



A Resource List

THIRD THURSDAY WEBCAST SERIES

The Third Thursday Webcast Series is a monthly webcast held at the lunch hour and made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation and USDA Forest Service. The goal is to provide training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings highlight successful programs and practices that you may want to adapt in your communities. Webcasts are open to all.

Correctly planting and protecting trees is a good thing to do. However, planting and protecting trees also requires coordinating time and resources. ACT minimizes such requirements by sharing the innovative ideas and organized approaches of successful projects and models for members to replicate. We invite you to join the Alliance for Community Trees for more ways to get involved. Together, we create a strong voice on behalf of the urban forest and make a great difference in the health, beauty, and livability of our communities. We strengthen communities by offering action-oriented approaches that bring people together around a common purpose.

TOPIC

The physical framework of a community is called its infrastructure, and can be divided into two types: green and gray. Gray infrastructure refers to areas of buildings, roads, utilities, and parking lots; green infrastructure includes areas covered with trees, shrubs, and grass. A community can measure the size, shape, and location of its green infrastructure and accurately calculate the public utility functions these areas perform, although cities are only just starting to value green infrastructure for more than its beauty. For local public policymakers responsible for decisions affecting urbanization, the problem is not solely about getting the city or a developer to plant more trees, but rather one of balancing gray and green infrastructure.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/planning_your_way_to_the_best_urban_forest.php

TRAINERS

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Jim Schwab served as the project editor and lead author for *Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy, and Community Development*, a Planning Advisory Service Report that the American Planning Association (APA) produced in partnership with American Forests and the International Society of Arboriculture, with funding from the U.S. Forest Service. He is a senior research associate for APA and manager of its Hazards Planning Research Center, in which capacity he has led numerous APA research and training projects related to natural hazards and disaster recovery. Jim is also co-editor of the APA monthly publication, *Zoning Practice*.

Cheryl Kollin is a consultant for the Urban Ecosystem Center at American Forests in Washington, DC. She is a landscape architect with 25 years experience in the field of urban forestry in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Ms. Kollin provides applied research to the environmental and economic benefits of urban ecosystems to foster change in urban planning and public policy. She is a contributing author to the American Planning Association's *Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy and Community Development*. Ms. Kollin recently received her MBA in Sustainable Business at the Bainbridge Graduate Institute and also consults in the local food movement. She also holds a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of California and a Bachelors of Science from the University of Michigan.





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Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy, and Community Development

James Schwab, ed. Chicago: American Planning Association, 2009.

The culmination of a three-year research project, *Planning the Urban Forest* is a best-practices manual about integrating urban forestry into municipal planning activities. The tree canopy in many U.S. metropolitan areas has declined significantly over the last few decades due to increased urbanization. The solution is far more complex than planting more trees, however. Urban forestry professionals and advocates must maximize green infrastructure (the natural environment) while reducing the costs of gray infrastructure (the built environment). While both are important, communities that foster green infrastructure are more livable, produce fewer pollutants, and are most cost-effective to operate.

This report, prepared by the American Planning Association (APA) in collaboration with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and American Forests (AF), and supported by the USDA Forest Service, addresses the need for planners to adopt a green infrastructure approach and presents guidelines for incorporating trees into the planning process. Find out how communities can develop urban forestry programs to capture the social and environmental benefits of trees. Urban forestry professionals and advocates will learn how to interface with the urban planning process to maximize green infrastructure and reduce gray infrastructure costs. Thirteen case studies illustrate best practices in planning for urban and community forestry.

More information at: www.planning.org/research/forestry/report.htm

CASE STUDIES

Baltimore County, MD

Baltimore County has developed a comprehensive Forest Sustainability Program, building upon the county's 40-year tradition of growth management and environmental protection. The program incorporates the international Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators (MPCI) framework for measuring ecological and economic sustainability, defined generally as meeting the needs of society today without diminishing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The county is implementing a three-part strategy to assess forest health, protect remaining forest, and reforest priority lands including riparian buffers, reservoir watersheds, and urban communities by engaging landowners regarding stewardship of 75 percent of the county's privately owned forests. Because local governments directly influence land use and are responsible for pollution control mandates, Baltimore County's program provides an example of effective planning for urban and community forestry.

More information in *Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy, and Community Development*

City of Minneapolis (Minneapolis, MN)

In February 2004 the Minneapolis City Council made a strong policy statement — it declared that its green infrastructure and urban forest are as important as the built environment. The new policy recognized that trees are an integral part of the city's infrastructure and its quality of life. The city has policies about sidewalk repair, bridge maintenance, street construction, and other types of gray infrastructure, but until the Urban Forest Policy was adopted, the departments that make up the City of Minneapolis lacked a comprehensive policy about their role in planning, protecting, and maintaining the city's trees. The city adopted two specific policy goals: (1) To adopt a citywide policy with guidelines and standards to ensure the continued protection, maintenance, replacement, and management of the urban forest in the City of Minneapolis; and (2) To establish an urban forestry policy that promotes and facilitates the communication and coordination among city departments, public schools, the University of Minnesota, state agencies, public utilities, developers, and other nongovernment organizations.

More information in *Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy, and Community Development*

City of Salem (Salem, OR)





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Recognized by the Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition for its leadership in the field of urban and community forestry, the city of Salem stands as a model for effective integration of forestry in planning. The approaches implemented in Salem offer municipal planners, foresters, water quality and stormwater managers, and public officials examples for developing an adaptive urban forestry management program. Salem is working on programs that demonstrate the interrelationship between healthy natural environments and the economic benefits they provide in terms of air quality, stormwater retention, water quality, and aquatic and terrestrial habitat. Salem officials are committed to maintaining and enhancing an urban forest canopy as well as providing clean, ecologically viable urban streams. Using resources stemming from an urban forestry management program, the federal Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts, and most important, informed and active citizenry, Salem is fostering partnerships that create livable communities and healthy ecosystems.

More information in *Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy, and Community Development*

Town of Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)

Recently proposed changes to Chapel Hill's Tree Protection Ordinance would establish a new vision statement that calls for no net loss of trees/canopy cover and an increase in trees proportional to population growth. Regulations propose a permitting process for tree removal on private property, including residential. The first step of the phased proposal requires a permit to remove trees in a cumulative area of more than 5,000 square feet. Changes are also proposed to lower the threshold size of trees that must be surveyed. The ordinance revision is linked to a Townwide commitment to sustainability with the potential to reduce carbon emissions and decrease the urban heat island effect. More information at: www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.aspx?page=879

City of Emeryville (Emeryville, CA)

The industrial bust and post-industrial boom that Emeryville experienced in the 1970s and '80s posed a number of unique challenges for city officials: widespread contamination deterred redevelopment, while increasing land values made it difficult to expand a parks and recreation system that was not meeting the needs of existing, much less new, residents. In the face of these enormous challenges, the city's public officials and relatively small staff have displayed extraordinary creativity by turning apparent disadvantages and threats into opportunities. Together they are leveraging brownfield grants and a hot real estate market to expand parks and open space, create a more pedestrian-friendly streetscape, and meet stormwater management goals. Trees are playing a central role in accomplishing all three of these goals. Though Emeryville has no overarching urban forestry plan to speak of, it is evident that, through these various initiatives, city residents, officials, and staff recognize the urban forest's importance, both as a means to accomplish various policy objectives and as a goal in itself.

More information in *Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy, and Community Development*





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SUCCESS STORIES – Planning and SmartGrowth

Baldwin Park (Orlando, FL)

The U.S. Navy announced the closing of its Orlando Naval Training Center in 1993, and the base officially closed three years later. Although the community initially felt a sense of loss, the demand for developable land within Orlando meant that opportunities abounded for redevelopment. Today, the former base is Baldwin Park, an award-winning development only a few miles from downtown Orlando. When the city received the base from the federal government, it transferred it to a private developer who rebuilt the base's infrastructure. The developer recycled old material to build new roads and storm water filtration systems and parkland. The developer worked with Audubon of Florida to create viable ecosystems in Baldwin Park by restoring natural features that had been displaced when the base was built 50 years earlier. The developer also preserved the base's mature trees as much as possible and planted 4,000 new street trees. Baldwin Park can house 8,000 residents, support 6,000 permanent jobs, and generate more than \$1.5 billion in property tax value, more than \$30 million in annual property tax revenue, and more than \$180 million in payroll. The transformation of this closed naval center won the EPA's National Award for Smart Growth Achievement in 2005 and the National Arbor Day Foundation's "National Building with Trees Award of Excellence" in 2004. More information at: www.epa.gov/dced/pdf/bases_into_places.pdf, pp. 27-29

Howard County (Howard County, MD)

Since every little bit of soil and vegetation helps to reduce runoff into streams, floodplains, and the Chesapeake Bay, Howard County officials decided to rip off asphalt from an abandoned 640-foot spur of Guilford Road in Columbia and plant in its place 200 trees and shrubs, with Ellicott City environmental center watershed planner Paul Sturm estimating the amount of rainwater that will filter through the ground instead of gushing into the nearby Little Patuxent River at 394,000 gallons annually.

More information at: www.smartgrowth.org/news/bystate.asp?state=MD&res=1280

AIG Greens Atlantic Station (Atlanta, GA)

As the foundation rises at the once-contaminated site of the former Atlantic Steel mill in Midtown Atlanta, Jacoby Development is promoting their \$2 billion, 138-acre, mixed-use Atlantic Station is a smart-growth and "green" construction model. Once a strip mall and Wal-Mart development, Atlantic Station will have 6 million square feet of office space, 1.5 million square feet of retail space, 1,000 hotel rooms, a parking garage for 7,000 cars, and 3,000-5,000 apartments, townhouses, and single-family homes. Central air-conditioning for commercial buildings will lower their energy bills; a sewage system will be protected from stormwater overflow by a two-acre retention pond that will double as a community lake surrounded by a four-acre park, many of 2,800 newly planted trees will shade trails and sidewalks, and five lanes of the nine-lane 17th Street bridge across the Downtown Connector to Atlantic Station will be reserved for pedestrians, bicyclists and a shuttle bus. Expecting these pedestrian and other amenities to encourage walking and exercise.

More information at: www.atlanticstation.com/press_171.php

Baltimore City (Baltimore, MD)

Currently, Baltimore is losing tree canopy. However, Baltimore City is committed to reversing this trend and increasing the tree canopy. TreeBaltimore is the city's initiative to double its canopy goal. A study performed by MD Department of Natural Resources & USDA Forest Service measured Baltimore's existing tree canopy and placed it at 20%. Using this information, the city adopted a 40% goal in thirty years, or doubling. The initiative works within Baltimore's Urban Forest Management Plan, which is available for public review. The plan identifies ways to: preserved existing trees and forests, improve the tree-growing environment, select trees for diversity and suitability, increase space for tree planting opportunities, improve the regulatory framework, educate the public on the value of trees and tree care, and build capacity for tree planting and care in the public and private sectors.

More information at: www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/recnparks/treeBaltimore.html





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City of Denver (Denver, CO)

In order to achieve true sustainability, Mayor John Hickenlooper is integrating trees into SmartGrowth plans for the city to ensure that all neighborhoods be safe, have good schools, and offer access to a high quality of life. Denver's Greenprint initiative will plant 1 million trees by 2025, tripling the canopy from 6 to 18 percent. A key part of Denver's sustainability effort is water conservation, and trees are helping conserve 22 percent more system-wide in the next decade, 35 years earlier than previously planned. Doing so will rely on integrating trees into homebuilders' energy efficiency and landscaping designs, while also encouraging water conservation ordinances in adjacent regions. More information at: www.greenprintdenver.org/

Sacramento Tree Foundation (Sacramento, CA)

The Greenprint initiative is a multi-decade regional program created to meet its sustainability and livability goals by expanding urban forests and optimizing the benefits of tree canopies. Supported by official resolutions from twenty-two cities and four counties in the greater Sacramento region, the Greenprint initiative represents a model for the nation in regional collaboration, environmental enhancement and land stewardship. A major focal point of the Greenprint initiative is to double the region's urban tree canopy – a planting of up to 5 million new trees that will dramatically enhance the landscape and canopy cover. It will educate hundreds-of-thousands of citizens in sustainable landscape practices. It will foster regional collaborative public, private, and non-profit ventures. It will enlist tens-of-thousands of citizens in volunteer planting and stewardship activities. It will influence the way the citizens of the region view their communities and urban environment, and their responsibility for its health. More information at: www.sactree.com/greenprint/index.html

