From the 2002 Community Forest Management Plan

VISION:

The City of Davis will be a community identified and shaded by a "living umbrella." Relying on the Community Forest Management Plan for guidance, the City of Davis will actively encourage participation in tree planting and stewardship, preserve and protect existing trees, promote public safety and tree health, implement cost-effective enhancement and maintenance of the forest, increase public awareness of the value of our community forest, and maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of the community forest for current residents and future generations.

Goals:

Goal 1. Improve the quality of the Community Forest (consisting of all public and private trees) over time in ways that will optimize environmental, economic, habitat, food and social benefits to the City and its neighborhoods.
Policy 1.1 - Develop standards for optimum tree canopy cover levels throughout the City.
Policy 1.2 - Increase the existing tree canopy cover to optimum tree canopy cover levels through implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for tree selection, placement, and care.
Policy 1.3 - Ensure that the Community Forest has a diverse mix of tree species and ages.

Goal 2. Promote planting, preservation and protection of the existing Community Forest resource.
Policy 2.1 - Protect the existing Community Forest through application of the Tree Planting, Preservation and Protection Ordinance (and other tree-related City standards and guidelines), including designation of trees as "Landmark Trees" or "Trees of Significance", and preservation and protection of private, City and street trees when developing or constructing public improvement projects or projects requiring a building permit or discretionary project review.
Policy 2.2 - Review, expand and improve existing comprehensive inventory of all City trees in the Community Forest.
Policy 2.3 - Maintain limited and clear criteria for tree removal, and implement practices to retain healthy and safe trees.

Goal 3. Continue to maintain the City's trees in a safe and healthy condition as cost-effectively as possible.
Policy 3.1 - Develop a Master Street Tree Plan that identifies a long-term strategy for City and street tree selection, siting and replacement.
Policy 3.2 - Develop Tree Planting and Maintenance Specifications for use by City staff, and available to the public if requested.

Policy 3.3 - Provide optimum care during planting and subsequent maintenance of newly planted City and street trees.

Policy 3.4 - Implement routine inspection and maintenance for large City, parking lot and street trees using established standards to reduce long-term tree care costs.

Policy 3.5 - Implement root management practices that use emerging technologies in soil science and pavement engineering to reduce hardscape repairs and tree removals.

Policy 3.6 - Develop and implement tree removal and replacement plans for City and street trees in areas where significant loss of tree canopy cover is likely in the short-term. (See also Policy 2.3 and 3.4)

Policy 3.7 - Continue and/or expand the existing greenwaste recycling program using byproducts from the Community Forest.

Goal 4. Facilitate collaboration among City departments related to issues and projects involving trees.

Policy 4.1 - Review existing Tree Division staffing levels. Create City Arborist (and/or professional Urban Forester) job description and continue to maintain the position with a highly qualified urban forester.

Policy 4.2 - Follow existing plan review process that includes the City Arborist's review of public works projects and/or projects requiring a building permit or discretionary project review and their potential impacts to the Community Forest, according to provisions of the Tree Planting, Preservation and Protection Ordinance.

Policy 4.3 - Establish an annual tree management plan, prepared by the City Arborist.

Policy 4.4 - Implement a landscape inspection and ordinance enforcement process to promote compliance with City policies and regulations that influence the Community Forest.

Goal 5. Provide awareness of the importance of the Community Forest; educate the community on proper tree planting and care; and encourage greater participation in tree planting and stewardship activities.

Policy 5.1 - Promote awareness of the policies and standards in the Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) and related documents.

Policy 5.2 - Promote an ongoing program to disseminate information and educate the general public on the care and value of trees in cooperation with Tree Commission, community based partners, Adopt-a-Park, Davis Joint Unified School District and local media.

Policy 5.3 - Collaborate with Adopt-a-Park, community based partners, UC Davis, Davis Joint Unified School District, and other local and regional groups to increase participation in tree planting and stewardship activities.

Goal 6. Adopt the Community Forest Management Plan to guide long-term tree planting and maintenance activities, and update it every five years.

Policy 6.1 - Amend existing City plans and ordinances to incorporate the provisions of this Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP).

Policy 6.2 - Update this CFMP on a regular basis.

Priority 1: Hazard Tree Abatement: Hazard tree abatement, or removal of dead or dying trees within the community forest, is the highest budget priority due to potential public safety concerns. Dead and dying trees can be in danger of falling or losing major branches, with resultant property and/or personal injury concerns.

- Recommendation: Eliminate any backlog of hazard street trees. Maintain the City's ability to remove all dead/dying trees in a timely manner.

Priority 2: Mature Tree Care: Mature tree care is a high priority for the tree management budget over the next five years. Large trees are the most significant component of our community forest. They form the umbrella over our streets, parks and private properties, and create the backbone of the urban form. Some mature trees have been designated as Landmark and/or Historical Resources and have a special acknowledged value to the community. Although care of mature trees is the most costly management element, it is a priority because of the importance of safety and tree health issues; the consequences of lack of care are more immediate for large trees than smaller trees. The mature trees that are managed within the City budget include all street, park and other city-owned trees over four-inch diameter at breast height (DBH), as well as Trees of Significance, Landmark Trees, and parking lot trees (see Glossary).

- Recommendation: As funds permit, reduce the current 8-year pruning cycle to 5-years for larger trees.

Priorities 3 and 4: Young Street Tree Care and Planting: Young tree care and new tree planting are essential parts of community forest management. The health and stability of our future forest depends in large part on judicious tree selection today, as well as ongoing maintenance of young street trees. These recommendations assume that City staff will be assisted in young tree care and planting activities by community based partners, who can train volunteers and apply for outside grants, thereby producing a substantial cost savings to the City.

- Recommendation: Increase young tree care service by moving from existing three-year inspection/pruning cycle to an optimal 2-year cycle. Eliminate the annual backlog of any young street trees that are not receiving early training/pruning.
- Recommendation: Use city-funded tree planting for replacement trees, and seek outside grant money with the help of community based partners (such as TREE Davis) for additional planting to reach our goal of 100% stocking in ten years. Provide one-time funds to replant removed hazard trees.

Priority 5: Administration: Administration refers to activities such as supervision, scheduling, coordination, planning and education overseen by the City's supervisory arborists. Current tasks performed by the arborists are numerous and varied. They respond to public contact, including comments, work orders and special requests related to trees, and coordinate with other City departments such as Public Works, Planning & Building, various commissions including the Tree Commission, and other organizations. Part of this coordination responsibility is to review proposed development and construction plans to ensure that adequate existing tree

preservation and protection measures are taken and that tree planting follows city guidelines. During construction, the arborists supervise contractors working on or near City and/or private property trees and enforce ordinances for tree-related work.

- ● Recommendation: Maintain the current level of Program Administration.