

URBAN TREE MASTER PLANS

Management Plans can help direct program efforts, help justify budgets, and communicate short- and long-term goals.



TREE OR URBAN FOREST OR MASTER PLANS

An ordinance and a tree inventory are the building blocks of any urban forestry program. But that isn't where the program stops. It is just as important to have a well-defined plan on how the ordinance and inventory are going to be managed and incorporated into the goals of the community.

A management plan should reflect the goals and objectives established by the Town staff, local tree board and other stakeholders, and Town Council. A plan outlines future management of the community's trees and forests, addresses the planning, planting, protecting, conservation, storm damage mitigation, and maintenance of community trees.

Depending on your community's level of management, there many types of management plans:

- *An Urban Forest Master Plan or Strategic Plan* establishes overall goals and objectives for the program and is often integrated with other comprehensive community plans. These are sometimes based on a satellite imagery study and GIS analysis, or other inventories and assessments, which sets goals for tree canopy cover in residential and commercial areas, recommends areas for reforestation, recommends areas for preservation, promotes community education and outreach efforts and recommends tree maintenance policies for City or County properties.
- *Street Tree Planting and Maintenance Plan* based on an inventory of trees in street rights-of-way and parks. These types of plans include information such as a prioritized list of tree pruning and removals, a prioritized list of replacement and new tree plantings, a recommended yearly budget, and a recommended list of tree species for replanting.
- *Regional Watershed Management Plan* whose resource assessment includes specific analysis and management recommendations for the community's trees and forest resources. The plan includes management recommendations for vegetative buffers and invasive species in the community including areas for preservation and restoration.

RELATED RESOURCES

[APWA Urban Forest Management Plan](#)

[VT Management Plan Development](#)

[A Technical Guide to Developing Urban Forestry Strategic Plans & Urban Forest Management Plans](#)

[Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit](#)

[City of Portland, Oregon Urban Forest Management Plan](#)

[Seattle Street Tree Manual](#)

- *City Parks Vegetation Management Plan* based on an inventory of park trees and invasive plants that includes a plan for the removal of invasive species, abatement of tree hazards and reforestation.
- *Hazard Tree Reduction and Replanting Plan* based on a survey of community commercial or residential rights-of-way.

Watch this brief webinar to see the 3 main types of plans for urban forest management:

- [WEBINAR: Urban Forest Management Plans](#)

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM (U&CF) Urban Management Plans

The development of a management plan is a community action eligible for funding through the [U&CF Grant Program](#), which can assist with the development of the plan, hiring assistance to develop and/or review the plan (1:1 cost match). A professional consultant can help you assess your needs and determine the best approach to creating a document that will effectively guide the community in developing an urban forestry program for its community forest– present and future. A consultant can also help bring the necessary town departments to the table, create a framework for the connections needed to incorporate trees into the various departments planning processes, and help communicate the plan to the leadership and residents of the community.

Look at the grant pages on the DFE website and then contact the U&CF Coordinator for further information.