

UFTF Issues Summary

For Discussion Purposes

Municipal Review of Private Property Projects- Land Use Planning & Zoning

- Accuracy of canopy representations on private development renderings
- Accounting for existing tree resources on private property developments i.e. inventory existing tree conditions, evaluation of canopy resources and preparation of tree removal/preservation plans
- No remediation for canopy loss on commercial private developments i.e. removal of mature tree and replacements with new trees can result in both short and long term canopy loss
- No incentives for creation of increased canopy value on commercial private developments
- Existing trees in public right of way in relation /adjacent to private developments- protection during construction, process for removals and replacements- challenges therein:
 - Tree replacements and right-of-way issues outside property lines are illustrated but not fully reviewed as site planning process- resulting in post approvals conflicts- e.g. University Ave project
 - Mature, city street trees can be removed and replaced by private contractors with city oversight=short-term public, canopy loss
- Construction Protection Standards- e.g. currently 5ft from trunk of public trees, expand to near drip line, fenced areas to protect from root and truck damage, appropriate fines to reflect actual, current losses from damage, etc.
- Regulated building setbacks or lack there of, particularly in downtown areas and main corridors, do not allow for root volume and canopy space
- Landscape Standards / Scoring
 - Tree islands in parking lots – 1 for 12 stalls, placement around lighting
 - Landscape strips in place of parking lot islands
 - Tree spacing and requirements for canopy size.
 - Tree regulations in Urban Design Districts
 - Update tree recommended tree lists to prioritize large canopy, urban tolerant trees
 - Create options for underground utility free zones where groups of trees can be established
 - Incentivize commercial parking lot retrofits for stormwater management and long-term tree replacement and maintenance e.g. Willy St. north parking lot, link to current standards for parking lot upgrades per development review/ levels of disturbance
- Minimum soil volume standards and design alternatives for achieving them (Minneapolis standards as template)
- Greenroofs / Stormwater

- Incentivize and/or standardize pervious pavements to increase infiltration
- Fire Access Regulations
- Landmarks Commission e.g. removals at city hall renovation?
- Tree selection that encourages diversity of trees with similar forms- grouping of similar species
- Independent accounting for existing tree resources on Neighborhood Development Plans, Open Space plan, Comprehensive Plan, etc.
- Subdivision Regulations- terrace, street, sidewalk, right-of-way dimensions do not explicitly account for soil volume or tree growing conditions
- Regulations do not account for or incentivize new, diversified canopy growth on new created single family lots

Municipal Development Projects

- Accounting for existing tree resources on Neighborhood Development Plans
- Tree spacing requirements of street development projects
 - Fire hydrants- 6ft buffer
 - Tall (30') light pole spacing- 30ft separation from pole to tree
 - Short (11') light pole spacing- 15ft separation from pole
 - AASHTO requirements for traffic visibility and tree placement
 - Underground utility buffers
- Undergrounding of electric utility lines- PSC regulations, "Policy for the funding of Undergrounding Utility Lines (Engineering)", "tree hardening" practices, partial undergrounding, challenges for easements and cost of affected private property owners, cost and benefits guiding decisions do not seem to include canopy considerations e.g. pruning maintenance costs, increased canopy value, quality of life, etc.
- Structural soil, suspended pavements, bump outs, constructed tree pits as design components of street redevelopment design to expand root and soil volume placed in public work specs and also used for design standards for private development
- Section 209 Public Works Specs for Trees, update street protections standards
- Tree placement and rain gardens created occasional conflicts
- Trees and solar facilities create occasional conflicts
- Complete Streets as policy; include and account for canopy conditions
- Rural to Urban Roads- conflicts between extension of new curbs and sidewalks and removal of existing trees
- Madison in Motion
- Accounting for tree potential in alternate transportation planning scenarios e.g. Winnebago St.

Forestry Operations

- Street tree inventory- integrating tree risk assessment documents, making data public, consider multi-year phased updates with university partnerships (can be integrated with efforts to increase cyclical pruning frequency), integrate

work order capacities and inter-staff coordination, integrate recording of complaints

- Challenges of diversity and tree sourcing, continue contract growing, evaluate use of city-operated gravel bed nursery for bare root trees
- Pruning cycles – frequency, varying demands for new and new v. mature trees, evaluate pruning districts, assemble operations, management, and finance team to determine resources needs for increasing pruning from 21 year cycle to 16 years or less
- Workforce Diversity
- Workforce Training
- Facilities and Equipment
- Roles in comprehensive planning
- Roles in private development review
- Damage to downtown trees
- Multiple roles for forestry staff- snow clearance
- Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, and Oak Wilt programs
- Tree Preservation Ordinance
- Urban Forestry Special Fee- use and future of, end of EAB removals
- Role of Heritage Tree Program and Habitat Stewardship Committee

Public Lands

- Planting in lands managed as greenways, forthcoming changes to Engineering policies
- Park EAB programs and tree replacements
- Policies affecting location and species selections in parks:
 - Often mowing determines locations (prioritize use of park over maintenance)
 - Encourage tree placements near playgrounds, splash pads, etc.,
 - Recognize the relationship between functional uses in park and appropriate grouping of similar species- not diversity does not mean that similar can not be adjacent to one another, similar trees can be used to create design cohesion
 - Use of native and non-native (but non-invasive) urban tolerant species, consider permanent tree ID tags to identify new species
 - Formalize “viewshed” protection areas and policies within parks through public process in order to define the role of trees in viewsheds
- Larger scale tree planning across the park system- budgets, long-term goals, etc.
- Develop opportunities for public education and volunteer involvement with trees on public land
- The city should evaluate the use of the gravel bed nursery for bare root trees
- Other public lands- CDA, schools, utilities, institutions- do not often have dedicated staff or resources for trees, EAB demands, tree planting has lacked

Education and Outreach

- Website, accessible information of canopy health and distribution, city goals, etc.
- Public campaign for tree preservation and replacement; the public value of the municipal canopy, etc.
- Small neighborhood events- sponsored neighborhood tree walks, attendance at festivals, presentations to neighborhood associations, etc.
- Integrated public awareness campaigns with arboretum, university, county, not-for-profits, Wisconsin Arborist Association, etc.

Canopy Coverage

- Per neighborhood, population, watershed, etc.
- Canopy Change factors- development, aging canopy, pests, residential landscape trends
- Public v. Private canopy coverages
- Goals- benefits and constraints of creating goals
- Possibly set canopy goals to particular actions and programs, rather than coverage percentages
- Investigate city investment in LIDAR data for canopy coverage

Private Property

- Municipal regulations for code enforcement
- Role of private arborists in a managing urban forests
- Opportunities for public / not-for-profit planting on private property- i.e. multi-unit housing, neighborhood based programs, ash tree replacements, and component management-
- DNR survey on perception of private property owners

Urban Forest Master Plan

- Purpose of:
- Components:
- Mechanism for enacting:
- Tree capacity map and plan for urban core, areas adjacent to university and primary corridors- Park St.