

# DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (DOEE) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

## SNAPSHOT

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### **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 assists DOEE meet its stormwater mitigation goals through the Riversmart Homes, Tree Rebate and related programs/activities, by planting trees on private lots, parks, schools and other non-street-tree areas of the city.

**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
- At Large Councilmember Christina Henderson
- Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
- Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

# DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (DOEE) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

## TESTIMONY

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Today you will be submitting a testimony using this form:

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4877936>

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.

- **Thank you for DOEE's Partnership with Casey Trees**  
DOEE's partnership with CT has resulted in the engagement and education of countless neighbors and volunteers and the planting of thousands of trees throughout the District.
- **Climate Change Mitigation**  
DOEE has excellent maps showing urban heat islands and flood risk in various areas of the District. Using these maps and related data, DOEE should solicit proposals/fund new initiatives to encourage greater community engagement in these highly impacted areas for mitigation strategies such as tree planting, raingarden installation, etc.
- **Preserving Trees through the Green Area Ratio**  
The intent of the Green Area Ratio (GAR) is to ensure that a certain percent of permeable land is retained to allow for the growth of trees and vegetation for stormwater mitigation and cooling. However, instead of incentivizing retention of existing trees, the GAR allows developers to remove existing trees and replace them with other landscape elements that provide lesser environmental benefit. Amending the GAR to encourage tree retention by giving them a higher value will help the District retain existing natural resources that bring the most benefits.
- **Resident Tree Inquiries**  
Because trees are located on all lands – public and private, residents often don't know who to call for a specific issue. To help reduce confusion, we suggest that DDOT/UFD, working with DOEE and related agencies, create a "decision tree" that all agencies' web sites would link to, that would help residents know who to call to help them get their concern resolved quickly.

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

## SNAPSHOT

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### **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 plants and maintains the city's street trees, as well as all other trees on District owned properties such as schools, parks, street medians, etc.
- UFD administers regulations stemming from the Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002 and subsequent legislation, reviews permits and plans to reduce potential to impact trees, and related activities.

### **How Casey Trees works with UFD:**

- Casey Trees' partnership with UFD is strong and healthy. Our groups regularly collaborate on tree planting, tree care, tree production and related field activities.
- Casey Trees assists UFD in writing/updating their Urban Forest Master Plan.
- Casey Trees sponsors UFD's sawmill at Casey Tree Farm in Virginia, where UFD mills boards, benches and other sawn items, giving a second life to dead/dying street trees that would normally be discarded in a landfill.

**Director of DDOT:** Vacant. Prior director – 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
- At Large Councilmember Christina Henderson
- Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
- Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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

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- **Thank you for UFD's Partnership with Casey Trees**  
UFD's partnership with CT has resulted in the engagement and education of countless residents and volunteers and the planting of thousands of trees throughout the District.
- **Street Tree Space Maximization**  
Over the past 15 years through systematic planning and management, the City has increased the number of its street trees from 130,000 to 170,000. With increasing development pressures, these street trees have and will continue to take on greater significance. We therefore request that all new road infrastructure be built in a manner that maximizes size of street tree boxes. The bigger the box the more soil which translates into a healthier, longer lived street trees.
- **Stop Work Order Authority**  
When a UFD arborist sees a tree being damaged or is called to a site where this is occurring, they must act quickly to stop the damaging action(s) to save the tree. However, they cannot do so because they do not have stop work order authority. We therefore ask the D.C. Council to provide UFD stop work order authority to save trees and ensure tree permit requirements are being honored, be it on a development site or related scenario where this might be required to save a tree.
- **Resident Tree Inquiries**  
Because trees are located on all lands – public and private, residents often don't know who to call for a specific issue. To help reduce confusion, we suggest that DDOT/UFD, working with DOEE and DPR agencies, create a "decision tree" that all agencies' web sites would link to, that would help residents know who to call to help them get their concern resolved quickly.

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

## SNAPSHOT

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### **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:**

- As DGS is responsible for the construction and maintenance on all District-owned properties, Casey Trees regularly interacts with them when we plant trees on schools, parks or other public spaces. Casey Trees also regularly provides input on DGS construction plans and community planning efforts to keep a focus on trees.

**Director of DGS:** Keith Anderson

**Committee DGS falls under:** Government Operations and Facilities

**Chairperson to address the testimony to:** Councilmember Robert White

### **Other committee members:**

- Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau
- Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto
- Ward 8 Councilmember Trayon White
- At-Large Councilmember Christina Henderson

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

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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.

- **Intensify Focus on Tree Planting**

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, and increase the number of trees they plant. These trees should be able to withstand the difficult circumstances of a heavily-trafficked area, particularly soil compaction, so they can provide shade for playgrounds for decades to come.

Secondly, as the District buildings of all types are updated to meet the new Building Energy Performance Standards, tree planting should be incorporated into plans and their landscaping as an energy saving measure.

- **Simplify Resident Access to Project Information**

On the DGS Park and Recreation Center Projects webpage, it is difficult to find information about current projects. We ask that DGS & 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.

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

## SNAPSHOT

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### **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 robust relationship with DPR through its Memorandum Of Agreement. Casey Trees hosts classes at DPR facilities and plants trees on DPR properties.
- 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, such as summer camps and the like.
- Casey Trees performs Park Inventories at DPR parks.

**Director of DPR:** Delano Hunter

**Committee DPR falls under:** Recreation, Libraries, and 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 Brienne K. Nadeau
- Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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

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- **Thank you for DPR's Partnership with Casey Trees**  
DPR's partnership with CT has resulted in the engagement and education of countless of neighbors and volunteers, and the planting of thousands of trees in DC parks.
- **Focus on Preserving and Maintaining Parks Greenspace**  
As DPR continues with the process of updating the Ready 2 Play Master Plan, we ask that they focus on preserving and maintaining greenspace as a natural resource, not just as something that can be used for recreation.
- **Simplify Resident Access to Project Information**  
On the DGS Park and Recreation Center Projects webpage, it is difficult to find information about current projects. We ask that DGS & 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.
- **Resident Tree Inquiries**  
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# D.C. OFFICE OF PLANNING (OP) TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

## SNAPSHOT

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### **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/](http://www.dccouncil.us/committees/committee-of-the-whole/)

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

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- **Thanks for Focusing on Tree Protection and Improvement**  
The newest version of the Comprehensive Plan adds tree canopy protection and improvement to the various environmental elements of the newest Plan.
- **Small Area Plans for All Neighborhoods**  
The Comprehensive Plan is moving toward completion, with a renewed emphasis on sustainability, resiliency and land conservation which Casey Trees strongly supports. As a second step, we ask that OP refocus efforts on creating Small Area plans, neighborhood-level supplements to the Comprehensive Plan, with similar levels of environmental emphasis.
- **Set Aside Lands for Conservation**  
The District is developing at a rapid pace, and it risks losing greenspaces that ultimately add to the health of all its residents. Work with ANCs, community groups and other stakeholders to identify underutilized green spaces – especially those that are District-owned, and work collaboratively with these groups and the landowner(s) to come up with a protection plan to make these areas “forever green.”
- **Planned Unit Development (PUD) Review**  
The new Comprehensive Plan rule makes it easy for PUD’s to avoid the community engagement process, which is often where trees and greenspaces issues are identified and dealt with. We urge the Office of Zoning, Office of Planning, Zoning Commission and BZA to require developments that are going through the PUD process to continue working with the neighborhoods to be sure these significant development projects meet tree and greenspace standards expected by the surrounding community.

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

## SNAPSHOT

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### 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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- **Simplify Web-Based Case File Tracking System**

The ZC/BZA Hearing Calendar is an essential resource used by residents and other interested parties to track new developments. It is helpful but very 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.

- **Memorialize the Importance of Greenspace in the Zoning Code**

Create a new Code that includes a Parks and Open Space Zone reflecting the fact that green space is not just an amenity, but a necessity for life in our current and future city.

- **Planned Unit Development (PUD) Review**

The new Comprehensive Plan rule makes it easy for PUD's to avoid the community engagement process, which is often where trees and greenspaces issues are identified and dealt with. We urge the Office of Zoning, Office of Planning, Zoning Commission and BZA to require developments that are going through the PUD process to continue working with the neighborhoods to be sure these significant development projects meet tree and greenspace standards expected by the surrounding community.

- **Preserving Trees through the Green Area Ratio**

The intent of the Green Area Ratio (GAR) is to ensure that a certain percent of permeable land is retained to allow for the growth of trees and vegetation for stormwater mitigation and cooling. However, instead of incentivizing retention of existing trees, the GAR allows developers to remove existing trees and replace them with other landscape elements that provide lesser environmental benefit. Amending the GAR to encourage tree retention by giving them a higher value will help the District retain existing natural resources that bring the most benefits.

# 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?