

Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2020

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

Zoom Meeting – the public and non-committee members may contact dsemsrott@bentonvillear.com to request participation via Zoom.

Mission Statement

The City of Bentonville Tree & Landscape Advisory Committee serves as an advisory committee to the City Council and to City Staff working to maintain, improve, renew and protect the urban forest in public rights-of-way, as well as to share information with the public, enhance appreciation of trees, promote proper tree care, and encourage participation in the development of Bentonville’s urban forest.

Tagline

Grow with trees.

AGENDA

Members

Gulizar Baggson, 8/11/23
Scott Eccleston, 11/14/20
Nathan Lembke, 7/25/23
David Short, 5/23/23
Jessie Wagner, 8/11/23
Ralph Weber, 12/31/21

Ex-Officio City Council

Jon Terlouw, 12/31/21

Staff

Danielle Semsrott, Senior
Planner
Geoff Braga, Urban
Forester
Emily Krol,
Horticulturalist

OLD BUSINESS

1. Roundabout Landscaping at SW Bright Road & SW Gator Blvd

- Partnership with the Public Art Advisory Committee
- Open Heart sculpture installed, permanent piece
- 5 x 5-foot open heart sculpture created from aluminum diamond plate
- Received approval from artist that he is ok with us designing landscaping
- PAAC supports the planting plan
- Maintenance plan – advertised in Master Naturalists digital newsletter – direction is to try and secure maintenance from a group/team/club, before searching for volunteers via social media
- Fund purchase and install of landscaping – contract out (motion and a 2nd)

2. Ordinance Discussion – No Update

- Continue discussion on allowing decorative landscape rock before draft language is developed
- Earth tone, chocolate, etc.
- Reasoning is that there’s a desire to use it, standard staple in design. Although the 80/20 rule Sec. 1400.04(g) is difficult to enforce. Need to be realistic in how we measure it; implementable.

- Applies to commercial development and anything over two-family, including townhomes and multi-family Current language – Sec. 1400.04(g) Groundcover materials. Groundcover should be planted to minimize the impact of expansive areas without plant coverage. (1) Living material. Living materials, such as lawn grass or herbaceous groundcovers like juniper or liriopse, etc., shall cover a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of the landscaped street frontage buffer. Herbaceous groundcover shall be planted and maintained in a mulched bed. One hundred percent (100%) of living materials is strongly encouraged.

3. Grow with Trees Award

- Brick Avenue Lofts, Thursday, October 29th, late afternoon event leading into happy hour, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mayor present award certificate at 4:00 p.m.
- Thaden School when complete
- Osage Park when complete, saved mature Washington Hawthorne trees – Danielle will get details
- Crystal Flats when complete, went above and beyond landscaping requirements

NEW BUSINESS

1. Updated Tree Canopy Assessment

- Potential partnership with Bentonville Parks Conservancy
- PlanIT Geo; August 2014 (see page 3)
- Identify potential planting areas
- Removes unsuitable planting areas

2. Urban Forestry Management Plan Discussion

- Potential partnership with Bentonville Parks Conservancy
- Shared vision and multi-year plan for tree canopy, tree planting projects, funding, etc.

3. Residential & Commercial Landscaping of the Month Award

- May – October
- **Residential Nominations:**
303 NW B
2014 NW Desoto
311 NW LaSalle
600 Baylor Street
8 Ledgerwood
306 NW C Street
304 SW 3rd Street

209 SE 3rd Street
412 SE D Street (west side of D Street, immediately north of trail, just south of SE 5th Street)
510 SE D Street
707 W Central Ave – August winner
711 W Central Ave – July winner
302 SE 2nd Street – June winner

Commercial Nominations:

Carroll Electric
Blake Street House
Climb Bentonville

- Deadline for September winner recommendation to Danielle by Tuesday, October 13th for second City Council meeting in October

4. Fall Tree Giveaway – October 24th from 8:00 am to 10:00 am

- Memorial Park
- Drive-thru
- 50, 5 gallon Shortleaf Pine
- 94, 5 gallon Redbud
- 50, 7 gallon Kousa Dogwood
- ~~23, 5 gallon Golden Raintree~~
- 40, 7 gallon Black Gum
- 40, 3 gallon Swamp White Oak
- ~~24~~ 18, 7 Gallon Overcup Oak
- 3, 7 gallon Pin Oaks
- 90, 3 gallon Northern Red Oak
- Placed an order for additional trees to include 60, 3 g redbuds and 25, 5 g Swamp White Oaks

OTHER BUSINESS

- Recognition of Scott Eccleston
- City's social media policy
- Next Committee meeting is November 19, 2020 (last meeting of the year)

Tree Canopy in Bentonville, AR

August 2014

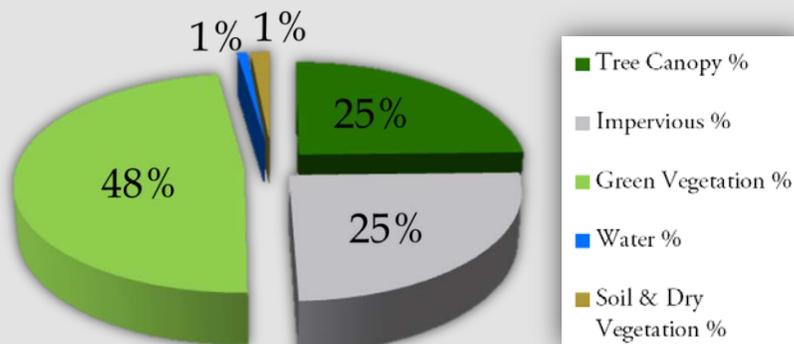


Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) at a Glance:

Bentonville is comprised of 25% tree canopy and 48% non-forest green vegetation that may be considered for tree planting. More than 50% of existing tree canopy is located in residential areas which are considered stable or increasing UTC on average. Almost 30% of existing tree canopy is located within planned new development areas where forest loss over time is probable and should be monitored frequently to ensure tree protection ordinances are enforced.

Overview:

Bentonville's forests and trees provide residents with many benefits. Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) mapping provides a baseline of existing urban forest resources as well as where new trees can be planted. This UTC Assessment was conducted by Plan-It Geo, LLC for the City of Bentonville, AR. This study was initiated by the Arkansas Forestry Commission through a grant from the USDA Forest Service and direct contributions by the City of Bentonville. See the UTC Assessment Report and other products for more information.

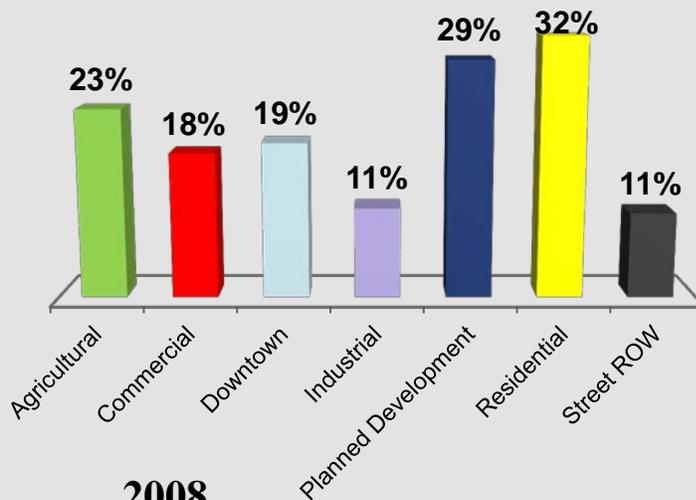


Methodology & Terminology:

Remote sensing and GIS was used to map the following UTC types using 2013 imagery:

- 1. Urban Tree Canopy (UTC):** Comprises forests and individual trees when viewed and mapped from above.
- 2. Possible Planting Area (PPA):** Area of grass and open space where tree canopy does not exist and it is biophysically possible to plant trees.
- 3. Unsuitable UTC:** The combination of bare soil, roads, buildings, water, airport grounds, golf courses, agricultural lots, baseball diamonds, and other recreational spaces where it is not feasible to plant trees.

Percent Urban Tree Canopy by Land Use:



1997
Bentonville becomes a Tree City USA

1998
Tree & Landscape Committee formed

2008
Wal-Mart donates \$1,000 to the Tree and Landscape Committee

2013 (Fall)
1st annual Tree Planting Blitz in Bentonville! (Over 1,000 trees planted)

2014
25% UTC Citywide in Bentonville

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or status as a parent.



Services Provided by Bentonville's Urban Forest:

Benefits provided by Bentonville's trees and forests reduce infrastructure costs, increase property values and contribute to safe and healthy living for the City's residents. Environmental benefits provided by trees are referred to as "ecosystem services" and describe the ways that urban forests impact our lives and the environment.

Air Quality: Trees naturally remove pollutants and lower air temperature

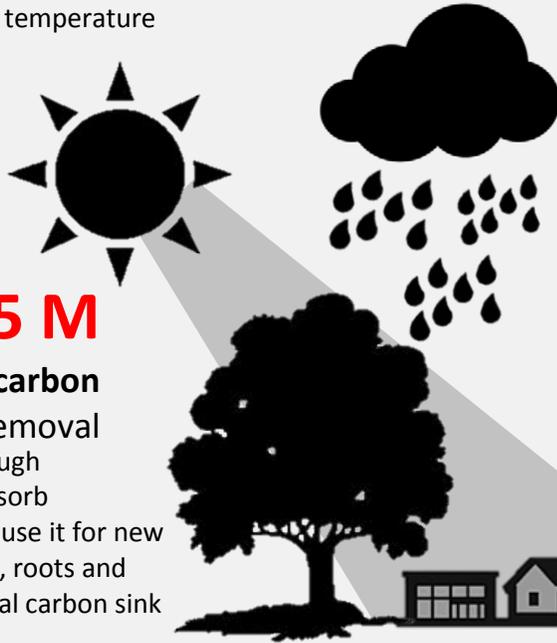
\$1.7 M

In annual air pollution removal

\$0.5 M

In annual carbon removal

CO₂ Sequestration: Through photosynthesis, trees absorb atmospheric carbon and use it for new growth (stems, branches, roots and leaves), acting as a natural carbon sink



Stormwater mitigation: Trees intercept stormwater, reducing runoff and filtering out pollutants that would otherwise enter rivers and lakes

\$2.8 M

In annual avoided stormwater infrastructure costs

Energy Savings: lower energy demand through summer shade and winter wind block

Recommendations:

To effectively support tree growth and preservation in Bentonville, city officials must:

- Use the results from this study to guide the development of a strategic urban forest management plan.
- Develop and implement canopy cover goals citywide and for zoning classes.
- Maintain the excitement and involvement in the City's "Tree Planting Blitz" tree planting event.
- Target tree planting and restoration in zoning classes and neighborhoods with low UTC.
- Develop and enforce tree preservation ordinances and strengthen planting requirements across zoning classes, especially in areas of expected development.

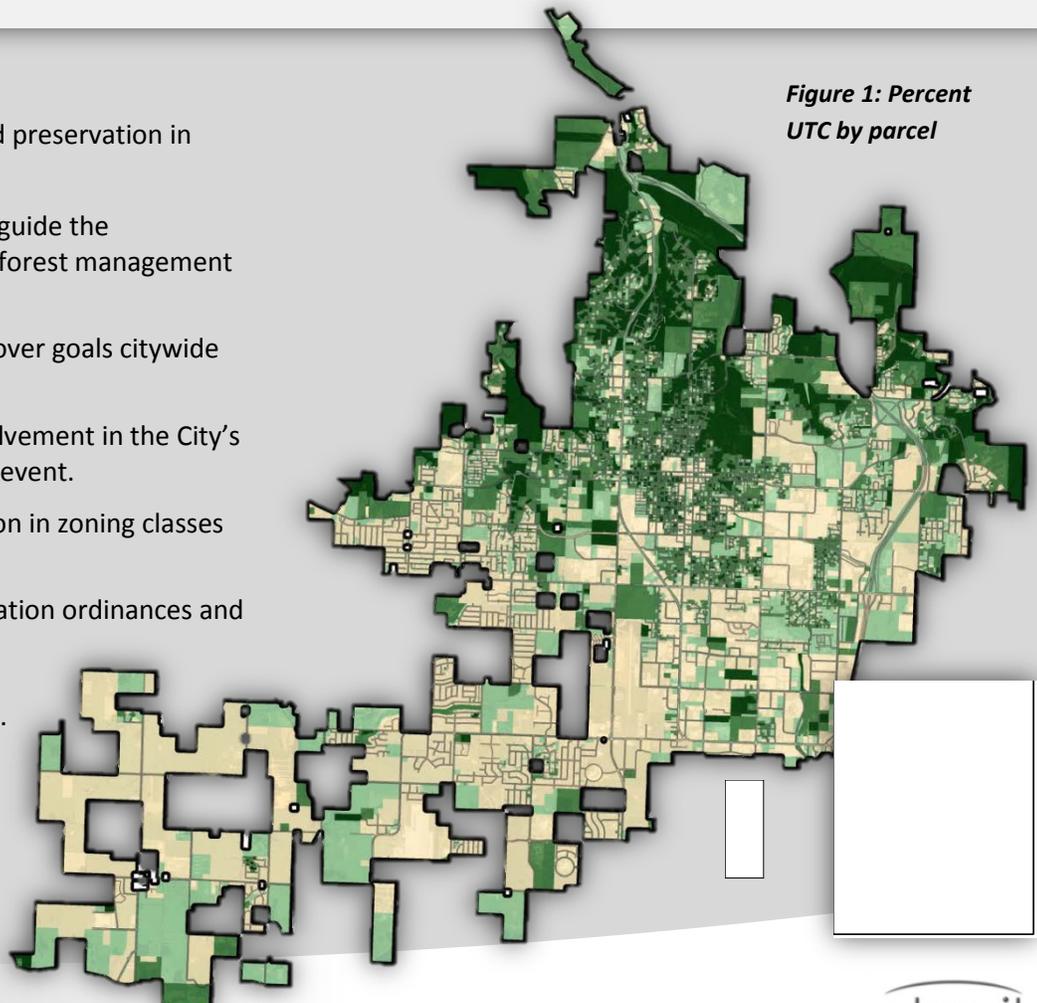


Figure 1: Percent UTC by parcel