

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR
FORESTRY WORK PLAN: Fiscal Year 2022**

The City of Ann Arbor’s annual urban forestry program work plan and accomplishments for fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) are detailed below.

Urban Forest Management and Planning

In FY22 work continued implementing the recommendations in the City’s Urban and Community Forest Management Plan. Forestry’s FY22 activities focused on implementing Year 5 of the city’s 10-year routine street tree routine pruning cycle, continuing tree and stump removals and tree planting. These activities are helping the City to achieve recommendation #1 of the plan, to initiate a proactive urban and community forestry program.

Urban Forest Management Plan Update

In 2014, City Council adopted the city’s first comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). This plan has guided management decisions for the last 6 years. The overarching goal of the UFMP is to sustainably protect, preserve, maintain, and expand our city’s tree canopy and urban and community forest in an equitable manner.

We contracted with Davey Resource Group to help navigate and author the update. Current targets, supporting goals and recommendations will be evaluated through the lenses of equity, climate change, and sustainability to best meet the city’s A2Zero sustainability goals. While most of the focus of the UFMP is the city’s street trees, part trees and private trees will be looked at when looking at the whole urban forest while updating urban canopy cover goals, tree planting initiative(s), and forest health. The project is expected to be complete in spring of FY2023.

Tree Trimming and Removals

The City’s main focus this fiscal year was to continue the City’s routine street tree pruning cycle that was stopped in 2003 during the emerald ash borer crisis, and restarted in FY18. FY2022 marked – Year 5 of the 10-year street tree pruning cycle. City staff also focused on tree removal, stump removal and high priority tree trimming to stay up-to-date on maintenance activities.

Activity	Number of Trees
Trees Trimmed	4,593
Trees Removed	635
Stumps Removed	661
Resident Service Requests Investigated	1,820

Tree Planting

Each year the city commits to planting 1,000 trees per year. The City of Ann Arbor’s planting strategy this year focused on the following priorities:

1. Areas of the city with low canopy cover and large amounts of impervious surfaces. The city recognizes the benefits that trees provide in reducing stormwater runoff and improving water quality and looks to increase canopy cover in areas of the city where it is low.

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2. Areas of the city with an aging tree canopy. Replanting following the removal of senescent trees to maintain canopy cover.

3. Trees on private property. The city recognized that to realistically increase our urban tree canopy, we needed to include private property. In recognition of this, the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) has developed the 10,000 Trees Initiative with the goal of seeing 10,000 new trees planted on private property in the city by the year 2030. The trees added by this initiative will enhance our current canopy cover and will help to make our urban tree canopy more resilient by increasing both species and structural diversity.
(<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/sustainability/Sustainability%20Natural%20Resources/Pages/10,000-Trees.aspx>).

All seedlings distributed through this program are donated to or purchased by the City of Ann Arbor and are provided to residents at no cost. To participate in this program, residents must register for a FreeTree event near them and request your trees, show up at the distribution site on the day of the event, pick up the seedlings in your vehicle, and take them home to plant! Delivery options are also available for those with mobility or access challenges. Tree care and planting information is provided with every tree.

In FY22 the City planted 1,474 trees and gave away 1,445 seedlings. This was accomplished utilizing contractors, City crews and through partnerships with the Elizabeth Dean Fund, the City’s Adopt-A-Park program, and the 10,000 Trees Initiative.

Planting Group	Number of Trees
City Forestry (contractors)	1,349
Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee	79
Adopt-A-Park	14
10,000 Trees Initiative Planting*	32
10,000 Trees Initiative Seedling Giveaway**	1,445

* Trees planted on private property.

** Seedlings given away to be planted on private property.

Arbor Day Celebration

To celebrate Ann Arbor's 41st year as a recognized "Tree City" and to honor Arbor Day, the city worked with the [Elizabeth Dean Trust Fund Committee](#) to plant 2 native trees in Rose Park. Additionally, the Office of Sustainability and Innovations held their spring seedling giveaway where 617 seedlings were given to residents to plant on private property.

Citizen Pruner Program

The Citizen Pruner program resumed in January and early February, with the training of 5 new Citizen Pruner volunteers on how to prune and care for newly planted trees. This brings our number of trained Citizen Pruners to 174. The newly trained volunteers joined the program’s veteran Citizen Pruner volunteers in pruning 116 city street and park trees during two workdays in February and March. Unfortunately, we had to cancel one workday due to an ice storm. The Citizen Pruner volunteers donated 72 hours to help care for Ann Arbor’s Urban and Community Forest!

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Looking Ahead

Tree Pruning. We plan on completing Year 6 of our 10-year routine pruning cycle. This work is critical to the overall health and safety of our urban forest.

Tree Planting. We plan on planting 1,000+ trees in city rights-of-way, parks, and other public properties. Additionally, we plan to plant and give away as 1,000 trees/seedlings on private property through our 10,000 Trees Initiative. In total, we hope to see 2,000+ trees go in the ground throughout our city.

Implementation of our Updated Urban Forest Management Plan. We will begin to review our urban forestry programs and implement updates and action items from our updated UFMP.