

URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP EASTPOINTE



EASTPOINTE COMMUNITY FORESTRY GOALS

1

ESTABLISH URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM POLICY FRAMEWORK

2

PROMOTE CITIZEN EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

3

BUILD CAPACITY AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT TREE CANOPY

STRENGTHS

SOME POLICY COMMITMENT: Tree ordinance regulates tree nuisance mitigation and public safety; has framework to achieve Tree City USA recognition.

CREATIVE FUNDING AVAILABLE: Program funded through Act 51, grants, and donations.

CHALLENGES

STAFF CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE: Urban forestry responsibilities are divided and primarily contracted. This could lead to possible limitations for coordination and decision making. Individuals lack technical expertise and confidence.

LIMITED POLICIES: The city does not require tree preservation or tree replacement, nor has it adopted tree planting or tree care specifications.

LIMITED GUIDING DOCUMENTS: No urban forestry management plan, resiliency plan, emergency response, or safety procedures are in place. No urban forestry master plan connects, directs, and prioritizes current actions.

OPPORTUNITIES

POLICIES AND GUIDING DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT: Invest in the program framework and adopt quality standards and guiding policies for future growth. Include trees in the city's upcoming Master Plan update.

INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF RESOURCE: Inventory public trees.

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

HIRE QUALITY CONTRACTORS: Strengthen required contractor credentials and adopt industry standard tree care specifications.

FUNDING OPTIONS: Continue using grants

ADVOCACY: Citizen Beautification Commission influences some tree efforts. City Council supports urban forestry.

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

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES: City leadership seems divided on urban forestry issues. Leaders, staff, and residents may not fully understand the value and benefits of urban forestry.

NO PLANTING STRATEGY: No clear tree planting plan or expectations have been adopted. There is a heavy focus on maintenance, removal, and pruning. Since street rights-of-way are narrow and the city is 96% developed, priority focus areas are less obvious.

to increase funding opportunities. Consider funding requests to City Council for targeted projects and planting initiatives.

ENGAGE PUBLIC: Activate existing Parks Commission to formally serve as the city's Tree Board. Consider campaign or volunteer planting project to highlight urban forest needs and benefits; focus on tree care education; encourage tree planting on private property.

PARTNERSHIPS: Seek support from state, county and non-profit groups for technical assistance. Attend regional workshops. Partner with MDOT to plant and maintain trees along trunkline roads.

CURRENT CANOPY COVER: 18%

Tree City USA: NO
(Lost designation in 2015; plan to apply for 2016.)

Tree Ordinance: YES

Current Tree Inventory: NO

Tree Planting: 0% of Program Budget

Tree Donation Program: YES (Memorial)

Active Volunteers: YES

Tree Work: CONTRACTOR

Tree Planting: CONTRACTOR

Public Streets: 114 Miles

Public Parks: 69 Acres

Community Contacts:

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NEEDS

- Additional Funding
- Tree Inventory
- Access to Contractors
- Management Plan
- Community Support
- Master Plan
- Technical Training
- Outreach and Education
- Tree Planting Specifications



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 18-Article 7
Responsible Party: Public Tree Planting	●		Ch 18-Sec 182
Responsible_ Party: Public Tree Maintenance	●		Ch 18-Sec 182
Responsible Party: Public Tree Removal	●		Ch 18-Sec 182
Tree Board/Commission/Department and Duties	●		Ch 2-Article 5, Divison 3
Tree Canopy Guidelines	●		Ch 50-Sec 235
Dead/Diseased Tree Removal	●		Ch 18-Sec 191
Public: Tree Planting	●		Ch 18-Sec 186
Public: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 18-Sec 187,188, Ch 38-Sec 61
Public: Tree Removal/Maintenance	●		Ch 18-Sec 186
Public: Permit required for work on trees	●		Ch 18-Sec 183,186, Ch 38-Sec 21
Public: Restricts mutilation of trees	●		Ch 18-Sec 48,183,187,192, Ch 28-Sec 75
Development: Tree Planting	●		Ch 50-Sec 235
Development: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 18-Sec 188, Ch 50-Sec 45
Development: Tree Removal	●		Ch 18-Sec 187
Development: Tree Replacement		●	
Development: Requires landscape plan, inclusion of trees and vegetation in site plans	●		Ch 50-Sec 43,238
Parking: Tree Planting	●		Ch 50-Sec 92(B3a),234,235
Parks: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 18-Sec 188
Woodlands: Tree Preservation		●	
Businesses, Community Centers, Pools, etc: Tree and landscaping requirements		●	
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Tree Requirements	●		Ch 50-Sec 92(B3a),161(B)
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Landscaping Standards	●		Ch 50-Sec 70(D4),92(B3c),231,232,238
Approved/Suggested Species List	●		Ch 50-Sec 238, Memorial Tree Program Application
Prohibited Species List	●		Ch 50-Sec 238
Plant Material Guidelines: Species, Size, Spacing	●		Ch 18-Sec 186, Ch 50-Sec 234,238

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/

