



WHY IS TREE CANOPY IMPORTANT?

Healthy urban forests provide shade for critical areas, stabilize soils, sequester carbon, reduce runoff, enhance property values and preserve the natural forested character of the Issaquah community. In 2009, the Sustainability Sounding Board recommended tree canopy as an indicator of sustainability for the Issaquah community.

WHAT ARE ISSAQUAH'S GOALS?

In 2008, Issaquah adopted targets for tree canopy coverage of 51% of total land within Issaquah and no net loss of overall coverage.

HOW IS ISSAQUAH DOING?

Issaquah is doing great!

- 59% of total land within Issaquah is covered by a tree canopy, which is higher than targets set by the City of Issaquah, King County (53% tree canopy in 2003) as well as neighboring jurisdictions, such as Bellevue (36% tree canopy in 2007). American Forests recommends 40% overall city-wide tree canopy for Pacific Northwest communities.
- Issaquah currently has 4041 acres of tree canopy.

WHAT IS TREE CANOPY?

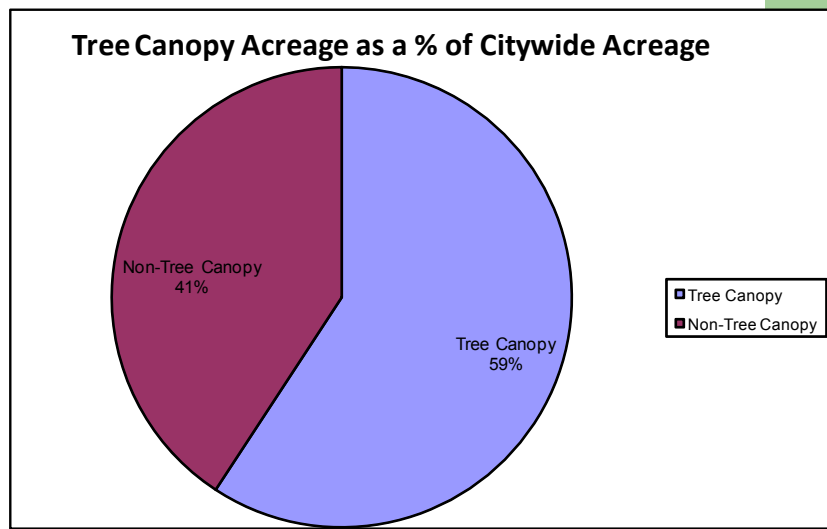
Tree canopy is measured as city-wide tree canopy coverage through aerial surveys.



COMMUNITY SUCCESS

The City of Issaquah has been named a [Tree City USA](#) for the past 17 years. It met the four criteria of a tree board, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance. In addition it also received a Growth Award for having a higher level of tree care and expanding its current program over last year's program.

The City also has a collection of heritage trees that are named each year by proclamation. These are trees that have one or more of the following characteristics: size or age not normal for species, historic significance, or ecological value. [Find out more here.](#)



RESOURCES AND ACTIONS

- [Help restore natural areas and open spaces](#)
- [Plant trees](#)
- [Properly prune trees instead of removing](#)
- Trees that are removed during landscaping or construction should be kept on site and replanted if possible
- Visit the [City website](#) to learn more about trees, and City requirements.
- Comply with the City Tree Ordinance before removing trees
 - o 18.12.1380 Tree removal review.
 - o [View the ordinance here.](#)

