

Assistant Parks Superintendent Charlie Romines introduced the background and history of the Urban Forestry Task Force.

- Highlighted that the UFTF was born out of the Sustainable Madison Committee and was attached to the 2012 Sustainable Madison Plan to minimize loss of urban canopy, EAB mitigation plan, and conscious monitoring of development (private and public) around trees.
- In 2016, a commission was formed to review these issues and monitor them. Some members of this group had more detailed concerns regarding the issues facing Madison's trees that went beyond what City Forestry is responsible for and there was the idea to form the UFTF to address those gaps.
- There was a strong desire to get all of these agencies "at the table," i.e. Engineering, Forestry, and Planning/Development, so they would all get a chance to compare processes, regulations, etc., and work together to communicate this not only to other agencies but to the public as well.
- One thing to identify and solve is where do we NOT have room for canopy trees and how can we work around that? How can we as a city be more creative in creating and cultivating spaces that are conducive to canopy trees?
- One potential goal is a complete Urban Forestry Master Plan and a guiding document that all agencies have a part in creating and can reference for their future work.
- Alder David Ahrens stated that the current forestry plan is not the final word; the city needs to sign off on a plan created by more than one agency.