



TOWN OF WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

DATE Thursday, October 15, 2026
TIME 6:30 PM
LOCATION Large Conference Room, West Seneca Community Center,
1300 Union Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 17, 2026

Presentations

- Update on the Town of West Seneca Grant for a Tree Inventory and Community Forestry Management Plan (NYS DEC UCF Round 16)
 - Background on the grant implementation.
 - The Tree Inventory Results prepared by Davey Resource Group (DRG)
 - Plans for use of the tree inventory data by the Town Highway Department.
 - Questions and Answers.
 - In addition, a presentation and discussion on local soils, and tree care will occur at the Town of West Seneca Environmental Commission meeting scheduled for November 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the large conference room at the community center.

ADJOURNMENT

What is the 10%-20%-30% Rule for Urban Tree Landscaping?

From outwardlab.com: “What Is The 10 20 30 Rule Of Urban Tree Landscaping, By Eric James Updated on April 21, 2026”at the link: <https://outwardlab.com/what-is-the-10-20-30-rule-of-urban-tree-landscaping/>

“By following this simple biodiversity guideline, you can ensure your trees remain healthy and resilient for generations. This rule helps you build a diverse ecosystem that resists common threats like the Emerald Ash Borer or Dutch Elm Disease. In this guide, we will preview how to apply these numbers to your property so you can plant with total confidence.”

What is the 10%-20%-30% Rule?

When planning for and planting trees in an urban / community forest, including no more than the percentages defined below, allows for good biodiversity.

- 10% for the Species of trees. For example, Red Oak, and White Oak are separate Species of trees.
- 20% for the Genus of trees. For example, all Oaks are in the same Genus of trees.
- 30% for the Family of trees. For example, Oaks, Beeches, and Chestnuts are in the same tree Family.

The approved Tree List for Planting in the Town of West Seneca last revised in December 2024 is located on the Town's website:
<https://www.westseneca.gov/212/Tree-Maintenance-Replacement>

Small Trees (<30)

Scientific Names

Amelanchier arborea
Amelanchier laevis
Alnus alnobetula
Alnus incana
Aronia melanocarpa
Carpinus caroliniana
Cercis canadensis
Crataegus spp.
Prunus virginiana

Common Name

Common Serviceberry
Allegheny Serviceberry
Green Alder
Speckled Alder
Black Chokeberry
American Hornbeam
Eastern Redbud
Hawthorn
Chokecherry

Large Trees (>30)

Scientific Name

Acer x freemanii
Acer rubrum
Acer saccharum
Betula alleghaniensis
Betula lenta
Betula nigra
Betula papyrifera
Celtis occidentalis
Gymnocladus dioica
Liriodendron tulipifera
Ostrya virginiana
Prunus serotina
Quercus bicolor
Quercus coccinea
Quercus macrocarpa
Quercus palustris
Quercus prinus
Quercus velutina
Salix nigra
Tilia americana

Common Name

Freeman Maple
Red Maple
Sugar Maple
Yellow Birch
Black Birch
River Birch
Canoe (White, Paper) Birch
Northern Hackberry
Kentucky Coffee
Tulip Poplar Tree
American Hop-Hornbeam
Black Cherry
Swamp White Oak
Scarlet Oak
Bur Oak
Pin Oak
Chestnut Oak
Black Oak
Black Willow
American Basswood

Use of Tree Keeper Data by the Town of West Seneca Highway Department

October 2026

Tree Keeper Program and Data Usage

- During the tree inventory grant implementation, Davey Resource Group collected data in the Tree Keeper software program while performing the tree inventory along the right-of-way of Town owned streets. Upon completion, the Tree Keeper software and inventory data were provided to the Town Highway Department.
- Per input from Brian Adams, Highway Superintendent, in September 2026, the Town of West Seneca Highway Department is currently using the tree keeper program as a reference and maintenance plan with our inhouse tree crew for removal of potential hazardous trees, pruning, and maintenance on recommendations from the arborist. The town's crews update the program and make notes when a site is visited to keep an up-to-date log of the work performed.

Tree Keeper Program and Data Usage

- The Town's past methods for tree management were reactive, we identified trees for removal, removed them, and then looked for areas to plant new trees when they are donated or purchased. This grant has enabled us to begin to proactively manage the Town's urban forestry and tree canopy through prioritization and application of the necessary resources.
- Having these new tools on hand allows us to work toward the realization of the long-term vision described in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, the sections for Natural Resources & Sustainability and the Vision Statement which includes actively promoting environmental quality and sustainability.

Town of West Seneca Grant for a Tree Inventory and Community Forest Management Plan

Presented: October 2, 2025



WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Town of West Seneca • 1250 Union Road • West Seneca, NY 14224

Town of West Seneca Grant for a Tree Inventory and Community Forest Management Plan

- In June of 2023, the Town of West Seneca in coordination with the Town of West Seneca Environmental Commission applied for Round 16 of the grants in the amount of \$75,000 from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for a Tree Inventory and Community Forest Management Plan.
- In late December 2023 the Town received notification that the grant had been awarded.
- A major change in the NYSDEC grant contracting system delayed the contract for the grant that was finally signed in December 2024.

Town of West Seneca Grant for a Tree Inventory and Community Forest Management Plan

- In the Spring of 2025 following the Town's process for selecting professional service providers, bids were received from certified Arborist companies for the work to be performed for the grant.
- After review and some negotiation, the Town selected Davey Resource Group (DRG) to provide the required professional services.
- On August 5, 2025, the grant team kick-off meeting was held with representatives from the Town Highway Dept. Town Board, the Environmental Commission, DRG, and the NYSDEC Regional Foresters.

Town of West Seneca Grant for a Tree Inventory and Community Forest Management Plan

- The tree inventory began in mid-August 2025 focusing of the Town's Right-Of-Way along Town owned streets.
- It is important to note that receiving the \$75,000 grant amount is dependent on completion of the work outlined in the grant, and passing an inspection by the NYSDEC Regional Forester.
- There is also a requirement to provide quarterly status reports to NYSDEC until the work is completed.

Inventory Process Overview

- Professional arborists conduct comprehensive survey
- Use advanced mapping technologies
- Collect detailed tree data
- Create digital forest management database

Why Tree Inventories Matter

- Strategic forestry planning
- Prioritize maintenance needs
- Assess potential infrastructure risks
- Support long-term environmental health
- Enable data-driven decision making

Community Benefits of Healthy Trees

- Improve local air quality
- Reduce urban heat island effect
- Lower energy costs for residents
- Increase property values
- Enhance community aesthetic appeal

Biodiversity and Tree Health

- Diverse tree species create resilient ecosystems
- Protects against total forest loss
- Supports local wildlife habitats
- Prevents monoculture vulnerabilities

Emerald Ash Borer: A Cautionary Tale

- Invasive beetle devastating ash tree populations
- Demonstrates risks of low tree diversity
- Potential to destroy entire ash tree species
- Highlights importance of proactive forest management

Community Engagement Strategy

- Public information sessions
- Online forest map
- Volunteer tree planting programs
- Educational workshops on community forestry

Expected Outcomes

- Comprehensive urban and community forestry management plan
- Enhanced community tree coverage
- Improved environmental resilience
- Data-driven maintenance strategies

Expected Outcomes

- Additionally, the award of and completion of this initial grant opens the door to applying for additional grants to further enhance the community forest in the Town of West Seneca.

Questions and Answers

Thank You!

TREE INVENTORY SUMMARY

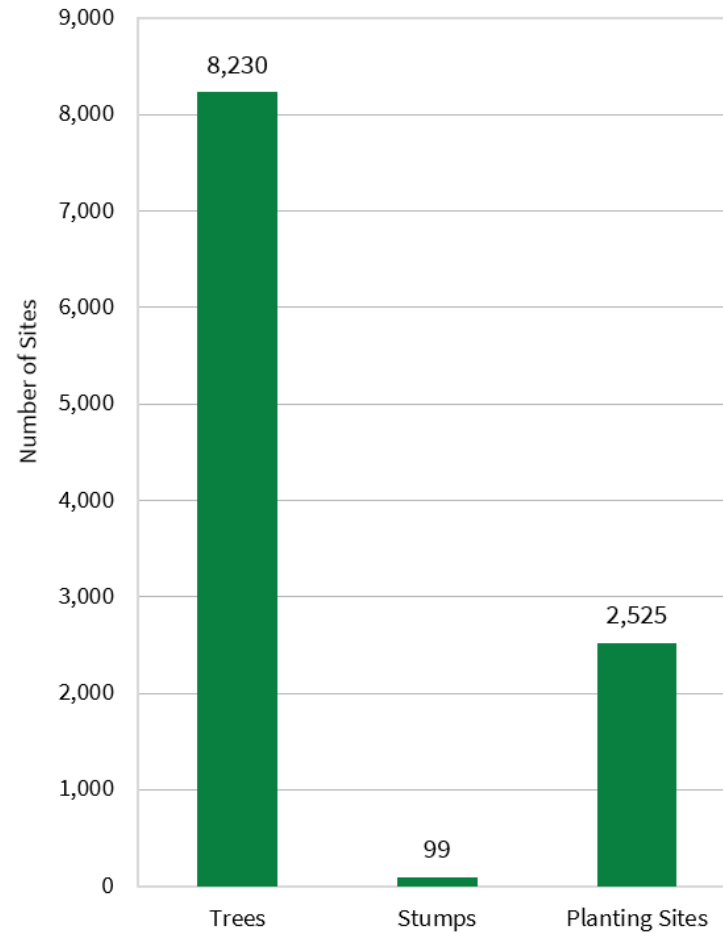
West Seneca, New York



Inventoried Sites: 10,854

Right of Way Sites

Trees: 8,230
Stumps: 99
Planting Sites: 2,525



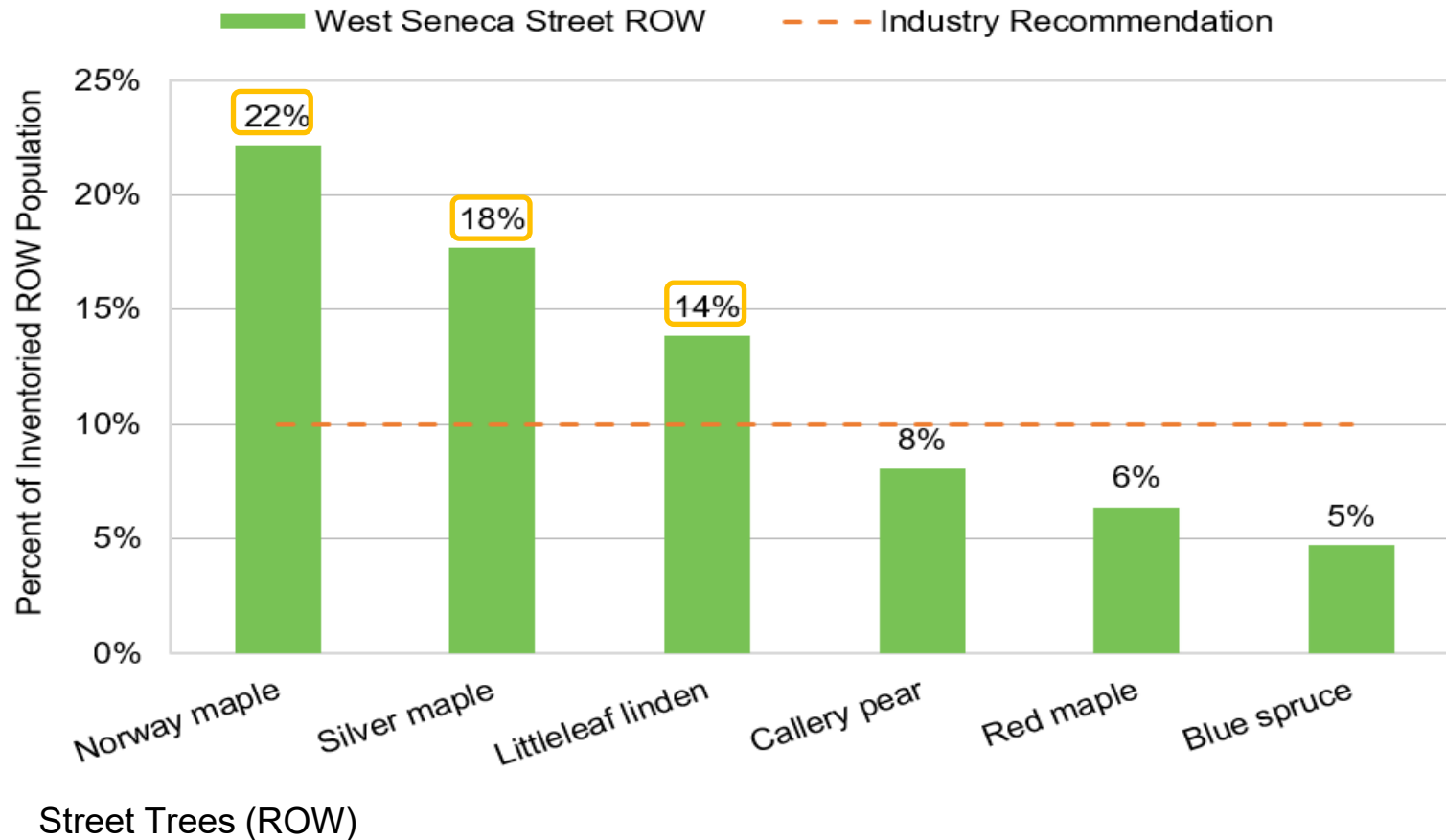
Stocking Level

Stocking Level: ratio of trees compared to available planting locations

West Seneca Stocking Level: 76%

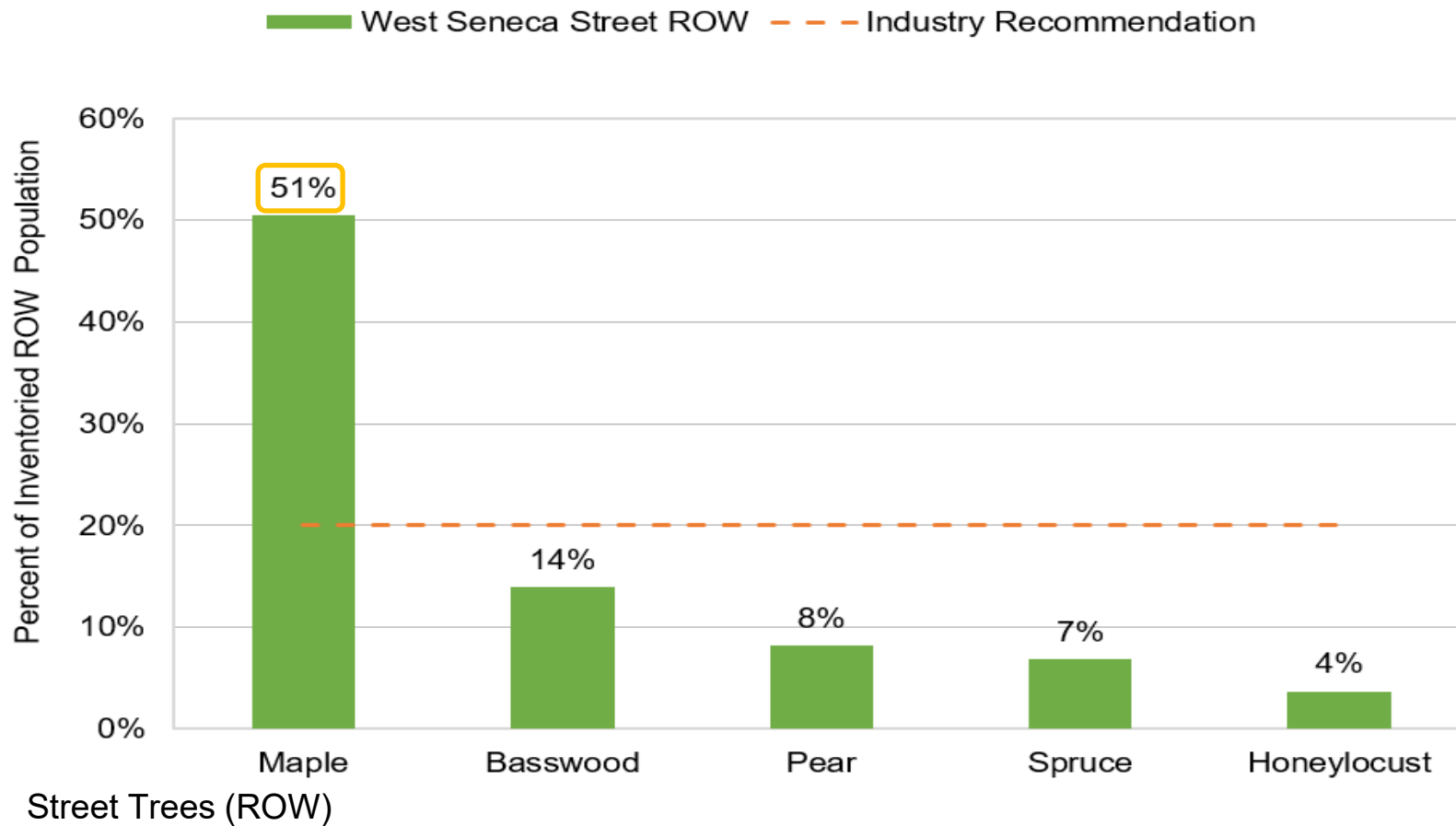
Tree Biodiversity: Species

The 10-20-30 Rule



Tree Biodiversity: Genus

The 10-20-30 Rule



Tree Condition

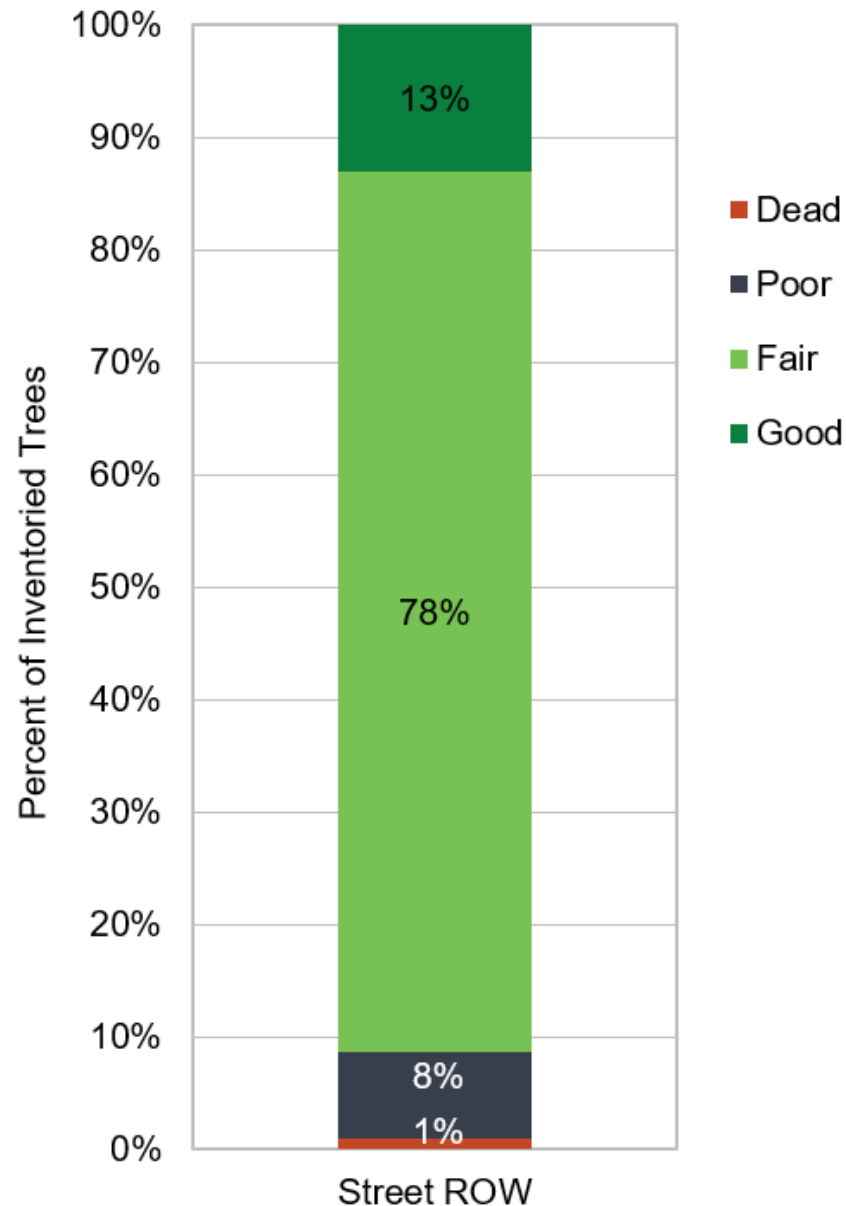
Condition Ratings

Good: trees in Good condition have no significant issues.

Fair: trees in Fair condition may have some issues which are likely to improve with time or maintenance (e.g., dead branches that can be removed during pruning, minor trunk wounds that the tree can heal over time).

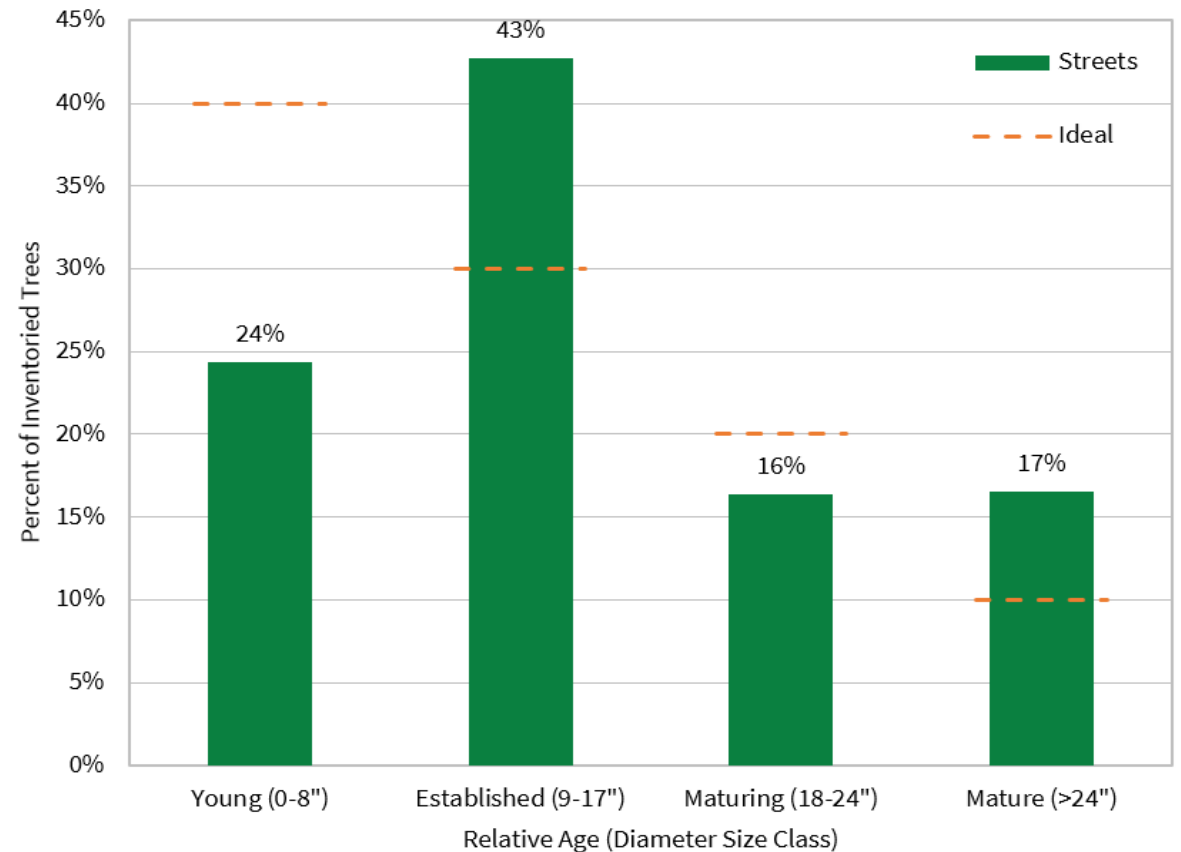
Poor: these trees have more significant issues which are not likely to improve with time or maintenance (e.g., large sections of dead canopy, decay cavities in the stem or roots).

Dead: Dead trees show no signs of life.



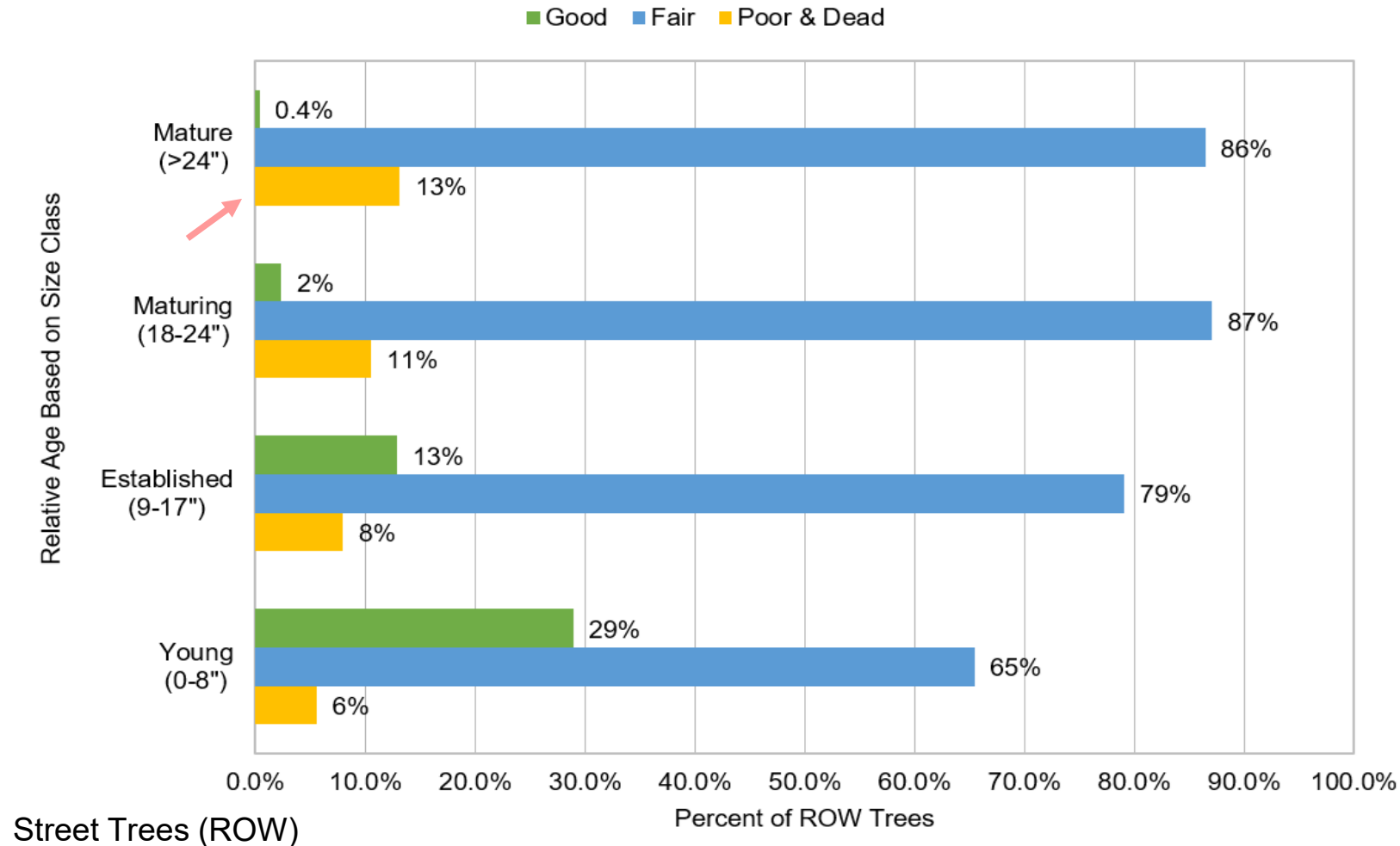
Size Class Distribution

Preponderance of Established Trees



Size Class Distribution and Condition

Mature trees have the highest percentage of Poor & Dying trees and may require more budget allocation to maintain as they age



Tree Planting – Locations

Recommendations for location Specifications



DRG Recommended Overhead Utility Clearances

Small Trees up to 30 feet tall *can* be planted under and within 20 feet of overhead utilities.

Medium Trees 30 to 45 feet tall should be planted 20 feet or further from overhead utilities.

Large Trees over 45 feet tall should be planted 40 feet or further from overhead utilities.

DRG Recommended Minimum Growing Space Dimensions

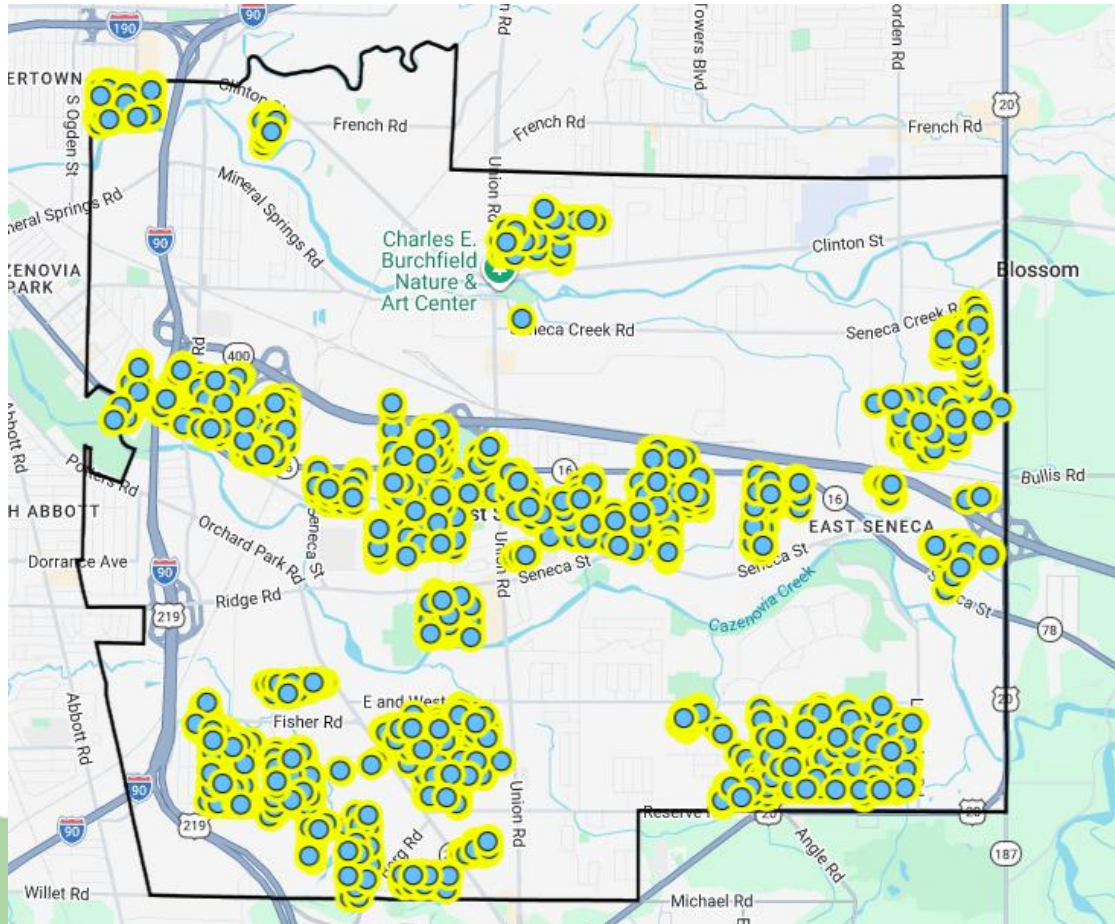
Small Trees: 4 feet x 4 feet

Medium Trees: 6 feet x 6 feet

Large Trees: 8 feet x 8 feet

Tree Planting – Locations

Recommendations for Locations



DRG recommends planting the largest possible tree for each planting space.

A TOTAL OF 2,525 POTENTIAL PLANTING SITES WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE ROW. THEY ARE SHOWN HERE IN THIS MAP.

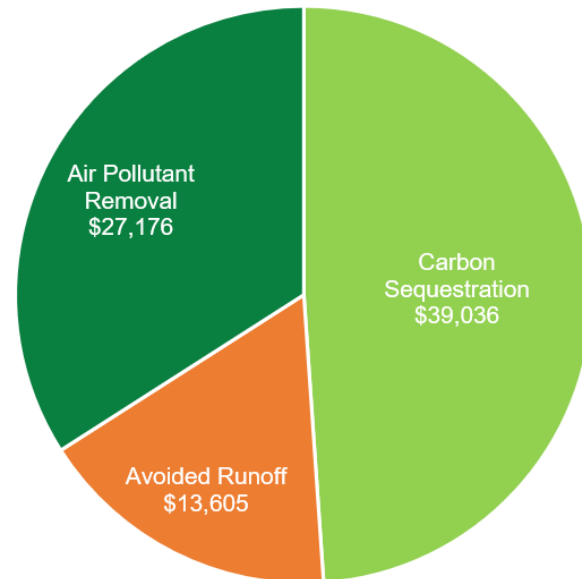
Eco Systems Benefits

iTREE

Additional Benefits

- Energy conservation
- Real estate value
- Mental and physical health improvement
- Crime reduction
- Education and recreation opportunities

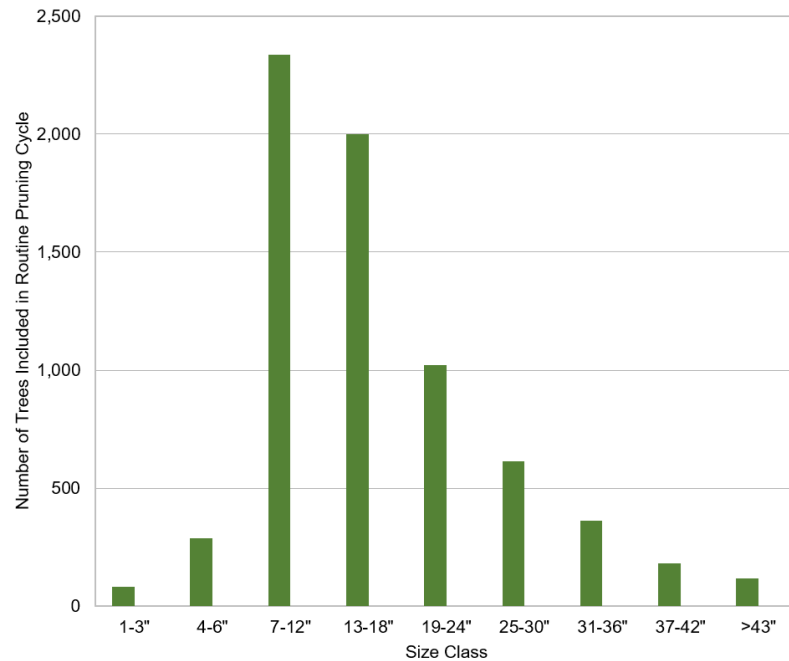
Annual Benefits of Street Trees



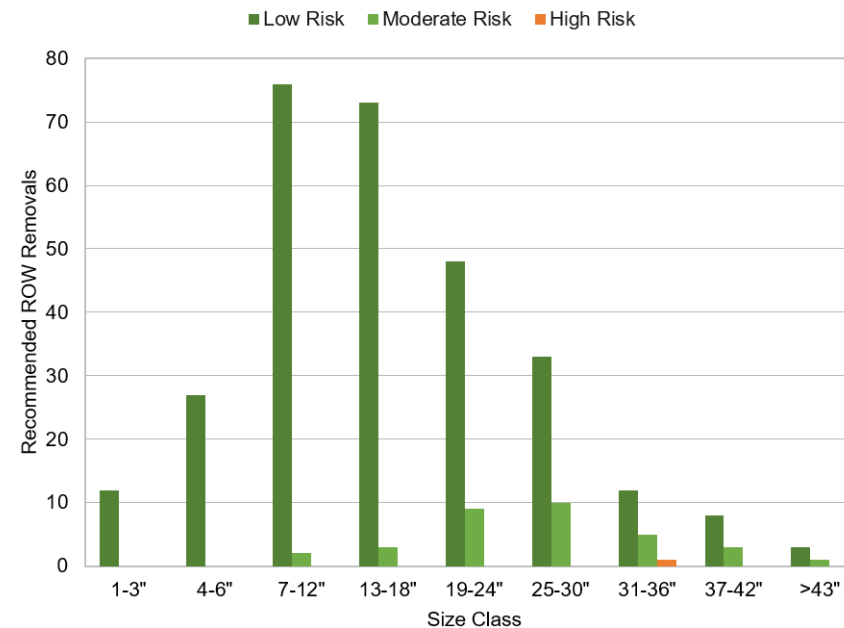
Common Name	Trees (#)	CO ₂ Sequestered (tons/year)	Avoided Runoff (gal/year)	Air Pollution Removed (lbs/year)	Replacement Value
Norway maple	1,822	25	162,037	560	\$3,609,233
Silver maple	1,456	29	389,392	1,340	\$5,143,293
Littleleaf linden	1,139	8	94,465	320	\$2,113,916
Callery pear	663	4	22,901	80	\$528,509
Red maple	524	6	41,361	140	\$832,307
Blue spruce	387	1	277,361	380	\$503,568
Thornless honeylocust	301	4	32,612	120	\$877,613
Apple spp.	214	1	4,330	20	\$172,247
Japanese tree lilac	166	0	1,193	0	\$50,502
Freeman maple	158	1	11,142	40	\$146,756
All Other Trees Inventoried	910	8	146,823	260	\$1,451,467
Total	8,175	90.2	1,522,542	3,920	\$16,887,571

Maintenance Recommendations

Street Trees (ROW)



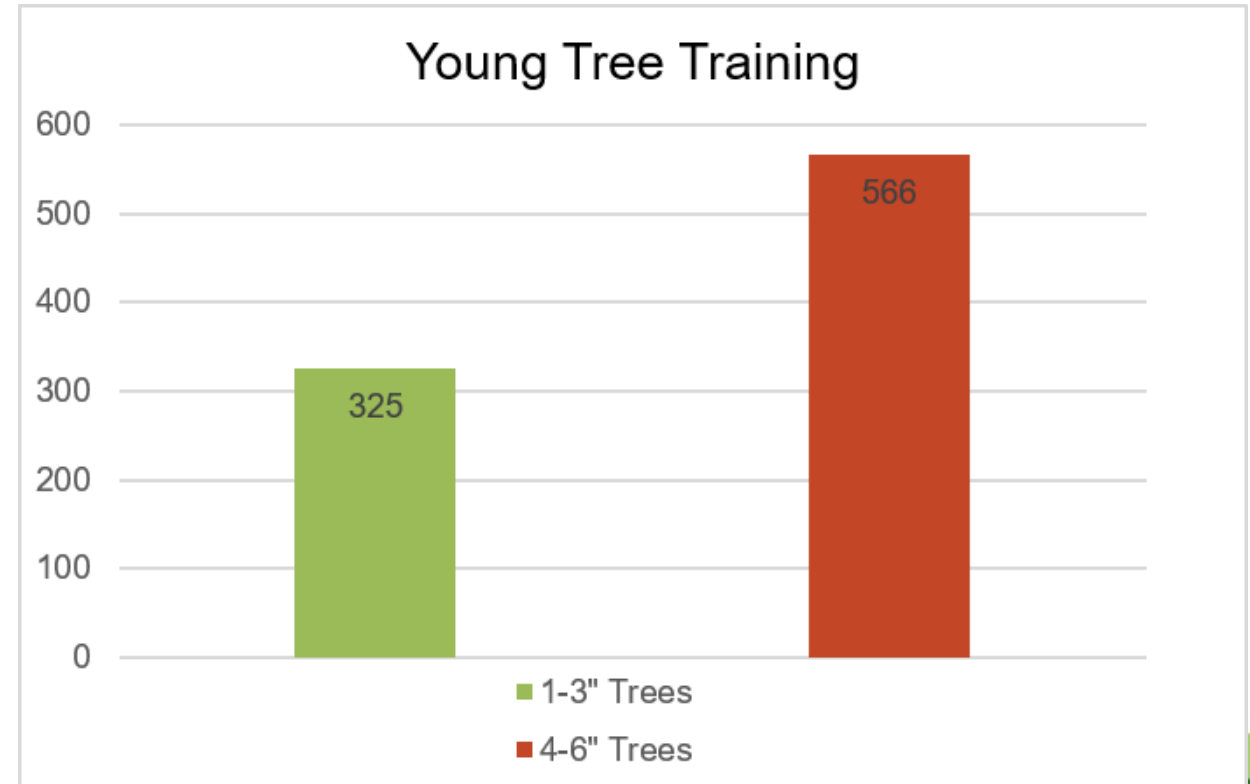
Pruning



Removals

Maintenance Recommendations

Young Tree Training



Prioritize training young trees in the 4"-6" in the first few years of the cycle.

KEY FINDINGS

Summary

- 8,230 trees, 99 stumps, and 2,525 vacant planting sites were inventoried citywide.
- Maples are overrepresented (~51% of trees); future maple planting should be limited to uncommon species.
- Overall tree condition is Fair–Good and can improve with proactive maintenance.
- ROW stocking is 76%, indicating room for additional tree planting.
- Inventoried trees provide ~\$79,800 annually in ecosystem services.
- Large-stature trees provide the greatest benefits and should be prioritized.



Thanks

Questions?

