

An **Urban and Community Forestry Management Plan** is a long-term strategy that helps a municipality care for, protect, expand, and manage its community trees and urban forest.

The “urban forest” includes much more than street trees. It can include trees along roads, in parks, around municipal buildings, in downtown areas, on other public lands, and—depending on the scope of the plan—trees on private property that collectively provide benefits to the community.

A good management plan typically uses information from a **tree inventory, canopy assessment, municipal policies, and community priorities** to establish what the community has now, what problems it faces, and what it wants its urban forest to look like in the future.

Typical elements include:

- **Current conditions** — number, species, size, condition, and location of public trees; canopy cover; invasive pests; planting opportunities; and areas with inadequate tree canopy.
- **Goals and priorities** — such as increasing canopy, improving species diversity, reducing hazardous trees, protecting mature trees, or improving tree equity.
- **Tree maintenance** — recommended pruning cycles, inspections, removals, young-tree care, and emergency response.
- **Tree planting** — where trees are needed, appropriate species, planting standards, and goals for replacing removed trees.
- **Risk management** — procedures for identifying and addressing hazardous trees.
- **Pest and disease management** — including threats such as emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly, or other emerging pests.
- **Policies and ordinances** — recommendations for tree protection, planting requirements, development review, utility coordination, and responsibilities for public trees.
- **Staffing and budgeting** — what personnel, contractors, equipment, and annual funding are needed.
- **Public involvement** — ways residents, tree boards, nonprofits, volunteers, and other community partners can participate.
- **Implementation schedule** — specific actions over perhaps 5, 10, or 20 years, including priorities, responsible parties, costs, and measures of success.