



# City of Fort Lauderdale Draft Urban Forestry Master Plan

September 30, 2025

# The Team

## RES

- Justin Freedman, Project Manager, Arborist
- Megan Reising, Assistant Project Manager
- Mark Clark, QA/QC Manager
- Larsen McBride, Arborist
- Kyra Paris, Arborist

## City of Fort Lauderdale

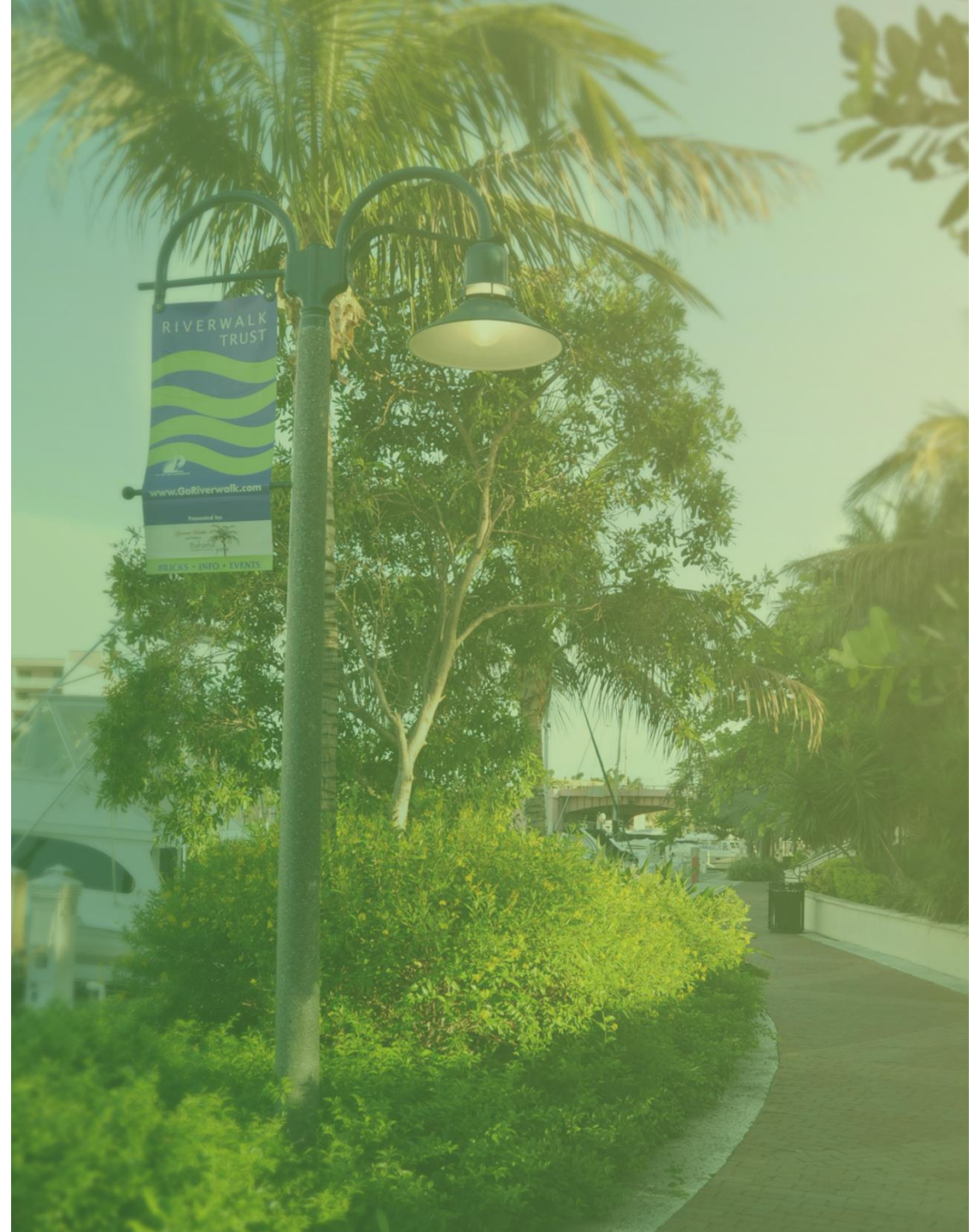
- Laura Tooley, Urban Forester
- Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
- Dr. Nancy Gassman, Deputy Director, Chief Resilience Officer
- Melissa Doyle, Division Manager, Public Works



**We Are Green**  
**We Are FTL**

# Overview

- UFMP goals
- Urban forest today
- Stakeholder visions and goals
- Recommendations
- Implementation
- Conclusion

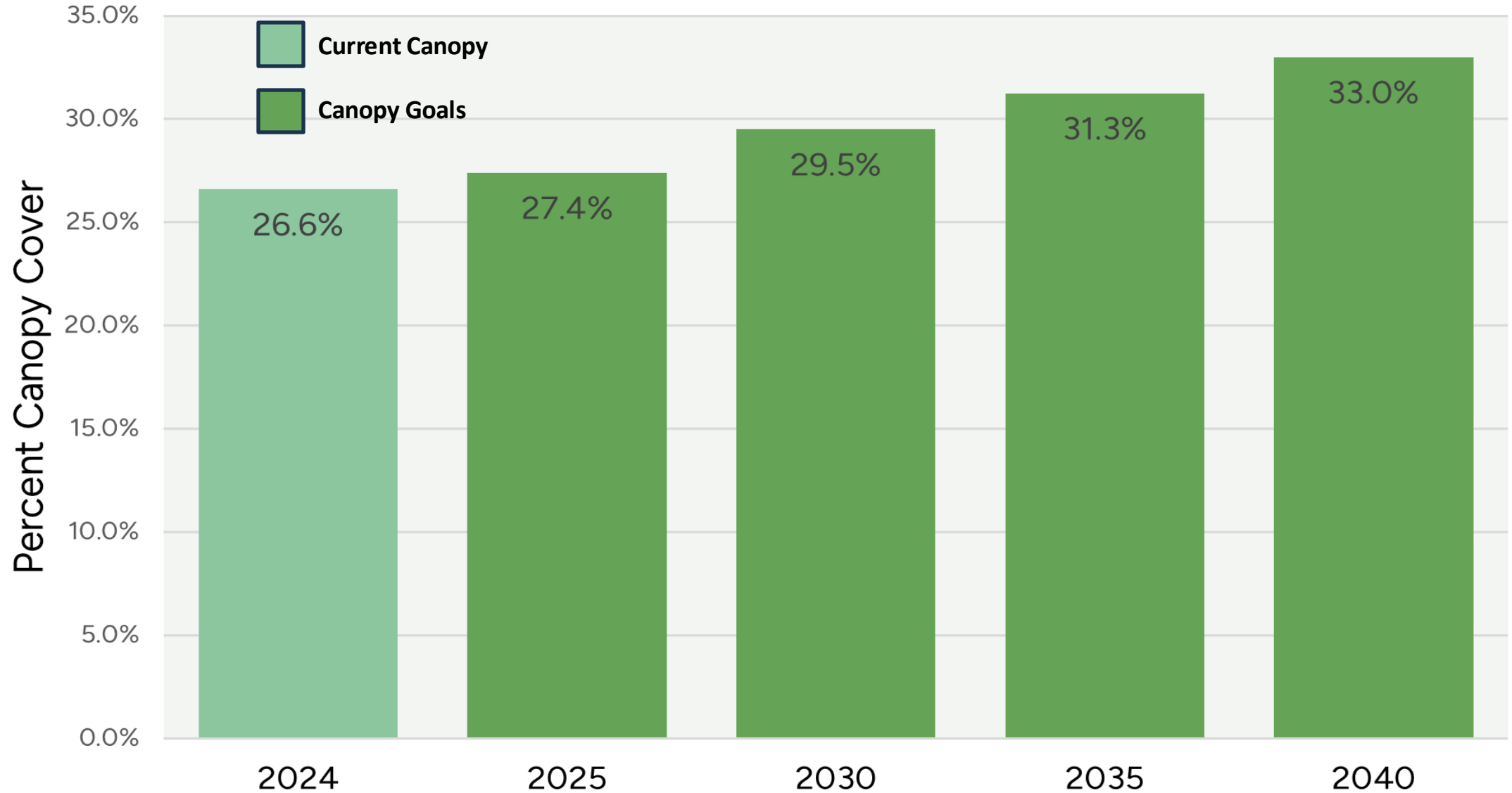


A photograph of a small, single-story white house with green trim around the windows and door. The house is surrounded by large, mature trees with dense green foliage. A prominent tree trunk is in the foreground on the left. To the right, a street sign on a black pole reads "DO NOT ENTER" in white text on a red background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text "UFMP GOALS" is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom left.

# UFMP GOALS

# Growing Fort Lauderdale's Tree Canopy

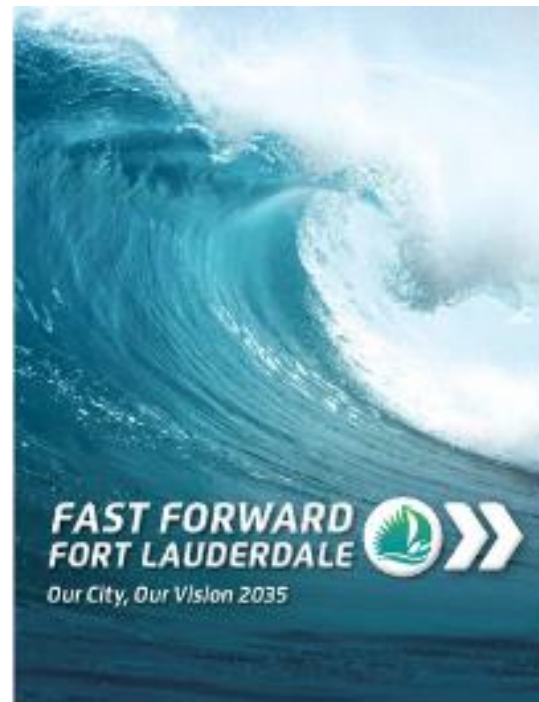
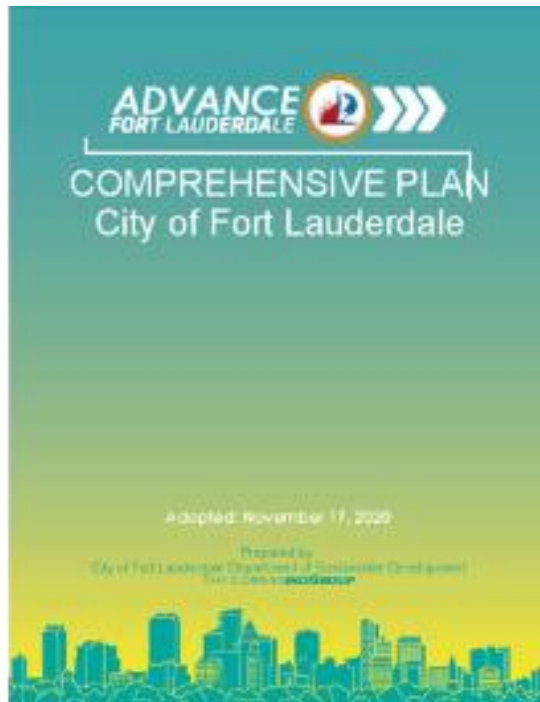
Working towards 33% today



# UFMP Goals

The UFMP is a road map to 33% canopy cover by 2040.

This goal was set in the Advance 2040 Comprehensive Plan.



# UFMP Goals

**The UFMP is a road map to 33% canopy cover by 2040.**

It outlines 62 recommendations across 14 areas to improve urban forestry practices.



# UFMP Goals

The UFMP is a road map to 33% canopy cover by 2040.

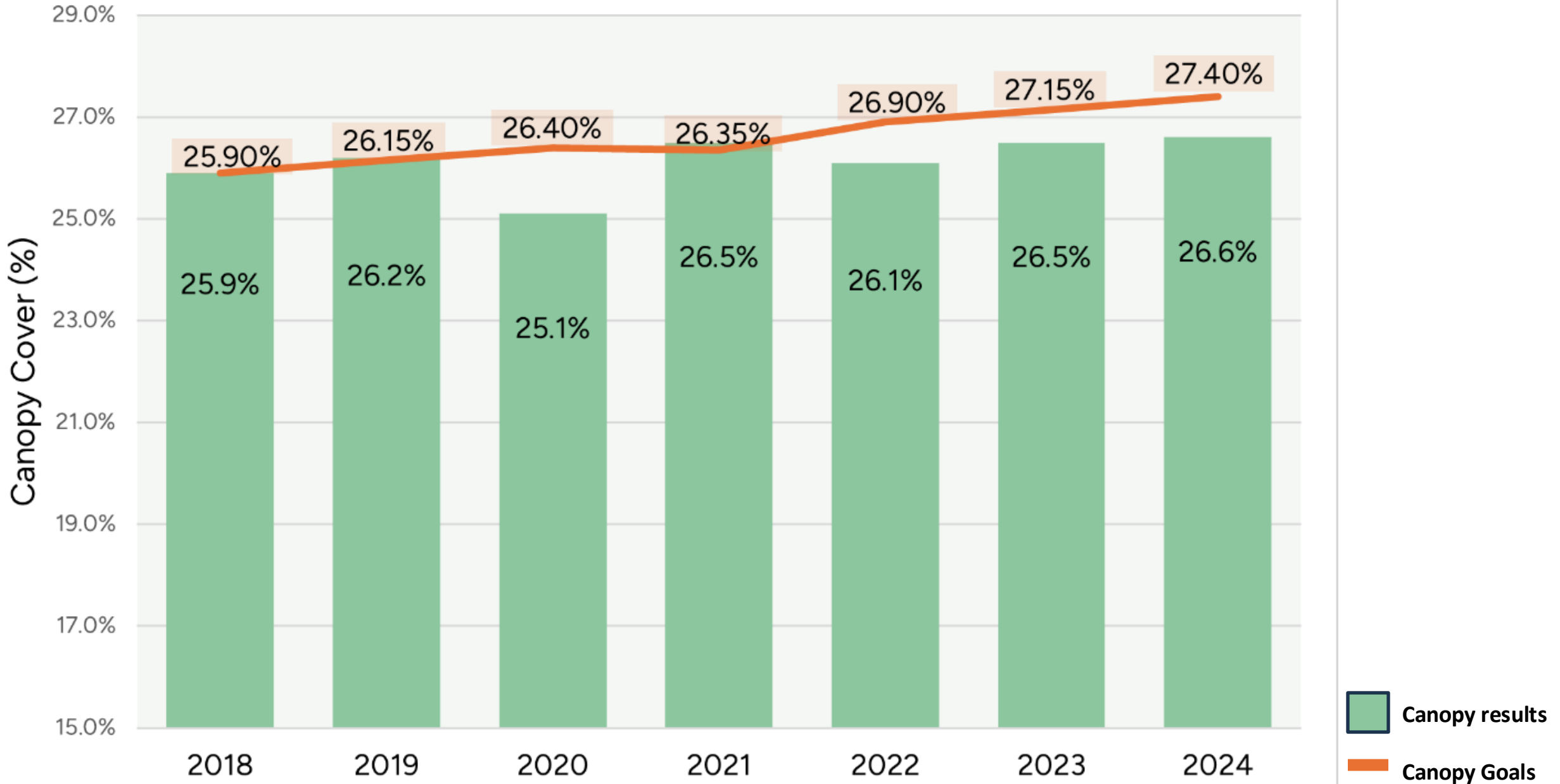
It proposes a timeline to preserve and plant more trees than ever.

Year	Years to Grow	Avg ft <sup>2</sup> /tree by 2040	Trees/year	Total ft <sup>2</sup> by 2040
2026	14	707	10,694	7,558,519.2
2027	13	658	10,694	7,037,721.4
2028	12	609	10,694	6,516,923.6
2029	11	561	10,694	5,996,125.8
2030	10	512	10,694	5,475,328.0
2031	9	463	10,694	4,954,530.2
2032	8	415	10,694	4,433,732.4
2033	7	366	10,694	3,912,934.6
2034	6	317	10,694	3,392,136.8
2035	5	269	10,694	2,871,339.0

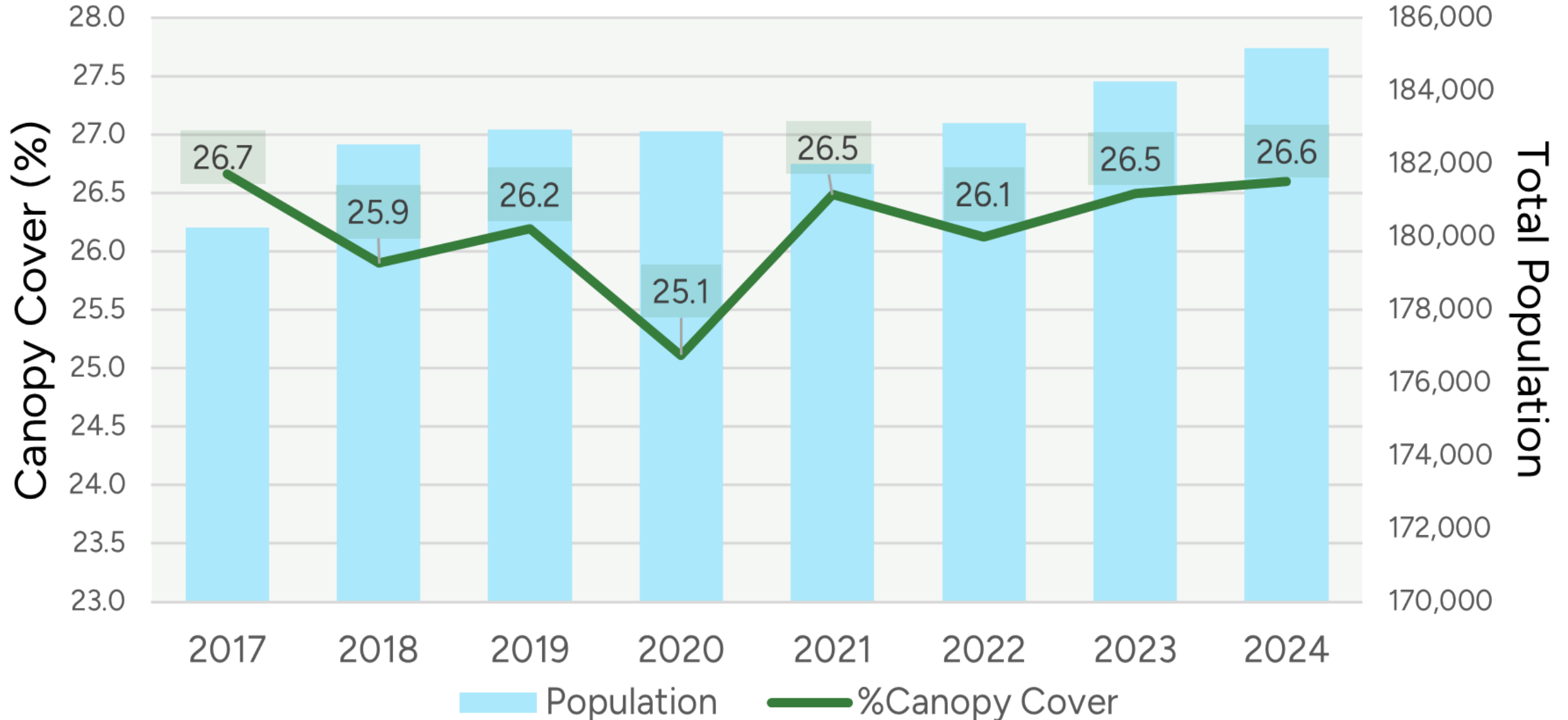


# FORT LAUDERDALE'S URBAN FOREST TODAY

# Percent of Citywide Tree Canopy 2018-Present

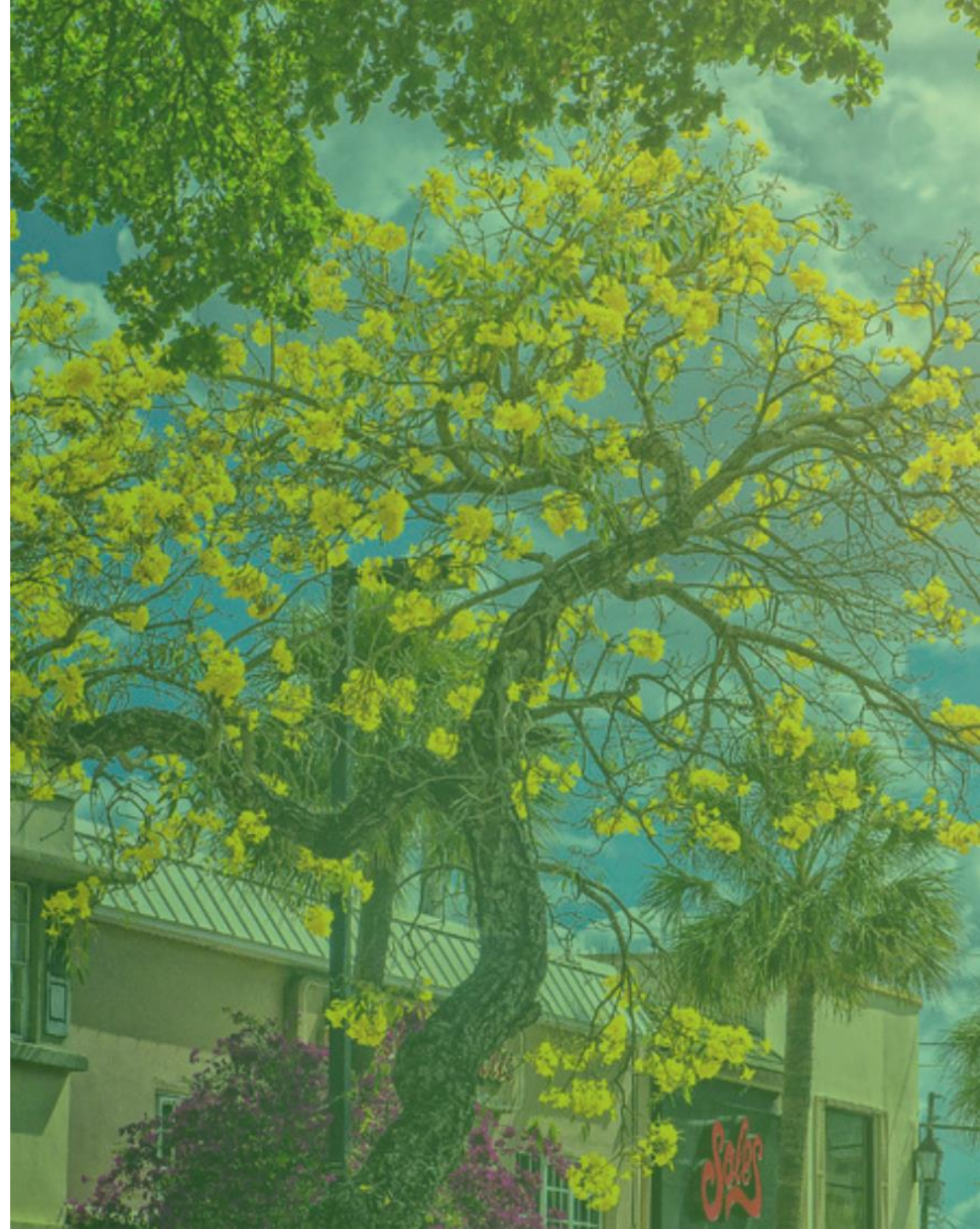


# Population Growth and Percent Canopy Cover 2017-2024

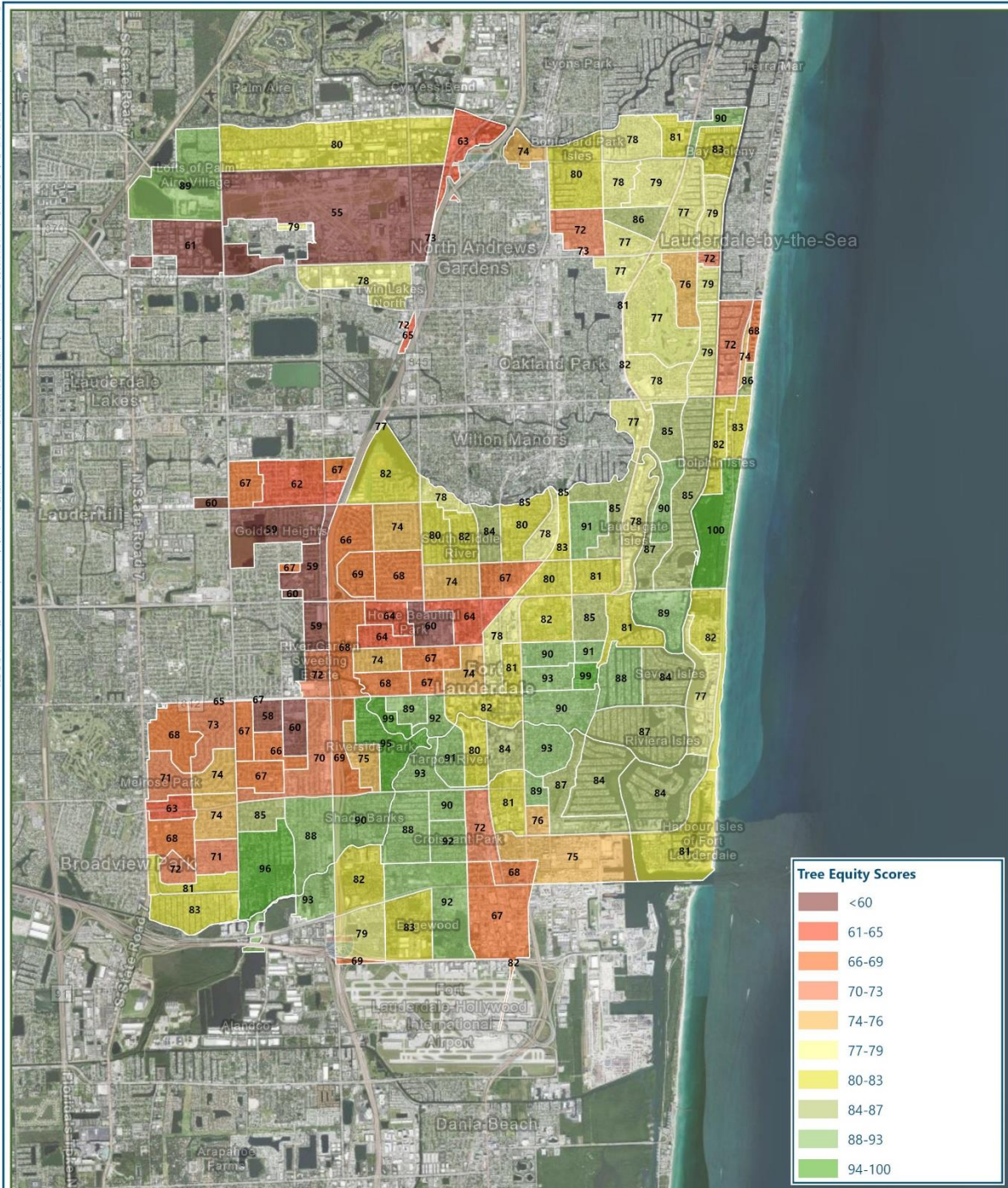


# The Value of the Urban Forest

- \$3.3 million benefits (2024)
- 87.2 million gallons of stormwater avoided (2024)
- 43,717 tons of air pollutants removed (2024)
- 704,000 tons of carbon stored (2024)
- \$1.33 million/year expenditures (2015-2023)







# Fort Lauderdale's Tree Equity Score

78



**Low Canopy and  
Tree Equity Scores...**

**High Priority for Tree  
Planting and  
Preservation**



# STAKEHOLDER VISION & GOALS

# Canopy Conversations

## Internal Stakeholders

- The City's urban forestry practices are distributed among 14 distinct departments and teams
- Input from 10 interviews with City staff was used to formulate UFMP recommendations
- Coordination and communication is key to successfully implementing the UFMP



# Canopy Conversations

## External Stakeholders

- 794 survey responses
- 4 in-person District-wide meetings
- 1 virtual Citywide meeting
- Consensus that tree removal for development is currently excessive
- Broad support for planting more trees
- Enthusiasm for community participation in planting and outreach



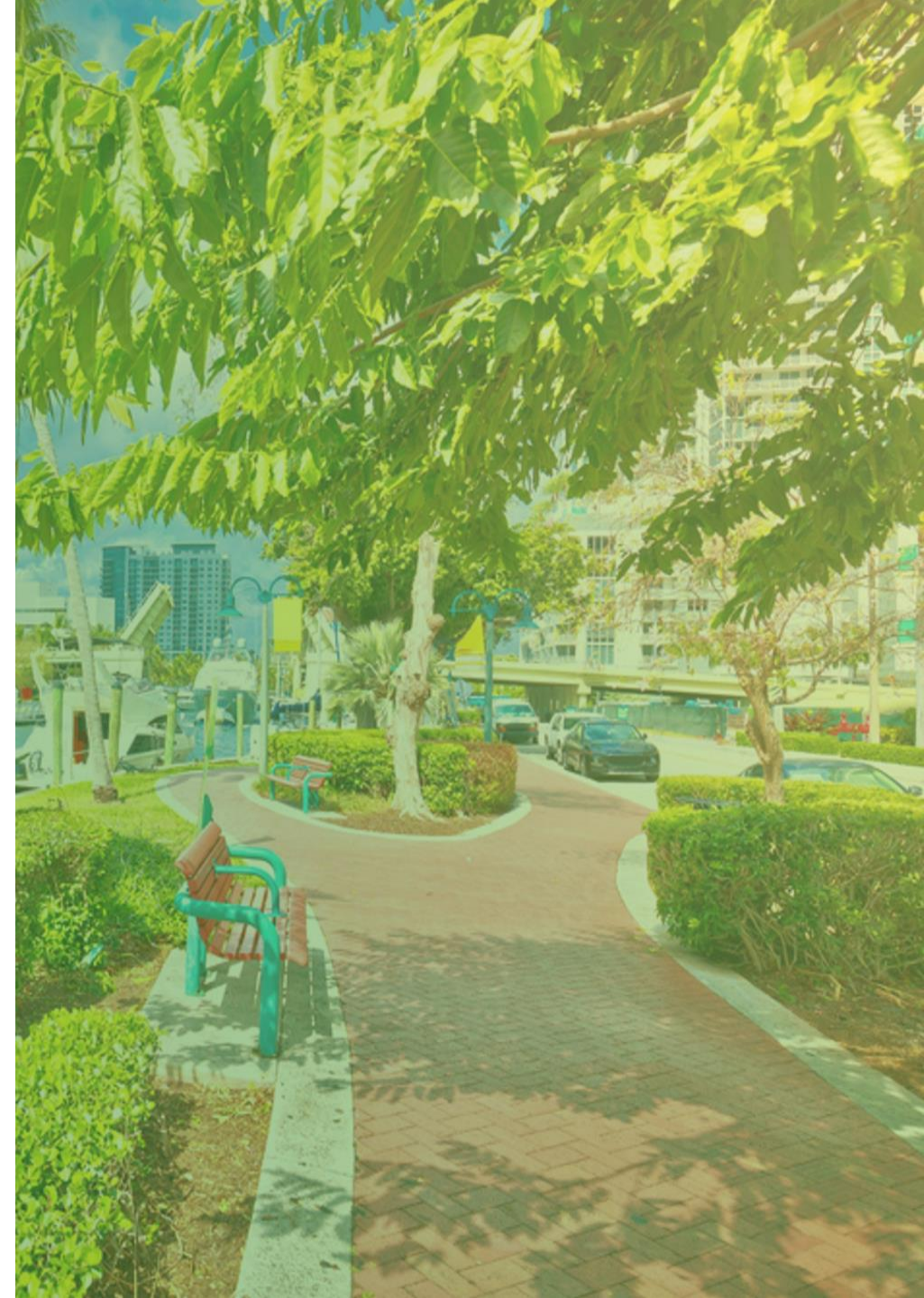


# RECOMMENDATIONS

# Reaching 33% Tree Canopy

How do we get there?

- **Group 1: Strengthen** tree preservation measures
- **Group 2: Update** permit fees
- **Group 3: Enhance** replacement standards
- **Group 4: Incentivize** tree preservation
- **Group 5: Assist** homeowners
- **Group 6: Expand** staffing
- **Group 7: Minimize** impacts from pests and invasives



# Reaching 33% Tree Canopy

How do we get there?

- **Group 8: Prioritize** tree planting
- **Group 9: Restore** mangrove habitats
- **Group 10: Standardize** design plans
- **Group 11: Centralize** tree databases
- **Group 12: Engage** with communities
- **Group 13: Bridge** across agencies
- **Group 14: Adopt** a new tree palette





# IMPLEMENTATION

# Achieving 33% Canopy

## Overview

- City currently has 8.75 square miles of canopy
- 5.6 square miles of the City is potential tree planting area
- Grow 58.7 million ft<sup>2</sup> (2.1 sq miles) of canopy by 2040
- 3.9 million ft<sup>2</sup> canopy/year
- Depends on average square footage of individual trees



# Potential Planting Scenarios

- Figures are based on hypothetical canopy averages
- Costs are based on average costs of 10 trees commonly planted in Fort Lauderdale
- Trees planted sooner will develop larger canopies by 2040
- Planting should be done by City staff, residents, community organizations, businesses, and developers



# Potential Planting Scenarios

Working towards 33% today

Scenario	Average ft <sup>2</sup> /tree	Trees planted per year 2026-2040
Scenario 1	707	10,694
Scenario 2	500	14,906
Scenario 3	400	18,411

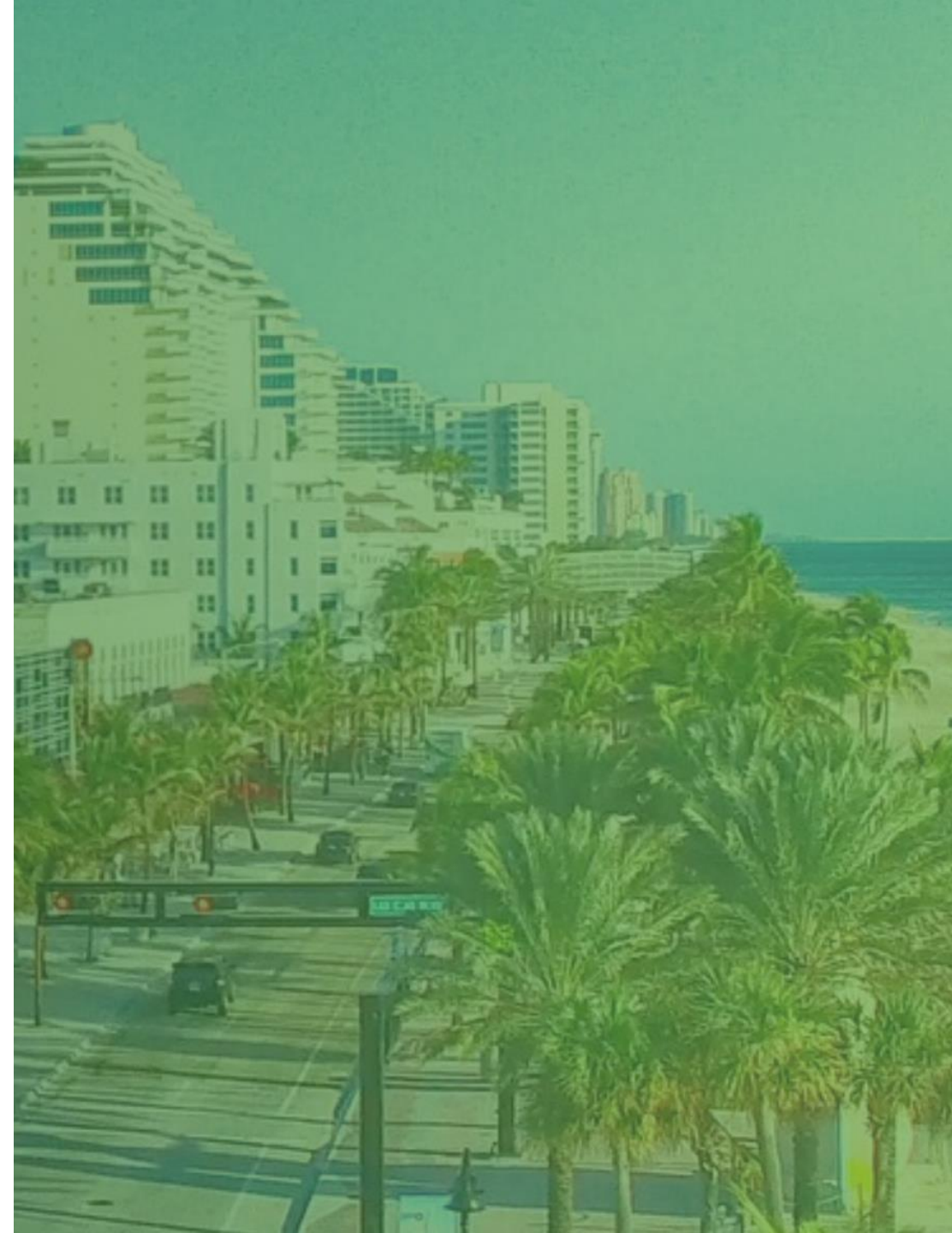
# Potential Planting Cost Estimates

Trees per year 2026-2040	Avg Cost/Yr (Low)	Avg Cost/Yr (High)	Total Cost 2026-2040 (Low)	Total Cost 2026-2040 (High)
10,694	\$1,163,645	\$2,447,913	\$17,454,670	\$36,718,702
14,906	\$1,859,363	\$3,857,186	\$27,890,449	\$57,857,783
18,411	\$2,687,503	\$5,497,156	\$40,312,545	\$82,457,342

# Recommendation Cost Estimates

## Overview

- Cost estimates for 62 recommendations are based on present-day estimates for implementation
- Cost ranges are based on potential internal costs and staff's degree of involvement
- Cost projections use a 3.92% multiplier that averages 2019-2024 inflation rates
- Estimates do not include potential planting costs



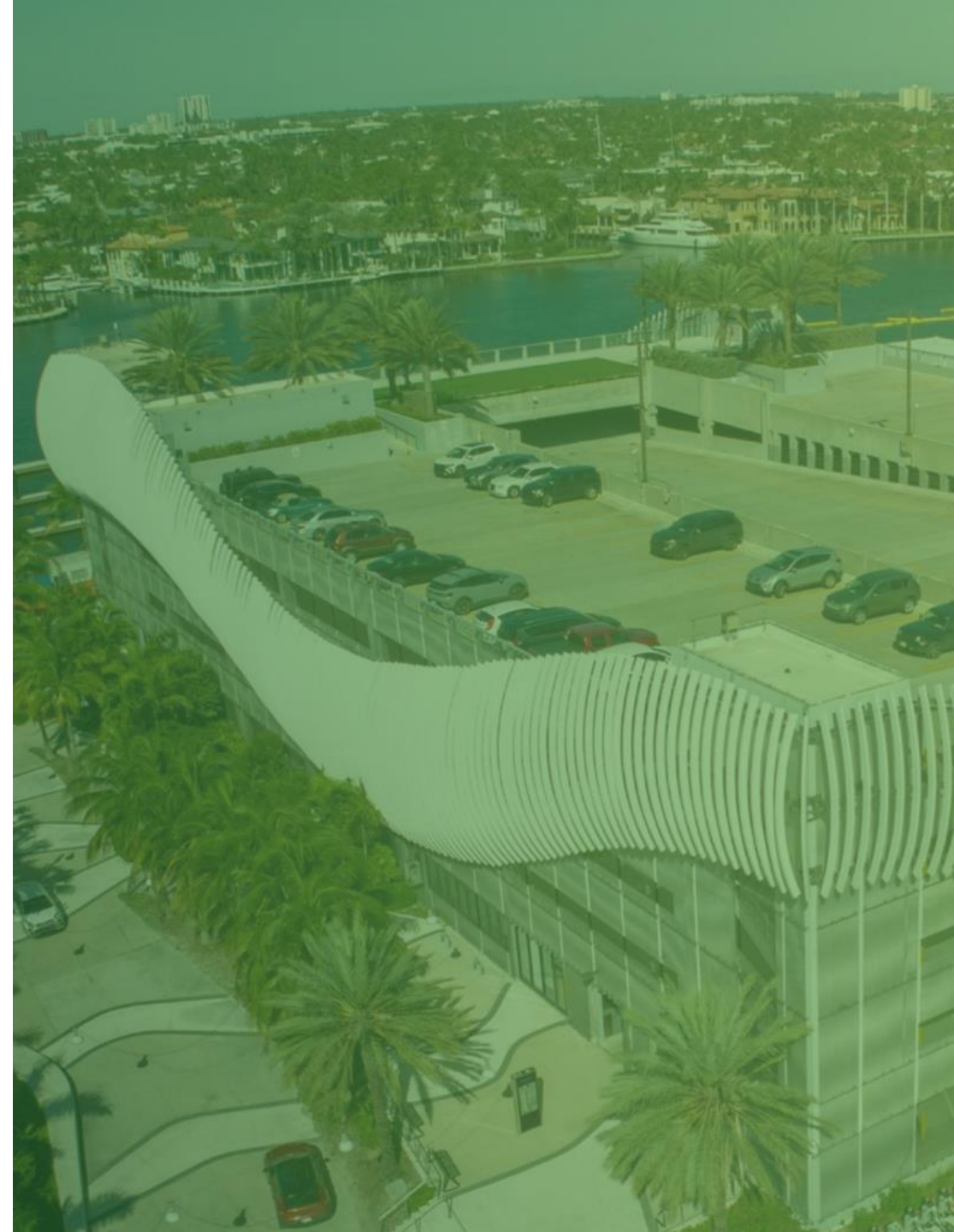
# Recommendations Cost Estimates

Working towards 33% today

	Low Range	High Range
Average annual cost per recommendation 2026-2040	\$18,348	\$33,872
Average annual cost for all recommendations 2026-2040	\$1,137,588	\$2,100,080
Total cost for all recommendations 2026-2040	\$17,063,814	\$31,501,195

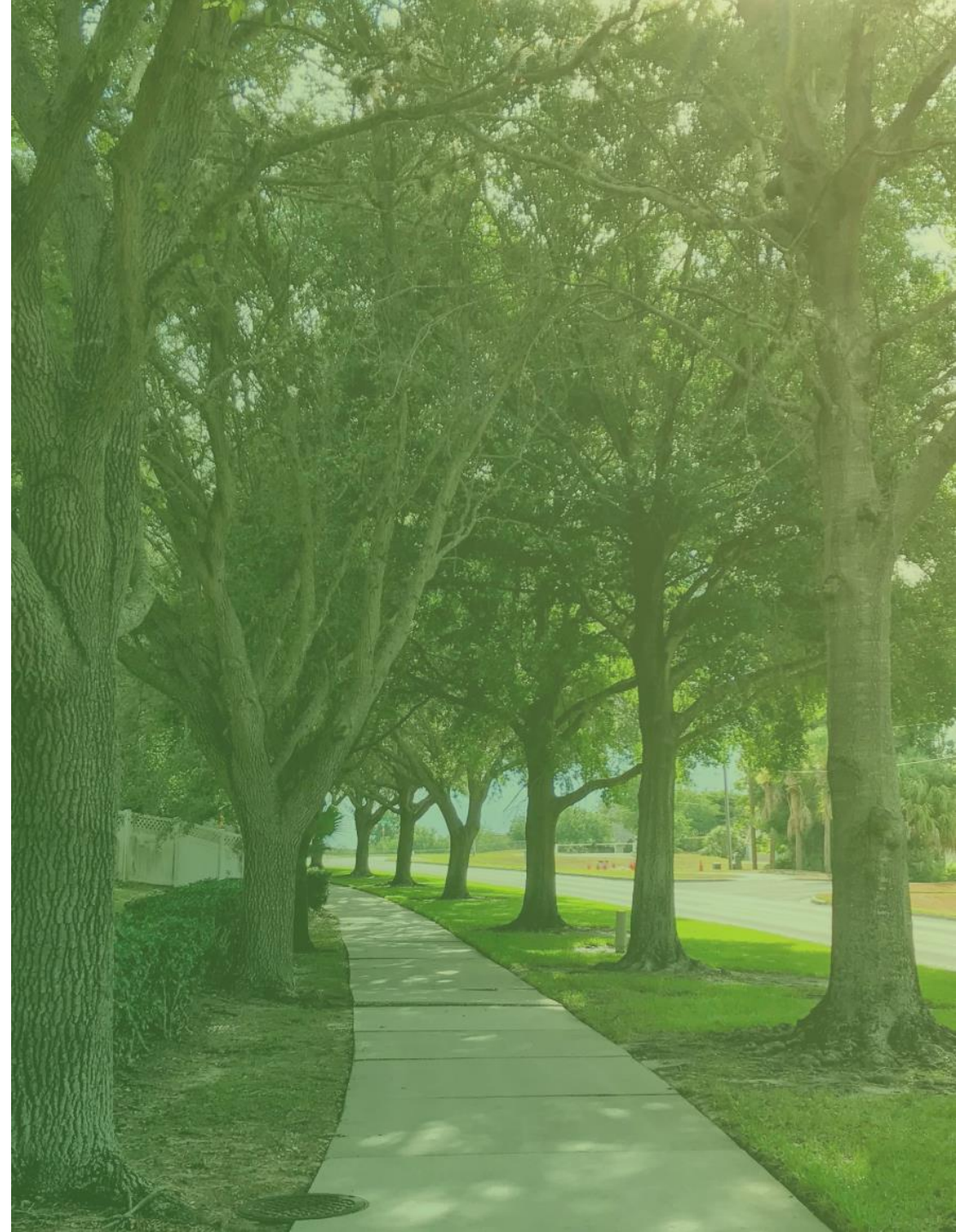
# External Funding Sources

- 13 grant programs valued at \$21.9 million identified to fund UFMP actions
- Five volunteer and cost-sharing opportunities valued at \$165,000/year identified to support UFMP actions
- Some are no longer available due to cuts
- Cuts may not be permanent, do not apply to all grants



# Internal Funding Sources

- Urban forestry budget must increase to meet the 33% canopy goal
- UFMP recommendations will generate revenue for urban forestry
  - Increases to permit and mitigation fee schedules and equivalent replacement value
  - Additional penalties for tree violations
  - Implementation of new impact fees
  - Consistent penalties for damage to specimen trees
  - Raise 15% cap on annual TCTF expenditures





# CONCLUSION

# Conclusion

- UFMP is a data-driven document based on extensive research, conversations with internal and external stakeholders, and nearly 800 survey responses
- Recommendations reflect public urban forestry goals and City staff's vision for improved urban forest management
- Successful implementation is a step towards a broader, healthier, and more resilient urban forest



# Action Items

- Submit comments on the UFMP online
- Submit a communication to the City Commission recommending the adopting of the UFMP



# Thank You!

Have questions? Please reach out

[floridaprojectquestions@res.us](mailto:floridaprojectquestions@res.us)

Please review the Plan and submit comments at

[ftlcity.info/ufmp](http://ftlcity.info/ufmp)



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LAUDERDALE  
TREE CITY USA  
(1981-Present)**

**FORT  
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THE WORLD  
(2021)**

