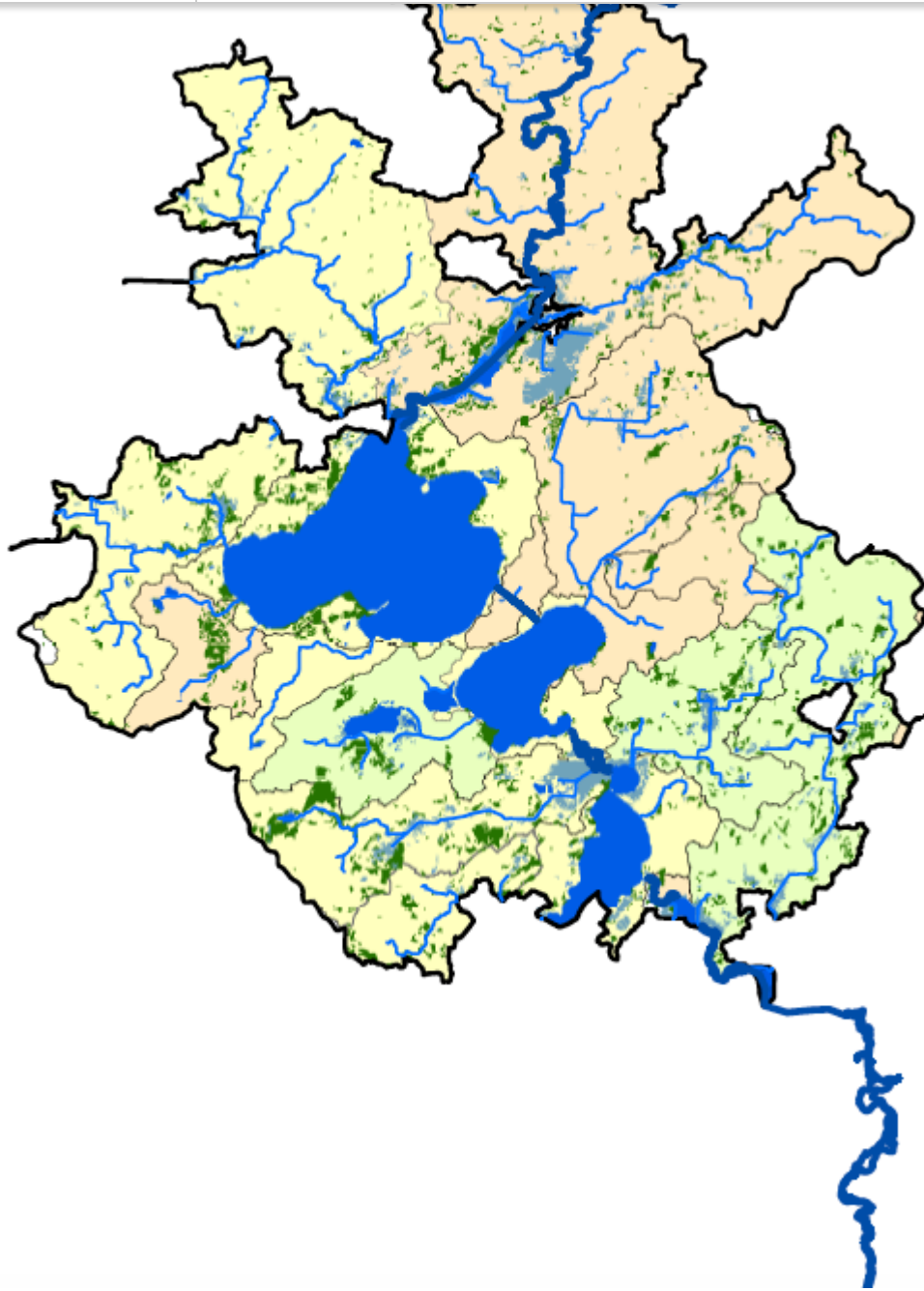




Winter 2016



Yahara Canopy Project Grant

The UTA is excited to announce that it recently received funding through a 2016 DNR Urban Forestry Grant to launch the Yahara Canopy Project. The Yahara Canopy Project will analyze relationships between the urban canopy and watershed and develop a pilot planting program intended to enhance the water quality benefits of our trees.

We are currently developing canopy models with a suite of programs available through I-Tree, which is public urban forestry software. By looking closely at the relationships between our water and trees, we hope to attach value to the benefits of

We are equally glad to have partnered with The Clean Lakes Alliance on this work. Over the last several months, we've been meeting extensively with not-for-profits and governmental departments concerned with water and watershed quality.

We look forward to sharing our findings as the work evolves. Please be in touch with questions or thoughts you have about the project.

Madison Canopy Project Update

The UTA will be continuing the Madison Canopy Project in 2016. Over two years, the project has directly led to the installation of over 400 trees. This year we intend to continue reaching out to citizens interested in growing the canopy. To learn more, please visit our website: [Here](#).



Conferences

The UTA was represented at two tree events this winter.

We set up a table to provide information on our programs at the Delafield, WI Tree Summit in January. The city is at a cross roads about how it will balance development pressure and imperiled water quality due to reduced canopy coverage. The city is also mulling how to use a relatively astonishing \$250,000 tree fund

In February, Evan gave a talk at the Wisconsin Arboriculture Association about the current capabilities of crowd sourcing software for tree inventories. He has been developing tree inventories for municipalities and neighborhoods over the last several years using these innovative processes.



Municipal Emerald Ash Boer Response

The Emerald Ash Boer (EAB) has been in the region for several years, and cities are now well into executing EAB management plans. A diverse array of large-scale strategies has developed. At the tree-level, responses include removal and replacement, a pesticide treatment that last two-years, and simply doing nothing.

Here's brief run-down of the ways some cities are responding:

- **Minneapolis** is removing and replacing 100% of its Ash trees
- **Milwaukee** is treating 100% of its Ash trees.
- **Madison** is removing and replacing 60% of its Ash trees, and treating the remaining 40%.
- **Fitchburg** is implementing a “triage” of treatment and removal based on individual tree quality.
- **Sun Prairie** is re-assessing its policy of 100% removal and replacement.



Round



Oval



Vase



Columnar

Continuity of the Streetscape

The collapse of a single tree species within the canopy, such as Elms in the 60's and 70's and the impending decline of Ash, makes perhaps the strongest case for a diversified urban forest. Yet there is an aesthetic appeal of grand trees uniformly lining a street or boulevard. Rows of mature elms once formed urban spaces like gothic cathedrals in proportion and scale (or rather, perhaps gothic cathedrals mimic the space of the canopy). And, survey-based research by the Urban Horticulture Institute has shown that people respond most favorably to street trees with similar branching heights and canopy shapes. Among the many down sides facing the decline of Ash trees is that Ash has a similar canopy form to the Honeylocust and Hackberry; up to now, it has made a great neighbor on the street.

So as we necessarily seek to diversify our canopy, we might also consider how groups of tree species can form continuous streetscapes . We needn't sacrifice one end for the other.



An Early Spring Boon for Honeybees

With recent Spring temperatures, our honeybees have taken their fledging flights for the year. Early spring can be a perilous time for the hive as winter honey stores run low, energy demand increases with activity, and yet pollen sources may not be fully developed. However, over the last several days, we've noticed our bees returning to the hive with what appears to be prolific pollens hauls. But where can this be coming from so early in the season?

Our guess is Silver Maples. The buds on many of the Madison trees swelled last fall with warm temperatures through the late Fall. It appears this may have primed the Silver Maple buds for a relatively early bloom this spring. Magnolias blooms may be coming next. However this complex interaction is playing out it, it's a great way to see our trees playing a pivotal role in the lives of pollinators.



Classes & Events

We are finalizing a calendar for spring and early summer volunteer opportunities. Upcoming events will include tree plantings and educational walks in the arboretum. We are also planning our first tree sale for the spring.

If you'd like to take part in the work as a volunteer, then please visit our website to register. Volunteers will receive periodic email with opportunities as they arise: <http://www.urbantreealliance.org/citizen-forester-program/>

Last but not least, there is one event on our calendar that we'd like everyone to know about: April 22nd, Earth Day! The UTA is being hosted by the Hopcat at 222 West Gorham St. Proceeds from two of the beers on tap will be donated to the UTA. So please join us to celebrate Earth Day, have a beer, and talk trees!



Facebook



<http://www.urbantreealliance.org/>

The Urban Tree Alliance is a non-profit organization serving the greater Madison, WI area.

Our mission is to preserve and grow the urban forest canopy in a sustainable and innovative manner in partnership with the public.

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