What Does the City Have?
Different Types of Plans

Aubrey Hammontree, AICP
Oklahoma City Planning Department

Understanding the City’s Planning Process

Each City’s planning process is different; just as cities themselves are different.
What are some factors that make the approach to planning so variable?

Figure out how you can contribute to plans and the planning process.

How hard could it be?

*Everyone knows what a “plan” is…*

Plans are policy documents (not regulatory tools) and typically do not have legal enforcement ability.

They provide a framework that helps guide future development and investment, and aid in decision-making.
Basic ingredients of most plans

- Establish a vision for where the community wants to be,
- Identify issues and trends that are affecting the community,
- Set goals and objectives for addressing those issues,
- Develop policies and strategies to achieve goals, and
- Create an implementation plan to measure and ensure progress.

But what you make with these same ingredients can take many different forms

Understanding the Different Types of Plans
What variables make plans different?

Figure out how you can integrate urban forestry into these plans.

Comprehensive Plans
(a.k.a. General Plan or Comprehensive Master Plan)

- Long term (20+ years)
- Applies to large geographic areas (regions, cities, towns)
- Broad scope
- Coordinates interrelated functions
  - Land use
  - Transportation
  - Utilities
  - Housing
  - Parks and Recreation
How can we integrate urban forestry into this type of plan?

- **Land use**
  - Environmental Conservation
  - Rural / Agricultural
  - Tree Preservation
  - Habitat Protection
  - Prevent Fragmentation

- **Transportation**
  - Connectivity
  - Walkability
  - Tree-Lined Trails and Bike Lanes
  - Street Tree Program

- **Utilities**
  - Emergency / Disaster Preparedness
  - Right Tree, Right Place
  - Tree Care and Management
  - Tree Planting Programs

- **Environmental Tree Preservation**
- **Land use**
- **Rural / Agricultural**
- **Tree Preservation**
- **Habitat Protection**
- **Prevent Fragmentation**
- **Connectivity**
- **Walkability**
- **Street Tree Program**
- **Emergency / Disaster Preparedness**
- **Right Tree, Right Place**
- **Tree Care and Management**
- **Tree Planting Programs**
How can we integrate urban forestry into this type of plan?

- Housing
- Neighborhood Character
- Tree Planting & Care
- Habitat Protection

---

How can we integrate urban forestry into this type of plan?

- Parks and Recreation
- Use, Comfort and Beauty
- Canopy Cover Standards
- Tree Management Program

---

Strategic Plans (a.k.a. Strategic Action Plans, Strategic Development Plans)

- Mid-range term (5-10 years)
- Focuses on selected issues
- Usually applied to defined geographic areas (hard to apply to an entire city)
- Stronger emphasis on business, economy development
- Heavy on specific actions taken in a strategic sequence
Example:
North Canadian River Strategic Action & Development Plan

Goal: Redesign Exchange Street to provide a safer, more inviting pedestrian linkage between the Farmers Market District, the River, and Stockyards City.

Incorporate street trees, pedestrian lighting, detached walkways, and other streetscape improvements into the Exchange Street right-of-way between the Farmers Market and the river to create a more visible connection and more inviting environment for pedestrians.

Master Plans
(p.e.a. Master Development Plans)

- Applies to a defined geographic area
- Involves physical planning, urban design, site design
- Assigns specific types of development and streets geographic area
- Usually includes illustrations, renderings, development guidelines

Example:
Core to Shore Plan

Boulevard Design and Streetscape
The new boulevard design includes six basic elements:
- The overall design idiom
- The basic street channel
- Parking slips
- Wide adjacent sidewalks
- Streetscape elements
- The railroad underpass
Special Area Plans
(Types include: Corridor Plans, Neighborhood Plans, District Plans, etc.)

- Framework consistent with other plan types (issues, goals, objectives, strategies/actions) but content is specific to a topic or geographic area
- Because of smaller, more focused scale, can include components of strategic or master plans

Functional Plans
(a.k.a. Functional Master Plans)

Supplements a comprehensive plan, or is done to elaborate on a plan element
- Transportation
- Parks and Recreation
- Historic Preservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- Environmental
- Water / Drainage
- Tourism
Comprehensive Master
Strategic
Special Area
Functional

A. Defined area; economic focus, action items
B. Broadest scope; public policy; interrelated functions
C. Special geographic area; usually a hybrid of plan types
D. Focuses on an element of a comprehensive plan in detail
E. Illustrates physical characteristics of built environment in a target area

So how, again, can we integrate urban forestry into these plans?

Contribute to any and all of these common plan components:
- Vision
- Goals
- Objectives
- Policies / Strategies / Actions
  - Creating or changing ordinances and regulations
  - Developing review criteria for development proposals
  - Creating incentives
  - Forming partnerships or programs
- Identifying and prioritizing Capital Improvements
Questions / Discussion

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
-