



South Salt Lake City Council Work Meeting Agenda

Public notice is hereby given that the **South Salt Lake City Council** will hold a Work Meeting on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026** in the City Council Chambers, 220 East Morris Avenue, Suite 200, commencing at **6:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

To watch the meeting live click the link below to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/93438486912>

Watch recorded City Council meetings at: [youtube.com/@SouthSaltLakeCity](https://www.youtube.com/@SouthSaltLakeCity)

Conducting: Council Chair Bynum

CITY COUNCIL

MEMBERS:

DIST 1 VACANT
COREY THOMAS
SHARLA BYNUM
NICK MITCHELL
DIST 5 VACANT
RAY DEWOLFE
CLARISSA WILLIAMS

Matters for Discussion:

1. Urban Forestry Inventory & Canopy Study, pt. 2 Sharen Hauri
2. Discussion – A Resolution of the South Salt Lake City Council Authorizing Participation on the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility Board and Receipt of Compensation for Board Membership Sharla Bynum

Adjourn

Posted February 6, 2026

Those needing auxiliary communicative aids or other services for this meeting should contact Ariel Andrus at 801-483-6019, giving at least 24 hours' notice.

In accordance with State Statute and Council Policy, one or more Council Members may be connected electronically.

Have a question or concern? Call the connect line 801-464-6757 or email connect@ssl.gov

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CITY OF SOUTH SALT LAKE
CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday February 11, 2026
6:32 p.m.

CITY OFFICES 220 East Morris Avenue
South Salt Lake, Utah 84115

PRESIDING: Council Chair Sharla Bynum

CONDUCTING: Council Chair Sharla Bynum

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Sharla Bynum, Corey Thomas, Nick Mitchell,
Clarissa Williams, and Ray deWolfe

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:
None

STAFF PRESENT:
Mayor Cherie Wood
Josh Collins, City Attorney
Danielle Croyle, Police Chief
Terry Addison, Fire Chief
Sharen Hauri, Neighborhoods Director
Craig Giles, Public Works Director
Spencer Redden, Police Officer
Carson Aprato, Police Sergeant
Lee Garbett, Neighborhoods Deputy Director
Joseph Dane, Communications Manager
Ariel Andrus, City Recorder
Sara Ramirez, Deputy City Recorder

Matters for Discussion

1. Urban Forestry Inventory & Canopy Study, pt. 2

Neighborhoods Director, Sharen Hauri, gave an overview of the City's Public Tree Assessment report done by Eocene Environmental Group. The report presented the findings of the Utah Forestry Inventory and Canopy Study Part Two.

Public Tree Inventory

Ms. Hauri reported that an inventory of trees on public property was recently completed and integrated into the City's GIS software. The City currently manages over 3,000 trees comprising of 118 different species, with an average condition rating of 74%. Ms. Hauri noted that tree distribution varies significantly by neighborhood, with commercial and industrial areas having notably fewer trees than residential neighborhoods. She also highlighted challenges related to narrow park strips, which limit planting opportunities along streets.

Tree Canopy Study

Ms. Hauri reviewed the city's overall tree canopy, which includes trees on private property. The study indicated that the city's tree canopy coverage has decreased from 8.7% to 7.3% over the past twenty years, currently sitting at roughly 9%. To reach a target canopy of 12%, approximately 22,000 new trees would need to be planted. At the city's current rate of planting 100 trees per year, this goal would take over 200 years to achieve.

Next Steps and Funding

To address the canopy deficit, staff is finalizing a tree management plan and reviewing landscape ordinances. Ms. Hauri noted that a three-year U.S. Forest Service grant, which has funded much of this recent work, is coming to an end. She expressed a need for continued funding during the upcoming budget season to maintain the current level of urban forestry staffing and activities. Additionally, a community tree giveaway event was announced for April 4th at Scott School.

Council Discussion

Council Member Williams inquired about tree species recommendations and resident education. Ms. Hauri confirmed the City utilizes state extension resources to select appropriate, non-invasive species and emphasized the importance of local experts and community events for resident education. Council Member Clarissa suggested exploring a "Tree Fest" event to draw more public attention.

Council Member Mitchell asked for clarification regarding the expiration of the U.S. Forest Service grant and the City's strategy for narrow park strips. Ms. Hauri explained that while smaller state grants are available, city budget support will be necessary to maintain momentum. Regarding park strips, the City plans to incorporate larger tree spaces during major downtown road rebuilds but will otherwise focus heavily on encouraging residents to plant trees in their private yards.

Council Member deWolfe sought clarification on whether the goal of planting 22,000 trees relied solely on City efforts. Ms. Hauri confirmed the goal includes private property, reiterating that residential participation is critical.

A copy of the presentation is attached and incorporated by this reference.

2. Discussion – A Resolution of the South Salt Lake City Council Authorizing Participation on the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility Board and Receipt of Compensation for Board Membership

Council Chair Bynum led a discussion regarding the current board vacancy, inviting Council Members to indicate their interest in filling the position.

Council Members Williams and Thomas both expressed initial interest. Council Member Bynum noted that the Central Valley Board is a significant commitment and recommended that board assignments be distributed equitably among members.

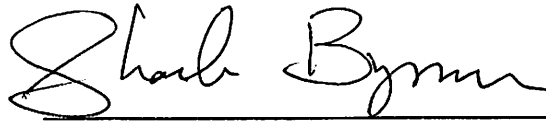
Council Member Williams, who currently serves on the Jordan River Commission and the Municipal Council of Governments, offered to step down from those roles to assume the Central Valley Board position. Council Member deWolfe volunteered to take over the Jordan River

Commission assignment, as it fit his schedule and he had prior experience serving as its chair.

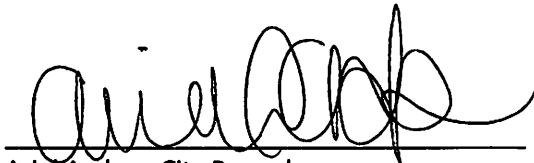
The Council reached a consensus on this reassignment. It was noted that formal action would be taken during the Regular Meeting to appoint Council Member Williams to the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility Board, and that the remaining board positions would be formally redistributed once the new council members were fully onboarded.

A copy of the proposed Resolution is attached and incorporated by this reference.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Sharla Bynum, Council Chair



Ariel Andrus, City Recorder

Urban Forestry Planning: Tree Inventory and Canopy Study



February 11, 2026

Tree Inventory

- Species, size, health
- Sidewalk damage + utility conflict
- Hazard rating and pruning need

Also:

- Patterns and trends
- Areas of highest need for trees
- Benefits analysis (i-Tree)



Figure 5 A row of Honeylocust shading a South Salt Lake sidewalk.

All this data on *Public Trees* is now in GIS maps and spreadsheets—for data crunching and budgeting.

Tree Inventory Findings

- 3,347 trees on streets and at city parks and facilities
- 257 Trees at Fitts Park!
- Plus trees at county parks, and on Mill Creek and Jordan River
- 118 species
- Mostly smaller, newer trees
- Average Tree Condition = 74% (recommended goal = 75%)

By Condition

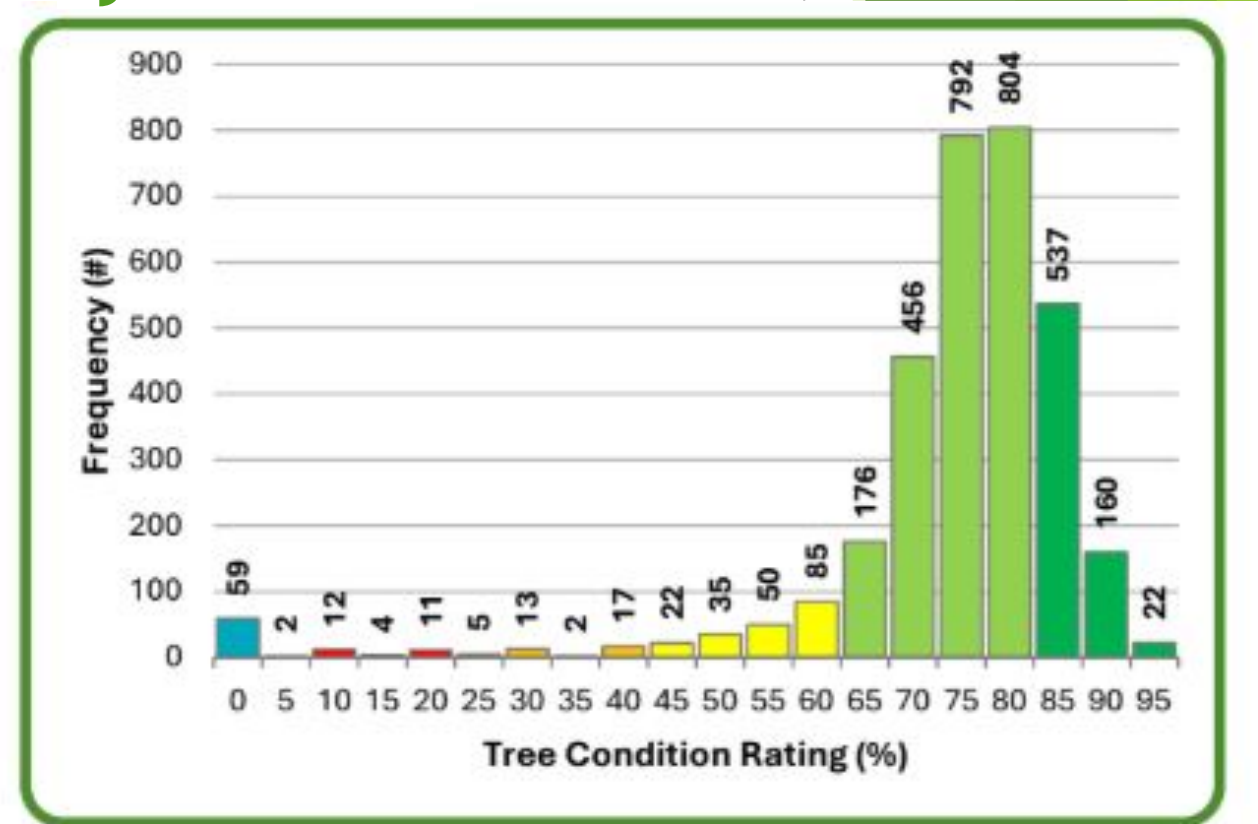


Figure 7 South Salt Lake public tree condition ratings using CTLA version 9 methodology.

Tree Inventory Findings

- Varies a lot by neighborhood
- 64.2% of public trees are east of State Street.
- Urban areas have few trees (Downtown and TODs).
- Lowest number is around Millcreek TRAX Station.
- Limited spots for additional tree plantings on streets/park strips.

By Neighborhood

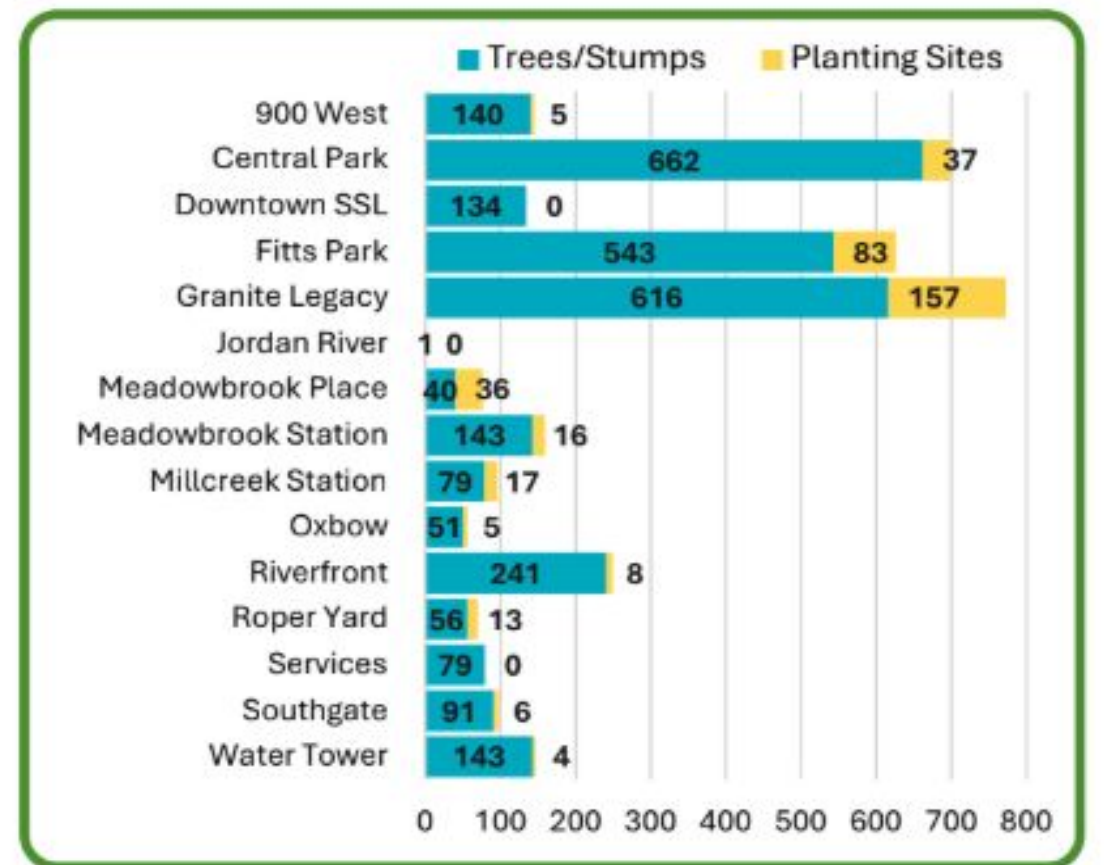


Figure 2 Total number of trees and planting sites inventoried, by neighborhood, in South Salt Lake.

How will we use this?

- Identify and monitor hazards
- Plan and track our work - pruning, removal, spraying
- Prioritize tree planting
- Update tree species recommendations

*By Genus, Family
and Species*

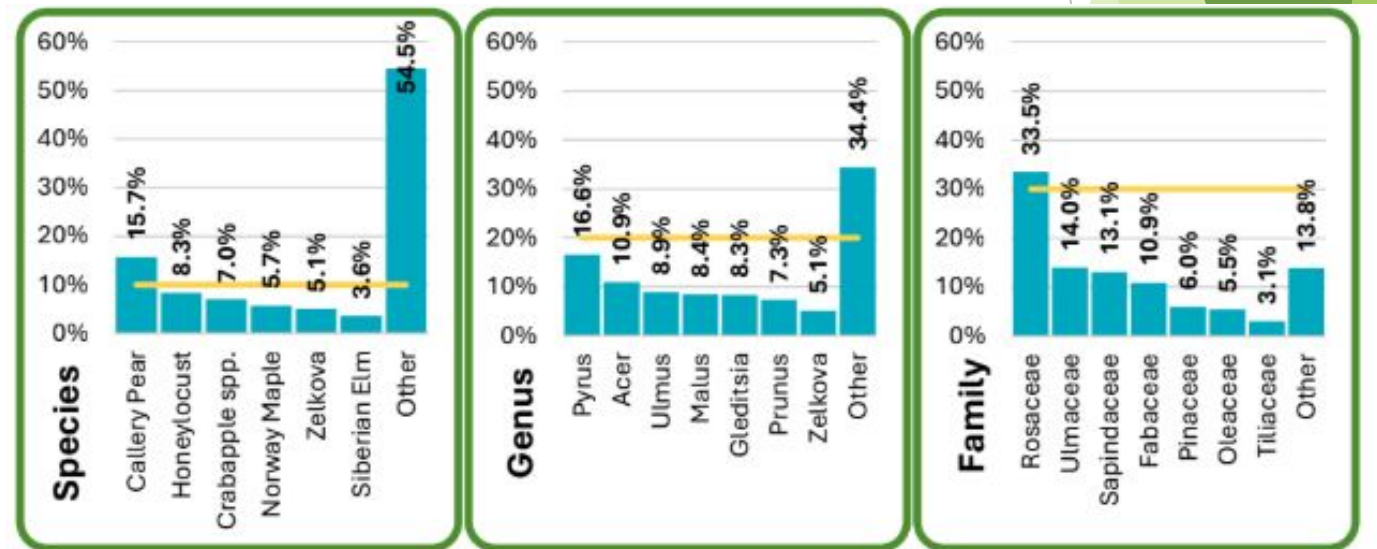


Figure 4 Diversity of South Salt Lake's public trees by Species (left), Genus (center), and Family (right), with target lines at 10%, 20%, and 30%.

Increase species diversity

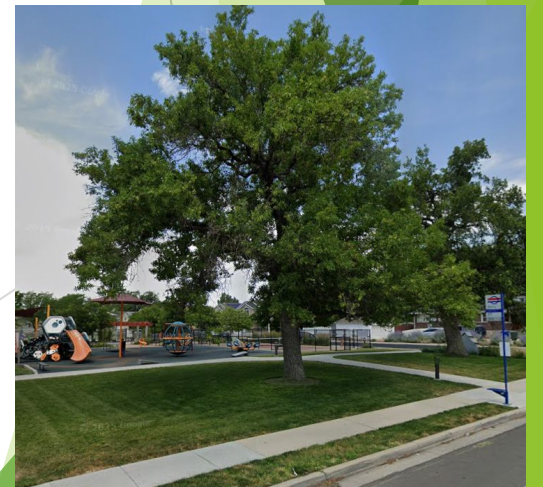
Species (Common Name)	Frequency (#)	% of Total
Total	3264	100
Apple	45	1.4
Apricot	7	0.2
Arborvitae	25	0.8
Ash, Arizona	1	0.0
Ash, European	13	0.4
Ash, Green	78	2.4
Ash, White	51	1.6
Aspen	38	1.2
Baldcypress	2	0.1
Beech, European	8	0.2
Birch, European White	1	0.0
Birch, Western Water	1	0.0
Boxelder	35	1.1
Buckeye, Red	1	0.0
Buckthorn, Alder	4	0.1
Catalpa	17	0.5
Cedar, Atlas	1	0.0
Cedar, Deodar	20	0.6
Cedar, Rocky Mountain	12	0.4
Cherry sp.	1	0.0
Cherry, Japanese Flowering	57	1.7
Chokecherry	53	1.6
Corneliancherry Dogwood	1	0.0
Cottonwood, Eastern	14	0.4
Cottonwood, Fremont	15	0.5
Cottonwood, Plains	1	0.0

Species (Common Name)	Frequency (#)	% of Total
Crabapple species	230	7.0
Cypress sp.	1	0.0
Desertwillow	1	0.0
Douglas-fir	2	0.1
Elm Species	30	0.9
Elm, American	48	1.5
Elm, English	24	0.7
Elm, Frontier	50	1.5
Elm, Lacebark	21	0.6
Elm, Siberian	119	3.6
European Mountain-Ash	1	0.0
Giant Sequoia	6	0.2
Ginkgo	2	0.1
Goldenrain	70	2.1
Hackberry, Common	40	1.2
Hawthorn sp.	26	0.8
Hazelnut sp.	1	0.0
Holly	1	0.0
Honeylocust	272	8.3
Hornbeam, American	10	0.3
Hornbeam, European	2	0.1
Horsechestnut	7	0.2
Horsechestnut, Red	1	0.0
Incense-Cedar	1	0.0
Japanese Pagoda Tree	8	0.2
Japanese Tree Lilac	18	0.6
Juniper, Rocky Mountain	9	0.3

Species (Common Name)	Frequency (#)	% of Total
Kentucky Coffeetree	8	0.2
Lilac, Common	14	0.4
Lilac, Peking	6	0.2
Linden, American	26	0.8
Linden, Littleleaf	74	2.3
Locust, Black	12	0.4
London Plane	72	2.2
Magnolia species	3	0.1
Maple, Amur	41	1.3
Maple, Bigtooth	25	0.8
Maple, Freeman	24	0.7
Maple, Hedge	1	0.0
Maple, Japanese	14	0.4
Maple, Norway	186	5.7
Maple, Red	8	0.2
Maple, Rocky Mountain	1	0.0
Maple, Shantung	2	0.1
Maple, Silver	5	0.2
Maple, State Street Miyabe	11	0.3
Maple, Sugar	3	0.1
Maple, Vine	1	0.0
Mimosa	1	0.0
Mulberry, Fruitless	23	0.7
Oak, Bur	11	0.3
Oak, Chinquapin	5	0.2
Oak, English	2	0.1
Oak, Gambel	3	0.1

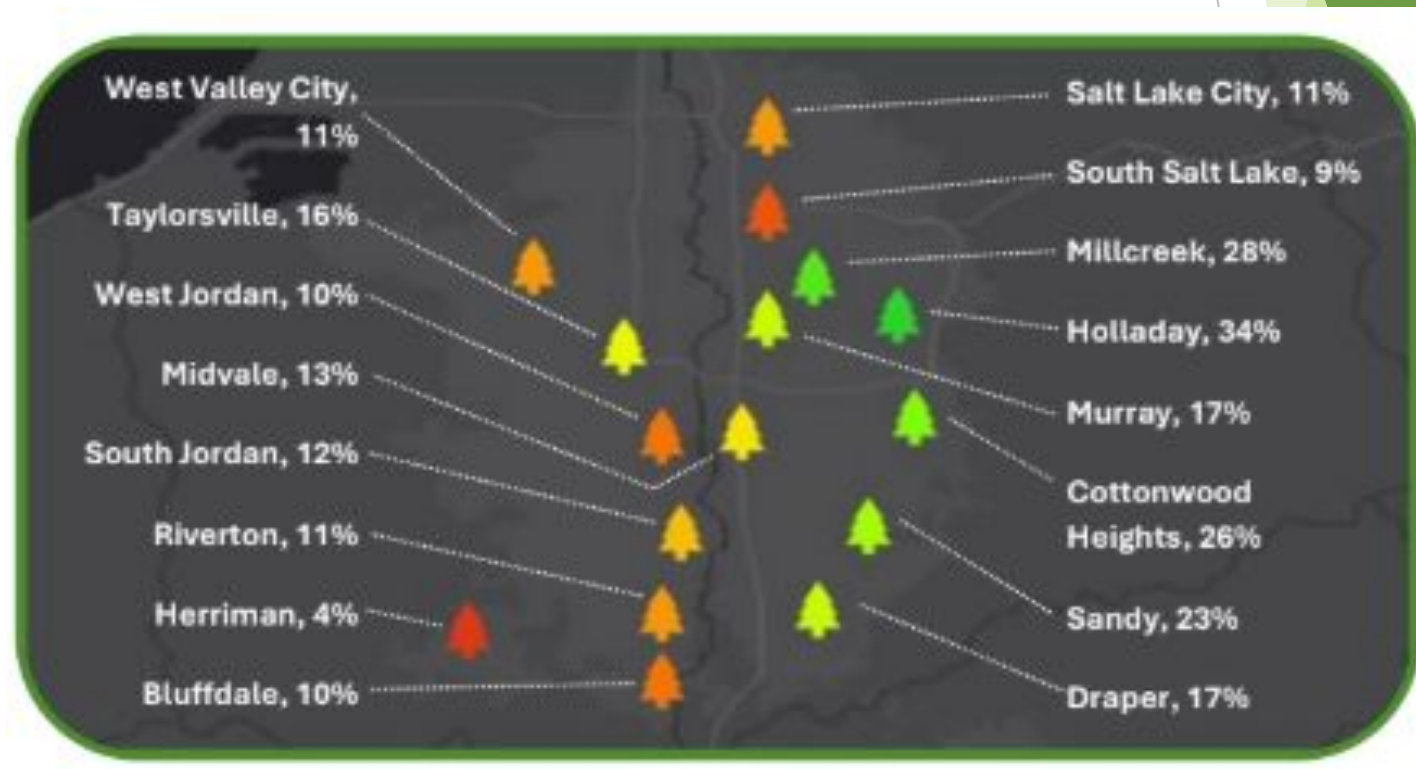
Promote the benefit of trees

An i-Tree Eco analysis revealed that the inventoried trees provided 20.81 acres of canopy coverage and have a \$5.23 million replacement value. Annually, these trees produce 47.68 tons of oxygen (a \$147,000 yearly value), sequester 17.88 tons of carbon (a \$3,050 yearly value), and capture 155,200 gallons of storm runoff (a \$1,390 yearly value).



Canopy Study

- Studies all the trees in the city, including *Private Trees*
- Shows patterns, gains and losses over time
- Benchmarks us against other communities in the valley



Canopy Study

- Uses satellite and aerial photos from 1965, 1985, 2006, 2016, 2021
- Compares land use types and tree canopy coverage

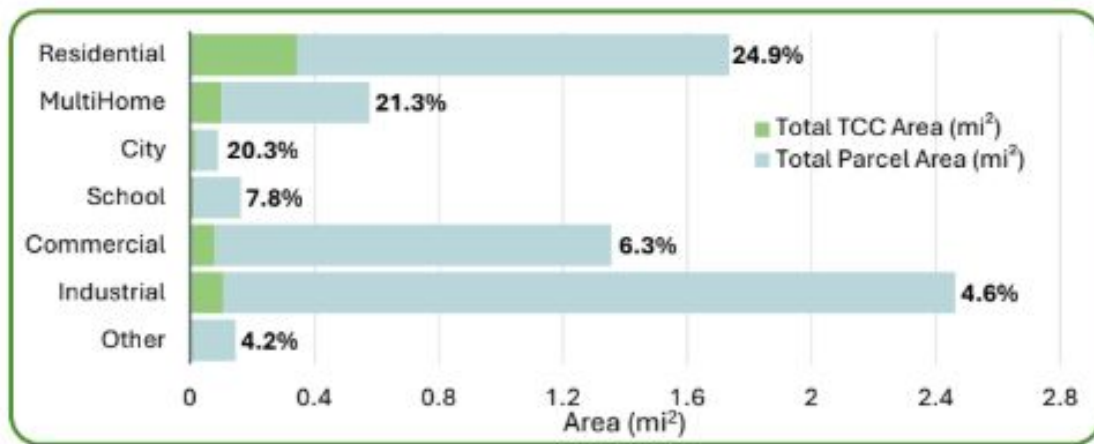


Figure 6. Total parcel and TCC area by parcel zoning in South Salt Lake, with TCC %.



Canopy Study Findings

South Salt Lake has been altered from a majority land cover of bare soil (17.7%) and herbaceous plants (53.0%) in 1964, to largely impervious (70.0%) in 2021. Tree canopy coverage increased from 3.9% in 1964 to 8.7% in 2006 as the City was developed and trees were planted in residential areas, then a slight decrease to 7.3% in 2021 as the City was further developed and the population continued to grow.

The decrease in tree canopy from 8.7% (± 0.63) in 2006 to 7.3% (± 0.58) in 2021 is equal to approximately 64 acres, or an area equal to six times the size of Fitts Park.



Canopy Study Findings

Compared to other cities in the Salt Lake Valley, South Salt Lake has one of the lowest percentages of tree canopy coverage and highest percentages of unemployment, people living in poverty and linguistic isolation, and rating highly on a health burden index.

Areas of South Salt Lake with the lowest tree canopy coverage also experienced the highest heat disparity, experiencing temperatures 4°F and higher than areas with higher tree canopy.

Commercial and Industrial zoned parcels make up 52.3% of the City's land and have an average tree canopy coverage of 5.4%. Parcels zoned as Residential or Multihome make up 26.9% of the City's area and have an average tree canopy coverage of 23.1%.

Canopy Study Findings

- Potentially plantable areas were identified: 22,713 trees could be planted.
- This would bring City's tree canopy cover up to 12.1% from the city's current 7.3%
- At the city's current rate of planting 100 trees per year, this would take 227 years!
- A majority of this could take place in commercial and industrial zones, which are more challenging than homes.

We need a plan!

How will we use this?

- To drive conversation on priorities and approaches
- To promote a call to action
- To guide the Tree Management Plan (coming soon)
- To guide new ordinances and policies.

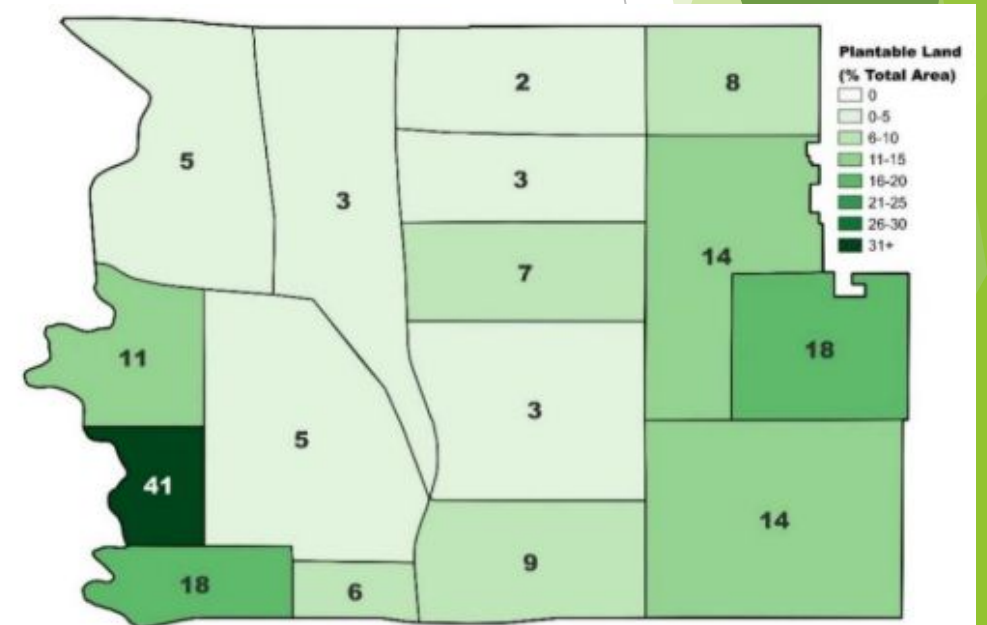


Figure xxx. Percent plantable land, by neighborhood.

Planning Progress (recap)

1. Tree Assessment Report and GIS inventory

- a. COMPLETE: Detailed inventory of 3,264 trees in the city and 473 places to plant
- b. COMPLETE: Report on the benefits of trees to the city and people

2. Tree Canopy Assessment

- a. COMPLETE: Analysis of tree coverage city-wide over the last 60 years
- b. COMPLETE: Comparison between neighborhoods and to other cities and nationally

3. Tree Management Plan

- a. COMPLETE: Analysis of city's processes, policies and budget
- b. COMPLETE: Benchmarking to national standards and best practices (USDA, Arbor Day Foundation)
- c. IN PROCESS: Recommendations such as canopy goal, maintenance, budget, outreach

Planning Progress (recap)

4. Tree Ordinance Update

- IN PROCESS: Consultant is comparing ours to best practices and rewriting
- IN PROCESS: Sections include Urban Forest, Landscaping, and Sidewalks

5. Tree Committee and Landscape Committee

- IN PROCESS: External-facing Tree Committee developing Recommendations
- IN PROCESS: Internal city Landscape Committee developing Ordinances

6. Training

- COMPLETE: 6 city employees have attended national Community Forestry training
- IN PROCESS: 2 city employees invited to attend certified arborist training

What's next?

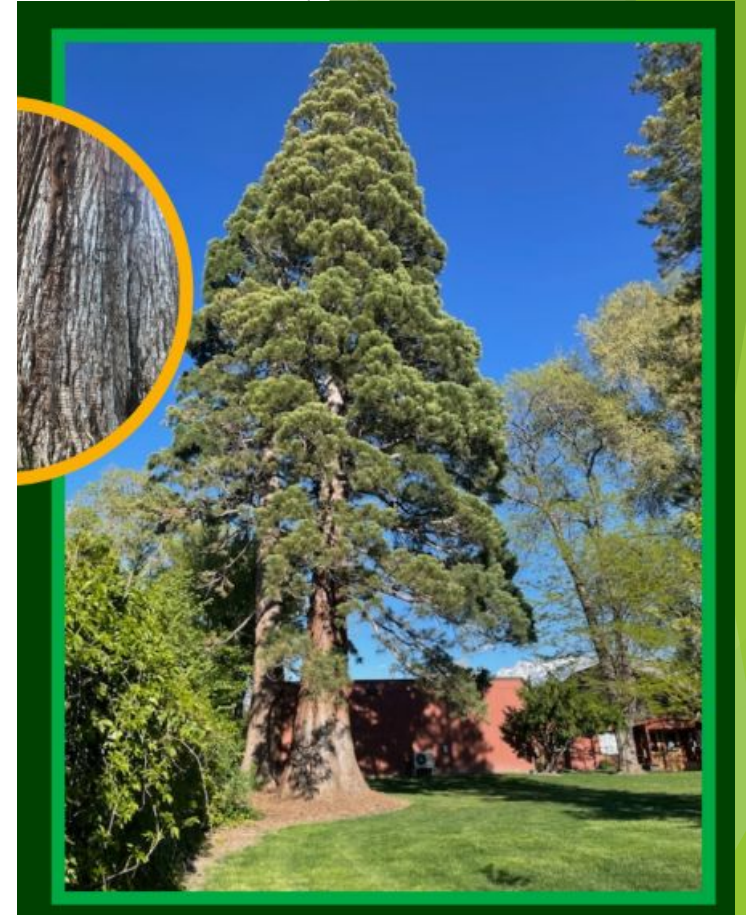
- Refine and adopt Management Plan
 - Recommendations for Urban Forestry program
- Refine and adopt Ordinances
 - Tree Section
 - Landscape section
 - Water conservation improvements
- Solidify future funding
 - FY27 budget and beyond

Timeline: *February to May 2026*



What's next?

- Tree of the Year Award
 - nominations open April
 - 2024 winner - Giant Sequoia
- Tree Hugger of the Year Award...



Tree Hugger of the Year Award...



LeAnne Huff

RESOLUTION NO. R2026-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION ON THE CENTRAL VALLEY WATER
RECLAMATION FACILITY BOARD AND RECEIPT OF COMPENSATION
FOR BOARD MEMBERSHIP.

WHEREAS, the City of South Salt Lake (“City”) has entered into an interlocal agreement with the member entities of the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility; and

WHEREAS, the interlocal agreement states that each member entity may appoint one of its elected officials to serve as a member of the board; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility Board have duties that increase the demands on the board members’ time and other resources, including but not limited to supervising, managing, and directing: the planning, financing, construction, operation, maintenance, enlargement, and improvement of the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility; acquisition of real property, insurance coverage, personal property and equipment to be utilized in connection with the Facility; employment of professional services and professional firms necessary for accomplishing the work of the Facility; engaging in rulemaking authority to create or amend the necessary rules, regulations, or surcharge penalties deemed necessary for the orderly and proper operation of the Facility; prosecution of actions in the name of the Board for violations of any applicable laws, rules, or regulations which may be or have been adopted for the proper function and operation of the Facility; and

WHEREAS, due to the demands on the board members’ time and resources, Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility has decided to provide compensation to its board members; and

WHEREAS, Utah Code Ann. §11-13-403(1)(e) authorizes such compensation if the City annually approves the participating elected official’s receipt of compensation after an analysis of the duties and responsibilities of service on the Board; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has undertaken an analysis of the duties and responsibilities of the participating elected official’s service on the Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of South Salt Lake, that pursuant to Utah Code §11-13-403, Council member _____, is authorized to serve on the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility Board and receive compensation for that service as authorized by that Board and pursuant to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of South Salt Lake, Utah, on this _____ day of _____, 2026.

BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

Sharla Bynum, Council Chair

City Council Vote as Recorded:

Bynum	_____
Williams	_____
Thomas	_____
Mitchell	_____
deWolfe	_____

ATTEST:

Ariel Andrus, City Recorder