

ANN ARBOR- URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY of COMMON THEMES

NOTES (1) Themes are listed in descending order by number of references as determined by searching meeting notes/ survey responses for specified keywords. **(2)** Focus Group and Public workshop quotations have been taken from meeting notes; they were not directly transcribed. Survey responses are direct but have been edited for spelling, grammar, etc. **(3)** Keyword box size does not correlate with number of references.

Theme	Key Quotes			Total References
	Public Workshop	Survey	Focus Group	Keywords
1. Tree Selection & Planting-Diversity, using natives, right tree/right place	"Need to increase species/diversity"	"There should be attention given to the types of trees planted on lawn extensions to minimize the upheaval of sidewalks and height of mature trees to avoid power lines."	"Be smart about what to plant where, on a case by case basis (don't put fast growing trees under utility wires)."	Tree planting Species Native Diversity Canopy Appropriate
	"Age class relative to site"	"A big variety of species is very important--look at the 10,000 dead ash trees."	"Consider ecologically appropriate native species when planting. Carefully consider diversity."	Right tree Right place Right site
				233
2. Budget/ funding related/ lack of sufficient resources	"Political issues – need to advocate for trees' place in the city budget"	"Individuals could be encouraged to sponsor trees, as there's obviously not enough \$\$ for everything."	"Projects costs and funding sources are potential barriers to plan implementation."	Fund(s/ing)
	"Pursue grant opportunities/ seek alternative funding sources"	"The city should prioritize funds based on overall city needs and infrastructure. Items like road work/repair and public safety should receive priority over 'lifestyle enhancements' or 'wants'."		Resource
	"Allow homeowners to help pay for maintenance directly"	"As long as it does not increase the city budget in ANY WAY I am in favor of an urban forest planning process. I do not believe that one single taxpayer dollar should be spent on this special interest agenda item."		Pay Cost Money Budget
				194
3. Routine Tree Maintenance and Young Tree Care	"Plant trees that require less maintenance"	"Care of the existing trees-not just after planting-throughout life"	"If you can't maintain, don't plant."	Maintenance
	"Safety issues with trees that are not maintained properly"	"...The city is doing a poor job of taking care of trees already under its care and should be cautious about trying to plant more when it can't care for what it already has"	"We need better care for the trees that we already do have. New trees take a lot to make them grow."	Care Maintain Routine
				187
4. Public Education/ Communication/ Transparency about Forestry activities (trimming, removals, tree planting, UFMP development, etc.)	"Need to discuss with residents why a tree is slated for removal"	"Get the word out about the website and encourage people to go there for information. Many people seem to believe they can't find out what local government is doing, and yet the information is readily available."	"People don't know what the plan is, what their options are. There is a need for education about public tree planting."	Public
		"Coordination, clarity, consistency, transparency... I had several confusing/ contradictory interactions with city foresters last year..."		Educate (e/ion) Information Communication
	"Educate residents about maintenance practices + maintenance activities"	"The city needs to do a better job of informing residential property owners of their obligations and rights with respect to the city-owned trees located along the street in sidewalk easements. As far as I can tell, the city expects residential owners to maintain and care for these trees, yet restricts use..."	"I think that many residents feel like the City touches a street or park tree 2 times, once when planted and once when they are removed...It comes down to communicating more with people whether that is through the web or other."	Outreach Knowledge Transparency
				169
5. DTE- utility line clearance/Pruning Practices	"Conflict between utility pruning + community goals – need better pruning practices"	"Many trees have been butchered by pruning to accommodate overhead power lines. Long range planning should consider relocating power lines underground"	"Need better management when DTE comes through. They damage trees."	Trim
		"...Utility companies are allowed far too much authority in tree trimming around electrical lines. I'm in favor of trees having priority over cutting the costs of electric line maintenance. I can live without electricity occasionally to save our trees..."		Utilit (y/ies) Prun (e/ing) DTE Wire Underground Electric
				154
6. Incentives for/assistance with private tree planting	"Avoid forcing individuals/private home owners to plant, use incentives"	"Discount tree sale"	"Incentives to push people to the goals. If you want people to plant trees to increase canopy cover, maybe give a discount on trees, or provide volunteers to help with private maintenance."	Private
		"Stormwater credit for trees planted"		Incentive
		"Loan tree planting tools & equipment"		Credit
		"Gah!! Keep out of private land."		Discount
		"Don't waste time & \$ on private trees."		Assist
				75

	Key Quotes			Total References
Theme	Public Workshop	Survey	Focus Group	Keywords
7. Volunteers	"Develop a stronger volunteer network. Work with volunteers and "stewards" to aid in planting and planning efforts"	"Should encourage and facilitate formation of neighborhood groups to plan & plant trees - they are interested, motivated, and willing, and their encouragement could ease the burden on the city"	"We need an organized approach to community members taking on tree maintenance."	Volunteer
		"I pay enough city/property taxes that volunteers should not be relied on to preform fundamental city services. If we are the tree city then be the tree city through fiscal management. Volunteers are valued but not relied on."		Steward
				Involvement
				59
8. Tree and Sidewalk issues	"Sidewalk replacement – cost of tree versus cost of sidewalk"	"Damage to sidewalks and residential sewer pipes is expensive for the homeowner."	"Maintenance of trees as they affect walkers on sidewalks. Pruning is needed where tree branches are lower than 6 feet above sidewalks..."	Sidewalk
		"Look into rubber sidewalks? Apparently, they can be pulled up, tree roots trimmed, and sidewalk piece replaced."		
				57
9. Ordinances/Requirements	"Set standards that will endure beyond political leadership and personnel changes"	"Enforce maintenance & replacement of trees required by site plans."	"That there be a tree ordinance, not a policy—and that this ordinance be enforced by a board of stakeholders."	Require
		"Pass city ordinances which require all the commercial real estate which have acres of open grass space to have them filed with trees."		Ordinance
	"Not enough enforcement of current codes (i.e. planting/landscaping ordinance)"			Standard
				Enforce (ment)
				53
10. Wood utilization	"Urban wood re-use / harvesting is an important benefit of trees"	"High-value recycling/use of wood from trees after removal"	"End of life planning' for trees."	Wood
		"Wood recycling and reuse program"		Utiliz (e/ation)
				Recycl (e/ing)
				47
11. Trees as a food source	"Tress are a food source for people (fruits + nuts). 'Food Forest.' Urban forest gardening."	"More fruit and nut trees please."	"We need a greater emphasis on the brush species that will provide food resources within our parks."	Food
		"Trees can have a larger role... We need to encourage collection of fruit and nuts, and allow trained people to tap trees for maple sap. This also encourages caring and a sense of ownership."		Fruit
				Nut
				Sap
				Syrup
				45
12. Balancing priorities/ competing interests	"Consideration of solar and wind installations/balance plantings"	"How will the urban forest plan interface with other surrounding issues and plans? For example, urban forests, bike paths, open space, and the built environment in general are all related and should be considered simultaneously in the development of any plan. What steps will be taken to assure that all relevant issues beyond the scope of urban forests will be taken into account?"	"Defining areas where trees should be preserved vs. areas for construction."	Priorit (y/ies/ize)
				Conflict
	"Manage conflicts between tree planting and other city plans/initiatives"		"Decision to not have a tree by one homeowner may conflict with interests of others in the neighborhood (solar access, ability to grow edible plants in their yard...)"	Balance
				Interface
				41
13. Preservation of historic/landmark trees on public and private property	"Other municipalities (i.e. Carmel, CA) don't allow trees to be cut down on private property without just cause"	"...Consider the age of trees when contemplating removal. Old trees are a city treasure"	"At some point (size/ age? other?) historic trees should be protected just like historic homes."	Preserv (e/ation)
				Historic
				Landmark
				37
14. Invasive species management	"Need better assessment/considerations for invasive trees."	"Public trees that are invasive species should be methodically replaced regardless of tree health and landowner objection..."	"Loss of tree cover from insects, disease. Want "no-net-loss" (right now we're losing more public trees than we're gaining, we need to reverse that)."	Invasive
				Disease
				Insect
				32
15. Partnerships with non-profit organizations and other agencies/institutions	"Forge better relationships with partners (U of M, DDA, MDOT). Have written agreements"	"Perhaps linking with an AmeriCorps, City Year, or Youth Volunteer Corps (YMCA) program will help get young volunteers interested in the environment."	"...advocates for particular issues."	Partner
		"Involve the public schools and community service groups in a similar fashion to 'adopt a highway'."	"...recruiting volunteers."	Relationship
			"...could provide maintenance support."	Nonprofit/ Non profit
				30
16. Leaf pick up and City trees	"Leaves clog gutters"	"Definitely consider how the citizens are going to pick up all the leaves in the city since the city has discontinued street leaf pickup."	"Without leaf removal, the leaves from the City's trees are now the responsibility of citizens. What are the rights and obligations of the private owners with respect to trees in the right-of-way?"	Leaves
				Leaf
				23
17. Long range planning	--No supporting quote--	"Protect the Trees, especially the mature Trees!! Roads, sidewalks, even utility wires/infrastructure, are much cheaper to replace over the long term! Look at the long term benefit rather than the short term cost."	"What can we do now? What in the future? Long range planning... (Action strategies with different phasing)."	Long term
				Future
			"People need to think about the whole tree life cycle. The beginning and the end of tree life."	Long range
				Life cycle
				21