

Fremont, CA
Urban Forest Management Plan
2021 Survey

Report of Results

January 2022



2955 Valmont Road Suite 300
Boulder, CO 80301
303-444-7863
polco.us

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Executive Summary

Survey Background

The City of Fremont and PlanIT Geo sought to measure community perceptions related to Fremont’s urban forest; perceptions ranging from benefits and value of trees in the community, the health and quality of public trees and the overall care and management including the City’s role in care and management. The City of Fremont and PlanIT Geo also sought to understand resident’s funding preferences for improvements in maintenance of public trees and the urban forest. The City and PlanIT Geo contracted with National Research Center at Polco to conduct a scientific survey of residents in Fremont. Of the 2,000 randomly selected households to which surveys were sent, 35 were identified by the post office as vacant. A total of 245 completed surveys were returned from the estimated 1,965 households that received a survey, for a response rate of 12%. Survey results were weighted so that respondent age, gender, race, ethnicity, District of residency, housing unit type and housing tenure status (rent or own) were represented in the proportions reflective of the entire community. The margin of error is plus or minus six percentage points around any given percent for all results.

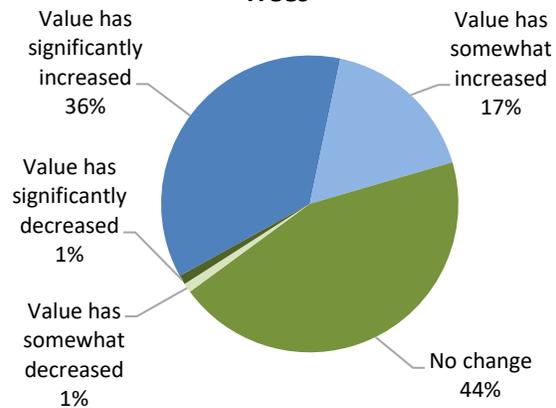
Survey Results

➤ Benefits and value of trees

When asked to rate the importance of potential tree benefits, about 7 in 10 residents indicated that reduced air pollution/better air quality was an essential benefit of trees while an additional one-quarter of residents felt this benefit was very important. About half of survey respondents felt that carbon storage/climate change benefits, impacts on human physical and mental health and improved soil/water quality, reduced stormwater runoff were essential benefits of trees.

Given the recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, residents were asked to assess how their perception of the value of trees along streets and trails and in parks and open spaces has changed. About 4 in 10 indicated there was no change in their perception while about half indicated the value increased either somewhat or significantly; only two percent indicated that the value had decreased.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Change in Value of Trees



➤ Health and quality of public trees and overall care and management

About 4 in 10 survey respondents felt the overall health and quality of the City's public trees declined in the last 10 years while a similar proportion felt the overall health and quality has stayed the same; only 1 in 10 respondents offered ratings of improved health and quality.

Quality ratings for the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont was mixed; about one-third of residents offered very good or good ratings, and one-quarter offered very poor or poor ratings. About 4 in 10 residents felt the quality of the overall care and management of the public trees was fair.

Of respondents who have a street tree, one-quarter had never done any tree work on their street tree and one-third have had work done in the last 12 months. The remaining 46% have had work done but it had been more than a year since the work was done.

When asked about the level of familiarity with the City's 50/50 programs available for public tree maintenance or tree removal/replacement, a vast majority of residents had never heard of it. About one-quarter had heard of it or were familiar with it, but not used it while fewer than five percent had used the program.

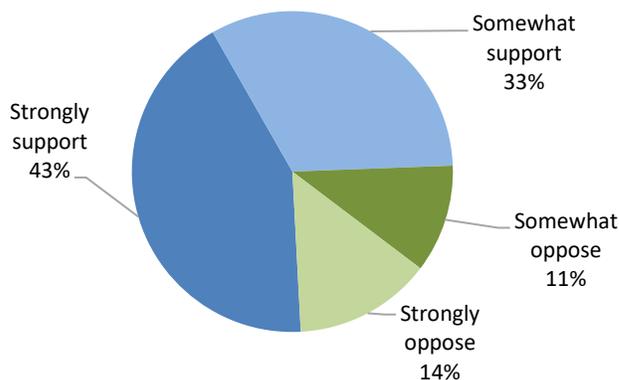
Tree maintenance, for example pruning for clearance and tree planting - adding more trees were the top rated most urgent public tree-related need in survey respondents' neighborhoods with at least 3 in 10 respondents selecting each of these tree-related needs.

➤ **City's role in public tree care and maintenance**

About three-quarters of residents strongly support or somewhat support the City pruning the public trees that are the highest safety priority and recover the cost of doing so from the adjacent property owner if the adjacent property owner does not remove the tree hazard within a set timeframe, as per Fremont's Municipal Code.

Survey respondents were informed that currently, 13% of Fremont's land area is covered by tree canopy while the Bay Area average is 20% and then asked if they support or oppose various City actions. Of those that felt they had enough information to offer an evaluation, at least 9 in 10 offered support for creating a plan with Citywide and neighborhood-level canopy goals and planting targets, increasing the percent of the City's land area covered by tree canopy and implementing more robust tree protection policies for development projects to preserve our existing tree canopy coverage; only 7 in 10 supported creating canopy goals though the current canopy coverage (13%) is adequate.

Support for City Pruning Public Trees as per Fremont's Municipal Code

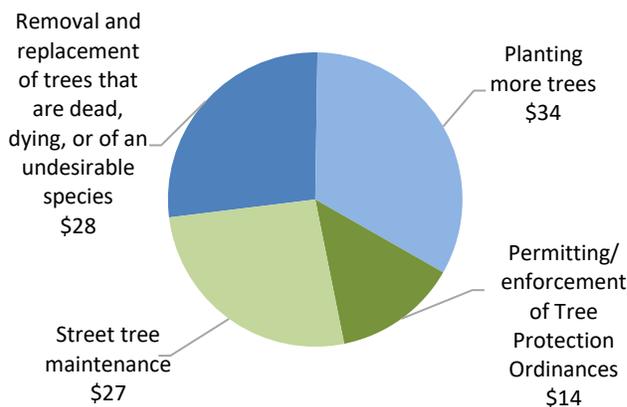


➤ **Funding preferences**

The survey asked respondents to assess how they would allocate an additional \$100 to four possible types of services related to the urban forest. Averages of around \$30 were given to street tree maintenance, planting more trees and removal and replacement of trees that are dead, dying or of an undesirable species, while \$14 was given to permitting/enforcement of Tree Protection Ordinances.

Public tree maintenance has been identified as a primary concern in Fremont; however, improvements in maintenance of public trees would require additional funding. When asked to select one of four statements best represents their preferred approach for funding an improved public tree maintenance program, about 7 in 10 felt that an improved public tree maintenance program should be funded by using a portion of the City's share of the existing Gas Tax (a tax collected when someone buys gas) toward urban forest while fewer than 2 in 10 agreed with the other listed options.

Allocating Funds - \$100 Total



Using a portion of the Gas Tax for this purpose would mean that other services (e.g., street repair and traffic improvements) may be reduced. At least 6 in 10 survey respondents agree that they support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of all public trees; they support using Gas Tax funds for the City to proactively preserve and restore public trees in areas where the City's urban forest canopy is significantly reduced, but NOT take on maintenance of all public trees; and they support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of public trees along primary roadways, not of ALL public trees. About 4 in 10 respondents indicated that they do not support using Gas Tax funds because adjacent property owners should adequately manage public trees, and maintenance responsibility should not shift to the City.

When asked to rate the importance of potential actions for the City to take to improve the urban forest, about 4 in 10 residents indicated that establishing tree canopy goals and planting targets to address priorities like climate change impacts, air quality, and an equitable distribution of urban forest benefits was essential while an additional 4 in 10 felt it was very important. About two-thirds of residents felt that consolidating tree related City programs into one City division for urban forest management, all tree maintenance, and community engagement was essential or very important. Expanding Tree Preservation Ordinance regulation beyond trees in the forward-facing location of properties by including trees in backyards and sides of private property was viewed as the least important action for the City to take to improve the urban forest with as few as one-quarter offering essential or very important ratings.

Appendix A: Responses to Survey Questions

The following tables show the complete set of responses for each question on the survey. For some of the questions, two tables are provided, one that includes the “don’t know/unsure” responses and one that excludes the “don’t know/unsure” responses.

Table 1: Question 1 without "don't know" responses

Understanding which potential tree benefits are most appreciated by residents can help guide long-term management strategies. Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following are to you.	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential	Total
Added natural beauty	1%	21%	45%	33%	100%
Impacts on human physical and mental health	2%	11%	33%	53%	100%
Reduced air pollution/better air quality	1%	5%	26%	67%	100%
Improved soil/water quality, reduced stormwater runoff	3%	11%	34%	52%	100%
Noise reduction	9%	27%	41%	24%	100%
Decreased road maintenance costs	5%	43%	36%	15%	100%
Increased property values	15%	39%	28%	19%	100%
Carbon storage/climate change benefits	5%	13%	29%	53%	100%
Increased wildlife and biodiversity	10%	24%	25%	41%	100%
Energy savings	1%	26%	43%	29%	100%
Mitigation of the urban heat island effect/shading	2%	12%	40%	46%	100%

Table 2: Question 1 with "don't know" responses

Understanding which potential tree benefits are most appreciated by residents can help guide long-term management strategies. Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following are to you.	Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important		Essential		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Added natural beauty	1%	N=3	21%	N=50	45%	N=108	33%	N=79	0%	N=0	100%	N=241
Impacts on human physical and mental health	2%	N=5	11%	N=27	33%	N=78	53%	N=125	0%	N=1	100%	N=237
Reduced air pollution/better air quality	1%	N=3	5%	N=13	26%	N=63	66%	N=158	1%	N=2	100%	N=239
Improved soil/water quality, reduced stormwater runoff	3%	N=7	11%	N=26	33%	N=79	51%	N=121	2%	N=4	100%	N=238
Noise reduction	8%	N=20	26%	N=63	40%	N=97	23%	N=56	1%	N=3	100%	N=240
Decreased road maintenance costs	5%	N=11	41%	N=97	34%	N=82	14%	N=35	6%	N=14	100%	N=239
Increased property values	15%	N=35	38%	N=91	27%	N=65	18%	N=44	2%	N=6	100%	N=241
Carbon storage/climate change benefits	5%	N=12	12%	N=30	29%	N=70	53%	N=128	1%	N=3	100%	N=243
Increased wildlife and biodiversity	10%	N=25	24%	N=57	25%	N=60	41%	N=99	1%	N=2	100%	N=243
Energy savings	1%	N=3	25%	N=60	42%	N=98	28%	N=67	3%	N=8	100%	N=236
Mitigation of the urban heat island effect/shading	2%	N=5	12%	N=29	39%	N=94	46%	N=110	1%	N=3	100%	N=241

Table 3: Question 2

Given the recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, how has your and your household's perception of the value of trees along streets and trails and in parks and open spaces changed?	Percent	Number
Value has significantly increased	36%	N=89
Value has somewhat increased	17%	N=41
No change	44%	N=109
Value has somewhat decreased	1%	N=3
Value has significantly decreased	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=245

Table 4: Question 3 without "unsure" responses

Do you think the overall health and quality of the City's public trees has improved, stayed the same, or declined in the last 10 years?	Percent	Number
Improved	10%	N=19
Stayed the same	46%	N=87
Declined	44%	N=83
Total	100%	N=189

Table 5: Question 3 with "unsure" responses

Do you think the overall health and quality of the City's public trees has improved, stayed the same, or declined in the last 10 years?	Percent	Number
Improved	8%	N=19
Stayed the same	36%	N=87
Declined	34%	N=83
Unsure/I've lived in Fremont less than 5 years	23%	N=56
Total	100%	N=245

Table 6: Question 4 without "unsure" responses

How would you rate the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)?	Percent	Number
Very good	5%	N=13
Good	30%	N=73
Fair	40%	N=98
Poor	18%	N=44
Very poor	6%	N=15
Total	100%	N=243

Table 7: Question 4 with "unsure" responses

How would you rate the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)?	Percent	Number
Very good	5%	N=13
Good	30%	N=73
Fair	40%	N=98
Poor	18%	N=44
Very poor	6%	N=15
Unsure	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=245

Table 8: Question 5 without "I have no street tree" responses

When was the last time you had any tree work done on your street tree? (Street trees are the trees within the right-of- way, usually within 10 feet of the curb either in your front/side yard or in a planting strip near the sidewalk.)	Percent	Number
0 to 12 months	28%	N=49
13-24 months	21%	N=38
25-36 months	10%	N=17
More than 36 months	15%	N=27
Never	25%	N=44
Total	100%	N=176

Table 9: Question 5 with "I have no street tree" responses

When was the last time you had any tree work done on your street tree? (Street trees are the trees within the right-of- way, usually within 10 feet of the curb either in your front/side yard or in a planting strip near the sidewalk.)	Percent	Number
0 to 12 months	20%	N=49
13-24 months	16%	N=38
25-36 months	7%	N=17
More than 36 months	11%	N=27
Never	18%	N=44
I have no street tree	27%	N=66
Total	100%	N=242

Table 10: Question 6

How familiar, if at all, are you with the City's 50/50 programs available for public tree maintenance or tree removal/replacement?	Percent	Number
Never heard of it	72%	N=176
Have heard of it, never used it	20%	N=48
Familiar with the program, but never used it	5%	N=12
Have used the program	4%	N=9
Total	100%	N=245

Table 11: Question 7

What is the most urgent public tree-related need in your neighborhood (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)? (Please select only ONE response.)	Percent	Number
Tree protection from damage or removal	7%	N=17
Tree planting - adding more trees	30%	N=72
Dealing with hazard trees	14%	N=33
Tree maintenance, for example pruning for clearance	40%	N=97
Education and outreach	2%	N=5
Volunteer and community engagement	5%	N=11
Other	2%	N=5
Total	100%	N=240

Table 12: Question 8 without "don't know" responses

According to Fremont's Municipal Code, it is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain trees in the public right-of-way, though some areas are maintained by the City. The City often receives notices from the public regarding tree hazards that are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, and the City sends regular courtesy notices over a period of time to the adjacent property owner to fix the tree hazard. If the adjacent property owner does not remove the tree hazard within a set timeframe, how much would you support or oppose the City pruning the public trees that are the highest safety priority and recover the cost of doing so from the adjacent property owner?	Percent	Number
Strongly support	43%	N=98
Somewhat support	33%	N=75
Somewhat oppose	11%	N=25
Strongly oppose	14%	N=31
Total	100%	N=229

Table 13: Question 8 with "don't know" responses

According to Fremont’s Municipal Code, it is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain trees in the public right-of-way, though some areas are maintained by the City. The City often receives notices from the public regarding tree hazards that are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, and the City sends regular courtesy notices over a period of time to the adjacent property owner to fix the tree hazard. If the adjacent property owner does not remove the tree hazard within a set timeframe, how much would you support or oppose the City pruning the public trees that are the highest safety priority and recover the cost of doing so from the adjacent property owner?	Percent	Number
Strongly support	40%	N=98
Somewhat support	31%	N=75
Somewhat oppose	10%	N=25
Strongly oppose	13%	N=31
Don't know	6%	N=14
Total	100%	N=243

Table 14: Question 9 without "don't know" responses

Currently, 13% of Fremont's land area is covered by tree canopy when viewed from above. In a recent study of 11 Bay Area cities, the average is 20% tree canopy and Fremont has the lowest of the group (13%). With this information, do you support or oppose the City doing each of the following?	Support	Oppose	Total
Creating a plan with Citywide and neighborhood-level canopy goals and planting targets	93%	7%	100%
Increasing the percent of the City's land area covered by tree canopy	96%	4%	100%
Implementing more robust tree protection policies for development projects to preserve our existing tree canopy coverage	93%	7%	100%
Creating canopy goals though the current canopy coverage (13%) is adequate	70%	30%	100%

Table 15: Question 9 with "don't know" responses

Currently, 13% of Fremont's land area is covered by tree canopy when viewed from above. In a recent study of 11 Bay Area cities, the average is 20% tree canopy and Fremont has the lowest of the group (13%). With this information, do you support or oppose the City doing each of the following?	Support		Oppose		Don't know/need more information		Total	
Creating a plan with Citywide and neighborhood-level canopy goals and planting targets	83%	N=201	6%	N=14	11%	N=27	100%	N=243
Increasing the percent of the City's land area covered by tree canopy	86%	N=210	3%	N=8	10%	N=25	100%	N=243
Implementing more robust tree protection policies for development projects to preserve our existing tree canopy coverage	79%	N=190	6%	N=15	15%	N=36	100%	N=240
Creating canopy goals though the current canopy coverage (13%) is adequate	54%	N=129	24%	N=57	23%	N=54	100%	N=240

Table 16: Question 10

If you had an additional \$100 to direct towards the urban forest, how would you allocate the funds among the types of services listed below? (Please use whole numbers and be sure your total adds up to \$100.)	Average dollar amount allocated
Removal and replacement of trees that are dead, dying, or of an undesirable species	\$28
Planting more trees	\$34
Permitting/enforcement of Tree Protection Ordinances	\$14
Street tree maintenance	\$27
Total	\$100

Table 17: Question 11 without "I am unsure" responses

Based on its public tree inventory the City completed in 2020, feedback from the previous two surveys, and industry recommendations, the City found that public tree maintenance is a primary concern in Fremont. Improvements in maintenance of public trees would require additional funding. Which ONE of the following statements best represents how you feel an improved public tree maintenance program should be funded?	Percent	Number
A new Citywide park and tree maintenance and beautification fee/tax	17%	N=35
Sales tax increase to increase General Fund	3%	N=7
Use of a portion of the City's share of the existing Gas Tax (a tax collected when someone buys gas) toward urban forest	69%	N=140
I do not support expanding the tree maintenance program	11%	N=22
Total	100%	N=203

Table 18: Question 11 with "I am unsure" responses

Based on its public tree inventory the City completed in 2020, feedback from the previous two surveys, and industry recommendations, the City found that public tree maintenance is a primary concern in Fremont. Improvements in maintenance of public trees would require additional funding. Which ONE of the following statements best represents how you feel an improved public tree maintenance program should be funded?	Percent	Number
A new Citywide park and tree maintenance and beautification fee/tax	14%	N=35
Sales tax increase to increase General Fund	3%	N=7
Use of a portion of the City's share of the existing Gas Tax (a tax collected when someone buys gas) toward urban forest	57%	N=140
I do not support expanding the tree maintenance program	9%	N=22
I am unsure	16%	N=40
Total	100%	N=243

Table 19: Question 12 without "unsure" responses

A previous survey conducted by the City about urban forests in Fremont indicated strong support of a portion of the existing Gas Tax to being used to fund urban forest management and tree maintenance. Using a portion of the Gas Tax for this purpose would mean that other services (e.g., street repair and traffic improvements) may be reduced. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?	Agree	Disagree	Total
I do not support using Gas Tax funds because adjacent property owners should adequately manage public trees, and maintenance responsibility should not shift to the City	38%	62%	100%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of all public trees	66%	34%	100%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to proactively preserve and restore public trees in areas where the City's urban forest canopy is significantly reduced, but NOT take on maintenance of all public trees	61%	39%	100%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of public trees along primary roadways, not of ALL public trees	63%	37%	100%

Table 20: Question 12 with "unsure" responses

A previous survey conducted by the City about urban forests in Fremont indicated strong support of a portion of the existing Gas Tax to being used to fund urban forest management and tree maintenance. Using a portion of the Gas Tax for this purpose would mean that other services (e.g., street repair and traffic improvements) may be reduced. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?	Agree		Disagree		Unsure		Total	
I do not support using Gas Tax funds because adjacent property owners should adequately manage public trees, and maintenance responsibility should not shift to the City	30%	N=71	49%	N=115	21%	N=51	100%	N=238
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of all public trees	55%	N=131	29%	N=68	16%	N=39	100%	N=238
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to proactively preserve and restore public trees in areas where the City's urban forest canopy is significantly reduced, but NOT take on maintenance of all public trees	43%	N=102	28%	N=66	30%	N=71	100%	N=238
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of public trees along primary roadways, not of ALL public trees	48%	N=115	28%	N=67	23%	N=56	100%	N=237

Table 21: Question 13 without "don't know" responses

Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following potential actions are for the City to take to improve the urban forest.	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential	Total
Expand the 50/50 Street Tree Program to provide more assistance to the public when it comes to tree pruning, removal, and replacement	8%	36%	42%	15%	100%
Expand the Tree Preservation Ordinance (No. 2481) through proactive measures (e.g., development, planning, preservation, monitoring, mitigation) for the protection of trees	9%	37%	38%	15%	100%
Expand Tree Preservation Ordinance regulation beyond trees in the forward-facing location of properties by including trees in backyards and sides of private property	35%	40%	20%	5%	100%
Expand the Landmark Trees Program that recognizes their contribution to the City's heritage by including nominations for private trees designated by the City	28%	36%	25%	11%	100%
Conduct more volunteer events and programs such as community tree plantings and tree stewardship trainings	7%	35%	37%	20%	100%
Establish a Tree Advisory Committee with the City for advocating urban forestry, related programs, and the Tree Preservation Ordinance	26%	36%	25%	13%	100%
Consolidate tree related City programs into one City division for urban forest management, all tree maintenance, and community engagement	10%	26%	44%	20%	100%
Establish tree canopy goals and planting targets to address priorities like climate change impacts, air quality, and an equitable distribution of urban forest benefits	6%	17%	38%	39%	100%

Table 22: Question 13 with "don't know" responses

Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following potential actions are for the City to take to improve the urban forest.	Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important		Essential		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Expand the 50/50 Street Tree Program to provide more assistance to the public when it comes to tree pruning, removal, and replacement	6%	N=14	28%	N=66	33%	N=78	12%	N=28	22%	N=52	100%	N=238
Expand the Tree Preservation Ordinance (No. 2481) through proactive measures (e.g., development, planning, preservation, monitoring, mitigation) for the protection of trees	8%	N=20	34%	N=81	35%	N=84	14%	N=33	9%	N=21	100%	N=239
Expand Tree Preservation Ordinance regulation beyond trees in the forward-facing location of properties by including trees in backyards and sides of private property	32%	N=75	36%	N=84	18%	N=43	4%	N=10	10%	N=23	100%	N=236
Expand the Landmark Trees Program that recognizes their contribution to the City's heritage by including nominations for private trees designated by the City	23%	N=53	29%	N=69	20%	N=48	9%	N=20	19%	N=46	100%	N=236
Conduct more volunteer events and programs such as community tree plantings and tree stewardship trainings	7%	N=16	34%	N=79	35%	N=83	19%	N=44	5%	N=13	100%	N=234
Establish a Tree Advisory Committee with the City for advocating urban forestry, related programs, and the Tree Preservation Ordinance	23%	N=54	31%	N=74	22%	N=51	11%	N=27	13%	N=31	100%	N=237
Consolidate tree related City programs into one City division for urban forest management, all tree maintenance, and community engagement	9%	N=21	22%	N=53	38%	N=89	18%	N=42	14%	N=32	100%	N=237
Establish tree canopy goals and planting targets to address priorities like climate change impacts, air quality, and an equitable distribution of urban forest benefits	6%	N=14	16%	N=38	36%	N=86	37%	N=87	5%	N=13	100%	N=238

Table 23: Question 15 without "not applicable" responses

How many years have you lived in Fremont?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	14%	N=33
2–5 years	16%	N=38
6–10 years	17%	N=40
11–20 years	14%	N=34
More than 20 years	39%	N=93
Total	100%	N=238

Table 24: Question 15 with "not applicable" responses

How many years have you lived in Fremont?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	14%	N=33
2–5 years	16%	N=38
6–10 years	17%	N=40
11–20 years	14%	N=34
More than 20 years	39%	N=93
Not applicable	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=238

Table 25: Question 16

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	61%	N=144
Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment, or condominium)	39%	N=92
Mobile home	0%	N=1
Other	0%	N=1
Total	100%	N=238

Table 26: Question 17

Do you rent or own your home?	Percent	Number
Rent	35%	N=82
Own	65%	N=155
Total	100%	N=237

Table 27: Question 18

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance, and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent	Number
Less than \$500	4%	N=9
\$500 to \$999	4%	N=8
\$1,000 to \$1,499	4%	N=9
\$1,500 to \$1,999	8%	N=17
\$2,000 to \$2,499	22%	N=49
\$2,500 to \$2,999	17%	N=39
\$3,000 to \$3,499	16%	N=36
\$3,500 or more	25%	N=56
Total	100%	N=223

Table 28: Question 19

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	59%	N=138
Yes	41%	N=98
Total	100%	N=236

Table 29: Question 20

Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent	Number
No	75%	N=178
Yes	25%	N=59
Total	100%	N=237

Table 30: Question 21

How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent	Number
Less than \$25,000	2%	N=5
\$25,000 to \$49,999	8%	N=17
\$50,000 to \$74,999	8%	N=16
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8%	N=16
\$100,000 to \$149,999	21%	N=45
\$150,000 to \$199,999	17%	N=36
\$200,000 to \$249,999	9%	N=20
\$250,000 to \$299,999	7%	N=15
\$300,000 or more	20%	N=44
Total	100%	N=214

Table 31: Question 22

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	90%	N=208
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	10%	N=22
Total	100%	N=230

Table 32: Question 23

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%	N=1
Asian, Asian Indian, or Pacific Islander	53%	N=122
Black or African American	1%	N=1
White	34%	N=77
Other	14%	N=32

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 33: Question 24

In which category is your age?	Percent	Number
18-24 years	4%	N=10
25-34 years	23%	N=52
35-44 years	23%	N=52
45-54 years	21%	N=49
55-64 years	11%	N=26
65-74 years	11%	N=26
75 years or older	6%	N=15
Total	100%	N=231

Table 34: Question 25

What is your gender?	Percent	Number
Female	50%	N=115
Male	49%	N=112
Identify in another way	0%	N=1
Total	100%	N=228

Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Question

Following are verbatim responses to the open-ended question on the survey, sorted alphabetically. The verbatim responses were not edited for grammar or punctuation.

Question 14: Please share any additional comments that can assist the City of Fremont in improving the urban forest and related programs or services.

- 1. I have live here 60yr. The city has never help maintain the trees that they planted. Also, the do no care what kind of tree is planted. Several we have had, dropped ugly berries allover the sidewalk and some had roots so large that they raise the sidewalk and created more problems.
- 1. Please conduct more tree plantations event at school level for education and awareness 2. Please go digital and use less paper for all purposes/ communications.
- Any tree planted by the city should be responsible for maintain, especially watering. Don't put it on the homeowner.
- Benchmark and learn best practices from other greener cities like Palo Alto
- Besides trees, general landscaping of residences and businesses has a big impact on water conservation and air quality control, how does urban forest program address those efforts?
- Best way - have homeowners (single family) to plant at least one tree (small to medium height) in their front & backyard.
- Choose trees that don't lift up sidewalks and create hazards
- City and state gets quite a bit of tax payers money and so lets not burden the people with more tax on the name of city beautification. Can open up a fund where people can volunteer to donate as per their importance of how planting more trees is beneficial to everyone. The fund(if opened), should have the representatives from public too to monitor the fund.
- City should take full responsibility of public trees. Key word: PUBLIC
- CONSTANT AND PERIODICAL MONITORING (ROVING) THE ENTIRE FREMONT AREA WILL SOMEWHAT HELP THOSE PEOPLE MANAGING THEIR PROJECTS; TO GET IDEAS OF WHAT TO DO AND WHERE TO BEGIN THE EXPANSION OF SHADED AREAS IN OUR CITY.
- Each family member need to attend or volunteer or service 8hrs of work for city [that may be campaign/donation/maintenance activity, other physician support].
- Educate multi family housing dwellers on how they can contribute
- Education
- Education of home owners on their rights and responsibilities would be helpful
- establish clear policy and enforce by city maintenance personnel
- Every citizen should have one obligation to plant one or two trees during living in the city.
- Fix the broken sidewalks caused by overgrown tree roots. Cabrillo park area.
- Fix the traffic - stop the in between commuters! Thank you.
- Fremont has many condos and townhomes built & being built. The ones being built should be encouraged to put in green zones. The condos and townhomes that will be considered in the future, must be requested to add green zones to the properties.
- Fremont is is 92 sq. miles in size. Portions cover bayland areas and grassy mountains not expected to have great canopy coverage. The comparative percentage of canopy coverage may not be a reasonable way to compare Fremont's 13% to other city averages. A percentage of less than 20% may be adequate if the beautification and shading are established with purpose in the more urban & neighborhood areas of Fremont.

- Fremont walked away from maintaining trees on its streets many years ago, leaving the residents the responsibility for maintenance. So for a homeowners association like mine, on Gallaudet Drive, the Andalusia HOA is required to maintain many, many trees at its own expense. This is a very short sighted plan, because of the high expense in pruning the trees over time, and because they are outside the walls of the HOA, there is not the incentive to prune them as often as needed, and the city plan for providing funds in this instance does not exist. So Fremont needs to make the decision that trees are important to quality of life, and fund them accordingly as they had in the past, separating the strategy for individual homes on the one hand, and multi-unit complexes on the other hand....just not the same which is obvious.
- Greenery helps a lot to reduce my daily stress. It makes me feel close to nature. Please take care of them
- HOMELESSNESS MUST BE A HIGHER PRIORITY. WHAT GOOD IS AN URBAN FOREST IF THERE ARE TEN'S NOMBY.
- I agree the #1 problem is addressing existing tree maintenance and care. Many home owners are not aware of their 50/50 responsibility of the trees and plants bordering their house, resulting in many trees in poor condition, blocking sidewalk, road ways, or even dead trees. It would be helpful for City to take a more active role notifying home owners the trees need maintenance and if City can put more funding in to split 40/60, 30/70 would be even more helpful.
- I don't really feel qualified to answer a lot of those questions, as I know there is a lot involved in planting & maintaining trees (funds being a necessary part) I answered as to what I think is important if funds available.
- I think educating the community about the trees the city plants on your sidewalk.. things like will leaves fall in autumn, what wildlife are attracted to them, do the roots damage sidewalks, does sap drop from the trees- we should know this type of stuff before deciding on which one to plant. A user friendly website where all this information is listed could be very beneficial!
- I would like to see the same amount of effort and dedication that's being given to the urban forest & the homeless situation that is going on the city.
- I would vote for a citywide beautification fee if the funds were to be used responsibly. While I support using a portion of the gas tax funds, I do not wish to see funding, decreased for road repair & traffic. It is already bad enough.
- If you make a new tax, make it an households with above *300k comers or more. Don't increase lower income comers taxes.
- In tree maintenance, prioritize trees where branches intrude into bike paths (such as on south Fremont Blvd). San Jose is worse but then again that doesn't mean that Fremont couldn't be better.
- Increase green zone for all new building, especially for those new development communities.
- INCREASE TREE CANOPY TO AVE 20% & ADD MORE TREE CANOPY TO URBAN FOREST PROGRAM. FIND OTHER EXPENSES TO CUT.
- Job one - start planting more trees! I suggest that clusters of trees are planted in our parks. Currently it seems that individual trees are planted in Lake Elizabeth and other city parks. I would suggest creating "groves" of trees that are planted at higher densities and include more trees. The trees in lake Elizabeth could certainly use more care and attention. Some are not in the best of shape. And it seems there is a lot of undeveloped space that could be planted with trees. Thanks!
- Less bike lanes and right turn restriction.
- LOWER TAXES!! LESS GOVERNMENT!!!

- Mandate one or two 5+ft tall trees, in new construction units. It is my humble observation that new developments have fewer trees compared to the ones built prior to the 1990s.
- More public exposure on policies.
- More tree planting along road and in parks so that people can walk and workout in shade will improve resident wellbeing
- My tree died & replaced it & spent \$1500 to take it down & \$700 for the tree replacement. An expense that I can't afford but I used my credit card. Please trim the trees batting traffic lights. Visibility is so bad.
- N/A.
- No any.
- No comment
- None
- NONE.
- Not disclosing the cost makes hard to choose
- plant local trees
- Plant trees on the hills. Blanket the hills with trees not grass
- Plant trees that do no break the sidewalk cement, or teach how to take care of the trees that they planted.
- Plant trees that do not destroy sidewalks and curbs!
- Pockets of urban forest could be considered as well while budgeting.
- Population and vegetation both take up space. If population has to increase and vegetation cannot decrease, the only way is to go vertical, which means building more high rise residences.
- Property owners should be tasked with maintaining their own trees. The City should remove hazard trees or fine owners for failing to maintain their trees and shrubs. This project is important to us only to the extent that the crime and homelessness problems must be addressed first.
- Provide more public information about the urban forest by distribution of pamphlets and/or via the internet, ads...
- Public fruit tree garden in city of Fremont would familiar to understand importance of trees. A place or garden bids can climb on trees.
- Raise property taxes on single family and high density properties to pay for these services.
- Referring to quest.#11 the money spent on the turn lane corners could better have been used to plant & beautify the city with more trees instead of taking away needed turn lanes, not to mention all the wasted money on pave bike lanes - the city council has made traffic @intersections much worse...
- Removing large unsafe trees and plant more stable trees
- Some of the questions above are of concern. More discussion should occur before the city takes on the right to impose anything on a tree located in someone's private property. Private property is just that private.
- spend the money on prisons - extermination of the transients in the area before they exterminate and poison the rest of the population
- Stop building all kinds of house (including condo, 2 and 3 floors houses), stop changing the roads for the bicycles BUT increase the trees
- Stop planting sycamores as street trees. They are always diseased, the leaves are an ugly yellow color and they drip sap on anything under them.
- Stop the new homebuyers from cutting down trees . People are buying homes and tearing out trees for concrete!

- Stop using spray and pesticide in parks specially the ones with kids play ground. I have lived on my street for 30 years the trees are half dead and they have never been maintained by the city in the last 30 years. Even when one fell over last year it took the city 5 days to remove it from the road and no one seemed to care about safety of the residents. They are all City owned trees.
- Stop wasting money on your programs and round up the transients and get them out of here 1 st
- Take care of trees planted in the home-owner or remove the trees.
- Thank you for even considering this, our open land spaces, base ball / football fields can have trees around the boundaries. Please consider having natural turn rather than the cancer inducing tire particles based artificial fields.
- The city needs to take of the trees they have first before thinking about adding more trees. Not all homeowners can or should be responsible for taking care of existing trees near the property.
- The city of Fremont need to send out crews to trim and prune trees. Remove dead or hazard trees. Plant replacements. Pre taxes are high enough. Cut section 8 housing! Cut welfare! Use funds for taking care of the trees.
- The city should take full responsibility for sort & maintenance of street trees like they used to, instead of making homeowners responsible.
- The street trees in my neighborhood are an unattractive mishmash of species, many inappropriate for our climate, incompatible in appearance, and/or poorly maintained. I'd like the city to develop regulations and support forestry practices that promote a more sustainable and attractive urban forest. I'm willing to pay a special tax that is strictly dedicated to these purposes. It makes no sense to me to take money for one essential service (e.g. street maintenance) from Gas Tax Funds to give increase money for another essential service (i.e. improvement of the urban forest).
- There should be more shady, well-maintained parks in the city open to the public while we have just a few overcrowded parks open till sunset.
- this is a great first step
- This is very important topic for Fremont residents and U appreciate Fremont City considering and working on it.
- This questionnaire is not easy to understand.
- TREE MAINTENANCE, WHILE IMPORTANT IS LESS OF A PRIORITY THAN TRAFFIC SAFETY. "RED LIGHT" RUNNING POOR EMPOWERMENT, OF POOR DRIVERS IS MORE IMPORTANT. DRIVE AUTO MALL DRWY & SEE WHAT I READ. RED LIGHTS RUN EVERY DAY!
- Tree roots absorb the river off water and store in roots.
- Tree trimming residential street trees newer happens on my street. Owners have to trim these trees. Owners never planted them.
- TREES ARE ESSENTIAL, PLANT MORE IF POSSIBLE. MAKE SURE RIGHT TYPE ARE PLANTED, PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.
- Trees are growing too high and touch the electric line on sides of community roads such as Carol Ave. They should be trimmed at least once a year.
- Try to replicate the process with which other successful cities used to enrich their urban forest
- USE PRIVATE CORPORATION DONATIONS TO THIS PROGRAM.
- Use the funds available wisely to maintain the existing trees and reduce the damage caused by them to the city and neighborhood streets
- We can take baby steps , incremental changes, if not overnight changes , by planting more trees in city lands

- We have added SO many multiple dwelling units in the last few years. Please make adequate investment in needed forest programs to balance increase in people with foliage to reduce carbon footprint
- We need more creative. The solution isn't just to increase tax or sacrifice other services. Fremont residents pay enough high tax. Can we just use such a high tax income to do a better job?
- When I moved to Fremont almost 20 years ago, the first thing I noticed is the lack of big, tall shady trees. It m felt like a tree desert (and Palm trees don't count.) It would be wonderful to see the city make an investment in our future greenery by adding more trees, maintaining healthier trees and working with residents to resolve tree issues.
- When people are thinking of adding or replacing a tree, have a list of tree that do not destroy the sidewalks due to tree roots, do not invite insect infestation (e.g. aphids that cause tree sap dropping), and hopefully are native plants that do not require watering, and provide information regarding mature tree height, canopy size, trunk size (diameter), pollen emissions, blooming season, flower color (if any), leaf dropping (maintenance / cleanup requirements), frequency for pruning, sunlight requirements, homeowner water requirements (water requirements beyond normal rain fall: total for the year, and also based on season. For a native plant, the water requirement could be 0 gal for a mature tree!), and suggested ideal applications - e.g. small front yard, large front yard, sidewalk planter box (size), distance away from sidewalk or water meter, etc. If you have a brochure or a link to a web site with this information, it allows the homeowner to make an informed decision that they will be happy with, and the city gets a tree that lasts 30-100+ years! Having a picture (could be a photoshop) with a sidewalk planter area and house helps people visualize how it will look at their location. For example, a redwood or pine tree is probably not a good idea for a sidewalk planter area, because the roots will destroy the sidewalk, the tree is too tall, and there are lots of leaves (needles) that fall all year long. Many of us want to do the right thing, but without information, we have no idea if our decision is a good decision or a bad decision. And we don't want to make a bad decision that destroys the sidewalk, creates a tripping hazard, or needs to be taken out in 3-10 years, We want the tree to beautify the street and remain there for a long period of time. In addition, when the city does maintenance (could be contracted out to multiple experienced 3rd party companies through a competitive bidding process - in other words the contracts are awarded simultaneously to several different companies for different parts of the city), the trees look good, are healthy, and are professionally maintained. And by having multiple smaller contracts, it allows small businesses to participate and beautify the city (instead of large landscaping companies), hopefully enabling local (Fremont) businesses to participate. While this may take more effort, it can enable more businesses to thrive, create more jobs, allow family owned businesses to participate, and create competition to make the most of tax payer funds. Most homeowners don't know about tree maintenance, and can hurt the tree, cause disease, or may trim in a manner that is not natural nor promotes healthy growth.
- Who takes care of City trees if not the City? The development in Fremont always involves removing trees. I would like to see more trees in Fremont. More trees in neighborhood parks and along roadways - if possible.
- Why does using the Gas Tax Funds for tree maintenance in city of Fremont will affect other services currently funded by the Gas tax like road repair etc ???Aren't we already paying one of the highest taxes in the country, not to exclude the high property taxes. The City needs to come up with more efficient way to manage the Urban Forest Management program, instead of using surveys like these to "extort" money from its citizens on pretext of Forest Management.
- Wish Fremont has as green as Palo Alto.
- Would how much this will cost.

- You are trying to save water - and you are planting many trees - this is not the way to save water no trees in the parking stop.
- **YOU NEED TO ADDRESS THE HOMELESS PROBLEM FIRST AND FOREMOST**
- You should check the canopy program in Palo Alto, a very successful program.
- You want to reduce water usage and you are planting more trees - no way.

Appendix C: Comparisons of Survey Responses by Respondent Characteristics

For ease of comparison between subgroups, some of the questions show summarized responses for only the proportion of respondents giving a positive answer; for example, the percent of respondents who were very or somewhat satisfied with the natural area they visited.

The subgroup comparison tables contain the cross tabulations of survey questions by selected respondent characteristics. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations.

For each pair of subgroups that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the category with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the category with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Differences were marked as statistically significant if the probability that the differences were due to chance alone were less than 5%. Categories were not used in comparisons when a column proportion was equal to zero or one.

Items that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

For example, in Table 35 on the following page, female survey respondents (A) gave statistically significantly lower importance ratings than male survey respondents (B) for the importance of added natural beauty as a potential benefit of trees. This is denoted by the “A” listed under the importance rating for male respondents.

Comparisons by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

Table 35: Question 1 by Respondent Demographics

Understanding which potential tree benefits are most appreciated by residents can help guide long-term management strategies. Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following are to you. (Percent essential or very important)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Added natural beauty	72%	77%	84%	82%	76%	72%	85% A	63%	86% A	84% A	78%
Impacts on human physical and mental health	87%	88%	85%	99% B	81%	90%	86%	84%	93%	83%	86%
Reduced air pollution/better air quality	96%	97%	90%	96%	94%	95%	96%	100% C	94%	91%	93%
Improved soil/water quality, reduced stormwater runoff	98% B C	78%	84%	89%	85%	88%	88%	84%	91%	89%	86%
Noise reduction	58%	67%	71%	65%	66%	67%	67%	51%	72% A	71% A	65%
Decreased road maintenance costs	36%	61% A	56% A	53%	51%	49%	55%	39%	58% A	55%	52%
Increased property values	37%	44%	57% A	31%	57% A	45%	51%	21%	57% A	58% A	46%
Carbon storage/climate change benefits	83%	82%	85%	89%	80%	85%	84%	78%	86%	86%	82%
Increased wildlife and biodiversity	73%	64%	65%	77% B	62%	68%	66%	59%	69%	72%	66%
Energy savings	67%	79%	73%	72%	74%	75%	72%	64%	79% A	76%	72%
Mitigation of the urban heat island effect/shading	80%	91%	88%	89%	86%	85%	89%	84%	91%	83%	86%

Table 36: Question 2 by Respondent Demographics

Given the recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, how has your and your household's perception of the value of trees along streets and trails and in parks and open spaces changed? (Percent of respondents)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Value has significantly increased	49% B C	28%	32%	46% B	31%	39%	35%	39%	38%	29%	36%
Value has somewhat increased	9%	23% A	19%	14%	19%	17%	16%	4%	25% A	17% A	17%
No change	41%	46%	45%	40%	46%	41%	47%	57% B	35%	49%	44%
Value has somewhat decreased	0%	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%	3%	1%
Value has significantly decreased	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%

Table 37: Question 3 by Respondent Demographics

Do you think the overall health and quality of the City's public trees has improved, stayed the same, or declined in the last 10 years? (Percent of respondents)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Improved	4%	12%	11%	21% B	7%	14%	6%	0%	10%	16%	10%
Stayed the same	55%	48%	39%	31%	50% A	41%	50%	67% B C	40%	35%	46%
Declined	40%	40%	50%	48%	43%	44%	44%	33%	50%	49%	44%

Table 38: Question 4 by Respondent Demographics

How would you rate the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)? (Percent very good or good)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
How would you rate the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)?	40%	40%	29%	52% B	27%	29%	43% A	38%	38%	30%	35%

Table 39: Question 5 by Respondent Demographics

When was the last time you had any tree work done on your street tree? (Street trees are the trees within the right-of-way, usually within 10 feet of the curb either in your front/side yard or in a planting strip near the sidewalk.) (Percent rating work has been done at least once)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
When was the last time you had any tree work done on your street tree? (Street trees are the trees within the right-of-way, usually within 10 feet of the curb either in your front/side yard or in a planting strip near the sidewalk.)	59%	84% A	80% A	83%	73%	73%	79%	68%	81%	79%	75%

Table 40: Question 6 by Respondent Demographics

How familiar, if at all, are you with the City's 50/50 programs available for public tree maintenance or tree removal/replacement? (Percent of respondents)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Never heard of it	72%	75%	68%	81% B	66%	63%	77% A	76%	74%	61%	72%
Have heard of it, never used it	27%	18%	16%	19%	21%	27% B	14%	24%	19%	20%	20%
Familiar with the program, but never used it	1%	5%	9% A	0%	8%	6%	5%	0%	4%	11%	5%
Have used the program	1%	2%	7%	0%	6%	5%	3%	0%	3%	9%	4%

Table 41: Question 7 by Respondent Demographics

What is the most urgent public tree-related need in your neighborhood (includes City-maintained and privately- maintained trees)? (Percent of respondents)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Tree protection from damage or removal	5%	6%	9%	7%	7%	7%	5%	0%	6%	14%	7%
Tree planting - adding more trees	36%	26%	28%	29%	31%	26%	34%	32%	33%	23%	30%
Dealing with hazard trees	9%	21% A	11%	17%	12%	18%	10%	22% B	9%	14%	14%
Tree maintenance, for example pruning for clearance	39%	40%	44%	33%	45%	43%	40%	39%	44%	41%	40%
Education and outreach	0%	0%	6%	0%	4%	3%	2%	0%	1%	4%	2%
Volunteer and community engagement	10%	5%	0%	13%	0%	2%	8%	6%	7%	0%	5%
Other	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	5%	2%

Table 42: Question 8 by Respondent Demographics

(Percent strongly or somewhat support)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
According to Fremont’s Municipal Code, it is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain trees in the public right-of-way, though some areas are maintained by the City. The City often receives notices from the public regarding tree hazards that are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, and the City sends regular courtesy notices over a period of time to the adjacent property owner to fix the tree hazard. If the adjacent property owner does not remove the tree hazard within a set timeframe, how much would you support or oppose the City pruning the public trees that are the highest safety priority and recover the cost of doing so from the adjacent property owner?	83% C	80% C	66%	82%	72%	71%	83% A	79%	77%	76%	76%

Table 43: Question 9 by Respondent Demographics

Currently, 13% of Fremont's land area is covered by tree canopy when viewed from above. In a recent study of 11 Bay Area cities, the average is 20% tree canopy and Fremont has the lowest of the group (13%). With this information, do you support or oppose the City doing each of the following? (Percent support)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Creating a plan with Citywide and neighborhood-level canopy goals and planting targets	87%	98% A	97% A	98% B	91%	91%	98% A	89%	96%	97%	93%
Increasing the percent of the City's land area covered by tree canopy	98%	97%	96%	100%	95%	97%	98%	100%	98%	95%	96%
Implementing more robust tree protection policies for development projects to preserve our existing tree canopy coverage	88%	94%	97% A	96%	92%	90%	97%	89%	95%	96%	93%
Creating canopy goals though the current canopy coverage (13%) is adequate	78% B	60%	72%	72%	70%	74%	70%	85% B	62%	72%	70%

Table 44: Question 11 by Respondent Demographics

Based on its public tree inventory the City completed in 2020, feedback from the previous two surveys, and industry recommendations, the City found that public tree maintenance is a primary concern in Fremont. Improvements in maintenance of public trees would require additional funding. Which ONE of the following statements best represents how you feel an improved public tree maintenance program should be funded? (Percent of respondents)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
A new Citywide park and tree maintenance and beautification fee/tax	11%	23%	18%	16%	18%	17%	16%	3%	18% A	29% A	17%
Sales tax increase to increase General Fund	0%	6%	4%	0%	5%	4%	3%	0%	3%	7%	3%
Use of a portion of the City's share of the existing Gas Tax (a tax collected when someone buys gas) toward urban forest	78% C	69%	63%	84% B	62%	69%	73%	78% C	75% C	55%	69%
I do not support expanding the tree maintenance program	11% B	2%	15% B	0%	15%	10%	9%	19% B	4%	10%	11%

Table 45: Question 12 by Respondent Demographics

A previous survey conducted by the City about urban forests in Fremont indicated strong support of a portion of the existing Gas Tax to being used to fund urban forest management and tree maintenance. Using a portion of the Gas Tax for this purpose would mean that other services (e.g., street repair and traffic improvements) may be reduced. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Percent agree)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
I do not support using Gas Tax funds because adjacent property owners should adequately manage public trees, and maintenance responsibility should not shift to the City	24%	40%	42% A	36%	37%	31%	41%	37%	32%	43%	38%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of all public trees	80% C	73% C	52%	72%	64%	69%	67%	83% B C	64%	57%	66%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to proactively preserve and restore public trees in areas where the City's urban forest canopy is significantly reduced, but NOT take on maintenance of all public trees	78% B C	57%	52%	79% B	54%	58%	67%	56%	71% C	53%	61%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of public trees along primary roadways, not of ALL public trees	79% C	64%	55%	71%	61%	72%	60%	74%	66%	57%	63%

Table 46: Question 13 by Respondent Demographics

Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following potential actions are for the City to take to improve the urban forest. (Percent essential or very important)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	18-34	35-54	55+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Expand the 50/50 Street Tree Program to provide more assistance to the public when it comes to tree pruning, removal, and replacement	56%	48%	64%	43%	65% A	65%	52%	46%	56%	71% A	57%
Expand the Tree Preservation Ordinance (No. 2481) through proactive measures (e.g., development, planning, preservation, monitoring, mitigation) for the protection of trees	69% C	55%	44%	63%	50%	53%	58%	48%	62%	51%	54%
Expand Tree Preservation Ordinance regulation beyond trees in the forward-facing location of properties by including trees in backyards and sides of private property	34%	20%	22%	26%	25%	23%	27%	30%	23%	24%	25%
Expand the Landmark Trees Program that recognizes their contribution to the City's heritage by including nominations for private trees designated by the City	49% B C	30%	30%	41%	33%	36%	38%	36%	38%	34%	36%
Conduct more volunteer events and programs such as community tree plantings and tree stewardship trainings	58%	68% C	50%	59%	58%	55%	61%	41%	73% A C	54%	57%
Establish a Tree Advisory Committee with the City for advocating urban forestry, related programs, and the Tree Preservation Ordinance	53% B C	28%	33%	44%	35%	42%	37%	41%	35%	43%	38%
Consolidate tree related City programs into one City division for urban forest management, all tree maintenance, and community engagement	72% C	72% C	56%	74%	60%	55%	74% A	69%	61%	69%	64%
Establish tree canopy goals and planting targets to address priorities like climate change impacts, air quality, and an equitable distribution of urban forest benefits	79%	81%	72%	89% B	70%	77%	78%	77%	81%	73%	77%

Comparisons by District

Table 47: Geographic Areas

District	Number of Completed Surveys
District 1	30
District 2	44
District 3	37
District 4	57
District 5	45
District 6	32

Table 48: Question 1 by Respondent District

Understanding which potential tree benefits are most appreciated by residents can help guide long-term management strategies. Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following are to you. (Percent essential or very important)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
Added natural beauty	62%	75%	65%	90% A C	87% A C	85% A C	78%
Impacts on human physical and mental health	68%	93% A	91% A	89% A	83%	94% A	86%
Reduced air pollution/better air quality	96% B	79%	98% B	97% B	91% B	99% B	93%
Improved soil/water quality, reduced stormwater runoff	84%	88%	78%	84%	86%	96% C	86%
Noise reduction	68%	67%	59%	51%	77% D	67%	65%
Decreased road maintenance costs	36%	51%	72% A D F	48%	63% A F	34%	52%
Increased property values	49%	44%	49%	40%	58% F	36%	46%
Carbon storage/climate change benefits	66%	82%	83% A	90% A	88% A	81%	82%
Increased wildlife and biodiversity	52%	67%	66%	79% A E	49%	84% A E	66%
Energy savings	80%	64%	77%	81%	71%	63%	72%
Mitigation of the urban heat island effect/shading	79%	79%	82%	92%	91%	90%	86%

Table 49: Question 2 by Respondent District

Given the recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, how has your and your household's perception of the value of trees along streets and trails and in parks and open spaces changed? (Percent of respondents)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
Value has significantly increased	26%	42%	30%	37%	38%	44%	36%
Value has somewhat increased	5%	20%	20%	14%	22% A	19%	17%
No change	69% B D E F	36%	48%	45%	36%	34%	44%
Value has somewhat decreased	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	3%	1%
Value has significantly decreased	0%	2%	2%	4%	0%	0%	1%

Table 50: Question 3 by Respondent District

Do you think the overall health and quality of the City's public trees has improved, stayed the same, or declined in the last 10 years? (Percent of respondents)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
Improved	4%	0%	16%	10%	10%	20% A	10%
Stayed the same	58% C F	65% C F	27%	48% F	54% C F	21%	46%
Declined	39%	35%	58%	43%	36%	59%	44%

Table 51: Question 4 by Respondent District

How would you rate the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)? (Percent very good or good)	District						Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	
How would you rate the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)?	21%	30%	28%	55% A B C	36%	40%	35%

Table 52: Question 5 by Respondent District

When was the last time you had any tree work done on your street tree? (Street trees are the trees within the right-of-way, usually within 10 feet of the curb either in your front/side yard or in a planting strip near the sidewalk.) (Percent rating work has been done at least once)	District						Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	
When was the last time you had any tree work done on your street tree? (Street trees are the trees within the right-of-way, usually within 10 feet of the curb either in your front/side yard or in a planting strip near the sidewalk.)	76% B	49%	79% B	77% B	84% B	77% B	75%

Table 53: Question 6 by Respondent District

How familiar, if at all, are you with the City's 50/50 programs available for public tree maintenance or tree removal/replacement? (Percent of respondents)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
Never heard of it	61%	89% A E F	83% A E	80% E	54%	64%	72%
Have heard of it, never used it	29% B C D	10%	7%	11%	29% B C D	34% B C D	20%
Familiar with the program, but never used it	3%	1%	6%	5%	12%	1%	5%
Have used the program	7%	0%	4%	4%	5%	1%	4%

Table 54: Question 7 by Respondent District

What is the most urgent public tree-related need in your neighborhood (includes City-maintained and privately- maintained trees)? (Percent of respondents)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
Tree protection from damage or removal	8%	12% F	6%	12%	5%	1%	7%
Tree planting - adding more trees	10%	37% A	25%	25%	26%	58% A C D E	30%
Dealing with hazard trees	9%	0%	21%	28% A F	11%	9%	14%
Tree maintenance, for example pruning for clearance	67% B D E F	42% D	48% D	15%	45% D	27%	40%
Education and outreach	3%	1%	0%	4%	4%	1%	2%
Volunteer and community engagement	0%	3%	0%	15%	9%	0%	5%
Other	3%	5%	0%	2%	0%	4%	2%

Table 55: Question 8 by Respondent District

(Percent strongly or somewhat support)	District						Overall
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	
According to Fremont’s Municipal Code, it is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain trees in the public right-of-way, though some areas are maintained by the City. The City often receives notices from the public regarding tree hazards that are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, and the City sends regular courtesy notices over a period of time to the adjacent property owner to fix the tree hazard. If the adjacent property owner does not remove the tree hazard within a set timeframe, how much would you support or oppose the City pruning the public trees that are the highest safety priority and recover the cost of doing so from the adjacent property owner?	70%	85%	78%	80%	73%	66%	76%

Table 56: Question 9 by Respondent District

Currently, 13% of Fremont's land area is covered by tree canopy when viewed from above. In a recent study of 11 Bay Area cities, the average is 20% tree canopy and Fremont has the lowest of the group (13%). With this information, do you support or oppose the City doing each of the following? (Percent support)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
Creating a plan with Citywide and neighborhood-level canopy goals and planting targets	77%	92% A	97% A	96% A	98% A	96% A	93%
Increasing the percent of the City's land area covered by tree canopy	100%	92%	100%	95%	96%	97%	96%
Implementing more robust tree protection policies for development projects to preserve our existing tree canopy coverage	76%	94% A	100% A F	98% A F	97% A F	85%	93%
Creating canopy goals though the current canopy coverage (13%) is adequate	86% B D	59%	76%	59%	71%	64%	70%

Table 57: Question 11 by Respondent District

Based on its public tree inventory the City completed in 2020, feedback from the previous two surveys, and industry recommendations, the City found that public tree maintenance is a primary concern in Fremont. Improvements in maintenance of public trees would require additional funding. Which ONE of the following statements best represents how you feel an improved public tree maintenance program should be funded? (Percent of respondents)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
A new Citywide park and tree maintenance and beautification fee/tax	10%	12%	24%	27%	16%	13%	17%
Sales tax increase to increase General Fund	2%	0%	14%	3%	3%	0%	3%
Use of a portion of the City's share of the existing Gas Tax (a tax collected when someone buys gas) toward urban forest	67%	75%	60%	69%	60%	83% C E	69%
I do not support expanding the tree maintenance program	21% C D F	12%	2%	2%	22% C D F	4%	11%

Table 58: Question 12 by Respondent District

A previous survey conducted by the City about urban forests in Fremont indicated strong support of a portion of the existing Gas Tax to being used to fund urban forest management and tree maintenance. Using a portion of the Gas Tax for this purpose would mean that other services (e.g., street repair and traffic improvements) may be reduced. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Percent agree)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
I do not support using Gas Tax funds because adjacent property owners should adequately manage public trees, and maintenance responsibility should not shift to the City	16%	46% A F	52% A F	42% A F	51% A F	9%	38%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of all public trees	77% E	67%	66%	61%	54%	74%	66%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to proactively preserve and restore public trees in areas where the City’s urban forest canopy is significantly reduced, but NOT take on maintenance of all public trees	53%	79% E	70% E	71% E	44%	51%	61%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of public trees along primary roadways, not of ALL public trees	82% C D E	74% C E	48%	56%	50%	67%	63%

Table 59: Question 13 by Respondent District

Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following potential actions are for the City to take to improve the urban forest. (Percent essential or very important)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)
Expand the 50/50 Street Tree Program to provide more assistance to the public when it comes to tree pruning, removal, and replacement	71% F	50%	65% F	54%	62%	38%	57%
Expand the Tree Preservation Ordinance (No. 2481) through proactive measures (e.g., development, planning, preservation, monitoring, mitigation) for the protection of trees	46%	56%	51%	64%	50%	57%	54%
Expand Tree Preservation Ordinance regulation beyond trees in the forward-facing location of properties by including trees in backyards and sides of private property	23%	32%	28%	22%	28%	16%	25%
Expand the Landmark Trees Program that recognizes their contribution to the City's heritage by including nominations for private trees designated by the City	45% F	49% F	55% D E F	29%	29%	13%	36%
Conduct more volunteer events and programs such as community tree plantings and tree stewardship trainings	48%	75% A F	54%	58%	65%	43%	57%
Establish a Tree Advisory Committee with the City for advocating urban forestry, related programs, and the Tree Preservation Ordinance	30%	37%	45%	38%	35%	42%	38%
Consolidate tree related City programs into one City division for urban forest management, all tree maintenance, and community engagement	63%	45%	70% B	70% B	63%	69%	64%
Establish tree canopy goals and planting targets to address priorities like climate change impacts, air quality, and an equitable distribution of urban forest benefits	66%	81%	92% A E	82%	67%	73%	77%

Appendix D: Complete Set of Responses to Open Participation (Opt-in) Survey

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the open participation or opt-in survey, which anyone could complete online. About 421 responses were received. For some of the questions, two tables are provided, one that includes the “don’t know/unsure” responses and one that excludes the “don’t know/unsure” responses.

Table 60: Question 1 without "don't know" responses

Understanding which potential tree benefits are most appreciated by residents can help guide long-term management strategies. Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following are to you.	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential	Total
Added natural beauty	2%	14%	46%	37%	100%
Impacts on human physical and mental health	2%	12%	34%	52%	100%
Reduced air pollution/better air quality	0%	5%	25%	69%	100%
Improved soil/water quality, reduced stormwater runoff	1%	14%	33%	52%	100%
Noise reduction	8%	40%	30%	22%	100%
Decreased road maintenance costs	11%	47%	29%	13%	100%
Increased property values	21%	31%	32%	16%	100%
Carbon storage/climate change benefits	3%	9%	24%	64%	100%
Increased wildlife and biodiversity	3%	13%	31%	53%	100%
Energy savings	6%	22%	42%	31%	100%
Mitigation of the urban heat island effect/shading	1%	9%	35%	55%	100%

Table 61: Question 1 with "don't know" responses

Understanding which potential tree benefits are most appreciated by residents can help guide long-term management strategies. Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following are to you.	Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important		Essential		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Added natural beauty	2%	N=9	14%	N=57	46%	N=185	37%	N=149	0%	N=1	100%	N=401
Impacts on human physical and mental health	2%	N=8	12%	N=49	34%	N=140	52%	N=216	1%	N=3	100%	N=417
Reduced air pollution/better air quality	0%	N=2	5%	N=22	25%	N=101	69%	N=285	0%	N=2	100%	N=412
Improved soil/water quality, reduced stormwater runoff	1%	N=3	14%	N=58	33%	N=138	52%	N=214	0%	N=2	100%	N=415
Noise reduction	7%	N=30	39%	N=161	30%	N=122	22%	N=91	2%	N=8	100%	N=411
Decreased road maintenance costs	9%	N=39	42%	N=175	26%	N=108	12%	N=49	11%	N=44	100%	N=416
Increased property values	21%	N=87	31%	N=128	32%	N=133	16%	N=66	1%	N=5	100%	N=419
Carbon storage/climate change benefits	3%	N=14	8%	N=35	24%	N=101	63%	N=262	1%	N=4	100%	N=417
Increased wildlife and biodiversity	3%	N=13	12%	N=51	30%	N=126	52%	N=218	2%	N=9	100%	N=418
Energy savings	6%	N=25	21%	N=89	40%	N=169	30%	N=124	3%	N=11	100%	N=418
Mitigation of the urban heat island effect/shading	1%	N=5	9%	N=37	33%	N=140	52%	N=220	4%	N=17	100%	N=419

Table 62: Question 2

Given the recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, how has your and your household's perception of the value of trees along streets and trails and in parks and open spaces changed?	Percent	Number
Value has significantly increased	47%	N=197
Value has somewhat increased	19%	N=80
No change	32%	N=135
Value has somewhat decreased	1%	N=3
Value has significantly decreased	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=418

Table 63: Question 3 without "unsure" responses

Do you think the overall health and quality of the City's public trees has improved, stayed the same, or declined in the last 10 years?	Percent	Number
Improved	16%	N=55
Stayed the same	38%	N=133
Declined	46%	N=159
Total	100%	N=347

Table 64: Question 3 with "unsure" responses

Do you think the overall health and quality of the City's public trees has improved, stayed the same, or declined in the last 10 years?	Percent	Number
Improved	13%	N=55
Stayed the same	32%	N=133
Declined	38%	N=159
Unsure/I've lived in Fremont less than 5 years	17%	N=73
Total	100%	N=420

Table 65: Question 4 without "unsure" responses

How would you rate the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)?	Percent	Number
Very good	6%	N=25
Good	31%	N=130
Fair	39%	N=162
Poor	19%	N=79
Very poor	6%	N=24
Total	100%	N=421

Table 66: Question 4 with "unsure" responses

How would you rate the overall care and management of the public trees in Fremont (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)?	Percent	Number
Very good	6%	N=25
Good	31%	N=130
Fair	39%	N=162
Poor	19%	N=79
Very poor	6%	N=24
Unsure	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=421

Table 67: Question 5 without "I have no street tree" responses

When was the last time you had any tree work done on your street tree? (Street trees are the trees within the right-of- way, usually within 10 feet of the curb either in your front/side yard or in a planting strip near the sidewalk.)	Percent	Number
0 to 12 months	34%	N=103
13-24 months	17%	N=53
25-36 months	6%	N=20
More than 36 months	22%	N=69
Never	21%	N=64
Total	100%	N=308

Table 68: Question 5 with "I have no street tree" responses

When was the last time you had any tree work done on your street tree? (Street trees are the trees within the right-of- way, usually within 10 feet of the curb either in your front/side yard or in a planting strip near the sidewalk.)	Percent	Number
0 to 12 months	25%	N=103
13-24 months	13%	N=53
25-36 months	5%	N=20
More than 36 months	16%	N=69
Never	15%	N=64
I have no street tree	26%	N=111
Total	100%	N=419

Table 69: Question 6

How familiar, if at all, are you with the City's 50/50 programs available for public tree maintenance or tree removal/replacement?	Percent	Number
Never heard of it	55%	N=232
Have heard of it, never used it	25%	N=103
Familiar with the program, but never used it	13%	N=53
Have used the program	7%	N=31
Total	100%	N=420

Table 70: Question 7

What is the most urgent public tree-related need in your neighborhood (includes City-maintained and privately-maintained trees)? (Please select only ONE response.)	Percent	Number
Tree protection from damage or removal	16%	N=68
Tree planting - adding more trees	43%	N=181
Dealing with hazard trees	8%	N=32
Tree maintenance, for example pruning for clearance	27%	N=111
Education and outreach	3%	N=13
Volunteer and community engagement	1%	N=5
Other	2%	N=8
Total	100%	N=419

Table 71: Question 8 without "don't know" responses

According to Fremont's Municipal Code, it is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain trees in the public right-of-way, though some areas are maintained by the City. The City often receives notices from the public regarding tree hazards that are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, and the City sends regular courtesy notices over a period of time to the adjacent property owner to fix the tree hazard. If the adjacent property owner does not remove the tree hazard within a set timeframe, how much would you support or oppose the City pruning the public trees that are the highest safety priority and recover the cost of doing so from the adjacent property owner?	Percent	Number
Strongly support	47%	N=182
Somewhat support	35%	N=138
Somewhat oppose	11%	N=41
Strongly oppose	8%	N=30
Total	100%	N=392

Table 72: Question 8 with "don't know" responses

According to Fremont’s Municipal Code, it is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain trees in the public right-of-way, though some areas are maintained by the City. The City often receives notices from the public regarding tree hazards that are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, and the City sends regular courtesy notices over a period of time to the adjacent property owner to fix the tree hazard. If the adjacent property owner does not remove the tree hazard within a set timeframe, how much would you support or oppose the City pruning the public trees that are the highest safety priority and recover the cost of doing so from the adjacent property owner?	Percent	Number
Strongly support	44%	N=182
Somewhat support	33%	N=138
Somewhat oppose	10%	N=41
Strongly oppose	7%	N=30
Don't know	6%	N=26
Total	100%	N=418

Table 73: Question 9 without "don't know" responses

Currently, 13% of Fremont's land area is covered by tree canopy when viewed from above. In a recent study of 11 Bay Area cities, the average is 20% tree canopy and Fremont has the lowest of the group (13%). With this information, do you support or oppose the City doing each of the following?	Support	Oppose	Total
Creating a plan with Citywide and neighborhood-level canopy goals and planting targets	96%	4%	100%
Increasing the percent of the City's land area covered by tree canopy	97%	3%	100%
Implementing more robust tree protection policies for development projects to preserve our existing tree canopy coverage	94%	6%	100%
Creating canopy goals though the current canopy coverage (13%) is adequate	59%	41%	100%

Table 74: Question 9 with "don't know" responses

Currently, 13% of Fremont's land area is covered by tree canopy when viewed from above. In a recent study of 11 Bay Area cities, the average is 20% tree canopy and Fremont has the lowest of the group (13%). With this information, do you support or oppose the City doing each of the following?	Support		Oppose		Don't know/need more information		Total	
Creating a plan with Citywide and neighborhood-level canopy goals and planting targets	88%	N=368	4%	N=16	8%	N=35	100%	N=420
Increasing the percent of the City's land area covered by tree canopy	93%	N=390	3%	N=13	4%	N=16	100%	N=420
Implementing more robust tree protection policies for development projects to preserve our existing tree canopy coverage	81%	N=339	6%	N=23	13%	N=56	100%	N=418
Creating canopy goals though the current canopy coverage (13%) is adequate	37%	N=154	26%	N=108	37%	N=151	100%	N=414

Table 75: Question 10

If you had an additional \$100 to direct towards the urban forest, how would you allocate the funds among the types of services listed below? (Please use whole numbers and be sure your total adds up to \$100.)	Average dollar amount allocated
Removal and replacement of trees that are dead, dying, or of an undesirable species	\$23
Planting more trees	\$41
Permitting/enforcement of Tree Protection Ordinances	\$12
Street tree maintenance	\$25
Total	\$100

Table 76: Question 11 without "I am unsure" responses

Based on its public tree inventory the City completed in 2020, feedback from the previous two surveys, and industry recommendations, the City found that public tree maintenance is a primary concern in Fremont. Improvements in maintenance of public trees would require additional funding. Which ONE of the following statements best represents how you feel an improved public tree maintenance program should be funded?	Percent	Number
A new Citywide park and tree maintenance and beautification fee/tax	31%	N=115
Sales tax increase to increase General Fund	3%	N=13
Use of a portion of the City's share of the existing Gas Tax (a tax collected when someone buys gas) toward urban forest	60%	N=224
I do not support expanding the tree maintenance program	6%	N=21
Total	100%	N=372

Table 77: Question 11 with "I am unsure" responses

Based on its public tree inventory the City completed in 2020, feedback from the previous two surveys, and industry recommendations, the City found that public tree maintenance is a primary concern in Fremont. Improvements in maintenance of public trees would require additional funding. Which ONE of the following statements best represents how you feel an improved public tree maintenance program should be funded?	Percent	Number
A new Citywide park and tree maintenance and beautification fee/tax	28%	N=115
Sales tax increase to increase General Fund	3%	N=13
Use of a portion of the City's share of the existing Gas Tax (a tax collected when someone buys gas) toward urban forest	54%	N=224
I do not support expanding the tree maintenance program	5%	N=21
I am unsure	11%	N=44
Total	100%	N=416

Table 78: Question 12 without "unsure" responses

A previous survey conducted by the City about urban forests in Fremont indicated strong support of a portion of the existing Gas Tax to being used to fund urban forest management and tree maintenance. Using a portion of the Gas Tax for this purpose would mean that other services (e.g., street repair and traffic improvements) may be reduced. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?	Agree	Disagree	Total
I do not support using Gas Tax funds because adjacent property owners should adequately manage public trees, and maintenance responsibility should not shift to the City	28%	72%	100%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of all public trees	69%	31%	100%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to proactively preserve and restore public trees in areas where the City's urban forest canopy is significantly reduced, but NOT take on maintenance of all public trees	58%	42%	100%
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of public trees along primary roadways, not of ALL public trees	56%	44%	100%

Table 79: Question 12 with "unsure" responses

A previous survey conducted by the City about urban forests in Fremont indicated strong support of a portion of the existing Gas Tax to being used to fund urban forest management and tree maintenance. Using a portion of the Gas Tax for this purpose would mean that other services (e.g., street repair and traffic improvements) may be reduced. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?	Agree		Disagree		Unsure		Total	
I do not support using Gas Tax funds because adjacent property owners should adequately manage public trees, and maintenance responsibility should not shift to the City	22%	N=87	57%	N=221	21%	N=83	100%	N=391
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of all public trees	56%	N=225	26%	N=103	18%	N=71	100%	N=398
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to proactively preserve and restore public trees in areas where the City's urban forest canopy is significantly reduced, but NOT take on maintenance of all public trees	48%	N=192	35%	N=140	16%	N=64	100%	N=396
I support using Gas Tax funds for the City to take on maintenance of public trees along primary roadways, not of ALL public trees	46%	N=184	37%	N=147	16%	N=65	100%	N=396

Table 80: Question 13 without "don't know" responses

Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following potential actions are for the City to take to improve the urban forest.	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential	Total
Expand the 50/50 Street Tree Program to provide more assistance to the public when it comes to tree pruning, removal, and replacement	8%	32%	41%	19%	100%
Expand the Tree Preservation Ordinance (No. 2481) through proactive measures (e.g., development, planning, preservation, monitoring, mitigation) for the protection of trees	6%	33%	43%	18%	100%
Expand Tree Preservation Ordinance regulation beyond trees in the forward-facing location of properties by including trees in backyards and sides of private property	38%	30%	21%	10%	100%
Expand the Landmark Trees Program that recognizes their contribution to the City's heritage by including nominations for private trees designated by the City	31%	31%	21%	17%	100%
Conduct more volunteer events and programs such as community tree plantings and tree stewardship trainings	7%	24%	43%	26%	100%
Establish a Tree Advisory Committee with the City for advocating urban forestry, related programs, and the Tree Preservation Ordinance	17%	35%	27%	21%	100%
Consolidate tree related City programs into one City division for urban forest management, all tree maintenance, and community engagement	6%	23%	42%	28%	100%
Establish tree canopy goals and planting targets to address priorities like climate change impacts, air quality, and an equitable distribution of urban forest benefits	6%	10%	32%	52%	100%

Table 81: Question 13 with "don't know" responses

Please rate how important, if at all, each of the following potential actions are for the City to take to improve the urban forest.	Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important		Essential		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Expand the 50/50 Street Tree Program to provide more assistance to the public when it comes to tree pruning, removal, and replacement	6%	N=26	26%	N=105	34%	N=137	16%	N=63	18%	N=73	100%	N=404
Expand the Tree Preservation Ordinance (No. 2481) through proactive measures (e.g., development, planning, preservation, monitoring, mitigation) for the protection of trees	5%	N=20	29%	N=117	38%	N=152	16%	N=64	12%	N=49	100%	N=402
Expand Tree Preservation Ordinance regulation beyond trees in the forward-facing location of properties by including trees in backyards and sides of private property	34%	N=137	28%	N=110	19%	N=77	9%	N=38	10%	N=38	100%	N=399
Expand the Landmark Trees Program that recognizes their contribution to the City's heritage by including nominations for private trees designated by the City	26%	N=104	26%	N=106	18%	N=72	15%	N=59	15%	N=60	100%	N=401
Conduct more volunteer events and programs such as community tree plantings and tree stewardship trainings	6%	N=26	23%	N=93	41%	N=164	25%	N=99	5%	N=18	100%	N=401
Establish a Tree Advisory Committee with the City for advocating urban forestry, related programs, and the Tree Preservation Ordinance	15%	N=61	31%	N=126	24%	N=97	19%	N=75	11%	N=43	100%	N=401
Consolidate tree related City programs into one City division for urban forest management, all tree maintenance, and community engagement	5%	N=20	20%	N=79	36%	N=143	24%	N=96	15%	N=60	100%	N=397
Establish tree canopy goals and planting targets to address priorities like climate change impacts, air quality, and an equitable distribution of urban forest benefits	5%	N=22	10%	N=41	31%	N=124	51%	N=206	2%	N=10	100%	N=402

Table 82: Question 15 without "not applicable" responses

How many years have you lived in Fremont?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	2%	N=8
2–5 years	19%	N=77
6–10 years	10%	N=40
11–20 years	19%	N=77
More than 20 years	51%	N=208
Total	100%	N=410

Table 83: Question 15 with "not applicable" responses

How many years have you lived in Fremont?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	2%	N=8
2–5 years	18%	N=77
6–10 years	9%	N=40
11–20 years	18%	N=77
More than 20 years	50%	N=208
Not applicable	2%	N=9
Total	100%	N=418

Table 84: Question 16

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	65%	N=271
Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment, or condominium)	30%	N=127
Mobile home	0%	N=1
Other	4%	N=18
Total	100%	N=416

Table 85: Question 17

Do you rent or own your home?	Percent	Number
Rent	27%	N=114
Own	73%	N=300
Total	100%	N=414

Table 86: Question 18

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance, and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent	Number
Less than \$500	3%	N=10
\$500 to \$999	5%	N=21
\$1,000 to \$1,499	9%	N=33
\$1,500 to \$1,999	5%	N=20
\$2,000 to \$2,499	14%	N=53
\$2,500 to \$2,999	19%	N=73
\$3,000 to \$3,499	15%	N=58
\$3,500 or more	30%	N=117
Total	100%	N=386

Table 87: Question 19

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	47%	N=194
Yes	53%	N=215
Total	100%	N=408

Table 88: Question 20

Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent	Number
No	75%	N=302
Yes	25%	N=100
Total	100%	N=402

Table 89: Question 21

How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent	Number
Less than \$25,000	4%	N=14
\$25,000 to \$49,999	4%	N=13
\$50,000 to \$74,999	5%	N=17
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14%	N=50
\$100,000 to \$149,999	18%	N=64
\$150,000 to \$199,999	14%	N=52
\$200,000 to \$249,999	13%	N=47
\$250,000 to \$299,999	7%	N=24
\$300,000 or more	21%	N=77
Total	100%	N=357

Table 90: Question 22

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	91%	N=358
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	9%	N=34
Total	100%	N=392

Table 91: Question 23

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	N=1
Asian, Asian Indian, or Pacific Islander	45%	N=174
Black or African American	2%	N=10
White	36%	N=139
Other	16%	N=62

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 92: Question 24

In which category is your age?	Percent	Number
18-24 years	3%	N=11
25-34 years	17%	N=67
35-44 years	24%	N=95
45-54 years	26%	N=104
55-64 years	15%	N=59
65-74 years	13%	N=51
75 years or older	4%	N=14
Total	100%	N=402

Table 93: Question 25

What is your gender?	Percent	Number
Female	53%	N=211
Male	46%	N=182
Identify in another way	1%	N=6
Total	100%	N=399

Appendix E: Survey Methodology

Developing the Questionnaire

The City of Fremont and PlanIT Geo sought to measure community perceptions related to Fremont's urban forest; ranging from perceived benefits and value of trees in the community, the health and quality of public trees and the overall care and management including the City's role in care and management. The City of Fremont and PlanIT Geo also sought to understand resident's funding preferences for improvements in maintenance of public trees and the urban forest. Development of a three-page questionnaire was undertaken by the agency's staff members, with input from survey scientists at National Research Center at Polco. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in *Appendix F: Survey Materials*.

This research was funded by a grant the City received from the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program. Please contact City of Fremont Urban Forester Kit Jory at ufmp@fremont.gov if you have any questions about the survey.

Selecting Survey Recipients

"Sampling" refers to the method by which households were chosen to receive the survey. All households within the City of Fremont were eligible to participate in the survey. A list of all households within the zip codes serving Fremont was purchased from Go-Dog Direct based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service. Since some of the zip codes that serve the City of Fremont households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the community, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to community boundaries using the most current municipal boundary file (updated on a quarterly basis) and addresses located outside of the City of Fremont boundaries were removed from consideration. Each address identified as being within City boundaries was further identified as being within one of the six Districts.

To choose the 2,000 survey recipients, a systematic sampling method was applied to the list of households previously screened for geographic location. Systematic sampling is a procedure whereby a complete list of all possible households is culled, selecting every Nth one, giving each eligible household a known probability of selection, until the appropriate number of households is selected. Multi-family housing units were selected at a higher rate as residents of this type of housing typically respond at lower rates to surveys than do those in single-family housing units. In general, because of the random sampling techniques used, the sampling density will closely mirror the overall housing unit density (which may be different from the population density). While the theory of probability assumes no bias in selection, there may be some minor variations in practice (meaning, an area with only 15% of the housing units might be selected at an actual rate that is slightly above or below that).

An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the "person whose birthday has most recently passed" to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys. This instruction was contained in the cover letter accompanying the questionnaire.

In addition to the scientific, random selection of households, a link to an online "opt-in" survey was publicized and posted to the City of Fremont's website. This opt-in survey was identical to the scientific survey and open to all City residents. (These data can be found in *Appendix D: Complete Set of Responses to Open Participation (Opt-in) Survey*.)

Administering the Survey

Selected households received mailings beginning on September 16, 2021. For 1,400 households, the first mailing was a postcard announcing the upcoming survey with a link to complete the survey online. The next mailing contained a letter from the Mayor inviting the household to participate, a questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from turning in another survey. For 600 households, the first mailing was a postcard with a link to complete the survey online, followed one week later by a reminder postcard with a link to the survey. The second postcard also asked respondents not to complete the survey a second time.

The survey was available in English. All mailings included a URL through which the residents could choose to respond online. Completed surveys were collected over six weeks. The online “opt-in” survey became available to all residents on October 14, 2021 and remained open for two weeks.

About 2% of the 2,000 surveys mailed were returned because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 1,965 households that received the survey, 245 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 12%. Of the 245 completed surveys, 154 were completed online. The response rate was calculated using AAPOR’s response rate #2¹ for mailed surveys of unnamed persons. Additionally, 421 opt-in residents completed the online opt-in survey.

Table 94: Survey Response Rate

	Overall
Total sample used	2,000
I=Complete Interviews	245
P=Partial Interviews	0
R=Refusal and break off	0
NC=Non Contact	0
O=Other	0
UH=Unknown household	0
UO=Unknown other	1,720
NE=Not eligible	35
Response rate: $(I+P)/(I+P) + (R+NC+O) + (UH+UO)$	12%

Confidence Intervals

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a “level of confidence” and accompanying “confidence interval” (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents’ opinions are relied on to estimate all residents’ opinions.²

¹ See AAPOR’s Standard Definitions for more information:

[http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Standard-Definitions-\(1\).aspx](http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Standard-Definitions-(1).aspx)

² A 95% confidence interval indicates that for every 100 random samples of this many residents, 95 of the confidence intervals created will include the “true” population response. This theory is applied in practice to mean that the “true” perspective of the target population lies within the confidence interval created for a single survey. For example, if 75% of

The margin of error for the City of Fremont survey is no greater than plus or minus six percentage points around any given percent reported for all respondents (245 completed surveys).

For subgroups of responses, the margin of error increases because the number of respondents for the subgroup is smaller.

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Mailed surveys were returned to NRC directly via postage-paid business reply envelopes. Once received, staff assigned a unique identification number to each questionnaire. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; staff would choose randomly two of the three selected items to be coded in the dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

NRC used Polco, our web-based civic engagement platform, to collect the online survey data. Use of an online system means all collected data are entered into the dataset when the respondents submit the surveys. Skip patterns or logic are programmed into the system so respondents are automatically “skipped” to the appropriate question based on the individual responses being given. Online programming also allows for more rigid control of the data format, making extensive data cleaning unnecessary.

A series of quality control checks were also performed in order to ensure the integrity of the web data. Steps may include and not be limited to reviewing the data for clusters of repeat IP addresses and time stamps (indicating duplicate responses) and reviewing response patterns to look for potential duplicate submissions. The online survey data were downloaded, cleaned as necessary and appended to the mail survey data to create a final, complete dataset.

Weighting the Data

The demographic characteristics of the survey respondents to both the random selection survey and the open participation (opt-in) survey were compared to those found in the 2017 American Community Survey or 2010 Census. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community. The variables used for weighting both respondent groups (random selection and opt-in) were housing tenure (rent or own), housing unit type, race and ethnicity, gender, age and District. No adjustments were made for design effects. The results of the weighting schemes for the random selection and opt-in surveys are presented in the tables on the following pages.

Results for the open participation (opt-in) survey have been provided in *Appendix D: Complete Set of Responses to Open Participation (Opt-in) Survey*.

Residents rate a service as “excellent” or “good,” then the 4% margin of error (for the 95% confidence interval) indicates that the range of likely responses for the entire community is between 71% and 79%. This source of uncertainty is called sampling error. In addition to sampling error, other sources of error may affect any survey, including the non-response of residents with opinions different from survey responders. Though standardized on The NCS, on other surveys, differences in question wording, order, translation and data entry, as examples, can lead to somewhat varying results.

Table 95: Fremont Random Selection Survey Weighting Table

Characteristic	Population Norm ¹	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
Housing			
Rent home	37%	17%	35%
Own home	63%	83%	65%
Detached unit ²	60%	73%	61%
Attached unit ²	40%	27%	39%
Race and Ethnicity			
White	36%	38%	32%
Not white	64%	62%	68%
Not Hispanic/Latinx	86%	93%	90%
Hispanic/Latinx	14%	7%	10%
Sex and Age			
Female	51%	41%	51%
Male	49%	59%	49%
18–34 years	29%	7%	27%
35–54 years	43%	37%	44%
55+ years or older	28%	56%	29%
Females 18–34 years	15%	3%	14%
Females 35–54 years	21%	13%	21%
Females 55+ years or older	15%	24%	16%
Males 18–34 years	15%	4%	14%
Males 35–54 years	22%	23%	22%
Males 55+ years or older	13%	32%	13%
Area³			
District 1	16%	12%	15%
District 2	15%	18%	16%
District 3	16%	15%	17%
District 4	18%	23%	18%
District 5	18%	18%	19%
District 6	17%	13%	15%

¹ 2010 Census

² American Community Survey 2017 5-year estimates

³ Proportion of addresses in USPS list

Table 96: Fremont Opt-in Web Survey Weighting Table

Characteristic	Population Norm ¹	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
Housing			
Rent home	37%	8%	27%
Own home	63%	92%	73%
Detached unit ²	60%	86%	65%
Attached unit ²	40%	14%	35%
Race and Ethnicity			
White	36%	53%	36%
Not white	64%	47%	64%
Not Hispanic/Latinx	86%	93%	91%
Hispanic/Latinx	14%	7%	9%
Sex and Age			
Female	51%	58%	54%
Male	49%	42%	46%
18–34 years	29%	4%	20%
35–54 years	43%	52%	50%
55+ years or older	28%	43%	31%
Females 18–34 years	15%	3%	14%
Females 35–54 years	21%	30%	24%
Females 55+ years or older	15%	25%	16%
Males 18–34 years	15%	2%	6%
Males 35–54 years	22%	23%	25%
Males 55+ years or older	13%	18%	14%
Area³			
District 1	16%	14%	18%
District 2	15%	21%	15%
District 3	16%	16%	17%
District 4	18%	23%	18%
District 5	18%	11%	15%
District 6	17%	14%	18%

¹ 2010 Census

² American Community Survey 2017 5-year estimates

³ Proportion of addresses in USPS list

Survey Data Analysis and Reporting

The electronic dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the most part, frequency distributions and percent positive (e.g., strongly or somewhat support, essential or very important) are presented in the report. A complete set of frequencies for each survey question is presented in *Appendix A: Responses to Survey Questions*. Also included are results by respondent characteristics (*Appendix C: Comparisons of Survey Responses by Respondent Characteristics*). Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of selected survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the survey respondents represent “real” differences among those populations.

Appendix F: Survey Materials

A copy of the survey materials appears on the following pages.