

## **Agenda- Advisory Committee Meeting #3**

June 16th, 2011

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Location: City Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

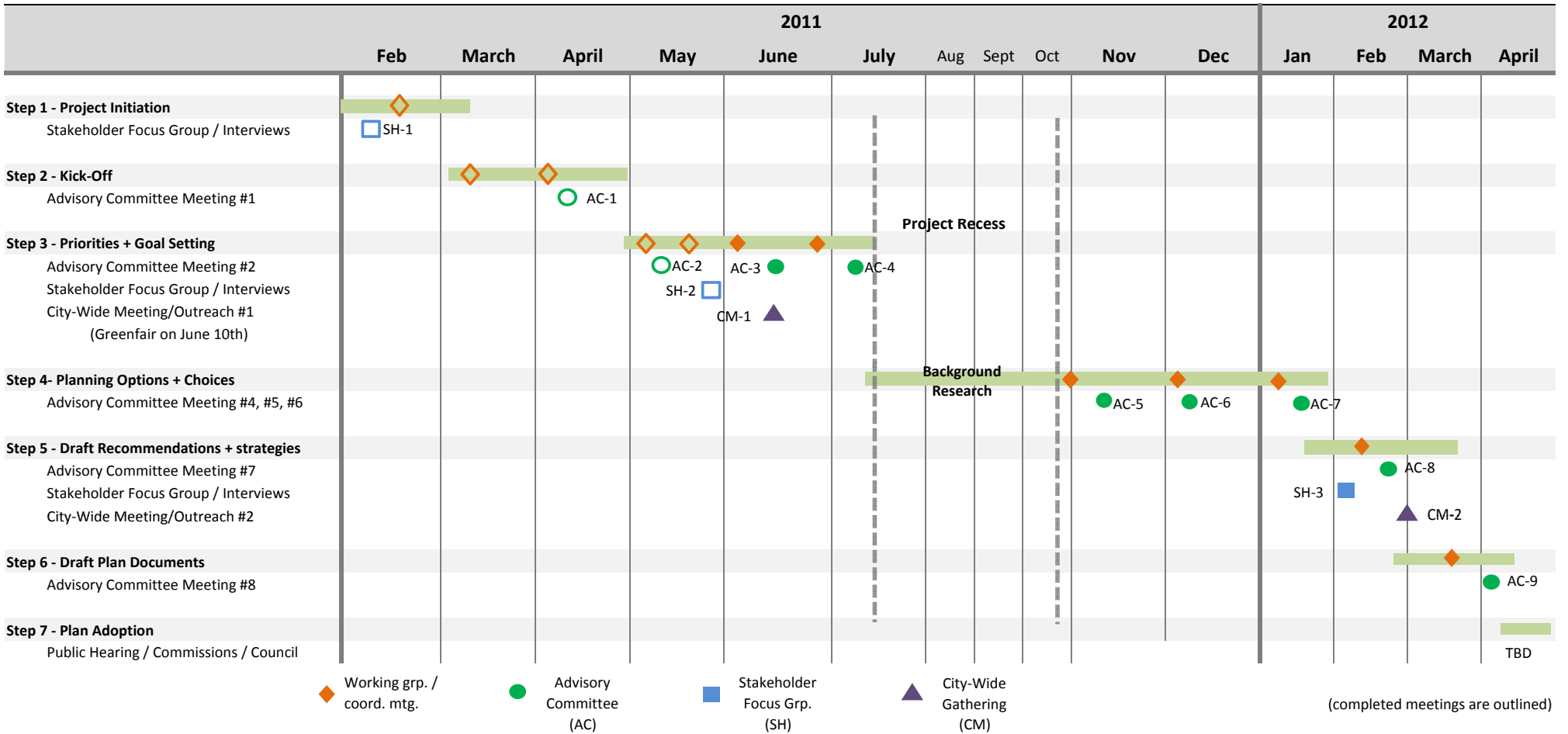
**Meeting Purpose:** Advisory Committee Meeting #3 will be used to review recent outreach and public engagement activities, review working group meeting highlights, review draft goals and SWOT analysis, and select a vision statement for the plan.

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 5 min  | Review agenda   |
| 5 min  | Updates & Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green Fair summary</li><li>• Stakeholder focus groups re-cap</li></ul>  |
| 10 min | Review project schedule and timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working group activities during the project recess</li><li>• Fall advisory committee meetings – focused on specific topics</li></ul>   |
| 15 min | Highlights from June 6th Working Group session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project name change, plan structure, and time frame</li></ul>  |
| 70 min | Goals and SWOT discussion and review & benchmarking ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SWOT: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats</li><li>• Criteria and performance indicators</li><li>• Goals- Advisory Committee comments</li><li>• Goals- Stakeholder meetings feedback</li><li>• Goals- Working Group refinements</li><li>• Benchmarking ideas</li></ul> |
| 10 min | Vision statement selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review draft vision statements</li><li>• Vote on options</li></ul>   |
| 5 min  | Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advisory Committee Meeting #4-Objectives: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011</li><li>• Working Group research assignments</li></ul>   |

***Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate. Accommodations, including sign language interpreters, may be arranged by contacting the City Clerk's office: 734.794.6140 / [cityclerk@a2gov.org](mailto:cityclerk@a2gov.org). Requests need to be received at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.***

# ANN ARBOR URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Plan Development Schedule



Revised June 9th, 2011

## Draft Goals and Rationale

The following draft goals and rationale have been revised based on input received from Stakeholder Focus Groups, the Advisory Committee and City Staff Working Group. The red text indicates insertions, the blue text are deletions.

**Note:** Under each goal is a summary of the comments received from Stakeholder Meetings (SH), Advisory Committee members (AC), and the City staff working group (WG). The number of related comments from each group is shown after each comment. Other comments were received which more accurately represented objectives; they are not included in this document but have been compiled separately and will be revisited when objectives are being formulated and discussed.

### PLAN “DOCUMENT” GOALS

#### A. Provide and communicate an inspiring XX-year guiding vision/mission statement for the community.

**Rationale:** *Providing a clear vision for the future of the City’s community forest resource can help convey the goals and philosophical approaches to its management.*

- The life of a Burr-Oak, make it a 250-year plan. “We want to have the plan live this long.” (SH)
- This statement should be strong and easily understandable. (AC)
- Convey the future desired state of the urban forest (AC)

#### B. Recognize the community’s values and the collective ~~ownership~~ benefits and responsibilities of the urban forest.

**Rationale:** *The urban forest includes both private trees and public trees. The community’s values are important for guiding the management practices and policies that will affect trees on both public and private land.*

- Concerns about management of trees on private property (differences in opinion about whether or not this is something the City should get involved with) (4- SH) (2-WG)
- Collective ‘ownership’ may send the wrong message consider using the word “benefits” (4- SH)
- Include maintain and strengthen sense of place / identifying characteristic of Ann Arbor as Tree Town (AC)

#### C. ~~Convey~~ Provide historical conditions and the current state of the urban forest and management practices within the city.

**Rationale:** *Understanding current and historical conditions is critical for exploring future options and making the most informed decisions for the future. A SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) can aid in understanding present conditions.*

- In SWOT section of the plan, include the canopy analysis by geographic area (SH)
- Need to identify historical context and how far back in history the plan will go (SH)
- Indicate the location of Ann Arbor, as temperate, so that expectations of plantings result in trees appropriate and that will thrive in our specific environment. (AC)
- Need to identify if there is a way to characterize urban forest management based on different components (e.g. soil types...) (SH)
- Detailed historical information should be provided in the Appendices (WG)

- D. **Create short term, mid-range and long term goals that are supported by defined action strategies.** ~~Balance the desire to respond to short term needs while working towards long term goals~~ (i.e. use a phased strategy).

**Rationale:** *There are short term needs that will need attention and resources to address (i.e. recovery from EAB), but the plan must also set long-term targets to work towards in order to maximize the net benefits that the urban forest can provide. The plan should define a clear series of action strategies which define roles and responsibilities and what steps to take to achieve goals.*

- Short term and long term maintenance of trees needs to be a goal, not just planting (SH)
- May include prioritization within each of these phases: must do, should do, would be nice to do (WG)

- E. **Be aware Plan should be adaptable and responsive to changing conditions, and include a component for evaluating its performance on regular intervals (e.g. every 5 years).**

**Rationale:** *The plan should be designed for flexibility and adaptability, providing mechanisms for feedback and evaluation to track implementation and whether it needs to be adjusted in response to changing conditions, foreseen or unexpected.*

- Importance of adaptability and collecting feedback to evaluate the plan at regular intervals (2- SH)
- This should include major changes in economic condition/funding availability (SH) (WG)
- Even if a goal isn't reached, it doesn't mean a failure. (SH)
- Needs to be clear on what an adaptable and flexible plan is (WG)

- F. **Be supported by City leadership and the community**

**Rationale:** *The plan must be understood and supported by City leadership and the community to ensure that the pieces are in place for successful implementation.*

- How will you know when the leadership support has been achieved? (SH)
  - Planning commission, Environmental Commission, PAC and City council acceptance indicate their support of the plan. (SH) (WG)
- Can't change your document every time there's a change in council. (SH)
  - Have new council members be made aware of forestry plan, practices and policies when they start. (SH)

- G. **Plan is coordinated with other city plans, policies, procedures and efforts**

**Rationale:** *It is important to ensure that goals, objectives and implementation strategies of the urban forest management plan and other city plans, policies, procedures and efforts are consistent and not contradictory.*

- Fits with other City plans, is sustainable. Reflects the City's principles. Coordinate with existing plans and policies. (SH)
- Review with Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) projects (WG)
- In Appendix list all City plans to make sure that none are missed in the review (WG)
- Work with Environmental Coordinator who is developing a sustainability framework for all city plans- they are currently reviewing all city plans to identify their sustainability efforts and if there are any gaps (WG)

- H. **Plan should include a publicity, marketing and public relations strategy.**

- Publicity, promotion, marketing of what's being done here in Ann Arbor to share with other communities (3- SH)
- The Plan should include outreach/marketing & PR strategies. Rationale: This workgroup's composition is a great dissection of our community already, and many PR messages and PR strategies are naturally emerging in its conversations. (AC)
- Useful for the City to produce a booklet at the end of all of this to portray benefits and information about trees. Educational. (e.g. Guidelines and resources of why people may want to plant a particular tree species on their property.) (SH)

#### **I. Provide definitions section**

**Rationale: To ensure that all readers of the urban forest management plan understand how terms in the plan are used.**

- Define important terms
  - 'Native' (and list 'native' plants). (AC)
  - 'Community': Citizens, City management units and staff, businesses, nursery and plant vendors, organizations, and educational institutions, all of which use and benefit, from the trees on their own property and that property that is collectively owned. Vendors can influence what is planted on public and private property. The City property should be managed in a way that provides a model for all members of the community. (AC)
  - 'Urban forest': It's not just street trees but also forested stands. (Think about the historical context of the urban forest). (SH)

**Note: A name change from "Urban Forest" to "Community Forest" has been suggested.**

- The State and Federal governments also grapple with which term to use, they combine the terms and use Urban and Community Forest (SH)
- Prefers the term urban because it's more technical but understands the interest to use the term "community" since it implies a sense of ownership. (SH)
- "Urban" seems to be the choice generally embraced by the government agencies; however, 'community' may imply more of a connection with the forests wherever people are, where "urban" makes people only think of trees within the most congested of cities. (SH)
- If the AC prefers Community Forest, I support that change. (AC)

#### **Other Suggested Plan Document Goals/Objectives/Comments**

- Need to be very clear about what applies to street trees and what applies to trees in other locations (parks, private, etc.).. (SH)
- Pay it forward approach, plant trees for the benefit of those long after ourselves. (SH)
  - May be inspiring for private tree plantings as well (SH)
- The plans should include the identification of as wide a group of possible contributors/ stakeholder audience for the plan as possible. Rationale: Early identification of all stakeholder groups will assure that the plan incorporates strategies to engage all stakeholder groups. (AC)
  - Note: This is being done. If there is a lack of representation by a particular organization or stakeholder group, please provide contacts for these groups and the City will invite them to participate.
- Plan process needs to be documented in plan (WG)

## TREE (VEGETATION) RESOURCE GOALS

The Tree Resource relates to the physical properties and characteristics of the urban forest, including the extent of the canopy, diversity of tree species and ages, understory structure, and ecological functions.

### 1. Increase **and maintain** tree canopy cover across the city

**Rationale:** *The urban forest provides a range of benefits ~~to the city~~. Opportunities exist to expand the extent of the urban forest overall across the city, on both public and private lands, and in deficient areas to garner additional quality of life, economic, and environmental benefits ~~to the city~~.*

- General support for enhancing canopy cover (4- SH)
- Goal needs to include maintenance of current trees and new plantings. (2- AC)
- Urban forest definition (whether or not to include overstory/understory; urban “arborscape”) (3- SH)
- “Side effects” of increased canopy cover: (SH)
  - How will the current and increased canopy cover affect fire station operations? They are downsizing, i.e. they have fewer staff to do the work and will be relying more on aerial equipment and trees may be damaged or in the way while they are fighting fires. (SH)
  - The maintenance of the canopy cover is tied directly to how routinely the City can trim. (SH)
  - Can’t plant large trees in some places, or if they are, they will have to be rotated out before they get too large. Encroachment issues. Solid waste trucks are tearing up the trees. (SH)
  - Solar issues-- trees vs. solar access

### 2. Establish **and maintain** a **healthy, diverse, safe and** sustainable, ~~healthy~~ urban forest

**Rationale:** *To provide a sustainable urban forest resource, it must be diverse and resilient to changing pressures, support local ecosystem health and biodiversity, and be managed for long-term survivability with a mixture of tree ages and species to provide a continuous level of canopy cover over time.*

- Changing pressures needs clarification (Environment, Economic, Climate, Disease) (5- SH) (1- AC)
- Very important to take care of trees that are planted. (3- SH)
- Strive for diversity in the canopy cover. (SH)
- Long term thinking is important. “Five years is nothing in ‘tree-time.’” (SH)
- Provide the appropriate education and resources for private property urban forest to achieve this (see objectives- goal #7). (SH)
- Keep in mind that non-native does not imply invasive. Some non-indigenous trees add diversity and yet pose no threat to surrounding landscapes. (1- SH) (1- AC)
- **Goal Suggestion Wording (AC): Preserve and protect the existing canopy of mature trees by instituting pro-active and routine maintenance practices to improve canopy health and reverse the trend of canopy loss.** Note: In reviewing this wording, the WG considers this an objective under the Resource Management component; it suggests how to do it, not just what to do. Will be added to the potential objectives for Goal #7. (WG)
  - Could goal #2 be the main goal with this goal and Goal #1 as subgoals? Note: The Working Group supported keeping Goals #1 and 2 as two separate goals. Goal #1 speaks to the overall canopy while Goal #2 speaks to its composition (e.g. species and age diversity).

### 3. ~~Promote~~ **Enhance and support the** ecological functions ~~and amenity uses~~ of the urban forest ~~(i.e. a source for food or lumber)~~

**Rationale:** ~~The urban forest can provide~~ **ecological functions** ~~ecosystem goods and services beyond those provided during their normal life cycle, providing further benefit to the community. Utilizing the urban forest for wood utilization and as a source of food in appropriate locations can provide additional benefits and amenity value for the community. e.g. stormwater management, air quality, erosion control and wildlife habitat, that provide valuable benefits to the community. The urban forest should be managed with these valuable services in mind.~~

- Ecological functions and amenity uses need to be two separate goals (4- SH).
- Wildlife corridors/animal habitats (2- SH)
- Ecological functions/ ecological benefits/ amenity uses/ raw resources/ biogenic utility
  - Focus on ecological benefits (stormwater, air quality) rather than amenity uses and/or split this into two goals- ecological functions and amenity uses (8- SH)

### 4. ~~Promote~~ **ecological functions and** amenity uses of the urban forest ~~(i.e. a source for food or lumber)~~

**Rationale:** ~~The urban forest can provide ecosystem goods and services during and beyond those provided during their normal life cycle, providing further benefit to the community. For example, Utilizing the some of the wood from dead/dying trees for a higher value other than mulch (e.g. by woodworkers or artisans) urban forest for wood utilization and or using trees as a source of food in appropriate locations can provide additional benefits and amenity value for the community.~~

- Clarification of functions and uses (1- AC)
  - Wood/lumber
    - Clarify what is mean by ‘wood utilization.’(5- SH) (1- AC)
      - Potential for the wrong trees to be accidently cut down because they are valuable lumber- safeguards need to be put in place. (SH)
    - Seems more efficient to reuse the resource rather than to dispose. (SH)
    - Great opportunity to promote additional value-added benefits from urban forests. (SH)
  - Trees as a food source
    - Issues with food trees- nuisance, attracts bees, can become hazard to those using the parks. (SH)
    - Strongly recommend fruit trees, may apply on private property. (SH)
- Don’t lose the broad nature of this goal. (SH)

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS

Resource Management relates to the policies, practices, operations, and tools that are developed and implemented to promote the sustainable management of the urban forest and coordinate activities between different agencies conducting urban forest operations.

### 5. ~~Standardize~~ **Communicate** and coordinate management activities and policies between city units and other agencies/organizations **whose activities impact with urban/community forest management responsibilities. eCity managed trees** (DTE, AAPS, Contractors, UoM)

**Rationale:** ~~Multiple City units and outside organizations/agencies perform tree activities that impact City managed trees. within the City. Ensuring that all City units, organizations and agencies follow a set of standard practices and that the same standard practices are followed by other agencies and~~

*organizations doing projects in the City right-of-way. All City units, and other organizations/agencies doing activities that impact the urban forest ~~their efforts are~~ must be coordinated and communicated ~~their efforts~~ clearly to allow consistent and transparent urban forest management. ~~the public is key to maintaining a healthy, vibrant urban forest.~~*

- Clarify intentions of this goal (governance vs. communication) and intended audience (projects in the ROW, private property, City projects, contractors/mills...) (9- SH)
  - Clarify intended audience (Communicate standard policies for projects in the right-of-way (3- SH)
  - Goal needs to focus Contractors that impact trees, not just those who do trimming. (SH)
  - Be inclusive of all City units that affect trees; trees at City Facilities (e.g. Senior Center, City pools) are not maintained by Forestry but by the Facilities themselves (3- SH)
  - Clarify whether this applies to private property (3- SH)
- Goal 5 should be developed to support a required review of the management standards by each of the units, so that it becomes standard practice. Enforcement and compliance with this goal should be addressed. (AC)
- **Suggested goal wording:** "Implement robust, durable, and enforceable policies (ordinances and/or regulations) to guide and coordinate the maintenance and enhancement of Ann Arbor's urban forest among city units and other agencies / organizations whose activities impact the forest." (AC)
  - Note: This is a potential objective that will be added to the Goal #5 (WG)

## 6. Balance funding strategies with city policies and urban forest management activities

**Rationale:** *The urban forest generates many benefits and cost savings for the community, but managing the urban forest to maximize these benefits and minimize risk requires public support, funding, and ~~the appropriate number of skilled staffing levels to oversee operations and~~ long-term planning. The level of funding and range of funding sources must match the desired management level.*

- Clarify what is meant by range of funding sources, e.g. could include seeking grants, revenue from wood re-use, fundraising, Legacy funds, etc. (5- SH) (1- AC)
- Funding 'security' concerns (concern that seeking alternate funding will replace rather than supplement current funding; need adequate funding to meet goals) (4- SH)
- Be sure to outline what the benefits and cost savings are. (SH)
- Urban forest is looked at as an amenity but it needs to be viewed as a utility. (SH)
- Design of the funding stream and the management structure should be coordinated. Modification of the current split between planning and operations, within City departments would result in a more coordinated approach to the forest. The document should address the coordination issues. (AC)
- **Wording suggestions:**
  - Maximize benefits and minimize risk, cost...(SH)
  - "Devise and implement funding strategies that recognize the economic value of trees, and that support the maintenance, enhancement, and sustainability of the urban forest." (AC)
    - Note: Will be added as a potential objective under Goal #6 (WG)

## 7. ~~Orient~~**Establish** practices and policies to support a healthy, safe and sustainable urban forest

**Rationale:** *City ordinances, operation procedures, and official policy should be aligned with supporting a healthy, safe and expanding urban forest over time. Ordinances and other policies must be effective in promoting forest health and be consistent with community input values.*

- Clearly define ‘community values’ (what have all of the people involved said? i.e. community ‘input’ rather than ‘values’; include a broad range of perspectives; could be a negotiation and agreement about values; values vary by neighborhood) (10- SH)
- This is a big, over-arching goal (perhaps include in mission statement; introduction...) (3- SH) (1- AC)
- Ordinances need to be aligned with goals. (SH)
- Should include private property (most trees are on private property; at least include large developments; provide them with specific guidelines) (6- SH)
- Concern with the encroachment of the City mandating what can be done on private property. (SH)
- Wording suggestions
  - Healthy and structurally sound/structural integrity/risk limited/safe. (SH) (AC)
  - Orient may be too loose, establish? (SH)
  - Ordinance, guideline, etc... range of information (SH)

**Other- Resource Management Goal Comments**

- Swap #5 and #7- have this broad goal come first. Then later get into the more specific goal. (SH)
- Education also needed with other organizations, City units, private property. Include in goal #5 or #7. (SH)
  - Note: This will be considered when goals are prioritized.

**COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK GOALS**

The Community Framework relates the ways in which the broader community is educated, informed, and engaged with the collective management and ownership of the urban forest, through education, outreach, partnership, and volunteer strategies.

**8. ~~Adopt an outreach strategy to c~~Communicate, with and educate and maintain a dialogue with the community **Build and maintain community support and knowledge about the benefits of the urban forest and its management****

**Rationale:** *Building long-term support for the urban forest resource and management systems, on both public and private property, requires a community that understands the value of the urban forest, and is informed and educated about current forestry activities, policies, and practices and understands the risk of not managing the urban forest. Outreach efforts should provide regular education that focuses on the value/benefits of trees, current activities, and the state of the urban forest; and provides an opportunity for the community to contribute to its management.*

- Good idea to include the benefits- will help to gain community support about the urban forest. (SH)
- Clarify “communication.” (SH)
- Wording suggestions:
  - **Building and maintaining community support** is the broader goal here. A friendly outreach program, public relations and community education are good strategies/objectives, but it’s the community support that is the critical goal. (AC)
  - "Educate the community about the value and benefits, both economic and aesthetic, of the urban forest." (AC)
  - Suggested wording: "Communicate with the citizenry about urban forest management policies, practices, and activities, and the state of our urban forest." (AC)

**9. Engage the community in the collective management of urban forest resources**

**Rationale:** *The community can play a key role in the management of the urban forest by participating directly in planting, maintenance, and other tree management activities. By leveraging the interest and support of the community, the city can do more than would otherwise be possible. Training and engaging residents in urban forestry operations will help build long-term support and stewardship of the urban forest.*

- Goal #9 and #10 are very connected. (SH)
- Good programs (Citizen pruner and volunteer planting) where people can walk away with valuable skills and they are helping their community. (SH)
- Connecting policy makers and the community is important. Community member support is important because they can then champion the cause of trees/urban forest management to their elected officials and get them to support the program. (SH)
- Balance between tasks that can be implemented by residents, and those that are the responsibility of forestry staff and part of management of city resources. Avoid moving toward sole or primary reliance on volunteer activity, as it may not be sustained in the long run. (AC)
- Concerns about overzealous volunteers. (SH)
- Looking at more aggressive community organizing, outreach, education and volunteerism will be more important than ever given current economic constraints. (AC)

## **10. Build partnerships between organizations to support a sustainable urban forest**

**Rationale:** *Non-profits and other organizations can play a key role in supporting the urban forest by organizing or spearheading community outreach activities, partnering on funding opportunities, and assisting with plan implementation.*

- This is a part of community building. (SH)
- **Suggested wording:** "Engage the community, both individuals and organizations, by providing partnership opportunities to sustain, enhance, and support a healthy urban forest."
  - Note: The Working Group reviewed this suggestion- their interpretation was that this wording would combine Goals 9 & 10. Working Group preferred to keep these as two separate goals (WG).

## Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis

**Note:** This analysis has been informed by feedback received from the general public, Stakeholder Meetings and the Advisory Committee, but it is the City's perspective. It is not intended to be all inclusive of feedback that has been received.

|                                   |  | Internal  |  | External  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
|                                   |  | Strengths   | Weaknesses   | Opportunities   | Threats  |
| <b>TREE (VEGETATION) RESOURCE</b> | <b>1. Tree Selection &amp; Planting- Diversity, using natives, right tree/ right place</b> | -Knowledgeable staff understands tree species diversity and the importance of planting the right tree in the right location | City has over 40% Maples (Acer) in publically managed (streets and parks) tree population        | -Survey and public engagement efforts have shown a positive response from public towards tree planting and right tree/right place                                     | -Can be push back from residents about using small species under utility lines where large trees were once planted   |
|                                   |  | - New tree inventory provides an excellent resource for selecting the right tree for the right place                        | -Large canopy trees provide the greatest benefits but not all sites are suitable for large trees | -Many locations within the City to plant trees  | -Nurseries cannot always supply the diversity of tree species that the City requests   |
|                                   |  | -City uses native species where appropriate   | -Cities are not native environments (poor soils)   | - Opportunity to engage residents in planting   |  |
|                                   |  | -Ann Arbor has a good climate for trees   | -City lost 10,000 street and park trees to the emerald ash borer                                 |   |  |
|                                   |  | -Urban Tree Canopy analysis completed in 2010- provides a baseline of canopy cover within the City.                         |  |   |  |
|                                   | <b>14. Invasive species management</b>   | -City's Natural Area Preservation program has an invasive species management program  | -City has a large population of Norway Maple street and park trees.                              | -NAP uses volunteers to conduct invasive species management in Natural Areas and Parks  | -There is concern among some residents that the City should not remove invasive species street trees and should rather let them live their useful life and provide benefits to the community |
|                                   |  | -Forestry and NAP review approved street tree list annually and update to remove any trees that have invasive potential.    |  |   |  |
|                                   | <b>10. Wood utilization</b>  | -Staff interested in exploring utilizing wood of some trees that need to be removed for a higher value other than mulch.    | -City chips all wood waste   | -Urbanwood.org promotes the use of urban wood waste for higher value other than mulch. They are eager to work with the City on developing a wood utilization program  | -Residents may believe that the city is harvesting healthy trees to make money.  |
|                                   |  |   |  | -City staff has good working relationship with SE Michigan Resource and Conservation Development Council's Natural Resource Specialist that works on wood utilization |  |
|                                   |  |   |  | -Many artisans in the area who would be interested in using wood.   |  |
|                                   | <b>11. Trees as a food source</b>  | -The Adopt-A-Park program has been working with some Park Adopters who want to plant edibles in the park.                   | -Edible foods (fruit, nuts) can cause maintenance issues for City staff in parks                 | -There is an emerging movement to gather food from City trees and shrubs.   | -Some residents have expressed opposition to this idea because rotting fruit can bring with it vermin and wasps/bees that can impact their use of  |

|   | Internal   |  | External  |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
|   | Strengths  | Weaknesses   | Opportunities   | Threats   |
| 2. Budget/ funding / lack of sufficient resources | -Knowledgeable staff who understands and are passionate about trees and their work   | -Tough economic times have resulted in a decrease in funding for forestry operations   | -Recognition within the community about the benefits that trees provide in reducing stormwater runoff and its impact on stormwater infrastructure and water quality | -A slowly recovering economy  |
|   | -Funding transition to Stormwater allows a more stable funding source.   | -City Forestry staff down to 6 FTEs  | -Potential grant opportunities related to the ecosystem services trees provide  | -Budget uncertainties exist each year   |
|   | - Ability to contract work allows for adjustments up or down depending on available funding  | -Forestry's work load greater than the staff or funding to accomplish it<br>-Limited ability to expand work load due to lack of staff/funding  |   |   |
| 3. Routine Tree Maintenance and Young Tree Care   | -City conducted pilot Citizen Pruner program in winter 2011  | -Tree Inventory has identified hazardous trees that need to be removed or trimmed  | -Community recognizes importance of routine maintenance and young tree care   | -New tree insects/disease epidemics   |
|   |  | -There is no longer a routine maintenance program  | -Citizens interested in being involved in young tree pruning  |   |
|   |  | -Publically managed trees are not pruned for structure or health   |   |   |
|   |  | -Reactive urban forestry management program  |   |   |
| 5. DTE- utility line clearance/Pruning Practices  | -In 2011 City has been partnering with DTE to have DTE remove trees that are on the Priority removal list instead of just trimming a dead tree that is interfering with the wires. | -City not always aware of activities DTE is doing in the City related to trees<br>- Internal coordination issues; the information that DTE gives to one City unit is not well communicated to other units who may be impacted by their activities. | -DTE eager and willing to work with City and residents to educate and discuss their work practices  | -Many residents don't understand DTEs pruning activities, who is responsible for tree maintenance activities under wires and the reasons DTE prunes trees.        |
|   | -City has good contact people within DTE   |  |   |   |
| 8. Tree and Sidewalk issues                       |  |  |   | -Residents unhappy with sidewalk program and point to City managed trees as the reason their sidewalk is damaged and needs to be repaired.                        |
| 9. Ordinances/ Requirements                       | -City has recently revised Landscape Ordinance to require more trees in private development projects.  | -City's Forestry ordinance is weak   |   |   |
|   |  | -City may not have the staff to enforce more ordinances/regulations  |   |   |
| 12. Balancing priorities/ competing interests     | -Good relationships exist between different units within the City that perform activities that impact trees  | -Communication gaps still exist between City Units   | -UFMP is bringing stakeholders that represent different perspectives.   | -Residents have different priorities that the City must balance   |
|   | -Staff have been working on communicating and coordinating activities to minimize tree impacts   |  |   | -Outside contractors may due damage to City trees without notifying City of either the work they are completing in the ROW or the damage they've done to the tree |

|  |   | Internal   |   | External  |         |
|--|---|--|---|---|---------|
|  |   | Strengths  | Weaknesses  | Opportunities   | Threats |
| 13. Preservation of historic/ landmark trees on public and private property  | -City has ordinance to protect Landmark trees on private property (other than single/two family residential) where development will occur                           | -There is not staff to enforce new regulations- would rely on complaints to enforce  | - Expand protection measures.   | -May not be community/City Council support to extend landmark tree protections to single family/two family residential properties (this was attempted several years ago and did not pass Council) |         |
|  | -City Historic District Commission regulates the removal of landmark trees on all private property in the historic districts  | - Does this not apply to removal of landmarks on city/public property too?   |   |   |         |
|  |   |  |   |   |         |
| 16. Leaf pick up and City trees  |   |  | - Encourage alternative/reuse applications for leaves.  |   |         |
| 17. Long range planning  | - The first forest plan is being created now.   | - City does not have a prior plan to build on.   | - Broad public engagement and support for better planning the urban forest  |   |         |
| 4. Public Education/ Communication/ Transparency about Forestry activities (trimming, removals, tree planting, UFMP development, etc.) | -City's Forestry webpage has a lot of information   | -Difficulty promoting website and information available to the public  | -The number of different mechanisms available for communicating information (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Email, Text messages, website)   | -No daily print newspaper   |         |
|  | -Residents can subscribe to the City's email notification system about Forestry/Urban Forest Management Plan  | -No Forestry public education plan   |   | -Residents do not feel they have access to information  |         |
|  | -Residents notified via mailed letter about tree removals on their block  | -Residents don't read all of the letters that the City sends   |   | -Residents feel that they get too much mail from the City   |         |
|  | -Residents notified via mailed letter if the site in front of their home is being evaluated for tree planting.  |  |   |   |         |
| 6. Incentives for/assistance with private tree planting  |   | -City does not have any incentives/assistance for private tree planting  | -There are many models from Michigan and around the country of communities that provide incentives/ assistance for tree planting on private property.   |   |         |
| 7. Volunteers  | -City has many successful volunteer programs through the Natural Area Preservation Program, Community Services and Forestry that can serve as models                | -The City's volunteer programs are not coordinated   | -Engaged citizenry who is excited and eager to volunteer  |   |         |
|  | -City piloted Citizen Pruner program in 2011<br>-City piloted two volunteer street tree plantings in 2009 and 2011  |  | -Non-profit organizations/ Environmental groups interested in partnering with city on projects and publicizing city program   |   |         |
| 15. Partnerships with non-profit organizations and other agencies/ institutions  | -City through NAP and other volunteer programs like Citizen Pruner- conduct volunteer programs that would traditionally be done by non-profits in other communities | -City does not currently partner with non-profit organizations for Forestry activities<br>-There is not a non-profit tree group within the City that conducts activities like the Greening of Detroit or Friends of the Urban Forest | -During the first UFMP first stakeholder focus group- non-profit/ environmental groups were eager to assist in promoting the urban forestry program, activities and to partner with the City. |   |         |

COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK

| Criteria and Performance Indicators for the Vegetation Resources* |  |                           |   |   |  |   |
|---|--|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Criteria  | Performance Indicators                         |                           |   |   |  | Key Objective   |
|   | Low  | Moderate                  | Good  | Optimal   |  |   |
|   | <b>CANOPY COVER</b>                            | No Assessment             | Visual Assessment (i.e. photographic)   | Sampling of tree cover using aerial photographs                     | Information on urban forests included in city-wide geographic information system (GIS)             | Achieve climate-appropriate degree of tree cover, community wide  |
| Ann Arbor   |  |                           |   |   | X<br>City-wide urban tree canopy analysis completed in 2010  |   |
|   | <b>AGE- DISTRIBUTION OF TREES IN COMMUNITY</b> | No Assessment             | Street tree inventory (complete or sample)  | Public-private sampling   | Included in city-wide GIS  | Provide for uneven age distribution   |
| Ann Arbor   |  |                           | X<br>Complete city-managed street and park tree inventory in city-wide GIS (2009)                         |   | Complete city-managed street and park tree inventory (2009) in city-wide GIS                       |   |
|   | <b>SPECIES MIX</b>                             | No Assessment             | Street tree inventory   | City-wide assessment of species mix                                 | Included in city-wide GIS  | Provide for species diversity   |
| Ann Arbor   |  |                           | X<br>Complete city-managed street and park tree inventory in city-wide GIS (2009)                         |   |  |   |
|   | <b>NATIVE VEGETATION</b>                       | No program of integration | Voluntary use on public projects  | Requirements for use of native species on project appropriate basis | Preservation of regional biodiversity  | Preserve and manage regional biodiversity. Maintain the biological integrity of native remnant forests. Maintain wildlife corridors to and from the city. |
| Ann Arbor   |  |                           | X<br>For urban forestry projects Natives are used where suitable, but streets are not native environments |   | X<br>Natural Area Preservation Program focuses on preserving natural areas and the use of natives. |   |

\*From: A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability, Journal of Arboriculture 23(1): January 1997. Authors: James R. Clark, Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross and Victoria Wake

| <b>Criteria and Performance Indicators for Resource Management*</b> |                                  |  |  |   |  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
|   |                                  | <b>Performance Indicators</b>  |  |   |  |   |
|   | <b>Criteria</b>                  | <b>Low</b>   | <b>Moderate</b>  | <b>Good</b>   | <b>Optimal</b>   | <b>Key Objective</b>  |
|   | <b>CITY-WIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> | <b>No Plan</b>   | <b>Existing plan limited in scope and implementation</b> | <b>Government-wide plan, accepted and implemented</b>   | <b>Citizen-government-business resource management plan accepted and implemented</b>   | <b>Develop and implement a management plan for trees and forests on public and private property</b> |
| Ann Arbor   |                                  | <b>X</b><br>Currently working on development of UFMP                             |  |   |  |   |
|   | <b>CITY-WIDE FUNDING</b>         | <b>Funding by crisis management</b>  | <b>Funding to optimize existing population</b>           | <b>Adequate funding to provide for net increase in population and care</b>  | <b>Adequate funding private and public to sustain maximum potential benefits</b>   | <b>Develop and maintain adequate funding to implement a city-wide management plan</b>               |
| Ann Arbor   |                                  | <b>X</b><br>Current funding is for the removal of dead/hazardous trees and limbs |  |   |  |   |
|   | <b>CITY STAFFING</b>             | <b>No staff</b>  | <b>No training</b>                                       | <b>Certified arborist on staff</b>  | <b>Professional tree care staff</b>  | <b>Employ and train adequate staff to implement city-wide management plan</b>                       |
| Ann Arbor   |                                  |  |  | <b>X</b><br>Forestry Field Ops Supervisor & Urban Forestry Planner are Certified Arborists. No field tree care staff are Certified Arborists. |  |   |
|   | <b>ASSESSMENT TOOLS</b>          | <b>No on-going program of assessment</b>   | <b>Partial inventory</b>                                 | <b>Complete inventory</b>   | <b>Information on urban forests included in city-wide GIS</b>  | <b>Develop methods to collect information about the urban forest on a routine basis</b>             |
| Ann Arbor   |                                  |  |  |   | <b>X</b><br>Tree and Park Tree Inventory (2009) and Urban Tree Canopy Analysis (2010) both on city-wide GIS. City has also completed an i-Tree Streets analysis to quantify the benefits of the City managed urban forest. |   |

\*From: A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability, Journal of Arboriculture 23(1): January 1997. Authors: James R. Clark, Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross and Victoria Wake

| Criteria and Performance Indicators for the Community Framework* |  |  |   |   |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
|  |  | Performance Indicators   |   |   |  |   |
|  | Criteria   | Low  | Moderate  | Good  | Optimal  | Key Objective   |
|  | <b>PUBLIC AGENCY COOPERATION</b>                                   | Conflicting goals among departments  | No cooperation  | Informal working teams  | Formal work teams w/ staff coordination                                      | Insure all city departments operate with common goals and objectives  |
| Ann Arbor  |  | <b>X</b><br>Conflicting goals among departments but staff have been working to resolve                         |   |   |  |   |
|  | <b>INVOLVEMENT OF LARGE PRIVATE AND INSTITUTIONAL LAND HOLDERS</b> | Ignorance of issue   | Education materials and advice available to land-holders  | Clear goals for tree resource by private land-holders; incentives for preservation of private trees   | Land-holders develop comprehensive tree management plans (including funding) | Large private landowners embrace city-wide goals and objectives through specific resource management plans  |
| Ann Arbor  |  | <b>X</b><br>Minor cooperation (UM and Schools). Need greater cooperation                                       |   |   |  |   |
|  | <b>GREEN INDUSTRY COOPERATION</b>                                  | No cooperation among segments of industry (nursery, contractor, arborist). No adherence to industry standards. | General cooperation among nurseries, contractors, arborists, etc.   | Specific cooperative agreements such as purchase certificates for right tree, right place   | Shared vision and goals including the use of professional standards          | The green industry operates with high professional standards and commits to city-wide goals and objectives. |
| Ann Arbor  |  |  |   | <b>X</b><br>Any work within right-of-way requires a Forestry permit. Permittee are required to follow City/industry standards. No current policies for tree work on private property. |  |   |
|  | <b>NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION</b>   | No action  | Isolated and/or limited # of active groups  | City-wide coverage and interaction  | All neighborhoods organized and cooperating                                  | At the neighborhood level, citizens understand & participate in urban forest mgt                            |
| Ann Arbor  |  |  | <b>X</b><br>City has worked w/ two neighborhood groups through pilot tree plantings & has spoken at several n'hood meetings--more outreach is needed. |   |  |   |

\*From: A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability, Journal of Arboriculture 23(1): January 1997. Authors: James R. Clark, Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross and Victoria Wake

| Criteria and Performance Indicators for the Community Framework* |   |   |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
|  | Criteria  | Performance Indicators  |   |  |  | Key Objective   |
|  |   | Low   | Moderate  | Good   | Optimal  |   |
|  | <b>CITIZEN-GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS INTERACTION</b>          | Conflicting goals among constituencies  | No interaction among constituencies   | Informal and/or general cooperation                        | Formal interaction, e.g. tree board with staff coordination    | All constituencies in the community interact for the benefit of the urban forest          |
| Ann Arbor  |   |   | <b>X</b><br>The desire is that out of the UFMP would come better interactions among the community related to the urban forest   |  |  |   |
|  | <b>GENERAL AWARENESS OF TREES AS COMMUNITY RESOURCE</b> | Low- trees as problems/ a drain on budgets  | Moderate- trees as important to community   | High- trees acknowledged to provide environmental services | Very High- trees as vital component of economy and environment | The general public understands the value of trees to the community                        |
| Ann Arbor  |   |   | <b>X</b><br>Over the last several years the City has conducted several studies that have quantified the benefits of Ann Arbor's urban forest. Information has been shared with the community and posted on the website. More community outreach about the benefits is needed. |  |  |   |
|  | <b>REGIONAL COOPERATION</b>                             | Communities operate independently   | Communities share similar policy vehicles   | Regional planning  | Regional planning coordination and/or management plans         | Provide for cooperation and interaction among neighboring communities and regional groups |
| Ann Arbor  |   | <b>X</b><br>With Urban Forestry management the city currently operates independently of surrounding communities |   |  |  |   |

\*From: A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability, Journal of Arboriculture 23(1): January 1997. Authors: James R. Clark, Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross and Victoria Wake

## ***Draft Vision Statements***

### **Vision Statement #1:**

Ann Arbor's urban forest is a valued part of the city's infrastructure that contributes positively to the quality of life and character of the community. It is a community asset, managed in a sustainable manner that maximizes environmental, social and economic benefits while meeting the values and needs of citizens today and into the future.

### **Vision Statement #2:**

Ann Arbor's urban forest is a healthy, sustainable and diverse community asset that is actively managed and cared for by the city and community.