

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (DOEE) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

SNAPSHOT

Mission and role of DOEE:

- **Mission:** Improve the quality of life for the residents and natural inhabitants of the nation's capital by protecting and restoring the environment, conserving our natural resources, mitigating pollution, increasing access to clean and renewable energy and educating the public on ways to secure a sustainable future.
- **Role:** Enforce environmental regulations; monitor and assessing environmental risks; develop energy and environmental policies; issue permits; and provide residents and local businesses with funding, technical assistance and information on initiatives designed to ensure a more resilient and sustainable city.

Key tree-related programming:

- DOEE creates and enforces environmental protection and restoration policies including efforts to conserve and sustain the District's native tree species and existing tree canopy, build resiliency across the District and use environmental quality to protect public health and safety.
- DOEE is charged with protecting and restoring the environment which includes both naturalized areas as well as urban corridors.
- DOEE provides grants to organizations to support tree planting, including the RiverSmart program.

How Casey Trees works with DOEE:

- Casey Trees staff and volunteers work on integrating trees to various plans created by DOEE including but not limited to: Sustainable DC 2.0, Climate Ready D.C. and Resilient D.C.
- Casey Trees has received grants from DOEE in order to restore, enhance and protect the tree canopy of the District, including a grant to support DOEE's popular RiverSmart Homes program, which supports tree planting on private property.

Director of DOEE: Tommy Wells

Committee DOEE falls under: Transportation and the Environment

Chairperson to address the testimony to: Councilmember Mary Cheh

Other committee members:

- Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen
- Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans
- Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
- Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (DOEE) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

TESTIMONY

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<https://www.tfaforms.com/4793675>

Here are some of our suggestions for what you may include in your testimony. You are more than welcome to include one or more of these points. If you feel strongly about a tree or green space-related topic or issue not listed below, feel free to focus on that instead.

- We ask the D.C. Council **to expand the Urban Forest Preservation Act to have ALL trees of Special and Heritage tree size be included in the law**
- We ask that DOEE is more transparent in their process when working with the development projects and ensuring compliance for plans throughout the District
- **We ask that DOEE work with DGS AND DPR on the landscape designs for any parks and recreation center redevelopments to go above and beyond meeting city requirements.** By working with DOEE more closely, DGS can implement Best Management Practice landscape design solutions, biophilic design, pollinator habitats, green corridors and green infrastructure. These projects can help the city to meet the environmental goals set forth in Sustainable D.C. 2.0, the DC Wildlife Action Plan, Climate Ready D.C., the existing D.C. Comprehensive Plan and the most recent draft Plan and other city-wide plans.
- We ask that the DOEE work more closely with DDOT and the Office of Zoning when reviewing development plans to ensure that each proposed development meets the following plans, policies and regulations:
 - Sustainable D.C. 2.0
 - D.C. Wildlife Action Plan
 - Climate Ready D.C.
 - D.C. Comprehensive Plan
 - The Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002
- We ask that DOEE, in collaboration with DDOT, DGS and DPR, **create an organizational flow chart showing who cares for trees in different District spaces**

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION (UFD) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

SNAPSHOT

Mission and role of UFD:

- **Mission of DDOT:** Enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors by ensuring that people and goods move safely with **minimal adverse impact on residents and the environment.**
- **Mission of UFD:** The mission of the Urban Forestry Division (UFD) is to **manage and increase the District's street trees to maintain healthy trees** that provide the following: improved air quality, increased ground water retention that minimizes runoff and flooding, temperature moderation, aesthetics and other benefits to our community.
- **Role:** Provide educational information to District residents about the benefits of growing trees and **encourage planting appropriate tree species** in our urban environment and **provide proper and expeditious services such as pruning, small tree removals and clean up of tree debris and stumps** in order to provide safe sidewalk and street clearance to the residents of the District.

Key tree-related programming:

- UFD reviews permits and plans that have the potential to impact trees.
- UFD plants and maintains trees on District owned property such as the Streets, Schools and Parks.

How Casey Trees works with UFD:

- Casey Trees' citizen science inventory program and pruning corps volunteers work with UFD during events.
- Casey Trees assists UFD with planting and tree care on UFD property or property that is maintained by UFD.
- Casey Trees has a grant to write an Urban Forest Master Plan for the District in conjunction with UFD

Director of DDOT: Jeff Marootian

Associate Director of UFD: Earl Eutsler

Committee UFD falls under: Transportation and the Environment (as part of DDOT)

Chairperson to address the testimony to: Councilmember Mary Cheh

Other committee members:

- Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen
- Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans
- Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
- Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION (UFD) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

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- We ask the D.C. Council **to expand the Urban Forest Preservation Act to have ALL trees of Special and Heritage tree size be included in the law**
- As DDOT continues to update our roads and sidewalks, we ask that they **make sure all new infrastructure is constructed to maximize potential street tree growth** by including tree bump outs, larger tree boxes and silva cells
- **Include street trees in new transit corridors** as a traffic calming measure and to help build resiliency for these major thoroughfares
- We ask that the DDOT work more closely with DOEE and the Office of Zoning when reviewing development plans to ensure that each proposed development meets the following plans, policies, and regulations:
 - Sustainable D.C. 2.0
 - D.C. Wildlife Action Plan
 - Climate Ready D.C.
 - D.C. Comprehensive Plan
 - The Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002
- We ask that DDOT, in collaboration with DOEE, DGS and DPR, **create an organizational flow chart showing who cares for trees in different District spaces**

D.C. DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES (DGS) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

SNAPSHOT

Mission and role of DGS:

- **Mission:** Elevate the quality of life for the District with superior construction, first-rate maintenance and expert real estate management. By building and maintaining safe and **green state-of-the-art facilities** which foster economic growth and elevate educational environments, we can create modern and vibrant communities.
- **Role:** DGS performs **construction and property management for D.C.'s schools, parks, and recreation centers**, among other facilities. DGS also manages capital improvement and construction programs for a variety of District government agencies, takes on **planning efforts for redevelopment projects**, acquires property by purchase or lease, disposes of property through sale and provides building management services for facilities owned or operated by the District.

Key tree-related programming:

- DGS **designs and maintains park, recreation center, and school** and contracts for their construction and redevelopments.
- DGS and DPR share **redesign and community engagement efforts** for park properties.
- DGS works with UFD to **maintain the trees** on their properties.

How Casey Trees works with DGS:

- DGS is often the target of public comments Casey Trees submits. They are often the project leaders coordinating community planning efforts and creating surveys.

Director of DGS: Keith Anderson

Committee DGS falls under: Facilities and Procurement

Chairperson to address the testimony to: Councilmember Robert White

Other committee members:

- Ward 3 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh
- Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans
- Ward 7 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray
- At-Large Councilmember Elissa Silverman

D.C. DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES (DGS) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

TESTIMONY

Today you will be submitting a testimony using this form:

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Here are some of our suggestions for what you may include in your testimony. You are more than welcome to include one or more of these points. If you feel strongly about a tree or green space-related topic or issue not listed below, feel free to focus on that instead.

- On hot summer days, playground surfaces and structures may get too hot for use by children. **We ask that DGS plant hardy trees with protection near play sites. These trees should be able to withstand soil compacting so they can provide shade for playgrounds.**
- On the DGS Park and Recreation Center Projects page (www.dgs.dc.gov/page/dgs-park-and-recreation-center-projects), it is challenging for the public to find information about current projects. We appreciate the updates made to the site after our request during the FY2020 Performance hearings, but it is still very difficult to find out about upcoming public meetings or track projects one is interested in. **We ask that DGS with DPR update their project webpage to make it easier for communities to engage in redevelopments in their neighborhood** by creating an email list interested parties could sign up for to receive notifications when updates are made to this page or new meetings are announced. We also recommend including various viewing options. For example, the projects could be sorted by ward, current project phase and/or when they were updated.
- **We ask that DGS work with DOEE on the landscape designs for any parks and recreation center redevelopments to go above and beyond meeting city requirements.** By working with DOEE more closely, DGS can implement Best Management Practice landscape design solutions, biophilic design, pollinator habitats, green corridors and green infrastructure. These projects can help the city to meet the environmental goals set forth in Sustainable D.C. 2.0, the D.C. Wildlife Action Plan, Climate Ready D.C., the existing D.C. Comprehensive Plan and the most recent draft Plan and other city-wide plans.
- As the District buildings are updated to meet the new Building Energy Performance Standards, **we encourage you to use trees as a tool for energy savings.**
- We ask that DGS, in collaboration with DOEE, DDOT and DPR, **create an organizational flow chart showing who cares for trees in different District spaces**

D.C. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

SNAPSHOT

Mission and role of DPR:

- **Mission:** To promote health and wellness; **conserve the natural environment**; and provide universal access to parks and recreation services.
- **Role:** DPR provides quality urban recreation and leisure services for residents and visitors to D.C. They supervise many of D.C.'s **recreation/community centers, parks, athletic fields, playgrounds, spray parks, tennis courts, community gardens, dog parks, aquatic facilities** and features. DPR also coordinates recreation programming.

Key tree-related programming:

- DPR works on maintaining and redeveloping parks in the city. Parks are one of the **most crucial opportunities to plant trees** in an urban environment.
- DPR and DGS split **redesign and community engagement** of park properties.
- DPR facilities are a key community gathering place and can provide a forum for **spreading awareness and knowledge** about trees and their benefits.

How Casey Trees works with DPR:

- Casey Trees has a MOA partnership with DPR. Casey Trees **hosts classes at their facilities and plants trees on DPR properties**. By partnering with DPR, Casey Trees can more directly **engage with local communities** in the neighborhoods that DPR has a presence in.
- Casey Trees and DPR **meet quarterly** to discuss the partnership and identify more ways to work together.
- DPR connects the Casey Trees Education Team to **youth programming** opportunities, like summer camps.
- Casey Trees performs Park Inventories at DPR parks.

Director of DPR: Delano Hunter

Committee DPR falls under: Recreation & Youth Affairs

Chairperson to address the testimony to: Councilmember Trayon White

Other committee members:

- At-Large Councilmember Anita Bonds
- Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
- Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau
- Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

D.C. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

TESTIMONY

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Here are some of our suggestions for what you may include in your testimony. You are more than welcome to include one or more of these points. If you feel strongly about a tree or green space-related topic or issue not listed below, feel free to focus on that instead.

- Casey Trees is so happy to have a partnership with DPR and look forward to continuing to work with them into this new year.
- We ask the D.C. Council **to expand the Urban Forest Preservation Act to have ALL trees of Special and Heritage tree size be included in the law**
- We ask that DPR receive funding for **two additional staff landscape architects** to help create thoughtful tree planting and park designs that are both beautiful and beneficial to the community.
- On the DGS Park and Recreation Center Projects page (www.dgs.dc.gov/page/dgs-park-and-recreation-center-projects), it is challenging for the public to find information about current projects. We appreciate the updates made to the site after our request during the FY2020 Performance hearings, but it is still very difficult to find out about upcoming public meetings or track projects one is interested in. **We ask that DPR with DGS update their project webpage to make it easier for communities to engage in redevelopments in their neighborhood** by creating an email list interested parties could sign up for to receive notifications when updates are made to this page or new meetings are announced. We also recommend including various viewing options. For example, the projects could be sorted by ward, current project phase and/or when they were updated.
- **We ask that DPR work with DOEE on the landscape designs for any parks and recreation center redevelopments to go above and beyond meeting city requirements.** By working with DOEE more closely, DPR can implement Best Management Practice landscape design solutions, biophilic design, pollinator habitats, green corridors and green infrastructure. These projects can help the city to meet the environmental goals set forth in Sustainable DC 2.0, the DC Wildlife Action Plan, Climate Ready DC, the existing DC Comprehensive Plan and the most recent draft Plan and other city-wide plans.
- We ask that DPR, in collaboration with DOEE, DGS and DDOT, **create an organizational flow chart showing who cares for trees in different District spaces**

D.C. OFFICE OF PLANNING (OP) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

SNAPSHOT

Mission and role of OP:

- **Mission:** to guide development of the District of Columbia, including the **preservation** and revitalization **of our distinctive neighborhoods**, by informing decisions, advancing strategic goals, encouraging the highest quality outcomes and **engaging all communities**.
- **Role:** OP performs **planning for neighborhoods, corridors, districts, historic preservation, public facilities, parks and open spaces and individual sites**. In addition, **OP engages in urban design, land use and historic preservation review**. OP also conducts historic resources research and community visioning, and manages, analyzes, maps and disseminates spatial and US Census data.

Key tree-related programming:

- OP is the lead agency in **updating the District's Comprehensive Plan**. The Comprehensive Plan provides a blueprint for long term development in the District and includes policies to preserve trees and green space. This Plan is currently being updated
- OP **helps communities create Small Area Plans** to guide growth and development of our neighborhoods with community input. A full list can be found at <https://bit.ly/2S7EcFq>.
- OP **reviews proposed developments** with the Office of Zoning to ensure they are consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan and any relevant Small Area Plans.

How Casey Trees works with OP:

- Casey Trees staff and volunteers **provide recommendations** to OP during the **Comprehensive Plan** amendment process to ensure that robust policies are in place to protect trees and green space.
- Casey Trees staff and volunteers **provide recommendations** to OP when OP staff are creating **Small Area Plans**. Our recommendations ensure that existing trees and green space are protected and that space is set aside to plant trees and create new parks in these neighborhoods.

Director of OP: Andrew Trueblood

Committee OP falls under: Committee of the Whole

Chairperson to address your testimony to: Chairman Phil Mendelson

Other committee members: All D.C. Councilmembers. A full list can be found at www.dccouncil.us/committees/committee-of-the-whole/

D.C. OFFICE OF PLANNING (OP) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

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- Thank you for adding tree canopy protection and improvement to the various environmental elements of the newest version of the Comprehensive Plan.
- **With the Comprehensive Plan heading toward completion, we ask the Office of Planning to refocus efforts on creating Small Area Plans for ALL neighborhoods.** Small Area Plans are neighborhood level supplements to the Comprehensive Plan. They outline a neighborhood's vision and goals and then provides strategies for meeting them. OP and the Office of Zoning take these plans into account when reviewing developments.
- **Work with ANCs, community groups and other stakeholders to identify underutilized green spaces and work collaboratively with these groups and the landowner to come up with a protection plan** to make these areas "forever green" spaces.

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING (OZ) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

SNAPSHOT

Mission and role of OZ:

- **Mission:** The mission of the DC Office of Zoning (OZ) is to provide administrative, professional, and technical assistance to the Zoning Commission (ZC) and the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) in support of their oversight and adjudication of zoning matters in the District of Columbia.
- **Role:** The agency administers the zoning application processes for the ZC and BZA, reviews and accepts applications, schedules hearings to determine whether cases meet specified zoning criteria, schedules meetings to make determinations with respect to pending applications and issues legal orders.

Key tree-related programming:

- The ZC holds public hearings to review proposed developments that require an amendment to the District's zoning regulations and zoning map. The BZA holds public hearings to review proposed developments that require a special exception from the zoning regulations.
- When the ZC or BZA approves these developments, developers are granted greater flexibility to design outside of the zoning rules they would otherwise be required to follow. For example, developers may be granted allowance to construct a building with a taller height or greater density than is normally allowed in the project's zone.
- In exchange for this flexibility, the developer must provide significant benefits to the community on-site. Anyone can testify at these hearings to ask for new trees or tree preservation as a public benefit in these projects. For example, the developer could set aside land for a community park or provide a streetscape design that manages stormwater with street trees.

How Casey Trees works with OZ:

- Casey Trees staff and volunteers testify at ZC and BZA hearings to request that tree planting, tree protection, or new green space be included in the community benefits packages being offered by developers.

Director of OZ: Sara Benjamin Bardin

Committee OZ falls under: Committee of the Whole

Chairperson to address your testimony to: Chairman Phil Mendelson

Other committee members: All D.C. Councilmembers. A full list can be found at <http://www.dccouncil.us/committees/committee-of-the-whole/>

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING (OZ) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

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- **We ask the Council to support Councilmember Nadeau’s bill, the Development Expertise for ANCs Act** (<https://bit.ly/35EVdul>). This bill will hold developers accountable for the public benefits, such as tree planting and protection and new green spaces, they committed to during zoning hearings.
- The ZC and BZA Hearing Calendar (www.dcoz.dc.gov/service/zcbza-calendar) is an essential resource used by Casey Trees staff and volunteers to track new developments. While it is full of helpful information, it is difficult to navigate. Hearing dates are often changed without notice and file names (e.g. Exhibit A) do not reflect file contents (for example, we may be looking for a landscaping plan or tree survey). **We ask that OZ create a more user-friendly system with file descriptions and the option to follow specific case pages and receive notifications when those case pages are updated.**
- **We ask that the ZC and BZA work more closely with DOEE and DDOT** when reviewing development plans to ensure that each proposed development meets the following plans, policies and regulations:
 - Sustainable D.C. 2.0
 - D.C. Wildlife Action Plan
 - Climate Ready D.C.
 - D.C. Comprehensive Plan
 - The Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002
- **Create a new zoning code that includes a parks and open space zone ensuring that green space is not just an amenity, but a comprehensive necessity in our current and future city.**
- **Expand the Tree and Slope Protection to all areas at risk of erosion.** The Tree and Slope Protection area was designed for residential neighborhoods that have a significant quantity of steep slopes, many mature trees and are located at the edge of a streambed or public open space. Land within this area has development restrictions beyond what the zoning code says. Expanding this to all areas in the District that fit the area description will increase overall resiliency.

TESTIMONY FORMAT

Start with the Why

- Talk about yourself and why the loss of tree canopy matters to you
- Include an anecdote or personal story to paint a picture for why this should matter to your target audience



Back it up

- What are you asking for?
- How can the District achieve the 40 percent tree canopy goal by its initial target date?



State your Recommendation

- Put your recommendations into a bigger context. What data or District plans support what you're advocating for?
- What impact would your recommendations have?