



**Lewiston – Auburn
Community
Forest
Board**

**2016 –2020
Strategic Plan**

LA Community Forest Board 2016

Name	Address	Telephone	E-Mail	Position	Term
Griswold, David	199 Gamage Avenue, Auburn 04210	783-4833 577-1720	dave.griswold@versoco.com	Board Member	Sec. A 10/2018
Rick Shea	17 Rita Ave. Lewiston, ME 04240	782-7018 402-7305	leftyrick@aol.com	Board Member	Chairman L 1/2018
Gary Wadsworth	296 Gracelawn Road Auburn 04210	333-6670	gwadsworth@auburnmaine.gov	Public Work Ex Officio	A
John T. Butler	20 Ware St. Lewiston, ME 04240	784-2076	jbutler@butlerbros.com	Board Member	L 1/2017
Zam Zam Mohamud	66 Tall Pines Drive Apt. 4	795-0003 376-6602	krabji202@aol.com	Board Member	L 1/2017
Paul Madore	805 Sabattus St Lewiston, ME 04240	754-8572	megrcc@myfairpoint.net	Officio Planning Board	L
Braunscheidel, Jay	34 Holly Street Auburn, 04210	632-5854 786-0279	jbranscheidel@gmail.com	Board Member	A 10/2018
Dan Bilodeau	207 N. Auburn Rd. Auburn, ME 04240	782-5962	anotherdanbilodeau@gmail.com	Friend	A
Murch, Steve	103 Adams Street, Lewiston 04240	513-3003 x3443	smurch@lewistonmaine.gov	Lew Arborist	L
Charles Lafean	86 Orchard St. Auburn, ME 04210	347-5000 712-1563	clafean@gmail.com	Board Member	A 10/18
Denis D'Auteuil	Auburn City Hall	333-6601 ext 1221	dadauteuil@auburnmaine.gov	Auburn City Hall	A
Jordan Tate	96 Coachman Ave Auburn	782-0913 513-2375	jtate@une.edu	Board Member	A

Mission Statement

The Community Forest Board of Lewiston - Auburn seeks to enhance the quality of life for all citizens in the twin cities by improving and preserving their community forests. This mission is carried out by three efforts: to educate citizens of all ages about trees and trees' contributions to the common life of the communities; to encourage both public policies and private practices which protect forest resources, to facilitate long-term planning and funding for comprehensive care of natural environments within our Twin Cities.

Ordinances establishing Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board

Lewiston Community Forest Ordinance Adopted 2013

Sec. 78-52. Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board.

(a.)

Statement of purpose. The existence of the Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board is formally recognized. The Board shall develop and implement a community forest program which promotes the economic, environmental, and esthetic values of the community forest.

(b.)Members. The Board shall consist of nine members appointed by the respective mayors.

(c)Qualifications of members. Members must be residents of Lewiston or Auburn, or own property in either city, and be interested in developing and preserving a healthy community forest. There shall be a minimum of four members from each city although five members shall constitute a quorum and may act regardless of whether there are vacant positions on the Board. When members of the Board are acting as a Board of Appeals, a quorum shall require the participation of at least two (2) members from each city.

(d)Ex officio members. There shall be six (6) ex officio members of the Board consisting of the Director (or Superintendent) of the Parks Department in Auburn and the Public Works Director in Lewiston, a member of each city's Planning Board or planning staff to be chosen by the respective Mayors, and the Municipal Arborist from each city. The Board may adopt a by-law regarding the election of associate members of the Board who may participate in the affairs of the Board, but they will not be eligible to vote except in the absence of a regular member of the Board.

(e)Members' terms of office. Each member shall serve for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed by their respective mayors. Members currently serving may complete their current terms of office and may be reappointed for additional three-year terms. Terms of office will continue to be staggered to provide for continuity in the Board's program and activities.

(f)Vacancies. When vacancies occur, the Board shall take appropriate steps to recruit applicants to fill the vacant positions. Members appointed to fill vacant positions on the Board shall serve out the terms of the persons they are replacing.

(g)Compensation. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(h)Duties and responsibilities. The Board shall:

- (1) Develop a plan for and provide advice to city staff and agencies regarding the management of the community forest including the anticipated impact of proposed development;**
- (2) Raise community awareness regarding the importance of the community forest;**
- (3) Raise funds to establish a community forest trust fund;**
- (4) Hear appeals filed pursuant to this ordinance;**
- (5) Adopt by-laws to govern the internal affairs of the Board; and**
- (6) Perform such other functions as are permitted by this ordinance.**

(i.) Administration. The Board shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Except for the Chair, the officers shall serve for renewable one-year terms. The Chair shall be elected for a renewable two-year term. The Board may allow the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer to be performed by the same person.

Auburn Maine Code of Ordinance

See Article 5 Boards, Commissions and Committees

Division 5 Conservation Commission

- Sec. 2-482. - Committees.

(a)

Establishment: The chairperson may appoint special committees for purposes and terms approved by the conservation commission.

(b)

Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board: The Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board will be a standing subcommittee of the Auburn Conservation Commission. The purpose of the community forest board is to plan for and provide advice to city staff and the conservation commission regarding the management of the community forest. The conservation commission shall designate two members to serve on the Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board. The Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board shall develop and implement a community forest program that enhances, preserves, protects, and maintains the community forest. Primary activities are to:

- (1) Advocate for the community forest;
- (2) Develop a plan for and provide advice on the management of the public sector portion of the community forest;
- (3) Educate the communities about the community forest and how to care for it;
- (4) Raise funds, including grants, and establish a community forest trust;
- (5) Develop and advise on policy changes for approval by the city councils;
- (6) Advise and consult on community forest issues and projects;
- (7) Communicate and coordinate with city staff, planning boards, and other community programs to avoid duplications of efforts and to combine resources to meet goals.

(Ord. No. 07-02022015, § 6, 2-17-2015)

Lewiston/Auburn Community Forest Board Objectives

Priority Goals

Goal 1: Promote and support planting of street trees in the Twin Cities

Description and Rationale: Tree planting should be a core activity for a Community Forest Board. Tree planting engages the public and is visible evidence of an active board. In the past, LACFB has accessed funds for targeted tree planting through Maine Forest Service Project Canopy Grants and CGDB. Grants have been the most significant source of funding for LACFB projects. City governments contributed staff support and in-kind matching to qualify for grants. TD Bank has planted about two hundred trees over the last three years (2013-15). The LACFB has participated in these projects.

Activities:

1. Apply for any Urban Forestry grants that may become available from the Maine Forestry Service or national organizations.
2. Support 50:50 projects to encourage property owners to plant trees in the right of way.
3. Approach civic organizations to raise funds for targeted projects.
4. Organize volunteers to participate in tree planting projects.
5. Engage city staff and planning boards to facilitate more tree planting in conjunction with projects.

Goal 2: Continue to develop the Tree Nursery on the land leased from the Lake Auburn Watershed Neighborhood Association at 115 N Auburn Road Auburn, Maine 04210.

Description and Rational: To maintain a healthy urban forest, one of the goals of the LACFB is to create and establish a tree nursery. We hope to do this to provide the LACFB with a supply of trees which can be planted at a low cost and not subject to be cut when crunching the budget lines. Our goal is to grow 300 trees, then once we begin harvesting, continue a rotation, planting saplings and harvesting trees to plant every year. Establishing the LACFB Tree Nursery will provide a future for our community forest. It is estimated that within 5-6 years we could have \$45,000.00 worth of trees which we could be digging and transplanting to city streets and parks. This tree nursery will provide our communities with responsible, long term, sustainable urban and community forest management.

Activities and timeline:

The Tree Nursery will be overseen and maintained by city staff and LACFB volunteers. All details will be overseen by the Lewiston City Arborist.

1. 2015: (grant year) established nursery, planted trees, watered trees, installed well and electric upgrades, made site improvements, weeded, and monitored site.
2. 2016: continue site upgrades. Plant 150-200 saplings. Grant expires 6/16, regular site visits by city staff and LACFB volunteers to check watering system, timers, hoses and look for any vandalism or animal damage. Address any needs, prune trees if necessary, mow grass between trees rows, weed trees if necessary.
3. 2017: regular site visits by city staff and LACFB volunteers to check watering system, timers, hoses and look for any vandalism or animal damage. Address any needs, prune trees if necessary, mow grass between trees rows, weed trees if necessary. Stake trees if necessary. Expand nursery and planting spots if possible, transplant and relocate wild saplings on site to nursery area if possible.
4. 2018: regular site visits by city staff and LACFB volunteers to check watering system, timers, hoses and look for any vandalism or animal damage. Address any needs, prune trees if necessary, mow grass between trees rows, weed trees if necessary. Stake trees if necessary. Expand nursery and planting spots if possible, transplant and relocate wild saplings on site to nursery area if possible.
5. 2025-30 First trees should be ready to be transferred to street.

Goal 3: Participate in the Auburn Street Tree Inventory Grant

Description and Rational: Auburn has received a Project Canopy Grant to conduct a tree inventory for the Urban areas of Auburn.

Activities:

1. Assist the arborist hired by the city in carrying out the inventory.
2. Learn more about the GIS (Geographic Information System mapping program that will be used for the inventory.)
3. Analyze the Tree Inventory Data to help inform decisions for the future.
4. Learn what steps the tree board would need to conduct an inventory beyond the inner city streets.
5. Keep the tree inventory up to date

Goal 4: Create a Public Woodlot Management Ordinance for the City of Auburn

Description and Rational: Auburn has been working on this ordinance in order to regulate the forest management on public lands within the city, including properties used by various individual departments. It should include spelling out such activities such as development of a forest management plan, conducting a harvest, penalties, and harvesting revenues.

Activities:

1. Working with the Conservation Commission and city employees to write a sample woodlot ordinance.
2. Present to the city council our recommendation

3. Established and Ongoing Activities

Goal 1: Sponsor an Arbor Week Celebration and maintain Tree City Status for Lewiston and Auburn.

Description and Rationale: By calling attention to Arbor Day LACFB can promote public awareness of the value of the urban forest.

Activities:

1. Complete activities and documentation required to qualify Lewiston and Auburn as Tree Cities.
2. Develop and publicize Arbor Week activities.
3. Encourage to local media to develop stories on the value of trees and the urban forest.
4. Send a representative to Tree City/Project Canopy Arbor Day activities sponsored by Maine Forest Service.
5. Hang the board's Arbor Day Banner in a prominent location.

Goal 2: Engage the public in discussion to increase public understanding what the community forest is, and how it can contribute to quality of life in Lewiston-Auburn.

Description and Rationale: If the LACFB is able to educate the general public, the positive impact on the community will be much greater than if the board is working alone. Priority topics for property owners include choosing the right tree for a given location, care of newly planted trees, maintenance of trees; awareness of pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorned Beetle and other invasive species.

Activities:

Hold one workshop every year. Collaborate with other organizations when practical.

Goal 3: Support and collaborate with other community groups that offer community forest related events for the general public.

Description and Rationale: Events conducted by trained arborist, foresters or horticulturist can increase the public's knowledge of the value of the community forest, and can provide an opportunity for LACFB to advocate for policies to improve urban forestry practices. Collaboration with other Organizations can increase participation in events.

Activities:

1. Collaborate with organizations that conduct community forest related events in the Twin Cities for their members and the

general public where issues concerning the Community Forest can be discussed.

2. Publicize the events in the local media

Goal 4: Advocate with the local media to publish articles on the Community Forest, including LACFB events and activities, the value of trees in the urban landscape, and the care and maintenance of trees.

Description and Rationale: The Board can promote the improvement of our forest and cities by providing media sources with information and statistics on the condition of the urban forest in Lewiston/Auburn.

Activities:

1. Develop press releases to present to the media on appropriate topics.
2. Develop a list of talking points on the value that trees bring to our communities.
3. Contact media sources and promote the Arbor Week event.
4. Display LACFB information at Thorncrag and other appropriate locations to reach a broad audience.

Goal 5: LACFB will establish a tree trust that can be used to solicit donations to fund tree plantings, and tree related activities.

Description and Rational: The establishment of a Community Forest Trust is listed as one of this board's primary task in the ordinance. This fund will be used to collect private donations to fund tree planting and tree related activities.

Activities:

1. Research other Community Forest Trusts to see how they work.
2. Establish the Community Forest Trust.
3. Solicit donations from area residents, community groups and businesses.

Possible Future Goals Need to revisit these ideas

The following ideas were discussed by the Board Depending on the circumstances and resources, these ideas deserve further consideration.

1. Honor champion trees in the cities. These would be the largest, most healthy examples of each species.
2. Sponsor plantings of progeny from historical trees.
3. Set up a program to sponsor tree plantings on private property.
4. Sponsor a photo contest
5. Label trees of interest throughout the two cities.
6. Publish a calendar.