

# Using Urban Wood: What's Everybody Else Doing?

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# Alternative Approaches

- The location, market, quality, and species of your urban timber provides you with distinct advantages and disadvantages.
  - Nearby industrial wood processors, or lack of.
  - Invasive insects or wood species
  - Established craft industry, or lack of.
  - State, local, extension assistance, or lack of.



# Alternative Approaches

- Because local solutions and practices have evolved around the local environment ---

Successful approaches to urban forestry can vary significantly and depend on local creativity.

Here are some approaches taken from around the country...



# Sarasota, Florida

[WoodSlabs.com](http://WoodSlabs.com)

- Invasive tropical species susceptible to tropical storm and hurricane damage.
- One company, Advantage Lumber, is sawing slabs from the tropical urban wood and marketing them locally and nationally on line.



Indian Rosewood



# Sarasota, Florida

[WoodSlabs.com](http://WoodSlabs.com)

- Advantage is a traditional brick and mortar supplier that expanded to take advantage their urban wood situation offered.
- They say that business is starting to take-off.



Monkey Pod



# Warwick, New York

[newyorkheartwoods.com](http://newyorkheartwoods.com)

- New York Heartwoods founded to:
  - Reduce volume of trees going into the landfill
  - Create local jobs and regenerate local economy
  - Build relationships that maximize value of “waste” trees.





# Warwick, New York

[newyorkheartwoods.com](http://newyorkheartwoods.com)

- Several aspects to their business:
  - LUMBER & LIVE EDGE SLABS: green, air- or kiln-dried. Rough-sawn or planed.
  - DECOR & DISPLAYS for retail stores and events.
  - MISC. FOREST PRODUCTS: branches, stumps, vines, etc.
  - TABLE RENTALS: slab tops for weddings and other events
  - CUSTOM FURNITURE: tables, shelves, stools, etc





# Philadelphia, PA



- Extensive and oldest city park system in the nation.
- Over 11,200 acres of parks. Fairmount park is 4,167 acres. Managed since 1850's.
- 2.1 million trees, including 135,000 street trees.





# Philadelphia, PA



- Has wide range of log quality.
- Educating fellers and crews how to cut saw and sort logs.
- Working to demonstrate the value and potential of their resource.





# Philadelphia, PA



- Just starting to develop a plan to utilize logs by the city.
- They have a large workshop that has the potential to utilize large amounts of urban wood for the city.
- Cooperating with local businesses to develop markets for logs.





# Baltimore County, MD

[www.baltimorewoodproject.org](http://www.baltimorewoodproject.org)

- Project is a partnership between the city, local municipalities, US Forest Service, Maryland DNR, and local entrepreneurs.
- Sorting and sawing of higher-quality and valued logs as well as reclaimed timber from demolition.
- Estimated 42,500 tons of wood waste yearly.
- Scheduled to receive a dehumidification dry kiln.



**Baltimore Office  
of Sustainability**  
People · Planet · Prosperity



# Baltimore County, MD

- Main driving force for Baltimore County, is increase public awareness of importance of their urban forest.
- Plans to achieve a 50% forested Baltimore.





# Michigan



**Urbanwood.org**

Southeast Michigan's  
Reclaimed Wood Marketplace

- Unique marketing approach for urban forest products.
- Partnership between:
  - Southeast MI Resource Cons. & Dev. Council
  - Recycle Ann Arbor
  - Michigan DNR
  - USDA Forest Service WERC





# Michigan



**Urbanwood.org**

Southeast Michigan's  
Reclaimed Wood Marketplace

- Originally a response to EAB outbreak.
- Mills and partners have joined to share marketing responsibilities, create new retail markets.
- Since retail market inception, sales are grew 60% second year, 80% third year.
- A second store was opened in 2012.
- Seeking affiliates outside MI.







# Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Urban Wood project is an affiliate of [urbanwood.org](http://urbanwood.org)
- Wisconsin Urban Wood is a network of independent businesses and nonprofit organizations recycling urban trees back into the social and economic lives of Wisconsin communities.







# Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Urban Wood has 9 retail locations across WI.
- Data for architects to make it easier to incorporate urban wood into projects.
- State DNR web site lists urban forestry /wood utilization consultants.
- Makes it easy to find assistance.

## Urban and community forests

### Start or Improve

a municipal forestry program.

### Apply

for an Urban Forestry grant.

### Prepare

your community for emerald ash borer using the EAB Toolbox.

### Explore

Wisconsin's urban forests.

## Related grants

- ➔ [Urban forestry grant overview](#)
- ➔ [Regular grants](#)
- ➔ [Startup grants](#)
- ➔ [Catastrophic storm grants](#)

## Contact information

[DNR urban forestry staff](#)



# California

- CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry has substantial grant opportunities for urban wood utilization. ([www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov))
- CAL FIRE has established significant forestry and utilization campaign and partnership network.





# California

- Far West Forest products specializes in urban, salvaged and reclaimed timber.
- Products marketed to up-scale furniture and cabinet crafters and architectural firms.



Price: \$930.00

SKU#: FW051916-1

1

Add to Cart



# Illinois

[illinoisurbanwood.org](http://illinoisurbanwood.org)

- Goal: To encourage the harvesting and use of wood from urban and community trees felled in Illinois.
- Funded by USDA Forest Service WERC
- Team: State and federal officials and industry leaders support a network of urban foresters, municipalities, landowners, wood processors, green builders, economic development organizations and end users.





# Industrial Influences

- Wood-Mizer is a strong industrial supporter of urban forestry.
- Encourages small business startup's to process urban trees.

“... diseased and dying city trees can find new life in a piece of furniture that could have otherwise gone to waste. Throughout the past decade, Wood-Mizer has seen a major influx of successful businesses who are utilizing urban sourced wood for their sawmilling operations and we are proud to manufacture a product that enables small businesses to be profitable with an underutilized resource. ...”



# Industrial Influences

- Woodmizer maintains a contact list that make it easier to find sawyers to process urban trees.



# Summary

- Lumber from urban trees can have a great character. Very distinct when compared to commercially sawn lumber.
- One key to success will depend on innovative marketing solutions.



# Summary

- Marketing street tree saw logs and products depends on locating cooperative mills and firms in your area.
  - Sawmills
  - Architectural
  - Craft
  - Artistic
  - Pulp/Paper mills
  - OSB
  - Pellet Fuel / Bio Fuel





# Summary

Don't overlook the emotional aspect.

- Wood evokes emotion.
- Urban wood and forest products, more so.

Urban forest product end consumers are not looking for a flawless object.





# Summary





# Questions?

