USDA Forest Service

Urban Forest Connections
webinar series

Second Wednesdays | 1:00 – 2:15 pm ET
www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
INTEGRATING TREES INTO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DESIGN AND POLICY

Chris Kaeff
Regulatory Reporting and Wet Weather Manager
SD1
ckaeff@sd1.org

Craig Frye
Environmental Coordinator
SD1
cfrye@sd1.org

Laurence Wiseman
Principal
CenterLine Strategy LLC
ldwiseman@gmail.com
Trees and Stormwater
A Guide for Local Decision Makers

Larry Wiseman, CenterLine Strategy, LLC
The Need for a New Tool

Addressing Green Infrastructure and Regional Tree Canopy

- Growing need to reinvesting in decaying infrastructure
- Seizing *practical* green infrastructure opportunities that work
- Recognizing comprehensive benefits of infrastructure investment – green and gray
Understanding the Role of Trees

Integrating Trees as Component of Stormwater Management
Stakeholder Engagement

- Regional Advisory Committee
- National Advisory Committee
- Expert Consultations
  - Engineers
  - Urban Foresters
  - Stormwater Managers
- Webcasts, Surveys, Workshops
The Findings

- It Works!
- Return on Investment
- Regionally relevant case studies
- Create a customizable report to inform and base decisions

www.treesandstormwater.org
Video

Audio available through computer speakers ONLY.
Because you want to learn about stormwater management and trees
Because you want someone else to learn the same thing
Because adding trees to new development and redevelopment initiatives and save money and create healthier, more livable neighborhoods.

Think of this as both a learning and teaching tool … and a way to stimulate policymakers
The Value of Green Infrastructure
A Guide to Recognizing Its Economic, Environmental and Social Benefits
How Does it Work?
A detailed questionnaire which enables you to characterize your community, and how it manages its trees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our current urban tree canopy covers this % of our community:</td>
<td>Type Here:</td>
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<tr>
<td>I can’t locate these figures and/or to my knowledge, they don’t exist:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does your community maintain an inventory of street-side and road-side trees:</td>
<td>Yes, No, Not Sure</td>
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<td>Has a comprehensive plan [“comp” plan] been adopted for your community?</td>
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<td>If yes, are there specific provisions that deal with your community’s water resources?</td>
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<td>If there are provisions that deal with water resources, do they call for use of green infrastructure to help implement the plan?</td>
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<td>Is your community part of a regional planning organization?</td>
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So What is It?

A detailed questionnaire which enables you to characterize your community, and how it manages its trees.

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The Answers

**Why It’s Important to Know Your Canopy Cover.** Trees have long been deemed an essential part of the urban landscape. At the end of the 19th century, advocates praised the cooling, calming effect of trees and noted that their interlocked canopy created healthier neighborhoods. By the late 20th century and into the 21st we learned how to measure and quantify these benefits and more, and to assess their monetary value to the community.

**If No or Not Sure, ADD:** Because we need to know where to start – and more important, what we stand to gain – we should develop at least a rough estimate of both the extent of our tree canopy and the services it provides to our residents.

**Street Tree Inventory.** A street tree inventory enables us to plan periodic inspections, check for pests and disease, remove hazardous trees and reduce liability.

**If No or Not Sure, ADD:** Without one, we’re stuck in a reactive mode, fixing problems as they’re reported – often spending more to accomplish less.
A Comprehensive Plan Will Help Us Make Better Decisions. The comprehensive plan – sometimes called a general plan or master plan – is the foundation policy document for local governments. They’re called “comprehensive” because they address many different community concerns – from land use and transportation to school boundaries and public health. These kinds of plans help guide specific policy decisions for a decade or more, and define the relationship between the built and natural environments.

If Yes, ADD: Urban forestry touches many different aspects of our community and our residents’ lives; in fact, good, or better urban forestry programs will help us meet many of our most important environmental, economic, public health objectives. Our community’s comprehensive plan gives full consideration to the benefits of urban forestry.

If No or Not Sure, ADD: Urban forestry touches many different aspects of our community and our residents’ lives; in fact, good, or better urban forestry programs will help us meet many of our most important environmental, economic, public health objectives. As we develop or refine our comprehensive plan, we should assure that planners fully understand how urban forestry initiatives can help accomplish their goals.
Region:
Great Lakes:
This region is characterized by cold winters and warm to hot humid summers. Heavy precipitation can fall anytime of the year but occurs most often in the spring and summer. Snow is common in the winter with heavy accumulations in the northern portions of the region especially the narrow bands on the eastern south eastern shores of the great lakes. This region is home to the world’s largest supply of liquid fresh water. Precipitation range 30 – 50 inches annually.

Urban Forestry in Your Community
With our urban forestry master plan, we can identify the benefits we get from trees, and make certain that these benefits are equitably distributed. Developing an urban forestry master plan can assure we maximize the benefits from our urban forests, expand them to areas that need more trees, and focus our resources now and in the future on sustaining our forests, not reacting to threats.

An urban forestry master plan would help identify opportunities to assure healthy trees on both public and private lands, and assure that the community (including the owners) accrue all the benefits these trees deliver – energy savings, stormwater management, cleaner air, and others.
What’s Covered

Urban Forestry in Your Community
The Value of Urban Forestry
Characteristics of Your Urban Forests
Private Land Policies in Place in Your Community
Demonstrating How Urban Forestry Helps Manage Stormwater
  • Exemplary projects, including schematics
  • Case studies
  • Flow reduction calculators
  • Creating coalitions
  • Common barriers and solutions
  • Funding
Thank You

Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council

- David Rutter
  Drutter@oki.org

- Travis Miller
  Tmiller@oki.org

(513) 621-6300

National Association of Regional Councils

- Cameron Herbolsheimer
  Cameron@narc.org
  (202) 986-1032

- Laurence Wiseman
  ldwiseman@gmail.com
  (202) 258-0220