

# URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP CLINTON TOWNSHIP



## CLINTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY FORESTRY GOALS

1

ESTABLISH TREE RISK MANAGEMENT

2

MAINTAIN AND INCREASE TREE CANOPY

3

PROMOTE CITIZEN EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

### STRENGTHS

**EXPERIENCE:** Staff have over 5 years of experience in tree management.

**POLICY COMMITMENT:** A tree ordinance and other policies regulate nuisance mitigation, tree replacement, tree preservation, and tree planting in new developments.

**FUNDING AVAILABLE:** Program funded through general fund allocation and donations.

### CHALLENGES

**INSUFFICIENT FUNDING:** There is no budget for tree planting and a minimal budget for a forestry program.

**MANAGEMENT CAPACITY:** Urban forestry responsibilities are divided between residents, contractors, and staff. This could lead to possible limitations for coordination and decision making. Individual staff members may benefit from more technical expertise and confidence.

**MANAGEMENT STANDARDS:** The community could adopt industry standards and specifications for care and planting.

### OPPORTUNITIES

**POLICIES AND GUIDING DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT:** Invest in the program framework and adopt quality standards, guiding policies, and tools for future growth.

**INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF RESOURCE:** Inventory publicly managed trees and utilize Macomb County's urban tree canopy analysis.

**EDUCATION:** Pursue technical training for staff; promote ISA-Certified Arborist credentials.

**TREE VALUE IS HIGH:** Citizen advocates, active volunteers, and elected officials support trees in the township.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:** Residents plant street trees and sponsor memorial tree program. They also set expectations for tree management.

**MANAGEMENT PRIORITY:** Urban forestry could become more of a priority for township management. Leadership may lack an understanding of the value and benefits of trees.

**LIMITED GUIDING DOCUMENTS:** The community could benefit from an urban forestry management plan, resiliency plan, emergency response, or safety procedures plan in place, as well as an urban forestry master plan that connects, directs, and prioritizes current actions.

**UNAVAILABLE URBAN FORESTRY DATA:** The township could benefit from a tree inventory.

**FUNDING OPTIONS:** Increase funding opportunities and resources for tree planting efforts through grants and partnerships.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Seek support from state, county, and non-profit groups. Attend regional workshops. Take advantage of available technical assistance.

**ENGAGE AND EMPOWER RESIDENTS:** Reach out to citizens and encourage participation for tree planting goals. Support residential planting efforts through a cost-share initiative.

### CURRENT CANOPY COVER: 23.35%

Tree City USA: NO  
Tree Ordinance: YES  
Current Tree Inventory: NO  
Tree Planting: 0% of Program Budget

Tree Donation Program: YES  
(Donation and Memorial)

Active Management: YES  
Active Volunteers: YES

Tree Work: IN-HOUSE  
Tree Planting: RESIDENTS

Public Streets: 401 Miles  
Public Parks: 307 Acres

Community Contacts:  
Mary Bednar  
Director of Public Services  
m.bednar@clintontownship-mi.gov

Brian Girard  
Public Services Assistant Superintendent  
b.girard@clintontownship-mi.gov

### NEEDS

Additional Capacity	Tree Inventory
Additional Funding	Management Plan
Staff Confidence	Master Plan
Technical Training	Safety and Training Plan
Maintenance Support	Citizen Advocacy
	Outreach and Education



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## CODE AND ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

This document provides a quick reference for how community forestry is incorporated into the local regulatory framework. It can serve as initial guidance for future updates and potential action. The matrix below gives an overview of the forestry and landscape standards included in local ordinances, based on those elements typically included in robust programs. While this overview determines whether an element is included and the

corresponding location within local legislation, it does not provide an in depth review of the quality of each element nor how well it is actually functioning in practice. A more detailed matrix is kept with the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development and can be made available upon request to support local updates. For more information on Green Macomb and your community, please visit: [green.macombgov.org](http://green.macombgov.org).

ORDINANCE/CODE ELEMENT	YES	NO	LOCATION
Tree Ordinance	●		Ch 1024
Responsible Party: Public Tree Planting		●	
Responsible Party: Public Tree Maintenance	●		Ch 1024.03
Responsible Party: Public Tree Removal		●	
Tree Board/Commission/Department and Duties		●	
Tree Canopy Guidelines		●	
Dead/Diseased Tree Removal	●		Ch 694.02
Public: Tree Planting	●		Ch 1024.04, Ch 1024.07
Public: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 1024.06
Public: Tree Removal/Maintenance	●		Ch 694.02, Ch 1024.03
Public: Permit required for work on trees		●	
Public: Restricts mutilation of trees	●		Ch 1062.12 (parks)
Development: Tree Planting	●		Ch 1228.04, Ch 1244.06
Development: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 1214.03, Ch 1226.06, Ch 1228.04
Development: Tree Removal	●		Ch 1214.03
Development: Tree Replacement		●	
Development: Requires landscape plan, inclusion of trees and vegetation in site plans	●		Ch 1224.03, Ch 1226.05
Parking: Tree Planting	●		Ch 1296.02
Parks: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 1062.12
Woodlands: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 1214
Businesses, Community Centers, Pools, etc.: Tree and landscaping requirements	●		Ch 1258.02
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Tree Requirements	●		Ch 1284.05, Ch 1298.04
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Landscaping Standards	●		Ch 1298.02, Ch 1298.04, Ch 1298.08
Approved/Suggested Species List	●		Ch 1024.08 (kept with Township Clerk and DPW), Ch 1228.04
Prohibited Species List	●		Ch 1289.04
Plant Material Guidelines: Species, Size, Spacing	●		Ch 1298.04

### SPECIFICATIONS & STANDARDS MANUAL

A Specifications and Standards Manual can be created to organize all relevant information used to guide tree management into a single document. It houses information regarding species, sizing, spacing, planting, removal, replacement and maintenance requirements. Ideally, the manual would be referenced in the ordinance, but would be kept separate. Maintaining the document outside the ordinance allows for easy changes and in depth explanations. Like any city plan, the Specifications and Standards Manual should be revisited every few years to make updates.

### SPECIES LISTS

It is best to maintain species lists outside the code of ordinances to more easily respond to changing environmental conditions and new diseases, which may effect urban canopy. This revision can be implemented during the next round of ordinance updates.

### RESOURCES

*Guidance for creating and updating tree ordinances:*

[www.releafmichigan.org](http://www.releafmichigan.org)

[www.isa-arbor.com/education/onlineResources/treeOrdinanceGuidelines.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/education/onlineResources/treeOrdinanceGuidelines.aspx)

[www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/planning-policy/tree-ordinances/](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/planning-policy/tree-ordinances/)

