Five Year Plan

Urban Forestry Administration

Updated and approved in 2007 by the USDA Forest Service

- Research based demonstration projects in the District of Columbia:
  - Urban tree health
    - Develop protocols for tree preservation in coordination with sidewalk and utility work
    - Assessment of the senescent mature tree population
      - All in tree boxes
      - Risk management
      - SDAP protocol to access FEMA mitigation dollars in an emergency event
    - Bare Root Planting
      - Demonstration plots in order to assess the use and value in our planting program
  - Planting rotations
    - Establish realistic serviceable life spans for commonly grown species
    - Manage the urban forest with that information in mind
    - Consider trees as assets; not for the $ but for the environmental value and protection they provide
    - Integrate ecosystem services – trees increase the lifespan and reduce maintenance costs of roads
  - Street tree management plan
    - Up to date inventory, continually updated (44% updated since July 2006)
    - Cyclical pruning and full stocking level are goals
    - Assessment of urban forest health

- Other Important Goals
- Implementation of the urban waste wood utilization project with mill and job training facility

- Tree nursery in conjunction with one of the linear park properties
  - Educational tool
  - Extra stock for public and private plantings

- Working on improving tree box standards
  - DC Office of Planning
  - DDOT IPMA

- Maximizing the use of trees in urban bioretention cells, rain gardens, etc. to improve water quality
  - Introduce the idea of storm water credits for the use of trees in new projects

- UFA should work to build partnerships with other pertinent federal agencies
  - Suggested targets:
    - USDA, National Resources Conservation Service
    - Environmental Protection Agency
    - USDA, Agricultural Research Service
    - Forest Service, Northern Research Station
    - US Department of the Interior, National Park Service,
    - Architect of the Capitol

In addition to the 5-year plan, UFA is a partner with 4 Northeastern states (Connecticut, Massachusetts Rhode Island, and Vermont) in an Urban Tree Canopy Goal (UTC) tool development, assessment and implementation grant. We asked the larger non-profits in DC to partner with us on this grant and the only one that signed on was the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). This competitive grant was awarded in 2008; the total grant award was $823,245. The goal of the grant is as follows:

- To use remote sensing data to provide a new assessment of overall urban canopy in the District. This would allow us to update the data Casey Trees commissioned 1999-2002 that highlighted the loss of DC’s urban tree canopy.
- To develop and document standardized spatial decision assessment tools working with USDA Forest Service Research and the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab.

- To realistically assess planting opportunities available in the District among all communities and all land use ownerships.

- To generally assess the health status of our urban forest, and to develop a realistic tree canopy goal and implementation of that goal.

A copy of the final report is available at:

UTC_Report_DC.pdf

The District of Columbia’s portion of the award was $165,500. In preliminary meetings with Casey Trees, COG, DDOE and concerned citizens, preliminary agreement was made that Casey Trees and DDOE would work toward developing an urban tree canopy goal for private properties, UFA would work on an urban tree canopy goal for DC properties, and GSA would work on a goal for federal properties.

UFA has made progress on an urban tree canopy goal for DC properties. We have identified large land holders in the District and have met with representatives from DCPL, FEMS, DMH, DOH, DPR, OPM and DYRS. We have had no response from DCPS, UDC or WASA. We are currently assessing their lands for the appropriateness of tree planting and will move forward with tree planting (implementation) in spring 2010, using District properties to increase urban tree canopy.

One of the products of the grant is a land use map of the District of Columbia:
Updates for Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10)
The following are changes, additions or supporting documents from FY10 that related to the five year plan. When the next update occurs in 2012, these items will be incorporated into the plans overall goals and objectives.

1. Final UTC Report for DC is posted on the UFA web site
2. State Assessment for Washington D.C. is posted on the UFA web site
3. UFA solicited and made major changes to the team make up and areas of responsibility for the arborist staff.
4. LITHOR Program became operational and will be incorporated into the five year plan in 2012.
5. Major snow storm in February damaged many trees throughout the city and changed many trees’ conditions. Many follow up storms throughout the summer caused further damage to the street trees throughout the city. The following report shows the impact to field operations:

The following are pending changes that are forecasted for FY11. Items marked with an asterisk are also issues of concern for FY12.

1. Budget shortfalls have cut UFA by $500,000 for local funding and $120,000 in the LITHOR program. The cuts will be made in the pruning program ($200,000) and in the planting program ($300,000)*
2. UFA will use the CityWorks server so that reporting can be live in the field with staff.
3. Special Tree Permits will be incorporated into the TOPS program starting in spring with completion set for late summer.
4. FIT project will be initiated with completion planned for FY12
5. All positions have been frozen as well as grades and steps for all employees.*
6. UFA has written the first draft of a business plan to be finalized by FY12.
7. Cost drivers for UFA operations will be developed and finalized in FY11. This will be completed in conjunction with CBR team from the Mayor’s office.