

Louisville Sustainability Summit Notes

January 18, 2014

Tree Canopy and Urban Heat Island

Facilitator	Patricia Murphy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Dir of Nurseries
Secondary Facilitator	Brandon Mineard, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, Green Team Chair
Flip Chart Scribe	Debbie Goldstein
Electronic Scribe	Krista Streips
Captains	Erin Thompson, Louisville Metro Government Urban Forestry Coordinator Michelle King, Louisville Metro Government Air Pollution Control District

Challenge

- How can you inspire a robust urban tree canopy and mitigate the urban heat island effect?

Sustain Louisville Goal

- Goal 18 – Establish a robust urban tree canopy and mitigate the urban heat island effect

Thought topics

- Reduce impervious surface area
 - Engage with private landowners to increase the tree canopy
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Notes

Introductions of community leaders and project leaders locally- 4 local experts

- Erin Thompson- Louisville Metro Urban Forestry Coordinator- City Tree Budget and Plan
- Valerie Magnuson- Love Louisville Trees- Citizen Forester Program
- Michelle King- Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District- UHI study
- Keith Mountain UofL- has 3 projects in motion-
 1. Meteorological projects- climate trackers/stations
 2. Faculty in remote sensing- space borne satellites/high imagery
 3. Urban forest/energy-observation stations to understand tree canopy and get metrics with climatology

Process

Projects - local projects – define what our projects will be, give me 3 ideas or projects in priority order, on how you think Lou can increase its forest canopy and how can we be a shining light in the future?

- We will post your post-it-notes, and identify as a group top 5 projects to proceed with
- What can we accomplish in 1 year? 3 years? 5 years?

Post-it-Notes Results

Group has posted post-it-notes. Projects are as follows. Once we read through, we will vote on top 5 to implement

Priority 3 Projects/Ideas:

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- Increase awareness/social media
- Incentives for citizen involvement
- Maximize canopy in yards with overhead utilities
- Organize all tree planting groups so there is a coordinated effort
- Educate students
- Make a certain designated authority for tree maintenance
- Planting rooftops- forest in the sky
- Identify funding sources
- Identify priority locations/groups to implement
- Better structure for management of tree implemented
- 50% canopy by 2050
- Train more citizens as foresters
- Tree ordinance to protect trees
- Keep trees alive/care- educate on how to care
- Make Green parking structures
- Marketing agenda
- Research for education/communication
- Adopt a tree in each school classroom
- Neighborhood tree canopy maps- model growth over time
- Increase tree canopy courses/science in schools
- Create youth work forest programs for teachers
- Place right trees in the right locations for best use

Categories:

1. Schools
2. Community Education/Mapping
3. Maintenance
4. Funding
5. Coordination- Schools/consolidate groups
6. Regulation

Priority 2 Projects/Ideas:

- Improve pervious pavement/parking
- Plant where it makes most impact
- Better prepare public/educate- harm with vines
- ID space for projects
- Get organizations local business to adopt their area to plant trees
- Raise \$ for tree plantings
- Work with Neighborhood associations to mobilize/educate/act
- Create city government organization and tree ordinance
- Plant more trees on streetscape
- Tell better stories to inspire action
- Newly planted trees must have space and care
- Identify and leverage all partnerships

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- Reduce mowing areas along highways/plant more trees instead
- Identify top priority locations- create planting plan
- Identify
- Focus on rougher plantings around rubbertown to improve air
- Establish citizen forester programs and inform harmful
- Strategically plant trees in areas with the least
- Stop removing trees
- Realize worth of tree
- Regulate private tree care industry- require licensing
- Maximize small spaces with small trees for added canopy
- Proper care for existing trees
- Develop plan for planting and maintenance
- Use bus ads to increase awareness
- Organic and homegrown fruits
- Identify heat zones
- Quantify value of tree canopy as an ecosystem service- public health, economy, energy
- Pass effective tree ordinance
- Proper planting techniques

Categories:

1. Citizen participation/consolidation of existing groups
2. Attention to Maintenance
3. Regulation/Ordinances- Have a plan to put it into action
4. Identify best Locations for planting
5. Design
6. Quantify value to trees

Priority 1 Projects/Ideas:

- Define tree species
- Schools
- Keep momentum of louisville tree commission moving ahead- training
- Neighborhood plantings that engage community and business participation
- Utilize backyards for more planting and benefits to trees in yards
- Plant more
- Have sustainability education in all grades- children are our future
- Knowing where tree canopy is needed
- Communitywide fundraising tree planting campaign
- Look for MET stations for plantings
- Quantify tree efforts for future planting
- Create “Living labs”
- City policies to support value of trees
- Give knowledge of why we plant and how to care
- Require arborist approval for removal of trees over 12 inches

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- Dovetail different assessments and bring them together
- Zoning and building regulations- change to support urbanism- 1 removal=3 plantings
- Get corporate foundation donations to purchase trees for urban louisville
- Add additional tree wells in urban areas
- Use professionals to plant trees
- Use donated labor and know it's cost effective
- Identify groups with proven success in tree plantings and maintenance
- Insist passing of meaningful tree ordinance
- Implement tree ordinance with clear incentives
- Ordinances that define best practices and must do for neighborhoods
- Identify edible trees
- Update maps
- Tree maintenance plan for city right of way
- Work with organizations controlling most land areas to plant more
- Reduce mass tree destruction for major development- require it happen After not before destruction
- Line streets with trees to help absorb water runoff
- Stop and limit developers from removing trees- require planting of trees in green space
- Educate
- Infrastructure- adequate soil planning downtown

Categories:

1. Implement tree ordinance
2. Maintenance
3. Education Awareness
4. Find priority planting locations
5. Developers/Zoning- Planning/Zoning- manage tree removal
6. fundraising

Consistent Themes – Overall Objectives

- I. Education/Engage public
- II. Improve/increase maintenance- collaborations
- III. Data collection/planning and use of data for effective
- IV. Regulatory improvements
- V. Increased funding mechanism
- VI. Plant more trees

Follow-Up Discussion

- Concerns because citizens feel like they did this process 20 years ago and it derailed. All the work they did, developers got the rules changed on project by project basis and all the work has gone to the wayside.
- Concern is that ordinance gets you stuck
- Need economic incentive to tie cost to benefit. This will get more people involved and bought in- will help convince the “boss.”
- Question- who's economy are we trying to help? GLI or the community?

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- A: There can be win/wins- neighborhoods with higher tree canopy has higher resale value

Ok- let's now go through and identify what do we want to do next year, 3 years, 5 years? HOW are we doing it? Identify specific actions/tasks/goals.

Action plan

- Network better- get more allies
- Don't get discouraged and make it happen
- Bring together the different groups and form a unified team- and get a whole campaign

Emily Chandler- Louisville Sustainability Council- if you agree on something and bring it to us, we will pull it together

- Maria's plan is to take in these many different groups- bring you together to build more consolidated/unified team and list all organizations and collapse under one- this summit is to get the group together and get action from the group as a whole- and then have follow up meetings to get the work done
- We are not leaving today until we have a date to meet again and get this collaboration in order. Get one action team. Set long term and short term goals.
- WE NEED TO GET AN ACTION PLAN WITH MEASURABLE TASKS/RESULTS

Love Louisville trees: 2 different fronts:

1. plant trees
2. regulate private industry

Specific tasks:

1. Launch a tree education campaign community wide
2. Write a tree ordinance/regulations
3. Collaborate- Overall Plan-Structure one organized/coordinated group
4. Identify partners and their roles

Brewster Rhodes - introduces himself- (from the Green Umbrella – Cincinnati's Louisville Sustainability Council) explains how they brought 9 different action teams into 1 group to make a greater impact. Building a coalition to get the work done. But he is doing many different areas of work, but trees is to look at the whole region and identify the trees region wide- and make a region-wide plan, not an individual one...

To follow Cincy plan, we need to:

1. Make a whole region plan-identify the BIG plan
2. From there, break apart into smaller projects and assign those.

LUNCH BREAK

After Lunch Focus:

1. Identify how are we going to work together
2. Identify plans to get there collaboratively to get more trees in the ground

How has collaboration worked in the city?

- Mark – Bernheim- we are a member of ACA arts and culture association- 105 member organizations- they are trying to do what we are doing- we want to do YES- year of environment and sustainability- all doing something under this theme

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- Street fairs, art shows, plays, events- we will bring them together to do block events and collaborative effort. Their goals- arts and culture have impact in community- they improve quality of life- and together they can improve rather than being siloed.
- They are having a matchmaking event- to line up arts with environmental groups
- Actors- doing something on sustainability

Inventory of Assets

Brainstorming- how can you bring something to the table to increase the urban canopy- what can you bring- with the thought that they will all come

- Love Louisville Trees- plant trees on private property, school planting, outreach, teach correct planting techniques
- JCTCS- 2 plus 2 with UL to create sustainability degree- education element- 2 year associate and then finish 2 years at UL
- Metro Louisville tree Advisory Commission- advise the mayor to budget money for planting trees, drafted revisions to land use code for tree canopy requirements, RFP canopy assessment- addressed needed plantings, quantify the ecosystem services by trees, outcome of the assessment will greatly impact our team
- River fields- preserves land forever- have 1000 acres in conservation easements in farms- have saved thousands of trees-
- UL- evaluate the success of plantings, mortality rates of trees, species success, residential group success- evaluate the effectiveness of trees- did it work
- Ken hernandon- Louisville Downtown Partnership- 1 square mile of business district- filling in 300 empty tree wells- and after that, will explore ways to make those trees live longer- looking at parking lots and open dead corners to plant trees- looking for every square foot to get something in the ground
- Brightside- community outreach, education, plant on county property and state property- are corporate grant opportunities-
- Division of Forestry- 15k grants for forestry, technical expertise
- Ecotech- waste- funding source, corporate model (10k private tree effort- have planted 1,200 trees so far- they went to communities and went to tree commission-identified long term projects to improve tree canopy- identify private sources to fund improvements to tree canopy- they return to check on trees)
- Katie Greene- sustainability consultant- lge 75k- has a model created that would be great for this group- identified groups with successful history- leverage their skills sets, and used them to plant the trees- organized grant program based on skill- connect funders and donors with the need- the overarching plan- PR value, strategy
- Bernheim Forest- ecosystem management-green roofs, strategy, filling holes, flexibility
- MSD- funding source
- City of Louisville- LMG- funding
- Sarah Wolfe- Olmsted Parks Conservancy- fundraising on public land, improve health of urban forest, information and metrics-education
- Metro Parks- fundraising, standards for plantings, prioritizing locations
- MSD-planting trees, pervious pavements
- Food Compassion Fruit-
- Sierra Club- monitoring tree cutting and intervene, be a voice and advocate

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Team Needs

1. Define education
2. Planting techniques/best practices
3. Baseline Data-Results of the tree study/urban heat island/value- even more information needed- data will be in LOJIC, What data do we have, what do we need? Cutting down impacts
4. Logo-website

Who will be group speaker? Chris Chandler: *chrislchandler@gmail.com*

Who will be group leader? Chris Chandler

When will group meet again? Weekday evening: 3-5, February 19, wed, TBD-Tree Revolution Meeting, JCTCS?

Who tracks it all? Michelle- meeting minutes

Missing

- LGE
- Utilities
- Cable Companies
- JCPS
- Medical Community- health department
- Nursery Association

Moving Forward

- Umbrella Organization- Louisville Sustainability Council
- Set a Date to Facilitate
- Tree Campaign- “Health”
 - Facilitation Meetings
 - Planting sessions- Calendar
 - Communications/messaging plan “revolution”
 - Build science/data/stories behind it
 - Tree ordinance
 - Accomplishment tracking
 - FUN

All- email community calendar

- Feb 8th- Citizen Forestry training
- March 29th- Germantown- 150 trees- 1st tree revolution
- April 12 – plantings at 10 schools in W. Louisville- as part of Mayor’s initiative