

Scaling-up Your Urban Wood Opportunities: A Role for Everyone

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Overview

- Background – How we got to now
- Local needs/Drivers
- Milestones
- Metrics
- Market opportunities
- Constraints
- Future Outlook



In 1910 a forester in New York City listed his main duties as tree planting and removal, tree maintenance and insect control.

http://www.dovetailinc.org/report_pdfs/2010/dovetailurbanforestry1010-1.pdf

The Detroit News

PICTORIAL

TREES CUT FROM STREETS
ARE MADE INTO LUMBER

Five thousand trees removed
from streets to make room
for widening are being sawed
into lumber at Belle Isle saw
mill.



0:01 / 1:19

The HOME newspaper



Lumber Mill on Detroit's Belle Isle

2,632 views • Sep 21, 2013



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R40h534Yl8Y&feature=youtu.be>



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Five thousand trees removed from streets to make room for widening are being sawed into lumber at Belle Isle saw mill. Nothing is wasted as slabs are cut into cordwood. 1928

Local Needs/Drivers

- the introduction of devastating diseases into the urban forest such as Dutch elm disease
- recognition in the 1960s that the political power base had shifted to cities and had to deal increasingly with the demands of urban residents
- energy crisis concerns; waste management issues
- job creation, urban revitalization, housing

Milestones

- 1978 first National Urban Forestry Conference
- 1994 first national inventory of urban tree residues
- 2003 *Harvesting Urban Timber: A Complete Guide* (S. Sherrill)
- 2014 a technical note “What Is Urban Wood Waste?” in the Forest Products Journal (Vol. 64, No.5/6)
- 2018 first World Forum on Urban Forests

Metrics

- 4 billion urban trees in the U.S
- 70 billion trees growing in metropolitan areas
- 15 – 38 million tons of annual urban wood residue chips, logs, tops, brush and stumps

Market Opportunities

- Traditional markets
- Green building
- Certification programs to aid market access

Increasing Urban Wood Use Awareness and Product Demand: An Analysis of Green Market Opportunities http://www.dovetailinc.org/report_pdfs/2019/DovetailUrbanWood1218.pdf

Constraints

- Wood quality
- Wood quantity
- Markets
- Inventories
- Utilization Plans
- Community Support

Key: Stabilizing Supply



The Current State of Wood Reuse and Recycling in North America and Recommendations for Improvements

Dovetail Partners
May 2013



Future Outlook

- Including deconstruction in urban wood story completes the picture
- Blurring of the lines between traditional and urban forestry offers opportunities
- Gotta get our numbers!!