



New Beginning for Urban Tree Management

This summer the Urban Tree Alliance underwent a re-organization and spun off a private company that now provides all fee-for-service tree care services—such as pruning, planting, EAB treatments, and removals. The new company is called Urban Tree Management (www.urbantreemgmt.com) and continues to be run by Urban Tree Alliance founder, Evan Slocum. Dividing this for-profit endeavor from the non-profit Urban Tree Alliance allows a clearer accounting for our work, which has become as diverse as the grant-funded Madison Canopy Project, residential arboriculture services, and community tree inventories. Although the two entities are formally separate, the work of each is very much in sync with the other. For instance, Urban Tree Management continues to support the efforts of the Urban Tree Alliance through donations of equipment and time, community networking, and expert consulting. We hope this new arrangement permits a greater degree of organizational flexibility in the future. The Urban Tree Alliance looks forward to continuing its programs designed to preserve and grow the urban forest canopy.



Madison Canopy Project Updates

What people are saying about the Madison Canopy Project:

“We wanted to say thank – you so much for the time and energy you spent planting trees in our home. We love the trees and have been taking care of them.”

“I just saw the tree! I think it's in a great location and look forward to seeing it mature. It will compliment the house for sure so thanks to UTA.”

“I very much appreciate the offer to assist in the planting, too. The thought of a tree is a happy one, considering we will be losing so many Ash trees on the block.”

“The trees are lovely. Thank you, the team, & the organization for the work you are doing!”

Over two years, the Madison Canopy Project has provided over 325 trees to participants in 11 neighborhoods across the city. The project was begun in order to diversify and grow the local urban forest. Yet, the further we progressed in the work, the more apparent it became how deeply the trees were connecting with people. The sentiments above are a fraction of the feedback we've received about how the trees have become important elements in daily lives. Likewise, the project has been a great opportunity for the Urban Tree Alliance to become involved with distinct neighborhoods across the city.

Now, as the last of the Madison Canopy Project trees are being planted for the year, we're developing strategies to continue the work into the future. In 2014 and 2015, the project received funding through the Department of Natural Resources' Urban Forestry Grant Program. In order for the project to expand, we're actively pursuing alternate, sustainable funding sources. Let us know if you have a creative idea for how we can continue this work. In the meantime, take a look up into our urban canopy this fall and consider its multiple values to our community.



Recent Volunteer Planting Projects

The Urban Tree Alliance organized a series of volunteer planting projects this fall, including 15 trees planted along the Starkweather Creek and 14 combined trees planted at John Muir Elementary and Midvale Elementary Schools.

The planting along the Starkweather Creek included a half-dozen native species installed along the stream bank. The project was developed through a partnership with the adjacent Union Corners neighborhood and the Friends of Starkweather Creek. We hope that the trees will eventually shade the creek and create cooler temperatures for oxygen absorption in the water, thereby enhancing the aquatic

how these trees might affect the aquatic conditions.

The plantings at John Muir Elementary were part of the Urban Tree Alliance's ongoing work with the school to help identify trees as part of a 2nd grade science curriculum. The trees were planted around the campus with the intent of filling gaps in the canopy and planning for a succession of shade trees. At Midvale, two Burr oaks were planted within the school's prairie inspired rain garden.

The Urban Tree Alliance appreciates the opportunity to be involved in these efforts. If you or a community group are planning a tree planting project, we hope you will let us know; we're always interested in ways might assist the people shaping community forests.



Utilities and the Canopy

What are we to make of this scene? A large sugar maple, with an artful hole pruned in it's center. Nearly all contemporary arboriculture practice tells us that large canopy trees should not be planted under power lines. Yet, the specialized practice of utility pruning is a common (and dangerous) job for an arborist. A smaller tree reduces the demand for future pruning, but what then happens to the streetscape when all the trees are a tidy 15 ft. tall? Perhaps the lines could be buried. A lateral drilling rig could bore a hole right under the tree's roots. But at what cost, and on whose bill? No matter how the issue is pared, our urban canopy is an ever evolving layer in our landscape. Its amazing how trees can accommodate the bleakest of

environment, now and in their future?



What's New at the Urban Tree Alliance

Jeremy Kane joins as UTA Associate Director

In August, Jeremy Kane joined the Urban Tree Alliance as the Associate Director. Since then, he's been primarily continuing the work of the Madison Canopy Project and developing a successful 2016 Urban Forestry Grant application to the Department of Natural Resources. He is also working on the ground as an arborist with Evan at Urban Tree Management.

Jeremy joins the UTA with over a dozen years experience in landscape planning and nursery management. He's had opportunities to work in endeavors as diverse as greenroof, treehouse, and trail construction in the New York City area, land project management for a land trust, and tree production on a 400-acre nursery.

He says he's pursued arboriculture as a way of working directly with an integral component of the larger urban landscape. Even when he's not working, he finds himself strolling around the neighborhood looking at trees. And when time permits more than strolling, he's venturing further afield with his family in Madison and the surrounding prairies, lakes, and cliffs.

Jeremy is replacing Patricia (Lindquist) Chakravorty and will be continuing and expanding upon her work over the last several years. Please feel free to contact him with any questions or ongoing business related to our urban trees. He can be reached at Jeremy@urbantreealliance; or 608-556-5331



Trees in the News

A selection of tree news stories from near and far:

Local Nut (or, rather drupe) Harvesting: [http://host.madison.com/wsj/sports/recreation/outdoors/jerry-](http://host.madison.com/wsj/sports/recreation/outdoors/jerry-davis-time-to-gather-seeds-and-nuts/article_99ec0195-cc5d-5b6c-a506-11e9b851a444.html)

[davis time-to-gather-seeds-and-nuts/article_99ec0195-cc5d-5b6c-a506-11e9b851a444.html](http://host.madison.com/wsj/sports/recreation/outdoors/jerry-davis-time-to-gather-seeds-and-nuts/article_99ec0195-cc5d-5b6c-a506-11e9b851a444.html)

Local Tree Preservation: <http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/columnists/chris-rickert/chris-rickert->

[fac9f2527ec5.html](#)

Trees and Our Nerves: <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/what-is-a-tree-worth>

Urban Trees around the World: [http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/sep/07/your-photos-](http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/sep/07/your-photos-urban-trees-around-the-world)

[urban-trees-around-the-world](#)



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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