

Introduction to the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan (CUFP)

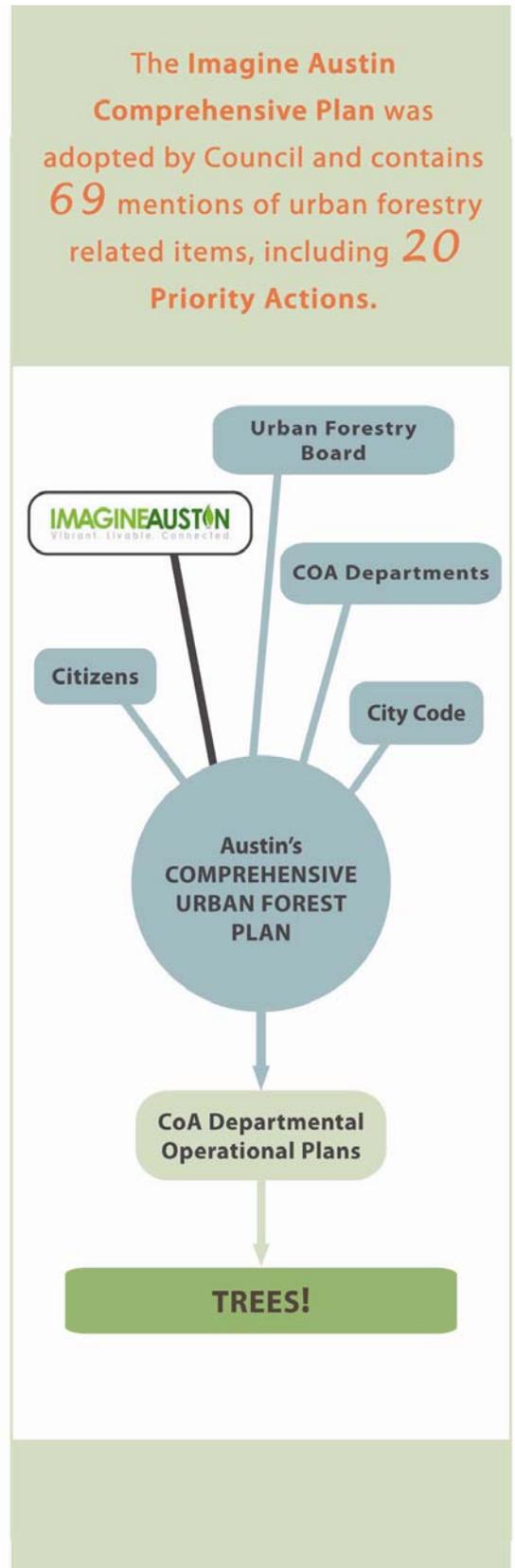
The Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan was mandated by Austin City Code in 1992. A healthy urban forest supports the City’s vision to be the most livable city.

§ 6-3-5 COMPREHENSIVE URBAN FOREST PLAN.

- (A) With the assistance of the urban forester, the board shall develop and revise the plan.
- (B) The Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board shall review the plan and make recommendations to the board.
- (C) The urban forester shall provide administrative staff services to the board in connection with the plan.

The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan was adopted by Council and contains sixty-nine mentions of urban forestry related items, including twenty Priority Actions. The impacts from continuing growth and development, combined with long term drought conditions create an imperative to develop Imagine Austin’s Green Infrastructure Priority Program, the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan and subsequent Departmental Operational Plans.

The goal of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan is to establish a broad-scoped, long range vision for Austin’s urban forest. It will provide a framework for City departments to use as a guide for managing their urban forest resources, in the form of Departmental Operational Plans, and will include a roadmap to implementation to reach that comprehensive vision.



The CUFP's GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles were established during the initial phase of the plan's development during a brainstorming session with staff. The Principles apply to all areas of the plan and its development.

SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 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

THE VISION FOR AUSTIN'S URBAN FOREST

The vision statement was created during a multi-step collaborative process involving the Urban Forestry Board and City staff.

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.