

# **Urban and Community Forestry**

## **Rapid Assessment Worksheet**

**Excellent urban and community forestry programs provide mature tree care, have mechanisms to protect existing canopy, and plant new trees. They have staff and citizen capacity to carry out objectives. They have ordinances or other policies to protect the urban forest. They work with partners, educate residents and leaders, and have sufficient funds and resources to achieve all of this.**

**Use the assessment checklist worksheet below to rate where your community is currently on the road to developing a excellent urban and community forestry program.**

**For more information on developing your urban and community forestry programs, please contact DEM's Urban and Community Forestry Staff at:**

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[www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/forestry/urban/index.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/forestry/urban/index.htm)

# Initial → Formative → Developmental → Sustained

## Mature Tree Care:

Reactive removal of hazard trees

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Periodic care of significant trees in community or at request

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Cyclical maintenance program for entire community

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Cyclical maintenance and young tree training program

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## Conserving and protecting existing canopy:

None

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We have zoning bylaw &/or subdivision regs. that protect trees

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Our town is purchasing land or easements to protect forest

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Town actively manages forests for other econ. & env. Benefits

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## Planting Programs:

No planting program

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Occasional planting in high visibility areas

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Annual planting program

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Planting > removed, thru-out comm.

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## Community Capacity:

No current capacity for tree management

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Active Tree Warden / Tree Crew

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Tree Warden / Department with training and experience

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Certified Arborist and fully trained crew

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## Legal and Policy:

Not currently following existing State laws

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Enforcing State and other applicable laws

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Local ordinance building on laws to protect public trees

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Advanced ordinance adding pvt. tree protection, etc.

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## Managing through Partnerships:

Occasional partnerships on specific projects

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Citizen involvement in U&CF through tree board or other

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Ongoing partnership with utilities an /or other U&CF mgrs.

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Tree Board and ongoing p'ships with various mgmt agencies

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## U&CF Education and Awareness:

No educational programs

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Annual awareness event such as Arbor Day

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Some info materials distributed to citizens

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Ongoing ed programs for youth and adults

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## Funding U&CF Program:

Some local funds for emergency tree care

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Minimal local funds for basic tree care along with some grants

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Sufficient local funds along with occasional grants and pvt donations

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Mix of local funds, grants and private \$, enough for mgt plan

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