Right of Way Tree Canopy Data

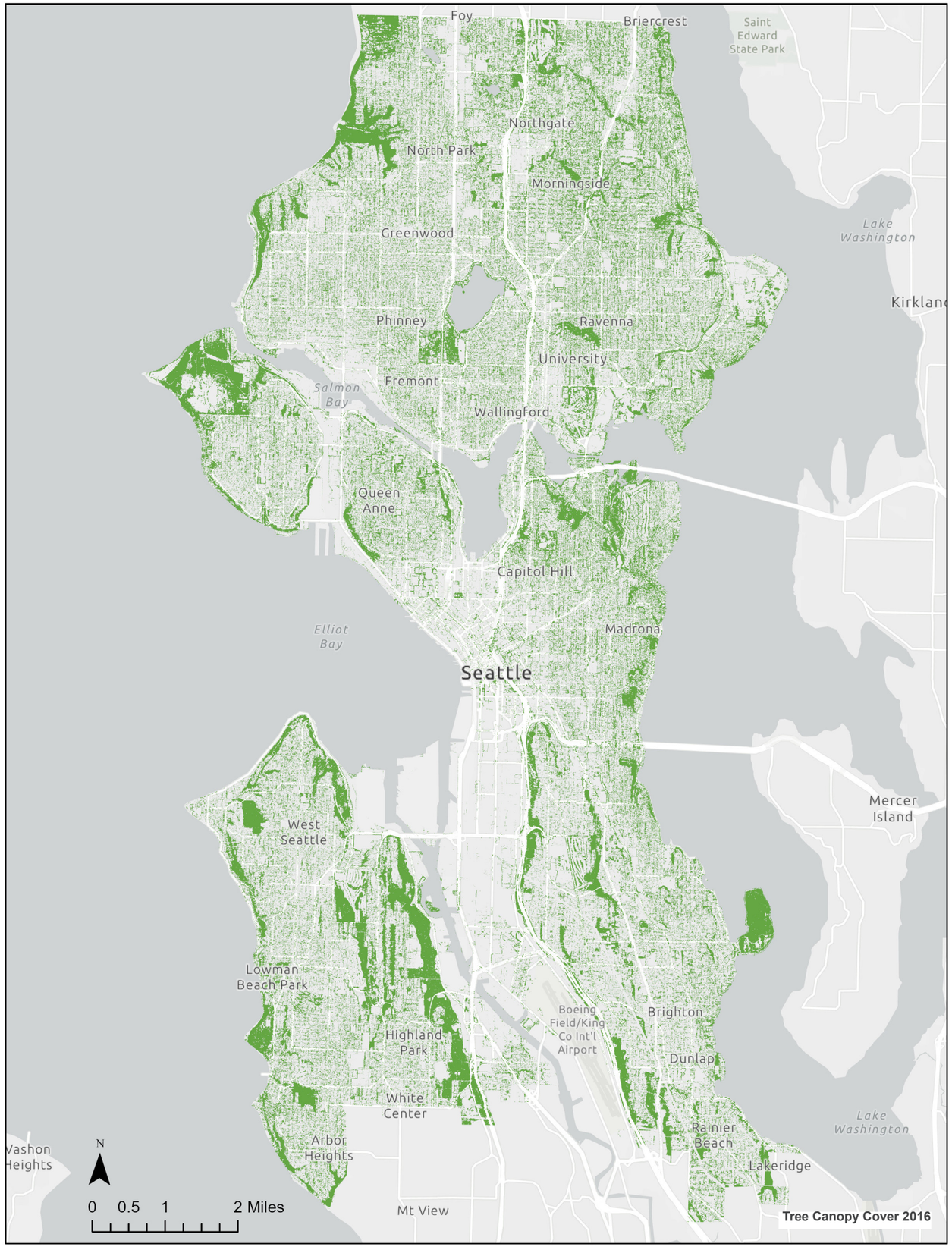
March 2023 SDOT Briefing Follow-Up

The Urban Forestry Commission

June 7, 2023

References

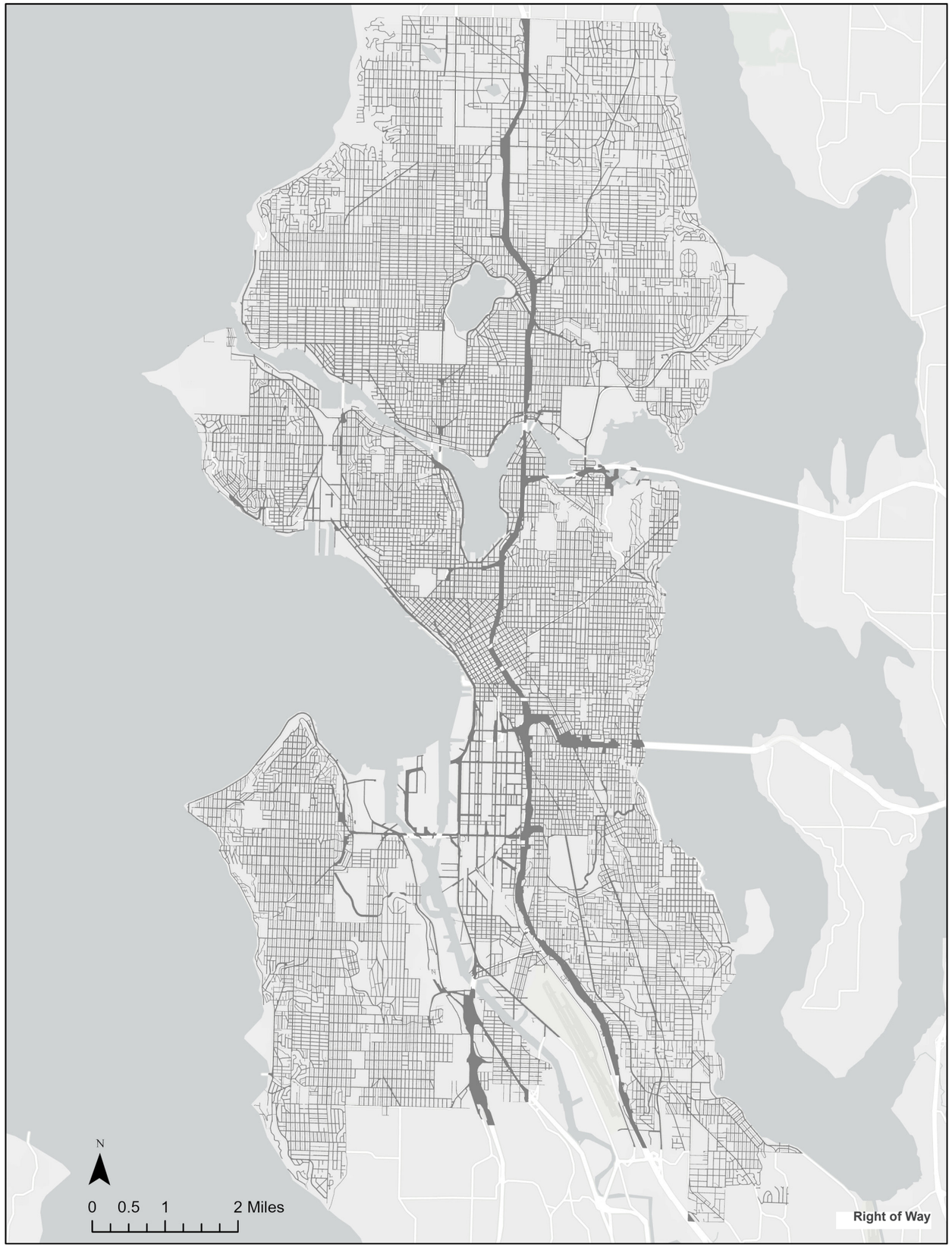
- Tree canopy cover 2016
- SDOT street tree
- Right of Way
- Seattle City Clerk’s Office Neighborhood Map Atlas
- Parks
- Racial and Social Equity Index
- Trees for Seattle
- 2016 Seattle Tree Canopy Assessment Report
- 2021 Seattle Tree Canopy Assessment Report
- SDOT Trees and Sidewalks Operations Plan
- SDOT Asset Management Status and Condition Report



Right of Way (ROW)

27%

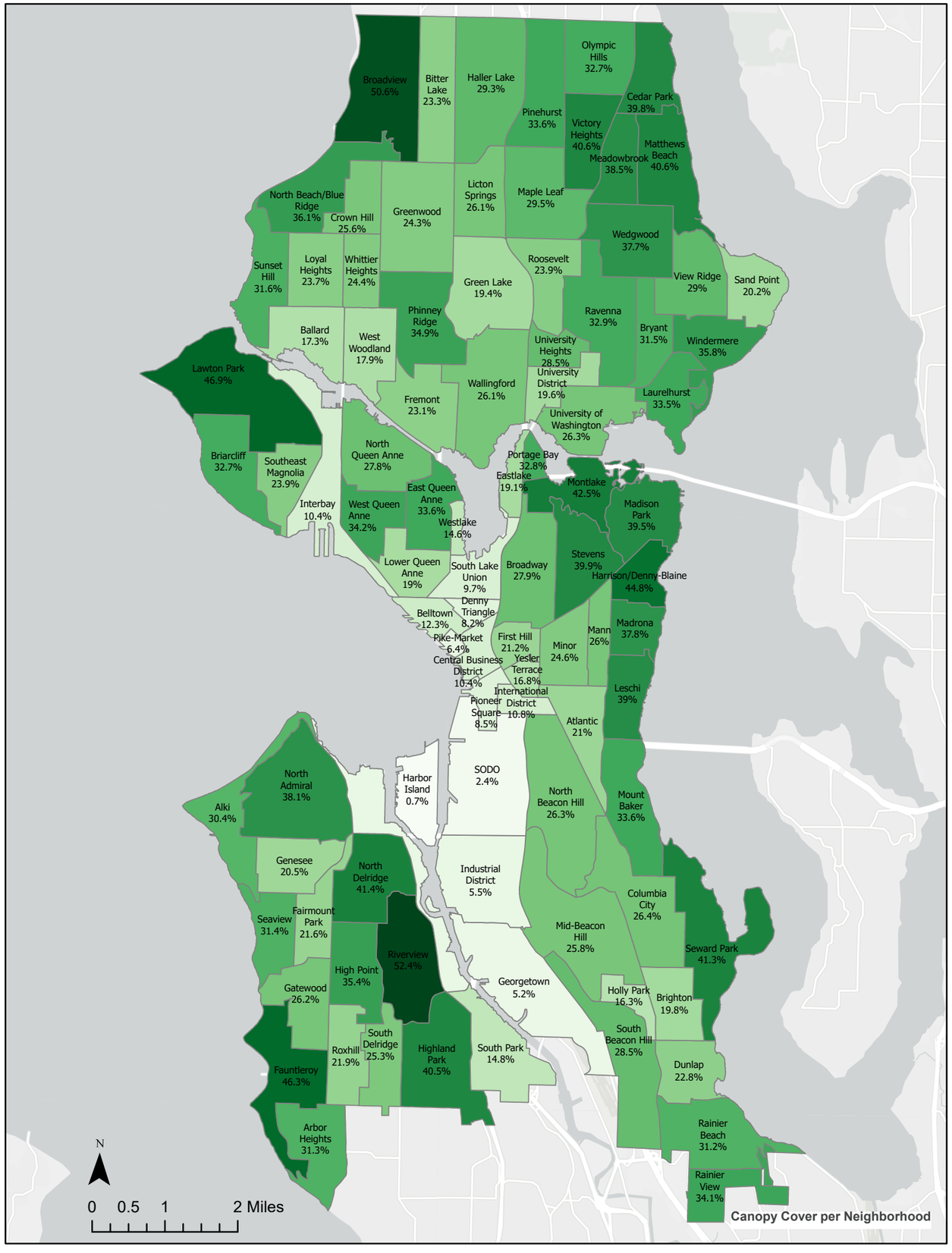
The Tree Canopy Assessment[1] identifies the ROW as a management unit, which takes 27% of the city's land area. It contributes 23% of tree canopy cover to the city.



1. 2021 Tree Canopy Assessment Report

Neighborhood Canopy Cover

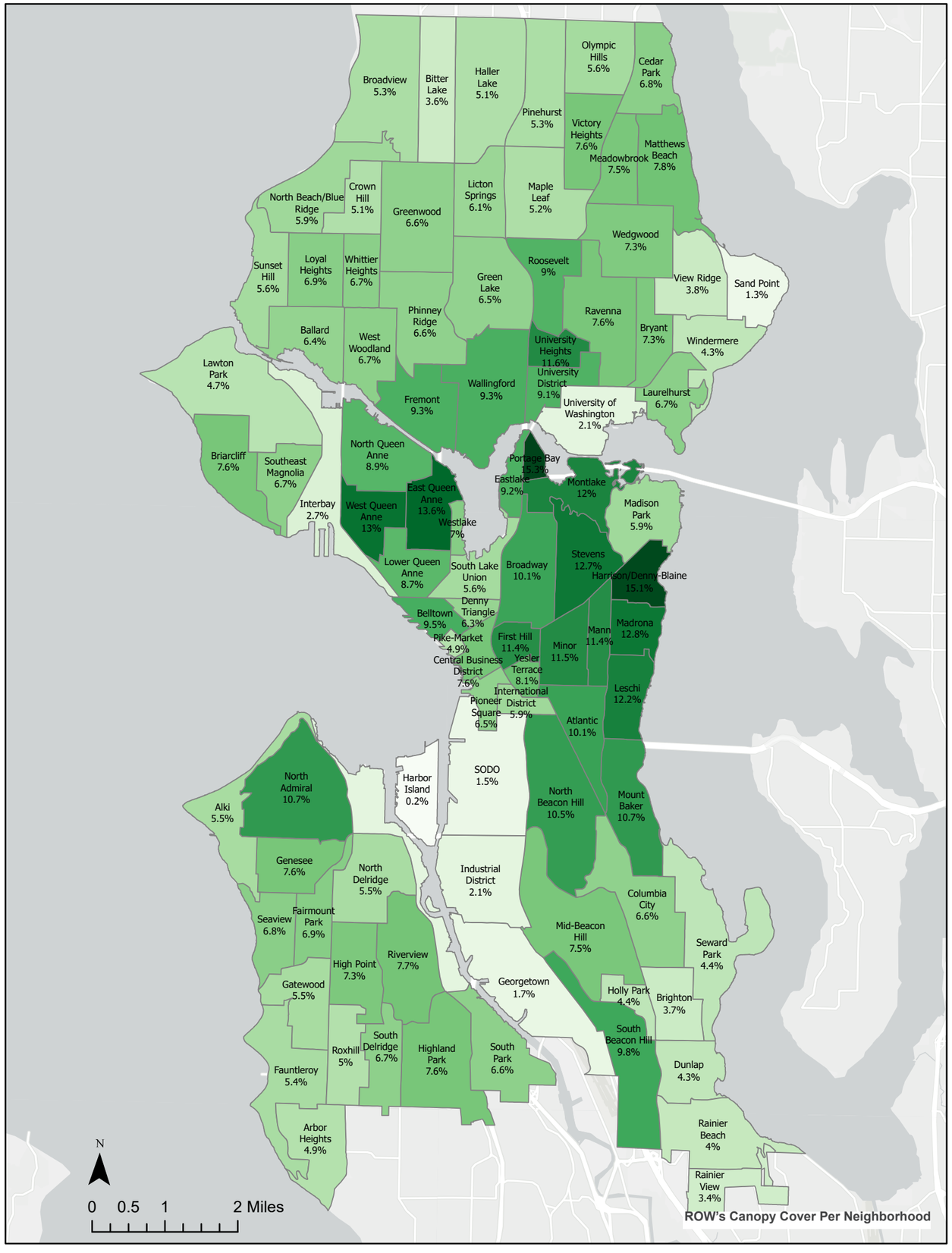
Percentage = Neighborhood Canopy Area / Neighborhood Total area[1,2]



1. Canopy area is based on Tree canopy cover 2016 data. Neighborhoods are defined by Seattle City Clerk's Office Map Atlas.
2. 2021 Tree Canopy Assessment Report shows overall Seattle's 2021 canopy cover is 28.1%

ROW Canopy Cover Per Neighborhood

Percentage = ROW Canopy Area /
Neighborhood Total area



ROW Canopy Cover & Neighborhoods

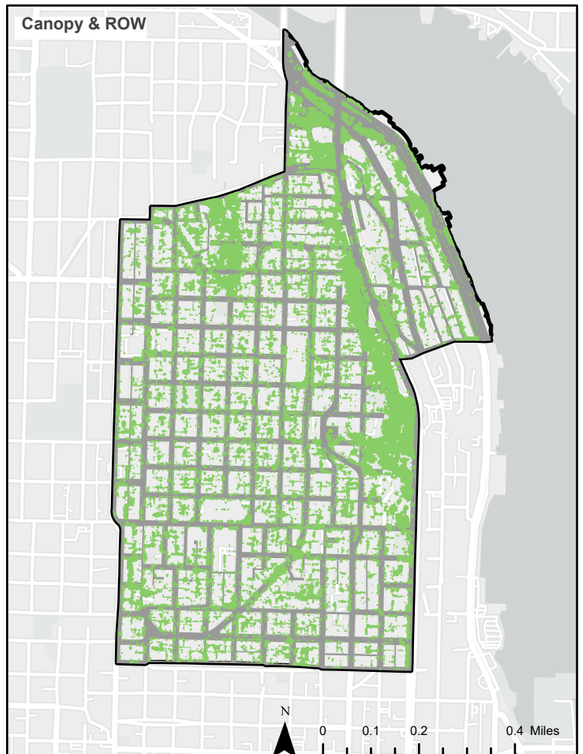
Disadvantaged neighborhoods[1] usually have lower ROW canopy coverage

Examples:

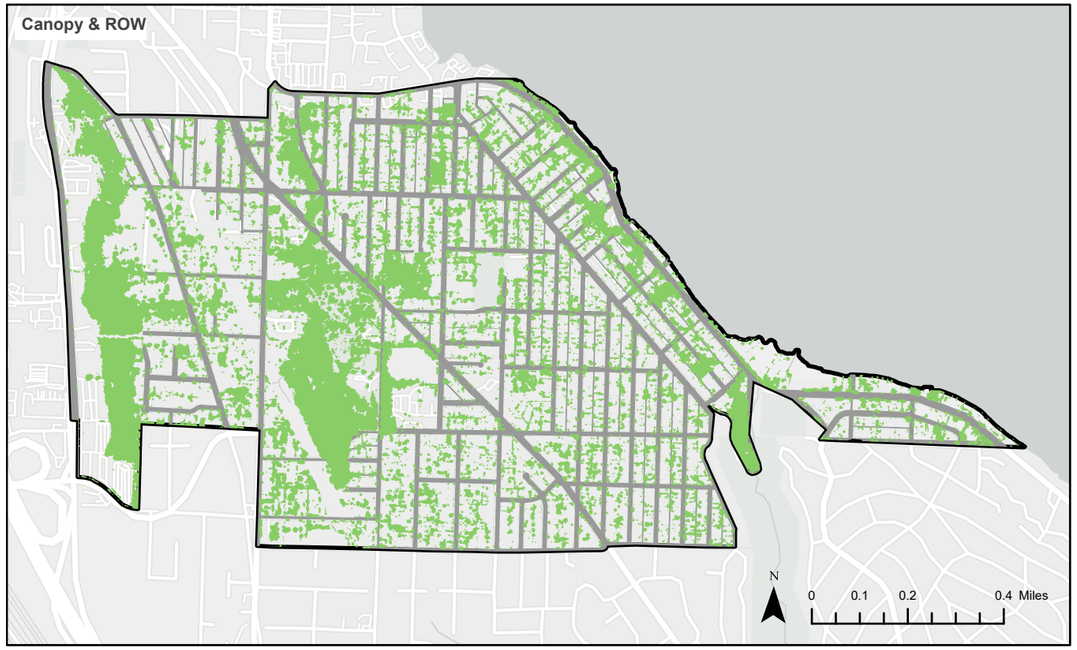
	City	East Queen Anne	Rainier Beach
Overall Canopy %	28.6%[2]	33.6%	31.2%
ROW %	27.0%	38.0%	22.0%
Row Canopy %	6.7%	**13.6%**	**4.0%**
ROW Canopy Area per Acre of ROW	0.25	**0.36**	**0.18**

East Queen Anne has higher ROW canopy coverage though its overall canopy coverage is similar to Rainier Beach

1. Racial and Social Equity Index
2. Tree canopy cover 2016



East Queen Anne

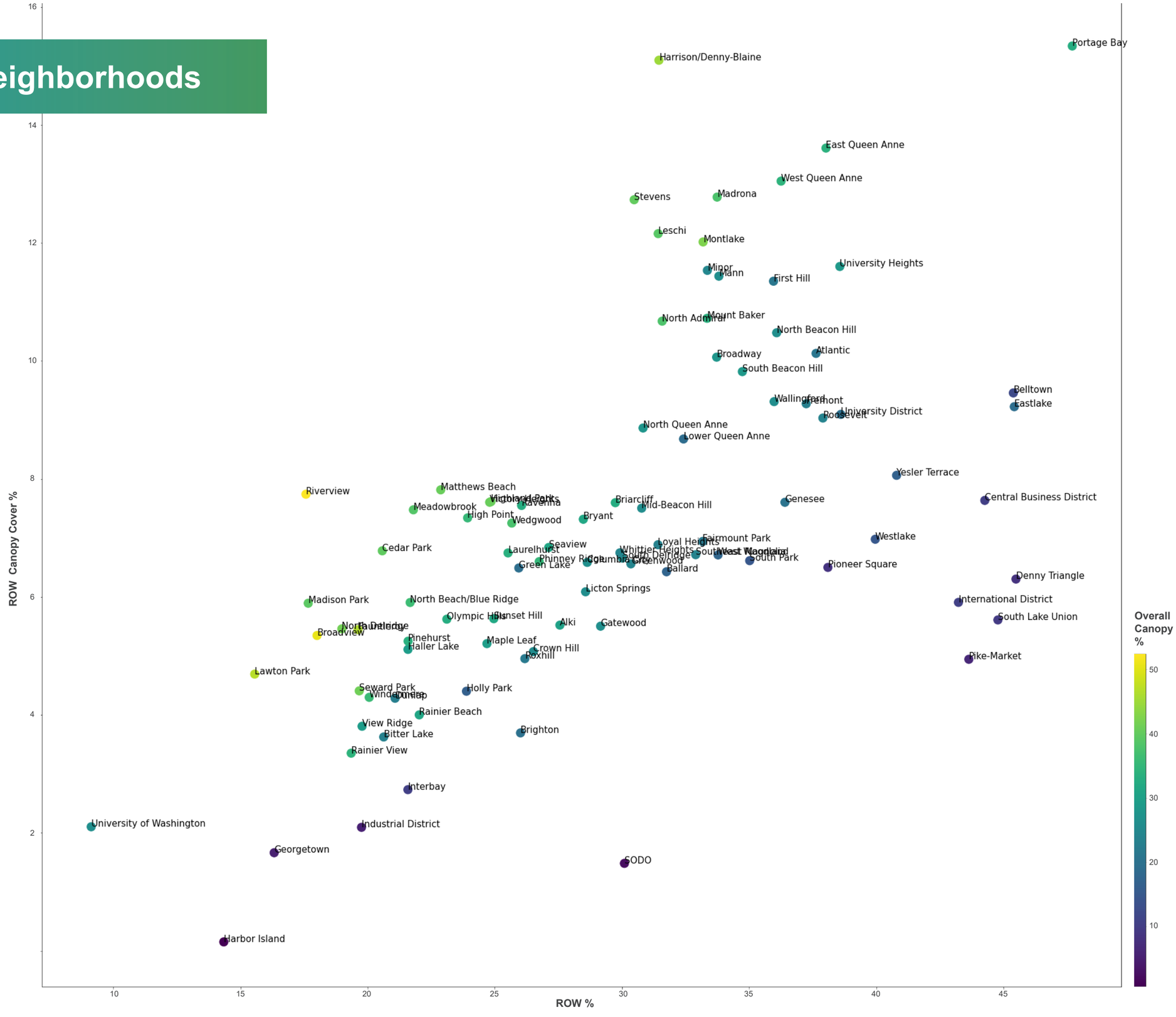


Rainier Beach

ROW Canopy Cover & Neighborhoods

The larger the ROW area, the greater the need for tree canopy within the ROW

- Street trees make up a large percentage of canopy cover in downtown and industrial areas.
- Disadvantaged neighborhoods need more ROW trees to gain canopy cover.

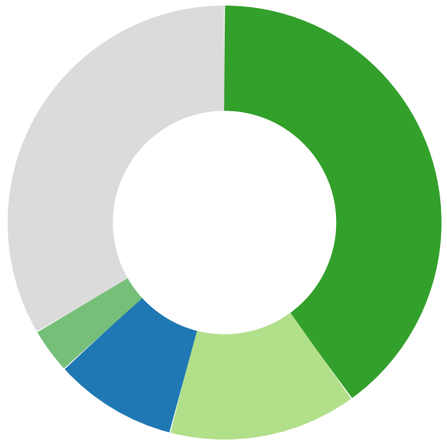


Street Trees & Neighborhoods

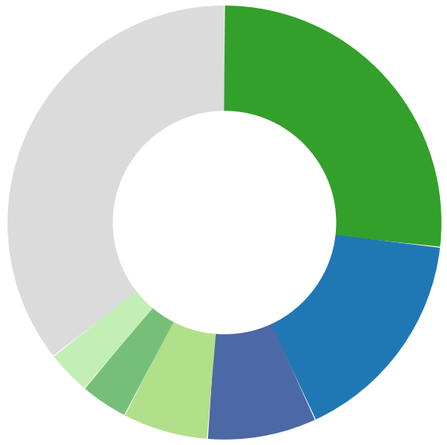
Street Tree Species[1]

Disadvantaged neighborhoods tend to have less showy spring blooms.

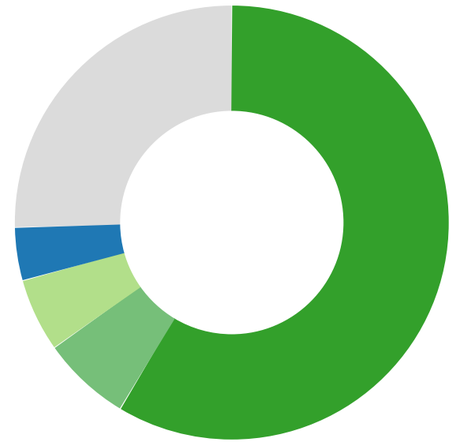
The difference in dominant street tree species may be a result of history, social-economical status, topography, and other factors.



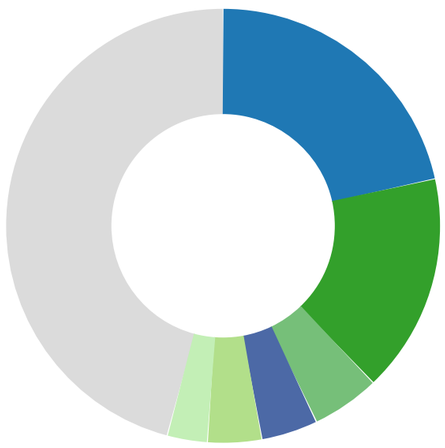
Laurelhurst



East Queen Anne

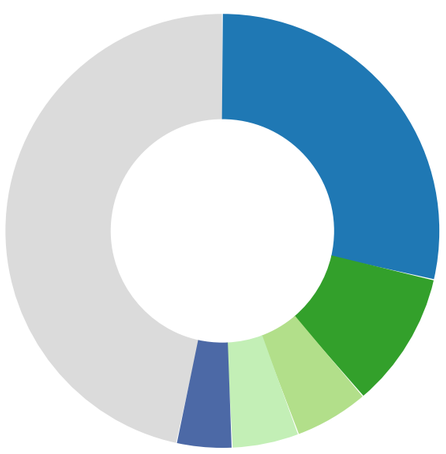


View Ridge

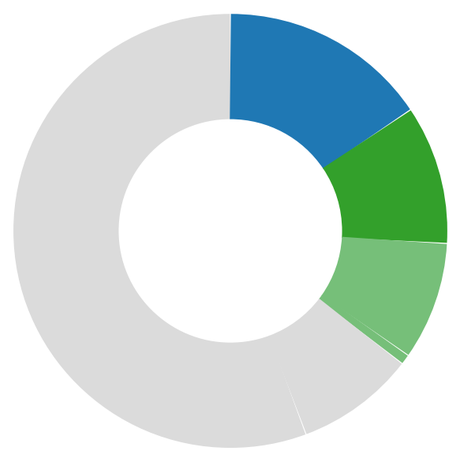


Citywide

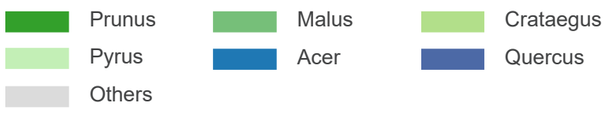
Georgetown



North Beacon Hill



Rainier Beach



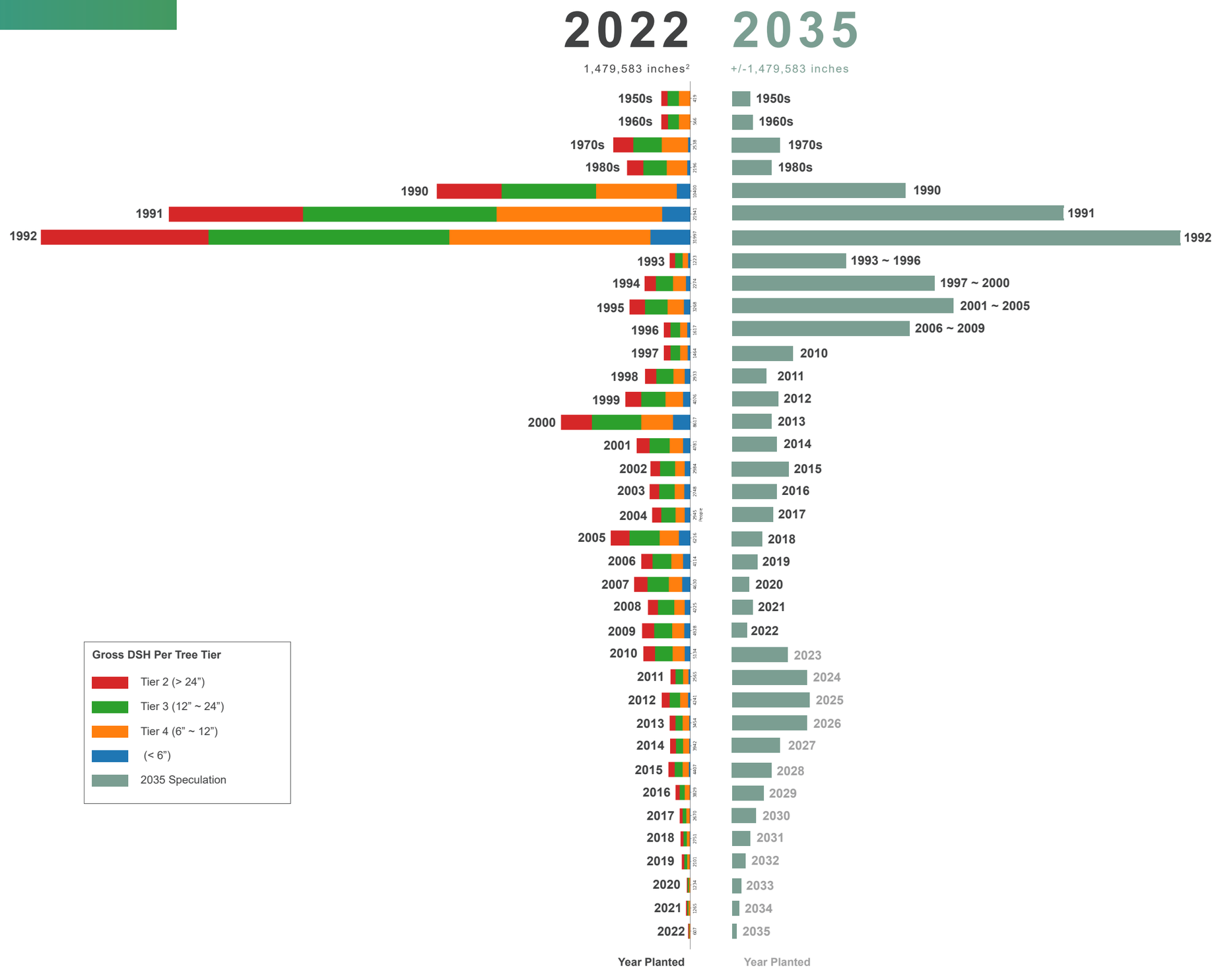
Examples

1. Seattle GeoData, Trees

Street Tree Preservation

Preservation of existing street trees is the fundament to achieve the city's tree canopy cover goals

- New/replacement trees (2" DSH) are smaller in size compared to established trees (6" to 24" DSH)[1]. As a result, these smaller trees provide a reduced canopy benefit in terms of shade and other ecosystem services.
- After a new tree is planted, it goes through a period of establishment and growth before it starts to produce a significant canopy.



1. SDOT Asset Management Status and Condition Report
2. Seattle GeoData, Trees