

Final Recommendations

The UFTF recommends the following:

1. The Undergrounding of Overhead Utility Lines policy criteria should be amended to account for the impact of overhead utility lines on city terrace trees. The altered 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. (Note: I don't understand the second sentence.)
2. Appropriate consistent annual funds for full or partial underground projects. (Note: This should clarify which funds. For instance, I don't think that the funds considered here should come from a forestry budget.)
- ~~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] (I'm not clear how this is addressed in #1)~~
5. The Madison General Ordinance should be amended so that the following spatial dimensions are consistently applied to terrace widths: "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.

I suggest the following language in place of 6:

Private development proposals subject to city review should create and provide a Tree Management Plan. The Tree Management Plan can include, but not be limited to:

- An **inventory** that identifies the locations and species of trees larger than 5" DBH for both private trees and possibly affected public trees within the adjacent public right-of-ways.
- A **statement** describing the impacts of the development on the tree resources that includes a description of trees to be preserved and removed. Trees that are proposed and approved for

removal should be replaced in enhanced conditions. Trees that removed without approval, should carry a fine of \$1000 per inch, measure are diameter breast height.

- A **construction** plan illustrating how practices may affect existing trees and details physical tree preservation measures such critical root zones protection, locations for materials storage, site access, and prescribed tree management measures such as pruning.

7. Include Forestry in the final approval process for any development in regards to the public right-of-way. [NEW]

8. Planning Division investigate how new development single-family lots can have at least a minimum of one tree planted per lot.

I suggest the following language:

The city should develop strategies to grow trees on newly developed single-family lots. These may include, but not be limited to, incentives for developers and/or homeowners to plant and maintain trees, the use of neighborhoods covenants to require trees, or direct planting programs focused on private properties. It is further recommended that the city provide guidance on best practices regarding the location of trees of lots and species selection to encourage diversity and large canopy trees

9. 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.

I suggest the following language:

City planning documents, such as but not limited to Neighborhood Development Plans and Neighborhood Plans, should include an **urban tree canopy statement** that details a canopy coverage percentage for focus areas and identifies localized issues that impact the health of the canopy. It is further recommended that these planning documents identify areas for canopy preservation and growth. As appropriate, it is recommended that existing plans be amended to address these issues.

10. Neighborhood-scaled canopy coverage assessments should be developed in order to set goals and strategies for canopy growth within those areas.

11. 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.

12. 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.

Note: "Tree Technical Manual" needs further elaboration of its purpose. This was not discussed in detail. It is my understanding that such a document would include considerably more than spacing requirements. If the intent is to specify spacing requirements, then the document should probably be called something else.

~~13. HOLD: Redevelopment general discussion-[already addressed]~~

14. Explore requiring zones free of laterals (e.g., water, sanitary) and parallel utilities for redevelopments at the beginning of the process in order preserve open and contiguous areas used to maximized soil volumes for tree plantings.
15. Forestry should obtain the appropriate software licenses and permissions to coordinate more extensively with other agencies involved in Public Works projects.
16. 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.
17. In consultation with the City Forester, isoil volume requirements should be included within landscape zoning requirements for parking lot trees and general landscape plans. It is further recommended that a policy for site plans that increases canopy coverage density in proportion to increases in impervious surface (particularly for parking lots) be developed, ie larger impercvious surfaces should have greatd coverage requirements.
18. 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.
Note: I remember from previous discussions that one goal of this program was to ultimately have it led by a group outside the city or, at least, in direct partnership with the city. It may also not be warranted to name the groups as partners; they may be surprised to be included without knowledge.
19. Create a grant program that includes a tree giveaway of private trees.
I suggest the following langage:
The city should support multi-year programs to support tree planting for private homes, apartment/rental housing, schools, and other areas not currently covered with existing municipal plantings.
20. 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).
Note: The annual urban forest report should be further specified. If a forestry master plan is intended, then that should be included in a separate point.

21. Update and upgrade the process of inventorying street trees to include up-to-date information.
Note: Further elaboration on the purposes and goals of the upgrade will be helpful.
22. 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.
Note: I don't think this should be included without a clearly specified need. This would be a large project.
23. ~~The UTF 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]~~
- 24. Repeal the MGO 8128-10-17-83 that prioritizes private solar panel installation over street tree replacement.** Note: What does this code say?
25. Investigate how to reduce the length of the tree pruning cycle and provide recommendations.
- 26. Discuss a Tree Preservation Ordinance.**
- 27. I suggest inclusion of a recommendation that addresses the following:**
Public parks should adopt a policy of canopy growth. A city-wide tree needs assessment for park properties should be considered in order to identify preliminary tree locations, set consistent design goals, and project both priority areas and rates for tree planting. Ash trees should be replaced on a one to one-basis and total park plantings should aim to grow on annual basis.