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ENGINEERING & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Charlotte's Urban Forest Master Plan
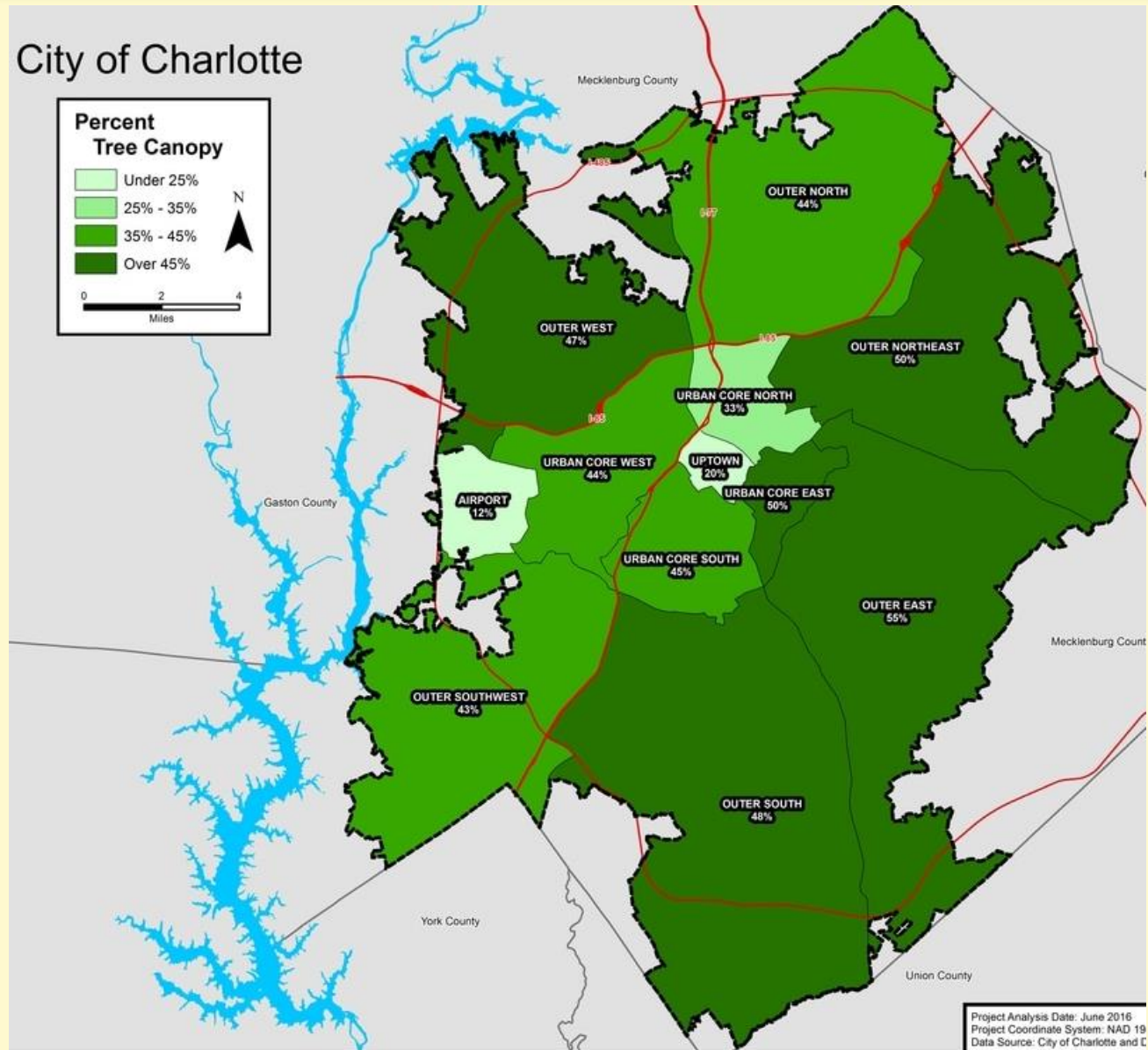
The Playbook for Managing our Tree Canopy

City Council Dinner Briefing
September 11, 2017

Outline

- Council Goal: 50% Canopy by 2050

- Master Plan Overview

- TreesCharlotte Update

- Next Steps

  - Council will be asked to approve the plan at Council's September 25th business meeting

2011 Council Goal: A Rallying Cry

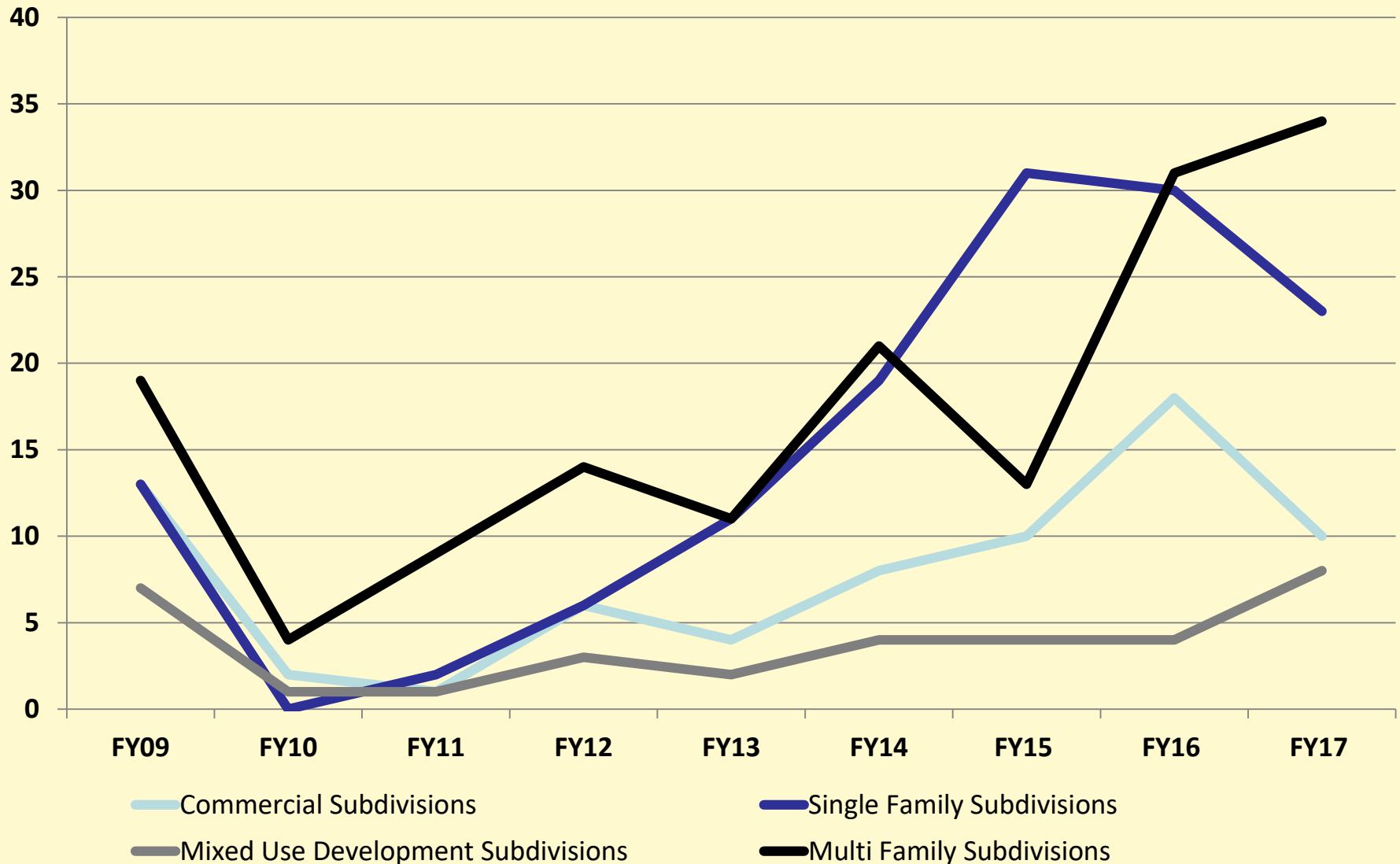50% tree canopy coverage by the year 2050

- Strong cross-sector partnership: TreesCharlotte

  - **105 events with 11,717 community volunteers**

- Tree planting on public (City, County, CMS, CHA) and private property

- Tree Canopy Preservation Program -190 acres preserved

- Annual "Tree Summits"

- More sophisticated techniques for determining tree health

- More cost-effective and useful approach to canopy coverage assessment

- Cankerworm education and tree-banding matching grants
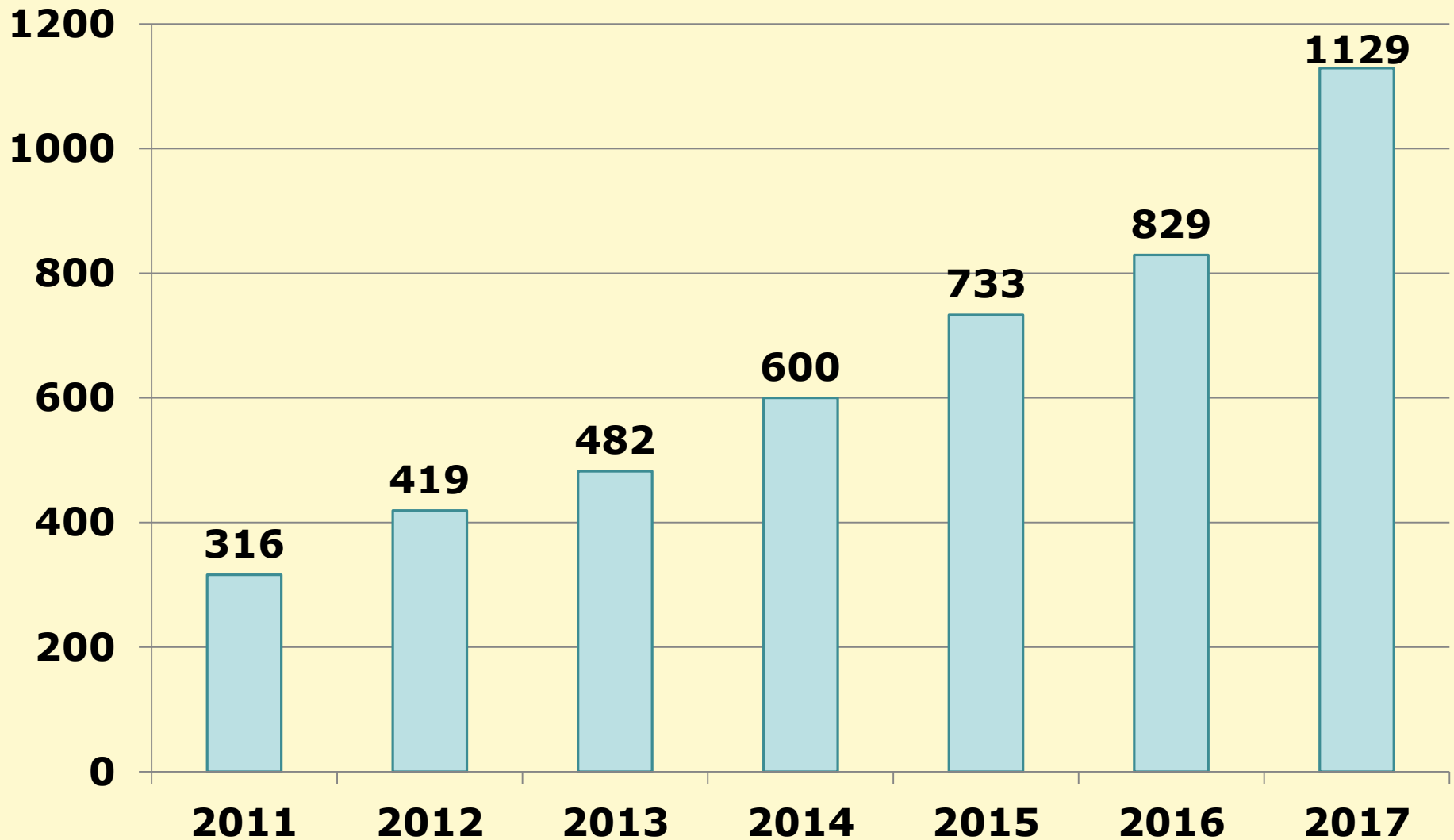
Since 2011: Development Trends
Projects Submitted Annually

Since 2011: Aging Canopy Trends
City Trees Removed Annually

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Year	Trees Removed
2011	316
2012	419
2013	482
2014	600
2015	733
2016	829
2017	1129

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URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN
2017

Playbook for the engagement and action of
community leaders, governments, residents, and organizations
in growing and sustaining our urban forest.

http://charlottenc.gov/treeplan

The Community Was Engaged

- Four stakeholder meetings across Charlotte
- Survey with 2,800 responses
  - 90% said trees are important to City
  - 97% want greater protection of large trees
  - 75% support stronger regulation of trees
  - 86% support greater funding for trees
- 3 Community Meetings

Master Plan Findings

- Charlotte has high quality canopy and programs
- Areas of concern and opportunity
    - Aging trees
    - Street tree care
    - Large trees on private property
    - Outreach to citizens
- **Charlotte is not on yet a path to achieve its aspirational 50% canopy goal**
- Recommendations and timeline to move toward 50x50

Environment Committee

- Environment Committee received presentations on the Master Plan on March 14 and December 5, 2016, and April 3, 2017.

- On June 5, 2017, the Environment Committee voted (Kinsey, Ajmera, Fallon, Austin in favor; Mitchell was not present) to recommend the adoption of the Master Plan.

Public Property Canopy Opportunities			Private Property Canopy Opportunities	
City Land & ROW	County Land	CMS Land	Residential	Commercial
≈10% canopy	≈10% canopy	≈5% canopy	≈75% canopy	

Tree Canopy Identity & Awareness Campaign
Memorial Tree Program
Trees & Tree Education in Schools

Public Property Canopy Opportunities

City Land & ROW	County Land	CMS Land
	≈10% canopy	≈5% canopy
	• Parks & Nature Preserves • County Facilities	• Schools and Support/ Administrative Facilities

TREESCHARLOTTE PARTNERSHIPS

TreesCharlotte and the City continue to partner with County and CMS to plant on public lands.

- Expanded Arboreta Trail

- Expanded Public Tree Inventory
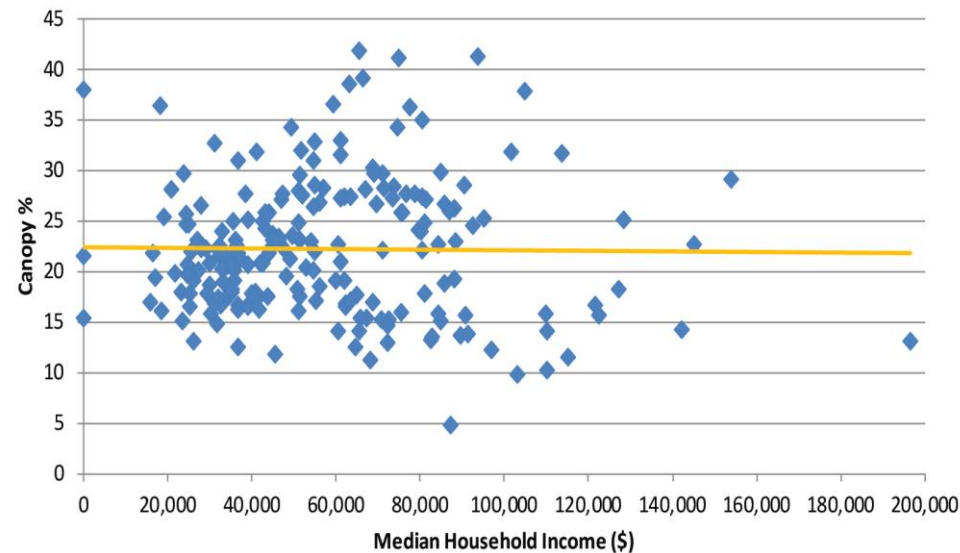
Private Property Canopy Opportunities

Residential	Commercial

<div align="center">

≈75% canopy

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- Private yards and neighborhood common areas

Relationship Between
Canopy & Household Income

◆ Census Tract Data Point　—— Canopy Trend Line

Private Property Canopy Opportunities

Residential	Commercial
≈75% canopy	
• Private yards and neighborhood common areas	• Commercial sites and new planned neighborhoods
• Neighborhood-level "Mini" Urban Forest Master Plans • Community Arborist Program: Educate residents and provide professional assistance for tree care/aging canopy • Creative re-use of lumber	• "Green Developer" Designation • Consider role of trees in urban settings • Consider requirements for preserving and planting trees

- Assess tree canopy coverage every 3 – 5 years
- Canopy Teams

TREESCHARLOTTE PARTNERSHIPS

TreesCharlotte and the City will continue to partner to hold neighborhood planting events, "tree stores", and more

Canopy Team

Progress can only be achieved with a larger community team.

1. Neighborhood Engagement
2. Development Study
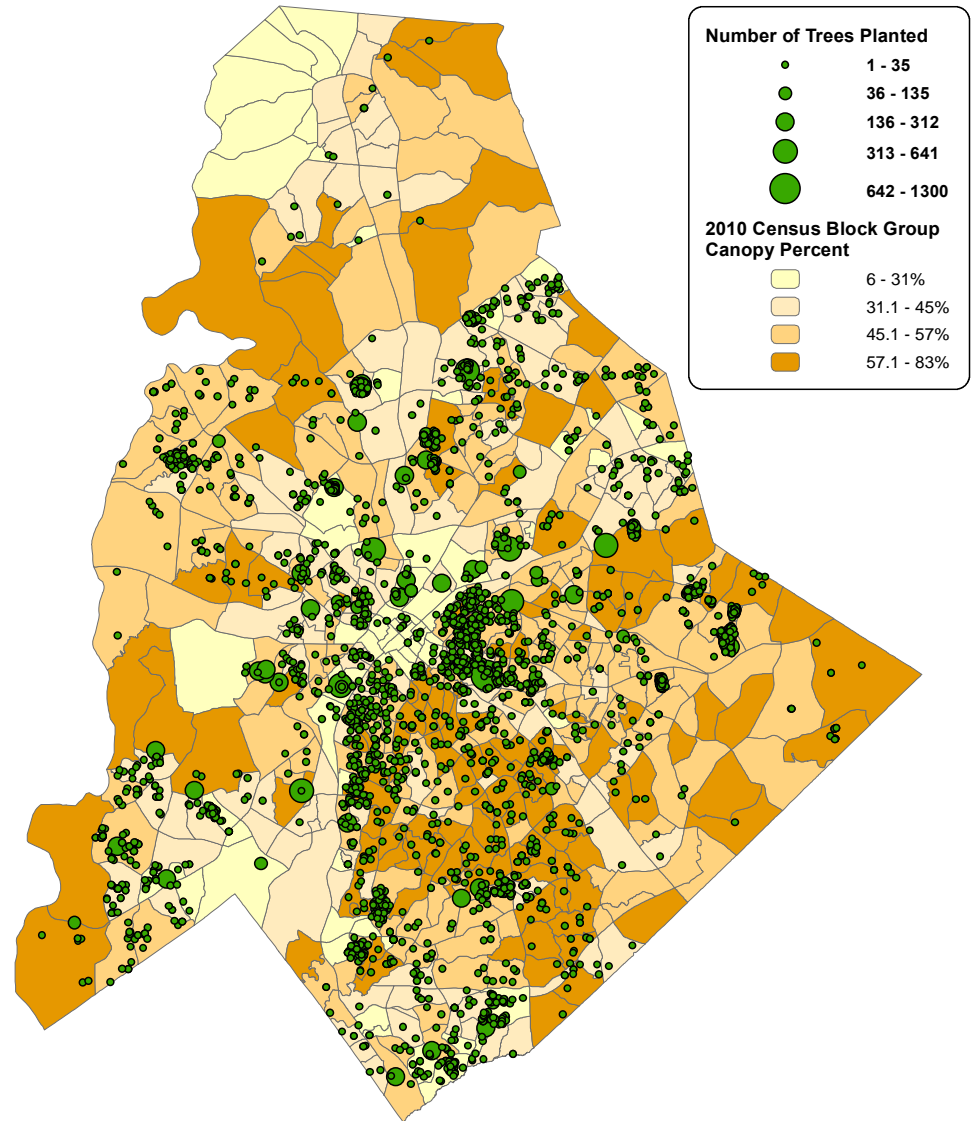3. Creative Funding
4. Corporate Engagement

TreesCharlotte is a non-profit partner with the City to grow and diversify Charlotte's urban forest by planting 500,000 trees by 2050, promoting tree stewardship and educating how to plant and preserve trees.

Trees Charlotte
Plant, Preserve & Celebrate!

Planting Locations
The larger dot locations have a higher concentration of planted trees.

Tree Planting and Existing Canopy

Trees Charlotte
Plant, Preserve & Celebrate!

Number of Trees Planted
- 1 - 35
- 36 - 135
- 136 - 312
- 313 - 641
- 642 - 1300

2010 Census Block Group Canopy Percent
- 6 - 31%
- 31.1 - 45%
- 45.1 - 57%
- 57.1 - 83%

Tree planting data collected by TreesCharlotte spring 2012 - spring 2017. Canopy percent determined from LiDAR data by Mecklenburg County. Map created in June 2017 by Reed Perkins, Queens University of Charlotte (perkinsr@queens.edu).

Progress 2012 - Current

Successful Urban Forestry in Charlotte

TreesCharlotte is uniquely positioned to expand the partnership with the City in the following critical areas to implement the Plan:
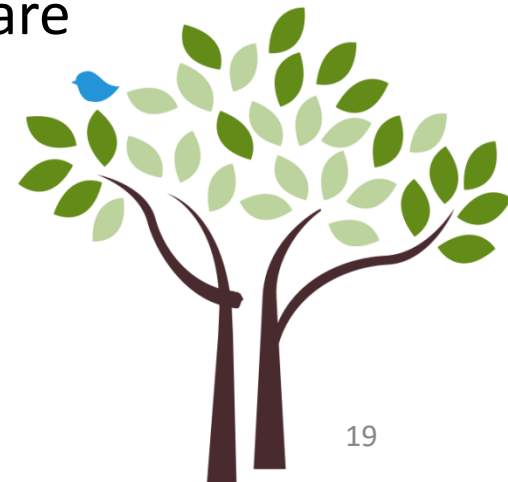
1. **Tree planting**
   - Requires hosting multiple community planting events simultaneously during planting season

2. **Community engagement**
   - Tree care education and clinics on tree care

3. **Stewardship programs**
   - Expand stewardship volunteer programs
   - Volunteer tree care of young street trees

Next Steps

- City Council will be asked to adopt master plan on September 25

- Staff and canopy team continue to work on master plan recommendations & programmatic opportunities
  - 5-year resource needs will be included