

I'M YELLING TIMBER!



The PPR Urban Forestry and Ecosystem Mgmt staff teamed up with the Fairmount Park Conservancy to convert urban logs into useable lumber. A portable sawmill, operated by a local sawyer (Gene Hamilton) was hired to saw logs at the District 3 yard (off of Henry Ave) and at the Greenland Nursery, in West Fairmount Park.

Approximately 50 large diameter logs were sawed into roughly 8000 board feet of high quality lumber, during three intensive days of sawing. Species of trees sawed included white ash, black locust and oak, walnut and tulip poplar. Many of these trees are recovered from storm damage cleaned up from city parkland while the majority of the ash trees were provided from the ash tree removal project, which is being conducted in anticipation of the arrival of the emerald ash borer. The EAB will kill all untreated ash trees within the next 5-10 years.

Much of the lumber was sawed into 2" X 12" by 10' length timbers that will be used by the FarmPhilly program to construct raised garden beds. Providing these timbers will defray a significant cost of creating raised beds. This project highlighted the possibilities for producing truly high quality lumber from our urban logs which would otherwise be converted to mulch!

