



Update on the Urban Forestry Policy Manual

Public Works Department

Park and Recreation Commission
January 30, 2023

BACKGROUND

- Designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a “Tree City, USA” every year since 1987, the city strives to preserve and protect this tree heritage.



- The purpose of the Urban Forestry Policy Manual (Manual) is to provide guidelines for the planting, pruning, preservation and removal of all trees in city rights-of-ways based on industry standards and specs.

BACKGROUND

- Staff routinely review the Manual and bring proposed changes before the Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee (Committee) for feedback and approval – the most recent of which was shared with the Committee on January 11, 2021.
- The Committee directed staff to work with an Ad-HOC Committee of the Park and Recreation Commission regarding the following items:

COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

- Research ways of providing advanced notice to area residents when trees are being removed;
- Work with additional community, volunteer and environmental groups throughout the City;



Pictures courtesy of TreePeople.

COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

- Research ways of planting new trees before trees are removed to help maintain continuity of the urban forest in neighborhoods;
- Provide public outreach on the benefits and assets of the urban forest; and
- Establish the difference between public and private trees.



AD-HOC COMMITTEE

- Four (4) Ad-Hoc Committee meetings were held between April and July 2022.
- Agendas included guest speakers (local SMEs), educational items, and a tour of historically significant trees in Riverside.
- Throughout the course of these meetings, several suggestions were made including:

AD-HOC COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

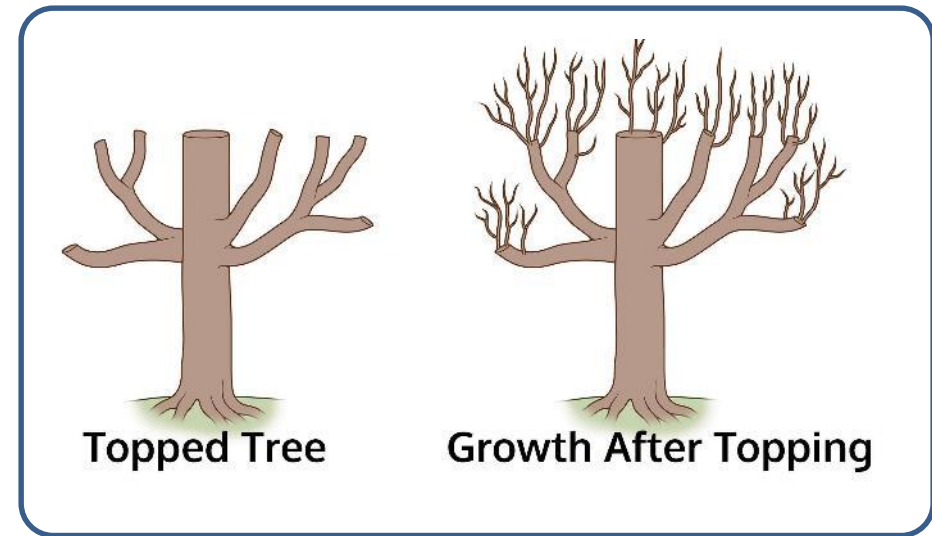
- Bringing on a consultant to assist with the process;
- Creating an in-house inventory database instead of relying on contractors;
- Adding information regarding construction management when working around trees;
- Adding a tree standards acknowledgment before businesses can obtain a Business Tax License for landscapers/tree workers;

AD-HOC COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

- Working with the Planning Division on trimming standards for new developments;
- Airing G-TV educational segments on trees;
- Providing training for arborists working in the City;
- Creating a flow chart of responsibilities and processes;
- Adding more pictures to the Manual (less words);

AD-HOC COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

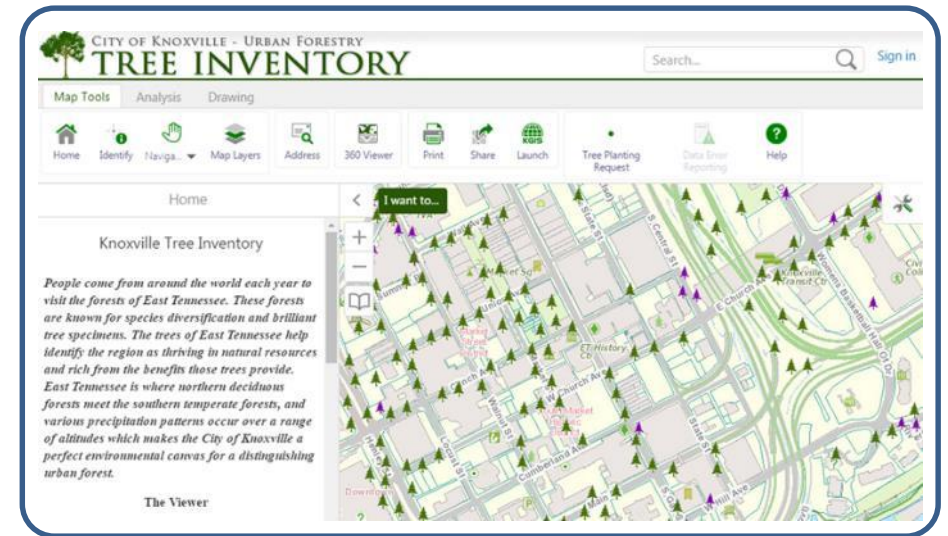
- Adding that we will update in accordance with ANZI Standards which update every five years;
- Creating a campaign for people to sign pledges on Anti-Topping;
- Improving public outreach efforts.



DISCUSSION

During the update process, staff learned of a CalFire grant that (if awarded) will provide funding to assist with:

- updating the Manual;
- selecting tree species that maximize carbon sequestration;
- building energy reduction potential; and
- creating an in-house inventory database (with a user interface similar to the **sample** shown here).



DISCUSSION SUBTITLE

Our urban forest has an estimated value of more than **\$449,000,000**



So, it is more important than ever to continue pursuing funding opportunities that will augment and care for our urban forest.

DISCUSSION



The City's Urban Forest provides social, communal, environmental, and economic benefits to the entire community.

The Benefit of Trees



Trees help improve the quality of air by capturing pollutants like ash and gases.



Trees help prevent flooding. One tree can absorb 2,000 gallons each year.



Trees are known to promote feelings of relaxation and well-being.



Trees provide shade that help cool down buildings, parks and pathways.



Shade provided by trees can reduce the use of air conditioning, saving people money.



Trees are known to increase property values by as much as 10%.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority 4 – Environmental Stewardship and Goal 4.5:

Maintain and conserve 30% of Riverside's natural lands in green space including, but not limited to, agricultural lands and urban forests in order to protect and restore Riverside's rich biodiversity and accelerate the natural removal of carbon, furthering our community's climate resilience.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability &
Resiliency



Equity



Innovation

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the **Park and Recreation Commission:**

1. Receive and file the update on the Urban Forestry Policy Manual; and
2. Provide input and/or recommendations to the Urban Forestry Policy Manual.