

From: Tracy Dewit <tracydewit@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 23, 2019 3:13 PM
To: Eric Lee <ELee@cityofdavis.org>
Cc: Robert Cain <RCain@cityofdavis.org>
Subject: Downtown Davis Specific Plan - Comments

Hello Eric,

I hope you are doing well.

I will attend the Dec 4, 2019 Opticos presentation about the Downtown Davis Specific Plan (DDSP).

As a City of Davis Tree Commissioner, here are my comments regarding TREES in the DDSP.

- 1) In nearly every sketch or photo of the [Draft Downtown Davis Specific Plan](#) it show a tree(s).
- 2) Yet, according Google Docs word finder, the word 'tree' or 'trees' is listed only 22 times in the 256 page document. Listed below is the page number that has the word 'tree(s)'. Besides listing why we need trees in our community, anyone can plainly see, the document grossly lacks important details regarding the preservation and sustainability of trees.
 - pg 23 - Street **trees** provide shade over many sidewalks.
There are over 80 landmark **trees**.
 - pg 42 - Shade **Trees**. Shade **trees** reduce energy demand by shading buildings.
 - pg. 43 - Shade **Trees**. Shade **trees** reduce heat island effect of taller and larger buildings.
 - pg 44 - **Trees** and Urban Greenery
 - pg 52 - **Trees**, seating, lighting and activities, such as food trucks, are enough to create a vibrant community gathering space.
 - pg 63 - Design the public realm incorporating **trees**, green infrastructure, and shade strategies to support walking and cycling, as well as outdoor recreation and dining.
 - pg 106 - Today, the University Avenue-Rice Lane neighborhood is an established low-intensity residential neighborhood and has a distinct character, with mainly house-form structures along **tree**-lined streets.
 - pg 137 - G) Street **Trees**. Select species that thrive in urban environments, provide shade and beauty, and reduce air pollution.
 - pg 140 - Incorporate pervious pavements, bioswales, street **trees**, and other green infrastructure elements into thoroughfare design whenever possible.
 - pg 149 - street scape elements such as bike racks and street **trees**.

pg 152 - Elements such as street trees, vegetation, utilities, sign poles, sandwich boards, outdoor seating/dining, trash cans, and other streetscape amenities should be contained within the sidewalk frontage zone or furniture zone so as to not obstruct the through zone.

pg 176 - installation on existing buildings or with a mix of shrubs, trees, pathways, and benches to be a valuable amenity for building tenants and the public.

pg 185 - No new street trees have been included in these demand projections.

pg 187 - In this scenario, all landscaping (excluding street trees) is replaced by drought-resistant planting, reducing estimated total water demand to 157 AFY, equivalent to 65 gpcd and 50 percent lower than the City's existing average of 130 gpcd.

pg 215 - Design all streets to maximize opportunities to support natural ecosystems and urban greenery; protecting existing trees, planting new trees, and incorporating shade strategies wherever feasible.

pg 224 - Graywater plan: Integrated water collection and reuse through descending uses and support landscaped greenery (e.g. shade trees and interstitial habitat).

pg 236 - Street Tree. A tree of any species or size planted in open spaces, parkways, sidewalk areas, easements, and streets.

Some of the economic benefits trees provide are listed in this document include shade, beauty, reducing air pollution, supports walking and dining and outdoor activities, and reducing heat island effect of taller and larger buildings. There is NO supporting documentation that guides the way we attain these many goals initiated by healthy living trees. Therefore, in my opinion, the DDSP misses the mark when it comes to promoting a *positive* memorable identity, sustainable *and functional* infrastructure, resilient *and enjoyable* economy, historical preservation, and *good* health simply because trees are literally not apart the plan.

This plan simply assumes that trees will be apart of our future. If we want to actually attain the 6 goals listed in this plan, then we need to actually make trees a priority and include the **preservation** and **proper planting protocol of trees**. In fact, at the very least, there should be line items dedicated to Trees in the Index. This page should state how to preserve trees and how to plant them for sustainability as well as when guidelines are not followed properly, a penalty or monetary fine(s) for each mistreated tree should be implemented and followed.

To improve quality of life for all, we must make trees a priority and treat them as a **true living asset**, attending and maintaining their health and wellness with an unwavering priority in every single development in this community.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Tracy De Wit