

DRAFT Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan

Vision, Guiding Principles, and Vision Components

Modified January 9, 2012 by the Urban Forestry Board

VISION

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.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES for the Plan

- a. Greatest Good Philosophy
- b. Wise Use of Resources
- c. Sustainable
- d. Science-Based Decision Making
- e. Public Safety
- f. Industry Recognized Best Management Practices

SIX VISION COMPONENTS

1) Thriving

Definition: A thriving urban forest is one that is optimized according to site and ecosystem capacity.

2) Contiguous Ecosystem

Definition: A contiguous urban forest is composed of interconnected, forested corridors for transportation, community, recreation and wildlife throughout the city.

3) Healthy Ecosystem

Definition: 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

Definition: A valued urban forest is recognized as an asset that is essential to the well-being of the community and the ecosystem.

5) Protected

Definition: Trees are protected through sustainable site design and land management practices so that long-term ecosystem health is maintained.

6) Cared For

Definition: A well cared for urban forest is proactively managed for health, longevity and safety.