

# **Austin's Urban Forest Plan**

## **Community Voices**

2 Leaf the Tree Pop-Up Activity

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Leaf the Tree Pop-Up Activity Public Comment							Implementation			
Input Location	Date	Comment Text	Specified location?	Main Category	Related Plan Component	Specific Plan Location	AUFP*	Dept Plans**	Other ***	Action/Notes
NWRC	7/29/2013	Comprehensive watering and drought management plan to keep trees healthy		General	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6		X		
NWRC	7/29/2013	Invest in maintenance of public trees		General	Policy Element	PCM-3, UF-3		X		
		PARD should work together with volunteers to increase team work between community and pard		General	Policy Element	EO-2		X	X	
		Expand		General	Uncategorized	Uncategorized				
		Don't allow cars, etc. to park under trees in parks, greenbelt entrances, etc. - Soil compaction, erosion, etc. Install barriers		Parks, Greenbelts	Policy Element	PD-5		X	X	Comment to be sent to PARD enforcement staff
		PARD should prune, mulch and water tress in public cemeteries - repair or install new irrigation in Oakwood (over 500 dead trees!)	Oakwood Cemetery	Cemeteries	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6		X	X	Comment will be sent to PARD Cemeteries staff. Related: Cemetery Master Plan
		Revisit tree planting, tree folks		General	Policy Element	PCM-3, EO-2		X		
		Add more parks in Crestview and elsewhere	Crestview Neighborhood	Parks	Vision Component	Contiguous			X	Comment to be sent to PARD Planning staff
		Definitely attack invasive species		General	Policy Element	S-6	X	X		
		Plant more trees		General	Policy Element	PCM-3		X		
		Driving down 1st street, the peach trees are a plus	1st street	General	Uncategorized	Uncategorized				
		Keep the parks clean :-)		Parks	Uncategorized	Uncategorized			X	Comment to be sent to PARD Maintenance staff
		Get rid of the cedars (??? Junipers)		General	Policy Element	PD-11		X		
		Save the trees		General	Policy Element	PR-8				
		Save our big trees		General	Policy Element	PR-8	X	X		
		PARD should maintain public trees, vegetation and parks. Hire more workers not more foresters		General, Parks	Policy Element	UF-8		X	X	Comment to be sent to PARD management

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		Plant adequate tree species for areas and obtain trees from local nurseries, not apache found		General	Policy Element	PCM-2, S-1		X		
		Love Austin Greenery call for native species		General	Policy Element	PCM-2	X	X		
		All UFB board members should review policy elements, not just one board member		UFB					X	All UFB members review and consider approval of policy elements
		plant new trees and maintain current trees		General	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6	X	X		
		Maintain public trees- forestry expansion, good training and supervision		Education	Policy Element	UF-2, UF-8	X	X		
		Remove dead trees from parks		Parks	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6		X		
		More trees		General	Policy Element	PCM-3		X		
		Forestry, not Tree Folks should teach the urban steward class to build up community participation		Education	Policy Element	EO-1, EO-2		X		
		Tree steward class is too expensive, must be lowered to increase community participation		Education	Policy Element	EO-1, EO-2		X		
		Develop standards for snags - a 4ft tall stump does not provide much environmental benefit. Leave snags in tree in ??? Areas - not in parks		Policy	Policy Element	UF-6, S-2, S-4		X	X	Comment to be sent to PARD and WPD Forestry Maintenance staff
		Less Cedar trees		General	Policy Element	PD-11		X		
		Post notification when large trees are going to be removed, ribbon or sign by tree		General	Policy Element	EO-1, EO-2		X		
		Train foresters in advanced tree risk assessment- reduce incidences of trees being declared hazardous when they are not		Education	Policy Element	UF-8, UF-12		X		

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		Fence trees that are declared hazardous until they can be removed		General	Policy Element	UF-12		X		
		AUFP needs to have short and long term goals, with action items, with a plan (what, how, when)		Policy					X	Addressed in Implementation section
		Austin Urban Forest plan is too vague- it will not provide improvements		Policy					X	AUFP provides the first step in a long improvement process
		Drought prevention(?) and water trees planted		General	Policy Element	PCM-3				
		Lets more trees and parkland		General, Parks	Policy Element	PCM-3				
		AUFP Needs to be an action plan- there are no deliverables- time frame is too vague (1-20 years?)		Policy			X		X	Addressed in Implementation section
		Protect the urban forest and public trees with an implementable plan that makes action items from the concerns of the community		Policy			X		X	To be addressed in Implementation section and Departmental Operational Plans
		Preservation of trees along the right-of-way		Right of Way	Policy Element	PD-2, PD-8		X		
		There is no specific plan for how park development affects tree canopy. Specify goals for cover: who, requirements, \$, etc.		Parks, Policy	Policy Element	PD-1, PR-2, PCM-5		X		Tree canopy goals will be determined by Departments
		Citizen input should be incorporated into the plan, not just be a section in the plan where the input is recorded.		Policy			X		X	Citizen input will be incorporated throughout the plan and will be denoted
		Establish standards for tree care that are based on scientific principles and applied uniformly		Policy	Policy Element	UF-6	X	X		
		Preserve old growth cedar trees (juniper, they don't take too much water		General	Policy Element	PR-8				

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							AUFP*	Dept Plans**	Other ***	
		Cedar Removal		General	Policy Element	PD-11		X		
		Plant in a manner that trees will grow to be heritage sized, no disposable trees		General	Policy Element	PCM-3, PD-3, PD-4,	X	X		
		Provide a canopy good for different areas (residential, commercial, preserves?) and a plan and timeline on how to obtain that		General	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-5	X	X		
		reduce number of administrative public heritage tree variances. Protect protected and heritage trees from encroachment on their full CRZ		General	Policy Element	PR-8		X		
		Preserve trees from development. Consider them green infrastructure- do not remove street trees so easily for developers to install driveway		General	Policy Element	UF-1, PD-2		X		
		Use appropriate data in plan. Tree inventory and GIS 2006 is too small- plan should include a plan to increase tree inventory if necessary		Policy					X	Best available data will be used in plan. Future data needs will be identified.
		Forestry should care for public trees including older trees >3 yrs. old) including water and mulch, prune, etc. Not just volunteers		General, Policy	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6		X		
		Public trees under utilities should not be pruned excessively and without notifying neighbors		General	Policy Element	UF-1, EO-1		X	X	Comment will be sent to AE Forestry staff
		Provide adequate setbacks for buildings to sidewalks to preserve trees		General	Policy Element	PR-1, PD-4		X		
		Treat all non-profits that are PARD partners equally to get more community support		General	Policy Element	EO-4		X		

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		Mulch existing older trees (older-older than 3yrs) to the drip line and only 2" deep so that mulch doesn't prevent water from reaching roots		General	Policy Element	PCM-3		X		
		Protect trees, wildlife, vegetation and creeks in riparian areas - avoid building trails by creeks, allow 50-100 feet for buffer between creek and trail	riparian areas	General	Policy Element	PD-2, PD-8, S-4		X	X	Comment will be sent to WPD Policy staff and PWD Trail Design staff
		Plan trees by bicycle paths in Austin - Airport Blvd	Airport Blvd	Right of Way	Policy Element	PD-2, PCM-1		X		
		Cedar Removal		General	Policy Element	PD-11				
		Involve more neighborhoods in tree care and to provide input		General	Policy Element	PCM-7	X	X		
		increase public input in plan- public is only being allowed to comment on what is already written and to provide recommendations that are not part of the policy elements. Should have been developed from community input		Policy					X	At time of this comment, plan had not yet been written. Content to date was developed from community priorities
		Train foresters and staff - hire EXPERIENCED foresters, assess their technical expertise yearly		Urban Forestry	Policy Element	UF-8		X		
		Update GIS data used in AUFP - expand tree inventory 2007-2008 arbor inventory is too small a sample		Policy					X	Best available data will be used in plan. Future data needs will be identified.

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		Include comments from public as policy elements goals in the plan not just as recommendations. Have actions items from recommendations		Policy					X	Comments will be adapted into a policy element when there is not already one in the Plan. Tactical approaches to be handled by Depts during implementation
		Water largest, older, existing public trees during drought and provide sufficient amounts of water, not just a small amount, at least 500 gallons for a 24" tree		General	Policy Element	PCM-3		X		
		Plant shade trees in public cemeteries, including large species and throughout the cemetery, not just crepe myrtles around the perimeter		Cemeteries	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6		X		Comment will be sent to PARD Cemeteries staff. Related: Cemetery Master Plan
		Plant with adequate spacing (tip to tip at maturity) so that trees can grow to be heritage size (30-50ft)		General	Policy Element	PD-12, PD-4		X		
		Manage fire risk with a complete fire wise program that starts with education then hardens the home and finally, create a defensible space - don't remove trees for fire risk.		Safety	Policy Element	S-5		X		Comment will be sent to AFD Wildfire Division staff. Related: Community Wildfire Protection Plan, IWUIC
		The current tree inventory is inaccurate. You cant manage if you don't know what you have. Do a robust survey, the TX forest survey can help, and update annually		General	Policy Element	UF-11		X		

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		The plan should address the land development code. If the code mandates high density with 100% impervious cover, then there is no room for trees		Policy	Policy Element	UF-6, PR-1, PD-9		X		
		Preserve older trees (>3 years old) and protect their critical root zone (at maturity). Protect the full critical root zone		General	Policy Element	PR-8		X		
		Invasive removal needs to be specifically addressed. If GIS is used to inventory the canopy then ligustrum is counted as canopy. Ligustrum does not provide habitat.		General	Policy Element	S-6, S-4		X		
		Design trails and bikeways without encroaching on existing older trees or impairing on the full CRZ, or causing their removal		Trails	Policy Element	PD-2		X	X	Comment will be sent to PWD Trail Design staff
		Safety, reclaimed water, and planting (work with non profits)		Safety, Parks, General	Policy Element	UF-12, PCM-7, S-7		X		
		Protect full critical root zone from encroachment from buildings, courts, trails, paths, roads, etc., anything that compacts the soil or impacts the roots including digging		Trails	Policy Element	PD-2, PD-5		X		
		Use honest, appropriate measures to evaluate current performance. Some of the performance indicators have been evaluated too high		Urban Forestry					X	Performance indicator rating based on interdepartmental staff and Urban Forestry Board consensus
		The plan should be specific in addressing tree maintenance- currently forestry policy focuses on small trees, large are ignored		Maintenance	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6		X		

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		The plan has to be specific and include goals with action plans with timelines. I.e., 40% canopy: who, what \$, how, what, when and resources		Policy					X	Addressed in Implementation section
		helping preserve (oak wilt prevention)		Education	Policy Element	S-8		X		
		Water existing trees in cemeteries during the drought with sufficient amounts of water, not enough to water only 50 trees per cemetery		Cemeteries	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6		X	X	Comment will be sent to PARD Cemeteries staff. Related: Cemetery Master Plan
		help lower socio-economic neighborhoods plant trees		General	Policy Element	PCM-1, PCM-5		X		
		Provide sufficient soil volume when planting trees so that trees can grow to be heritage size		general	Policy Element	PD-5	X	X		
		protect and increase the canopy		general	Policy Element	PR-2, PCM-1	X	X		
		develop standards for soil aeration(with airspace) that includes variety for 6-12 months and feualy for 6 months after aeration		General	Policy Element	UF-6, PD-3		X		
		manage wildland fire risk with a complete fire risk program that hardens the home, then creates a defensible space		safety	Policy Element	S-5		X	X	Comment will be sent to AFD Wildfire Division staff. Related: Community Wildfire Protection Plan, IWUIC
		Keep and maintain trees and parks		parks, general	Policy Element	PCM-3, PCM-6	X	X		
		do a better job of monitoring trees for disease, dead limbs and overall health		safety	Policy Element	PCM-3, UF-12		X		

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		Remove dead trees promptly- where adequate leave a snag that is cut properly to be a snag, not a short stump that has very low environmental value		General	Policy Element	PCM-3, S-2, S-5		X		
		Protect our trees and keep our spaces green		General	Vision Component	Protected	X			
		UFB should be writing this plan with community input, PARD staff is writing the plan		UFB					X	UFB has requested that staff write plan draft for UFB consideration and provide administrative support
		Protect our current heritage trees: entire critical root zone from buildings, parking and bicycle use.		Parking Lots	Policy Element	PD-5, PD-8		X		
		nuture future heritage trees: allow for adequate soil volume and space properly		general	Policy Element	PD-4	X	X		
		Please ensure that developers don't damage our protected trees		General	Policy Element	PR-2, PCM-1		X		
		safety most important, then keeping trees		safety	Policy Element	UF-12	X	X		
		remove dead trees to the ground except when leaving a well designed snag- leave entire dead tree flat on the ground for wildlife and curtain for trees		general	Policy Element	PCM-3, UF-6, S-4		X		
		clean space, watering and trimming		general	Policy Element	PCM-3	X	X		
Hike & Bike Trail	7/29/2013	Add more shade trees to paved areas		Right of Way	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More fruit trees in parks		Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		We need lots of trees!! Save the ones we have and plant everywhere		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Why aren't there trees at all city bus stops?	bus stops	Right of Way	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Please trim the trees properly		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

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		Large trees should get tagged and looked after and the city should prevent developers from knocking 'em down		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		I like trees		general	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		trees are life		general	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		plant more		general	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Take good care of them and protect them from disease - prolong life!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		For every tree that is cut down, plant another ten!		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Keep as many trees as we can and plant more		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		adequate watering, disease protection, well trimmed and safe, respected for new development		General, Safety	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More trees & vegetation		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Take care of them and leave them where they are!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
	7/28/2013	Give more funding to parks department so they can increase forestry staff		Urban Forestry, Funding	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Place to buy seedlings		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		water trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		save and protect austin vegetation!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Manage resources in a better way		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Don't cut down trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Tree planting should be done by good science, not aesthetics- e.g. diversity of tree species in a given area not monocultural		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Water trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

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		Create a plan to manage cedar tree populations and utilize the wood. Creat an industry to use the wood		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More tree preservation		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		water		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Tell developers not to use non-native short term trees - ex: like sg ??? At mueller	Mueller	Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Humans R A virus		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Change preservation criteria		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Centralize and unify the tree program		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More parks less parking lots		Parking Lots	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		We need more money to take care of the trees we have!		Policy, Funding	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		remove invasives, good tree maintenance		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		To realise the effects of global warming		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		plant more, good maintenance, and community involvement		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More trees and trails		General, Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more trees on ROW for shade		Right of Way	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		restrictions on any tree removal		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Kill the cedar trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		You can never have enough trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		??? ??? Yes doing a good job		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Republic Sq. Farmer's MKT	7/27/2013	Plant fruit and nut trees to feed people and wildlife		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More green areas in downtown, more shade in downtown parl	Downtown	Parks, General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees of MANY species		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More of them [trees]		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

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		use pervious pavement for urban sidewalk trees. Allow them the water they need		Policy, Right of Way	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Require low impact development with trees in all parking lots		Policy, Parking Lots	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Undergroupd powerlines!!! So we don't have to mutilate them to accommodate power lines		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Arbor Day in republic park and everywhere		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Shaded parking lots fo' sho!		Parking Lots	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		They should go forth and multiply		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Don't cut down trees for wood, use metal		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Bio Filtrations!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		"Great Street" trees each block		Right of Way	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Take care the trees, be more concious about a clean environment		General, Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Keep trimmed		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		I would like to see wildflowers downtown	Downtown	General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	wildflowers
		Food forest		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Edible vegetation
		Treaty Oak needs to be trimmed, maintained	Treaty Oak	General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Quit cutting them down		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Partnerships with large companies that use public spaces C3, F1, FFF	C3, F1, FFF	Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Productive landscape!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More trees and diversity		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		The more trees I see, the more money I'll spend in austin		General, Funding	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Grow more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Replace old trees as they die off		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		we need trees to breathe - so therefore we all need trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Allocate more funding to trees		Funding	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

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		More open spaces and more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More trees= better. Always shade shade shade		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Remove invasive species		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More rain gardens		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	rain gardens
		rooftop gardens needed		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More native wildlife habitats in public spaces		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Make sure that new restaurants are green (e.g. plants) complaint w/ chipotle on s. lamar	chipotle on s. lamar	Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		First trees, then benches.		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Better pruning practifces, (no topping)		education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more native trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Preserve as much as possible- do not cut down to build. Love the lushness of Austin		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Enforce water restrictions		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Make sure it is green downtown	Downtown	general	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more trees=more hugs=more tree houses=more homes for hippies! Save the trees please		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More big trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		keep dogs from pooping in parks		Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Alternative living shade structures		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Austin needs more trees. Trees are great for the "vibe" of the city.		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Prune them RIGHT!		Policy, Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		bring river water to parks		Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Trees good!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		trees are a treat		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Bring more trees!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Trees let them be!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

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		Underground utilities		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		↕↔ trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		keep certain areas untouched green areas in downtown (town lake)	town lake, downtown	Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Even more trees!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		keep the green. Let the UFP decide what's best		Urban Forestry, policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More trees on medians (thirst ???). Austin's better than houston because of forest		Right of Way	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Keep them! Let the squirrels live there! Plant fruit trees :-)		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	fruit trees
		Way to go battling invasive species		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Invasives
		mesa urban garden (mug.org?) 42		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	urban garden
		twees r awesome. I [heart] [tree]		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Parks dept very underfunded		funding	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		use both sides of your paper!		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		treehouse forrest city		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		create more grow zones around creeks and streams	riparian areas	General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more shade trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		create urban garden		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	urban garden
		more carnivorous plants		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	carnivorous plants
sunset valley FM	7/27/2013	Protect the trees we have. Lets no make exceptions		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		create edible food forest spaces open to the public. Part of the city design plan		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		make developers plant more trees		policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		keep all of the parks natural and wild		Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Please plant edible vegetation		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		urban food forests. Edible plants!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		Preserving wild spaces with trails		Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		save trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Leaf the Tree Pop-Up Activity Public Comment							Implementation			
Input Location	Date	Comment Text	Specified location?	Main Category	Related Plan Component	Specific Plan Location	AUFP*	Dept Plans**	Other ***	Action/Notes
		More shade trees in high use areas		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Get rid of invasive species		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More young trees and age diversity		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		??? [illegible note]			TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees in public spaces		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		stricter tree protection for development		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Save the trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Stop removing trees for development		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More native vegetation		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	native vegetation
		drip irrigation		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		please water our trees!!		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		water flowers & Vegetation		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		invasive vegetation		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	invasives
		Trails w/shade! (more trees)		Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Shady trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Protect trees w/ reason		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		public information campaign about stewardship and "sense of caring for" public areas. Leave better than you found		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more trees that produce food		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		more healthy trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		preserving and planting trees in trails and openspaces		Parks, Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Eradicate invasive species and plant more natives		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	natives, invasives
		community gardens		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	garden
		preserve older forests and plant new trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Not removing trees during construction		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		keeping wild lands wild		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Leaf the Tree Pop-Up Activity Public Comment						Implementation				
Input Location	Date	Comment Text	Specified location?	Main Category	Related Plan Component	Specific Plan Location	AUFP*	Dept Plans**	Other ***	Action/Notes
		less cedar trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Cedars
		keep the trails as natural as possible!		Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		keep trails maintained		Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more shade		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More fruit trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		more shade		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		space for physical activity in underserved areas		General, Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More care in development design		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Shaded trails for hiking and running		Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more trees and trails		Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		care for Austin's trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More trees and preserving		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Less grass to have to water		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Grass
		More family-friendly areas		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		maintenance		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Education. Re: natives, invasives, care, planting		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	natives, invasives
		Plant fruit/nut trees > feed the hungry		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		Teach people how to start their own		Education						
		Yes for Pecan Trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		More nut/berry/food trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		Public education for homeowners (pruning, watering)		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Require ALL parking lots to have full tree canopy within 5 years		Policy, Parking Lots	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Save the hackberries! Keep our urban tree cover		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	hackberry
		Plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		They should become fruit trees and edible gardens		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation

Leaf the Tree Pop-Up Activity Public Comment						Implementation				
Input Location	Date	Comment Text	Specified location?	Main Category	Related Plan Component	Specific Plan Location	AUFP*	Dept Plans**	Other ***	Action/Notes
		Planting more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		butler park remove pampas grass at riverside parking lot	butler park near riverside parking lot	Parking Lots	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	pampas grass
		Stop putting grates around tree trunks in downtown area	downtown	Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Grates around trunks
		more community involvement when mature trees are to be removed in public spaces		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Public Notice
		Plant in groves and groups to give trees a better chance of survival		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	groves
		no more cedar water wasters		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	cedars
		root education		education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	
		Legalize hemp "trees"		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	hemp
		Restricting parking to prevent soil compaction in public spaces		Policy, Parking Lots	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Spend money on tree care, don't lose old trees		Funding	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Care for existing trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		preserve trees (parks)		Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Designing for community use and sustainability		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		be careful of species and location		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant sturdy native trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	native
		maintain the current trees and help them survive		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		don't cut down our large tree		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		remove cedars		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	cedars
		take care of existing green belt areas		Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		multiple access points for trails from communities		Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Leaf the Tree Pop-Up Activity Public Comment							Implementation			
Input Location	Date	Comment Text	Specified location?	Main Category	Related Plan Component	Specific Plan Location	AUFP*	Dept Plans**	Other ***	Action/Notes
		Community involvement with communities that directly benefit		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	community involvement
		edibles		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		balance keeping clear trails- preserving areas for wildlife		Policy, Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Education for litter prevention		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		The sun to play in		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		keeping trees during planning and development		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Sunshine and water		General						
		No more cedar trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	cedars
		manage invasives, promote heritage and plant trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	invasives
		invasive management - education for public		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	invasives
		plant native plants only - let others self sow only		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	natives
		Maintain safe, public, green spaces for families to enjoy		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Preserve heritage trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	heritage trees
		maintain urban green spaces		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		protecting older trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		undeveloped wild spaces - keep it!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		less water usage and more drought resistant trees		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Protect trees from vandalism		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant more native trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	natives
		Use less water to manage vegetation		Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	drought prevention
		better tree protection for big trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		edibles plants trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		More diversity of trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Provide more shade with trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		don't cut down trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Leaf the Tree Pop-Up Activity Public Comment						Implementation				
Input Location	Date	Comment Text	Specified location?	Main Category	Related Plan Component	Specific Plan Location	AUFP*	Dept Plans**	Other ***	Action/Notes
		More native trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More riparian vegetation along streams	riparian areas	General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		water the trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		keep the trees we have		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more native trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		More xeriscaping		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	drought prevention
		more native vegetation		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	natives
		reduce bldg coverage in city lot for more space for trees!		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant native trees in identified areas		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	natives
		More native plants		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	natives
		more shade with trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	natives
		help stop chemtrails		General, Policy	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		save more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		volunteer programs and education in schools. Re: urban conservation and native trees/flora		Education	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		preserve vegetation		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		less extravagant spending		Funding	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		expand heavily used trails like town lake		Trails	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		Plant trees in areas frequented by people in parks		Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more natural settings		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		plant more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		transistion to more drought tolerant plants		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	drought prevention
		more shade		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more attention to outlying parks		Parks	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		maintaining		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		water public trees and prevention		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
		more flowering trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	flowering trees
		more edible vegetation in public spaces		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	edible vegetation
		protect more trees		General	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA















**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

Date	Comment Text
7/29/2013	Consolidate management to one primary department.
	Apply the rules as uniformly as possible regardless of the size of the project. Currently the reverse consideration seems to apply, the smaller the project the more rigidly the rules are enforced.
	Increase tree replacement requirements for 6-8" dia. trees.
	Require above grade walkways in the critical root zone of all Post Oaks and Heritage trees. Many other Cities have specific management practices for above grade sidewalk options.
	Omit the reduced ranking or replacement value for trees that were planted by humans. ( In the site plan review process. )
	De-emphasize the equivalency of container trees and street or parking lot trees in undersized soil islands or wells. While this should be encouraged contained trees are not an equivalent substitute for naturally growing trees in undisturbed native soil.
	De-emphasize the relocation option for heritage trees. The success rate is low and remains unknown for ten to twenty years after relocation.
	Increase the tree planting and replacement programs. The eventual goal should be 150% replacement to overcome the attrition rate.
	Increase watering and mulching programs on all City properties. More funds need to be allocated and it should not solely rely on volunteer efforts. Water reuse and organic soil amendments should be emphasized.
	Increase preventative maintenance of trees on City and public property. By keeping existing trees healthy less replacement costs will be incurred.
7/29/2013	Austin needs a real Urban Forest Plan that will protect and increase our Urban Forest and public trees. We need an implementable plan that makes action items from the concerns brought up by the community. We need a plan that has action -- not vague words -- that includes both the short and long term, a plan that will make improvements.
	that the Parks Department, including Forestry, should maintain parks trees and vegetation;
	that existing public trees (including older trees) should be cared for, watered and mulched by Forestry, not just by volunteers;
	that trees should be planted in a manner that they can grow to be heritage trees, not those trees that die in a few years and don't get replaced;
	that trees should be preserved and that their <u>entire critical root zone</u> should be protected;
	that cars should not park under the critical root zone of public trees in parks (barriers should be installed);
	dead trees should be removed promptly;

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

<p>7/29/2013</p>	<p>the public should be notified when a large public tree is going to be removed (ribbon or sign);</p> <p>that appropriate tree species should be planted;</p> <p>that adequate soil volume and tree spacing should be provided for trees so that they can grow to heritage size;</p> <p>that Forestry staff, including foresters, should be trained and experienced and do their jobs properly;</p> <p>trees should be assessed properly and not removed for being a safety hazard when they are not;</p> <p>that public trees be treated as green infrastructure and assets, not removed easily (particularly public street trees that get removed by developers in order to have driveways for construction),</p> <p>and that sidewalks, roads, trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal.</p>
<p>7/28/2013</p>	<p>the Parks Department, including Forestry, should maintain parks trees and vegetation,</p> <p>existing public trees (including older trees) should be cared for, watered and mulched by Forestry, not just by volunteers,</p> <p>trees should be planted in a manner that they can grow to be heritage trees, not those trees that die in a few years and don't get replaced,</p> <p>trees should be preserved and their entire critical root zone should be protected from any encroachment, particularly from construction,</p> <p>cars should not park under the critical root zone of public trees in parks (barriers should be installed),</p> <p>dead trees should be removed promptly,</p> <p>the public should be notified when a large public is going to be removed (ribbon or sign),</p> <p>when dead trees are removed, they should be removed low to the ground and not leave unsightly "snags" that do not provide a significant environmental benefit,</p> <p>proper tree species should be planted,</p> <p>snags should be tall and have some branches for birds to perch and cavities for wildlife, and should be located in true riparian areas, not in parks where they endanger people,</p> <p>adequate soil volume and tree spacing should be provided for trees so that they can grow to heritage size,</p> <p>Forestry staff, including foresters, should be trained and experienced and do their jobs properly,</p> <p>trees should be assessed properly and not removed for being a safety hazard when they are not,</p> <p>hazardous trees should be fenced until Forestry can remove them,</p>
	<p>public trees should be treated as green infrastructure and not removed so easily (particularly public street trees that get removed by developers in order to have driveways for construction),</p>

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

<p>7/28/2013</p>	<p>wildlife and creeks are important, and vegetation, trees and creeks are important to wildlife, so all should be protected,</p> <p>trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal,</p> <p>trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal.</p> <p>It is my opinion that trails should be considered only after the area to be traversed has been evaluated for <u>impact of increased sound upon adjacent neighbors " in line of sight"</u> where appx 150 ft of uninterrupted trees currently serve as a sound barrier (info from CTRMA -data based on pine trees).</p> <p>Although I have only rarely volunteered in support of tree planting ; it would be helpful <u>if the City upon solicitation could identify and contribute to the growth of trees planted by volunteer groups - perhaps once the trees are considered "established"</u> . This also might <u>motivate more efficient planting.</u></p>
<p>7/27/2013</p>	<p>Living in Austin without mature trees would be like living in hell on earth. There's absolutely no way Austin becomes a walkable city without shade trees.</p> <p>the Parks Department, including Forestry, should maintain parks trees and vegetation,</p> <p>existing public trees (including older trees) should be cared for, watered and mulched by Forestry, not just by volunteers,</p> <p>trees should be planted in a manner that they can grow to be heritage trees, not those trees that die in a few years and don't get replaced,</p> <p>trees should be preserved and their entire critical root zone should be protected from any encroachment, particularly from construction,</p> <p>cars should not park under the critical root zone of public trees in parks (barriers should be installed),</p> <p>dead trees should be removed promptly,</p> <p>the public should be notified when a large public is going to be removed (ribbon or sign),</p> <p>when dead trees are removed, they should be removed low to the ground and not leave unsightly "snags" that do not provide a significant environmental benefit,</p> <p>snags should be tall and have some branches for birds to perch and cavities for wildlife, and should be located in true riparian areas, not in parks where they endanger people,</p> <p>proper tree species should be planted,</p> <p>adequate soil volume and tree spacing should be provided for trees so that they can grow to heritage size,</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Forestry staff, including foresters, should be trained and experienced and do their jobs properly,</p> <p>trees should be assessed properly and not removed for being a safety hazard when they are not,</p> <p>hazardous trees should be fenced until Forestry can remove them,</p>

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

7/27/2013	<p>public trees should be treated as green infrastructure and not removed so easily (particularly public street trees that get removed by developers in order to have driveways for construction),</p> <p>wildlife and creeks are important, and vegetation, trees and creeks are important to wildlife, so all should be protected,</p> <p>trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal</p>
7/30/2013	<p>The goal should be to protect and increase our Urban Forest and public trees, and to provide an implementable plan that includes action items for all concerns brought up by the community, which include to make sure that the</p> <p>the Parks Department maintain public parks trees and vegetation, with a special focus on existing public trees (including older trees) to be cared for, watered and mulched by trained Forestry employees. In planting trees, it is important that</p> <p>their entire critical root zone should be protected, so they can grow into heritage trees of which we can be proud.</p> <p>Also, proper tree species should be planted,• with care given to adequate soil volume and tree spacing so that they can grow to heritage size,</p> <p>and finally, public sidewalks, roads, trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal.</p> <p>Of special concern to me are the fine older trees in the Austin Memorial Park cemetery operated by the City,(where my husband is buried) and the fine natural environment of fine older trees offering protection and life to wildlife along shoal creek in the land controlled by Tx.Dot at 45th st and Bull Creek rd.</p> <p>Keep up the good work in protecting our natural environment in Austin, and preserving our priceless green infrastructure of public trees.</p>
7/30/2013	<p>I have some concerns about the proposed Urban Forest Plan. The proposed plan is fairly vague with few concrete action items, who will implement the goals, and how they will be implemented.</p> <p>I would like to see trees and their entire critical root zone protected from encroachment, such as construction. Trees are green infrastructure and should not be easily removed - such as has happened with some recent projects.</p> <p>Existing trees should be cared for and new trees should be cared for so that they will not die in a few years.</p> <p>The public should be notified better when trees are to be removed and proper hearing should be held if tree removal is deemed necessary.</p>
	<p>I would like to see more concrete goals in this plan that can be specifically implemented. It is too easy for vague goals to fall by the wayside.</p>

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

<p>7/30/2013</p>	<p>The goal should be to protect and increase our Urban Forest and public trees, and to provide an implementable plan that includes action items for all concerns brought up by the community, which include to make sure that the the Parks Department maintain public parks trees and vegetation, with a special focus on existing public trees (including older trees) to be cared for, watered and mulched by trained Forestry employees. In planting trees, it is important that their entire critical root zone should be protected, so they can grow into heritage trees of which we can be proud.</p> <p>Also, proper tree species should be planted,• with care given to adequate soil volume and tree spacing so that they can grow to heritage size,</p> <p>and finally, public sidewalks, roads, trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal.</p> <p>Of special concern to me are the fine older trees in the Austin Memorial Park cemetery operated by the City,(where my husband is buried) and the fine natural environment of fine older trees offering protection and life to wildlife along shoal creek in the land controlled by Tx.Dot at 45<sup>th</sup> st and Bull Creek rd.</p> <p>Keep up the good work in protecting our natural environment in Austin, and preserving our priceless green infrastructure of public trees.</p>
<p>8/2/2013</p>	<p>Hi, I've lived in Austin for 40 years now and the trees are part of what makes it great I believe.</p> <p>I wish that y'all would prioritize maintaining older larger trees more, planting new ones only when the large ones cannot be saved. Obviously native trees should do better, but a large established non-native is a good thing too. And with the weather getting warmer and drier, existing trees need more care and new trees should be ever more drought resistant.</p> <p>I also wish that builders and developers were punished more effectively for illegally cutting down protected trees. Current penalties are a slap on the wrist.</p>
<p>8/2/2013</p>	<p>I love trees and we as a community and the city government need to prioritize their protection.</p> <p>Please,the public wants a clear plan based on community input, with clearly defined goals that address the public concerns, a plan that has a timeline to achieve the goals, with responsibilities assigned to each goal (what, who, when, where, how much).</p>
<p>8/2/2013</p>	<p>I think it is really important to have large mature trees in an urban environment, and to make every reasonable effort to take measures to protect them during construction or expansion. The new developments out of Austin are so sad with their tiny spindly saplings, and are a deal breaker as far as moving in and children playing outside under some shade. But, at least the effort is there to ensure that in 10+ years the neighborhood will start to look more established. It's too bad that larger trees can't be planted on the first place to make those spaces more natural and desirable. Every effort should be made to not remove large established trees in the first place, from any area in new development. Rather than having that cookie cutter look, houses should nestle in among existing trees. I hope that city urban forest planning includes a prioritization on keeping established trees thriving in the landscape.</p>

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

8/3/2013	existing public trees (including older trees) should be cared for, watered and mulched by Forestry, not just by volunteers,
	trees should be planted in a manner that they can grow to be heritage trees, not those trees that die in a few years and don't get replaced,
	trees should be preserved and their entire critical root zone should be protected,
	proper tree species should be planted,
	adequate soil volume and tree spacing should be provided for trees so that they can grow to heritage size,
	Forestry staff, including foresters, should be trained and experienced so they can do their jobs properly,
	public trees should be treated as green infrastructure and not removed so easily (particularly public street trees that get removed by developers in order to have driveways for construction),
	wildlife and creeks are important, and vegetation, trees and creeks are important to wildlife, so all should be protected,
	sidewalks, roads, trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal.
8/3/2013	We live in the central core, in the Dawson neighborhood near St. Edward's, and we are seeing tremendous loss of trees due to residents' ignorance of the effects of drought and due to developers and builders damaging roots and cutting down trees. We need a strong, clearly written plan that will protect and increase our Urban Forest and public trees.
	existing public trees (including older trees) should be cared for, watered and mulched by Forestry, not just by volunteers,
	trees should be planted in a manner that they can grow to be heritage trees, not those trees that die in a few years and don't get replaced,
	trees should be preserved and their entire critical root zone should be protected,
	proper tree species should be planted,
	adequate soil volume and tree spacing should be provided for trees so that they can grow to heritage size,
	Forestry staff, including foresters, should be trained and experienced so they can do their jobs properly,
	public trees should be treated as green infrastructure and not removed so easily (particularly public street trees that get removed by developers in order to have driveways for construction),
	wildlife and creeks are important, and vegetation, trees and creeks are important to wildlife, so all should be protected,
sidewalks, roads, trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal.	
	-Creating a healthy urban forest so more people will learn to appreciate it.
	-Aggressive management of invasive plants, yes, aggressive management.
	-Protect our mature trees as once they are cut down they are gone.

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

8/3/2013	<p>-Educate the community about tree policies. I am sick and tired of trees being cut down for development or preference.</p> <p>-Make it easy for people to plant trees in our public green spaces (it is not so easy now).</p> <p>-More tree information on the Urban Forest website Information Portal Page and advertise this page to the community.</p> <p>-Provide/post short urban forest related articles that neighborhood associations can publish in their newsletters. For example create a small article library on the portal that the public can use freely.</p>
8/4/2013	<p>We need an urban forest plan that helps maintain the health and well-being of our trees in public areas - parks, along roadways, etc. We need a plan that emphasizes maintenance (watering, trimming, removal of dead limbs and trees) as well as one that encourages planting of new trees, native to our area.</p> <p>Developers should be required to preserve and protect trees during construction as well as required to plant an equal or greater number of trees removed.</p> <p>The plan or plans need to have definite, measureable and attainable goals and objectives, with timelines.</p>
8/6/2013	<p>Quantify the public trees and the care needed; fund the Urban Forestry Plan; identify and put in the plan which department is responsible for what care, when, how. Implement.</p> <p>Establish funds to educate and train Urban Forestry staff</p> <p>Establish measured guidelines that prevent great trees from being removed for unsubstantiated reasons (cited as "safety") by developers so that they can build driveways, etc.</p> <p>Preserve public trees along with their whole critical root zone with money for ( educated ) staff, water and mulch.</p>
8/6/2013	<p>Take care of existing public trees watering, mulching by Forestry, not just by volunteers.</p> <p>Measure, quantify, the public trees and their vegetation as they are now, then maintain.</p> <p>Keep parks trees with their related vegetation.</p> <p>Plan how to keep pedestrians from endangering the root zone by walking, riding or parking on it. Fund and Implement the plan. Educate the public.</p> <p>Map public creeks and vegetation as an important protected part of Austin's infrastructure.</p> <p>Plant trees with care, use guidelines and funds so that they can grow to be heritage trees, rather than planting the wrong species of trees that have a short life. Protect existing trees first.</p> <p>Use the best soil amount and spacing for newly planted trees to nurture the great big trees of the future That trails and bikeways should be designed without encroaching on older trees or causing tree removal</p> <p>Remove dead trees immediately, cut at ground level</p> <p>Only leave tall snags ( dead trees) with wildlife benefits (branches, cavities) in riparian areas.</p>

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

8/13/2013	<p>Hello, I love the idea of creating in urban forest in Austin, however I have not heard anything about any food producing trees. Is there anyway that this plan will lean in the direction of a food forest? I think that would have an even better impact on the city and the environment by providing food for people and animals.</p>
8/26/2013	<p>The overarching problem with the proposed AUFPP Outline and Vision (June 2013) is that the document essentially considers only city-owned trees, mostly park and street trees. This is the fatal flaw of the entire plan, since 90-95 percent of the Austin urban forest occurs on private residential and commercial properties or on government jurisdictions other than the City of Austin.</p>
	<p>Another major failing of the proposed AUFPP is that no measurable objectives are included, when these should be the primary focus of an implementable plan. Such objectives are key components of urban forest management plans adopted by other cities across the United States. Policy goals should include quantitative site-specific objectives based on a city-wide GIS effort. These measurable objectives are needed to determine success or failure of AUFPP goals and policies. In this manner, clearly stated objectives are essential to plan implementation within a public process.</p>
	<p>The small amount of data presented in the AUFPP is almost entirely limited to tree canopy cover and tree inventory. The invalidity of using these data, due to small and biased sampling and the lack of quality control, is detailed below. Another critical problem in using these data is that they are outdated. AUFPP canopy data is based on 2006 Lidar imagery, while the AUFPP tree inventory was performed in 2008. During the intervening 5-7 years since these data were collected, mortality and recruitment of trees has altered canopy cover and tree populations in Austin. Severe drought, new development, and other urban-forest disturbances that the city experienced during these years almost certainly means that the data are now significantly different. Depending upon outdated data as a basis for the current AUFPP is inappropriate and misleading.</p>

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

8/26/2013

**AUFP Performance Indicators (July 2013)**

The AUFP should not consist of a series of qualitative policy statements based on incomplete, inaccurate, and outdated data. In fact, in many cases no local database exists to support policy statements included in the plan. Canopy cover data, referenced in the Vegetative Resource section of the AUFP Performance Indicators, is based on 2006 imagery that was never groundproofed or otherwise assessed for quality control. From my personal experience with this database, these data erroneously include non-canopy elements such as structures, dumpsters, etc.

Tree diameters, population sizes, species distributions, and condition classes included in the AUFP are based on a very small 2008 sample of selected city properties, i.e., street and park trees mostly in the inner city core. The ArborPro (2008) tree inventory totaled only 14,925 trees, while

the subsequent Stratum (2008) assessment by the city was based on a subsample of less than half of the same trees sampled by ArborPro. The biased and inadequate database used in these studies is not statistically valid for extrapolation city-wide, as was done in the AUFP Performance Indicators. The Stratum (2008) estimate of a total population of 155,762 public trees is without basis.

The lack of supporting data characterizes remaining Performance Indicators. Inattention to either community outreach or its documentation is evident in the complete absence of performance data (results) in the Community Framework section. Results in the Resource Management section either do not exist or are based on highly inaccurate canopy or tree inventory data as described above.

**AUFP Policy Elements (draft, 7-30-13)**

This document greatly overemphasizes the city forestry program and city-owned trees. Since the vast majority of the urban forest is not on city property; private residents, commercial interests, and other government jurisdictions should be included in these policy elements to at least the same extent as are city properties. More specific comments on sections of the Policy Elements document are provided below:

**A. URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

☐ Provision of a range of incentives for private landowners to better manage their trees should be included in policy elements related to funding (UF2-UF4). ☐ Similarly, data collection (UF10), land classification (UF13), and regulatory review (UF14) should all fully incorporate non-city landowners.

**B. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

☐ All of these policy elements related to education and outreach should clearly state that the goal is stewardship of the entire urban forest, without undue focus on the relatively small portion of the forest on city properties.

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**C. PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION**

- ☑ Policy elements related to development regulations should clearly state that strict adherence to all city ordinances is required, including demonstration of the maximum avoidance of adverse impact to the tree resource and the documentation of the lack of reasonable alternative landuse, prior to any consideration of mitigation.
- ☑ Mitigation should be on-site with very few exceptions.
- ☑ A policy element should be added that requires the development of statistically vigorous databases documenting the long-term success of mitigation practices, before such practices are implemented. Unproven practices such as large-tree transplanting should be included in this validation requirement.

**D. PLANTING, CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

- ☑ All of these policy elements should embrace properties not owned by the city. Comprehensive incentive programs and other means should be identified as policy goals to plant and maintain the urban forest on private residential and commercial properties, as well as on city properties.
- ☑ In addition, the tree-canopy element (PCM5) should include the development and implementation of GIS-based canopy-cover objectives for all private and public parcels in the city.

**E. PLANNING AND DESIGN**

- ☑ Again, the AUFPP should not be limited to the very small portion of the urban forest residing on city properties. Policy elements concerning planning and design should encompass private landowners as appropriate. For example, policy elements PD3 through PD6 should include the development of incentive programs, along with education and outreach, to improve soil conservation and low-impact landscaping approaches for sustainable stormwater management on private residential and commercial properties.
- ☑ City policy could include the development of a range of design recommendations and model projects to improve urban forest elements on private residential and commercial properties.

**F. SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST**

- ☑ City expenditures to sustain the urban forest should include implementation of all of these policy elements on both public and private properties.

8/26/2013

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

9/16/2013	<p>THIS PLAN IS NOT A SUPERIOR PLAN THAT WILL SERVE AS A MODEL TO OTHER CITIES OR THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY. AS CLAIMED IN THE PLAN. This plan is too general, it's based on outdated and incomplete data and it did not include active public participation. The Texas Forest Services teaches smaller cities how to write Urban Forest Management Plans ("Planning the Urban Forest, Schwab, 2009). The first step is to gather the public and identify the state of the urban canopy. If information is not available or outdated, the second step is to gather the information. It is only after that information has been gathered, that the public meets again with staff to discuss their concerns with the urban forest. Goals are then identified, based on the data obtained. The first goal is to reach canopy goals for various areas with the city (residential, commercial, parks, preserves, etc.) within 5 years or less. Additional goals are determined by the public, such as planting more large shade trees in streets that have less than X canopy, or watering established trees during drought to reduce mortality. Watering established trees during the drought is crucial since an increasing number of dead trees (due lack of tree care) reduces canopy, decreases citizen safety, increases the workload in the Forestry department, and increases the needs of the Forestry department (because it is more expensive to remove a dead tree than to water it a few times during the driest and hottest periods).</p>
9/16/2013	<p>TREEFOLKS STUDY, PAGE 48, IS DISCRIMINATORY AND SHOWS PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FROM FORESTRY THAT IS NOT ALLOWED BY THE CITY. I know that Urban Forestry prefers to work with TreeFolks, but there are other tree non-profits like the Austin Heritage Tree Foundation, and AHTF should be mentioned in the study as well. AHTF has been very effective protecting heritage trees for 4 years. AHTF is a PARD partner and has contributed over \$60,000 in donations and over 8,000 volunteer hours to PARD. This is significant since AHTF does not receive any City funding, unlike TreeFolks where 75% of their budget comes from the City. AHTF should not be discriminated against. Please, mention other tree non-profits such as AHTF in the study, or do not mention anyone in the study. In addition, Tree Folks is mentioned again in pages 51 and 52, emphasizing their tree planting programs that are paid by the City. &lt;&lt; Case Study   TreeFolks TreeFolks is a non-profit organization established in 1989 that grows the urban forest through tree planting, education, and community partnerships. They invite businesses, schools, government, citizen groups, and individuals to join them in creating a healthier environment and enhancing the quality of urban life. As a volunteer green planting organization, TreeFolks provides a valuable service to the Central Texas community. TreeFolks works closely with other groups to educate and involve citizens in tree planting and care. Since its inception, TreeFolks has planted 250,000 trees in the Austin and Central Texas area.&gt;&gt;</p>

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OUTDATED AND INCOMPLETE DATA HAS AND WILL LEAD STAFF AND FOREST PLAN TO INCORRECT CONCLUSIONS a. The tree inventory on which this plan is being based included only 6,465 street trees and the analysis under-estimated significantly the number of trees in Austin. This vary small sample tree inventory was supposed to be only a start. Using this data in the plan will cause significant errors and incorrect conclusions, not only with the amount of green canopy but also with the health, tree species and age distribution, maintenance needed, benefits provided, and cost benefit ratio per tree (any analysis based on STRATUM data). b. All of the results in the STRATUM tree inventory show a significant error, which invalidates any conclusions based on this data. For instance, the table below shows that STRATUM predicts a 5% error in total ecosystem benefits for the projected estimated total number of trees in Austin, that STRATUM calculates is 155,762 trees. c. Page 35 shows a significant decline per year in canopy. This shows that the first goal of the plan should be to have a more complete and recent tree inventory and GIS data ASAP, to realistically evaluate the current state of the urban forest. The plan can establish realistic canopy goals, to guide the DOPs, only with good data. d. Page 37, incorrect information: "2008 tree inventory sampled 14,925 park and right-of-way trees in Austin to gather information on tree attributes. The inventory estimates Austin's total public tree population at 325,000 trees". STRATUM estimated 155,762 trees and the data fed into STRATUM was only 6,465 street trees, it did not include the park trees. See first page of STRATUM Report. <<Tree Inventory Document 05.08.13, Alan Halter, "The 14,925 tree sample was extrapolated citywide and the total public tree count for 2008 was estimated at 155,762 trees along streets and within parks. Although an underestimate, this figure gives a rough ballpark estimate of trees on public property from which to start.>> <<Stratum Report 2008, "Data used in this report consists of a 6,465 street tree sample conducted by Arbor Pro, Inc. in 2008">>

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PRIVATE TREES SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN AUFPP ONLY FOR DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS ("PROTECTING PROPERTY RIGHTS"). A year ago, when several UFB members wanted to include private trees in the plan (incentives, outreach, education, care), Forestry remained opposed and firm that the plan was only for public trees per City Ordinance. City Legal weighed in and said that it was OK to add private trees for those purposes but reminded staff that the City has no control over private trees other that with development regulations, so goals for private trees have to be done with owners cooperation. In spite of this, Forestry staff has now added Protecting Property Rights and Quality and Care of Non-Public Trees, to the list of 11 new goals added to the plan during the 09.13 public workshop. However, in page 4, Introduction, staff states that the plan focuses on public trees.

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

IF PUBLIC TREES ARE INCLUDED IN PLAN, THEN MANY OTHER ITEMS (TREE CARE, INCENTIVES, OUTREACH, EDUCATION, ETC.) FOR PUBLIC TREES NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED AS WELL. An incentive for owners of private trees to plant a tree in their property should be included in the plan if private trees are included because private property is the largest percentage of property and the largest mean to increase green canopy. In addition, other items related to private trees listed in Tom Hayes' AUFPP comments (submitted) should be included.

PROPERTY RIGHTS DO NOT BELONG IN AN URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN: AHTF strongly objects to adding property rights to an Urban Forestry plan written by the UFB for public trees, not only because Forestry stipulated that private trees will not be included in the plan per City Ordinance, but also because the mission of the Urban Forestry Board is to protect the urban forest. Property rights do not apply to public trees because the City owns these trees and is committed to preserve them. Property rights for private trees are very well protected in zoning and planning commissions.

SOME GOALS (POLICY ELEMENTS) COMMENTED BY MANY CITIZENS NEED TO BE ADDED TO THE PLAN. Staff states in page 61 that: <<"Much of the public input received for Austin's Urban Forest Plan is tactical in nature. In many instances, specific geographic areas or management practices are mentioned. Because the AUFPP is a broad, strategic document that is not intended to spell out specific changes to operations performed by City Departments, much of the public input received for the AUFPP will be shared with City Departments and will be used to guide the development of Departmental Operational Plans.>> AHTF strongly disagrees with this. The goals listed below were provided by many citizens, are strategic and to tactical, and need to be included in the plan to provide guidance and direction to the various departments so that they include these goals in their tactical plan. These goals will not be included in the DOPs if they are not included in the strategic plan: a. Supplemental watering of large trees during drought should be added as a Policy Element in D.- Planting, Care and Maintenance. This is critical to preserve trees. This is not tactical but strategic, and if it is not included in the strategic plan, it will not be included in the DOPs. Soil volume and soil compaction are included as policy elements (in Planning and Design), so watering selected prominent trees in areas of high tree loss during the drought should also be a policy element. The tactical part is for DOPS to specify which trees were watered, how much and when. Watering is mentioned in page 32 watering and drought response, but never gets addressed in plan. b. Actively protecting the critical root zone of established trees from encroachment from sidewalks, trails, roads, buildings, utilities, etc. should be added as a Policy Element in "CProtection And Preservation." c. Protecting established trees from changes in drainage and grading that change the amount of stormwater runoff should be added as a Policy Element in "C-Protection And Preservation." d. Preserving as many trees as possible, especially public trees and healthy heritage trees. e. Developing a snag policy. f. Public trees should be treated as green infrastructure and not removed so easily (particularly public street trees that get removed by developers in order to have driveways for construction).

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PERFORMANCE RATINGS SECTION NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY a. Performance cannot be improved without a clear and accurate rating of existing conditions. Some of the Performance Indicators are too vague to quantify performance. For instance "Tree Protection" only includes existence of tree protection policies, not actual tree protection success. Success indicates performance of policies, existence of policies alone does not. b. Critical meaningful performance measurements missing are: 1. Reduction in mortality (or increase in survival rate) of established trees. 2. Reduction in mortality of newly planted trees, measured after 3 years. 3. Increase in percentage of protected and heritage trees. 4. Increase in canopy goals, per each area (Commercial, residential, preserves, etc.). c. Some of the performance ratings are too broad and do not provide a meaningful rating of existing conditions. For instance "City staff" does not include a performance rating that shows whether or not the certified arborists and professional foresters are experienced, knowledgeable and perform their jobs correctly. The proposed rating only includes 1. A Moderate rating for "certified arborists and professional foresters with regular professional development," 2. And a Good rating for item 1 above with the addition of "multi-disciplinary teams." The Forestry Department can have staff that is certified and regular professional development, but this does not mean that the staff is experienced at evaluating tree risk, or performs their jobs correctly. d. Some of the proposed ratings are over-rated. Forestry needs to evaluate current performance honestly. Examples below show a rating that is too high for current conditions: 1. Only some neighborhoods plans include a simple mention of urban forest goals such as tree planting, therefore "Neighborhood Action" should be rated Moderate, not Good. 2. The 2008 sample tree inventory is too small a sample size and produces a large error, therefore the "Tree Inventory" rating should be rated Moderate, not Good. 3. The plan is based on 2010 GIS data that is still being processed but that is already 3 years old. This is very significant in a time where at least 10% of trees were lost to drought and development in the last 3 years. Therefore, the "Canopy Cover Inventory" rating should be Good, not Optimal.

SOME OF THE POLICY ELEMENTS ARE TOO VAGUE TO BE EFFECTIVE. There needs more clarity and detail to provide effective strategic direction. For instance: a. <<UF-10 Urban Forester Support.- Provide support to the Urban Forester and other departments to meet mandated directives assigned to the Urban Forester.>> This is a strategic higher level goal, but more detail is needed to be effective. What type of support is needed? Staff? Resources? Who should provide this, the City Manager's office? What directives were mandated to the Urban Forester, the regular duties or additional ones? b. <<UF-11 Data Collection and Management.- Collect data regarding Austin's urban forest, such as quantity of canopy cover, forest condition and diversity of species, to support the creation of a Departmental Operational Plan (DOP) and inform urban forest management decisions. Collaborate with federal, state, regional, and local governmental jurisdictions, community nonprofits, and the private sector to collect and manage data.>> It is critical that this goal specify when the data should be collected (within 2 years), how often the data should be updated and analyzed (every 2 years), and what data is best (tree inventory, sample size, GIS, combination of both).

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PLAN SHOULD FOCUS ON GOALS. HOWEVER, GOALS SECTION IS TOO SMALL RELATIVE TO THE REST OF THE PLAN The plan is about 70 pages long but the goals, the heart of the plan, are discussed in only 6 pages. Typically, other plans devote most of the plan to discuss goals and the action plan (Arlington, TX: 37 pages, 28 pages discuss goals; 2004 Portland, OR: 113 pages, 68 pages discuss goals).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN Forestry explained that the UFMP is a higher level, broad stroke plan meant to provide strategic direction to the other City departments that manage trees and urban forest. The other City Departments will write their own DOPs (Departmental Operating Plans). The Forestry manager will interface with the various departments periodically. The UFB will review (but not approve) the DOPs. The public will also be allowed to provide input on the various DOPs. a. DOPs need to be implemented in less than 3 years, not in 10 years.

TO MAKE CONCLUSIONS OR DEFINE PRIORITIES IN THE PLAN a. Public was asked to prioritize different policy elements (goals) with surveys than with workshop. This invalidates the prioritization data from the workshop. The public was asked to prioritize the order of the Policy Elements categories pasted below via the online survey, while the 25 persons that attended the 09.13 workshop were asked to prioritize a different set of goals (graph below). SURVEY: THE POLICY ELEMENT CATEGORIES A. URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK B. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH C. PRESERVATION D. PLANTING, CARE AND MAINTENANCE E. PLANNING AND DESIGN F. SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST 1. Which things are most important in deciding how the urban forest is managed? PLANTING, CARE, AND MAINTENANCE - The level of care and replenishment that the urban forest receives PLANNING AND DESIGN - The consideration of existing public urban forest resources and planning for sustainable future urban forest resources on a site level scale. PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION - Responsible public urban forest preservation via regulatory approach, flexibility in City requirements for development, modifications of City fiscal policies and other approaches that enhance preservation. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH - Public education, outreach, stewardship, and training of residents, public and private entities, as well as incentives for urban forest promotion. SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST - The sustainability of the urban forest resource itself and the resources related to its management, such as water resources. URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK - City organizational structure and staffing levels, staff qualifications, involvement of City forestry staff in other City disciplines and functions, and funding for urban forest programs and efforts. b. Scientific data and principles should be used to determine planting vs. preserving. Tree inventories show that there is a very uneven balance between young trees (planting) and heritage trees (preservation). Based on the 2006 outdated and incomplete tree inventory, only 6% of the trees are of heritage size (24 inch or larger) while 45% are young (8 inch or smaller). The age distribution should be 25% for each category according to one source, and according to a second source, 40% for 8 inch and smaller and 10% for 24

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SEVERAL CLAIMS, INCLUDED IN THE PLAN INTRODUCTION, OF PUBLIC GUIDING THE PLAN a. The following statement in the "Community Voices" Section is absolutely NOT true: << "All through the plan writing process, we asked for public input to guide and prioritize the results of the plan." >> There were only 4 points of public input and each was to review what staff had already written: (1) To review the vision.- The public was only asked to review the plan's vision components after they were already written. The public did not help guide these vision components as claimed. (2) To provide tree concerns.- The public was asked to provide comments on tree concerns, but none of these comments was included in the plan other than a few illustrations shown as leaves In the Community voices section, none of the comments changed the plan or was included as a policy element, with the explanation that most of the public comments were tactical and this is a strategic plan, and that the public comments will be given to each department for their DOPs. (3) To prioritize the goals and policy elements.- This occurred after these were already written by staff. In addition, a very small set of the public was asked to prioritize a different set of goals, while the public who completed the online survey was asked to prioritize a completely different set of Policy Elements. But the Policy Elements are the goals of the plan. (4) To review the plan (1 week allowed) after it had been written by staff WITHOUT public input. b. The following statement in the "Community Voices" Section is absolutely NOT true: <<"Throughout this plan you will see citizen comments as they relate to specific performance measures and policies.">> None of the citizen comments were included in the plan. Citizens were only asked to prioritize Policy Elements already written by staff, written without any public input and without including the UFB members. c. Plan cannot thank (in the Acknowledgements) specific tree and environmental non-profits or groups because staff did not allow them to actively participate in the development of the plan. Typically, Forest Management plans are done with active participation from the public since the trees affect the community, by working with various tree non-profits and environmental organizations. This is typically shown in the Acknowledgements Section by thanking the

TREE BENEFITS, PAGE 7, ADD REFERENCE TO "WHEN TREES DIE PEOPLE DIE" ARTICLE AND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE PEER-REVIEWED PAPER ON SAME ITEM. This is a crucial study that shows statistically valid correlation between mental and physical health and trees.

THE VISION COMPONENTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THE GOALS OF THE PLAN. NOW THE PLAN HAS VISION COMPONENTS AND POLICY ELEMENTS (GOALS). Actually, the Policy Elements are more appropriate goals that the vision components. However, the UFB working groups spent a considerable amount of time debating pros and cons of vision components and that time should have been used to develop Policy Elements with staff, instead of staff writing the Policy Elements in isolation.

AUSTIN'S CLIMATE, PAGE 23 SHOULD INCLUDE MENTION OF THE SEVERE DROUGHT OF THE LAST 5 YEARS.

PRIORITIZATION, PAGE 31, IT'S NOT REALISTIC, PRACTICAL OR AN OPTIMUM WAY TO PROCEED. In practice, many Departments, including Forestry, will probably work on a couple of items in (Policy Elements Category 1, and another couple of items in Category 2, etc., instead of completing all items in Category 1 before proceeding to Category 2.

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

	<p>WATERING AND DROUGHT RESPONSE, PAGE 32, NEVER GETS ADDRESSED IN PLAN.</p>
	<p>TABLE IN PAGE 44 HAS SIGNIFICANT ERROR (STRATUM, SEE ITEM 2 b) AND SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED WITHOUT A DISCLAIMER ON THE SMALL SAMPLE SIZE AND SIGNIFICANT ERROR.</p>
9/16/2013	<p>Additional comment on Policy element: &lt;&lt;S-7 Water Conservation Minimize the need for supplemental irrigation of public trees and vegetation during design and maintenance planning. When utilizing water for supplemental irrigation of public trees and vegetation, maximize the use of nonpotable sources (e.g., storm water, reclaimed water) and adopt practices that conserve potable sources.&gt;&gt; Did you mean: Minimize the need for supplemental irrigation of public trees and vegetation with (or through) design and maintenance planning. Because the action matrix asks: Does your department minimize the need for supplemental irrigation of public trees/vegetation during design and maintenance planning? As worded, the strategy is to minimize supplemental irrigation ONLY during design and during maintenance planning, NOT all the time, and this does not make sense.</p>
	<p>Prioritization vs flexibility: All departments including Forestry will be able to work (and have the data or regulations) on some items from various categories. It would be best to not restrict them to complete all items in one category before being able to start another category, due to the prioritization. For instance, the departments may be able to work on some items from Category 1 Protection and Preservation, and some items from Category 2 Sustainable Forest, etc. Restricting all Departments to only work on all items in Protection and Preservation before being able to work on Sustainable Forest, etc. is not an efficient or realistic approach. Allow flexibility by allowing departments to start working on as many items as possible in Protection and Preservation, then go to Sustainable forest and work on as many items as possible there, etc.</p>
	<p>Complete DOPS within 3 years. We may not have many trees left in 10 years. Most departments have only few trees to manage. The main departments with many trees are PARD, AWU (WQ land), PW and Watershed.</p>
	<p>Where is staff from other departments supposed to answer questions such as “Does your department/program develop and implement flexible regulatory approaches in the preservation of the urban forest?” I understand that these questions are to assess the current strategies used by the departments, so provide another column (or row) to answer these.</p>

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

9/16/2013

See my recommendations for implementation timeline within text below: <<1) Performance Indicator 1.1 By 18 12 months following adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, the urban forester will seek and utilize additional comprehensive public urban forest data collection and analysis, especially where known gaps exist, to improve data reliability and inform future updates to Performance Indicators. This should be a separate item since data is much different that stakeholder input (subjective): Data collection will include updated stakeholder input on urban forest topics. First priority should be to collect and analyze additional tree inventory data to obtain a more reliable analysis (with STRATUM) and to analyze more recent GIS data, to define the current state of the urban forest. 1.2 The Urban Forester will report annually, starting 18 months following the adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, on the status of the Performance Indicators and will include additional information on trends or current urban forest issues. The information will be provided in the State of the Urban Forest Report. 1.3 The urban forester will recommend to departments urban forest data standards to improve citywide urban forest data management and analysis. Do this ASAP so that all data is collected with the same standards, as desired by Forestry

See my recommendations for implementation timeline within text below: 2) Departmental Operational Plans 2.1 The urban forester will oversee and provide staff support to Departments in their development of Departmental Operational Plans for urban forest management. 2.2 The urban forester will utilize the Departmental Operational Plan Action Matrix to facilitate the progress of Departmental implementation of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan 2.3 The urban forester will report once per year to the Urban Forestry Board regarding Departmental progress toward implementing the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan

**Email Comments (167 Comments)**

See my recommendations for implementation timeline within text below: 3) Austin Standard of Care 3.1 By 12 months following adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, the urban forester will identify and compile all existing operational or regulatory items regarding urban forest management that guides or directs Departments. This information will identify areas for improvement as well as inconsistencies. 3.2 By 24 12 months following the adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, the urban forester will facilitate an interdepartmental working group to develop an Austinspecific Standard of Care for Trees and Plants on Public Property, adapted from the current SoC, to provide locally-relevant direction regarding public urban forest management. That's 12 months only to get the interdepartmental group started, not to complete SoC. 3.3 The urban forester will brief the Urban Forestry Board regarding the updated SoC by 24 months following adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan. 3.4 The urban forester will facilitate the incorporation of the SoC into City rules and ordinances utilizing City role/ordinance change processes and rule/ ordinance update projects. 3.5 The urban forester will educate citizens, developers, and community groups regarding the SoC to encourage its their (standards of care is plural) utilization on private property.

9/16/2013

See my recommendations for implementation timeline within text below: 4) Coordination 4.1 Within 12 months after adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, the urban forester will facilitate an interdepartmental, multi-disciplinary work group comprised of City land management and land regulatory departments and establish a charter for the group. This group will coordinate urban forest policy changes and establish and update citywide Best Management Practices (BMP's) for urban forest management. Are BMPs only related to land and zoning? 4.2 By 24 months following the adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan and with information gathered by the urban forester and interdepartmental work teams, the City Manager will recommend changes (changes to what? Land code? Zoning?) based on recommendations from the interdepartmental group.

See my recommendations for implementation timeline within text below: 5) Benchmarks 5.1 By 18 months following the adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, the urban forester will compile detailed organizational structure and funding information from all City entities that manage the urban forest as well as from other municipalities comparable to Austin to establish and compare urban forest benchmarks. The urban forester will present this information to the Urban Forestry Board and the City Manager. 5.2 By 24 months following the adoption of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan The City Manager will review benchmark data regarding municipal urban forest management and recommend changes to organization structure and/or funding of urban forest management in Austin.

**8/13/13 Workshop and Open House Comments**

Agenda Item	Comments	Where	Why	Pros	Cons
Concerns	Development Killing vegetation. Shade going away.				
Concerns	Preserving water quality				
Concerns	Tough Economy-Not spending on new trees/plants				
Concerns	Invasive, exotic species invasion. How are we (city) mitigating				
Concerns	Not-replanting dying trees in yards/public land				
Concerns	Landscaping crews damaging trees out of carelessness. (Machine damage to bark)				
Concerns	Invasive plants.				
Concerns	Adaptive plants to climate change.				
Concerns	Concern for money spent on other infrastructure (roads, schools)-not enough trees.				
Concerns	Not enough natural food production.				
Concerns	Too much focus on planting/not enough pruning & older tree care.				
Concerns	Wildlife prevention/management.				
Concerns	Cross department communication.				
Concerns	Create stand alone department for UF & Ag.				
Concerns	Better Oak Wilt Management (Ordinances?)				
Concerns	More deliniation for water/drought management. (Water trees vs. lawns)				
Concerns	Safety: Overhead electric. Person. Property				
Concerns	Structural Integrity: Falling concern. Species.				
Concerns	Planting appropriate SPP: Climate, drought tolerance, pests, diseases				
Concerns	Fire: Species, distance from structure, part of town.				
Concerns	Continuity: Integrated with infrastructure & development, spacing, and connecting habitat.				
Concerns	Row: Trees need to be planted.				
Concerns	Turned into apartments				
Concerns	Commercial, money interests will develop it.				
Concerns	Safety, homeless camps				
Concerns	Lack of water in rivers				
Concerns	Acquire more park land				
Concerns	Protection during land development-rules that don't make sense or are not enforced.				

**8/13/13 Workshop and Open House Comments**

Agenda Item	Comments	Where	Why	Pros	Cons
Concerns	Lack of maintenance of public trees including soil compactoin, young tree pruning, mature tree pruning, planting.				
Concerns	Water scarcity, limiting planting & maintenance.				
Concerns	Soil compaction & quality.				
Concerns	Bad choices when planting. i.e. tree selection, site, soil conditions, and lack of public education about good planting practices.				
Concerns	Public education-Lack of including commercial selection, planting & maintenance practices.				
Concerns	Lack of funding.				
Concerns	Invasive species management/warfare.				
Concerns	Disease & insects (including invasive insects)				
Concerns	Lack of diversity.				
Concerns	Lack of access to parks and public lands (lack of trees in general)				
Concerns	Lack of planting spaces.				
Concerns	More support for trees on public school campuses.				
Concerns	Lack of age diversity of trees.				
Concerns	Lack of understory trees/vegetation.				
Concerns	Maintenance expectations that are not sustainable.				
Concerns	Lack of urban forest (decreasing at fast rate); that lack relates to negative social impacts.				
Concerns	Drought				
Concerns	Reduction due to development or drought; reforestation rate not keeping up with deforestation.				
Concerns	Oxygen/air quality				
Concerns	Developers plant little trees, takes time to grow.				
Concerns	"Great street" trees die due to lack of soil volume & tree spacing.				
Concerns	Lack of public awareness about importance of urban forest, concerned citizens labeled "tree huggers' & others don't see overall benefits of trees.				
Concerns	More awarness in affluent communities				
Concerns	Economic disparaties.				
Concerns	Clear path for citizens to get involved w/public trees. Standardize/simplify.				

**8/13/13 Workshop and Open House Comments**

Agenda Item	Comments	Where	Why	Pros	Cons
Concerns	Lack of maintenance; i.e. pruning, watering, mulch, removal of dead trees				
Concerns	Community not understanding lack of resources (staff, money, time, etc.)				
Concerns	Restrictions of resources like water.				
Concerns	Should be balance between planting & preserving.				
Concerns	Standards of acre, need consistent guidelines applied.				
Concerns	Training of City staff with assesments, soil aeration, watering techniques, and risk assesment.				
Goals	Removal of poison ivy				
Goals	Minimize loss of trees (thoughtless development, improper maintenance, disease prevention, site appropriate spp.)				
Goals	Adequate Access (public)				
Goals	Integration with infrastructure				
Groups/Funding	Austin Heritage Tree Foundation				
Groups/Funding	Master Naturlist				
Groups/Funding	Wildlife steward				
Groups/Funding	Tree Folk				
Groups/Funding	Neighborhood Association-McKinley Heights				
Groups/Funding	Texas Audubon				
Groups/Funding	Ecology Action				
Groups/Funding	NW Austin Civic Association (NWACA)				
Groups/Funding	Urban Patchwork Neighborhood Farms (UP)				
Groups/Funding	Neighborhood Associations/Planning Contact Teams				
Groups/Funding	Northfield Neighborhood Association				
Groups/Funding	Permaculture Guild				
Groups/Funding	Austin Food Forest Society				
Groups/Funding	Interfaith Environmental Network				
Groups/Funding	Sustainable Nieghborhoods of N. Central Austin.				
Groups/Funding	TTF				
Groups/Funding	KAB				
Groups/Funding	Sierra Club				
Groups/Funding	Pease Park Conservancy				
Groups/Funding	Shoal Creek				
Groups/Funding	Waller Creek				
Groups/Funding	Neighborhood Associations/HOAs (suburbs)				

**8/13/13 Workshop and Open House Comments**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
Groups/Funding	Media for Public Service Announcements				
Groups/Funding	Nature Conservancy				
Groups/Funding	TPWD				
Groups/Funding	Inter-departmental (COA)				
Groups/Funding	Boy/Girl scout				
Groups/Funding	Little league				
Groups/Funding	Summer camps				
Groups/Funding	Audubon				
Groups/Funding	American Lung Association				
Groups/Funding	Clean air force				
Groups/Funding	Woodlands development co.				
Groups/Funding	Tree Folks				
Groups/Funding	Neighborhood groups				
Groups/Funding	PTA's, AISD/private schools				
Groups/Funding	Native Plant Society fo Texas				
Groups/Funding	Sierra Club				
Groups/Funding	Nature Conservancy				
Groups/Funding	County (Travis, etc.)				
Groups/Funding	Building owners & management associations/				
Groups/Funding	Camp Mabry				
Groups/Funding	Apartment Managers Association Wildflower Associations				
Groups/Funding	IACT (Interfaith action)				
Groups/Funding	Churches				
Groups/Funding	American Youth Works/Job Corp				
Groups/Funding	ISAT				
Groups/Funding	Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts				
Groups/Funding	Real Estate Council of Austin				
Groups/Funding	Home School groups				
Groups/Funding	ACC (land and vocational training)				
Groups/Funding	Probation officers (community service_				
Groups/Funding	LCRA				
Groups/Funding	Capital Metro				
Groups/Funding	UT Local air quality group(s)/chamber of commerce				
Groups/Funding	Water quality group(s)				
Groups/Funding	Grants (large for cities, \$1 million & up).				

8/13/13 Workshop and Open House Comments

Agenda Item	Comments	Where	Why	Pros	Cons
Treasures		Zilker, Festival Shore, Natural Hills country, natural landscapes, water quality protection	Shade, large trees,spaded (open under canopy), groomed, water/lake		
Treasures		Backyard canyon	Good Hiking/Shade		
Treasures		Treaty Oak	Historic & Mother Tree		
Treasures		Sitting by the River	Calming/colling/getaway in the city		
Treasures		Wild Basin	Getaway/Escape & Diversity		
Treasures		Bull Creek Green Belt Trail	Galapagos of Texas		
Treasures		McKinney Falls	Grotto & Care Insects & Plants		
Treasures		Oaks in my yard	Cools the House		
Treasures		Shade	Its not getting cooler. Impacts to the body and utility bill. Assests COA w/Goals.		
Treasures		Beauty	Train young trees. Texture, color, light		
Treasures		Habitat	Linked w/beauty. (Watching wildlife). Scenic/Vesta.		
Treasures		Ecosystem services	Clean air. Soil stabilization. Sequestration Water quality. Ecourage vegetation communities. Stormwater management		
Treasures		15th & Lamar	In my backyard almost.		
Treasures		Shoal Creek/Pease Park	Wildlife bends (2 foxes). Not living in cage.		
Treasures		Riverside farms	Swaths of unused open space. Provide water overflow area.		
Treasures		Protect and Maintain Beauty			
Treasures		Large Heritage Trees	Shape, Beauty, CO2=>Oxygen, sense of permance & peace (meantal health & well being)		
Treasures		Oak Trees at Great Outdoors on S. congress	Wind Chimes		
Treasures		Barton Springs Area			

8/13/13 Workshop and Open House Comments

Agenda Item	Comments	Where	Why	Pros	Cons
Treasures		Enfield and West Lynn			
Treasures		Mature trees	Hard to replace; maturity requires investment.		
Treasures		Visual Amenity	More pleasing to have a view with trees.-emotional well being		
Treasures		Natural environmental benefits/built environmental benefits of trees	H2O quality & quantity, shading, & wildlife habitat. Screening energy efficient, increased property values, tax income, commercial rental rates.		
Treasures		Easy access to trees in their natural or built environments	Relaxing, connecting with community & connecting with nature.		
Treasures		Diversity of Native tree species	Fun to watch/experience microorganisms & bugs. Brings diversity of wildlife. Increases environmental health education.		
Treasures		Old, healthy trees	Inner peace.		
Treasures		Young variety	Shade.		
Treasures		Understory	Beautiful.		
Treasures		Sense of place	Creates pride in Austin.		
Treasures		Benefits: Oxygen, erosion control.	Important w/climate change.		
Treasures		Wildlife			
Treasures		Kids opportunity to interact & use senses (feel tree, hammocks, smell, see)	Healthy environment, good for mental development.		
Tree Fee or Tax	Open-but concerned that more suburbs means less money for trees			Increasing canopy-->Increases habit.	Reduce fire risk through proper maintenance.
Tree Fee or Tax	Open-focusing on tress is focusing on charismatic aspect of environment.			Less heat	Hazard of falling limbs
Tree Fee or Tax				More oxygen-Cleaner Air	Root damage (i.e. foundations)
Tree Fee or Tax				Improve beauty-Tourism	Cost of maintenance
Tree Fee or Tax				Reduce flood risk damage. Water runoff	
Tree Fee or Tax	Tree Fee			Reduce cooling costs	Current CIP not effective

8/13/13 Workshop and Open House Comments

Agenda Item	Comments	Where	Why	Pros	Cons
Tree Fee or Tax				Infrastructure	Too much money burden
Tree Fee or Tax				Fee on electric utility bill-usage scale(UP)= More \$	
Tree Fee or Tax				Expand Neighborhoods-backyard planting	
Tree Fee or Tax				Tree fees for developers	
Tree Fee or Tax	Concerns: Round-Up spraying around trees?				
Tree Fee or Tax	Concerns: City led plan for Invasive Species mgmt.				
Tree Fee or Tax	No, concerns of more taxes, misuse of funds.				
Tree Fee or Tax	Actively seek grant opportunities				
Tree Fee or Tax	Development fee earmarked for public trees to remain w/in that geographic area				
Tree Fee or Tax	Homebuilders fee or tree requirement				
Tree Fee or Tax	Dedicated tax on tree removals or tree care equipment may create larger problem--> renegade removals.				
Tree Fee or Tax	Increase tree removal fees.				
Tree Fund or Tax				Helpful to have funds	"Freak out" people
Tree Fee or Tax	More stringent oversight of art in public places				
Tree Fee or Tax	Excessive development destroys beauty				
Tree Fee or Tax	Tall buildings block & views of natural beauty				
Tree Fee or Tax	Add more beauty and trees to intensive smart growth areas--west riverside looks so much nicer than East Riverside				
Tree Fee or Tax	Mueller complex is heading in right direction				
Tree Fee or Tax	Firm tree preservation requirements and make developers stick to them.				
Tree Fee or Tax	E.G., Require setbacks to preserve increased soil volume to allow healthier trees to grow.				
Tree Fee or Tax	Lack of species diversity in certain spots				
Tree Fee or Tax	Too many non-drought resistant trees				
Tree Fee or Tax	Preserve areas for trees and wildlife				
Tree Fee or Tax	Balance in sustainability. Its all interconnected (web of life).				
Tree Fee or Tax	Partner and work with non-profit groups				
Tree Fee or Tax	Dedicated Urban Forest tax through (hotel/bed tax, motel, festival, public events, tourism usage.				
Tree Fee or Tax	Tree Folks				

**8/13/13 Workshop and Open House Comments**

Agenda Item	Comments	Where	Why	Pros	Cons
Tree Fee or Tax	Gracy Woods Park				
Tree Fee or Tax	Travis Heights				
Tree Fee or Tax				Voluntary Contribution to fund could build sense of ownership	Developers already irritated by mitigation.
Tree Fee or Tax					Ecological benefits don't balance with cost.
Tree Fee or Tax	Be very clear about returns for taxes backed by hard data. Research other cities who have fund.				
Tree Fee or Tax	Urban Pocket Parks Plan-Heather Wade & Lynn Osgood (suggesting, reading, chapter on funding)				
Tree Fee or Tax	Fundraisers. Concert/concert series; competition: bike race, neighborhoods/corporation pledges to fund most trees.				
Tree Fee or Tax	Booth during large events like ACL, Circuit of the Americas				
Tree Fee or Tax	Memorial program to dedicate a tree in honor of someone.				
Tree Fee or Tax	Partner w/Circuit of Americas to add donation option to ticket purchase.				
Tree Fee or Tax	Adopt-a-Tree (Problematic signage or naming because it's a public tree).				
Tree Fee or Tax	Find pro-bono fundraiser.				

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

Date Posted	Topic	There is sometimes confusion when it comes to what qualifies as an Urban Forest. Is it trees, vegetation, one or the other, or both? Is it public or private? Where is the Urban Forest? Please define for us what you think makes up the Urban Forest.	Agrees	Zipcode	Neighborhood	City
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	by definition it is any area with trees. the more canopy the more the area is forested The urban forest is all of the trees in the city.	2			
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Whether on public or private land. In order to understand the needs and plan effectively all of the trees need to be considered.	0	7078		Short Hills
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Any vegetation,trees and land not on private residential property.	0			
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Thanks for your input, Gwen!	0			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Thanks for your input, Jared.	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Thanks for your comment, CS!	0			Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Typically, the forest should be trees only. However, here in the heat of ATX, we should also consider the shade that can be created by large (older) non-tree elements, such as ivy, large bushes (crepe myrtles) and other greenery. I do not mean to imply that those items should be counted in lieu of trees, but merely that their contribution be recognised, and their growth encouraged. Heat Island Effect is real, and the more we do to combat it, the less power we'll consume, less CO2, cooler and more pleasant outdoor spaces created, and a healthier environment for all. Create more canopy!	3			Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	any area shaded by vegetation that stands at least 6 feet off the ground? 8 feet? i think of a "forest" as being something you can at least walk under/in.	1			San Marcos
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Trees and vegetation--mostly public, since we don't require much of private owners in the way of vegetation or canopy. Something that's often lost in the "urban forest" discussion is its role as a habitat for urban wildlife that's trying to stay out of our way. Not just birds and squirrels, but racoons, possums, and the occasional fox need brush for shelter and sustenance. I agree with others about including edibles in urban forest areas--not just for humans, but for all wildlife.	1			

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>I think most people consider the word "forest" to mean trees only. I consider it to be more than simply trees. Think "Rain Forest". But certainly anything that contributes to the canopy should be considered as "forest". It can also include vines, large shrubs, etc.</p> <p>I consider the urban forest to be both public and private. It includes not only parks but trees on private property. All urban forest, whether private or public, contributes to the quality of life in Austin in a variety of ways. Forests help to lower temperature, they provide shade and they support many species of life- birds, squirrels, insects. They are carbon sinks, and their shade can lower home energy consumption. As a cycling commuter I am much more likely to ride in neighborhoods where tree-lined streets make my trek much more tolerable in Summer months. One thing that I have noticed on the East side where I live is that there is very little shade for cyclists compared to neighborhoods like Hyde Park.</p> <p>I run through Boggy Creek Greenbelt daily and it is something I do not take for granted. It represents one of the best facets of Austin's character and it is well-maintained by the city and I am very grateful for that.</p>	1	78722		Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>What makes up an urban forest is totally dependent on what works most efficiently and effectively in the local climate--I'm not well enough informed on this to contribute more specifically on that. I would certainly insist that it be public, and that it be throughout the city as much as possible.</p>	0	78752		Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>I agree with other posters here that it should include trees as well as shrubs that give shade and shelter. In my mind it would typically be part of public lands, but I would love to see empty lots allowing the foliage to continue into their private lands. I would also like to see food grown on these public lands. Beans grown under trees or spinach grown alongside other wild shrubs would be some easy ways to start.</p>	2			San Jose
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>Definitely a great idea. I personally feel like anything that reduces the urban heat island effect should be advocated. Green rooftops would be another great topic with the LBJ Wildflower center having already conducted extensive research in the field. Planting drought tolerant low maintenance trees (crepe myrtles and others) along the medians and along sidewalks to shade the cement. Vines on large exposed cement surfaces (highway overpasses and building sides) would also help reduce energy needs.</p>	4			
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>Urban Forest encompasses all the vegetation, both public and private, within the city. Many parts of the city are barren, and it should be a goal to infuse all new development with a good amount of vegetation. Shade for pedestrians and bikers should be considered a priority to make those options more appealing.</p>	0			

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	I think the urban forest encompasses all the vegetation within the urban limits, with trees being the major component. Public or private, I see no reason why it should not all be included in the consideration. Personally, we have from a large magnolia tree and some small lemon tree, barely taller than me. The contribution of all the natural greenery should be taken into consideration when this discussion is underway.	0			Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	I believe an urban forest should include edibles. Although food scarcity is not an issue now, the more options we have to provide food the better. Considering our options now makes good sense. (Other cities around the world have adopted the strategy of planting food in public places.)	3			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	I am most concerned that the discussion include all trees and shrubs other than on private residential lots. Both large sections of nothing but trees and single trees along walkways and streets are important additions to Austin's quality of life.	0	78729		Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	When I think of a forest, it includes more than just trees. It includes the canopy, but also the understory, and it includes the wildlife that lives there. Austin's urban forest is the forest that is found within the city limits of Austin, regardless of whose land it is on. This forest varies greatly in quality, depending on the human uses that are also demanded of this land. The City of Austin usually manages the most pristine parts of this forest in its parks and preserves, but all of the landowners in Austin potentially have a part to play in managing the urban forest.	1			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	The Urban Forest should be a combination of privately and publicly owned vegetation and trees. There has to be both to get the benefits of cleaner air and lower electricity costs from the shade. There should be public vegetation and trees for public use, because research shows that when people have access to outdoor space within a half mile of where they live, it improves public health overall (more exercise, lower public health costs).	0			
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	I'm a little off topic here, but I think an important first step would be to identify all the greenbelts around Austin and protect them. There are many large wooded areas around the city, public and private that may not be protected. For example, there is a large greenbelt off Dessea Rd between Rundberg and Braker. This is near Pioneer Farms and definitely an area that drains into Walnut Creek. It's only a matter of time before this land is bought by a home developer...  As far as defining "Urban Forest", I think some of the older neighborhoods in Austin with an abundance of mature trees would qualify for that term. Take a southbound drive on Mesa Dr. from Spicewood Springs Rd. That whole area is an Urban forest if you ask me. The Bouldin Creek neighborhood is another good example. Shoal Creek Blvd, etc.	0			

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	I couldn't agree more. I recently discover an app and website designed to help people find edibles growing all over the city. The app is not amazing. Hopefully a better one will be designed, but it's heart is in the right place.	1		
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p><a href="http://neighborhoodfruit.com/iPhoneApp">http://neighborhoodfruit.com/iPhoneApp</a></p> <p>I agree 100%. There are many native and well adapted fruit and nut trees, vines, and shrubs that should be given preferential treatment over non food bearing plants. You can find a partial list at Treefolks <a href="http://treefolks.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Fruit-Nut-Guide2010LowRes.pdf">http://treefolks.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Fruit-Nut-Guide2010LowRes.pdf</a></p> <p>There are a number of books including "Edible Forest Gardens", "Gaia's Garden", and "Landscaping with Fruit" among many others. These illustrate that fruit and nuts can be integrated into all 7 layers of a forest. Those layers include 1. Tall Tree Layer. 2. Low tree layer. 3. Shrub layer. 4. Herb layer. 5. Ground Cover layer. 6. Vine Layer. 7 Root layer.</p> <p>I do think some planning needs to go into providing an entire forest ecosystem beyond just layers 1 &amp; 2. However, care needs to be made to not give credit for developers who only implement layers 3-7 at the exclusion of layers 1 &amp; 2. Clearly these tree layers take the longest to establish and provide the most benefit in terms of cooling, shade, water retention, and erosion control. But if we stop at these layers and put grass or pavement under them we are shortchanging ourselves.</p>	1		Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>I think forests on public lands is agreed on by all.</p> <p>For private lands I think we need to do more voluntary programs, more educational programs, etc. Mandates encourage minimums for compliance. Mandates also cannot foresee every situation and will mandate things that are sub-optimal much of the time.</p>	1		Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Trees, trees and more trees, including plenty of pecan trees, fig trees, peach trees, mulberry trees -- with an edible forest in mind -- sounds best to me!	2	78758	Austin

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>Cities are inherently collective so it would make sense to define the urban forest as both private and public space; everything from city-owned greenbelts/parks to tree-lined streets. The trees on our lot contribute to the collective urban forest and help reduce (even if just a little bit) the urban heat island effect for the city and region. They directly benefit us by shading the house, lowering the electric bill, improving aesthetics/curb appeal, but also shade the sidewalk and street making it more comfortable and pleasant for pedestrians and bicyclists passing by. In a city, almost everything we do on or to our property impacts others, positively or negatively; it impacts our neighbors, our neighborhood and the city as a whole. We're all in this together so be good to your community- plant more trees!</p> <p>(*loose definition includes shade trees, smaller understory trees, fruit/nut trees, large shrubs (natural, not pruned into a lame, sad attempt at English formal gardens) vegetables, herbs, flowers= anything that captures sunlight and turns it into something beautiful/edible/beneficial through the process of photosynthesis)</p>	0	78753	Georgian Acres	Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>I think Austin does a great job with larger green belts and parks but we could use a lot of improvements with smaller parks within denser neighborhoods.</p> <p>If you look at Paris or Barcelona, they have small parks and ramblas throughout very dense areas, making the urban forest not a destination but a natural part of the city.</p> <p>Austinites usually have to drive to a big park instead of being able to bike or walk through their neighborhood and take a shortcut through a smaller park or have lunch there etc.</p> <p>I think we need higher density of mixed use retail/office/residential with many smaller parks breaking it up. The higher density would enable more people to walk or bike and have easy access to these smaller urban forests.</p>	0			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Heather, thanks for your providing your thoughts regarding this question!	0			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Hello Paul, thanks for your input on this question.	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	<p>I wanted to suggest Austin could plant milkweeds to help Monarch butterflies on their journey north. I heard milkweed extermination as a weed is impacting the monarch butterfly population. According to experts even if we were to just plant it on the highway medians and then modify mowing schedules to favor the growth of milkweed it can have a great impact on Monarch Butterfly populations.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sciencefriday.com/segment/04/12/2013/monitoring-the-monarchs.html">http://www.sciencefriday.com/segment/04/12/2013/monitoring-the-monarchs.html</a></p>	0	78758		Austin

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7/31/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	"Forest" describes a dynamic layered ecosystem characterized by trees as the dominant, essential feature but also including multiple distinct, vertical plant layers including the forest floor (soil and decomposed detritus from plants and wildlife), soft-stemmed herbaceous plants (grasses, ferns, mosses, flowers), woody low-growing shrubs, and understory vegetation (smaller trees, vines, larger shrubs) underneath a larger tree canopy. A forest provides shelter and habitat for all manner of life from the microbiota (bacteria, fungi) in the forest soil to animals, birds, insects and other invertebrates (worms, slugs, snails), reptiles (lizards, snakes) and amphibians (frogs, toads), even the occasional marsupial (opossums) and crustacean (pillbugs). Forests contain symbiotic relationships as well as food webs or chains. While trees can certainly exist outside a forest, a forest is not defined by trees alone. "Urban" describes a forest located within a city, which includes both public and private lands, man-made development and infrastructure, impacted by human social, political and economic systems.	1			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	While we are on the topic what can be done to prevent the homeless from setting up camps in these urban forests? The camps tend to produce a lot of litter, people using the bathroom and leaving feces on the ground, and also various forms of property crime tend to increase when a homeless camp pops up. I LOVE Austin and the many areas with trees and walking trails but I can't help but feel that more urban forests will lead to more homeless camps. I don't think anyone would feel safe going through a forested area where homeless people could be defecating on the trails in view of children for example.	0			
7/31/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Hello Chuck, thanks for your comment! What do you think are some other needs besides trees that are needed to plan effectively?	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Thanks for providing your input, Greg!	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Thanks for your input on this question, Nick!	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Many of the newly planted trees in downtown for the Great Streets program are either stressed and some dead. Brazos from Cesar Chavez to 11th is a great example. We spent a lot of money to put in these trees and it appears they are not being watered enough. We need more healthy trees downtown and protect the ones we already have.	0			

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

8/1/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Forest is not just trees, it's also the amount of undergrowth beneath the canopies. If you drive through the countryside, the areas where creeks and undergrowth retain that colder and oxygenated air. You can notice this particularly on motorcycles or with windows down. The undergrowth holds in moisture and colder air even better than the canopies. I personally believe this is the biggest contributor to weather change, as we lose more of this and gain more low cut lawns, plowed fields and concrete parking lots, there is less of this undergrowth and extra cooling. Urban Forest: I would love to see more trees everywhere and bushy thick undergrowth.	0	78704		Austin
8/6/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	In my opinion, an ideal Urban Forest is 7 layers of vegetation from large trees to bushes to vines to roots. It is a green system sustaining itself and native life forms, including people. As a private area, it's a shaded spot sustaining soul and body. As a public entity, it is a system from canopy to soil to groundwater that has to be nurtured, respected, and supported.	0			
8/8/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Thanks for your comment, Rollie.	0			Austin
8/8/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Craig, thanks for providing your feedback. How do you think residents of Austin can get involved in managing the urban forest?	0			Austin
8/8/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	Thanks for your providing your feedback, Russell.	0			Austin
8/13/2013	Topic: Urban Forest	While I agree with everyone that trees are the most wonderful component of an urban forest, especially in a place that needs shade as much as Texas, I want to add my voice to those who mention other forms of vegetation. Austin is at the tail-end of the Great Plains, so grasslands are a part of our native ecology, too. Grasses are beautiful, hardy, carbon-absorbing, oxygen-producers that provide important food and habitat for many of our fellow creatures. I would love to see the waste spaces, like traffic medians and highway edges, planted with native grass mixes. So to me, the Urban Forest is the whole ecosystem within which we build our city, including woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas, rocky uplands. One of the best features of Austin is the variety of ecological regions we get to enjoy. I'd like to see our Urban Forest reflect and support them all, as appropriate. And I hope our planning will include all the other species that natively inhabit these ecosystems, too. We're not the only ones on the planet: we have a responsibility to make sure we make room for the rest.	0	78757	Crestview	Austin

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

Time Posted	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Austin has been ranked in the Top 10 Cities in the Country for its urban forest by American Forests. Additionally, according to American Forests, Austin's tree canopy is at 30% of the City, with over 100 different species of trees and around 300,000 individual trees in parks and along streets. What do you think of the state of Austin's Urban Forest? Is there anything missing that you believe needs attention?	Agrees	Zipcode	Neighborhood	City
7/27/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	With the losses of trees with the drought, many new trees are needed. "No mow" areas are good, but for park areas that still need to remain fairly open with lawn, new trees are needed to allow to grow to provide succession. Identifying "volunteer" tree seedlings in between mowings, and protecting them from lawn care equipment with staked arbor guards would help with the natural regeneration of these trees. These are free trees, naturally locally sourced, and probably would have higher survival rates than transplanted seedlings. Thanks for the consideration. B. Parsons	2			
7/30/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Thanks for your comment, B.!	0			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Hello Lori, thanks for your comment!	0			Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	the urban forest seems to suffer more losses than gains as more of austin is developed. 30% of the city seems lackluster, we should aim to be in the top 5 and require commercial developments to develop green spaces that are watered with reclaimed air conditioning water so they aren't drawing at all from the potable supply. <del>I have been happy to see the city planting so many trees in the last few years.</del>	0			San Marcos
7/29/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Unfortunately, they're not always followed up with, in terms of the watering and other maintenance that new trees need in order to become established and thrive. Please continue planting more trees, but also make it a priority to care for the ones already planted until they can survive the heat on their own. I would also add that there is a real obvious lack of trees around Congress and 6th Street. If there's any way to add trees into the future plans for those traffic arteries, please do! New construction should be required to plant trees in the pedestrian right-of-way. We need the shade!	0			

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

7/29/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>It is good to hear we are ranked in the top 20, but I think we need to understand the challenges and opportunities in order to answer this question.</p> <p>How many trees are dying/diseased/damaged and need to be replaced?</p> <p>What opportunities are there for planting new street trees?</p> <p>What is the distribution (both in numbers and locations) of the different species? Which are invasive species that should be replaced with native trees?</p> <p>I love the trees here in Austin, but there are parts of town that still feel pretty barren during the peak of the day in August.</p>	0	7078		Short Hills
7/29/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>Austin's urban forest is in decline. New developments are destroying trees that aren't covered under the tree protection programs in place today. While we are saving some of the large and majestic trees, we're losing decade old trees to new development. It will take subsequent decades to make up for this. Obviously, development in the core needs to happen, but it's imperative that developers incorporate rather large saplings in their landscape plans. Emphasis should be placed on planting trees along walkways and bike lanes so that those alternatives are more appealing.</p> <p>Many of our roadways now have bike lanes, but lack any roadside tree plantings. We should make up for the lack of urban planning in Austin's past by planting new trees along roads with bike paths.</p> <p>Finally, the large stump on the south lawn of Barton Springs is symbolic of the changes happening in the city right now. That stump should be removed and a new Pecan tree should be planted in its place.</p>	1			
7/30/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>Austin does pretty well when it comes to urban forest. But our urban forest is currently stressed by drought and constantly under seige by the demands of new development.</p> <p>Austin has also lost habitat for wildlife due to less than ideal management policies. But this all can be addressed by a STRONG and WELL-FUNDED urban forest plan.</p>	0			Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>Oh yes!</p> <p>The drought continues to take a toll on everything. Plant replacement trees - everywhere. Strengthen the Heritage Tree Ordinance and other laws; the 'McMansion Ordinance' is weak on tree protection. Water the cemetery trees, especially on the east side!</p>	1			Austin

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

7/30/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	I'd like to see more trees planted so that they will eventually provide shade over places where people actually walk (e.g., sidewalks) and stand (e.g., bus stops) to possibly encourage people to get out of their cars. I try to get out of my downtown office as much as possible, and there are a lot of trees, but they're always away from the walking paths, providing shade to the lawn.	1	78711		Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>I think Austin does a great job with larger green belts and parks but we could use a lot of improvements with smaller parks within denser neighborhoods.</p> <p>If you look at Paris or Barcelona, they have small parks and ramblas throughout very dense areas, making the urban forest not a destination but a natural part of the city.</p> <p>Austinites usually have to drive to a big park instead of being able to bike or walk through their neighborhood and take a shortcut through a smaller park or have lunch there etc.</p> <p>I think we need higher density of mixed use retail/office/residential with many smaller parks breaking it up. The higher density would enable more people to walk or bike and have easy access to these smaller urban forests.</p>	0			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Hello Daniel, thanks for your comments and suggestions regarding the state of Austin's Urban Forest.	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Thanks for your input on this question, Gwen!	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Garret, what are some of the losses to Austin's Urban Forest you have observed?	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Hello Heather, thanks for your input on this question!	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Thanks for your input, Chuck! Aside from what you have mentioned, what are some other things you see missing from Austin's Urban Forest?	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Thanks for your input regarding this question, Grace!	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	the first example that comes to mind is the controversial proposed removal of the heritage trees at the green water treatment plant. i think that situation serves as a perfect example of the lack of value placed on the existing urban forest by developers. the gutting of the heritage tree ordinance by the legislature definitely doesn't set a positive example for preservation. the removal of 50+ large pecan trees from the former trailer parks along barton springs drive seemed a bit aggressive.	0			San Marcos

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### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

8/1/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Have we considered urban foraging? Boston, Chicago, and Baltimore have public orchards. <a href="http://www.theworld.org/2013/07/foraged-lunch-harvesting-urban-food-crops-as-a-hedge-against-food-insecurity/">http://www.theworld.org/2013/07/foraged-lunch-harvesting-urban-food-crops-as-a-hedge-against-food-insecurity/</a>	1	78758	Austin
8/6/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	I can't accept a couple of trees in the dirt as a "forest" and reel badly about trees planted without any supporting vegetation. As potted plants dry out more quickly, "potted" trees along a sidewalk, street, parking lot are out of context to a natural environment. Planting fruit and nut trees as well as native ornamental flowering trees and bushes would enhance our visual and olfactory experience in Austin. Let's set a goal of 50% canopy with an emphasis on native species.	1		
7/29/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	Strict rules surrounding newly installed landscape and sprinkler systems. Don't allow St Augustine to be installed in ANY new HOA or commercial sites. Push for all new commercial sites to have either graywater systems or rain collection system. Allow for watering in home/commercial irrigation systems for trees only, IF they have bubblers or are on drip (govern this yourselves or have the licensed irrigator submit paperwork of completion). How about Austin come up with a back up water plan and come out with it in the paper?	3	78752	Austin
8/13/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	I second Ted and Marcy's call for an urban forest that produces food, too. The current plan notes how we can use the urban forest for wood in the course of management. It notes the benefits of shade. Nowhere in the 14 page draft I read was there anything about the ecosystem benefit of food, yet there are many fruit and nut trees that can thrive in Central Texas. Let's make a food producing urban forest a priority! Keep Austin Nutty! It's good for people and wildlife... Other cities are getting on board with public produce* - let's lead the way! It's time to start experimenting with PUBLIC FOOD FORESTS, too - a great approach to low-water, low-maintenance food production. The East Feast Coalition is leading a movement for a pilot food forest at Festival Beach Community Garden, but there's an opportunity for more. We have many permaculture designers we could employ and put to good work! * <a href="http://www.darrinnordahl.com/Books/Public-Produce">http://www.darrinnordahl.com/Books/Public-Produce</a>	0		Austin

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8/13/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>I second Ted and Marcy's call for an urban forest that produces food, too. The current plan notes how we can use the urban forest for wood in the course of management. It notes the benefits of shade. Nowhere in the 14 page draft I read was there anything about the ecosystem benefit of food, yet there are many fruit and nut trees that can thrive in Central Texas. Let's make a food producing urban forest a priority! Keep Austin Nutty! It's good for people and wildlife... Other cities are getting on board with public produce* - let's lead the way! It's time to start experimenting with PUBLIC FOOD FORESTS, too - a great approach to low-water, low-maintenance food production. The East Feast Coalition is leading a movement for a pilot food forest at Festival Beach Community Garden, but there's an opportunity for more. We have many permaculture designers we could employ and put to good work!</p> <p>*<a href="http://www.darrinnordahl.com/Books/Public-Produce">http://www.darrinnordahl.com/Books/Public-Produce</a></p>	0			Austin
8/13/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>Yes, we need places where we can plant supporting vegetation. It's time to start experimenting with PUBLIC FOOD FORESTS, where we mimic nature's design of a healthy forest by strategically planting a many-layered forest where species mutually support each other. Food forests are a proven approach to low-water, low-maintenance food production. Permaculture designers who've been volunteering with the East Feast Coalition's effort to start the Festival Beach Food Forest created a list of several plant groups / guilds that would be appropriate for Austin.</p>	0			Austin
8/13/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>I love it, Ted! We need more public produce! <a href="http://www.darrinnordahl.com/Books/Public-Produce">http://www.darrinnordahl.com/Books/Public-Produce</a></p>	0			Austin
8/14/2013	Topic: Austin's Urban Forest	<p>I agree with Lori G that we need stricter requirements for landscaping new developments. No St Augustine, but also no covering what's left of the lot after overbuilding with rocks and pretending it's mulch. The city &amp; county have lots of information to provide plans for basic landscapes that include a healthy mix of native grasses, shrubs and trees. Give them something cheap and easy to install and require them to do at least that. HabiTurf is awesome; add a buffer at the back of native shrubs and two quality shade trees and you're good. My observation of new construction in Crestview is that the impervious cover rule is too generous. There's no room left on these lots for forest, meaning a healthy, sustainable portion of the city's ecosystem. The buildings cover the lot, with narrow strips, unsuitable for native landscaping and disconnected from nearby bits of greenspace. All single-family lots should contribute vegetation that absorbs carbon and provides habitat and food for wildlife. It's part of the function of a single-family house lot: to contribute to the Urban Forest. There are sections of this city, like up north Lamar towards Parmer Lane, that are a sea of roofs and driveways. Hot, flood-producing, hostile nature-free zones. How did they get built? How can we prevent more of that kind of destructive construction?</p>	0	78757	Crestview	Austin

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Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

Time Posted	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>There are a lot of different factors that come into play when considering management of the urban forest. Maintenance, expansion, preservation, removal of dangerous or dead trees and vegetation and responsibilities of the different involved players are just some of those factors. What should the City of Austin try to prioritize in the Urban Forest Plan? These prioritizations should be things that you believe are critically important for the Urban Forest and should be initiated before anything else.</p>	Agrees	Zipcode	Neighborhood	City
7/29/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	require greywater, reclaimed water and other water recycling/capture methods for watering landscaping. the more water we can keep from washing down the drain, the more we can use to support the city's vegetation.	3			San Marcos
7/29/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>Require that ALL new subdivisions have buried utilities.            Rewrite standards (if they exist) for how tree trimming is done to avoid "V" trees along streets and easements.</p>	2			Austin

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### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

<p>7/29/2013</p>	<p>Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest</p>	<p>Consider requiring establishment of greenbelts in zoning laws for new land developments. I grew up in VA and they had a greenbelt requirement which gave us an excellent forest/hike &amp; bike area in our housing development. That was more than 40 years ago.</p> <p>Beyond that, preservation, then expansion, as others said.</p> <p>While expanding forest overall, keep other needs in mind. It sure would be nice if Austin had a tree-less aviation park for RC aircraft and hobbist rocketry. If there's a park which is already mostly treeless because of draught, consider taking it all the way and removing the final trees, rather than reforestation. Consult local clubs/organizations regarding requirements. For example, the Austin Area Rocketry Group.</p> <p>Aviation-related hobbies encourage the study of STEM subjects in the young, as well as being super fun. And this would give the Scout groups a good launch site, instead of trying to squeeze into Zilker and leaving 50% of the rockets in trees.</p> <p>An aviation park should be at least a square mile (and pretty square or round) of open land, where aviation is the priority. It could also be used for sports, but aviation needs to be the official priority. Rocketry got kicked out of Round Rock's park because of senseless soccer opposition to rocketry.</p> <p>Avoid rules/requirements which will heap still more inconvenience on Austin residents. For example, one commenter wants to "require" all grey water get reused. How does one do that without re-plumbing existing houses? Marginally possible on pier and beam houses, but ridiculous for concrete slab houses. Remove hackberry trees at every opportunity, and never, ever plant a new one.</p>	<p>0</p>		<p>Austin</p>
<p>7/29/2013</p>	<p>Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest</p>	<p>One more thing, consider requiring green margins between parking lots and through-ways. Dallas is so ugly because the businesses go right up to the road and there's no strip of green between them. Newer development in Austin has been going this way, such as the Triangle.</p> <p>Older development in Austin, left a wide green strip between the roads and the parking lots where trees can grow.</p> <p>Don't let development go right up to the edge of the roads.</p>	<p>2</p>		<p>Austin</p>

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7/29/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>per day! vs 5 gallons for the beautiful Live Oak needs. Plus they are nothing but dry match sticks. And where will we get the water to put out the fires they start?</p> <p>Hire a few more city employees to regulate commercial irrigation systems not twice but at least once a year. Do you know how many broken heads/nozzles/leaks are on a property 1 acre or more? Many.</p> <p>Require all commercial (new) building to have greywater or rainwater collection. Maybe even require new homes be piped for greywater.</p> <p>Hurry. With 150 people on avg moving here a day last year and the drought, I am afraid Austin has not planned properly in advance.</p>	1	78752		Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>I believe that one of the most important things that has been lacking in past Austin urban forest maintenance efforts is the sensitivity it takes to allow for new tree recruitment. And the biggest single negative impacts on new tree recruitment are mowing patterns and the WEED-EATER. The use of these devices should be restricted and better monitored, and mowing patterns in all parks need to be carefully considered. Improperly used weed-eaters also damage larger trees.</p>	2			Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Manage what we have to prevent further losses.</li> <li>2) Evaluate the opportunities for planting new street trees to shade streets and to minimize the heat island effect.</li> <li>3) Work with neighborhoods and city park adopters to identify planting opportunities on city property that will enhance neighborhoods, providing a better quality of life for residents.</li> <li>4) Understand where additional tree plantings will help to reduce storm water runoff and erosion.</li> </ol>	2	7078		Short Hills
7/30/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>I agree all new development should require buried utility lines.</p> <p>It would also be good for Austin Utilities to have a long term plan to bury existing pole mounted utility lines. While it would take several decades it is worth investing in. Burying existing lines would increase reliability as buried lines don't get downed in storms. It would also allow for more trees. Along my back fenceline I am limited to only short trees as tall trees would interfere in the power lines. I know my neighborhood is not unique in this regard.</p>	1			Austin

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7/30/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	With slab foundations very popular a good regulation would be to have all new construction required to have black water and grey water lines separated until after exiting the concrete slab. A homeowner could then have the option of directing greywater into the sewer system or into landscape irrigation. We'd benefit as a city from increased cooling and vegetation. We'd also benefit from reduced wastewater processing.	1			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	I think mandating species is prone to problems. Yes we can ban non-native invasive species. But beyond that individuals decisions tend to be better than mandated ones.  While hackberry trees are not ideal for placement next to buildings due to their shortened lifetimes and proneness to falling down they do have positive attributes. Hackberrys are nitrogen fixers, which rehabilitates the soil allowing it to absorb more rain and reduce runoff. They also produce small fruit that are a foodsource for wildlife including many birds. They grow quickly, providing shade needed for other plants and potentially other trees to establish themselves. I would never plant one at my house, and I have removed several that have volunteered, but to implement a program to remove them unconditionally is shortsighted.	1			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	It's worth investigating city use of Waterboxx for sapling establishment. The results by a North Austin neighborhood group have been very positive. <a href="http://www.snaustin.org/projects/waterboxx">http://www.snaustin.org/projects/waterboxx</a>	1			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	I think Austin does a great job with larger green belts and parks but we could use a lot of improvements with smaller parks within denser neighborhoods. If you look at Paris or Barcelona, they have small parks and ramblas throughout very dense areas, making the urban forest not a destination but a natural part of the city. Austinites usually have to drive to a big park instead of being able to bike or walk through their neighborhood and take a shortcut through a smaller park or have lunch there etc. I think we need higher density of mixed use retail/office/residential with many smaller parks breaking it up. The higher density would enable more people to walk or bike and have easy access to these smaller urban forests.	0			Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	Hello Chuck, thanks for providing your thoughts on what the city should try to prioritize in the Urban Forest Plan.	0			Austin

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7/30/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	Craig, thanks for your comment!	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	Hello Jeff, thanks for providing your input regarding prioritization in the Urban Forest Plan.	0			Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>Joel, thank you for your thoughtful response. While my other suggestions were serious, my final comment about hackberry trees was more tongue-in-cheek.</p> <p>It was the frustration of fighting hackberry trees in my yard over the years. You cut them down. They resprout from the roots. And not just the roots near the trunk. They'll resprout from any root near the ground surface. Their roots are invasive through vegetable gardens. If the neighbors have them, then you have them, because of those roots.</p> <p>I just took out another hackberry patch from a root which came under our fence. The neighbor happily cut down and removed the hackberry tree in his yard, and then its root sprouted all over the place in my flower beds. Grrrr.</p>	0			Austin
8/6/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	Maintenance and Preservation are part and parcel of one another. Removal of dead/dangerous vegetation should be part of maintenance as it impacts public safety. So really, there are only 2 factors: Expansion to reach 50% canopy and Maintenance to preserve what we have and remove public danger. A number of Park improvements have been made downtown, so it's time to look to areas that have been underserved in terms of Maintenance and Expansion. Rather than prioritize based on the number of different players involved, let's prioritize based on public need and what is most immediately feasible in both time management and monetary terms. Is there a "measure" of optimal vegetation for urban areas or is Austin creating it's own system?	0			
7/29/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>1st: Maintenance of what we have, including preservation.</p> <p>2nd: Expansion, so that more of our concrete cover can be shaded and provide forage and shelter for the non-human urban inhabitants.</p> <p>Last: Removal of dangerous trees and replacement of dead trees--these aren't high priorities.</p>	1			

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### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

8/13/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>When we focus on expansion, let's incorporate food producing trees, too.</p> <p>- In parks, small, educational food forests would be great. ACC has a great permaculture design program and students could help create these. It would be great to set up a program of research/experimentation to support innovation, as this is a new concept for cities. The East Feast Coalition is working to start a public food forest at Festival Beach Community Garden.</p> <p>- On the urban periphery, it would be great to establish a ring of food forests, which would help water quality and reduce fire risk. Patrick Van Haren has some good ideas about this that warrant exploration.</p>	0			Austin
8/14/2013	Topic: Leaf the Tree - Priorities for Austin's Urban Forest	<p>I agree with everything Joel says. And Gwen: bury those utility lines! They can make it hard to place shade trees correctly on a lot. And I want a vote for letting hackberries retain their place in our environment. Birds love them.</p> <p>What I don't understand is how it is possible to choose among preservation, maintenance and expansion. Don't these three processes work together? Maintenance is part of preservation, and expansion is part of maintenance, especially in a city growing as fast as Austin. If I have to choose, I would vote for expansion first, because of the destruction caused by rapid construction. Can't we do better at requiring and persuading and perhaps bribing developers to install vegetation designed by the city? That would entail a city-wide plan of some sort; at least a set of preferences for landscaping different kinds of structures. And for increasing supplies of water to landscapes through greywater &amp; ac capture, as others suggest. I think we could demand more from developers than we do. Where are they going to go, Detroit? They want to build in Austin because people want to live in Austin, and a big reason people want to live in Austin is because of the once-adequate greenbelts and tree canopy. Parks and trees and the rest of the natural world have fallen way behind the population growth rate. New development must be done Austin-style or not at all.</p>	0	78757	Crestview	Austin
Time Posted	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	<p><b>One of the most difficult things that urban forest management must overcome is funding shortages. It costs quite a bit to keep Austin's Urban Forest healthy, safe and thriving. Based on a 2010 bench-marking survey of 23 large US cities, Austin spends \$9.66 per tree compared with the national average of \$39.33. What is your initial reaction to this statistic? Should the City of Austin do more to fund this urban forest management? Would you be willing to pay a small "tree fee" on your utility bills to help Austin's Urban Forest?* *This is not a formal vote on any City of Austin tax.</b></p>	Agrees	Zipcode	Neighbor- hood	City
7/29/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	No more fees on the utility bill. Put it up for a vote like the Town Lake trail extension. Or add a fee to new commercial development.	0			

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

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7/29/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	Duh! It's pathetic how we treat (fund) our urban trees and parks. They are investments to be maintained, just as we do with buildings, sidewalks and roads.	0			Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	had we not given apple and other billion dollar corporations tax breaks to come to town we could be using that money to support the parks/trees that their employees appreciate. we should shame these people into contributing to the community on which they feed. That seems very economical, especially given all the services trees provide for us, from erosion control to air filtering, to lowering the urban temperature and making our walk to work more pleasant! I would happily pay a "tree fee" on my utilities, and used to do so when I paid by check. Now that I pay online on CoA's website, there's no option to pay that fee. Please make it easily available again.	0			San Marcos
7/29/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	higher expenses due to higher tree mortality/disease problems? On the surface it sounds as if we in Austin are not spending enough.  I do donate on my utility bill to support tree planting and will continue to do so. Not sure I want additional taxes though, I like keeping it optional.  Perhaps through better outreach and education more people would be willing to donate to support tree maintenance and planting. One way to enhance outreach is to partner with folks like TreeFolks and Austin Parks Foundation. They are already working in this field and might be a way to reach more residents of Austin.	0	7078		Short Hills
7/29/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	Somehow we funded the trees and parks we have in the past. Why are we short of money now? Additionally, it seems that we had a higher per capita area of park land in teh past than we do now.  Where did the money go? Stop wasting it on those other things. Austin Energy just got a 20% rate hike, when natural gas prices are at all time lows. I can't see that the city needs still more money. Perhaps fewer windmills and wood chip burning plants are the answer.	0			Austin
7/29/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	More trees and more money is not the answer. Regulating water is.  And why did the LCRA think it was a good idea to send water in 2008, 2009, 2011 to thee rice farmers when we were already shrinking? What they released in 2011 was what Austin used in the last 15 years!!!!!! Water plan people. Elephant in the room.	2	78752		Austin

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

7/30/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	I believe that lack of funding is a major issue in maintaining and improving Austin's urban forest. The best place to get money for this endeavor would be from the people who do the most damage to Austin's urban forest. This would include Austin Energy, highway building, large developers, or anyone who wants to cut down vegetation to make room for more people, whatever the reason. It's not that there is anything intrinsically wrong with these interests, it is just that those who do the most damage to urban forests should pay the most into funds to mitigate for this damage. Just charging everyone a fee for this damage, while probably doable, does not really help to get people to be more responsible for the damage that their activities cause to urban forests.	0		Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	I think for a start the city should stop subsidising the destruction of trees. The Domain in north Austin received heavy city subsidy. Prior to becoming a shopping mall the area was known as Century Oaks Park and had a forest of ancient live oak trees with huge diameter.  I recognize we need to develop for growth, but do we need the City to subsidise that growth? If those subsidies were instead put towards an urban orchard program how much better off would we be? Instead of paying developers to tear down trees we should require them to make contributions to an urban forestry program for the trees they destroy in their development.	0		Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	I think groups like TreeFolks are much more effective per dollar than the City is. Groups like these are able to leverage volunteers and are able to get bulk purchases of tree saplings. The City should direct more of it's urban forestry funding to groups like these in the form of grants. These groups should be given more freedom to implement volunteer projects on public lands without red tape for protective tree enclosures, mulching, planting, etc.	1		Austin
7/30/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	I would if the plan were clear on how we plan to infill more small parks. I like the big parks and preserves but I think more smaller parks are critical and I'd be willing to pay extra for developing those and maintaing them.	0		Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	Heather, thanks for your comment!	0		Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	Hello Craig, thanks for providing your feedback regarding funding for the Urban Forest.	0		Austin
7/31/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	Thanks for your comment, Daniel!	0		Austin

## Speak Up Austin Online Discussion

### Discussion name: Austin's Urban Forest Plan

8/6/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	This is on par with our funding for the public library system; whatever is public is underfunded while private corporations are given every incentive available. I would be willing to pay but only if private donations are matched by corporate funding, based on a sliding scale depending on the size of the City subsidies, to last as long as the City incentives apply. Maintaining an urban forest to keep Austin green is our public and private civic responsibility.	0			
8/13/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	COA, the only comments yall responded to were suggestions of us paying taxes. What about the other alternatives?	0			Austin
8/14/2013	Topic: Funding the Urban Forest	I would gladly pay a tree tax but I agree with others that the money needs to come from those who destroy our forest. The Domain is a great example. They should have paid us, lots of money, to mitigate their destruction. These developers don't need subsidies from taxpayers. If they won't build their gigantic parking lots without our help, GOOD! If we allow them to build in our Forest, they need to replace every blade of uprooted grass. And yes, now I recognize that means figuring out how to monetize those old-growth live oaks and supporting vegetation. My HabitTurf lawn wasn't cheap. Surely the city can figure out what it would cost to re-create the landscape destroyed by new development.	0	78757	Crestview	Austin