



NJ Urban & Community Forestry

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Frequently Asked Questions(FAQ)



1. What details should I include about my community? (Sec. 1ci)

The NJUCF is concerned for details that relate to your community's tree resource.

Discuss topic such as:

- Overhead wire challenges
- How sidewalk planting strips affect capacity for trees
- Soil conditions affecting growth/establishment
- Public sentiment towards trees

2. What maps are required in the CFMP, and do I need GIS knowledge to generate them? (Sec. 1cii)

The Following are required maps and resources to generate them without any GIS tools or knowledge. *Note: These are not the only tools available.*

- The extent/Boundaries of Community (Google Maps, Bing Maps, [NJ Forest Adapt](#))
- Canopy Cover ([NJ Forest Adapt](#), [TreeCanopy.US](#))
- Land Use/Land Cover ([NJ MAP](#))
- Overburdened/Environmental Justice (EJ) ([EJMap](#))



3. Do I need to inventory all public trees? (Sec. 1d)

No, Tree inventories can be Sample based, partial or complete as long as they meet the minimum inventory requirements (See Appendix 5 of [CFMP Guidelines](#)).

Sample-Based: Data collected from representative samples of street and/or open canopy park trees. This approach may also be most appropriate for stands of trees in forested areas. It provides an overview of the urban forest without assessing every tree.

Partial: Data collected from a particular section or set of sections in your community. This could include, for example, all trees in a specific neighborhood or park.

Complete: Data collected from all municipal/county-owned trees in your community. This typically includes all street trees in the right-of-way and/or open canopy park trees.

4. How should program goals be presented, and why is consistency important throughout the document? (Sec. 1e & Sec. 4)

Overall Program Goals (Section 1e) should be broad and general, supporting the future vision of your community and urban forest. In Section 4 (Plan Implementation), these goals are broken down into specific Elements, Objectives, and Action Items. Consistency ensures that your plan's implementation aligns with your overall vision.

5. How should urban forest benefits be discussed in relation to your specific community? (Sec. 3)

Discuss why your urban forest provides value to your community. Ex. Stormwater, aesthetics, health, cooling, etc. Trees are most often not distributed evenly, address the distribution of these benefits, canopy and thus management distribution.



6. How can we engage the community in the CFMP development process? (Sec. 3)

- Host events such as Arbor Day celebrations
- Engage with local boards, commissions, and committees
- Solicit input from diverse community members, focusing on residents in neighborhoods lacking trees and overburdened communities
- Use various outreach methods (e.g., social media, newsletters, public meetings)

7. What resources are available to help with CFMP development?

[CFMP Guidelines](#)- Outline of what to include in plan

[CFMP Guidelines Guidance](#)- Tips and resources for CFMP development

[CFMP Guidelines Checklist](#)- List of elements required for CFMP approval

[NJUCF Staff](#)- communityforestry@dep.nj.gov or ryan.bellinger@dep.nj.gov

8. How can we make our CFMP more effective?

- Base management decisions on inventory data
- Ensure consistency between overall goals and specific action items
- Include diverse community input
- Consider connections with other municipal plans
- Address equitable distribution of tree resources and management efforts

9. How can I use my CFMP?

- As a training tool for local boards, commissions, and committees
- As a “to-do list” for achieving urban forestry goals
- To guide proactive and informed management of your urban forest
- To build community support and partnerships for urban forestry initiatives



10. How should the budget be presented in the CFMP, and what timeframe should it cover? (Sec. 2d)

The budget should be presented in a clear and logical manner, covering a 5-year period. The plan writer has the flexibility to choose the presentation format. However, Appendix 3 of the CFMP Guidelines offers a table that can be used for this purpose.

11. What line items go in which Budget category?

1. Administration

- **Municipal Salaries:** Salaries for staff managing urban forestry.
 - *Example:* Salary for the city arborist.
- **Fringe:** Employee benefits like health insurance.
 - *Example:* Health benefits for urban forestry staff.
- **Indirect Costs:** Overhead costs supporting the program.
 - *Example:* Office space rental, utility costs.
- **Volunteer Contribution:** Value of volunteer time. See <https://independentsector.org/>
 - *Example:* Volunteers planting trees.
- **Other:** Miscellaneous administrative costs.
 - *Example:* Office supplies for the forestry team.

2. UCF Stewardship

- **Planting:** Costs for planting new trees.
 - *Example:* contractor cost for tree planting event, cost of nursery stock
- **Pruning:** Expenses for trimming trees.
 - *Example:* Pruning street trees, contractor cost
- **Removal:** Costs for removing dead trees.
 - *Example:* Removing hazardous trees.
- **Insect/Disease Management:** Managing pests and diseases.
 - *Example:* Treating ash trees for EAB.
- **Stump Removal:** Removing tree stumps.
 - *Example:* Grinding stumps in public areas.
- **Other:** Additional stewardship costs.
 - *Example:* Soil testing for tree planting, Gator bags.

3. Education and Outreach

- **Training and Education (Municipal/County Employee):** Training staff in tree care.
 - *Example:* Workshops on tree maintenance.
- **Training and Education (Volunteer):** Training volunteers assisting forestry efforts.
 - *Example:* Teaching planting techniques to volunteers.
- **Public Outreach:** Engaging the public about urban trees.
 - *Example:* Brochures on tree benefits.
- **Other:** Miscellaneous outreach costs.



12. What if my community has both a traditional forest and urban forest (street trees)?

If your community manages both traditional forest stand(s) and street trees, the NJUCF recommends that both forest types are part of your CFMP. Inventory assessments for both forest stands, and street trees would result in a complete view of your tree resource.