City of Madison

Agenda - Approved

URBAN FORESTRY TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 **12:00 PM** **215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Rm 151 (Madison Municipal Building)**

Note: Possible Quorum of the Urban Forestry Task Force May Exist

If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this service, activity or program, please call the phone number below at least three business days prior to the meeting.

Si necesita un intérprete, un traductor, materiales en formatos alternativos u otros arreglos para acceder a este servicio, actividad o programa, comuníquese al número de teléfono que figura a continuación tres días hábiles como mínimo antes de la reunión.

Yog hais tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, ib tug neeg txhais ntawv, cov ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom siv tau cov kev pab, cov kev ua ub no (activity) los sis qhov kev pab cuam, thov hu rau tus xov tooj hauv qab yam tsawg peb hnub ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.

NOTE: Please contact the Parks Division at 608-266-4711

1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 21, 2019

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

(3 minute speaking limit for items not on the Agenda)

4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Members of the body should make any required disclosures or recusals under the City's Ethics Code.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5 Review of Report Recommendations and Prioritization, Including Review of Board of Park Commissioners Changes

6 Possible Discussion of Organizational Changes

7 ADJOURNMENT

Urban Forestry Task Force Sub-Committee

	Recommendation	Ease of implementation	Impact	Estimated Cost to city	SUMMARY	Stakeholders	Year	City Agencies	Actual cost to City	
Zoning & Site Plan Review	1. Private development proposals subject to city review should create and provide a **Tree Management Plan**. The Tree Management Plan should include, but not be limited to: a. 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. b. A statement describing the impacts of the development on the all tree resources that includes a description (size, species) of trees to be preserved and removed. c. 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 prescribe tree measures such as pruning.	**2**	**5**	**1**	**8**	Developers		Planning		
Zoning & Site Plan Review	2. Include Forestry in the final approval process for any development in regards to the public right-of-way. Any street tree preservation plan shall be considered as part of the evaluation for approval at the Board of Public Works (BPW). If a tree needs to be removed that was not otherwise indicated on the plan to be removed, the plan will need to be re-submitted to the BPW and the developer will need to be present to describe the change in the plan.	**2**	**3**	**1**	**6**	Developers		Planning, Streets, Engineering		
Zoning & Site Plan Review	3. Mature trees lost during construction reduce the public benefit of Madison's urban forest canopy. A required replacement of mature with new trees is not an equal exchange. Even when new trees are planted, it can be several decades until they can provide the value of mature trees. In such cases where existing canopy value is lost or diminished, the city should **develop a more equitable metric** than "one mature tree for one sapling" when seeking measures to **remediate losses** even if those measures are outside of the project bounds.	**2**	**1**	**2**	**5**	Developers, Contractors		Streets, Engineering		
Zoning & Site Plan Review	4. The City should increase costs associated with public tree removal related to house moves and private development projects, such as $500 to $1,000 per inch of diameter at breast height. This would create a financial incentive for developers to avoid public street tree removal while providing Forestry funds that could be used for improve growing environments to speed future tree growth.	**3**	**2**	**1**	**6**	Developers, Contractors		Streets, Attorney		
Zoning & Site Plan Review	5. Public trees that are removed should be replaced in enhanced growing conditions, at the cost of the developer, in consultation with the City Forester. Forestry should partner with Traffic Engineering and Engineering on redevelopment projects for dedication needs to enhance the terrace and sidewalk.	**4**	**1**	**2**	**7**	Developers, Contractors		Streets, Traffic, Engineering		
Zoning & Site Plan Review	6. **Building set back** allowances have been reduced in urban areas to increase density. These policies have likewise reduced areas for potential tree plantings in critical areas. The city should consider the loss of potential trees due to this zoning condition as a detriment to the public value of the city streets. The city should develop zoning policies that encourage, not prevent, the provision of street trees or trees on privately developed properties.	**5**	**2**	**2**	**9**	Developers		Planning		
Zoning & Site Plan Review	7. In the zoning code, amending landscape applicability standards should be considered to bring more legal nonconforming site plans up to current landscape standards.	**3**	**1**	**3**	**7**	Commercial property owners		Planning		
Zoning & Site Plan Review	8. Incentives should be established for private developments that exceed landscape requirements.	**3**	**3**	**3**	**9**	Developers		Planning		
Zoning & Site Plan Review	9. The City Forester should recommend an adequate soil volume to be included within landscape zoning requirements for parking lot trees and general landscape plans.	**3**	**2**	**2**	**7**	Developers, Contractors		Streets, Planning		

Urban Forestry Task Force Sub-Committee

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Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning	1. Neighborhood-scaled canopy coverage assessments should be developed and conducted in order to set goals and strategies for canopy growth within those areas.	**5**	**1**	**5**	**11**	Residents, Property owners		Streets, Planning		
Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning	2. Planning documents, such as Neighborhood Development Plans and Neighborhood Plans, should include an existing tree canopy inventory and identify areas for tree preservation. As appropriate, it is recommended that existing plans be amended to address these issues.	**2**	**2**	**3**	**7**	Residents, Property owners, Developers		Streets, Planning		
Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning	3. Neighborhood development plans should consider developing connected greenspaces, environmental corridors, etc. Whenever possible, efforts should be taken to link existing forested lands.	**2**	**1**	**1**	**4**	Developers		Planning		
Subdivision	1. Planning Division should investigate how new single-family lots, which are exempt from landscape standards in the zoning ordinance, can have a tree planting requirement. Strategies 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 trees.	**5**	**2**	**5**	**12**	Developers, Property owners		Planning		
Street Design	1. Add to Madison General Ordinances: "In new developments, terraces shall have the following optimal minimum widths: a. Local streets – 10' b. Collector streets – 10' c. Arterial streets – 12'	**2**	**1**	**1**	**4**	Developers		Engineering, Traffic, Planning		
Street Design	2. During the public planning and design phases of street re-construction projects, alternative design scenarios, such as engineered soil volume construction methods and terrace support systems, should be investigated 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 educational signage to raise awareness of the methods.	**2**	**3**	**4**	**9**			Engineering, Streets		
Street Design	3. 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.	**5**	**3**	**4**	**12**	Developers		Engineering, Streets		
Street Design	4. 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.	**3**	**1**	**2**	**6**	Residents, Property owners, Utility companies		Engineering, Streets		
Street Design	5. Appropriate annual funds for full or partial underground projects as a separate budget line item.	**3**	**1**	**5**	**9**	Utility companies		Finance		

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Street Design	6. 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.	**3**	**3**	**1**	**7**	Property owners, Residents		Attorney, Engineering, Streets		
Street Design	7. Existing policies impacting street trees, such as Complete Streets, Rural to Urban Roads, Madison in Motion, and Comprehensive plan, should be reviewed in order to ensure consistency in tree policy.	**2**	**3**	**2**	**7**	Residents, Developers		Planning, Engineering, Streets		
Outreach and Education	1. 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 and individuals to maintain and grow the urban forest.	**2**	**1**	**3**	**6**	Residents		Streets, HR		
Outreach and Education	2. Create a grant program that includes the City providing trees to be planted on private property.	**3**	**1**	**3**	**7**	Property owners		Finance, Streets		
Outreach and Education	3. Multi-year programs intended to plant trees in areas not covered by the city's operations such as private homes, schools, and multi-family housing should be designed and supported. Such a program is key to planting more trees and providing direct outreach in the city.	**4**	**1**	**4**	**9**	Urban Tree Alliance, Property owners		Finance, Streets		
Outreach and Education	4. Among other activities, the outreach program should organize volunteer tree planting and tree maintenance programs should be developed for private property and city parks in order to include citizens in a program of tree stewardship.	**2**	**1**	**3**	**6**	Urban Tree Alliance, Property owners		Streets, Parks		
Canopy Coverage	1. The City of Madison should achieve an optimal tree canopy coverage goal of 40% overall, consistent with the American Forests Association current recommendations. Currently, Madison tree canopy coverage is estimated at 23%.	**5**	**1**	**5**	**11**	Residents, Property owners, Developers		Streets, Planning, Parks, Engineering		
Canopy Coverage	2. The City Forester and Sustainable Madison Committee should create a **Tree Preservation Ordinance** in order to preserve, expand, and protect canopy coverage overall in Madison.	**5**	**2**	**3**	**10**	Developers, Property owners, Contractors		Planning, Streets, Engineering		
Canopy Coverage	3. The city should institute a range of policies and program designed to increase canopy coverage at the neighborhood level. In conjunction with neighborhood groups, staff should develop strategies for increasing tree population. Canopy trends should be evaluated with particular attention paid to rates of coverage in neighborhoods of higher poverty and greater concentrations of persons of color.	**4**	**2**	**3**	**9**	Neighborhood associations, Property owners, Low-income renters		Planning, Streets		
Canopy Coverage	4. Public plantings along streets, in parks, and within greenways should be prioritized according to a need-based neighborhood analysis. The city should consider subsidies for street or private trees in neighborhoods or census districts with household incomes below the area mean and neighborhoods that have not historically had street trees.	**5**	**2**	**3**	**10**	Residents		Parks, Engineering, Streets, Planning		
Canopy Coverage	5. The city should support multi-year programs to support tree planting for private homes in neighborhood with low canopy coverage, apartment/rental housing, schools, and other areas not currently covered with existing municipal plantings.	**2**	**2**	**4**	**8**	Property owners, Residents, Urban Tree Alliance		Streets, Finance		

Urban Forestry Task Force Sub-Committee

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Forestry Operations & Public Lands	1. 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).	**2**	**1**	**2**	**5**	Residents		Streets		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	2. Update and upgrade the process of inventorying street trees to include up-to-date information.	**5**	**1**	**5**	**11**	Residents		Streets		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	3. Inventory trees on all City-owned 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.	**5**	**2**	**5**	**12**	Residents		All		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	4. Forestry should work cooperatively with other City agencies to identify opportunities to enhance green space (e.g., pocket parks) in areas with low canopy cover, like downtown.	**3**	**2**	**2**	**7**	Residents		All		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	5. Create a canopy tree planting program for city-owned bike path corridors and other city-owned transportation corridors that are currently rented for parking.	**3**	**2**	**3**	**8**	Residents		Streets, Engineering, Traffic, Parks		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	6. Dedicate additional resources to Forestry for more frequent pruning and maintenance of new and existing street trees. The current approximately 21-year **pruning cycle** of street trees should be evaluated in order identify methods and resources needed to shorten the cycle.	**2**	**1**	**4**	**7**	Residents		Streets, Finance		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	7. The Park Commission should prepare a policy of and develop methods for canopy growth within parks by planting **2,000 more trees above the replacement rate each year for the next five years** and how it could interact with other park uses (e.g., no mow areas). An assessment for park properties should be completed in order to identify preliminary tree locations, set consistent design goals, and project both priority areas and rates for tree planting. In addition, a tree preservation plan or criteria should be developed for Parks.	**3**	**1**	**2**	**6**	Residents		Parks		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	8. The City Forester and Engineering Division should work cooperatively to develop standards for tree plantings in greenways and other stormwater management areas and identify strategies to minimize erosion from shaded exposed soil that can result with trees and moving stormwater while maintaining the inherent functions of the greenways.	**2**	**3**	**2**	**7**	Residents		Streets, Engineering		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	9. Revise urban design district ordinances MGO 33.24 (8-15) to remove list of allowable trees species and grant this authority to the City Forester.	**1**	**3**	**1**	**5**	Developers		Streets, Planning, Attorney		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	10. Develop a **Tree Technical Manual** to create new standards and review existing standards for improvement, to increase tree canopy. This 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. For example, the Technical Manual should review the relationships between trees and street lights, review the need for vision corner restrictions, and review fire department requirements (whether policy, code, etc.)	**4**	**2**	**3**	**9**	Residents, Developers, Contractors		All		

Urban Forestry Task Force Sub-Committee

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Forestry Operations & Public Lands	11. Forestry should obtain the appropriate software licenses and permissions to coordinate more extensively with other agencies involved in Public Works projects and permits.	**3**	**2**	**2**	**7**	Utility companies		Streets, Engineering, IT		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	12. When planting on arterial and collector streets, City Forester should consult with Engineering Division to identify long-term plans for street design (e.g., bike lanes).	**1**	**1**	**1**	**3**	Residents		Streets, Engineering		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	13. Property owners should not have the ability to veto a planting site identified by the Forestry section as an appropriate site.	**2**	**1**	**1**	**4**	Property owners		Streets		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	14. An assessment of the **street tree inventory** should prioritized in order to assess current and future needs. The assessment should include, but not be limited, to opportunities for public access to data, mobile applications for fieldwork orders and data editing, and strategies for a comprehensive update.	**5**	**1**	**5**	**11**	Residents		Streets, IT		
Forestry Operations & Public Lands	15. The Common Council should develop an urban forest board with regular meetings or revise the responsibilities of the existing Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee to include this work, in order to advise on the recommendations made by the Urban Forestry Task Force and to address future urban forestry needs.	**2**	**3**	**1**	**6**	Residents		Streets, Engineering, Planning, Parks		
Emerald Ash Borer Response	1. Additional staff will be needed to care for (prune, water, etc.) 20,000 new trees. These trees require more frequent pruning and care than older, mature trees.	**1**	**1**	**4**	**6**	Residents		Streets, Finance, HR		
Emerald Ash Borer Response	2. It will be necessary to gear up enforcement of regulations pertaining to dead trees.	**3**	**3**	**2**	**8**	Property owners		Planning, Streets		
Emerald Ash Borer Response	3. The city pursue strategies to encourage tree planting to replace ash tree losses on private property.	**2**	**1**	**2**	**5**	Property owners		Planning, Streets		