

Community Forest Management Plan

Preservation and Expansion of the Urban Forest

Trees Clean the Air:

- Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases and filter out the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.
- Buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is contributing to climate change. Trees absorb CO₂, removing and storing the carbon and releasing oxygen back into the air.
- An acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO₂ your car produces when you drive your car 26,000 miles in a year.
- An acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people in one year.

Trees Provide a Shield:

- Trees reduce UV-B exposure protecting the population from skin cancer and other skin irritants.
- Trees provide a canopy cover from the elements such as wind and rain for both humans and wildlife.
- Prevent soil erosion and reduce stormwater runoff.

Trees are an Asset:

- Trees have a monetary value as well as safety and health.
- Maintenance is essential for the urban forest to continue as an important asset and not a liability.
- A well-planted and maintained property increases property values.
- Investing in the urban forest has a lasting effect on our community.

Trees Enhance the Quality of Life:

- Trees offer an aesthetically pleasing and emotionally uplifting view of surroundings.
- A pruning, maintenance and planting schedule helps to preserve and enhance the urban forest for future generations. Trees fill in gaps in the urban canopy and ensure the survival of this essential resource.
- Encourage physical activities and promotes well-being by reducing stress.
- Additional benefits include a place to gather, play, seasonal viewings of leaves and through specific species provide food.

Smart Growth: Our urban forest is an asset that adds value to all of the properties and facilities in our City.

Downtown Revitalization: Walkability is a key enabler of downtown revitalization. A sidewalk framed by street trees is one key ingredient to a walkable community.