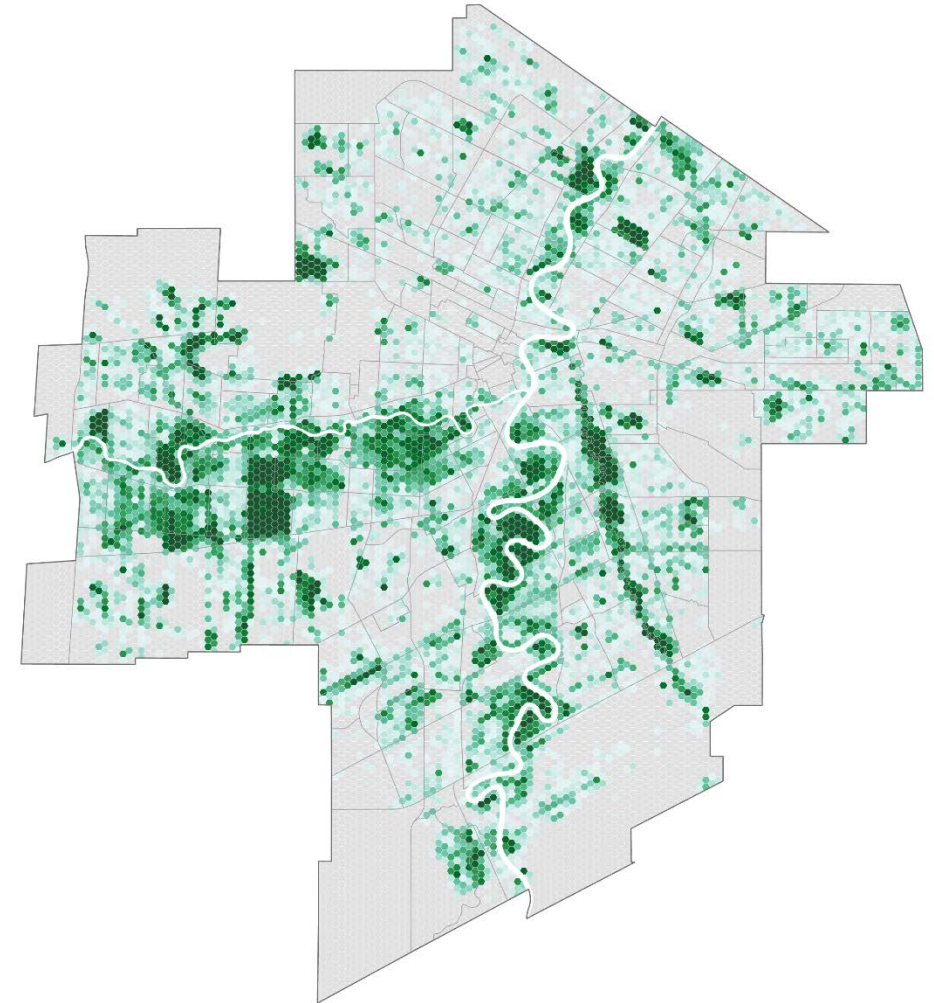


Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy

Public Open House
June 2022

Winnipeg Draft Urban Forest Strategy

- Project introduction & timeline
- Tour of the Draft Strategy
 - Background & context
 - Opportunities & challenges
 - Baselines & service targets
 - Urban forest strategic framework
- How to participate
- Q&A



Land and water acknowledgement

Winnipeg is located in Treaty No. 1 Territory, the home and traditional lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), and Dakota peoples, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our clean drinking water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, in Treaty No. 3 Territory.



Project introduction & timeline

What is the Urban Forest Strategy?

Winnipeg's Urban Forest Strategy will provide a 20-year vision for our city's tree canopy and develop policy, recommendations, and strategic actions to help protect, preserve, and grow the canopy well into the future. Work is completed in four main steps:



What will the Urban Forest Strategy do?

- Define the current state of the urban forest
- Review current practices and assess performance
- Establish a vision and targets for Winnipeg's future urban forest
- Develop a strategic framework for how to get there



Timeline



* Subject to Council review and approval

Tour of the Draft Urban Forest Strategy

What is the urban forest?

The urban forest is a combination of all trees and associated vegetation, soil, natural processes, and cultural elements on public and private land. More than three million trees are estimated to be growing in Winnipeg.



Winnipeg's vision for the urban forest

“An abundant, healthy, diverse, and resilient urban forest that contributes to the health and wellbeing of all people and communities.”



Background & context

What are the key benefits?



Environmental

Examples: Storing and sequestering carbon, providing habitat, and cleaning air



Health and wellbeing

Examples: Reducing stress, reducing heat-related illness.



Cultural

Examples: Creating a sense of local identity, connecting to Indigenous culture



Economic

Examples: Increasing energy and health saving, marketing the city

Becoming an 'elm' city



Becoming an 'elm' city



When did Dutch elm disease arrive?

1944



First detection in Canada

Detected in Saint-Ours in Quebec

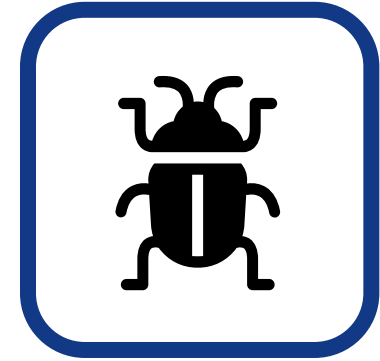
1975



First detection in Winnipeg

And first detection in Manitoba

2017

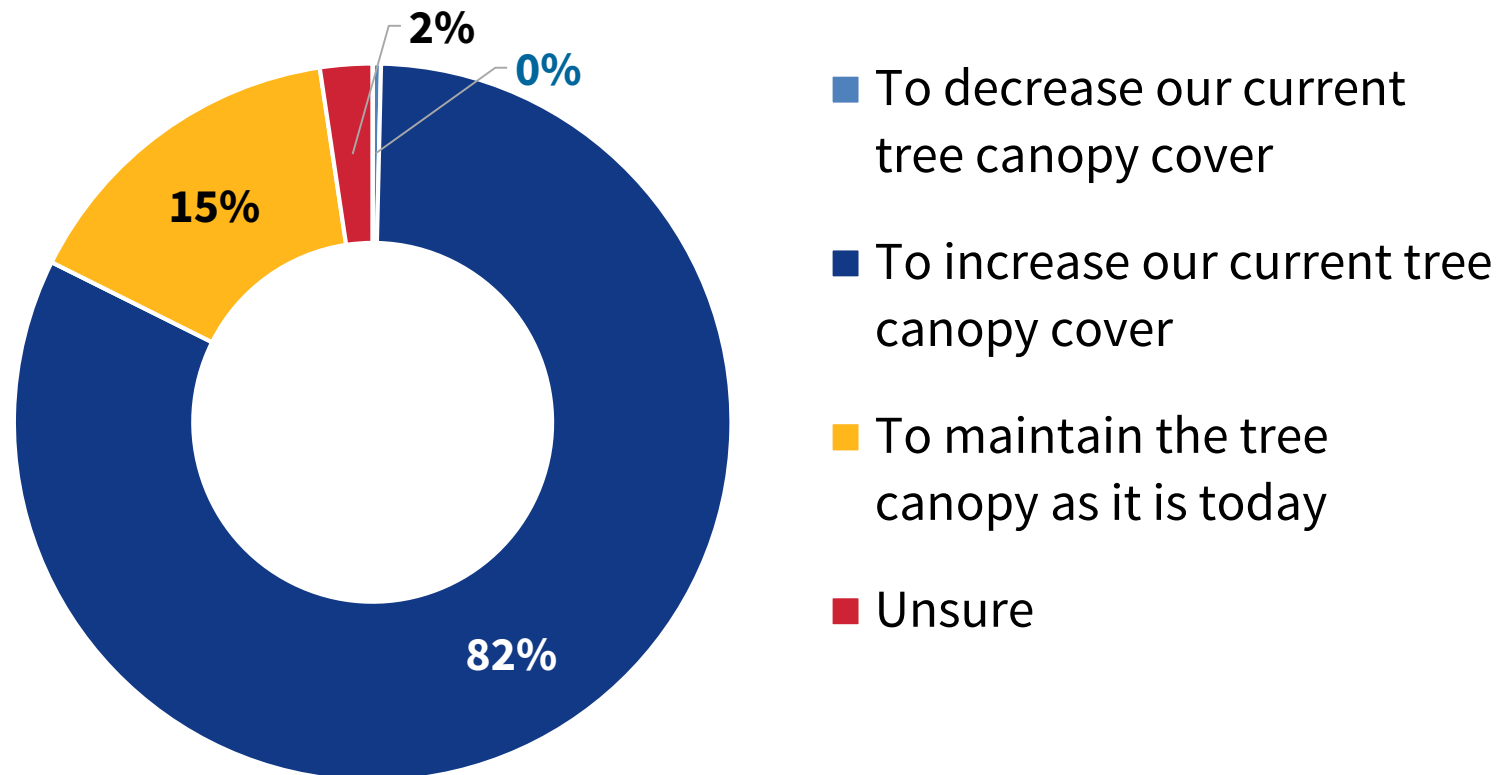


Pilot program established

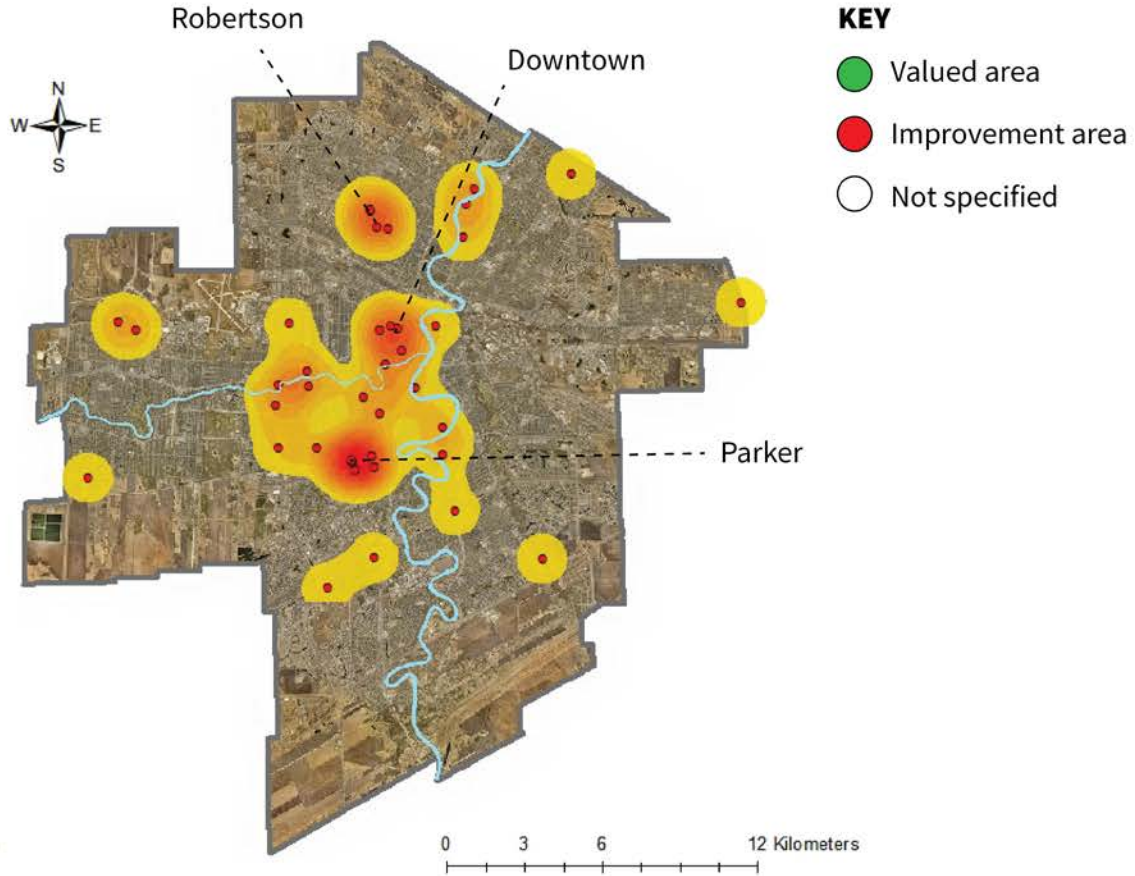
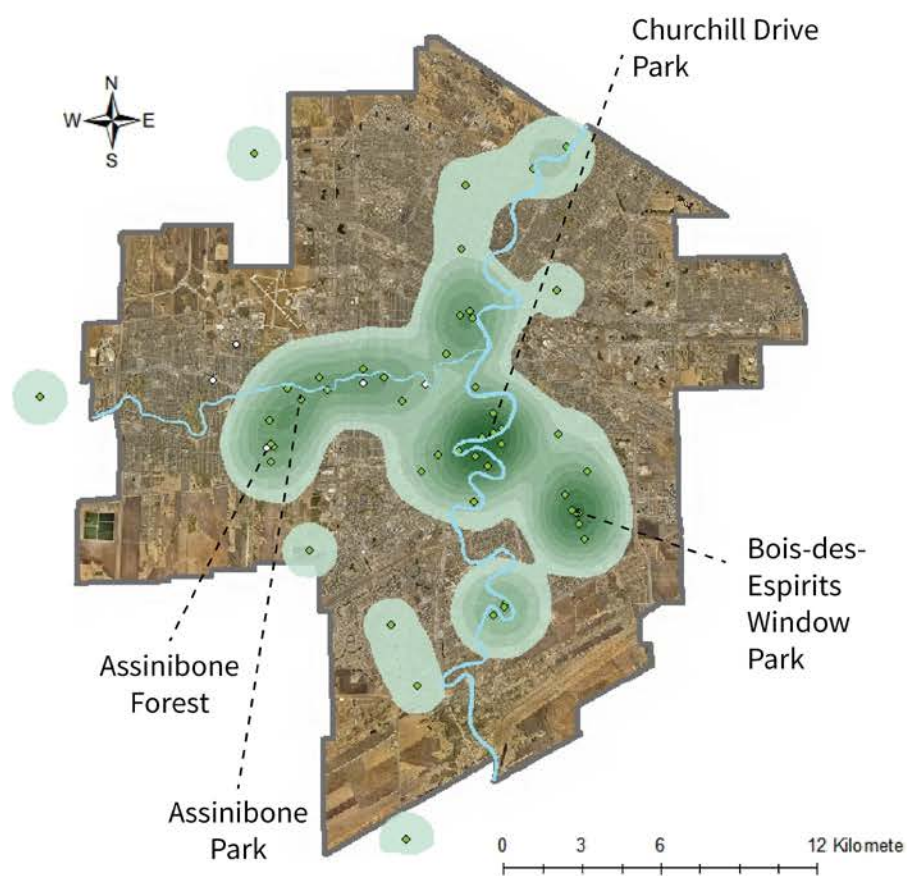
In partnership with The University of Winnipeg to identify brood trees for prioritization of removal

What we heard

Survey respondents' preferences for Winnipeg's canopy cover target:



Mapping tool findings



Who manages Winnipeg's urban forest?

City street and park trees

City natural area trees

Private trees



City and stakeholders:

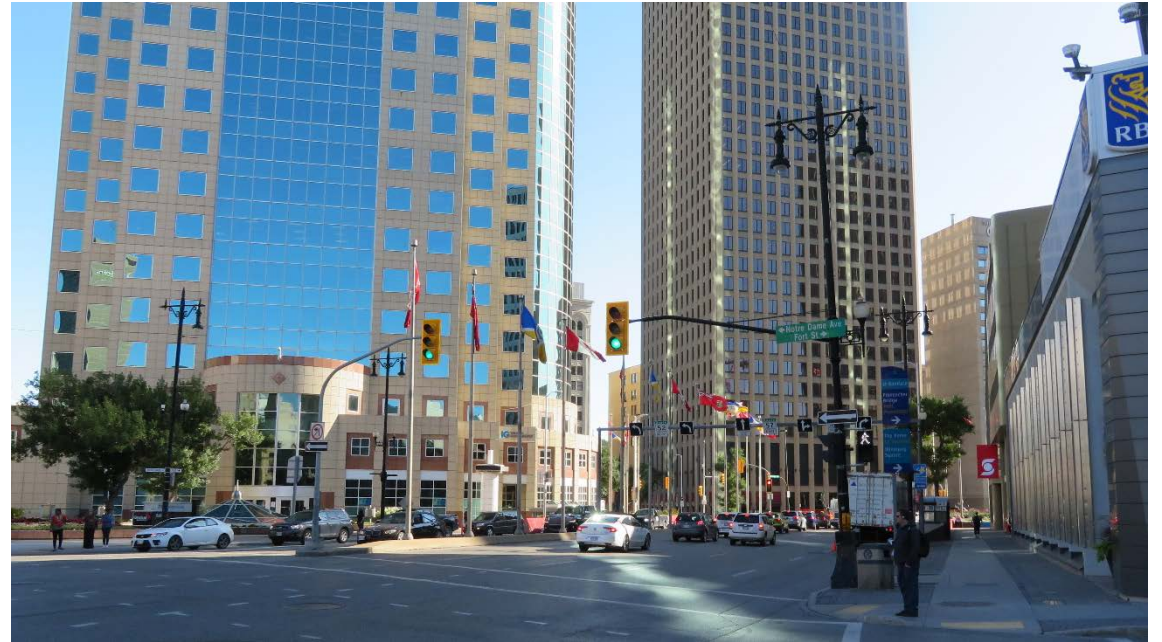
Residents + landowners, Government of Canada, Community organizations, Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, private industry arborists

Opportunities & challenges

Opportunities & challenges

Climate change & the urban heat island effect

Heat waves in Winnipeg are expected to increase from 3-4 days to 7 days or longer by 2051-2080



Opportunities & challenges

Urbanization

Densification of existing urban areas with development often means existing trees need removal and trees on neighbouring properties may be damaged

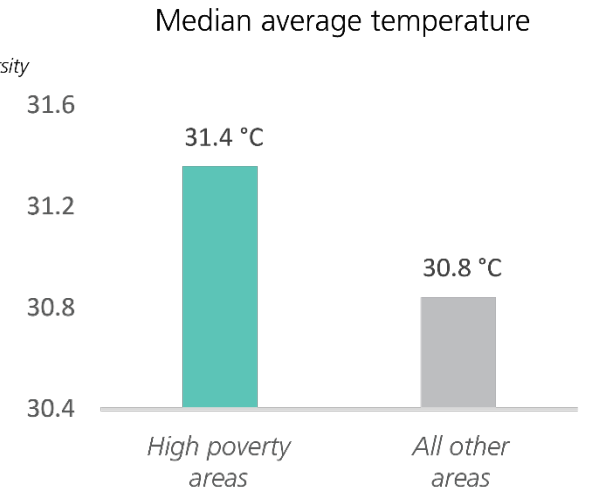
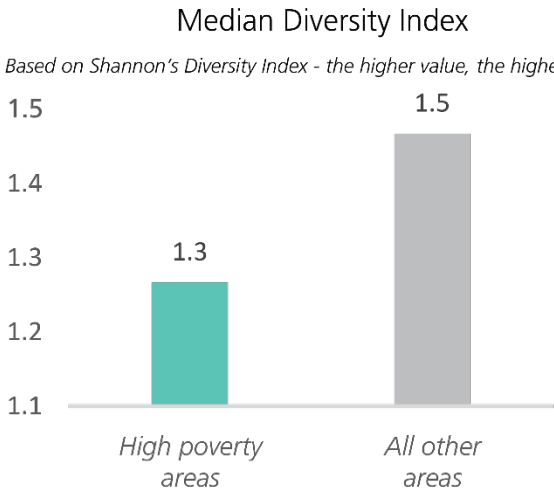
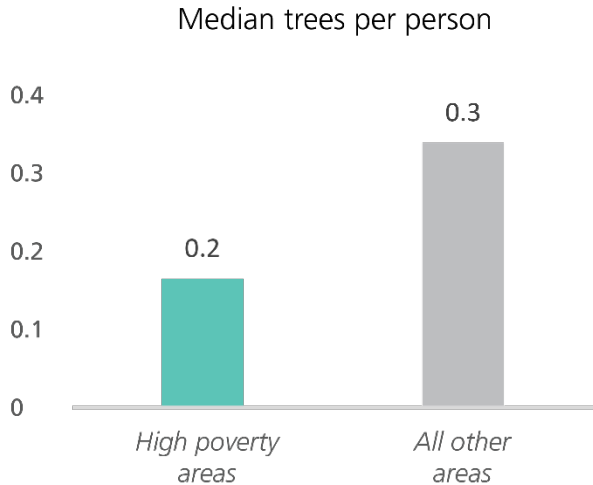
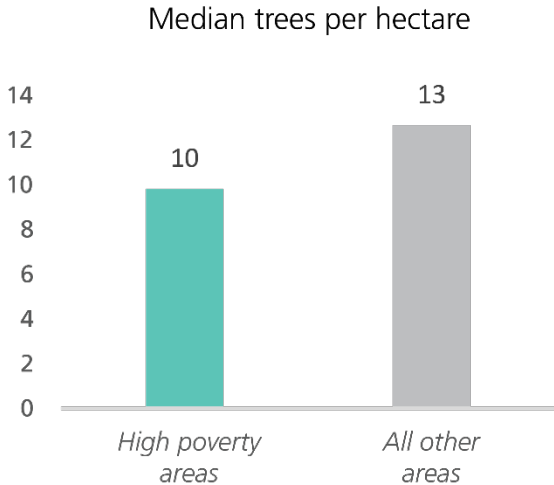
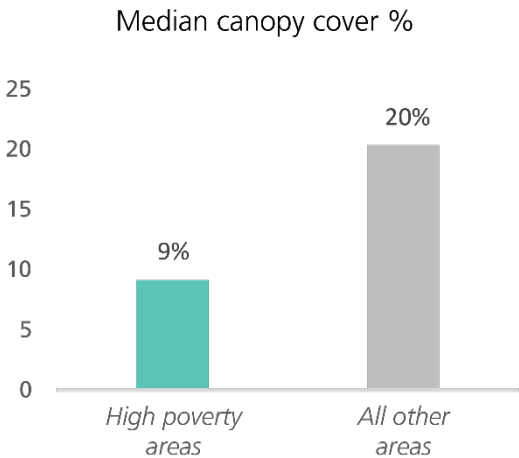


Opportunities & challenges

Equity

Areas of higher poverty in Winnipeg have significantly:

- Lower tree density per hectare
- Fewer trees per person
- Lower average canopy cover
- Lower tree diversity
- Higher average temperatures



Opportunities & challenges

Reconciliation

Winnipeg has the highest Indigenous population among Canadian cities. More work must be done to build and maintain respectful relationship with Indigenous peoples.



Opportunities & challenges

Stewardship

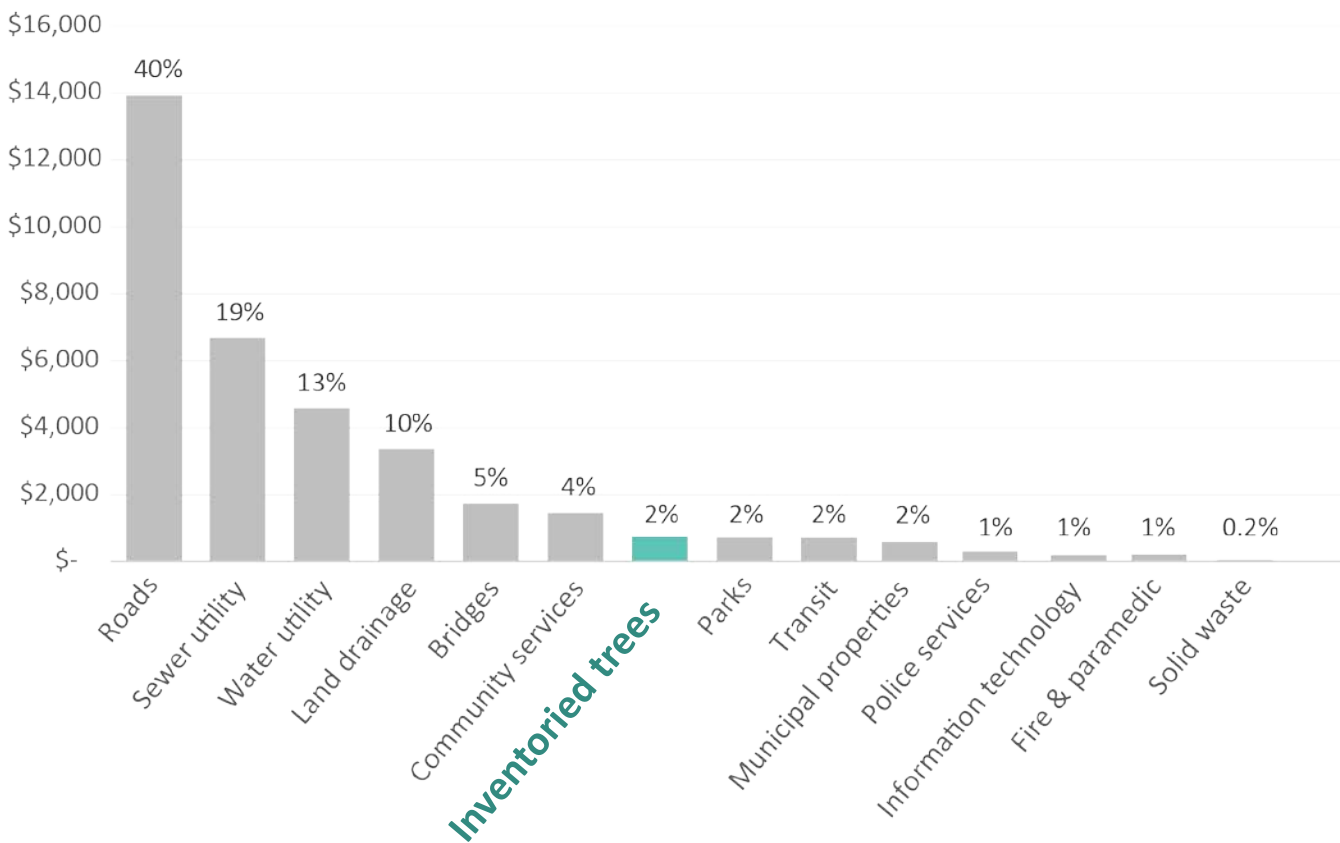
Management of over three million trees in Winnipeg is a shared responsibility between many stakeholders.



Program sustainability

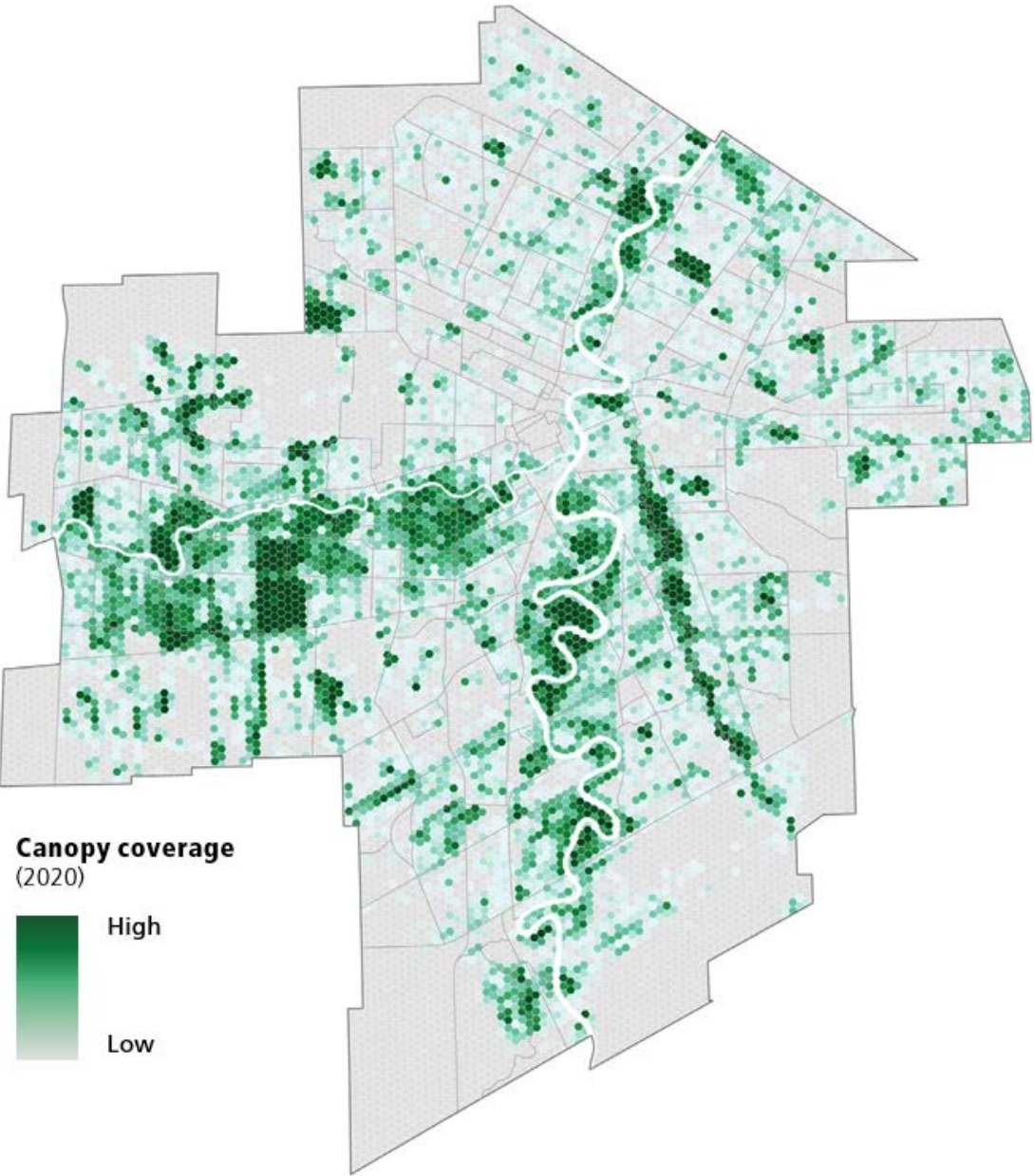
There is a growing gap between the cost to maintain and renew the urban forest and the City program’s budget.

Summary of Replacement Value per Infrastructure Element
(in millions)



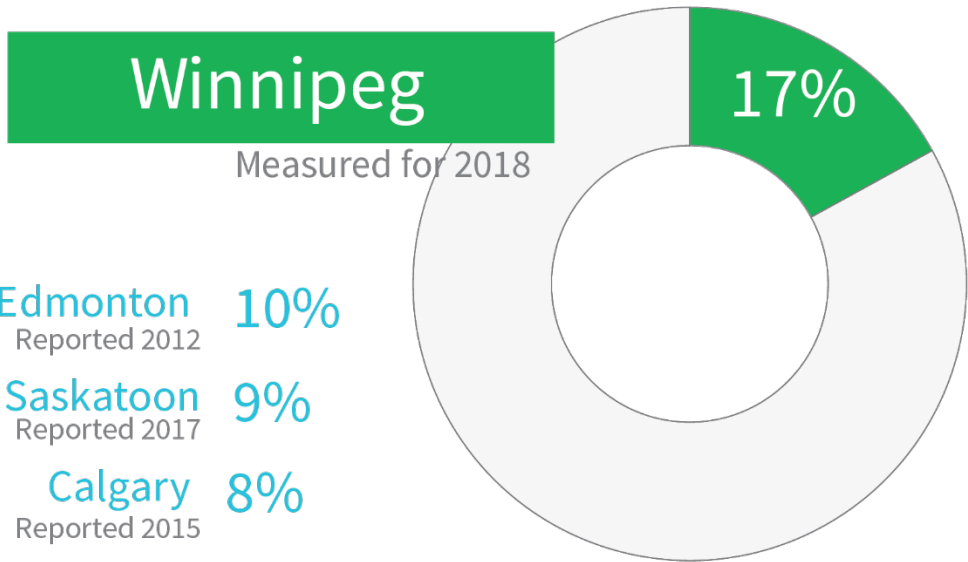
Baselines & service targets

Baselines & service targets – canopy cover



Baseline: 17% canopy cover 2018

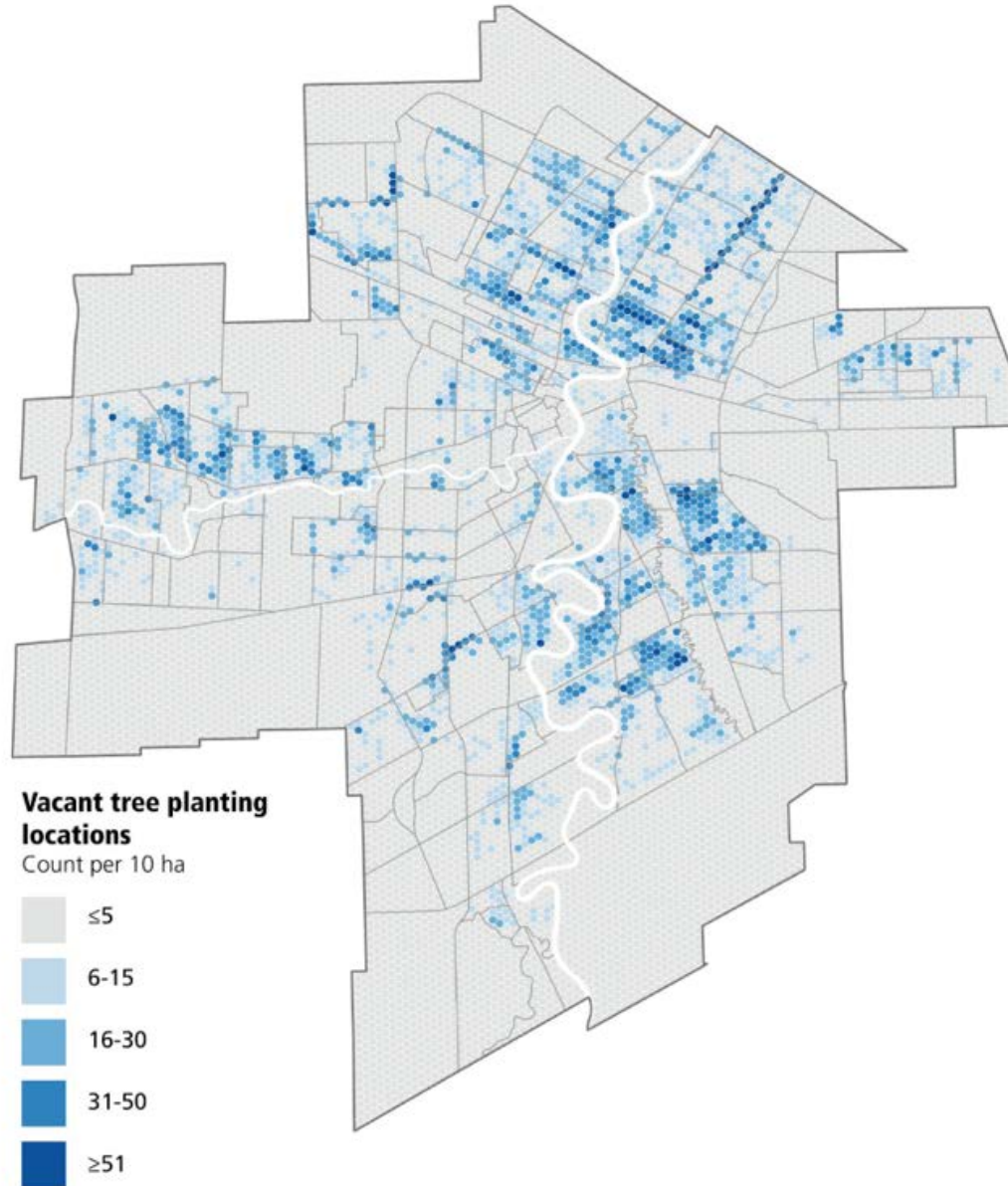
Target: Increase canopy cover to 24% city-wide by 2065



Baselines & service targets – city-wide planting

Baseline: 12% of potential planting sites vacant

Target: No more than 5% potential planting sites vacant

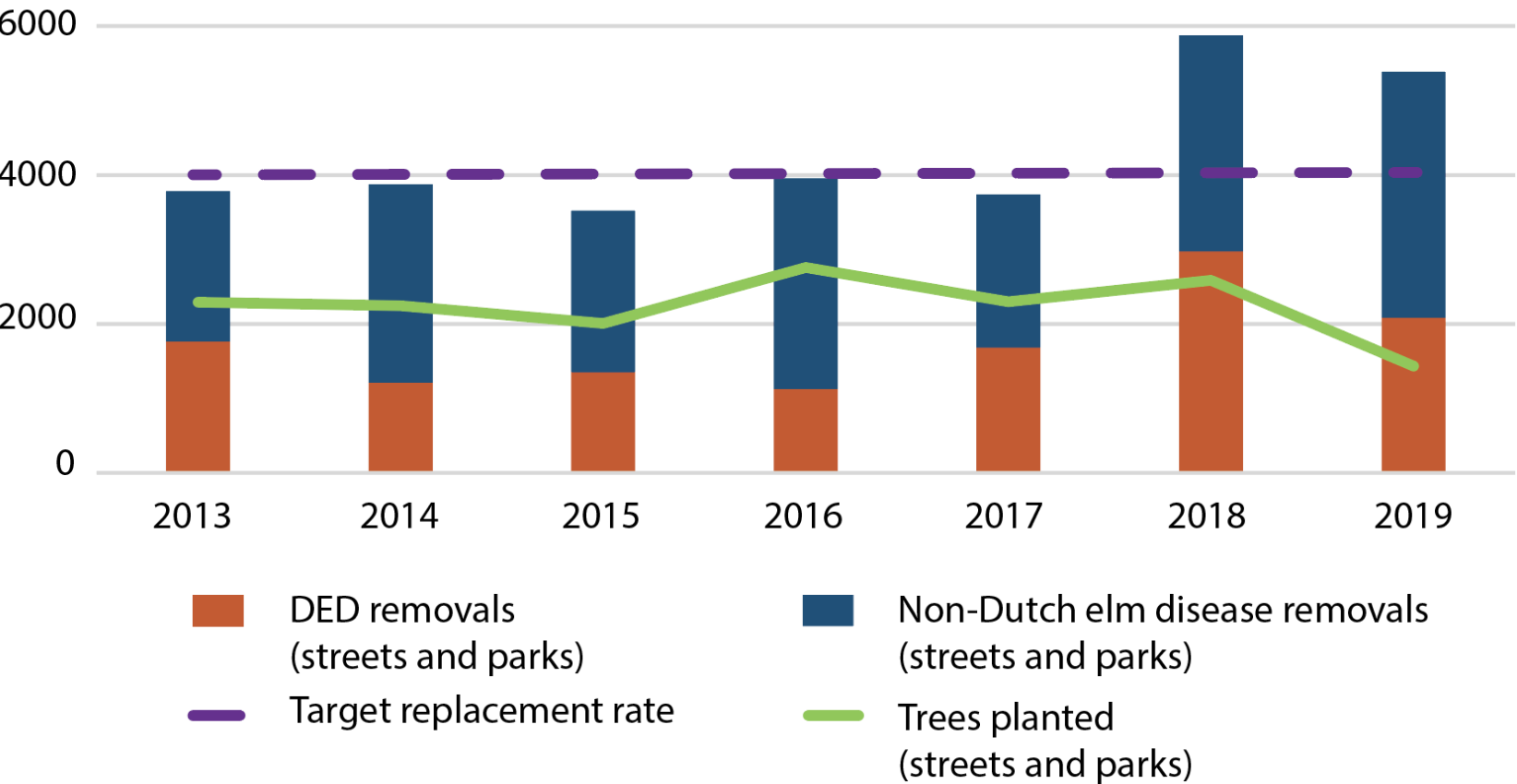


Baselines & service targets – tree replacement

Baseline: Less than one tree replaced for every three trees removed

Target: 1:1 (one tree replaced for every tree removed)

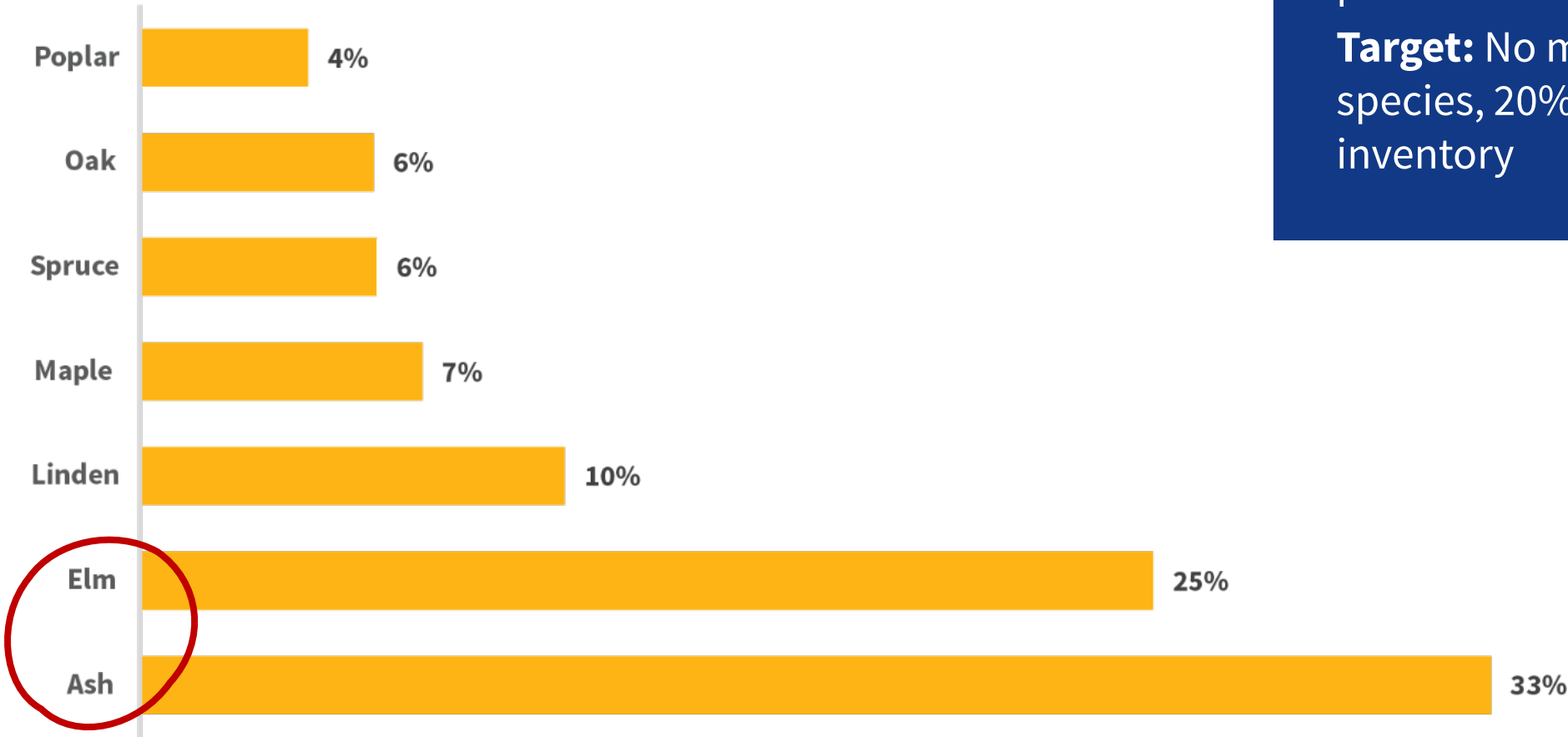
Annual rates of tree removal and replacement in streets and parks



Baselines & service targets – tree diversity

Baseline: Ash and elm make up 58% of City’s public inventory

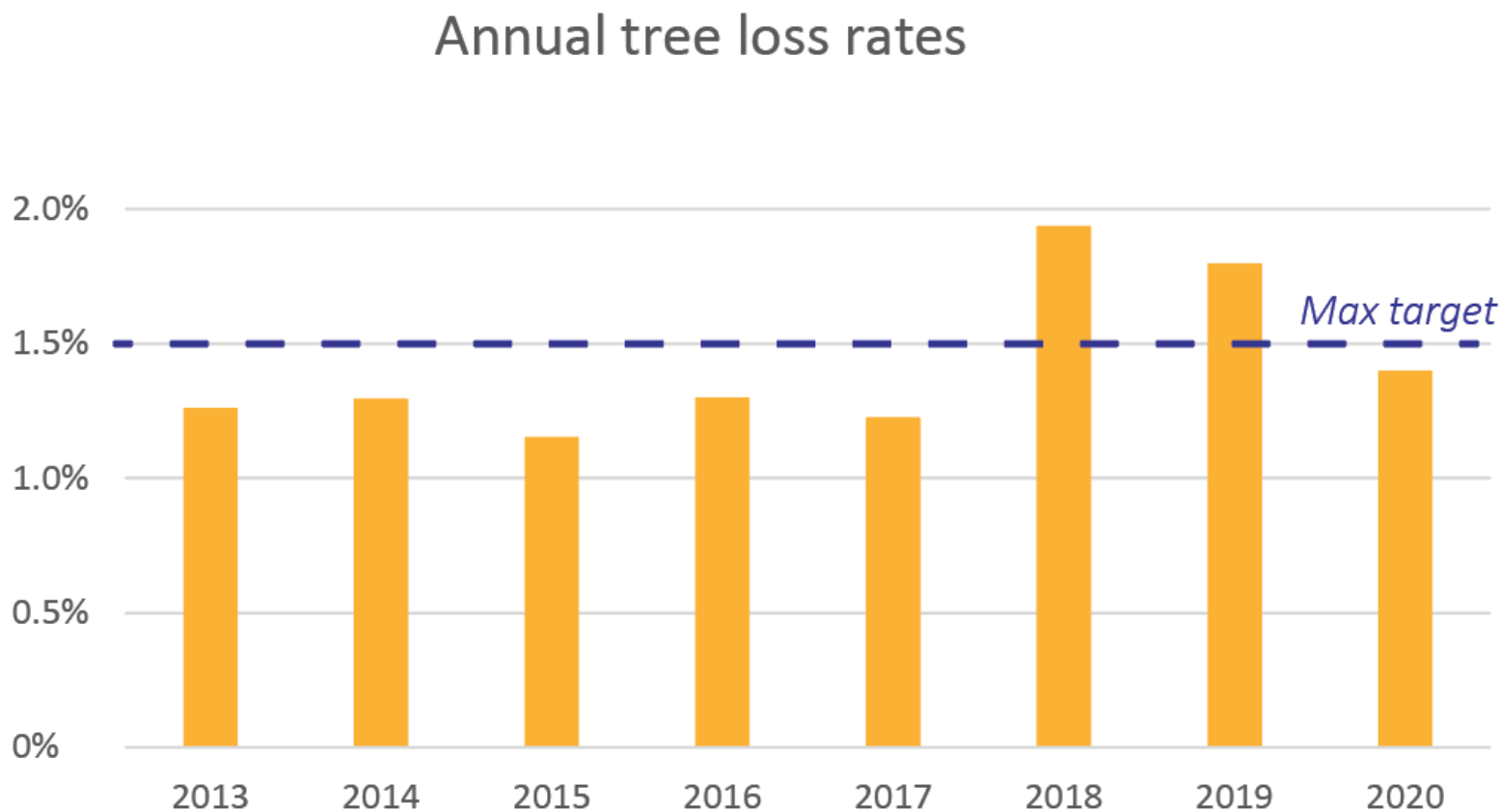
Target: No more than 10% species, 20% genus in public inventory



Baselines & service targets – public tree losses

Baseline: 1.4% loss rate of public trees

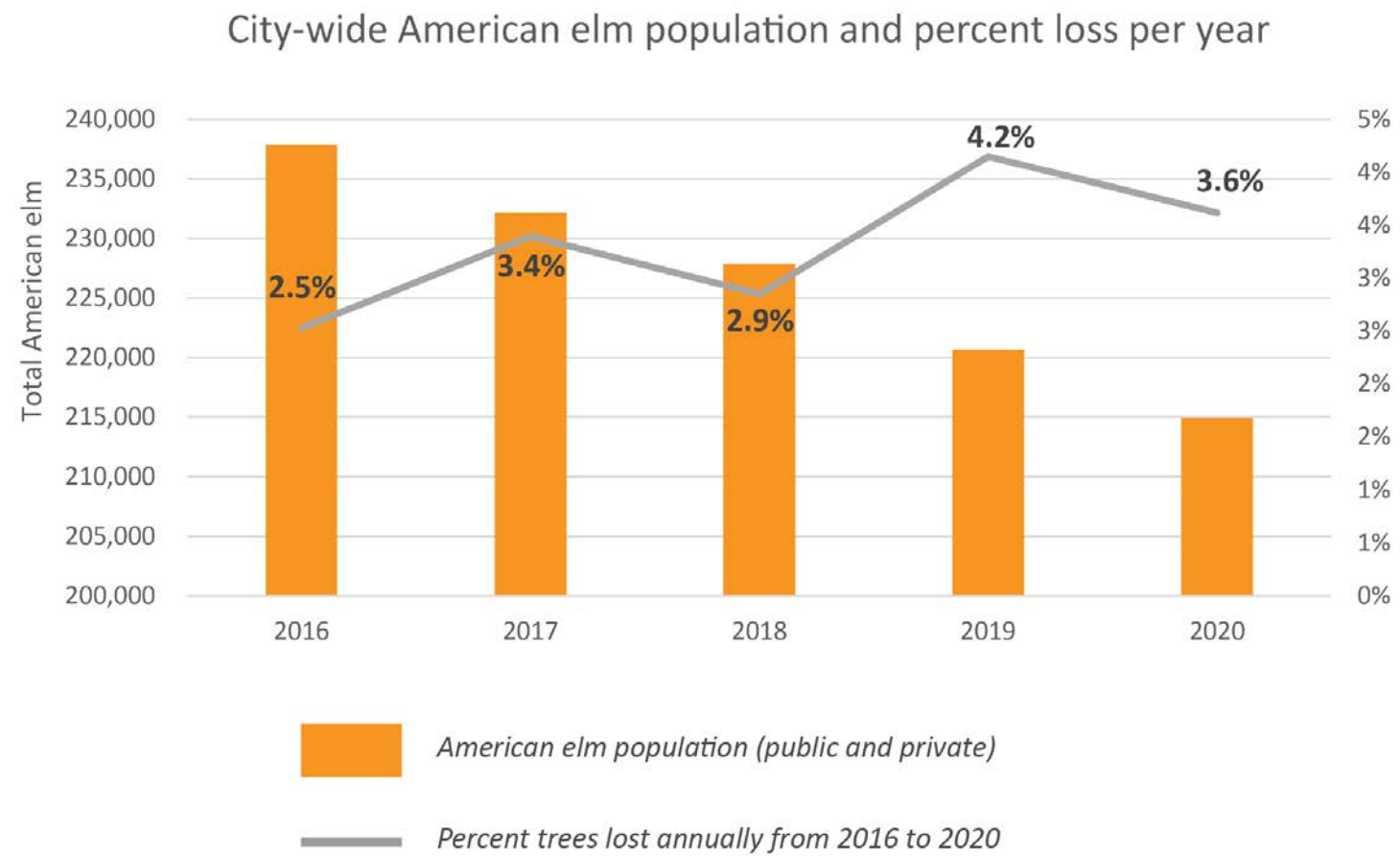
Target: No more than 1.5% annual loss of public trees



Baselines & service targets – City-wide elm loss

Baseline: Average elm loss per year from 2016-2020 was 3.3%

Target: No more than 2% annual loss of city-wide American elm

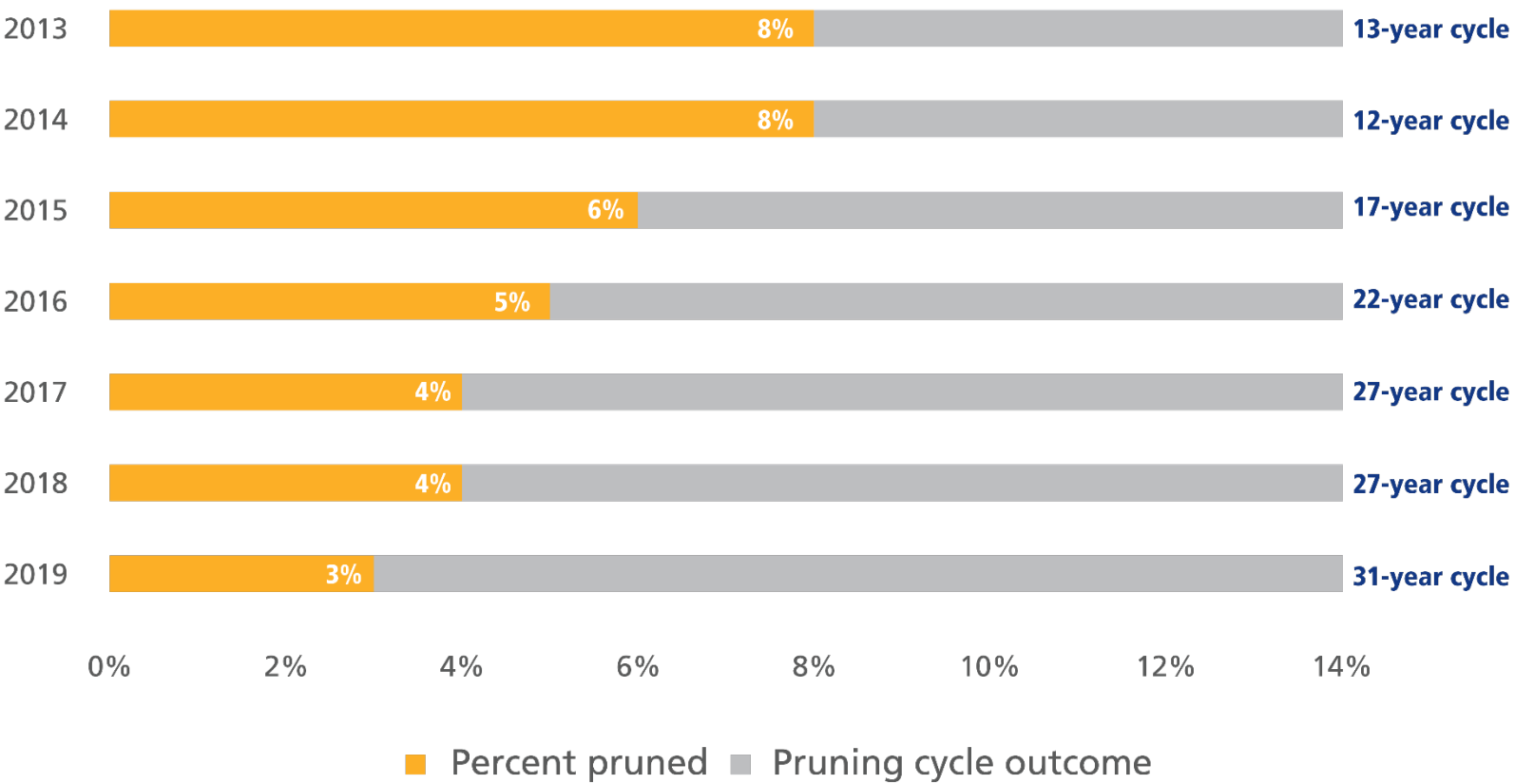


Baselines & service targets – public tree pruning cycles

Baseline: City trees are on a 31-year pruning cycle

Target: Prune street trees on a seven-year cycle and park trees on a 12-year cycle

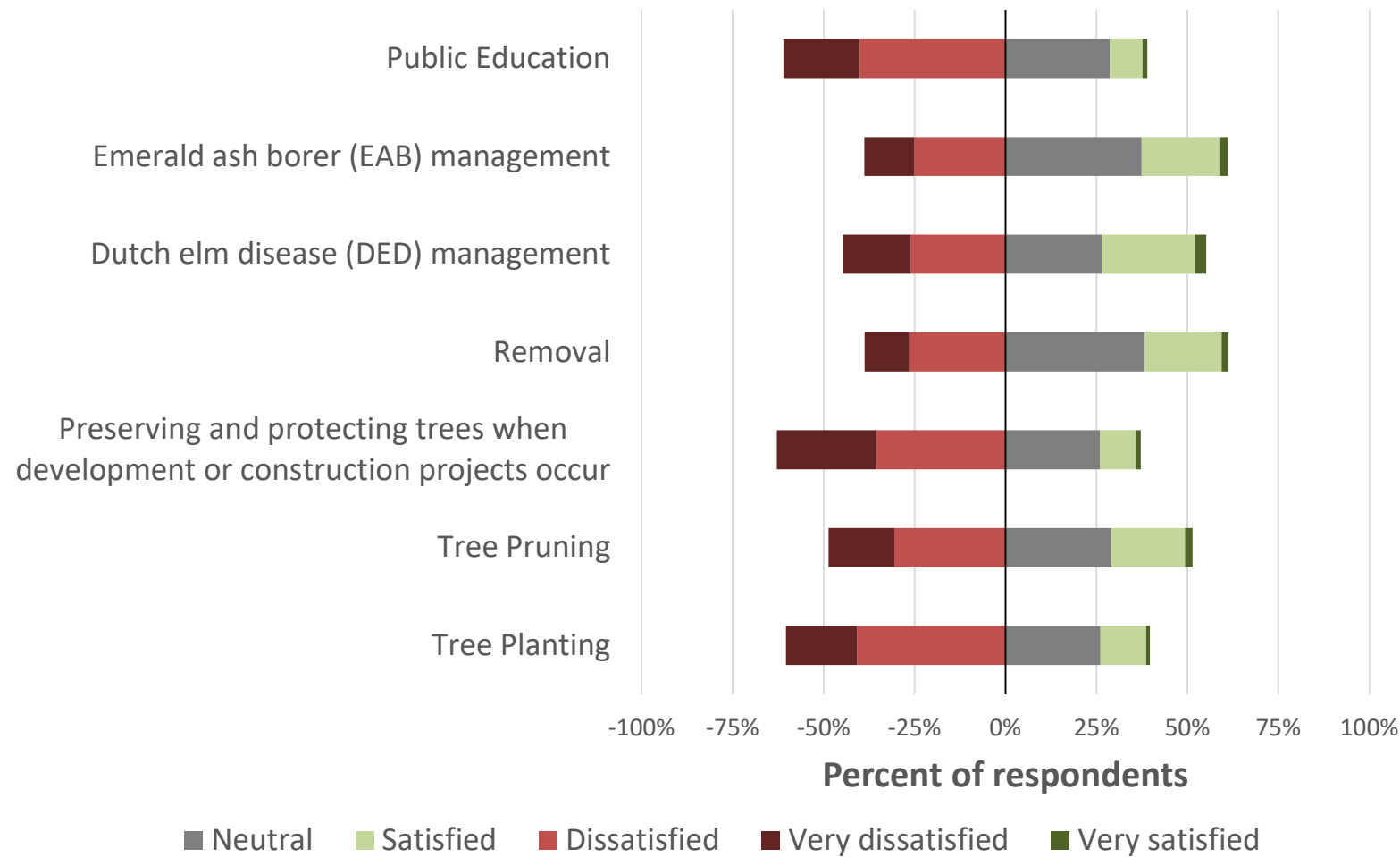
Target: Seven-year cycle for street trees, 12-year cycle for park trees



Baselines & service targets – customer satisfaction

Baseline: Customer satisfaction with levels of service averages less than 50%

Target: At least 50% customer satisfaction rate across all services



Urban forest strategic framework

Strategic framework – goals

The five goals are:

PLAN



PLANT



MANAGE



PROTECT



PARTNER



Strategic framework – Goal 1 - PLAN

PLAN



Key target:

- 24% canopy cover city-wide by 2065

Policies

1. Define standards for forestry services
2. Create City tree policy
3. Identify each tree as a City asset
4. Collaborate across City departments
5. Manage the urban forest adaptively



Strategic framework – Goal 2 – PLANT

PLANT



Key targets:

- Less than 5% of potential public planting sites vacant
- 1:1 tree replacement
- No more than 10% of any species, 20% genus

Policies

6. Increase new & replacement planting
7. Prioritize urban tree planting
8. Increase diversity of tree species
9. Maximize health & life expectancy of tree planted on City streets and parks
10. Maximize number and quality of trees in new developments
11. Provide incentives to encourage planting
12. Expand & enhance naturalized forest and riverbank areas



Strategic framework – Goal 3 – MANAGE

MANAGE



Key targets:

- Prune street trees every seven years + park every 12
- No more than 1.5% annual loss of public trees
- No more than 2% annual loss of city-wide American elm

Policies

13. Maintain and update inventory
14. Follow best practices program for City-owned trees
15. Rapidly remove dead, diseased, and dangerous trees
16. Minimize the use and impact of maintenance practices that harm trees
17. Strengthen communication and information sharing
18. Monitor natural area forest cover and prioritize invasive species removal



Strategic framework – Goal 4 – PROTECT

PROTECT



Key targets:

- No more than 1.5% annual loss of public trees
- No more than 2% elms lost city-wide annually

Policies

19. Increase protection for trees and soil on private property
20. Increase protection for City-owned trees
21. Create a connected and protected network of public trees, parks, and natural area forests



Strategic framework – Goal 5 – PARTNER

PARTNER

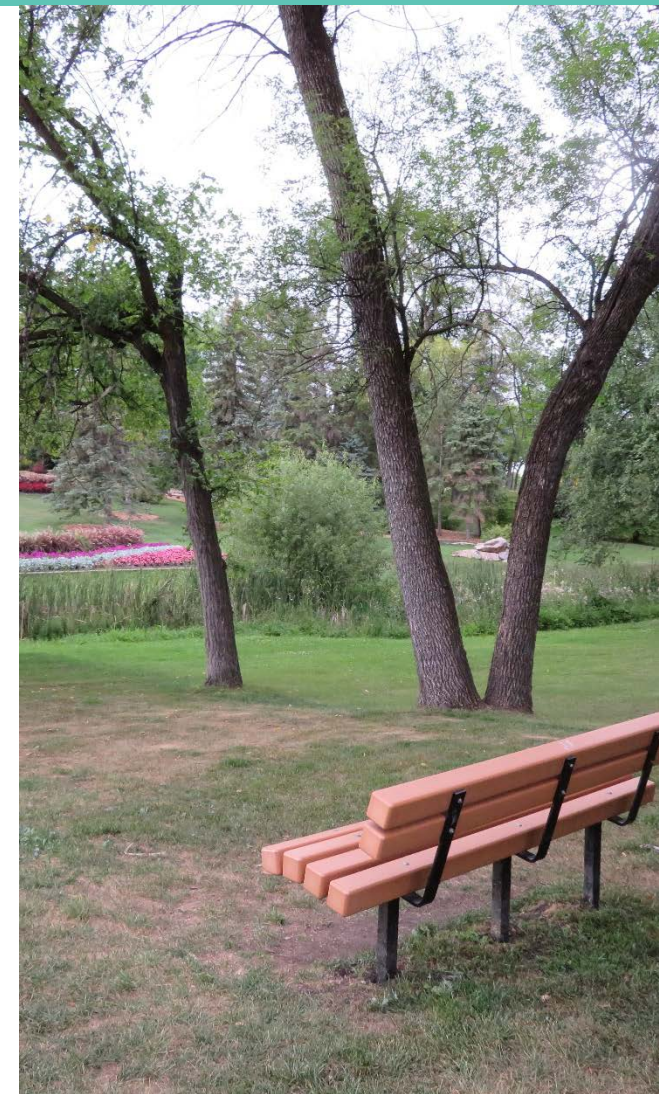


Key target:

At least 50%
customer
satisfaction rate
across all services

Policies

- 22. Establish mutually respectful partnerships with Indigenous governments, organizations, and individuals
- 23. Empower residents to participate
- 24. Raise city-wide awareness
- 25. Work with partners to implement the Strategy



Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy

Thank you!

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urbanforest@winnipeg.ca