

District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council meeting minutes

Meeting Chair - DDOT	Earl Eutsler	Earl.eutsler@dc.gov	202.673.6813
Meeting Chair - DOEE:	Steve Saari	Steve.saari@dc.gov	202.535.2961
Meeting Scribe:	Jim Woodworth	james.woodworth@dc.gov	202.535.2244
MEETING TITLE:	UFAC Fall Meeting, Web-Ex		

Call to order: 10:00AM, Thursday, October 6, 2022

Council Members (* if in attendance):

Steve Saari, DOEE	Patrick Campbell, NPS*	Brenda Richardson, comm. rep.*
Earl Eutsler, DDOT*	Maureen Alonso, GSA*	Allison Clausen, comm. rep.*
Brent Sisco, DPR	Maureen Holman, DC Water*	Shoshana Sommer, comm. rep.*
Angela Scott, DGS	Nathan McElroy, Pepco	Carol Herwig, comm. rep.

Invited Guests(* if in attendance)::

Robert Corletta, DDOT*	Stephen Gyor, OP*	Peter Norden, DPR
Joi Ruffin, DCPS*	Matt Weber, DOEE*	Kasey Yturalde, DDOT*
Stephanie Free, NCPC*	Sally Claggett, USFS	Julie Mawhorter, USFS*
Phillip Rodbell, USFS*	Nancy Sonti, USFS*	Craig Larson, USFS
Iris Allen, MD DNR	Rasma Plato, GSA*	Joseph Luebke, GSA*
Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees	Kelly Collins Choi, Casey Trees*	Rob Shaut, Casey Trees*
Michaila Musman, Casey Trees*	Spenser Balog, Casey Trees*	John Boland, Casey Trees*
Delores Bushong, community*	Dennis Chestnut, community*	Mary Pat Rowan, community
Deborah Shapley, RMA*	Nathan Harrington, Ward8Woods	Merrit Drucker, Ward8Woods
Matthew Baker, UMBC	Mike Alonzo, AU	Darryl Ross, community*
Annie Acostia, community	Liz Crafford, community*	Catherine Stratton Treadway, community*

Quorum: YES

UFAC Meeting Notes

1. Welcome, Introductions – Jim Woodworth, DOEE

2. Legislative Update – Kelly Collins-Choi, Casey Trees
Urban Forest Preservation Authority Amendment Act of 2022 (B24-0444), Enacted as law effective Aug 16th 2022. https://lms.dccouncil.gov/downloads/LIMS/48038/Signed_Act/B24-0444-Signed_Act.pdf

UFPAAA provisions include:

- Stop work authority for DDOT urban foresters
- Strengthen Tree Preservation Plans (TPP); Defines critical root zone; require TPP submission at start of process to ensure efficient and effective permitting pipeline for projects to resolve, mediate issues before construction permits issued
- Violation by developer or landowner can result in revocation of construction permits, business license; fines can be tripled
- Applies to District owned lands to protect special and heritage trees

3. Forest Health updates – Kasey Yturralde, DDOT Urban Forestry Division

- USFS Kristen and Craig Larsen forest entomologist
- Site visit to DC soon
- Partnerships have been key!
- Spotted Lanternfly – *Lycorma delicatula*
- [Invasive Species - Spotted Lantern Fly | DDOT Urban Forestry \(dc.gov\)](#)
- [Forest Health | DDOT Urban Forestry \(dc.gov\)](#)
- SLF has spread to SNL! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_x4soinsRQ
 - Best press you can ask for
 - Quarantine areas
 - Seeing in DC, but fortunately DC does not have a significant agricultural center
 - Feeds on 70 different plants and trees
 - Risk to DC? Large urban pest infestation!
 - Hope to limit spread and impact on people
 - 50 traps received; ~10 placed across the District at high-risk sites since 2019. None found in traps yet...
 1. Highest risk of introduction; transportation corridors where traps are focused
 2. On tree of heaven
 - Reporting mechanism: [survey 123](#).
 1. Observations in District, but not infestation.
 2. Many reports of look-a-likes
 3. Rock Creek Park
 - Trial/pilot removal of Tree of Heaven near high priority sites (community gardens, school gardens)
 - a. USFS grant for next year
 - AU class project on SLF outreach

- Monthly meetings, and quarterly partner meetings
 - **Crape myrtle bark scale**, discovered in TX in 2004, DC in 2020
 - Produces honey-dew; sooty mold
 - creates twig die-back, reduced flowering, darkening of bark, leaves
 - Temporary planting moratorium until better management plan in place.
 1. Pruning debris, reduce spreading
 2. Dialogue with AOC, USFS
 - Examining Non-pesticide treatment options, because it is a flowering species and want to minimize impacts to pollinators.
 - Dormant oil has possibilities.
 - **Bark and Ambrosia beetle and oak study**
 - Still underway with UDC
 - Traps, areas of decline white oaks
 - Collecting for USFS to taxonomist
 - Want to ID any possible new beetles or associations.
4. Langdon Park Forest Patch Project Update - Delores Bushong, and Alison Clausen
- Importance of signs – thank you!
 - Dedicated to caring for and learning from the urban forest
 - 1861 maps, pre-civil war
 - Lots of species; large edge; lots of vine pressure.
 - Project started in March 2020.

Trees ‘rescued’ or released from vines have sprung up and gotten quite large.

3 years of learning and observing. Working along the edge, finding native trees amongst invasive vines. Removing vines, documenting what we saw.

- “tiny forest”
 - 25 trees planted in March 2021.
 - In only one quadrant:
 - 74 seedlings in 2021...
 - 249 seedlings in 2022!
 - Inspired design of research project to understand the seed bank, value of forest re-planting itself. Importance of forest regenerating itself.
- With Nancy Sonti’s expertise, identified and established 4 survey plots ~ 100 meters square; 2x2 m plots
- 4 Treatments (48 2mx2m plots total):
 - A –vine removal
 - B vine removal + soil disturbance (10cm dig and turn over)
 - C vine removal + soil disturbance + mulching
 - D. Tree planting (including vine removal, soil disturbance and mulching)
- Monthly: Clear vines, count seedlings...Such hard work!
- Learning from the forest - > Different timelines and seedling densities
- What can we do to support a healthy forest?

- Hand tools/mechanical v. chemical/herbicides
 - Benefits of slowly and carefully (little seedlings being discovered under mountains of kudzo) v. going to scale with other methods
 - How to make sustainable?
 - Volunteer enthusiasm becomes advocacy v. paid professional, paid work.
 - Community connections
 - Working relations with agencies
 - Call backs, meetings, site visits, forest tours
 - Casey Trees is the fuel and force making it all happen.
 - FIC connection – Forests in Cities Network
 - Case study to be published in CATE journal – Cities and the Environment
 - Great examples of cross-county themes on partnership, community based restoration, etc.
5. Presentation: Urban FIA & My City's Trees App Update– Nancy Falxa Sonti & Kasey Yturalde & (30 min)
- Goal for FIA – the nation’s forest census
 - Annually monitor the forests of census defined urban areas
 - Adapt FIA program to urban areas = UFIA
 - “annualized” inventory work done over 7 years to visit entire city/state/area
 - 2014 first year – (Baltimore, Austin)
 - 2018 in DC, remeasured at a rate of 1/7 district each year.
 - Randomly distributed circular plots
 - Local partners, contractors
 - Fusing with i-Tree-Eco model, replacing it
 - Delivering data in different ways
 - All publicly available online
 - Not most user friendly!
 - 2019 approved for DC (1/7th)
 - Report forth-coming

My Cities Trees (<https://mct.tfs.tamu.edu/>)

- Summarized by spatial themes
- For DC, added layers for Wards, Heat data, etc.
- Trees/acre, Trees per person
- Summaries by species, size, volume, etc.
- Developed by Texas Forest Service
 - Feedback Welcome!
 - Training at DDOT
- Ecosystem services (e.g. runoff avoided, carbon sequestration)
- Forestry professional quality data collection on tree damages, defects,
- Maintained v. not maintained areas (e.g. natural areas)
- Pests and diseases, tree risk

- Wildlife, insects, public health,
- Silviculture of other city owned patches; how do we save other patches?
 - Intact forests that may be developed?
 - What can 'we' do?
 - Track land-use, land-cover, condition
 - Maps/mapping use of data, conversation continues to make a publicly available forest patch 'viewer' – NOT yet available to public.
 - Hard to advocate for! If I can't find it, don't know who owns them. Don't know where to turn... or how to go about it.
 - Once lost, can't recover soil, forest ecosystem, etc.
 - Ecosystem services of multiple trees (many small ones, v individual trees)
 - Cumulative value of patch, context matters relative to benefits
 - Traditional FIA protocols require the area to be at least one acre in size, 120 feet wide, and 10% canopy cover
 - this tool might be useful in calculating your own ecosystem services benefits: <https://mytree.itreetools.org/#/>

6. Presentation: Tree Planting Programs & Operations– Rob Shaut, Casey Trees (30 min)

- Partners and partnerships are critical to success
- Staff:
 - arborists and urban foresters, horticulturalist, landscape architect – sales, designs, specs
 - Field staff – crew, chiefs, foremen
 - Support – GIS, salesforce
- Wards 5/7/8 focus
- Most interest from wards 3 and 4
- Pivoting efforts from 1-4, 6 to 5/7/8/
- Canopy, stormwater, environmental justice
- Annual trees planted grown from 3,000/year to 4,000-5,000 (minus the most challenging pandemic year of 2020)
- October thru Mid-May (one continuous season), incl. Jan-Feb
- Memorial day to September becoming too hot
- Large parcel (anything other than single unit residential)
 - Tree size, 55% large
 - 90% medium and large/major species
 - 10% minor/small
 - Site types
 - 40% - 50% other private/residential
 - 25% DPR
 - 10% DCPS
 - 5% NPS
 - DCHA – newer partner effort in ward 7&8, very receptive feedback

- Mount Olivet – Gold Leaf Award
 - 851 Trees!
 - ~7 acres
 - 84 species
 - Level 1 arboretum status!
 - TNC SRC credits
 - Losing many large Oaks to BLS and hypoxilan
- Residential planting on private property
 - Focus of attention
 - 4 foresters, divided by wards
 - 7-8
 - 2-3
 - 4-5-6
 - DOEE auditors make referrals thru RiverSmart
 - Consults have ‘caught up’ to referrals
 - Own outreach to increase consultations
 - DDOT TOPS
 - Considering how to increase/incentivize this
 - Trees on federal lands decreasing a bit with focus on private lands
 - ~66-70% on private lands
 - ~40% residential
 - 2.5 trees/household
 - 38% small tree
 - 33% medium
 - 29% large
 - Discouraging dogwoods and redbuds
 - Big focus on fleet routing w/IT/GIS to increase efficiency
 - # trees, # stops, mileage/distance
 - Geographic aggregation
 - Combining programs, some days with 4 program codes in DC/outside DC
 - Reduce Carbon footprint/human capital -> more trees per year
 - Increased efforts around maintenance:
 - Right tree right place + microclimate factors of exposure, sun, moisture etc.
 - Getting water on public space trees, but not residential
 - 4 colors by geography, with each crew chief overseeing a jurisdiction
 - Red: Highest focus: ‘year 1’ trees are red
 - Orange – already in ground for 1 summer
 - Yellow – 2 summers
 - White – 3 summers – fall off map, some summer pruning, remove stakes etc. prune again in year 7.
 - Once watered, turns ‘blue’ for 2 weeks, drops off map, then pops back up when watering needed again.
 - Individual trees watered ~3,500-3,900

- Individual watering 'events': ~17,000+ (each tree watered multiple times)
- Weather dependent
- Structural pruning
 - Target elms, leggy Jeffersons
 - Focus on decurrent, canopy trees (elms, oaks, locust)
 - Less needed for excurrent trees
 - Don't focus on flowering trees
 - Seasonal considerations
- Survival study – what is doing well?
 - Near natives, questions of shifting range
 - Pivoting from on-site inspections to remote/virtual confirmations
 - Using leaf-out imagery to verify remotely
 - About 50% verification completed, Continue first phase thru November
 - Then get boots on ground for second phase of verification
 - Less focus on naturalized areas
- Recent research on the importance of keystone plant species in supporting insects
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19565-4>
- The USFS and Northern Institute of Climate Science produced this climate vulnerability assessment of trees for DC, useful in species selections
https://forestadaptation.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/WashingtonDC_TreeSpeciesVulnerability.pdf
 - What species will do well with increased moisture, increased heat, and longevity?
 - Nursery decisions are ~ 2-3 year cycle from purchase of liner to 2-3" caliper, transplant to DC
 - Open to suggestions
 - Very different growing zones and microclimates
 - Colder at farm
 - Hot zones, humidity, different rain fall in District
 - E.g. crape myrtle does better in hot city and colder farm temps.

7. Forest updates & Announcements: Earl Eutsler, DDOT Urban Forestry Division

- 2nd World Forum on Urban Forests
 - FAO, Arbor Day Foundation, USFS, Smithsonian Institute, Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology, ISA, Politecnico di Milano
 - Main theme is Greener, Healthier, Happier Cities for All
 - Italy 2018
 - Tree cities of the World, ADF
 - Main Venue DAR Constitution Hall
 - 1 year from now: October 2023
 - Related side tours and related activities
- Food Forest projects

- Marvin Gaye Trail/Lederer w/DPR
 - New creek access to Watts Branch
- Capitol Hill Montessor School 2nd/G NE behind Union Station
 - Winecap mushroom and fiddlefead fern installations
- RMA updates
 - AU Class Summer Heat study I sidewalk level data collection w/hand-held devices and bike
 - 'Shade Squad'
 - Mapped sidewalk areas in Dupont area
 - Air temp v. trees (both single and double rows of trees)
 - Dupont Tree Plaza project
 - Funding put into District budget
 - ~\$735k
 - DDOT – 'curbside management'
 - Stormwater runoff off CT Ave + silva cell tree installation
- NEXT MEETING IN JANUARY 2023 - TBD

Meeting adjourned: 12:05 pm