

# URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP HARRISON TOWNSHIP



## HARRISON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY FORESTRY GOALS

1

MAINTAIN AND  
INCREASE TREE CANOPY

2

PROMOTE CITIZEN EDUCATION  
AND ENGAGEMENT

3

PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES FOR  
QUALITY OF LIFE

### STRENGTHS

**SOME POLICY COMMITMENT:** New developments require tree planting.

**RELATIVELY HIGH PERCENT CANOPY:** Despite limiting land uses and natural features (i.e. Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the extensive Black River and Point Rosa marshes at the Lake St. Clair Metropark)

### CHALLENGES

**LIMITED STAFF, CAPACITY, AND EXPERTISE:** No professional forester on staff; contractors and residents have primary responsibility for the urban forest.

**LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY:** Leadership does not identify more urban forestry policies, guiding documents, or data as a pressing need. Township appears comfortable with existing structure and may be reluctant to engage in ambitious initiatives. However, a lack of tools such as a tree inventory, urban forestry management plan, adopted care standards, and more could limit long-term urban forestry success.

### OPPORTUNITIES

**WATER QUALITY + QUALITY OF LIFE:** The community is defined by the waters of the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair. It is important to make the connection that a healthy tree canopy supports quality of life for residents and improves water quality.

**ENGAGE AND EMPOWER RESIDENTS:** Outreach to Beautification Commission, homeowner associations, DDA, and citizens to encourage participation for tree planting goals. Support residential planting efforts through cost-share initiatives and other incentives. The Board of Trustees is exploring a possible "buy one get one free" tree voucher program.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Seek support from state,

the community maintains a 21% urban tree canopy.

**TREES ARE VALUED:** Resident champions, elected officials, and local organizations and businesses support trees. Perceived tree value is high for Township staff, decision makers, and residents.

**INSUFFICIENT FUNDING:** There is no budget for tree planting and a minimal budget for tree removal. The program relies on residents to plant trees.

**MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES:** Urban forestry has not been a high management priority for Township administration and staff.

**UNIQUE GEOGRAPHY:** The high water table, Selfridge ANG Base, large marshes, and over 3,300 homes on the canal adjacent to waterfront properties require solutions appropriate for this unique context.

county and non-profit groups. Attend regional workshops. Take advantage of available technical assistance.

**UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP:** Explore collaboration with Selfridge Air National Guard to plant trees in the community as a way to offset lack of trees in air field.

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

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

### CURRENT CANOPY COVER: 21%

Tree City USA: NO  
Tree Ordinance: NO  
Current Tree Inventory: NO  
Tree Planting Funding: 0%

Tree donation program: YES  
Active Management: NO  
Active Volunteers: NO

Tree Work: CONTRACTOR  
Tree Planting: RESIDENTS

Public Streets: 159 Miles  
Public Parks: 703 Acres

Community Contacts:  
Kenneth Verkest  
Supervisor  
kverkest@harrison-township.org

### NEEDS

Additional Funding	Tree Ordinance
Partners Support	Tree Inventory
Access to Contractors	Community Advocacy
Community Support	Outreach and Education



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](http://green.macombgov.org).

ORDINANCE/CODE ELEMENT	YES	NO	LOCATION
Tree Ordinance		●	
Responsible Party: Public Tree Planting		●	
Responsible Party: Public Tree Maintenance		●	
Responsible Party: Public Tree Removal		●	
Tree Board/Commission/Department and Duties		●	
Tree Canopy Guidelines		●	
Dead/Diseased Tree Removal	●		Zoning-7.02(a)
Public: Tree Planting	●		Zoning-7.03
Public: Tree Preservation	●		Zoning-7.02(a,b)
Public: Tree Removal/Maintenance	●		Zoning-7.02(a,c), Appendix B-8.5
Public: Permit required for work on trees		●	
Public: Restricts mutilation of trees		●	
Development: Tree Planting	●		Ch 54-Sec 117, Ch 58-Sec 225, Zoning-7.03
Development: Tree Preservation	●		Zoning-7.04
Development: Tree Removal	●		Zoning-7.04
Development: Tree Replacement	●		Zoning-7.04
Development: Requires landscape plan, inclusion of trees and vegetation in site plans	●		Ch 58-Sec 93,132, Zoning-7.02(a,b)
Parking: Tree Planting	●		Zoning-7.03
Parks: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 66-Sec 42
Woodlands: Tree Preservation		●	
Businesses, Community Centers, Pools, etc.: Tree and landscaping requirements	●		Ch 17-Sec 8(4),28(3),41(e3)
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Tree Requirements	●		Ch 17-Sec 41(e4), Zoning-6.03
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences etc: Landscaping Standards	●		Ch 58-Sec 225, Zoning-6.03,6.04, 6.05,7.02(a,b),7.03,7.05
Approved/Suggested Species List	●		Zoning-7.02(e)
Prohibited Species List	●		Zoning-7.02(d)
Plant Material Guidelines: Species, Size, Spacing	●		Zoning-7.02(e)

### 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/)

