Update on Urban Wood Utilization in North Carolina

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Who is Involved?

22 Individuals at the core, over 210 total members:

- Municipalities
- Commercial Arborists
- Mill and Kiln Operators
- University Staff
- NC Forest Service
- Utilities
- NC Urban Forest Council
NC UWG Timeline

- 2010 – idea
- 2011 – gather knowledge, host workshop
- 2012 – host workshop
- 2013 – launch website, meetings, workshops
- 2014 – surveys and study, webinars
- 2015 – begin newsletter, demo, open house
- 2016 – workshop, new website, fair
In this Issue

In this issue we have 2 upcoming workshops, the feature film “City Trees” on Netflix, a webcast re-view and urban trees for power and biochar...

As always, articles and photos are always welcome!!!

My email address is below and at the end of the newsletter for joining or unsubscribing. Please contact me direct for your questions and concerns.
Thanks!
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Have you checked out the Urban Wood Exchange Website yet???
http://www.urbanwoodexchange.org/

The NC Urban Wood Group is a combined effort of the NCFS Urban & Community Forestry Program and the NCUFC
RULES-OF-THUMB FOR IMPROVING LOG VALUE RECOVERY

Look at your log carefully BEFORE bucking!

#1 – Know Your Market

Know your local processors and their standards for species, their preferred lengths and the smallest diameter accepted. Know what you can sell, and to whom. Then cut the log for the longest log possible, without dropping the grade for your target processor.

Before you cut, look carefully to make sure the diameter of the log at the small end is large enough to qualify for the intended log grade. This diameter is the “scaling” diameter which is measured inside the bark. A diameter tape can be used for determining log size before making a cut, but make sure to subtract for bark thickness.

Presentation Matters

Standard Sawlog lengths are:
8’, 10’, 12’, 14’, 16’ plus trim allowance which may be 3-8” depending on the processor. Most processors will not accept less than 12” diameter inside the bark on the small end of the log.

Cut logs to proper lengths without forks, crotches or untrimmed knots.

http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban_wood_resources.htm
www.urbanwoodexchange.org

Southeast Urban Wood Exchange

home  |  about  |  other groups  |  links  |  contact

FIND A PRODUCT
Cut Logs
Milled Lumber
Firewood/chips
Used Equipment

BUSINESS LISTINGS
Hauling
Milling
Lumber
Other

POST A PRODUCT
POST YOUR BUSINESS
TERMS & CONDITIONS

Welcome

The increasing age and maturity of our municipal and urban trees, as well as increasing public awareness, has led to the need for innovative and creative solutions.
Southeast Partners
- NC Urban Forest Council: About Urban Wood
- Trees Virginia: VA Urban Wood Group

Other States
- Illinois
- Michigan
- Wisconsin
- Connecticut
- Vermont
- California
- Urban Wood User’s Resource Guide

Industry Links
- Find a local sawyer
- Dovetail Partners
- Woodweb
- Sustainable Resource Management
- Urban Forest Products Alliance
- State of California: Urban Wood Waste
- Urban Tree Alliance

Municipal Projects
- ElkhartWood: Urban Wood Utilization Program
- Davenport, Iowa: Urban Wood Utilization
- Baltimore Wood Project

Final Product Marketing
- Wood From the Hood
- Urbanwood.org: Southeast Michigan’s Reclaimed Wood Marketplace

Links:
- North Carolina Urban Forest Council
- North Carolina Forest Service

NC Urban Wood Group Newsletter:
- April 2017
- February 2017
- January 2017
- December 2016
- October 2016
- August 2016
- June 2016

Urban Wood Utilization Reports
- Raleigh, NC: Assessment of Municipal Tree Utilization and Urban Forestry Program 2015
- NC Urban Forest Waste Study 2016
- GA Urban Forest Waste Study 2015
- VA Urban Forest Waste Study 2015
- Appalachian State Conference on Urban Wood Utilization 2008

For Energy Use:
- USFS Wood to Energy

For the Arborist:
- Guide to Bucking Urban Wood
- UW Log Grading Information
- Chip Drop
- Free Mulch

For the Small Business Owner:
- USFS Small Business Marketing Guide
- USFS Value Added Marketing Guide
- Running a Small Scale Sawmill Business
- Purdue Use of Urban and Development Site Trees for Lumber
- Small Scale Logging
For all of Southeast

Find Cut Logs:

To find a product, select a state.

Select a state:

- North Carolina
- Georgia
- Virginia
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Oklahoma
- Florida
- Texas
- Louisiana

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40hzB1PdvC8
Small Woodlot and Urban Wood Workshop

- July 26, 2017 in RTP, NC
- Variety of speakers and panel discussions
- ~ 40 attendees
- “… learn and network with others to build long-term viability in North Carolina’s local supply chains for urban and small woodlot trees.”
Barriers and Opportunities

- Sarah Stai from Dovetail Partners
- Handout →

Small Woodlot and Urban Wood Workshop
Archie K. Davis Conference Center, Research Triangle Park, NC
July 25, 2017
Barriers & Opportunities

This overview is based on the following sources. The first source is specific to the Raleigh area, while the other two sources represent a broader, statewide perspective.


- Exchange between Nancy and Dave: Personal communications between Nancy Stairs (North Carolina Forest Service) and Dave Halley (True North Forest Management Services), May 2017.


Barriers to urban tree utilization and potential opportunities for overcoming those barriers fell roughly into three categories:

1. Logistics/Economics
   - (transport, storage, profitability, resilience)

2. Professional Communications
   - (networks, partnerships, stakeholder coordination)

3. Public Outreach
   - (consumer and landowner awareness and education)

The three tables below provide details for each category on the barriers and the opportunities or “barrier busters,” which acknowledge that even when something is the “right thing” to do, it needs to save time, save money, or become a case of “everybody’s doing it.”

Appendix 1 of the Dovetail report is entitled “Issues and Interventions for Raleigh, NC, pertaining to Urban Tree Utilization.” Issues were identified via interviews and conversations with various urban tree utilization stakeholders. The barriers outlined below are based on these issues and are accompanied by the recommended interventions from Appendix 1, with added insight from the exchange between Nancy and Dave and from the Virginia Tech report. Notes from the NC survey findings in the Virginia Tech report are in italics in the tables below.
Overcoming Barriers

(1) Logistics/Economics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BARRIER</th>
<th>POTENTIAL BARRIER BUSTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of space to store/drop trees</td>
<td>Develop more log yards and cooperatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most frequently cited barriers: 1. lack of in-house equipment for processing 2. lack of local processors 3. lack of in-house space for stockpiling</td>
<td>- drop-off points with free/reduced tipping fees, to become utilization centers or &quot;hubs&quot; where multiple products are accepted for sorting, sales, sawing, and/or delivery to mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport efficiency</td>
<td>- discuss pros/cons with existing yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- time = equipment size x small quantities of logs x different product classes (e.g., hardwood sawtimber, pine sawtimber, pine pulpwood)</td>
<td>- explore development of arborists' cooperatives, where costs of establishment and return on investment are shared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ranked most highly: 1. Environmental assets/credible 2. Avoidance of transportation/shipping costs</td>
<td>- consider potential for municipal wood processing plant (similar to landfill)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Avoidance of disposal fees ranked at about half the frequency as avoidance of transportation/shipping costs</strong></td>
<td>There was strong interest in a centralized facility for stockpiling and processing urban wood and an Urban Forest Private Sector Arborists database to network enterprises that can create urban forests</td>
</tr>
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Markets/Profits lity

Private sector arborists agreed more strongly than municipalities that urban wood utilization is important to clients and that it represents a major disposal cost for their operations. Almost half of arborists rated additional revenue as a major incentive, suggesting that more operations might undertake urban wood utilization if markets and networks could be profitably developed.

Resilience/Legacy

Evaluate business:
- Explore cost-avoid log yards/centralize understand economic sites |
- Profile successful! |
- Look at Wisconsin lumber mill that meets structural use on a |

See also: (2) Professional Communications

(2) Professional Communications

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BARRIER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversity of stakeholders</td>
<td>Hold regular meetings of stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Chain: foresters, arborists, processors, arborists, craftsmen, tradesmen, sales</td>
<td>• buy-in vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand Drivers: municipal recycling coordinators and waste managers, state and local governments, planners, consumers</td>
<td>• next step/action item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• stakeholders not connected or having different objectives</td>
<td>• information sharing at (can draw from diversity of) leaders and (requires leadership and)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unfamiliarity with potential suppliers, partners (e.g., whom to contact for milling/drying? can mills come on site to saw live-downs?), or consumers (e.g., where are users of urban wood)?</td>
<td>Build on existing direct NCFS Private Forestry Ss, Farmers, loggers, and/or Ports in Southeast Urban Wood E: Etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• stakeholders not connected or having different objectives</td>
<td>Districts 3, 10, and 10, and for example, Small Wood Loggers, and/or Ports in Southeast Urban Wood E: Etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unfamiliarity with potential suppliers, partners (e.g., whom to contact for milling/drying? can mills come on site to saw live-downs?), or consumers (e.g., where are users of urban wood)?</td>
<td><a href="http://www">http://www</a>. urbanwood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple factors involved in communications</td>
<td>• business listings: arb networks, operations, milling, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• geographic location</td>
<td>The Dovetail report noted drying facilities and referred to Dovetail, and Chicago for a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• private vs. municipal affiliation</td>
<td>Support marketing in the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• knowledge base</td>
<td>TIE into urban wood and owners develop logos, and marketing elements to the service/products, to get</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• how info is received/communicated</td>
<td>umbrella, or to identify a target market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• how problem/responsibility is perceived</td>
<td>See also lay: yard management, Logistics/Economics, etc.</td>
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(3) Public Outreach

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumer awareness/education</td>
<td>Tie into recycling campaigns and &quot;buy local&quot; messages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There was strong agreement about increasing urban wood utilization for environmental reasons</td>
<td>• Can also promote urban tree utilization via universities, cities, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and logistical reasons were slightly more important; regulatory compliance appeared the least important.</td>
<td>• Demand for locally sourced materials can include wood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowner awareness/education</td>
<td>• Incorporate positive message that use of trees from small stands or yards saves energy, supports local businesses, and improves the health of remaining forests (both traditional and urban).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many homeowners/landowners just want to find a home for a tree or trees they have to cut down; some would be willing to give someone the wood if they knew it was going to be used.</td>
<td>Plan for homeowner/landowner education as part of sales and marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowners tend to expect more as far as cleanup (i.e., not wanting a bunch of unmerchantable limbs and branches left behind). They expect anything to be cleaned up and/or chipped up and hauled away but need to understand associated costs.</td>
<td>• Understand some &quot;hand-holding&quot; is needed for small lot owners that are new to tree removal/riparian and not in it for profit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tie in to the young/urban demographic and what is being &quot;sold&quot; (contributing to reusing/recycling efforts, restoring habitat or native species, or improving environmental health) — people are more likely to accept paying for tangible benefits when marketed properly.</td>
<td>• Be able to explain small lot/urban wood economics, including cleanup options with associated costs.</td>
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Coming Up

- LSR Grant
  - Collaborate with VA
  - Working with Dovetail Partners
  - Develop a certification process that creates a consistent message encouraging public confidence in the sustainability of urban wood and increase demand
Thank You

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