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METRO

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City Of Trees
Satellite images of the District reveal a 64 percent decrease in the city's tree cover since 1973. The city has budgeted \$9 million for its tree planting and removal program this year.

Mayor Working To Keep It Green
Williams Pleads for More Trees

By SEYMOUR C. FELD
Washington Post Staff Writer

In a city with 45,000 hungry children, a growing homeless population and a school system that needs major improvements, why was the mayor of Washington standing under a tall poplar yesterday talking about trees?

Mayor Anthony A. Williams posed that question himself in the chair he swiveling around Fawcett Park in Northwest Washington's Adams-Morgan community. The answer, he said, is that trees are a symbol of how a city views itself. Trees matter.

"If we can't take care of our trees, how are we going to take care of our schools? How are we going to take care of our roads?" Williams said at a news conference he held to call attention to the plight of the District's trees. "Trees are a metaphor of public space. That's what we're fighting for—vital, robust public spaces."

Dating to Thomas Jefferson's presidency, Washington has had a reputation as one of the greenest world capitals, eventually picking up the moniker "City of Trees." The D.C. government sponsored one of the most diversified street tree planting programs in the nation, not only making the District's trees famous, but also enhancing the prestige of the District itself, according to a 1996 street trees study.

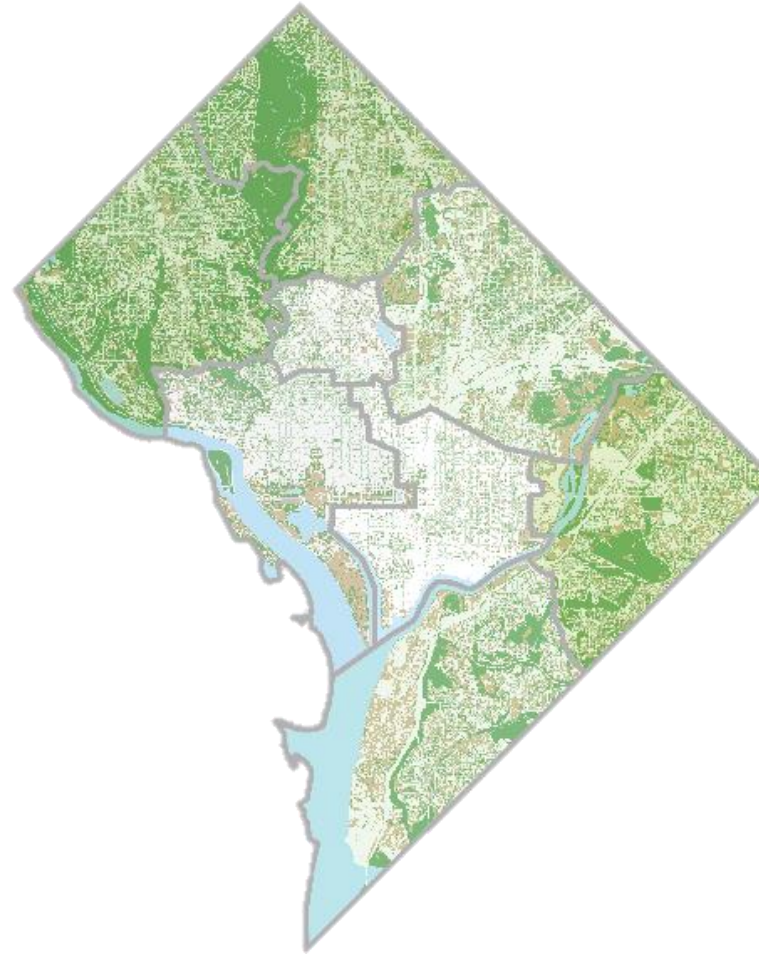
A recent report by American Forests, a nonprofit conservation group, documents the loss of trees in the District. Another report by the Committee of 100 on the Federal City asks Williams to set a goal of planting 30,000 trees over the next three years.

American Forests brought satellite images to the mayor's news conference that showed the dramatic change in the city's tree cover since 1973. The group said the number of acres of heavy tree cover has dropped 64 percent since then, as trees fell victim to disease, development and natural attrition—and weren't replaced. The steady decline was visible in photos that showed a spreading dark image replacing splotches of green where trees once grew.

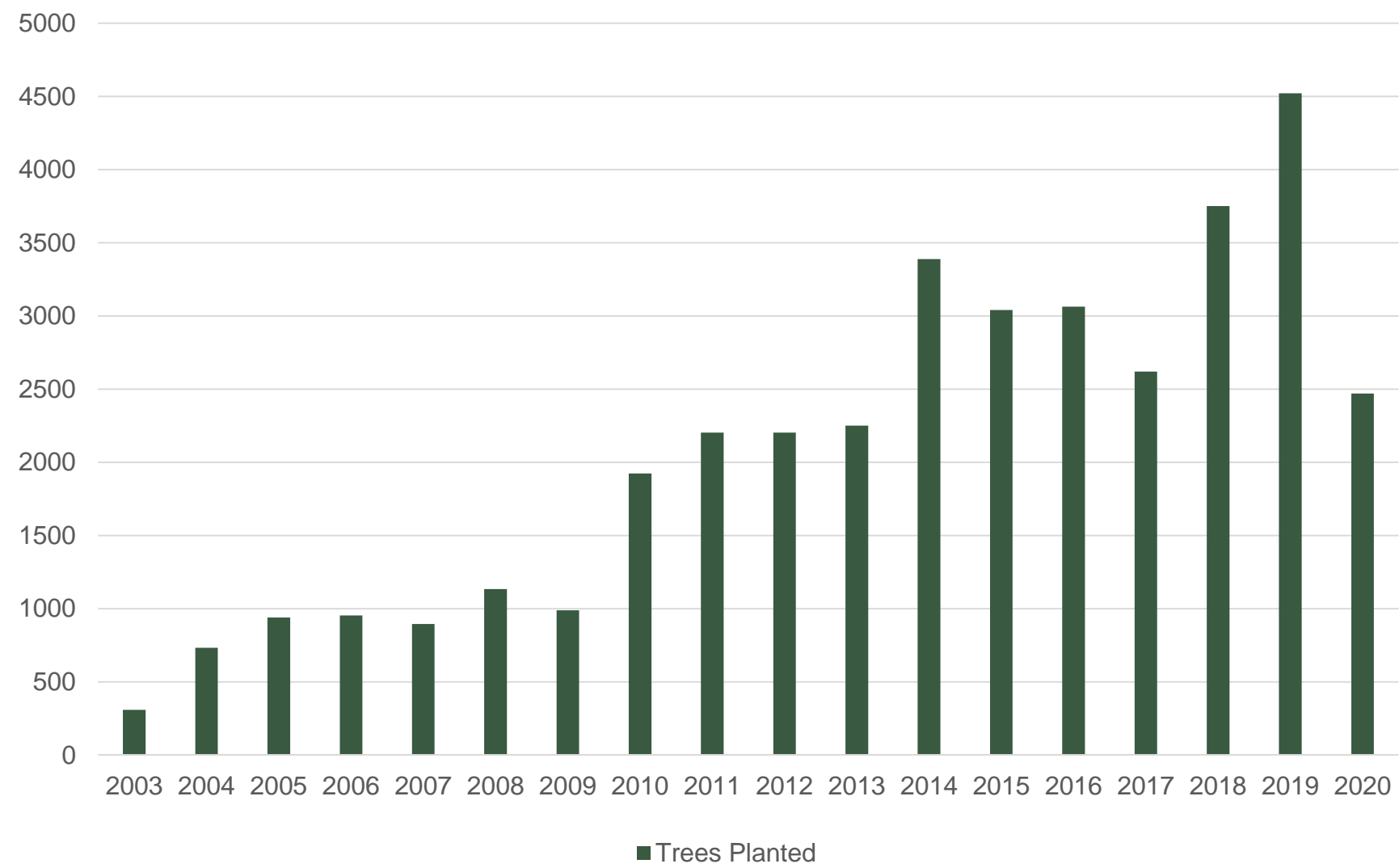
See TREES, B1, Col. 1

Green spaces such as this in Rock Creek Park are vital to the city, Mayor Anthony A. Williams said. He called trees "a metaphor of public space."

GOAL / 40% TREE CANOPY BY 2032



TREES PLANTED / YEAR

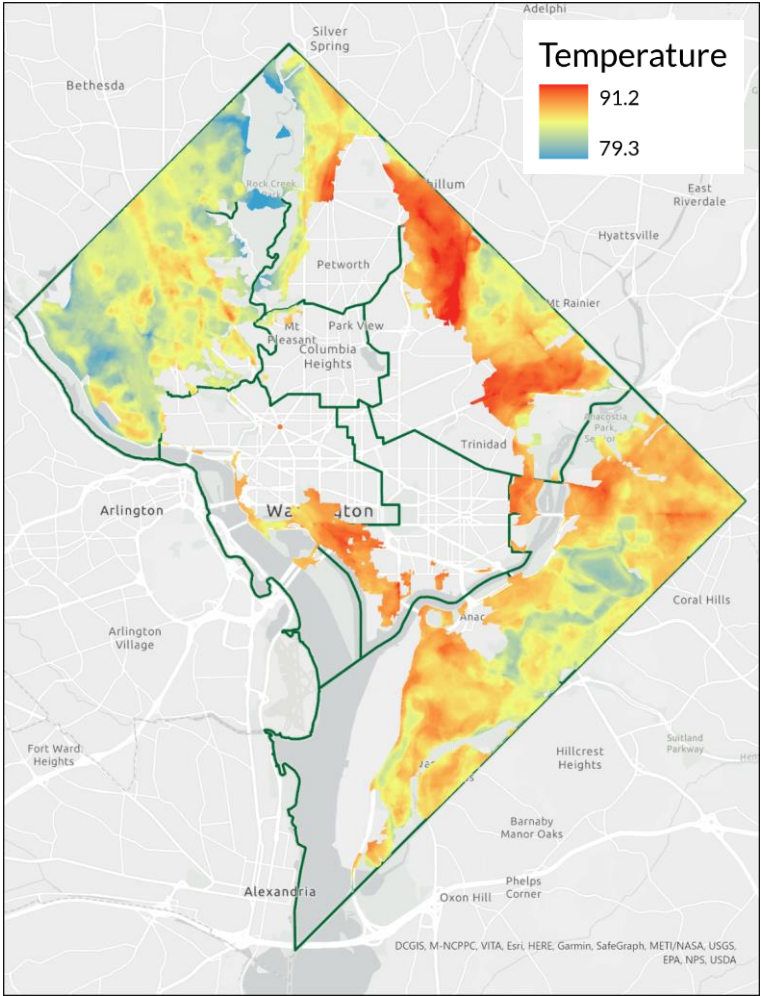
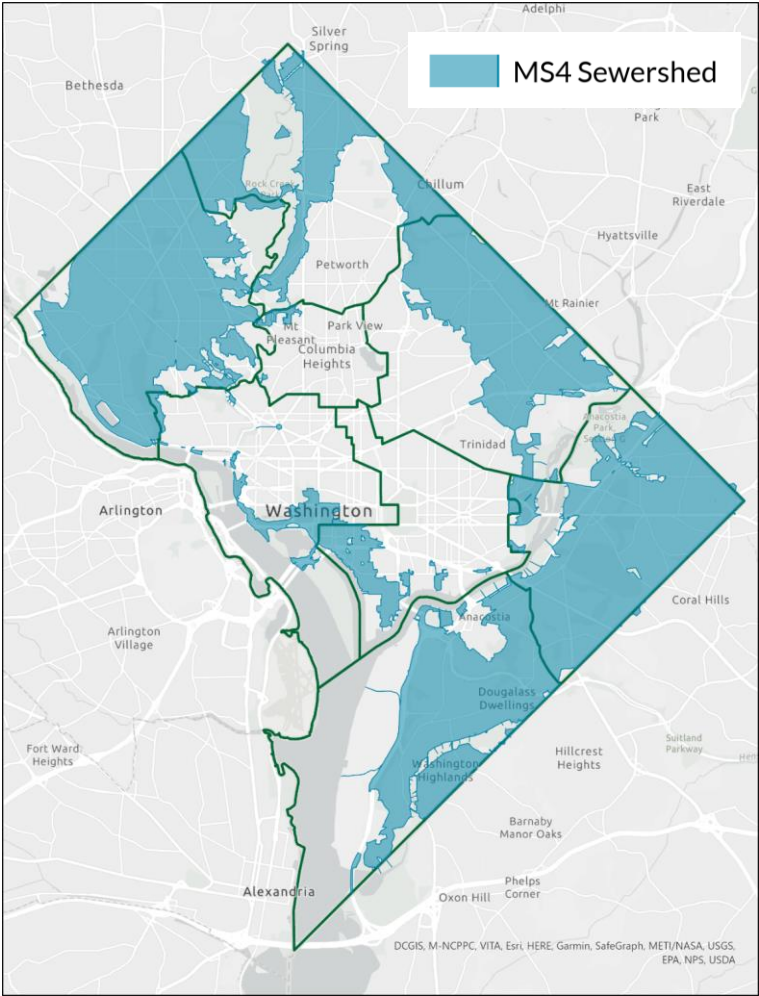
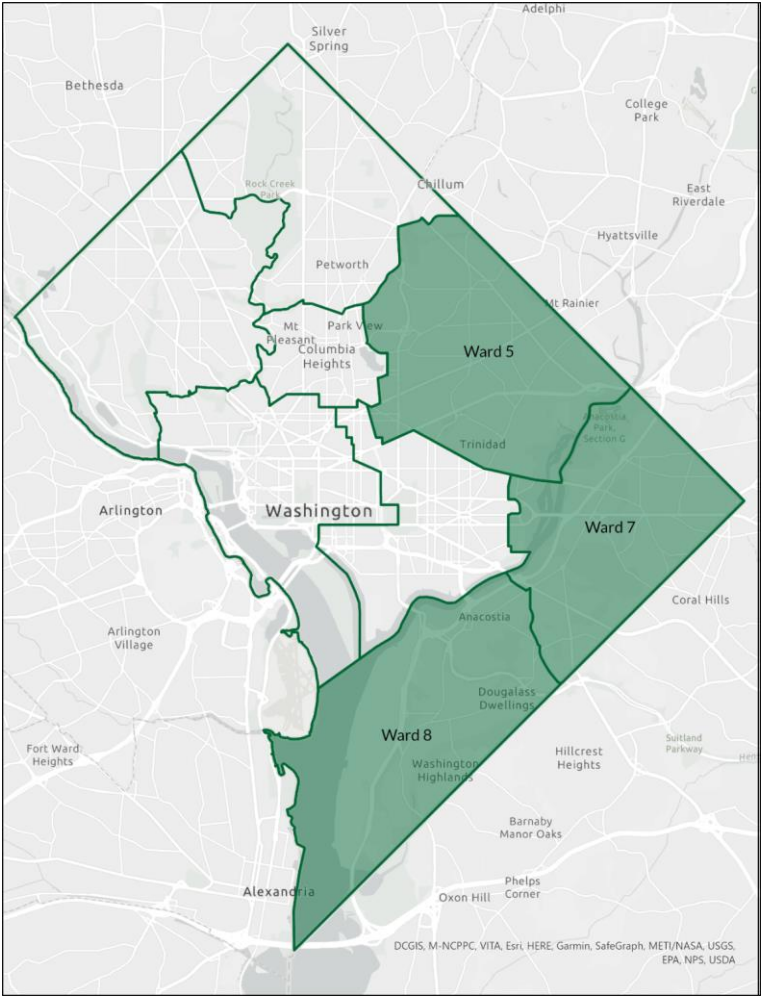




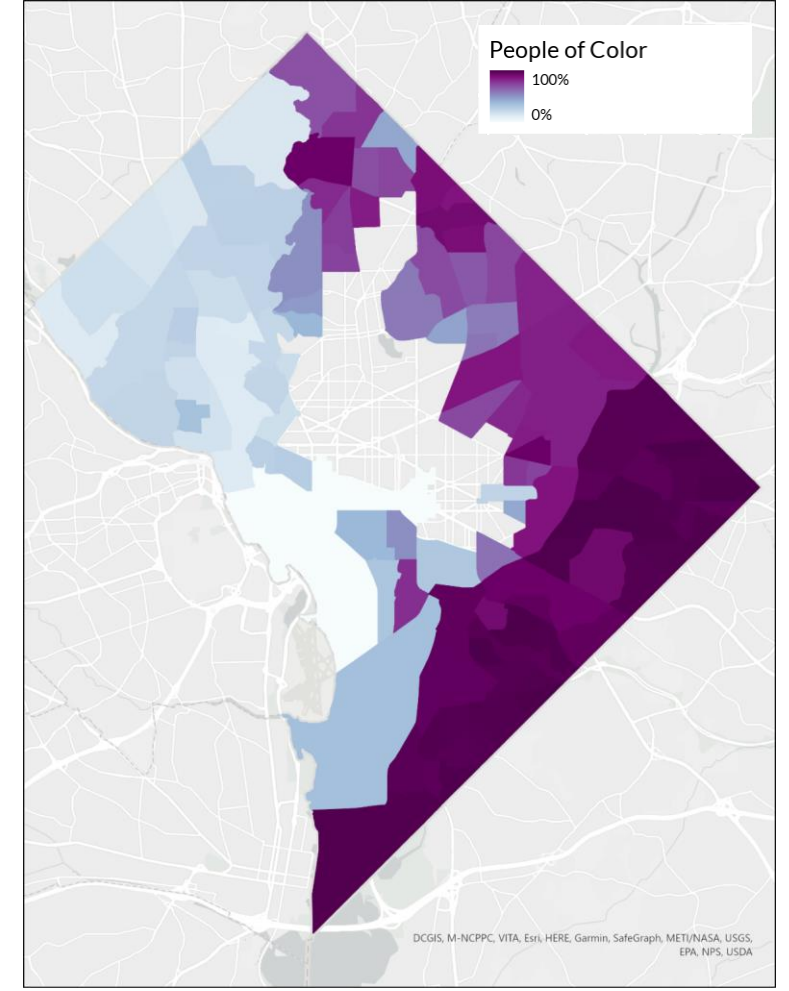
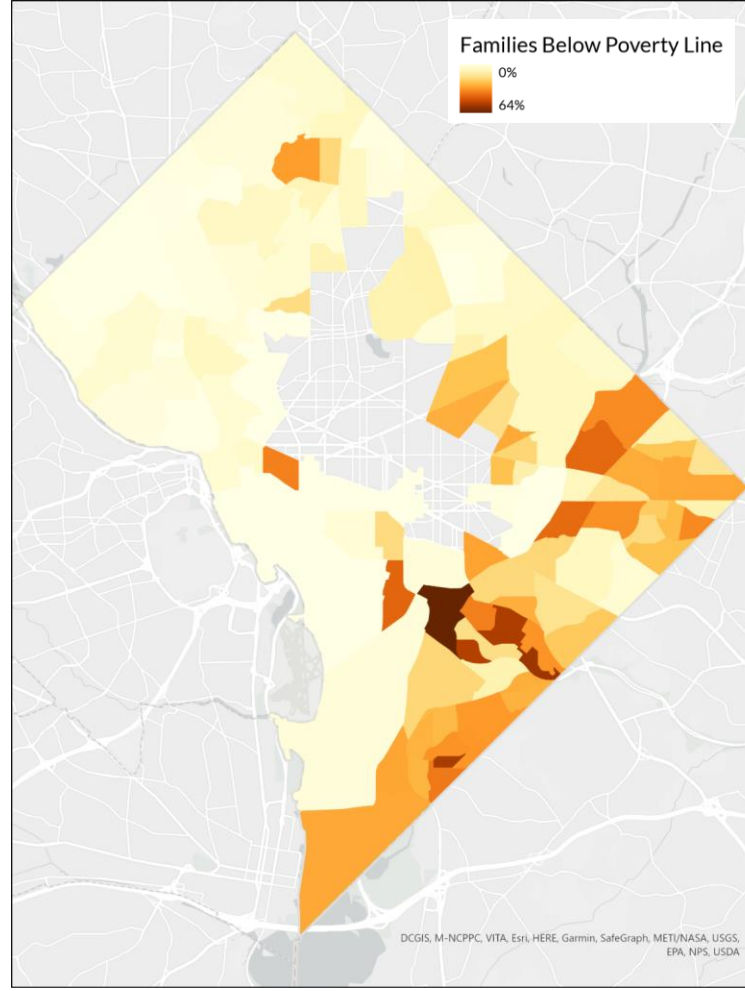
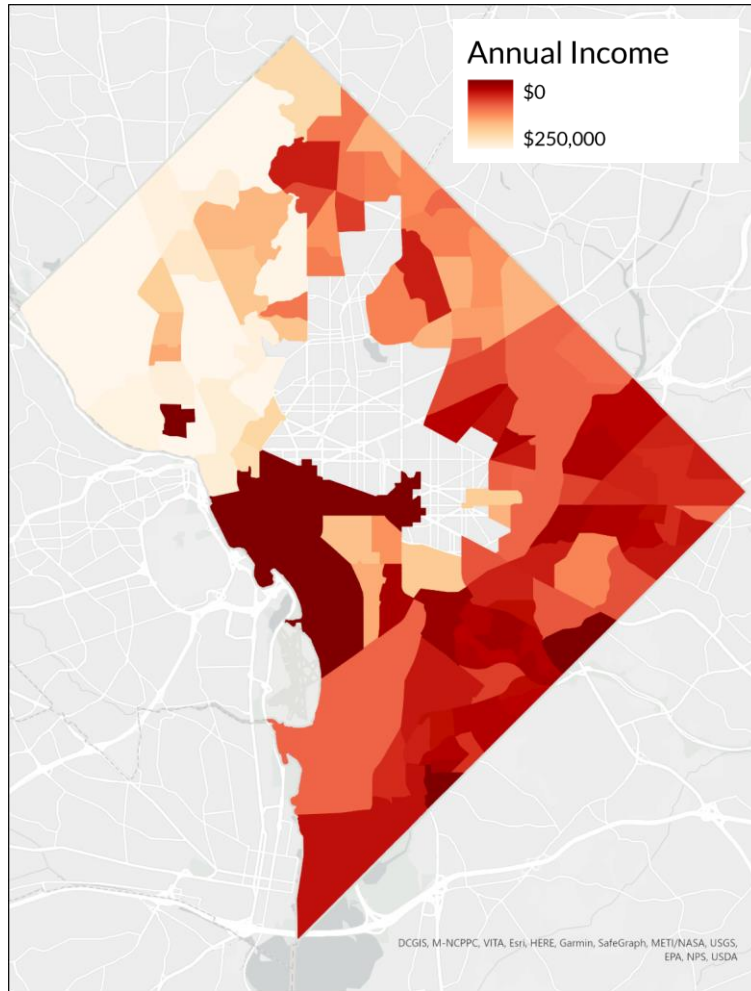
PROGRAMS



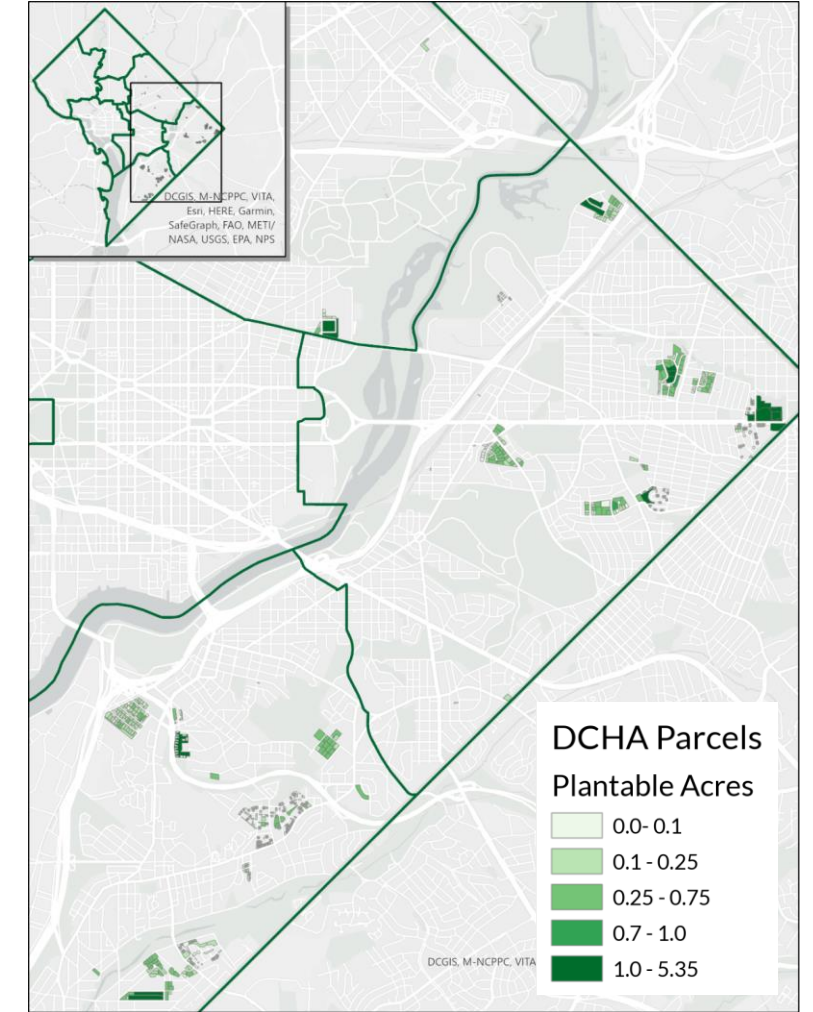
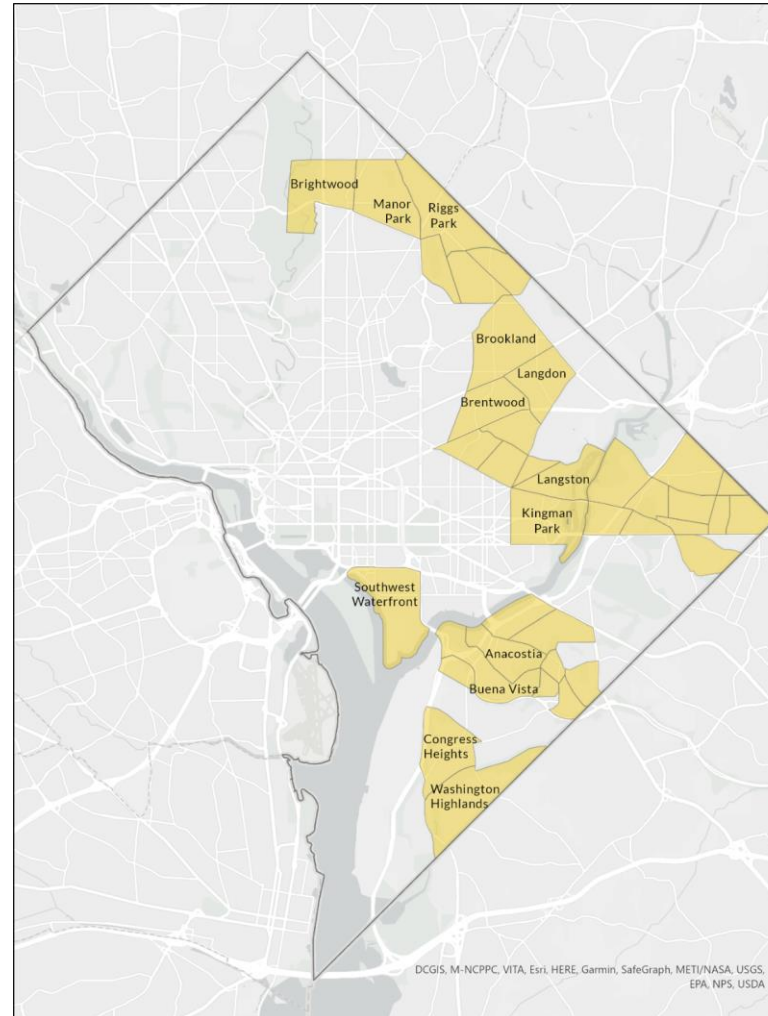
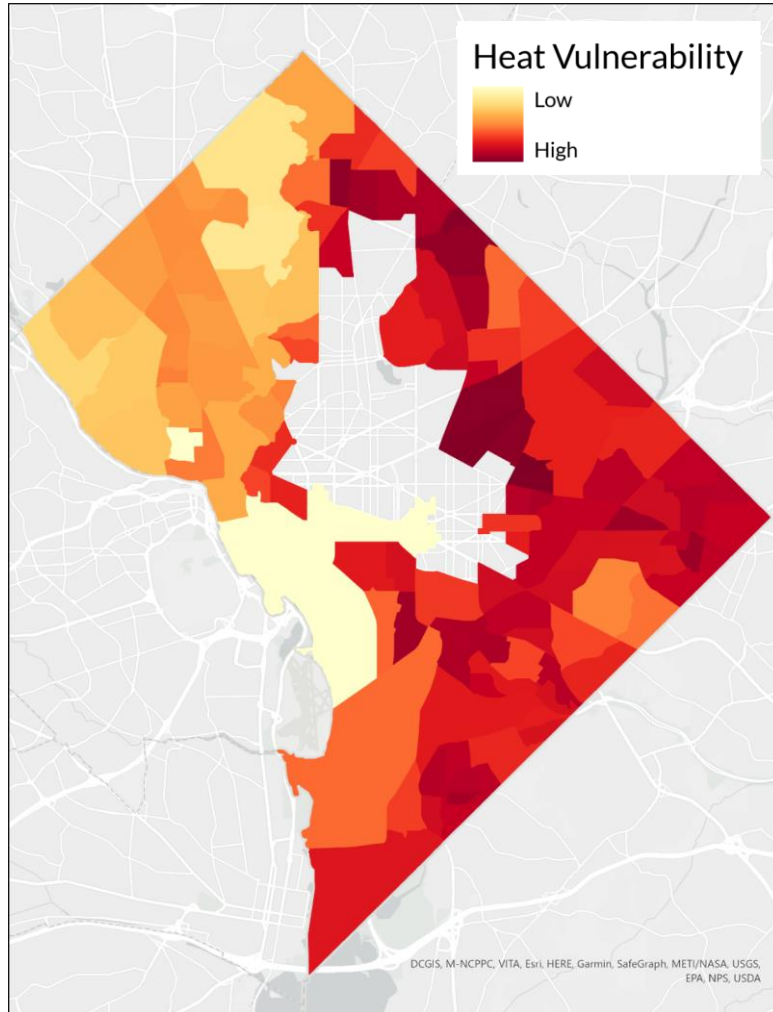
ENVIRONMENTAL



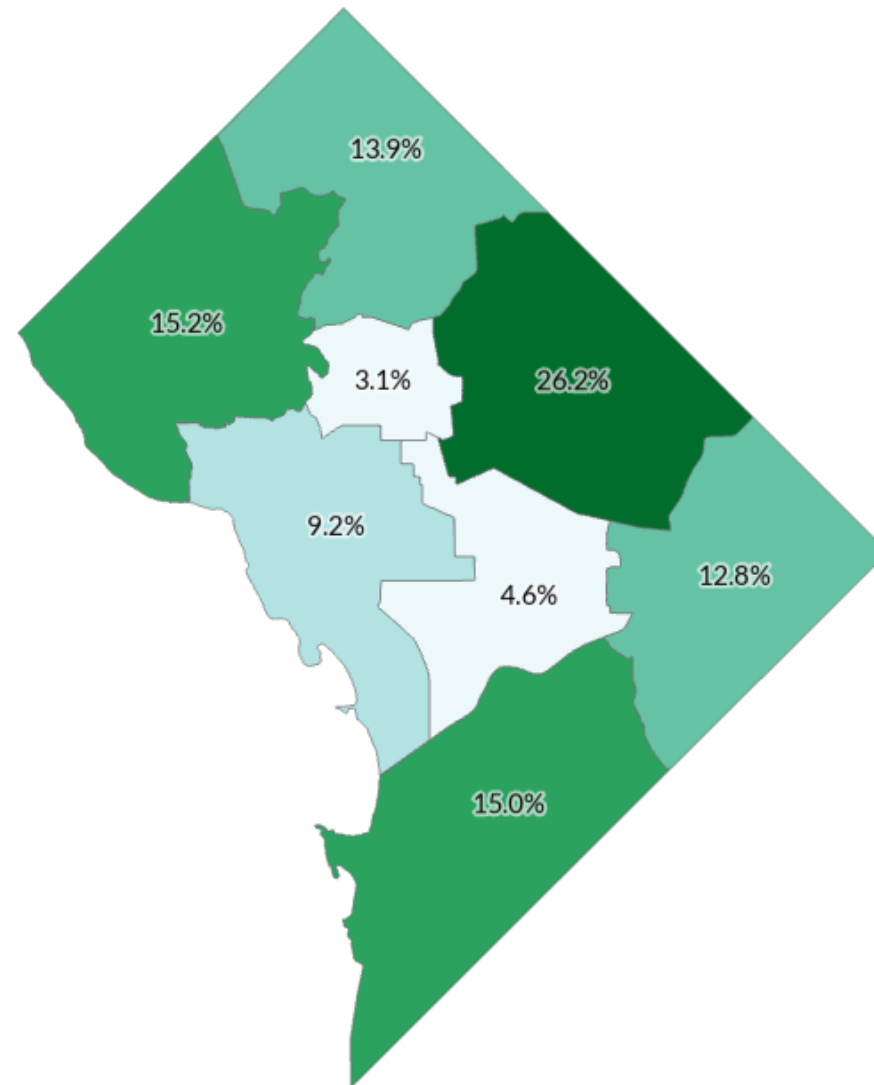
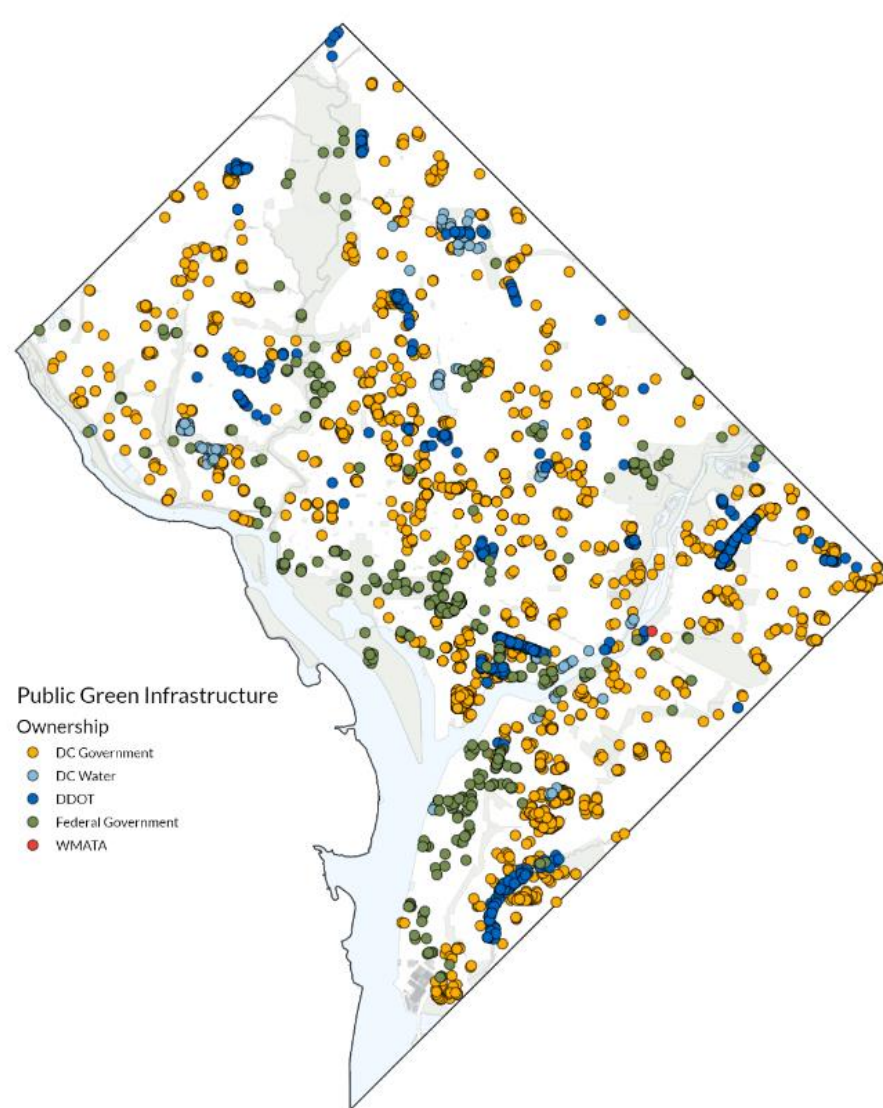
INCOME AND DEMOGRAPHICS



OUTCOMES



RESULTS



ECONOMIC VALUE

100 mature trees
remove 53 tons of
carbon every year

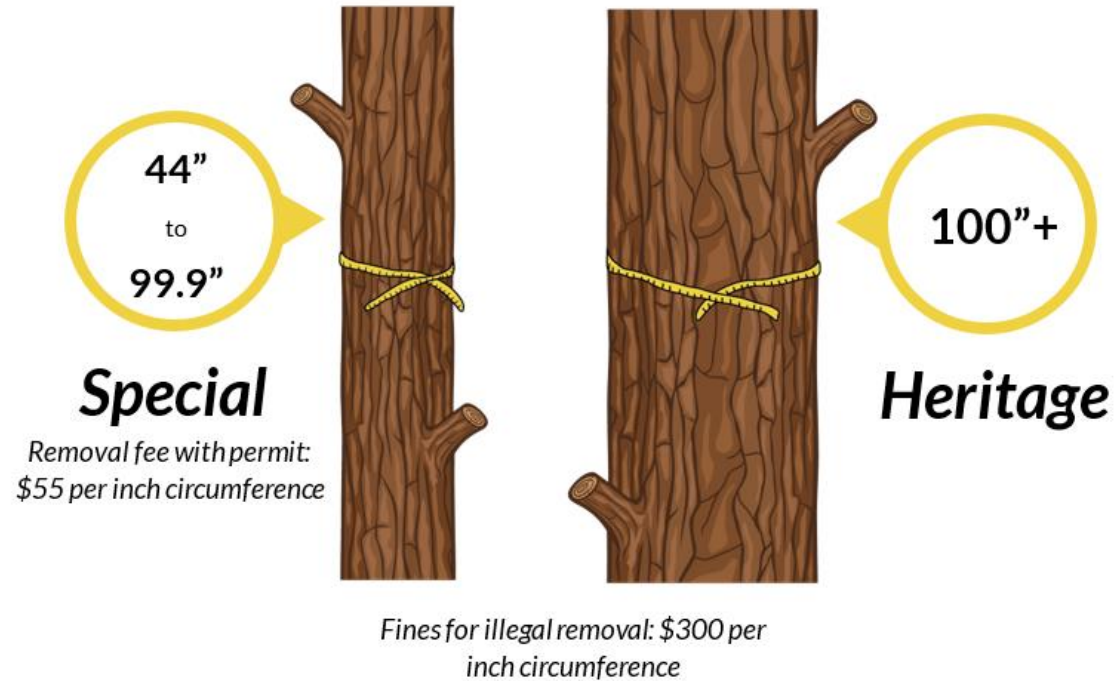
100 mature trees
catch 140,000 gallons
or rainwater every
year

Evergreen
windbreaks can save
5% on heating costs

Shade trees can save
56% on air
conditioning costs

Healthy mature trees
add 1% to house
value and specimen
trees can add 7%

ECONOMIC VALUE CONTINUED



Appraised Value for a 22" Willow Oak

Appraised Value = Basic Tree Cost X Species% X Condition % X Location %

$\$26,839.74 \times 90\% \times 68.75\% \times 80\% = \$13,286$

Appraised value = \$13,300.