

THE BENEFITS OF A COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Urban Forestry Management Plan guides the annual and systematic management of our community trees. It helps to educate the public and professionals in our town regarding proper tree care. It raises public image, awareness and citizen pride. It can help property owners to better care for their own trees.

KETCHIKAN, TREE CITY U.S.A. TREE BOARD

Our goals are to inspire our community to plant, nurture, value and celebrate trees!

Develop a community tree plan.

Develop an annual work plan and budget for tree care.

Design tree plantings.

Hold public hearings to assess community needs and desires.

Solicit funds, including grants and donations for community tree enhancement activities.

Organize Arbor Day celebrations and community educational programs.

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

arborday.org

The National Arbor Day Foundation provides the public with resources and tool for the public for everything woody. It has a vast collection of tree information concerning health and disease management, tree identification, tree planting and care. The Foundational also promotes community tree involvement with programs like Tree City USA and other national programs.

Ketchikan Urban Forestry Management Plan



Ketchikan Gateway Borough November 2015

Ketchikan's Management Plan

Community forestry is the management of trees and other forest resources in community ecosystems for the environmental, economic, social, health and aesthetic benefits trees provide society.

The benefits our urban trees bestow upon Ketchikan are numerous: increased property values, social and psychological benefits, crime reduction, increased aesthetics, wildlife habitat and enhancing business in downtown business districts. For this, we benefit from a management plan customized for Ketchikan's unique habitat.

The Management Plan provides the framework to implement the best management practices for Ketchikan's community forest. The management and maintenance needs for a successful community forestry program has been determined from the best management practices available in the industry.

The recommendations will help conserve Ketchikan's tree resource and sustain the tree canopy for future generations. Although this commitment will come with costs, the long-term benefits are significantly greater and will result in a sustainable asset for the citizens of Ketchikan today and tomorrow.

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

“Tree City U.S.A.”
Since 2009



KETCHIKAN PARK TREES INVENTORY

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Public Works Department maintains a careful inventory of all the urban park trees. A tree assessment includes the trees overall health, structural integrity, planned maintenance procedures and other unique characteristics. This process of management ensures the best management practices are adhered to for the health of our trees and safety of patrons in our parks. This information helps us manage our pruning and removing of hazard trees, cabling and bracing and monitoring on a scheduled basis.

The tree inventory helps manage our public spaces by monitoring removed trees and assisting in the planting of new tree for a specific site. Many trees show cultural damage such as topping, lawn mower damage, missing root collars, foreign objects, and vandalism. Some of these trees are also showing structural damage such as deadwood, co-dominant stems, included bark, decay, scarring and rot. If left unmanaged, they can become susceptible to hazard situations.

Currently there are 258 trees in the tree inventory for active management, represented by 35 tree species, 11 conifers and 24 deciduous trees.



Tree planting (Aborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis*) at Fawn Mountain Elementary School during a recent Arbor Day tree planting.

Ketchikan Tree Species List:

Small Deciduous Trees

- Lavalley Hawthorne, *Crataegus x lavalleyi*
- Witch Hazel, *Hammamelis virginiana*
- Flowering Cherry, *Prunus serrulata*
- Red Vein Enkianthus, *Enkianthus campanulatus*
- Purple Smoke Tree, *Cotinus coggygria* 'Purpurea'
- Japanese Maple, *Acer palmatum*

Small Evergreen Trees

- Dwarf Canadian Hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis* 'Nana'
- False Cypress, *Chamacyparis pisifera filifera*
- Lawson's Dwarf Cypress, *Chamacyparis lawsoniana* 'Nana'
- Dwarf Tanyosho Pine, *Pinus densaflora* 'Umbraculifera'
- Irish Yew, *Taxus baccata stricta*
- Swara False Cypress, *Cryptomeria japonica*



Red Alder Stand (*Alnus rubra*)



“We make an immense mistake when we think of trees as solely an aesthetic member of a community. They cut pollution, they cool the air, they prevent erosion, they muffle sound, they produce oxygen.

Then, after all that, they look good.”

-Dr. Richard Leakey

TREE HEALTH AND DANGER TREES

Insects, diseases, decays and other forms of tree defect and mortality are important parts of a tree health. Large trees are more likely to pose a greater risk of wood decay and may cause greater damage to property when they fall. Some common signs of a potential danger tree include:

- Mushrooms and fungus are signs of poor tree health
- A tree leaning over 10 degrees has increased risk of falling
- Dead limbs and crown may become falling hazards
- Cracks in the bark along the trunk may indicate decay

If a tree exhibits any of these signs or looks unhealthy consulting an arborist or other tree professional may be advantageous. Certain tree species in southeast Alaska are more prone to various types of health problems due to Southeast Alaska's wet climate