

COMMUNITY FOREST PLAN



HEARTLAND 2050

GET INVOLVED

As part of Heartland 2050, a group has begun work on a Community Forest Plan. We are looking for people interested in joining the group to help develop this toolbox/resource for communities to plan and implement sustainable, resilient tree canopy.

TAG

Right tree, right place, right way

VISION

Ambitious plan for communities to implement resilient and sustainable city/town/county/neighborhood canopy in harmony with both the people and the land

URGENCY

Invasive species such as emerald ash borer, silver maple, tree of heaven, and others, quickly threaten the health of our current natural areas and tree canopy. The drastic weather events and climate change creates even more stress on our trees, gardens, and green spaces. While we have a good understanding of trees removed, we do not have an accounting of those that have been replaced primarily by volunteer groups, and cannot easily or quickly replace long-lived species such as the iconic bur oak trees. The re-awakening of an appreciation for our green spaces due to the pandemic is the prime opportunity to tackle a plan which can help all of the surrounding communities.

PURPOSE

We seek to create a plan using inspiration from urban forest plans across the nation to accomplish the following proposed goals:

1. Develop and maintain an up-to-date database of all trees on public property with information about their species, size, condition, and worthiness.
2. Regularly track changes in regional canopy cover, making sure to update calculations of the ecosystem services it provides accordingly.
3. All communities in the greater metro area will reach 30 percent canopy cover by 2030, taking care to ensure tree canopy is diverse in species, genetics, and age.
4. Create and expand regular programs to engage residents about the region's tree canopy to develop public understanding of the importance of resilient ecosystems.
5. Make rectifying racial and economic disparities in environmental conditions central to prioritizing efforts to improve tree canopy throughout the region.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



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