

1. Review of City practices related to urban forestry (60 minutes)

a. Engineering

- i. Lisa Coleman discussed the handout related to a street view of utilities/a generic cross section of a city right of way (File #50216). A typical residential street might have a 60 ft wide right of way, a five-foot wide sidewalk and an eight-foot grass terrace. Terrace trees, utility poles, etc., present as well, i.e. there are lots of things in that space.
- ii. Typical width for a residential street is 32 ft, which also needs to have room for parking, driving lines, bike lanes, and so on.
- iii. What is happening underneath the street though?
 1. Numerous underground utilities that are not always in the same place.
 2. Bottom of picture – green pipes = sanitary sewer. The sanitary main typically runs down the middle of the street, about 16 feet down. Residential/house laterals flow out from every house or building runs into the sanitary mains. Flows via gravity, so you have to plan for everything to run downhill (unless there is a lift station).
 3. Water main is about 6 ft deep, so below frost line, flows under pressure. Connection to each house or building via lateral, flows into houses.
 4. Takeaway is that there are many service connections under terraces.
 5. Above water main is water sewer – takes rainwater, connected to curb inlets and storm drains, sometimes connected to buildings or residences in some urban areas that have water that flows/drains next to the building/off the building.
 6. Red line – gas main, above frost line, usually one of the more shallow lines. Usually owned by MG&E around here. Another facility where there are connections to every home and building through the terrace.
 7. Electrical lines are next, lots of those running everywhere. Pose potential conflicts with undergrounding since trees might be growing around roots, i.e. if there is a repair to be made, etc., a tree might be affected.
 8. When private utilities do work in public right of ways, they have to pull permits from engineering for the work.
 9. Other utilities you might find: fiber optic, telecomm, etc. They might be going straight through, or they might have connections to each house as well. There are lots of things running down the street with connections out to each house/under terraces, and there are lots of things running laterally under the right of way along the length of the street.
 10. Try to plan to have utilities in separate corridors/side by side, rather than stacked on top so that if repair has to take place, they don't have to dig up multiple utilities.

11. Forestry tries to plant where there is the least amount of conflict, but a lot of current conflicts are due to older planting practices no longer in use.
12. There are regulations/best practices for running lines and digging or drilling near trees.
13. Engineering has different types of engineers – design engineers and other types of engineers in different workgroups – that work together to design each plan for what is going underground, how the street is designed, etc., then those projects are bid out to contractors. Then city engineers are assigned to monitor the plan and make sure that the contractors are following the rules and plans. They work closely with Forestry (starting formally in about 2011, informally before then) to keep an eye on trees, etc. during the project.
14. Also own and manage greenways. Any emergency/public safety threat in a greenway, Forestry will respond to, but any routine maintenance items go to Engineering.
15. Mike Rewey commented that downtown is even busier than the residential street examples provided, i.e. the UW with underground heating and other lines. Suggests that we need to focus our efforts primarily on downtown/dense urban areas and restoring/maintaining urban canopy in these areas.
16. Jackie Suska expressed concern that it appears that Forestry seems to be the last department invited to the table during projects. Eddy, Kane, and others stated that Forestry is involved from the start. Jackie's concern was in relation to E Washington Ave ordinance – Lisa stated that this was because it's an older area, utilities are already there.

b. Planning

- i. Zoning Code – deals with trees on private property. It really only mentions trees within the landscape section. 1 and 2 family homes are explicitly excluded from any landscape requirements. 3 and up homes are subject to planning's approval. Business/commercial properties have to have their landscapes approved by the city.
- ii. Looks at impervious areas on the ground to determine how much land can be developed. The actual building does not count toward any landscape requirement. Focuses on the parking area and any non-building footprint areas.
- iii. Requires an island of a certain size every 12 parking stalls and each of those must have a canopy tree. They don't always grow well, but they are required.
- iv. Development Frontage Landscape – toward the front of the development, a canopy tree and 5 shrubs required every 30 ft. Waived if there is not space between the building and a ROW for this (but surface parking serving this building would still have the same requirements mentioned before).

- v. Zero landscape requirements for properties that are taking up almost all developable land and has no surface parking.
- vi. Conditional use approvals allows for more conversation surrounding buildings where the ROW may change.
- vii. One of goals in new neighborhoods: how do we get the right size street for the area? When they look at the individual components that take up space in neighborhoods (driveways, etc.) – the problem seems to be that when we create elements that aren't the best use for the land in that area, i.e. parking on both sides of Cottage Grove road where there isn't a real demand for that, could be better used for a larger terrace and trees.
- viii. Winnebago St – ongoing debate, very wide street, a lot of the areas are paved terrace or narrow 3 ft grass terraces, so no real space for any trees.
- ix. City's Comprehensive Plan – they are in the process of updating that, McAuliffe hasn't seen any drafts of it yet, goal is to plan a vibrant streetscape. Still in the works.
- x. Zoning requirements may differ from district to district around the city. Urban design district 8 (it is a district that the city created to foster high quality design that traditionally or historically have not been designed the best) – reviewed by the Urban Design Commission which has a bit more discretion. There are several districts that allow and encourage zero setback.
- xi. Rewey commented that Forestry should have some sort of recourse or backup when developers don't allow for trees at forestry's discretion or make it impossible for forestry to plant trees.
- xii. Rewey expressed that Planning might want to focus on making terraces larger. McAuliffe asked if he was speaking about the "Skinny Streets" ordinance. Subdivision ordinance does have a city street ordinance allows for low density areas to have smaller terraces in order to allow for more parcel land. Idea might have been that low density lots might have been thought to have more room for trees, so making up for a narrow terrace that can only have a small tree or no tree at all.
- xiii. One challenge is getting the right amount of parking for the neighborhood, i.e. if you have two car garage and two car driveway, a lot of street parking doesn't get used, so why not have a larger terrace?
- xiv. Dan states that some of the biggest issues that we are seeing is the conversation of laterals, private development conflict, etc... and forestry is sometimes the last one to get to the field.

2. Current guidelines related to urban forestry from MGO (15 minutes)