

MANAGEMENT PLAN  
for  
BATH COMMUNITY FOREST

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Dedication: Perhaps the value of an urban forest is best captured and identified in the person of Fred Pecci, Bath's forester for over fifty years. Fred loved and maintained Bath's trees, and agonized over the loss of Bath's trees to disease, storms, and vandalism. The Bath Community Forestry Committee believes Fred Pecci embodies the endurance and value of Bath's Community Forest and dedicates this Plan to him.
- B. Authority: This plan has been prepared pursuant to Chapter 9.0 of the Bath Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Bath City Council August 6, 1997.
- C. Historical Background:
1. Goals: The City of Bath, in the comprehensive plan, includes in its implementation strategy the following goals which affect the community forest:
    - a. The promotion of the availability of, and access to, traditional outdoor recreation opportunities;
    - b. The creation of greenbelts, public parks, trails and conservation easements;
    - c. The protection of valued agricultural and forest resources from development that is incompatible with uses related to agricultural and forestry industries; and
    - d. The recognition and preservation of the community forest as part of the valued archaeological and historic resources of the community.
  2. Bath Community Forestry Committee: In September, 1992, under the auspices of the Bath City Council, the Bath Community Forestry Committee was organized to address and implement these goals. The committee has undertaken since that date to draft this plan as an integral component of the City of Bath's comprehensive plan which strives to best serve the needs and interests of the community forest and the citizens of the City of Bath. Specifically the Committee has undertaken to:

- a. Educate itself and the community about the present and future benefits derived from, and the responsibilities of caring for, Bath's Community Forest;
- b. Develop a natural resources inventory of all the public trees which includes, but is not limited to, such information as condition of present trees, potential value or liability of those existing trees, size, species diversity, and potential sites for planting trees;
- c. Secure funding, particularly long-range financial support, for the community forestry program; and
- d. Draft and present to the community a management plan which addresses the above concerns.

D. Definitions:

1. Community forest; all trees and shrubs found in a City or Town.
2. Public trees; all trees, shrubs and plants on public property, including City rights-of-way.
3. Committee; The Bath Community Forestry Committee.
4. Department; The Department of Parks and Recreation of the City of Bath or its successor and/or its Forestry Division and Forester, Arborist and Tree Warden.
5. Large trees; those species which habitually attain a height of forty-five feet (45') or more.
6. Medium trees; those species which habitually attain a height of thirty (30') to forty-five feet (45').
7. Small trees; those species which habitually attain a height of up to thirty feet (30').

E. Purpose: This plan describes the approach to measuring and evaluating Bath's community forest; goals for maintenance, improvement, and expansion of the community forest; implementation strategies for the goals; and evaluation of the plan.

F. Administration: The plan will be implemented and administered by the Bath Community Forestry Committee (BCFC), hereinafter referred to as the Committee, under the auspices of the Forestry Division of the Department.

**II. MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION:** Through inventories and continuing evaluation, the Committee will expand the knowledge of Bath's public trees. The Committee will coordinate its activities with the Department and assist it in implementation of its Tree Risk Management Policy. All public trees in developed

and undeveloped areas will be included in this activity. Records will be maintained, and special reports of any safety hazards will be made to the Department.

A. Developed Areas:

1. Streetside Trees:

- a. Existing Trees: Working with the Department, the Committee will update the inventory of streetside trees in the City of Bath on a regularly scheduled basis. The inventory will include, but not be limited to, the location, species, size and condition of the trees. The results of the evaluation will include, but not be limited to, quantity, value and diversity.
- b. Planting Sites: The Committee will assess and maintain a record of potential planting sites throughout the City. For the purpose of assessment, to determine if a planting site exists, the Committee will seek locations which provide planting space, site location and proximity to other trees in accordance with the Bath Municipal Tree Ordinance.

2. School Yards: The City of Bath owns the land upon which its schools are situated. An inventory and assessment of these trees will be performed.

3. City Parks: An inventory and assessment of these trees will be performed.

4. Public Boat Launches: An inventory and assessment of these trees will be performed.

5. Cemeteries: An inventory and assessment of these trees will be performed.

6. City Recreational Areas: An inventory and assessment of these trees will be performed.

7. Other City Property: An inventory and assessment of these trees will be performed.

B. Undeveloped Areas:

1. Butler Head: The Committee will administer Butler Head in accordance with the Butler Head Management Policy.

2. Whiskeag Creek Area: The Committee will conduct and complete a full inventory and evaluation of this property. The evaluation will include the assessment of what the City owns in that area, and the resources available to the community there.

3. Other Undeveloped Areas: The Committee will continue to identify these areas. It will conduct and complete a full inventory and evaluation of these properties. The evaluation will include the assessment of what the City owns in that area, and the resources available to the community there.
- C. Records: The information obtained will be stored on electronic and hard copy media. The Department shall provide for the maintenance, storage and retrieval of the records.

**III. GOALS FOR MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT, & EXPANSION:** The Committee will pursue several areas of enhancement of the community forest and the management of Bath's public trees. The management of the public trees includes, but is not limited to, inventory, siting and selection, planting, maintenance, and safety.

A. Inventory:

1. Complete the inventory of number, condition, size, species, and planting sites of public trees within developed areas;
2. Input all inventory information into a database and update the inventory as new plantings, pruning, replacement, and conditions are performed or noted.
3. Develop a long-range tree replacement plan from inventory information.
4. Apply Geographic Information System (GIS) as a management tool.

B. Siting and Selection: In order to preserve and enhance the community forest, this management plan promotes the planting of the right species in the right location.

1. Sites will be selected which allow the tree to grow without the need for substantial growth maintenance.
2. The Maine Urban and Community Forestry Council Recommended Tree Species List or substitutions therefor can be used for guidance when choosing species suitable for planting streetside trees and shrubs in the City of Bath. Reference materials will be made available in the cemetery office so that citizens of Bath have guidelines on the right tree to plant.
3. Dig Safe, the Public Works Department and Bath Water District will be consulted before any planting location near roadways and/or utilities is finalized.

4. Greenbelts and tree plantings will be encouraged at business and retail parking locations whether those parking lots are publicly or privately owned. This encouragement will include coordinating with the Planning Board, Public Works Department and other authorities engaged in snow removal to choose species and sites which will not be adversely affected by, nor impede, the piling of snow and ice.
- C. Planting: Proper planting techniques will be observed and enforced in all City contracts for the planting of Trees and Shrubs.
1. Maine Landscape and Nursery Association Landscape Contract specifications or substitutes therefor will be followed and enforced as a minimum standard. These standards address mulching, fertilizing, watering, and staking requirements.
  2. The Committee will maintain and make available to the City and the public, a library of accepted planting procedures located at the cemetery office. The procedures will contain information on types of soil condition, use of amendments, proper preparation of the hole, handling of the root ball, root control, watering, mulching and other factors affecting successful planting of trees to ensure robust survival of the tree.
- D. Maintenance: Annual maintenance plans will be adopted for all public trees.
1. Soil conditions can be managed through fertilization (non-toxic, environmentally sound) and limited soil amendment.
  2. Disease and insect control through natural methods, if possible, will be given preference.
    - a. Resistant stock and species will be used.
    - b. Age and species diversity will be maintained.
  3. Waste wood and stumps will be removed and disposed of in a manner that ensures that diseased conditions are not spread.
  4. The maintenance plan for new plantings will include watering, weeding, mulching, staking, and inspections for three years or as necessary.
  5. Pruning. Healthy trees require a regular pruning schedule to preserve and control their health and appearance.

- a. A maintenance plan will be prepared using the inventory database which will provide for a seven-year pruning cycle such that each public tree in the City of Bath is pruned as necessary.
  - b. Pruning will be performed in accordance with the National Arborist Association Pruning Standards for Shade Trees.
  - c. The Committee will maintain and make available to the City and the public, a library of accepted pruning procedures at the cemetery office.
- E. Safety. Trees whose condition is determined to be hazardous or potentially hazardous during the inventory will be inspected each year. The twelve-point evaluation system of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) will be used to evaluate any potential hazard. Hazardous trees will be removed. The City Arborist will assist the Department in planning maintenance in accordance with the Department's Tree Risk Management Plan.

#### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:**

- A. Education. A three tier plan of educational goals will be implemented in order to promote the community forest as an asset of the community. The three tiers are to foster partnership with City officials and employees, educate school children, and educate the general public and Committee members.
1. Foster partnership with City: The needs of other departments will be assessed in conjunction with those departments. Standards of operation to benefit and increase long term health of the public trees will be developed and implemented.
  2. Educate School Children: The City Arborist will assist in creating and implementing lesson plans for teachers so that the value of the forest to the community is shown.
  3. Educating the General Public:
    - a. This educational goal will be implemented by the dissemination of written information concerning the value, protection, and care of trees.
    - b. The community will be informed through public outreach programs that the Committee will be available to it as a resource for information and assistance.
    - c. The Committee will encourage volunteers to assist in maintaining the City's public trees.

- d. The Committee will publish a periodic newsletter to promote awareness of the community forest and inform the public of forestry activities.
  - e. A website will be established and maintained containing information on the community forest, the Committee and the care of trees.
- B. Financial Support. Implementation of sound fiscal policy with regard to the management of the public trees will be undertaken.
- 1. The Committee will have authority to assist the City Council and City Employees in evaluating the fiscal needs and capacity of the City in preserving and expanding the community forest.
    - a. The City Arborist, will review proposed forestry work with various other departments to consolidate all forestry related work under the aegis of one department.
    - b. The Forestry Division will continue to request from the general budget of the City, moneys necessary to enhance and preserve the City's public trees.
  - 2. The Committee will seek funding from various sources.
  - 3. The Committee will raise funds for Committee needs. For example, these funds can be earned from the sale of seedlings raised at a City-run nursery; sale of lumber or pulp derived from the removal of hazardous streetside trees; and the sale of informational booklets and useful souvenir items that promote the community forest.
  - 4. The Committee will oversee the management of the Bath Community Forestry Trust. Committee members will act as the trustees of the Trust and report on the status of the Trust twice a year. The trustees will make recommendations to the City Financial Officer regarding management of the Trust's funds. The Trust will have as its objectives the generation of funds for assistance to care for and maintain the existing and future public trees in the City of Bath; to plant new trees throughout the City of Bath; to remove hazardous public trees and limbs on public trees; to promote sound forestry policy in the City-owned forested lands, and to purchase specialized equipment needed for the care, maintenance, removal, and re-planting of public trees,.
- C. Volunteer Operations. Active volunteer participation from a broad spectrum of the community will be promoted, solicited, and encouraged by the Committee.

- D. Enforcement. Committee members will be aware of activities and work being performed within the City and will be knowledgeable of the terms of the tree ordinance. Any suspected violations of the ordinance will be reported to the City Arborist.

**V. EVALUATION OF PLAN:** This Management Plan will be reviewed and, if deemed necessary, revised, no less than once every five years.

**VI. REFERENCES:**

- A. Bath Municipal Tree Ordinance

**VII. REVISION HISTORY:**

Rev.	Date	Page	Paragraph	Description
-	11/24/93			Initial issue
A	5/31/01			
B	10/6/03	6	III, D, 5, a	“seven” was “five”, two places.
C	8/25/10	1	I, B	Deleted second sentence.
		2	I, C, 2, a	Added both commas.
		2	I, C, 2, b	“public” was “streetside” and added “, but is not limited to,” after “...includes”.
		2	I, D, 1	Deleted. Renumbered remaining definitions.
		2	I, D, 4	“Parks and Recreation” was “Cemeteries and Parks”. After “City of Bath” added “or its successor” After “...Forester” added “, Arborist and Tree Warden”.
		2	I, D, 5	“feet (45’).” was “(45) feet”.
		2	I, D, 6	“(30’)” was “(30)”. “feet (45’).” was “(45) feet”.
		2	I, D, 7	“feet (30’).” was “(30) feet”.
		2	I, F	After “...Department” deleted “of Cemeteries and Parks”.
		2	II	The first two sentences were “Through continuing inventories and evaluation, the Committee will expand the pool of knowledge on Bath's community forest. The Committee will coordinate its activities with the Department of Cemeteries and Parks and assist the Department in implementation of its Tree Risk Management Policy.
		3	II, A, 1, a	Was “The Committee, through volunteers overseen by the Committee and consulting urban

Rev.	Date	Page	Paragraph	Description
				foresters, will update the inventory of streetside trees in the City of Bath on a regularly scheduled recurring basis. In updating the streetside inventory the Committee will include all trees which are located ten feet or less from the edge of the roadway. That inventory will include an analysis of the number, species, size, condition, fair-market appraisal value and diversity of streetside trees.”
		3	II, A, 1, b	Was “The inventory will also include an assessment of potential planting sites throughout the City. For the purpose of inventory, to determine if a planting site exists, the Committee will seek locations which provide planting space, site location and proximity to other trees in accordance with the Bath Community Forestry Ordinance. The Committee will also seek locations unfettered by overhead or underground utilities or other human interferences. The spacing and location provisions of the ordinance are summarized as follows:”
		3	II, A, 1, b, (1), (2) and (3)	Deleted
		3	II, A, 2	Deleted the second and third sentences and substituted “An inventory and...will be performed.”
		3	II, A, 3	Deleted “Waterfront Park and”. Text was “An inventory will...and City Park.”
		3	II, A, 4	Deleted “North and South End - Parks” and substituted “Public” Text was “Inventories will be made of these two sites.”
		3	II, A, 5	Text was “the Committee will...all cemetery areas.”
		3	II, A, 6	Added.
		3	II, A, 7	Added.
		3	II, B, 1	Deleted “update the inventory conducted in 1987.” and substituted “administer Butler Head... Management Policy.”
		3	II, B, 2	Deleted the third sentence.
		3	II, B, 3	Added.
		4	II, C	Deleted “computer software designed...the community forest” and substituted “electronic and hard...of the records”.



Rev.	Date	Page	Paragraph	Description
				“and” and deleted “and to retain...part-time urban forester”.
		7	IV, D	“City Arborist” was “Cemeteries and Parks...the appropriate Department”.
		8	VI	Added.
		8	VII	Added.