



Tree Canopy Action Summit III
Mahlon Adams Pavilion, Freedom Park, Charlotte
Monday, May 19, 2014, 11:00 – 1:30 PM

Agenda

- 11:00 - 11:05 Setting the Stage – Dave Cable
- 11:05 - 11:20 Welcome - Ron Carlee, Charlotte City Manager
- 11:20 - 11:50 Updates, Collective Accomplishments & Goals - Partners
- 11:50 - 12:10 Growing Superior Trees for TreesCharlotte – Tod Williams & Alan Erwin

-----Pick up lunches-----

- 12:15 - 12:45 Policy Update: Legislation, Canopy Analysis, Payment in Lieu, Urban Forestry Management Plan – Tim Porter & John Lojko
- 12:45 - 1:00 Street Tree Program & Cankerworm Update – Don McSween
- 1:00 - 1:20 Education & Research Topics – Group
- 1:20 - 1:30 Closing Remarks & Evaluation – Group

Partner report-outs:

- I. What does your agency or organization do to impact trees in Charlotte?
- II. What were your major accomplishments over the last year?
- III. What are your goals for the upcoming 12 months?
- IV. As a collaborative, what more can we do to protect and enhance the urban forest?

Handouts:

- | | |
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| Agenda | Aerial analysis report – Charlotte’s tree canopy |
| Participant list | Urban Forestry Management Plan Summary |
| Tree species list | Programs Director – Position Description |
| Draft ordinance legislation | Summit Evaluation Form |

Contact anytime with questions, concerns, or suggestions:

Dave Cable, Director
704-577-2004
dave@treescharlotte.org



Tree Canopy Action Summit III Summary

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Welcome & Level Set

Dave Cable welcomed the participants of the third annual Tree Canopy Action Summit. He announced TreesCharlotte has gone social and encourage participants to “like” TreesCharlotte on Facebook and follow TreesCharlotte on Twitter. Instagram will be added to the social media suite in the fall. He reviewed the handouts, including the input handout asking for feedback on TreesCharlotte, the Summit and potential educational research topics.

Dave reviewed that the purpose of the summit is to nurture collaborative relationships and gain a shared understanding of collective accomplishments and goals and of issues important to Charlotte’s urban forest.

Dave highlighted the three pillars needed for a healthy urban forest - community tree planting and education, tree ordinance and land use controls, and street tree programs and capital projects. All three pillars are coordinated by the Urban Forestry Management Plan which serves as our playbook. Community engagement underlies all the efforts.

Dave introduced partners that help with tree planting site selection including Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation, CMS and Project L.I.F.T. and the Charlotte Housing Authority. He also recognized lead supporters that make the tree planting events possible.

Charlotte’s tree canopy coverage is now at 47% and seems to have stabilized for now. The most recent aerial analysis concluded the 2008 to 2012 coverage differences are not statistically significant and following the decline prior to 2008, there has been no net change in the canopy, which is consistent with the real estate lull.

Aerial Analysis - Tree Canopy Coverage

Area	2003	2008	2012
Mecklenburg County	53%	50%	51%
City of Charlotte	48%	46%	47%

Previous analyses of the canopy established a 5% target canopy increase needed to obtain community goal of 50% canopy by 2050. Through NeighborWoods trees, 40 trees are planted per acre which translates to 500,000 trees to attain 5% growth. Reforestation trees are 400 trees per acre which translates to 5,000,000 trees to attain 5%.

Dave reviewed the FY14 tree planting events of the collaborative. Roughly 7,775 trees were planted, including Creek ReLeaf, with an additional 3,713 planted by the City or Park and Rec.

Tree Planting - Tree and Acreage Counts - FY14

	Trees	Acres	%
TreesCharlotte Projects	5,775	95	49%
Creek ReLeaf	2,000	5	3%
Ordinace Trees	1,803	45	23%
Street Trees	1,110	28	14%
CIP Trees	660	17	9%
Park & Recreation	<u>140</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2%</u>
	11,488	193	100%

TreesCharlotte Collaborative - Project Summary

Project Category	Projects*	Trees	
		Count	% Trees
Schools	8	2,509	21%
Neighborhoods	5	1,671	14%
Housing Projects	4	914	8%
Reforestation**	4	5,580	47%
Faith Campuses & Other	4	479	4%
TreeStores	5	427	4%
Parks	<u>7</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>2%</u>
	37	11,840	100%

*Some projects overlap.

** Includes last 2 years of CreekReLeaf.

Dave talked briefly about crop trees, reviewing planting numbers provided by Eddie Reese of the NC Forest Service. The accomplishments of the TreesCharlotte collaborative since inception include: planted 11,000 trees; stewarded trees on public lands; launched Founder's Campaign and raised \$1,192,000; held Canopy Action Summits; and launched honorary tree program.

Welcome

Dave introduced and thanked City Manager, Ron Carlee. Ron thanked City Councilman John Autry for attending the Action Summit. John spoke of the importance of trees to Charlotte and the partnerships that have formed to enhance the canopy. Ron also recognized and thanked Marcia Simon and Johnny Harris for their leadership on the TreesCharlotte Foundation Board. Ron asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. The role of the city manager cannot be narrowed to individual service areas; rather their role is in building community where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. When originally visiting Charlotte, Ron was impressed by the tree canopy and the City's commitment to preserving one of Charlotte's most significant historical treasures. He has since been impressed with the level of partnerships between communities, businesses and the City to create a sense of place for everyone by not only preserving the canopy but also by growing it. The partnership with TreesCharlotte is critical to increasing the canopy.

Collective Accomplishments, Goals and Updates

Dave asked partners to report on what they do to impact trees in Charlotte, what their major accomplishments were over the last year, what their goals are over the next 12 months and as a collaborative, how can we do better.

Dave thanked the Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission (CTAC) for attending the Summit in lieu of their normally scheduled monthly meeting. It has been proposed that CTAC will review neighborhood applications completed through Neighborhood and Business Services matching grants program. CTAC

will help select priority neighborhoods to participate in the NeighborWoods plantings. CTAC is also considering providing a coordinating and leadership role in a community-wide large scale Arbor Day celebration, with support from TreesCharlotte.

Patrick Anderson reported on efforts to revive the Queen's Crown and the treasure tree program which was started in the 1980's. The website will tell stories and histories surrounding some of the treasure trees in Charlotte. The Queen's Crown offers bike tours visiting these trees.

Tim Turton commended Dave on TreesCharlotte's approach in working with partners. He has had great experiences with the City and Catawba Lands Conservancy and committed to continue the partnership.

Joe Zuyus, with CTAC, mentioned the potential legislature that could impact the City's tree ordinance. CTAC is preparing a group statement against the legislature and encouraged everyone present to do the same. Charlotte's tree ordinance serves a great purpose in preserving and expanding the tree canopy.

Ric Solow with the Elizabeth Community Association reported on Elizabeth's community wide planting program which grew out of the loss of trees after Hurricane Hugo. They have partnered with the City and have planted 17 mile of street trees. They have now created a program to plant trees on private property and hope to plant 20-30 trees a year in Elizabeth neighborhood. They help homeowners understand that they need to step up to plant and preserve their trees.

Robert Corbin with Discovery Place reported of their new program, "Explore More Life" in partnership with the Charlotte Nature Museum. They see 600,000 visitors each year. DP is creating an education studio for teachers and offered to partner with TreesCharlotte to include a tree module in one of their outdoor labs. They hope to reach 5,000 teachers a year.

Mary Bures with the NC Wildlife Federation reported on their partnership with TreesCharlotte to develop a curriculum for 9-15 year olds. They taught a component of their curriculum at Thomasboro Academy followed by planting trees on their campus. They also reached 50 children during the McIntyre and Brawley planting events.

Karen Butler, Johnson C. Smith University, provided a service learning project with students. Tim Porter taught her student how to use the i-Tree program and they in turn, taught students at West Charlotte High School how to use it. They were then going to use iTree in conjunction with the planting on their campus.

Nicole with Neighborhood and Business Service described their team approach and how they help facilitates neighborhood engagement. Thirteen neighborhoods have applied wanting to participate during the next fiscal year.

Carl Harris, Charlotte Housing Authority informed on their efforts to green their campuses. CHA includes landscape and tree canopy in all their building plans. Through their development efforts, they have been able to leave existing trees in place. Their goals are to increase their educational efforts toward residents explaining the importance of trees in their environment.

Michael Kirschman reported Mecklenburg County stewards 20,000 acres, 76% of which are park land and/or forested. They are aggressively going after new parkland with 5% of the County's budget allocated to land acquisition.

[Prior to the summit Erin Oliverio provided the following on behalf of Creek ReLeaf: The Creek ReLeaf team held two plantings this year.

1. November 23rd - Irwin Creek Watershed 664 volunteers planted 1800 trees (live stakes and seedlings)
 2. February 20th - McDowell Creek Watershed - 39 volunteers planted 200 tree seedlings
- Creek ReLeaf is planning for one possibly two events this fall. The main date will be Saturday, November 22. The second event will be held in Davidson on a different Saturday in November.]

Dave acknowledged Sarah Morris and her team at Landscape Management which provides technical support for all events, including the green print plans. The NeighborWoods program works because of strong partnership with the City and the high quality technical support offered by Sarah and her team.

Growing Trees for Charlotte

Tod Williams with Worthington Farms thanked Dave for the invitation to present. He reiterated the importance of building and sustaining partnership and working with the NC Nurseryman's Association. He explained growing 7 gallon trees for TreesCharlotte and planning 2-3 years in advance to ensure the highest quality trees.

Alan Erwin with Panther Creek Nursery stated growing trees is an around the clock, year round endeavor. The pots they use have micro coat on the inside. This coating prevents girdling of roots by burning them when they touch the surface. They grow 25-35 different geneses of trees.

Dave drew attention to the listing of over 60 varieties of trees that are being grown for next year's planting season.

Policy Update

Legislation

Dave reported on proposed legislature that would eliminate municipalities' authority to adopt or enforce any ordinance, rule, regulation or resolution that regulates the removal, replacement, and preservation of trees on private property. This has been introduced during the short session which normally does not have any controversial issues. Dave encouraged folks to reach out to their legislators and speak out against the proposal. Also discussed was using the partners' networks for distributing key information going forward.

Urban Forestry Management Plan

John Lojko, head of the City's Landscape Management Department, updated the group on Charlotte's Urban Forestry Management Plan. The 40 page document has been placed on the City's website. This document is meant to be dynamic with input from the public. John asked the Summit participants to read and comment on the plan.

John also announced, that due to the great success of TreesCharlotte, the City has given Landscape Management permission to hire a full time person to assist TreesCharlotte's plantings and manage and implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Canopy Analysis

Tim Porter reviewed the 2012 Urban Tree Canopy Report created in partnership with the University of Vermont, Mecklenburg County, City of Charlotte and the US Forest Service. This report has much better data than previous reports resulting in improved accuracy. The objectives of the report are to analyze

how much tree canopy Charlotte has and how much tree canopy is possible. The report found, as population increased since 2002, the tree canopy has actually stabilized. The report concludes that Charlotte's tree canopy compares favorably to other urban areas in the eastern US. Canopy improvement opportunities exist and with high quality data, the ability to target specific areas is possible. Tree canopy helps to reduce the urban heat island effect and increasing canopy will reduce energy costs. Education about the canopy will be crucial. The City could substantially improve its canopy through an "all lands" approach, meaning not just planting on city owned land. Strategic decisions should balance growth, interests of the canopy, and include the engagement of City residents.

Street Tree & Cankerworm Update

Don McSween, the City Arborist, described the tree ordinance covers both private property and street trees and requires tree preservation and planting. Landscape Management is responsible for tree management, maintenance of right of ways, landscape maintenance, capital improvement designs and cemeteries. The City removes 300+ large street trees annually due to age of trees, root rot, heart rot and lightning damage. The City plants 1,100+ street trees annually. Of all the street trees, 91% or 163,000 have been inventoried. There are an estimated 180,000 street trees in Charlotte. The highest species is Crape Myrtle followed by Willow Oak and Red Maple.

Don reported the Fall Cankerworm is native to NC however, its natural predator is not reproducing fast enough to control cankerworm populations, and thus human intervention is needed. Catching 90 females in a trap is considered a high infestation. Some traps in 2013 counted 3,000 females. Current counts are in the 100's. Trapping is still considered the most effective; however, aerial spraying is sometimes needed. Don reviewed a map showing the areas hardest hit.

In summary, Charlotte's tree management budget is \$3.3million, with 70% of work contracted to private industry. An average of \$18.34 is spent per street tree.

Education and Research Topics

Dave asked for feedback on the seven research topics he outlined below.

1. Quantify the environmental benefits of the TreesCharlotte collaborative using i-tree or other tools.
2. Evaluate the pros and cons of native vs non-native tree species planted in Charlotte's urban core.
3. Identify the best residential neighborhoods for community tree planting events using the aerial canopy data and other social and physical indicators.
4. Identify the strategic implications of Charlotte's recent aerial canopy analysis for management of the urban forest.
5. Identify the best adult and children educational initiatives for TreesCharlotte, building on learnings from other communities.
6. Quantify tree survival rates and recommend best practices to improve tree survival of volunteer planted & maintained trees.
7. Identify the best strategies for addressing the needs of the mature urban forest.

Closing Remarks

Dave announced Charlotte is hosting a national conference in November that will host up to 700 tree experts from around the country. The conference will be a great opportunity to showcase Charlotte trees. He thanked everyone for attending and encouraged people to fill out the participant feedback forms.



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I really like about the Summit:

- Great quick intro from Dave
- Personal message from Ron Carlee
- Welcomed questions while still managing time
- Variety of attendees
- Bringing the interested parties together is a very good thing
- The information was helpful
- Appreciate the interest in protecting and increasing the Charlotte tree canopy
- The efforts and goal of the organization
- The education points
- Ron Carlee – quality of life increased by trees
- Partner reports – Don McSween, Tim Porter – and data
- Encouraging all groups to fight upcoming legislation
- Leader Dave Cable
- Time of day
- The input from all the partners was interesting and helpful. I enjoyed it.
- Including growers was informative and helpful – since they are growing a variety of species for Charlotte, it would be helpful to provide this list to local landscape architects to help us specify trees you have found to be good in Charlotte. Use local ASLA Chapter to send out same list provided today
- To share/hear the works of the various agencies

I have concerns with:

- New legislation
- Lack of funds
- Not enough neighborhoods involved
- Legislation to allow tree removal (billboards) and harm tree ordinances
- Over planting of non-native species especially Crepe Myrtles and incorrect pruning of existing trees
- Sites for mitigation and spending in lieu of dollars outside area of site where trees are impacted
- None – great summit

- Including such “lengthy” participants – the tree companies/suppliers!
- Loss of the involuntary annexation ability. Will the City be able to provide tree services to te ETJ areas which will not likely become a part of Charlotte?
- Too much condensed into too little time

I suggest:

- We should proactively reach out to more neighborhoods especially those with land use area available
- A tie with artists – perhaps a “paint a tree” event....idea is to engage passion with trees....then exhibit
- I found it difficult to hear the speakers in this room
- More advertising and public solicitation for civic engagement
- Can we tie in our seedling sale in Feb with your efforts – parallel sales, advertising, targeting...? (Meck. SWCD)
- Come with ideas – What are main obstacles to stronger tree canopy growth
- We sit around a big long table
- Speaker!
- Keep as a collaborative meeting for the time being!
- Not Summit related, but I do not get notice of events (planting) by email. I would like to be on an email list, so I can help from time to time. lmclaren@dprassociates.net
- Either increase length of meeting time or go to two gatherings a year. Perhaps a student focused summit?



Summary Results of Input Forms - Canopy Summit 5-19-14

Count	Circle 3 you feel are most important.	Suggestions on how to complete?	How can your Agency help?
1	1. Quantify the environmental benefits of the TreesCharlotte collaborative using i-tree or other tool(s).	(1) Very complex issue; not sure how to complete; some obvious, some less so.	
3	2. Evaluate the pros and cons of native vs non-native tree species planted in Charlotte's urban core.	(1) Get ideas from experts, scientists, academics arborists, etc. to see if they have opinions. (2) Clear air benefits; health costs; sequestration of toxic air. (3) Compare cost benefits of using native trees. (4) Provide infographic that is easily digestible to public. (5) Have a percentage of native trees to use in tree planting; also high diversity of species. (6) I think we should set a native and non-native goal of 90%; non-native for accent trees, education and special sites.	Adams Outdoor Advertising: free advertising potential.
3	3. Identify the best residential neighborhoods for community tree planting events using the aerial canopy data and other social and physical indicators.	(1) Use applications - CTAC can go look at neighborhoods, report to TreesCharlotte. (2) Work with Charlotte's Planning Commission, REBIC, Neighborhood & Business Services, etc.	CTAC wants to help. CTAC can "judge" and rank neighborhoods applying.
1	4. Identify the strategic implications of Charlotte's aerial tree canopy analysis for managing the urban forest.	(1) Use to keep "score" and to follow where new development saved or replaced canopy and see what works and what did not. (2) Realtors - economics. (3) As Michael Kirshman stated, link growth in canopy to improved quality of life for realtors, etc.	Lee McLaren: can suggest infill projects to evaluate.
6	5. Identify the best adult and children educational initiatives for TreesCharlotte, building on learnings from other communities.	(1) CMS - start legacy tree program where graduating students plant a tree representing their class. (2) Birth plantings:pamphlets given to new parents where they can get a tree to plant and watch it grow as their child grows. (3) Partner with developers to manage their forested development sites. (4) Planting "naming" trees. (5) Work with Discovery Place, CHA, CMS, etc. (5) Educate public on value of trees to quality of life - air, land, water - what they can do. (6) More focus on value of trees at all planting events - people protect what they value.	Mary Stanble: We do some student education on value of tree planting to help air quality. CFTF: need greater efforts at "train the trainer."
5	6. Quantify tree survival rates and recommend best practices to improve tree survival of volunteer planted & maintained trees.	(1) Follow-up visits and record results. (2) Want trees planed to survive. Educate. Follow through. Plant in fall.	
6	7. Identify the best strategies for addressing the needs of the mature urban forest.	(1) Ask Don McSween what he thinks and who he can suggest to advise. (2) Less concrete and impervious land. (3) US Forestry, CRS. (4) Focus on entire life cycle approach for trees; emphasize tree care and removal as much as planting.	CFTF: Funding models - consider value provided as trees mature. Change standard deviation model.
1	8. Other suggestions:	(1) Give tax breaks for planting trees, impervious driveways, etc. (2) All of us - link us in a network! (3) Broadcast efforts and opportunities for public involvement	Meck. Soil & Water Conservation District can lobby for clean water and coordinate with your emphasis sites. Adams Outdoor Advertising: potential free advertising.