

FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 12, 2016

Dr. William E. Moritz, Director
Department of Natural Resources
525 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Dr. Moritz:

The Forest Management Advisory Committee writes you today to bring your attention to the Urban Forestry Program of the Forest Resources Division (FRD), particularly to express the need to ensure adequate funding for these important programs.

At a recent meeting of the Forest Management Advisory Committee, Mr. Kevin Sayers, of FRD, presented information and an overview of the Urban Forestry Program. It was impressive, both because of its content and because of Mr. Sayers' enthusiasm.

Michigan's urban and community forests build a bridge between the state's urban residents and its natural resources, bringing nature to where the bulk of the people live. Urban forests are a large and living example of these resources within our cities, accounting for 21% of the state's total tree cover. An example of FRD's leadership is its role in the Greening of Detroit, a mapping of the city's tree inventory.

Mr. Sayer's presentation enabled us to see the ecological, social and economic importance of managing tree cover on the large land area covered by our cities. This cover – our "urban forest" – helps maintain air and water quality and moderates ambient temperatures. All these things enhance quality of life for the people and wildlife living in our cities.

Currently the Urban Forestry program is funded almost entirely with federal money. The focus of this letter is to impress upon Department of Natural Resources leadership that if federal funds get reduced, other dollars need to be allocated to maintain funding to ensure that the delivery of program is not decreased from its current level.



Gary Melow, Chair

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The DNR's Urban Forestry program is one of the its little-known programs successes that has impact far beyond what many of us know and understand about this unique forest resource.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Melow
Chair
Forest Management Advisory Committee
989-763-0672

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