

# District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

**DATE:** Monday, June 26, 2023  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Web-Ex

<b>Meeting Chair - DDOT</b>	Earl Eutsler	Earl.eutsler@dc.gov	202.673.6813
<b>Meeting Chair - DOEE</b>	Steve Saari	Steve.saari@dc.gov	202.535.2961
<b>Meeting Scribe</b>	Erica Carlsson	Erica.carlsson@dc.gov	202.934.3307
<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>UFAC Summer Meeting</b>		

## Council Members:

Steve Saari, DOEE	Allison Clausen, comm. rep.	Brenda Richardson, comm. rep.
Earl Eutsler, DDOT	Vacant, comm. rep	Angela Scott, DGS
Maureen Alonso, GSA	Maureen Holman, DC Water	Brent Sisco, DPR
Patrick Campbell, NPS	Nathan McElroy, Pepco	Shoshana Sommer, comm. rep

## Invited Guests:

Annie Acostia, comm.	Dennis Chestnut, comm.	Evan Johnson, GSA	Mary Pat Rowan, comm.
Iris Allen, MD DNR	Sally Claggett, USFS	Craig Larcenaire, USFS	Joi Ruffin, DCPS
Michael Alonzo, American	Kelly Collins Choi, Casey Trees	Joseph Luebke, GSA	Deborah Shapley, RMA
Matthew Baker, UMBC	Robert Corletta, DDOT	Julie Mawhorter, USFS	Rob Shaut, Casey Trees
Spenser Balog, Casey Trees	Liz Crafford, comm.	Peter Norden, DPR	Nancy Sonti, USFS
John Boland, Casey Trees	Merrit Drucker, Ward 8 Woods	Rasma Plato, GSA	Catherine Stratton Treadway, comm.
Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees	Stephanie Free, NCPC	Ashlyn Pouvaranukoah, comm.	Matt Weber, DOEE
Delores Bushong, comm.	Stephen Gyor, OP	Phillip Rodbell, USFS	Kasey Yturralde, DDOT
Matt Chambers, comm.	Nathan Harrington, Ward8Woods	Darryl Ross, comm.	Joelle Burgard, DDOT
Alexander Grieve, DDOT			

## Minutes:

1. Welcome, Introductions, & Minutes - Erica Carlsson, DOEE & Earl Eutsler DDOT UFD (5 min)
  - a. Minutes Approved Earl Motion, Brenda Second, motion carries.
2. Forest Health Updates - DDOT UFD - Kasey Yturralde
  - a. Spotted Lantern Fly
    - i. New infestations that are in southern and midwestern states
    - ii. Mid-Atlantic – some observation of spotted lantern fly – adults – 6 in 2023
      1. Reports of other life stages but not spotted lantern fly. Some nymphs were recorded but there has been one citizen reported. One report of a nymph in Rock Creek Park; NPS is following up with traps.
    - iii. Monthly meetings, DOEE, USDA APHIS, and DDOT UFD
      1. Current work and future work
      2. Outreach in DC

3. Reporting website – <https://trees.dc.gov/pages/invasive-species-spotted-lantern-fly>
  4. Trapping– resume in the following week
    - a. Eight sites for traps in near exposure areas (e.g., train tracks)
  5. Training in early Spring in Manassas, VA with VA DOT of Agriculture and Consumer Surfaces
    - a. Viewed egg masses, learned documentation, scraping, and checking vehicle for spread for bad infestations.
- b. EDRR Trapping
- i. Non-native bark and ambrosia beetles
  - ii. Six trapping sites in DC (Blue Plains, Ft. Dupont, Ft. Mahan, Ft. Lincoln, US National Arboretum, and Ft. Totten), sent off samples, waiting for results.
- c. Climate Vulnerability and Adaption Planning
- i. Climate Change and our Urban Forest website: <https://climateredyforests.dc.gov/>
    1. Risks, impacts, and vulnerability of our urban forest
    2. Intro to climate change – examples in The District
    3. DOEE work Climate change projected change and change in precipitation
    4. Focus on heat and heat island effect
    5. Urban Heat map in the district – with sensitivity data of DC residents – want to use to drive selections of planting and priorities – all tree boxes planted, and planting appropriate trees for climate
    6. Climate change impacts on trees
      - a. List of trees ([https://forestadaptation.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/WashingtonDC\\_TreeSpeciesVulnerability.pdf](https://forestadaptation.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/WashingtonDC_TreeSpeciesVulnerability.pdf))
        - i. Not all trees are on the list
      - b. Vulnerability – how can we plant more trees in the moderate and low vulnerability categories
    7. Tree selection prioritization into the list based on climate and pest vulnerability – reference tree mortality data and subject matter expertise. List used to prioritize.
    8. Can look at trees by geography – if you look in a single member district it shows how many tree species, the breakdown of species, most represented genera vs least represented.
  - ii. Next steps – examples of adaptation strategies and want to link to work from the State Forest Action Plan and DOEE.
- d. Questions:
- i. Heat sensitivity
    1. Opportunity to overlay with health disparities and crime – health is part of the heat sensitivity – factors include age obesity, heart, disease, but doesn't include crime.
- e. Comments
- i. Adding the mortality issues and addressing the greatest number of concerns – if you only do climate variability won't include disease vulnerability and other issues.
3. Converting Impervious Spaces to Planted Space Presentation -DDOT UFD (45 min) - Alexander Grieve, DDOT Joelle Burgard, DDOT
- a. Grey Infrastructure converted into green infrastructure
  - b. How inter-departmental teams can collaborate to make a difference.
    - i. DDOT UFD + Infrastructure Project Management Administration (IPMA)
      1. DDOT impacts all aspects of people in DC and hurdles with separate divisions to achieve goals of tree planting and addressing stormwater management
      - 2.
    - ii. History and Context: Program Scope and Resources
      1. Why are we interested in converting?
        - a. Chesapeake Bay Watershed agreements

- b. DC is the largest municipality on the bay and the largest metro areas
    - c. Large tributary so need to protect
    - d. Riparian zones with greenways – very difficult to achieve
    - e. Tree canopy cover in the next ten years alternative to riparian corridors.
    - f.
  - 2. Stormwater – Urban Heat Island
    - a. MS4 and CSS
    - b. Increase canopy takes pressure off of CSS
    - c. MS4 - capture stormwater before going into waterways.
    - d. High flooding in impervious surfaces and storm events increasing with climate change so mitigation will help community and budget.
    - e. Heat map to eliminate stressors to the trees and populations esp. vulnerable. Shows area to concentrate efforts.
    - f. DC owns 26% of the city in the right of way
- iii. Tree box creation and expansion started with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
  - 1. Why? Provide infiltration of water for trees in the newly created open space
  - 2. Adding trees to highly dense areas where no tree box existed
    - a. Need or opportunity – focus
    - b. Brick and concrete
    - c. Easy proves – cut the cement or brick remove the top 3 feet of soil (unsure what soils are), add topsoil and layer of mulch – and add liner around existing bricks to reduce tripping hazards
    - d. Review community needs – notifications for residents
- iv. Expanding tree boxes – increasing sizes of trees – soil volume longer larger and increase canopy and reduce stresses
  - 1. Every year we create or expand 125 new spaces.
  - 2. To date we have converted 56,250 square feet.
  - 3. As a result, we have planted an additional 600 trees, and more are on the way.
  - 4. Other options are to create porous flexible pavements – expand root growth, protect roots and pedestrians, Look at notes moved too quickly.
  - 5. Add some of the PFF – red – a little softer on the knees.
- v. Projects
  - 1. C Street NE Rehab and Road Diet Project
    - a. Trees and biking
    - b. Lane reduction in action, new medians created, damage to existing ROW trees – might already have been in decline, and added stressors of root could have killed the trees.
    - c. Co-benefits of added GI
    - d. New canopy Cover – 94 new trees, 11 were lost
    - e. Added safety feature with greenspace
    - f. Reduced impervious coverage
    - g. Improved and increased tree canopy
    - h. Successful communication with contractors and community
  - 2. Ivy City Streetscape – tree bump-outs
    - a. Issues – no tree space zone, an abundance of hardscape + very hot, provide enough root-able soil volumes in compact areas
    - b. Engagement with the community when trees are not the first priority
    - c. Gutter pilot program – design of water flow through bump outs refined or improved
    - d. Solutions – right tree place – utilizes underground and above

- e. Installed pervious concrete panels for stormwater infiltration for soil and tree root absorption
3. Bunker Hill Road NE
    - a. Slip lane – road to gain speed to merge but not interstate so not needed
    - b. Issues: unsafe pedestrian access, hazardous, unsafe connections to metro
    - c. Heat island Impacts building trust with community for projects, and maintenance of plants.
    - d. Removed parking spots for metro
    - e. Tree canopy and curb cuts to achieve
    - f. Shortened crosswalks with green space
    - g. Restricted road access with trees and plantings
  4. Multipurpose and GSI
    - a. Issues: slip lane pedestrian hazard, excessive grey infrastructure, and variable engagement with the community on future outcomes
    - b. Solutions: reduce impervious surface, safer pedestrian spaces, and reduce stormwater runoff.
    - c. Lots of community feedback
- vi. Lessons Learned and Takeaways?
1. Choose low-hanging fruit. Big impact minimal effort – tree boxes
  2. Utility conflicts – the scale of the project requires different levels of utility coordination
  3. Community engagement – building trust within a shared community of stakeholders early and often where objectives will be met. Perseverance to obtain outcomes
  4. Retrofitting is a challenge. Create new space for trees with minimal impact.
- vii. Questions
1. Can you make these porous flexible pavements the color green or the color of the sidewalk? It takes away from the ambiance of the streetscape.
    - a. Maybe in the future; will discuss with producers.
  2. Is DDOT looking at two-way roads that have been converted to one-way as places with high potential for road diets?
    - a. Likely under the vision zero planning department.
  3. Several of us are in a discussion on green corridors. These elongated tree boxes and new medians seem to offer an opportunity for biodiversity and pollinator pathways - also addressing the anaerobic issue. Could the school, for example, adopt the new tree box areas for wildlife gardens?
    - a. What are and not allowed in tree boxes – mostly up to neighbors to beautify – nothing that should cause nothing 18 inches – pamphlets that we could share (email), yes, can add pollinator gardens.
  4. How does the community feel about reducing their parking with tree bump outs?
    - a. Depends on the community – people collectively do not want to lose their perceived parking. It is variable – this is the park of community engagement that is the number one topic. Work hard to get to a common space. Try to reduce parking impacts.
  5. Deborah for Restore Mass Ave has a question on the Dupont Tree Plaza, which fits this program perfectly, but now appears delayed by 2 + years. The area will stay hot and unhealthy for thousands from around the DC area who need this space.
    - a. In the design phase. Request for a date – take about a year. Staging for the deck over project; planting has to follow.
    - b. On track to go behind the Dupont deck over the project.
  6. Great presentation. I would love to know what plans are in store for Eckington. Many of our streets look like the before pictures here - or worse! ADA compliance is a problem; however, it means that historical tree inequities continue unless we initiate bump-outs or street narrowing to add green strips.
    - a. Shoshanna shared and DDOT team review and scheduling work – lead time until delivery – Rob Corletta, reviewing locations for suitability
  7. Curious whether DDOT Urban Forestry gets involved in any potential larger project studies to look at

benefits, such as the proposed North Capital Deckover (currently being studied)... Thank you! Also, slipway (not sure that's the right term) in front of Woodridge Library off of RIA...ANC is seeking speed mitigations there.

- a. Department evaluates and informs – mega projects – new South capital project. DDOT or engineers in the study phase, yes team involved.
- b. Challenges getting trees on structures from an engineering perspective.
- c. Not sure if the safety division is studying, the city is trying to manage 90 deg turn instead of oblique lanes. Getting rid of highway-style sub-lanes.

4. Oxon Run Tree Planting (Mother's Peace Garden) Presentation - Brenda Richardson (15 min)

- a. Oxon Run is the largest park in DPR's inventory, in Ward 8, 3 miles long with a rich canopy in 128 acres with trails, recreation, and a stream. Trees serve a wonderful purpose for relaxing and being calm and flood mitigation.
- b. Story Time in Oxon Run every summer (partnership with DC public library and Police officer) and reads to kids under cooling trees
  - i. Change the perception of MPD and connect with the community.
- c. "Mom's to Man Action" events for Mother's Peace Garden to remove weeds.
- d. Educating the community with UDC on flooding and the flood plain.
- e. Mother's Peace Garden and Summertime engagement
  - i. Drums and yoga with young people
- f. Neighborhood of collective trauma – trees provide peace and a great opportunity for the community the garden.
  - i. They are majestic, they keep us cool
  - ii. Heat sensitivity training for public housing – they have no central air and park helps to cool off
- g. Correlation between growing heat sensitivity and crime
  - i. Heat increases anger in community
  - ii. Need more trees
- h. Early education of young kids to learn about the value of trees and pass it on to parents
  - i. Fear of trees in black community has turned from protesting to turning it around and planting memorial trees and appreciating the trees in the community
- i. No cookie-cutter way to encourage tree planting. Need to appreciate cultural differences and perceptions of trees to figure out how to accommodate them.
- j. Trees and opportunity to heal through their spiritual nature
- k. Josh Burch from DOEE educated youth about stream restoration.
- l. Earl and DDOT came out with youth and did study on heat sensitivity to help folks understand the gravity of heat sensitivity and impacts health and crime in our neighborhoods.
- m. The Well – provides gardening
- n. SE Tennis and Learning Center
  - i. Advocating and fighting to keep the land and the Magnolia Bog behind the Center
  - ii. Working with NPS to provide a trail to the park but balance access with protection
- o. Cherry Blossoms in Oxon Run Park along Livingston Road corridor.
- p. Importance to connect the kids to trees and the environment and to nature.

5. Citizens Forest Health Working Group – Catherine Stratton Treadway & Liz Crafford (15 min)

- a. Thanks to Brenda and APACC (Anacostia Parks and Community Collaborative for advocating and helping to create the Citizens Forest Health Working Group.
- b. Mission: To protect and enhance the native habitats in the District, both in designated natural areas and on other public and private lands in all eight wards of our city:
- c. Goal: Create a NatureSmart City where residents and visitors alike can experience a beautiful and health natural environment throughout the city, and appreciate the wise stewardship of our natural resources is essential to the well-being of us all
- d. Why do we need a nature smart city to the public
  - i. Healthy Nature all around us is essential for healthy people

- ii. Native trees and plants provide us
      - 1. The clean air we breath
      - 2. Cooler temperatures for our community
      - 3. Stormwater management, keeping pollution out of our rivers
      - 4. Food and habitat for people and animals, large and small
      - 5. Respite and healing from a chaotic city lifestyle
      - 6. A sense of wonder and belonging to a community
    - iii. Biodiversity needs a seat at the table – Biodiversity Crisis
- e. Guided by Sustainable DC 2.0 nature goals (Nature, Pg. 104-115, table on page 167)
  - i. Protect, restore, and expand aquatic and land ecosystems.
  - ii. Improve human access to and stewardship of nature
  - iii. See specific items online (<https://sustainable.dc.gov/sdc2>)
  - iv. Columns list responsible agencies to help citizens advocate for issues where agencies need to work together and highlight where this has not occurred
- f. Challenges
  - i. Nature in the city has been severely degraded by our past actions and inactions
  - ii. Agencies have conflicting agendas
  - iii. Complex land ownership
  - iv. Lack of resources and inequitable resource distribution
  - v. Climate and biodiversity issues
- g. Tasks
  - i. Train land caretakers in best practices
  - ii. Remove invasive plants
  - iii. Education residents, businesses, and city workers
  - iv. Enforce laws and regulations to protect resources
  - v. Create new natural areas
  - vi. Preserve existing Natural Areas
  - vii. Replace legacy invasive landscapes
- h. Hold a series of meetings to bring together City agencies, NGO Partners, City Council, and Citizen Forest Stewards
  - i. Need DGS, DDOT, DMPED, Office of Planning, Housing Authority, Housing and Community Development, Office of Racial Equity and others have joined
  - ii. Presentations
    - 1. Damien Ossi (DOEE) Native vs Invasive Plants and PRISM
    - 2. John O’Neil (UFD) Urban Forestry project
    - 3. Brent Sisco (DPR) DPR Challenges and Opp with Land Management
    - 4. Sophie Plitt, Natural Areas Conservancy/Forest and Cities Network
    - 5. Nancy Sonti (USFS) and American Forests – Forest Patch mapping and Tree Equity Index
    - 6. Connecting Langdon Park Forest Patch Stewards to Wards 7 & 8 Land Advocates to Share Resources and Experiences
    - 7. Supported two invasive removal events at Marvin Gaye/Watts Branch
- i. Interagency conflicts interfere with good stewardship
  - i. DOEE administers funding for forest maintenance which includes trash removal, but DPW doesn’t allow disposal of the trash at DC facilities
  - ii. DDOT manages green infrastructure planting but permits plants considered invasive by DOEE
  - iii. Conservation vs. Development. Developers – city and private – see green space as a blank slate.
  - iv. Trees are being planted by UFD that DOEE scientists consider invasive
  - v. NPS and DDOT/UFD don’t have an agreement on who is responsible for maintenance on co-managed rights-of-way through park land.
  - vi. DGS manages DPR lands but has no procedures for invasive plant management.
- j. Specific legislative and regulatory next steps
  - i. Create a cross-agency working group for the health of natural areas at agencies beyond DOEE and UFD.
  - ii. Increase funding and support for the maintenance of easement properties, other city properties, and NPS properties as needed.
  - iii. Regulate invasive plants and create other relevant citywide policies on what gets planted where.
  - iv. Protect forest patches, recognizing their critical ecosystem services.
  - v. Plant new native forests on degraded sites in Wards 5,7, and 8 using the Miyawaki method to quickly improve tree canopy and address health and nature inequities.
- k. Longer term goals

- i. Survey DC-owned properties for the creation of invasive management plants to manage and remove invasive over time
    - ii. Better balancing of ownership/control of natural areas between the District and NPS
    - iii. Create a NatureSmart education and rebate program to parallel RiverSmart
  - I. Accomplishments
    - i. Doubling forest maintenance grants to 300K for FY24
    - ii. Policy Recommendation from Committee on Facilities and Family Services
    - iii. Initiating cross-agency conversations with DOEE, UFD, DPR and NPS
    - iv. Supported efforts to strengthen protections for heritage and special trees
6. Tree management on DC-owned properties - DDOT UFD (15 min)
- a. Issue Summary
    - i. History - 2016 Tree Canopy Protection Act Passed
      - 1. Established Heritage Tree Class
      - 2. DDOT's establishment act to manage street trees and planting and maintenance on all District lands (adding parks and schools)
        - a. Been working with constituents
        - b. Delivered tree service to 90% of DPR properties
        - c. Does not preclude properties from managing and planting with grantees, contracts, partnerships, and volunteers among others
    - ii. Issue - DPR was pruning trees at Langdon Park
      - 1. Read act that is responsible under DDOT but DPR pruners did not seem to have proper knowledge of tree pruning
      - 2. Concern that if agencies do not turn over to UFD then anyone who is pruning should have a basic class in tree pruning and management to prevent damage
    - iii. Response - UFD is responsible for pruning (agencies happy to turn over management)
      - 1. Nothing that prevents agencies from performing work
      - 2. UFD wants to avoid the agencies from performing poor pruning management
      - 3. UFD clarified roles and responsibilities with DPR and pruning group and the group expressed a desire to have training because some items need to be addressed right away and the group wants to be empowered
      - 4. Next Step: UFD has offered training for that team
    - iv. Comment - DGS may not be aware and can turn to UFD. DPW would also prune trees. Requesting communication for all agencies to turn to DDOT UFD.
      - 1. UFD has reached out to agencies for awareness since 2016 several times. Leadership is knowledgeable even if individual staff are not.
    - v. Questions - Citizens Forest Health Working Group highlighting these conflicts. Could a formal working group be created to discuss these types of conflicts?
      - 1. UFD supports cross-agency meetings (UFAC as an example) and trainings, but not huge conflicts between agencies.
      - 2. Group sees these as opportunities and challenges with opportunities for learning instead of conflict.
7. Announcements & Closing Remarks (10 min)
- a. Thanks for your time and appreciation. Meetings are becoming more and more valuable.
  - b. Appreciation for presentations from communications from Gov and community.