

City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forestry Master Plan

November 18, 2025

The Team

RES

- Justin Freedman, Project Manager, Arborist
- Megan Reising, Assistant Project Manager
- Mark Clark, QA/QC Manager
- Larsen McBride, Arborist
- Kyra Paris, Arborist

City of Fort Lauderdale

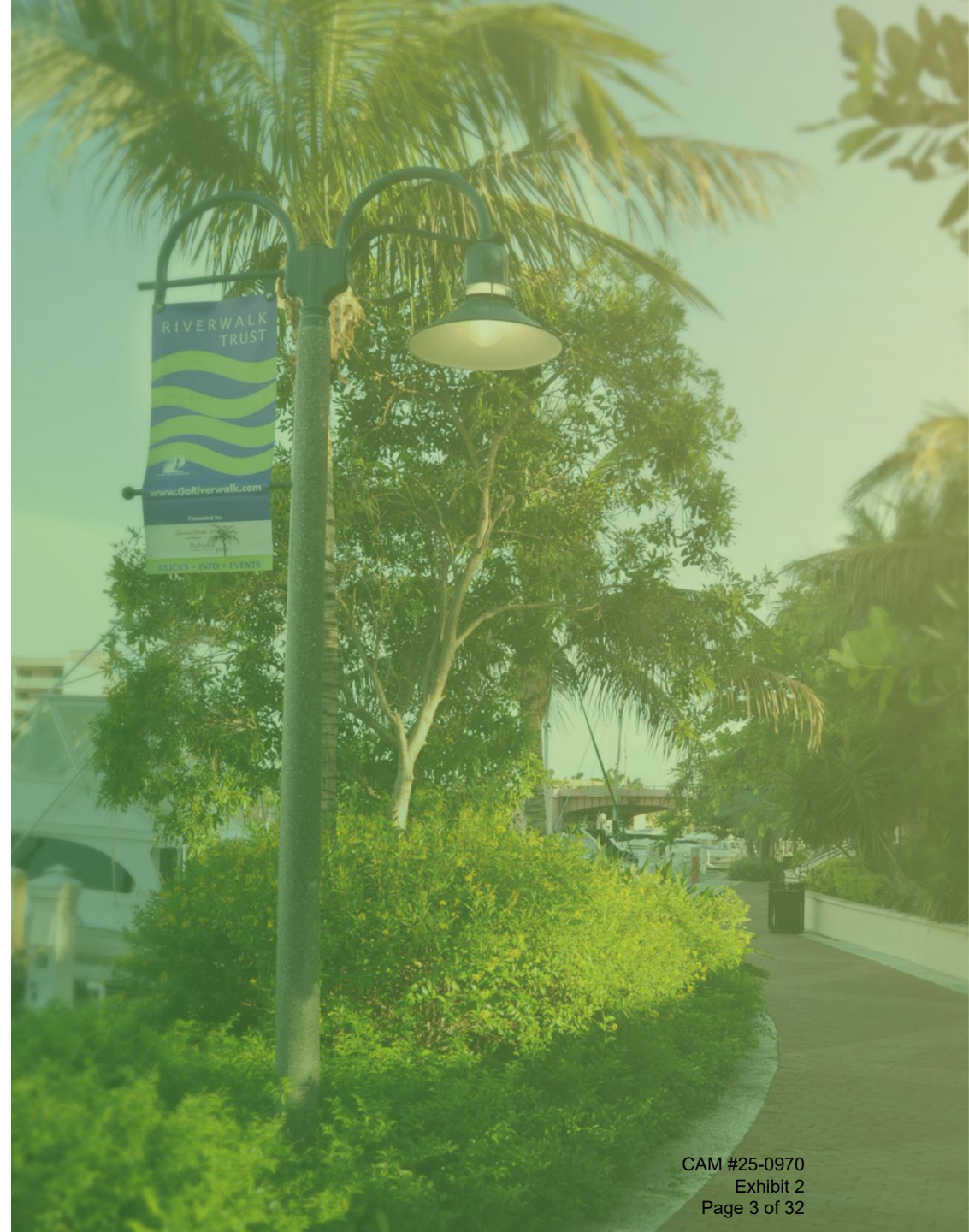
- Laura Tooley, Urban Forester
- Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
- Dr. Nancy Gassman, Deputy Director, Chief Resilience Officer
- Melissa Doyle, Division Manager, Public Works



We Are Green
We Are FTL

Overview

- UFMP goals
- Urban forest today
- Stakeholder visions and goals
- Recommendations
- Implementation
- Conclusion

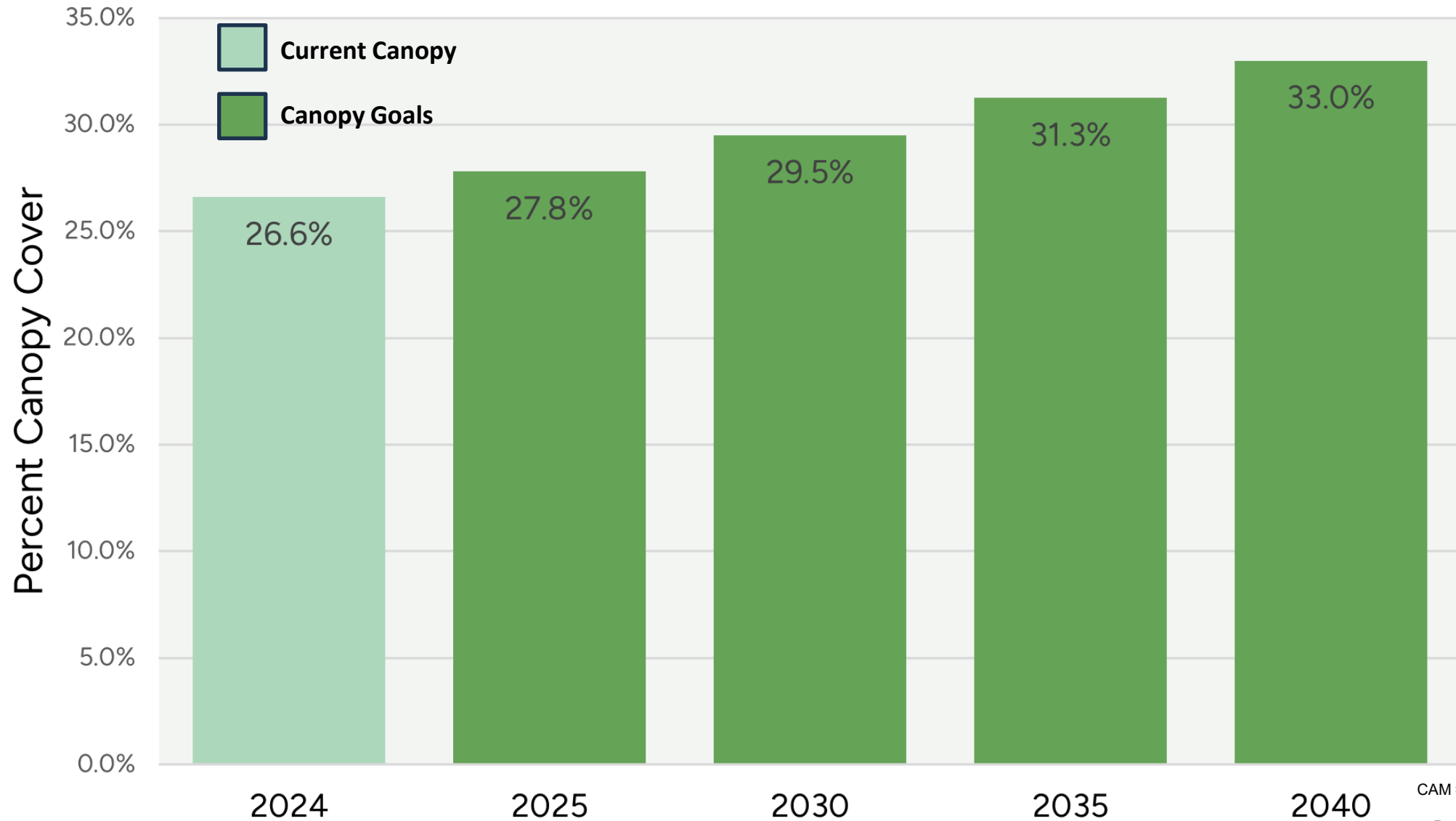




UFMP GOALS

Growing Fort Lauderdale's Tree Canopy

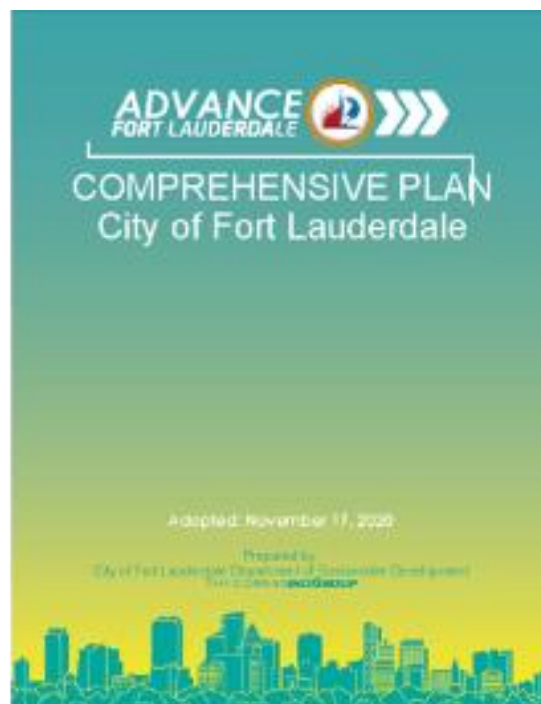
Working towards 33% today



UFMP Goals

The UFMP is a road map to 33% canopy cover by 2040.

This goal was set in the Advance 2040 Comprehensive Plan.



UFMP Goals

The UFMP is a road map to 33% canopy cover by 2040.

It outlines 62 recommendations across 14 Action Areas to improve urban forestry practices.



UFMP Goals

The UFMP is a road map to 33% canopy cover by 2040.

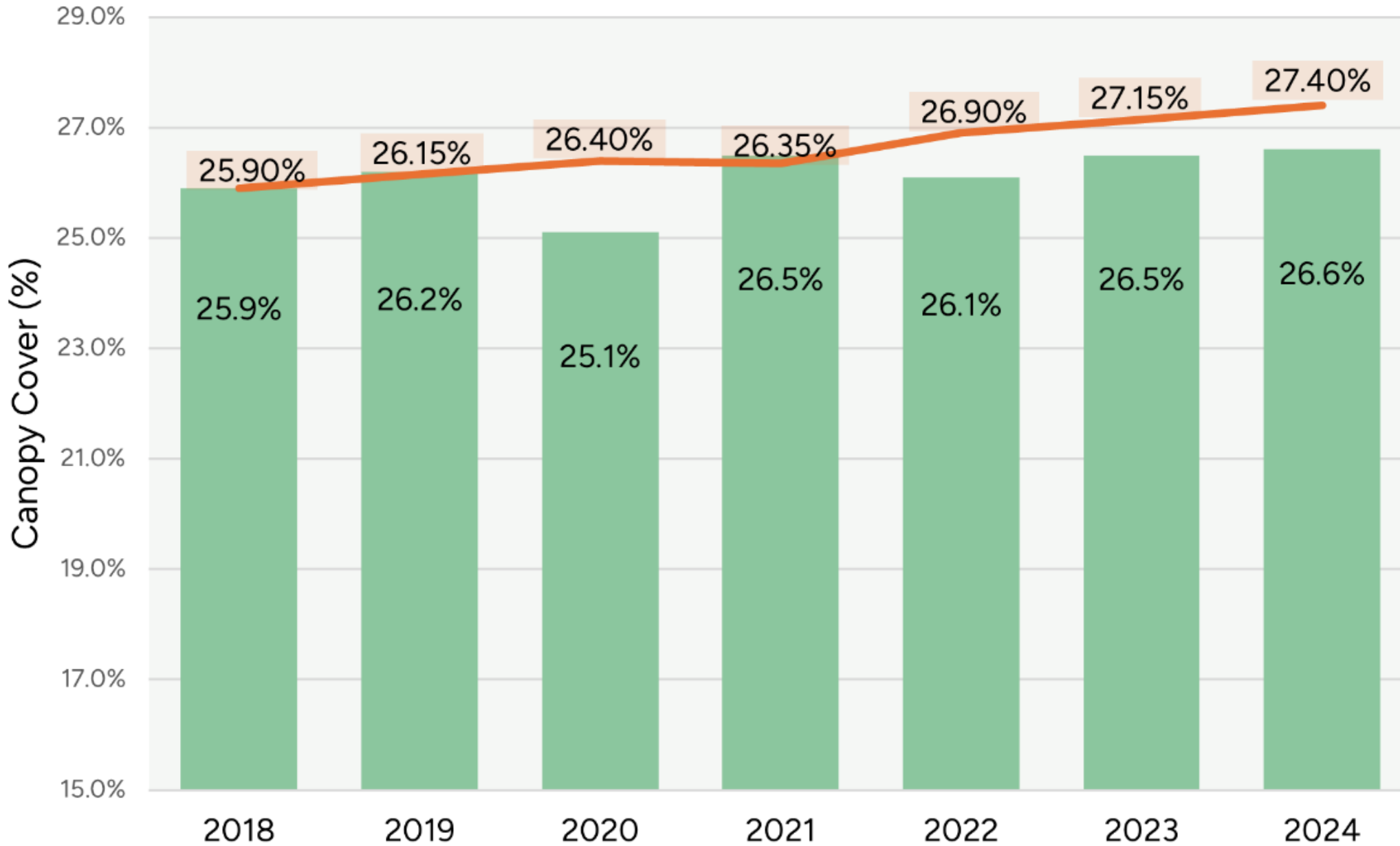
It proposes a timeline to preserve and plant more trees than ever.

Year	Years to Grow	Avg ft ² /tree by 2040	Trees/year	Total ft ² by 2040
2026	14	707	10,694	7,558,519.2
2027	13	658	10,694	7,037,721.4
2028	12	609	10,694	6,516,923.6
2029	11	561	10,694	5,996,125.8
2030	10	512	10,694	5,475,328.0
...				
2037	3	171	10,694	1,829,743.4
2038	2	122	10,694	1,308,945.6
2039	1	74	10,694	788,147.8
2040	0	25	10,694	267,350.0
Total			160,410	58,694,019



FORT LAUDERDALE'S URBAN FOREST TODAY

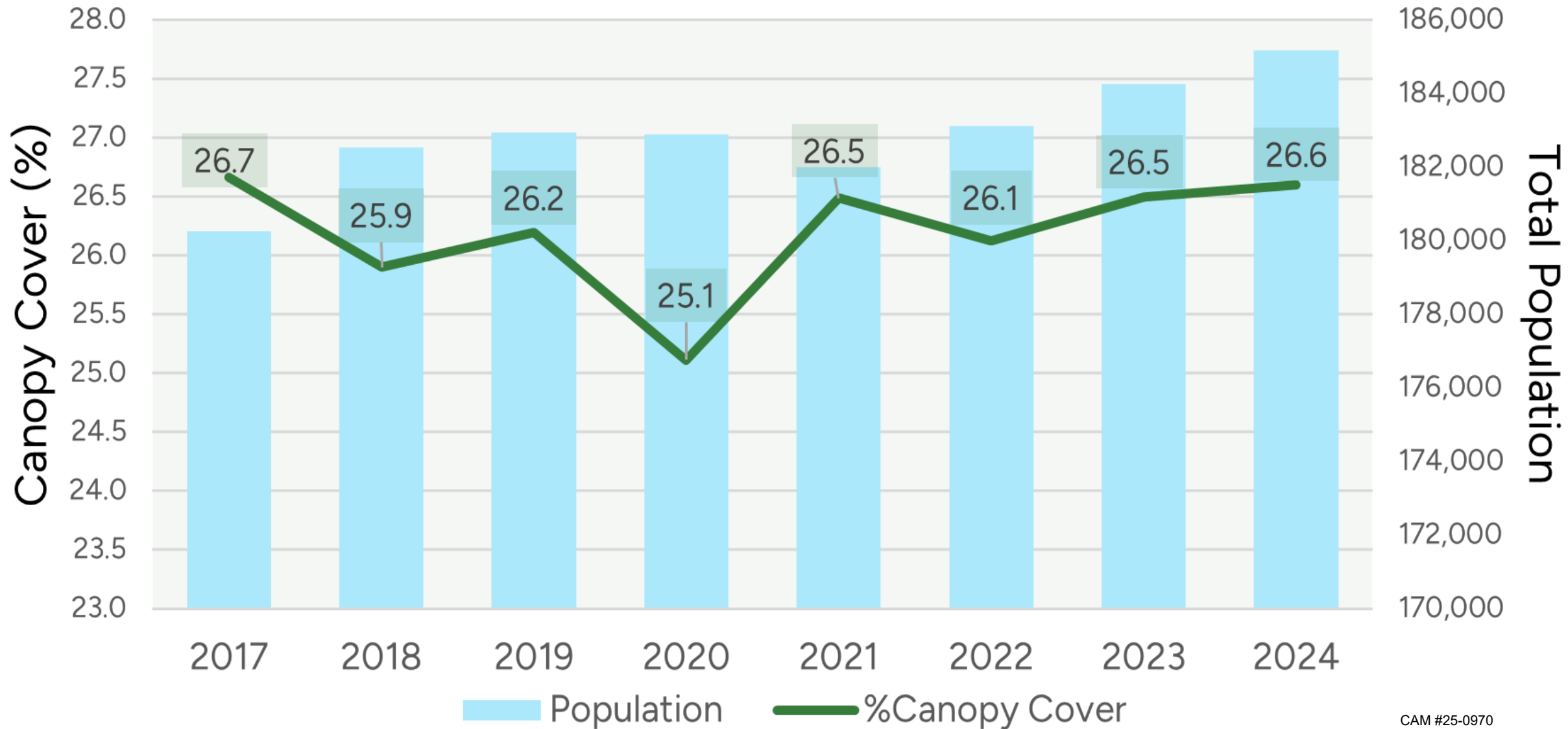
Percent of Citywide Tree Canopy 2018-Present



 Canopy results

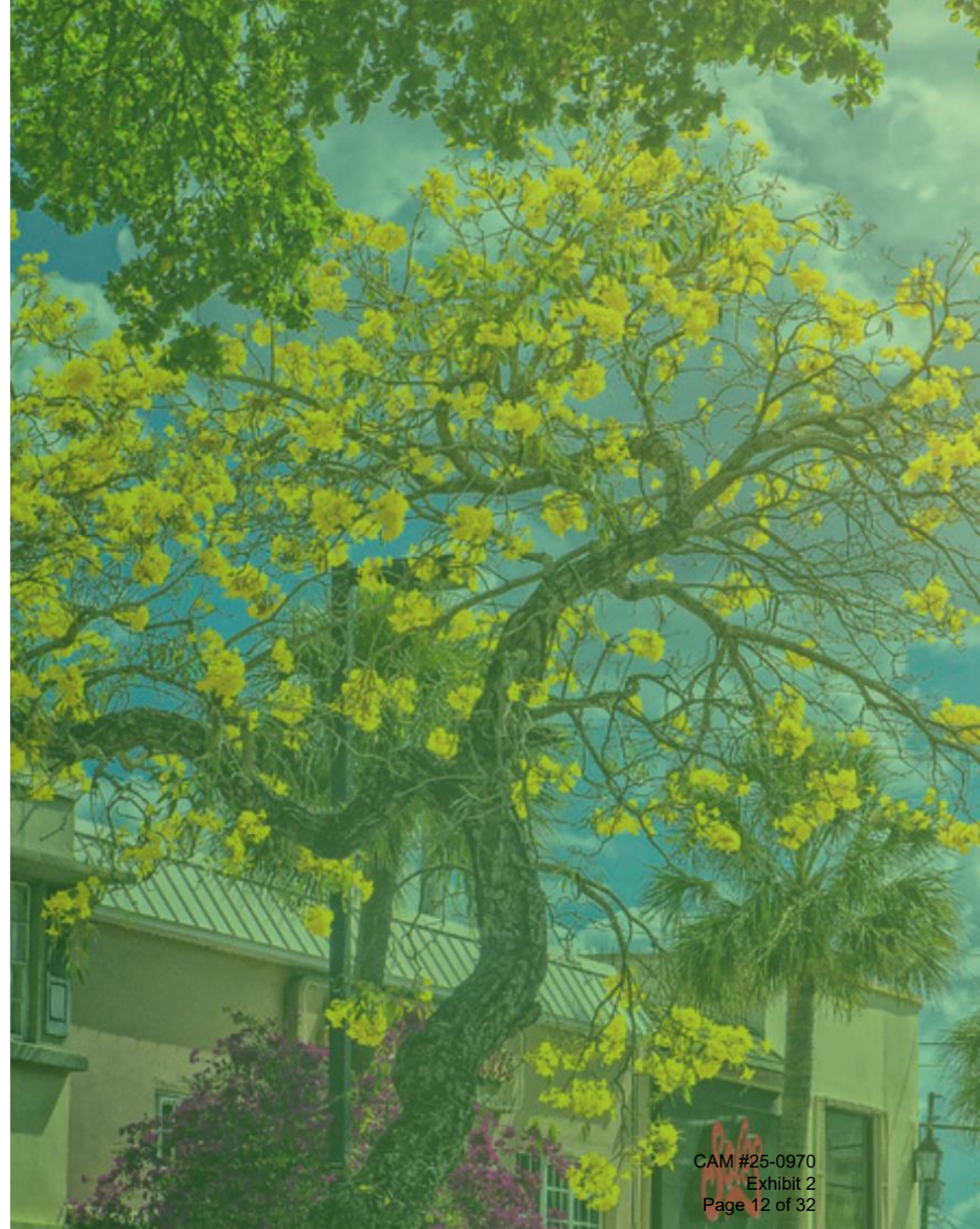
 CAM #25-0970
Canopy Goals
Page 10 of 32

Population Growth and Percent Canopy Cover 2017-2024



The Value of the Urban Forest

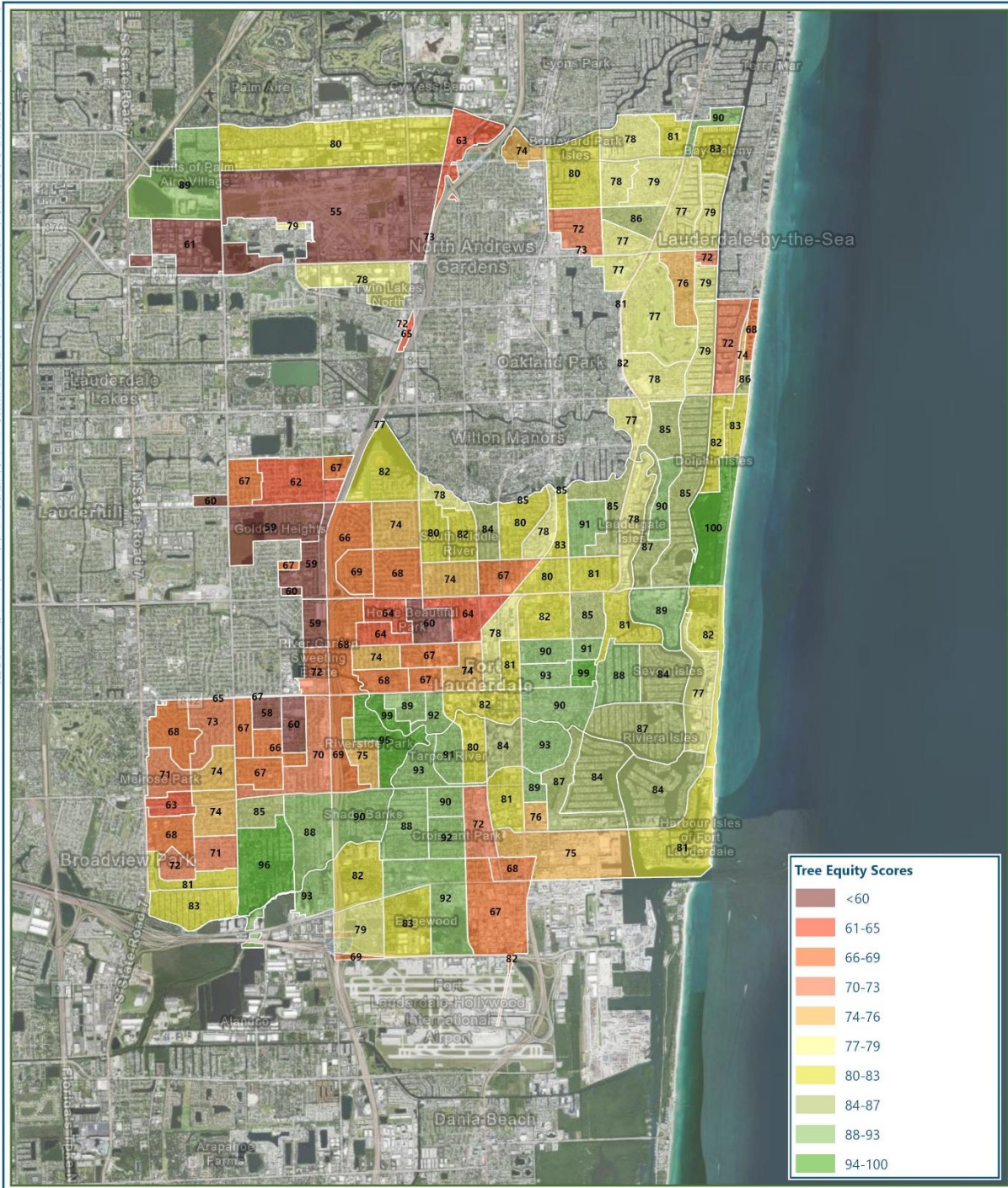
- \$3.3 million benefits (2024)
- 87.2 million gallons of stormwater avoided (2024)
- 43,717 tons of air pollutants removed (2024)
- 704,000 tons of carbon stored (2024)
- \$1.33 million/year expenditures (2015-2023)



**Fort
Lauderdale's
Tree Canopy
Today
26.6%**

Fort Lauderdale's Tree Equity Score

78





**Low Canopy and
Tree Equity Scores...**

**High Priority for Tree
Planting and
Preservation**



STAKEHOLDER VISION & GOALS

Canopy Conversations

Internal Stakeholders

- The City's urban forestry practices are distributed among 14 distinct departments and teams
- Input from interviews with 12 groups of City staff was used to formulate UFMP recommendations
- Coordination and communication is key to successfully implementing the UFMP



Canopy Conversations

External Stakeholders

- 794 survey responses
- Attended 30 events across the City to promote the UFMP and administer the survey
- 4 in-person District-wide meetings
- 1 virtual Citywide meeting
- 102 public comments received
- Consensus that tree removal for development is currently excessive
- Broad support for planting more trees
- Enthusiasm for community participation in planting and outreach



Canopy Conversations

Draft UFMP Feedback

- 99 additional comments from neighbors
- 30 comments from City staff and Advisory Board members
- Endorsed by Sustainability Advisory Board
- Overall support for the Plan, preservation of mature trees, and community planting initiatives
- Concern from the public that the Plan does not go far enough in protecting trees and disincentivizing their removal



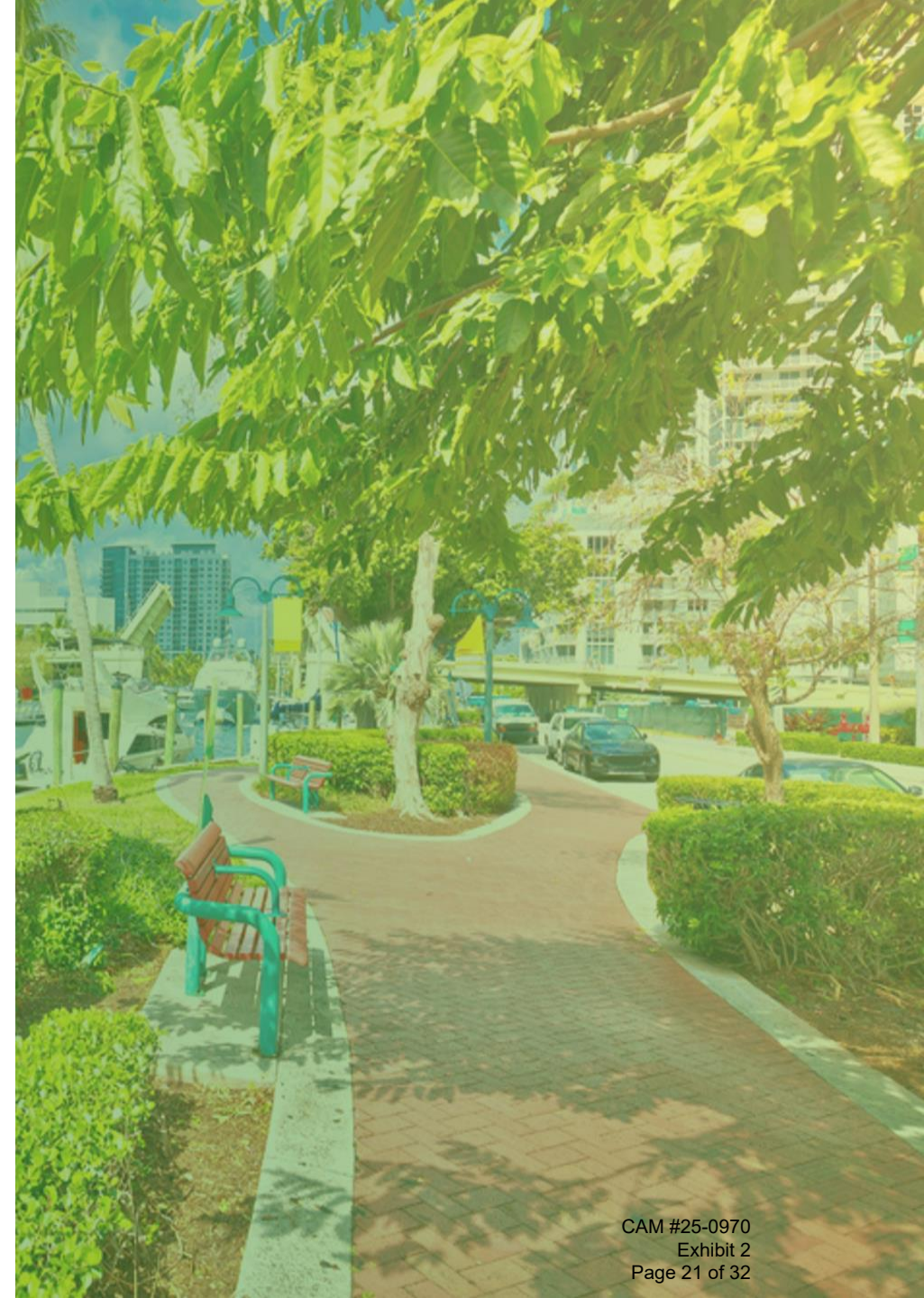


RECOMMENDATIONS

Reaching 33% Tree Canopy

How do we get there?

- **Action area 1:** Tree preservation measures
- **Action area 2:** Permit fees and penalties
- **Action area 3:** Replacement standards
- **Action area 4:** Tree preservation incentives for developers
- **Action area 5:** Homeowner assistance
- **Action area 6:** Staffing
- **Action area 7:** Invasive species, tree pests, and diseases



Reaching 33% Tree Canopy

How do we get there?

- **Action area 8:** Tree planting
- **Action area 9:** Mangroves
- **Action area 10:** City design practices
- **Action area 11:** Centralized tree databases
- **Action area 12:** Community engagement
- **Action area 13:** Interagency engagement
- **Action area 14:** Revised tree palette



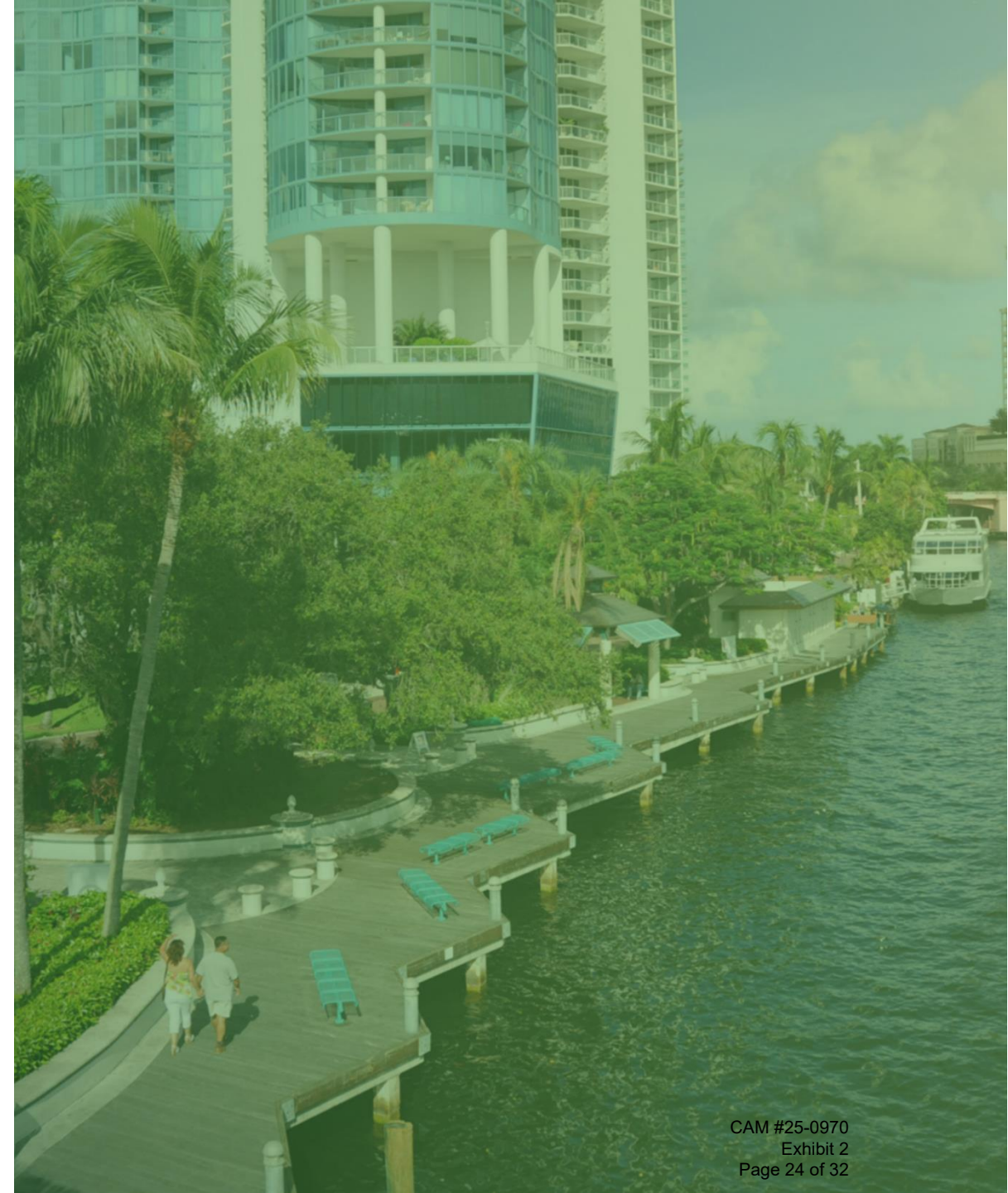


IMPLEMENTATION

Achieving 33% Canopy

Overview

- City currently has 8.75 square miles of canopy
- 5.6 square miles of the City is potential tree planting area
- Grow 58.7 million ft² (2.1 sq miles) of canopy by 2040
- 3.9 million ft² canopy/year
- Depends on average square footage of individual trees



Potential Planting Scenarios

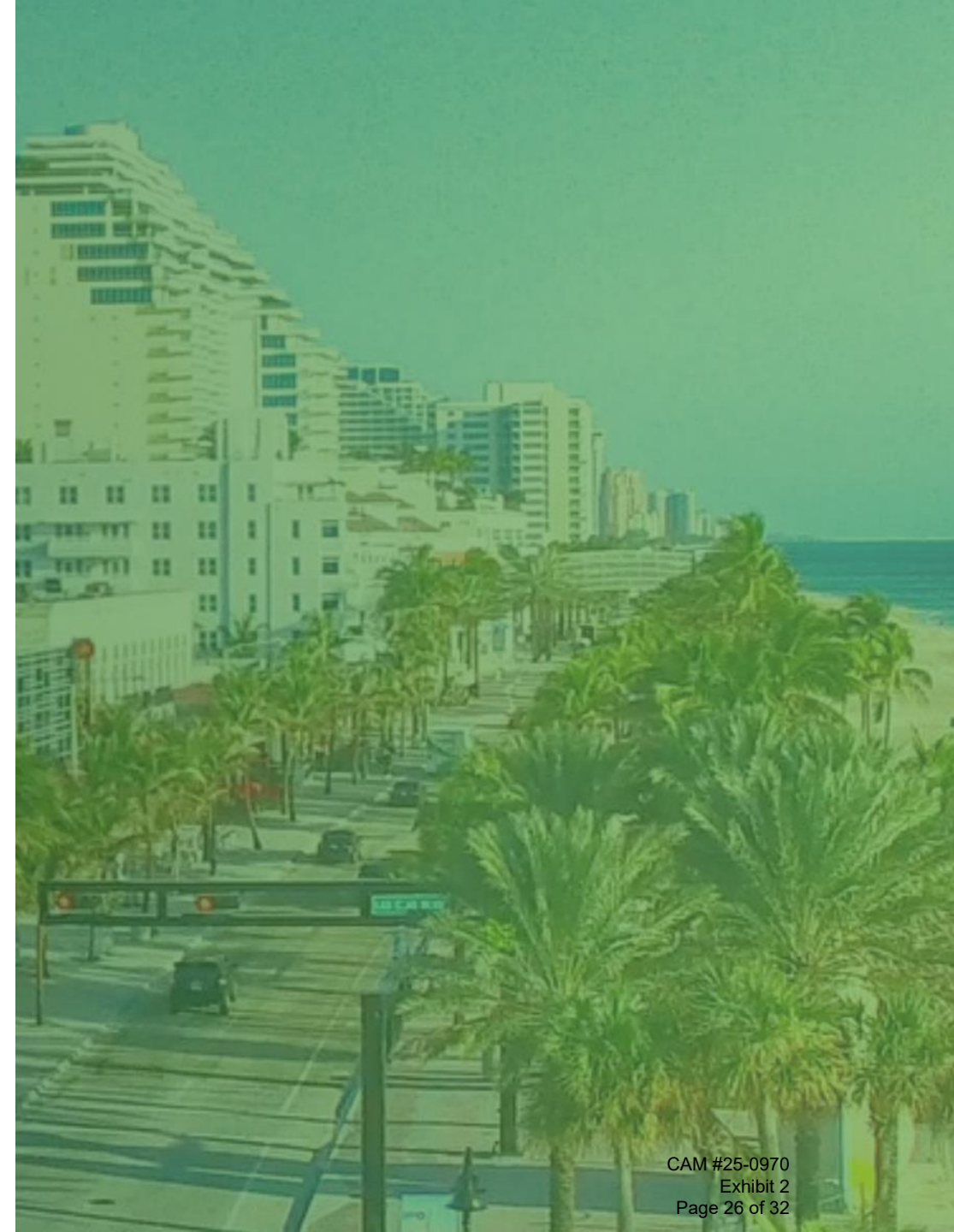
- Figures are based on hypothetical canopy averages.
- Costs are based on average costs of 10 trees commonly planted in Fort Lauderdale.
- Trees planted sooner will develop larger canopies by 2040.
- Planting should be done by City staff, residents, community organizations, businesses, and developers.



Recommendation Cost Estimates

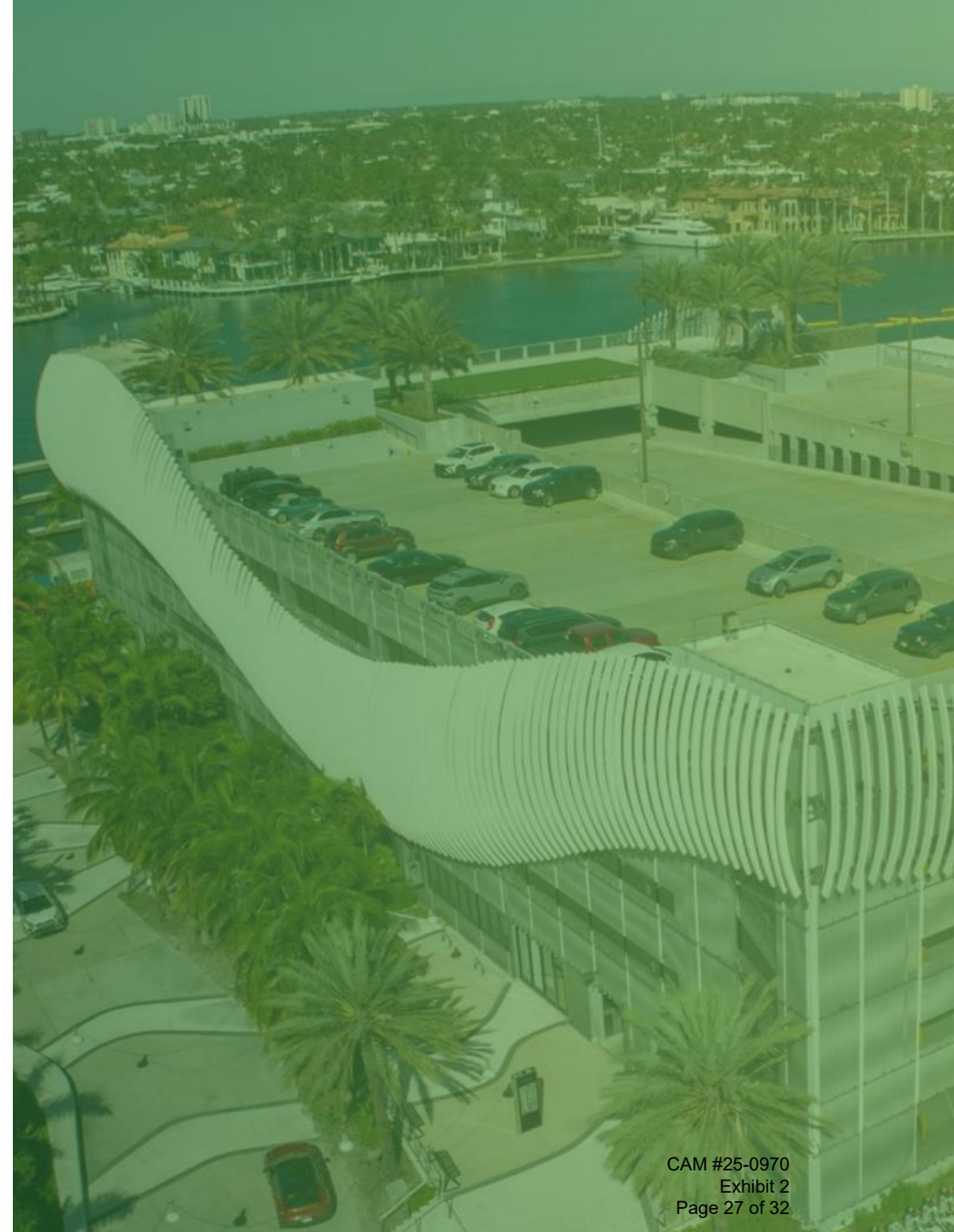
Overview

- Implementation of all 62 recommendations is estimated to cost between \$1,253,432 and \$2,156,804 annually (excluding tree planting costs).
- Achieving 33% tree canopy may require public and private entities to plant between 10,694 and 18,411 trees annually.
- All UFMP funding requests will be submitted consistent with the City's regular budget processes.



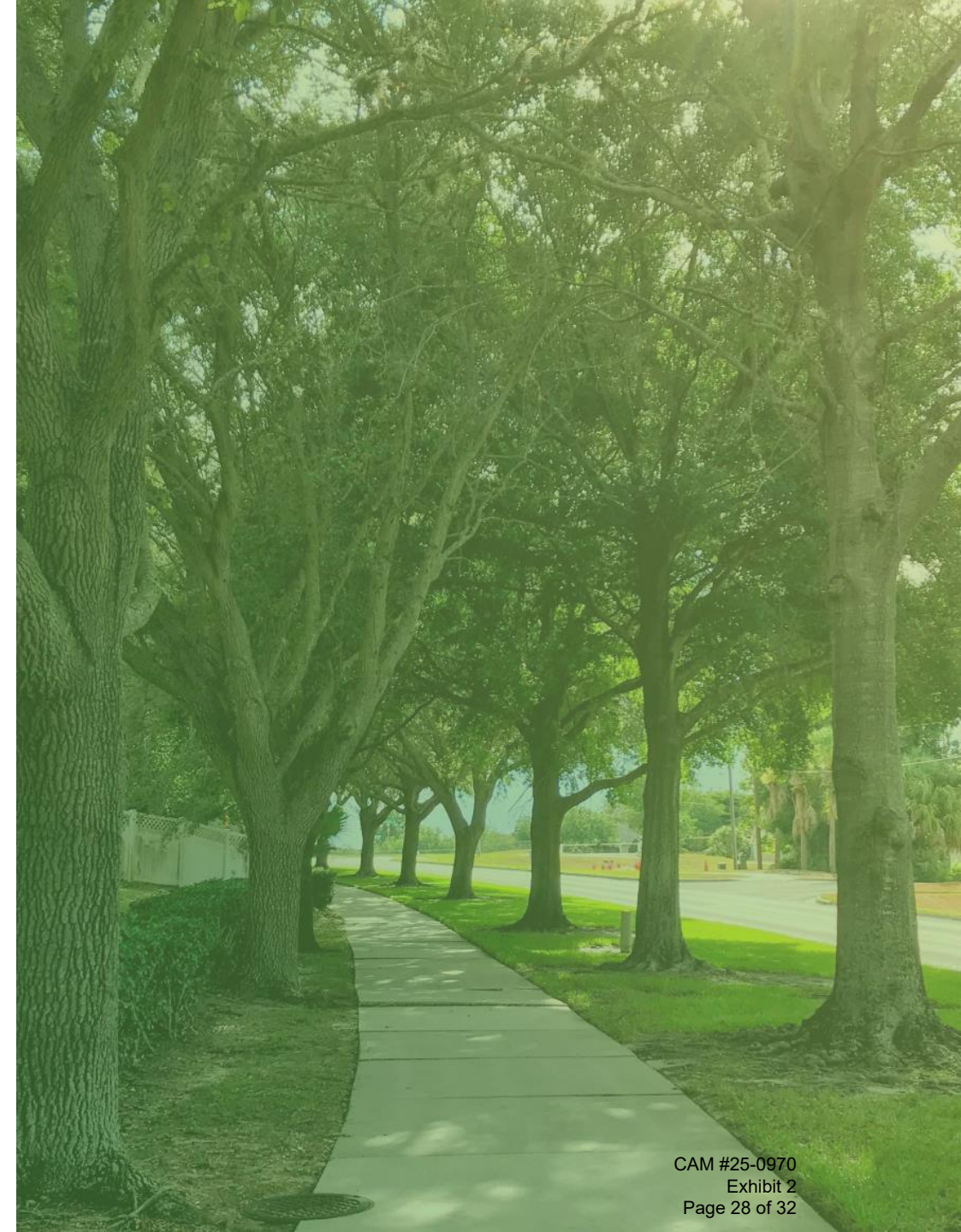
External Funding Sources

- 13 grant programs valued at \$21.9 million identified to fund UFMP actions.
- Five volunteer and cost-sharing opportunities valued at \$165,000/year identified to support UFMP actions.
- Some are no longer available due to cuts.
- Cuts may not be permanent and do not apply to all grants.



Internal Funding Sources

- Urban forestry budget must increase to meet the 33% canopy goal.
- UFMP recommendations will generate revenue for urban forestry.
 - Increases to permit and mitigation fee schedules and equivalent replacement value
 - Additional penalties for tree violations
 - Implementation of new impact fees
 - Consistent penalties for damage to specimen trees
 - Raise 20% cap on annual non-tree planting TCTF expenditures





CONCLUSION

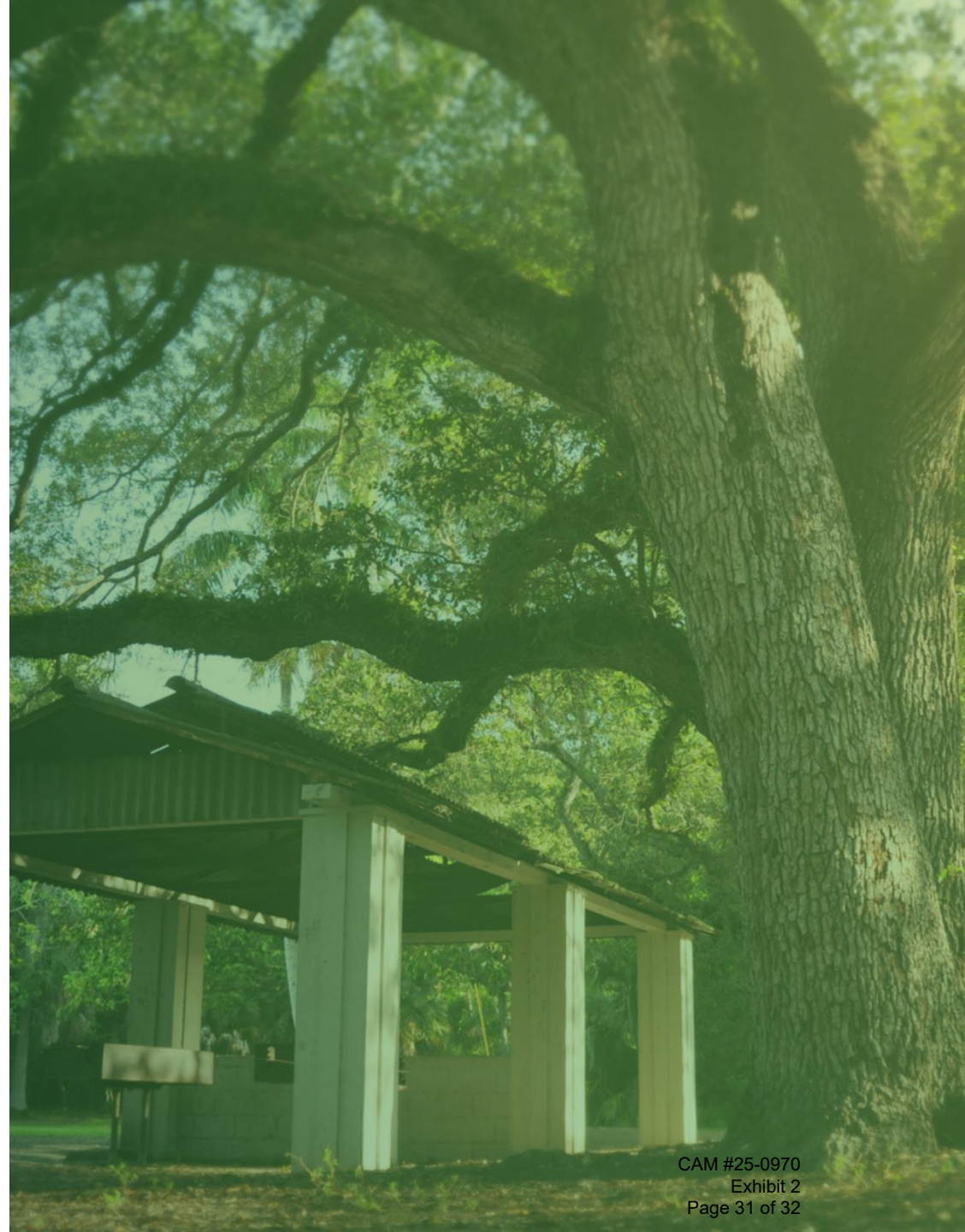
Conclusion

- UFMP is a data-driven document based on extensive research, feedback from internal and external stakeholders, and nearly 800 survey responses.
- Recommendations reflect public urban forestry goals and City staff's vision for improved urban forest management.
- Successful implementation is a step towards a broader, healthier, and more resilient urban forest.



Next Steps

- Adopt the City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forestry Master Plan by resolution at a future Commission meeting



Thank You!

Have questions? Please reach out

floridaprojectquestions@res.us

Please review the Plan at

ftlcity.info/ufmp



**FORT
LAUDERDALE
TREE CITY USA
(1981-Present)**

**FORT
LAUDERDALE
TREE CITY OF
THE WORLD
(2021)**

