

TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT



TOTAL STUDY AREA

4,045 ACRES



TREE CANOPY

2017: 1,921 ACRES (48%)

2007: 1,606 ACRES (40%)



PLANTABLE SPACE

1,121 ACRES (28%)

Mercer Island's urban forest is a valuable asset that provides residents and visitors with many ecological, environmental, and community benefits. This assessment analyzed the City's urban tree canopy (UTC), possible planting area (PPA), and change in UTC over a 10-year period (aerial imagery from 2007-2017). The results provide baseline data to develop strategies to protect and expand Mercer Island's trees and natural areas during planning and development. The maps and project report help to concentrate efforts in areas where needs are greatest, tree planting space is available, and benefits can be realized.

LAND COVER

48%

TREE CANOPY



TREE CANOPY



NON-CANOPY VEGETATION

24%

NON-CANOPY VEGETATION



BUILDINGS



ROADS



PARKING LOTS



SIDEWALKS



DRIVEWAYS



OTHER IMPERVIOUS



SOIL & DRY VEGETATION



WATER

27%

IMPERVIOUS

1%

SOIL & DRY VEGETATION

0.5%

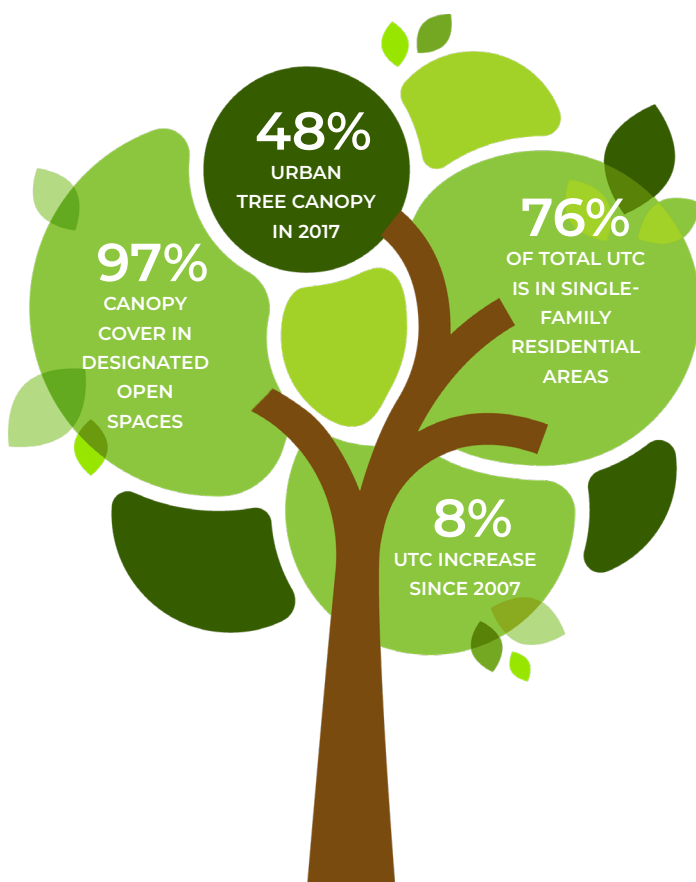
WATER



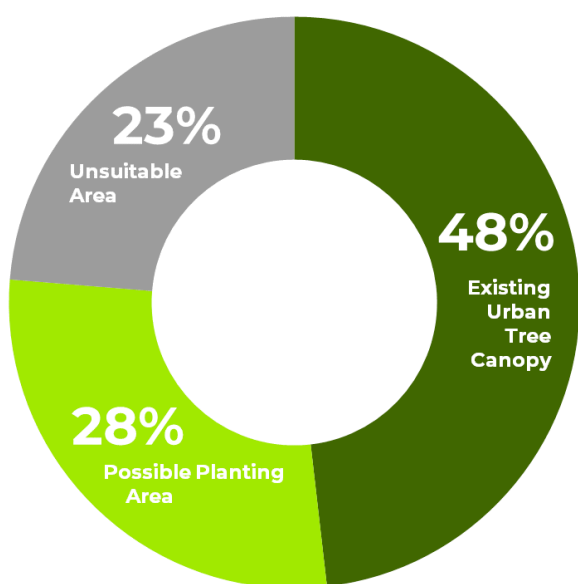
Note: Land cover percentages are based on total area. Urban tree canopy percentages are based on land area only.

Tree canopy data were analyzed for Mercer Island's land use categories to determine the distribution of existing and potential urban tree canopy throughout the city. Park/ Golf Course/ Trail/ Open Space areas had the highest canopy coverage at 67%, but 76% of all canopy in the City was found within Single-Family Residential areas as well as 85% of all plantable space.

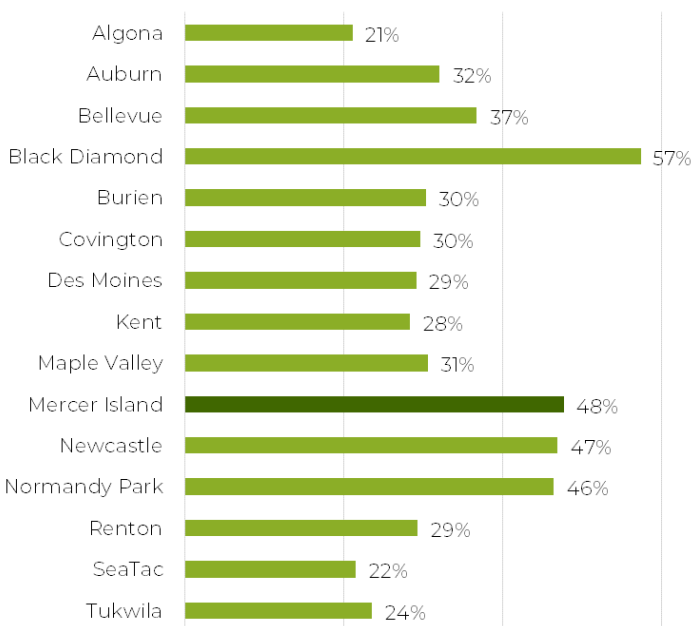
Land Use	Urban Tree Canopy		
	Acres	%	Dist.
Central Business District	15	19%	1%
General Commercial	4	27%	0%
Multi-Family Residential	44	39%	2%
Office/Business Park	5	34%	0%
Park/Golf Course/ Trail/ Open Space	358	67%	19%
Public Use/Institutional	31	24%	2%
Single-Family Residential	1,463	47%	76%
Totals	1,920	48%	100%



URBAN TREE CANOPY POTENTIAL IN MERCER ISLAND



COMPARING URBAN TREE CANOPY IN KING COUNTY COMMUNITIES



*Possible Planting Areas (PPA) were defined as vegetated areas without tree canopy and impervious surfaces such as parking lots and sidewalks. These areas may not be suitable for planting to increase canopy due to slope, views, soils, or other limitations. Field surveys to identify suitable planting areas are advised.

