
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies

Presents



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Urban Forestry and Ecosystem Management
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

**Increasing the Urban Tree Canopy
in Philadelphia**

In the 2009 Greenworks plan, Philadelphia set an aggressive goal of increasing tree coverage toward 30% in all neighborhoods by 2025. While that percent canopy is an appropriate level for this city, and actually below the 40% canopy recommendation by American Forests, the accuracy of the current canopy calculations was in question, due to the coarse level of the imagery used. In addition, this recommendation did not confirm that this canopy level was achievable in all neighborhoods. Philadelphia Parks & Recreation set out to substantiate the existing canopy and calculate the amount of tree canopy that was possible, neighborhood by neighborhood. Through a grant from the US Forest Service, Philadelphia worked with the University of Vermont to conduct an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment. This analysis not only confirmed that the existing canopy was more robust than had previously been calculated, but that the canopy goal was achievable in each neighborhood.

Through this effort, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation has been able to identify and prioritize the best opportunities to plant, considering both the physical: open tree pits, public spaces without street trees, current vegetated areas; as well as social factors: homeownership, number of block captains, density of public facilities and houses of worship. This approach will enable staff to target work in areas where measurable progress toward the goal can be achieved; while encouraging and meeting the demand for trees citywide.

Date: October 26, 2011

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Direct questions to: 215-573-3164

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NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM
