



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

Many cities and counties around the country are taking up the banner of a tree campaign or public canopy initiative. A central challenge to such programs is how to balance the public relations goals of the campaigns with implementing a visionary yet achievable initiative.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/canopy_campaigns_and_public_tree_goals_part_i.php

TRAINERS

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American Forests has conducted Urban Ecosystem Analyses (UEA) in nearly 20 cities around the country documenting the loss of tree cover in cities. These studies, which have been conducted for 10 years now, show that urban areas are losing their trees at an alarming rate while impervious land covers like roads have been increasing rapidly. Many city leaders don't realize this tree loss is costing them billions of dollars in ecological services like stormwater management. Fortunately, the tools we are using to identify the problem also offer hope of solutions. UEA maps the structure of a land area. It involves a technical analysis of satellite data, the application of GIS software called CITYgreen, a through knowledge of urban ecology and the ability to apply the science and engineering principals developed by experts to the Urban Ecosystem Analysis process.

The City of Bellevue is well beyond the first important step of measuring the extent and value of their urban forests. They're using this information to examine development and zoning requirements, test design scenarios, and measure the potential impact on trees, open space, the environment, and ultimately their communities livability.





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CITY OF BELLEVUE STANDARDS & MANUALS

Environmental Stewardship Initiative

At Bellevue, a vibrant, urban core is integrated with appealing residential neighborhoods and beautiful natural areas. With planning and environmental protections, the "city in a park" has maintained a balance between forests and streams and highways and high-rises. In June 2007, the City Council launched an environmental stewardship initiative, with an initial focus on the city's tree canopy, the expansion of recycling efforts at parks and ball fields, natural drainage practices, and green buildings.

More information at: www.bellevuewa.gov/environmental.htm

Critical Areas Handouts

Critical areas are portions of the landscape afforded special protection because they provide unique environmental functions that are difficult, if not impossible, to replace and to ensure public health, safety and welfare. The City of Bellevue regulates six types of critical areas in its Land Use Code: streams and riparian areas, wetlands, habitats for species of local importance, geological hazard areas, flood hazard areas, and shorelines. The city protects critical areas through its 2006 Critical Areas Ordinance by prohibiting disturbance or modifications to critical areas unless specifically allowed in the code and requiring buffers and building setbacks.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/bellevue_critical_area_handouts.pdf

2008 Urban Ecosystem Analysis

Recognizing the many benefits that urban tree canopy brings to urban environmental quality, the City of Bellevue engaged American Forests to update their 1998 Urban Ecosystem Analysis (UEA), initially conducted using Landsat satellite data. This analysis examines forest, tree canopy, and other landcover changes over the last decade and quantifies the ecosystem benefits of the City's green infrastructure.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/amforreport_bellevue.pdf

Tree Pruning Guidelines

The City of Bellevue is committed to natural resource stewardship and a healthy and sustainable urban forest. Trees and vegetation provide a multitude of benefits, which include clean water, clean air, enhanced quality of life, and improved property values. A study in 2008 conducted by the city to assess the benefits of the city's tree cover found 36 percent tree canopy coverage citywide. This guide is intended to inform residents, business owners, and city staff of tree pruning techniques that reflect industry standards and acceptable best management practices for trees in the city.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/bellevue_tree_pruning_guidelines.pdf

Bellevue Storm and Surface Water Engineering Standards

These Engineering Standards set forth the minimum standards for the planning, design, and construction of storm and surface water systems, effective January 1, 2010. Although these standards are intended to apply to physical development within the City, the standards will not apply for all situations. Compliance with these standards does not relieve the Developer of the responsibility to apply conservative and sound professional judgment. These are minimum standards and are intended to assist, but not substitute for competent work by design professionals.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/bellevue_water_standards.pdf

City of Bellevue Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards Manual

This manual was written in 2006 to provide clear direction on standard operational procedures; to effectively communicate the operational practices of the Parks & Community Services Department to the public; and to respond to regional, state and federal environmental issues. This manual represents present day ideals and should be seen as a flexible document that can readily adapt to new environmental information and technologies. The chapters cover a range of topics, including construction site management, nursery operations, streetscapes, and pest management.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/bellevue_manual.pdf





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CALCULATOR TOOL

Canopy Growth Tree Calculator

Cheryl Kollin, at American Forests, developed an Excel-based tool that calculates the number of trees necessary to increase your community's tree canopy to a desired percentage. Simply input a few statistics about your community's size, current and desired canopy, and average canopy size, and the program will generate the number of trees your community needs.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Events/bbls38_canopycalc.xls

PORTLAND BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Green Infrastructure Asset Management

In this presentation delivered at the 2009 Partners in Community Forestry Conference, Mike Rosen, Manager of the Watershed Division of the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, introduces the benefits of applying principles of asset management to the urban forest. He discusses how to maximize the life of trees as infrastructure investments through tracking, monitoring, and maintenance.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Events/pcf09_mrosen.pdf

Accounting for Green Infrastructure

This presentation by Jennifer Karps and Heather Randol of the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services examines the challenges and opportunities for reporting trees as capital assets and for paying for trees with capital funds. It discusses a variety of issues they encountered in their process, including: tracking requirements, the dollar value of trees, sources of capital funds, depreciation and appreciation, and convincing other departments and legal and accounting staff that trees are in fact capital assets.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Events/pcf09_jkarps.pdf

Updating City Tree Rules

This presentation delivered at the 2009 Partners in Community Forestry Conference outlines the process undertaken in Portland to update the city's tree rules. To establish a clear, cohesive regulatory framework for trees and to enhance the city's urban forest through development and redevelopment, an Urban Forest Action Plan was drafted. This presentation covers many topics that were dealt with in the process, including group work and collaboration, permitting systems, land use laws, and solutions for success.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Events/pcf09_portland.pdf





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CANOPY CAMPAIGNS

Baltimore, MD

The City of Baltimore has a goal to double the city's tree canopy from 20% to 40% over 30 years. Launched in 2006, the public program is called TreeBaltimore and is part of the Mayor's Cleaner Greener Baltimore initiative. In accordance with Baltimore's Urban Forest Management Plan, TreeBaltimore coordinates urban tree planting efforts in collaboration with other city agencies and departments and with Baltimore nonprofit organizations like Parks & People Foundation. In addition to planting at parks, schools, rights of way, and other public spaces, TreeBaltimore has entered into partnerships with local retail nurseries, garden centers, and homeowners to encourage planting trees on private residential land.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/treebaltimore_public_review_marks_mayor_sheil.php

Boston, MA

Grow Boston Greener is a program launched in 2007 to expand the city's canopy from 29% to 35% by planting 100,000 new trees by 2020. Boston's current tree cover varies widely from neighborhood to neighborhood throughout the city; West Roxbury, the city's leafiest neighborhood, has nearly a 50% canopy cover, while South and East Boston each have coverage of less than 10%. The Grow Boston Greener program, expected to cost about \$15 million, will be paid for with city, state, federal, and private money. The goal is for most of the trees to be planted on private property and paid for by private foundations, corporations, and developers. Mayor Thomas Menino proposed kick-starting street tree plantings with \$500,000 in funding 2009, one fifth of the estimated \$2.5 million total cost for street tree plantings. The state Department of Conservation and Recreation committed \$600,000 over the next decade to plant trees on its properties, which makes up half the open space in the city, and will contribute an additional \$200,000 to help pay for plantings on private property.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/a_plan_takes_root_city_to_plant_more_than_100.php

Carmel, IN

The City of Carmel and the Carmel Urban Forestry Committee have set a minimum goal of 50% canopy coverage for all streets. The goal is being pursued largely through zoning ordinances that include tree planting requirements for new commercial and residential developments, including parking lot landscaping and project buffering. The City's code enforcement and forestry personnel are also teaming up to inspect and enforce all approved landscape plans, ensuring the city's tree planting requirements are met. All new road improvement projects are planned to be heavily landscaped with trees.

More information at: <http://www.ci.carmel.in.us/services/DOCS/DOCSUF.htm>

Chicago, IL

In 1989 Chicago Mayor Richard Daley launched a tree planting campaign that has resulted in more than 500,000 trees planted through public-private partnerships. Almost two decades later, the city is again working to improve its urban forest. Recognizing the value of trees in minimizing the urban heat island effect, reducing energy consumption, and trapping greenhouse gases, the 2008 Chicago Climate Action Plan called for the planting of more than a million new trees in parks, parkways and private yards by 2020. The Chicago Trees Initiative coordinates efforts among a variety of city agencies and departments, local nonprofits, community groups, and professional organizations to put the recommendations of the Plan into effect and expand the city's canopy. Based on the research results of the Plan, in 2009 Mayor Daley announced the Chicago Urban Forest Agenda to maintain and conserve trees, expand the forest, integrate green infrastructure, and foster stewardship. Local nonprofit Openlands helped work on this strategic plan to set the areas of the city with the lowest canopy cover—mainly underserved communities—as priority planting areas. Another goal of the Agenda is to develop a shared database of TreeKeepers and uniform guidelines that can be used by Openlands and city agencies that will be monitoring vendor plantings, conducting ongoing maintenance, and educating residents and business about tree care.

More information at: <http://egov.cityofchicago.org/chicagotrees/index.html>





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CANOPY CAMPAIGNS (cont.)

Denver, CO

Denver Mayor, John Hickenlooper, announced the “Tree by Tree” Million Tree Initiative in his July 12, 2006 State of the City Address. The initiative is regional in nature and calls upon communities to plant a million trees from Castle Rock to just south of Ft. Collins by 2025. This Initiative also includes a City of Denver specific goal of achieving an 18% tree canopy cover in the same time frame. The Park People’s Denver Digs Trees program is a key partner in the Mayor’s Million Tree Initiative. The Mile High Million is supported through a four year corporate sponsorship at \$250,000 a year, and also continues to solicit funding. Denver’s Forestry Department and the two arborists who staff the Mile High Million are responsible for species selection. The Park People selects species for its ongoing street tree distribution efforts with the advice of Denver forestry. Denver Forestry, Million Tree staff, park planners, Park People staff, trained volunteers, and residents determine planting locations. If the planting is street tree specific, then homeowner permission is required. Installation and maintenance responsibilities differ based on the planting sites. Trees planted in the park system are installed and maintained by park staff. Trees planted in the public right-of-way are mostly installed and maintained by homeowners. Homeowners are charged with the ongoing maintenance of their street trees, although The Park People offer tree care workshops for all residents in the month prior to when they receive their tree.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/greenprint_denver_enhancing_the_city_forest.php

Detroit, MI

Detroit’s goal is to reach a canopy cover of 28%, which is the national average. The city has lost about 500,000 trees since the early 1960’s. As the city forestry department is inundated in ash tree removals due to emerald ash borer infestation, The Greening of Detroit coordinates most of the city’s ash replacement plantings in city parks and on public street right-of-ways. They work with the City Forester to make diverse tree selections, review all planting sites, and coordinate volunteers to plant about 4,000 trees each year. Trees are generally 2" balled & burlapped stock, along with some 15-gallon containerized stock. The Greening of Detroit is also involved in plantings at selected public schools, and conducts community plantings with neighborhood block clubs and other civic partners in Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck. Trees are selected and ordered once per season, although The Greening coordinates weekly deliveries to stage weekend plantings by large volunteer groups that they train and oversee. Maintenance is done by their summer youth employment crews, know as the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC). They handle tree watering, weeding, sucker growth removal, tree straightening and report other observations that may need follow up by a staff member, such as for tree staking, pruning or tree removals.

More information at: <http://www.greeningofdetroit.com/>

Indianapolis, IN

Keep Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis have a goal to increase the tree canopy from 21% to 35%, which means planting 100,000 trees by 2016. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful is the lead partner in this 10-year effort. The implementing tree planting program is called NeighborWoods. The \$14 million campaign has received financial support from local industries like Indianapolis Power & Light and Veolia Water, and has raised over \$2 million so far. Researchers from Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis identified "hot spots" that had lower-than-average tree canopy and household income, and higher-than-average traffic counts and crime rates. Every plantable space on public and private land is a potential target for reforestation. KIB is primarily responsible for species selection, planting location, installation, and maintenance.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/indianapolis_launches_10_year.php





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CANOPY CAMPAIGNS (cont.)

Kansas City, MO

The City is undertaking a multiyear climate protection plan to address the challenges posed by climate change. The plan includes the goal of adding 120,000 additional trees to the city's landscape over the next 10 years, by 2020. To assist in this planting effort, Heartland Tree Alliance will partner with the Parks and Recreation Department to coordinate volunteers in teams of two or more to identify potential tree planting sites using maps of the city. Volunteers will be thoroughly trained in the criteria used to identify appropriate sites. The partnership got its kick-start when Heartland Tree Alliance realized that the city did not have the capacity to identify the planting locations. Stepping in with its volunteer corps, Heartland Tree Alliance estimates that it will train 100 volunteers within the first year. This project helps the city meet their planning goals and provides funding to Heartland Tree Alliance for their role. More information at: <http://ww4.kcmo.org/parks.nsf/web/trees>

Los Angeles, CA

Los Angeles's Mayor, Antonio Villaraigosa issued a challenge to improve the city's 18% tree canopy by planting one million new trees by 2012, although the end date has now been revised to "several" years. The Million Trees LA program, spearheaded by the Department of Public Works, is a large-scale civic endeavor that plans to achieve the one million tree planting goal with the city partnering with non-profit environmentalist groups and mobilizing city residents to plant trees on their private and business properties, neighborhoods, schools and parks. City departments will do their share by planting trees around parks and city-owned infrastructure—new and old. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will support Million Trees LA by giving away trees through their *Trees for a Green LA* program. TreePeople is partnering with the City Department of Recreation & Parks to recruit and train tree planting and care volunteers. The city estimates the project will cost \$70 million, with \$10 million raised so far. Planting partners like TreePeople, LA Conservation Corps, and North East Trees, follow the city's guidelines for species selection, planting location, installation, and maintenance.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/las_next_million_trees_the_tip.php

New York, NY

The MillionTreesNYC initiative is a 10-year plan launched by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in October 2007 to plant and care for one million trees throughout New York City. This project will expand the city's urban forest by 20%, to about 6 million trees. A key component of the mayor's PlaNYC projects to make the city more sustainable by 2030, the MillionTreesNYC will be accomplished through public-private partnerships. The New York City Parks Department will receive nearly \$400 million over the next ten years to plant 600,000 public trees by reforesting 2,000 acres of existing parkland and lining New York City streets with trees. The City's partners, including non-profit and community organizations like New York Restoration Project, businesses, developers and everyday New Yorkers will plant the remaining 400,000 trees. The Parks Department and NYRP will work with community partners as it assesses tree planting opportunities at places like schoolyards, public housing campuses, health care facilities, business districts, commercial and residential developments, front yards and other private lands. The initiative will include extensive outreach and education for everyone from residential and commercial developers to children. NYRP and its partners will seek the financial and in-kind support of individuals, corporations and foundations. In October 2009, two years into the initiative, 250,000 trees had already been planted.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/mayor_bloomberg_and_bette_midler_plant_the_fi.php





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CANOPY CAMPAIGNS (cont.)

Providence, RI

In 2008 the City of Providence launched Trees 2020 as a 12-year plan to increase the city's tree canopy from 23% to 30%. Spearheaded by the city's Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with Groundwork Providence, the initiative aims to give residential and small commercial property owners the chance to buy trees at top nurseries at a third of the standard cost so they may plant them on their property. The effort will make 500 trees of various species available for purchase for \$55 to \$75. Once a property owner takes interest in a tree, a Groundwork Providence Tree Team member will visit the property to help choose the right species of tree for the space and to advise on how best to plant and care for it. In addition, the Parks Department will plant 300 street trees, and residents are encouraged to register any newly-planted tree on the Trees 2020 website. The initiative is paid for by the Helen Walker Raleigh Tree Care Trust of the Rhode Island Foundation.

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/providence_kicks_off_campaign.php

Salt Lake County, UT

County Mayor Peter Corroon announced a ten-year plan to plant one million trees in the Salt Lake Valley, culminating in 2017. County and city governments will plant 100,000 trees, with the rest contributed by private plantings such as Kennecott Copper, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and county residents. By tapping college students as volunteers, real estate and business to be on the front lines of tree care, and developers to self regulate, the county hopes to plant the equivalent of 274 trees per day, seven days a week.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/salt_lake_to_plant_one_million_trees_by_2017.php

Seattle, WA

In 2006 Mayor Greg Nickels announced a plan to plant 649,000 trees throughout the city—about one new tree for every man, woman and child in Seattle. This increase would bring the city's canopy cover from about 18% to 30%, and is to be accomplished over three decades. The project would help to make up for the large number of trees Seattle has lost since 1972, when its canopy was about twice as large as it is now. Some of the increase will include more trees along city streets and in parks, but the majority of growth will need to come from residential lots and commercial properties. Existing trees will also need to be preserved. City officials investigated a number of options for incentives and regulations to boost the tree coverage on private land, including a program to educate the public about the importance of trees and how to care for them. The mayor's budget was planned to include more than \$4.4 million over two years for tree planting, pruning and inventory, with more sources of funding coming from other departments' budgets, transportation ballot measures, and public-private partnerships. The total cost for the new trees was expected to be about \$114 million.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/mayor_wants_to_plant_649000_tr.php

More information at: http://actrees.org/files/Events/pcf09_jdilley.pdf

Tulsa, OK

After a destructive 2007 ice storm devastated the city's urban forest, Mayor Kathy Taylor announced a ReGreen Tulsa plan to replace the estimated 20,000 trees lost in the storm by 2010. The Tree Advisory Committee and local non-profit Up with Trees are partnering with the city for the plan, which will require \$4 million in private contributions over the next three years. A group of citizens has raised a \$1.5 million challenge grant, and American Electric Power - Public Service Company of Oklahoma will provide \$150,000 over the life of the program. Up With Trees will be planting about 12,500 of the trees on public property such as schools and parks, and are working with the public on other programs to inspire planting. The city encourages community support through donations or planting a tree themselves. Residents can also apply to have their neighborhood considered for Up With Trees' NeighborWoods program which provides education and trees for areas hit hardest by the storm.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/a_greener_tulsa_will_return_mayor_says.php





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CANOPY CAMPAIGNS (cont.)

Wilmington, DE

Wilmington has a goal to increase its canopy cover by 10% over 30 years, or approximately 23,000 trees. The effort will start with public trees spearheaded by the Trees for Wilmington coalition. This group is facilitated by the Delaware Center for Horticulture and includes city departments, citizens, City Councilors, arborist, and other relevant organizations. The group is developing priority planting criteria areas based on GIS maps that outline median income and "people per trees," as well as working with the city on a new tree ordinance. Related to these efforts, they will soon be asking the city to sign onto a tree canopy goal which has yet to be finalized. Already the project has mapped trees per mile by Council districts, and is now addressing timeframe and funding. The Wilmington Beautification Commission also created the "Think Green for a Change" campaign, which promotes environmentally friendly practices. Other projects that the Trees for Wilmington coalition is working on include a NUCFAC-funded executive report to highlight the benefits of local trees, set tree canopy goals, and assist other municipalities with tree inventories, setting canopy goals, writing/revising ordinances, and creating tree management plans. More information at: <http://urbanforest.dehort.org/trees/trees-wilmington-case-study>

State of Maryland

The State of Maryland is partnering with businesses, communities and citizens to plant 1 million new trees by 2011. As part of the initiative, they are asking private citizens to join in by planting 50,000 trees by 2010. The private citizen planting program is called Marylanders Plant Trees. To encourage citizen participation, the State is offering \$25 discount coupons for the purchase of native trees from local participating nurseries costing \$50 or more. More information at: <http://www.trees.maryland.gov/>

