

From: Chantal Eide
Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2019 7:13 PM
To: Woodbury, Catherine <cwoodbury@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: UMFP next steps

Dear Catherine,

As a result of the work presented in the Cambridge Urban Forest Master Plan Technical Report, we are poised to make a big difference in tree canopy coverage.

I believe the UFMP should include a city staff position to implement a **Tree Accelerated Action Plan** (described below). This person would report directly to the City Manager. They would be answerable for the urban forest, and would coordinate with all city departments. Staffing would be established in those departments to implement changes suggested in the report.

- **A Tree Accelerated Action Plan** should include:
 - Trees would be planted every 15' - 20' on all major corridors within the next two years.
 - Streets with narrow sidewalks would become shared streets or one way streets so that all streets have trees.
 - The canopy goal of the city must be 40% for adequate cooling. Parks, schools, the riverfront, and cemeteries would be immediately planted with at least 40% canopy.
 - Existing trees would be protected and valued as assets.
 - There must be tree and open space requirements on all projects.
 - New parks would be acquired in heat island parts of town.
 - Establish a program of care for trees to tackle problems as they occur, in addition to broader canopy assessments.
 - Zoning regulations that require shade trees, adequate open space and soil volume, and permeable surfaces. Institute inspections for compliance. No area would be exempt.
 - Large property owners (Harvard, MIT) would be brought on board.
- I feel these initiatives should be begun **immediately**, with a goal of accomplishing them **within the next few years** - sooner than five years.
- Considerable budget must be directed at this issue, both structurally to set plans and staffing in motion, and materially for trees and construction work on streets and sidewalks.

- Accountability for compliance: When tree plantings are promised by developers, we must follow through to ensure that the promised trees are planted and are thriving five years later.
- Accountability for the urban forest by neighborhood: ensure that all new and existing trees receive the necessary care to thrive.

I believe that the climate crisis demands accelerated and decisive action to expand and enhance our urban forest.

Thank you,

Chantal Eide