

Goals & Objectives of SDOT's Trees and Sidewalks Operations Plan

The goals of the **Trees & Sidewalks Operations Plan** are guided by the following core values, which come from Seattle residents through existing city policies and plans:

- **Accessibility and Health:** Provide a safe, accessible, and inviting walking environment, following universal design principles
- **Environment:** Protect and expand a healthy urban forest
- **Equity:** Thoroughly consider the needs of all communities in accordance with the City's [Race and Social Justice Initiative](#)
- **Efficiency:** Preserve existing assets—both street trees and sidewalks—and use resources wisely

These goals will be met by achieving the following objectives:

- Explore strategies that enhance neighborhood aesthetic, reduce lifecycle costs, and allow sidewalks and substantial trees to coexist
- Repair sidewalks damaged by street trees with sustainable solutions
- Retain healthy, mature, and appropriately sited trees whenever possible, while ensuring mobility
- Assess the appropriateness of street trees based on established criteria, including species, location, planting space, maintenance, past and current conflicts, and proximity to public and private structures and infrastructure
- Explore and implement alternative and/or innovative sidewalk repair approaches to preserve trees where feasible
- Evaluate sidewalk repair approaches across a range of criteria, including lifecycle costs and benefits as well as community costs and benefits
- Implement tree removal, when no other practicable alternatives exist, in phases to enable continued canopy coverage
- Increase the urban canopy by planting new street trees in vacant locations
- Communicate to property owners the importance of proper tree maintenance to address implementation of the revised Street Tree Ordinance and the walkable zone (as defined in the [Pedestrian Master Plan](#))

