

# INVESTING IN URBAN TREES TO BALANCE RAPID DEVELOPMENT

## METRO NASHVILLE...

- ❖ *Projected to lose 1.6 million trees by 2030 due to the emerald ash borer*
- ❖ *902 acres lost from 2016 to 2021*
- ❖ *Nashville's population grew by 86 people per day in 2023 - over 31,000 new residents.*
- ❖ *Trends show the development pace has increased through 2023*

## COST OF TREE LOSS TO TAXPAYERS

Nashville's loss of 902 acres of tree canopy resulted in a loss of over \$270M in stormwater benefits alone. In FY2022, Metro Nashville's Tree Protection Bill BL2022-1409 set aside funding for tree planting.

**\$30M** Stormwater benefits lost 2016-2021

## CHALLENGE

Development in the US remains the leading cause of tree canopy loss. Despite efforts to boost canopy coverage, development surpasses conservation measures, causing further tree loss and canopy decline.

## MEETING NEED WITH POLICY

Metro Nashville sought to understand the impact of tree loss on stormwater abatement, peak temperatures in urban areas, and air quality. Results showed a need plug the gap of lost tree canopy benefits using data and policy tools.



Measure  
Impact



Impact  
Financing



Increase Net  
Canopy

## THE TREE CANOPY FUND

Working with the Mayor's office, multiple departments, and NGOs, Nashville's city council approved the **Tree Canopy Bill**, creating the first fund of its kind for tree canopy. A portion of building permit revenue was newly allocated to help invest in tree plantings, available to anyone in community.

To learn more about this policy, reach out to us at [help@emecon.com](mailto:help@emecon.com)

