
Engagement work			Active	Active	Active	
Bid published	Active					
Consultant selection		Active				
Policy development				Active	Active	
Report out				Active (Blue dot)		Active (Blue dot)
Feasibility analysis					Active	
Council adoption						Active (Blue dot)

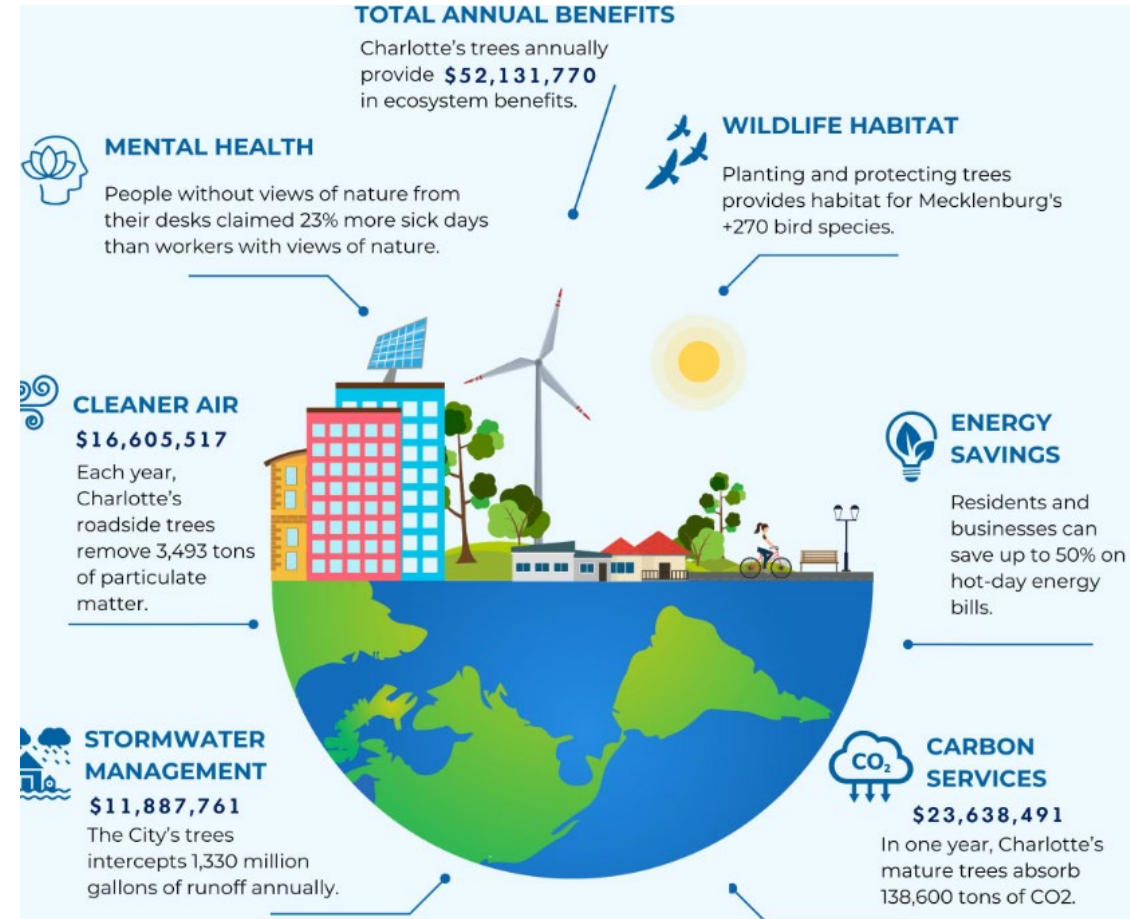
Blue dot = Council communication or action



# TCAP 2.0 Scope

## Scope

- Analysis: county-wide canopy analysis
  - Ecosystem benefits, land cover, place types
  - Regulatory analysis
  - Multiple scales
  - 50 by 2050 Canopy Goal decision
- Report > Engagement > Policy Work
- Consolidate tree canopy policy
- Council-adopted plan





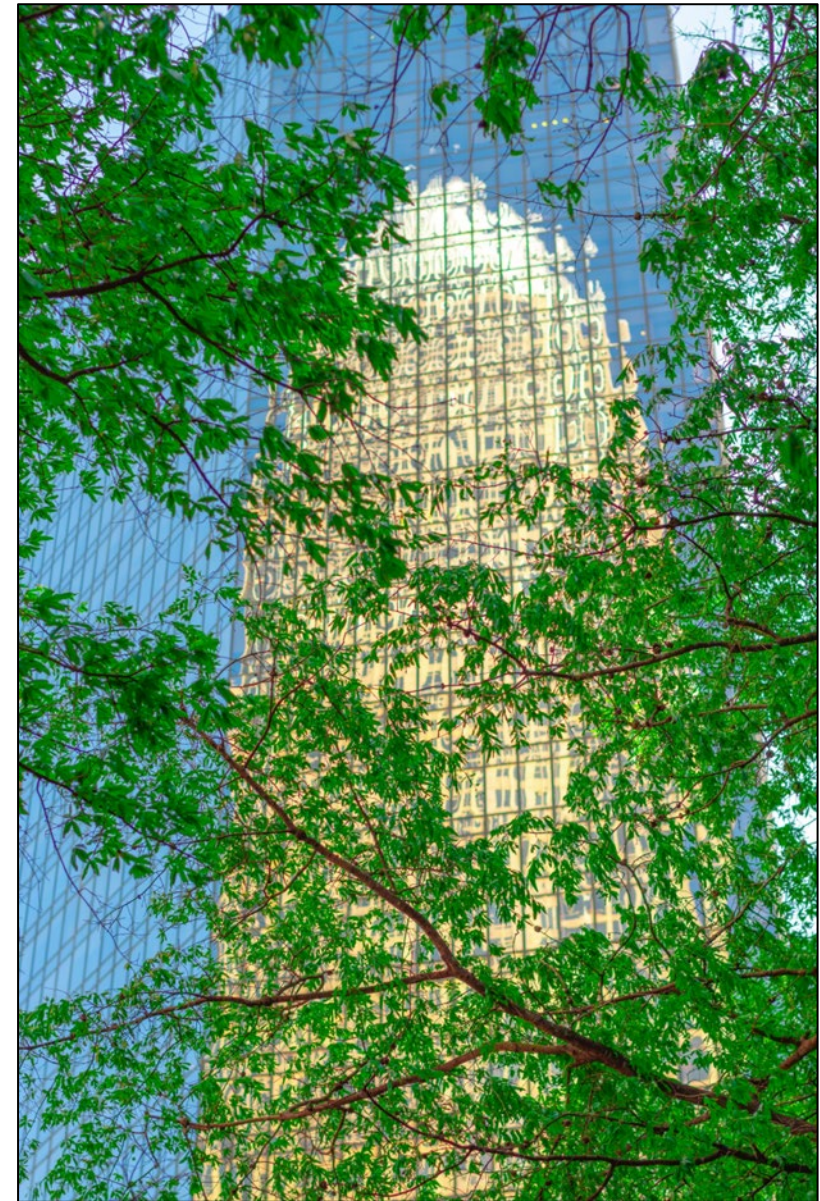
# TCAP 2.0 Partners

## ▶ Mecklenburg County

- Data - data collection & analysis methodology

## ▶ TreesCharlotte

- TCAP 2.0 project management





# Future TCAP 2.0 Work

## ▶ **TCAP next steps**

- Early 2026 – TPD presentation on canopy analysis results
- Late 2026 – Council adoption

## ▶ **Expected outcomes - align with TCAP 2.0 recommendations**

- Refine 2040 Comprehensive Plan tree canopy policy
- Update UDO & Charlotte Tree Ordinance
- Expand existing & develop new partnerships



# Questions

