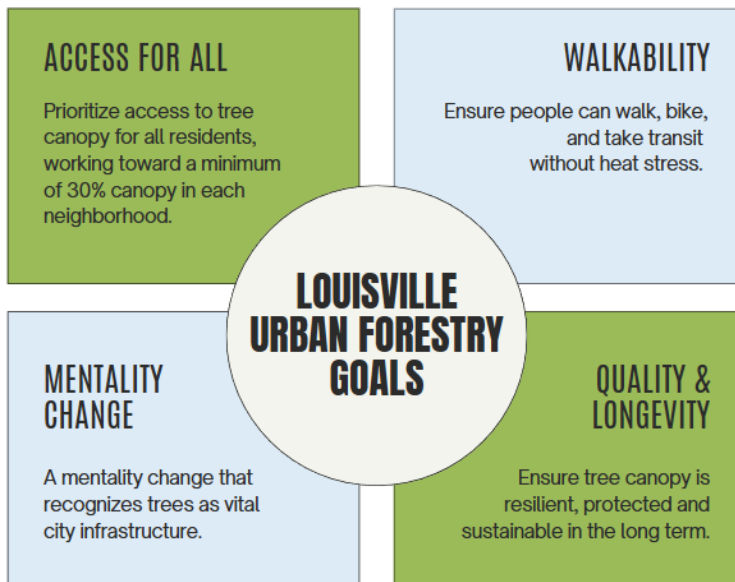




UFMP - Findings and Strategies

Winter 2024-2025
Louisvilletreeplan.org



Finding 1: Tree canopy is inequitable across Louisville.

Finding 2: Tree canopy has grown slightly between 2012-2019 citywide

Finding 3: Despite citywide gain, losses and gains are occurring at the neighborhood level.

Finding 4: The majority of tree canopy is on private land.

Finding 5: Trees are not currently considered critical city infrastructure in Louisville.

Finding 6: There is a significant lack of resources for tree management within Metro.

Finding 7: Street trees are not maintained effectively in good condition under the current

system.

Finding 8: This poor street tree management results in increasing inequities.

Finding 9: Many street trees in poor condition have translated to many not wanting more trees.

Finding 10: The public doesn't fully connect trees to public health and livability.

Finding 11: There is an array of players doing good work in urban forestry.

Finding 12: Work above is overlapping and inefficient.

Finding 13: Long term care by Metro and tree organizations isn't in place, while planting continues.

Finding 14: In lower-income areas, assistance for tree care on private property is needed to grow and maintain canopy.

Finding 15: Neighborhoods are not walkable without shade.

Finding 16: Trees are not included as a necessary component in design plans for transportation projects.

Finding 17: There are significant gaps in urban forestry data that prevent full knowledge of the make up and condition of the urban forest.

Finding 18: There are gaps to address in current tree protection regulations during development.

Finding 19: There is no common goal or vision around this work currently.

Finding 20: There is an opportunity to empower Louisville residents and solve a labor challenge.

Strategy 1: Improve coordination of all actors and refine roles for highest impact.

- Action 1.1 - Form a coalition for plan implementation over the first 10 years.
- Action 1.2 - Address significant overlap between tree organizations, underutilization of others.
- Action 1.3 - Metro government takes over full care and management of street trees.
- Action 1.4 - Home Rule cities take over full care and management of street trees.

Strategy 2: Ensure green infrastructure is built into all infrastructure projects.

- Action 2.1 - Create a higher level Urban Forester position.
- Action 2.2 - Incorporate trees and progress tracking metrics into policies, code, and planning documents.
- Action 2.3 - Improve outcomes in green infrastructure through better standards.
- Action 2.4 - Explore revisions to state policy of KYTC related to state roads in urban areas.

Strategy 3: Improve tree preservation & planting in development.

- Action 3.1 - Provide a dedicated staff member for enforcement of existing code regulations.
- Action 3.2 - Assess the effectiveness of existing regulations.
- Action 3.3 - Prepare for future, evidence-based code revisions.

Strategy 4: Prioritize preservation to protect intact natural systems in more rural areas.

- Action 4.1 - Identify existing highest quality forest and natural systems for priority preservation efforts.
- Action 4.2 - Codify protection for high quality areas in a Conservation Form District.
- Action 4.3 - Create a community-wide plan for addressing invasive species management.

Strategy 5: Build a skilled local workforce while meeting local needs in implementation.

Action 5.1 - Create an urban forestry workforce development program.

Strategy 6: Address data gaps to improve understanding of Louisville's urban forest.

- Action 6.1 - Use tree canopy data layers to further analyze trends in tree canopy
- Action 6.2 - Update the urban tree canopy analysis (UTC) every 5-10 years
- Action 6.3 - Complete public tree inventory (streets, parks, any other public land)
- Action 6.4 - Better understanding on make up of the urban forest located on private land.
- Action 6.5 - Make all urban forestry data sets accessible to organization partners and the public.

Strategy 7: Improve public awareness on the role of the urban forest.

- Action 7.1 - Create a central information hub.
- Action 7.2 - Centralized messaging for partners to utilize to create a unified voice.
- Action 7.3 - Distribute the campaign throughout the community.

Strategy 8: Ensure proactive care and preservation for overall urban forest health.

- Action 8.1 - Develop a financial assistance program for tree care on private property.
- Action 8.2 - Provide expertise to help property owners make decisions that support healthy trees.
- Action 8.3 - Celebrate and value mature trees with a heritage tree program.

Strategy 9: Plant with a purpose.

- Action 9.1 - In the short term, prioritize areas with highest need and lowest canopy.
- Action 9.2 - For the longer term, create a more detailed, evidence-based planting plan.
- Action 9.3 - Use the latest science to select the best tree species.

Strategy 10: Institute a plan to regularly measure progress and reassess.

- Action 10.1 - Set measurable benchmarks or success metrics for each goal.
- Action 10.2 - Produce annual UFMP progress reports.
- Action 10.3 - Reassess action steps every five years.
- Action 10.4 - Update the UFMP every 15 years