

## Draft Goals and Rationale

The following goal ideas have been developed based on prior public outreach efforts, working group input, and discussions from Advisory Committee Meeting #1 and #2. *These goals should be considered draft or working goals to guide the organization and development of the plan; they will be revised, as needed, during the process.*

### 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.*

**B. Recognize the community’s values and the collective ownership 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.*

**C. Convey 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.*

**D. 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.*

**E. Be aware and responsive to changing conditions, evaluating 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.*

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

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

Note: A name change from “Urban Forest” to “Community Forest” has been suggested.

## 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 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.*

### 2. Establish a 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 survivability with a mixture of tree ages to provide a continuous level of canopy cover over time.*

### 3. 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 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.*

## 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.

### 4. Standardize and coordinate management activities and policies between city units and other agencies/organizations with urban/community forest management responsibilities (DTE, AAPS, Contractors, UofM)

**Rationale:** *Multiple city units and outside organizations/agencies perform tree activities within the city. Ensuring that all city units, organizations and agencies follow a set of standard practices and that their efforts are coordinated and communicated clearly to the public is key to maintaining a healthy, vibrant urban forest.*

**5. 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 requires public support, funding, and appropriate staffing levels to oversee operations and long-term planning. The level of funding and range of funding sources must match the desired management level.*

**6. Orient practices and policies to support a healthy, sustainable urban forest**

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

**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.

**7. Adopt an outreach strategy to communicate with and educate the community about urban forest management**

**Rationale:** *Building long-term support for the urban forest resource and management systems requires a community that understands the value of the urban forest and is informed and educated about current forestry activities policies, and practices. Outreach efforts should provide regular education that focuses on the value/benefits of trees, current activities and the state of the urban forest.*

**8. 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.*

**9. 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.*

## ***Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Draft Plan Goals***

### **Meeting Notes- Boards/Business Organizations/Private Companies /Commercial Neighborhoods**

May 24th, 2011

Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

Location: County Building- 200 N. Main Street- Lower Level Conference Room

**Meeting attendees:** Peggy Sorvala (DTE), Kay Seaser (A2 Convention & Visitors Bureau), Mike Martin (First Martin), Nancy Sweet (Geddes Lake Condo Association)

### **Common themes chart review & comments**

- Conflict between maximizing canopy cover vs. health of existing trees
- Communication. Have to be broad in the approaches that are used. Some people like...
  - o The internet
  - o Face to face
  - o Something in the mail

### **Tree Resources**

#### **Goal #1**

- Canopy cover goals
  - o Is 40% goal practical for downtown
  - o May want to exclude downtown in our canopy cover estimates
  - o People like high density and development in downtown
  - o Would be interesting to break the tree canopy cover down more. What is it for downtown?
  - o May be potential to increase the canopy cover in the parks e.g. Vets Park has a lot of open space, trees could be planted.
  - o How does UM canopy fit in? What is their canopy cover?
- Protection of landmark trees on private property
  - o Need to also consider the landowners rights for trees on their property

#### **Goal #2**

- Provide private property owners with information about how to sustain their trees
- How to get the resources to maintain the trees
- Educate residents about the long term benefits of the large shade tree species (despite the fact that it may be more gratifying to put in a little Red bud)

#### **Goal #3**

- Be more clear about wildlife corridors/animal habitats
  - o This issue is location specific. Some places in the City we may be able to provide this ecological function
- Wood harvesting- this needs clarity. Large scale lumber industry may not be interested in this

### **Resource Management**

#### **Goal #4**

- Make sure the City isn't trying to tell any of these groups what they should be doing
- Focus on communication. Everyone needs to know what they are going to be doing. Discuss schedules, etc.
- Communication and education so that standard practices are known and understood
  - o Add communication to goal #4 "standardize, organize and communicate"

#### **Goal #5**

- Ordinances need to be aligned with goals



**Community Framework Goals**

**Plan Document Goals**

E.

- This should include major changes in economic condition
- Being adaptable is key
- Even if a goal isn't reached, it doesn't mean a failure.

**Benchmarking Ideas**

- Wood utilization
- What communities to benchmark against? Use communities that are similar to Ann Arbor. Pop ~100,000, College towns. E.g. Madison, WI; Boulder, CO; South Bend
- Utilities
- Volunteer programs
  - o Greening of Detroit, how do they secure all of their funding?



## ***Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Draft Plan Goals***

### **Meeting Notes- Other Agencies / Public Groups**

May 24th, 2011

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Location: County Building- 200 N. Main Street- Lower Level Conference Room

**Meeting Attendees:** **Marvin Pettway** (UM- Grounds), **Kevin Sayers** (MI Dept of Natural Resources), **Chuck Winterstein** (Concordia University)

**Contribution through written response:** **Bob Batt** (MDOT)

### **Common Themes Chart Review**

- **Q:** Were there other themes that came up that did not make the cut?  
**A:** This list is pretty comprehensive. We tried to capture anything that was referred to multiple times.
- **Q:** Were there other themes that we thought would come up but did not?  
**A:** No. We found that most everything was covered.
- What about other benefits of trees? Stormwater benefits? This isn't listed as a priority, needs to be recognized. There is a need for education so that the public knows about those benefits.
- #13 preservation of trees on private property.  
**Q:** Are there ordinances for trees on private property?  
**A:** Yes, the City is exempt. U of M, public institutions and public schools are exempt.

### **Tree Resource Goals**

#### Goal #1

- Canopy goals are important. Need to plan long range for this.
- Multi-purpose land-use types may complicate canopy goals, but they are important to establish

#### Goal #2

- What about tree species? Plant those which are resilient to disease
- Establish and maintain

#### Goal #3

- Don't lose the broad nature of this goal
- What about the other ecological benefits (storm, air quality, property value, erosion control)? Food and lumber seems too specific to include in the title.
- Ecological functions vs. ecological benefits

### **Resource Management Goals**

#### Goal #4

- This is about communication and coordination
- Also about governance- policies are mentioned. Does that mean the City is going to try to dictate what those groups can do?
- It's about understanding everyone's policies, not trying to create an umbrella policy
- Makes sense that the City would take charge in projects that affect the right-of-way
- Communicate standard policies in the right-of-way.
- Just the right-of-way or private property as well?
- What is the target audience for this goal? Is the public communication point necessary if this is about coordination within the City units and other agencies?
- Make sure that we are communicating and coordinating with all of those who are actively managing the Urban Forest

#### Goal #5



- Concern with the encroachment of the City mandating what can be done on private property.
  - o Need to clarify that this is only for the City

**Goal #6**

- Orient may be too loose, establish?
- Reviewing tree ordinance to make sure it is up to date, falls under this

**Community Framework Goals**

**Goal #7**

- Feedback to determine the relevance of the program to your constituents. Where does this fit in? May need a survey every 5 years. Also want to make sure it's still relevant for the City. (This may be a plan document goal).

**Goal #8**

- 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.

**Plan Document Goals**

- May combine terms, urban and community forest
- 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.
- Develop a clear series of action strategies which define roles and responsibilities. What steps to take to achieve goals?

**Other**

- At some point may need to step back and think about the goals. Are they realistic? Are they achievable? Can they be evaluated at some point to see what has been achieved, and check them off the list?
- Goals: what you want things to look like, objectives: how you're going to get there.
- The current goals we have seem mixed between what is stable and things that can be achieved and scratched off the list
  - o E.g. "Adopt an outreach strategy" is an objective. It is achievable and can be scratched off of the list once it is achieved.
- May need to meet with key landowners and stakeholders during the plan development
- Partnerships with these large landowners may also be an objective
- Promote the City's Urban Forest resource- where does this fit in? How can we share what we've done
  - o Share it at conferences, so that other municipalities can benefit

**Benchmarking Ideas**

- NY Stormwater- requirements because of combined sewer (Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia..)
- Are we only dealing with trees? What about community gardens? We're not working on that but Project Grow who handles that is in our stakeholder group
- Penn State- historic wood being re-used for furniture
- UM has been utilizing wood from trees that have been removed.
- iTree analysis is not being accepted by the EPA- as a measurement of the benefits of trees. Even though iTree has been developed by the USDA Forest Service. Be aware and keep up to date with this.



## ***Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Draft Plan Goals***

### **Meeting Notes- City Advisory Boards & Commissions**

May 24th, 2011

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: County Building- 200 N. Main Street- Lower Level Conference Room

**Meeting Attendees: Jean Carlberg (Planning Commission)**

### **Common Themes Chart Review**

- Sometimes we need to focus on what can we do now with the funding that is available and have a realistic achievement rather than what can we do in the long range
- Did the survey ask for zip code? It should be broken down geographically. Is one geographic area more heavily represented by number of respondents. If this is the case, it needs to be noted on the themes chart.
- Where do priorities come in? Maybe #2 under budget. What do we spend money on given what we want to achieve. What are our priorities?
- May want to send goal ideas to the council members and let them know in case they have names of anyone who is interested in the issue.
- Planning commission- will we need their approval? Will it be part of the master plan?

### **Tree Resource Goals**

#### Goal #1

- Include definitions in the plan e.g. urban forest
- Is tree canopy broken down by geographic area/land use type?

#### Goal #2

- Changing pressures needs clarification
  - o Environmental?
  - o Economic?
- Pressures may not be the right word- conditions?

#### Goal #3

- Separate this, ecological functions (e.g. stormwater) and then finding a second use for trees that need to be removed
- Issues with food trees- nuisance, attracts bees, can become hazard to those using the parks
- Put a more minimal emphasis on trees as a food source. Emphasize ecological functions

### **Resource Management Goals**

#### Goal #4

- Standardizing policies among these organizations is probably not going to happen
- Communication needs to be a key word in this one

#### Goal #5

- Desired Management level should be supported by a range of funding sources
- Be sure to outline what the benefits and cost savings are.

### **Community Framework Goals**

#### Goal #7



- Also educate them about benefits
- Change to start with “communicate with and educate...” (educate the community about the benefits of the urban forest and it’s management”

Goal #8

- Communicate with council about our volunteer street tree planters. Council gets complaints from people who say “I could have planted that tree myself”

**Plan Document Goals**

A.

- Makes me uncomfortable to say we’re going to try and regulate trees on private property.
- “they may call it a landmark tree, I may call it a big nuisance.”
- Focus on carrots rather than sticks. What incentives can we provide , this is more compelling

B.

- Collective ownership makes me feel like I have a right to do what I want to your trees because they’re part mine too.
- Ownership may be a problematic word. Maybe:
  - o Benefits
  - o Stewardship

C.

- In SWOT section of the plan, include the canopy analysis by geographic area

D.

- Create (1) Immediate (2) mid-range (3) long term goals that are supported by defined action strategies.
  - o To say balance is not grammatically correct

F.

- How will you know when the leadership support has been achieved.

Other plan document goals

- Action-oriented document. Guide us as we make decisions. Decision making tool in some way.
- Fits with other City plans, is sustainable. Reflects the City’s principles. Coordinate with existing plans and policies
- It’s not clear what applies to street trees and what applies to trees in other locations (parks, private, etc.). Need to be very clear about what applies where.

**Benchmarking Ideas**

- Landmark trees
  - o Policies?
  - o Enforcement?
- Climate change considerations for trees (reference the Chicago NY Times article- looking into planting tropical trees. The Chicago Climate Change Plan)
- Alternatives for Right-of-ways that cannot support trees.
  - o Plant on the private property?
  - o What are the best practices for tree planting in tight urban spaces?

## ***Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Draft Plan Goals***

### **Meeting Notes- City Staff**

May 26th, 2011

Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

Location: Wheeler Service Center (4251 Stone School Road)- Conference Room B

**Meeting Attendees:** **Jerry Hancock** (Systems Planning), **Amy Kuras** (Parks and Rec), **Chris Cheng** (Planning), **Nick Hutchinson** (Project Management), **Jason Tallant** (Natural Area Preservation Program)

### **Common Themes Chart Review**

- **Q:** What did you get out of making this chart?  
**A:** With so much information it was very helpful to identify themes and prioritize them. What was important to people.
- Issues that are encountered in other construction projects fall into theme #1.

### **Tree Resource Goals**

#### Goal #3

- Clarify how this fits in with wood utilization i.e. not growing trees for lumber
- Same with trees for food, would trees be planted specifically to grow fruit?
- This goal seems minor in comparison to other goals
- Wood utilization- should the City get involved with this?
- Focus on ecological benefits rather than amenity uses
  - o Stormwater
  - o Air quality
- Wood utilization- seems more efficient to reuse the resource rather than to dispose

#### Goal #1 & #2

- These seem very closely related. Is goal #1 a sub-goal of #2
- Goal #1 is starting to get into the objective realm
- Having fewer more general goals and then many objectives is better

### **Resource Management Goals**

#### Goal #4

- This doesn't touch on the private urban forest?
- Site plan review that is already required should fit in with this
- Should include private property- especially large developments that are significant enough to affect the urban forest
- Vast majority of trees are on private property
- Should include private development- City oversight for private
- If this results in specific guidelines e.g. how to plant a tree, or which species to use. Should apply to private development.
- Will this only apply to City managed trees?

#### Goal #6

- Perhaps add private property here?
- Ordinance, guideline, etc... range of information



- Swap #4 and #6- have this broad goal come first. Then later get into the more specific goal
- What does “consistent with community values” mean? Include a definition.
- Need a summary statement- values and vision... this is what all of the people involved have said
- But community values change and they could be challenged.
- Need to think about the broad range of perspectives in the vision statement

### **Community Framework Goals**

#### Goal #7

- Good idea to include the benefits- while some stormwater things are required by law, forestry is subjective. Need to gain support.

#### Goal #9

- What kind of organizations?

#### Other goals

- Education also needed with other organizations, City units, and private property. Could be captured in goal #4 or #6

### **Plan Document Goals**

#### B.

- ‘Benefits’ is preferred over ‘ownership.’ Ownership=confusing. “Do I need to get the City’s permission to cut down a tree on my own property?”

#### D.

- Short term and long term, maintenance of trees needs to be a goal, not just planting
- Eliminate EAB example

#### C.

- What historical context are you planning to provide? How far back will you go?
- Need to clarify urban forest, not just street trees, also forested stands.
  - o Think about the historical context of the urban forest

### **Benchmarking Ideas**

- Trees as a food source
- Climate change- tropical trees. What is the predicted appropriate species? Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessment (GLISA) - doing some research in this area.
  - o May not completely eliminate species from our palette, but adding some new species
- Green roofs- where do they fit in? Stormwater credits? Probably not in urban forestry. Economic incentives? Stormwater is a secondary benefit of green roofs.
- Private property incentives
- Understory- what is the urban forest? Seems like we’re just talking about trees. There are also shrubs, ground cover
  - o Maybe this fits under goal #2 or #3
  - o People plant shrubs in the ROW. This isn’t allowed but it needs to be addressed in the plan, because it is being done.
  - o Need for clear definition, what is allowed? What is not allowed? What do we encourage?
- Street tree issues
  - o Trees don’t thrive there
  - o Water doesn’t really get there. It does intercept but all the impervious area that surrounds them prevents water from getting there.
- Planting in the urban core. May need to re-think street tree planting every few feet. May plant in clusters

- This overlaps with downtown design guidelines
- Protection of landmark trees on private property?
  - Staffing issue, how do we police/ regulate this?



## ***Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Draft Plan Goals***

### **Meeting Notes- City Staff**

June 2nd, 2011

Time: 9:30-11:30 AM

Location: Wheeler Service Center (4251 Stone School Road)- Conference Room B

**Meeting Attendees:** **Kay Sicheneder** (Forestry), **Don Pieseke** (Forestry), **Ginny Trocchio** (Parks/Greenbelt), **Scott Spooner** (Leslie Park Golf Course), **Kirk Pennington** (Streets)

### **Tree Resource Goals**

#### **Goal #1**

- How will the City encourage tree planting on private property?
  - o Focus on carrots rather than sticks e.g. Arbor Day tree give-away
- How will the canopy cover increase 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.
- Is there an end result canopy cover that the City hopes to achieve? i.e. X%?
- It will all come down to how routine the City can trim trees
- Solid waste trucks are tearing up the trees
- Just can't plant large trees in some places, or if you do, they have to be rotated out. Encroachment issues.

#### **Goal #2**

- Long term thinking is important. "Five years is nothing in 'tree-time.'"

#### **Goal #3**

- End of life- recycle our wood
- Use the word 'biogenic utility'- 'ecological functions' is too fluffy. Need people to really see the value that this has to our stormwater system.
- Good idea to split this into two.

### **Resource Management Goals**

#### **Goal #4**

- Contractors that impact trees, not just focusing on those who do trimming.
- Need people to understand why trees aren't good in some places. E.g. there may be a sewer in the middle of the woods. When it went in there weren't trees there but since then trees have grown there and now there are issues when the sewer needs to be repaired or replaced because trees need to be removed. This is a maintenance issue that the City did not maintain the sewer easements and trees grew up in them.
- Should be working with other City facilities that have trees but aren't managed by Forestry.
  - o Facility managers e.g. Vets, Fuller
  - o Housing Commission
- Have contract specs (Orange Book) been updated?
  - o Trimming standards need to be updated since trees are too low over the road and cause damage to vehicles.

#### **Goal #5**

- Urban forest is looked at as an amenity, it's not an amenity, it's a utility, an asset.
- Appropriately qualified staff is necessary. They must be skilled or at least trainable and available long-term.
- Forestry needs to be approached on a program basis, not re-active. Be proactive.
- Funding for appropriate equipment.



- Maximize benefits and minimize risk, cost...

**Goal #6**

- Healthy and structurally sound
  - o Structural integrity (include this or other similar term whenever we say ‘healthy’)
  - o Risk limited
  - o Healthy and structurally sound are not the same thing
  - o Safe (this language may speak more clearly to the community)

**Community Framework Goals**

**Goal #7**

- Educate about the risks of not managing the urban forest
- Place a stake that says “we are going to plant a tree here” so residents who don’t read the tree planting letter have notification that a tree will be planted so we don’t waste resources planting a tree where a resident does not want planted.
- Concerns about overzealous volunteers

**Goal #8**

- Needs to be continuous so that you build a skill set with your volunteers
  - o Not just once/year
  - o Takes dedicated staff to engage

**Plan Document Goals**

**F.**

- Can’t change your document every time there’s a change in City Council.
- May want to suggest that new Council members be made aware of our forestry policies when they start.

**Benchmarking Ideas**

- Wood utilization- West Coast Arborists
- Pull a permit to remove a tree in your yard (Livonia? Bloomfield Hills?)
- Zone Maintenance (Santa Monica)
  - o Good web program
  - o Check with Dave Wilburn about GPS locaters in snow removal trucks—is there an opportunity to do this for forestry when we get into a routine tree trimming/maintenance program?

**Other**

- Make sure that disaster preparedness is addressed
  - o Safety
  - o Risk management, storm preparedness
  - o This idea should fit in as an objective under Resource Management
- Contract work- City work is supposed to be prioritized over their private work-- need a back-up plan if that doesn’t happen.
- Plan review for single family residential is being considered. Incorporate tree stuff there.
- There are no forestry fees to inspect or enforce – develop fees so that we can afford to have enforcement.



## ***Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Draft Plan Goals***

### **Meeting Notes- Non-Profit Groups/Environmental Organizations**

May 26th, 2011

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Location: County Building- 200 N. Main Street- Lower Level Conference Room

**Meeting Attendees:** Jesse Gordon (Mallets Creek Coordinating Committee), Marcia Van Fossen (Fleming Creek), Lynn Borset (A2 Tree Conservancy), Robert Ayotte (MI Botanical Club- Huron Valley Chapter), Jeff Plakke (UM- Arb and Gardens), Kris Olsson (Huron River Watershed Council), Paul Hickman (Urban Ashes/Urban Wood Project), Mike Conlin (A2 Tree Conservancy), Neal Foster (Millers Creek Action Team), Andy LaBarre (Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber)

**Contribution through written response:** Jessica Simons (SE Michigan RC & D Council/Urban Wood Collaborative)

### **Common Themes Chart Review**

- Make sure that the quantitative survey results are also included in the chart. Not just the open-ended survey comments.
- Add a note similar to the following “These quotes represent the range of viewpoints that were expressed, and will be considered in our discussion of goals. Quotes provided do not necessarily support the goals.”
- Foliage of trees in Ann Arbor, beauty, was this referenced?

### **Other Discussion**

- **Q:** Who came up with the goals?  
**A:** All public input received so far (survey, focus groups, advisory committee meetings) was synthesized into goals.
- **Q:** When is the last opportunity to provide feedback on the goals?  
**A:** A worksheet will be sent to all stakeholders. They will be given a chance to review and respond. (Worksheet due Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>).
- Background question- what does the City do to communicate removals? What is in the letter that is sent out? Tell people why the tree is going down, what’s going to happen with the tree after removal. Some stakeholders expressed the opinion that it is a “closed” letter.
- The Plan Development Schedule is helpful but needs more detail. What are the steps?
- Outreach/public information ideas
  - o **Q:** Can we get something written about the UFMP in the Chronicle?  
**A:** The City does not have control over what they write.
  - o Green Fair will be a specific section of the community. Summer festival may be a broader range of the community.
  - o May want to have a survey at the Green Fair “Why do you care about trees?”

### **Tree Resource Goals**

#### **Goal #1**

- Support this, there is research (“American Forest” is a national non-profit advocacy group that has set canopy cover goals)
- Where is maintenance addressed?
- Overstory/understory not really existent in the urban forest
- Expansion of the urban forest definition- more diversity in lower levels of the forest structure.



- Consider using the term urban "arborscape"; the urban forest is more like an arboretum, all of the dynamics of an ecological forest are interrupted by the cityscape.

Goal #2

- May want to include the word climate- be explicit about what pressures we're referring to- list a whole range of pressures.
- How to characterize urban forest management based on different components (e.g. soil types...) where does this fit in?
- Make efforts to directly remove invasive species.
- Keep in mind that non-native does not imply invasive. Some very interesting, non-indigenous trees add diversity and yet pose no threat to surrounding landscapes

Goal #3

- Should this be split up?
  - o Air quality, stormwater benefits while it's in its living condition.
  - o Raw resources that the tree provides
- Are ecological benefits really a goal? Isn't that just what trees do?
  - o Does promote mean advertise?
  - o Promote: certain species provide more ecological benefits
  - o Make this more clear- promote seems to indicate education/communication
- Specific policy- how to handle tree disposal?
  - o Develop infrastructure to maximize the economic return that the City can generate from trees that need to be disposed.
- "My organization and I wholeheartedly endorse the City of Ann Arbor's proposal to promote additional value-added benefits from urban forests."

**Resource Management Goals**

Goal #4

- Not just those City units who do specific activities related to trees, but those who affect trees.
- Objective- coordination between the contractors and the lumber mills

Goal #5

- Clarify what is meant by range of funding sources, e.g. could include seeking grants, revenue from wood re-use, etc
- Concern that when alternate funding sources are secured, the general fund dollars go away
- If revenues that generate funding are expanded make sure that the overall funding is still increasing
- Ensuring funding that is adequate to meet our goals
- Make sure that the basic funding is provided to align with the goals
- Ensure that funding is available for ongoing staff training and consideration of new programming.

Goal #6

- This is a big, over-arching goal
- This may include a nugget of the mission statement
- Community input is more tangible than community values
- Could there be a negotiation and agreement about some of the community values?
- Community values may vary in each neighborhood
- Be consistent with plan goals
- Use of the word "community" shows that you've gotten down to that level



- We have a defined community outreach strategy
- Think about broad level community value that people generally won't oppose
  - Clean air
  - Preventing erosion

### **Community Framework Goals**

#### Goal #7

- Adopt a “friendly” outreach strategy
- Emphasize good public relations and communication
- A few bad interactions can go a long way in making a lasting impression
- There is a tainted perspective when people have a bad interaction- they generalize (this may go back to goal #4- education)
- Objective- written materials that we distribute (e.g. tree removal letter) are an opportunity for communication (and collaboration)
- Outreach and education regarding invasive species. Not just about City trees but for private property owners.
- Does the City or County have any authority over tree species that are sold? Retail. (e.g. like the phosphorus ordinance)
  - Cannot regulate who can sell, but can restrict who can buy.
- What are we talking about with “communication”? Broad.
- Educate the populace about invasive species
- Use invasive species removal actions as a tool to educate. Clearly express the intent of the removals and replace them with natives.

#### Goal #8

- Goal #7 and #8 are very connected.

#### Goal #9

- Is this more of an objective? May fit under #8
- But it's also a part of community building

#### Other

- Biota, wildlife habitat/corridors
- Separate educate, communicate and engage (the order under community framework)

### **Plan Document Goals**

#### B.

- The Working Group with advisement from the Advisory Committee will need to have the discussion about whether or not they would recommend that the City attempt to regulate what can be done with trees on private property.

#### F.

- Planning commission adoption and City council approval indicate their support of the plan

#### Name change

- “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.

### **Other**



- School groups- lacking representation
- Individual school groups have curricular activities
- Marketing- what's going on? What the City is doing? We are being very pro-active. We may be able to encourage other communities to do the same
- DDA- lacking representation.



## **Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Draft Plan Goals**

### **Meeting Notes- Residential Groups**

May 26th, 2011

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: County Building- 200 N. Main Street- Lower Level Conference Room

**Meeting Attendees:** **Brady Gambatese** (Chapel Hill Condo Assoc), **Lou Glorie** (Brooks Street Neighborhood), **Jill Price** (Platt Rd. Neighborhood Assoc), **Ethel Potts** (Alliance of Neighborhoods), **David LeRoy** (Sunset-Brooks Neighborhood Assoc), **Judy Schneider** (Spring-Brooks Neighborhood Assoc), **Chris Graham** (Environmental Commission), **Sheryl Korsnes** (Crossings of Ann Arbor Assoc), **Edith Bletcher** (South Main Neighborhood Assoc), **Cindy Overmyer** (Broadway Neighborhood Assoc), **Ray Fullerton** (Ann Arbor Citizens Advisory Committee (Downtown)), **Mark Hieber** (Virginia Park Neighborhood)

### **Common Themes Chart Review**

- What is the budget? You have a plan but do you have any money to do it? Part of the plan development is to say what level of service are we looking to achieve? How much funding is available? How do we adjust out plans based on available funding, or seek alternate funding sources
- There is no “dilemma of natives” this needs to be re-worded. It gives the wrong message.
- Street tree planting in the Urban Core, we need to do better work given the environment that we have.
- Don’t believe in removing a tree just to remove it
- **Q:** Can barriers be dropped to prevent tree roots from growing down and puncturing pipe lines?  
**A:** This has been tried in the past and it did not work.
- DTE provides power, don’t plant fast growing trees under the power lines
- Cost comparison of underground vs. coming out to do tree maintenance for overhead utilities- perhaps DTE has this information that they can share
- It’s not that we don’t want DTE to trim the trees, but can the City come through and deal with the damage that DTE does?
- Stakeholders requested to receive updates between now and when SH-3 takes place.

### **Tree Resource Goals**

#### **Goal #1**

- Should this be ranked #1?
  - o A: Goals have not been ranked the numbering is just to aide in identifying
- Recognize and enhance urban forest
- Would like to strive to increase canopy cover (maintaining what we have, planting more...)
- No reason to exclude the trees from downtown
- Strive for diversity
- Does not seem to be any consideration for rational decision making
- Need to weigh all competing interests (e.g. solar power)
- Increase the canopy cover effectively (may not be effective in certain areas)
- City wide measurable rather than geographic. People move.

#### **Goal #2**

- Very important to take care of trees that are planted. Maintain them and educate people about how to maintain them.

#### **Goal #3**

- Seems vague (removing food and lumber makes it even more vague)



- Stormwater benefits, soil erosion, these can be added as specific objectives
- Potential for the wrong trees to be accidentally cut down because they are valuable lumber- safeguards need to be put in place
- Promote tree and forest ecosystem services what do trees provide to us
  - o Sound horticultural, arboricultural practices
- Using lots for survival- strongly recommend fruit trees, may apply on private property.
- Potential objectives:
  - o Understand the soils
  - o No tree will achieve full potential in crappy environment
  - o Soil compaction issues
  - o Special function of the urban forest is the celebratory purpose- e.g. lights on trees downtown
    - Attach stories to the trees
    - Give people reasons to embrace trees
    - Human connection to trees
    - “We’re overlooking all the fun that we could be having celebrating trees!”

### **Resource Management Goals**

#### Goal #4

- “Street paving people” should be in coordination with “tree trimming people.” Don’t just trim branches for paving trucks to come through
- This is a balancing act. There are reasons why they trim the branches, more damaging to trees if they break. There are also cost implications; changing the equipment that is used would be very expensive.
- Community value- is tree protection. Some community members prioritize this over the bottom line.
- Coordination is an important word here.
- Coordinating with neighborhood organizations.

#### Goal #5

- Fundraising- provide the opportunity for people to donate money towards maintenance of a particular tree
- Identify an opportunity and approach people and ask them to donate. U of M asks people to donate money for a particular cause. We could seek out another “Elizabeth Dean.”
- Tree donation program. E.g. if someone wants to plant a tree in honor of someone who has passed
  - o There is an existing program, need to educate people about this
  - o Some thought to fundraising via memorial plaques like they have on the bike lanes

#### Goal #6

- Sometimes community values exceed available funds
  - o Need to prioritize
  - o Either reduce level of service that people want, or find a way to address the funding gap
- Dedicate more resources to the people who do the jobs
- More funding towards the “do-ers” and less towards administration.

### **Community Framework Goals**

#### Goal #7

- Valuable goal
- Suggested objective: Need for communication throughout the course of the project, not just when the project is initiated.

#### Goal #8



- Good program (Citizen pruner and volunteer planting) people can walk away with valuable skills and they are helping their community.
  - o But are we spending a lot on getting people trained to do these things.
- Need a clear definition of what is done by City staff and what programs encourage private investment in private property to achieve goals

### Goal #9

- What organizations are you working with? NAP has incredible outreach.
- Important objective- databases of organizations involved in other programs.

### Other

- Refer to the GreenBelt plan when working on UFMP. It is very well written.
- Are our actions in contrast to what is being done in my Parks lately? Bandemer Parks, Argo... soil erosion issues. Many trees have come down. What was the goal there?
  - o This may have been done for invasive species management. There are many Buckthorn along the river.
- Useful for the City to produce a booklet at the end of all of this to portray benefits and information about trees. Educational.
  - o Guidelines and resources of why people may want to plant a particular tree species on their property.
- Providing incentives for private tree planting as a goal
- DTE and contractors need to have proper education and training about tree trimming so they aren't just hacking them.
- DTE flyer in my door to let me know when they were coming
  - o They do send first class letter now
  - o In a condo community who do they send it to?
  - o DTE should send an email to all the neighborhood groups when they're coming through
  - o Why doesn't DTE treat all trees that they trim with that high level of responsibility.
- Incentivize landlords to take care of trees that are planted- renters not likely to do this.
- Make sure that commercial development is covered. Something stronger- not just don't take it down, but don't compact the soils around it, don't put a port-a-john under it.

### Plan Document Goals

- Collective benefits and responsibilities
- Not just talked about once and put on the shelf. Needs to be an ongoing conversation.
- The life of a Burr-Oak, make it a 250-year plan. "We want to have the plan live this long."
- Pay it forward approach, plant trees for the benefit of those long after ourselves.
  - o May be inspiring for private trees as well
- Publicity, promotion, marketing of what's being done here in Ann Arbor

### Benchmarking

- What is the canopy cover of other cities like ours?

