

## **City of Livingston, Tree Board Agenda**

A regular meeting of the City Tree Board has been scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2021 at Noon. This meeting will be held in person at the gazebo at the south end of Sacajawea Park.

- **Approval of Minutes**
- **Old Business**
  - Update on 2021-2022 city budget.
  - Update on planting guide and web content.
- **New Business**
  - Membership update and recruitment discussion.
  - Discuss draft strategic plan for the board.
- **Public Comments**
- **Board Comments**

# Livingston Tree Board Strategic Plan for 2021-2026

*Draft - July 2021*

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this strategic plan is to help define the Tree Board's priorities and guide its recommendations over the next five years.

## **Mission**

The purpose of the Livingston Tree Board is to advise the City Commission on matters related to trees within the city, advocating on behalf of the public for policies, funding and partnerships that promote, protect and enhance tree benefits, which include:

- Providing shade and beauty that enhance the experience of parks, trails, neighborhoods and businesses.
- Cooling the city in summer, reducing the risks of extreme heat that is being exacerbated by human-caused climate change.
- Enhancing Livingston's economy by beautifying city entrances, downtown, commercial areas and public spaces.
- Providing ecosystem, infrastructure and food system services, including buffering stormwater runoff, reducing energy consumption, and providing windbreak and wildlife habitat, and producing food.

## **Vision**

Diverse, healthy trees reflecting the public's desire for tree benefits at parks, boulevards, city entrances, downtown, schools, parking lots and other public spaces, fostered and maintained by way of all resources available to the city.

## **Values**

The Tree Board values public input, environmental stewardship, collaboration, financial and resource efficiency, and feedback from city staff and commissioners.

## **Goals and Strategies**

Goal #1: Advocate for establishing new trees, prioritizing where they are needed most, including to offset likely long-term effects of emerald ash borer.

- Recommend programs for establishing new trees in the 700+ vacant boulevard planting sites identified in the 2014 tree inventory.
- Collaborate with Livingston Parks and Trails Committee and city staff to recommend trees at existing and new parks and trails.
- Identify priorities for trees at city entrances; collaborate with Zoning Commission on overlay zoning recommendation; identify funding and partnerships.
- Explore partnership with school district to promote tree planting on school grounds.
- Keep informed of Commission consideration of zoning, building standards and other policies to promote tree planting during development and re-development.
- Consider equity of tree benefits throughout Livingston in recommendations.
- Consider and promote tree plantings and partnerships that uniquely enhance the community, i.e. community orchard, demonstration grove showcasing recommended species, etc.

Goal #2: Advocate for municipal tree management that protects and enhances tree benefits, adequately addresses tree hazard risk, and makes use of available partnerships and funding.

- Recommend development of new municipal tree management plan to replace outdated consultant report from 2015; new plan may include protocol for hazard tree risk management and incorporate plan for managing emerald ash borer.
- Monitor advance of emerald ash borer and recommend management strategies according to best science, public input, long-term protection of tree benefits, and city resources.
- Recommend city budget and staffing necessary to carry out municipal tree management and achieve Tree Board goals.
- Review city tree ordinance and consider recommending changes, including according to updated tree management plan and potential changes in funding (i.e. tree districts).

Goal #3: Expand the city's tree management capacity and efficacy through grants, city funding mechanisms, philanthropy, partnerships, and public outreach.

- Continue to recommend grants from Montana DNRC and Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association.
- Recommend opportunities for partnership with local stakeholders capable of conducting tree maintenance tasks.
- Explore potential for volunteer programs or partnerships for tree growing, planting, and basic maintenance.
- Recommend option for tree maintenance district(s).
- Explore interest from philanthropic organizations for funding Tree Board goals.
- Develop and recommend outreach methods and materials (including social media, city website, signs in parks, etc) to inform the public of tree benefits, best practices for tree planting and maintenance, emerald ash borer, and other issues regarding public trees.

**Accomplished in 2021:**

- Recommended creation of emerald ash borer plan. Provided extensive background information on EAB problem, cost scenarios for city, and treatment/replacement options.
- Recommended partnership with MSU Extension Master Gardener Class for structural pruning of young trees in parks.
- Revised list of suitable trees for boulevard planting.
- Developed brochure with information about suitable species and best practices for boulevard planting.
- Recommended new content for city tree webpage, coinciding with city's switch to new website. (Recommended with revised species list and planting guide.)
- Recommended increased city tree budget for 2021-2022 to leverage grant opportunities.

**Short-term goals for end of 2021:**

**Goals for end of 2022:**