

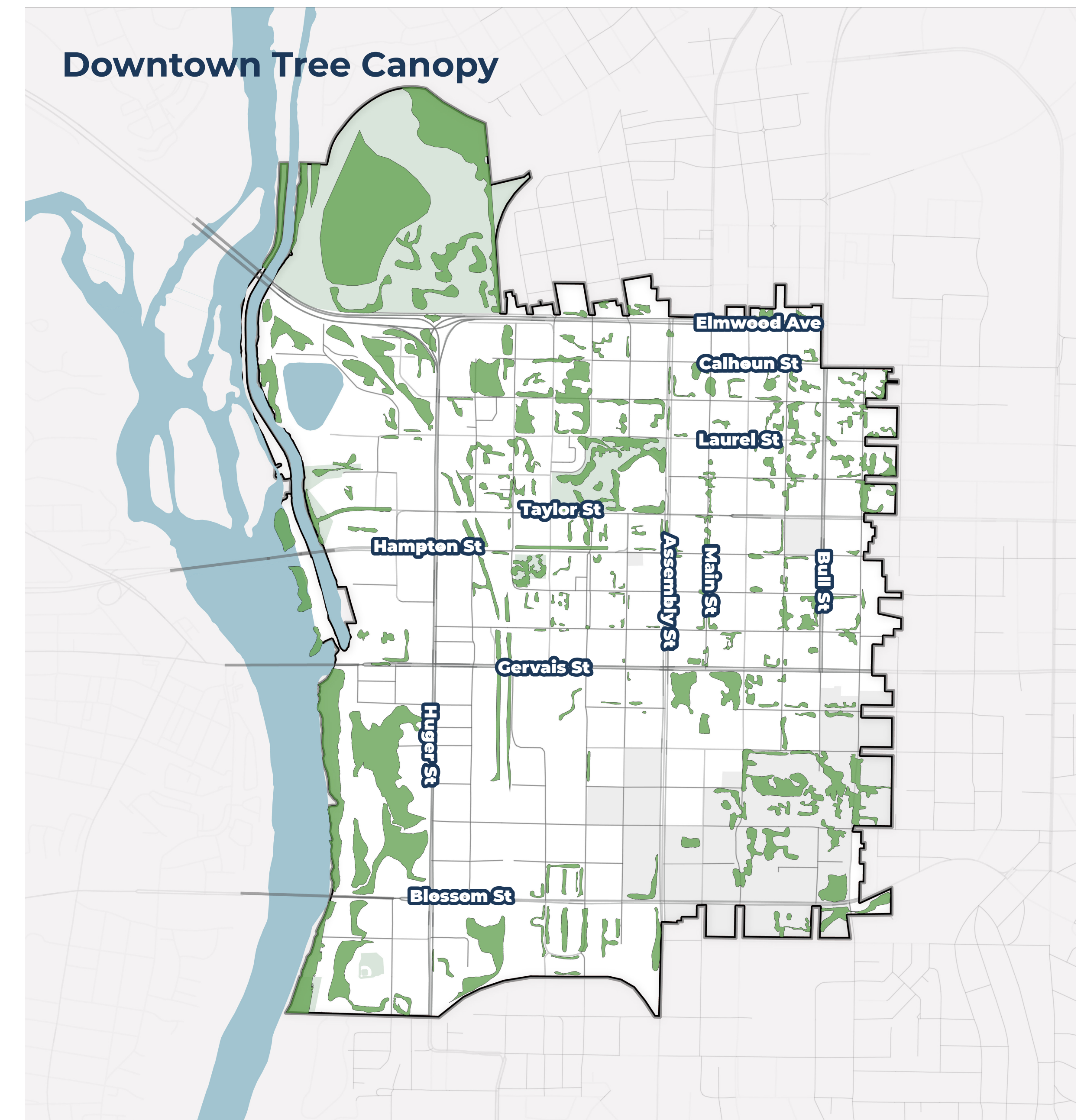
Big Idea #2: Refresh

Create comfortable streets and public spaces that welcome visitors and support everyday living.

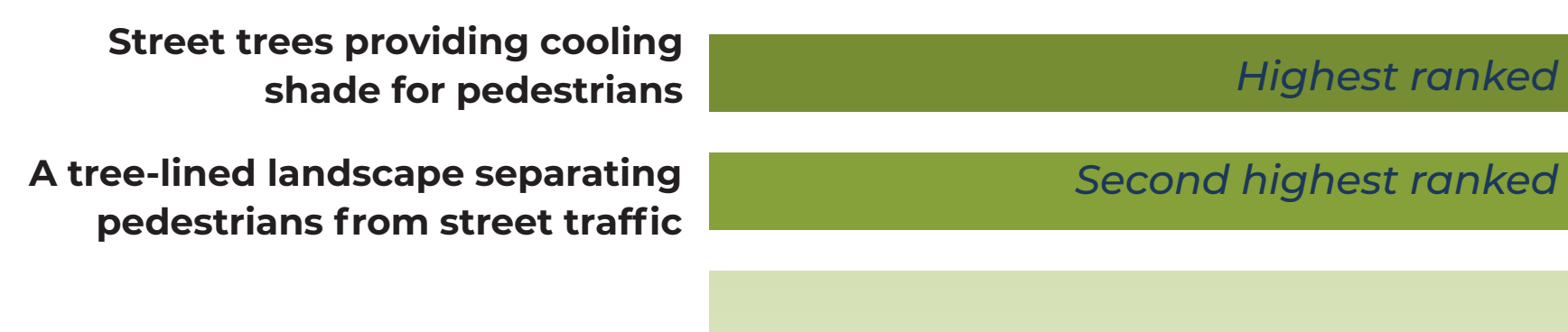


To keep the local community and visitors cool, safe, and healthy in public spaces, an increase in the urban tree canopy must be a priority. **The presence of shade trees in downtown can provide a wide range of substantial benefits:**

- Supports retail and restaurant business performance
- Improves property value
- Decreases heat on summer days
- Improves safety for outdoor workers and pedestrians
- Reduces traffic speed through natural traffic calming effects
- Minimizes cooling load and energy costs in buildings
- Reduces air pollution
- Absorbs stormwater (reducing flooding and sewer loads)
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Encourages walking and cycling (to reduce traffic congestion)



Online Survey Result: Street trees are top ranked for what makes a great downtown street.



“Can’t stress the importance of the shade enough”

“I would love to see the way that Main Street has used trees for shading in the Vista.”

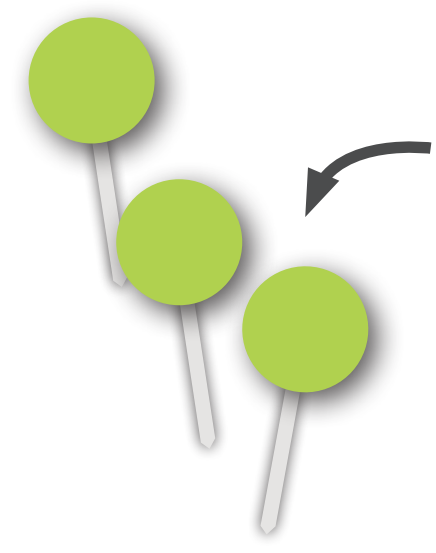
“...the Vista has little to no seating or trees...”

“More trees and green spaces...is what I would like to see.”

Strategies for tree preservation and increased tree planting must be modeled on publicly-owned land and championed by government entities, beginning with the City. Policies, ordinances, operational/maintenance resources, and capital investment must reflect the status of urban tree canopy as part of the critical infrastructure of the City.

Where would you plant more trees?

If you were the City's Urban Forester...



Where would you plant more trees? Using the green pins provided, pick 3 spots in Downtown Columbia that could benefit from more trees. Tell us why using a post-it!

Downtown Tree Canopy

