

URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP ST. CLAIR SHORES



ST. CLAIR SHORES COMMUNITY FORESTRY GOALS

1

MAINTAIN AND INCREASE TREE CANOPY

2

ESTABLISH URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

3

COMPLETE TREE INVENTORY

4

ENGAGE CITIZENS AND PROMOTE PRIVATE TREE PLANTING

STRENGTHS

EXPERIENCE: Forester is an ISA-certified arborist with over 5 years of experience.

POLICY COMMITMENT: Tree ordinance regulates landscape requirement, public safety, and tree replacement policies.

TREES ARE A PRIORITY: Elected officials, administrators and program staff appear to prioritize trees and set high expectations for the urban forestry program. Leadership sup-

ports setting new goals and further committing to urban forestry.

FUNDING AVAILABLE: Program funded through Act 51 Street Funds & Street Millage, grants, and donations.

STRATEGIC PLANTING: New tree plantings consider species diversity and maximizing benefits.

CHALLENGES

STAFF COORDINATION: Department directors are unaware of existing policies, data, and resources across the city.

LIMITED GUIDING DOCUMENTS: No apparent comprehensive urban forestry management plan, resiliency plan, or emergency response in place. No community wide urban forestry master plan connects, directs, and prioritizes current actions.

UNAVAILABLE URBAN FORESTRY DATA: City lacks tree inventories to manage current

canopy. As a result, the city struggles to set realistic budgets and effectively allocate resources. This limits opportunities for future public planting projects.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION: Town leadership perceives a lack of public support or interest in tree issues. Residents may not prioritize trees or understand urban forestry benefits.

INSUFFICIENT FUNDING: Forestry program allocates small budget for tree planting and maintenance.

OPPORTUNITIES

INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF RESOURCES: Inventory park trees and utilize county's urban tree canopy analysis.

POLICIES AND GUIDING DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT: Continue to invest in the program framework and adopt quality standards and guiding policies for future growth.

ENGAGE PUBLIC: Consider campaign or volunteer planting project to highlight urban

forest needs and benefits; focus on social and economic benefits; encourage private property planting.

UNIQUE PROJECT: Tree inventory will be critical to highlight the significant number of mature silver maple trees in town. Demonstrating the potential loss of canopy can be one strategy to encourage greater commitment to tree planting and preservation.

CURRENT CANOPY COVER: 20%

Tree City USA: YES
Tree Ordinance: YES
Current Tree Inventory: NO

Tree Planting: <15% of Program Budget (Grant dollars)

Tree Donation Program: YES (Memorial)

Active Management: YES
Active Volunteers: NO

Tree Work: CONTRACTOR and IN-HOUSE

Tree Planting: IN-HOUSE

Public Streets: 222 Miles
Public Parks: 83 Acres

Community Contacts:
Bryan Babcock, Director of Public Works
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Greg Esler, Director of Parks and Rec
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City Planner, Liz Koto, liz@scsmi.net

NEEDS

Additional Funding	Management Plan
Access to Contractors	Master Plan
Partners Support	Safety and Training
Community Support	Standards
Planting Plans	Citizen Advocacy
Tree Inventory	Outreach and Education



POWERED BY:



URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP ST. CLAIR SHORES



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 20.25
Responsible Party: Public Tree Planting	●		Ch 10.316, Ch 20.255, Ch 30.213
Responsible Party: Public Tree Maintenance	●		Ch 10.316, Ch 20.255
Responsible Party: Public Tree Removal	●		Ch 20.255
Tree Board/Commission/Department and Duties	●		Ch 12.111
Tree Canopy Guidelines		●	
Dead/Diseased Tree Removal	●		Ch 20.261, Ch 20.270
Public: Tree Planting	●		Zoning-15.980
Public: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 20.257, Ch 30.041, Ch 30.059
Public: Tree Removal/Maintenance	●		Ch 20.255, Ch 20.257
Public: Permit required for work on trees	●		Ch 20.255, Ch 20.256, Ch 20.258
Public: Restricts mutilation of trees	●		Ch 20.223, Ch 20.257
Development: Tree Planting	●		Ch 15.483(c), Ch 17.051, Ch 20.254
Development: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 15.483(c), Ch 17.044, Ch 20.257
Development: Tree Removal		●	
Development: Tree Replacement		●	
Development: Requires landscape plan, inclusion of trees and vegetation in site plans	●		Zoning-15.509(5)
Parking: Tree Planting	●		Zoning-15.501, 15.981
Parks: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 20.223, Ch 20.382
Woodlands: Tree Preservation		●	
Businesses, Community Centers, Pools, etc: Tree and landscaping requirements	●		Zoning-15.452
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Tree Requirements	●		Ch 22.201, Ch 25.137.2
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Landscaping Standards	●		Ch 30.213, Zoning-15.483(c), 15.907
Approved/Suggested Species List	●		Zoning-15.503 (kept with Community Development Dept)
Prohibited Species List	●		Zoning-15.503
Plant Material Guidelines: Species, Size, Spacing	●		Zoning-15.503, 15.980

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-for-ests/planning-policy/tree-ordinances/

Information based on City of St. Clair Shores' General and Zoning Ordinances from Municode.com. Updated July, 2016. 'Ch'=Chapter

