

# Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan

## 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.

## MISSION

The purpose of this plan is to establish a standard of care for trees and vegetation on public property and to provide a framework (guidance) for City departments to develop land management plans for their own properties. The result of this Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan will contribute to Austin being the best-managed city in the country.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES for the Plan

- 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

## SIX VISION COMPONENTS

- 1) Thriving  
Definition: A thriving urban forest is one that is optimized according to site and ecosystem capacity.
- 2) Contiguous  
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.