

Urban and Community Forestry Program

2016 Accomplishment Report – District of Columbia

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Introduction

Within the government of the District of Columbia, the Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) is one of five administrations in the District Department of Transportation. UFA is responsible for urban street trees as well as managing the regulated removal of trees from private property. UFA's duties include planting, pruning, removing, and maintaining the health of the District of Columbia's street tree canopy. Additional programs expand tree canopy and green space on District property and support green collar workforce training. Efforts are currently focused on ensuring the District's street trees are managed throughout their life cycle, including expanded maintenance of young trees, developing a mature tree standard maintenance procedure, monitoring for invasive species and disease, and reusing urban wood waste. New changes adopted in FY 2016 include giving UFA management responsibility for all trees in public spaces, which includes public schools, parks, and all properties managed by the Department of General Services.

Key Accomplishments

Canopy 3,000

Canopy 3,000 is a short-term public-private partnership aimed at expanding the number of trees planted on private property and public spaces throughout the District. The 11 members of *Canopy 3,000* worked to develop a plan for planting an additional 3,000 trees in the District in 2016. *Canopy 3,000* includes these members:

- Department of Energy and Environment
- District Department of Transportation
- National Park Service
- District Department of Parks and Recreation
- Casey Trees
- Washington Parks and People
- AECOM
- American University
- American Society of Landscape Architects
- D.C. Baptist Convention
- USDA Forest Service

Trees are a critical element in achieving many of the District's most important environmental goals, which include reducing storm water runoff, improving air quality, mitigating the urban heat island effect,

restoring the Anacostia River, securing environmental justice and equity for underserved communities, and creating a more diverse ecosystem where wildlife can thrive.

Establishment of the District’s Urban Forest Advisory Council

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and Department of Transportation (DDOT) hosted the first meeting of a newly authorized Urban Forestry Advisory Council (UFAC). Established by the Tree Canopy Protection Amendment Act of 2016, UFAC’s primary purpose is to ensure coordination between District agencies and other public and private partners engaged in tree canopy programs and to inform on policy and program initiatives.

DOEE Director Tommy Wells underscored the significance of the Council, calling it “an essential, forward-thinking component in the District’s push to increase tree canopy cover in all eight wards. This collaborative effort of District Government agencies, Federal agencies, community members, tree-planting partners, and utilities will play a critical role in tree expansion in public parcels and on private lands, ensuring [that] the District has a widespread, healthy tree canopy for future generations.”

“The Urban Forest Advisory Council is a key force in ensuring that the District achieves its goal of 40 percent Urban Tree Canopy cover by 2032,” said DDOT Director Leif Dormsjo. “The Council’s leadership will help us coordinate tree planting initiatives across all landowner types, promote best practices, and maintain our status as the city of trees to enhance the lives of District residents and visitors.”

Collaborative Park Inventories

UFA teamed up with Casey Trees to inventory trees in public parks. Casey Trees staff, volunteer citizen scientists, and UFA arborists inventoried over 2,000 trees in nine parks throughout the city. The effort engaged over 200 volunteers and helped to catalogue trees in all eight of the District’s Wards. UFA arborists will use the inventory data as they move forward in their expanded management role. In addition to street trees, UFA will be responsible for all trees in public spaces managed by the District’s Department of General Services, which includes DC Public Schools and Parks. Partnerships with groups such as Casey Trees help the District build stewardship capacity and advocacy for proactive urban forest management.



Lincoln Park tree inventory



Yards Park tree inventory



Park tree inventory volunteers (Photo: Casey Trees)

Partnership with Earth Conservation Corps to Plant Trees in DC Housing Authority Properties
The Earth Conservation Corps partnered with UFA, the DC Public Housing Authority, and Washington Parks and People to plant trees on multiple Housing Authority properties. The project enables the District to work towards its canopy goal and foster community engagement and stewardship.



Earth Conservation Corps volunteers planting on DC Public Housing Authority property

Statistical Highlights

Managing Communities:	1
Developing Communities:	0
Population of Participating Communities:	601,723
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	5,676

