

# Charlotte's Tree Canopy

Transportation, Planning, and Development Committee

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## **Committee Charge**

- ► Referred to: Environment, Engagement, and Equity Committee
- ► Policy Question: What is the best approach needed for Charlotte to actively protect and increase the city's tree canopy?
  - Review current policies and initiatives in place specific to Charlotte's tree canopy
  - Survey best practices being used in other cities for similar heritage trees and canopy conditions
  - Determine what additional projects, communications and/or initiatives should be in place
  - Propose any new or revised plans or policies that the Committee recommends to strength the current plans and initiatives
    - Propose metrics for any recommended actions/policies to gauge success
  - Report to full Council on findings and recommendations



## **Tree Canopy Analysis**

#### ► What is it?

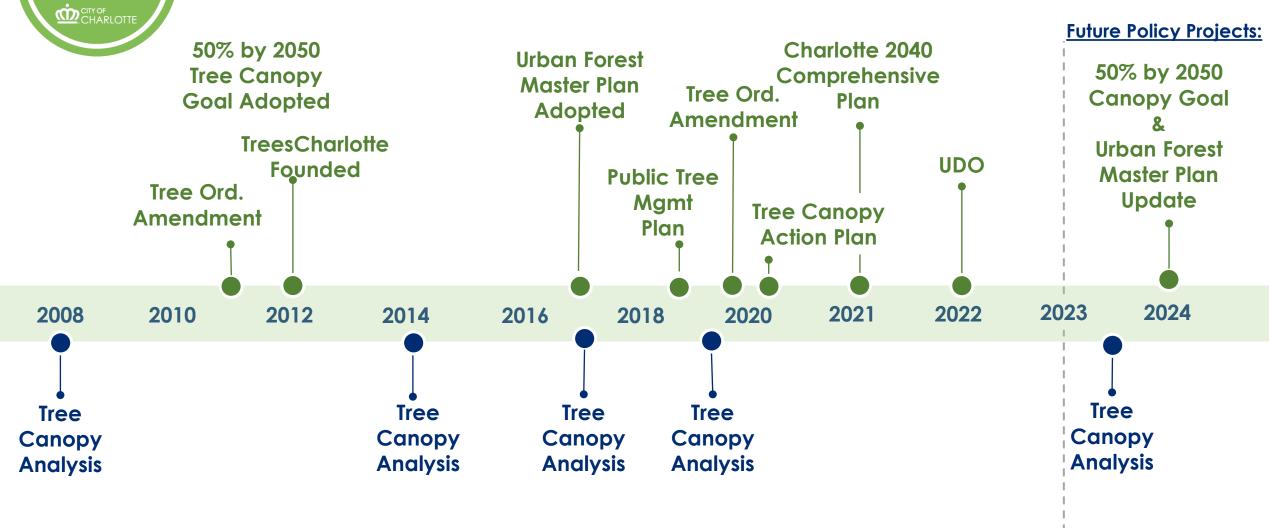
- Top-down GIS analysis of existing canopy cover of a study area
- Analyzes input data: aerial imagery & LiDAR
- Output data: current canopy cover, change analysis, canopy cover demographics, growth modeling, heat mapping, land cover, other results

#### ► Why is it important?

- Provides baseline to support goal setting, policy development, tracking progress, management objectives
- Informs and better positions City to provide highest level canopy benefits to community



### Tree Canopy Analysis in Charlotte





## Tree Canopy Analysis: Path Forward

- ► Developing partnership model and funding strategy
  - Internal partners Planning (lead), General Services, I&T
  - External partners TreesCharlotte
  - Project funding from existing sources
- ► County-wide analysis of 2022 imagery
- **▶** Deliverables
  - Summary report
  - Data current canopy cover, change analysis, canopy cover demographics, growth modeling, potential planting area, heat mapping, land cover, other results
  - Community tree canopy mapping & planning tool
- ► Canopy policy projects timeline:
  - Canopy Analysis (2023) will inform Canopy Goal & Urban Forest Master Plan (2024)

