

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 Spring Meeting, Web-Ex		

Call to order: 10:00AM, Friday, January 14, 2022

Council Members (* if in attendance):

Steve Saari, DOEE*	Patrick Campbell, NPS*	Nathan McElroy, Pepco
Earl Eutsler, DDOT*	Maureen Alonso, GSA*	Dennis Chestnut, comm. rep.*
Brent Sisco, DPR	Maureen Holman, DC Water*	Delores Bushong, comm. rep.*
Angela Scott, DGS	Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees*	Brenda Richardson, comm. rep.*
		Carol Herwig, comm. rep.*

Invited Guests:

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	Mary Pat Rowan, community
Kelly Collins Choi, Casey Trees	Rob Shaut, Casey Trees	Iris Allen, MD DNR
Ashlyn Pouvaranukoah, UDC	Annie Acostia, community	Allison Clausen, community
Yasha Magarik, DDOT	Spenser Balog, Casey Trees	Rick Turcotte, USFS

Quorum: YES

UFAC Meeting Notes

1. Welcome, Introductions – Jim Woodworth, DOEE
2. Forest Health updates – Kasey Yturralde, DDOT Urban Forestry Division
 - Spotted Lanternfly – *Lycorma delicatula*
 - [Invasive Species - Spotted Lantern Fly | DDOT Urban Forestry \(dc.gov\)](#)
 - [Forest Health | DDOT Urban Forestry \(dc.gov\)](#)
 - Not a fly but a hopper, ~1” long
 - Native to SE asia
 - Not an infestation in DC, yet; several sightings in DC including pointsettia live plant in Tenley Town Whole Foods, arboretum, NE DC Minn Ave metro station area, late summer/early fall 2021.
 - Feeding off of wide host range of 70 different potential hosts, including trees (*Ailanthus* is preferred host); including agricultural crops, vineyards, fruit orchards, walnut, urban pest
 - ‘Trap tree’; removal of tree of heaven
 - 2018 training workshop; 2019 trapping with USDA Aphis (trap tree at USNA)
 - Management plan options and monthly calls w/DOEE, USNA, Casey Trees, DPR, NPS, others. Next call is Feb 1st.
 - Crape myrtle bark scale
 - Hymyptera order
 - From Texas in 2004
 - 2021 Becky Schwartz discovered; finding it throughout District
 - Other hosts include boxwood, persimmon, apple
 - Does not outright kill; feeding damage leads to sooty mold from honey dew secretions
 - Twig die-back; delayed/reduced flower/harder to photosynthesize
 - Insecticides and horticultural oil (less effective)
 - Texas A&M, Dr. Goo; workshop this coming Feb/March; series of videos
 - Incorporate what we know to our planting spec.
 - Ashlyn Pouvaranukoa, UDC – oak survey – possibly share results at future UFAC meeting
3. Langdon Park Forest Patch project update – Delores Bushong, Mary Pat Rowan, and Alison Clausen, community members
 - “It is axiomatic that it is easier to sustain existing native communities than it is to reestablish them”
 - Seedling regeneration in area of 2020 disturbance and 2021 replanting
 - Inspired by Tree Summit presentations (Nany Sonti in 2019, onsite with Earl in 2021)
 - Mapped out quadrants for seedling inventory – 52x40 foot plot
 - Flagged and identified each tree in October 2021

- SW quadrant (20x26) – 86 total, 10 species
 - 10 species, 176 seedlings! In whole plot
 - Very few seedling regeneration elsewhere in forest patch
 - Why regenerated here!? (soil disturbance, mulching, watering, removal of invasives)
 - Casey Trees grant – Community Stormwater Solutions thru DOEE/Ches. Conservancy
 - Forest walk pathway; clearing invasives, inventory labeling of trees, allow engagement with forest
 - Opportunity to explain to residents; takes 10,000 acorns to make one tree!
 - Germination is opportunity to talk about forestry
 - Interest in expanding forest management to conservation easements
4. Trees, Streams and Beavers – Jim Woodworth, DOEE & Kasey Yturalde, DDOT.
- Recent beaver recolonization and dam activity in Watts Branch and Nash Run
 - 4 dams in each stream
 - Follows stream restoration work from past decade, from ecosystem perspective, this is a positive development; beavers are really good at stream restoration! This is a good sign of health!
 - Several hazardous trees in/adjacent to public space
 - MPD called in siting/complaint
 1. UFD felled several trees and left on site.
 - Coordinated several work days to identify trees by location and species to install welded wire fencing
 - Site meeting with Ecotone
 - Can we identify modified planting strategies over longer term
 - Other management strategies to feed their need while protecting other areas? Can we take advantage of their preferences?
 - Engaging regional partners (NPS, City Wildlife, others)
5. Urban Wood Reutilization partnership with USFS and Architect of the Capitol (AOC) – Earl Eutsler, DDOT Urban Forestry Division
- The People’s Tree on capitol lawn
 - 50,000 Ornaments made by students from thru-out the country (not from DC however)
 - The year’s ‘Sugar Bear’ from Six River’s National Forest in California
 - Julie Mawhorter’s USFS-UCF counter-part reached out; coordinating w/Jim Coffman (AOC) USFS reached out to see if tree could be put into urban wood reuse stream
 - Slated for removal first week of January; removing lights, ornaments.
 - Sunk in giant footer of concrete
 - UFD will take possession. End goal to return lightly processed wood to be returned to region in Six Rivers National Forest in CA for re-use programs to repurpose
 - Parties are aligned to make into annual partnership (USFS+AOC+DDOT/UFD)

- IDEA PCS has a kiln and a wood working program – could they be involved in the future?
 - Cut cookie discs to make ornaments for next year’s tree?
 - Fun stuff!
6. District's urban tree canopy change analysis – Earl Eutsler, DDOT Urban Forestry Division
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/62580ba81fc34563b1bae8e8416ee16d>
 Landcover update tracking since 2006; prior to that - American Forester study in 2002
 Leverage reports to help guide efforts, where we should prioritize and track our efforts
 USFS robust funder of these studies

History:

- goal 40% goal, SDC in 2011 to attain by 2032;
- Adrian Fenty’s administration in 2009;
- Mayor Gray, advanced timeline by 3 years, 2032.
- Every five years, 4 to date 2006, 2011, 2015, 2020
- Number of delays/challenges
 - E.g. flyovers require secret service in cock-pit; SS refused due to COVID...

Methodology: Combine 2 sets of data:

- Pleides satellite imagery (4 color band)
- LIDAR – elevation information to distinguish tree cover from other low growing vegetation

Findings:

- Summarized across all geographies including all 8 wards, and updated ward boundaries, ANCs, SMDs, census blocks, parcel level ownership
- Saw decrease from 1-1.5% from 2015 to 2020, from 38.5->37%
- Change in acreage 565 acres lost; fairly substantial;
- Net change from 2006 to 2020, still up by 425 acres
- In all land use categories there was either no change or decrease
 - With exception of ROW; planting ~8k trees per year over past decade; managing to eek out an increase in past 5 year period; validation of approach!
- Leverage all 4 studies to understand gains and losses over 4 studies/3 periods
- Numerous examples of gains/losses:
 - in ROW in past 10-15 year: Valley, Wheeler, Shipley Ter.
 - Losses: Fort Lincoln/Lowes/Costco/housing
 - St. E’s East – sports and entertainment arena, new housing, new hospital
 - Barry Farm redevelopment
 - DHS/Homeland security 295 exit ramp ~ 20 acres; not all lost for good, but lost for the remainder of tree canopy goal timeline.
 - Evidence of loss of ash at Roosevelt Island due to EAB – emerald ash borer infestation; caused island to be closed for extended period to remove hazard trees.
- Tree Protection legislation in action:
 - Fannie Mae HQ – 3 heritage tree relocations, exciting solution!

- PEPCO: right tree right place under wires; but also large trees in spaces that can accommodate them; a lot of engineering for mature trees to co-exist when possible; DC-PLUG (power line undergrounding project);
- Planting more (smaller) trees when a larger tree is removed to achieve net canopy; tree boxes v. continuous strips are key factor/limitation;
- Reinforces need to be planting as aggressively as possible across city, collectively
- Distribution of - and access to- tree canopy
 - Inversely coorelated with population density
 - May not have space to create 40% canopy in a particular neighborhood
 - AF Tree Equity score
 - proximity to trees and canopy is important consideration
 - rule of 3/30%/300
 - see 3 trees from window
 - live in a Neighborhood of 30% canopy
 - no more than 300 meters from a robust greenspace
- trends of population growth, building permits, impervious cover all increasing

Take-aways, next steps to get us toward 40%

- highest priorities:
 - double-down efforts to install trees on private property
 - area of greatest opportunity to increase
 - maintain full stocking of tree trees ~97-98% in ROW
 - partnerships with sister DC agencies, continuing to deliver tree services to all District lands
 - continuing coordination w/partners on capital improvement projects
 - continuing 5 year intervals of analysis

Next meeting poll to come soon, for late March/early April.

Meeting adjourned: 12:01 pm