

Trees for Anywhere Maryland

Anywhere, Maryland is a city that was built in the 1970's. The streets that run through town are lined with a variety of stores that sell clothing, shoes, food, antiques, Maryland specialty items and pharmacies. When the town was being developed, Norway Maples, Gingkoes, Ashes, Dogwoods, White Mulberries and Oaks were planted along the streets. Today, many of those trees have a number of dead branches and branches that have gone up through power lines. Some tree roots have pushed the sidewalk up, making walking in the area very dangerous. Due to a lot of impervious surfaces and poor drainage basins, a number of the streets have flooding problems during large storms.

The city also has a small park. This park has a playground, a covered pavilion, and a number of benches. The trees around the park are large Oaks, Maples, Cherries, and Tulip Poplars. Smaller trees include Redbuds, Dogwoods, and Flowering crabapple. Some of the park trees have been affected by disease and pests. Due to compaction over time, the roots of the trees are now showing through the soil in a number of areas of the park.

The city of Anywhere is definitely in need of a city makeover that will improve the safety of their community and will align them with the current Watershed Implementation Plan. The problem is half of the members of the city council would like to eliminate the trees from the community saying that it is costing the city too much to manage them. The other half of the city council would like to keep the natural character of the city saying that trees can be incredibly beneficial to a community. They have hired a group of foresters, engineers, and planners to help them give their city the makeover that it needs.

You are the urban forestry advisory committee who will make recommendations to the local council about how they should handle the trees in their community. In your recommendations you must address the following issues:

1. Development of a Urban Forestry Master plan that outlines goals and objectives including any established Tree canopy goals, budget constraints, watershed and ecological needs. Here is where the case is made about both the benefits and hazards of trees within an urban community (economically, environmentally and socially), and the variety of options that are possible for keeping the trees successfully within the community
2. Explain the type of inventory that you would conduct to target tree health, hazards, and maintenance needs. Inventories can be carried out in many ways. The size of the city and the complexities of the resource will determine the intensity. For example, if there are numerous remnants of forest land that are parks or other open space, you would need to include them in the final inventory.
3. Urban Forest Management Plan. This includes the individual strategies used to carry out the goals. Work plans are created that specify the measures needed to implement the Master Plan.