



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATIONSM

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Tracking Portland's Tree Canopy Cover

April 2022

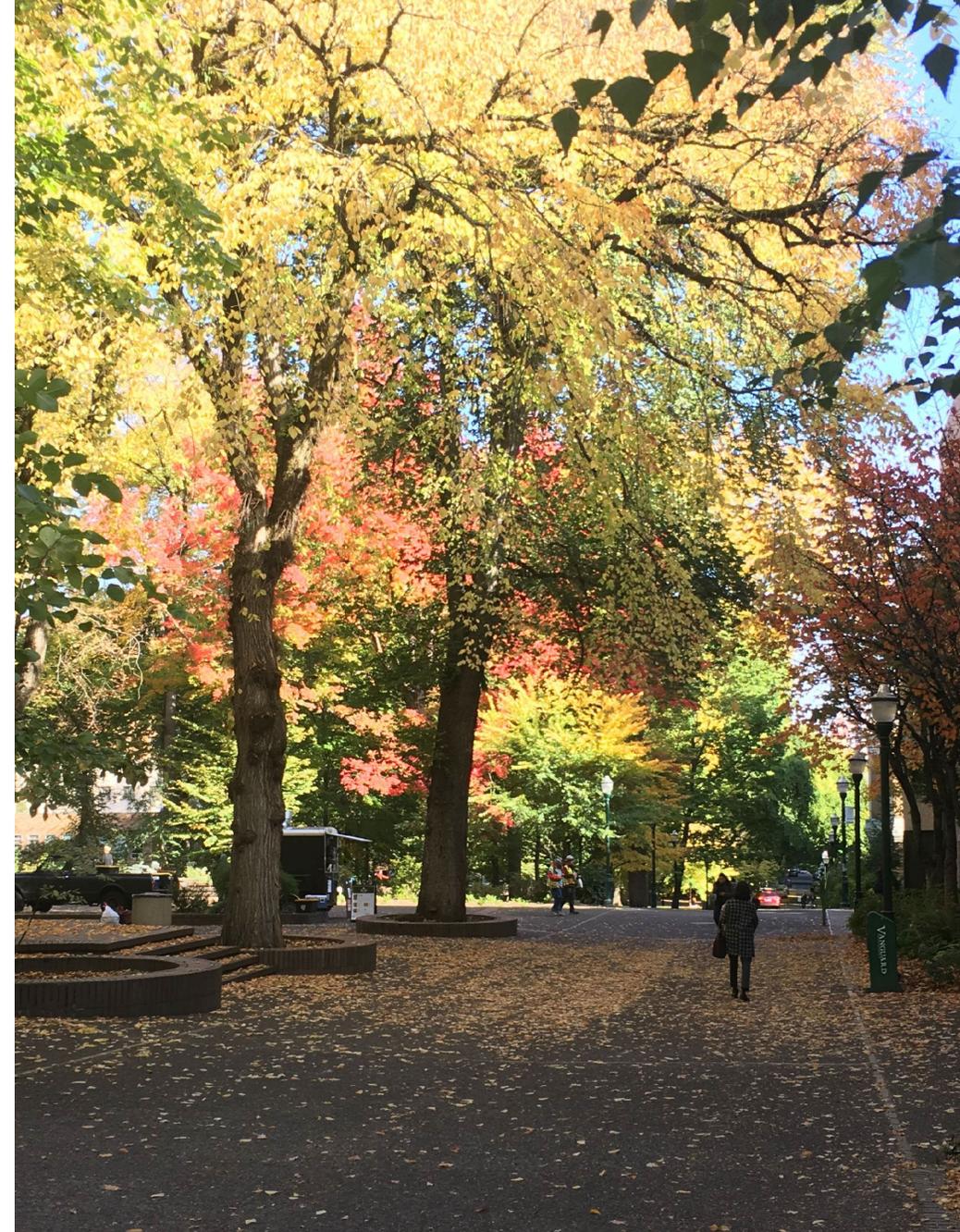




Why Trees?

Infrastructure that provides services:

- Public Health
- Air Quality
- Cooling
- Water Quality
- Mental Health
- Wildlife Habitat
- Energy Conservation
- Walkability
- Community Building
- Jobs



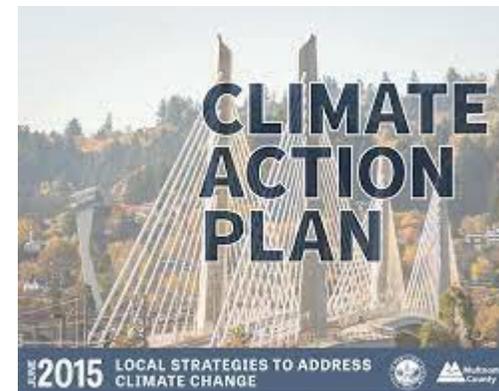
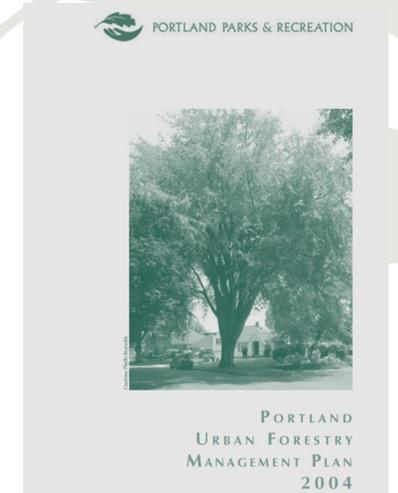
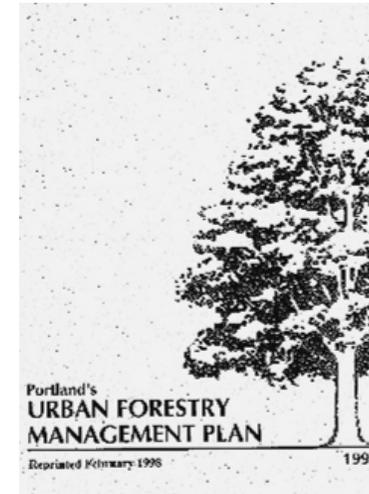


Why Do We Track Tree Canopy Cover?

Citywide metric for environmental health

- Urban Forest Mngt. Plan (1995 & 2004)
- Climate Action Plan (2009 & 2015)
- Comprehensive Plan (2016)

Goal: 33.3% by 2035





Why Do We Track Tree Canopy Cover?

Citywide metric for environmental health

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Goal: 33.3% by 2035

Canopy Potential = 52%

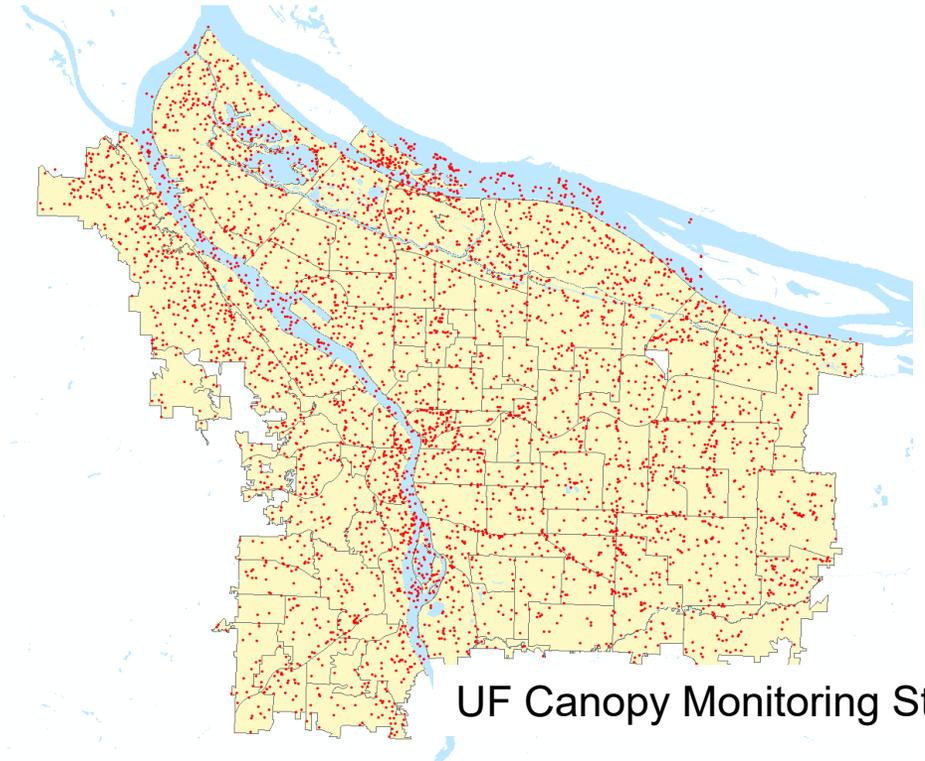


Tree Canopy and Potential in Portland,
Oregon
February 2018



Ways to Estimate Tree Canopy Cover

- Make a map! (Landcover classification)
- Random sample (Point interpretation)





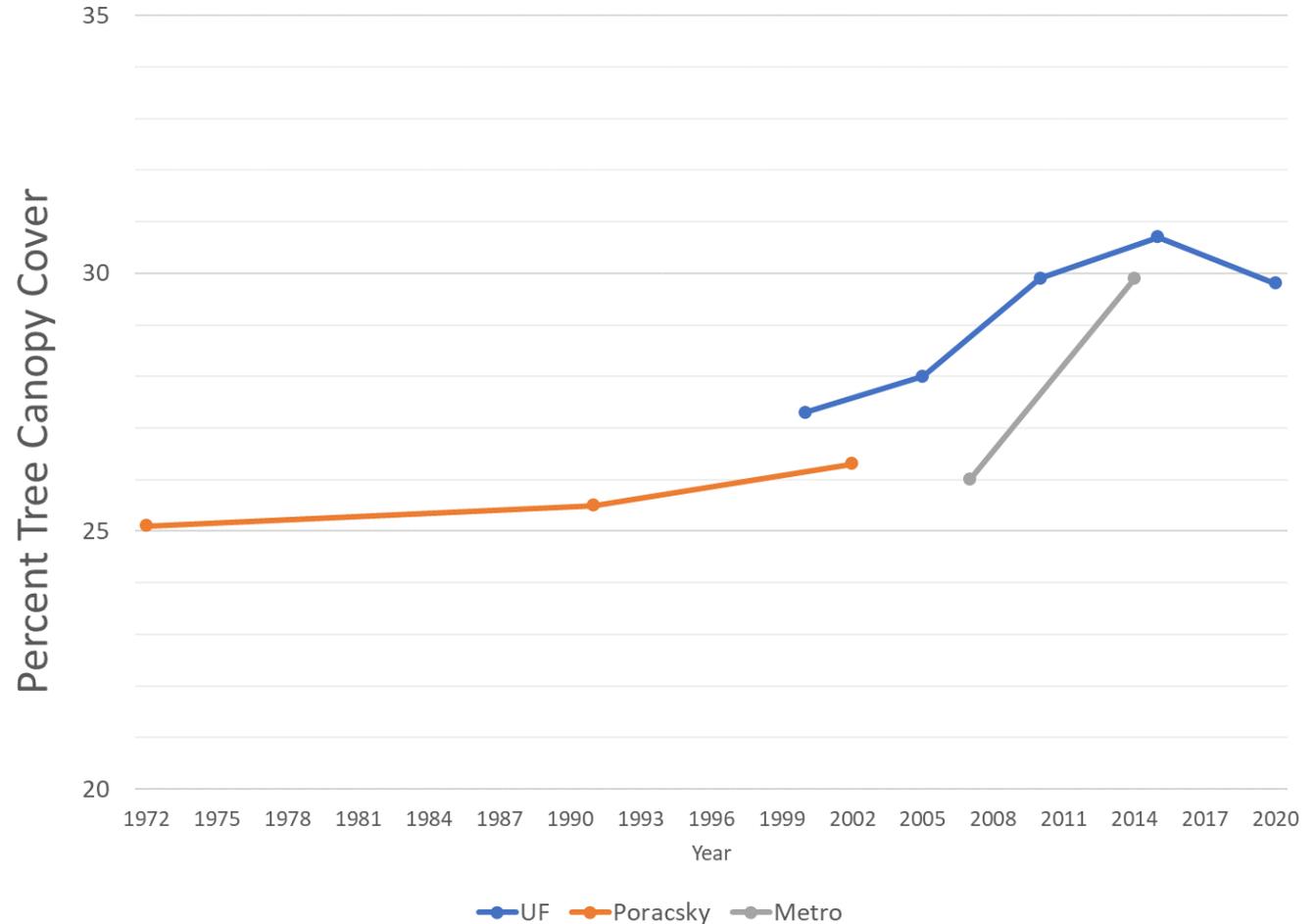
Tracking Canopy Cover: 1972 - 2020

Gains 1972 – 2015

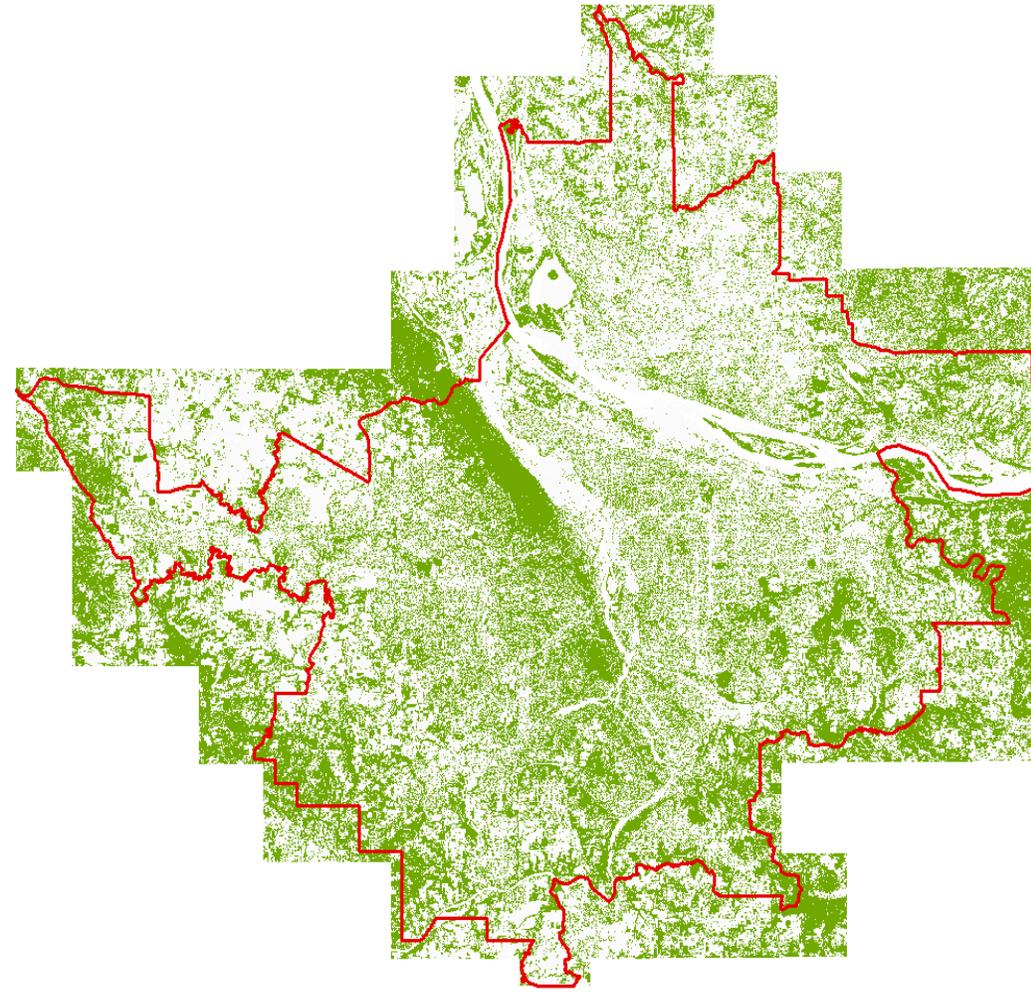
- Significant, widespread, unique among major cities

Loss 2015 – 2020

- UF Report: 30.7% to 29.8%
 - Loss across all zoning types
 - 823 acres total canopy loss



PSU: Regional Assessment of Changes in Canopy Cover (2014-2020)



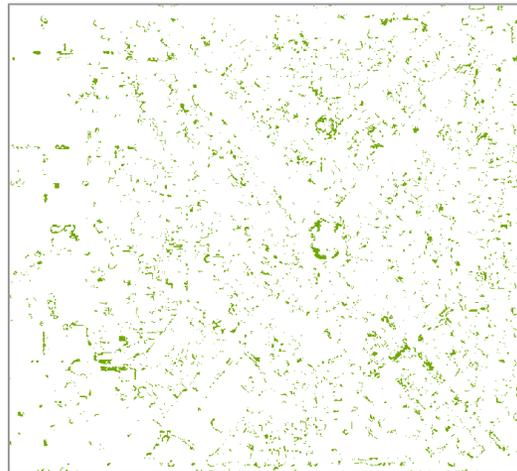
Canopy 2020



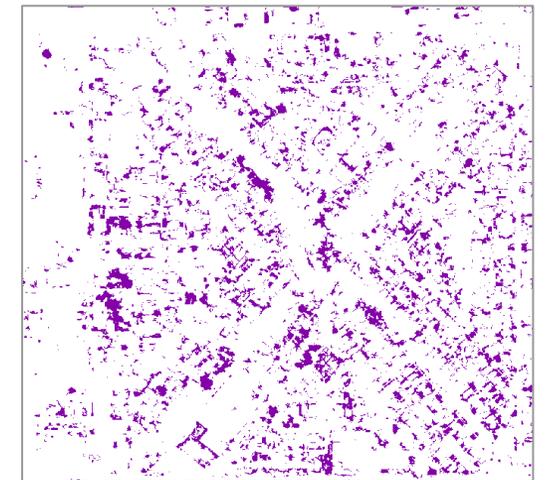
Canopy 2014



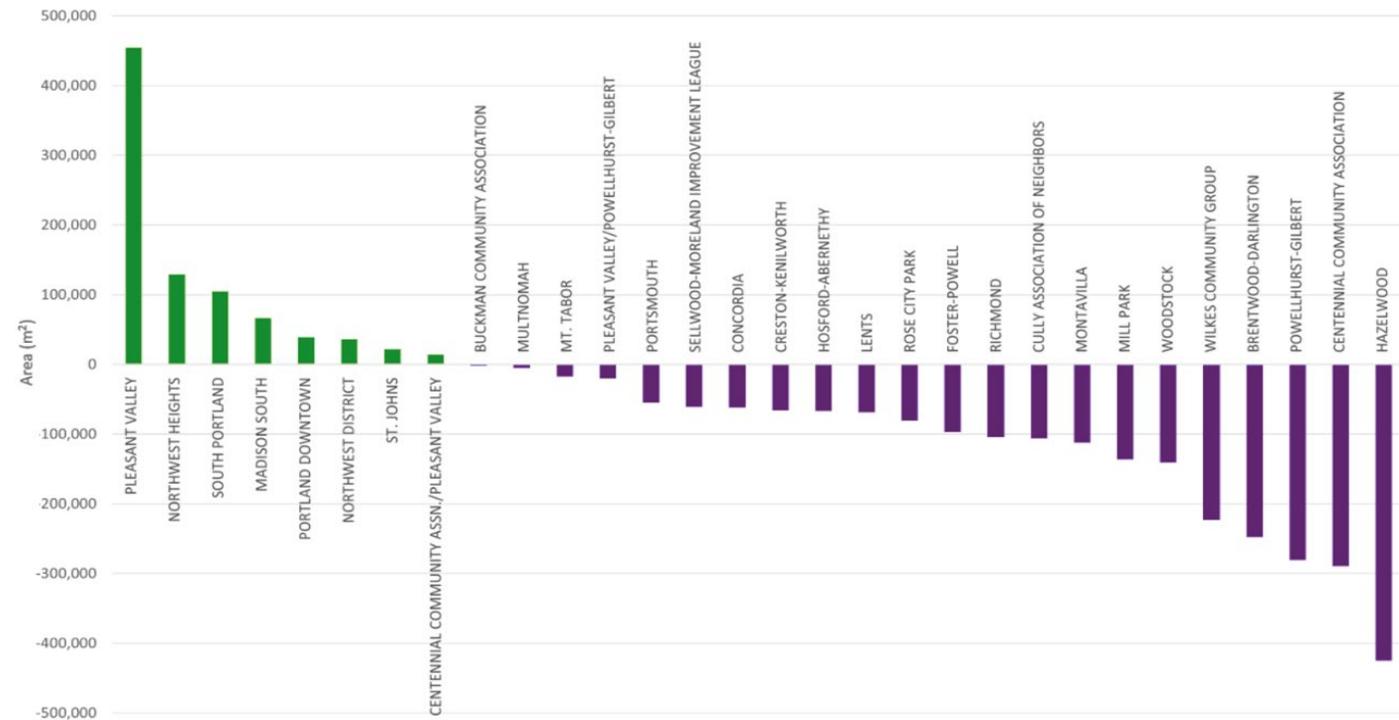
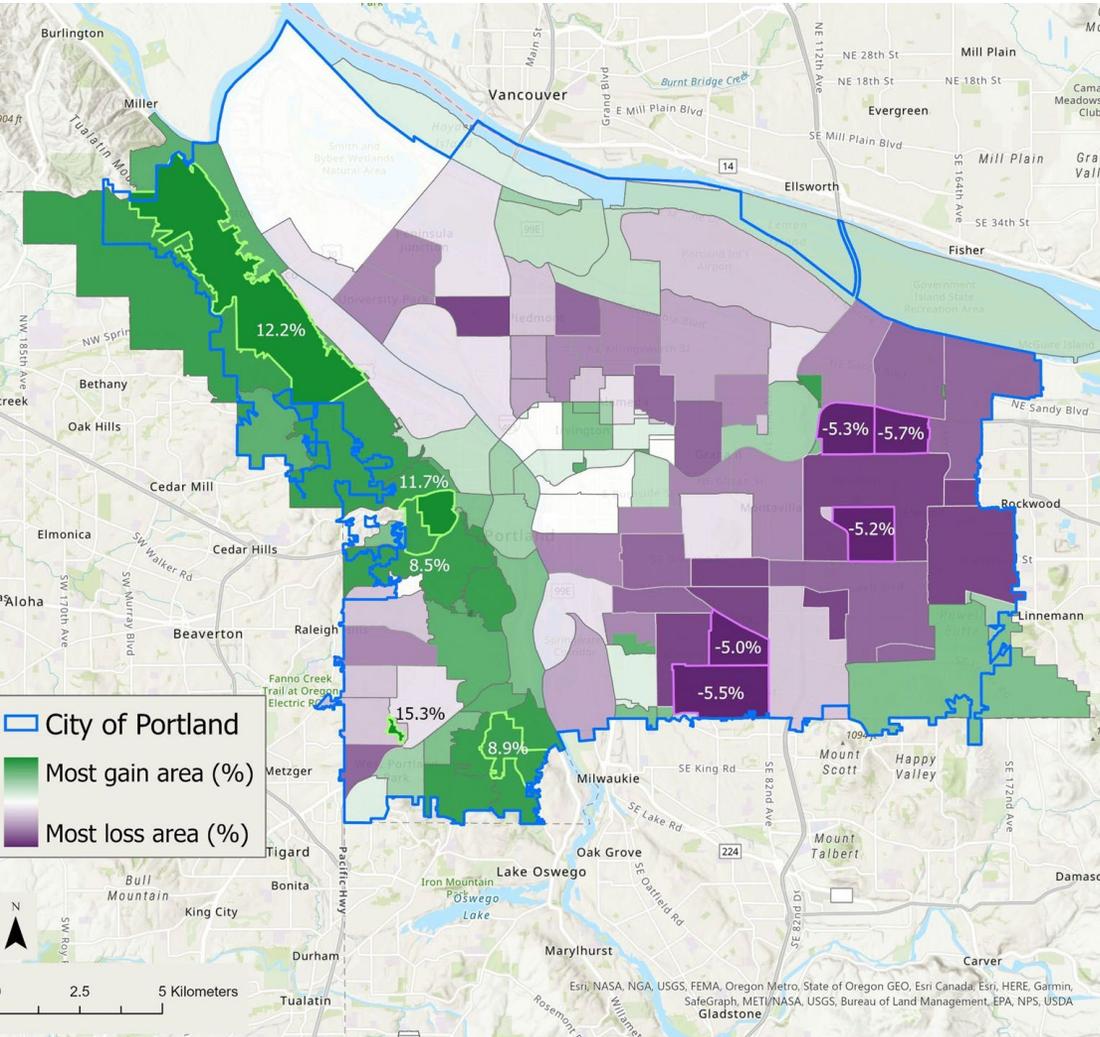
Gain



Loss



PSU: Regional Assessment of Changes in Canopy Cover (2014-2020)





Things to Consider

- Title 11 improved tree protection and planting
 - Went into effect 1/1/2015
- High canopy areas insulated from loss
 - Gains come from existing canopy, not new plantings
- Canopy loss accelerates inequality

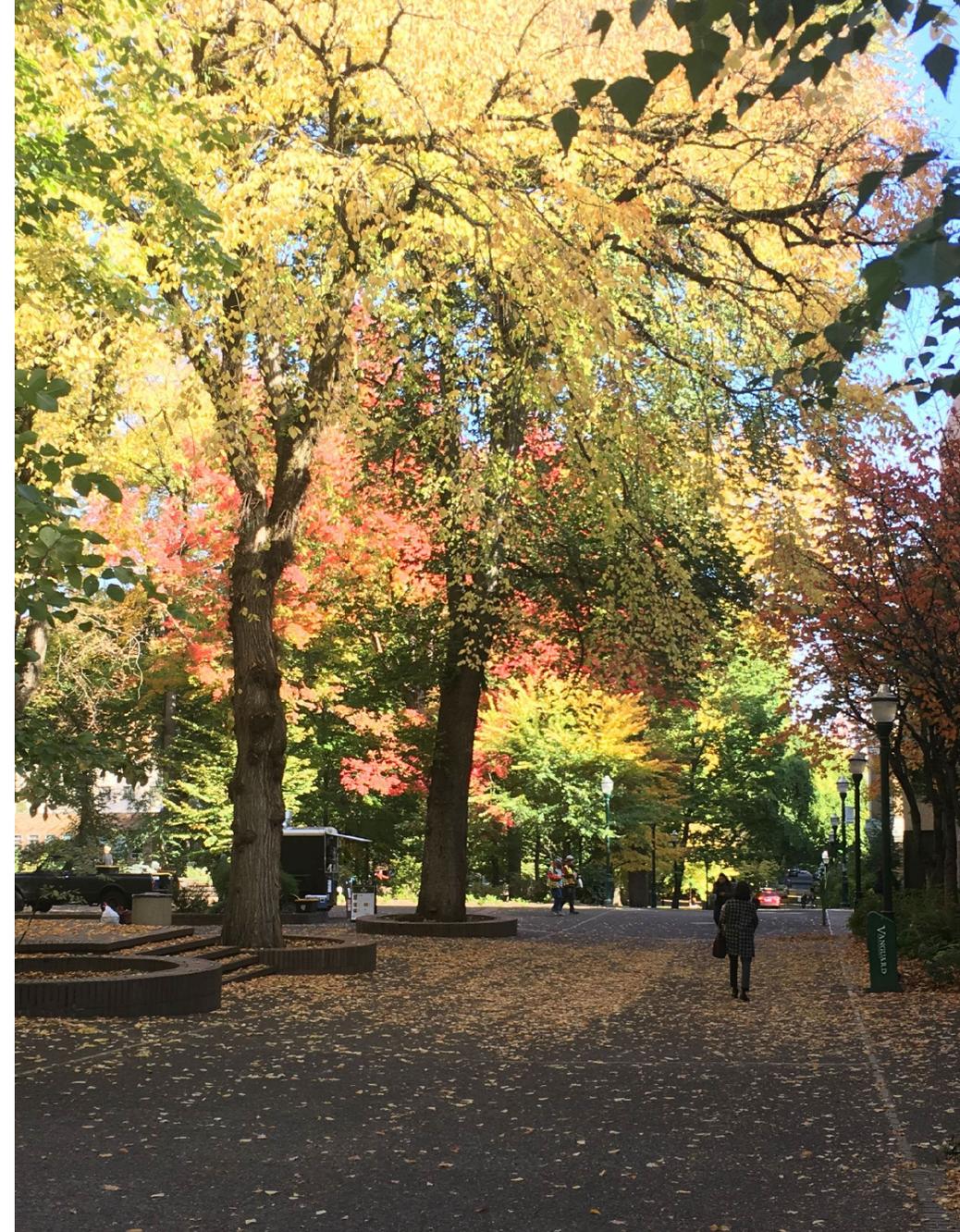




Canopy Actions

To-Date

- On-going canopy measurement and reporting
- Implementation of Title 11, urban forest policies and programs
- Expanded tree protection for big trees, industrial areas
- City Council-approved plan for tree policies improvement
- Tree planting program expansion





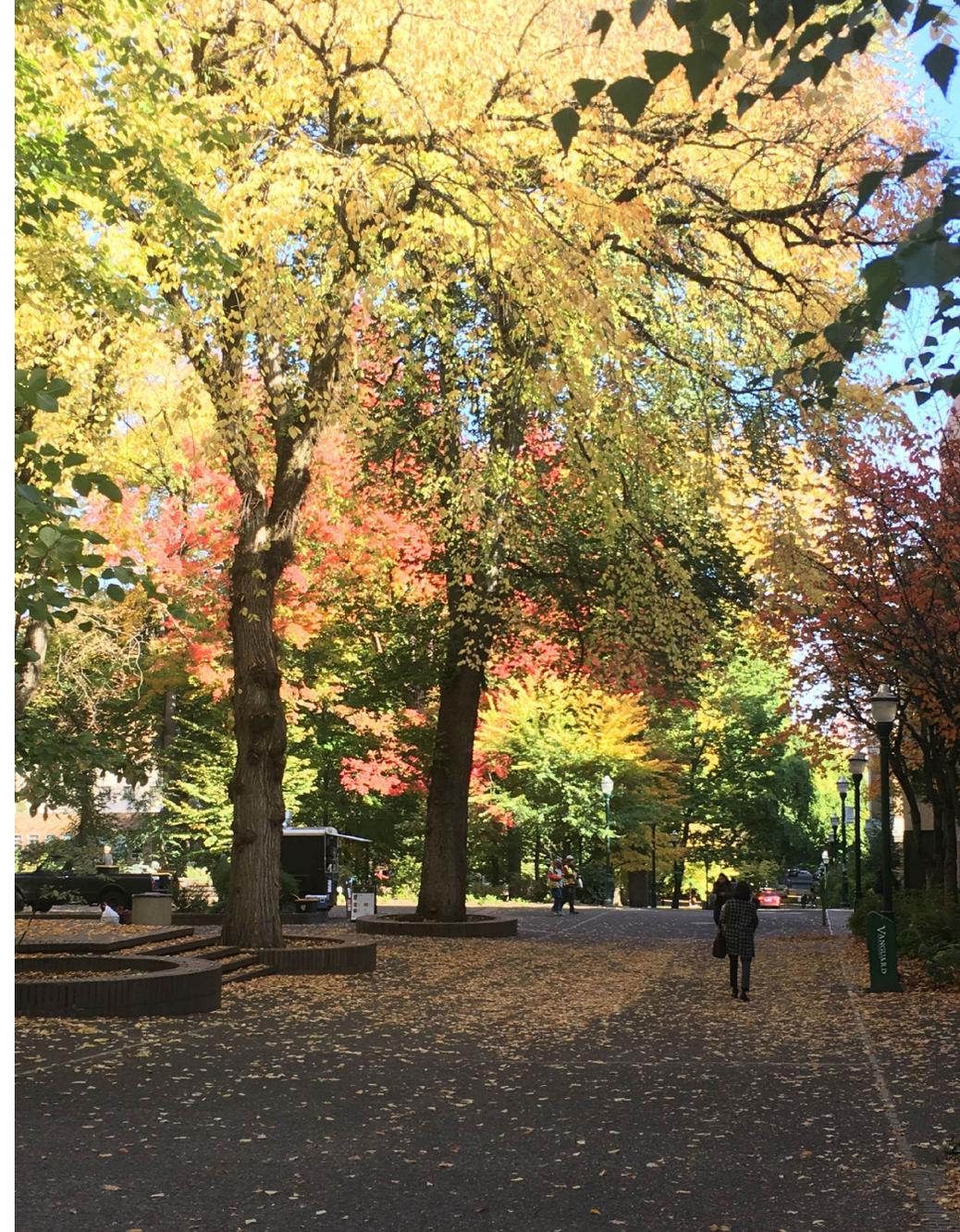
Canopy Actions, In-Process

Parks Levy funded investments

- Improve reg. implementation and compliance
- Increase strategic tree planting
- Create proactive park trees maintenance program
- Update the *Urban Forest Management Plan*

Policy

- T11 amendments projects





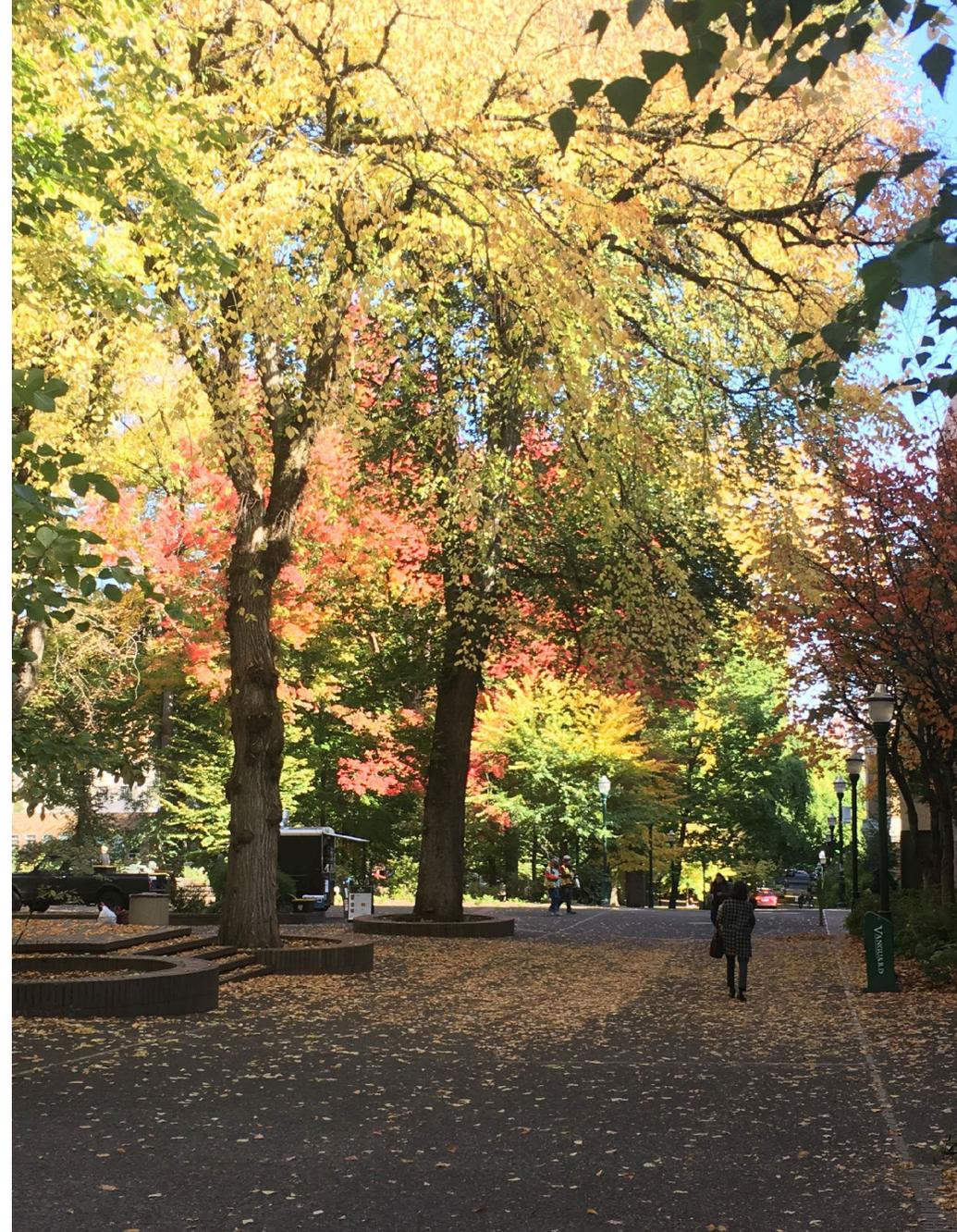
Opportunities

Trees and other Bureaus' policies, e.g.,

- Streets 2035, Pedestrian Design Guide (PBOT)
- Economic Opportunities Analysis, Climate Resilience Planning (BPS)

PP&R Sustainable Future

- Street tree maintenance



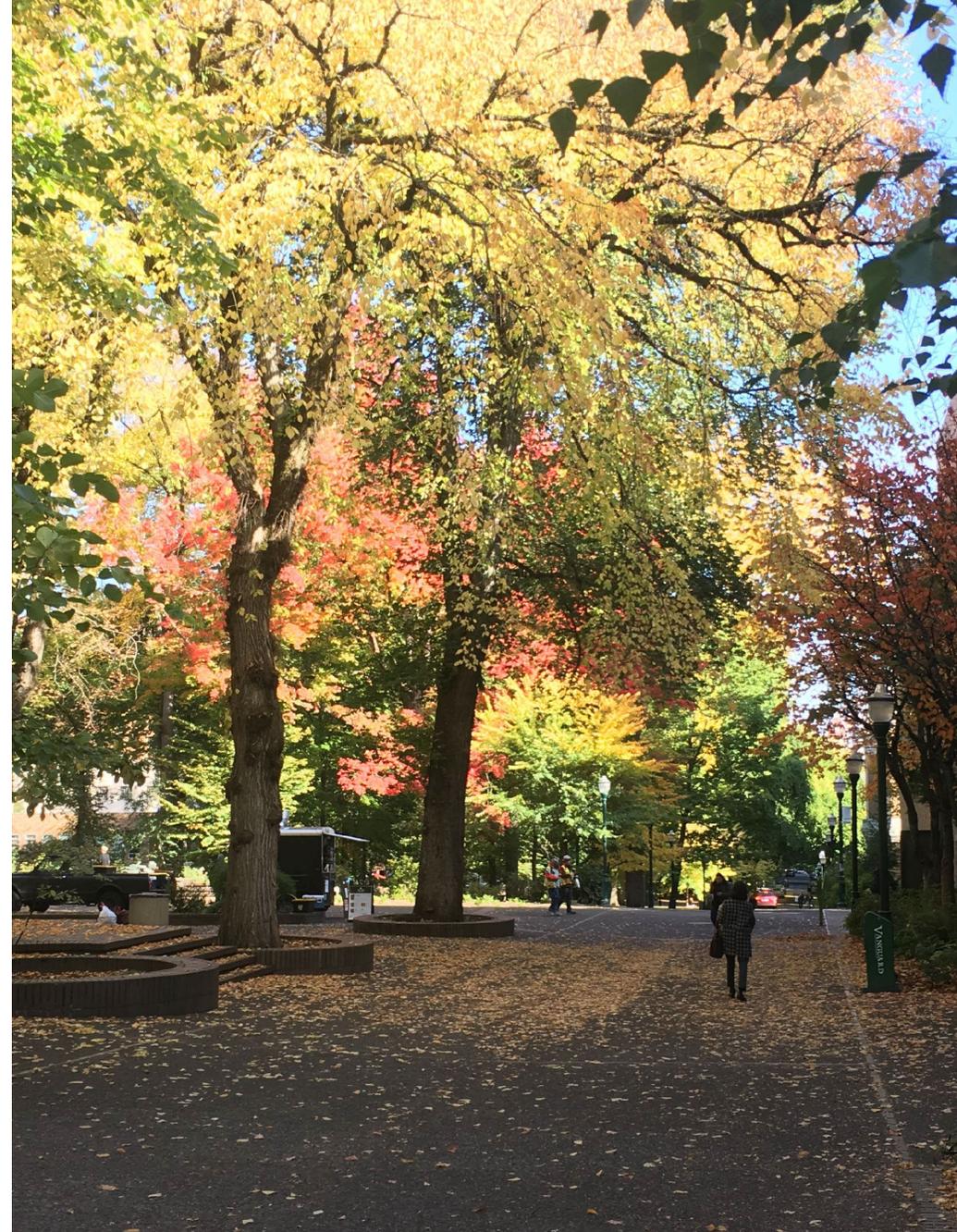


Recommendations

Alignment of Bureau policies

- Tree preservation
- Resolving infrastructure conflicts
- Maximizing space for trees

Council resolution





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Questions and Discussion

