

# ANN ARBOR Urban Forest Management Plan

## ***PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY***

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Ann Arbor's first *Urban Forest Management Plan* will establish a long-term vision and describe practices and policies for managing the City's urban forest. To develop this plan, the City of Ann Arbor (City) staff is initiating a planning process that will engage stakeholders, community leaders and residents in shaping the scope, content and direction of the plan.

### **B. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GROUPS**

The public engagement component of the *Urban Forest Management Plan* will engage the following groups over the course of the project:

#### **1. Working Group**

- Consisting of city staff and the consultant team
- *Fourteen (14) meetings*
- Purpose: The primary decision-making body; ultimately responsible for developing the content of the plan documents.

#### **2. Advisory Committee**

- Consisting of 12-18 representatives from the stakeholder groups
- Chosen to provide a diverse range of perspectives and to advise the planning process
- *Eight (8) meetings*
- Committee members will be nominated based on recommendations from the public received during the Urban Forest Management Plan workshops and survey in 2010; from stakeholders during the focus group sessions held in 2011; and from the City staff Working Group.
- Purpose: To advise the Working Group on the scope, content, direction and recommendations of the plan, and provide guidance on the best approaches for engaging other stakeholder groups and the broader public over the course of the project.

#### **3. Stakeholders**

- Consisting of a range of groups with a vested interest in urban forest issues
- Includes representation from residents, neighborhood and business organizations, city boards and commissions, institutions, city departments, government agencies, utility companies, environmental groups and non-profits
- *Three (3) rounds of stakeholder group meetings and/or interviews*

- Purpose: To offer special opportunities to review and comment on plan documents and other materials at key stages in the process. Engagement methods will include focus groups and/or interviews

#### **4. Public/Community**

- Consisting of any and all city residents, stakeholders and others interested in the *Urban Forest Management Plan*
- *Two to three (2-3) city-wide meetings*
- Purpose: To present information or draft materials and for public comment or other feedback activities.

### **C. INITIAL PUBLIC OUTREACH**

#### **1. Public/Community Workshops- Summer 2010**

The City hosted two public workshops to get resident input in shaping the direction and scope of the Urban Forest Management Plan.

#### **2. Public /Community Survey- August 2010**

The City released a survey to hear from Ann Arbor citizens and businesses about issues and opportunities for improving the quality of Ann Arbor's urban forest.

#### **3. Stakeholder Focus Group 1- February 2011**

The City held small focus groups with organizations, agencies, businesses and residential groups who did not participate in either the 2010 public workshops or survey and whose input is important to plan development.

### **D. PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

The planning process will build upon the public outreach workshops, online survey, and stakeholder focus group 1 through the review and elaboration of identified issues and opportunities. The planning process will then involve establishing goals, developing plan options and choices, choosing preferred options, drafting recommendations and implementing actions.

### **E. MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Visit the city's forestry website (<http://www.a2gov.org/urbanforestry>) under the Urban Forest Management Plan to find:

- A schedule of the primary steps in the planning process
- The results/materials from past public engagement activities