

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 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 annual funds for full or partial underground projects as a separate budget line item.
3. Add to Madison General Ordinances: “In new developments, terraces shall have the following optimal minimum widths:
 - Local streets – 10’
 - Collector streets – 10’
 - Arterial streets – 12’ ”
4. 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.
5. Include Forestry in the final approval process for any development in regards to the public right-of-way.
6. Planning Division should investigate how new single-family lots can have a requirement of a minimum of one tree per lot. 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.
7. Planning documents, such as 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.

8. Neighborhood-scaled canopy coverage assessments should be developed and conducted in order to set goals and strategies for canopy growth within those areas.
9. The City of Madison tree canopy coverage should be 40%, consistent with the American Forests Association current recommendations. Currently, Madison tree canopy coverage is estimated at 25%.
10. Transfer the authority for the list of allowable trees from the Urban Design District to the City Forester.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Forestry should obtain the appropriate software licenses and permissions to coordinate more extensively with other agencies involved in Public Works projects.
14. 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.
15. In consultation with the City Forester, soil 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, i.e. larger impervious surfaces should have greater coverage requirements.
16. 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 interested groups maintain and grow the urban forest.
17. Create a grant program that includes the City providing trees to be planted on private property.
18. Write a 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).

19. Update and upgrade the process of inventorying street trees to include up-to-date information.
20. 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 as well as prioritize growth of the forest.
21. Amend MGO 16.23.8(g) to clarify that existing trees should not be removed for the purposes of solar panel installation. Planting trees, planting location, and species would only be in effect if the building plan includes using solar.
22. Dedicate additional resources to Forestry for more frequent pruning and maintenance of new and existing street trees.
23. Create a Tree Preservation Ordinance by 2020 in order to preserve, expand, and protect canopy coverage overall in our Madison urban forest.
24. Increase canopy in Parks.