



Charlotte's Tree Canopy

Transportation, Planning, and Development
Committee

Tim Porter, Chief Urban Forester

March 6, 2023



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 strengthen 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

50% by 2050
Tree Canopy
Goal Adopted

Tree Ord.
Amendment

TreesCharlotte
Founded

Urban Forest
Master Plan
Adopted

Public Tree
Mgmt
Plan

Tree Ord.
Amendment

Tree Canopy
Action Plan

Charlotte 2040
Comprehensive
Plan

UDO

Future Policy Projects:

50% by 2050
Canopy Goal
&
Urban Forest
Master Plan
Update

2008

2010

2012

2014

2016

2018

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

Tree
Canopy
Analysis

Tree
Canopy
Analysis

Tree
Canopy
Analysis

Tree
Canopy
Analysis

Tree
Canopy
Analysis



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)



Questions?

