1. In an innovative approach, the Culver City Urban Forest Master Plan considers the urban forest through the lens of landscape architecture, looking beyond “just” trees to view the urban forest as the ecosystem of plants and people in the city.

2. The Plan is based on a thorough analysis of the City’s historical and existing urban forest. It includes a series of mappings, such as the one pictured here, that trace the evolution of the City’s landscape over time. This analysis serves as a foundation for proposals and recommendations.
3. Designed to be useful for City residents as well as City staff, the Plan employs an elegant layout and compelling graphics to explain the foundational concepts of urban forestry. These diagrams illustrate useful urban forestry terms, such as grove and monoculture, in order to facilitate clear dialogue and planning.

4. The planning process included a strong community engagement component. This postcard was sent out to residents to invite them to the five community meetings. By presenting urban forest concepts in clear, accessible language with compelling graphics, the consultant team fostered a robust community dialogue.

5. The Plan includes extensive analysis of Culver City’s existing urban forest, including the most common species and genera, age composition, and the size of existing trees. This diagram shows the benefits of the most common species in the existing urban forest; these ecosystem services were quantified using iTree software.
6. Maps and diagrams were designed to be compelling and accessible. This map shows the location of monocultures within the City, offering a quick look at large patterns of species composition and how they shape certain streetscapes and neighborhoods.

7. The Plan provides the City with comprehensive recommendations and tools for enhancing its urban forest. This diagram illustrates the overall vision for strengthening “green connections” in the City, a robust green infrastructure that includes the urban forest, park land and sustainable transportation networks.

8. Applying a design perspective to the urban forest, the Plan addresses large, urban-scale issues such as wayfinding and placemaking as well as addressing small scale questions of species selection and maintenance. This map illustrates a proposal for enhancing wayfinding through species selection for major corridors.
9. The Tree Designations list indicates the tree species to be planted on each block when an existing tree is removed. The text and diagrams here describe the criteria and thought process behind the designations and illustrate how they will create change in the urban forest over time.

10. The recommendations section indicates the places of highest priority for strengthening the urban forest. These recommendations, combined with comprehensive management guidelines and community resources, offer a powerful tool to assist the City and community in shaping a vibrant, healthy and sustainable urban environment.