



City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department

# Municipal Forestry Program Plan







*A Place To Call Home*

**CITY OF HENDERSON**  
240 S. Water Street  
P.O. Box 95050  
Henderson, NV 89009-5050

---

The City of Henderson's municipal forest consists of more than 30,000 street, park and median trees, approximately 290 trees per square mile. This carefully managed resource, valued in the millions of dollars, stores and removes from our air thousands of tons of carbon each year. These trees intercept pollution, reduce stormwater runoff, and reduce energy consumption.

The Parks and Recreation Department's integrated approach to managing our municipal forest serves as a guide in preserving the canopy we have today as well as and counsels us as we continue to seek practical and innovative methods to care for and expand upon this necessary community asset.

A municipal forest has many community, economic, environmental and social benefits:

- Climate moderation
- Habitat for birds and other wildlife
- Increased property values
- Make our trails and walkways more inviting, encouraging walking and biking
- Provide respite from the summer sun
- Provide traffic calming when located near roadways

Research shows that just the sight of trees can calm the entire body, making us more relaxed. By following the guidelines and policies set forth in our municipal forestry plan, we can ensure that the many benefits of urban trees can be broadened to reach more residents, neighborhoods, schools, parks, and commercial areas. This plan provides the framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program in Henderson.

Sincerely,

Shari Ferguson  
Parks and Recreation Director



# Table of Contents

---

Vision and Purpose Statements . . . . .	1
Executive Summary . . . . .	2
Introduction . . . . .	3
Municipal Forestry Program Goals . . . . .	6
Urban Forestry Asset Management . . . . .	8
City of Henderson Municipal Forestry Tree Care Initiatives . . . . .	10
Moving Forward: Implementing the Plan. . . . .	22
Attachment A: Regional Plan List. . . . .	23

---



# City of Henderson

## Vision

To be America's Premier Community.

## Mission

Provide services and resources that enhance the quality of life for those who live, learn, work and play in our city.

---

# City of Henderson

## Parks and Recreation Department

### Purpose

To advance quality of life by providing, revitalizing and maintaining premier infrastructure, parks, facilities and diverse recreation experiences to meet existing and future needs of our community.

---

## City of Henderson Municipal Forestry Program

### Vision

We envision the municipal forestry program as a community engagement program that cares for and enhances our municipal forest for current and future generations to enjoy.

### Program Statement

To preserve, protect, maintain and enhance Henderson's municipal forest through proper management and care of city trees.

# Executive Summary

The City of Henderson's urban forest is an asset that offers value to taxpayers by providing benefits through beautifying the environment, reducing pollution and storm water runoff, increasing carbon sequestration, energy savings, and citywide cooling benefits. Conversely, an unmanaged urban forest can lead to costly infrastructure repairs, public safety hazards, and unmitigated liability.

This document offers a management plan that administers the overall municipal forestry program for the City of Henderson:

## Components critical to creating a successful municipal forestry program

- Asset management for the City of Henderson's urban forest.
- The City of Henderson's urban forestry goals.
- A description of internal urban forestry tree care initiatives and an explanation of community-based educational outreach programs.

This plan describes and quantifies the city's urban forest as a public asset. It also highlights the social and environmental impact of trees and establishes proper tree care practices on public and private property.





# Introduction

Trees have a vital role to play in the battle against climate change. Trees benefit our environment by filtering harmful gases and storing carbon. Trees are an environmental remediation tool that provides increased benefits over time. Trees provide shade and shelter, which conserves energy and regulates temperature. They provide beauty, shade and solace to our residents, and are a vital component of the overall well-being and health of the city.

The main purpose of this plan is to identify how to maximize the benefits of the urban forest while reducing and managing the costs and risks associated with trees. The city's urban forest consists of tens of thousands of trees growing in parks, along bike trails, streetscapes, municipal buildings, recreation centers, and in residential landscapes. This resource requires management to ensure preservation, restoration, and enhancement.

This plan also addresses the critical issues facing the city's municipal forestry program. The strategic priorities and goals presented are key factors necessary to implement proper planning and will assist when prioritizing resource allocation decisions.

## What is the urban forest?

"The urban forest may be defined as the sum of all woody and associated vegetation in and around dense human settlements, ranging from small communities in rural settings to metropolitan regions. Urban forestry management is the establishment and care of this resource."<sup>1</sup>

The USDA Forest Service defines the management of the urban forest as "the planning for and management of a community's forest resources to enhance the quality of life. The process integrates the economic, environmental, political and social values of the community to develop a comprehensive management plan for the urban forest. The urban forest is not only present on city property, but is present throughout the full city, regardless of property ownership."<sup>2</sup>



- 
1. Miller, Robert W., 1940. Urban Forestry: Planning and Managing Urban Greenspaces – 2nd edition p.27
  2. USDA FOREST SERVICE.1990. Urban Forestry Five-Year Plan: 1900 through 1994.Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry.

## The Scope Of Our Urban Forest

This plan is intended to be a working document that will be reviewed and updated as the city's municipal forestry program is amended. The program is representative of the city's green infrastructure needs. Currently, the City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department's municipal forest consists of approximately 30,000 trees in addition to:

- 1,284 acres of trees with plans to expand park acreage to 1,105 - an increase of nearly 600 acres of trees.
- 70 miles of trails with plans to expand trails to 111 miles.
- 21 acres of maintained landscapes at police and fire stations.
- 7 fully landscaped recreation centers totaling 58 acres.
- 28 acres of municipal buildings, complexes, including City Hall, Justice Facility, wastewater, and other utility buildings.







## The Benefits Offered By Our Municipal Forest

Trees are an important asset in the City of Henderson. Our trees stretch across the city and have a direct, positive influence on residents' quality of life. They are a vital part of the city's green infrastructure and the contributions they make benefit residents in physical, psychological and emotional ways. The benefits listed below are only an abbreviated list, and are adapted from the "Desert Southwest Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planning" by Gregory E. McPherson, et al.

- Trees improve air quality by absorbing gaseous pollutants, intercepting particulate matter, releasing oxygen.
- Trees save energy by reducing air conditioning needs, blocking hot and cool winds, and providing shade, thereby reducing the heat island index.
- Trees reduce storm water runoff and pollutant loading by intercepting rain and holding soil by their roots.
- Trees provide aesthetic, social, and health benefits. They add color and texture, line and form to soften hard geometric building and streets. Trees foster safer and more social neighborhoods. Research on hospitalized patients with views of nature and time spent outdoors indicate they need less medication and sleep better than patients without nature views or time spent outdoors.
- Trees increase property values and foster safer neighborhoods. Research now indicates that shoppers in well-landscaped business districts are willing to spend up to 12 percent more for goods and services.

## Maximizing Our Green Infrastructure In the Mojave Desert

Tree-related benefits are maximized through a managed tree program because the urban/desert environment is a difficult place for trees to survive. Research shows the average life span of a city tree nationwide is seven years, but the average lifespan of trees in a municipal environment should be more than 30 years. Tree longevity can be impacted by construction activities, pollution, poor soils, restricted root space, vandalism, insects, and disease. Henderson is located within the harsh Mojave Desert, which makes growing trees even more difficult. It is the most arid desert in North America and averages only two to four inches of rain annually. The area is known for its hard caliche soils, low organic material and high alkalinity.

The municipal forestry program will help to extend the lives of trees by planning and implementing programs that provide the specialized care needed for proper growing conditions. In order to maximize efforts implemented by the program, short- and long-term goals should be established that include both internal and external communication.

# Municipal Forestry Program Goals

Short- and long-term goals have been established to maximize the potential of the municipal forestry program. These goals provide standardized maintenance practices, encourage partnerships, enhance tree-related public programs, and provide communication between city and the community.

## Short-Term Goals

- Maintain ongoing communication between field staff and the municipal forester.
- Work with Parks division certified arborists (see appendix 1) to prune city trees at select times throughout the year to create a consistent pruning cycle.
- Plan annual pruning projects with staff arborists.
- Assess and record (on an annual basis) pruning field work progress and results based on the International Society of Arboriculture, American National Standards Institute A300, and current Best Management Practices for the Mojave Desert.
- Plan, support and participate in annual Arbor Week activities, including the downtown Arbor Day program and the Therapeutic Recreation program.
- Support and coordinate the annual Christmas Tree Recycling program.
- Continue to earn recognition as a Tree City USA.
- Research and select a tree inventory management software program.(e.g., I Tree, Tree Keeper).
- Maintain 500 hours of community-based volunteer service annually toward tree planting projects.
- Assist with municipal forestry related items within the City of Henderson Development Code and park landscape standards and ensure best management practices are met.







## Long-Term Goals

- Maintain, and regularly update a tree inventory of all city-owned trees.
- Develop and maintain an annual tree maintenance program.
- Earn accreditation by the Society of Municipal Arborists.
- Complete a tree maintenance and planting program plan that includes the following components: utility vegetation management plan, street tree management plan including hazard assessment and notification procedures, and emergency procedures and policies for tree failure in public rights-of-way.

Setting these short- and long-term goals for the municipal forestry program enables the city to establish an overall plan that maintains and manages its trees. In the future, the possible establishment of a full-time, three-person tree crew to conduct work on all trees within parks, trails, streets, and facilities could be added. A tree crew would benefit the city by offering additional emphasis toward consistent maintenance practices, which extends the life of trees and adds value to the municipal forest.

# Urban Forestry Asset Management

The city's Municipal Forestry Asset Management Plan consists of two major components: a citywide tree inventory program and an urban forest tree canopy study.

## Inventory & Updates

A tree inventory is the foundation for formulating a tree maintenance plan. It provides detailed information necessary to make more effective management decisions. Usually gathered in the field, inventory data must be systematically collected and stored for analysis. The city's municipal forester can accurately forecast maintenance and replacement needs, and budget for tree-related expenditures based on this information.

Completion of a tree inventory is desirable, not only in communicating the importance and value of the city's urban forest, but also as a management tool. For the program to be successful, it is important to understand the following:

- How many trees are located on municipal grounds
- Types of species
- Tree sizes and what condition they are in
- How many additional trees are planted every year
- How many empty tree spaces exist
- How many trees can be pruned every year
- Whether there have been inquiries (external or internal)
- How many trees have been removed (and why)

When budgeting for tree-related resources, it is important to know work location, time necessary to complete the work, and work completed.<sup>3</sup>

This data will also assist in developing long-range planning and design decisions, including pruning cycles, new plantings, species diversification, and prioritizing maintenance actions. Tree information is currently included in the city's LandLogic database, which is the Parks and Recreation Department's asset management software. Currently, tree inventory has GPS location data for approximately 30,000 trees. These locations are known as point data, and information sheets on species, age, and other attributes are in the process of being recorded.



---

3 Johannsen, Hans J. "Municipal Tree Survey and Urban Tree Inventory." *Journal of Arboriculture*, April 1975

Through the use of satellite imagery and analysis, an assessment of the municipal forest can be created and used as a highly effective management tool. A canopy study is a measure of the health and value of an urban forest. It helps us understand the tree canopy cover within the city. Factors used to evaluate an urban forest include the extent of tree canopy, species diversity, age, and health of trees. An urban tree canopy study can lead to better solutions for watershed and storm water management, air quality modeling and design, water conservation plans, water budget development, and can assist with municipal forest canopy goal setting. A canopy study will provide the data required to plan where trees are needed, what type they should be, and the energy/cost savings realized. It will enable assessment of current canopy coverage and assist with determining a healthy target for the desert Southwest environment.

A canopy study evaluating current coverage will aid in the creation of canopy cover goals. This will help the city build a program based on clear goals. These goals will help plan implementation steps that take into consideration planting opportunities, limitations, and other priorities specific to individual land-use types. This endeavor will complement the city's multi-department sustainability initiatives by engaging in energy efficiency outcomes, water conservation, urban nature and design, and community outreach and coordination. It will provide a common base of information essential for coordinating development of policies, programs, and budgets. Once existing and future canopy cover goals are set and an estimate of the number of trees associated with each goal is identified, the costs and benefits for managing the urban forest can be quantified.





# City of Henderson Municipal Forestry

## Tree Care Initiatives

The true value of the urban forest is realized through longevity and the ability to provide environmental benefits. The city has developed internal and external municipal forestry tree care initiatives to meet the longevity goals of the municipal forest. The success of these initiatives are necessary to produce a successful municipal forestry program.

### Internal Tree Care Initiatives

It is a goal of the city to promote a healthy and sustainable municipal forestry program. To ensure success, internal tree care initiatives:

- Focus on maintaining physical tree health
- Partner with other departments to improve processes that encourage proper pruning and maintenance techniques
- Offer continuing education programs for the city's certified arborists

---

### Six things you should know when planting a tree.



**1. Call Before You Dig** - Several days before planting, call the national 811 hotline to have underground utilities located.

**2. Handle with Care** - Always lift tree by the root ball. Keep roots moist until planting.

**3. Digging a Proper Hole** - Dig 2 to 5 times wider than the diameter of the root ball with sloping sides to allow for proper root growth.

**4. Planting Depth** - The trunk flare should sit slightly above ground level and the top-most roots should be buried 1 to 2 inches.

**5. Filling the Hole** - Backfill with native soil unless it's all clay. Tamp in soil gently to fill large air spaces.

**6. Mulch** - Allow 1 to 2 inch clearance between the trunk and the mulch. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep.

For more tree-planting tips and information, visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

Source:  **Arbor Day Foundation**

90075201



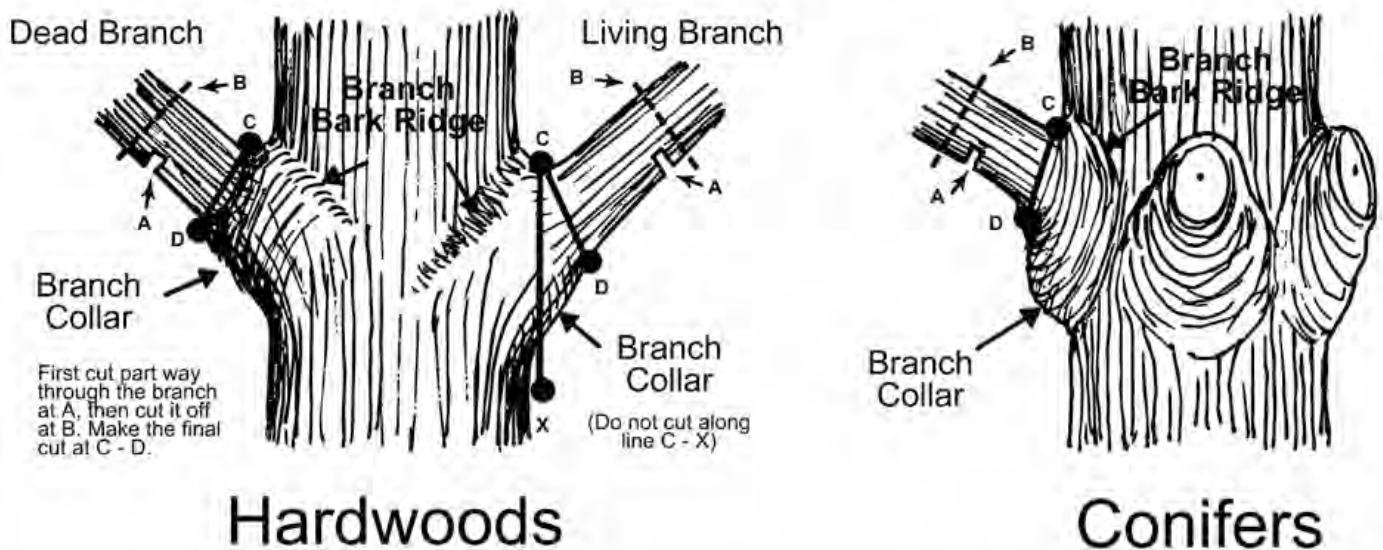
## Tree Pruning

An important task of a tree maintenance program is to maintain the physical health of the municipal forest. The key component to sustaining optimal tree health is a well-managed tree pruning program. We prune for safety, tree health, sound structure, and aesthetics. Young shade trees should be pruned to maintain a single, central leader, with relatively small lateral branches increasing in size from the top down. Young trees pruned in this manner are structurally more stable than trees that are allowed to develop naturally. Neglected trees typically develop structural problems, such as competing leaders, crowded and weakly attached branches, or otherwise undesirable branching. Defects should be detected and corrected before they become part of the permanent structure of the tree.<sup>4</sup>

Although pruning is a commonly accepted and institutionalized practice, pruning frequency is not. What is known and well documented is that pruning has a long-range impact on tree value. It is recognized that a regular pruning schedule will produce a higher value shade tree by raising its condition class. The longer pruning is delayed, the greater the impact on condition class and tree value. Savings to the city may be realized by delayed pruning cycles, but could result in a loss of tree value and more frequent tree replacement, which reduces long-term tree benefits.

---

# Proper Pruning Principles



- 
- 4 Hagen, Bruce W. "Structural Pruning of Young Trees." *Western Arborist*, International Society of Arboriculture. 35(1) Spring 2009.
  - 5 Miller, Robert W. and Sylvester, William A. "An Economic Evaluation of the Pruning Cycle" *Journal of Arboriculture* 7(4): April 1981



## Pruning Cycle for Parks & Trails

A pruning cycle is the length of time between tree pruning events based upon the number of trees to be pruned in a current year.

Municipal forestry best management practices show that a pruning cycle between three and five years is appropriate for street and park trees. The difference in range is due to the rate of tree species growth and characteristics.

It is important to collect field documentation on completed pruning. This data, when compared with tree inventory, will establish a baseline for future pruning schedules and tree evaluations.

## Recorded Pruning Cycles

Considering there are over 30,000 trees growing on city property with many more to be added in the years to come, we are looking to increase the number of trees pruned per cycle. The importance of the pruning cycle cannot be overstated. Healthy, mature trees give back benefits. Trees that are not pruned devalue greatly over time and the risk of failure increases.

All field work on city-owned trees is in accordance with the International Society of Arborists (ISA) standards. In addition, all work is completed in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 and Z133 (2017). These standards will be presented as field training before each pruning cycle. The tree maintenance program plan and safe operations guidelines are included in the department's Park Operations Manual and are necessary to guide staff arborists as they perform consistent tree pruning tasks.

## Urban Forestry Operations

The city currently has a municipal forester and 14 arborists on staff. These trained professionals are the primary source of tree care expertise and their work is supplemented by contracts for specialized operations, such as palm pruning, fertilization, and large tree pruning maintenance.





## Municipal Forester

The municipal forester is responsible for overseeing the municipal forestry program and the work performed. This includes leadership, planning, prioritizing, contract review and oversight, and participating in field work. The municipal forester establishes methods for providing municipal forestry services, identifies resource needs, reviews needs with management staff, and assists in allocating resources. The municipal forester:

- Responds to tree-related concerns and ensures that tree-related issues are handled consistently and in a timely manner.
- Participates in the development and implementation of policies and procedures.
- Recommends changes and improvements to existing standards and procedures.
- Recommends and assists in the implementation of department goals and objectives.

These activities define a majority of the responsibilities and actions carried out by the municipal forester.

# Park Planning

The municipal forester works with the department's Park Planning division to review plans for vegetation selection, make recommendations based on current inventory needs, and inspect trees prior to installation at new or renovated parks and trails to ensure tree stock meets the minimum requirements listed in the following standards section.

- American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1-2004)
- Standardized Design Guidelines for the City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department, revised 2010
- Arizona Nursery Association Grower's Committee Recommended Average Tree Specifications (Revised August 2005)

# Community Development/Current Planning

Under direction of the Parks superintendent, the municipal forester works with Community Development and current planning to review entitlements, ordinances, master plans, special area plans, and the Henderson Development Code. As questions arise throughout the planning and development processes, the municipal forester solicits input and provides expertise and recommendations regarding plant material, planting principles, and best practices for general landscape design specific to the local climate. The municipal forester provides these recommendations to enhance the diversity and health of Henderson's municipal forest.





## Coordination With Other Departments

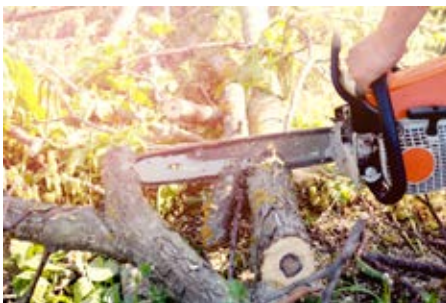
Under the direction of the Parks superintendent, the municipal forester may assist other departments when requested. Tasks may include root pruning and root guard installation along heaved sidewalks, and correcting street sign visibility issues. There are also a high percentage of sidewalk panels replaced every year because of tree root damage. These numbers will continue to rise as our infrastructure ages and our trees grow larger.

## Internal Educational Programs

It is recommended that the city develop an educational program offered to staff arborists and other division staff. Classes would be taught by experts and cover a variety of subjects related to municipal forestry. These classes would be offered or sponsored by the city, or in partnership with colleges, universities, and regional nonprofits. These may include College of Southern Nevada, Springs Preserve, Southern Nevada Arborist Group, Nevada Shade Tree Council, Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

## **Safety & Training Program**

The safety and training goal of the Municipal Forestry Program is to provide a total of 10 continuing education units (CEUs) annually for certified staff arborists under the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The ISA requires certified arborists to maintain their certification by earning 30 CEUs every three years.



## **Education/Training Needs & Associated Materials**

Below is a partial list of training recommended for the city's tree maintenance staff:

- barricade training
- general work site safety and hazard recognition
- communication skills
- emergency procedures
- electrical hazards
- chainsaw use and safety
- chipper use and safety
- proper protective equipment
- proper equipment use and maintenance
- pruning principles and technique
- diagnostic training

## ***Education/Training Materials***

A list of training materials recommended for tree maintenance staff should include, but is not limited to:

- TCIA: Foreman Training Program
- ISA: Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas
- ISA: Arborists' Certification Study Guide
- ISA ArborMaster video series and workbook: "Chain Saw Use and Safety"
- TCIA video: Back Injury Prevention
- ISA ArborMaster video series and book: "The Art and Science of Practical Rigging"
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- ANSI A300 Pruning, ANSI A300 Cabling and Bracing
- TCIA video set: Rigging for Removal
- TCIA Tailgate Safety Program, Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- Best Management Practice: Pruning
- Best Management Practice: Tree Support Systems
- ISA: Plant Health for Woody Ornamentals



## **External Educational Programs**

The promotion of a healthy and sustainable municipal forest begins with basic tree care initiatives. It is also encouraged to engage department advisory boards and regional community groups in municipal forestry decisions.

### ***Advisory Boards***

This section is meant to serve as a guide in identifying community groups that may be engaged in the municipal forestry program. It is recommended that department advisory boards be viewed as supportive advocates.

### ***Henderson Commemorative Beautification Commission (HCBC)***

The HCBC develops plans for the beautification of public areas within city limits. One of its goals is to approve funding and provide support for the city's municipal forest. The commission sponsors the community cleanup trailer, Arbor Week, and the Christmas Tree Recycling program. It also secures sponsors for Arbor Week activities and approves funding from its budget.

## ***Municipal Forester's Technical Advisory Committee (UFTAC)***

The ability to manage Henderson's municipal forest requires a concerted leadership effort and a team of internal and external stakeholders. This guiding team benefits the program by combining science, local management, and community oversight.

Other stakeholders include:

- External arborist
- City's Parks superintendent
- College of Southern Nevada representative (or an individual at a higher learning institution)
- Southern Nevada Arborist Group member (not engaged in city contracts)
- Nevada Shade Tree Council member (or state representative)
- Citizen (HOA)
- TreesHenderson representative

The goal of this group is to network by bringing science and best management practices related to municipal forestry and to improve processes when necessary. The UFTAC assists the municipal forestry program in staying updated on new industry standards and current trends, and will help find solutions to existing program barriers. Institution of an MFTAC will involve biannual meetings focused on specific topics of interest to guide and advise the program. Topics that may be covered at these meetings include new species selection, inventory specifications, new ISA developments, new class offerings for the public, and continuing education unit (CEU) workshops for internal City of Henderson recertification.

## ***Regional Initiatives***

It is important that communication exists between the city and other agencies. Other agencies may include State of Nevada Division of Forestry; Nevada State College; College of Southern Nevada, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; University of Nevada, Las Vegas Arboretum and Landscape Architecture program; and the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC). Regional approaches to urban forestry with guiding documents that address multi-jurisdictional opportunities should be pursued with other municipalities within the Valley. The Regional Tree Working Group is a subgroup of the SNRPC. This group brings together many diverse professionals within the Valley to create the first comprehensive plant palette (see Attachment 2). This extensive plant list has been adopted valley-wide by all municipalities, is recognized by UNLV, and is accepted by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. It provides developers and planners with information about plants that grow well here and assists them in selecting the right tree for the right place.

## ***Community-Based Educational Outreach Programs***

Tree City USA, Arbor Week, Christmas Tree Recycling program, Celebrate Life program and TreesHenderson are examples of community outreach programs that can create positive relationships between the City of Henderson and the community.



## ***Tree City USA***

Tree City USA is a national program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The program provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs throughout the country.

To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. Communities must have:

- A tree board or department
- A tree care ordinance
- A community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
- An Arbor Day observance and proclamation

A community may also be eligible for the Tree City USA Growth Award if it is a Tree City USA for at least the second consecutive year and has spent at least as much on its community forestry program this year as it did the previous year. Henderson actively participates in Tree City USA. In fact, 2017 marked the program's 26th year.

## ***Arbor Week***

Each year, the City of Henderson celebrates Arbor Week during the last week in April. The Parks and Recreation Department has actively participated in Arbor Week programs since 1992. The celebration includes a week of activities at schools (school site programs) and a downtown (official) Arbor Day celebration. All schools are invited to participate in an annual poster contest sponsored by the Commemorative Beautification Commission. Winners are announced at the celebration.







### ***Arbor Day Celebration – School Site Program***

School site programs are available to every Henderson elementary school's fourth grade classes. The programs consist of talks and activities scheduled at the host school. The school has the ability to craft its own program. The city's Parks staff and municipal forester offer support by reading the Arbor Day proclamation, sharing Arbor Day history, providing trees for planting at the schools, and hosting other activities that celebrate trees and the benefits they provide.

### ***Arbor Day Celebration – Downtown Program (official celebration)***

The downtown Arbor Day program is an annual event. Attendees include the Mayor, members of the City Council, members of the Commemorative Beautification Commission, and the state's urban forester. It is a formal program with various elementary schools attending. The program typically includes a Color Guard presentation of the flag, a reading of the Arbor Day proclamation, and the presentation of the national Tree City USA award. Festivities also include a tree pruning demonstration (from an aerial lift), an Arbor Day play, a commemorative tree planting, and tree giveaways for students.

### ***Celebrate Life program***

The department's Celebrate Life program provides citizens an opportunity to pay a long-lasting tribute to an individual and beautify their favorite park at the same time. Citizens can order trees and benches to commemorate a special recognition. These trees are part of an overall replacement program for city trees that was implemented in 1995. Within the last five years the program has contributed 250 trees to the city's inventory.

### ***Recycling (managing wood waste products)***

Every year, waste material is produced from cut trees and shrubs in parks and green areas in the city. While tree pruning is one of the most active components of urban forestry health maintenance, in the current era of environmental consciousness, any successful urban forestry program must have a strategy for how wood waste can be effectively managed. Part of being sustainable is growing trees and, at the end of their life span, creating a marketable or reusable product of what was once considered refuse.



## ***Christmas Tree Recycling***

The department hosts an Christmas Tree Recycling program, which is led by a Valley-wide committee comprised of local government agencies, nonprofits, and businesses. The committee has worked to keep Christmas trees out of Southern Nevada’s landfills since 1998. Recycling trees helps to ensure the sustainability of the community by saving landfill space. When chipped into mulch, cut trees become valuable organic material used in tree rings throughout the city. The mulch conserves soil moisture and keeps plants healthy. This program also reduces the annual cost of buying mulch from vendors.

## ***TreesHenderson: A NeighborWoods community tree-planting program***

NeighborWoods is a nationally recognized program sponsored by the Alliance for Community Trees (ACT). It educates the public about the benefits of tree planting. TreesHenderson creates an opportunity for citizens to play an essential role in the stewardship of the urban forest, and can partner nationally with the NeighborWoods program and others.

Partnering with residents to plant trees along trails and in neighborhood parks increases social capital and connects people to Henderson’s parks and trails. This personalized connection adds a sense of community pride.

### ***Goals for TreesHenderson include:***

- To increase by one the municipal forestry programs that promote planting trees in areas with a low tree density.
- To increase community participation in the municipal forestry program by expanding volunteer hours to 500 hours.
- Develop one internal and one external partnership to help fund and deliver the
- TreesHenderson program to the community.
- Create a department procedure that defines how TreesHenderson will be implemented and managed within the city.



## ***Tree Care Classes***

Sixty-seven percent of Henderson is comprised of privately owned land. TreesHenderson can have a positive direct influence on the health and abundance of the urban forest. Trees enhance the beauty and value of Henderson’s neighborhoods. By educating property owners about the care of trees, residents begin to feel a sense of environmental stewardship. Classes in proper pruning, planting, right tree right place, tree selection, and irrigation could be offered.

Educational and community outreach programs that teach residents about municipal forestry may be offered as a public service. These classes should inform residents about special events related to trees, and highlight neighborhood grants and other available municipal forestry related opportunities. The department can promote these opportunities and classes through public relations, media relations, and social media.

The municipal forestry program is a primary way to educate and involve the public in the care of their municipal forest. For example, information and videos on how to plant a tree, prune a tree, or the benefits of hiring a certified arborist could be accessible from this outreach program.

Municipal forestry programs featured on the city’s website include the Celebrate Life, Arbor Day, Tree City USA, Christmas Tree Recycling program, and TreesHenderson.

“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.” --  
Anonymous



# Moving Forward

## Conclusion

The City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department is the chief steward of the municipal forestry program. This program is a road map for the department and the community to use as we move toward a well-managed municipal forest. The plan provides guidelines for the protection, preservation, planting, and care of one of our most important urban resources—trees.

