

1. Agenda

Documents: [OPN_20150112.AG.PDF](#)

2. Agenda Packet

Documents: [OPN_20150112.PK.PDF](#)



Tree Advisory Committee
Monday, January 12, 2015
Meeting Agenda
At City Hall
7:00 P.M.

Pursuant to Section 19.82 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Tree Advisory Committee of the City of Fitchburg, Dane County Wisconsin, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2015 in the Meeting Room at the Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711 to consider the following:

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2014
- Public Appearances - Non Agenda Items
- Communication
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Discussion: Arbor Day/Migratory Bird Day Celebration
- Discussion: Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey
- Discussion: Date for Public Informational Meeting
- Discussion: Revision of Five Year Urban Forest Management Plan
- Future Agenda Items
- Adjournment

NOTE: It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711. 608-270-4200.



Tree Advisory Committee
Monday, January 12, 2015
Meeting Agenda
At City Hall
7:00 P.M.

Pursuant to Section 19.82 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Tree Advisory Committee of the City of Fitchburg, Dane County Wisconsin, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2015 in the Meeting Room at the Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711 to consider the following:

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2014
- Public Appearances - Non Agenda Items
- Communication
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Discussion: Arbor Day/Migratory Bird Day Celebration
- Discussion: Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey
- Discussion: Date for Public Informational Meeting
- Discussion: Revision of Five Year Urban Forest Management Plan
- Future Agenda Items
- Adjournment

NOTE: It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711. 608-270-4200.



Tree Advisory Committee
Monday, November 17, 2014
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
At City Hall
7:00 P.M.

Pursuant to Section 19.82 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Tree Advisory Committee of the City of Fitchburg, Dane County Wisconsin, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2014 in the Meeting Room at the Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711 to consider the following:

- **Call to Order**
Called to order at 7:06 PM. In attendance: Rod Bina, Terrell Brock, Chairperson, Diane Dillet, Melinda Douglass, Jeremy Hecht, Ed Bartell, City Forester, Laura Lorentz, LTE Parks and Forestry Assistant
- **Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2014**
Terrell moved to approve, Bina second, minutes approved.
- **Public Appearances - Non Agenda Items**
None
- **Communication**
Bartell discussed
 - Tree planting at Dane County Boys & Girls Club with the Dane County Bar Assoc., Mayor Pfaff and the Urban Tree Alliance 11.2.14
 - Hired Laura Lorentz as Parks and Forestry Assistant LTE
 - Tower Hill Greenway Restoration Plan – to meet with adjacent residents by 12.11.14
 - Adaptive Restoration and volunteers to do dormant seeding at Briarwood Park on 11.20.14
 - Harlan Hills Prairie Volunteers consulted with Steve Banovetz of Field and Stream Restorations to do dormant seeding on 11.20.14
 - Completion of mid-year report for the 2014 DNR Urban Forestry Grant
 - Splash Pad tree-spade planting underway
 - Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan survey
 - Submit Tree City and Growth Award applications by 12.31.14
 - Prepare Spring 2015 Tree Planting Plan and RFP by 12.31.14
 - EAB treatment for remaining one-third of ash trees and ash removals for spring 2015
- **Review and Approve Agenda**
Dillet moved to approve the agenda, Douglass second, agenda approved.
- **Discussion: Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey**
The Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey was reviewed and the following changes suggested:
 - Q5: Include a separate column to address trees ‘on your block’ in addition to park trees
 - Q6: Exclude the words ‘of the following’ in the second part of the question and indent; create two columns for invasive species names; delete ‘Woody and herbaceous plants’
 - Q10: Can be eliminated if there are space constraints
 - Q12: To be replacedAdditional questions from other communities reviewed, and the following questions from ‘Other possible street tree questions’ were suggested for inclusion in the survey:
 - Q1 and Q2 – in the first section of the survey
 - Q18 – may need to be reworded
 - Q19 to replace Q12 in the original survey
 - Q23 – try to reword into ranking question for first section of survey

- Q24 – try to reword into ranking question for first section of survey
- Q27
- Q29 – try to reword into ranking question for first section of survey

Discussed a survey release date of December 19th, to be returned the 2nd or 3rd week of January. This would allow for two articles in the Fitchburg Star (Dec and Jan). Additional possibilities to advertise the survey include FACTv, internal mailing lists (e.g. neighborhood associations), and a notice on the Fitchburg Website Homepage and/or the Parks Homepage.

- **Discussion: Date for Public Informational Meeting**
 - After survey results are analyzed, plan to have a public open house to discuss the strategic plan and ordinance revisions
 - Open house to be held in mid-March, pending the completion of survey results analysis
 - Invite residents to the public open house by including meeting information on the bottom of the Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey
- **Discussion: Revision of Five Year Urban Forest Management Plan**
 - Information from the ‘Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan Haves and Wants’ grid to be transitioned into previously discussed plan format

- **Future Agenda Items**

- **Adjournment**

Douglass moved to adjourn, Bina second, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting will be Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7 PM.

NOTE: It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711. 608-270-4200.

Forestry Report – January 8, 2015

Project

Completion or Due Date

1. Splash Pad tree-spade planting (donation dollars) be completed.	11.14.14
2. Awarded 2015 DNR Urban Forestry Matching Grant application.	11.20.14
a. Project total: \$21,575.00	
b. City Portion: \$10,787.50	
3. Adaptive Restoration completed the	
a. Dormant seeding with volunteers at Briarwood Park	11.20.14
4. Completed mid-year report for 2014 DNR Urban Forestry Grant.	11.28.14
5. Met with Tracy Foss and Cory Horton to discuss 2015 Spring Planting Plan	12.11.14
6. Was not awarded an ATC Grant application for replacing public ash trees.	12.17.14
a. \$5000	
7. Met to discuss changes to EAB Response and Readiness Plan	12.18.14
a. Discuss with Park Commission	1.8.15
b. Present issue to TAC	1.12.15
8. Submit 2014 Tree City and Growth Award applications.	12.31.14
9. Submit report for grant reimbursement from Alliance of Community Trees	12.31.14
a. \$1250	
10. Tower Hill Greenway – Tentative Restoration Plan.	3.20.14
a. Plan budget approved	11.30.14
b. Met with adjacent residents	12.11.14
c. Complete planting plan	1.15.15
d. Set lath for siting trees	3.30.15
e. Meet with residents on site	4.15.15
11. Tree Advisory Committee meeting.	1.12.15
12. Attend Dane County Tree Board Meeting.	1.20.15
13. Public works and parks maintenance staff pruning	1.3.15
a. McGaw Park Pine Trees	
b. Seminole Hills Estates	
c. Lacy Heights	
d. Orchard Pointe	
e. Clayton	
f. Rimrock	
g. Highlands of Seminole	
14. Complete and post Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan survey	1.12.15
a. Close survey	2.6.15
b. Complete analysis	2.19.15
15. Prepare Spring 2015 Tree Planting Plan and RFP.	1.15.15
16. 2014 Urban Forestry Grant Extended.	12.31.15

17. Plan for last third for public ash trees treatments for spring 2015.	3.15.15
18. Harlan Hills Prairie Volunteers	
a. Consult with Field and Stream Restorations – Steve Banovetz	3.16.15
b. Seeding/planting	5.1.15
19. Wood Utilization Research.	Ongoing
20. Remove declining or hazard trees.	Ongoing
a. Remove all flagging or declining ash trees	Ongoing
21. Revise 5 -Year Urban Forest (Strategic) Management Plan with TAC.	Ongoing
22. Continue City Tree Inventory.	Ongoing
a. Completed ROW in Tower Hill, Wildwood South, Country Vineyard, Country Heights, Greenfield/Gold Addition, Briarwood, Tarpleywick, Dommers View, Byrnewood..	
b. Currently working on ROWs in Wildwood then lacy Heights.	
c. LTE working to revise Oak Mapping Project	
i. locate specimen oaks >200 years old & enter data into GIS.	Ongoing
23. Miscellaneous Projects.	
a. Participate in Neighborhood Development Plans as necessary.	Monthly
Responded to more than 75 calls, visits, and e-mails from residents, contractors, etc.	July-Aug

Urban Forestry Grant Application 2015 Calendar Year

Total Project Cost: \$21,575.00

Grant Request: \$10,787.50

Components

1. Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatment
1 inch DBH @ \$2.45/in, 2500 " DBH
- Successful treatment of 250 to 300 ash trees
- Maintain current canopy provided by maturing ash trees

City will treat the final third of its healthy, well-formed ash trees on public lands. With the canopy currently at 23% it is vital to protect what exists as we works towards establishing a canopy goal for the future. Costs include insecticide and materials, staff hours, and equipment usage.

Estimated Cost \$14,000.00

2. Staff training
Attend relative educational sessions: Attend WAA Conference

Estimated Cost \$ 3,275.00

3. Plan Development
Continue the public process of revising the Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan

The Urban Forester with the assistance of the Tree Advisory Committee is revising the City's Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan which will include proposals for ordinance revisions.

Estimated Cost \$ 4,300.00

Alignment with DNR Urban Forestry Goals

1. Describe how your project directly impacts urban forest canopy on private property.
 - NA
2. Describe how your project will increase capacity to provide sustainable urban forestry funding, services or markets after the project is complete.
 - The continued treatment, maintenance, and replacement of ash trees will drive funding for several years to come.
3. Describe how your project will be performed by or directly benefit more than one community.
 - Protecting our ash trees will help to reduce EAB populations which will add a measure of protection to ash trees in neighboring communities.
4. Describe how your existing urban forest inventory will be used to prioritize or direct the project.
 - Inventory is the basis for inspection, condition categorization, treatment, pruning, removal, grinding and replacement decisions which informs annual expenditure decisions and determines fiscal budgeting.
5. Describe how your project will result in an increased capacity to deliver urban forestry education and outreach after the project is complete.
 - Preserving public ash trees will provide an example for residents and property owners to consider how to deal with ash trees on private lands.

Priority EAB Work

1. This project results in an:
 - EAB Insecticide treatment

Long-Term Effect on Canopy and the Benefits it Provides

1. Describe how your project results in the long-term outcome of increased enhanced or preserved area of diverse urban forest canopy or the benefits it provides.

- The long term outcome will be the preservation of mature trees and canopy. The removal of unhealthy or poorly formed ash trees will provide the opportunity to continue to improve the diversity of our forest.
2. Describe how your project improves the sustainability
- Our canopy is currently at 23%. The Tree Advisory committee is currently working on revising the Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan. The plan will establish canopy goals for ensuing years. The ash treatment program helps us sustain much of the City's mature canopy while replacing undesirable trees and increasing diversity.

3. Is your community, or the community where your project will be carried out, a Tree City USA?

- Yes

If yes, specify which Growth Award category(ies) and eligible activity(ies) this project will help satisfy, if any.

- Category C: Planning and Management C1. Tree-Maintenance Budget (9 points)
- Category D: Tree Planting and Maintenance D9. Plans for Donations (3 points)

4. Is your community a Green Tier Legacy Community? If so, how does this project align with your charter strategy(ies)?

- Yes. Through the Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan revision process the Tree Advisory Committee, working through a public process, is incorporating proposals for a tree preservation ordinance and a canopy goal. An analysis of the current canopy has been completed.

Community Urban Forestry Program Development

1. *Community tree inventory &/or canopy assessment*

- We have a current & complete inventory that guides our community tree planting, maintenance & removal decisions & priorities.
 - a. Describe how, if at all, your inventory &/or canopy assessment will be used to direct this project.
 - Inventory guides and informs all decisions regarding treatment, removal, and replacement of ash trees.

2. *Urban forest management plan*

- We have a current, useful, written, inventory-based urban forest management plan.
 - a. Describe how, if at all, your management plan will be used to direct this project.
 - Fitchburg has a useful plan but it is undergoing revision the Tree Advisory Committee to better affect policy. The revised plan will focus on strategic planning and include proposed additions and revisions to the City's Tree and Shrub Ordinance.

3. *Program staffing*

- Public tree planting, maintenance & removal is done by staff, tree service contractors &/or volunteers who have a forestry degree, ISA certified arborist credentials, have completed WI Community Tree Management Institute or have other advanced forestry training.
 - a. Provide name(s), title(s) & credentials:
 - These tasks are managed by the urban forester who is ISA certified and has a forestry degree. Public works and parks staff perform the actual services and participate in related training programs annually.

4. *Tree Ordinance*

- We have one or more tree ordinance(s) that is/are useful for achieving community tree care and management goals.
 - a. Describe how, if at all, your tree ordinance will be used to direct this project.
 - Although the current Tree and Shrub ordinance is adequate, the Tree Advisory Committee is in the process of proposing new clauses through the revision of our Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan that will address issues such as tree preservation, invasives management, heat island effects, restricted and nuisance trees, and vegetation management at the time of plat development.

5. *Advocacy*

- We have an authorized citizen tree board or other organized group actively involved in advising a program of community tree care and protection.
 - a. Describe how, if at all, the tree board or other organized advisory group will be involved in this project.
 - The Tree Advisory Committee consults with the Urban Forester to determine the program's strategic direction and budgetary issues.

Emerald Ash Borer Readiness and Response Plan Meeting Notes

Current Status of Plan

- Treating all ash trees with Tree-äge (emamectin benzoate)
- 406 trees treated to date
 - 151 treated in 2013
 - cost of materials = \$8054.62
 - cost of labor = \$3942.50
 - cost of equipment usage = \$712.80
 - Total cost = \$12,709.92
 - Save-an-Ash donations received = \$1927.26
 - DNR grant reimbursed half of expenditure.
 - 255 treated in 2014
- Approximately 270 trees remaining to treat in 2015
- Assess condition of remaining trees in spring of 2015
 - Contract
 - February 1 to May 15
- Treat remaining trees spring of 2015
 - Between April 15 and May 31
- Remove declining, poorly formed and diseased trees
 - Between January 1 and March 31
 - Notify property owners of removals
- Replace removed trees according to priority and as budget allows

Issues

1. Is the treatment of all ash trees a sustainable practice?
 - a. Growing trees require more time and resources to treat.
 - b. Treatment will be necessary for the foreseeable future.
 - c. Treatment is not a guarantee of protection against infestation.
2. Should all size classes be treated?
 - a. Remove and replace all trees smaller than 6" dbh?
 - b. What is the cost of removals/replacements vs cost of treatment on selected size class?
3. Should all ash be removed over time?
 - a. What would that timeline be?
4. Should certain size classes or specified trees be preserved regardless of cost?
 - a. Determine size class.
 - b. Determine criteria for preserved trees.
5. Should the Save-an-Ash program be offered if all trees are slated for removal?
 - a. Administrative time and costs.
 - b. Documentation protocol.

Fitchburg Arbor Day – Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Come rain or shine!

8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

McKee Farms Park

New This Year

- ❁ The City will again be holding a joint celebration of Arbor Day & International Migratory Bird Day to bring attention to the importance of trees and birds in our community.
- ❁ The celebration will be geared towards kids in grades K-5, but there are activities for all ages.

Program

- 8:30-10:00 - Birding in the park (*David Drake, UW Extension*)
- 9:30 - Arbor Day tree planting with Mayor Pfaff
- 10:15 - Welcome from Mayor; Bird & Tree City Recognition
- 10:30 - Meet the raptors (*Raptor Education Group, Inc*)
- 11:30-12:30 - Tree walk and pruning instruction
- 11:30-12:30 - Build a bird feeder and other kids activities



Ed Bartell, Urban Forester/Naturalist
ed.bartell@fitchburgwi.gov
270-4289

Giveaways! Ice cream!



Fitchburg
Arbor Day & International Migratory Bird Day Celebration
Tentative Schedule & Activities
Saturday Morning, May 3, 2014

8:00 AM -- 9:30 AM.....Intro to birding instruction

9:30 AM.....Arbor Day tree planting with mayor Pfaff

10:15 AM..... Welcome; Bird City & Tree City Ceremony

10:30 AM..... Raptor Education Program (Raptor Education Group, Inc)

11:30 AM..... Tree walk and pruning instruction

11:30 AM --12:30 PM..... Build a bird feeder or other activity

2015 Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey

Fitchburg’s **urban forest** consists of all trees and shrubs on both public and private property within city limits. The Fitchburg Parks & Forestry Department is developing a strategic plan that will guide long-term management of our urban forest and shape future tree policies. Your responses will help us develop a cohesive plan geared towards optimizing the benefits that a well-managed urban forest can provide to residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Benefits of Public Trees

Collectively, the street, park, and other public trees the city manages function as an important part of the city’s infrastructure. Unlike roads, sewers, and other infrastructure, our public trees appreciate in value over time. The benefits they provide to residents fall into three general categories: economic, social, and environmental.

1. Please rate the importance to you of the following economic, social, and environmental benefits provided by our public trees. Circle *one* number on each line:

<i>Tree Benefits</i>	1 Definitely Not Important	2	3 Neutral	4	5 Very Important
Increase property values by improving the curb appeal of neighborhoods	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce cooling and heating costs	1	2	3	4	5
Trees in business and commercial districts attract visitors/customers	1	2	3	4	5
Visual beauty	1	2	3	4	5
Visual buffer between pedestrians and streets	1	2	3	4	5
Provide a sense of place to neighborhood and community	1	2	3	4	5
Calm and reduce traffic speed	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce crime levels	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce stress and improve mood	1	2	3	4	5
Provide nesting habitat and food sources for butterflies, birds, bees, and other wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce noise pollution	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce levels of particulate matter and other air pollutants	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce global warming gases, like carbon dioxide	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce soil erosion caused by stormwater	1	2	3	4	5
Roots filter out pollutants and protect groundwater	1	2	3	4	5
Cooling effect on heat from asphalt and buildings	1	2	3	4	5

2. Complete the following statements about trees on your street. Circle *one* phrase on each line. *Street trees* are the trees between the sidewalk and street, or within 10-15 feet of the road if no sidewalk.

The number of trees on my street is ...	Too few	Enough	Too many
The trees on my street are...	Not cared for	Adequately cared for	Well cared for
The visual diversity of trees on my street is ...	Not enough	Enough	Too much

3. I would like to see the following in my park or on my street (please check *all* that apply):

Park Name: _____

Park	Street		Park	Street	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edible fruit and nut trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	More variety of trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evergreen trees (e.g. pine, spruce)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Native plants/trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall colors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prairie/tall grass areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flowering trees (e.g. cherry, redbud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shade trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	More uniformity of trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shrubs

4. Do you feel that it is important to restore and maintain native woodland communities on public lands?

Yes No

5. Do you feel that invasive plant species are a problem in Fitchburg parks?

Yes No Uncertain

If yes, which do you feel are a problem (please check *all* that apply)?

<input type="checkbox"/> Burdock	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese barberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Burning bush	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiflora rose
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada thistle	<input type="checkbox"/> Norway maple
<input type="checkbox"/> Common buckthorn	<input type="checkbox"/> Reed canary
<input type="checkbox"/> Garlic mustard	<input type="checkbox"/> Teasels
<input type="checkbox"/> Honeysuckle	<input type="checkbox"/> Wild parsnip

6. Which of the following would be your first choice of where the city should plant trees? Please check *one*.

<input type="checkbox"/> Along rural right-of-ways	<input type="checkbox"/> In parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Along streets	<input type="checkbox"/> In people's yards
<input type="checkbox"/> In commercial/industrial areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Near streams/natural/forested areas

7. Which of the following statements most closely represents your opinion about trees? Please check *one*.

<input type="checkbox"/> Allow individuals to remove trees as they wish	<input type="checkbox"/> When trees are removed, replace them
<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve as many as possible	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve only large or unique trees	_____

8. Would you plant trees on your property if offered a monetary incentive?

- Yes No Need more information

9. Would you be willing to pay more in property taxes to better maintain and protect existing trees?

- Yes No Need more information

10. Should the City reallocate existing resources to better maintain and protect existing trees without raising property taxes?

- Yes No Need more information

11. Should the City require that some trees be preserved and new ones planted on sites that are being developed?

- Yes No Need more information

12. Should the City be involved with protecting trees on private properties?

- Yes No Need more information

13. Should the City allow the decision to preserve existing trees to be left up to the developer?

- Yes No Need more information

14. How strongly would you support or oppose city regulations that would provide some level of protection for large, healthy trees on private property? Please check *one* of the following:

- Strongly support Support Oppose Strongly oppose

15. How long have you lived in Fitchburg?

- Less than 3 years
 3 – 5 years
 6 – 10 years
 11 – 20 years
 21 years or more

16. Do you own or rent the place you live?

- Own
 Rent

17. What neighborhood do you live in?

18. What do street do you live one? (*optional*)

19. I would like to learn about/attend trainings on:

- City-wide tree preservation
 Emerald ash borer
 Disease and insect issues of trees
 Invasive species
 Tree identification
 Tree maintenance (pruning)
 Tree/shrub selection and planting
 Other _____

20. Would you like to volunteer for park improvement projects?

- City street and/or park tree inventory
 Invasive plant removal
 Get involved with a community orchard
 Pruning street and park trees
 Trail maintenance in natural areas
 Tree planting

Name (*optional*): _____

Email (*optional*): _____

2015 Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey

Fitchburg’s **urban forest** consists of all trees and shrubs on both public and private property within city limits. The Fitchburg Parks & Forestry Department is developing a strategic plan that will guide long-term management of our urban forest and shape future tree policies. Your responses will help us develop a cohesive plan geared towards optimizing the benefits that a well-managed urban forest can provide to residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Benefits of Public Trees

Collectively, the street, park, and other public trees the city manages function as an important part of the city’s infrastructure. Unlike roads, sewers, and other infrastructure, our public trees appreciate in value over time. The benefits they provide to residents fall into three general categories: economic, social, and environmental.

1. Please rate the importance to you of the following economic, social, and environmental benefits provided by our public trees. Circle *one* number on each line:

<i>Tree Benefits</i>	1 Definitely Not Important	2	3 Neutral	4	5 Very Important
Increase property values by improving the curb appeal of neighborhoods	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce cooling and heating costs	1	2	3	4	5
Trees in business and commercial districts attract visitors/customers	1	2	3	4	5
Visual beauty	1	2	3	4	5
Visual buffer between pedestrians and streets	1	2	3	4	5
Provide a sense of place to neighborhood and community	1	2	3	4	5
Calm and reduce traffic speed	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce crime levels	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce stress and improve mood	1	2	3	4	5
Provide nesting habitat and food sources for butterflies, birds, bees, and other wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce noise pollution	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce levels of particulate matter and other air pollutants	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce global warming gases, like carbon dioxide	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce soil erosion caused by stormwater	1	2	3	4	5
Roots filter out pollutants and protect groundwater	1	2	3	4	5
Cooling effect on heat from asphalt and buildings	1	2	3	4	5

2. Complete the following statements about trees on your street. Circle *one* phrase on each line. *Street trees* are the trees between the sidewalk and street, or within 10-15 feet of the road if no sidewalk.

The number of trees on my street is ...	Too few	Enough	Too many
The trees on my street are...	Not cared for	Adequately cared for	Well cared for
The visual diversity of trees on my street is ...	Not enough	Enough	Too much

3. I would like to see the following in my park or on my street (please check *all* that apply):

Park Name: _____

Park	Street		Park	Street	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edible fruit and nut trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	More variety of trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evergreen trees (e.g. pine, spruce)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Native plants/trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall colors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prairie/tall grass areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flowering trees (e.g. cherry, redbud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shade trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	More uniformity of trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shrubs

4. How strongly would you support or oppose restoration and maintenance of native trees and understory plants on public lands? Please check one of the following:

Strongly support Support Oppose Strongly oppose

5. Do you feel that invasive plant species are a problem in Fitchburg parks?

Yes No Uncertain

If yes, which do you feel are a problem (please check *all* that apply)?

<input type="checkbox"/> Burdock	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese barberry
<input type="checkbox"/> Burning bush	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiflora rose
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada thistle	<input type="checkbox"/> Norway maple
<input type="checkbox"/> Common buckthorn	<input type="checkbox"/> Reed canary
<input type="checkbox"/> Garlic mustard	<input type="checkbox"/> Teasels
<input type="checkbox"/> Honeysuckle	<input type="checkbox"/> Wild parsnip

6. Which of the following would be your first choice of where the city should plant trees? Please check *one*.

<input type="checkbox"/> Along rural right-of-ways	<input type="checkbox"/> In parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Along streets	<input type="checkbox"/> In people's yards
<input type="checkbox"/> In commercial/industrial areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Near streams/natural/forested areas

7. Which of the following statements most closely represents your opinion about trees? Please check *one*.

<input type="checkbox"/> Allow individuals to remove trees as they wish	<input type="checkbox"/> When trees are removed, replace them
<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve as many as possible	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve only large or unique trees	_____

8. Would you plant trees on your property if offered a monetary incentive?

- Yes No Need more information

9. How strongly would you support or oppose paying more in property taxes to better maintain and protect existing city trees? Please check one of the following:

- Strongly support Support Oppose Strongly oppose

10. Should the City reallocate existing resources to better maintain and protect existing city trees without raising property taxes?

- Yes No Need more information

11. How strongly would you support or oppose city regulations that would require some trees be preserved and new ones planted on sites that are being developed? Please check one of the following:

- Strongly support Support Oppose Strongly oppose

12. If you had the opportunity to develop your property, would you be in favor of city tree regulations that required preservation of existing large trees and landscaping or tree planting afterwards?

- Yes No Need more information

13. How strongly would you support or oppose tree removal regulations during property development? Please check one of the following:

- Strongly support Support Oppose Strongly oppose

14. Should the City allow the decision to preserve existing trees to be left up to the developer?

- Yes No Need more information

15. How strongly would you support or oppose city regulations that would provide some level of protection to preserve large, healthy trees on private property (e.g. 200+ year old heritage oaks)? Please check one of the following:

- Strongly support Support Oppose Strongly oppose

16. How long have you lived in Fitchburg?

- Less than 3 years
 3 – 5 years
 6 – 10 years
 11 – 20 years
 21 years or more

17. Do you own or rent the place you live?

- Own
 Rent

18. What neighborhood do you live in?

19. What do street do you live one? (*optional*)

20. I would like to learn about/attend trainings on:

- City-wide tree preservation
- Emerald ash borer
- Disease and insect issues of trees
- Invasive species
- Tree identification
- Tree maintenance (pruning)
- Tree/shrub selection and planting
- Other _____

21. Would you like to volunteer for park improvement projects?

- City street and/or park tree inventory
- Invasive plant removal
- Get involved with a community orchard
- Pruning street and park trees
- Trail maintenance in natural areas
- Tree planting

Name (*optional*): _____

Email (*optional*): _____

2015 Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey – Distribution and Public Awareness Plan

Survey Release Date: Monday, January 12th, 2015

Survey Close Date: Friday, February 6th, 2015

Survey Access:

Online – hosted on Survey Monkey

Hard copy – available at City Hall, Community Center and Library

Advertising:

FitchburgSTAR – Article in January edition, published January 9th, 2015

FACTv – Run graphic display with survey information throughout the open period

City Website – Include Survey Monkey link on city’s homepage

Parks Homepage – Include link to Survey Monkey

Send email with Survey Monkey link and brief narrative about the survey to the following groups:

- Rec Serve list
- Neighborhood Associations
- Common Council
- Mayor Pfaff
- Tree Advisory Committee
- Parks Commission

Reminder:

Send a follow-up email about the survey on Wednesday, January 28th to the following groups:

- Rec Serve list
- Neighborhood Associations
- Common Council
- Mayor Pfaff
- Tree Advisory Committee
- Parks Commission

Language:

We plan to make the survey available in English and Spanish online and in hard copy format.

Possible Insert in FitchburgSTAR:

There is the possibility of including the actual survey in the FitchburgSTAR as an insert. This would be for a fee and has a tight deadline. Final draft of the survey would have to be completed and sent to the STAR no later than December 31st.

Fitchburg
Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan
HAVES and WANTS

A. Governance

HAVES -- The Present	WANTS -- Future Needs	GETTING THERE -- Action
1. Tree and Shrub ordinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs an update • Better control of invasives • Parking lot design: heat island mitigation • Fenceline management by developer or neighborhood association • Tree Preservation • Tree Restriction Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore & research ordinance options • Propose new ordinance language thru TAC • Present to public for input • Revise and propose to Common Council for approval.
2. Planning Ordinances including Smart Code		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action necessary
3. Urban Forest Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and revise • Include strategic component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete revision process to include public input and TAC oversight
4. Rural Residential Development Forest Management Guidelines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action necessary
5. Tree Protection and Pruning Guidelines for Construction Around Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include sidewalk and roadway improvements • Formalize and Ratify? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidelines for public works and contractors for caring for trees during construction.
6. Park and Open Space Proposal		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action necessary
7. Heritage Trees Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize and Ratify? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go public with an approved HTP that involves private trees.
8. Emerald Ash Borer Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and Ratify 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update with current policy and approve
9. Tree Advisory Committee		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action necessary
10. Commemorative Tree Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize and Ratify? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally offer a CTP to the public • Explore other programs • Develop policy-w/ application &

		processing fee
11. List of recommended trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the use of storm water utility credit to encourage tree planting • Energy savings incentives • Create a list of restricted trees - policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore & research utility credits. • Investigate involvement of local electric and gas utilities. • Develop a policy to restrict the sales and planting of specific species (Delaware, OH)

B. Personnel & Maintenance

1. Professional arborist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert to permanent full-time position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose change to 2015 budget
2. Maintenance staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay differential based on skill/training level, e.g. certified arborists etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore & research staffing and job descriptions of other communities • Propose changes to 2016 budget
3. Regular training programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing training programs and certification training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose change to 2016 budget
4. Regular maintenance cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign dedicated arborists in order to maintain regular pruning cycles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire/train parks and public works staff to focus on arboricultural issues.
5. Work order system for acute maintenance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action necessary

C. Budgets and Equipment

1. Budgets for tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose changes as necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ash tree replacements • Explore other funding sources.
------------------------------	---	--

2. Budget for maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose changes as necessary. • Explore other funding sources.
3. Budget for forest restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose changes as necessary. • Explore other funding sources.
4. Maintenance Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose changes as necessary.

D. Tree Data

1. Tree inventory Streets, ROWs and Parks in USA and Rural developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire LTE Parks and Forestry Asst Fall of 2014 to manage inventory.
2. Urban tree canopy assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish canopy goals • Make projections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research optimum canopy goals. • Work with DNR and other orgs to establish the goals.

E. Community Outreach

1. News articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved public awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire LTE Parks and Forestry Asst to research and write timely articles.
2. Public workshops and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More public education and involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and schedule regular workshops
3. Volunteer events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships • Appoint a Program Coordinator • Create a well-organized and consistent volunteer program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire LTE Parks & Forestry Asst to help develop and maintain relationship with stakeholders and donors. • Enlist potential volunteer coordinators. • Appoint a volunteer coordinator. • Train and work with volunteer coordinator to develop and manage volunteer program.
4. Arbor Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore seedling distribution. • Sell seedlings at the Fitchburg Farmer's Market to fund tree planting. • Provide public education opportunities at the Fitchburg Framer's Market. • Creative dramatics with a Arbor Day Theme.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore Eagle School ● Biking tour for Heritage Trees.
5. Individual visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy for private consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a policy to establish guidelines for and control the time spent on private consultations.
6. Public involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploration of a Commemorative Tree Program ● Hold regularly scheduled public awareness and education events and meetings ● Obtain public buy-in on final UFSMP plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involve public in the development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the UFSMP. ○ CTP ● Develop program offering and schedule for public awareness offerings.