

## ***Draft Goals and Rationale***

The “final” draft goals are listed below. Throughout the goal development process input has been received from Stakeholder Focus Groups, the Advisory Committee and City Staff Working Group.

### **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. Preserve, protect, maintain and expand Ann Arbor’s tree canopy and urban forest.**

**Rationale:** *To provide a sustainable urban forest resource, existing tree canopy should be preserved and maintained while also ensuring the resource is diverse and resilient to changing pressures, supports local ecosystem health and biodiversity, and is managed for long-term survivability with a mixture of tree ages and species to provide a continuous level of canopy cover over time.*

#### **2. Enhance and support the ecological functions of the urban forest**

**Rationale:** *The urban forest provides ecological functions during their life cycle, e.g. stormwater management, air quality, erosion control and wildlife habitat, that provide valuable benefits to the community.*

#### **3. Promote amenity uses of the urban forest**

**Rationale:** *The urban forest can provide ecosystem goods during and beyond their normal life cycle, providing further benefit to the community. For example, utilizing some of the wood from dead/dying trees for a higher value other than mulch (e.g. by woodworkers or artisans) or using trees 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. Ensure communication and coordination of management activities and policies among city units and other agencies/organizations whose activities impact City managed trees (DTE, AAPS, Contractors, UM)**

**Rationale:** *Multiple City units and outside organizations/agencies perform activities that impact City managed trees. Ensure that all City units 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 must coordinate and communicate their efforts clearly to allow consistent and transparent urban forest management.*

**5. Devise and implement sustainable funding strategies that recognize the economic, social and environmental value of trees, and support the urban forest.**

**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 long-term planning. The level of funding and range of funding sources must match the desired management level.*

**6. Develop practices and policies to support a 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.*

## 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. 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, 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, the state of the urban forest; and provides an opportunity for the community to contribute to its management.*

**8. Engage the community, both individuals and organizations, in the collective management of the urban forest**

**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.*