From Streets to Sawmills: Reclaiming Urban Wood

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Outline

Background Information
Current Issues
Reclaiming Urban Wood
Success Stories
Future Directions

Urban Wood

- Compost
- Mulch
- Furniture
- Novelties

growok.com, urbanwoodgoods.com, woodfromthehood.com, csmonitor.com
Urban Wood Utilization

- Dutch Elm Disease (DED)

- 1989 Waste Management Act
Urban Wood Utilization

- Dutch Elm Disease (DED)
- 1989 Waste Management Act
  - The Twin Cities area
  - 226,000 tons tree residue yearly
  - 85,000 tons in logs
  (Sherrill, 2003)

Wasted Wood

- Storm Damage
- Land Development
- Arboriculture Practices
- Invasive Pests

Sources of Wood Waste

theridgeviewblog.net, en.paperblog.com
Sherrill, 2003

politicalcartoons.com, broadbeninc.com, livingwithinsects.wordpress
Emerald Ash Borer: The Current Issue

• Ash spp. popular tree for developed areas
  – Chicago 289 ash trees/ha (Kovacs et al., 2009)
• Affect healthy Ash trees

Emerald Ash Borer: The Current Issue

• Ash spp. popular tree for developed areas
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• Affect healthy Ash trees
• 2010-2020: $12.5 billion to treat or remove and replace (Kovacs et al., 2011)
• Current status of EAB?

21 million tonnes in wood waste
12 million tonnes from urban trees (McKeever and Skog, 2003)
How can we get value from this wood waste?

How can we implement urban timber harvesting in my community?

Reclaiming Urban Wood

Success Stories

Wood from the Hood
- Minneapolis, MN

The Urbanwood Project
- Ann Arbor, MI

[websites]
Wood From the Hood

- Minneapolis 2005
- Lumber (8/4, 4/4), flooring, specialty orders, novelty items
- Partnered with local arborists
- Tag every product with zip code
- Have Coop with local grocery stores
- The “Buy Local” Market

The Urbanwood Project

- Ann Arbor 2005
- Focus: “Recycle dead urban trees, especially those killed by EAB”
- Recycle from municipal tree crews and private tree care companies
- 6 local sawmill partners
- 3 Retail locations in SE Michigan
  - Ann Arbor
  - Flint
  - Haslett

Urbanwood products: A sustainable choice that supports communities in Southeast Michigan
Keys to Success

• Cooperative effort
• Consistent and multiple wood sources
• Specialty orders
• Get the public excited

Future Directions

• Urban Tree Waste is not declining
  – Invasive pests, storms, and harsh environment
• Sustainable living and buying local
  – Becoming the norm
• Develop Cooperative Agreements
  – Partnering to offset costs

References

Figure References

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Questions?