Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
September 7, 2022
Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

2022 members

- Peggy Booth, citizen **Co-chair**
- Peter MacDonagh, UMN rep **Co-chair**
- Giuseppe Marrari, citizen
- Susan Olmsted, citizen
- Carol Sersland, citizen
- Tim Keane, citizen
- Don Willeke, Mayor’s designee
- Steve Nicholson, Mn Shade Tree Comm.
- Steffanie Musich, MPRB Board
- Ralph Sievert, MPRB Forestry
- Steve Collin, Mpls Public Works
- Curt Hartog, Mpls Public Schools

Assisted by Philip Potyondy, MPRB
Report Topics

- Trees Matter
- Accomplishments
- Recommendations
Trees Matter
Amount of benefits = amount of tree canopy cover

TREES MATTER

TREES VALUE is determined by how much leaf volume we have
research shows

Trees help …
✓ reduce crime rates
✓ calm people with ADHD
✓ speed up recovery of hospital patients
Green urban landscapes and school-level academic performance

Summary
Higher levels of tree canopy are linked to higher school-level reading test scores

Trees set sixth-graders up for success

Date: November 9, 2020

Source: University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Summary: The transition to middle school is undeniably tough for many sixth-graders, even in the best of times. Mounting academic demands, along with changes in peer dynamics and the onset of puberty, result in a predictable and sometimes irreversible slump in academic performance. A new study suggests an unexpected but potentially potent remedy: trees.
Trees Matter

Youth Benefit from Trees

More opportunities exist than ever for city youth to gain through trees ...
Trees Matter

The best way to bring benefits to the people who need it most is … to plant, sustain and protect big trees along all streets, yards and public places.
Accomplishments

Ash Canopy Replacement Completed

... through MPRB leadership:

- Minneapolis streets and parks are fully safe from hazards of dead ash trees

This summer ... in adjoining city

in Minneapolis
Accomplishments

Ash Canopy Replacement Completed

... through MPRB leadership:
• 40,000 new trees of 200 different types replaced 40,000 public ash facing inevitable death

No other Minnesota city has achieved this
Accomplishments

Ash Canopy Replacement Completed

MPRB prioritizes tree planting in lower income neighborhoods with higher racial diversity
Accomplishments

Ash Canopy Replacement Completed

Our public forest is more diverse than ever
Accomplishments

MPRB & Public Works Collaborate

Thanks to MPRB’s Forest Preservation Coordinator... trees are saved through plan review and field oversight
Accomplishments

**MPRB & Public Works Collaborate**

- Funding from both MPRB and Public Works make this work.
- City’s new Surface Water and Sewer Policy requires and funds greening in Public Works projects.
$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding secured for Minneapolis urban forest
At least 8,000 trees will be planted in 2023-2024 with this funding
Thanks to Green Minneapolis, the City and Mayor being advocates
Accomplishments

Outside Funding Secured

• First steps accomplished towards funding from carbon credits
• MPRB commended for agreements with Green Minneapolis and City Forest Credits
Recommendations
1. Protect trees in public places
Recommendations

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Prioritize protection of existing trees in all MPRB and City construction projects
Recommendations

1. Protect trees in public places

Require tree protection in all plans and designs

- Include tree protection in all request for proposals (RFPs) as standard general condition
- Increase collaboration between MPRB and City departments
Recommendations

1. Protect trees in public places

Conduct tree impact analysis on all proposed construction projects

- Assure transparency to the public for all tree impacts and offer alternatives that protect trees
- Incorporate tree impact analysis as standard operating procedure, using professional tree appraisal criteria
2. Provide necessary tree care
Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Increase watering of young trees

- We’re getting less and more erratic rain
- Critically impacting young trees in Minneapolis
- Many will die
Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Increase watering of young trees

MPRB Operations/Forestry tree watering strategies started in 2021 help
...but erratic climate means more is needed for both public and private trees.
Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Increase watering of young trees

More public and private construction projects should direct runoff to trees.
Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Provide timely pruning of young trees

- All urban trees need proper structural pruning in 1\textsuperscript{st} 10 years
- Without it, trees die sooner or cost more
- Well maintained trees provide more benefits
2. Provide necessary tree care

Provide timely pruning of young trees

Early structural pruning saves thousands of $$s over time
Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Expand youth and volunteer engagement in tree care

- Launch youth-focused hands-on careers in urban forestry program in Minneapolis
Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Expand youth and volunteer engagement in tree care

• Many good-paying jobs are available in urban forestry

Currently Metro companies pay their climbing arborists $20 to $40 per hour
Recommendations

2. Provide necessary tree care

Expand youth and volunteer engagement in tree care

• Partner with community groups and business
• Resume and expand Citizen Pruner program
• Increase volunteer tree care to thousands of hours per year
Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy
Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Expand City Trees program

- Target program to achieve tree equity
- Include tree planting and assistance with tree care
- Provide “free” replacement trees for properties which have had trees condemned by City
Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Incentivize tree planting and care where people live and work

- Dying ash trees are exponentially increasing on private property in Minneapolis
- About 3 times more soon-to-die ash are on private property than were removed and replanted by MPRB
3. Increase tree canopy

Incentivize tree planting and care where people live and work

- Fund and implement Minneapolis Ordinance 399.60 to encourage ash remove and replanting
- Include funding assistance for replanting in Green Zones
Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Incentivize tree planting and care where people live and work

• Plant more shade trees on public housing sites
Recommendations

3. Increase tree canopy

Protect trees and increase canopy cover through City legal authorities

Implement this through either:

- Adopting tree protection ordinance
- Use City’s Site Plan Review authority to increase tree canopy through tree protection, planting and care
Recap of Recommendations
Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

2022 Recommendations

✓ Protect trees in public places  * MPRB & City
Prioritize protection of trees in all MPRB and City construction projects
Require tree protection in all plans and designs
Conduct tree impact analysis on all proposed construction projects

✓ Provide necessary tree care  * MPRB & City
Increase watering of young trees
Provide timely pruning of young trees
Expand youth and volunteer engagement in tree care

✓ Increase tree canopy  * City
Expand City Trees program
Incentivize tree planting and care where people live and work
Protect trees & increase canopy cover through City legal authorities
Thank you
Any questions?