

CLIMB TO SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT



N.C. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry

Below are some steps to achieving sustainable urban forest management in your community. Just like a tree, an Urban & Community Forestry Program needs a strong foundation. Working to meet the standards for Tree City USA designation is a great start. Keep growing your program to achieve Managing Community status and “fill out your canopy” with urban and community forestry practices along the way for a truly robust commitment to your community’s urban forest.

NCFS Managing Community

Rotational Tree Maintenance & Planting

Urban Forestry Management Plan

Volunteer Stewardship Program

Development Ordinance

Qualified Forestry Professional on Staff or Contract

Education & Outreach Events

Urban Forestry Standards & Specifications Document

Sample Tree Inventory

Risk Tree Inventory

Media Products & Campaigns

Tree City USA Designation

Tree Canopy Cover Assessment

Public Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Budget

Designated Department or Tree Board for Public Tree Management

Arbor Day Celebration & Proclamation

Citizen Tree Committee

 Required for designation

Definitions

NC Managing Community: A community which meets all six standards.

Rotational Tree Maintenance & Planting: Divides tree work for a municipality into sections so inspection, maintenance and planting occur on regular, equal intervals.

Urban Forestry Management Plan: A document that identifies and prioritizes urban forestry activities based on a professionally-based, tree inventory and/or resource assessment. The document also details the management of the community's trees and forests. At a minimum, the plan must address public trees and be current and actively used within the past five years. This is a requirement for a Managing designation.

Qualified Forestry Professional on Staff or Contract: A person who has a combination of education and experience in arboriculture and urban forestry. This is a requirement for a Managing designation.

Risk Tree Inventory: Identifies structurally defective public trees that pose a safety risk to people and/or property and management need.

Urban Forestry Standards & Specifications Document: Establishes arboricultural and urban forestry standards and specifications for the planting and management of trees and the urban forest.

Development Ordinance: An ordinance triggering review and approval of a site development plan including existing tree resource assessment, preservation and protection, post construction landscape plans, and other land use requirements.

Sample Tree Inventory: A random sample of trees that provides statistically valid urban forestry management information for planning purposes.

Tree Canopy Cover Assessment: An analysis of aerial photography and other types of remote sensing imagery that quantifies the area of a community covered by tree canopy and other land cover types, the ecosystems services provided for planning purposes to assist communities in setting tree cover goals, and where additional tree canopy cover would be most beneficial.

Volunteer Stewardship Program: Community volunteers trained and outfitted to perform basic tree care maintenance practices such as young tree pruning.

Education & Outreach Events: Local urban or community forestry seminars, training sessions and workshops for the public or target audiences.

Media Products & Campaigns: Urban or community forestry educational products and media campaigns.

Tree City USA Designation: A yearly recognition awarded by the N.C. Forest Service and the Arbor Day Foundation to applying communities that have met the four required standards.

Designated Department or Tree Board for Public Tree Management: A department or board that has been designated the responsibility to manage the planting, maintenance and protection of all public trees in the community. This is a requirement for a Tree City USA designation.

Public Tree Ordinance: A municipal ordinance that assigns management authority and clear guidance for the planting, maintaining, protection and removal of trees located on public property and rights-of-way. This is a requirement for a Tree City USA designation.

Urban Forestry Budget: An itemized budget of urban forestry activities for the year. This is a requirement for a Tree City USA designation (\$2 per capita).

Arbor Day Celebration & Proclamation: A public event celebrating Arbor Day and an official municipal proclamation celebrating the benefits of community trees, the work accomplished to plant and maintain them, and Arbor Day. This is a requirement for a Tree City USA designation.

Citizen Tree Committee: A committee of citizens, stakeholders and public officials that works to enhance the management and promote the benefits of trees and the community's urban forest.

Contact your NCFS county ranger. | ncforestservation.gov/contacts

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