

The graphic is a horizontal banner divided into two main color sections: dark blue on the left and light blue on the right. The left section features the text 'LA COUNTY' in large, bold, yellow-orange letters. The right section features the text 'COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN' in white, bold, sans-serif letters. The background is decorated with stylized white clouds and green tree silhouettes. A dark blue city skyline silhouette is visible at the bottom left. The entire graphic is framed by a dark blue border at the top and bottom.

LA  
COUNTY

COMMUNITY  
FOREST  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

# Grant Funded Partnership



# CFMP and UFMP Process



Winter  
2023/24

Spring  
2024

Summer  
2024



Winter  
2023/24

Fall / Winter  
2024

Spring  
2025



# Review of Community Engagement Process and Outcomes

# Community Experts Workshops

## Workshop Themes

Community Engagement

Plan Elements

The Benefits of Trees

Climate Impacts of Most Concern

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Trees Are Infrastructure

Workforce and Economic Development

Community Outreach and Education



# Community Partners



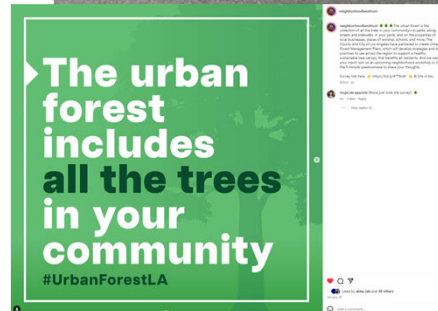


# Neighborhood Workshops





# Community Engagement Activities

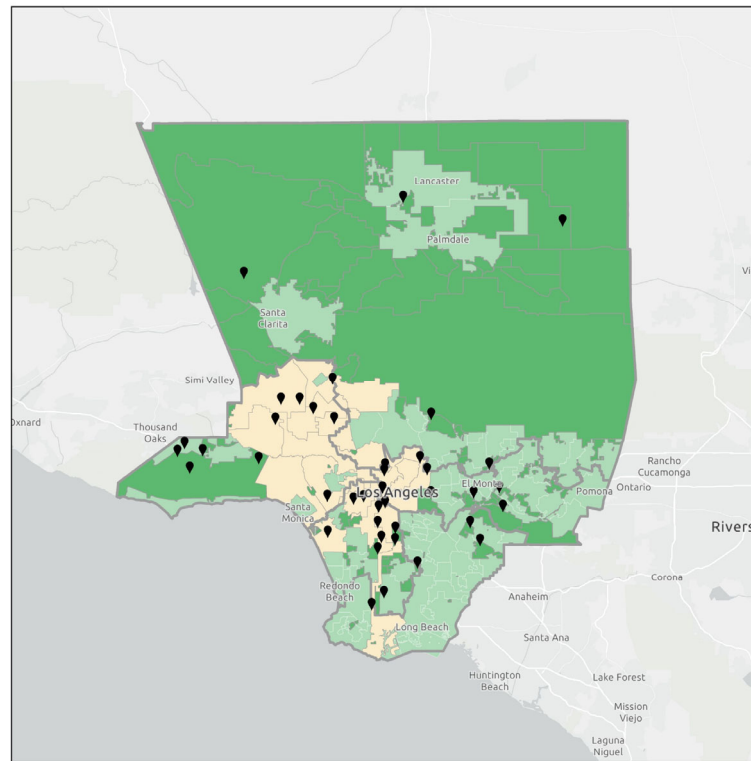




The background is a solid green color. Overlaid on this is a white line drawing of a tree's root system. The roots are depicted as a complex, branching network that spreads across the width of the image. A thicker, more defined trunk or main root line runs vertically through the center, from which many thinner, more delicate roots branch out horizontally and diagonally. The drawing style is somewhat sketchy and organic, resembling a botanical illustration.

# Initial Findings from the Workshops and Questionnaire

# Workshop Locations (City and County)



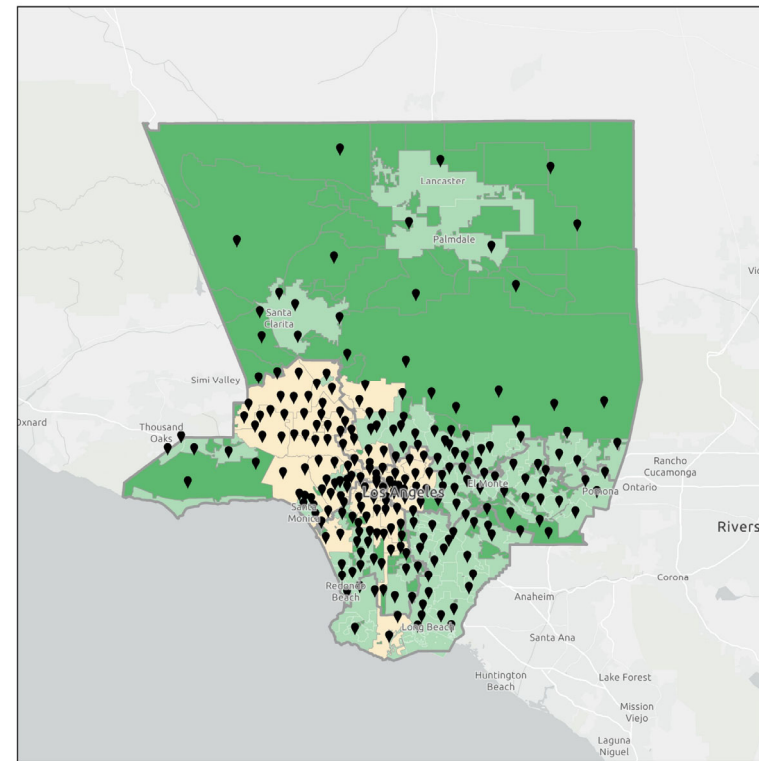
## Legend

- Workshop Locations
- Supervisorial District Outlines
- City Council Districts
- County Boundaries
- Unincorporated

0 5 10 20 Miles



# Questionnaire Participants By Zip Code



## Legend

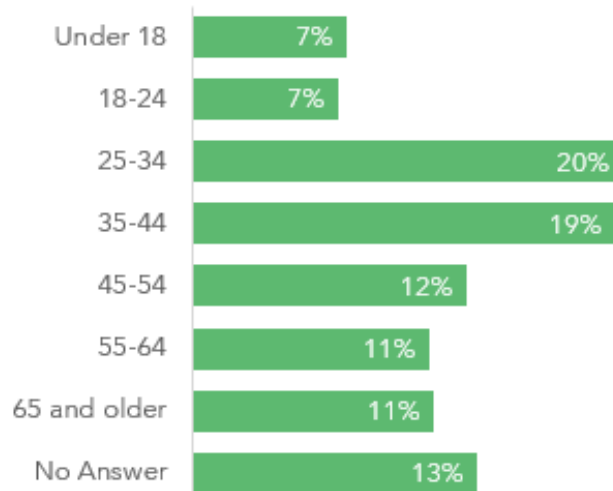
- Survey Responses (Zipcodes)
- Supervisorial District Outlines
- City Council Districts
- County Boundaries
- Unincorporated

0 5 10 20 Miles

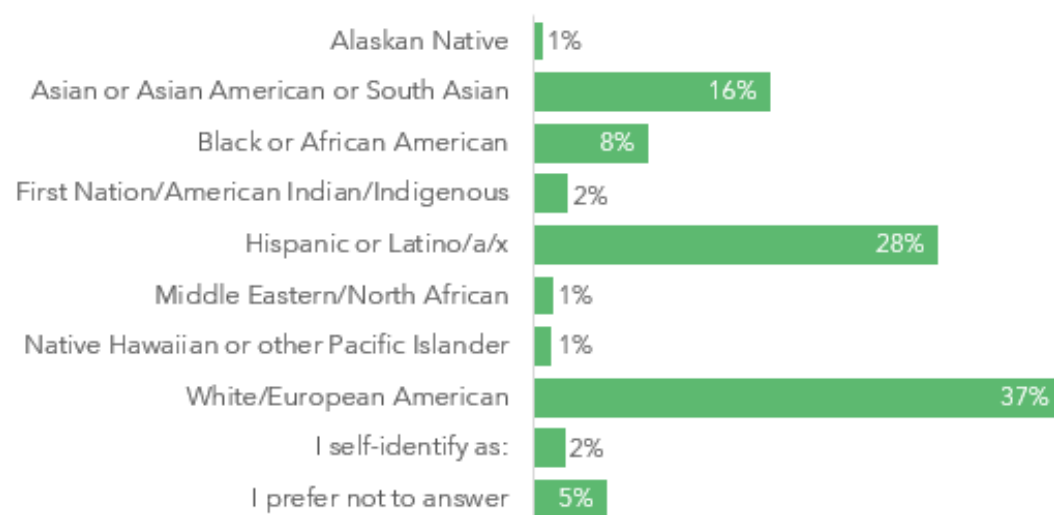


# Who responded to our questionnaire?

**Question 17:**  
**My Age is:**



**Question 18: Which of the following most accurately describes your race and ethnic identities? (Select all that apply)**



**37% of respondents are renters**

**47% are homeowners**

**56% of respondents identify as non-white**

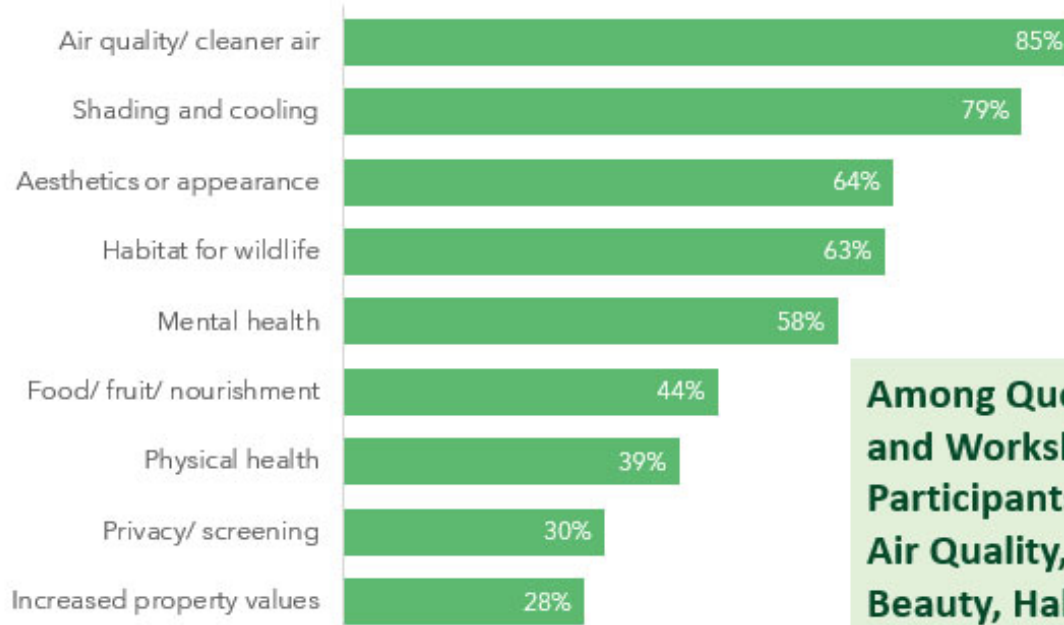


## Highlights: Our collective vision for the forest

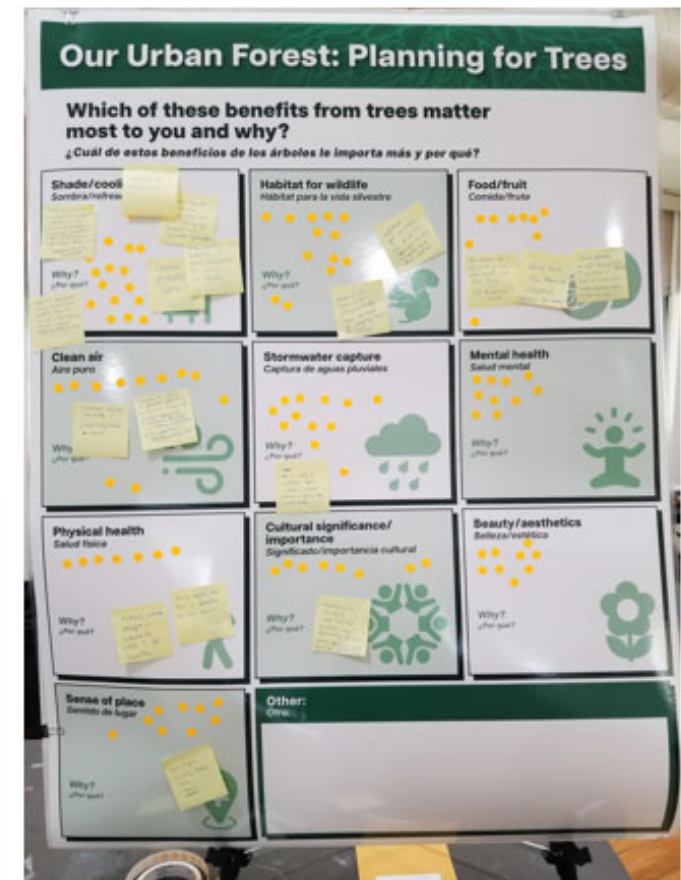


# Highlights: The most important benefits of trees

**Question 2: Which of these benefits matter most to you?**  
(Select all that apply) (n=2,546)



**Among Questionnaire and Workshop Participants:**  
**Air Quality, Shade, Beauty, Habitat for Wildlife, Mental Health, Food, Beauty**



# Highlights: Satisfaction with Trees

**40%** of questionnaire respondents say they are *most satisfied* with amount of shade and appearance of trees in their neighborhood public spaces

**40%** of respondents say they are *least satisfied* with the number of trees

**1 in 3** raise sidewalk conditions as an issue for public space trees

Among workshop participants, the greatest Concerns/Priorities include Sidewalks, Maintenance Costs, Hazards from trees

**Half** of respondents say they are *most satisfied* with amount of shade and appearance of trees in parks

**35%** say they are *least satisfied* with the number of trees in parks



# Highlights: Planting, Preservation and Tree Care

**1 in 3** questionnaire respondents say they do not have space to plant trees

**1 in 3** *renters* say they are not allowed to care for trees

**1 in 5** respondents say they do not know how to care for trees

**2 in 3** *renters* say they are not allowed to plant trees where they live

Workshop participants requested more information about how and where to plant, training about tree care, and funding to support care and maintenance

# Highlights: What people need to take care of trees

**40%** of questionnaire respondents say they need resources and need to learn how to take care of trees

**50%** of all questionnaire respondents say they do not know what they are allowed to do to take care of public trees

**44%** of respondents who are *renters* say they need help educating their property owners about tree care

**40%** of all respondents say they need training or access to resources to care for public trees

Workshop participants requested more information and training about how to care for public trees, more public funding and support volunteer and paid opportunities for park and public space tree care

A graphic divided into two vertical panels. The left panel has a dark blue background with the text 'LA COUNTY' in large, bold, yellow letters. The right panel has a light blue background with the text 'COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN' in white. Both panels feature stylized green trees at the bottom and white clouds. A city skyline is visible in the bottom left of the left panel.

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# Why the County Needs a CFMP

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Our community forest is a part of our **infrastructure**.

Like our power lines or transportation systems, trees provide vital services that all of us rely on.

Unlike most infrastructure, trees offer a wide variety of different benefits – everything from shade and cooling to mental and physical health benefits to biodiversity and food production and so much more.

And much like trees themselves, investments we make in trees today will grow over time, as mature trees provide more benefits than the resources needed to manage them.

# Challenges

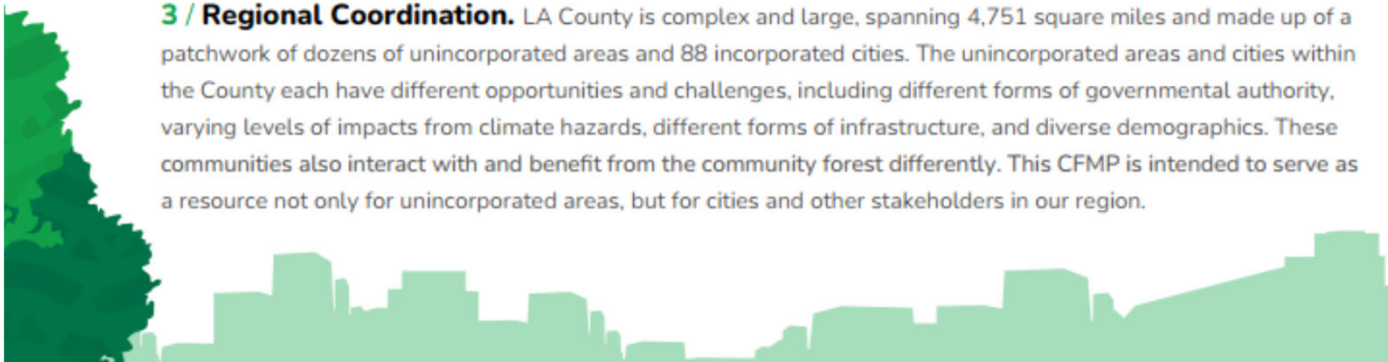
To realize the full potential of our community forest, the County must address several interrelated challenges.

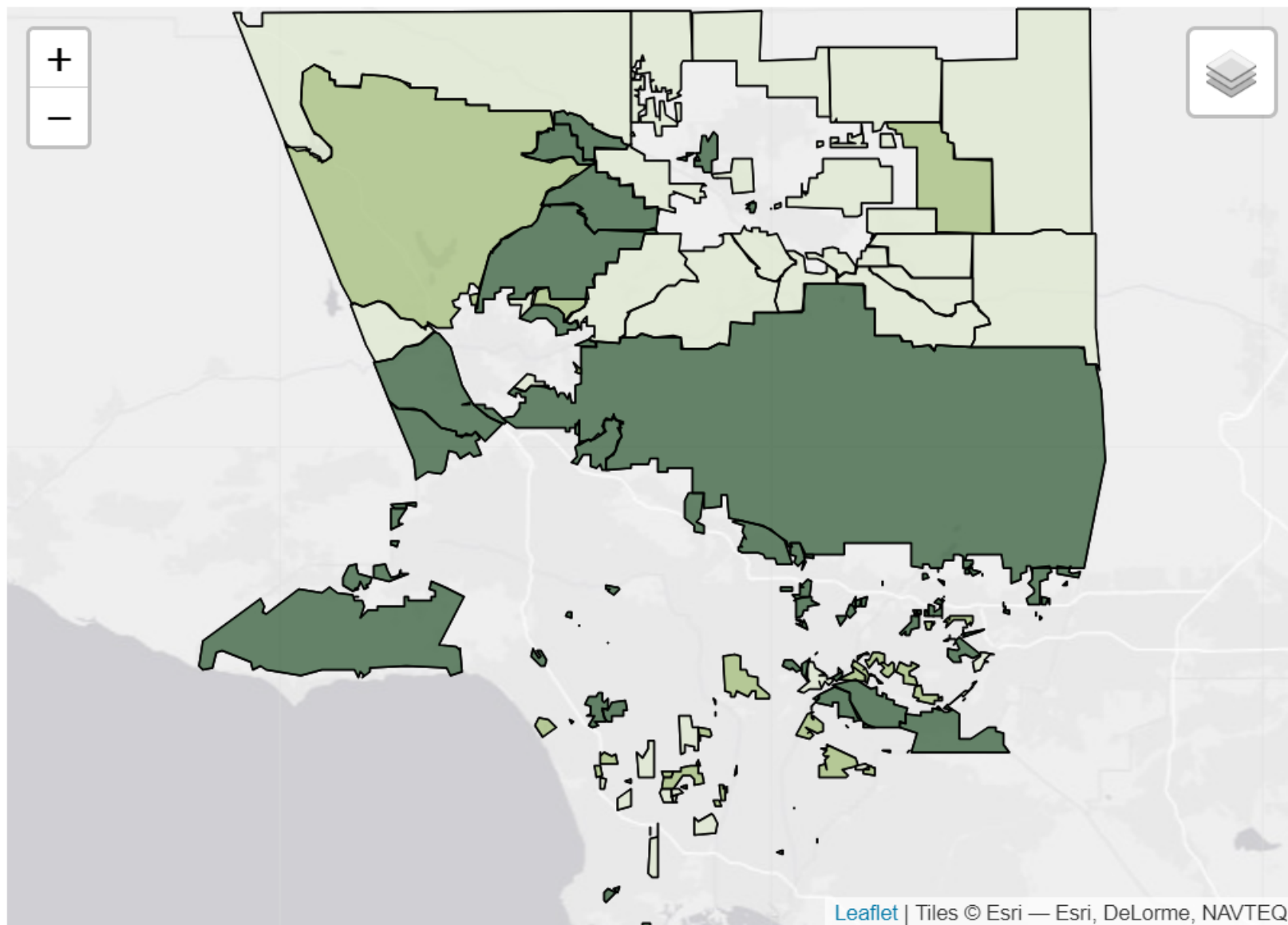
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**1 / Equity and Access.** Not everyone in the County has equal access to the benefits of trees, to opportunities related to community forest management, or to decision-making and representation related to planning and caring for trees. When it comes to our community forest, we must consider the past and present legacy of inequity, including tree inequity, inherited by some communities in the County, including Tribes, low-income communities, and communities of color. And we must consider the legacy we would like to leave for future generations – caring for our community forest is a long-term commitment that requires investing today for returns many years from now.

**2 / Climate Change.** We can already feel the impacts of climate change in our communities, including extreme heat and drought, heavy precipitation and flooding, increased wildfire risk, and sea level rise. Trees are vulnerable to these threats just like people. We stand to lose many of the trees in our communities if we don't help our community forest prepare for the impacts of climate change. At the same time, a properly managed community forest can help alleviate some of the risks associated with climate change by providing benefits such as cooling, stormwater management, and fire breaks.

**3 / Regional Coordination.** LA County is complex and large, spanning 4,751 square miles and made up of a patchwork of dozens of unincorporated areas and 88 incorporated cities. The unincorporated areas and cities within the County each have different opportunities and challenges, including different forms of governmental authority, varying levels of impacts from climate hazards, different forms of infrastructure, and diverse demographics. These communities also interact with and benefit from the community forest differently. This CFMP is intended to serve as a resource not only for unincorporated areas, but for cities and other stakeholders in our region.







# Raw Canopy Cover

## Summary stats

- 25% of the communities have a canopy percent below 8.4%.
- 75% of the communities have a canopy percent below 22.6%.
- The average canopy cover across all unincorporated communities is 17.5%.

	Statistic	Value
1	Min.	0
2	1st Qu.	8.4
3	Median	14.1
4	Mean	17.5
5	3rd Qu.	22.6

# Adjusted Canopy Cover\*

## Summary stats

- 25% of the communities have a canopy percent below 7%.
- 75% of the communities have a canopy percent below 19.6%.
- The average canopy cover across all unincorporated communities is 15.6%.

	Statistic	Value
1	Min.	0.2
2	1st Qu.	7.9
3	Median	12.5
4	Mean	16
5	3rd Qu.	19.6

*\*Numbers are draft final and may shift slightly with final changes*

# Canopy Cover Targets\*

**Community target:** All unincorporated County residents have access to at least 15% canopy cover in their communities.

Baseline: 37% of unincorporated County residents live in a community with an adjusted canopy cover of 15% or higher.

**County target:** Achieve at least 20% canopy cover for all unincorporated areas combined.

Baseline: 17.5% raw canopy cover for all unincorporated areas combined.

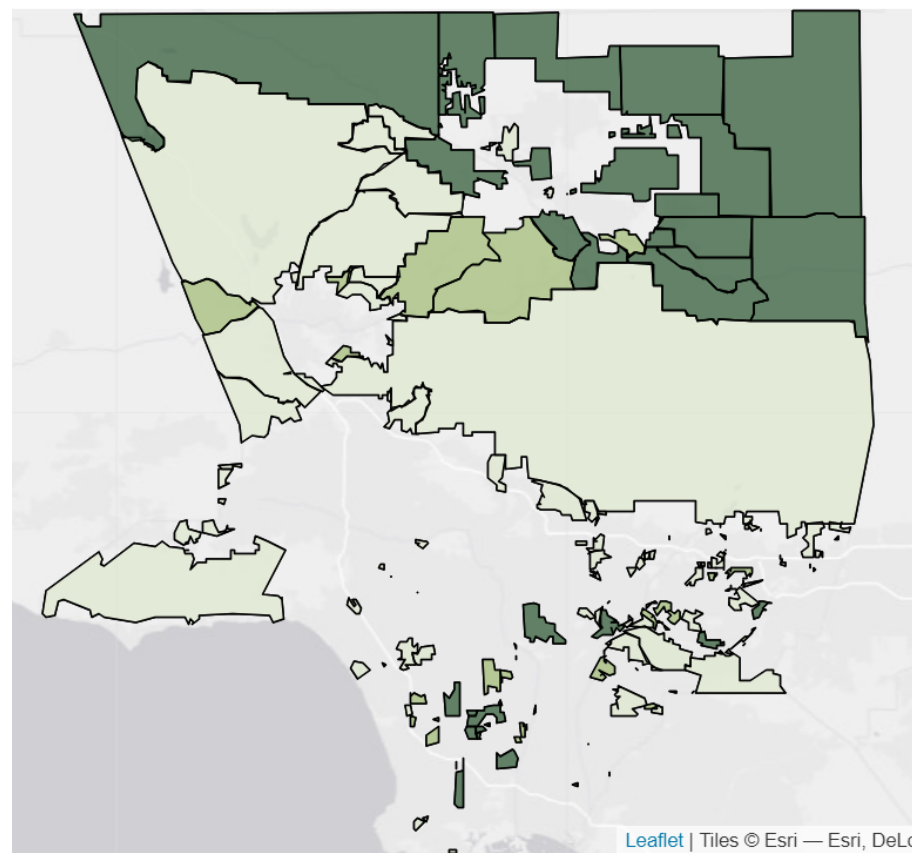
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# Canopy Cover Equity

levels	Low ♦	Medium ♦	High ♦
canopy level	45	24	50
SS level	40	33	46
canopy need	60	24	35

## Takeaways

- SSI is aligned with canopy cover, with some exceptions.
- There is high canopy need in south and east LA.
- There is high canopy need in the Antelope Valley – *even when considering ecological conditions.*

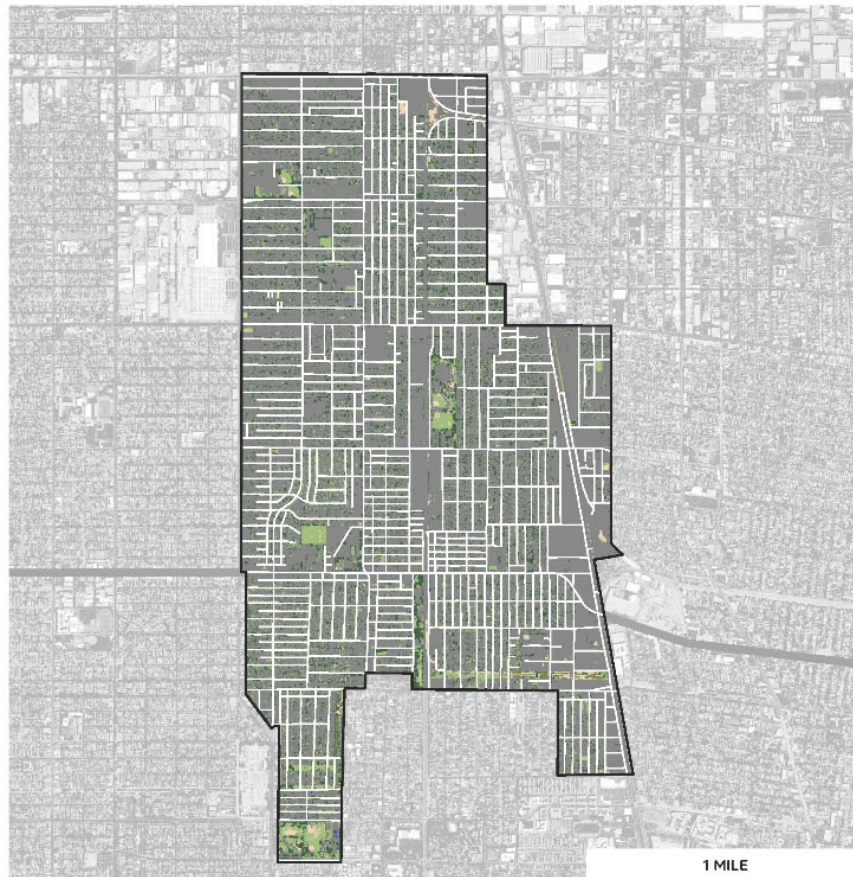


# LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION

## FLORENCE–FIRESTONE



**10%** ADJUSTED CANOPY COVER



Note: Percentages less than 2% are unlabeled.

### PERCENT OF LAND COVER BY ZONING

Specific Plan (75%)



Right-of-Way (25%)



0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

SSI Level:



Canopy Level:



OVERALL NEED:

**MEDIUM**



Targeted for Early Investment

Neighborhood Workshop Location





### **1. Equitable Tree Canopy + Actions**

A community forest that ensures equitable access to the benefits of trees for all County residents.

### **2. The Regional Community Forest: + Actions**

A community forest that is collaboratively managed across jurisdictions to support biodiversity and protect against regional threats.

### **3. County Tree Management + Actions**

A County-managed community forest that is maintained with best practices and expanded for social, cultural, and ecological benefits.

### **4. Workforce and Economic Opportunities + Actions**

A community forest that provides economic opportunities and is supported by a skilled local workforce.

### **5. Commitment to Funding and Partnerships + Actions**

A community forest that is supported by creative, long-term funding and collaborative partnerships.



## ACTION 1.1a

### Explore innovative strategies for tree planting site opportunities.

Lead Department: CSO

Partner Departments: PW, DPR, DPH, DRPP

#### Why it matters:

Bringing the benefits of trees into communities that need them is not always as simple as planting more trees in those areas. Often communities with the highest need for trees have the least amount of space for them. Constraints can be site-specific, such as heavily paved areas with few or small planting spaces for trees, or at the community level, such as communities with a high concentration of industrial or other land uses incompatible with tree planting. To achieve the County's ambitious canopy cover goals for unincorporated communities, the County will need to deploy creative strategies to enlarge existing planting sites and create new planting opportunities across a variety of land use types, from County managed public rights-of-way to school campuses to private property.

#### What we'll do and when we'll do it:

TIMEFRAME	ACTION ITEMS
First steps (1 – 5 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete an opportunity assessment to identify locations that would most benefit from depaving and tree well creation projects and opportunities and challenges for implementation.</li><li>• Identify priority locations for depaving, tree well creation, and tree planting projects.</li><li>• Secure funding for and begin implementation of depaving, tree well creation, and tree planting projects with innovative strategies to increase canopy cover in high need communities.</li></ul>
Looking ahead (5+ years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprehensively assess high-priority communities for needs and depaving/tree well creation opportunity sites, including a focus on increased understanding of school project opportunities.</li><li>• Secure funding for and continue implementation of depaving, tree well creation, and other tree planting opportunities in high-priority communities.</li></ul>

# Targets – Trackable, Actionable, Meaningful

## Chapter 1: Equitable Tree Canopy – Canopy Cover

- County target: Achieve at least 20% canopy cover for all unincorporated areas combined.
- Community target: Achieve at least 15% canopy cover for each unincorporated community separately.

## Chapter 2: County Tree Management- Street Trees

Achieve a 95% stocking rate for County street trees

## Chapter 2: County Tree Management - Park Trees

Achieve no net loss of park trees

## Chapter 4: Workforce and Economic Opportunities –

### Local Nurseries:

Source 100% of trees purchased by the County from local nurseries.

## Chapters 3: Regional Coordination

Biodiversity target to be determined as action item

## Chapter 5: Funding and Partnerships

No target planned

A graphic for the LA County Community Forest Management Plan. The background is split vertically: dark blue on the left and light blue on the right. Stylized green trees are at the bottom, and white clouds are in the sky. The LA County logo is on the left, and the title is on the right.

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# 1

## Equitable Tree Canopy

### ACTION 1.1a

Explore innovative strategies for tree planting site opportunities.

### ACTION 1.2

Explore and pilot programs for assisting residents with the costs and maintenance of trees.

### ACTION 1.1b

Prioritize park and street tree resources for high-need communities.



# 2

## The Regional Community Forest

### ACTION 2.1

Develop, update, and implement policies that support biodiversity through the preservation, protection, and expansion of tree canopy.

### ACTION 2.2

Develop and deploy wildfire risk mitigation educational materials and communications strategies for wildland-urban interface communities and adjacent open space areas.

### ACTION 2.3

Collaborate with partners, including cities, regulatory agencies, local universities, subject matter experts, and others on a coordinated regionwide response to invasive threats.

### ACTION 2.4

Establish a regional framework to support trees across jurisdictions.

# 3

## County Tree Management

### ACTION 3.1

Equitably expand the County street tree canopy with a focus on improving its resilience and enhancing its biodiversity, shade, and stormwater management benefits.

### ACTION 3.2

Manage County park trees using current best management practices and support park trees as a resource for health, biodiversity, and resilience.

### ACTION 3.3

Strengthen tree management resources for County departments that manage landscape trees, and pilot strategies to use the community forest as a food and cultural resource.

# 4

## Workforce and Economic Opportunities

### ACTION 4.1

Leverage existing and new County workforce pipeline programs to support expansion and development of urban forestry workforce opportunities.

### ACTION 4.2

Leverage public and private nurseries to grow a sustainable, locally-grown supply of native and climate appropriate tree species.

### ACTION 4.3

Pursue opportunities to reuse urban wood to maximize carbon sequestration and support the green economy.

# 5

## Commitment to Funding and Partnerships

### ACTION 5.1

Explore and develop creative County funding solutions to support community forest management needs.

### ACTION 5.2

Collaborate with regional partners to pursue funding and develop regionally consistent implementation and engagement for the community forest.

# CFMP and UFMP Process



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