



Local Community Problems:

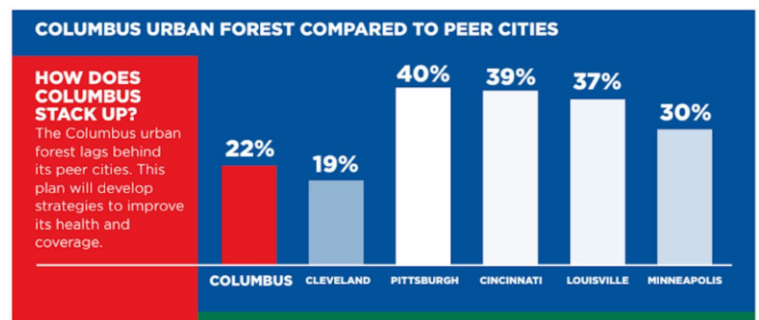
- Poor air quality, especially impacting folks with breathing conditions & chronic illnesses
- Increasing rainfall resulting in flooding, mold damage
- Increasing high temperatures & urban heat island effect

One unified, needed solution: increased urban tree canopy!

- Urban trees can remove up to 60% of street-level air pollution.
- One mature deciduous tree can intercept over 500 gallons of rainwater per year, while a tree that holds its leaves all year round can intercept up to 4,000 gallons per year.
- Urban trees can lower ambient temperatures by 20-40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Urban Forestry Master Plan (April 2021) Goals:

1. Reach citywide tree canopy cover of 40% by 2050.
2. Stop net canopy losses by 2030.
3. Invest in equitable canopy across all neighborhoods by 2030."



Action Steps Include:

- "Improve public tree protection ordinance" - New code adopted December 2023, in effect August 2024! New Tree Technical Manual, new "inch for inch" mitigation/replacement system.
- "Strengthen private tree protection policies on private property in Columbus" - 70% of Columbus trees are on private property. Private property tree ordinances typically exempt homeowners.
- "Support active participation by volunteers and partner organizations"

Columbus & Franklin County Tree Canopy Assessment: 2011-2021

<https://columbusrecparcs.com/nature/urban-forestry/tree-canopy-assessment/>