

From: John Pitkin

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 10:33 AM

To: Woodbury, Catherine <cwoodbury@cambridgema.gov>

Subject: Comment on Tree Task Force presentation & Request for hi-resolution maps

Good morning Catherine,

As I we discussed after last night's public presentation, I want to make a request for access to several hi-resolution maps of data on the tree canopy so they can be presented at a neighborhood level. The one of canopy change is at the top of the list. There were other in last night's presentation that would be helpful, but I didn't list them as they were shown. Once the presentation is available on the project web page I will go through it and compile a list for you.

And here are two comments for your consideration:

There is a better metaphor for the tree canopy than "infrastructure." It's "stock of (natural) capital." I used this in a presentation to City Manager DePasquale, and it got his attention. "Infrastructure" suggests a mechanical structure of components, such as pieces of pipe in a street that can be built and, if necessary, quickly replaced. "Capital stock" emphasizes the sum of its parts. Like the canopy, a stock of capital can be accumulated but only over time subject to rates of growth and loss such as those shown in the consultants' projection.

This brings me to a second point. The City's tree canopy is a whole, situated within the tree canopy of the region and state. With all the disaggregation and analysis of gaps, decline, heat islands and ownership differences in the presentation, this fact deserves greater emphasis. While it's true that some of the important benefits of trees are local, if they all are, why do we care about the citywide canopy in the first place?

Thanks,
--John Pitkin

John Pitkin, Cambridge, MA