Foundational PVD Tree Plan | Implementation Dashboard Short Long **Partners Ongoing Activity** Term Term Goal 1. Foster leadership by and accountability to climate justice frontline communities in urban forestry decision-making processes. Establish an outside-government Urban Forest Community Advisory Board for the city Non-profit urban forestry 1.1 practitioners of Providence to direct the implementation of this plan, guide Providence urban forestry City management, and ensure ongoing accountability to changing community needs. 1.2 Expand opportunities for ongoing direct input from large numbers of climate justice Non-profit urban forestry practitioners frontline community members on implementation and policy decisions, building · Community-based community power to ensure that urban forestry decisions directly represent and are organizations City accountable to their interests. Follow community resourcing guidelines to meet the needs of historically excluded Non-profit urban forestry practitioners communities and eliminate barriers to participation in all community engagement Community-based meetings and events. organizations Goal 2. Build community power and support across the city and local movements for a healthy and equitable urban forest. 2.1 Invite residents, community organizations and other stakeholders to join a city-wide · Non-profit urban forestry practitioners effort to cultivate broad support for Providence's urban forest and for tree equity. Community-based organizations 2.2 Build capacity within existing urban forestry organizations to expand advocacy activities Non-profit urban forestry practitioners and strengthen community partnerships that reflect the interconnectedness of tree Community-based equity with other systemic issues impacting climate justice frontline communities. organizations · Non-profit urban forestry 2.3 Conduct capacity-building workshops with cultural, spiritual, and community groups to practitioners build the skills and expertise of staff and leaders around topics of tree equity, Community-based maintenance, planting, and other issues related to trees in the city. organizations Goal 3. Deepen our relationships with trees by expanding access to information and opportunities for further learning and involvement. · Non-profit urban forestry 3.1 Develop multilingual and multimedia outreach materials highlighting the benefits of practitioners urban trees and their relationships to environmental justice and community health. City State 3.2 Ensure that youth and students in Providence have the opportunity to learn about the Non-profit urban forestry practitioners value and role of urban trees, tree equity, and its intersections with environmental Community-based justice. organizations City Institutions

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3.3	Expand community education models that empower residents with the skills to care for and protect trees where they live.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City Institutions			✓	
3.4	Increase the accessibility of information about available programs, funding, and technical assistance for tree planting, maintenance, and workforce development in frontline communities.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City State		>		
3.5	Improve communication with residents in advance of planned tree work (including street tree planting, pruning, and removal) and expand Forestry Division capacity to communicate directly with community members and respond to requests, questions, and concerns.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners Large-scale property owners			✓	
3.6	Prioritize data transparency and availability.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners		✓		✓
Goal 4.	Center, celebrate, and nourish our communities' existing relationships with the	e urban forest.				
4.1	Collaborate with Indigenous community organizations and knowledge keepers to promote and protect Native cultural and land-based practices and knowledge around trees.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City State				✓
4.2	Partner with artists and culture-workers, particularly from BIPOC communities, to connect the work of tree planting and maintenance with arts and culture-based activities and programming relevant to communities of color in low-canopy neighborhoods.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City Institutions				✓
4.3	Prioritize models for community education and skill-sharing that honor the tree knowledge—including transnational and generational knowledge—that is already held within climate justice frontline communities.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City State				✓

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4.4	Collect and share residents' stories and memories of trees.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City			✓	
4.5	Facilitate opportunities for community gathering and joyful celebration of trees as living beings and valued neighbors.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City				✓
4.6	Explore possibilities for memorial and tribute tree planting programs.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City			>	
4.7	Expand access to public lands and green spaces, particularly in neighborhoods impacted by redlining and disinvestment.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City			✓	<
Goal 5	Prioritize planting trees on privately owned land.					
Reside	ential Property:					
5.1	Develop and pilot a free yard-tree planting program that is collaboratively implemented by partner organizations across tree equity focus areas.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State	*	>		
5.2	Explore possibilities for residential de-paving programs to facilitate residential tree planting and expand access to green space.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State			√	
5.3	Address barriers to planting trees on non-owner-occupied residential properties to ensure that renters have access to the benefits of yard trees.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Large-scale property owners		\		
5.4	Honor requests for food-bearing yard trees and provide residents with accessible technical assistance and training for fruit and nut tree care.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City				✓
5.5	Modify the DEM Energy-Saving Trees program to increase accessibility for climate justice frontline communities and those living in tree equity focus areas.	State		√		

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Comm	ercial Property:					
5.6	Identify top non-residential private landowners in tree equity focus areas, and advance incentives and technical support to encourage planting and protect and increase tree canopy.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Institutions Large-scale property owners		√		
5.7	Expand outreach to small business owners and other small-scale non-residential property owners and increase program capacity to provide technical support for small businesses to plant trees on commercial property.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City			✓	
5.8	Educate commercial and institutional landowners about local zoning ordinances, including tree replacement requirements and canopy requirements, and partner with advocates within these institutions to increase accountability.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Institutions Large-scale property owners		>		
Goal 6	Expand opportunities to plant trees, orchards, and "mini-forests" in communit	y spaces.				
6.1	Identify parks and existing green spaces located in tree equity focus areas with potential for tree plantings and expand City funding to plant and maintain trees at those sites, particularly in neighborhoods impacted by redlining, urban renewal, and disinvestment.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City		✓		
6.2	Invest in creating new small green spaces and "mini-forests" in tree equity focus areas, guided by community planning and participatory design processes.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City			✓	
6.3	Expand existing partnerships and program models to depave and plant at K-12 schools in tree equity focus areas.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Institutions		✓		
6.4	Develop replicable program structures—including funding sources, shared equipment, in-person assistance, and standard guidelines—for faith centers, community centers, and other local organizations to conduct their own tree plantings.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City Institutions			✓	
6.5	Establish protocols and supports for planting fruit trees, community orchards, and food & medicinal forests on public lands and in community spaces.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City		✓		

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Goal 7	Increase capacity for street tree planting in tree equity focus areas.					
7.1	Resource the community organizations already planting street trees in tree equity focus areas to expand their activities.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City		✓		
7.2	Provide stipends for community "Tree Leaders" to conduct neighborhood outreach and organize group plantings, reducing reliance on unpaid community volunteers.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations				✓
7.3	Empower climate justice frontline communities with the tools, training, funds, and opportunities to participate directly in plantings where they live.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City				>
7.4	Increase the annual City street tree planting budget and ensure that the number of trees budgeted for planting always exceeds the number removed in the previous year.	• City		✓		
7.5	Manage infrastructure to maximize space available for street tree planting.	City State Private urban forestry practitioners			✓	
7.6	Prioritize setback tree plantings to maximize public benefits and canopy growth.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City				✓
Goal 8	Adopt coordinated city-wide approaches to plant for equity and resilience.				,	
8.1	Implement neighborhood-level decision making processes, in collaboration with existing neighborhood bodies (such as neighborhood associations), to guide tree placement and facilitate community oversight of planting activities.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City		√		✓
8.2	Develop systems to track and coordinate planting activities across municipal departments, community organizations, commercial and institutional landowners, and other entities and ensure that planting projects are aligned with community priorities.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Institutions Private urban forestry practitioners Large-scale property owners	*	✓		
8.3	Develop and distribute updated city-wide guidelines for strategic species selection.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners		✓		

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8.4	Collaborate with Native Nations to develop planting practices that honor Indigenous relationships with native tree species, and appropriately compensate Indigenous knowledge keepers to lead this work.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City				✓
8.5	Use succession planting schedules as appropriate to promote age diversity of trees and improve our urban forest's resilience to stressors that impact trees at different life stages.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City				✓
8.6	Create an updated handbook for city-wide use by practitioner organizations outlining standards for tree planting and maintenance based on site type.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners		√		
8.7	Place trees to strategically maximize their environmental and community benefits.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners				✓
8.8	Take proactive steps to ensure the long-term availability of large numbers of young trees for planting in Providence.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners		✓		✓
Goal 9.	Nurture our young and newly planted trees to survive and thrive into adulthood	d.				
9.1	Direct resources to tree equity focus areas to compensate community members for establishment care following planting and remove barriers to long-term tree survival.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City				✓
9.2	Invest in city-wide community stewardship models to provide establishment care for newly planted trees.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City Institutions Private urban forestry practitioners Large-scale property owners	*	✓		
9.3	Institute survival checks for trees planted by the City and partner organizations.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City		√		

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Goal 1	0. Ease the burdens that trees can create for our communities—especially the r	nost marginalized.				
10.1	Provide income-based financial assistance or cost sharing to support residents in caring for trees on private property.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners			✓	
10.2	Establish an emergency resident assistance fund for tree-related damage (including damage to homes, sewers, and other property).	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners			√	
10.3	Create programs for elderly and disabled community members to access free or low-cost landscaping services, including tree planting, tree maintenance, and leaf-raking.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City Private urban forestry practitioners			√	
10.4	Collaborate with disabled community members and disability justice groups to develop best practices for managing conflicts between trees and sidewalk infrastructure that specifically center accessibility for disabled residents and equity for low-canopy neighborhoods of color that have experienced historical disinvestment.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City				✓
10.5	Establish low-burden pathways for renters to access maintenance services when property owners neglect tree care responsibilities.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners		√		
10.6	Help residents who have the financial resources to pay for their own tree care access high-quality maintenance services on a timely basis.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners		✓		
10.7	Fund the Forestry Division to work through the current backlog of street tree pruning and removal requests, starting with tree equity focus areas, where long wait times can leave residents hesitant to welcome new trees to their neighborhoods.	• City		√		

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Goal 11. Protect our precious existing canopy and cultivate an urban forest that is resilient to short-term and long-term threats.										
11.1	Expand the capacity of Forestry Division management and crew to properly care for our public trees.	• City	*	✓						
11.2	Develop and implement a comprehensive engagement strategy to reduce conflicts between street trees and utility infrastructure.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners		√						
11.3	Expand outreach to inform property owners and contractors about local tree ordinances to increase awareness of municipal tree policy among those responsible for managing and working with urban trees.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Institutions Private urban forestry practitioners Large-scale property owners		✓						
11.4	Create and implement a plan of action to respond to insect and disease outbreaks that affect our urban forest.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners		✓						
11.5	Develop collaboration structures to minimize the spread of invasive species—including both trees and other plants—that damage the health of our urban forest.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City State Private urban forestry practitioners		✓		✓				
11.6	Plan for tree-related emergencies as climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners			√					

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Goal 1	2. Monitor the health of our urban forest and the activities that sustain it.					
12.1	Develop a community tree inventory program to move from fixed-point street tree inventories towards a living dynamic inventory that tracks up-to-date information (including species, size, and condition) and maintenance history for all publicly managed trees.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City Institutions	*	√		✓
12.2	Conduct regular urban tree canopy assessments using available best practices and technology to provide a city-wide picture of urban forest structure and distribution and track progress towards our canopy target.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State				✓
12.3	Conduct a STEW-MAP or network map assessment to inventory and map the relationships between the network of organizations and individuals doing urban forestry related or adjacent activities in Providence, and periodically revisit and remap to assess changes in the ecosystem of partners.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State		✓		✓
	3. Introduce employment-seekers to tree industry career options, supporting pe stains them.	eople in making inforn	ned decisions	towards	accessi	ng work
13.1	Facilitate green career discovery opportunities for young people, introducing youth to employment options in the tree industry and related environmental fields.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations Private urban forestry practitioners		✓		
13.2	Expand opportunities for students to pursue formal education in urban forestry and arboriculture.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners State Institutions Private urban forestry practitioners			✓	
13.3	Consolidate and distribute information about existing tree-related career pathways, training programs, and support resources.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners		✓		

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Goal 14. Dismantle barriers to entry into the tree industry for people of color, women, trans, and non-binary people, and others who have historically been excluded from the field.									
14.1	Develop a city-wide structure to train and pay community members for flexible, low-commitment, hyperlocal work performing tree care and monitoring in low-canopy neighborhoods.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City Private urban forestry practitioners	*	✓					
14.2	Increase support for community organizations to create and expand job training programs that help prepare residents—especially those from climate justice frontline communities—to access meaningful work in green careers.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners		√					
14.3	Reassess job specifications for entry-level City forestry positions to expand the list of approved qualifications, remove initial barriers, and reward obtaining skills on the job.	• City		✓					
14.4	Increase the accessibility of the Rhode Island Arborist Licensing Exam.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners State Private urban forestry practitioners		✓					
14.5	Explore incentive structures for private tree care companies to develop equity-focused programs, including apprenticeships and externships, and collaborate with non-profit workforce development programs.	City State			✓				
	5. Support tree workers' professional growth and changing needs from training ays with opportunities for advancement.	to retirement, buildin	g continuous,	, family-s	ustainin	g career			
15.1	Provide support and incentives for tree industry workers, including Forestry Division staff, to pursue further training and qualifications that advance career mobility and portability.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners			✓				
15.2	Extend the availability of wraparound services beyond the job training phase, expanding programs that provide legal, tax, financial, and business succession support, child care assistance, mental health services, and retirement planning for tree industry workers.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Institutions Private urban forestry practitioners				✓			

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15.3	Support mid- and late-career tree industry workers facing aging, physical limitations, and disability with positions that integrate non-physical work and meaningfully build on accumulated industry experience, including inventory management and community outreach.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners				✓
15.4	Foster collaboration between tree industry workers and workers in other outdoor industries to develop standards and protections for outdoor workers subject to safety hazards including heat and sun exposure, noise, heavy equipment, and vector-borne diseases.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Institutions Private urban forestry practitioners			✓	
15.5	Collaborate with industry labor representatives to create and expand access to union jobs in the tree care industry.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Institutions Private urban forestry practitioners		✓		
	5. Support tree workers' professional growth and changing needs from training ays with opportunities for advancement.	to retirement, buildin	g continuous	, family-s	sustainin	g career
16.1	Secure a multi-year dedicated City budget commitment for tree planting and maintenance projects, specifically prioritizing tree equity focus areas.	• City		✓		
16.2	Direct fees from enforcement of zoning codes to support urban forestry activities in tree equity focus areas.	• City				✓
16.3	Expand private philanthropic support to increase non-profit sector capacity for planting, maintenance, community engagement, and advocacy, including by matching municipal forestry investments.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Institutions				✓
16.4	Engage the private sector in financing urban forestry activities.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Institutions Private urban forestry practitioners Large-scale property owners		✓		

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Goal 1	Goal 17. Link urban forestry funding streams with funding streams for intersecting social and environmental equity initiatives.									
17.1	Maximize federal funding opportunities for urban tree canopy, including Inflation Reduction Act funds, by expanding co-fundraising efforts between city and state public and non-profit partners.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City State				✓				
17.2	Align forestry fundraising with other social and health equity goals to help leverage the wide range of existing state funding opportunities towards tree equity.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State				✓				
17.3	Prioritize trees as critical public infrastructure within Providence's next Capital Improvement Plan by providing funds to support tree planting and maintenance on streets and in parks and implement solutions to reduce conflicts between trees and sidewalks.	• City		✓						
17.4	Establish a stormwater enterprise fund to support the costs of stormwater management and green and gray infrastructure, including tree maintenance and reducing conflicts between trees and infrastructure.	• City			√					
17.5	Expand participation in the City Forest Credits Carbon Credit program for new tree planting and maintenance to generate ongoing revenue for program support, including long-term maintenance and other priorities identified by frontline community members.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City				✓				
17.6	Establish partnerships with health insurance companies, hospitals, and large healthcare institutions to financially support tree planting and maintenance initiatives that improve air quality and reduce healthcare expenses.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Institutions			✓					
Goal 1	8. Distribute resources according to the needs and priorities of climate justice f	rontline communities	most impact	ed by tre	e inequit	y.				
18.1	Establish Urban Forest Community Advisory Board guidance over allocation of public and private urban forestry funds.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City	*	√		✓				
18.2	Design a participatory budgeting process at the neighborhood level for residents of tree equity focus areas, to center the voices of climate justice frontline communities in decisions about where and how trees are planted and maintained.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City		✓		✓				

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18.3	Follow collaborative governance guidelines for resource allocation through the implementation of this plan, allocating 80-100% of funds directly to community partners and community-driven processes.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State				✓
18.4	Directly and fairly resource climate justice frontline community members to participate in planting and maintenance activities through volunteer stipends and both formal and informal employment opportunities.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State Private urban forestry practitioners				✓
18.5	Leverage public and private funds to provide urban forestry services—including planting, maintenance, and training—for free or at a reduced cost in tree equity focus areas.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City State				✓
Goal 1	9. Distribute resources according to the needs and priorities of climate justice f	rontline communities	most impact	ed by tre	e inequit	:y.
19.1	Rewrite the city tree ordinance (Chapter 23 ½ - Trees) to bring its content into alignment with the overall recommendations and priorities of the PVD Tree Plan.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City	*	√		
19.2	Expand protections for significant trees.	• City		√		
19.3	Adjust Article 15. Trees and Landscaping of the Zoning Ordinance to expand tree planting and replacement requirements for development.	• City		✓		
19.4	Adjust parking requirements to slow the increase of impermeable ground covers and provide space for the urban canopy.	• City			✓	
19.5	Accompany new tree regulations and activities with robust anti-displacement strategies and policies, guided by community organizations advocating for housing justice.	Community-based organizations City State		\		
Goal 20	D. Coordinate urban forestry activities, policy, planning, and enforcement acros	s municipal and state	departments	.		
20.1	Coordinate and strengthen enforcement of zoning violations (including paving and landscaping canopy requirements) across City departments and clarify responsibilities where ambiguous.	• City		✓		
20.2	Incorporate the recommendations of the PVD Tree Plan within the upcoming Comprehensive Plan and integrate mutual alignment with other municipal and state plans.	• City		✓		

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20.3	Foster collaboration and communication between the Urban Forest Community Advisory Board and existing municipal advisory bodies.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City				✓
20.4	Update standard design specifications in all new sidewalk renovation or construction projects in tree equity focus areas to include pre-cut tree pits or lawn strips and coordinate across municipal and nonprofit partners to install trees in them.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City		√		
20.5	Develop interdepartmental protocols for preventing and responding to sidewalk conflicts, drawing on the "PVD Trees + Infrastructure" guide produced by the Southeast New England Program.	• City		✓		
20.6	Increase communication across state and municipal governments to improve maintenance, regulation, and enforcement where state and municipal lands meet or where both state and municipal work occurs.	City State		✓		
20.7	Establish consistent standards for parks maintenance activities that affect tree health and collaborate across Parks Divisions to train employees in these standards.	• City		✓		
20.8	Proactively update old infrastructure at risk of damage by tree roots.	• City			√	
20.9	Incorporate urban reforestation and strategic tree plantings into the State Implementation Plan for Clean Air Act compliance.	City State		✓		
20.10	Improve and centralize data collection practices, integrating data sets across municipal departments and platforms as appropriate to streamline coordination.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners City Private urban forestry practitioners		√		
	L. Develop state-level policies and plans that eliminate barriers facing municipa mance at the scale needed to realize climate benefits and achieve tree equity.	l urban forestry depa	rtments and s	support t	ree plan	ting and
21.1	Advance Rights of Nature legislation honoring the personhood of trees and other non-human beings and their legal rights to exist, thrive, and regenerate.	Community-based organizations State			✓	
21.2	Work with Native Nations and Tribal Councils to secure legal protections for Indigenous land sovereignty and cultural practices through strategies including cultural easements, land acquisition, and co-management.	• City • State				✓
21.3	Develop a statewide legislative framework enabling adoption of robust anti- displacement strategies and policies at state and municipal levels.	State		✓		

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21.4	Develop statewide and regional infrastructure for sharing and replicating successful models for urban tree planting, maintenance, and stewardship and coordinating best practices for tree health and community-based urban forestry.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners State			\	
21.5	Establish statewide partnerships for urban forestry research and monitoring, including higher education institutions, tree managers, and elementary and secondary education STEM programs.	Non-profit urban forestry practitioners Community-based organizations City State Institutions			\	