



GATEWAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

URBAN TREE CANOPY COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION

What is the Urban Tree Community Prioritization Project?

The Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) in collaboration with Loyola Marymount University's Center of Urban Resilience and TreePeople received a \$200,000 grant from the California Resilience Challenge (CRC) through the Bay Area Council to develop local-level urban tree canopy assessments along with a community engagement and prioritization component in four cities: Paramount, Vernon, Lynwood, and Montebello. Through the prioritization process, communities will set urban tree canopy priorities for their city. The Urban Tree Community Prioritization Project will produce analyses, reports, and maps to empower the four participating Gateway communities to increase their urban canopy, re-duce climate change impacts due to extreme heat, and enhance social, economic and public health.

Participating Cities



Project Schedule

Work with cities to leverage a parcel-level assessment of existing and possible tree canopy based on high-resolution imagery and LiDAR data

Conduct a data-driven and collaborative prioritization process in each city

Produce analyses, reports, maps and tools to empower the community

Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3

Expected Local Benefits of Tree Canopy

Increasing Urban Tree Canopy in communities can provide several benefits, including:

Health Benefits:



- Reduced anxiety/depression
- Improved memory/eyesight
- Decreased risk of mental illnesses
- Improve dementia-related issues such as cognition and mood
- Lower rates of asthma through absorbing carbon dioxide

Aesthetics:



- Increased shaded areas
- Beautify neighborhoods
- Increase and variety of scents and vibrant colors from trees throughout seasons
- Create quiet and peaceful neighborhoods due to increased sound absorption

Water Quality:



- Enhanced water filtration and retention
- Reduced stormwater through evapotranspiration
- Reduced stormwater run off
- Reduced flooding
- Decreased flow of polluted water into larger bodies of water

Connectivity:



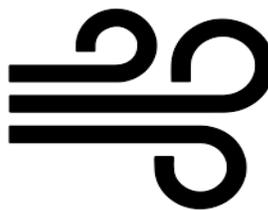
- Improve and enhance social interactions in communities
- Increased social support of community members

Economy:



- Increased attraction of businesses and residents
- Increased property value
- Lowered heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) costs
- Reduced water management costs
- Reduced waste management costs

Air Quality/Climate:



- Urban heat reduction
- Air pollution reduction
- Ultraviolet radiation reduction
- Carbon dioxide/climate change reduction
- Reduced local air temperatures
- Help remove air pollutants
- Reduced carbon emissions through cooler temperatures
- Reduced energy use

Ecology:



- Restore ecosystems to help with clean air and water
- Create and restore biodiversity in bodies of water
- Create local food gardens
- Sustain and enhance local food systems
- Help integrate natural habitats with the built environment for wildlife