



AUSTIN'S URBAN FOREST PLAN

Updated July 18th, 2013 | Vision & Vision Components, Guiding Principles

The vision statement, the components and guiding principles were created during a multi-step collaborative process involving the Urban Forestry Board and City staff.

THE VISION FOR AUSTIN'S URBAN FOREST

Austin's urban forest is a healthy and sustainable mix of trees, vegetation, and other components that comprise a contiguous and thriving ecosystem valued, protected, and cared for by the City and all of its citizens as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset.

SIX VISION COMPONENTS

- 1) **Thriving:** A thriving urban forest is one that is optimized according to site and ecosystem capacity.
- 2) **Contiguous:** A contiguous urban forest is composed of interconnected, forested corridors for transportation, community, recreation and wildlife throughout the city.
- 3) **Healthy Ecosystem:** A healthy urban forest is comprised of a diverse, native and uneven-aged palate of species adapted to the unique growing conditions of ecosystem types.
- 4) **Valued:** A valued urban forest is recognized as an asset that is essential to the well-being of the community and the ecosystem.
- 5) **Protected:** Trees are protected through sustainable site design and land management practices so that long-term ecosystem health is maintained.
- 6) **Cared For:** A well cared for urban forest is proactively managed for health, longevity and safety.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles were established during the initial phase of the plan's development and apply to all areas of the plan and its development.

- 1) Greatest Good Philosophy
- 2) Wise Use of Resources
- 3) Sustainable
- 4) Science-Based Decision Making
- 5) Public Safety
- 6) Industry Recognized Best Management Practices

