County of Maui

Maui Urban Forest Management Plan

Presented by
Karen Comcowich, Department of Planning;
Kim Thayer, SR Partners LLC
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What is an Urban Forest?

The trees we live with - from street trees to shady school yards, tree lined parking lots to greenspaces in our neighborhoods.

An urban forest is a *community forest*.

Why is an urban forest important for the environment?

Community Forests

- Absorb pollutants and produces oxygen, contributing to cleaner air.

- Help mitigate the urban heat island effect, lowering temperatures in towns.

- Provide habitat for native species, promoting biodiversity.

- Absorb rainwater and reduce runoff, protecting our Maui's coral reefs.

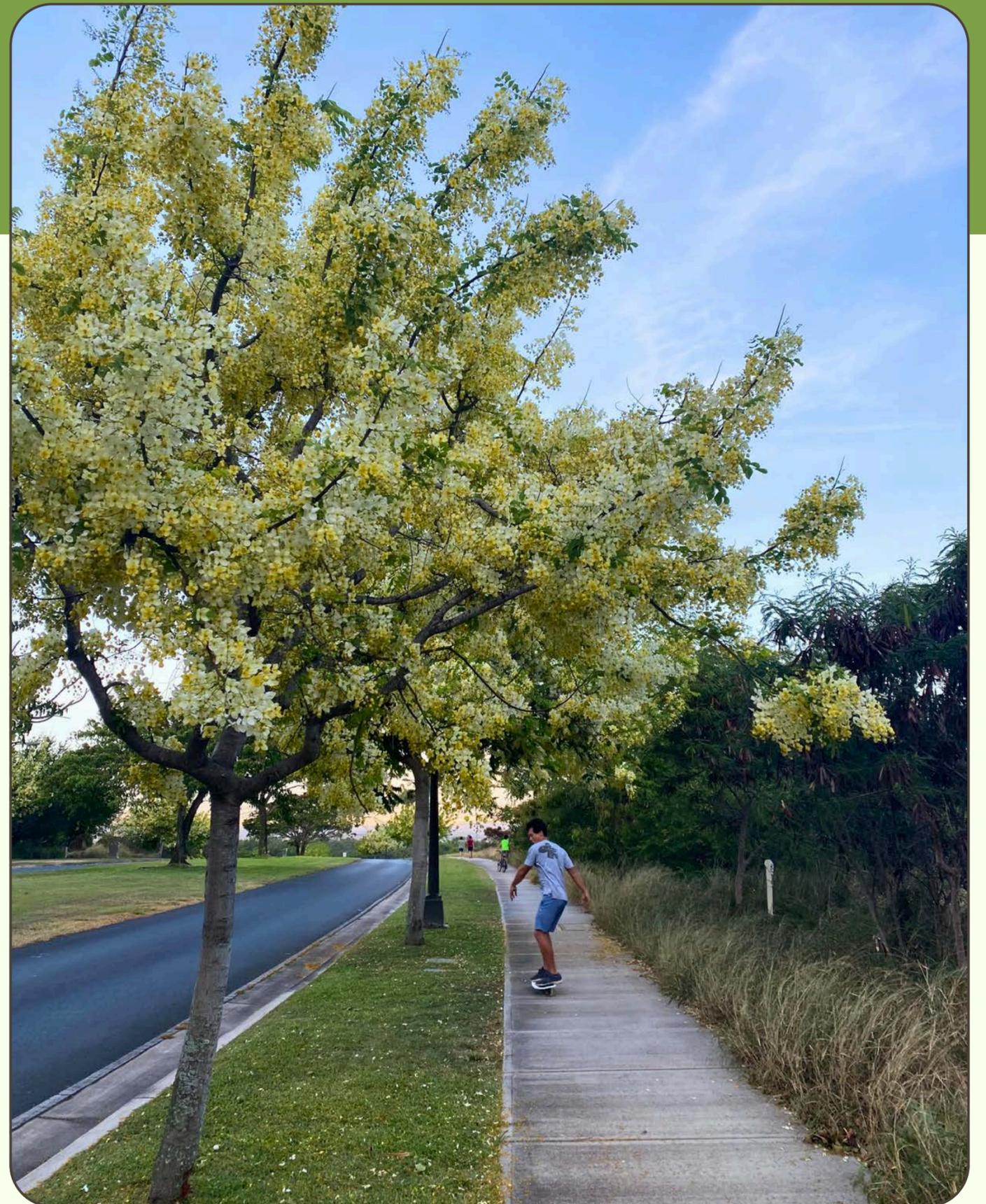# Why is an urban forest important for our culture?

Community forests

- Supply materials for lei, weaving, implements, etc.

- Sustain iconic trees that memorialize our heritage.

- Distinguish Maui's landscape and character from Anywhere, USA.

Why is an urban forest important quality of life?

Community forests

- Encourage physical activity.

- Promote walking, the least expensive form of transportation.

- Invite family, neighborhood, and community gatherings.

- Enhance the visual appeal of our neighborhoods and towns.

- Reduce stress and improve mental health.

Why is an urban forest important for our economy?

Community forests

- Appeal to shoppers seeking the comfort of shaded parking and outdoor seating.

- Decrease energy costs through shading and natural cooling.

- Reduce infrastructure costs through drainage and stormwater management.

- Enhance "curb appeal" and property values.

Challenges

- Perception of trees as problematic, not beneficial.
- Lack of data on existing tree canopy and inventory.
- Availability of native plants and seed stock.
- Perception of trees as expensive with little ROI.
- Underutilization of trees in green infrastructure

- Inequities in access to trees
- Buy-in from maintenance workers.
- Lack of training and education regarding proper tree care.

Opportunities

- Assess current conditions and practices.

- Develop BMPs and expand community forestry capacity.

- Empower the community to envision vibrant urban forests.

- Engender community-wide ownership and partnerships in caring for community forests.

- Integrate trees as vital public infrastructure in plans and codes.

Goals

- To transform the mindset about the *value* trees bring to our wellbeing.

- To proliferate and build pilina with native species.

- To enable the community to shape the Maui they want to see.

- To revitalize and perpetuate Maui's tree canopy informed by community and technical expertise.

Purpose of the Maui UFMP

Establish **priorities and actions** to maintain a productive and beneficial community forest

- Address both public and private trees.

- Encourage native, naturalized, and culturally appropriate plants.

- Recommend code and policy changes, including staffing and budget needs.
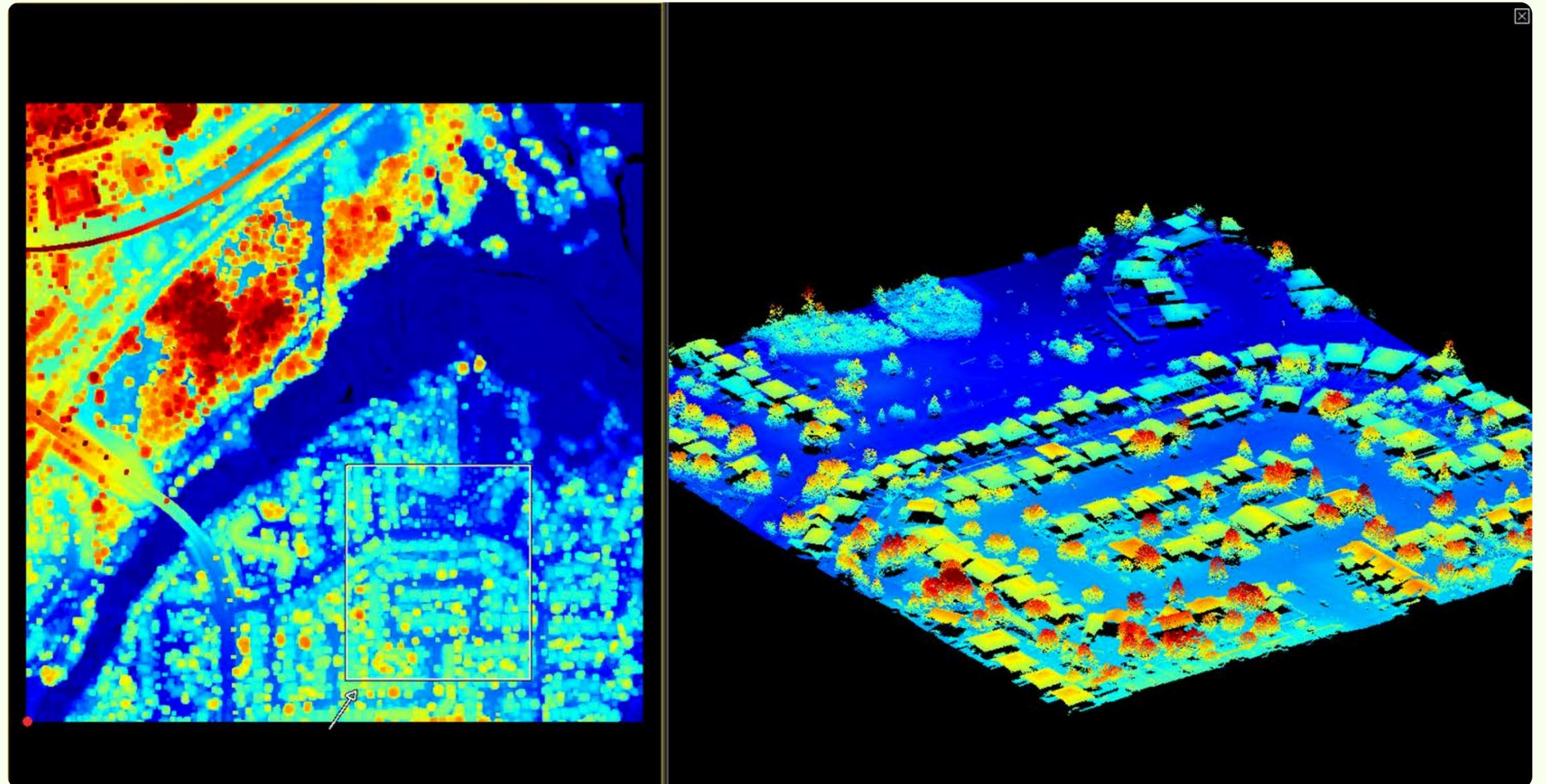
Our Approach

- Leverage relationships and nurture trust.
- Meet people where they are and engage from the "bottom up".
- Work with county staff to understand planting and maintenance challenges.
- Educate and inform through multiple channels.

- Draw from lessons learned through other initiatives.
- Blend local knowledge with technical data and tested models.

Data and New Technologies

- Analysis of existing urban canopy and land cover

- Modeling Accuracy
- Improve data on existing trees

LiDAR Canopy Height Models and Canopy Extraction

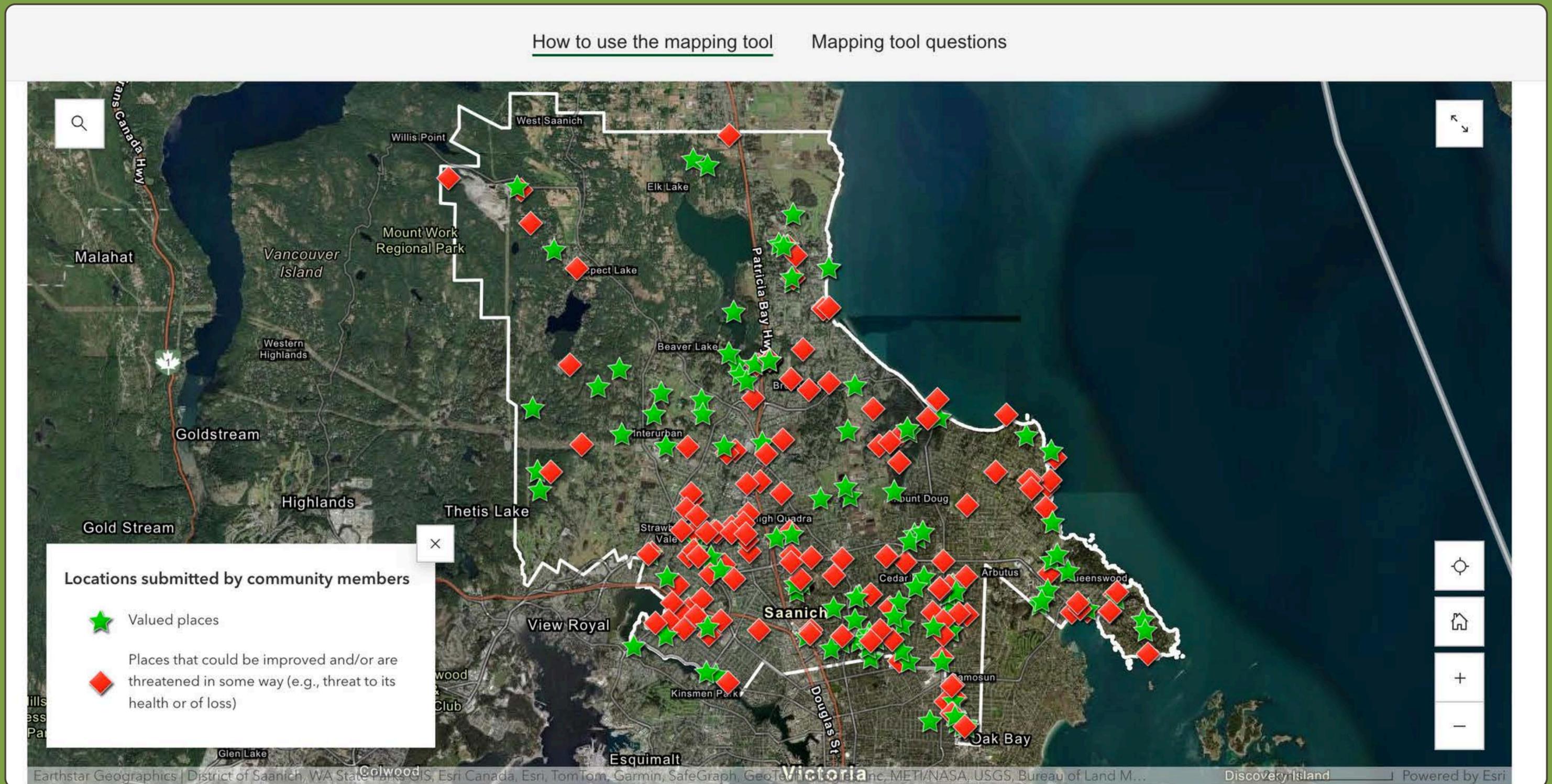- Identify current inequities in access to trees

Identifying Plantable Areas

- Three pilot planting projects that benefit socially vulnerable communities.
- System for identifying and prioritizing future projects:
  - Polygons of potential planting areas
  - Output of tree planting opportunities with approximate tree counts and sizes.

StoryMap - a channel for community involvement

How to use the mapping tool   Mapping tool questions

Locations submitted by community members

★ Valued places

◆ Places that could be improved and/or are threatened in some way (e.g., threat to its health or of loss)

Community Assets

- *People care!*
- Pockets of established trees
- Appreciation for green spaces
- Growing interest in green infrastructure

MAUI COUNTY PLANTING PLAN — THIRD EDITION

IT'S ALL ABOUT SHADE!
UH Maui College Science Parking Lot, E. H. Rezents photograph, taken January 2011.

This document has been researched, written and coordinated for the
Maui County Arborist Committee

Existing Resources

- Maui County Planting Plan

- Maui County Arborist Committee

- Maui County Staff

- Community organizations including Maui Green & Beautiful

- Draft ordinances

- Local nurseries

- Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program

Project Timeline

Task	2025								2026												2027
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1
Develop Work Plan and Project Schedule; Kick-off Meeting	■	■																			
Benchmarking Analysis; Report		■	■	■	■	■	■														
Tree Canopy Assessment; Report		■	■	■	■	■	■														
Develop, Implement Community Engagement Plan; Report			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■										
Develop, Launch, Update Project Website and StoryMap				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Receive County Feedback on Reports; Develop UFMP Outline											■	■									
Develop Draft UFMP with County Review and Comment												■	■	■	■	■					
Public Comment Period; Presentations; Compile Feedback																	■	■	■		
Executive Summary																		■	■	■	
Develop, Publish Final UFMP																			■	■	■

Call to action

- What do you want out of this plan?

- Help us reach your communities.

- Enact legislation that supports a healthy community forest.

- Support funding for an ongoing urban tree planting program.

"I ulu nō ka lālā i ke kumu."
The branches grow because of the trunk.
— ʻŌlelo Noʻeau #1261

Mahalo!

From:	Karen Comcowich <Karen.Comcowich@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent:	Monday, June 2, 2025 4:52 PM
To:	ADEPT Committee
Subject:	Urban Forest Management Plan ADEPT presentation
Attachments:	6-5-2025 Urban Forest Management Plan Presentation.pdf