



**City of Spokane Park Board
Urban Forestry Tree Committee Meeting**

4:15 p.m. Tuesday, January 30, 2024
Hybrid in-person and WebEx virtual meeting
Katie Kosanke - Urban Forester

Committee Members:

- X Kevin Brownlee – Chair
- X Nick Sumner
- X Kevin Cash
- X Kris Neely
- Hannah Kitz – alternate – (Absent)

Parks Staff:

Katie Kosanke
Karin Cook
Steve Nittolo

Guests:

Ted Hensold
Nancy MacKerrow

SUMMARY

- Ted Hensold shared his Planting Plan update.
- Steve Nittolo presented a Golf Course Tree Management update.
- A recap of the Urban Forestry Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was provided.
- The monthly Urban Forestry report was shared.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m. by committee chair Kevin Brownlee.

Public Comment: None

Action Items: None

Discussion Items:

1. **Planting Plan Update** – Ted Hensold

Ted previously gave a presentation to the committee on GIS planting mapping and attended to give an update. Katie advised this is good information to have as Urban Forestry moves forward in scaling up planting projects over the next 5 years due to IRA grant funding.

- a. Since last fall, 26 different maps have been completed covering all 29 neighborhoods within the city, with several smaller neighborhoods combined into one map. The maps show priority planting areas in every neighborhood. More data visualized graphs were also produced to incorporate into the plan and the graphs will assist in prioritizing neighborhoods to plant based on need for more canopy coverage and identifying areas at risk to canopy loss.
- b. Ted explained how to read the information on the graphs and how the information could be used to help determine where the need is the greatest and where planting opportunities are located. Neighborhoods were ranked from highest to lowest areas of tree density and number of street and park trees per acre. Additional graphs show planting opportunities and the needs of each class of tree by neighborhood and the percent of trees planted in planting strips without sufficient space where trees cannot be replaced if removed. However, some trees may be able to be planted behind the sidewalk, in the area between the sidewalk and lot line rather than in a planting strip.
- c. Every street segment was further classified to indicate what tree class could be accommodated ranging from Class 0 to Class 3. The class of tree graphs are in alphabetical order. The white portion at the top of each bar shows the greatest opportunity for planting the class of tree noted on the graph in each neighborhood. A density index will indicate how fully planted a street planting strip is and the class of tree graph can be cross referenced with the needs graph.
- d. A QR code has been added to the Master Tree Planting Plan Street Tree Planting Priorities Maps. If you have a smart phone and scan the QR code, it will take you to the Urban Forestry website's planting section.
- e. Ted will be working on additional items which include editing street strip segments in the West Hills and Latah neighborhoods, revising maps to show all unplanted street strip segments, and incorporating demographic data into the plan using Tree Plotter software.

Katie advised UF is already using this data in their partnership with The Land's Council and SpoCanopy to target neighborhoods and particular streets to extract data to send post card mailers and targeted door to door outreach. UF has inventory software showing where trees are inventoried, however planting spaces have not been fully identified until now. She indicated the GIS planting mapping will be a beneficial tool to allow UF to look at each neighborhood, prioritize

planting projects, understand better what some of the challenges might be, and it will also be a fantastic tool to use for outreach.

It was asked whether the demographic information that will be added to the maps will be from the grant parameters. Ted advised the information will help show income disparity and may or may not line up with the canopy disparity, but he said it often does.

2. **Golf Course Tree Management Update** – Steve Nittolo

- a. Steve provided a brief history of the four golf courses. He noted that the trees at Esmeralda Golf Course, which opened in 1956 are younger than the trees at Qualchan, which opened in 1993. The trees at Esmeralda were planted in the 1950's and the trees at Qualchan were there many years prior to the golf course opening. He advised a full inventory of the thousands of trees on the courses has never been done but they would like to have a full inventory done in the future if funding becomes available. The trees on the courses are on Park owned land, but golf is responsible to care for the trees. UF does assist periodically with pruning and removal of trees on the courses and must approve any pruning or removals done by others. A backlog of deferred maintenance has accumulated over many years due to the amount of labor required and cost for them to maintain the large number of trees on the courses.
- b. Steve gave an overview of the UF Partnership with Golf. Since January 2022 Golf has contributed funding for 20% of an Urban Forestry position, prior to that UF invoiced Golf for work UF did on the courses. Steve assists Golf with creating and updating tree management plans for pruning and removals. The UF crew also contributes work on the highest priority pruning and removals. Plans address issues with play on the course, Safety, Turf Health, and Tree Health. Thicker stands of trees may be thinned out to provide more filtered light to assist with turf health and some thinning for fuels reduction, tree health, playability, and turf health.
- c. Steve provided an update on the Golf Courses.
 - **Downriver** – A management plan has been created, but not yet approved, for existing trees which involves thinning trees around the tees. A planting plan is being worked on to assist with replanting approximately 200 trees that had to be removed due to beetle kill and windstorms. They will be replanting with larch and other species which won't have the same insect issues as the pine, will provide more filtered light, have narrower crowns, and lose their needles in winter so they will get earlier and later sun that will assist with the health of the turf. Steve has applied for a WA DNR grant to assist with the replanting of 109 trees and he should find out soon if the grant will be received. Some black locust trees in poor condition will also be removed and replaced. Trees continue to be monitored for insects and removals are being done as soon as any signs of beetle infestation are found.

It was asked if rings on any of the trees removed were counted to determine the age of the trees. He said the trees vary in age and believes some of the trees may have been there prior to the golf course opening in 1916. He said some of the tree's diameters were 36 inches to 48 inches.

- **Qualchan** – Tree Planting Plan has been created. Hundreds of locations on the course have been identified where more trees can be planted. The superintendent at the course would like to have more pines planted at the northwest end of the course along Hwy 195 to separate the fairway and to have it look more like the rest of the area. Also, planting a buffer of pines along Hwy 195. A permit application has been submitted to plant in an

open unirrigated area in the WSDOT right-of-way along 195. Ponderosa pine seedlings would be planted in this area and further increase the width of the buffer between the Hwy and the course. Steve has ordered pines for spring planting and some for planting in the fall. The course is in a shoreline buffer zone and any work done in that area has to be permitted by Washington State Dept of Ecology and the city. Fuels reduction work is being done on the slope of the hill above the course.

- **Indian Canyon** – Tree management plan for existing trees has been approved. Some trees will be thinned due to turf and play issues. Fuels reduction work is being done on the golf course property in the forested area surrounding the course.
- **Esmeralda** – Tree management plan and tree planting plan has been approved. There are many deciduous trees on the course. There are many low clearance tree issues and some turf issues. Canopy raising is being done due to the crowns of the trees being quite low. Numerous planting sites exist at the course. Some trees will be planted along Freya to create a buffer between Freya and the course. Fuels reduction work is being done on the hill to the east side of the course.

Standing Report Items:

1. Citizen Advisory Report – Kris Neely

Kris gave a brief recap of the Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee (UFCAC) meeting. There was no public comment, Beth LeBar was reappointed to the UFCAC for a two-year term, the committee heard presentations given by Ted Hensold and Steve Nittolo and Katie provide the Urban Forestry monthly update.

2. Urban Forestry Monthly Update – Katie Kosanke

- a. Dead tree removals continue throughout the park system. Coeur d'Alene Park and Audubon Park have been completed, with 3-5 removals done in each park. Comstock Park and Manito Park removals are currently being worked on. The Operations Team and Facility Truck Crew are assisting Urban Forestry with chipping and hauling of logs. It generally takes 2-3 months to complete removals, but the work should be done in about one month. Once the removals are completed the UF Crew will transition to proactive work such as pruning throughout the park system.
- b. Many Fuels Reduction projects are taking place and are being coordinated by Nick Jeffries from the Fire Department and Angel Spell with Natural Resources. Fuels reduction projects at Wyakin Park and around Esmeralda Golf Course have been completed, and work at Hangman Park is ongoing. Nick applied for another grant for additional funding to be able to continue this important Fuels Reduction work. Katie will contact Nick regarding providing an update on the Fuels Reduction projects at a future UFCAC meeting.
- c. Katie provided an IRA grant update advising it had to be rewritten to scale back the original request and that some additional items were also needed. The rewritten grant information is now under review and final approval should likely be received in the next several weeks.

An Urban Forester is being hired to oversee the grant project. Interviews for the position will take place soon and the position will be funded by the grant. Prep work and mapping are

currently being done to prepare goals for year 1, to get ready for the new UF employee and to be ready once final approval is received.

Current tree inventory records are being reviewed and updated to assist with creating a plan for each neighborhood. Removals of dead and poor condition trees will be done in the first year, as well as looking at opportunities to replace any dead or poor condition trees that are removed. Pruning will mainly be done in years two through five and planting will take place throughout all five years in the spring and fall.

Through the grant project UF will assist the school district with some tree maintenance and tree planting on school district properties. An educational partnership will also be implemented.

- d. Katie is working on the Annual Work Plan for 2024 which provides an overview of work prioritized for the year. She will present the 2024 Annual Work Plan at the next UFCAC meeting.
- e. UF is getting new tree inventory software called Tree Plotter. The new software will be more efficient and has more reporting capabilities and other features the current technology doesn't have. It will be easier to use and allows for unlimited users with no additional costs. Angel obtained a grant through Avista's Foundation, and they will be sponsoring the new tree inventory software for three years. The new software program should be available for use starting next month.
- f. A city-wide tree inventory update maybe done in the future possibly through a DNR grant. Day to day updates are done through tree permit information and engineering projects. Tree inventory will be completed in new neighborhoods and other areas where trees have not previously been inventoried. Much of the city-wide tree inventory will be completed as part of the grant project as areas are assessed.

3. Urban Forestry Financial Report – Katie Kosanke

A current financial report was not available.

Other Discussion Items: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

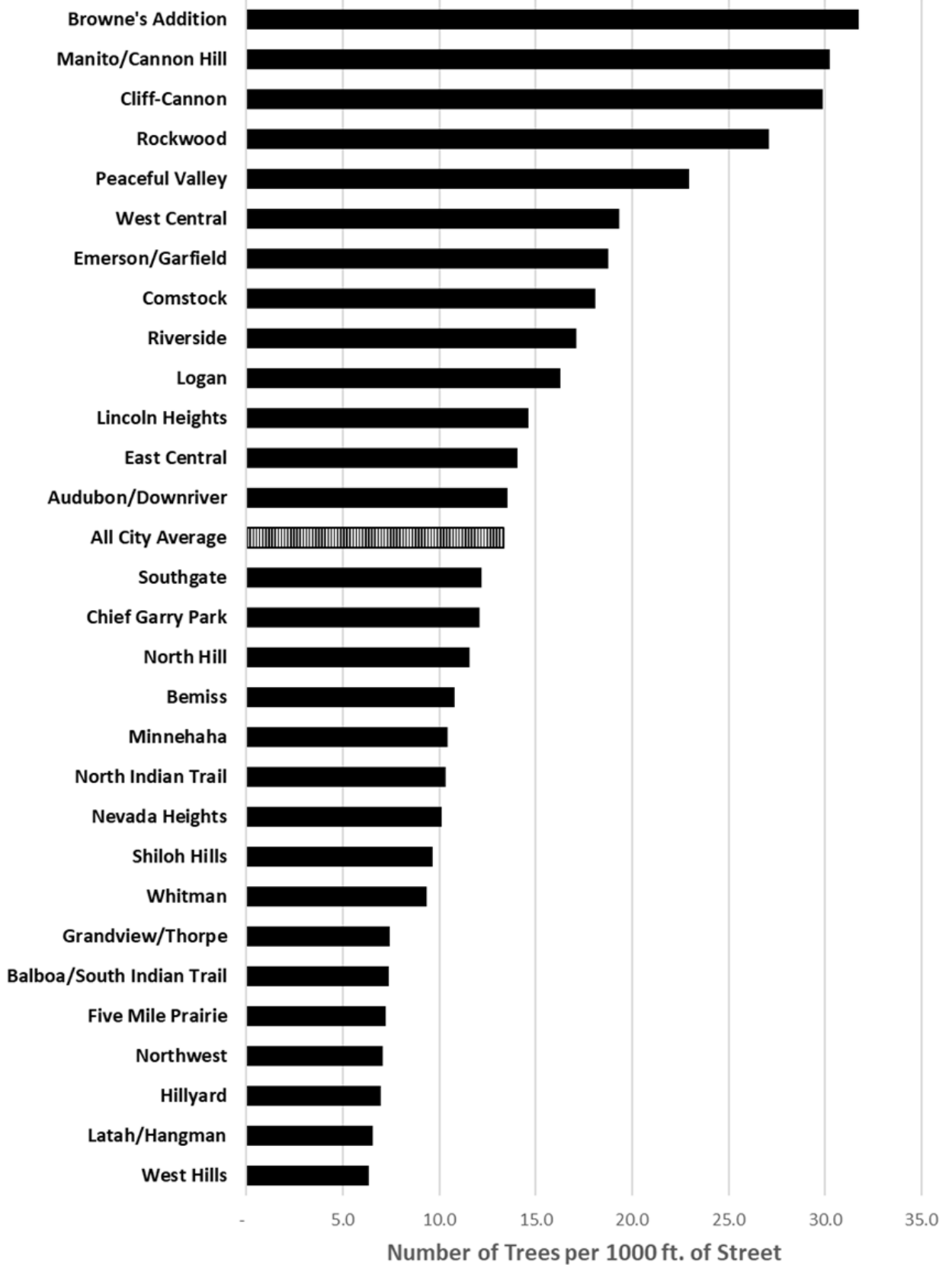
Progress on developing a Master Tree Planting Plan for Spokane

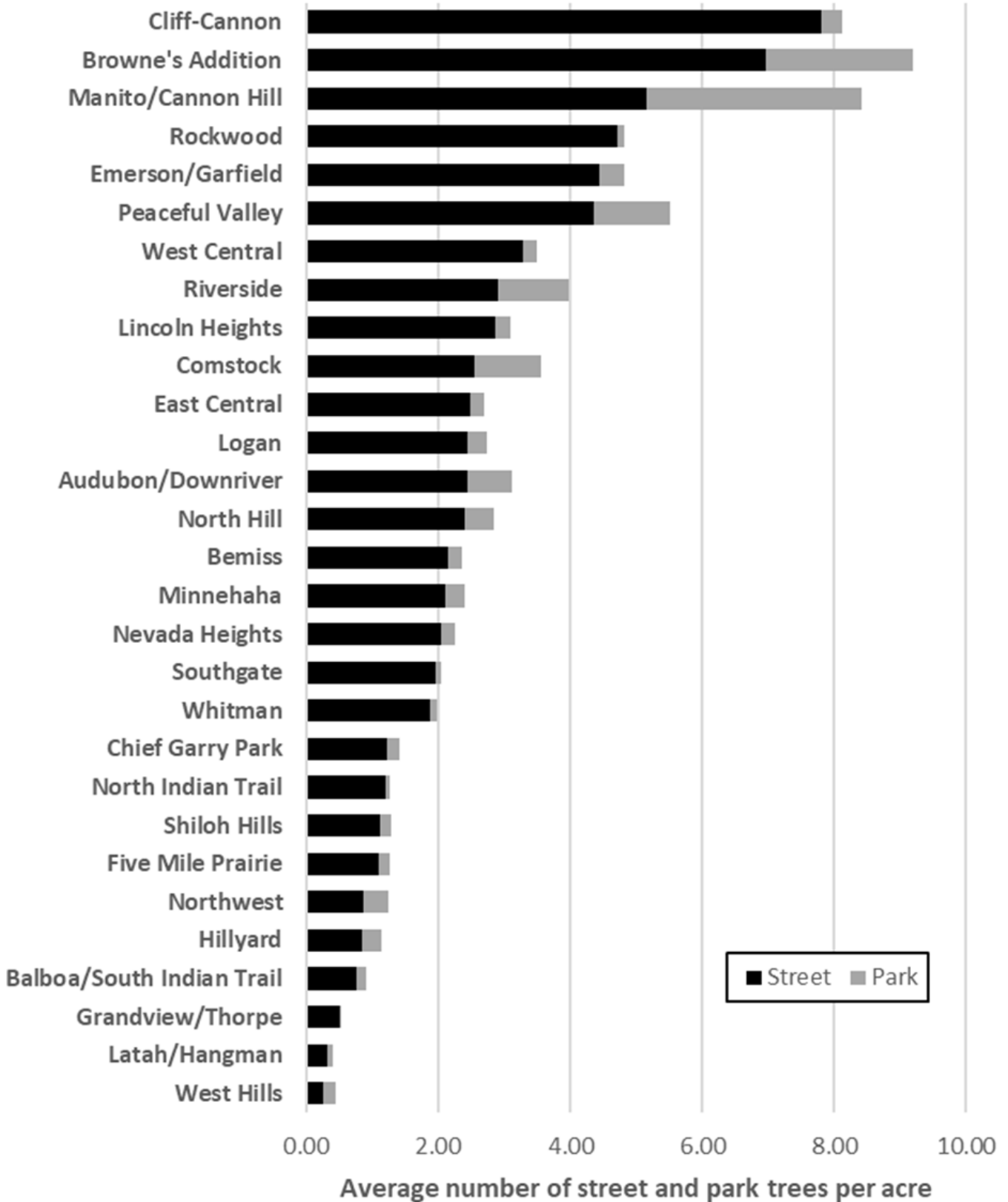
Ted Hensold

SAS – Natural Environment working group

Since last fall:

- 26 maps were completed for the plan which show priority planting areas in every neighborhood
- Produced more data visualization graphs to incorporate into the plan
 - Prioritizing neighborhoods to plant based on need for more canopy
 - Identify areas at risk to canopy loss in the future due to engineering challenges





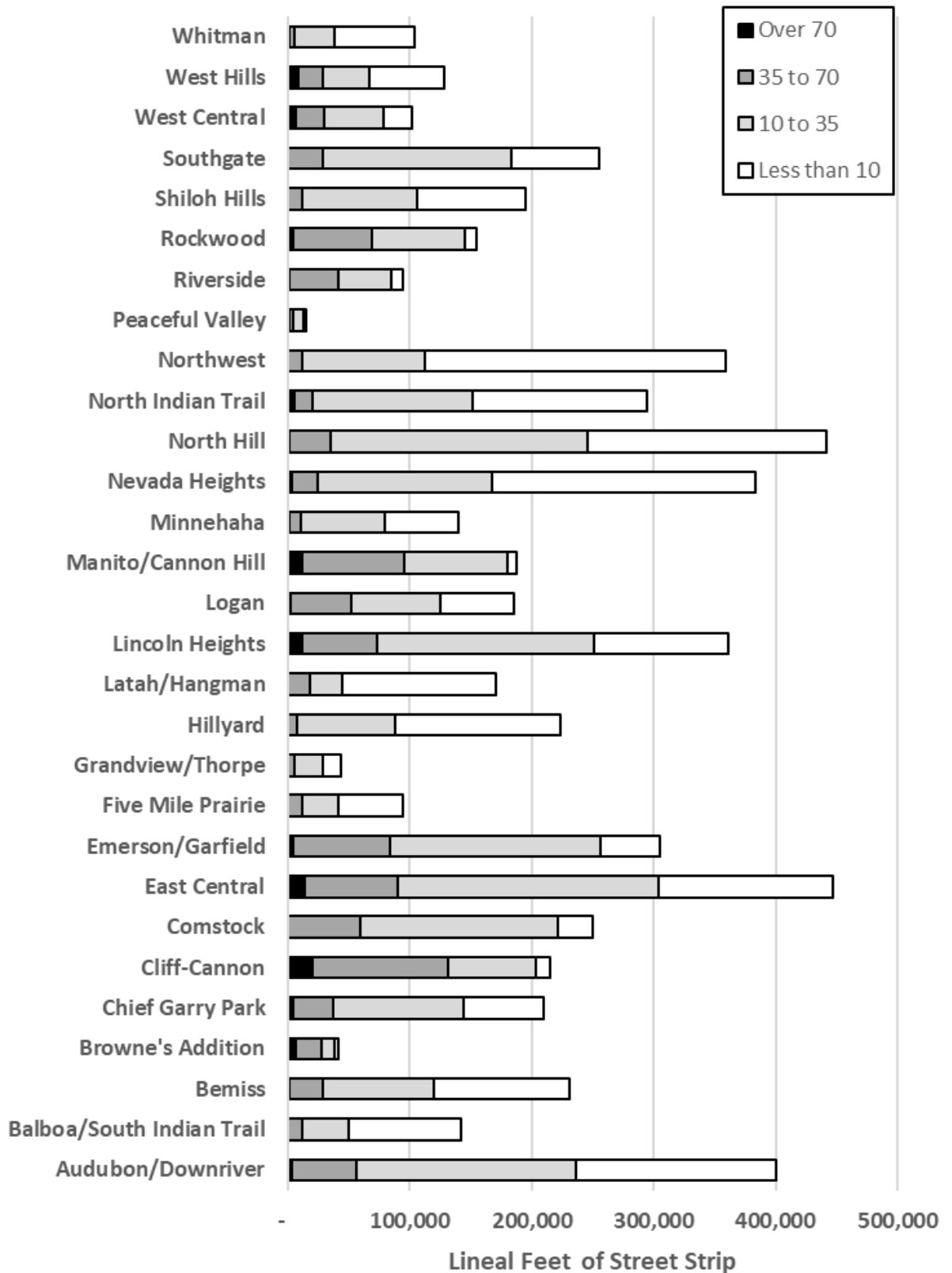
Every street segment (both sides) was further classified as to:

– The Tree Class it could accommodate

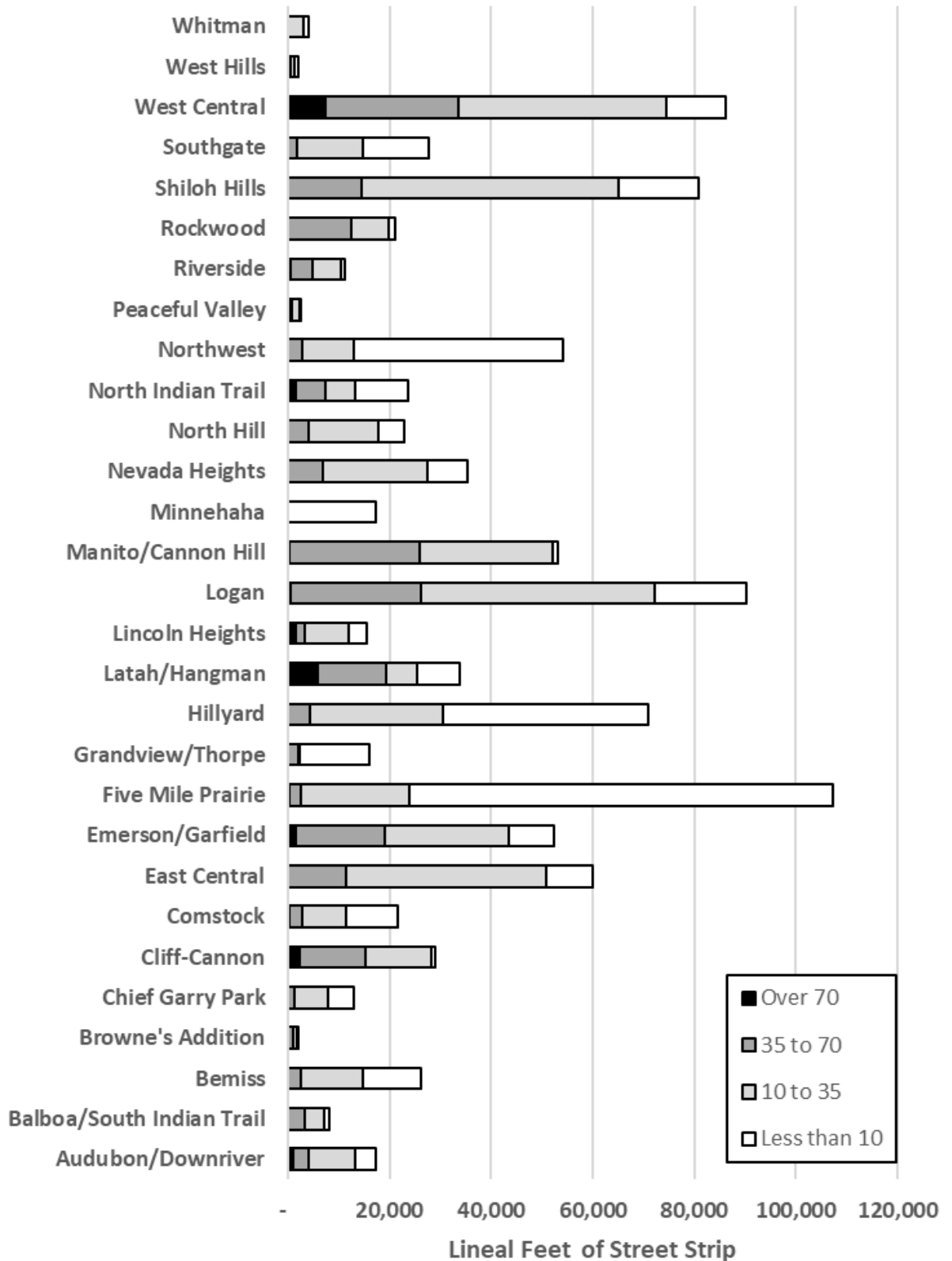
- Class 0 = No plantable space (less than 5 ft. width)
- Class 1 = At least 5' of planting space + presence of overhead power lines
- Class 2 = 5 to 8 ft of planting space
- Class 3 = 9 feet or more of planting space

– A density index: indicates how fully planted out a street strip is

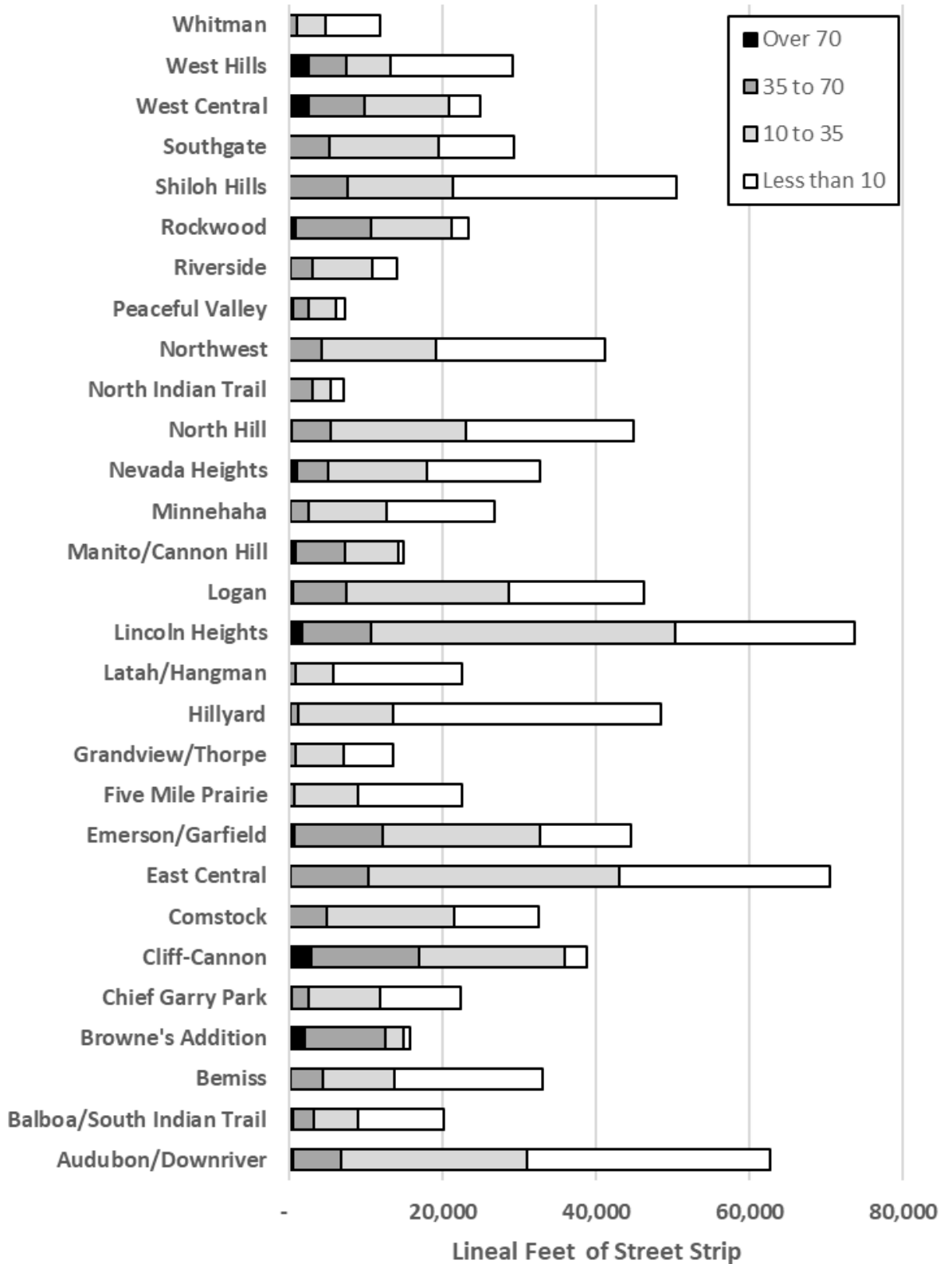
Class 3 Street Strip

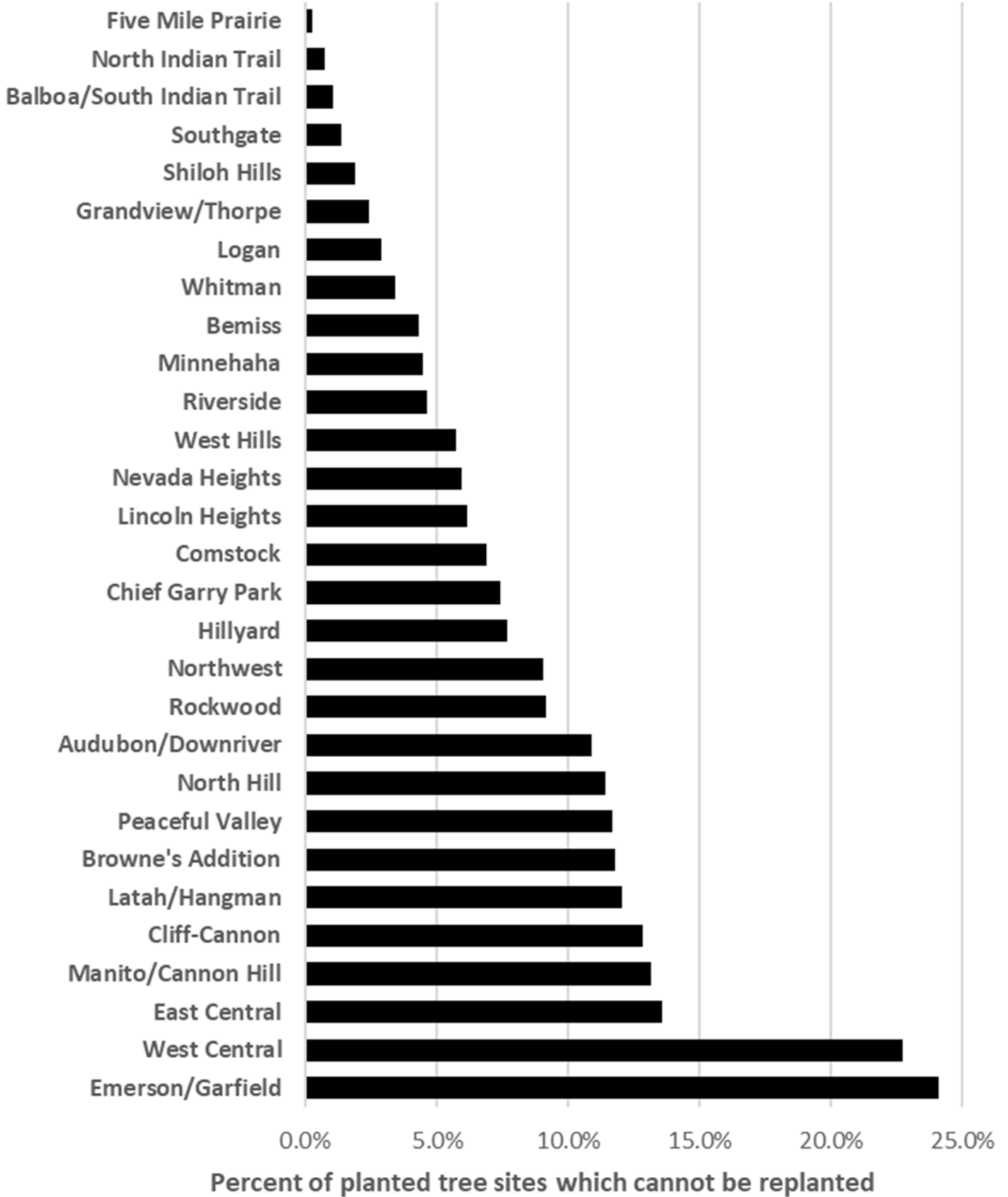


Class 2 Street Strip



Class 1 Street Strip

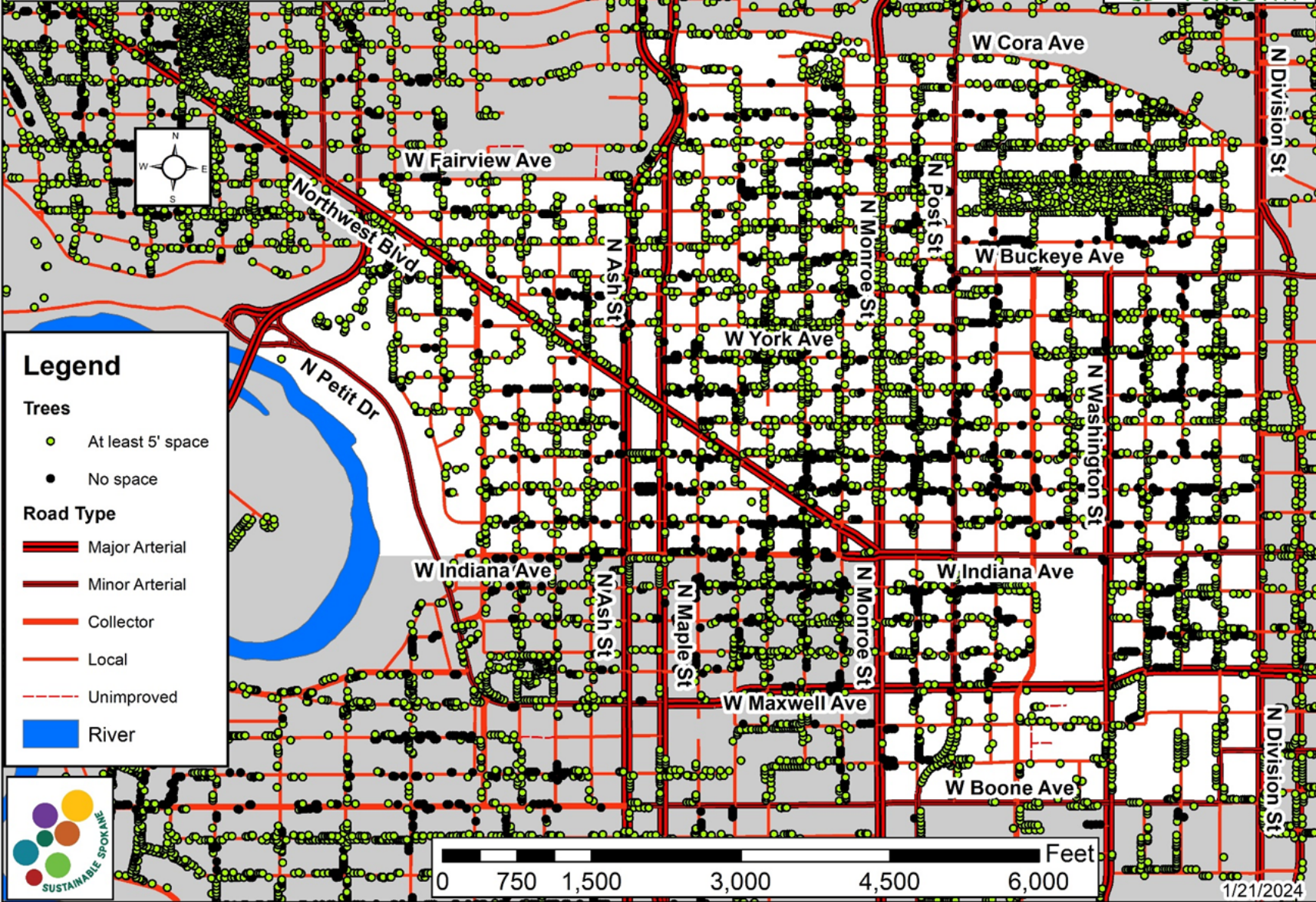




Master Tree Planting Plan

Trees that cannot be replaced

Emerson Garfield Neighborhood



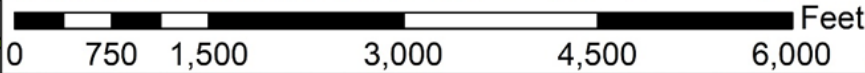
Legend

Trees

- At least 5' space
- No space

Road Type

- Major Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Collector
- Local
- Unimproved
- River



Master Tree Planting Plan

Trees that cannot be replaced

Street sections that currently have few or no trees are highlighted with colors to show the tree class to plant.



Legend

Trees

- At least 5' space
- No space

Road Type

- Major Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Collector
- Local
- Unimproved
- River

West Central Neighborhood

W Indiana Ave

W Maxwell Ave

W Boone Ave

W Broadway Ave

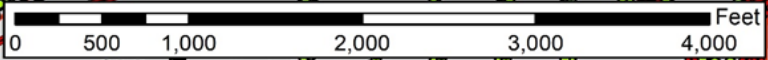
N Ash St

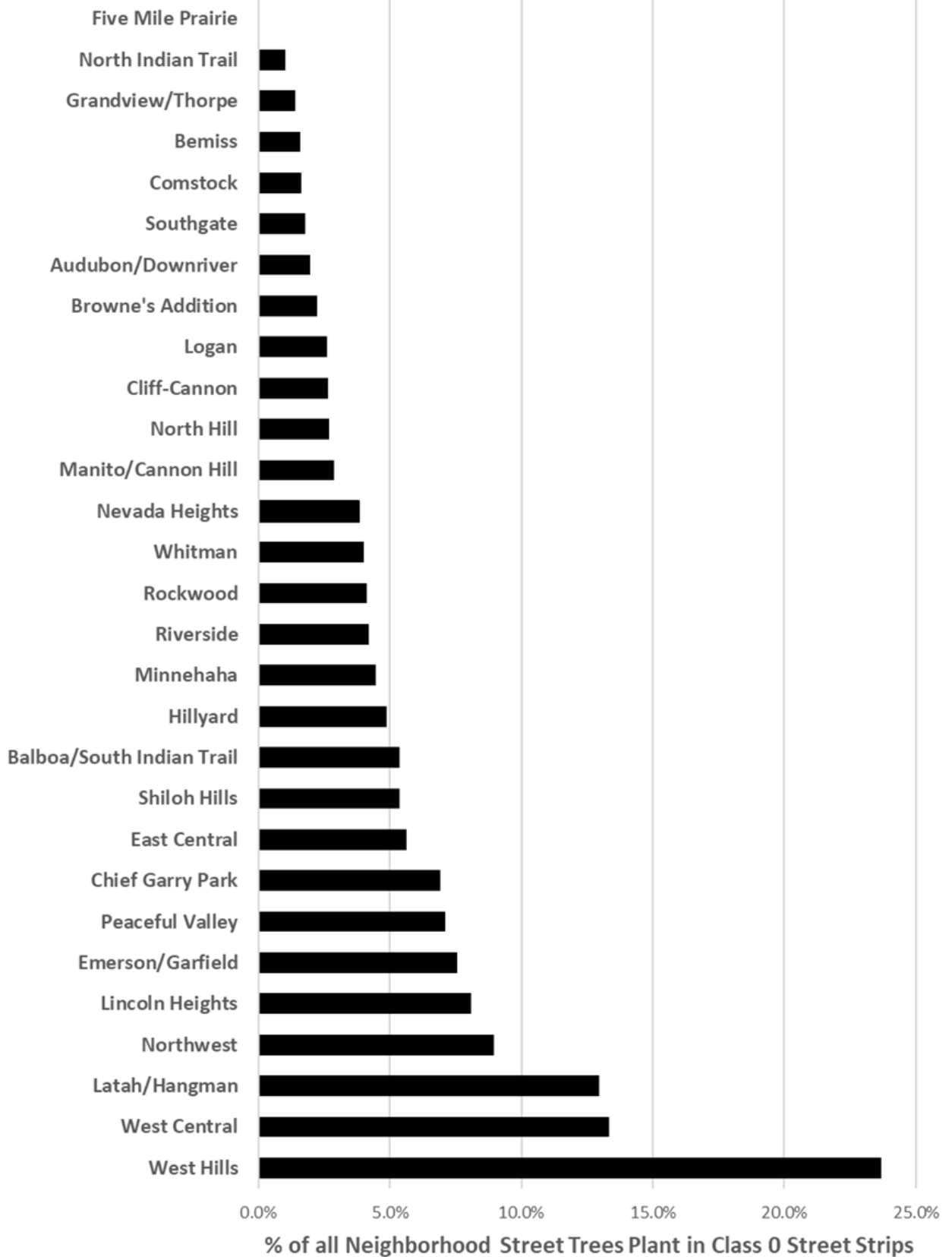
N Maple St

N Monroe St

W Summit Pkwy

1/21/2023



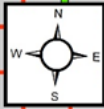


Master Tree Planting Plan Street Tree Planting Priorities

Emerson Garfield Neighborhood



Street sections that currently have few or no trees are highlighted with colors to show the tree class to plant.

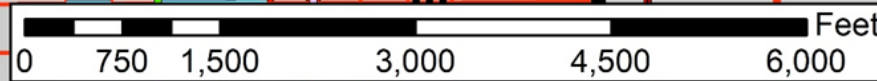


For more info:

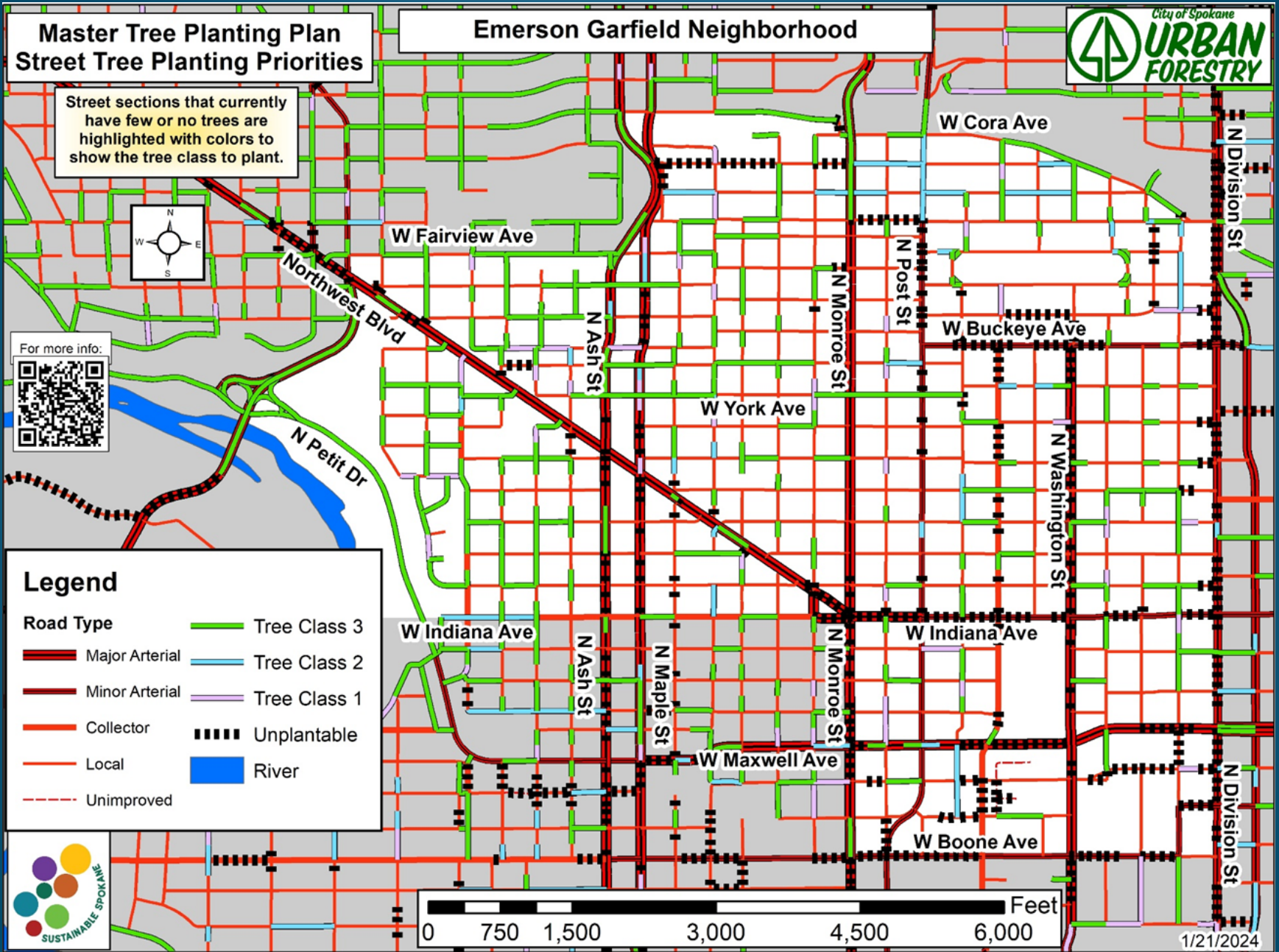


Legend

- | | | |
|------------------|--|--------------|
| Road Type | | Tree Class 3 |
| | | Tree Class 2 |
| | | Tree Class 1 |
| | | Unplantable |
| | | River |
| | | |
| Unimproved | | |



1/21/2024



Next steps

- Edit some street strip segments in West Hills and Latah neighborhoods
- Revise maps to show all unplantable street segments
- Incorporate demographic data in to the plan using Tree Plotter software

Questions, comments or suggestions?

email me:

thensold@gmail.com

Golf Course Tree Management Update

January 30, 2024



Update Overview

- ▶ History
- ▶ Partnership with Golf

- ▶ Tasks
 - ▶ Tree Management Plans
 - ▶ Tree Planting Plans
 - ▶ Pruning for Clearance
 - ▶ Pest Monitoring and Management



History

- ▶ The Creek at Qualchan opened 1993
- ▶ Esmeralda Golf Course opened 1956
- ▶ Indian Canyon Golf Course opened 1935
- ▶ Downriver Golf Course opened 1916

- ▶ Although there are thousands of trees on the courses, there has not been a full inventory of any of the courses.
- ▶ Golf operates as an enterprise fund - must be self-sustaining
- ▶ Although the trees are on Parks owned land, Golf is responsible for their maintenance.
- ▶ Urban Forestry (UF) has assisted periodically with pruning and removal of trees. All pruning and removals by others must be approved by UF, subject to policy covering public trees.
- ▶ Over many years, a backlog of deferred maintenance has accumulated due to the amount of certified arborist labor required to maintain the number of trees on the courses



Partnership with Golf

- ▶ In the past Urban Forestry has invoiced Golf for work done on courses.
- ▶ Starting January 2022 Golf has contributed funding for 20% of an Urban Forestry position.
- ▶ UF helps with creating and updating tree management plans, pruning, and removals.
- ▶ Plans include identifying locations for plantings, trees for removal, and trees in need of pruning.
- ▶ UF has also contributed work on highest priority pruning and removal.
- ▶ Golf has also contracted some work to implement plans.
- ▶ Plans address issues with Play on the course, Safety, Turf Health, and Tree Health.





Turf issues

Tree Health



Update for Courses

▶ Downriver

- ▶ Management Plan for existing trees
- ▶ Planting Plan
 - ▶ WA DNR Grant application for replanting
- ▶ Tree Monitoring, removals of dead trees (in-house in partnership with work crews for clean up)
- ▶ Locust removals and replacements

▶ Qualchan

- ▶ Tree Planting Plan - has more areas for planting than other courses
- ▶ Shoreline Policies
- ▶ Permit for planting in WSDOT right-of-way
- ▶ Fuels reduction work on slope above course



TreeWorks Map

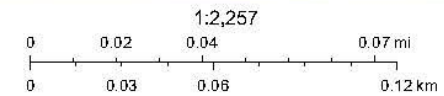


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TreeWorks_Data

- removal site
- stump
- tree

Sheet 6



Esri Community Maps Contributors, City of Spokane, Spokane County, WA State Parks GIS, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,



Qualchan 4 tee, 4 green, 5tee, 5 green, 6 green, 7 green, 3 green, 8 tee



Update for Courses

▶ Indian Canyon

- ▶ Tree management plan for existing trees
 - ▶ Turf and play issues
- ▶ Fuels Reduction work

▶ Esmeralda

- ▶ Tree management plan and tree planting plan
 - ▶ Turf and play issues- canopy raising
 - ▶ Planting sites along Freya on west and Rich on north
- ▶ Fuels Reduction work

17 tee, 16 green, 14 green, 15 tee, 11 tee

TreeWorks Map

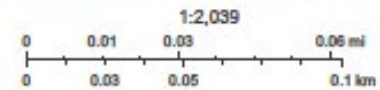


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TreeWorks_Data

- planting site
- removal site
- stump
- tree

Sheet 3



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TreeWorks User

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3 tee

2 green

9 tee

prune side limbs back from tee

Horizontal pruning of this row of trees on both sides

driving range

chipping green

remove cluster of lilac(?) stumps and small Norway maple

remove maple

10

18

2 tee

1 green

elm full crown clean (see picture) prune horizontally from 1 tee and 2 green

remove dead crabapple

remove clump mountain ash

9 green

1 tee

putting green

remove double stemmed cedar- root and light issues

E Garnet Ave

N Rebecca St

E Garnet Ave

Plantings Esmeralda



Golf Course Tree Management Update

- ▶ Any questions?

