

URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP UTICA



UTICA COMMUNITY FORESTRY GOALS

1

MAINTAIN AND INCREASE TREE CANOPY

2

RATE AND REMOVE HAZARDOUS TREES

3

PRESERVE NATURAL RIPARIAN AND FLOODPLAIN CANOPY

STRENGTHS

POLICY COMMITMENT: Some policies in place such as planting requirements for new development and public safety procedures.

TREES VALUE IS HIGH: City staff, municipal officials and residents value trees. City supports creative projects (e.g. bioswale plantings) to reach green infrastructure and canopy goals.

CHALLENGES

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

INSUFFICIENT FUNDING: Small urban forestry budget does not allow for tree planting activities to be a priority.

IMPACT AREA: Large commercial zones and high residential occupancy leave less opportunity for public planting and create need for private plantings.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

POLICY AND GUIDING DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT: Review existing policies to evaluate effectiveness and consider updates. Create a stronger urban forestry framework through adoption of new policies and documents, such as a tree ordinance, urban forestry master plan, management plan, and resiliency plan.

UNIQUE PROJECT: Jimmy John's Stadium and Iron Belle Trail create highly visible opportunities for formal public planting.

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

NATURAL RESOURCE: Floodplain and riparian ecosystem within City limits provide habitat, water quality benefits, and a diverse array of vegetation to support tree canopy.

LIMITED GUIDING DATA/DOCUMENTS/ POLICIES: No tree inventory data, urban forestry management plan, resiliency plan, or emergency response plan in place. No urban forestry master plan connects, directs, and prioritizes current actions. No tree ordinance, tree preservation, tree care standards, or approved planting specifications to guide planting and management.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES: Focus on public safety dominates urban forestry efforts.

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.

INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF RESOURCE: Inventory publicly managed trees and utilize Macomb County's urban tree canopy analysis.

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

CURRENT CANOPY COVER: 14%

Tree City USA: NO
 Tree Ordinance: NO
 Current Tree Inventory: NO
 Tree Planting: 0% of Program Budget
 Tree Donation Program: NO
 Active Volunteers: NO
 Tree Work: IN-HOUSE CREW
 Tree Planting: IN-HOUSE CREW
 Public Streets: 31 miles
 Public Parks: 33 acres
 Community Contacts:
 Bill Lang, DPW Superintendent
 langw@sbcglobal.net

NEEDS

Additional Funding	Technical Training
Tree Ordinance	Tree Inventory
Nuisance Mitigation	Management Plan
Priority Planting Plan	Master Plan
Emergency Response Plan	
Safety Procedures & Training Plan	



POWERED BY:



URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP

UTICA



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		●	
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-1421,1705(2v)
Public: Tree Planting		●	
Public: Tree Preservation		●	
Public: Tree Removal/Maintenance	●		Zoning-1705(2v)
Public: Permit required for work on trees	●		City Website
Public: Restricts mutilation of trees	●		Ch 46-Sec 89,108
Development: Tree Planting	●		Zoning-1004(3),1421
Development: Tree Preservation	●		Zoning-1302(2f),1422(4),1801(9)
Development: Tree Removal		●	
Development: Tree Replacement	●		Zoning-1422(4)
Development: Requires landscape plan, inclusion of trees and vegetation in site plans	●		Zoning-1102(2c),1420,1704(2)
Parking: Tree Planting	●		Zoning-1407,1408
Parks: Tree Preservation	●		Ch 50-Sec 38
Woodlands: Tree Preservation		●	
Businesses, Community Centers, Pools, etc: Tree and landscaping requirements	●		Zoning-402,1004(3)
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Tree Requirements	●		Zoning-1421,1423
Greenbelts, Berms, Planting Screens, Fences, etc: Landscaping Standards	●		Zoning-602,603,902(3,5),1102(1,2),1302(6),1421
Approved/Suggested Species List	●		Zoning-1422
Prohibited Species List	●		Zoning-1422
Plant Material Guidelines: Species, Size, Spacing	●		Zoning-1422

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/

