

Austin's Urban Forest Plan

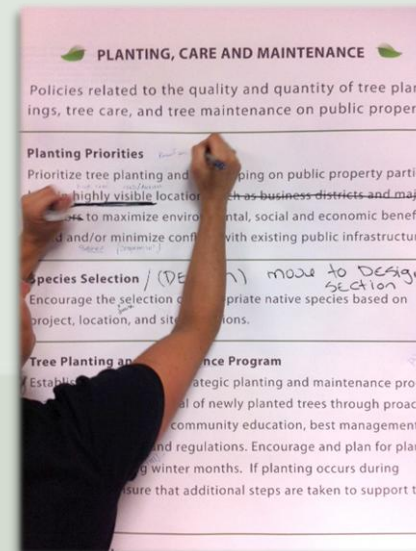
Code Mandated Initiative

§ 6-3-5 and 2-1-183 COMPREHENSIVE URBAN FOREST PLAN.

- The Urban Forester shall provide administrative staff services to the Board in connection with the plan.
- The Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board shall review the plan and make recommendations to the Urban Forestry Board.
- Urban Forestry Board required to seek City Council approval before implementation.

Staff Contributions:


- 45+ staff from 10+ Departments have helped shape the plan



*(Mandated by Austin City Code in 1992)



Urban Forestry Board Plan Activity Since 2011

- **Regular Meetings** – Urban forest plan action, briefing, or discussion at 23 of the 33 meetings held since January 2011.
 - **Special Called Meetings** – Two in 2012 and three in 2013 dedicated primarily or solely to the urban forest plan.
 - **Public Input Workshops** – One in 2012 and one in 2013 designed solely for obtaining public feedback.
 - **Working Group Meetings** – Sixteen overall, with three in 2011, five in 2012, and eight in 2013.
 - **Future** – More of the above, plus working with Urban Forestry staff on implementation after plan adoption.
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Plan Overview

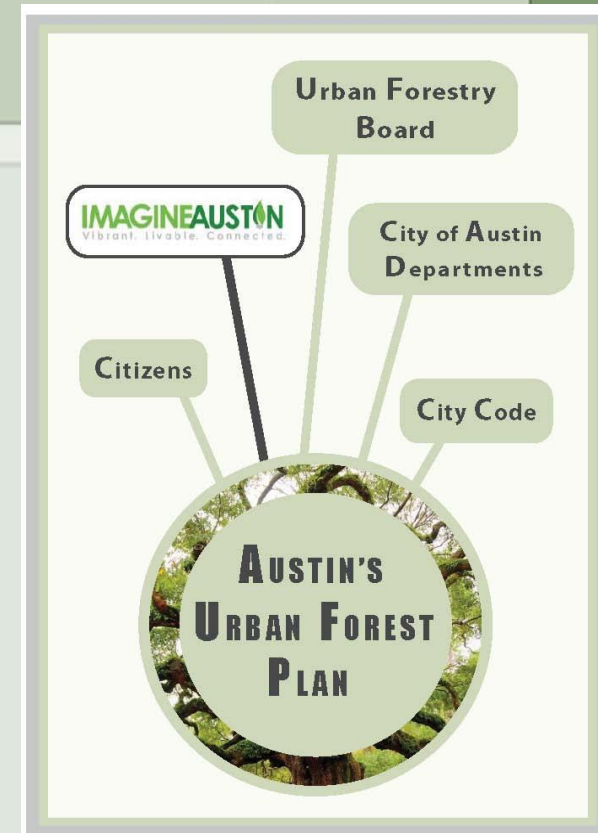
- Scope: public urban forest
- Authors: Urban Forestry Board, inter-disciplinary city staff
- Goal: Broad-scoped, long range vision and strategic management framework for the public urban forest

Imagine Austin makes 69 mentions of the urban forest 20 Priority Actions related to urban forestry

Including:

CE A22 - Create an urban forest plan that identifies tree canopy goals, establishes a budget, and presents implementation measures.

CFS A7 - Revise tree planting and tree care standards to be more sustainable and reduce tree mortality.



Plan Outline & Work Flow Chart

Chapter 1 - INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2 - STATE OF THE URBAN FOREST

Chapter 3 - IMPLEMENTATION

- Implementation Goals
- Policy Elements
- Urban Forester Implementation Responsibilities

APPENDICES

- Austin Performance Indicators Report
- Departmental Operational Plan (DOP) Template

AUSTIN URBAN FOREST PLAN WORK FLOW CHART

1 Plan Creation & Adoption

Year 1 - Plan Implementation

- Performance Indicators baseline updated
- Departmental Operational Plans developed
- Austin Standards of Care developed
- Benchmarks established

3 Year 2 - City of Austin Urban Forester presents Annual Report

- Performance Indicators
- Departmental Operational Plans

4 Year 10 - Austin's Urban Forest Plan Revised

*Urban Forestry Board can initiate a revision at any time.

Policy Elements – *The Plan Framework*

- **Strategic framework to achieve Plan vision**
- **6 Policy Elements Categories**
 - Protection and Preservation
 - Sustainable Urban Forest
 - Planting, Care & Maintenance
 - Urban Forest Management Framework
 - Planning & Design
 - Education & Outreach
- **Departmental Operational Plans (DOPs) will address each of the 58 Policy Elements**

Policy Element	Policy Element Description	Strategy	Please provide a short description of actions taken to achieve this strategy and any related documentation	Action Status <i>*Pulldown menu</i>	Action score	Did you perform this action as a result of AUPF?
Section 2. SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST						
Sustainable Urban Forest Policies are related to sustainability of the urban forest resource itself and the resources related to its management, such as water (and city assets).						
S-1 Species, Age, and Geographic Diversity	Increase species diversity, a regionally-appropriate mix of vegetation, mixed-age populations and a varied distribution of species throughout the City to protect and improve the vigor and the resilience of our urban forest. Align urban forest composition with consideration of predicted climate patterns.	Regionally appropriate vegetation is protected and planted to allow for mixed ages and diverse vegetation.		Started	1	

Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator Categories Include:

- Vegetative Resource
- Community Framework
- Resource Management

Example: Community Framework

Criteria	Key Objective	Performance Indicators				Figure for Most Recent Year
		Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal	
Public agency cooperation	Insure all city departments cooperate with common goals and objectives.	Conflicting goals among departments and/or agencies.	Common goals but no cooperation among departments and/or agencies.	Informal teams among departments and/or agencies are functioning and implementing common goals on a project-specific basis.	Municipal policy implemented by formal interdepartmental/interagency working groups on all municipal projects.	N/A

Community Engagement

2012 | Public Meeting and Opinion Poll

2013 | Public Engagement

- Pop-up events
- Community Workshop
- Online Surveys
- SpeakUp Austin
- austinurbanforestry.org




Result: 2,400 public comments including my personal favorites:

- "A forest is not defined by trees alone."
- "More trees = more hugs = more tree houses = more homes for hippies!"



Boards & Commissions, City Council

- **July 2013** – Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) briefing on the 23rd
 - **August 2013** – Joint PRB/Environmental Board (EB) briefing on the 6th plus memo to EB on the 7th
 - **October 2013** – Present to EB on the 2nd, attend the EB Development Committee meeting on the 14th, receive EB comments on the 16th, and present to PRB on the 22nd
 - **December** – City Council approval
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