

# A VIBRANT URBAN FOREST

CITY OF FLINT STREET TREES



TREE CITY USA®

## About Street Trees

The urban forest is a collection of trees contained in a certain land area. Within the urban forest, street trees are City-owned trees located in traffic islands, medians, and rights-of-ways between the sidewalk and the curb. Street trees are dynamic in nature; they require maintenance and have a life cycle. When a tree reaches the end of that cycle or is damaged due to weather occurrences, disease, pest infestation, lack of routine maintenance, mechanical damage, or other human or natural causes, the tree becomes a safety concern to people and property.

## Signals and Symptoms of Trees in Poor Condition

- Structural splits, cracks, and cavities
- Excessive deadwood in the canopy
- Abnormal fungal growth
- Wood decay
- Upper limb or trunk rot

Street trees in poor condition are a detriment to a safe community and pose high liability threats. When a tree reaches this condition, it is time to remove the tree.

## 2021 Street Tree Project

Beginning in early 2021, the Genesee Conservation District will remove more than 330 dead and dangerous street trees throughout the city of Flint. This project, which is supported by a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, will target trees that are in very poor condition and seen as safety threats. As a way to strengthen Flint neighborhoods, residents said removing these trees was a priority for them during the Mott Foundation's Focus on Flint community conversations. Using data and on-site inspections by the Conservation District's forester, each tree selected for removal will be marked and the resident occupying a property with a project street tree will be notified by mail. A local tree service contractor will complete the removals by August, 2021 at no cost to residents.

### Trees help improve our quality of life

- Create peaceful, aesthetically pleasing places
- Create a cooling effect, reducing energy costs
- Provide oxygen that improves air quality
- Improves soil quality and reduces erosion
- Provide ecosystems that support habitat for diverse wildlife
- Reduce runoff leading to better water quality
- And so much more...

We envision a vibrant urban forest as a vital functioning part of the City's infrastructure today and for future generations.

We strive to protect and enhance the health and diversity of our urban forest as it contributes to the environmental, economic, and social wellbeing of the community.

### Fast Facts

- Genesee Conservation District and the City of Flint are working collaboratively for the good of our urban forest
- The City of Flint's street tree forest includes approximately 26,000 trees
- In 2015 a commissioned street tree inventory and assessment was completed
- In 2015 a Forest Management Plan was commissioned and is used to drive decision-making
- Data for each of the City's street trees is tracked and managed in Tree Tracker, a specialized software program
- Since 2000, the City of Flint is recognized as a Tree City USA for its dedication to the urban forest
- Residents may not cause damage to publicly-owned trees
- Residents may not prune, plant, or remove City trees without written consent of the the City
- Residents may report street trees of concern to the City of Flint Street Maintenance Dept. at (810) 766-7343
- Since 2015, Genesee Conservation District has responded to over 2,300 resident calls, removed or pruned over 5,000 trees, and planted nearly 2,100 trees on public land

**Genesee Conservation District**  
Genesee County's natural resource management agency since 1946

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