

URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP CENTER LINE



CENTER LINE COMMUNITY FORESTRY GOALS

1

MAINTAIN AND
INCREASE TREE CANOPY

2

TRANSITION TO PROACTIVE
COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

3

PROMOTE CITIZEN EDUCATION AND
ENGAGEMENT

STRENGTHS

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

POLICY COMMITMENT: Some policies in place such as tree ordinance, tree care standards, tree preservation requirements, and planting requirements for new development.

TREES ARE A PRIORITY: Elected officials, administrators, and program staff appear to prioritize trees and set high expectations for

their urban forestry program. Leadership supports setting new goals and further committing to urban forestry.

SMALL COMMUNITY WITH BIG POTENTIAL: Residents and businesses step up when leaders clearly identify priorities. Trees, beautification, and “greening” concepts are expected to generate new excitement and support.

CHALLENGES

STAFF CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE: Department directors are responsible for trees but may lack technical expertise and dedicated time for tree management.

INSUFFICIENT FUNDING: Tree planting activities are not a budget priority.

LIMITED GUIDING DOCUMENTS/DATA/ POLICIES: No tree inventory data, urban forestry management plan, resiliency plan, emergency response plan, or safety procedures in place. No urban forestry master plan connects, directs, and prioritizes current actions. Policies need updates.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION: Community leadership notes a lack of public support and interest in tree issues. Residents may not prioritize trees or fully understand urban forestry benefits. The public needs more motivation to act.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES: Reactive management (e.g. responding to citizen requests) dominates urban forestry efforts.

IMPACT AREA: The minimal accessible open space limits opportunities for future tree planting in public areas. Only three small parks and Kramer Homes development provide larger open spaces.

CURRENT CANOPY COVER: 14%

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

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

Tree Donation Program: YES
Active Volunteers: NO

Tree Work: CONTRACT
Tree Planting: CONTRACT

Public Streets: 35 miles
Public Parks: 35 acres

Community Contacts:
Dennis Champine, City Manager/Clerk
dchampine@centerline.gov

OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION: Pursue technical training for staff; promote ISA-Certified Arborist credentials; educate leaders on the benefits of trees in order to disseminate information to residents.

POLICY AND GUIDING DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT: Review existing policies to evaluate effectiveness and consider updates or revisions. Leverage the city’s strong urban forestry commitment to support a sustainable program and increased tree planting.

UNIQUE PROJECT: Explore tree farming initiative to help meet tree canopy goals.

FUNDING OPTIONS: Increase funding opportunities and resources for tree planting efforts through grants and partnerships. Request increased funding from City Council for targeted projects and planting initiatives.

ENGAGE PUBLIC: Consider a campaign to highlight urban forest needs and benefits; focus on social benefits. Engage the public through tree donation and volunteer planting programs to foster citizen advocates as well as private tree planting.

NEEDS

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



POWERED BY:



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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.

ORDINANCE/CODE ELEMENT	YES	NO	LOCATION
Tree Ordinance	●		Ch 78
Responsible Party: Public Tree Planting	●		Ch 78-Sec 2,3
Responsible Party: Public Tree Maintenance	●		Ch 78-Sec 2,3
Responsible Party: Public Tree Removal	●		Ch 78-Sec 2,3
Tree Board/Commission/Department and Duties		●	
Tree Canopy Guidelines		●	
Dead/Diseased Tree Removal	●		Ch 78-Sec 10
Public: Tree Planting		●	
Public: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 46-Sec 78, Ch 78-Sec 8,9
Public: Tree Removal/Maintenance		●	
Public: Permit required for work on trees	●		Ch 78-Sec 5
Public: Restricts mutilation of trees	●		Ch 50-Sec 4, Ch 78-Sec 4
Development: Tree Planting	●		Ch 66-Sec 99(A5), Appendix C-Sec 505
Development: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 66-Sec 75,99(B), Ch 78-Sec 8, Zoning-1515(5f)
Development: Tree Removal		●	
Development: Tree Replacement		●	
Development: Requires landscape plan, inclusion of trees and vegetation in site plans	●		Zoning-1515(5F, 6D3)
Parking: Tree Planting	●		Zoning-1304
Parks: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 50-Sec 4
Woodlands: Tree Preservation		●	
Businesses, Community Centers, Pools, etc: Tree and landscaping requirements		●	
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Tree Requirements	●		Zoning-1523
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Landscaping Standards	●		Zoning-1509
Approved/Suggested Species List	●		Zoning-1509
Prohibited Species List	●		Ch 78- Sec 3
Plant Material Guidelines: Species, Size, Spacing	●		Zoning-1509

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 Center Lines's Code of Ordinances from Municode.com.
Updated May, 2015. 'Ch'=Chapter, 'Sec'=Section(s).

