

FACT: The current urban forest canopy within unincorporated Clackamas County (within the UGB) is among the lowest in the METRO area, at 23.9%¹. According to American Forests², this area should have a canopy density of 40-50%.

Clackamas County's inherent urban forest, or "green," infrastructure is being lost, along with the financial ecosystem services it provides, thereby costing taxpayers more and more in costly "gray" infrastructure^{3,4} and remedial costs for public health, habitat, and energy. The urban canopy is an asset that provides largely untapped opportunities to reduce costs.

WE REQUEST OF THE CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. The Board of County Commissioners instruct the Planning Department Staff to use the Majority Draft as the proposed ordinance for their study session on November 24, 2009 and that it be the ordinance presented to the Planning Commission;
2. The Board of County Commissioners establish a Tree Mitigation Fund;
3. The Board of County Commissioners add the *Action Plan for a Sustainable Clackamas County*, underlying assumptions, and ecological function back into the list of unresolved "parking lot" issues;
4. The Board of County Commissioners create an Urban Tree Commission with tasks that include addressing the unresolved "parking lot" issues.

¹. *State of the Watersheds Report*, April 2009 commissioned by METRO and Audubon Society

². American Forests is a pioneer in the science and practice of urban forestry, and a primary communicator of the benefits of trees and forests; goals focus on assisting communities in planning and implementing tree and forest actions to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems and communities. See www.americanforests.org.

³. Wolf KL: *Public Value of Nature: Economics of Urban Trees, Parks and Open Space*. In Miller, D & JA Wise (eds). *Design with Spirit: Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Environmental Design Research Association*. Edmond, OK. 2004.

⁴. "Gray" infrastructure comprises roads, sewers for service water runoff, bridges, water treatment plants