



Office of the City Manager

Date: February 28, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Trees Make Life Better Program - Tree Canopy Development in North-West and South-West Berkeley

The Urban Tree Canopy has a strong correlation to quality of life issues as trees provide shade, produce oxygen, help increase the absorption of greenhouse gases, stabilize temperatures, and reduce heating/cooling costs. The attached CalFire Urban Tree Canopy Density Data Map shows that Berkeley has an inequitable distribution of tree canopy density when comparing density in the hills to north-west and south-west areas of the City (Attachment 1).

The Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department (PRW) has identified 10,000 street tree planting locations in the City; many of these locations are in north-west and south-west Berkeley. In the last three years, PRW staff has applied for three grants in order to fund tree planting neighborhoods that have lower levels of tree canopy density. PRW has been awarded 2 of these 3 State grants.

1. Urban Greening Grant Program (UGGP) for \$725,000, with a City match of \$190,000. Awarded March, 2020.
2. Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) Grant for \$500,000, with a City match of \$125,000. Awarded February, 2022.

With funds from the above grant awards, PRW has developed the **Trees Make Life Better Program** that will inform service area residents of the potential for new street trees. Both grants will cover staff costs, trees, planting materials, marketing, and watering and concrete cuts if needed. Staff is anticipating that between 1,200 - 1,800 new street trees will be planted with these funds. Additionally, the EEMP grant will provide for the planting and watering of trees in Aquatic Park (250), San Pablo Park (50), and University Avenue between Frontage and Marina Boulevard (50). Using these grant funds thus far, staff have planted over 200 trees in the industrial areas of west Berkeley. Now, and for the next 15 months, we are focusing on neighborhoods. Staff have identified eight specific zones (Attachment 2) in northwest and southwest Berkeley that are eligible for this funding.

Residents in these eight zones can request City street trees over an 18-month period, in three-month increments, when staff are planting in their neighborhood:

- Area 2: March – May, 2022 – D1 Kickoff – Thursday, March 3, 3:30 pm at James Kenney Park
- Area 6: April – June, 2022 – D2 Kickoff – Saturday, April 10, 10:00 am at San Pablo Park
- Area 8: June – August, 2022 – D3 Kickoff – Thursday, June 2, 3:30 pm at Greg Brown Park
- Area 1: October – December, 2023
- Area 3: November – January 2023
- Area 4: December – February 2023
- Area 5: January – March 2023
- Area 7: March – May, 2023

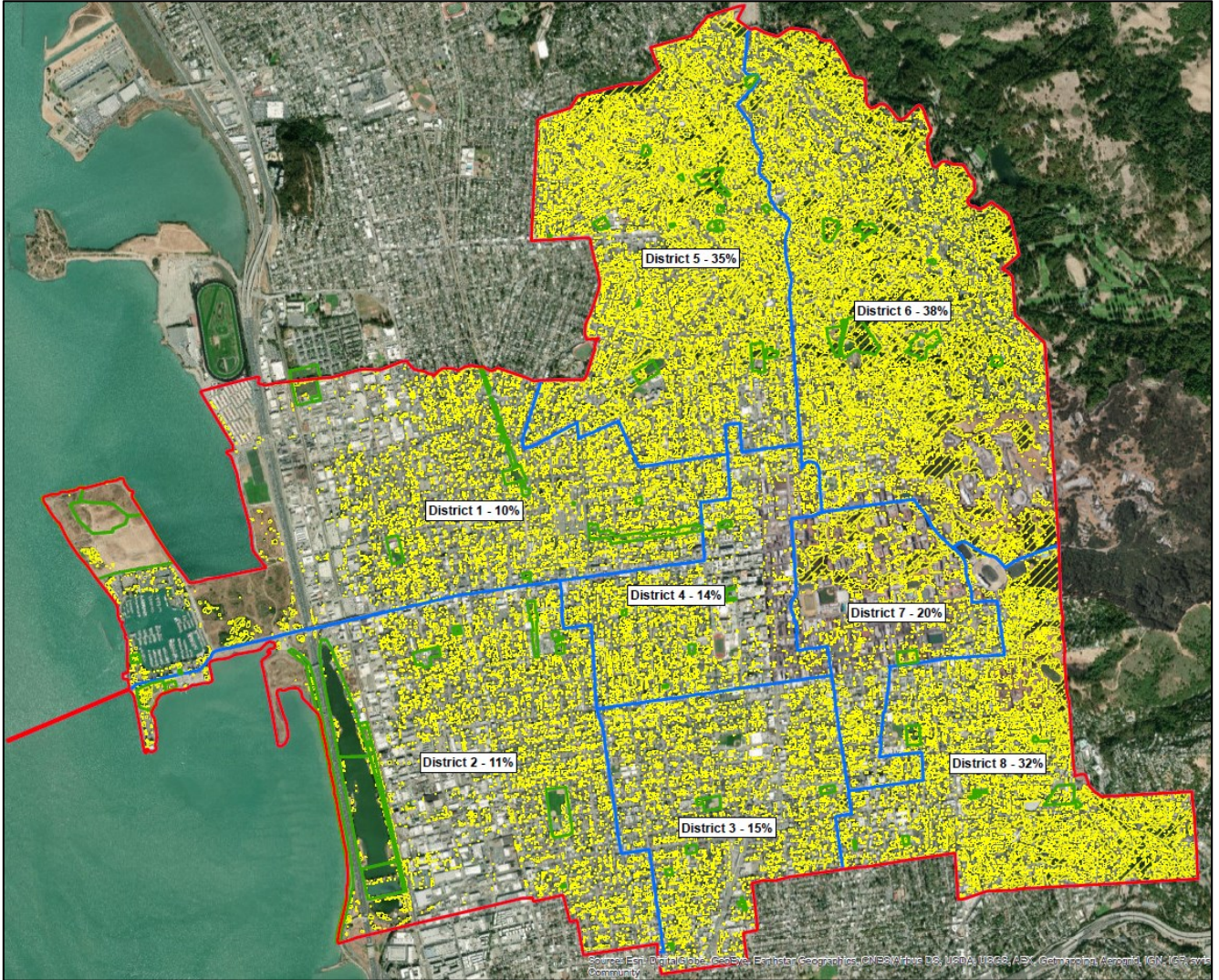
This marketing and outreach program include door hangers (Attachment 3), press releases, and print media advertisements. Starting in early March of 2022, staff will do outreach with neighbors in the eight identified zones. PRW will continue to offer a tree planting program for non-grant areas as well. To request a tree or for more information on the City's Trees Make Life Better Program and the City's standard tree planting program, please call 510-981-6660 or visit https://www.cityofberkeley.info/tree_planting/.

Attachments

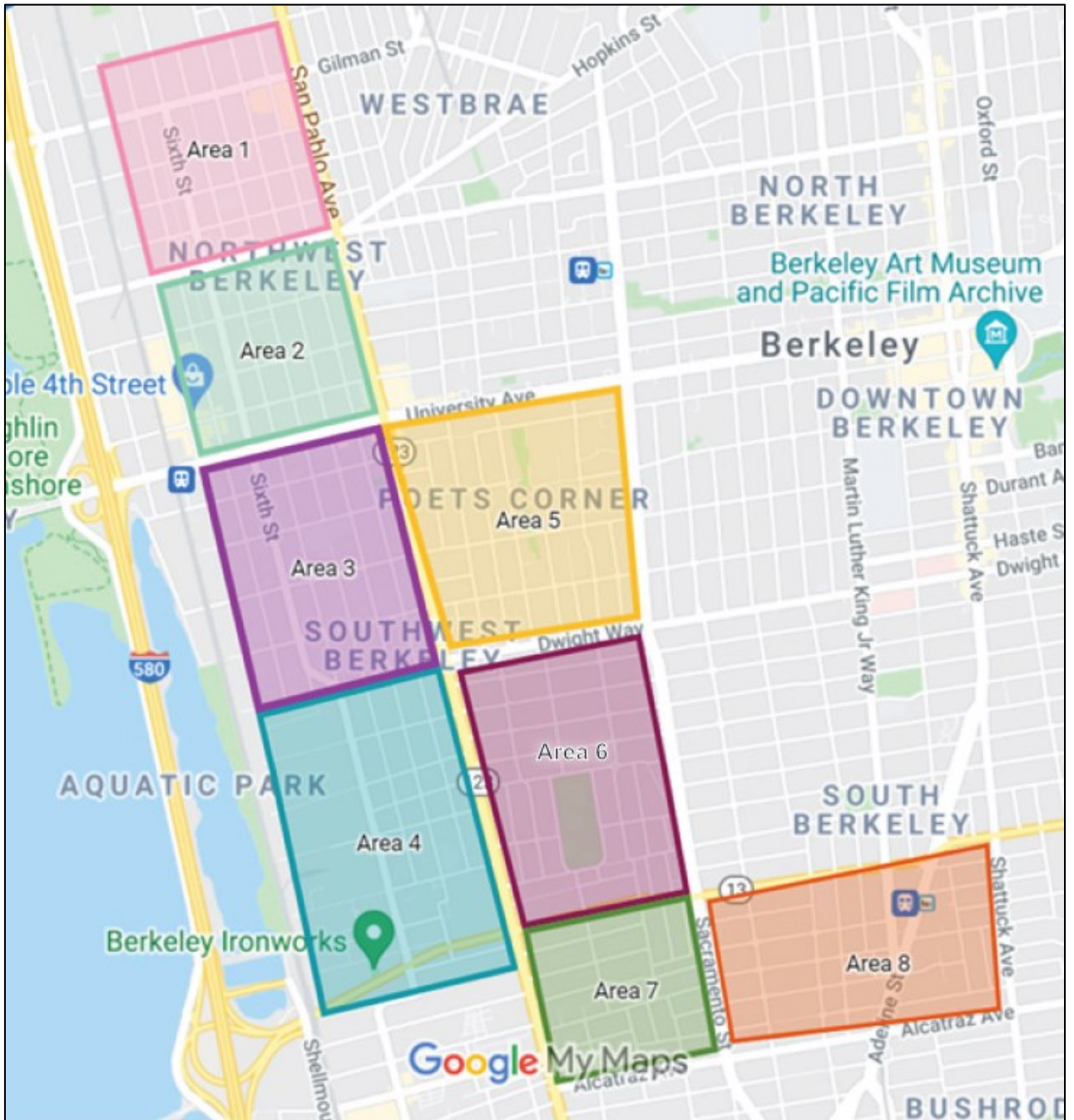
- 1: CalFire Urban Tree Canopy Density Data Map
- 2: City Tree Planting Program – 8 Zones in West Berkeley
- 3: City Tree Planting Program – Door Hangers

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
LaTanya Bellow, Interim Deputy City Manager
Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager

Attachment 1 – CalFire Urban Tree Canopy Density Data Map



Attachment 2 – City Tree Planting Program – 8 Zones in West Berkeley



Attachment 3 – City Tree Planting Program – Door Hangers



**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**



Trees Make Life Better!

This property may have a great space for a new street tree. Contact us today to get a new tree growing. Fresh air and cooler temperatures are on their way!



**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

Your support helps us grow more trees in Berkeley

We ask residents to provide the necessary water for the young tree's first few years. However, we can provide water or cut out concrete where needed. Just ask!

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Parks Division
1326 Allston Way
Berkeley, CA 94702
trees@cityofberkeley.info
(510)981-6660
www.cityofberkeley.info/tree_planting

