

Government Partner Agencies
Urban Forest Management Plan Update Listening Session
9/14/18

1. Background presentation
 - a. Invited partner government agencies to participate in Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) update process
 - i. UFMP provides the framework for policy and action to guide the City's work to maintain, preserve, enhance, and restore Seattle's urban forest.
 - ii. Data-driven update
 - iii. Increase emphasis on equity
 - iv. Robust public engagement
 - v. Bring Climate Change considerations
 - vi. Public engagement in two phases. Seeking input first
 - vii. Next will develop plan content and share with public for comment
 - viii. Let us know if you would like to receive the draft plan when ready
 - b. We are actively inviting everyone we are interacting with to participate in Phase II
2. Questions on process / timeline for plan update
 - i. Recommends engaging with the Urban Sustainability Director's Network
 - ii. Besides the tree data, expand public input to include cultural legacy, public perceptions, and public talking about tree benefits. Consider barriers (trees are expensive and the perception that trees can be hazardous) and benefits (trees and livability, public health)
 - iii. Use a diagram or graphic that shows how a policy of the UFMP and the money behind it are related and how it impacts trees on the ground so people are interested in this process to update the policy document. Use a logic model to show where we are going with the UFMP goals and actions
 - iv. Make sure you engage a qualified consultant to do the initial assessment and the technical review of the draft plan.
 - v. Data sources are measures oriented to trees. This is an exceptional public engagement process. Could there be an analytic approach to capture, from the engagement, what are the patterns of people's perceptions around trees?
 - vi. How do people describe livability and how trees connect to that, or not, – either positively or negatively).
 - vii. The update of tree regulations is on people's minds. People want to know how the new regulations will be affecting trees in Seattle.
3. Listening session for future UFMP content
 - a. The values below are meant to help guide the development of the new Urban Forest Management Plan. How would you add to / strengthen these values?
 - i. Alignment between the policy and the regulations is part of good governance. Policy should come first and regulations come next to support the policy. Amp up this value.
 - ii. The draft values are a bit confusing because they include programmatic and urban forestry values.

- iii. On the fourth value: all these values are very human-oriented. There is no expression of commitment to trees as living organisms and how to help them thrive. Large trees are an endangered group due to development. Include a commitment to trees as a valuable, vibrant element of our community (this gets to the livability and it's more than safety and protection). Trees do wonderful things for the community.
 - iv. How are these values been used? They set the vision. It's premature to show then ahead of the engagement process.
 - v. It's important to provide grounding for the conversion but indicate that these are draft values to get the discussion started.
 - vi. On the ecosystem and human health value: those benefits are known there is science and facts supporting them. But we can't do it all. Each benefit will drive a different section of the plan. For stormwater runoff reduction is your focus you'll emphasize large conifers. When the rubber meets the road, what are you going to focus on? Each benefit is a potential tool in your tool kit. Clearly state how you are working on each benefit, what programs/departments are working to accomplish each goal (that connects to governance as well – different City departments would have different governance opportunities and procedures based on the ecosystem services of trees they are focusing on).
- b. What are the highest priority issues that your agency would like to see addressed in the new UFMP?
- i. The link between urban forestry and human health.
 - ii. Storm water runoff is a priority. What tools will UFMP provide for stormwater runoff reduction? The City used Silva Cells as a pilot in a Ballard project. We'll be interested to see how they work.
 - iii. Forest structure from young to old with variety of species.
 - iv. How trees fit with density and growth.
 - v. Explore different grove scenarios, configurations rather than canopy cover percentages overall.
 - vi. Multiple benefits of trees and layering of stormwater runoff and planting on the ROW to lock down air pollutants and impact human health.
 - vii. Determining where canopy goes based on the plan's values including equity.
 - viii. US Forest Service has been looking at human health; there is far more scientific info for how to achieve air and water quality benefits with the strategic planting of trees, compared to the benefits for human health. What are tree elements and composition that actually get at human health and wellbeing?
 - ix. The University of Washington's Center for Creative Conservation is looking at health and wellness. The UW's School of Environment and Forest Sciences is forest structure. A canopy analysis doesn't get at age composition, species diversity, and doesn't address the large trees. That could be part of tree health.
 - x. Where does restoration fit in?
 - xi. From a regulatory perspective is good to make sure to talk about actions to maintain, preserve, enhance, and restore urban trees in that sequence.

- xii. What is the UF composition that is suited to a city that is devolving vs. a city that is expanding? Is cc the end all for all these situations. Maybe we need to focus on committing land for groves. Explore different configurations between different growth scenarios (this is being talked about around the world). Canopy cover might not be meaningful.
 - c. What specific goals or actions would your agency like to see included in the new UFMP?
 - i. How the industrial areas are incorporated into the plan? Look at outside-the-box ways to get trees in those areas.
 - ii. Look at arterials that are transportation routes and how can we reconfigure traffic flow so some of the streets can accommodate trees.
 - iii. How to design streets with trees?
 - iv. UFMP must align with growth plans i.e. – Comp Plan (over the next 20-50 years); and other City plans so the UFMP is not isolated but really integrated.
 - d. What are your agency’s goals for the next 5 years? How would you like to work with the City in the future?
 - i. There is much greater attention to urban research at the UW. Structure some research questions for the UW to engage students and maybe shared research opportunities. Take advantage of the work being done by young talent in urban topics. Like the idea of a research agenda as part of the plan.
 - ii. Partner with other universities that are showing greater interest in urban topics.
 - i. King County is working on their 30-year plan. Their forestry group has more of a rural focus. Would like to figure out the urban focus and coordinate with municipalities’ plans. Due at the end of 2020.
 - e. How can the City better communicate with the general public?
 - i. King County would like to stay in touch around their 30-year plan.
 - ii. Share information between agencies.
 - iii. Find ways to make the plan update process interesting to the public.
 - iv. Share information on the general benefits of trees
 - v. What other models of great urban forestry plans has Seattle seen? How are they communicating with the public? Adopt what has worked.

Draft Urban Forestry Values:

- **Ecosystem and human health:** maximizing the mental health and human well-being, air quality, water quality, storm water runoff reduction, carbon sequestration, recreation, wildlife habitat, beauty, and other benefits of trees
- **Commitment to equity:** including diverse perspectives and equitable distribution of urban forestry resources and program
- **Community stewardship:** engaging the Seattle community, including residents and businesses, in appreciating and caring for the urban forest
- **Tree health, human safety, and property protection:** keeping the urban forest healthy using best management practices with a focus on public and crew safety

- **Good governance:** working in conjunction with other City and community goals such as transportation, utility provision, and housing