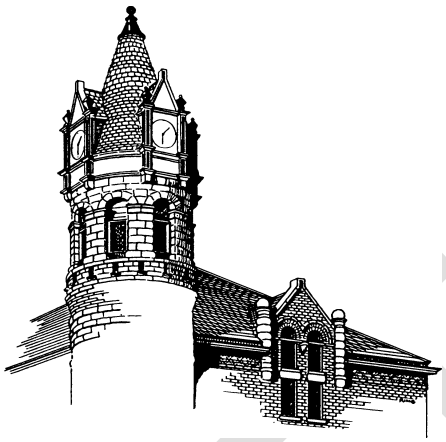

City of Stoughton Urban Wood Utilization Program

Adopted:

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Program Overview

The goal of the Urban Wood Utilization Program (Program) is to utilize wood that is harvested from the City's urban forest. Oftentimes, trees are simply ground into woodchips, cut into firewood or taken to a compost facility. Disposal of woodchips and logs can come at a significant cost. By taking the usable logs from trees and turning them into lumber, the city can realize cost-savings while also saving this material from the landfill.

Wood Chips

A large portion of each tree removed from city property is converted into woodchips, which are used in a variety of ways. Residents can obtain free woodchips for private use, from easily accessible piles at a city park. Public Works staff operates a compost facility where wood chips are incorporated into the compost. The city utilizes wood chips as mulch around the base of city trees to prevent weed growth and provide nutrients to the soil. Excess chips are often donated to local farmers and residents (upon request) to use as compost and mulch.

Logs

When applicable, quality logs from the stem or canopy of city owned trees shall be set aside for future use. Logs will be sawn into boards and kiln-dried for use in a variety of projects. The City Forester shall make the final decision on which trees will be salvaged and sawn into lumber. The milling of logs should be done at a city-owned facility when possible to avoid transport time and cost.

Milled Boards

Once logs are sawn into lumber, the boards will be dried in the solar kiln (which the city operates through a partnership with the local FFA Alumni chapter). Kiln-dried boards generated from city trees can be used in a variety of ways. Public Works vehicles and trailers are outfitted with different size boards for various purposes- these can be made from city trees instead of being purchased. Road barricades are often constructed from lumber and should also be produced with city trees whenever possible.

Wood Sales

Senior Center Wood Sales

The Senior Center Woodshop offers lumber cut from city owned trees to the public. A "Suggested Donation" shall be collected at this time. Suggested Board Foot prices shall be provided by the Tree Commission for raw material sales. Funds generated by raw material sales shall be split between the Tree Commission Fund (75%) and the Senior Center Woodshop Fund (25%). Funds generated through production of Value Added Products, such as donations from the rosemalers, shall be split between the Senior Center Woodshop Fund (75%) and the Tree Commission Fund (25%).

Other Wood Sales

The City may utilize local vendors to sell wood generated through this Program at an affordable cost whenever possible. Funds generated by the sale of lumber to local vendors shall be deposited into the Tree Commission Fund.

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When surplus or excess inventory exists, the city may also utilize online or in-person auctions and sales to sell wood generated through this Program to the public. Any funds generated by auctions shall be deposited into the Tree Commission Fund.

Revenue Utilization

The Tree Commission Fund shall be used to pay for items such as milling of logs, and the purchase or maintenance of equipment used specifically for this Program. Additional community focused expenditures directly related to this Program and Stoughton's urban forestry program may also be paid for with this fund. All expenditures from this fund will be reviewed by the Tree Commission.

The Senior Center Woodshop Fund is used to supply the woodshop with necessary equipment to enable its operations. Additionally, the Woodshop Fund could be used to assist in paying for milling costs.

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