

## Notes from Boston Urban Forest Friends Meeting Friday April 9th 2021, 11:00am-12:00pm

### Boston's Urban Forest Plan

with Maggie Owens from BPRD and Rachel Comte from Urban Canopy Works

- [Urban Forest Plan page](#)
- [Healthy Places page](#)
  - Healthy Places connects the Urban Forest Plan with Heat Resilience Study and Open Space and Recreation Plan.
  - Sign up for the Healthy Places newsletter to get the latest updates and information on how to be involved.
- Project Team
  - The team only started working a couple weeks ago once contracts were signed, so the work has just started.
  - [Stoss](#) - overall plan and community engagement
  - [Urban Canopy Works](#) - overall plan
  - [Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna](#) - equity advising
  - [American Forests](#) - workforce development
  - [PlatIT Geo](#) - tree inventory and canopy assessment - working on now
  - [Nitsch Engineering](#) - technical expertise
- There will be 3 sequential workshops coming up this summer with a presentation and discussion to hash out the challenges. The goal is for the team to hear the community but also the community to hear each other and to make sure the team is aware of all of the issues facing Boston's neighborhoods. We will make sure to get you all the information when it is released.
  - Workshop on the trees
  - Workshop on the human players
  - Workshop on the management approach
- Canopy Assessment
  - Tree Inventory is currently being done and will hopefully be finished by June.
  - Canopy assessment data is reaching the finish line and will be available to the public before the process gets too far along (late April/ early May).
- Community Advisory Board
  - CAB will most likely be 100-150 people with small subgroups.
  - There will be an equity based subgroup that will be given an extra voice and an interdepartmental working group so city staff will be there as well.
- Contact
  - Maggie Owens - Boston Parks and Recreation
    - [maggie.owens@boston.gov](mailto:maggie.owens@boston.gov)
    - 617-961-3025 (Maggie appreciates phone calls)
  - Rachel Comte - Urban Canopy Works - [rachel@urbancanopyworks.com](mailto:rachel@urbancanopyworks.com)
  - Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna - Equity Advisor - [neenah@starluna.net](mailto:neenah@starluna.net)

## Q&A

- Will the plan address the # trees lost to development?
  - Finding a way to protect and grow the canopy of existing trees is a huge priority, but there is currently no way to regulate losses of private property.
- How will the plan be implemented in Environmental Justice communities first?
  - First, the team has to figure out the game plan: what are the issues and where do we want to be, based on CAB discussions. An equity group within the CAB will focus on elevating voices sometimes drowned out - Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna is a fierce advocate. The implementation depends on what those folks need - listen first then move to the implementation.
- What is the timeframe and method for joining the community advisory board or getting involved in other ways?
  - There will be a form for community members to fill out by the end of April or early May to be on the board and it will be available in many languages.
  - There will be many different stakeholders on the board, including community members, neighborhood groups, nonprofits, large landholders, and regional and city partners. Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna will be analyzing the applications and looking for groups that are not represented.
  - For other ways to be involved, sign up for the [Healthy Places](#) newsletter.
- ENC has a management plan. How will the UFP capitalize on already made plans and integrate with what is already going on? Also, will it reference plans from other places like Philadelphia?
  - Part of the work will be finding already existing plans and incorporating this knowledge into the overall plan.
  - They will be doing peer city research after the workshops. Once they know what the issues Boston is struggling with, they will look at how other cities are dealing with those same issues. Urban Canopy Works brings exposure and knowledge of what other cities are doing and have done UFPs in other cities.
- Will youth be involved and workforce development?
  - There will be an element of youth and workforce development, but the specifics are not yet known.
  - There was an arborist workforce development piece from another bidder on the UFP who still wants to be involved.
- Operations
  - Will be working with city operations staff on ongoing maintenance and management. They will benchmark resources Boston has invested in tree upkeep compared to other cities to know whether they are under resourced.
- They know there's interest to help the trees, so they are looking at the city maintaining the trees and how community organizations can help with things like watering trees/

## Community Updates

- Arbor Week is coming up! Speak for the Trees is hosting a series of events from April 24th to May 1st. You can keep up to date [on the events page](#) which will be updated as information becomes available.

- David Meshoulam - Know a teen in Boston? Have them join the [Teen Urban Tree Corps](#)
- Elizabeth Lohr - Tree Walks - feel free to share this information with your networks
  - [Speak for the Trees](#) is currently creating self-guided tree walks that can be enjoyed by anyone who wants to get outside and explore some of the notable members of our urban canopy! We need your help to know which trees should be included on these walks, so we are asking you to fill out the nomination form at [bit.ly/bostreewalk](http://bit.ly/bostreewalk). Whether it is old, significant, funky, or beautiful, we would love to hear about it!
  - You can fill out the form for as many trees as you want, and with all of the nominations that we receive we will create guided walks through different neighborhoods that can be enjoyed by everyone.
  - All you need to do is give us the specific location of the tree and tell us what is special about it (if you have a picture of it that's great). Thanks for your contribution!
- Lisa Beatman - Save Crane Ledge Woods - Community Meeting #2
  - 24 acre woods at intersection of Hyde Park, Roslindale, and Mattapan
  - April 21 2021 6:00 pm
  - Contact: [craneledgeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:craneledgeinfo@gmail.com)
  - [Zoom link](#).
  - Meeting ID: 836 9164 9979
  - Passcode: 372193
- Sarah Freeman
  - Shattuck Hospital relocation hearing on 4/13 - opportunity to restore parkland at Franklin Park. [Register for the meeting here](#).
- [BUFF website](#) - check it out and provide feedback to [natalie@sfttbos.org](mailto:natalie@sfttbos.org)

**Next Meeting - Friday May 14th at 11am**