

Environmental Commission Resolution Supporting Adoption of the Urban and Community Forest Management Plan

Whereas, Ann Arbor's urban and community forest is a defining and valued characteristic of the city that residents call "Tree Town," making it a desirable place to live, work and play; and

Whereas, Ann Arbor's urban and community forest is made up of the trees, shrubs and woody vegetation growing along city streets, in public parks; and on institutional and private property; and

Whereas, Ann Arbor's urban and community forest provides millions of dollars in benefits to the community each year, including reducing stormwater run-off, improving air and water quality and beautifying the city; and

Whereas, Events over the last decade, like the emerald ash borer, have impacted the city's ability to sustainably care for and manage the urban and community forest putting the city-managed trees at risk; and

Whereas, A planning process was undertaken to develop the city's first Urban and Community Forest Management Plan (UCFMP) to effectively manage the urban and community forest as a sustainable asset, consistent with the values and needs of the community, while maximizing its benefits; and

Whereas, Through a multi-tiered and comprehensive public engagement process stakeholders, community leaders, residents, Environmental Commission members, and city staff shaped the scope, content and direction of the UCFMP; and

Whereas, The 17 recommendations in the UCFMP provide the framework for the development of a sustainable urban and community forest; and

Whereas, The UCFMP identifies measurable targets, actions and recommendations to further goals in the City's Sustainability Framework; and

Whereas, As with all projects requiring significant city investment, relevant components of the UCFMP will be presented to City Council in the future for ultimate authorization;

RESOLVED, That the Environmental Commission recommends that City Council adopt the Urban and Community Forest Management Plan to demonstrate the city's commitment to conserve, protect, enhance and restore the community's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

**Approved by the Ann Arbor Environmental Commission
April 24, 2014**

