

CITY OF HIGH POINT

AGENDA ITEM



Title: High Point Tree Plan

From: Andy Piper, Senior Planner

Public Hearing: No

Attachments: None

Meeting Date: April 18, 2022

Advertising Date: N/A

Advertised By: N/A

PURPOSE:

To act on the Prosperity & Livability Committee's recommendation to establish a long-term funded tree plan for High Point. This would be accomplished through five main goals: make High Point a net-positive tree city; develop a tree replacement plan for Main Street in downtown; contract with a local nursery to grow trees that are ready for planting when needed; introduce a City-sponsored annual tree giveaway to High Point residents; and initiate a line item in the annual budget to ensure the success of these programs.

BACKGROUND:

High Point has been a Tree City USA for the past 18 years and has a staff-level Urban Forestry Committee that oversees implementation of the urban forestry program. This program has included several tree planting projects over the years, so there is a framework to build on, but this plan would take it to another level. Being a net-positive tree city means replanting at least one tree for every tree removed on City-owned or controlled space, and as regular funding is put in place the bar can be set even higher to plant twice or three times as many trees as were lost during a year. As more trees are planted, there must be a focus on maintaining a diversity of tree species not only in the entire city, but also on each block. This will limit the potential for a sudden, devastating loss of trees to disease or pests while also creating staggered interest during all four seasons. With the increase in planting, there will be a need for maintenance. Selecting the right trees and planting them in the right places will help avoid bothersome issues and make the workload more manageable. That is why one of the keys to long term success will be establishing a way for the City to have more control over the types of trees it can get. That will also help with the tree giveaways by having access to varieties that add to the desired mix of trees and that are popular with residents. The bottom line is that adding trees affects the livability of a city. Growth of our tree canopy, like the growth of the economy, improves the quality of life of our community. There have been many studies that show trees have direct economic and environmental benefits, and improve the health and mental well-being of people, not just on a large scale, but on individuals. That is why it is important to distribute these trees throughout the city in an equitable way. In addition, multiple organizations have expressed interest in supporting and partnering on tree planting projects and grants will continue to be sought to hopefully supplement the requested funding.

BUDGET IMPACT:

In FY21-22 the Council appropriated \$20,000 within the Planning & Development Dept. budget for tree replacements. The Prosperity & Livability Committee is requesting an enhancement to \$25,000 during the upcoming fiscal year for the purpose of executing the tree plan outlined above, and because these efforts stretch beyond a single year, the continuation of that funding in subsequent budgets as well.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

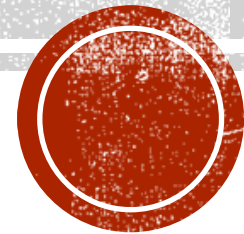
The Prosperity & Livability Committee voted 4-0 at its March 9 meeting to make a favorable recommendation to the full City Council to establish a long-term, funded tree plan. Staff recommends and asks the City Council to approve this plan.

HIGH POINT TREE PLAN


High Point City Council

Prosperity & Livability Committee

March 9, 2022



ESTABLISH A LONG-TERM, FUNDED TREE PLAN

- Make High Point a net positive tree city
- Develop a tree replacement plan for Main Street in downtown 
- Contracting with a nursery to grow trees that are ready for planting when needed
- Introduce a City-sponsored annual tree giveaway to High Point residents
- Initiate a line item in the annual budget to ensure the success of these programs



WHERE WE STAND NOW



- High Point Urban Forestry Committee

- Memorial Tree Program 

- Community Cultivation Campaign with



- Other Tree Planting Projects with Local Businesses & Organizations

Search by one of the following criteria:

Given By
None

In Memoriam/Honor of
None

Tree Type
None

Plant Date
None

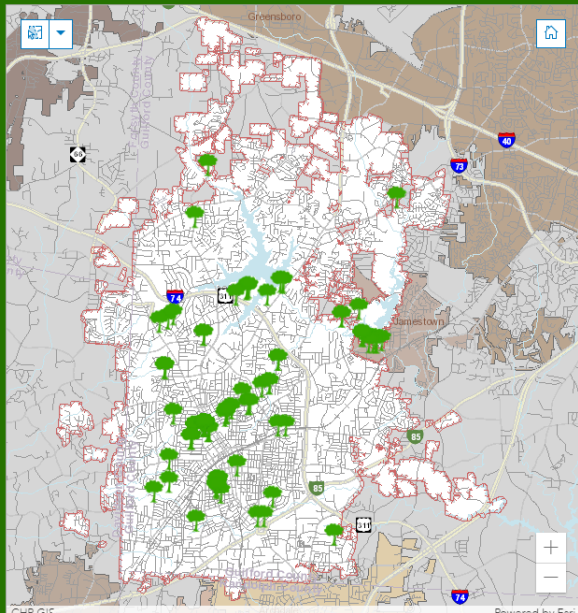
Plant to Remember
City of High Point
Memorial Tree Program

Planting a tree is a beautiful and lasting way to honor a friend or memorialize a loved one. You'll not only be giving a perfect gift for a birthday, graduation, wedding, or retirement, but you'll also be giving a gift to your community.

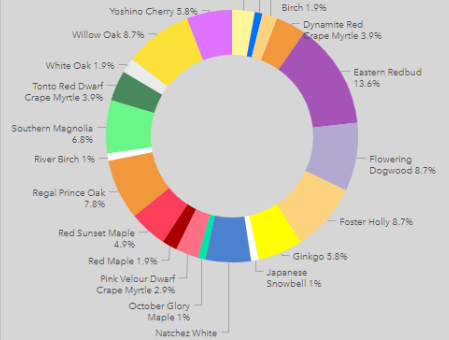
For more information visit our webpage at: <https://www.highpointnc.gov/1506/Memorial-Tree-Program>

Number of Trees In View

103



CHP GIS Powered by Esri



Species	Percentage
Yoshino Cherry	5.8%
Willow Oak	8.7%
White Oak	1.9%
Tonto Red Dwarf Grape Myrtle	3.9%
Southern Magnolia	6.8%
River Birch	1%
Regal Prince Oak	7.8%
Red Sunset Maple	4.9%
Red Maple	1.9%
Pink Velour Dwarf Grape Myrtle	2.9%
October Glory Maple	1%
Natchez White	1%
Autumn Blaze Maple	2.3%
Crape Myrtle	1%
Dura Heat River Birch	1.9%
Dynamite Red Crape Myrtle	3.9%
Eastern Redbud	13.6%
Flowering Dogwood	8.7%
Foster Holly	8.7%
Ginkgo	5.8%
Japanese Snowbell	1%

Japanese Snowbell was given by Visit High Point In Memory of Linda Faircloth at Oak Hollow Park (1917 Eastchester Dr, High Point)

Eastern Redbud was given by Patricia Nash In Honor of Dorothy & Joey Darr at the Botanical Woodland Teaching Garden (480 Taylor Av, High Point)

Southern Magnolia was given by Marley Blanding In Memory of Greg Blanding at Blair Park Golf Course (1901 S Main St, High Point)

Eastern Redbud was given by the Southwest Renewal Foundation In Honor of Bishop Floyd D. Collins, Sr. & Lady Barbara J. Collins at the Botanical Woodland Teaching Garden

MAKE HIGH POINT A NET POSITIVE TREE CITY

- Plant a tree to replace every tree on City-controlled space that dies or is removed
- Not necessarily in the same spot but somewhere in the city
- Goal: each year there would be at least one more tree than the previous year
- As the tree plan develops, make this goal even bolder and set a higher number



KEEP A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY

- America learned a difficult lesson with the demise of the elm, chestnut and ash
- Cities with monoculture streetscapes suddenly had rows of dead trees (or no trees at all!)

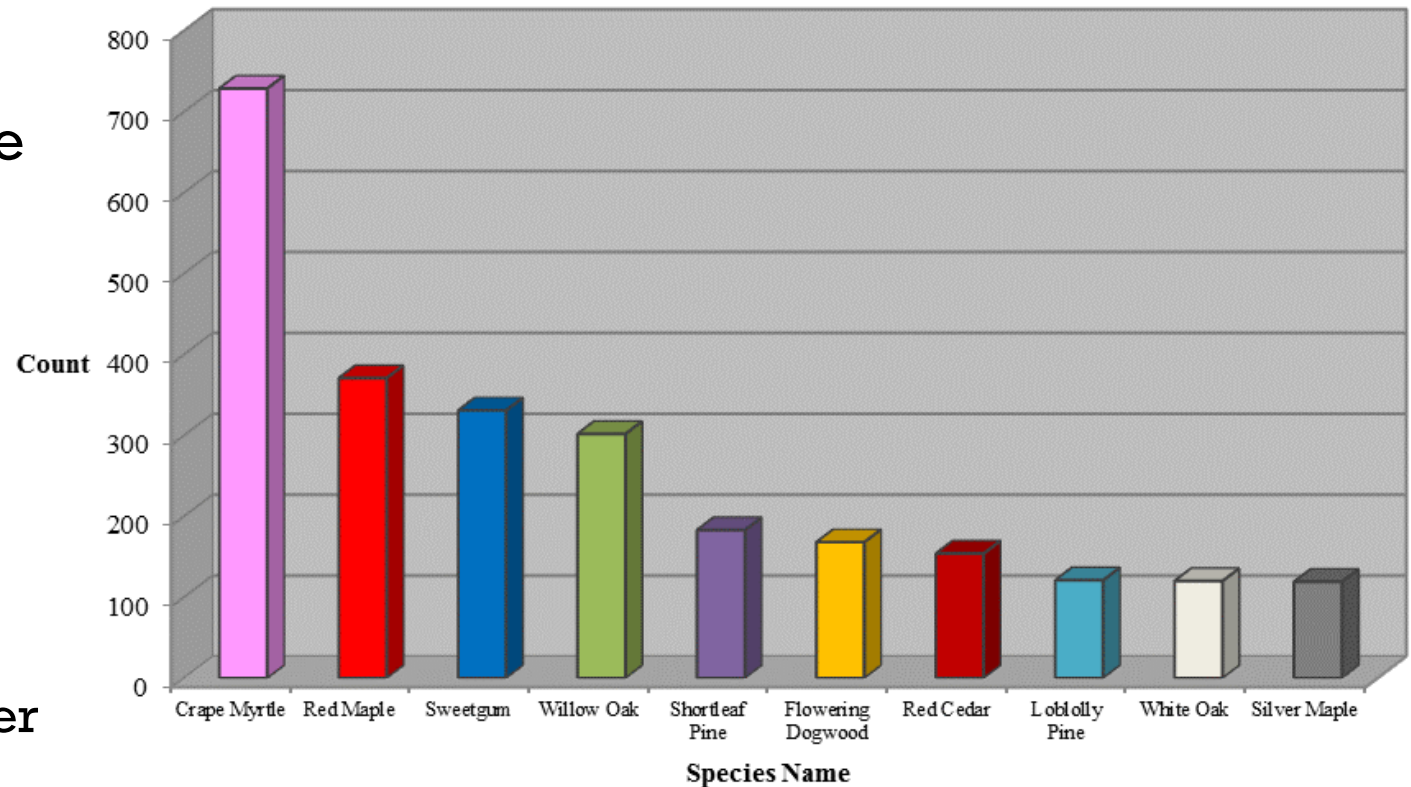


KEEP A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY

From High Point Core City Tree Inventory conducted in 2011

- Limit the amount of any single tree variety in the entire city
- Create a well-designed streetscape with a variety of trees on every block in downtown
- Emphasis on staggered interest throughout the year:
 - Bloom at different times
 - Good shade canopy in summer
 - Eye-catching fall leaf colors
 - Attractive shape and bark in winter

Top 10 Species Distribution



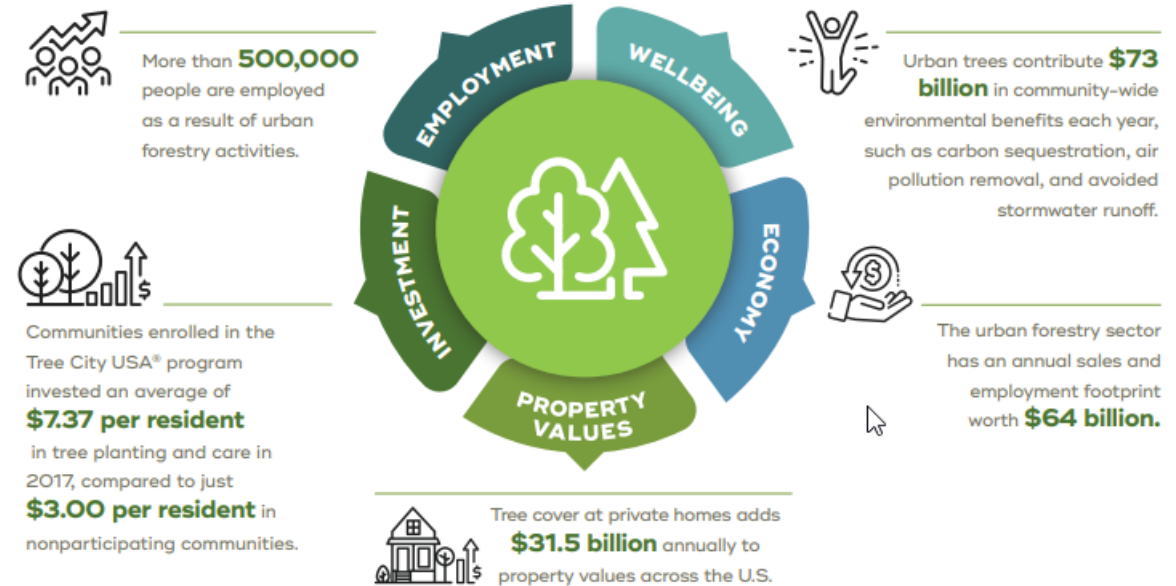
EASILY MAINTAINED & READILY OBTAINABLE

- Only plant something if it can be maintained
- Avoid trees that are bothersome – no odors, excessive leaf litter, root lifting, etc.
- Establish an agreement for local nursery to grow trees to ensure long-term success
- Through tree giveaways, the City can guide the varieties being added to the urban forest



TREES AFFECT THE LIVABILITY OF A CITY

- Like with the economy, the goal is positive growth and improving quality of life
- Studies have shown that trees have direct economic benefits →
- Where there are more trees, there is more prosperity + health benefits
- Providing trees can connect the City to the lives of its citizens



WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

- A greenlight to move forward with initial planning efforts
- Giving this initiative a line in the budget to establish its importance
- Requesting \$25,000 in recurring funding for:
 - An annual tree giveaway
 - Establishing a contract with a local tree nursery to grow trees for High Point
 - Replacement and improvement of trees in downtown Main St. corridor
 - Marketing, publicity, and materials
- There are multiple organizations that would be interested in supporting and partnering on this program

QUESTIONS?



*“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second-best time is now” - ancient proverb*

Andy Piper, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning & Development Dept.
andy.piper@highpointnc.gov