West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

Update on STEP Urban Greening & Stewardship Opportunities

Working together to make our streets more walkable

September 3, 2025

Content

1 Steering Committee Welcome

2 July Recap

3 Oakland General Plan update

4 STEP - Trees Presentation

5 Open forum

July – Port Harbor Tour

General Plan Update

Focus: Oakland For All

- Stabilize
- Grow

WOCAP Strategy #10

The City of Oakland creates a comprehensive, area-wide urban canopy and vegetation plan that identifies locations that trees can be added and maintained, such as parks and along Caltrans' rights-of-way and develops a plan to protect existing trees that reduce exposure to air pollution emissions in West Oakland.

Agenda

- Refresher on the STEP program
  - Sidewalk improvements
  - Tree planting / urban greening
  - High-traffic corridor showcase
  - Stewardship Collaborative
  - Outreach to truckers
  - Bike hub
- Final month for free tree requests (September 30th deadline)
- Stewardship Collaborative participation opportunities
- Discussion/Q&A

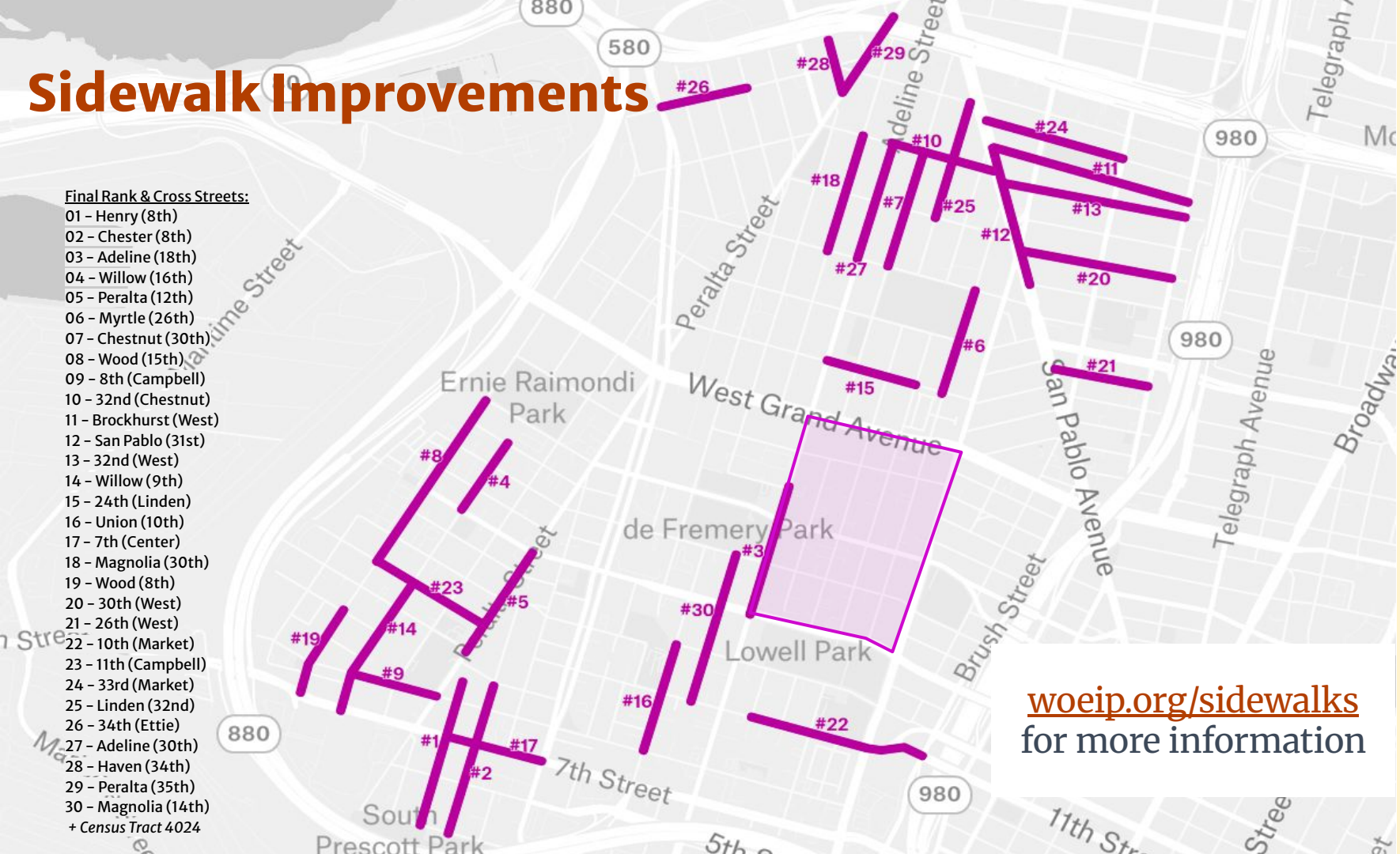
West Oakland STEP – the Sustainable Transportation Equity Project – funding is provided by the **California Climate Investments program** from CARB's Low Carbon Transportation program

West Oakland Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP)

$10.5M grant • Ends January 2026 • **Grant manager:** OakDOT

Truck Management	Sidewalks & Greening	Bike Hub
Implementing Organizations		
OakDOT	OakDOT	The Crucible
WOEIP	WOEIP	
	Oakland Parks & Rec Foundation (OPRF)	
	Hyphae Design Lab	

Sidewalk Improvements



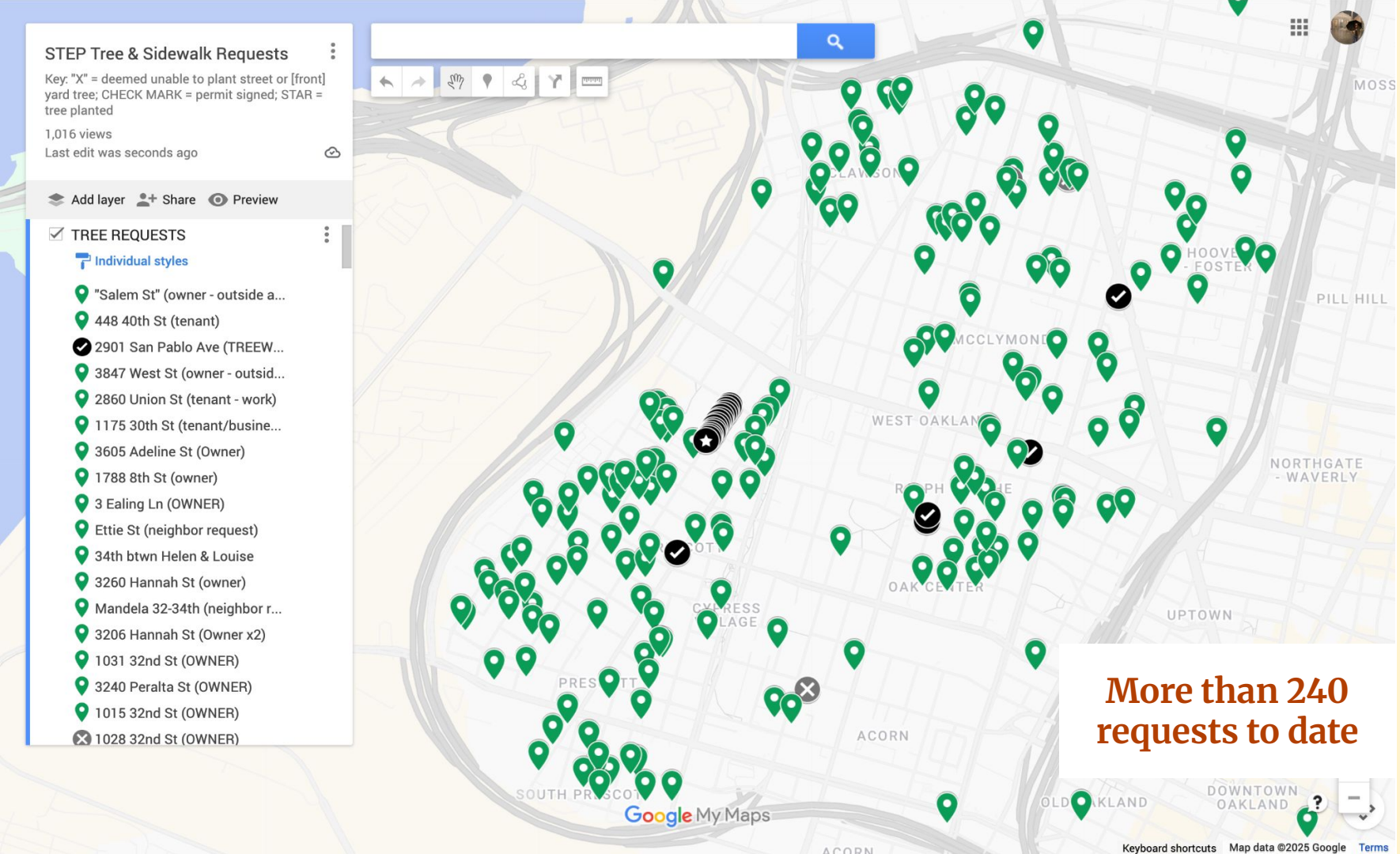
Final Rank & Cross Streets:

01 – Henry (8th)
02 – Chester (8th)
03 – Adeline (18th)
04 – Willow (16th)
05 – Peralta (12th)
06 – Myrtle (26th)
07 – Chestnut (30th)
08 – Wood (15th)
09 – 8th (Campbell)
10 – 32nd (Chestnut)
11 – Brockhurst (West)
12 – San Pablo (31st)
13 – 32nd (West)
14 – Willow (9th)
15 – 24th (Linden)
16 – Union (10th)
17 – 7th (Center)
18 – Magnolia (30th)
19 – Wood (8th)
20 – 30th (West)
21 – 26th (West)
22 – 10th (Market)
23 – 11th (Campbell)
24 – 33rd (Market)
25 – Linden (32nd)
26 – 34th (Ettie)
27 – Adeline (30th)
28 – Haven (34th)
29 – Peralta (35th)
30 – Magnolia (14th)
+ Census Tract 4024

woeip.org/sidewalks
for more information

Urban greening across West Oakland

Request a tree	Any resident or local business can complete the interest form to plant tree(s) in existing tree wells or street-facing yards.
Site assessment	OPRF and/or Trees for Oakland will assess site eligibility and call 811 to mark underground utilities.
Permit application	If the site is eligible, property owner chooses tree species and signs permit application and/or liability release.
Tree planting!	OPRF leading planting beginning in October; resident or Stewardship Collaboration members care for new trees.



More than 240 requests to date

SEPTEMBER 30TH DEADLINE

Please **share the interest form** (*woeip.org/trees*) with:

1. People who live or work in West Oakland, and
2. Large property owners/portfolio managers

Tell them that our team may be able to plant one or more **free trees at their property**.

Request a free tree: woeip.org/trees

*Scan the QR code above and/or email Meet Panchal (**mpanchal@woeip.org**) for more info.*

Questions / Comments?

woeip.org/trees

Scan the QR code above and/or email Meet Panchal (mpanchal@woeip.org) for more info.

STEP Trees Stewardship Collaborative

Committees co-led by a core STEP team member and local greening-focused orgs or residents, and will meet every 2 weeks through January.

Full Collaborative will meet every 6 weeks.

Stipends are available for co-leads & meeting participants if they would like/need.

Each group will create a set of recommendations to help improve the City's processes for planting and taking care of trees

Two in-person meetings held so far at the Library's West Oakland Branch & Civicorps

Stewardship Collaborative Committees

Every other week, working groups will meet to discuss & develop best practices for...

1. Resource sharing (equipment, volunteers, human resources, etc.)
2. Outreach & how to build tree culture
3. How to more effectively expand the urban forest
4. Technology, measurements & tracking
5. Policy, permitting & agency engagement
6. Fundraising & finance
7. Planning care for newly-planted trees & climate resilience

1. Resource sharing (equipment, volunteers, human resources, etc.)

Co-Leads

OPRF + Common Vision

Draft Description (subject to change)

Hand tools, watering equipment, and even vehicles are expensive and must to be stored in secure locations near where they are needed. This group will look into ways that tree planting and maintenance groups could better share these resources and their spaces to store them. The group will also coordinate the sharing of volunteers (human resources) making sure volunteer opportunities are shared to diverse lists of interested parties.

2. Outreach & how to build tree culture

Co-Leads

Hyphae, WOEIP + Common Vision

Draft Description (subject to change)

Getting more people and institutions – including youth organizations – involved in tree planting, maintenance, and hosting will be key to expanding a healthy urban ecosystem. This committee will identify groups and individuals who could benefit from engaging in these efforts and/or having more trees in their outdoor spaces, and develop curriculum to educate/train youth on trees and tree care.

3. How to more effectively expand the urban forest

Co-Leads

OPRF + Sidewalk Trees & Gardens

Draft Description (subject to change)

Suggested areas to identify:
1) Impediments to planting more trees, like: small tree wells, narrow sidewalks (could they be widened?), vacant lots/absentee owners, irrigation infrastructure, etc..
2) Tools or datasets that could help target areas, like: GIS layers (existing trees/species, empty wells, etc.); hi-res imagery; precise property lines; etc..
3) Groups or convening bodies that could be used to help for large plantings, like: neighborhood associations or BIDs; colleges that have real estate and/or horticulture programs; etc..

4. Technology, measurements & tracking

Co-Leads

WOEIP + Friends of Mandela Parkway

Draft Description (subject to change)

Technologies such as QR-coded tree badges, moisture sensors, and AI-enabled image analyses can help assist not only current maintenance needs, but also in identifying potential sites for more trees. This group will work closely with both the urban forest expansion and the tree maintenance teams to lend their expertise about these technologies to help identify needs and solutions.

5. Policy, permitting & agency engagement

Co-Leads

OPRF + Sidewalk Trees & Gardens

Draft Description (subject to change)

Getting permits is an essential part of putting trees in public spaces. Are there ways to make getting permits easier? Are there any common sense policy updates that we can affect that would streamline the ability to plant more trees in Oakland? Can we involve DPW earlier in their planning (e.g. extend irrigation lines from parks to street trees)? Can OakDOT move certain signs to allow for more tree wells?

6. Fundraising & finance

Co-Leads

Hyphae + *[community co-lead needed]*

Draft Description (subject to change)

In addition to the cost of acquiring and planting trees, there are ongoing costs associated with having trees that property owners incur (watering, maintenance labor, arborist services, etc.). What creative funding sources and fiscal tools can we utilize to create ongoing access to money so that low income residents and CBOs can continue to maintain the trees around their area? Can we establish endowments, explore bond measures, extend grant spend-down timelines, etc.?

7. Planning care for newly-planted trees & climate resilience

Co-Leads

OPRF +
[community co-lead needed]

Draft Description (subject to change)

During dry months, which are becoming more extreme, newly-planted trees require weekly watering for three years or more. Watering – plus soil amendments, pruning, etc. – is the responsibility of the property owner, but in some cases the owner is not present or able to do these tasks. This subcommittee will develop and pilot a cost-effective program to help young trees survive and thrive in these first crucial years.

Thoughts? Are we missing anything?

To participate, PLEASE SIGN UP here:

or reach out to Brie at bmartin@woeip.org

1. Resource sharing (equipment, volunteers, human resources, etc.)
2. Outreach & how to build tree culture
3. How to more effectively expand the urban forest
4. Technology, measurements & tracking
5. Policy, permitting & agency engagement
6. Fundraising & finance
7. Planning care for newly-planted trees & climate resilience

Next meeting: STEP Trucker Outreach & Education

Thank you.

TREE REQUEST FORM (9/30 DEADLINE)

West Oakland
Environmental
Indicators
Project

Open Forum

Thank you.

West Oakland
Environmental
Indicators
Project