



City of Dallas

Urban Forestry Task Force Update

**Park and Recreation Board
Meeting**

April 7, 2022

Presentation Overview



- Urban Tree Canopy Management Actions
 - Overview
 - Tree Inventory
 - Public Tree Plantings
 - Development Initiatives
- Invasive Plants, Animals, and Insects
 - Alternative Vegetation Management
 - Emerald Ash Borer
- Outreach Efforts
- Next Steps





Urban Forestry Management Overview

- City owns approximately 35,000 acres of open space
- CECAP adopted May 2020, UFMP adopted June 2021
- City provides regulatory oversight of private and public urban forest canopies
- Cooperative management approach with local, state and federal agencies
 - Coordination efforts with non-profit and other partners
 - Regulatory efforts with development sites
- Ongoing “lifting” of canopies and removal of decayed and dying trees, mainly when present with public safety hazards to people or property





Urban Tree Canopy Overview

- What is an Urban Forest?

... *dynamic ecosystems that provide critical benefits to people and wildlife. Urban forests **help to filter air and water, control storm water, conserve energy, and provide animal habitat and shade.** U.S. Forest Service*

- What do we have?

- the Tree - when a forester is evaluating an individual tree for risk
- the Trees, plus everything else -When a forester is evaluating a tree, multiple trees, or a forest, all the forest community is evaluated. This may include, but not be limited to, multiple natural resources such as soils, wildlife, grasses, prairies, water, sunlight, understory vegetation, and adding to it the adjacent human activity or structures.
- COD forestry encompasses all natural resources and thus, all master plans, CECAP and Codes





Urban Forestry Management Overview

- Executive oversight led by implementation departments:
 - City Managers Office
 - Dallas Fire Rescue
 - Dallas Water Utilities
 - Development Services
 - Park and Recreation
 - Public Works
- Technical team meets weekly to address planning and best management practices
- Executive Team meets bi-monthly
- City-Wide Task Force meet monthly including interested city, state and federal partners quarterly



Urban Forestry Management Overview



- **CECAP** addresses several initiatives that aid in canopy development, natural spaces, and conservation strategies
- **Urban Forest Master Plan recommendations** guide work plans and sets the stage for future funding requests
- Task Force implements programs and activities with CECAP & UFMP in mind
- The following UFMP overarching goals are being addressed during FY 21-24:
 1. Complete a comprehensive tree inventory of all right-of-way and park trees.
 2. Centralize coordination and communication efforts and activities for the City of Dallas urban forestry programs
 3. Develop a Storm Response and Recovery Plan.
 4. Strengthen and support existing relationships and partnerships.
 5. Ensure Dallas regulations, best management practices, and guidelines are in place to support tree canopy growth, protection, and preservation.



Urban Forestry Management Overview Continued



6. Development of one-year planting Plan for fiscal year 2022-2023.
7. Create and implement a management program to monitor and address environmental threats to Dallas' urban forest.
8. Develop and implement a public engagement, outreach, and education plan.
9. Strengthen working relationships and partnerships with private utilities, organizations, and contractors whose activities impact trees by instituting regular dialogue and project coordination.
10. Enhance and develop programs that encourage and support active participation by residents and volunteers in the planting and care of Dallas's urban forest.
11. Review and update the Great Trinity Forest Management Plan



Urban Tree Canopy Overview



- City of Dallas Urban Forestry efforts are located on a main page:
 - <https://dallascityhall.com/projects/forestry/Pages/home.aspx>
- Includes informational material on emerald ash borer (EAB), upcoming tree plantings, community forester program, and other links to wildlife and biological resources



HOME
TREES 101
TREE PLANTINGS
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
RESOURCES
INVENTORY
EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)
URBAN WILDLAND INTERFACE
INVASIVE SPECIES

City of Dallas Forestry

Overview

The City of Dallas has a vast urban forest, including approximately 6,000-acre Great Trinity Forest. City staff maintain existing trees, plants new trees and provide trees to citizens to plant in their yards or along their street.

Per American Forests, over 140 million acres of America's forests are in cities and towns. Urban forestry is defined as protection, planting, and care of trees in an urban and suburban environment.

Urban forestry involves both the planning and management of the urban forest because the right tree, planted in the right place, in the right way help to promote the many benefits trees to people, wildlife, and the climate.

In addition, to the overall improved health and well-being of residents, tree benefits also include improved academic performance, fewer illnesses, and instances of death caused by extreme heat and poor air quality. As we seek remedies for the climate crisis, urban forestry will continue to be a key component to any strategy looking to maximize the benefits that trees provide.





Urban Forestry Management Actions

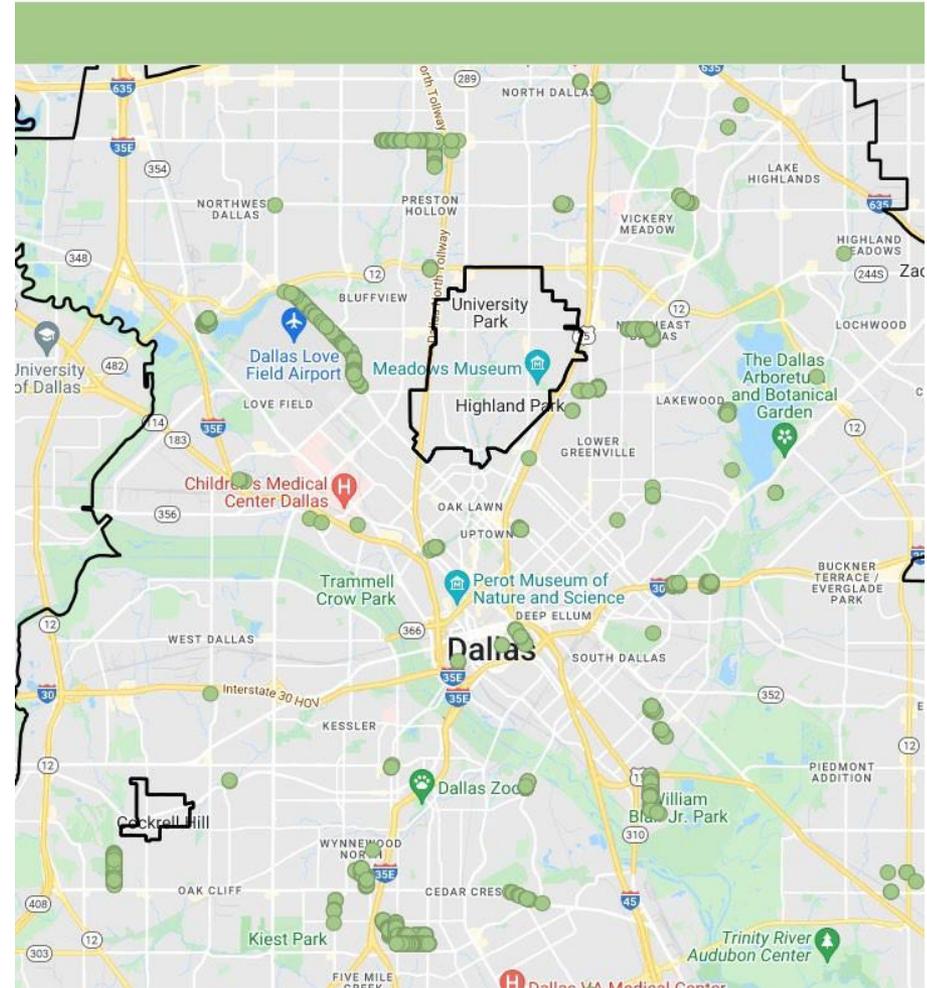
- Focus over the next 5 years include:
 - Increase diversity of canopy through public & private tree plantings
 - Complete inventory of public trees
 - Reduce invasive plant species, monitor and mitigate insect populations
 - Provide education material to communities
 - Complete planning, design, and construction of federal projects associated with Dallas Floodway Extension to facilitate Great Trinity Forest mitigation, acquisition, and planting activities
 - Utilize city general fund, DWU revenue, and reforestation fund





Tree Inventory

- TreeKeeper software training and inventory efforts are underway on a five-year inventory plan
 - Staff identified previous inventories and the verified current status of 42 areas
 - Median and street trees ongoing
 - Parks, open space, and floodways underway



Public Tree Plantings



- Efforts to address tree plantings on public and private property
- 4,000 trees planted in calendar year 2021
 - 1,400 public trees in 10 neighborhoods
 - 2,600 trees for private residential properties



Public Tree Plantings



- < 3,500 estimated trees to be planted in calendar year 2022
 - <1,000 public trees in 12 neighborhoods
 - 2,500 trees for private residential properties





Development Initiatives

- CECAP Goal 6: Dallas protects and enhances its ecosystems, trees, and green spaces that in turn improve public health
 - Targets include increasing the urban forest canopy to 40% or more by 2050; reducing the urban heat island index by up to 75%, and significantly improving the public's access to parks or trails
 - Increase the tree canopy in both private and public realms to complete implementation of recommendations from the Urban Forest Master Plan
- Article X was amended in 2018 to improve the adaptability and efficiency of the landscaping and tree conservation ordinances for development
 - Purpose: The general objectives “are to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.”





Development Initiatives

- Article X landscaping is adaptable to most development types by employing incentives to build sustainably and with more tree canopy cover
- Protected trees are classified by species and size where more valued significant specimen are encouraged to be maintained
- Only 'historic' trees, designated by council, are prohibited from removal
- Article X conforms to existing city zoning regulations and policies so they can be fully implemented. Development choices are originated by developers and the city to attain long term goals for city growth



Invasive Plants, Animals and Insects

- An invasive species is an introduced organism that becomes overpopulated and harms its new environment
 - Some introduced species may be neutral or beneficial with respect to other species
 - Some adversely affect habitats and bioregions causing ecological, environmental, and/or economic damage
- Adaptive management and natural areas are passively or actively managed
- Various efforts to increase native plantings through low ground vegetation and new saplings by City and Federal partners



Invasive Plants, Animals, and Insects

- Alternative management of vegetation under consideration, namely the use of goats to control invasive species
- Goals
 - Winter vegetation management targeting privet
 - Spring/Summer vegetation management to open forest understory
- Pilot programs to include areas with creeks, floodways, and “difficult to reach” management areas





Invasive Plants, Animals, and Insects

- Ongoing development of fuel load reduction strategies with Dallas Fire Rescue, Texas Forest Services, and Technical Team
 - Utilize areas for training, tool work, and skills practice
 - Identify areas for prescribed burn and develop plan in conjunction with state and local agencies



Invasive Plants, Animals, and Insects



- Feral Hogs cause damage to the urban forest and are not limited to any one geographical location
 - Traditionally follow creeks and rivers
 - Populations increase rapidly
 - Destroy grasses, tree roots, and other vegetation
- City initiated contracts for removal on area-by-area basis in the early 2010 timeframe
- Consolidated to larger trap & release master service agreement in 2017 as a citywide approach to trapping efforts
 - Approximately 2500 feral hogs removed existing contract



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Invasive Plants, Animals, and Insects

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

- EAB continues to be of concern to healthy ash tree populations throughout the US
 - At this time, no EAB has presented within a 40-mile radius of Dallas
- EAB Draft Action Plan available for public comment March 14 – April 11 at dallascitynews.net and/or Forestry web page



Actions

- Continue trapping at designated sites with partner agencies
- Preliminary sourcing of pesticide applications for limited treatments
- Removal of damaged ash canopies
- Plantings to diversify canopy
- Working with A&M Texas Forest Service to monitor

Active site visit June 3, 2022



Outreach



- Team is working towards implementing marketing materials
 - Includes, but not limited: ads, printed materials, social media, etc.
 - Intended to be utilized by City and partners
 - Six-month focus will be Dallas Forestry, EAB information, and events
- Non-profit and City Partners Virtual Meeting Spring 2022
 - Go over materials, efforts for plantings and partnering
- Neighborhood Urban Forest Virtual Meeting Summer 2022
 - Outline upcoming volunteer efforts,
 - programs and learn about neighborhood needs

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)
CITY OF DALLAS FORESTRY

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a destructive non-native wood-boring pest of ash trees. Native to Asia, the emerald ash borer beetle (EAB) was unknown in North America until its discovery in southeast Michigan in 2002. All native ash species are susceptible to attack.

Ash trees with low population densities of EAB often have few or no external symptoms of infestation. EAB is a significant threat to urban, suburban, and rural forests as it kills both stressed and healthy trees.



What do I do?

First, do you know what kind of tree you have?
Visit the Trees of Texas website to help you identify your tree. Is it an ash tree?

Second, have there been reports of the beetle nearby? dead branches near the top of a tree, leafy shoots sprouting from the trunk, bark splits exposing



Third, call a professional certified forester to verify the presence of EAB, then discuss ALL of your options!



Finally, if removal is needed plant a new Tree!
Check out the Dallas Forestry website for alternate tree's and more tree information at [insert website here](#)

"The great French Marshall Lyautey once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow growing and would not reach maturity for 100 years. The Marshall replied, 'In that case, there is no time to lose: plant it this afternoon!'"
— John F. Kennedy





Next Steps

- Continue to implement updates to manuals and emergency response & recovery plans
 - Landscape and Tree Manual
 - Storm Response
- Continue public education efforts through ongoing meetings, field assessments and interactive updates to the Urban Forestry website





Questions?

Contact Us

- [City of Dallas Forestry Website](#)
- Urban Forest Task Force-Technical Team CODForestry@dallascityhall.com

Dallas Water Utilities
Dallas Park and Recreation
Dallas Public Works
Dallas Development Services



 @DallasWaterUtilities

