

Chicago Urban Forestry Advisory Board

Urban Forestry Advisory Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2023

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A brief introduction was given by the board members. An overview of the City of Chicago's Urban Forestry (UF) Management Plan was given. The UF plan is helping move the city from a reactive to a proactive approach to managing its urban forestry infrastructure. Street trees are an infrastructure asset worth \$1 billion. The tree canopy for the last 30 years has been moving into a mature category.

The UFAB discussed the value of providing Alderpersons with more education on the value of trees for their constituents. Education could surround everything from who waters a street tree, fun and interesting facts about trees. The goal would be to provide education around trees, so the community better understands the value of trees. There was a request to share in the next meeting how historically unserved communities have seen increased plantings within their communities over recent years.

Discussion was had over what are the survival rates of tree plantings that the city does. How many are being planted and how many are being watered and for how many years are they being watered for? What is the survival rate over specific increments such as 1 year and 5 years? Can we set goals that the community can get involved in? Can unique things to be done to get community members to accept the trees, maintain them and feel a sense of ownership to them.

It was decided that a meeting would be in August to catch up so that we could try and get their meetings in this calendar year.