

District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council UFAC Meeting Summer 25

Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Location: Webex

Council Members:

Co-Chairs

Earl Eutsler, DDOT UFD

Steve Saari, DOEE

Community Reps

Allison Clausen

Brenda Richardson

Shoshana Sommer

Agency Reps

Kristen Audette, DGS

Patrick Campbell, NPS

Seth Charde, DC Water

Evan Johnson, GSA

Nathan McElroy, Pepco

Peter Nohrden, DPR



Welcome, Introductions, & Minutes

Earl Eutsler, DDOT UFD & Erica Carlsson, DOEE

Forest Health & Urban Wood Reuse

Kasey Yturralde, DDOT UFD

Spotted Lanternfly

- Widespread in DC, especially on Tree of Heaven.
- Outreach and reporting efforts ongoing.
- Website to be updated to correct misinformation about DIY pesticides.
- **Reporting Portal:** <https://trees.dc.gov/pages/forest-health#spot>

Beech Leaf Disease

- Found in Rock Creek Park and Montgomery County.
- Treatment with ArborTech (nematicide) is promising but expensive (~\$800/tree).
- DDOT is evaluating treatment options for high-value trees.

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Forest Health & Urban Wood Reuse *Kasey Yturalde, DDOT UFD*

Bark & Ambrosia Beetles

- 2023 trapping showed increased numbers and diversity.
- New records include:
 - Southern Pine Beetle
 - Black Turpentine Beetle

Tree of Heaven Removal

- Trial removals conducted with USDA Forest Service funding.
- Damien Ossi noted potential for future USDA grants (PPA 72721).

Legislative Update & Tree Report Card

Kelly Collins Choi, Casey Trees

Emergency Legislation

- Long Bridge Project: Heritage tree exemption
<https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B26-0319>
- Parkside Development: Five heritage trees exempted
<https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B26-0312>
- RFK Stadium Redevelopment: Waiver from heritage tree protections
<https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B26-0288>

FY26 Budget

- DOEE faced ~20% cuts; Bag Fee Fund restored.
- DDOT Urban Forestry Division received an 8% increase.
- \$75,000 allocated for water access at Wangari Gardens.

Tree Report Card

- DC received an A- grade (up from B+).
- 16,713 trees planted in 2024.
- Decline in illegal heritage tree removals.
<https://caseytrees.org/treereportcard2024/#metrics>

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BioChar & Trees in DC area *Carol Wong, Center for Watershed Protection*

Biochar Overview

- Biochar is not uniform; varies by feedstock and production method.
- Benefits include:
 - Carbon storage
 - Soil health improvement
 - Pollutant retention
- Must be properly produced to be carbon negative.

Tree Applications

- Wood-based biochar preferred for nutrient retention.
- Should be pre-mixed with compost and “charged” for ~3 weeks before planting.
- Avoid planting directly into raw biochar.
- Infographic created for non-arborist groups; will be shared with Erica for distribution.

Standards

- Standards evolving:
 - International Biochar Initiative (IBI)
 - European Biochar Certificate
 - World Biochar Certificate
 - ASTM standards (U.S.)

Testing & Trials

- Compost-biochar mixtures tested over one year.
- Soil vendor conducting follow-up analysis.

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Announcements & Closing Remarks

Upcoming Meetings

- Next UFAC Meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 3:30–5:00 PM
DC Water Project at Soapstone Branch (Rock Creek Park – NPS)

Public Comment Opportunities

- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (2035)
Deadline: September 1
Email: comments@chesapeakebay.net
<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/public-comments>
- USDA Reorganization Plan (affecting USFS)
Deadline: August 26
Email: reorganization@usda.gov

Community Events

- Oxon Run Day:
August 28, 2025
Flyer to be sent by Brenda Lee Richardson

Future Updates

- Earl Eutsler will provide updates on biochar and organics work at a future meeting.