

Urban Forest Project Protocol V2.0 Public Comment

April 2014

I am a member of the UF Protocols Revisions Workgroup and I would like to acknowledge John Nickerson and his associates and the committee for all of their hard work over the past year. This was an interesting labor and a labor of love for many.

I agree with Cindy Blain's comments, and those of Dr. Greg McPherson and Mark McPherson. Even though the new draft protocols are improved and maintain their rigor and ensure permanence, appropriate documentation and verification, etc., the economic, legal and logistical hurdles are still too great to enroll significant participation.

I hope that these issues can be revisited (perhaps by another group) still maintaining all legally required rigor, in a newly creative way, to revise the protocols further to create an affordable, realistically implementable version that cities and communities will embrace.

And though I may be getting out in front of myself, it makes sense to offer the new UF protocol application in a modern, user-friendly, web-based interface where the steps are laid out for the applicant with links to important references and resources embedded for easy access and use.

I would like to echo Cindy Blain's request to bring the committee together again, as was originally planned, for a discussion looking at this outcome as it is now and what realistic, workable alternatives may exist.

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