Strategic Conservation Planning

Rob Northrop
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City of Baltimore
Forest Conservation Planning
City of Baltimore, Reservoir Forests

Landscape context

Loch Raven Reservoir

Changes in land use and demography, 1890 - 1992
Location - Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Watersheds

Northern Piedmont Physiographic Region

City of Baltimore

Reservoir Properties
17,580 acres
City’s Programmatic Goals

1. Protection and enhancement of water quality
2. Maintenance and restoration of regional biological diversity
3. Maximize forest habitat value
4. Provide recreational opportunities compatible with obi. 1 - 3
Plan Development

Review technical assumptions, models and methodologies with scientists and natural resource experts (continued throughout the planning process)

- U.S. Forest Service – NE Research Station
- MD Dept Natural Resources
- Baltimore Ecosystem Study – NSF
- EPA Chesapeake Bay Program
- Baltimore Metro. Council – Reservoir Technical Group
- The Nature Conservancy
Identify model for plan development

Ecological Society of America –

‘The Scientific Basis for Ecosystem Management’

Identifies eight essential components

1. Long-term sustainability
2. Clear operational goals
3. Sound ecological models
4. Understanding complexity and interconnectedness
5. Recognition of the dynamic character of ecosystem
6. Attention to context and scale
7. Humans as ecosystem components
8. Commitment to adaptability and objectives
Identify model for plan development cont’d

(2) Review Literature

(3) Form partnerships with leading technical agencies, private organizations and universities
- U.S. Forest Service N.E. Research Station
- Baltimore Ecosystem Study
- University of New Hampshire
Actively seek opportunities to share the project’s progress with non-technical audiences (examples)

- Upper Western Shore Trib Team
- Patapsco/Back River Trib Team
- Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
- State Forestry Boards
- Friends of Carroll County Streams
- Friends of the Watersheds (City of Baltimore)
City of Baltimore, Reservoir Forests
Ecologically-based Conservation

Programmatic Goals

General Lessons from Ecology

ESA – Ecosystem Management

Operational Goals and Objectives

Context  Ecological Processes

Societal values
Science
Applied research
Application
Goals Identified by the Steering Committee on Urban Forest Sustainability

1. Biodiversity / Habitat
2. Education / Research
3. Forest / Tree Maintenance
4. Public / Private Partnerships
5. Regulation / Incentives
6. Sustainability
Collaboration is necessary for long-term urban forest planning and management.
Guiding Principles Used by City of Tampa 
- derived from Vision Statement and Broad Goals

1. Government Efficiency 
2. Economic Growth 
3. Public - Private Partnerships 
4. Increase the social, environmental and economic benefits of the urban forest by reducing costs 
5. Support Communities 
6. Support Basic Tenets of the City’s Comprehensive Plan
Criteria define essential elements against which urban forest sustainability can be judged. Each criterion is defined by a key objective.

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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Key Objective</th>
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<td>Species suitability for Tampa’s climate zones</td>
<td>Establish a tree population suitable for Tampa’s urban environment and adapted to the regional environment.</td>
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<td>City natural resource and forestry staffing</td>
<td>Employ and train adequate professional staff to implement citywide urban forest management plan.</td>
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<td>General awareness of the urban forest as a community resource</td>
<td>The general public understands the importance of the urban forest to the community.</td>
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<td>City public agency cooperation</td>
<td>Ensure all city departments cooperate with goals and objectives of the UFMP.</td>
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**Performance Indicators**

**Criteria:** Species suitability for Tampa’s climate zones

**Key Objective:** Establish a tree population suitable for Tampa’s urban environment and adapted to the regional environment.

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<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
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<td>Less than 50% of trees are of species considered suitable for Tampa.</td>
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Alternatives for Action

Specific actions, policies or programs (total of 178) expected to incrementally move the performance indicators to the next highest level.

• The complete set was reviewed and edited by all city departments.

• A set of preferred alternatives for action were chosen to guide the first 5-year planning horizon.

• The set of preferred actions and intended outcomes are to become part of the annual departmental operational plans and individual work plans.
Year 1 - Create an **Advisory Committee on Natural Resources**, consisting of a balanced representation of the City’s economic, environmental and social interests, to assist the Planning and Development Department on an annual basis in making recommendations as part of the adaptive management strategy for implementation of the UFMP.

Year 1 - Establish an **Internal Technical Advisory Committee**, comprised of appointed departmental representatives. The committee will meet quarterly to review progress, as part of the adaptive management strategy, identify issues and make recommendations associated with the successful implementation of the UFMP. The Planning Division Manager or Director of Department of Planning and Growth shall chair and facilitate the committee.
20-year Strategic Plan – broken into four 5-year Management Plans
Tampa’s 5-year Cycle of Urban Forest Analysis Provides Critical Information for Assessing the Impact of the Urban Forest Management Program
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