

Tree Advocates
Urban Forest Management Plan Update Listening Session
9/14/18

Staff present:

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1. Background presentation
2. Questions on process / timeline for plan update
 - Development code is biggest problem i.e. SCL and SDOT pruning practices.
 - How do we do this in the update of the UFMP? How does SCL protect trees under power lines – how to maximize and use the space?
 - How do we implement the UFMP?
 - How can Seattle increase the longevity of existing trees?
 - Enforcement – how do we do it?
 - It's good idea to allow people to post feedback online.
 - Reach out to Parks Board of Commissioners.
 - What is the reasonable goal here? Assess canopy cover volume – 3D
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. Public outreach to SPD.
 - ii. Preserving larger trees for bird diversity and Urban Bird Migratory Pathways.
 - iii. Size of the groves – larger groves provide increased habitats.
 - iv. Add a value about youth. Who is going to be involved in protecting the urban forest in the future? Engage schools and find a way to involve them.
 - v. Another issue is the size of trees and preserving the larger trees in the city for wildlife habitat. Birds inhabit the urban forest at different strata levels. Emphasize the importance of wildlife habitat.
 - vi. Should point out that we have an Urban Bird Treaty and how we are protecting the pathways for the birds.
 - b. What are the highest priority issues that you/your organization would like to see addressed in the new UFMP?
 - i. Global warming and impacts to the urban forest.
 - ii. Tree care and maintenance need to be fully funded. Add to code and management plan.
 - iii. Expand SDOT's tree mapping work to the whole city. That would help get data of tree species, age, condition, height, etc. Seattle Audubon began that effort a few years ago (Philadelphia and San Francisco have wiki systems). Allows to calculate the value of trees and the ecosystem services they provide.
 - iv. Importance of protecting the larger trees and tree groves. Create a database so people know where they are.

- v. Hope there are means of enforcement for the plan's values. The City's development code needs to be re-thought. Development is the biggest remover of trees. SCL and SDOT need to re-think some of their pruning practices in order to support the plan's goals.
 - vi. How do we keep the trees we have?
 - vii. How to implement the plan is key.
 - viii. Look at when trees are planted as part of development, provide guidance so trees are not planted in the summer (and died due to lack of water).
 - ix.
- c. What specific goals or actions would you/your organization like to see included in the new UFMP?
- i. Process changes – make the process for protesting tree removal more equitable i.e. to protect large trees.
 - ii. High quality groves – set aside for park land purchase.
 - iii. Clearly state SCL's guidelines and goals. Their pruning practices directly impact tree canopy.
 - iv. Find out locations to plant trees. Power lines are on one side of the street. Plant bigger trees across the street where there are no power lines.
 - v. Even if there are no power lines, sometimes there is not enough soil to accommodate tree planting.
 - vi. Based on the expected life span of street trees, would it make sense to create green areas instead of single tree planting to increase trees' longevity?
 - vii. Important to enforce existing and new code. The plan provides guidance, but code needs to be effective and enforceable.
 - viii. The City can't do it by itself. Would like to see more emphasis on stewardship. Maybe through community organizations. Tree keepers groups. Make Tree Ambassadors more robust. Those groups can help water trees.
 - ix. Look at high quality groves to be preserved to provide green space for our densifying city. Look at the possibility to acquire land for green space.
 - x. Find ways to have better tree stock available for people to plant in Seattle. The trees being sold in nurseries and Home Depot are clone trees that are cheaper, but that means they are all one species and that makes them vulnerable to disease.
- d. What are your/your organization's goals for the next 5 years? How would you like to work with the City in the future?
- i. Update tree code to protect existing trees and groves and large trees. Once the big trees are removed, they are not going to come back. What are our values as a city in terms of large trees?
 - ii. Consider the Comp Plan's 40% canopy cover goal.
 - iii. Preservation of access to trees in the city, not just private property but natural environment i.e. low income neighborhoods because it's so important for human health and mental health. Need to have areas downtown and near universities.
 - iv. Turn SCL substations into green spaces.

- v. Need to stop the velocity of trees going down.
 - vi. Need to raise the importance of trees as a public utility.
 - vii. Find ways to stop loss of large trees i.e. Doug fir loss.
 - viii. Make sure climate change is at the forefront. Identify tree species that will be able to thrive.
 - ix. Look into opportunities to underground utilities and cable using new technologies.
 - x. Track how we are sustaining the urban forest's values. Maybe tracking the largest trees.
- e. How can the City better communicate with the general public?
- i. Have a central tree office open 24 hours for public service.
 - ii. Provide a web link to the SDOT maps in the Trees for Seattle and UFC websites so people can explore the canopy data.
 - iii. Add a link to list of community organizations on Trees for Seattle website under "Get Involved" tab.
 - iv. Engage schools so young people participate in tree mapping/inventorying and get acquainted with Seattle's urban forest.
 - v. Engage with the University of Washington for graduate students to collaborate with the City on research/mapping.
 - vi. The average person doesn't know what canopy cover is. There is no emotional attachment to it. Take the LiDAR data and tell a story of the larger trees with most of the environmental impact. Create maps where the 20" and greater trees and people would relate more to that.
 - vii. Support people with information on the importance to water young trees in the summer.
 - viii. Work on recruiting Tree Ambassadors in all areas of the city for equity.

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

