

# Final Recommendations

The UFTF recommends the following:

1. Make an amendment to the criteria used in the policy for funding the Undergrounding of Overhead Utility Lines. The amendment would add language to consider the proposed impact of overhead utility lines on city terrace trees. The criteria should include but may not be limited to: ability to underground, terrace width, availability of space for private trees adjacent to the right-of-way, ability to improve canopy coverage, availability of cost-share funding source (e.g., TIF), potential for place-making, etc.
2. Appropriate consistent annual funds for full or partial underground projects.
- ~~3. The UFTF recommends that the 5-year street reconstruction plan be reviewed to identify candidates for a full or partial undergrounding projects. The goal would be to prioritize locations that meet the following criteria, which includes but may not be limited to: which projects are single phase residential areas where the terrace width is sufficient for large trees? Is there space for private tree plantings? What's the current canopy coverage? Is the road popular with cyclists and pedestrians?-[now addressed in #1]~~
- ~~4. The UFTF supports a study in order to identify of areas of the City that would benefit from undergrounding.[now addressed in #1]~~
5. Add the following to MGO: "In new developments, terraces shall have a minimum width of 8', with 10' being optimal, and the terrace should have 10', 12' minimums for arterial and collectors, whenever possible."
6. Developers pay for and include a tree preservation, planting, and/or replacement plan – which identifies public and private trees potentially impacted by staging, construction process, etc. as well as opportunities for additional trees – with the submission of their development plan. If terrace trees are removed, developers shall be responsible for providing a new tree and soil volume at their cost to regrow a terrace tree in a more optimal environment, with the goal of 800 cubic feet of soil volume. In addition, if during the course of a development project, a terrace tree is removed, then the developer will be responsible for paying \$1000/diameter at breast height inch, which will fund the tree giveaway program.
7. Include Forestry in the final approval process for any development in regards to the public right-of-way. [NEW]
- ~~8. When private redevelopment is proposed, the UFTF recommends that staff require a public tree management plan, which identifies city terrace trees potentially impacted by staging, construction process, etc. and outlines whether they will removed, replaced, maintained, protected, etc. If terrace trees are removed, developers shall be responsible for providing soil volume at their cost to regrow that tree in a more optimal environment.[now addressed in #6]~~

9. Planning Division investigate how new development single-family lots can have at least a minimum of one tree planted per lot.
10. Early neighborhood development plans include an inventory of canopy coverage and significant trees, an assessment of the quality of the existing and future forest and the interaction with the overall development, and identify key areas for conservation.
11. Conduct a study to assess canopy coverage in the city and then use that information to develop target goals. These goals should be neighborhood-based and encourage growth of canopy coverage.
- ~~12. Private trees and ash trees [addressed later]~~
13. Remove the list of allowable trees from the ordinances for the Urban Design Districts and give the authority for that list to the City Forester.
14. Develop a Tree Technical Manual that would include a detailed guide as to the currently used and recommended spacing requirements. The rationale for spacing standards and opportunities for reduction in spacing should be documented.
- ~~15. HOLD: Redevelopment general discussion [already addressed]~~
16. Explore requiring zones free of laterals (e.g., water, sanitary) and parallel utilities for redevelopments at the beginning of the process.
17. Forestry should obtain the appropriate software licenses and permissions to coordinate more extensively with other agencies involved in Public Works projects.
18. Introduce engineered soil volume construction methods, such as structural soils and suspended pavements, for street reconstruction projects in order to provide a more optimal environment, in consultation with the City Forester. Public works design specifications should be updated to allow for such innovative methods and standardized details. These methods should be further identified with interpretive signage to raise awareness of the methods.
19. Include a soil volume requirement, in consultation with the City Forester, per canopy or landscape tree in the parking and general landscaping zoning plans for private development.
20. Create a position for a Forestry outreach and education specialist, who would combine education/communication and an arborist background. This position would help develop an Urban Forest Outreach Initiative that would provide public education; coordinate events; and create a program similar to Tree Tender, Tree Keeper, or Adopt-a-Highway, in conjunction with the City Forester. The Initiative would partner with the Arboretum, Extension, Dane County Parks, Urban Tree Alliance, and others to maintain and grow the urban forest. The initiative would also involve private individuals.
21. [added to 20]

22. Create a grant program that includes a tree giveaway of private trees.
23. ~~Create a program similar to Tree Tender, Tree Keeper, or Adopt a Highway.~~ [moved to 20]
24. Write an annual or biennial urban forest report. This would accomplish the same goals as a Forestry Master Plan (e.g., assessing the current state of the urban forest, reviewing the UFTF recommendations, and evaluating the success of those goals).
25. ~~Tree Technical Guide~~ [covered in #14]
26. Update and upgrade the process of inventorying street trees to include up-to-date information.
27. Inventory trees on all city-wide properties, including parks and greenways, in order to maintain and add new trees. The inventory would be used to mitigate and respond to threats to the urban forest. [NEW]
28. ~~The UFTF recommends that if, during the course of a development project, a terrace tree is removed, then the developer will be responsible for paying [\$x].~~ [included in #6]
29. **Repeal the MGO 8128-10-17-83 that prioritizes private solar panel installation over street tree replacement.**
30. Investigate how to reduce the length of the tree pruning cycle and provide recommendations.
31. **Discuss a Tree Preservation Ordinance.** Weak – Develop a tree preservation and heritage tree ordinance.
32. Not sure if I saw it. City forester consult with city engineering prior to trees being planted on any Arterial or Collector Street for **LONG TERM** plans. Some of these street may be widened or have bike lanes added perhaps as far out as 25 years from now.
33. Did not see a discussion on vision corners. Delete as a requirement or policy. Many older neighborhoods have large trees up to the corner (i.e. Vilas). There is no record of a safety issue. Long term goal when they are planted closer is to have no branched lower than 10 feet as they grow. Street signs are at 7 feet and there are utility poles, street lights, signal pole, utility boxes and signal control boxes in this “sacred” zone already. The same should apply to vision at driveways and alleys. *Item 14 lightly touches on it, but our report needs to strongly address or it won’t happen. (I was/am a transportation engineer and have no concerns.)*
34. Any discussion on green roofs? There should be.
35. Need to discuss and propose structured plantings especially in the downtown area. There is an example in front of the Goodman Parks Office. I also believe there is some along a wall on W. Johnson off of State Street. One thought, if they are placed along building walls is to have them watered from roof runoff. **I have attached photos of two examples.** The watering one is a work in progress.

36. Need to review diversion of forestry resources. It takes away from the trimming program which cannot be its trimming cycle goals.
37. Was there a discussion of “beefing up” parking lot landscaping requirement. For example we need more canopy trees.
38. Where the terrace does not allow canopy trees or even ornamentals we need a program to have the city plant in private front yards. Need to study and develop.
39. Was tree planting in greenways and around retention/detention pond discussed? Need to study and develop a policy, but at the same time respect prairies.
40. Anything on tree planting and preservation in parks? There should be
41. Review fire department requirments (ordinance and/or policy) that restrict tree plannting. Determine which ones can be modified or eliminated for the purpose of enhancing tree planting.

Comments in “red” by Michael Rewey, 3/20/2019.