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# Partners Updates

## Issues in ARBORICULTURE—Free or Subsidized Trees?

by Phillip Rodbell, U.S. Forest Service

Street trees are one of the few things free to homeowners who request them in many communities nationwide. This general policy is borne out of recognition that the community at large benefits when a tree is planted in the right place and maintained in the right of way. It is also a policy that should ensure that even the poorest neighborhoods—if empowered to request them—will have access to trees.

It is also a policy that fosters a level of entitlement and apathy that may undermine the sustainability of our tree care programs. Consider this: to many people, a free thing is a worthless thing.

Personally, I think the commitment communities demonstrate to planting (and hopefully maintaining) trees is laudable and imperative. But I'd like to think that property and business owners are willing to contribute funds or time to a community program that makes a big impact on community health and well-being. The challenge is how to wean people from a free service and toward a subsidized service that can perhaps make a larger, long-term impact with resident contributions.

Many communities have explored this potential through a variety of programs under the umbrella name "NeighborWoods." Nearly all these programs are designed to engage the public in the greening work of the city. The trouble is that many tree care programs don't have the capacity to manage volunteers or the ability to accept private funds and would much rather put their own shovels to work or contract out for tree installation.

The NeighborWoods concept works best when there is a full-time or seasonal tree-planting coordinator whose role is to generate interest and funding in the effort while delivering trees and training residents. In my view, this is a critical community investment in volunteer coordination that pays off many times over in terms of civic commitment, community pride, public engagement, and a stewardship ethic.

The coordinator need not be in city government but could be provided or contracted through an existing nonprofit organization willing to work closely with the city. Another possibility is to recruit and train a retired person or borrow staff from other agencies or corporate partners on a seasonal basis. A special accounting fund could be set up or a nonprofit fiscal agent may be used to facilitate the effort.

With good coordination, cities could extend planting programs into under-resourced neighborhoods, building bridges to traditionally underserved communities that rarely call for trees. The coordinator could bring blocks of neighbors together and apply for grants—using the value of the trees as an in-kind match to further extend the tree-planting budget—and could request a donation from recipients that would help sustain the effort. In a finely tuned program, the coordinator may be able to use bare-



City trees are an asset we can't afford to give away. Photo: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

root trees, reducing the cost of planting and adding even more value to the effort.

More than volunteer labor, the administrative focus should be on leveraging every public dollar with one or more private dollars to increase the number of trees planted and maintained each year. In the best of worlds, where good management is rewarded, every dollar offset by volunteers or fundraising can be poured into maintenance. In this way, the willingness to pay for tree planting is subsidizing the maintenance of existing trees.

City budgets are tight and getting tighter. Stewardship of the urban forest requires constant vigilance to plant, prune, and remove in a never-ending cycle. As managers, we have to keep on our toes and seek out innovations and partners who can extend our capacity. We know that trees provide multiple benefits to the environment, and generally people are willing to pay a nominal fee to maintain the curb appeal of their property. In my view, trees are a public asset we can't afford to give away.

*Phillip Rodbell is a certified arborist and manager of the U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program in the 21-state Northeastern Area.*

## UTILITY ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

### *Direct Help with Your Urban Forest*

by Ward Peterson, Davey Resource Group

**M**unicipal Foresters have a challenging job managing, maintaining, and improving the urban forest in their communities. Utility foresters have the responsibility for thousands of trees, people, and public spaces—often with limited funding and resources.

Utility foresters are responsible for pruning or removing many of these same trees with the goal of protecting the power lines and areas under the trees. The utility must protect the public from trees interrupting electricity delivery or physically knocking down the conductors. The public ROW located under power lines can remain safe if the lines are protected. A tree that is hazardous to the power lines is also hazardous to the spaces near the lines. Utility operations can shoulder a good deal of the work needed to improve safety to areas around their lines.

An easy way to facilitate this is by comparing notes on hazardous trees. The city and the utility will often find that they have similar problems with the same tree. Working together, they can jointly and efficiently address the problems. This process will reduce the costs to each organization and improve the condition and safety of the public urban forest. What is needed is recognition that both organizations are working towards similar objectives.

The best way to compare notes is to use lists or databases from inventories and inspections. When both organizations have identified the same tree for hazard pruning or removal, they can coordinate efforts to reduce costs and power interruptions to the public. This process can give the Municipal Forester direct assistance or even provide a professional utility urban forester to help care for a large portion of their trees.

Communication throughout the process is the key. It can start with informal meetings to just talk about intentions and what could happen. From there, a number of tools can be used to continue communication and improve the operations.

A "Toolbox of Solutions" is being developed from the recent SMA-UAA Teamwork Summit. One of these tools is a simple Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that discusses the objectives and standards each organization will use in their work. SMA and UAA developed such an example MOU for their organizations. The MOU shouldn't be complicated or involved, but it will give a firm foundation for future discussions and actions. It will inform the public and city officials that the managers are working together to develop better services and an improved urban forest. After an MOU, operational coordination projects and public information can be developed improving productivity along with the public's understanding of the importance of trees and a safe, healthy urban forest. 🌿

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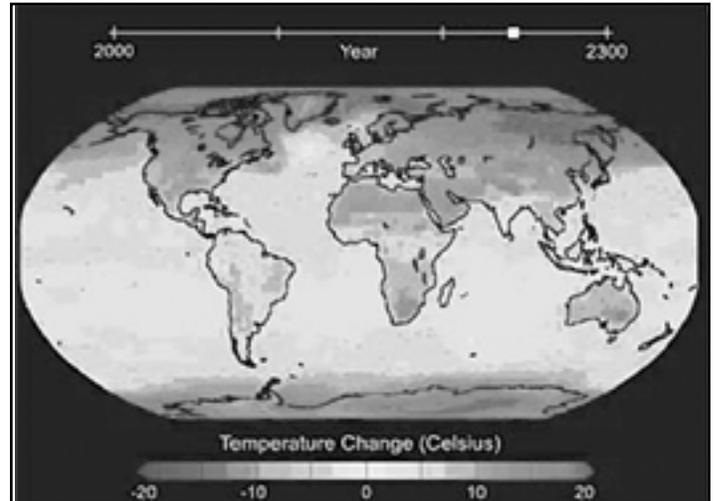
# The Green Wave

by Gene Hyde, City Forester, Chattanooga, Tennessee

I can see and hear this huge wave that is gathering around us. It is obvious to me that this large tsunami will soon crash onto the shores of America, and the color of this wave is green! With the recent realignment of both houses of Congress, there are many issues that are about to come off the back burner and take center stage. One of these issues is Global Warming, or if you prefer, Climate Change.



In addition to planting thousands of new street trees in recent years, Chattanooga, Tennessee has adopted technologies like biodiesel fuel, hybrid vehicles, methane gas capture in landfills, and LED bulbs in street lights. Photo: Chattanooga Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



A model of climate change from pre-industrial levels through 2300 based on carbon emissions from the continued reliance on fossil fuels. This animation shows how the year-2000 global mean surface temperature change of 0.8°C increases to 7.8°C by 2300. Animation: Michael Wickett, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Through the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels developed an initiative in 2005 called the Climate Protection Agreement. Frustrated that nothing was happening on a national level with the Kyoto Protocol, Mayor Nickels took action. So now, any mayor in America can sign this Climate Protection Agreement and pledge to cut carbon dioxide emissions within their cities to 7% below 1990 levels.

One measure of the agreement is to “maintain healthy urban forests and promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb carbon dioxide.” In August 2006 the Chattanooga Tree Commission urged Mayor Ron Littlefield to be a signator to the Climate Protection Agreement. He signed on the spot, becoming the second mayor in Tennessee to participate, and I was immediately appointed as the City’s main point of contact for this initiative. Chattanooga now joins over 500 mayors that have taken the pledge.

Here in Chattanooga we became players in this movement more than ten years ago when we switched our downtown bus fleet from diesel to electric. In recent years we have switched over to B20 biodiesel in all of our diesel-burning vehicles citywide, increased our fleet of hybrid vehicles, begun to capture methane gas in our landfills, switched the incandescent bulbs in street lights to LED lights, and planted thousands of new street trees for downtown streetscapes.

The belief is that all of these activities make sense both environmentally AND economically and will ultimately contribute towards the overall effort to reduce carbon dioxide. Thankfully, we can now measure carbon dioxide sequestration by our urban trees through the USDA Forest Service i-Tree tools like STRATUM and UFORE (see [www.itreetools.org](http://www.itreetools.org)).

## International Perspective

The idea of controlling greenhouse gasses, particularly carbon dioxide, is beginning to play out on an international stage. The Kyoto Protocol went into force in early 2005 and requires industrialized nations that signed the agreement to take firm steps to reduce their average annual emissions of six greenhouse gases, including CO<sub>2</sub>, over a five-year period (2008-12). National targets set by the Protocol range from 8% reduction for the European Union (EU) and 7% for the U.S. to 0% for Russia and permitted increases of 8% for Australia and 10% for Iceland.

The Kyoto Protocol also incorporates market-based flexibility mechanisms as a means of reducing economic disruptions while achieving the emissions reduction targets. The centerpiece of this approach is a “cap-and-trade” system in which total emissions are capped at a level to achieve a desired result and allowances (credits) equaling this total are distributed to participants. A country that can’t reduce its

emissions to the target goal can then cover its shortfall by purchasing allowances (credits) from countries that have met their emissions quotas and have credits to sell.

In an attempt to reach the goals of Kyoto, the 25-member EU has begun the process of implementing the Kyoto provisions. The struggle so far has been to build a new market from scratch for carbon dioxide. Phase 1 has allowed the EU planners to evaluate the emissions standards as offered by industries themselves and to have an initial look at the system before Phase 2 goes into effect in 2008. Negotiations for Phase 2 caps and allocations are already underway. However, in Canada there has only been stagnation. Although it ratified the Kyoto treaty in December 2002, Environment Minister Rona Ambrose announced in April 2006 that Canada would have no chance of meeting its target reductions. Instead, Canada, according to Ambrose, will focus on reducing smog and provide incentives for public mass transit.

Although it never ratified the Kyoto treaty, the United States is bubbling with activity. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative was enacted in December 2005 when the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont committed to implementing their own cap-and-trade system for power plants that meet certain criteria. On the other side of America, California, Oregon, and Washington have formed the West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative to coordinate a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Five Midwestern states including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and both Dakotas have partnered with the Canadian Province of Manitoba to form the "Powering the Plains" initiative for the purpose of developing climate policies that involves both energy and agriculture.

It is unlikely that any of these North American initiatives would have occurred without significant public support. And if you think that the public pays scant attention to this consider the following: an October 2005 survey by Fox News revealed that over 75% of the U.S. population now believes that climate change is occurring and most of them believe that human activity is at least partly to blame. Media attention has been enormous. This subject has drawn huge attention from CNN, HBO, ABC News, and National Geographic with special issues of Time and Newsweek. Add to that the Oscar win and visibility of Al Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth," appearing across the country.

It's not just governments involved in the movement. Ten major companies, including industrial giants General Electric, Alcoa and DuPont, joined four environmental and climate groups in January to demand swift passage of federal legislation to cut emissions that worsen warming.

### ***The Role of the Urban Forester***

So what's an urban forester to do? And how does one get involved with such a massive worldwide movement? Suggestions include:

1. **Push to get involved!** Urge your mayor or city council to sign on to the Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. More than 500 cities in America have already done so. The day after the last State of the Union address, the U.S. Conference of Mayors announced that global warming is Number 1 on its top-10 list of priorities. Surely your mayor can relate to that. Last August, our Tree Commission took the lead role in approaching our mayor and persuading him to sign this agreement. Here were some of our selling points:

- A. Actions taken to meet the objectives of this initiative can be tailored to meet the needs of the community. Most are common sense, money-saving ideas that you would want to do anyway, such as switching from incandescent bulbs in traffic lights to LED lights. While not a splashy, headline-grabbing action, electricity costs were cut drastically.
- B. Any actions taken are done within the municipal/county government. There are no mandates for private industry. Therefore this initiative will not negatively affect any business or industrial recruiting done by the Chamber of Commerce. This point was explained to our Chamber before we approached the mayor. We even persuaded the Chamber to let the mayor present the first annual Green Building Award and Green Industry Award during one of the special Chamber events which was specially structured to thank local business and industry.
- C. Most cities' strategies include a component to reduce consumption of petroleum products. Since 60% of America's oil comes from foreign sources, many people regard the attempt to reduce our dependency on foreign oil as both noble and patriotic. National columnist Thomas Friedman opined that "green" was once thought to be equivalent to "tree-hugging," but now "green" is the new, solidly mainstream "red, white, and blue."

2. **Perform a carbon sequestration analysis on your city's trees.** There are several products on the market for this purpose including UFORE and STRATUM. According to the U.S. EPA, urban forests sequestered 88 million metric tons of carbon in America in 2004. One of the strategies for combating climate change is the planting of trees. If your mayor has committed your community to the Climate Protection Agreement, then show him how your trees are contributing to this effort. You ARE playing a part whether you realize it or not. Take advantage of the opportunity!
3. **Stay abreast of new legislation and opportunities—particularly the new cap-and-trade systems.** Several states including California, Oregon, Maine, New Hampshire, and Georgia have all begun to put into place the legislative structure for determining carbon sequestration in forests and procedures for registering qualified tracts. The role of the state is to provide an approved protocol by which tracts are legally identified, consistently quantified, and locally registered. Then, exchange mechanisms such as the Chicago Carbon Exchange, can serve as an avenue for registered landowners to sell their "carbon credits." So far, most states view carbon sequestration as an emerging market opportunity for forest landowners. Could it be that sometime in the future our cities will be paid to keep our street trees and forests in place? State Urban Forestry Councils would be wise to monitor this process and to render professional assistance to the appropriate committees working to enact such programs.

Since I was the only staff person in his office when Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield signed the Climate Protection Agreement, he looked straight at me and said, "Make it happen!" At that moment I was quite overwhelmed and "Yes, sir" was all I could manage to squeak. So now I play the lead role in Chattanooga for this endeavor—but I can tell you that this has been the most enjoyable professional assignment that I have ever undertaken. My eyes have been opened, horizons broadened, and I have this sense that I'm seriously contributing to the good of humankind. I strongly urge all urban foresters to seek out a role in this movement and to ride—not resist—the Green Wave. I'm sure you'll find it as rewarding as I have. 🌿

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camaraderie in the urban forestry profession to provide continuous growth for trees and individuals.

Trees are the common link. J. Sterling Morton said, "Other holidays repose upon the past, Arbor Day proposes for the future." Could Morton have known the depth of his statement in today's world of urban forestry and climate change?

### **Peer Learning Group 3: We are the Tools for Success**

MFI 2007 brought together people with knowledge and ideas from all over the U.S. and Canada. By working together and networking, we now have the tools to begin to shift the global paradigm toward urban forest improvement. We believe it is our duty as leaders of our industry to educate and to continue to learn the methods and technologies that provide the framework to enhance our quality of life through trees.

What we have realized after soaking up all the information shared in MFI is that we are the tools for success. We have become sharper chainsaws and stronger climbing ropes in our profession. When we return to our homes, we will be the leaders that prune and shape others by educating and training them like the trees we love so much.

We'll be looking for opportunities to involve others in our mission by actively seeking new ways to collaborate with our local governments, non-profits, private partners, the media, and volunteers. We have learned that by cooperating and sharing our vision with these other interested parties, we can advocate for our urban forest and create visibility for our program.

MFI 2007 has fostered connections among urban forestry professionals across North America. Every student takes with them a great sense of leadership and an understanding of planning strategies and municipal trends. What we have now are friends, true friends, that we can turn to and talk with, albeit from afar, to be companions on a journey that may very well be the salvation of our planet.

### **Peer Learning Group 4: Winds of Change**

Across our nation the winds of change are blowing. Many of these changes are global in nature, and they are happening at a rapidly increasing rate. They include



Peer learning group at work

Photos: Paul Ries

climate change, urbanization, increasing pollution of our air and water supplies, and a competition for natural, fiscal and political resources. While a convergence of winds can cause tremendous damage, they also blow away the clouds that darken our skies. We believe these changes are having a similar result: people around the world are beginning to see themselves and their role as stewards of Planet Earth in a much clearer light.

The bending of the trees that the spring winds bring serves to remind us in the urban forestry community that we have a responsibility to harness this opportunity before it blows away. Sustainable urban forests are the front line against a wide range of environmental, health, cultural and social challenges. Driven by passion and dedication, urban foresters have the expertise and knowledge for the solutions our world needs.

What we need is leadership. What we need is passion. What we need is dedication. That is where you come in. As members of the urban and community forestry profession, each of you can affect positive change that ensures the successful growth of sustainable urban forests. The opportunity these winds present is for us to lead this change and "think outside the bark." We need to work together to build strategic partnerships at all levels of our communities, crossing political and social boundaries to build a legacy that outlasts our tenure.

Just as the stiff breeze scatters pollen from trees across the landscape, urban foresters need to spread the word that *trees are the answer*. This is a call to action for all of us in urban forestry not to turn our collars up and hide from this wind of change, but to throw up our kites and audaciously show our communities that we do have other options and perhaps even solutions to the approaching storms.

### **Peer Learning Group 5: Green Thumbs, Fertile Minds**

There are a great many messages worth delivering as a result of our MFI experience. However, one resonates louder than any other: *we're all in this together*. As SMA members we are vested tree people who have enthusiasm and passion on our side. We are relentless at building relationships and networks of mutual support through the universal belief that urban forests are crucial to the future health and well-being of our nations and our planet. No matter what the budget numbers look like or what the politicians are saying, we are already successful today. However, the burning question is, "Will we be successful tomorrow?"

We believe that as urban foresters we are uniquely positioned to enact a rapid response defense against escalating global climate changes. As the world's populations become increasingly aware and concerned with the impact of urban development and



MFI cadre member Owen Croy works with a peer learning group

begin to accept the necessity to change how we interact with nature, we must be prepared to assume a leading role.

Be it from natural talent, academic pursuits, or life experience, municipal foresters are “Green Thumb” professionals. Our success today has been based upon our ability to cultivate healthy trees and vibrant forests. To be successful tomorrow, we need to move beyond the green thumb and start working with green minds. The municipal forester with a green thumb can accomplish much. The municipal forester with a green mind can accomplish *anything*. The green mind professional is a communicator, a collaborator, and a leader. The green mind professional cultivates healthy programs and vibrant people in addition to their fulfilling daily responsibilities.

That we possess the skills and knowledge to develop and manage the urban forest is unquestionable. But it is now time to add an additional tool to our arsenal. It is imperative that we now focus our fertile minds on the cultivation of leadership skills. As the world searches for the solution to global warming, we must be prepared to take on a leadership role. We encourage you to accept this call to action and prepare for the fast approaching green wave. Urban forestry is the first line of defense in the war against global climate change and we are her champions. Prepare your body and your mind to engage in the upcoming challenge.

#### **Peer Learning Group 6: It’s People!**

So we were thinking about the movie *Solent Green*—the movie starring Charleston Heston. One highly memorable quote (later re-enforced by a Saturday Night Live parody) from the movie was, “Solent Green is made of people, IT’S PEOPLE!” After a long day of great learning at the MFI, it was driven home that “urban forestry is made of people, IT’S PEOPLE!”

We think that our passion takes us a long way, but passion alone will not accomplish what we want to accomplish. We need to learn skills in leadership, organization, and communication. Additionally we need to harness the skills and abilities to harmonize and compliment, to have flexibility and to get our message through to decision-makers.

Are we feeling downtrodden and sorry for ourselves for all that we do not have? Are we pessimistic about the future? No. It is quite the opposite, really. The winds of change are in our favor. MFI has taught us that through leadership and partnerships we can form a cohesive message about the need for urban forestry. You, too, can be a part of this change. You, too, can make a difference. We are all in this together.

We would like to leave you with a challenge. Write, phone, and visit your local, state, and federal legislators to educate them on the benefits of trees. No matter your position, you can educate—simply share information

about the benefits of trees. Drop a flyer at their offices. Let them know you are available if they have any questions about trees. Become their expert for consultation on trees. Trees are constituents, too, and the trees need you to speak up for them.

#### **Peer Learning Group 7: One Big Voice Shouting in the Woods**

As stewards of the urban forest, our training compels us to think in terms of decades and millennia, like the life cycle of the urban forest, the asset that has been placed into our care. We are and have always been visionaries hampered by our daily routines. We know that the value and benefits of trees to our planet is the solution to the growing threat of global warming. We know that by urban forest planning, stewardship, and education we can change the future for the better. We know that a healthy forest is the frontline defense to and the only insurance for healthy communities for our generation and the generations to come. We know that a healthy urban forest creates a healthy community. Unfortunately, most often we only sing to the choir.

As professionals we often get bogged down by the minutia of daily routine, depressed by the setbacks of government and politics and question whether our urban forestry program makes any difference at all. The solution to this dilemma is forming a united front as professionals through events like MFI.

One of our group members put it thus: “I came thinking I had overwhelming, unsolvable problems to implementing an urban forestry program in my city. After MFI, my vision of a functional, sustainable UF program in my community not only seems attainable, but I know that I have the support of the best minds in the profession of urban forestry to call on to help my program be successful and viable in my tenure and as a legacy for the generations that follow.

Together we are one powerfully big voice shouting in the woods. Together we can make a difference locally and globally. Together we can gain the trust and support of the political, non-profit, planning, public works, and government allies we need to move forward with our visions and our missions. Together we can leave the legacy of a healthy urban forest, global environment, and community for future generations. 🌿

# Making a Huge Difference in Your Community

## How to Further Urban Forestry Programs Where You Work and Live

by Gordon Mann, Public Works Superintendent, City of Redwood City, California

*This is the first of a two-part contribution by Gordon Mann. In the next installment, Mann looks at the unusual case of an arborist-turned-mayor in a neighboring city in California and what that meant for that city's urban forestry program.*

One thing my 30 years of public service has taught me is that an influential person can have tremendous impact on decisions within our community. This influence can be both positive and negative. For improving the program, I will focus on the positive. Because we live in the real world, I also will share an example of how the negative can help.

We can all think of many instances where we have had great ideas and initiatives and put them forward to our supervisors—only to have them stall somewhere in the gaps of the bureaucratic process. In my current position, I am fortunate that my role as public works superintendent is directly below the department head. In previous roles, I had to work through supervisors, superintendents, and deputy department heads before actually getting an idea before the department head. And then it has to move from the department head through the city manager or mayor. Those extra steps leave too many opportunities for competing needs to derail our plan.

By contrast, I will share several examples where one or two people (sometimes a group) in the community have taken ideas and implemented them in what seems like lightning speed. Each case left me wondering, how did they get the funding or approval for that one?

### Collective Citizen Power

From 1977 to 1978 in the Village of Brookfield, Illinois, my work partner and I were battling (cleaning up after) Dutch elm disease. The community was losing elm trees faster than the public works department tree removal budget could keep up. The superintendent did not feel comfortable or was unwilling to go to the village manager and village board to ask for more money. The choices presented to staff were to ignore the problem or tell citizens that we would get to their dead tree next year.

Taking a risk, my partner and I agreed that we would not say, “Your dead tree with the bark falling off isn’t hazardous and we’ll get to it when we can.” We were honest with people and said, “We are in the middle of a tree disease crisis, and all of the tree removal money for the current budget year had been spent. We were unable to find any additional money in the public works budget to remove your tree. You may want to visit the village board and advise them that the public works department needs additional funding so they can take down the dead tree in front of your house.”

Fortunately, the right property owners went to the board meetings and presented themselves in a professional manner. After three or four board meetings where this occurred, in the short story version, we received double the tree removal budget that year and for the next few years, which allowed us to remove all the dead elms. I’ll save the conversations that occurred with the superintendent for another article.

### The Power of One Voice

In the City of Redwood City, California our tree preservation and sidewalk repair program (fixing displaced sidewalks around trees) benefited from the influence of others. I’ll share two examples here—one related to funding; one, to policy.

Our sidewalk repair program is funded by the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP). In 1984, it was originally planned to cost 24 million dollars over 40 years, starting at \$600,000 per year and increasing with the cost of living. But after the third year, there were no increases in funding and the base funding fell back to \$600,000, then \$500,000, per year.

My pleas for additional funds were not favorably received by the department head, and for six years, the program was reduced in scope to utilize the available funding. But since the reduced pace and progress of the program was not what one new Council member had envisioned, that individual started rallying support for increased funding. Whereas six years of my requests for increased funding had fallen on deaf ears, the Council member was able to get results after three months of CIP discussions. My role was to be sure I had a plan in place so that I could properly utilize the funding increase from \$500,000 to \$750,000 the first year and then to a million dollars the following year.



The use of rubber sidewalks in Redwood City owes its genesis to both citizen discontent with root pruning and good planning on the part of the public works department. Photo: Charles Drechsler

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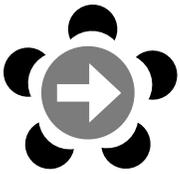
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# ROUND TABLE

## Building Bridges with City Departments, Part I

*Roundtable participant and Milwaukee, Wisconsin Forestry Services Manager David Sivyer says, "Like trees in rural forests that are associates of various symbiotic plant communities, MAs exist in a community of municipal professionals that has symbiotic potential. To effectively manage urban forest resources, MAs must be equipped with skills and knowledge that extend well beyond forestry and other science-based curriculums to design and engineering, construction management, political science, and interpersonal relations."*

*In this issue, we hear about bridge-building relationships from Mark Mead of Seattle, Washington; Paul Dykema of Lansing, Michigan; and David Sivyer of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In the next issue of City Trees, we hear from Gene Hyde of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Gordon Mann of Redwood City, California; Nolan Rundquist of Seattle, Washington; and Melinda Adams of Fort Worth, Texas.*

Seattle Parks has benefited from two outstanding partnerships with other agencies. Over ten years ago we helped create the Urban Forest Coalition (UFC), an interagency group of seven departments within the City that have some management oversight of trees. Three years ago we helped create the groundbreaking Green Seattle Partnership with a large nonprofit, our public utilities, and our mayor to address a benignly neglected portion of the urban forest, forest remnants/forested parklands.

Without our internal and external partners, we would not be able to even dream of achieving our goals of moving Seattle from 18% canopy cover to 30% in the next 30 years, or to restore over 2,500 acres of forested parkland to native condition in the next 20 years.

In 2006 we unveiled the Urban Forest Management Plan for Seattle, an ambitious plan that creates 30-year goals for all areas of the city. The UFC was the principal body for the development of this plan. The UFC is made up of Seattle's Department of Planning and Development, Department of Transportation, Parks Department, Office of Sustainable Environment, Public Utilities, City Light, Seattle Center, and Department of Neighborhoods.

While we have diverse agency objectives, we came together to create a plan that sets strategies for planting on private property, on public lands, and in rights-of-way. Our goals are part of the Mayor's Climate Action Plan, which is the genesis of the nationwide Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, an effort to address global warming and the creation of sustainable and livable cities by meeting the Kyoto Protocol. As part of this effort, the mayor recently signed an executive order requiring a 2:1 tree-replacement ratio for any tree removed by the city on streets or in our developed parks.

Serving the UFC's agenda is the Green Seattle Partnership, a volunteer-driven (75,000 volunteer hours per year) program that addresses the removal of invasive species and the planting of native trees and shrubs across Seattle's forested parklands. At the behest

of our mayor, we have developed a partnership with over 100 neighborhood "Friends of (Park Name)" groups, a regional land conservancy (Cascade Land Conservancy), the Office of Sustainable Environment, and Seattle Public Utilities. Our ambitious goal is the clearing of head-high blackberry and

tree-choking ivy from over 2,500 acres of land. More importantly, we are developing the funding and best management practices that will not only pay for the initial work but will also provide for the maintenance of these forests into the future.

Our highly experienced, professional, and motivated arborists and foresters work daily with citizens and all levels of planners, engineers, designers, builders, managers and executives to find creative ways to increase and improve the urban forest. In 2005 these efforts won Seattle the First-Place City Livability Award from the United States Conference of Mayors.

**Mark C. Mead**  
**Senior Urban Forester**  
**Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation**

I'm glad to say that our urban forestry program enjoys an unusual amount of support from professionals in other city departments. Lansing is located at the convergence of three rivers in a relatively flat area in south-central Michigan. As you might imagine, this area has always been heavily wooded. The City passed its first tree planting ordinance in 1873 and hired its first city forester in 1913. That person was eventually hired as the director of parks and recreation. Three subsequent city foresters have also become director. Needless to say, we have lots of trees. This all means that people being raised in Lansing are growing up in a forest. Many City employees are longtime residents of Lansing and have an ingrained appreciation of our forest and are glad to provide us with support.

Our history of having a city forester since 1913 affects the attitudes of other professional staff toward our department. The position of city forester is institutionalized in Lansing. Most professional staff hired by the City become aware during their employment that the forestry section exists and become acquainted with its responsibilities.

Support for the forestry program by other professional staff takes form in several ways in Lansing. Planners are well aware of the importance of being a livable city and actively seek input from our forestry staff on development issues. Building code compliance officers know that trees can be hazardous and seek forestry staff's assistance in determining the hazard status of private trees so that concerns can be addressed. All the streets in Lansing are tree-lined, and because of the density of our tree population, copies of construction permits are sent to the city forester in order to insure that damage to trees due to construction is minimized.

Our tree population density leads to support from unanticipated quarters such as the police and fire departments. Because the police know that forestry is the organization contacted when they find limbs in the roadway, they also realize that the trees are the