

2023 URBAN TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON



8,429
ACRES OF CANOPY

3,915
ACRES OF
PLANTABLE SPACE

Bellevue's tree canopy decreased by 70 acres from 2021 to 2023.



TREE CANOPY IN 2011

37.5%
8,051 ACRES

TREE CANOPY IN 2019

39.4%
8,461 ACRES

TREE CANOPY IN 2021

39.6%
8,499 ACRES

TREE CANOPY IN 2023

39.3%
8,429 ACRES

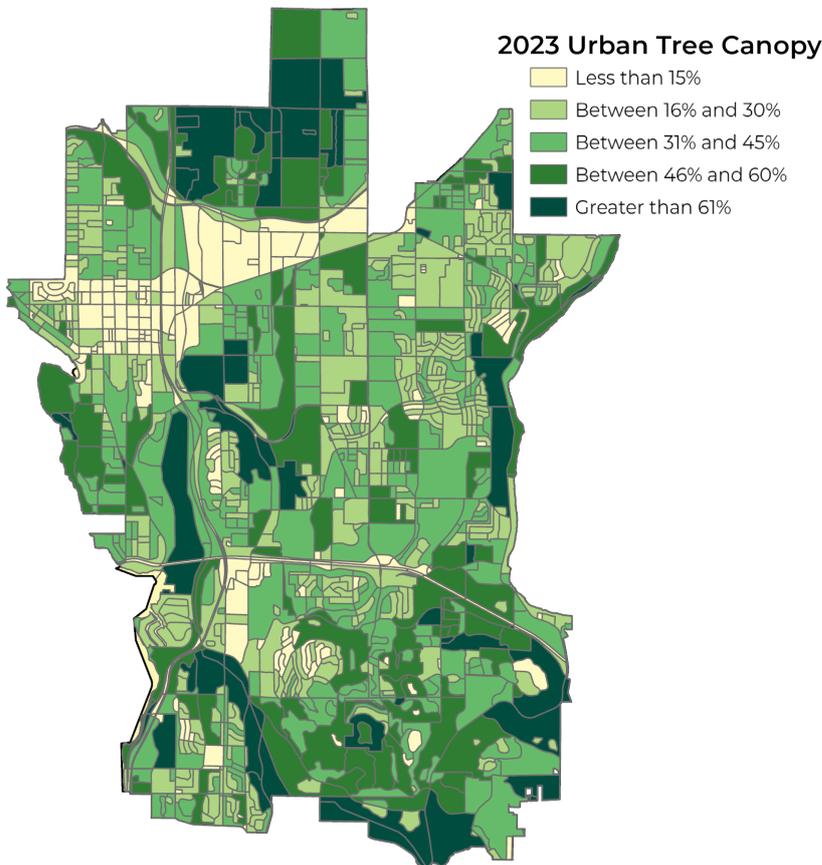


Figure 1. 2023 canopy coverage by census blocks.

Canopy Trends

Suburban Residential areas make up 64% of the city's tree canopy. Since 2021, these areas have lost 66 acres of canopy. There are significant opportunities for replanting in suburban areas, with over 3,000 acres available for planting (77% of the city's total plantable area).

Both Commercial/Mixed Use and Urban Residential areas have lost 15 acres of tree canopy over the past two years. Trees in these areas are especially valuable, as more than 60% of these land use types are covered with impervious surfaces.

Parks are the only land use type that saw a notable increase in canopy, gaining 38 acres from 2021 to 2023. The greatest potential for planting more trees exists in Lake Hills Greenbelt and Mercer Slough Nature Park, both of which still have over 60 acres of plantable space.

These trends suggest that future urban forestry strategies should focus on partnering with residents in suburban neighborhoods and planting trees in high-traffic areas such as parking lots, rights-of-way, parks, and near commercial centers. This assessment uses canopy data collected before the 2024 tree code update, establishing a baseline that will enable staff to monitor the code's impact in future assessments.

2023 URBAN TREE CANOPY BY NEIGHBORHOOD

Northwest Bellevue, Newport, and Somerset neighborhoods each lost over 20 acres of tree canopy from 2021 to 2023, continuing a pattern of decline seen from 2019 to 2021, with Newport showing steady losses since 2011.

In contrast, West Lake Sammamish and Northeast Bellevue gained more than 15 acres of canopy during the same period. Both of these neighborhoods had previously experienced canopy loss from 2019 to 2021, marking a recent reversal in their declining trends.

Table 1. Canopy change from 2021 to 2023.

Neighborhood	Canopy Change Acres	Percent Point Change
Northwest Bellevue	-29	-2%
West Bellevue	-16	-1%
Bridle Trails	2	0.1%
BelRed	-3	-0.3%
Northeast Bellevue	20	1%
Crossroads	-1	-0.1%
Wilburton	8	1%
Woodridge	-2	-0.2%
Lake Hills	-7	-0.3%
West Lake Sammamish	16	1%
Newport	-25	-1%
Somerset	-22	-2%
Eastgate	-4	-0.3%
Factoria	-5	-1
Downtown	-10	-2
Cougar Mountain / Lakemont	6	0

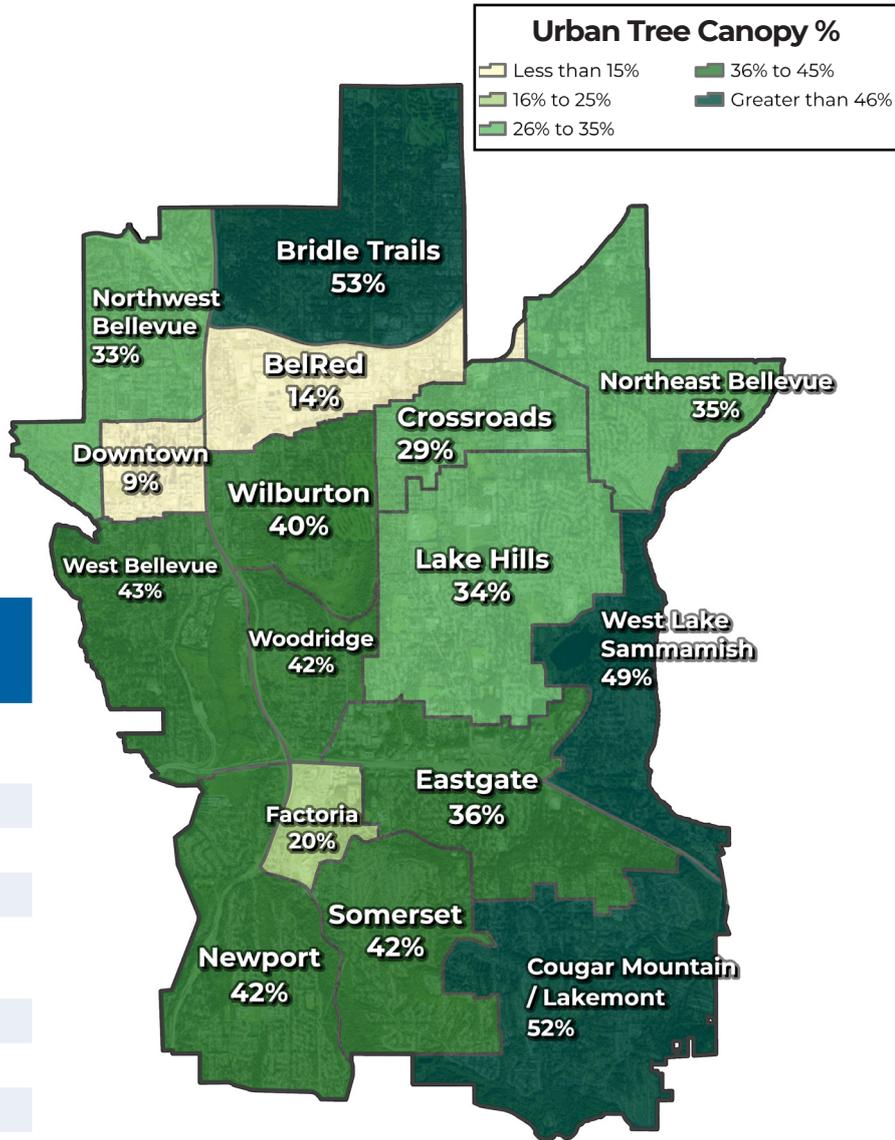
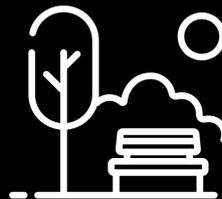


Figure 2. Canopy percent by neighborhoods (including parks).

CANOPY IN RIGHTS-OF-WAYS (ROW)



There were 882 acres of canopy in the right-of-way.

The ROW lost 27 acres of canopy from 2021 to 2023.

There are almost 500 acres of plantable space in the ROW.

For more information on Bellevue’s urban tree canopy, visit the [King Conservation District’s TreePlotter™ CANOPY application.](#)