

Dover's Central Business District Street Tree Plan (2021)

Summary:

Dover's Central Business District (CBD) Street Tree Plan was developed as part of a coastal resilience project funded by the NHDES Coastal Program. The overall goal of the project includes strengthening the City of Dover's resilience to climate change by improving the City's urban landscape by encouraging street tree plantings and providing education on innovative approaches to stormwater design.

Keywords:

- Planning
- Adaptation
- Resilience
- Street Trees
- Landscaping
- Stormwater
- Complete Streets
- Mitigation
- Equity
- Sustainability
- Environmental Quality

Key Points:

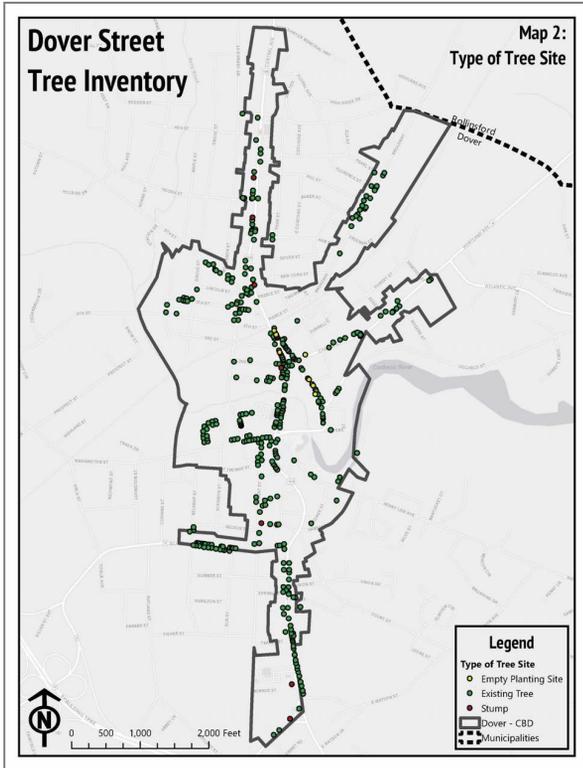
- In Dover's CBD, where forested land comprises less than 5% of the land area and over 90% of the district is developed, street trees are critical to cooling the urban environment.
- Street tree inventory data was collected at a total of 378 sites within the CBD. At approximately 16% of surveyed sites, there was evidence of damage to the sidewalk or curb due to root uplifting.
- 76% of the trees surveyed were identified as having one to four maintenance needs.
- Nearly all the trees surveyed were identified as having sufficient clearance (four feet of clear sidewalk width) between the street tree pit and a building or other obstacle to comply with American Disabilities Act standards.
- The estimated tree canopy cover for the City of Dover is approximately 14.7%.
- Among the City's goals for increasing tree canopy cover is to improve stormwater management.
- Street trees should conform with local regulations and guidelines including the City's Complete Streets Guidelines, CBD Architectural & Urban Design Guidelines, Streetscape and Urban Design/Downtown Streetscape Standards, and Site Plan Review Regulations.

Suggested Uses:

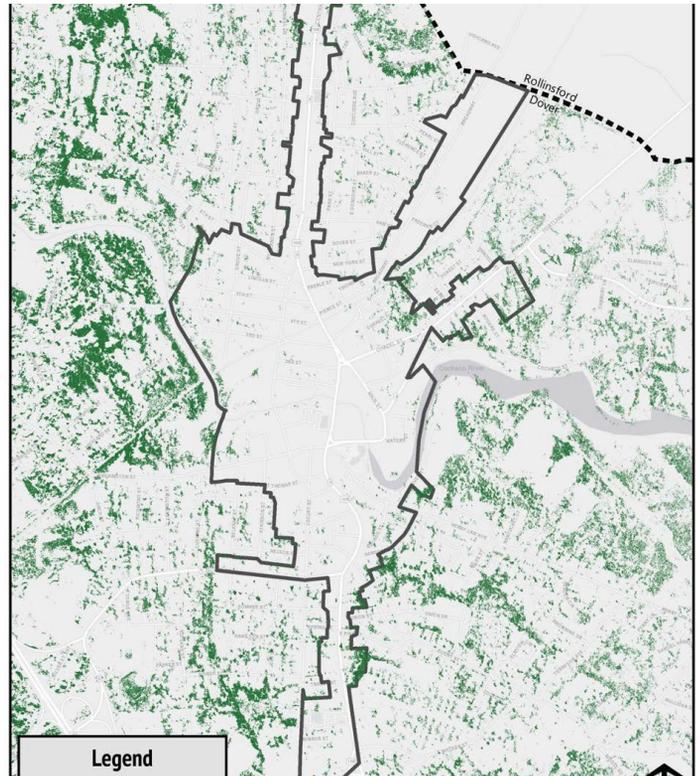
The plan includes guiding principles and objectives, information about the CBD street tree inventory, a summary of the canopy cover a socio-economic assessment, and a discussion of street tree management. An implementation schedule includes recommendations on funding for tree care and management; operations and maintenance; and public outreach and education, as well as priorities for street trees that can be used in long-term capital improvements planning. Recently, the City established a forest subcommittee to explore opportunities to utilize revenue from forest management harvests to fund a range of urban tree activities, including street tree and park maintenance.



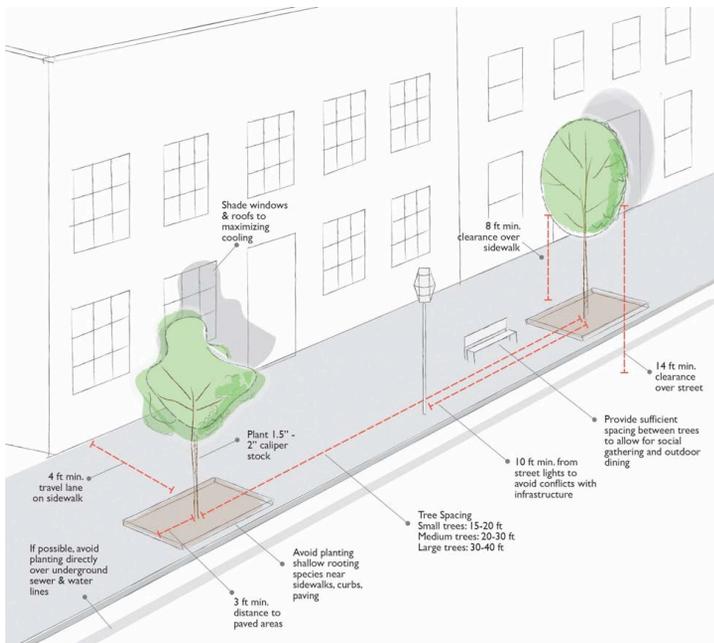
Street Tree Plan Highlights



Dover Street Tree Inventory



Dover CBD Canopy Cover Map



CBD Tree Planting Guidelines and Spacing

General recommended guidelines for spacing and avoiding conflicts with infrastructure in the CBD are intended to supplement the City's existing land use regulations. It is recommended the City establish new street tree pits in areas where spacing requirements cannot be met by existing cuts in the sidewalk.

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