

Leveraging Your Urban Forest Inventory In Local Government Workshop Summary

Thursday, February 19, 2015
City Council Chambers, Walnut Creek, CA

At the end of Workshop, attendees participated in a collaborative summarization of the lessons learned; best practices and challenges related to urban forest management in some of our Bay Area Cities. The following represents a list of comments by the attendees grouped into categories:

COLLABORATION:

- Opportunities with Utilities
- Need for landscape architects and Arborists conversation
- Develop allies with public volunteer/ non profits
- Need for mentoring you forestry (techy) graduates
- Development of tree mitigation program

Data Usage (Analysis and products)

- Very useful examples including: Maps of street cracking; tree condition; Utility interaction; volume of data, tree behavior
- Species report. Plan to remove poorly performing trees/ conditions
- Diversity by Family; which nursery stock came from; genetic source issue

Data Management

- Best if data from field to management system directly
- Challenge of maintaining trained staff
- Need for good graphics (simple; communicative; and depends on audience and purpose)
- Put money in contract to have contractor update data
 - Example work orders

Technology

- Integration of asset management system with Tree system
- Datasets need to talk to one another
- Usefulness of statistical analysis for high risk trees

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Climate action plans
- Make data/more available and for analysis

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop or participate in Regional Urban Forest Management group for continued coordination / collaboration (Example of City of Berkeley arborist meeting with City of Albany arborist every couple months for lunch).
 - Need to do at people, data and process level
- Compile Urban Forest Management Map examples
- Promote/brand website (CALFIRE/CAUFC, others) with our collective products, best practices
- Develop a clearinghouse to share information
- Link to good examples of map/analysis products; best practices; on regional website
- Email list server for sharing urban forest management experiences
- Promote/participate with CA Urban Forest Advisory Council
- Develop online forums for various topics

Miscellaneous

- Importance of keeping track of which nursery stock trees come from. Want to maintain high level of diversity. Not good if all trees of a certain species come from same grafted stock
- Issue of Seed/grafting
- Source of water important. Potable vs not
- Usage of tree data with other types of data. Oldest water district had better pipes. Issue of sewer line
- Cracked water pipes
- Risk management, especially cases vs the City of Walnut Creek
- Due diligence to keep good records
- Pictures taken useful
- Balance between identifying problems and fixing
- Reduce risk of asset failure at least cost