



Urban Forest Equity Plan Survey

The City of Holyoke, in partnership with Davey Resource Group (DRG), Community Circle, and Fair Forests Consulting, are seeking community feedback on the draft Urban Forest Equity Plan recommendations to help us refine them and ensure that we are meeting the needs of the community that were expressed during the plan development's public engagement activities.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts please fill out the survey using the link or QR code below by May 2nd. Your input will help refine the recommendations. The Plan's final recommendations will include a description and actions steps to achieve each recommendation.

Survey Monkey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HolyokeTrees>



Background:

The purpose of Urban Forestry Equity Plan is to provide a healthy and enjoyable environment for residents and help mitigate the impacts of climate change in four priority downtown neighborhoods -- Churchill, Downtown, South Holyoke, and The Flats. The Plan uses an equity lens to ensure that the benefits that trees provide are available to all, and that the planning process includes the meaningful participation of those impacted.



The Plan will provide a long-term vision and strategy to equitably expand and improve the health and sustainability of Holyoke's trees.

Process:

The discovery phase of the Urban Forest Equity Plan (UFEP) development process focused on identifying and understanding the needs, challenges and opportunities facing Holyoke's tree canopy. This was accomplished through community forums, working with community leaders, city department interviews, a public survey, completion of a street tree inventory, review of existing plans and studies, and an assessment of the current state of Holyoke's urban forest.

The Top Benefits Valued by the Holyoke Community:

Trees provide many important and vital benefits, however, the benefits that are most valued by a community varies. In Holyoke, the top benefits as rated by city stakeholders and residents are:

- Provide shade/reduce energy bills
- Reduce air pollution
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Beautify neighborhood
- Improve moods

Themes and Priorities:

The stakeholder engagement activities identified the following urban forestry themes and priorities in Holyoke.

- Resources (Budget & Staff)
- Tree Maintenance
- Trees and Tree Canopy
- Climate Change
- Equity
- Land Ownership
- Community Engagement, Outreach and Education
- Tree Protection/Preservation/Planting Regulations
- Infrastructure Conflicts
- City Collaboration / Interdepartmental Communication
- Tree Planting & Post Planting Care

Thank you for your participation! If you have additional thoughts or questions, please contact:

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