

PROMOTE HEALTHY TREES!



ASSESS • COLLABORATE • CARE

How to: Get a Neighborhood Forest Health Assessment

The vision of Austin's Urban Forest Plan is a healthy and sustainable mix of trees and vegetation cared for by the community.

A healthy, urban forest is managed most effectively when neighbors and neighborhoods work together. A qualified arborist can provide data and information to neighborhoods in the form of a Neighborhood Forest Health Assessment to help people make informed decisions. The Assessment may include recommendations, forest composition (species and age), collected data, and best tree care practices. This type of project is eligible for an Urban Forest Grant and neighborhoods are encouraged to apply. Get started by following the steps below. Contact the City's Urban Forest Health Coordinator with any questions.

- Step 1:** **Identify the neighborhood lead or committee to drive this project.** A qualifying project includes the entirety of a neighborhood.
- Step 2:** **Determine the scope** of your project by **using the Request for Proposal (RFP) template** to get started.
- Step 3:** **Get bids for the neighborhood Assessment and select an arborist.**
- Submit the selected arborist's contact information to the City's Urban Forest Health Coordinator. Relevant tree health information and resources will be shared to support the arborist's assessment.
 - If funding support is needed, consider applying for an Urban Forest Grant. Deadlines are January 1 and July 1. More details at: austintexas.gov/ufgp.



Step 4: Share results to inform and empower neighbors.

- Post the final arborist report for neighbors to access.
- Invite the neighborhood to a community meeting where the arborist shares their findings.
- Share the final arborist report with the City's Urban Forest Health Coordinator. If grant-funded, submit a final grant report to the Urban Forest Grant Program.

Step 5: Plan and coordinate responses.

- Provide opportunities for community dialogue.
- Coordinate any applicable responses to priority findings.
- Encourage and support neighbors to care for and help maintain our urban forest.

Access the Tree Information Center online www.austintexas.gov/department/tree-information-center for general information and contact the Urban Forest Health Coordinator for assessment resources.

Neighborhood lead or committee responsibilities include:

- Maintaining communication with the City's Urban Forest Health Coordinator.
- Securing funds for the Neighborhood Forest Health Assessment.
- Contracting with a qualified vendor.
- Disseminating the assessment and the results.
- Developing a coordinated response effort.

Questions? Contact Marcos Martinez, Urban Forest Health Coordinator

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Urban Forest Health

