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# Greening the Public Right of Way

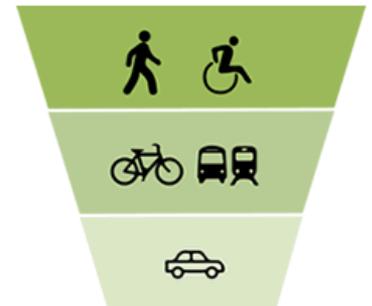
Katrina Kessler, P.E.

Director – Surface Water and Sewers

September 13, 2016

# May 17, 2016 Staff Direction

- Staff is directed to report on the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy, including
  - multimodal, traffic signal, and curbside policies and practices; and
  - ***recommended approaches to developing greening plans or policies***



# Greening is trees and other living features



# Greening is infrastructure

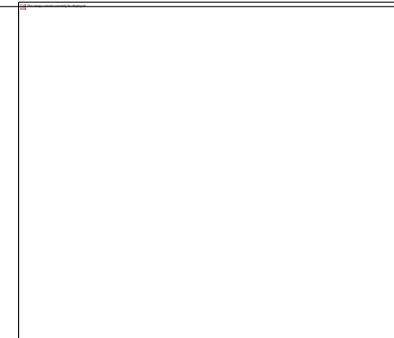
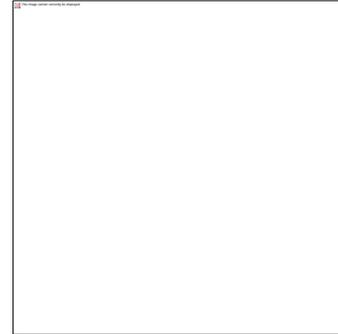


# Definition

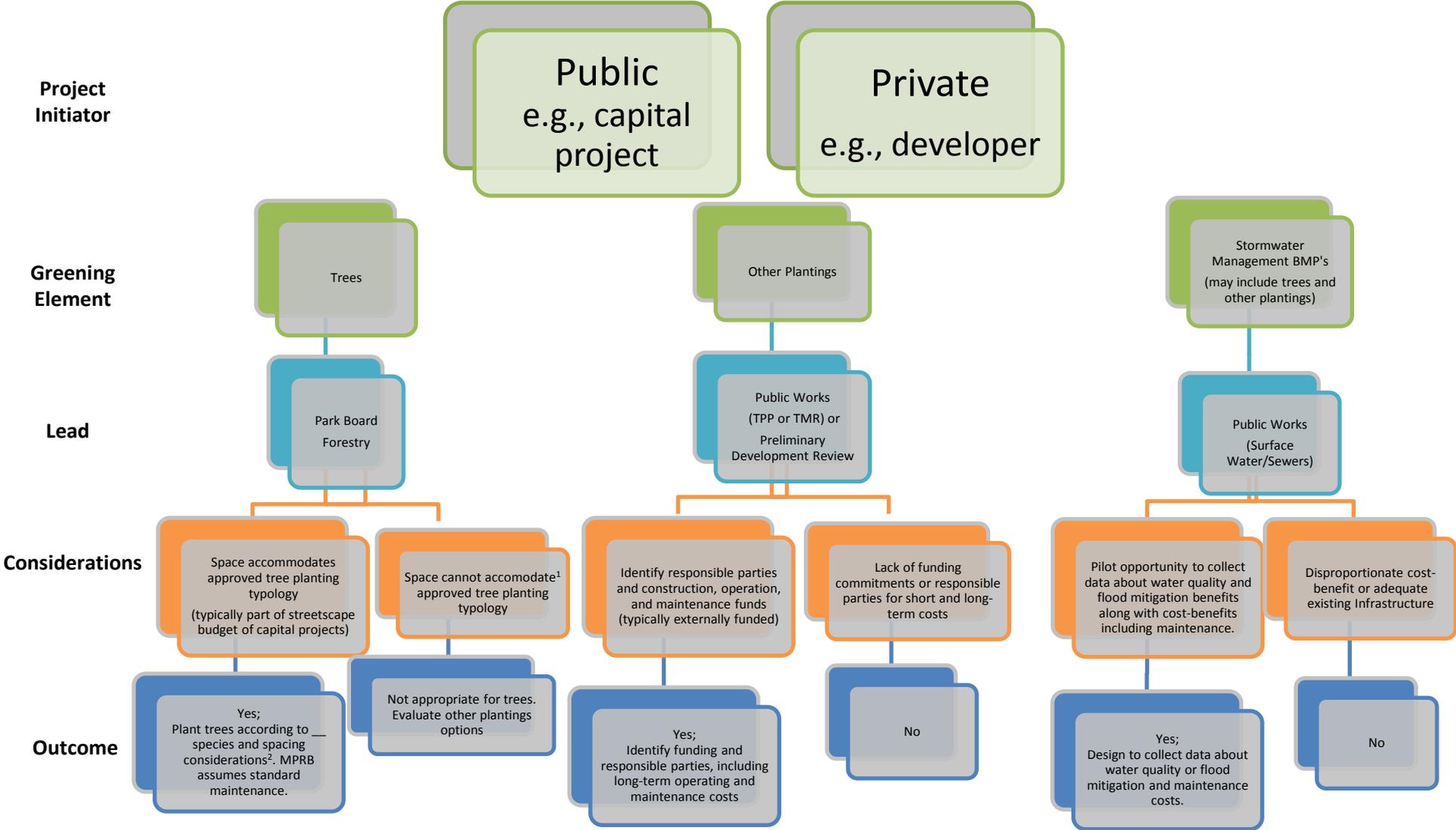
- 1) Incorporation of trees or other vegetation designed to enhance the public realm
- 2) Integration of green infrastructure to maximize stormwater storage or treatment where data show these elements will mitigate flooding and/or improve water quality



# City and partners are key



# Right of Way Greening – Pathways to Implementation



1 – Inadequate root zone, utility conflicts and clearances, soil conditions, clear zone, etc.

2 - Preferred spacing is equal to the crown spread for the selected variety, minimum spacing is 3/4 of the crown spread for the selected variety.

# Right of Way Greening – Future Process

Project Initiator

Public  
e.g., capital project

Private  
e.g., developer

Greening Element

Stormwater Management BMP's  
(may include trees and other plantings)

Lead

Public Works  
Surface Water/Sewers

Considerations

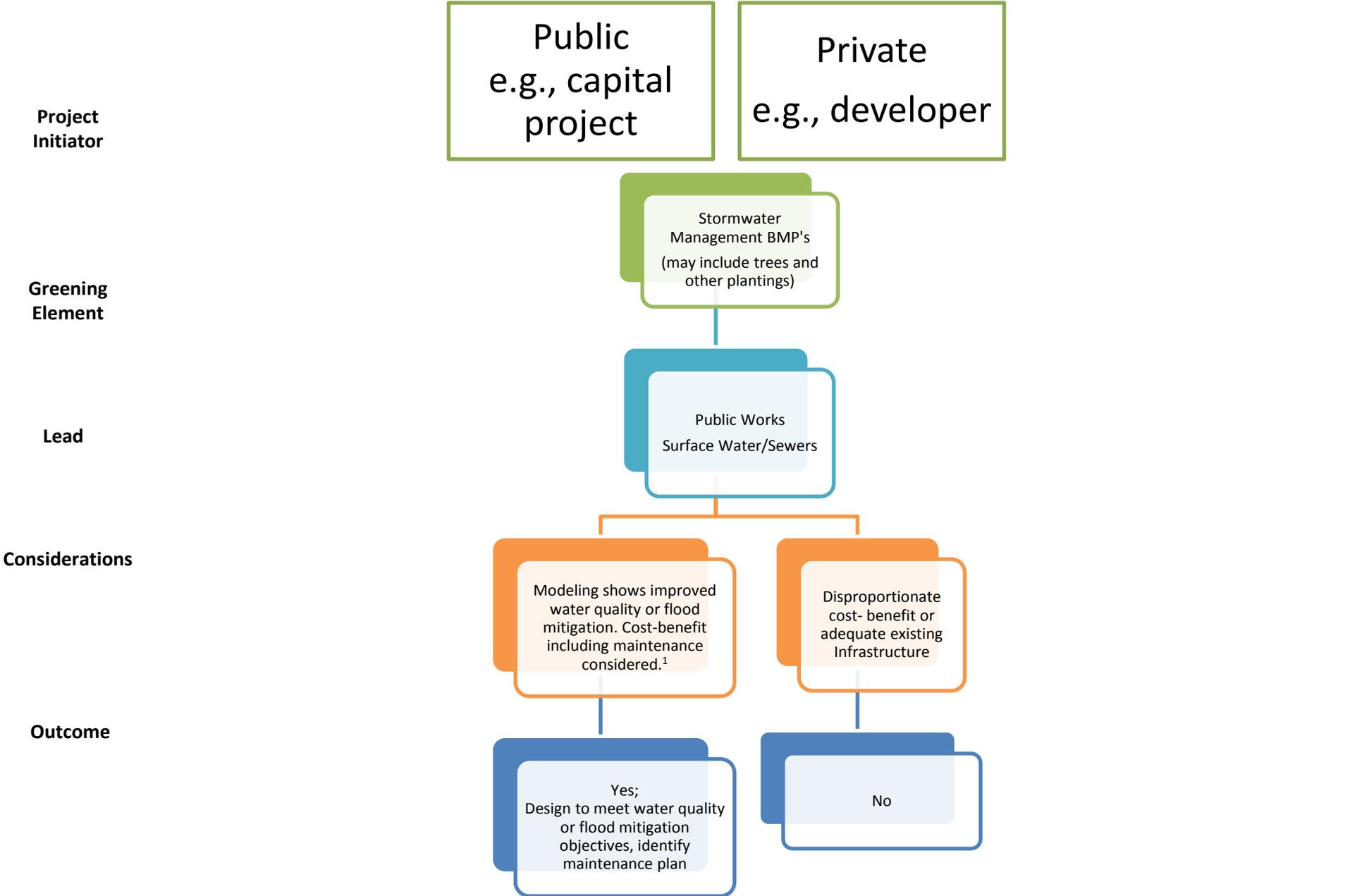
Modeling shows improved water quality or flood mitigation. Cost-benefit including maintenance considered.<sup>1</sup>

Disproportionate cost-benefit or adequate existing Infrastructure

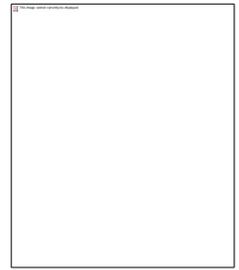
Outcome

Yes;  
Design to meet water quality or flood mitigation objectives, identify maintenance plan

No



# Recommended Approaches



- Short term – clarify and implement existing guidance; Urban Forest Policy, Construction Specs, Stormwater Ordinance, Complete Streets Policy, opportunistically pursue green infrastructure pilot projects
- Long term – utilize models (expected by end of 2017) to thoughtfully select green infrastructure that will provide most value over the long term
- Long term need to consider cost benefit of maintaining functional green infrastructure

# Recommended Approaches

- Foster partnerships to help with upfront costs and long term maintenance
- Increased greening will require increased investments
  - Rain gardens and infiltration basins are time intensive costly for the City to maintain
  - Public tree pruning/removal/replacement are done by MPRB Forestry



# Thanks!

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