## Urban Forests and Heat Island Mitigation

North Central Texas Council of Governments

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#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

## Speakers

#### **Mac Martin**

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#### Cheri Cuellar

Urban Forestry Coordinator Texas Trees Foundation

#### Kate Zielke

Principal Transportation Planner North Central Texas Council of Governments

# Using Urban and Community Forests to Mitigate the Impacts of Urban Heat Island

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## What is Urban Heat Island?

- A micro-climate at the urban scale where urban temperatures are much higher than their outlying areas.
- Urban areas are on average are 7.2 degrees warmer than the rural areas during the day. (US Global Climate Change Research Program 2017)
- Hot spots within urban areas can experience temps 15-20 degrees warmer than surrounding areas. (Climate Central 2021)



## Factors for Urban Heat Island

- 1. Albedo
- 2. Percentage of Greenspace
- 3. Population Density
- 4. Building Height
- 5. Average Width of Streets
- 6. Irregularity of the City

Albedo Score of Asphalt is considered .05

Albedo score of Greenspaces ranges from .70-.85

## Measuring UHI – Contributing Heat Factors

- Short wave radiation from the sun
- Long wave radiation from stored heat in urban structures. (Buildings asphalt etc)
- Anthropogenic heat waste

Sunlight Temperature Heat of increase Heat from the vaporization building surface Temperature Temperature increase goes down Heat from vehicles Temperature Heat of increase vaporization Heat from Anthro-Temperature the road goes down pogenic

heat

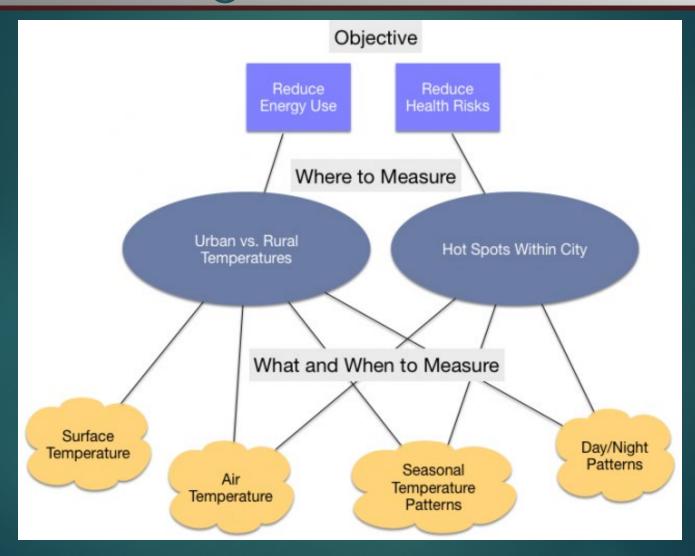
Rivers

Air

How the Heat Island Phenomenon occurs

surface

## How do we determine UHI –What are you measuring For?



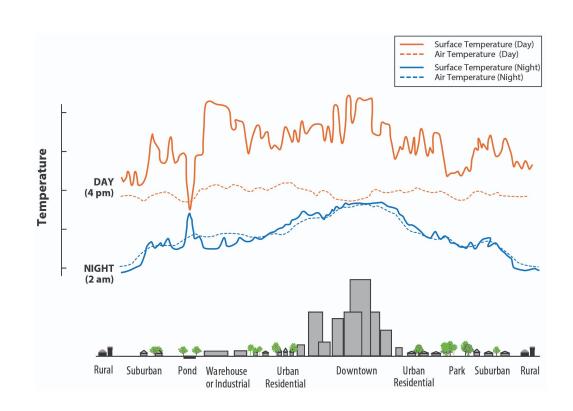
## How do we determine UHI –Surface Temperature Vs Air Temperature

- Air Temperature Most common temperature readings. Standard weather stations and other monitoring instruments typically used for air temp readings.
- Surface Temperature-Heat energy given off by the land, buildings, and other surfaces. Technologies that measure temperatures of surfaces, such as instruments mounted on satellites and airplanes.
- Overall, will want a combination for best results.



### How do we determine UHI – Important Factors to include as well

- Greatest discrepancy of temperature for UHI and surrounding communities is generally at night and in the winter.
- Urban structures are holding that heat during the day, cities are unable to cool off at night.



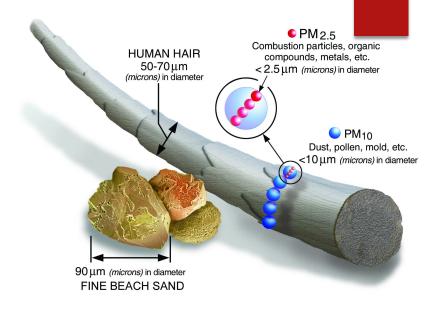
## Danger of UHI - Energy Consumption

- Urban heat is really the nexus of potential issues within an urban environment. It truly is a trickle-down effect that touches everything.
- ► Electricity demand for a/c increased up to 9% for every 2 degree increase in temperature. (Santamouris, M. 2020)
- ► If demand outpaces the power supply, city officials may have to use brownouts or even blackouts to prevent the system from overloading.



## Danger of UHI - Air Pollution

- Increase in energy consumption has a direct relationship to increasing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Formation of ground-level ozone, fine particulate matter, and even acid rain.
- Contributes to global climate change.
- We can expect to increase as temperatures continue to rise.

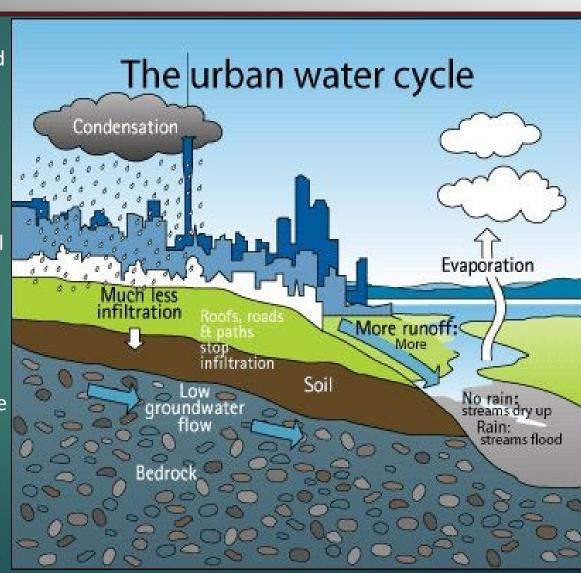






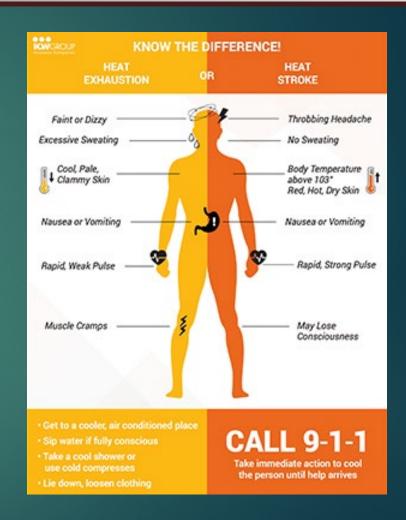
## Danger of UHI - Water Quality

- High temperatures of pavement and rooftop surfaces can heat up stormwater runoff, which drains unfiltered into storm sewers and raises water temperatures.
- Urban streams are hotter on average than streams in forested areas and rose over 7°F during small storms due to heated runoff from urban materials. (Somers, K.A., E.S. Berhnardt, B.L. McGlynn, and D.L. Urban. 2016)
- Water temperature affects all aspects of aquatic life, especially the metabolism and reproduction of many aquatic species.



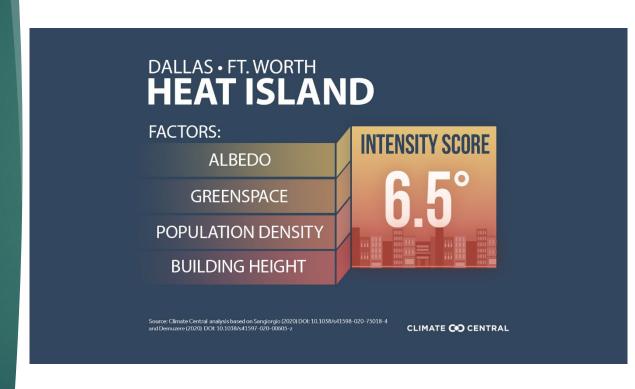
## Danger of UHI to Human Health

- Compounding factors all contribute to heatrelated deaths and illnesses.
- Heat islands can also exacerbate the impact of naturally occurring heat wave Sensitive populations are particularly at risk during these events.
- At Risk Groups Include:
  - Older adult populations
  - Young children
  - Historically redlined and under-resourced communities
  - People who spend their working hours outdoors
  - People with preexisting health conditions.



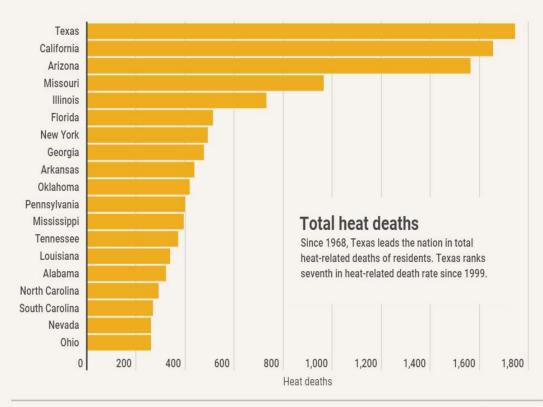
## UHI in Texas and Dallas

- 11 Texas communities fall within the top 49 of Climate Central's intensity scores.
- Houston was 5th in the country.
- the DFW came in 27th with a 6.51 intensity score.
- Average intensity score of 6.1.
- Climate Central report, 2021)



## Texas Heat Statistics

- Texas leads the country in Summertime electricity disconnections, heatrelated work deaths, and infant and toddler deaths in hot cars. (CDC)
- Since 1968 Texas leads the nation in heat related deaths. (CDC)
- Since 1999, about 70 people per year have died of heat-related causes in Texas, second only to Arizona. (CDC)

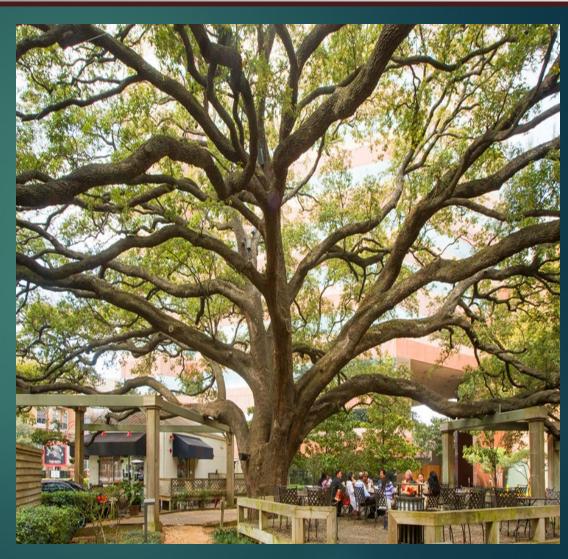


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

JENNIFER F. A. BORRESEN/GATEHOUSE MEDIA

## How trees help to mitigate these impacts -Shading

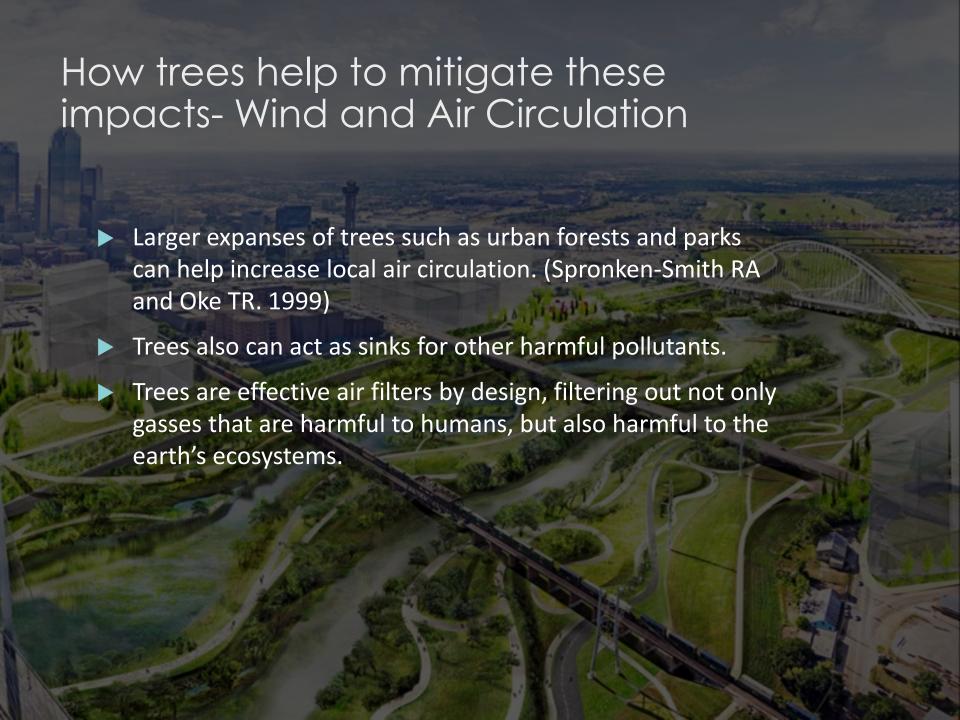
- Shaded areas are protected from direct sunlight, which can reduce temperatures between 20-45°F relative to peak temperatures in unshaded areas Akbari, (Kurn, et al. 1997).
- A study found that cars parked in a shaded parking lot in the summer had interior air temperatures that were 45°F cooler than cars parked in direct sunlight. (Scott, K., J. Simpson, E. McPherson. 1999)
- Something as simple trees shading a west-facing from direct sunlight can reduce the heat transferred into the house and indoor temperatures up to 36°F in the summer. (Sandifer, S. and B. Givoni. 2002).



## How trees help to mitigate these impacts- Evapotranspiration

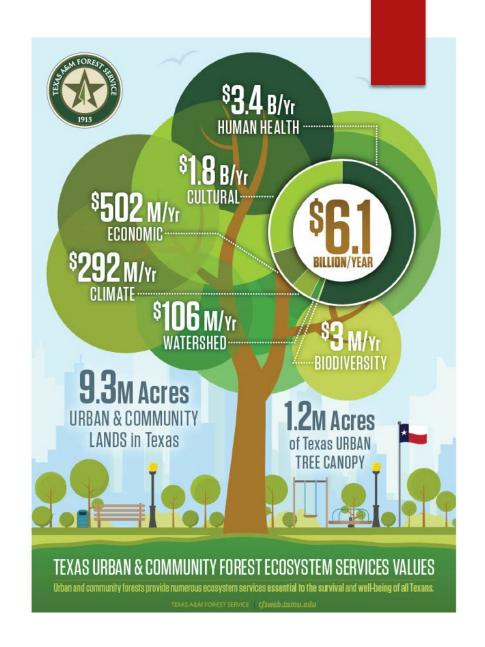
- Combination of Evaporation and Transpiration
- Process by which plants absorb water through their roots and release it as vapor through their leaves.
- Both of these liquid-to-gas processes use heat from the surroundings and cool the air.
- Trees can transpire 100 gallons of water every day, which has the same cooling effect as 5 standard airconditioning machines running for 20 hours (EPA 1992.)





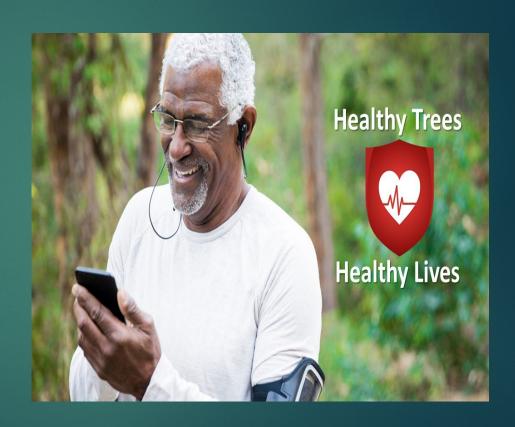
## Tree Benefit Breakdown

- Stormwater Reduction
- Water Quality Improvement
- Energy Savings
- Human Health Benefits
- Air Quality
- Aesthetics
- Property Values



## Healthy Trees Healthy Lives

- Texas A&M Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program fosters relationships with local governments and health care providers to spread the word of Healthy Trees Healthy Lives.
- Trees have positive impacts on a variety of human health disciplines providing physical, mental, immune system defense, pain tolerance and financial benefits.
- We can analyze the spatial distribution of the tree canopies relative to healthcare facilities, schools, parks, and residential neighborhoods within communities.



## TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

#### COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

"Helping communities develop sustainable programs that provide Texans with healthy trees and forests."





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## Conclusions

- ► Urban heat islands are a nexus point for urban environmental and other stressors. These negative impacts compound upon each other and have local and global impacts.
- ► Texas leads the nation in various heat related illness and death related statistics and needs to address growing urban temperature for their at-risk communities.
- Urban forests and trees uniquely are a cost-efficient mitigation strategy to deal with Urban Heat Island Impacts but growing the city and planting the trees must be done strategically to maximize benefits.



## Questions?

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## COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING





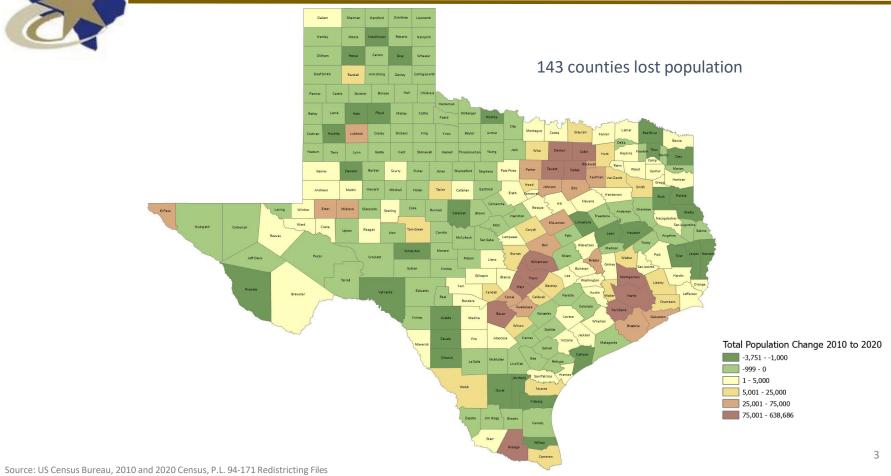


### **Population Growth and Congressional Seat Change**

	2010 Population	2020 Population	Numeric Change 2010- 2020	Percent Change 2010- 2020	Congressiona I Seat Change
United States	308,745,538	331,449,281	22,703,743	7.4%	
Texas	25,145,561	29,145,505	3,999,944	15.9%	2
Florida	18,801,310	21,538,187	2,736,877	14.6%	1
North Carolina	9,535,483	10,439,388	903,905	9.5%	1
Colorado	5,029,196	5,773,714	744,518	14.8%	1
Oregon	3,831,074	4,237,256	406,182	10.6%	1
Montana	989,415	1,084,225	94,810	9.6%	1
California	37,253,956	39,538,223	2,284,267	6.1%	-1
New York	19,378,102	20,201,249	823,147	4.2%	-1
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	13,002,700	300,321	2.4%	-1
Ohio	11,536,504	11,799,448	262,944	2.3%	-1
Michigan	9,883,640	10,077,331	193,691	2.0%	-1
Illinois	12,830,632	12,812,508	-18,124	-0.1%	-1
ource: U.S. Census Bureau West Virginia	i. 2010 and 2020 Census Count 1,852,994	1,793,716	-59,278	-3.2%	-1



### Numeric Change, Texas Counties, 2010-2020



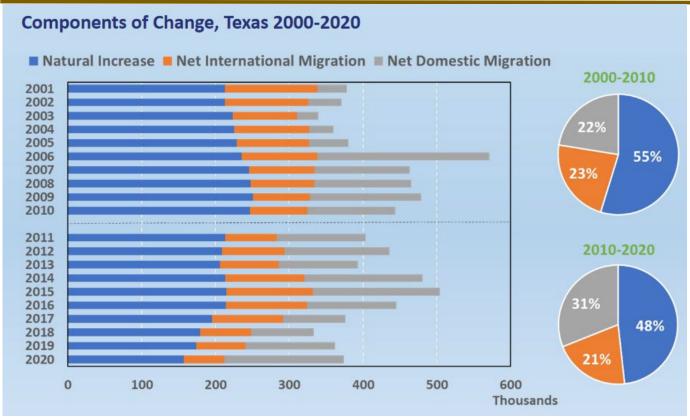


### Top Counties for Percent Growth in Texas, 2010-2020\*

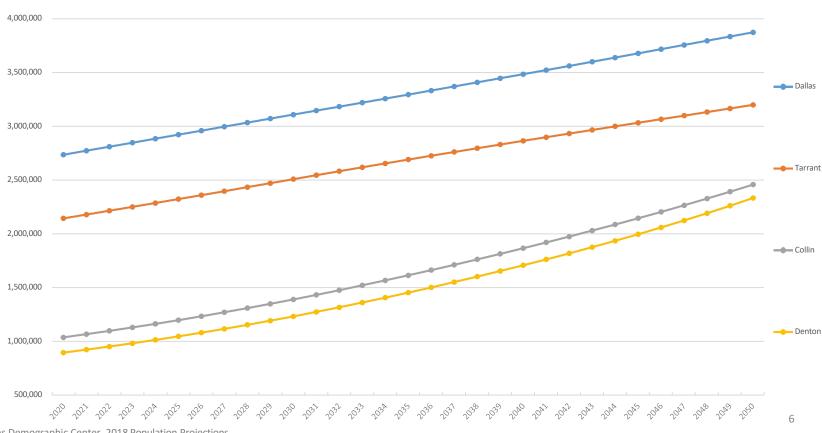
County	US Rank	2020 Populatio n Estimate	Populatio n Change 2010- 2020	Percent Populatio n Change 2010- 2020	Percent of Population Change from Natural Increase	Percent of Population Change from Internation al Migration	Percent of Population Change from Domestic Migration
Hays	1	241,365	84,387	53.7%	16.7%	3.6%	79.7%
Comal	2	164,812	56,287	51.9%	5.9%	1.8%	92.3%
Williamson	6	617,855	195,084	46.2%	20.4%	5.6%	74.0%
Fort Bend	7	839,706	255,074	43.6%	24.1%	19.1%	56.8%
Rockwall	11	109,888	31,490	40.2%	14.9%	3.4%	81.7%
Denton	13	919,324	257,709	38.9%	24.8%	8.9%	66.3%
Kaufman	15	143,198	39,846	38.6%	17.3%	1.4%	81.2%
Montgomery	16	626,351	170,611	37.4%	20.4%	7.7%	71.9%
Collin	17	1,072,069	291,175	37.2%	23.8%	16.8%	59.4%
Waller	22	57,452	14,133	32.7%	22.7%	2.9%	74.4%
Midland	29	177,863	40,976	29.9%	42.6%	9.0%	48.3%
Guadalupe	31	170,608	39,086	29.7%	19.9%	2.1%	78.0%
Ellis	35	191,760	42,111	28.1%	21.8%	2.1%	76.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2020 Evaluation Population Estimates \*Among counties with populations of 50,000 or more in 2020





## Population Projections, DFW Metro Largest Counties, 2020-2050



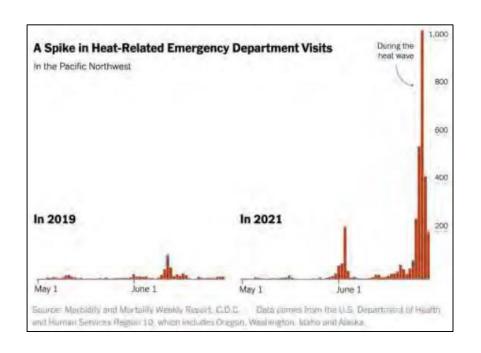
Source: Texas Demographic Center, 2018 Population Projections

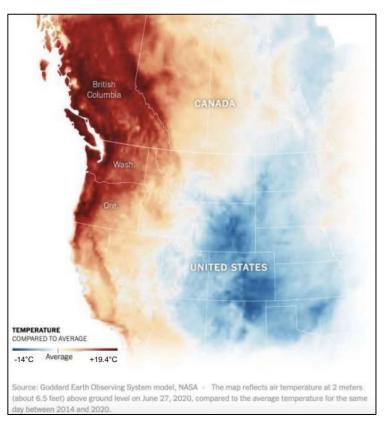
### A NATIONAL DILEMMA: 16 of the 17 warmest years on record occurred since 2001



#### Northwestern US Heat Wave, June 2021

#### 2,779 heat-related emergency department visits in 6 days!





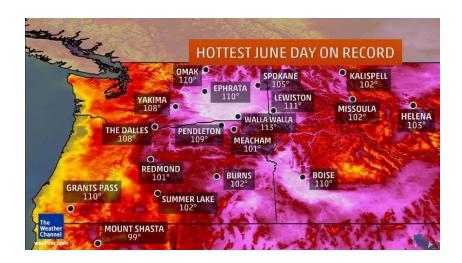
#### Northwestern US Heat Wave, June 2021



In case you're wondering why we're canceling service for the day, here's what the heat is doing to our power cables.

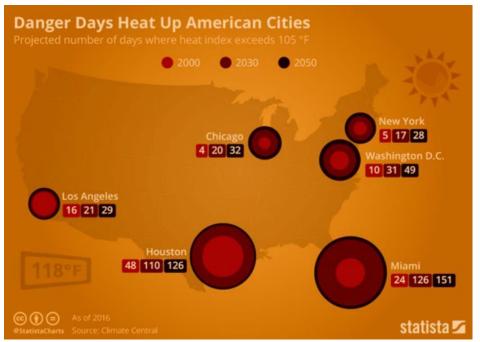


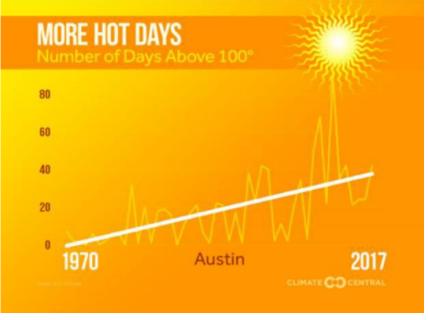
7:07 PM · Jun 27, 2021 · Hootsuite Inc.





### A NATIONAL DILEMMA: US cities are going to keep getting hotter





## The Washington Post

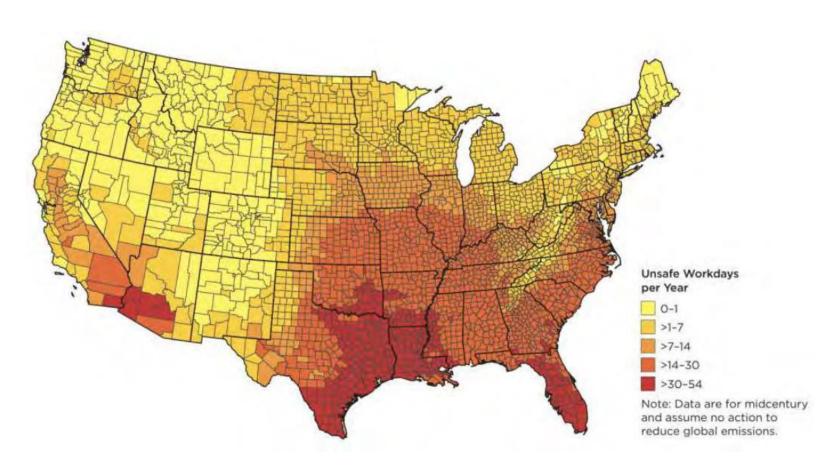
# Humidity and heat extremes are on the verge of exceeding limits of human survivability, study finds

Humans cannot survive prolonged exposure to certain combinations of heat and humidity

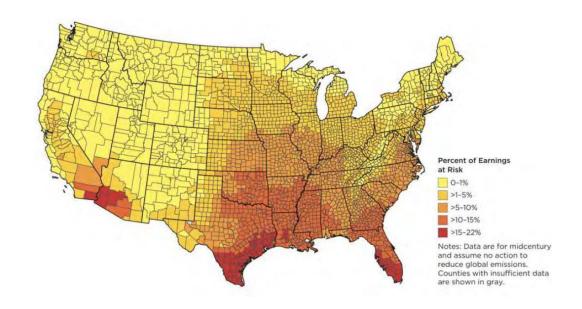
By Andrew Freedman and Jason Samenow May 8, 2020 at 4:21 p.m. EDT



### Unsafe Workdays per Year: UCSUSA, 2021



### Percent of Earnings at Risk: UCSUSA, 2021

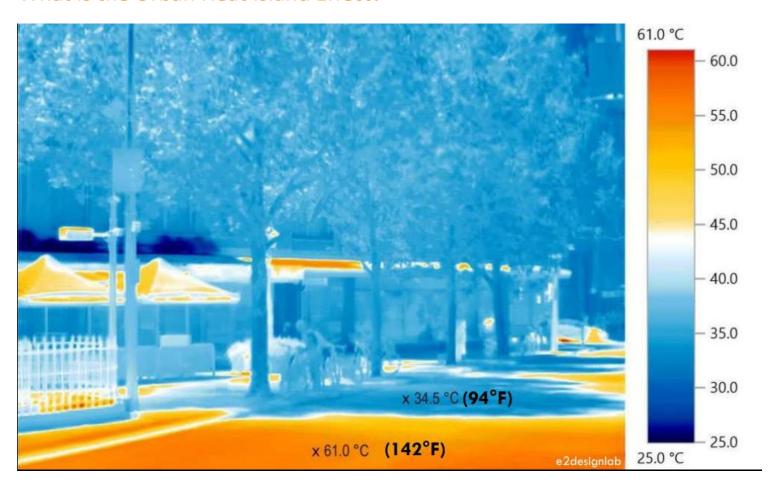


## Extreme Heat Could Threaten \$2.1 Billion Annually in Georgia Outdoor Worker Earnings by Midcentury

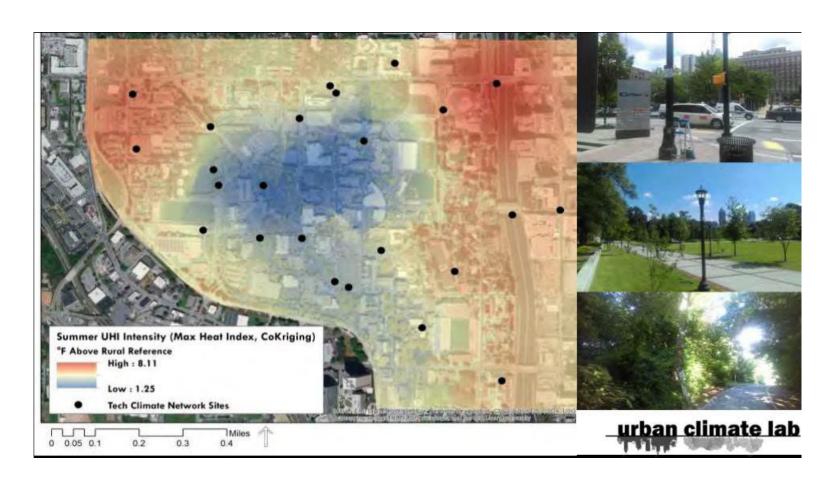
Nation, Georgia Lack Mandatory Standards to Keep Workers Safe as US Extreme Heat Days Set to Quadruple

Published Aug 15, 2021

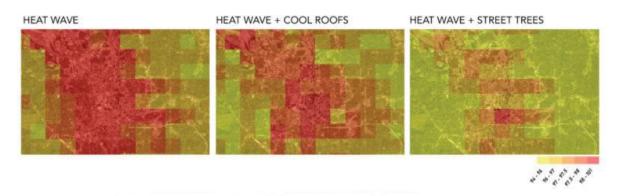
### What is the Urban Heat Island Effect?



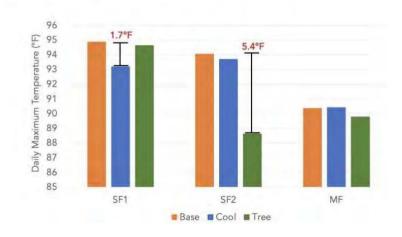
### What is the Urban Heat Island Effect?

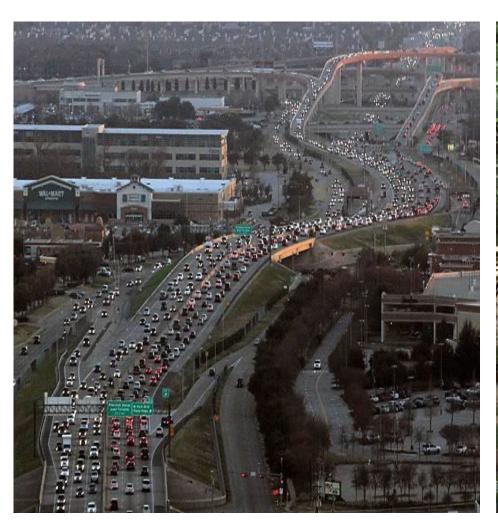


## **Community-Driven Climate Adaptation Planning**



## Heat Management Strategies: Atlanta





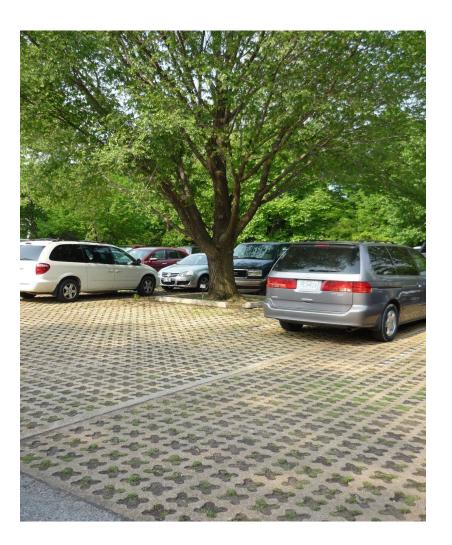


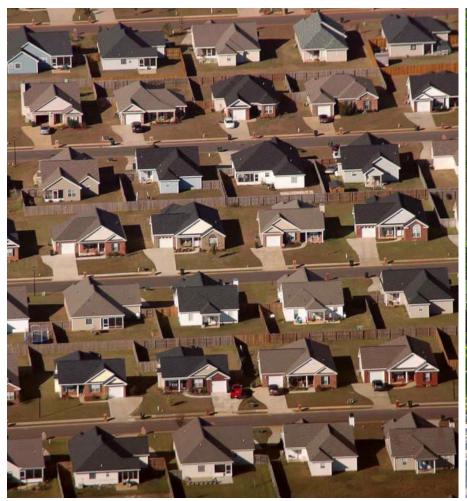


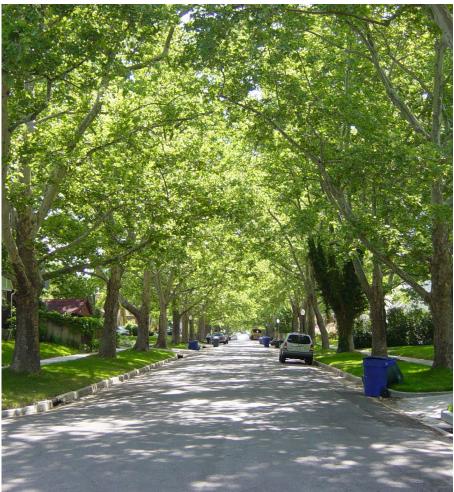




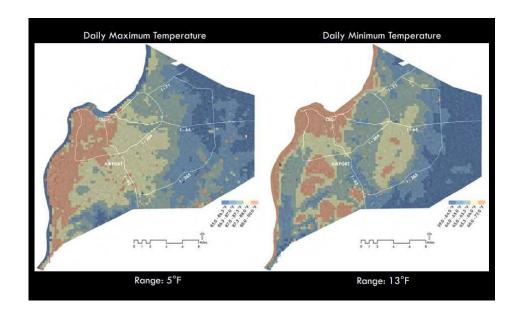


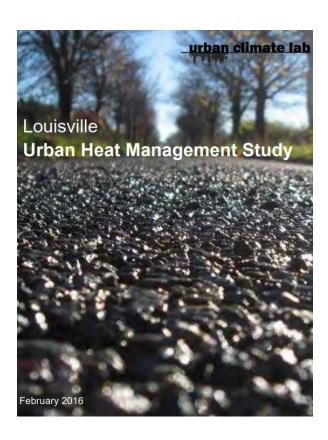






## Louisville Kentucky Urban Heat Management Study





### Louisville has implemented a combination of strategies



#### PRESS RELEASE

## Green Heart Project Launches in Louisville

TNC partners with the University of Louisville and others on a first-of-its-kind study into the human health benefits of urban greening.



#### PARTNERSHIPS

#### Louisville: YouthBuild Tree Inventory

The YouthBuild Louisville team inventoried trees and monitored tree health for TNC's Green Heart project.



#### PARTNERSHIPS

#### Growing a Better Community

Ked Stanfield of Louisville Grows is helping to put trees in the ground in the Green Heart project study area.





### City of Philadelphia Green Streets Program





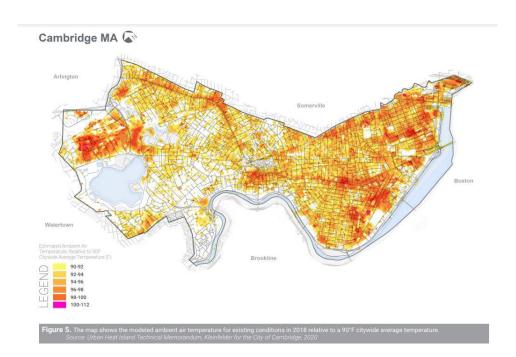
## With a Green Makeover, Philadelphia Is Tackling Its Stormwater Problem

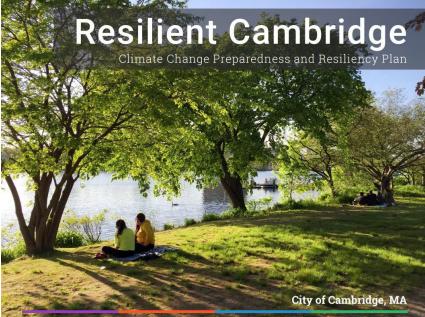
In a major initiative, Philadelphia is building an extensive network of rain gardens, green roofs, wetlands, and other infrastructure to capture stormwater. The goal is to prevent runoff from overwhelming sewers and polluting waterways and to help green America's fifth-largest city.

BY BRUCE STUTZ · MARCH 29, 2018



## City of Cambridge





### City of Cambridge

## City Pilots Pavement Surface Treatment to Reduce Urban **Heat Island Effect** MUNICIPAL FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

June 21, 2021



A healthy forest is a vital part of a healthy city.





#### **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GREAT STREETSCAPES**



BAGBY STREET HOUSTON, TX

- \$55 million in reinvestment along the corridor.
- 22% increase in lease rates along the corridor.



CHERRY CREEK NORTH DENVER, CO

- 16% in district sales tax in just the first year.
- This was more than double the rates of increase for both the city and the entire Denver Metro Area.



LINCOLN ROAD MIAMI, FL

- 85% increase in the total assessed value of properties within 1/2 block of improvements.
- 80% (1.2 million) increase in property values.



NORMAL, IL

- **UPTOWN STREETSCAPE** \$1.5 million (or 9%) of increased property values.
  - \$680,000 increased revenue by adjacent conference center.



**SOUTH GRAND BLVD** ST. LOUIS, MO

• 14% increase in sales tax after 1st year. Proforma projected a 19% increase over 10 years.





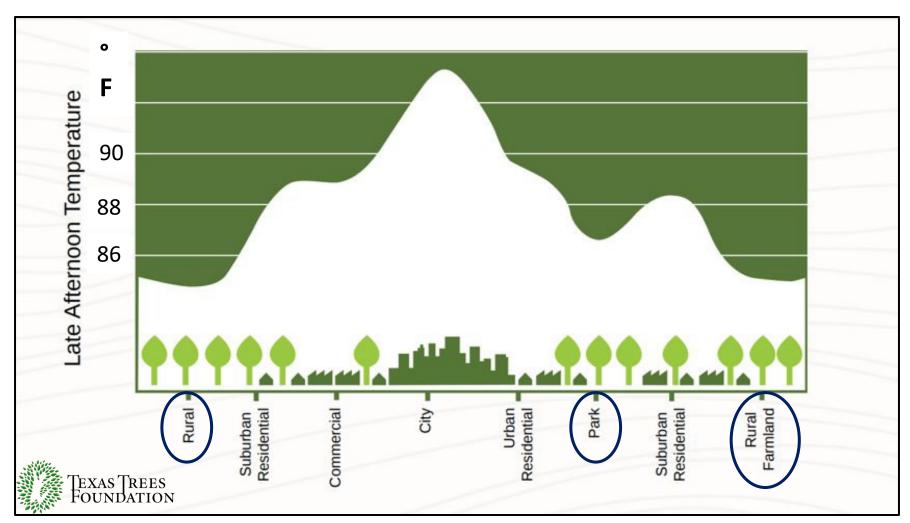
## **SOURCES OF URBAN HEAT**

Urban structures such as buildings and pavement absorb and re-emit sun's heat more than natural landscapes such as forests, grasslands, and water bodies.









## WHAT DRIVES THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT?

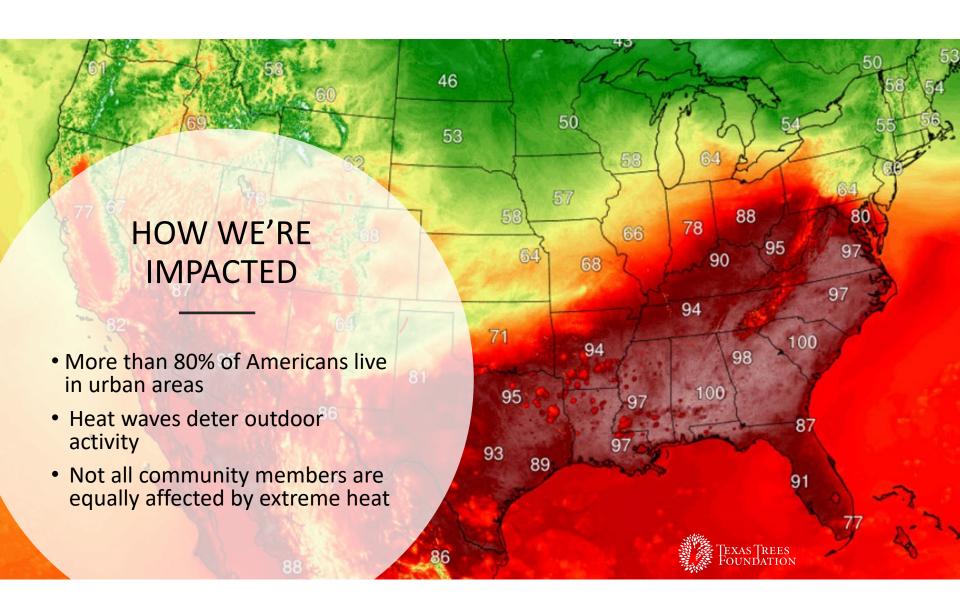


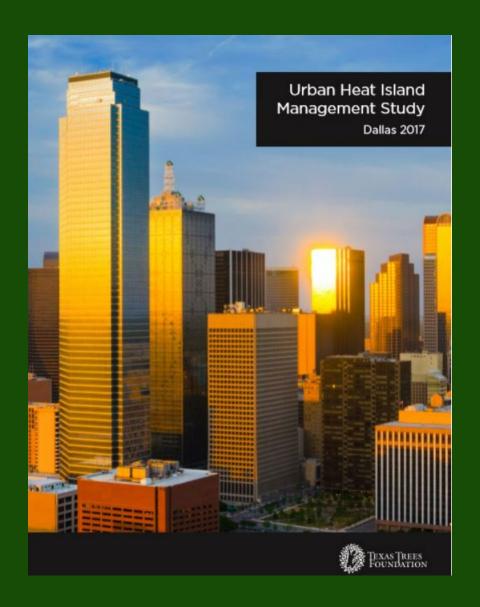






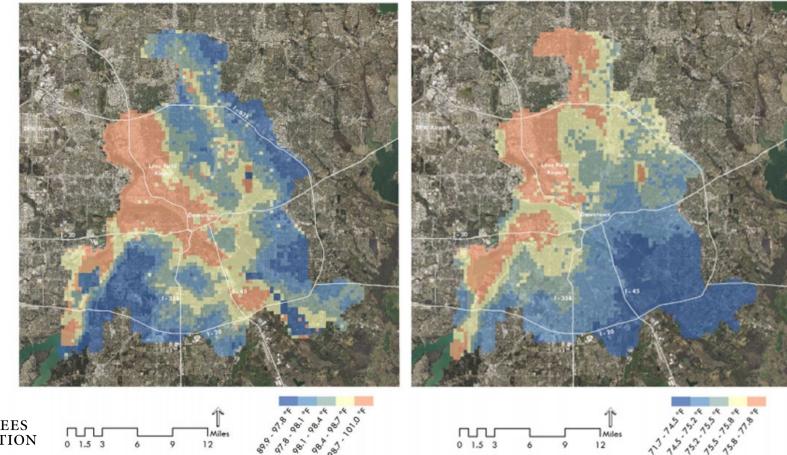








## URBAN HEAT ISLAND DAILY HIGH & LOW TEMP





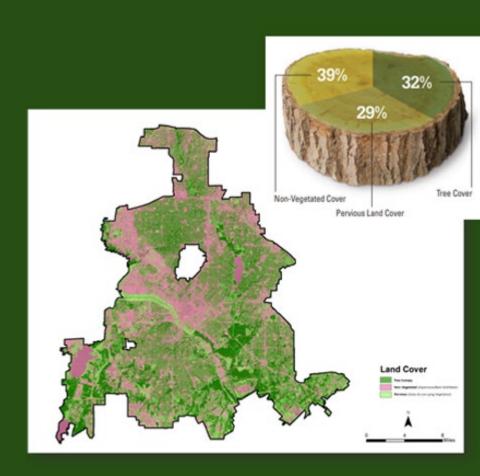




## Dallas Land Cover

- 32% Tree Canopy (Dark Green)
- 29% Pervious Cover (Light Green)
- 39% Other (Pink)
- 14.7 million trees in Dallas
  - 46% in Great Trinity Forest
  - 54% in remainder of City
- 70% of tree canopy outside the GTF is on private, residentiallyzoned property





## **Heat Mitigation**

- Trees shading reflective roofing and paving materials reduce summer afternoon temperatures by as much as 15 F.
- Shading protects infrastructure
- Provides more cooling benefit than cool materials
- Expanded tree canopy is the most effective strategy available for heat management in Dallas
- Related Benefits: Improved Air Quality and Stormwater Management

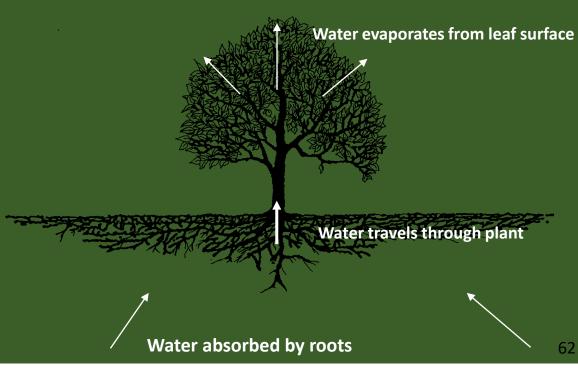




# COOLING PROCESS

### **SHADE & EVAPOTRANSPIRATION**

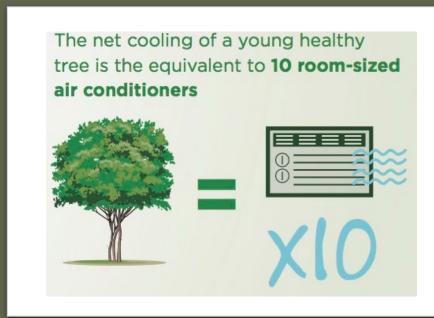


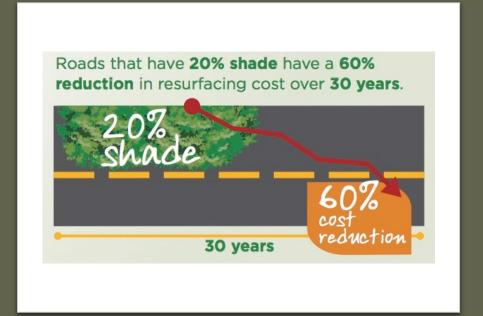




# TREE BENEFITS QUANTIFIED

Tree planting is 3x more effective than other cooling methods









## Creating Cleaner, Greener, & Healthier Cities

"Branching Out" Park Plantings

**Cool Schools Program** 

Southwestern Medical District
Streetscape + Park Development





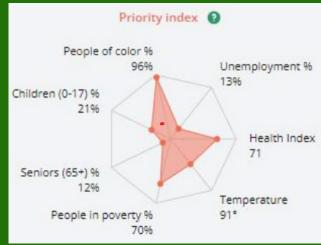




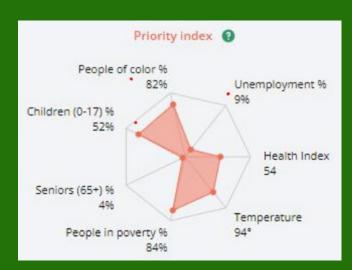
**Connecting & Celebrating Trees and People** 













# Cool Schools Neighborhood Park Program: Components







Trees



New Playground & Walking Trail





## Southwestern Medical District Project

- **37,000** employees
- 2.8 million annual visits to clinics & ERs
- 3,600 students/ residents/fellows
- 23,000 residents living near the District
- 16+ miles of transportation corridors
- 35,000-45,000 vehicles per day projected on Harry Hines
- 7% Tree Canopy





## Initial Data Collection to Inform Design

#### **MICRO-CLIMATE MONITORS**

- Tracking air quality and comfort index at the pedestrian level
- To be installed at key design areas, as informed by engagement

#### **BREATHE EASY AIR MONITORS**

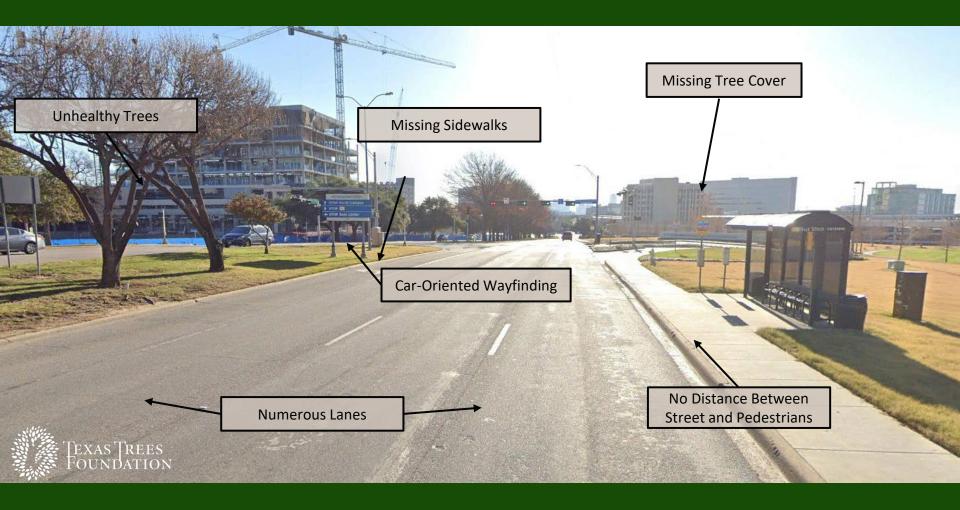
- TTF, City of Dallas, Nature Conservancy, Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and Center for Advancing Transportation Emissions, Energy, and Health (CARTEEH)
- 3 monitors have been installed in the District
  - Harry Hines at Medical District Drive
  - Harry Hines at Record Crossing
  - Inwood Rd at Southwestern Medical Avenue





**Breathe Easy Air Monitor** 

## Streetscape Critical Issues – Harry Hines Blvd



# **Existing Conditions**







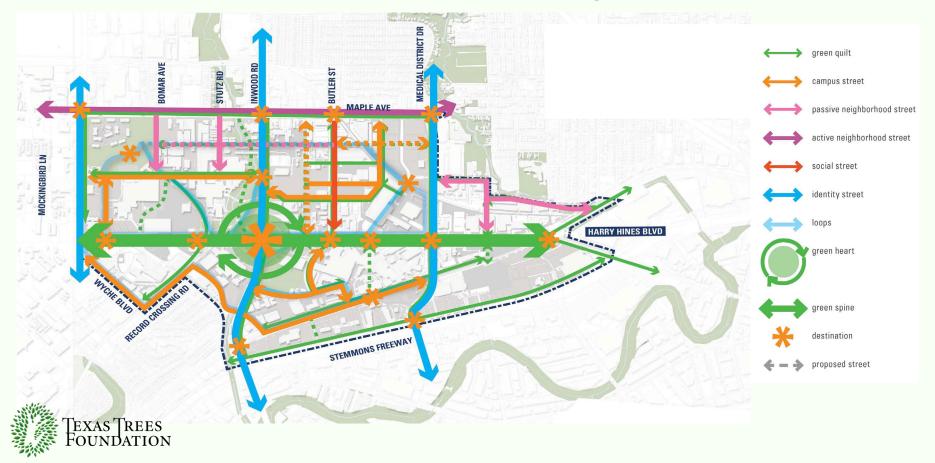








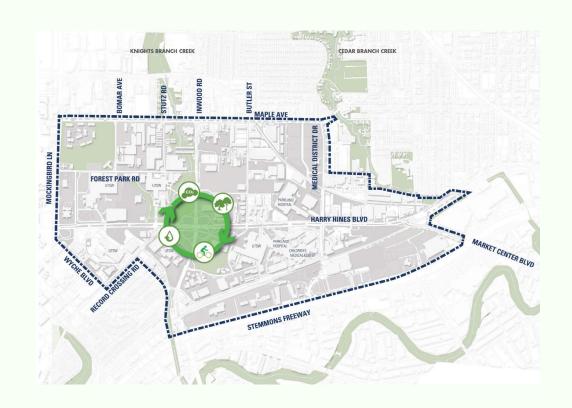
## Southwest Medical District Design Framework



## Green Park: Intersection of Harry Hines and Inwood

# 10-ACRE PARK AT THE HEART OF THE DISTRICT

- Anchor the District
- Transform an undesirable space into the nucleus
- Form the ecological center of the District
- Unite four quadrants of the District
- Create an iconic destination





#### **Current Traffic Volumes**

#### **HARRY HINES BLVD**

- 33,000 Average Daily Trips (2019)
- 35,000 45,000 ADT (2045)

#### **INWOOD ROAD**

- 49,000 Average Daily Trips (2019)
- 52,000 69,000 ADT (2045)

Majority of traffic travels through the intersection with only limited use of the interchange











## **Project Advocates and Donors**



















O'Donnell Foundation













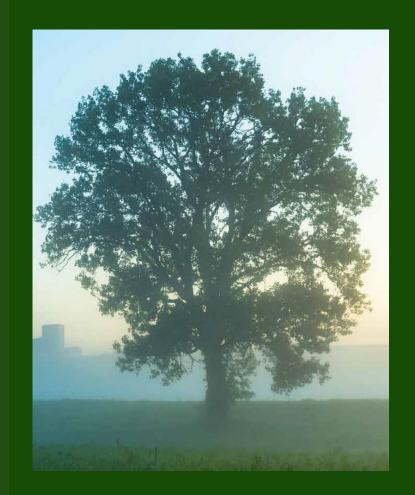






# QUESTIONS?

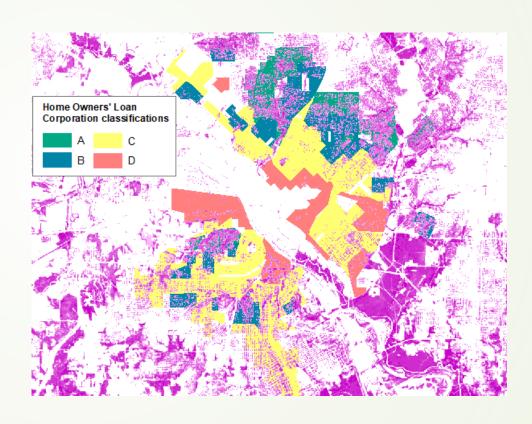
Cheri Cuellar cheri@texastrees.org texastrees.org



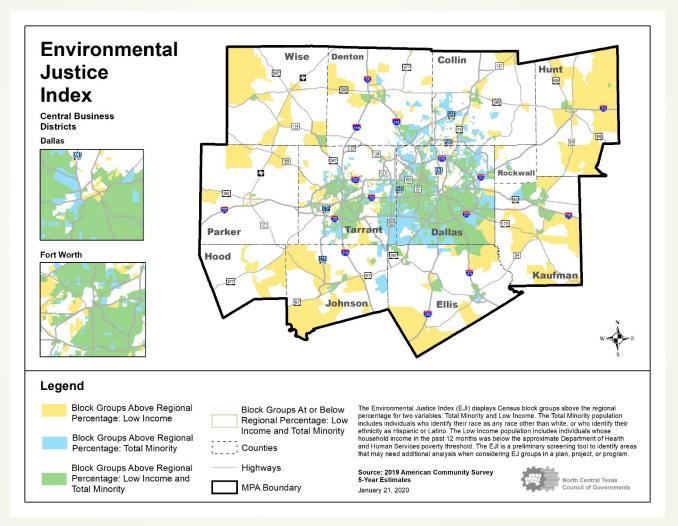


# Tree Canopy and Environmental Justice in the 12-County Region

- Racial disparities in tree canopy can be linked to redlining efforts to disinvest in communities of color.
- Nuanced inequities exist for block groups with a concentration of people of color but not for block groups with a concentration of low-income individuals.



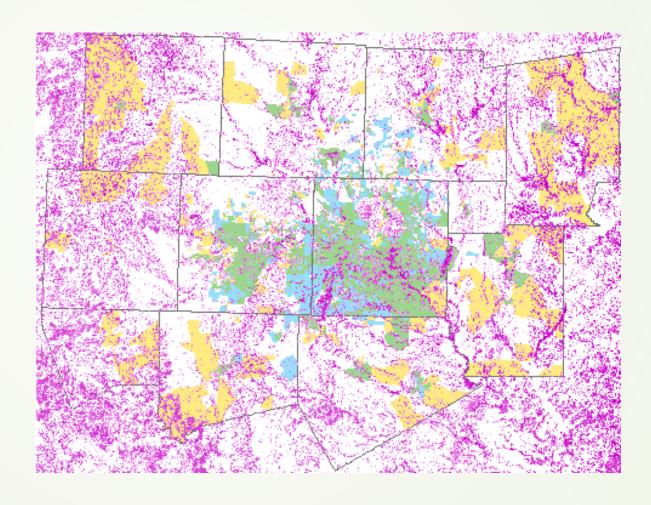
#### NCTCOG's Environmental Justice Index





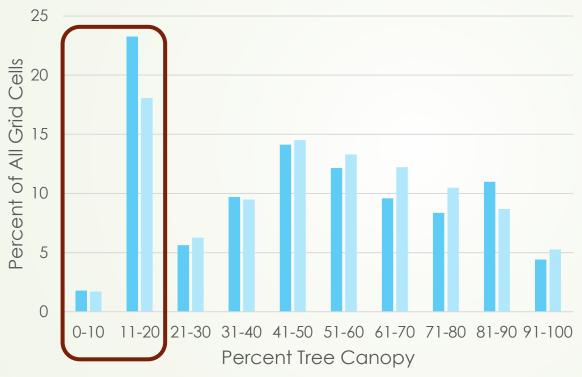
## National Land Cover Database Tree Canopy

National Land Cover Database tree canopy contains percent tree canopy estimates for each 30m grid cell across all land covers and types.



## Findings: Total Minority





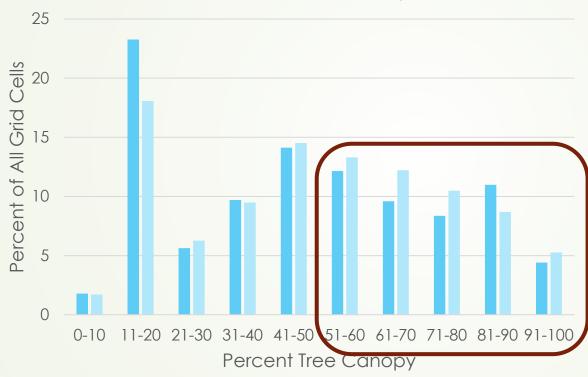
- Percent of TM above grid cells with given % tree canopy
- Percent of TM below grid cells with given % tree canopy

About 25 percent of grid cells in block groups with a concentration of people of color have 20 percent or less tree canopy cover, compared with about 20 percent of grid cells in block groups without a concentration of people of color.



## Findings: Total Minority





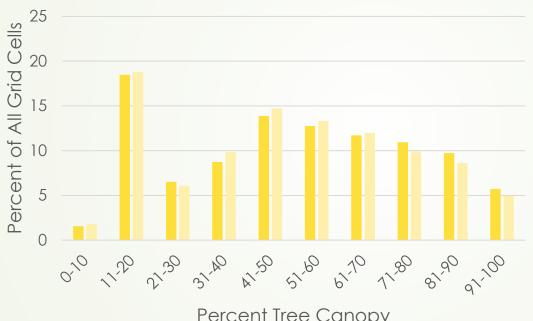
- Percent of TM above grid cells with given % tree canopy
- Percent of TM below grid cells with given % tree canopy

About 46 percent of grid cells in block groups with a concentration of people of color have 51 percent or more tree canopy cover, compared with about 64 percent of grid cells in block groups without a concentration of people of color.



## Findings: Low Income

Tree Canopy Comparison for Block Groups With or Without a Concentration of Low-Income Individuals



Percent Tree Canopy

- Percent of LI above grid cells with given % tree canopy
- Percent of LI below grid cells with given % tree

No such pattern existed for block groups with a concentration of low-income individuals but no concentration of people of color.



#### Method

- Calculate number of grid cells within ranges of percent tree canopy (0-10%, 11-20%, etc.)
- Normalize as percent of all grid cells within block groups with higher vs. lower concentration of equity groups

Percent of grid cell with tree canopy	0-10	11-20	 91-100	Total
Number of grid cells " <b>TM</b> above"	13,761	178,302	33,838	766,570
Number of grid cells "TM below"	96,324	1,017,632	296,700	5,633,219
Percent of " <b>TM above</b> " grid cells with given % tree canopy	1.80	23.26	4.41	
Percent of "TM below" grid cells with given % tree canopy	1.71	18.06	5.27	



#### Contact

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# **Q&A Session**

NOW, It's YOUR TURN...

#### **Upcoming Meetings and Opportunities**

- NCTCOG Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE)
   Coalition Quarterly Meeting, July 22, 9:30 am via MS Teams
  - <u>Details here</u> or on the <u>RISE Coalition webpage</u>
  - Please contact Breanne Johnson at <u>bjohnson@nctcog.org</u> or 817-695-9148
- NCTCOG <u>Public Works Council Meeting</u>, August 18, 9:30 am at NCTCOG Offices
- NCTCOG <u>Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way (SPROW) Meeting</u>, TBD
- NCTCOG <u>Public Works Roundup</u>, September 13, 8:30 am 4 pm at Grapevine Convention Center
  - Please contact Erin Blackman at <u>eblackman@nctcog.org</u> or 817-608-2360 for more information.



#### Contact Connect

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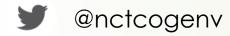
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