

URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP MOUNT CLEMENS



MOUNT CLEMENS COMMUNITY FORESTRY GOALS

1

MAINTAIN AND INCREASE
TREE CANOPY

2

ESTABLISH TREE
RISK MANAGEMENT

3

DEVELOP FORMAL
PROGRAM STRUCTURE

STRENGTHS

TREE CITY USA: A 30-year commitment to Tree City USA shows long running investment in baseline urban forestry.

EXPERIENCE: Staff have over 5 years of experience; they proactively manage urban forest needs.

POLICY COMMITMENT: Tree ordinance regulates tree protection and planting in new development. City follows tree care procedures that improve public safety.

DATA AVAILABLE: Tree inventory data are

available to help guide management efforts.

TREES ARE A PRIORITY: Elected officials, administrators, program staff, and citizens value trees and appear to support further urban forestry management development.

STRATEGIC PLANTING: New tree plantings consider aesthetic value, species diversity, and ways to maximize tree benefits.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: Active volunteer groups support trees and set expectations for tree planting.

CHALLENGES

STAFF CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE:

Department director has limited time for tree management, and staff may not have technical expertise.

NO FORMAL GUIDING DOCUMENTS: Urban forestry work is performed on a case-by-case basis as directed by leadership. Without clear written directives, the loss of key staff could jeopardize the city's program stability and effectiveness.

OUTDATED DATA: Tree inventory informa-

tion is not current and underutilized.

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY: In-house crews perform tree work; this could limit timely response and capacity for increased work load.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES: Hazard trees and public safety are the highest priority. This may minimize focus on tree protection and planting. Tree replacement is not keeping up with removals.

IMPACT AREA: There is limited space for trees along ROW.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

UPDATE TREE INVENTORY: Identify missing and outdated elements to existing inventory. Create a functional tool to guide future management.

FORMALIZE URBAN FORESTRY FRAMEWORK: Compile department practices, priorities, and protocols into written policies or guiding documents to ensure long-term program direction.

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

technical assistance. Foster relationship with active volunteer groups to boost community outreach.

FUNDING OPTIONS: Continue using grants to increase funding opportunities. Consider funding request to City Council for targeted projects and planting initiatives.

INCREASE STRATEGIC PLANTING EFFORTS: Use Macomb County Urban Tree Canopy analysis to determine a planting plan that will maximize tree benefits and support tree replacement goals.

MAINTAIN CANOPY: Protect and grow existing tree resource through policy and management.

CURRENT CANOPY COVER: 24%

Tree City USA: YES
Tree Ordinance: YES
Current Tree Inventory: YES

Tree Planting: 15-30% of Program Budget (General Fund/Grants)

Tree Donation Program: YES
Active Volunteers: YES

Tree Work: IN-HOUSE
Tree Planting: CONTRACT & IN-HOUSE

Public Streets: 67 Miles
Public Parks: 102 Acres

Community Contacts:
Jeff Wood, Public Works Director
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NEEDS

Technical Training Updated Tree Inventory
Additional Funding Citizen Advocacy
Priority Planting Plan Private Tree Planting
Maintenance Support Outreach and Education
Management Plan
Master Plan



POWERED BY:



URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP MOUNT CLEMENS



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.

| ORDINANCE/CODE ELEMENT | YES | NO | LOCATION |
|---|-----|----|--|
| Tree Ordinance | ● | | Ch 35 |
| Responsible Party: Public Tree Planting | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 103,108, Zoning-11.3 |
| Responsible Party: Public Tree Maintenance | ● | | Ch 19-Sec 205, Ch 24-Sec 402, Ch 35-Sec 103 |
| Responsible Party: Public Tree Removal | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 103 |
| Tree Board/Commission/Department and Duties | | ● | |
| Tree Canopy Guidelines | | ● | |
| Dead/Diseased Tree Removal | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 108,111 |
| Public: Tree Planting | ● | | Ch 17-Sec 044, Ch 35-Sec 113,114, Zoning-11.3 |
| Public: Tree Preservation | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 110 |
| Public: Tree Removal/Maintenance | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 108,114 |
| Public: Permit required for work on trees | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 107 |
| Public: Restricts mutilation of trees | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 106 |
| Development: Tree Planting | | ● | |
| Development: Tree Preservation | ● | | Ch 20-Sec 552, Ch 35-Sec 109, Zoning-11.7 |
| Development: Tree Removal | ● | | Zoning-11.7 |
| Development: Tree Replacement | ● | | Zoning-11.7 |
| Development: Requires landscape plan, inclusion of trees and vegetation in site plans | ● | | Zoning-11.7 |
| Parking: Tree Planting | ● | | Zoning-11.3 |
| Parks: Tree Preservation | ● | | Ch 33-Sec 003 |
| Woodlands: Tree Preservation | | ● | |
| Businesses, Community Centers, Pools, etc: Tree and landscaping requirements | | ● | |
| Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Tree Requirements | ● | | Zoning-11.2 |
| Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Landscaping Standards | ● | | Ch 17-Sec 044, Zoning-11.2 |
| Approved/Suggested Species List | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 4 (kept with Superintendent of Streets), Zoning-11.3, Tree Permit Form |
| Prohibited Species List | ● | | Ch 35-Sec 104, Zoning-11.7, Tree Permit Form |
| Plant Material Guidelines: Species, Size, Spacing | ● | | Zoning-11.7 |

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
www.isa-arbor.com/education/onlineResources/treeOrdinanceGuidelines.aspx
www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/planning-policy/tree-ordinances/

