

Thomas, Karen (OP)

From: Gary Moll [gmoll@amfor.org]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2004 1:50 PM
To: 'karen.thomas@dc.gov'
Cc: Cheryl Kollin
Subject: Tree Cover

Karen, it has been a couple months since you wrote American Forests about DCs plans to use tree cover as one of the parameters for building. Sorry my response has taken so long. We support the approach you are taking, but do not engage in local politics. We feel you and people from the local community will be better at that issue. I did testify when the Tree Bill was up for discussion, but that is about as far as we can go. We can help with the targets, goals, techniques etc. but don't have the capacity to join in the local political process.

That said, I think you are on the right track with the legislation. Measuring tree cover is the right way to go and the percentage tree cover for the various areas listed in your email all seem in line with our general recommendation of 35 to 40% tree cover overall. My only specific comment would be on 1517.9. It says that an ISA certified arborist or Landscape Architect need to approve the tree cover. While I hope most people with a tree covered lot would use one of the two above, it seems appropriate in this case to measure the tree cover from an aerial photo using standard GIS or image analysis techniques. This approval could be done by using the green data layer maintained by the planning department, or the builder could provide a more recent photograph to prove the point. If the green data layer is available on the cities server, anyone could look at the significant data at any time.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
DATE 02/19
FILE 354
CASE NO. 02-19
EXHIBIT NO. 354