Urban Forestry Management Plans:
A Roadmap for Managing Your Trees

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What is a UFMP?

A roadmap for a shared **VISION** of an urban forest, providing direction for **PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT** to ensure that trees provide maximum, long term benefits to a community.

It can include:

- Budgets
- Inventories
- Schedules
- Policy & procedure manuals
- Standards
- Public Education & monitoring plans
- Existing Ordinances
- Goals

Street Trees
- Maintenance
- Enforcement

Park Trees
- Maintenance
- Enforcement

Planning Department
- Protecting Old Trees
- Planting New Trees

Engineering
- Standards

Politicians
- Budget
- Passing Policy

Non-Profit / Community Organizations
- Advocacy

UFMP: Getting Everyone on the Same Boat

Answer Three Basic Questions

1. Where are we now?

2. Where do we want to be?

3. How do we get there?

What is the "Toolkit"?

This website provides a "how-to" approach to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). The toolkit will lead you through a planning process.

Would you like to help your community protect and expand its tree resources? If so, this tool will guide you and other community members through the process of developing a strategic plan for the management of urban trees and **green infrastructure** . Each UFMP is unique and varies by many factors, including desired outcomes of the community.

Management decisions of today will influence the amount and types of benefits derived from the urban forest for future generations. If you want to attain a sustainable urban forest with healthy trees that provide a multitude of benefits, use this website.

Guiding Questions

🍃 Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit

PLANNING STEPS

Pre-planning

WORK PLAN

The work plan information that you gather will be included in the "Introduction" part of the UFMP. See sample **Table of Contents** of UFMP

Why do you need to develop a plan?

Who are the people whose support you will need?

Where will the geographical limits be?

What areas/trees will be addressed?

When will the plan be developed, and how long will the plan cover?

How is the plan going to be developed? (e.g. personnel - funding)

Plan Development

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

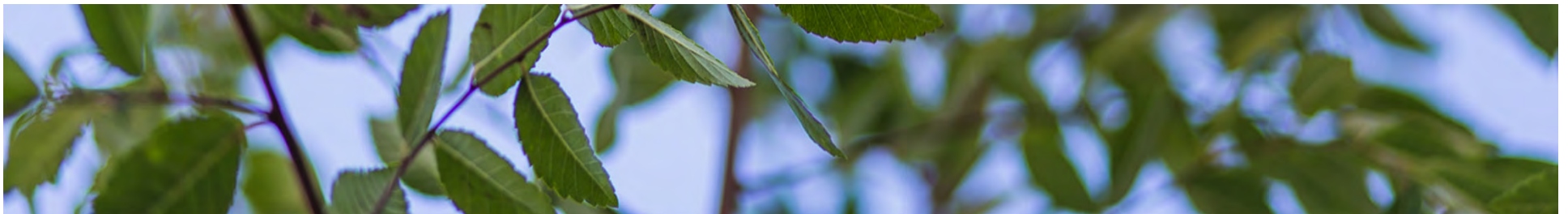|	
Vision	*What do you want?*
Inventory and **Assess**	*What do you have?*
	Collect data to understand the current state of the urban forest and its management.
Strategic Plan	*How do you get what you want?*
	Analyze data and identify issues and trends over time. Prioritize needs and opportunities. Goals, objectives, actions based on your vision and analysis.
Implementation (Action) **Plan**	*Who will take action and when?*
Monitoring Plan	*How will you know when you're achieving your goals?*

Compile the documents for public review, revise as needed, and obtain approval. See sample **Table of Contents** of UFMP.

Post-planning

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Monitor, evaluate progress, and revise a needed. *Are you getting what you want?*

UFMP Toolkit: Pre-Planning

VISION

INVENTORIES & ASSESSMENTS

CONTEXT		VEGETATION		MANAGEMENT			COMMUNITY	
HISTORY	ENVIRONMENT	CANOPY	TREES	RESPONSIBILITY	PLANS POLICIES REGULATIONS	PRACTICES	VALUES	ISSUES

Findings   Findings   Findings   Findings

UFMP Toolkit: Define Your Scope

Example Scope Table

Check those of interest	What will be assessed?	Managed by (specify, e.g., city, residential, commercial, etc.)	Geographic limits (specify, if applicable)	Other (specify)
	Overall canopy cover	(All)		
	Street trees			
	Facility trees			
	Parking lot trees/Shading			
	Park trees			
	Heritage trees			
	Open space trees			
	Other: specify			

Ready to Get Started?

- **Step 1:** Establish Partnerships & Write Scope of Work

- **Step 2:** Hire a Consultant

- **Step 3:** Form & Grow a Formal Working Group

- **Step 4:** Write the Plan

- **Step 5:** Adopt the Plan

Step 1: Establish Partnerships & Write Scope of Work

Step 2: Hire a Consultant!

Create a Review Committee to Review RFPs

Who Should You Include?

- Organizing Agency
- Reps for Mayor/Council
- People Who Touch Trees:
  - Park Trees
  - Street Trees
  - Planning
- Non-Profit/Community Orgs
- Community Rep –
  Look to your "Tree Board"
- Funding Agency

Step 2: Hire a Consultant!

Step 3: Form a Working Group

Consultant collaborates with a larger working group on the Scope of Work, creating buy-in from a large cross-section of organizations:

- Mayor's Office
- Council Offices
- Recreation & Parks (Park Trees)
- Bureau of Street Services (Street Trees)
- Planning Department
- Utility
- Non-Profit / Community Organizations
- Community Forestry Advisory Committee (Tree Board)
- U.S. Forest Service & CAL FIRE (Funders)
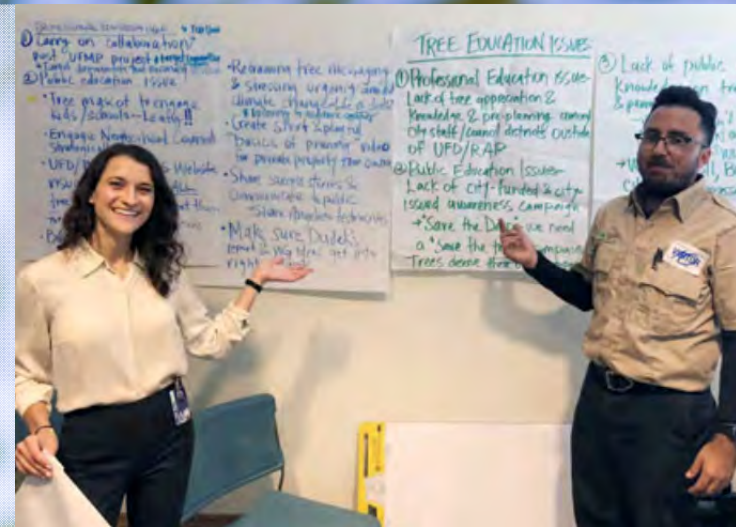
WORKING GROUP MEETING

LA's Working Group

Step 4: Write the Plan

FIRST STEP

Developing an Urban Forest Management Plan for the City of Los Angeles

Key Findings: Comparative City Study

Table 2
Comparison City Results

City	New York City	San Francisco	Melbourne	Los Angeles
Population	8,622,698	884,363	135,959	4,030,000
Street Tree Total	666,134	125,000	50,000	700,000
Park Tree Total	140,000	131,000	25,000	150,000–300,000
Urban Forest Budget	$57 million	$19 million	$4.6 million	$25,395,000 – Total $21,595,000 – UFD $3,800,000 – RAP
Per-Capita Spending	$6.61	$21.48	$33.83	$6.30
Per Tree Spending	$70.71 (all public trees)	$74.21 (all public trees)	$61.33 (all public trees)	$25.40 – $29.87(all public trees) $30.85 (street Trees) $13–$25 (park trees)
UFMP	No	Yes for street trees	Urban Forest Strategy Plan	No
Tree Stocking Rate Goal	Estimated new street tree potential as of the 2015 Street Tree Census: 240,000	2,500 per year to 2034 to reach goal of 155,000 street trees	3,000 per year to increase canopy from 22% to 40% by 2040	None
Tree Establishment Care	2 years	3 years	2 years	None

STREET TREE TRIM CYCLES

■ Trim cycle ■ Best Management Practices (5-7 years)

70 years	
60	
50	
40	
30	
20	
10	
0	

2001 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13 '14
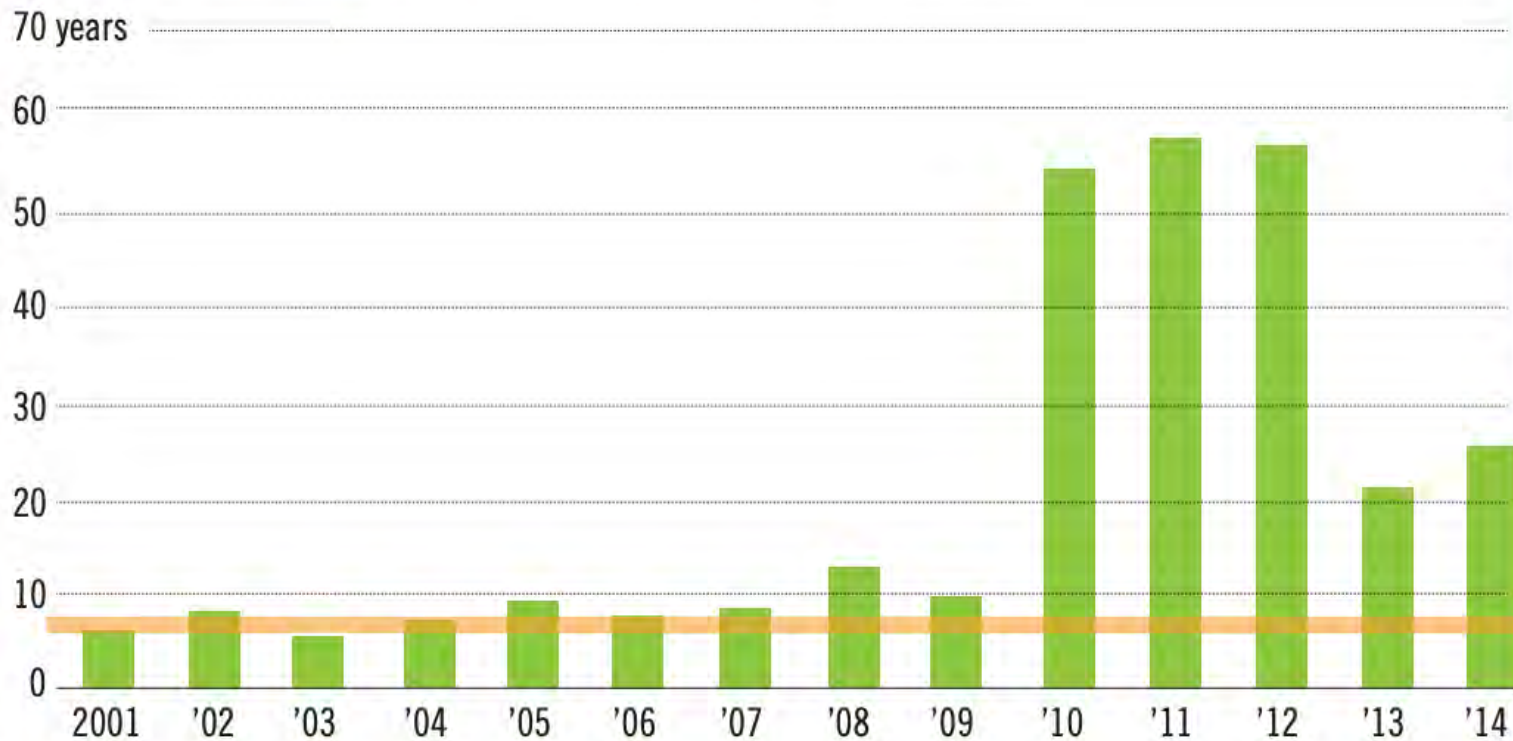
Source: 2015 BSS State of the Street Trees Report

Key Findings: Budget Gap

Table 4 — Existing vs. Needed Recreation and Parks Urban Forestry Funding		
Tree Planting	**Crews**	**Trees Planted Per Year**
RAP FY 2018/2019	1	630
Planting Towards Filling All Vacant Sites	6	1,000
Gap to sustainability	5	370
Tree Establishment Care	**Crews**	**Trees with Establishment Care**
RAP FY 2018/2019	1	630
2- to 3-year establishment care	6	3,000
Gap to sustainability	5	2,370
Tree Trimming and Related Maintenance	**Crews**	**Trees Trimmed Per Year**
RAP FY 2018/2019	1	814
5- to 7-Year Trimming Cycle	6	5,000
Gap to sustainability	5	4,186
Dead Tree and Stump Removal	**Crews**	**Dead Trees/Stumps Removed Per Year**
RAP – FY 2018/2019	1	549
No dead trees left standing at end of year	6	2,500
Gap to sustainability	5	1,951
RAP Managed Golf Courses	**Crews**	**Golf Courses Managed**
RAP – FY 2018/2019	0	0
Manage All RAP Golf Course Trees	3	15
Gap to sustainability	3	15
RAP Funding	**Programs**	**Total Budget Per Year**
FY 2018/2019	$1,900,000	$3,800,000
Sustainable level	$8,400,000	$16,800,000
Gap to sustainability	$6,500,000	$13,000,000

RAP = Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks; FY = fiscal year

Key Findings: Budget Gap

Table 3		
Existing vs. Needed Urban Forestry Division Urban Forestry Funding		
Tree Planting	**Funding**	**Trees Planted Per Year**
UFD – FY 2018/2019	$790,790	800
Replace all removed trees	$3,459,706	3,500
Gap to sustainability	$2,668,916	2,700
Tree Establishment Care	**Budget**	**Trees with Establishment Care**
UFD – FY 2018/2019	$399,689	800–1,500
2- to 3-year establishment care	$3,255,500	7,000–10,000
Gap to sustainability	$2,855,811	6,200–8,500
Tree Trimming and Related Maintenance	**Budget**	**Trees Trimmed Per Year**
UFD – FY 2018/2019	$4,180,138	27,000
To reach 5- to 7-year trimming cycle	$18,578,391	120,000
Gap to sustainability	$14,398,253	93,000
Dead Tree and Stump Removal	**Budget**	**Dead Trees/Stumps Removed Per Year**
UFD – FY 2018/2019	$988,072	1,600
No dead trees left standing at end of year	$2,161,500.00	3,500
Gap to sustainability	$1,173,428.00	1,900
UFD Funding	**Programs**	**Total Budget Per Year**
FY 2018/2019	$6,358,689	$21,595,000
Sustainable level	$27,455,097	$65,000,000
Gap to sustainability	$21,096,408	$43,405,000

UFD = Urban Forestry Division; FY = fiscal year
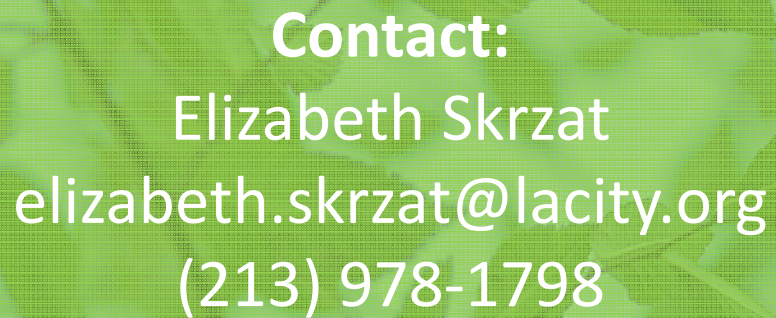
Key Findings: Proposed Governance Structure
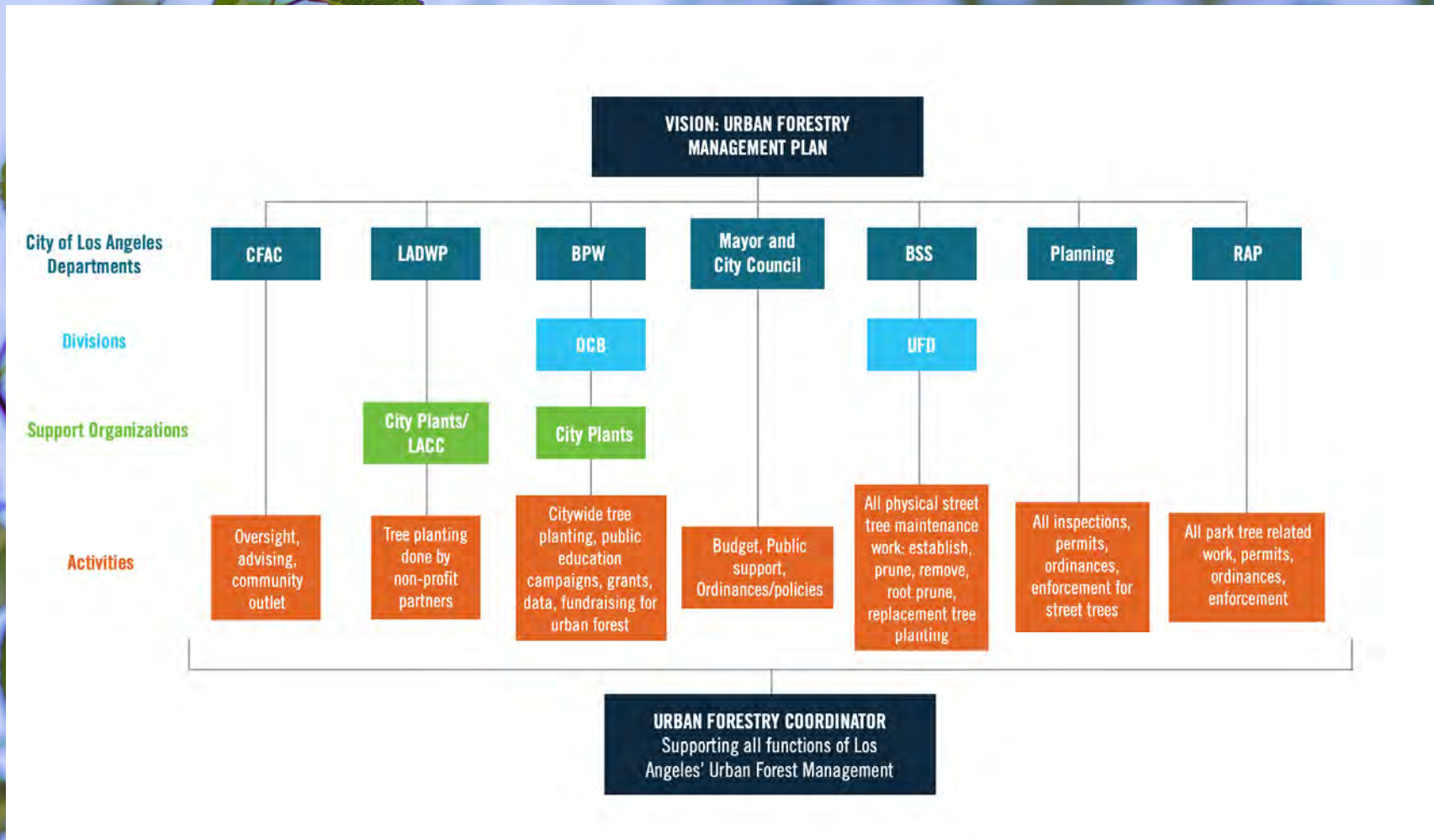
Step 5: Adopt the Plan

Thank you!

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