



**CITY OF  
TUMWATER  
TREE BOARD  
MEETING AGENDA**

**Online via Zoom and In Person at  
Tumwater City Hall, Sunset Room, 555  
Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA 98501**

**Monday, November 10, 2025  
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Changes to Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
  - [a.](#) December 9, 2024 Tree Board Minutes
  - [b.](#) February 10, 2025 Tree Board Minutes
  - [c.](#) March 10, 2025 Tree Board Minutes
  - [d.](#) April 14, 2025 Tree Board Minutes
  - [e.](#) September 9, 2025 Tree Board Minutes
5. Tree Board Member Reports
6. Manager's Report
7. Public Comment
- [8.](#) Urban Forestry Management Plan Action Report
- [9.](#) Draft 2026 Sustainability Division Work Plan
- [10.](#) Draft 2026 Tree Board Meeting Schedule
11. Next Meeting Date - 01/12/2025
12. Adjourn

**Meeting Information**

The public are welcome to attend in person, by telephone or online via Zoom.

**Watch Online**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_M3\\_-NdnCTMW5vlaL26mSgg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M3_-NdnCTMW5vlaL26mSgg)

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**Public Comment**

The public is invited to attend the hearing and offer comment. The public may register in advance for

this webinar to provide comment: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_M3\\_-NdnCTMW5vlaL26mSgg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M3_-NdnCTMW5vlaL26mSgg)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The public may also submit comments prior to the meeting by sending an email to: [AJonesWood@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:AJonesWood@ci.tumwater.wa.us). Please send the comments by 1:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting. Comments are submitted directly to the Commission/Board Members and will not be read individually into the record of the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Sustainability Coordinator Alyssa Jones Wood at (360) 754-4140 or [AJonesWood@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:AJonesWood@ci.tumwater.wa.us).

### **Post Meeting**

Video of this meeting will be recorded and posted on our City Meeting page: <https://tumwater-wa.municodemeetings.com>.

### **Accommodations**

The City of Tumwater takes pride in ensuring that people with disabilities are able to take part in, and benefit from, the range of public programs, services, and activities offered by the City. To request an accommodation or alternate format of communication, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator directly, call (360) 754-4129 or email [ADACoordinator@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:ADACoordinator@ci.tumwater.wa.us). For vision or hearing impaired services, please contact the Washington State Relay Services at 7-1-1 or 1-(800)-833-6384.

### **What is the Tree Board?**

The Tumwater Tree Board is a citizen advisory board that is appointed by and advisory to the City Council on urban forestry issues, including drafting and revising a comprehensive tree protection plan or ordinance, or any other tree matter. Actions by the Tree Board are not final decisions; they are Board recommendations to the City Council who must ultimately make the final decision. If you have any questions or suggestions on ways the Tree Board can serve you better, please contact the Community Development Department at (360) 754-4180.

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING  
DECEMBER 9, 2024 PAGE 1**

**CONVENE:** 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Trent Grantham and Boardmembers, Alex Chacon, Brent Chapman, Brodrick Coval. Michael Jackson, Tanya Nozawa, and Jim Sedore.

Staff: Planning Manager Brad Medrud, Sustainability Coordinator Alyssa Jones Wood, Engineering Services Manager Bill Lindauer, Associate Planner Dana Bowers, and Maintenance Worker 1 – Landscaper Chase Olson.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**JULY 8, 2024 TREE BOARD MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Boardmember Coval moved, seconded by Boardmember Sedore, to approve the minutes of July 8, 2024 as published. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.

**TREE BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** Coordinator Jones Wood introduced new member Alex Chacon. Boardmember Chacon described his education and professional experience. Boardmembers introduced themselves and shared information on their professional background and interest in urban forestry.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Coordinator Jones Wood reported on the recent approval a fulltime position of Urban Forester in the City budget. Funding was also included for study materials and Arborist certification for three staff members in Utilities and for deferred maintenance of City urban and community forest properties.

Coordinator Jones Wood displayed photos of a recent tree pruning workshop for 25 City employees from Parks and Recreation and Utilities. The workshop was provided by the Department of Natural Resources.

Manager Medrud introduced Associate Planner Dana Bowers who recently joined the City. She previously was a planner at Thurston County.

Manager Medrud reported on the delay of reviewing urban forestry amendments because of resources necessary to complete the update of the Comprehensive Plan and the new Climate Element. Many of the new policies supporting those plans will be important as work resumes on any amendments to the urban forestry codes. Internal drafts of the landscaping code, tree and vegetation protection code, and street trees were completed during the initial review. At that point, staff reviewed the state's Wildland-Urban Codes currently in process by the Legislature. However, proposed legislation created

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conflicts with the City's codes resulting in delaying the implementation of the City's code updates to work with the state on changes to the code and to include more accurate maps. The next step is to reinstate the review process in 2026 rather than as initially scheduled in 2025.

Planner Bowers introduced herself to the Board. She was previously employed by Thurston County. She led the process for adoption of the Forestland Conversion Code for the county to protect trees in the county from development.

Boardmember Sedore commented on the quandary the delay creates as the City is obligated to enforce existing codes while development proposals continue to be processed under older standards that do not meet desired standards. Manager Medrud said the delay is unfortunate as staff is resource limited and there are many issues that are problematic. The City is guided by state-mandated changes that consume resources from other work items in addition to handling competing interests within the City. Permitting staff work closely with developers to ensure adherence to City codes.

Boardmember Chapman asked staff to speak to the difference between a variance and an exemption within the development code. It appears there might be some capacity for permit reviewers to utilize current codes and standards and grant fewer exemptions and/or variances. Manager Medrud described how the current code enables exemptions that likely should have been permitted outright. The presentation to the Board by Planner Baruch speaks to why staff is proposing changes to the code to address the issue formally to avoid the appearance that staff continues to issue exemptions and variances for development to proceed. The approvals are not for issues that are outside of the code but do enable the exercise of elements in the current code to enable proponents to pursue a development proposal, otherwise denials of applications could likely lead to legal challenges.

Coordinator Jones Wood addressed questions on the responsibilities of the Urban Forester position, as well as how the position will be funded moving forward to include grant responsibilities the position must satisfy. The Urban Forester will focus on implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Plan and developing incentive programs associated with the River Network Grant. Grant requirements include hiring the urban forester, deploying heat sensors throughout the community, obtaining data on urban heat and relative humidity, and developing three incentive programs. Currently, the plan for utilizing funds from the Tree Fund has not been developed primarily due to the lack of staff capacity.

Several Boardmembers expressed concerns with no progress on planting more trees funded from the Tree Fund and requested follow-up by other staff on future plans to utilize the funds to plant more trees in Tumwater. Boardmember Chapman conveyed interest in helping to support efforts by

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staff. Coordinator Jones Wood explained that the approval of the new budget includes other indirect positions to help support plantings and maintenance by staff by the addition of maintenance staff in the Facilities Department. The Urban Forester position is responsible for urban forestry. The Parks and Recreation Department has planted some replacement trees that died or were damaged.

Boardmember Coval expressed concerns about the under-utilization of the Tree Board. He questioned how the Board could be better utilized and leveraged during the pause of the code amendments. Coordinator Jones Wood shared that Boardmember Nozawa communicated with her earlier about the same concerns. She suggested deferring the conversation until later in the meeting during the Board's responsibility discussion and ways the Board can contribute and support efforts.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no public comments.

**DISCUSSION –  
URBAN FORESTRY  
MANAGEMENT  
PLAN** Coordinator Jones Wood introduced staff members representing the City's Community Development, Parks & Recreation, Transportation & Engineering, and Water Resources & Sustainability departments.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Coordinator Jones Wood shared a spreadsheet on the status of items in the Urban Forestry Management Plan that were delayed and not completed this year or in prior years:

**ACTION**

Support and incentivize the use of large-canopy trees in appropriate areas to provide maximum benefits.

**STATUS**

The action is scheduled to begin after code amendment updates have been completed, as it includes a new approved and prohibited tree species list.

*The Board questioned the delay as a street tree list was previously developed. Coordinator Jones Wood advised that there was some disagreement with some species on the list. The list will be revisited as part of the code amendment process. Boardmember Coval cited a California university's development of a list of climate appropriate species of urban trees. He asked about any comparable effort in the state. Coordinator Jones Wood advised of Puget Sound climate adaptive tree list. The City's draft street tree list was assessed by an intern at the Evergreen State college who offered suggestions on the removal of some trees species. The list was also reviewed by Department of Natural Resources staff from the Urban and Community Forestry program. Some progress was achieved on the draft. The revised list will be presented to the Board for review and discussion.*

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Implement, in coordination with the Noxious Weed Board and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), an invasive flora and fauna species control strategy citywide to safeguard the health of the community and urban forest.

*Boardmember Coval questioned the use and intent of “incentivize” within the action. Boardmember Sedore explained that during assessments, more credits for development proposals were assigned to existing larger trees, which speaks to the “incentive” for developers to either retain larger trees or replant with larger tree. Manager Medrud added that older trees have greater value for a variety of reasons. The intent was to incentivize through that specific method.*

*Parks staff are in contact with the Noxious Weed Board when issues arise on City park properties, but not proactively.*

*The Board questioned the process for development of a policy or procedure. Staff advised of the process to identify as many noxious or invasive species to the extent possible and remove the plants mechanically. In some instances the use of herbicides is used. The City has not implemented a plan to replace treated areas with native plants because of the lack of staff capacity.*

*The Board discussed whether staff employs current best practices for park operations and the necessity of creating or specifying specific practices to utilize currently accepted best practices. Staff noted that the department has not adopted standards for using best practices other than following the National Recreation Parks Association standards, which the department is implementing.*

*Staff and Boardmembers discussed the process of developing a policy/procedure or as alternative, developing a standard operating procedure using resources from the Noxious Weed Board. Staff pointed out that the process could result in some disagreement with Noxious Weed Board information and that a better source could be obtained from the Noxious Weed Boards in King and Snohomish Counties. Many factors are involved when developing either a policy or procedure.*

*Chair Grantham recommended contracting with a consultant to develop any plan/procedure.*

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Coordinate with the Fire Department on actions to minimize fire risks associated with urban forestry.

Remove trees and understory in specific situations identified in the Tumwater Annex to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region to guard against wildfire.

Develop a program to work with public and private property owners in maintaining and providing for public safety with the community and urban forest.

Regularly review and update the Public Works standards, the Development Guide, and facilities procedures for the maintenance of City trees and the community and urban forest and modify to reflect best tree management practices and employee safety.

Review the Urban Forestry Management Plan regularly to monitor its progress, maintain its schedule, revise based on new information, and ensure that it is working with other City strategic priorities, plans, and regulations.

Use adaptive management to review the effectiveness of specific Actions during the Urban Forestry Management Plan timeline.

Develop a stable funding source and budget for maintenance of natural forests on City lands such as critical or shoreline areas and their buffers and other such areas.

The Fire Department plans to begin working soon on the Hazard Mitigation Plan that has been adopted.

Track annual removals, The Fire Department plans to begin working soon on the Hazard Mitigation Plan that has been adopted.

*In response to questions about the specific areas, Manager Medrud explained that the intent is identifying structures or areas that have a higher risk factor for wildfire.*

Evaluate effectiveness of the program as compared to the Goals, Objectives, and Actions of the Plan.

*Coordinator Jones Wood recommended delaying the action until the Urban Forester is hired to develop the program of working with public and private property owners.*

The action was delayed until the code amendments are finalized as they will inform the changes in the Development Guide and Public Works Standards, as well as the Drainage Design and Erosion Control Manual as it includes some tree and plant species as often prescribed by the Department of Ecology.

The action was delayed until the Urban Forester is hired. However, the tree canopy assessment is scheduled next year, which will inform the update of the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Funding was provided for data purchases with GIS capacity available in 2025 to conduct the assessment.

Action is pending on the hiring of the Urban Forester.

*Deferred maintenance of street trees and trees in parks was prioritized in the draft 2025-2026 budget. Systematic rather than reactive maintenance for natural forests and critical areas was delayed.*

*The Board suggested pursuing grants from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for maintenance. Coordinator Jones Wood advised that DNR funds maintenance but it is a lower priority in the criteria for funding.*

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Actively maintain the City Tree webpage to educate the public on the importance of trees, property care and maintenance, and other tree related information.

Evaluate webpage after codes have been updated to reflect new or changed information.

*Boardmember Sedore recommended considering other forms of communication to streamline and provide current information to the public without reliance on the webpage related to the urban forester. Staff responded with information on the lengthy process involved for public outreach and communications.*

*The Board offered an opportunity for the Board to develop similar information that is presented as the Board's recommendations/information rather than the City's to avoid a rigorous process. Manager Medrud offered that it would be appropriate for the Urban Forester to review the current webpage on trees as the information reflects what is in the code. There likely are opportunities to add more information on tree care and other resources instead of delaying until the code amendments are completed.*

*Discussion ensued on the number of visitors to the webpage. Suggestions were offered to confer with other jurisdictions with similar webpages.*

*Planner Bowers reviewed desired formats for urban forestry-focused webpages.*

*Coordinator Jones Wood reviewed the City's current tree webpage, with most of the information related to the code. It is possible to add some additional educational resources.*

Establish administrative procedures to enhance City interdepartmental communications and aid in the further success of the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Delayed pending the hiring of the Urban Forester.

Formalize relationships with organizations and green industries that share common aims affecting community and urban forest sustainability.

Delayed pending the hiring of the Urban Forester.

*Prior to joining the City, Planner Bowers was organizing an urban forestry roundtable for Thurston County forestry. The City's Urban Forester will be instrumental in pursuing relationships.*

Work with local tree and landscape contractors, as well as retail and wholesale

Delayed pending the hiring of the Urban Forester.



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landscaping firms, to stock trees suitable for the urban environment

Use the City website and social media for periodic articles on the proper care and maintenance of trees on public and private property. Delayed pending the hiring of the Urban Forester to benefit from their forestry expertise.

Identify tree specimens, including heritage trees, on City property that illustrate proper tree care and discuss in articles on the City website and social media. Delayed pending the hiring of the Urban Forester to benefit from their forestry expertise and after the code amendments.

Coordinator Jones Wood addressed questions on the status of the Davis Meeker oak tree. A second tree assessment is scheduled pending permit approval from the state. No invasive testing can be completed as part of the assessment without a state permit. The second forester was hired and has completed some preliminary work on the assessment.

The Board discussed the lack of the communication about the status of the tree and the lengthy process for the second tree assessment to be completed.

**DISCUSSION –  
MIYAWAKI  
FORESTS:**

Boardmember Sedore reported DNR featured an article on a Japanese practice for forestry and is offering the information to tree boards and forestry professionals as an option/recommendation. Several communities have implemented some of the techniques. The technique is planting high density species on a plot of land and watering regularly for three years creating a mini nature preserve or forest. The intent is to create a low to no maintenance diverse plant community after three years.

Boardmember Chapman shared information on some landscaping practices on Capitol Campus using natural and successive and progressive plantings requiring minimal maintenance while ensuring the needs of security and aesthetics are integrated.

Boardmember Sedore said the Japanese method is intense and focused with a wide variety of grasses and plants.

Chair Grantham said the main concern with the planting concept for public buildings and spaces is the ability to see through areas for security purposes. Areas that do not need to be maintained or areas of slopes could be conducive for that type of planting.

The Board discussed areas within the City that might be conducive to the planting method. Boardmember Sedore noted that the community has natural areas that are being transitioned to high intensity residential and commercial uses. Consequently, many of the undeveloped natural areas are being removed. He suggested considering whether replanting those areas using the Miyawaki planting method would be beneficial for the City.

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Boardmember Coval commented that he viewed the websites of Washington sites, which were planted in 2024. Public safety within an urban area might not be conducive for that type of planting. He has some skepticism as to that particular planting method.

Boardmember Jackson cited a 4,000 square foot site in Washington planted with 1,000 plants comprised of 40 different shrubs, perennials, ground covers, and forbs.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled on January 13, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT:** **With there being no further business, Chair Grantham adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.**

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President  
Puget Sound Meeting Services, [psmsoly@earthlink.net](mailto:psmsoly@earthlink.net)

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
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**CONVENE:** 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Trent Grantham and Boardmembers, Alex Chacon, Brodrick Coval, Brent Chapman, Michael Jackson, Tanya Nozawa, and Jim Sedore.

Staff: Sustainability Manager Alyssa Jones Wood.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**TREE BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** There were no reports.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Manager Jones Wood reported on the submission of 15 applications for the Urban Forestry position. Because of recent action by the federal government to freeze grant funds, the City does not have access to the federal funds and the City was advised to pause all grant activity. Consequently, the City cannot interview the applicants or proceed with the grant until the City receives notification to proceed as stipulated by a memorandum from the federal Office of the Budget. The City continues to accept applications and not schedule interviews until receiving instructions from the granter. Applicants are aware of the situation through email communication from the City.

The Climate Element sparked nearly 200 individual comments. Staff continues to incorporate the comments. The Climate Policy Advisory Team serves as an ad hoc advisory group for the Climate Element. Staff is meeting with the group to review all feedback and begin prioritizing some of the 201 action items within in the Climate Element. Manager Jones Wood reported she is briefing the Planning Commission on the Resilience Sub-Element focused on climate adaptations for dealing with the effects of climate change as a community.

No update on the status of the urban forestry ordinance amendments is available at this time.

The City currently has 50 Davis Meeker oak saplings. Staff members are seeking suitable places for planting the trees. Some parks in the City are well suited for oak trees, such as Sapp Road Park, Palermo Neighborhood Park, and upland areas in the City. Because of specific planting requirements for the saplings, Manager Jones Wood recommended not including them as part of the tree giveaway during the Arbor Day celebration. Planting of the saplings in City parks is limited because of the specific requirements for managing Oregon white oak.

The Board suggested contacting a commercial nursery to sell the saplings or contacting the tribes to ascertain interest in the saplings. Manager Jones Wood advised that the City prefers not selling them. Staff is meeting with Parks staff

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to discuss the future status for planting the saplings. Boardmember Sedore suggested exploring the location of the new park near the Tumwater Middle School, which contains some Garry oak trees. Boardmember Coval referred to the Cascadia Oak Prairie Partnership and the possibility of soliciting some assistance from the group. Manager Jones Wood advised of staff's ongoing meetings to discuss possible planting sites because of the specific maintenance required for the trees.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no public comments.

**ARBOR DAY  
DISCUSSION:**

The Board discussed tree species and number of plants to order for the Arbor Day plant giveaway. Last year, the supply of 100 plants was distributed with the event running out of seedlings before the end of the event. Members discussed whether to increase the number of plants as the population of the City has increased. It was noted that in prior years, the event offered approximately 250 bare root plants. Boardmember Sedore recommended following up with Thurston Conservation District and the Washington Native Plants Society South Sound Chapter to identify plants the two organizations are selling during March and April.

The Board agreed to order the same type and quantity of plants that were ordered for the 2024 Arbor Day event. Members agreed to provide packets of seeds similar to the 2024 event.

The Board suggested some minor corrections to the draft proclamation.

Manager Jones Wood advised on the availability of some posters and other giveaway items. She offered to follow-up on obtaining additional posters. The event is scheduled on April 9, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Staging for the event begins at 9 a.m. Boardmember Sedore offered to compile a list of books on planting and pruning that are available at the Tumwater Library. Chair Grantham acknowledged his attendance to the Tumwater City Council on April 15, 2025 to accept the Arbor Day proclamation.

**DRAFT STREET  
TREE LIST:**

Manager Jones Wood advised that she received many questions as to why some tree species were either removed or added to the draft street tree list. Efforts to develop the list have been underway for some time with a stakeholder meeting held in February 2023 followed by several other meetings to review the street tree code and street tree list. In June, the process was paused on the tree code amendments including the street tree code, landscape code, and TMC 16.08 amendments to focus on advocacy for changes to the state's Wildland-Urban Interface Code. The City challenged a legislative bill last year, which has been re-presented by the Legislature. The City is continuing advocacy efforts against the new bill.

In November 2024, a City intern assessed the last version of the street tree list received from the consultants. The intern cross-referenced the list with the

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study on climate change vulnerability and urban trees for the Puget Sound region on the long-term vulnerability of different tree species located within the region. Over the last year, the list has been edited to reflect which trees would thrive and survive based on climate change research. Field and operations staff requested involvement in the process to ensure good decisions are rendered on the selection of trees in the future. Another version of the list was produced based on feedback from field and operations staff. Many of the trees were recommended for removal based on experience by staff. In May 2024, Manager Jones Wood contacted DNR staff for feedback on the proposed list. Suggestions included some removals and some conflicts with some of the suggested removals by staff, such as the removal of all maple tree species from the list. Information provided to the Board includes comments from the various review sources that are often in conflict. Prior to removal of any trees, the consultants (arborists and landscape architects) drafted a list based on trees included on other street tree lists located throughout the Puget Sound area. As staff capacity is limited, the intent is to move forward eventually with a list as recommended by the Tree Board.

As Washington House Bill 1254 reintroduces provisions staff spent time and resources opposing last year, staff resources have been rededicated to oppose the new bill.

Boardmember Sedore suggested it would be helpful if staff could document the identity of entities that reviewed the document, such as a footnote at the end of the document stating the entity and date of review. He noted that the only recommendations he offered to the list were small tree recommendations from the University of Washington and Chair Grantham. In several cases, the draft received by the Board included a species that had been crossed off. However, either the University or Chair Grantham recommended retaining the species.

Discussion ensued on several species recommended for removal by staff based on maintenance issues or climate change concerns. Boardmember Sedore recommended the Board review the desired street tree characteristics and use that as the basis for criteria for including a species on the list.

Members commented on the issue of adding a species that is difficult to locate or is not commercially available. Additionally, specifying a particular variety may not guarantee availability of the species in any given year. Some of the species are trademarked and difficult to obtain. Chair Grantham commented on a practice by some jurisdictions to require all tree substitutions to be approved by the City. Boardmember Sedore commented that the City of Olympia indicated that the City changed its standards for tree root space and sidewalk specifications. He questioned whether the City should consider those options as well. Manager Jones Wood advised that those considerations would fall under the review of the street tree code, which will be initiated next year.

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Discussion followed on different types of tree root conflicts affecting streets, sidewalks, and stormwater facility areas. Based on potential conflicts identified by staff for street trees and operations and maintenance for stormwater and water utilities, many tree species were crossed off the list. The Board recommended adding the deleted trees at the end of the file to reflect that the trees had been considered but were subsequently removed for a variety of reasons.

Members discussed the sources of availability of trees on the list. Chair Grantham offered to follow-up on the availability of different tree species.

Manager Jones Wood explained that the draft tree list was initially created by the consultants guided by reviews of other tree lists and reviewed and edited by City staff, the City's intern assigned to the project, and DNR staff. Many species of maple trees were removed as the City has too many maples and lacks appropriate diversity.

Boardmember Sedore commented on desired elements of a street tree based on a Google search using artificial intelligence (AI). Factors include soil compaction, air pollution, limited root space, pruning tolerance, disease and pest resistance, mechanical damage, and heat stress.

The Board and staff shared information on desired characteristics of street trees. Members discussed different species of desired trees that would be appropriate for planting in buffer or green space areas rather than as a street tree because of size or root damage to infrastructure. Manager Jones Wood noted that when the review is resumed for potential amendments to the landscaping code and the street tree code, the intent is to include a recommended list of trees for other types of plantings in non-right-of-way areas, as well as combination plantings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Janine Linsey** urged consideration of strengthening either incentives or the code requiring developers to preserve groupings of existing trees, such as the area north of the Tumwater Costco. The groupings not only include a number of mature trees, but also important habitat supporting both wildlife and insects. She encouraged incentivizing options or through code regulations by not allowing developers to replant trees because there is no comparison between old trees with carbon mitigating qualities with small trees that will require decades for the tree to grow and mature. Trees are important for stormwater mitigation, rain saturation, combating air pollution, and shade.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled on March 10, 2025.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**        **With there being no further business, Chair Grantham adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.**

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President  
Puget Sound Meeting Services, [psmsoly@earthlink.net](mailto:psmsoly@earthlink.net)

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
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**CONVENE:** 7:02 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chair Mike Jackson and Boardmembers, Brent Chapman, Tanya Nozawa, and Jim Sedore.

Absent: Chair Trent Grantham and Boardmembers Alex Chacon and Brodrick Coval

Staff: Sustainability Manager Alyssa Jones Wood.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**TREE BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** Boardmember Sedore commented on his numerous contacts with local nurseries and garden stores for information on preferred species they order or maintain in stock to ascertain if they are same species the City includes on its Street Tree List. Many of retailers indicated they order a variety of tree species with the caveat that not all species or cultivars included on the tree list are readily available.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Manager Jones Wood reported the City continues to move forward on the hiring of an Urban Forester with interviews scheduled.

Staff continues work on the second draft of the Climate Element within the Comprehension Plan.

The Tree Board may have a role in re-homing Davis Meeker oak tree samplings with approval by either the City Administrator or the Mayor. More information will be forthcoming.

The City Council is scheduled to review the second arborist report on the Davis Meeker oak tree at a work session on March 11, 2025.

The City Council is scheduled to issue a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day on April 15, 2025. Manager Jones Wood encouraged members to attend to accept the proclamation.

Staff from the Parks and Recreation Department have requested the Board consider purchasing 4 to 5 trees and assist in planting the trees at various locations in the City on Arbor day. Members agreed and asked staff to purchase the trees.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no public comments.



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**ANNUAL  
OFFICERS  
ELECTION:**

Vice Chair Jackson invited nominations for officers during 2025,

*Boardmember Sedore nominated Trent Grantham to continue serving as Chair and Michael Jackson to serve as Vice Chair during 2025. Boardmember Nozawa seconded the nomination.*

**MOTION:**

**By a unanimous vote of affirmation, Trent Grantham was elected to serve as Chair during 2025 and Michael Jackson was elected to serve as Vice Chair during 2025.**

**DRAFT STREET  
TREE LIST:**

Manager Jones Wood presented the draft Street Tree List and invited feedback from members.

Boardmember Chapman requested the addition of Douglas-fir, Western redcedar, vine maple, and Paperbark maple to the list. However, a notation should be included designating Douglas-fir and Western redcedar trees as better suited for planting in unimproved right-of-ways or in greenbelt areas only.

**MOTION:**

**Boardmember Sedore moved, seconded by Boardmember Nozawa, to approve the draft of the Street Tree List as presented and with the requested changes. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.**

Manager Jones Wood asked members to review the list and designate their highest recommendation small, medium, and large trees to assist staff in drafting a short street tree list as part of the entire document. Future work by the Board includes refining the format of the information for presentation and review by staff.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled on April 14, 2025, Numerous Boardmembers confirmed their attendance to the Council meeting on April 15, 2025 to accept the proclamation and on April 19, 2025 at Tumwater Historical Park to participate and support Arbor Day activities.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**With there being no further business, Vice Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.**

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President  
Puget Sound Meeting Services, psmsoly@earthlink.net

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2025 PAGE 1**

**CONVENE:** 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Trent Grantham and Boardmembers Brent Chapman, Michael Jackson, Tanya Nozawa, and Jim Sedore.

Absent: Brodrick Coval.

Staff: Sustainability Manager Alyssa Jones Wood.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
JANUARY 14, 2025:**

**MOTION:** **Boardmember Sedore moved, seconded by Chair Grantham, to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025 as published. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.**

**TREE BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

Boardmember Sedore reported on a book recommended through the American Gardner magazine containing an article about urban landscaping, residential landscaping, the use of native plants, and the value environmentally and different perspectives justifying forms of any landscaping. To combat climate change, humans need to develop mechanisms and techniques to solve problems caused by humans. Some options include reducing the population or setting aside larger green spaces and wilderness areas. He cited the level of expertise existing in staff and his intent to become more aware of current issues related to urban planning and urban forest management. He recommended that Manager Jones Wood and Chair Grantham should consider some training sessions during bi-monthly meetings from Manager Jones Wood and other boards, committees, and the tribes as a way to increase the Board's knowledge and understanding of the issues of urban forestry. He encouraged feedback from Boardmembers on the proposal and whether training could be included on the meeting calendar.

Chair Grantham supported any new educational opportunities; however, there are likely many continuing education credits for a variety of topics offered during a training session.

Boardmember Nazawa shared that she participated in a recent class at the new Watson's Bark and Garden business on Native Plants for Bees and Butterflies. The one-hour class could be offered during a Board meeting. She supports the suggestion to receive more training.

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2025 PAGE 2**

Boardmember Sedore commented that in the interest of not utilizing meeting time, members could receive expert information by listening to podcasts on urban forestry.

Manager Jones Wood offered to develop a foundational list of suggested reading materials, podcasts, and training opportunities.

Chair Grantham inquired about any opportunities to attend an association conference related to urban forestry. Manager Jones Wood advised of a May conference of the South Sound Climate Convention sponsored by the Thurston Climate Action Team. The conference is at The Evergreen State College on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Invitations have been sent to a mailing list as space is limited. She offered to work with the Board to seek other attendance opportunities.

Boardmember Chapman added that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban Communities Forestry Program has access to information that would be relevant to the Board. He offered to follow-up with information. The programs include in-person workshops, seminars, and online options, as well as reading materials. DNR also has urban forestry technicians for western Washington who provide assistance to municipalities.

Boardmember Sedore noted the Arbor Day Foundation also offers an online orientation class for boards.

Manager Jones Wood said the National Wildlife Federation offers training on habitat steward training. She participated in the training in Florida and in Washington. The training is at no charge and is open to the public.

**MANAGER'S  
REPORT:**

Manager Jones Wood reported on the selection of the City's Urban Forester, Brian Caughlan. He is scheduled to begin working on May 1, 2025. Mr. Caughlan previously worked for the City of Lacey as the Source Control Inspector for stormwater and previously worked as the City arborist working in parks as well as a journey-level maintenance technician working in parks and landscaping for Thurston County. He has a degree in English and provided useful information during his interview about cabling prices for the Meeker Davis oak tree.

Manager Jones Wood shared information about the status of funding from the federal government, which funds a portion of the Urban Forester's position. If grant funding is no longer available, it is likely the City would be unable to proceed with some designated programs while still maintaining the position to implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan with action items that do not require funding.

The City Council is scheduled to consider a resolution at its meeting on April 15, 2025 establishing the Council's intent to allocate funding to enable the

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2025 PAGE 3**

Mayor to perform necessary and appropriate measures to reduce public safety risks and retain the Davis Meeker Garry oak tree in a safe condition. The first step is authorizing the spending of resources to move forward with detailed work planning for implementation of the consultant's recommendations (second consultant review of the tree) and additional administrative steps prior to any specific work proceeding on the tree. The consultant recommended pruning the tree.

Boardmember Sedore mentioned that he read information suggesting that the Tree Board should identify a source of funding for maintenance of the tree. Manager Jones Wood said the action would require a direct request from the City Council.

Boardmember Nozawa commented on citizen efforts to raise funds to preserve and protect the tree. She asked about the timeframe for the maintenance work to begin. Manager Jones Wood advised that the timing at this point is uncertain as the funding source requires approval and the City would likely need to release a competitive bidding process for an arborist to perform the work. The work requires a licensed, reputable, and bonded and insured arborist who has the training and availability to prune and cable the tree.

Boardmember Chapman recommended the consultant completing the recommendations should be present on site when work is initiated on the tree. Manager Jones Wood advised that the contract with the consultant includes their presence during the work.

Manager Jones Wood advised of no update on the status of tree ordinance amendments with work scheduled to begin in late summer.

The Climate Element second draft is undergoing legal and department director review and is scheduled for presentation to the City Council in July. The Conservation Element draft is scheduled for a presentation to the Board in June to receive feedback.

Manager Jones Wood reported on a meeting with Parks and Recreation Director Denney to discuss the distribution and planting of approximately 50 Davis Meeker Garry oak seedlings. The intent is for the Parks and Recreation Department and the Tree Board to evenly share the seedlings. Recipients of a seedling are required to ensure protection and provide adequate care. The Parks and Recreation Department plans to retain four of the 25 saplings for future plantings at the golf course and Trails End Park. The remaining trees will be donated to Wolf Haven International for a restoration project of open prairie habitat in Tenino. Staff prepared a recommendation for the Board's seedlings based on previous suggestions from the Board. One seedling will be donated to Capitol Campus, approximately 10 seedlings will be donated to Olympia Ecosystems, and some seedlings will be available to members of the community willing to commit to the care of the trees, with any remaining trees

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2025 PAGE 4**

to be distributed to interested parties within the Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership.

Boardmember Chapman suggested exploring the appropriateness of offering some oak seedlings to the tribes and the school district.

Discussion ensued on potential areas in the City to plant oak seedlings, which requires specific habitat. Kevin McFarland and the Parks and Recreation Department collected many of the acorns with the Parks and Recreation Department growing the seedlings. Boardmember Sedore commented that Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership has a map of Garry oak tree habitat in the Puget Sound area.

Manager Jones Wood requested several volunteers to draft planting and care instructions for distribution with the tree seedlings.

Boardmember Jackson noted a number of existing mature Garry oaks located off Capitol Boulevard. Several large Garry oak seedlings were also planted in the Pioneer Cemetery.

It was noted that Oak Harbor Garry Oak Society has developed a planting guide.

Manager Jones Wood reported on the resignation of Alex Chacon because of his recent relocation to Olympia.

Manager Jones Wood presented the approved street tree and right-of-way tree list that was converted to enable filter and search options. She identified some of the query options for selecting a tree for the right place. The list as recommended by the Board is comprehensive and some trees may be difficult to locate in local nurseries. Boardmember Sedore advised of three nurseries that would like to receive a copy of the list as well as the prohibited plant list. Manager Jones Wood noted that staff removed Oregon White Oak (Garry oak) from the list of approved street trees. The tree is a protected species and likely would not be a good choice as a street tree considering the limitations and protections associated with the species.

Boardmember Sedore encouraged consideration of more plantings of Garry oak trees and other native species, such as in open spaces and parks rather than as a street tree.

Chair Grantham advised that he would attend the Council meeting to accept the Arbor Day proclamation on behalf of the Board.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT:**

There were no public comments.

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2025 PAGE 5**

**ARBOR DAY  
EVENT:**

Manager Jones Wood briefed members on the status of preparations for the Arbor Day event and tree giveaway. Setup is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. The event starts at 10 a.m. in conjunction with Earth Day activities. City advertising was combined for both the Arbor Day event and Earth Day as both events will be held at Historical Park. Several Boardmembers advised that they plan to attend and participate in the set-up. A limited number of posters will be available; however, securing more posters was too expensive at \$20 per poster. One hundred trees of different species were ordered for the plant giveaway. Manager Jones Wood reviewed other materials available for giveaways and plant/tree information. She also plans to promote information on the Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative's Energize Thurston Program and a WA DOT electric bike rebate on a lottery basis until April 22, 2025.

Manager Jones Wood shared information on several species of plants donated to the City. The Parks and Recreation Department is planting many of the plants. The City was able to purchase a water trailer for restoration plantings.

The Board discussed the possibility of creating an online database with tree and plant information. Manager Jones Wood advised that the Urban Forester would be working on a tree canopy assessment with a briefing to the Tree Board scheduled in September.

Boardmember Sedore commented on a candidate running for Tumwater Mayor with a platform promoting the planting of more trees in Tumwater. Boardmember Nozawa reported she met with the candidate as part of the save the Garry oak tree movement. One of the first things he wants to achieve in office is to require developers to retain 20% to 25% of existing trees as well as saving and protecting the Garry oak tree.

Boardmember Sedore inquired about City prohibitions for members to speak individually with political candidates running for Tumwater positions. Manager Jones Wood advised that since members were appointed by the Mayor, the Tree Board cannot endorse any candidate; however, as a community member, members are able to meet with candidates as long as the member is not acting on the behalf of the Tree Board. She offered to follow-up with legal staff on the proper protocol and follow-up with information to the Board.

Boardmember Jackson inquired about the status of the planned removal of trees along Linderson Avenue near the high school. The trees are encased in grates. Manager Jones Wood said she spoke to staff recently and learned that the City plans to remove all existing street grates in the City. Boardmember Jackson noted the efforts for removing the trees will be expensive and when the grates are removed it will likely impact existing sidewalks.

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2025 PAGE 6**

**NEXT MEETING:** The Board agreed with the recommendation to cancel the May 12, 2025 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Boardmember Sedore moved, seconded by Chair Grantham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President  
Puget Sound Meeting Services, psmsoly@earthlink.net

# MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER TREE BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025



<b>CONVENE:</b>	7:00 p.m.
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Chair Trent Grantham, Boardmembers Mike Jackson and Tanya Nozawa  Excused: Boardmembers Jim Sedore and Brody Coval  Staff: Sustainability Manager Alyssa Jones Wood, Urban Forester Brian Caughlan, GIS Manager Jennifer Radcliff, GIS Analyst Georgianna Hupp.
<b>CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:</b>	No changes to the Agenda.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES:</b>	<b>Board Member Mike Jackson moved, seconded by Board Member Nozawa, to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024, as published. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.</b>
<b>TREE BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:</b>	There were no reports.
<b>MANAGER'S REPORT:</b>	Manager Jones Wood provided an update on the status of the Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan, the Davis Meeker Garry Oak work, and the approved street tree list. Urban Forester Caughlan provided an update on the status of Davis Meeker Garry Oak sapling distribution.
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT:</b>	Public comment was given by Olympia resident Charlotte Persons.
<b>TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT UPDATE:</b>	Manager Radcliff and Analyst Hupp provided a presentation on the 2025 Tree Canopy Assessment, inclusive of methods, results, and considerations.



**NEXT MEETING  
DATE:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**With there being no further business, Chair Grantham adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.**

Prepared by Alyssa Jones Wood, Sustainability Manager

TO: Tree Board  
FROM: Brian Caughlan, Urban Forester  
DATE: November 10, 2025  
SUBJECT: Urban Forestry Management Plan Action Report

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1) Recommended Action:

Discussion item for the Tree Board.

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2) Background:

This is the annual presentation providing a progress report on the implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Plan. The Urban Forestry Management Plan Action Report is meant to be a document that provides context into the City's current and future planned work scope and actions regarding the Urban Forest Management Plan.

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3) Policy Support:

The Urban Forestry Management Plan was adopted by City Council on March 2, 2021 by Ordinance No. 2020-004.

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4) Alternatives:

☐ Schedule further discussion at the Tree Board's January 2026 meeting.

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5) Attachments:

A. Urban Forestry Management Plan Action Report

# 2025 Urban Forestry Management Plan Action Report



Date: November 10, 2025  
To: Tree Board  
From: Brian Caughlan, Urban Forester

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## Executive Summary

The City of Tumwater continues to advance its Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) through actions designed to expand canopy cover, protect existing trees, improve management practices, and engage the community. The 2025 Implementation Report demonstrates meaningful progress while also identifying challenges and opportunities for the years ahead.

### Key Highlights:

- **Grow:** Canopy expansion targets have been established, with emphasis on planting large-canopy and native species to maximize ecological and community benefits. Partnerships with schools, homeowner associations, and local organizations are helping to diversify plantings and promote resilient species.
- **Protect:** Enforcement of tree protection codes, improved pruning standards, and collaboration with nonprofits and state agencies are strengthening safeguards for Tumwater’s relatively young but growing urban forest.
- **Manage:** Updated street tree inventories, adoption of best management practices, and new training programs for City staff are improving efficiency. Efforts are underway to reuse urban wood products and to measure the ecological and economic benefits of the forest.
- **Engage:** Community outreach is expanding public awareness and stewardship. The city continues to maintain its “Tree City USA” status and is building stronger partnerships with residents, nonprofits, and local businesses.

### Looking Ahead:

The report underscores the importance of stable funding, interdepartmental coordination, and adaptive management to meet long-term canopy goals. With climate change, development pressures, and community expectations shaping the future of Tumwater’s landscape, the UFMP provides a flexible but focused framework to ensure that the City’s trees remain a defining and enduring asset.

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## Introduction

The *2025 Urban Forestry Implementation Report* provides an update on the implementation of the City's UFMP. It highlights the progress made to date, outlines ongoing initiatives, and identifies areas requiring continued focus to ensure the long-term health, resilience, and sustainability of Tumwater's urban forest.

Urban forestry plays a critical role in shaping the quality of life for residents by improving air and water quality, reducing stormwater runoff, mitigating climate impacts, enhancing biodiversity, and creating more livable neighborhoods. This report is not intended as a binding directive but as a strategic guide that reflects the dynamic nature of the Urban Forester's work. It captures the evolving priorities, partnerships, and practices that are essential to maintaining and expanding the community's tree canopy while balancing the demands of growth and development.

By documenting actions across the core themes of **Grow, Protect, Manage, and Engage**, this report provides transparency, accountability, and direction for the City's efforts to steward its urban forest as a shared community resource.

## Grow

### Objective 1.1. Increase canopy cover in the city to expand the community and urban forest.

**Action A. Establish tree-canopy cover targets for the City and its neighborhoods to increase canopy cover in appropriate areas, taking into account land uses established by the Comprehensive Plan, community desires, tree functions, climate, and ecosystems.**

The Urban Forestry Management Plan established tree-canopy targets city-wide and by zoning.

**Action B. Ensure that landscaping regulations provide for the preservation of trees with potential and the planting of new trees and understory when removing existing trees and understory on public and private properties.**

In 2023 work began to update the Landscaping Code (TMC 18.47), but the work was paused. However, work continues to ensure the existing Landscaping Code is followed.

The Urban Forester is a part of the Design Review Committee (DRC) and reviews all new development applications throughout the city. Also, the Urban Forester will be on site as these developments continue to make sure Tree Protections Plan/Critical Root Zone (TPP/CRZ) are followed. Any new planting will also be supervised to ensure good nursery stock and planting practices are being followed. Lastly, the Urban Forester will continue to update code to ensure that modern BMPs are practiced.

**Action C. Require appropriate tree planting in new development and redevelopment, by emphasizing proper planning for trees, correct planting techniques, and aftercare that supports the healthy establishment of newly planted trees.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has begun working with Homeowner Associations (HOA's), private industry, the Tumwater School District, and other interested parties to ensure this action is carried out.

**Action D. Explore non-regulatory programs and incentives to engage the community, plant more trees, and reforest property owned by the City.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has begun to explore partnerships/service agreements with local businesses and non-profits. This particular action will require a great deal of time to develop



ongoing relationships with those involved in sourcing, planting, and caring for trees as we begin to echo the canopy goals to parties interested.

**Action E. Support and incentivize the use of large-canopy trees in appropriate areas to provide maximum benefits.**

This is ongoing. As Tumwater begins to replant in areas that we are beginning to target, we are using a mix of medium and large canopy trees (primarily Coastal Redwood, Giant Sequoia, Bitter Cherry, Pacific Dogwood, and Quaking Aspen). We are encouraging and updating all recommended tree planting lists to include these recommendations.

We are incentivizing this to the public through education and outreach in illustrating to them the direct benefits trees, especially large canopied species, can provide to their property. The cost of installation and maintenance is relatively small in comparison to the lifetime of benefits provided.

**Action F. Promote the use of native tree and understory species on public and private property to enhance desired wildlife habitat in the City.**

This is crucial and something that the Urban Forester began to implement immediately. Not only are we focusing on native vegetation but introducing pest resistant cultivars to ensure the species is protected. An example being the Heritage River Birch, which is resistant to the Bronze Birch Borer that is impacting local native stands. This will support the ecosystem and help restore native habitat to protect impacted wildlife.

**Objective 1.2. Improve and maintain an optimal level of age distribution and species diversity of trees in the community and urban forest by increasing the use of desirable trees.**

**Action A. Designate tree species based upon specific purposes and site conditions for each project and maximize the benefits of trees while maintaining species diversity.**

This is ongoing. This was implemented immediately in the update for the approved street tree list in summer 2025. We are focusing on recommending species that are resilient to pests, diseases, and climate change as well as individual species for site-specific projects. By monitoring we can ensure we never have more than 30% of a genus, 20% of species, or 10% of a cultivar planted (International Society of Arboriculture).

**Action B. Stagger new and replacement tree plantings to encourage age distribution and species diversity.**

This is a difficult action to maintain, but work has been completed to assess. In 2024 the city produced the Tree Inventory and Maintenance Plan which showed that 80%+ of the trees in Tumwater's urban and community forest are younger than 25 years. When trees become threatened/die, then they must be replaced. It will be very difficult for Tumwater to vary the age of its Urban Forest, but it is something that will be the focus of the Urban Forester to protect its aging trees. Also, this gives added pressure to maintain our mature trees, and it highlights that we are just beginning to see real benefits from our urban forest.

**Action C. Consider whether planting of edible landscaping such as berry plants and fruit trees would be appropriate in City parks or open spaces, taking into consideration factors such as public safety, attraction of vermin, disease transmission, and maintenance ability and costs.**

In 2025 the Urban Forester identified potential sites that may be ideal for an "edible forest" and is working with various City departments to determine if they are viable, or not.

**Objective 1.3. Establish a full complement of beautiful, healthy trees in the City by planting trees in locations that maximize their ability to grow while minimizing damage to the essential infrastructure of the City.**

**Action A. Plan citywide for trees along City streets and in City parks and open spaces, maintain an approved City planting list, and designate nuisance trees for removal and replacement.**

This is ongoing. In 2025 the Urban Forester and Sustainability Manager updated the approved street tree list and associated list of recommended shrubs and groundcovers which had previously contained climate vulnerable species, nuisance trees, and noxious weeds. The Urban Forester also provides professional recommendations for new tree projects.

**Action B. Develop a partnership with the City Stormwater Utility to support maintenance of the City's urban forest and staffing.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forestry program is housed within the Water Resources & Sustainability Department and works closely on a daily basis with the Stormwater Division. The Stormwater Division needs to be able to reserve the right to provide maintenance to trees that are impacting their ability to operate, as well as, safety of their workers. As Tumwater continues to grow, as will

the needs of the Stormwater Division, therefore, it is crucial that they work together and utilize the Urban Forest as an asset to slow/treat runoff. Lastly, the Department of Ecology issues a Stormwater General Permit to municipalities which includes a lot of language in regard to canopy coverage and requires reporting on changes, which will be crucial to developing a relationship moving forward.

**Action C. Look at enlarging planting sites to capture stormwater, benefit trees, and reduce hardscape damage such as sidewalk failures or gratings not fitting due to confined growing space for trees. Consider increasing resources to prioritize repairing sidewalk damage.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester interacts regularly with the DRC, Streets and Stormwater Divisions, and Transportation & Engineering (TED) to develop better green stormwater infrastructure.

**Action D. Encourage engineering solutions in planting sites such as silva cells, automatic watering systems, or similar options to ensure the healthy growth of trees.**

This is ongoing but will take considerable time to promote institutional culture change. Using Silva Cell type infrastructure in tandem with engineered soils, has shown that trees can grow exponentially healthier and have greater benefits to the city. Currently, we are exploring alternatives to sidewalk replacement where we do not have to remove the offending tree. These include using stone pavers, poured rubber, or suspended sidewalks.

## Protect

**Objective 2.1. Use regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to protect and retain the community and urban forest to the extent practicable within the context of necessary growth and development.**

**Action A. Enforce tree protection regulations to protect healthy existing trees and forested areas and replace on public and private properties.**

This is ongoing. In 2025, the Urban Forester received two complaints related to enforcement of existing Tree codes. Tree code enforcement will be handled and addressed as infractions/complaints appear. The one complaint was in regard to road clearance and was resolved by the community before the Urban Forester needed to take action. The goal is to promote as much protection for our aging trees. Tumwater has a relatively young Urban Forest; therefore, extra care must be taken to protect its aging trees. This also implies the protection and replacement of trees on developed properties. Being a part of the DRC, the Urban Forester will ensure that all CRZ's are being upheld and that developers are going to be accountable to replace trees they damage and remove accordingly.

**Action B. Enforce landscaping regulations to preserve existing trees and understory as well as replace on public and private properties.**

This is ongoing. Property owners are held accountable, and if trees are removed due to their actions, they are required to replace them. In the case of new developments, maintenance agreements and bonds are put in place with contractors installing the landscapes to ensure the plantings survive and thrive. Lastly, any TPZ's established by developers will be reviewed and enforced by the Urban Forester.

**Action C. Implement tree-pruning standards for trees on public property such as street trees, trees in critical areas, public land, parks, and trees in natural areas and remnant forests.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester began training the Streets Division and Parks Department on up-to-date pruning techniques to maintain canopy health and Right-of-Way (ROW) safety standards. These are maintained to the ANSI Z-133 standard as issued by ISA.

#### **Action D. Explore non-regulatory programs and incentives to engage the community and allow for the retention, planting, and replanting of more trees.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has already reached out to several non-profits and businesses to implement better Urban Forestry practices and health. Ideally, Tumwater would partner with them to help plant, water, and maintain more trees within city limits to increase our canopy over the long-term. Also, we can partner with these organizations to aid in our urban wood recycling program. In concordance with contacting local groups there are grants available, we currently have a grant through the River Network which is designated to help in the establishment of trees in low-income/at-risk neighborhoods.

#### **Action E. Develop incentives to promote tree retention, planting, and replanting.**

This is ongoing. Work will begin again in 2025 to amend TMC 16.08 in line with the public engagement that occurred in 2023. Staff plan to develop incentives to add additional protections to Pacific Madrone and Pacific Yew. Also, it is the job of the Urban Forester to ensure developers are held to these standards and retained trees are indeed protected, newly planted trees have the resources they need to survive, and that plans are being followed.

The River Network grant that helps fund Urban Forestry work in Tumwater also includes programs and incentives to promote tree retention and care as well as new planting.

#### **Action F. Put into practice tree pruning requirements and standards.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has already reached out to maintenance crews to begin promoting healthier pruning habits and practices.

#### **Action G. Implement, in coordination with the Noxious Weed Board and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, an invasive flora and fauna species control strategy citywide to safeguard the health of the community and urban forest.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is in contact with various maintenance crews to identify invasive plants and species that could harm native Tumwater species. Also, the Urban Forester is also in regular contact with various state and out-of-state agencies, such as ODF, WSDA, and DNR to coordinate response efforts to invasives.

Additionally, the Urban Forester provides regional leadership to educate and coordinate with other urban foresters about invasive pests, such as the Emerald Ash Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer, including South Thurston County municipalities.

**Action H. Coordinate with the Fire Department on actions to minimize fire risks associated with urban forestry.**

This has not happened yet and will be addressed at some point in the future.

**Action I. Remove trees and understory in specific situations identified in the Tumwater Annex to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region to guard against wildfire.**

This has not been addressed and will be once other projects have been completed with a higher priority.

**Action J. Designate, register, and promote heritage trees.**

This is ongoing, however, in 2025 no new Heritage Tree nominations were submitted. The designation of Heritage trees will always be encouraged and is important to the development of Tumwater's Urban Canopy. Tumwater has a unique issue with so many trees being young, which just adds emphasis to protect what we have that is mature, even greater.

**Action K. Prioritize replacement of dead, diseased, or dying trees, as well as those damaged or removed for other reasons, such as motor vehicle collisions and construction projects.**

This is ongoing and is addressed on an "as needed" basis. As trees are being impacted by people, pests, etc., the Urban Forester has laid out plans and communication lines to get trees replaced in a timely manner. The goal being to always get trees replaced immediately and never have stumps in the ground.

**Objective 2.2. Develop a city street tree-trimming program.**

**Action A. Develop tree-trimming areas based on optimal equipment mobilization, priority locations, current tree inventory, and best management practices.**

This is ongoing. This work was outlined in the Tree Inventory and Maintenance Plan commissioned by the City of Tumwater in 2024, and as such a pruning plan will be designed to be cyclical every four to five years. In the coming year(s), we will be changing the height requirements and amending the TMC Code 12.24 to ensure trees should be pruned to fifteen feet over the ROW and a minimum of twelve feet over the sidewalk.

## Objective 2.3. Respond to view blockage complaints regarding City trees blocking private views.

### Action A. Thin and skirt trees before considering removal.

This is ongoing. Removal will always be considered a last resort. All other avenues will be exhausted before trees are recommended for removal.

### Action B. Develop criteria and findings in order to make consistent decisions for requests to alter trees for view purposes.

Vista pruning will never be encouraged, and the Urban Forester will always try their best to educate and communicate that trees should not be removed, topped, or pruned in ways to allow better views. Also, when staff resume work amending TMC 16.08 staff intend to prohibit the practice of vista pruning.

### Action C. Prohibit inappropriate tree topping using education and enforcement. Where overhead power lines are creating conflicts, consider replacing the trees with shorter species or burying the power lines to reduce such conflicts.

This is ongoing. City Municipal Code clearly prohibits tree topping. The new approved street tree list (2025) includes tree species selected to be placed under power lines.

### Action D. Consider tree growth patterns as a factor prior to planting, especially in instances where a dense sight obscuring barrier or exceptionally large tree is not desirable, such as in front of a business.

This is ongoing. Tree growth patterns are always a factor considered when doing any planting. The “right tree right place” is echoed throughout all City decisions being made in planning and implementation. The Urban Forester reviews landscape plans for future development with the DRC, which includes providing recommendations for species for certain placements.

## Objective 2.4. Support managed resource forests where they exist.

### Action A. Document managed resource forests in the city.

This has been completed. As part of the development of the 2025 Tumwater Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element, all managed resource lands including forest land have been mapped and identified. As new forest land is added, City staff will update maps.

**Action B. Allow the harvesting of trees in managed resource forests if the management practices of these forests follow Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices Act rules and provide for continued growth and health of managed resource forests.**

City staff reviewed the Washington State Forest Practices Act and Tumwater Urban Forest Management Plan to update the draft Conservation Element for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Updates included alignment with Washington State Department of Natural Resources regulations and the community's values to preserve and enhance the natural environment. Work to update vegetation, landscaping and tree removal regulations is scheduled to restart in Fall 2025 which may include exemptions for forest practices.

**Action C. Consider only allowing sustainable harvest methods such as selective logging along with replanting as a way to reduce impacts associated with tree harvesting in managed resource forests and City-owned forests.**

Goals and policies throughout the draft Climate and Conservation Elements of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan support retaining trees where possible for habitat and climate benefits. Work to update vegetation, landscaping and tree removal regulations is scheduled to restart in Fall 2025 which may include allowances or incentives for sustainable harvest practices. The new codes will initiate review of internal policies and operation guidance to comply with city codes.

**Action D. Allow the harvest of trees if done in support of Comprehensive Plan policies for new or expanded agricultural uses that grow or raise food for at least ten years.**

Updates to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan did not include specific goals and policies to allow forest conversion for agriculture. However, policies supported agriculture and forest uses together which would support both agriculture and forestry resource goals. Preserving and providing access to culturally important resources was included as a Climate Element draft Implementation Action that can be added to City Work Programs in future years for City Council approval. Work to update vegetation, landscaping and tree removal regulations is scheduled to restart in Fall 2025 which may include allowances for agriculture use.

**Action E. Designate tax revenues, such as the business and occupation tax, from timber harvests in managed resource forests specifically for tree related projects and programs within the city.**



There are currently no plans to alter tax revenues to support tree related projects. The only revenue source is a fee paid in-lieu of developers not reaching the required tree standards for development.

## Manage

**Objective 3.1. Promote efficient and cost-effective management of the community and urban forest by selecting, situating, and maintaining urban trees appropriately to maximize benefits and minimize hazards, nuisances, hardscape damage, and maintenance costs.**

### **Action A. Ensure that future development of City property is consistent with the Urban Forestry Management Plan.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is an active member of the DRC and reviews all development applications, including development on City properties.

### **Action B. Develop and enforce design phase and preconstruction coordination protocols to ensure “The Right Tree in the Right Place.”**

The Urban Forester reviews all development applications and tree related permit applications to ensure the right tree is put in the right place, amongst other priorities in the UFMP. Furthermore, once construction has begun all new plantings are being reviewed by the Urban Forester to ensure that we are selecting the right tree, healthy stock, up to date planting standards, and have a plan for care after the tree is in the ground.

### **Action C. Define and assign street tree maintenance and care responsibilities and publicize for greater awareness and compliance.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is in the process of updating the Street Tree Inventory (2018) inclusive of identifying City-owned and maintained trees throughout Tumwater. From this, he is assigning care as needed. All City-owned trees will be under a cyclical pruning cycle to be assigned no later than winter of 2026.

### **Action D. Prioritize and schedule City-assigned Street tree maintenance activities according to inventory-documented needs.**

This is in progress. Currently, the Urban Forester is updating the Street Tree Inventory (2018). Once this is updated, a pruning/maintenance cycle will be created to support further growth of city owned and maintained trees. Private street tree maintenance continues to be the responsibility of the property owner and enforcement is utilized for non-compliance.

**Action E. Develop a program to work with public and private property owners in maintaining and providing for public safety with the community and urban forest.**

This is ongoing but currently utilized under “as-needed” basis until the street tree inventory is updated and the Urban Forester is given proper time to update City standards and communication efforts.

**Objective 3.2. Adopt best management practices and resource management assessment tools and data management to improve City tree maintenance to manage City-owned community and urban forest areas.**

**Action A. Maintain an ongoing training program for City staff to retain the expertise and professional qualifications to manage the city-owned portion of the community and urban forest.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has reached out to several departments and provided professional guidance, insight, and training opportunities. As City Employees seek further certification/training opportunities, the Urban Forester will arrange and design them according to staff availability. Training and education will always be encouraged. The Urban Forester has even offered to mentor current staff to achieve ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) credentials,

**Action B. Regularly review and update the Public Works standards, the Development Guide, and facilities procedures for the maintenance of City trees and the community and urban forest and modify to reflect best tree management practices and employee safety.**

This is ongoing. In 2025 staff updated the approved street tree list in the Development Guide. A holistic update of the Development Guide, including incorporating edits related to Urban Forestry is expected to begin in 2026. Staff attend training and educational opportunities as often as possible to ensure that best management practices are being followed in concordance with ISA professional standards.

**Action C. Develop a program to eliminate deferred maintenance while being mindful of budgetary constraints.**

This is in progress. However, Staff is working on the update of the tree inventory first. Once that is finished maintenance cycles will be established to give realistic and budget approved standards. Maintenance will be done during the winter season to promote tree growth.

**Action D. Train staff in City departments who work with trees in basic tree biology, minimum requirements for health and stability, tree care, and other topics as pertinent to assigned staff duties.**

This is ongoing. The city, in partnership with the WA Department of Natural Resources, provided this training in 2024 but further education is always encouraged. Currently, this is offered on “as-needed” basis to staff who work with trees either directly or indirectly.

**Action E. Train City staff interested in more advanced arboriculture and support development of an in-house professional team to plan and care for City-owned trees.**

This is ongoing. Funding was allocated in the 2025/2026 budget to financially support four staff studying and taking the ISA Arborist exam.

**Action F. Develop resources for proper tree care that are available to the public, simple to reference, and easily understood.**

This is ongoing. Tumwater has developed a new tool to aid the public in selecting the right tree for their project, as well as developing GIS tools to help the public understand their urban canopy and heritage tree program.

Staff also have Arbor Day Foundation educational pamphlets that are given to the public as needed.

**Objective 3.3. Improve the health and care of City trees through good horticultural practices.**

**Action A. Develop the recommended City Street Tree and Landscaping Tree Lists based on local experience.**

This has been completed for the Street Tree list, which can be accessed via the City of Tumwater’s website under the Water Resources & Sustainability webpage and Urban Forestry section. The Landscaping Tree List is still in process and will be updated along with the Landscape Code.

**Action B. Encourage the planting of City trees that have the potential for good local performance and over time will achieve a diversity of species for greater stability of the community and urban forest.**

This is ongoing. As we update our inventory, we can better determine the diversity of the Urban Forest. Then, we can better understand what trees we can recommend and/or approve. The Urban Forester strives to achieve a diversity of species to protect Tumwater’s canopy for future generations.

**Action C. Monitor the composition and performance of existing trees on City property and assess their sustainability.**

This is ongoing. It is the goal of the Urban Forester to survey the city-owned trees as often as possible to determine health of canopy. More specifically, the more intimate the Urban Forester can be with the existing tree infrastructure, the better. As we develop our inventory and maintenance work plans, Tumwater has begun documenting the diversity and performance/growth of trees throughout the city. Therefore, moving forward we can have a better idea as to where we want to plant and what we would like to plant in our urban corridors.

**Action D. Develop an experimental species program to identify and plant new tree species.**

This is ongoing. Several places have been identified and even a few species selected to begin planting as soon as winter 2025. Examples:

- ‘Heritage’ River Birch - *Betula nigra* ‘Heritage’
- Hardy Rubber Tree – *Eucommia ulmoides*
- Frontier Elm – *Ulmus* x ‘Frontier’
- Northern Hackberry – *Celtis occidentalis*

As our climate continues to change, The City of Tumwater will continue to monitor additional appropriate species to begin planting in small quantities to test their viability.

**Action E. Consider the implications of having the city assume maintenance responsibilities for all street trees in City rights-of-way.**

No resources have been used to assess the cost of this proposal. We need to update the Street Tree Inventory in order to begin exploring the possibilities of maintaining all right-of-way trees in-house.

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### Objective 3.4. Establish or enhance the character of City streets using trees in City rights-of-way, where adequate rights-of-way exist.

#### **Action A. Use the updated Comprehensive Street Tree Plan to guide the enhancement of the visual appeal of the City.**

This is ongoing but paused. The work done on updating the Street Tree Plan was paused in 2023 and staff have not had the capacity to continue the work yet.

#### **Action B. Maintain and regularly update an ongoing planting plan for vacant street tree sites based on inventory data, which includes designating species for new and replacement trees based on the Street Tree List that focuses on filling canopy gaps to produce equitable access to tree benefits and green space throughout the City.**

This is ongoing. The City of Tumwater is currently in the process of generating the data necessary to support this. Once we have determined the scope of work, replanting will be prioritized to replace existing trees/gaps, then we will begin to explore new species to further increase the diversity of trees within Tumwater.

#### **Action C. Consider developing unified street tree themes as part of the Development Guide update.**

This is ongoing. While diversity is important to achieve, uniformity on a street level is ideal to track inventory, species, pests, health, coverage, climate, etc. While Tumwater has relied too heavily on Maple, Pear, Cherry, and Oak, it is the goal of the Urban Forester to bring more diversity to the urban landscape and begin to incorporate more evergreen plantings.

#### **Action D. Incorporate Street trees and landscaping when the city reconstructs streets to the extent feasible.**

This is currently the standard. Whenever a new development is approved, frontage must be improved and trees planted.

**Objective 3.5. Reuse all green products from City trees considering highest and best use such as lumber for wood products down to mulch for planting areas.**

**Action A. Establish a program with protocols for collecting materials from tree removals and distributing them to local users, such as other public agencies, schools, green industries, or woodworkers.**

This is just starting and is a crucial goal of the Urban Forestry program in 2025 and 2026. Currently, the City of Tumwater is exploring service agreements and partnerships to explore cost effective and sustainable ways to reuse our urban wood waste.

**Objective 3.6. Measure the ecological, environmental, and economic benefits of the community and urban forest.**

**Action A. Maintain the citywide street tree inventory data on an ongoing basis by using municipal tree asset management software such as Lucity, TreePlotter, or TreeWorks with the geographic information system (GIS).**

This is in progress. First, we need to clearly understand which trees are Tumwater's responsibility to maintain, and then it is the goal of the City of Tumwater to partner with local educational institutions to update our current inventory over several years. Once we get a complete update, it will then be crucial to review it every 8-10 years. As we update our inventory, we can then begin to upload it into Lucity as assets that can be attached to work orders.

**Action B. Use a citywide work order system that enters all street tree work automatically as performed to assure quality data through consistent data collection methods and ensure an accurate progressive tree inventory.**

We currently do not have a city-wide work order system, and there are no resources dedicated to this at this time. Work will begin on this action once the city has transitioned to a new work order system, which is a few years from being complete.

**Action C. Update the street tree inventory data with major surveys regularly coinciding with the review and update of the Comprehensive Street Tree Plan.**

This is ongoing. Staff have begun to plan and map labor to accomplish keeping the inventory up to date. The update to the Comprehensive Street Tree Plan is currently on pause.

**Action D. Take the tree health assessment prepared for the Urban Forestry Management Plan and identify specific varieties regularly that will survive the urban environment, climate impacts, and winter wind and ice storms.**

This has been accomplished.

**Action E. Calculate the economic benefits of the community and urban forest in the city regularly.**

This has been accomplished. Staff will continue to monitor and update the values periodically.

**Action F. Assess the benefits of the community and urban forest, and potential benefits from new and replacement plantings, including carbon storage, increased canopy cover, stormwater captured, energy saved, and aesthetics regularly.**

This has been accomplished.

**Action G. Integrate the community and urban forestry into the city framework for sustainability.**

This has been accomplished.

**Action H. Consider the effects of climate change when reviewing the long-term health and suitability of the community and urban forest in the city to manage diseases and pests.**

This is ongoing. All new tree plantings and project formulations are considering what our local climate will be like for the anticipated lifespan of the tree.

**Action I. In measuring the ecological and environmental benefits, periodically review similar findings of the Thurston County and Cities of Lacey and Olympia Forest management plans.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forster has established communication with urban forestry staff from all municipalities in Thurston County.

**Objective 4.1. Update the Urban Forestry Management Plan and supporting regulations regularly and ensure they work in harmony with other City strategic priorities.**

**Action A. Ensure that mitigation and conservation areas created under an approved Habitat Conservation Plan are exempt from tree preservation regulations.**

This is ongoing and integrated into the City's efforts for the Habitat Conservation Plan.

**Action B. Review the Urban Forestry Management Plan regularly to monitor its progress, maintain its schedule, revise based on new information, and ensure that it is working with other City strategic priorities, plans, and regulations.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester refers to regularly and this meeting is the annual progress check-in.

**Action C. Use adaptive management to review the effectiveness of specific Actions during the Urban Forestry Management Plan timeline.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester utilizes adaptive management to keep Tumwater on pace to meet its timelines within the UFMP.

**Action D. Review tree preservation, landscaping, and street tree regulations regularly to ensure that they are working with other City strategic priorities, plans, and regulations, responding to changes in climate, and implementing the Urban Forestry Management Plan.**

This is ongoing. This action is one that takes a considerable amount of the Urban Forester's time. All new landscape designs/specifications are being reviewed by the Urban Forester with redline notes provided to the DRC applicants.

**Action E. Review and update the Comprehensive Street Tree Plan regularly to reflect "The Right Tree in the Right Place" strategies, including plantings in planter strips and medians and encourage planting of native tree species, where appropriate.**

This is currently paused, but some progress was made in 2023.

**Action F. Review the Street Tree List and Landscaping Tree List regularly to ensure plant choices and tree selection implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan.**

This has been accomplished for the Street Tree list. The Landscaping tree list has not been started yet and will likely coincide with updates to the City Landscaping Code.

**Action G. Review regulations to allow the continued operation of managed resource forests.**



This is ongoing as city staff has begun to review the Washington State Forest Practices Act in coordination with implementation with the Urban Forest Management Plan. However, updates to the comprehensive plan do not currently state any goals in relation to sustainable harvesting of any kind.

## Fund

### Objective 5.1. Develop a stable funding source and budget for activities that support the community and urban forest.

**Action A. Develop a stable funding source and budget for annual maintenance and selective harvest of trees within developed landscaped City property, such as City street trees and City facilities and parks.**

Each year there is funding allocated to tree maintenance in several Department's budgets. However, with the establishment of the Urban Forester role, it is the goal to grow the budgets of these departments to better reflect the needs of the UFMP. Additionally, the City Tree Fund remains and can be utilized to perform maintenance of City owned and maintained trees.

**Action B. Develop a stable funding source and budget for maintenance of natural forests on City lands such as critical or shoreline areas and their buffers and other such areas.**

This is accomplished, but on an "as-needed" basis.

**Action C. Secure funding for a four-year cycle of tree trimming.**

We currently have a maintenance plan done by Davey Resource Group and published in February of 2024. This highlights the need for establishing a pruning cycle and needs for deferred maintenance throughout the City of Tumwater. It will be utilized moving forward to secure funding to promote canopy health throughout the city.

**Action D. Conduct, budget, and report to City staff on an inventory of trees for species, number, condition, and maintenance needs in developed landscaped areas on City property, such as City street trees and trees in City facilities and parks.**

This has been accomplished but remains ongoing as the data is maintained.

**Action E. Provide a budget for training, education, and public outreach in regards to best management practices for tree trimming.**

This can be accomplished in-house with the creation of the Urban Forester position and resources provided by the Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forest program. As further interest grows within the city, the program will expand to the community.

**Objective 5.2. Fund and manage the community and urban forest to maximize community benefits for all.**

**Action A. Establish consistent City staffing and resources to sustain the Urban Forestry Management Plan and maximize benefits for the community.**

With the hiring of the Urban Forester the goal is to grow the department and create a greater understanding of vegetation management across the city as a whole. This will allow, ideally, more data to track and new jobs to create to grow the landscape management of the City of Tumwater.

**Action B. Establish new community and urban forestry maintenance enhancement funding sources.**

This is in progress. New resources/grants are continuously being explored. All resources are being tapped to create sustainable long-term growth for the urban forestry program. Trees do not operate on budgetary cycles, and all programs need to be considered with a lens of 20 years into the future.

**Action C. Work with City departments and other public agencies that have facilities in the city to make tree preservation and tree planting a priority in their plans and operations.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is actively promoting tree health to all departments and encouraging crew leads to explore what their responsibility within the urban forest is, and how it can be improved.

**Action D. Hire an urban forester, certified arborist, or urban ecologist on City staff or look to share that position with other jurisdictions or departments or as part of a wider City environmental manager position to manage the community and urban forest to assist in development review, respond to inquiries, and assess individual tree-health issues.**

This has been accomplished. The Urban Forester was hired in May 2025.

## Engage

**Objective 6.1. Increase awareness and engage the community in active stewardship of the community and urban forest as a community resource.**

**Action A. Communicate how the community and urban forest is integral to quality of life in the City and affirm that it is considered when the City Council establishes strategic priorities and makes budget and regulatory decisions; City boards and commissions make development and regulatory recommendations; City staff implement adopted plans and codes; and City residents, property owners, and business owners make landscaping decisions.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is in regular communication with City Council, staff, and the public on the benefits a healthy tree canopy can provide. It is the goal of the Urban Forester to promote good tree practices to keep Tumwater's canopy protected for generations to come.

**Action B. Actively maintain the City Tree webpage to educate the public on the importance of trees, property care and maintenance, and other tree related information.**

Small edits have been made to the City Tree webpage to date. Staff anticipate an overhaul of the pages with the adoption of the revised Tumwater Municipal Code 16.08 in 2026. Additionally, the Tree Board has been working to suggest resources to be added as part of that overhaul.

**Action C. Use the Urban Forestry Management Plan as a springboard for a citywide habitat and stewardship strategy.**

This is ongoing and is integral to the work in the Water Resources & Sustainability Department. The Urban Forester is present when discussions are occurring in regard to habitat and stewardship strategy to make sure that sustainable plans are put forth related to trees and vegetation.

**Action D. Work with schools, nurseries, or other public and private landowners to construct tree species test plots.**

This is in progress, several new species and locations have been selected, but it requires multiple agencies to coordinate, which simply takes time.

## Objective 6.2. Maintain a community and urban forestry educational program.

**Action A. Look for opportunities to build on and expand existing City educational outreach programs to increase the understanding of the value of the community and urban forest, as well as the responsibilities of the public and private landowners regarding its planting, maintenance, thinning, and harvest.**

This is ongoing. In 2025 the Urban Forester has already done several outreach presentations with the Tumwater School District, various HOAs, and other interested parties.

**Action B. Develop a citywide volunteer planting program.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is coordinating with the City Volunteer Coordinator, Stream Team staff, and has also garnered interest from the Tumwater School District and several non-profits to aid in community planting events.

**Action C. Compile and publicly distribute a list of recommended tree species and their potential uses in the community and urban forest, which would include notable traits, such as whether they produce an allergic response, and appropriate locations for planting individual species.**

This has been accomplished for the approved street tree list. A wider list of trees and vegetation to recommend has not yet been completed.

**Action D. Collaborate with non-profit groups, such as schools or other organizations to provide community and urban forestry education.**

This is ongoing. In 2025 the Urban Forester has already collaborated and taught classes with Tumwater School District, met with several local non-profits, and presented to HOAs.

**Action E. Enhance awareness of trees within the city by providing interpretive species labels at prominent City locations and along key pedestrian streets. This could include botanical name, origin, common name, and date planted.**

This has not yet started. However, we are developing an online GIS tool that will be made available to the Public where people can look up species and locations throughout the city, like what was accomplished with the Heritage Tree story map.

### Objective 6.3. Provide education and incentives for maintaining and enhancing the number of trees in community and urban forests on private property.

#### **Action A. Develop education and incentive programs focused on maintaining the community and urban forest found on private property.**

The Urban Forester currently has no plans to develop this program but will get started on this in 2026 as The City of Tumwater will launch press releases, educational materials, and potential financial assistance for private property owners to plant new trees and care for existing ones on private property. This is contingent on Federal Grant programs currently awarded to the city.

#### **Action B. Share best tree maintenance practices with private landowners.**

This is ongoing on an as-needed basis. The Urban Forester has met with several private landowners to educate them on better management practices and receives countless phone calls and emails from the public on this topic.

#### **Action C. Provide educational material on-line regarding tree selection and care.**

This is in process. The Urban Forester has met with the communications department several times to share information to develop for the City Website, social media, etc.

#### **Action D. Encourage additional tree planting on private properties.**

This is ongoing. Additional planting will always be encouraged, and ideally this will occur as more public outreach and the benefits of trees are shared with the community.

#### **Action E. Work with homeowner associations to manage designated tree areas in subdivisions.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is responsive to HOA questions, concerns, and requests for information. Additionally, the Urban Forester is on the DRC and helps determine tree tracts and plantings in all new developments.

### Objective 6.4. Improve communication and coordination regarding the community and urban forest.

#### **Action A. Retain "Tree City USA" status by complying with Arbor Day Foundation requirements.**

This is ongoing and annually accomplished.

**Action B. Hold annual meetings between City department representatives and the Tree Board as part of the implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Plan.**

This report is for that annual meeting.

**Action C. Establish administrative procedures to enhance City interdepartmental communications and aid in the further success of the Urban Forestry Management Plan.**

This is ongoing. Several new procedures have already been created. We have created a more efficient permitting and communication systems, design and review communications, hazard tree assessment communications, and planting/pruning maintenance plans.

**Action D. Prepare and distribute a “State of the community and urban forest” regularly.**

This has not yet been started.

**Action E. Connect with residents by hosting a citywide celebration of community and urban forests in the city every year on Arbor Day.**

This is ongoing with the annual Arbor Day celebration in April.

**Objective 7.1. Promote collaborations between residents, neighborhood associations, governments, nonprofits, and businesses.**

**Action A. Maintain and support the Tree Board.**

This is ongoing.

**Action B. Formalize relationships with organizations and green industries that share common aims affecting community and urban forest sustainability.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has spoken/met with several local businesses to begin creating some sort of service agreement or partnership. The urban forest can provide benefits to several local industries if utilized more efficiently.

**Action C. Collaborate with service organizations to plant City street trees and trees in City parks and open spaces.**

This is ongoing. This is a crucial step to the continued support of the Urban Forest. We need to not only maintain the current canopy but ensure its continued growth and diversity to protect the community for the future. We have goals in the next year to work with local non-profits to plant in several open spaces where we have identified a need to increase canopy and retain greater benefits.

**Action D. Build on and support the improvements made to the tree cover by the Stream Team program, the Parks and Recreation Department, and other organizations that meet multiple City aims.**

This is ongoing.

**Action E. Work with neighborhood and homeowner associations in community and urban forestry activities.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester's relationships with HOAs will be critical in developing and protecting the urban canopy for the City of Tumwater. The Urban Forester has already reached out and spoken with several HOA and will continue to reach out and communicate with the 100+ HOAs registered within the city.

**Action F. Collaborate with local tree and landscape contractors to distribute informational materials.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has spoken with several local businesses, however, there are many more to communicate with in regards of their practices within City limits. We want to make sure any business operating/impacting trees within Tumwater know of the standards we will be enforcing to ensure the longevity of our urban forest. Specifically, the Urban Forester has spoken with local contractors and local nurseries to make them aware of our newer street tree regulations, as well as local property owners to make them aware of incoming pests and other City goals aligned with canopy standards.

**Action G. Work with the Tree Board to develop a prioritized list of community and urban forest enhancement opportunities and projects citywide.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester will work continuously with the Tree Board to reflect the needs of the community.

**Action H. Involve volunteers in the tree inventory of all City street trees and trees in City parks performed regularly.**

There is a plan in place to work with trained interns to build the inventory and help map the city owned trees starting in the Spring/Summer of 2026.

**Action I. Work with representatives of the Native Plant Salvage Project to accomplish tree-planting projects.**

This is ongoing but has changed. The Urban Forester has spoken with several organizations, and they are still working out the details of how potential partnerships will take place. The Native Plant Salvage Project now only offers consultation and no longer salvages plants.

**Action J. Work with local tree and landscape contractors, as well as retail and wholesale landscaping firms, to stock trees suitable for the urban environment.**

This is ongoing. The city has developed a new approved street tree list and are working with local nurseries to ensure that they will carry the necessary species. Also, it is crucial to build the above relationships to ensure that we continue to get healthy stock for our plantings in the future.

**Objective 8.1. Provide an example through the highest standard of care and management for all City-owned trees, in order to ensure the perpetuation of the community and urban forest.**

**Action A. Use the City website and social media for periodic articles on the proper care and maintenance of trees on public and private property.**

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has met with the Communications Department several times to spread urban forestry stories using social media and will continue to.

**Action B. Identify tree specimens, including heritage trees, on City property that illustrate proper tree care and discuss in articles on the City website and social media.**

This has not started yet.

**Action C. Compile and distribute a list of local tree species and their performance under known conditions.**

This was accomplished under the new approved street tree list.



TO: Tree Board  
FROM: Alyssa Jones Wood, Sustainability Manager  
DATE: November 10, 2025  
SUBJECT: Draft 2026 Sustainability Division Work Plan

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1) Recommended Action:

For discussion among the Tree Board.

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2) Background:

The Sustainability Division of the City of Tumwater Water Resources & Sustainability Department is currently made up of the Sustainability Manager and the Urban Forester. The attached draft 2026 work plan includes projects/programs in which the Division intends to work in the calendar year of 2026.

Per TMC 2.66 Tree Board advises City Council, and not staff directly. However, staff are seeking input/feedback on urban forestry related items on their work plan before it goes to City Council for approval.

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3) Policy Support:

City Council Strategic Priorities and Goals 2025-2026:

Sufficiently resource programs identified in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and Urban Forestry Management Plans and prioritize implementation.

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4) Alternatives:

☐ No alternatives suggested.

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5) Fiscal Notes:

The items included in the draft 2026 Sustainability Division Work Plan have funding allocated to them in the 2025/2026 Biennium Budget, unless otherwise noted.

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6) Attachments:

A. Draft 2026 Sustainability Division Work Plan

**DRAFT 2026 SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION WORK PLAN | LAST UPDATED 11/4/25**

Project	Sustainability Manager Hours	Urban Forester Hours	Civic Spark Fellow Hours	Project Origin	Project description/comments
<b>TCMP and Climate Element Implementation</b>					
Energize Thurston 2026	50	0	0	TCMP and Climate Element	Continuation of the Energize Thurston heat pump program utilizing WA Department of Commerce HEAR grant funding (pending funding).
Gap analysis of vehicle miles traveled	100	0	0	TCMP and Climate Element	2026 Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative (TCMC) regional initiative to conduct a regional gap analysis of existing plans, policies, and implementation practices related to vehicle miles traveled reduction goals in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan. City of Tumwater is serving as project lead for this regional work.
Home Energy Score model ordinance	40	0	0	TCMP and Climate Element	Consideration of adoption or alternatives for program delivery. If adopted, development of the supporting program regionally with other TCMC jurisdictions
Development code updates	90	0	0	TCMP and Climate Element	Working with CDD staff to include code updates suggested by the Climate Element into 2026 Development Regulation periodic update including but not limited to: resilience measures, solar ready/southern roof orientation incentives, and large scale energy storage.
Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment	100	0	40	Climate Element	Working with the Puget Sound Preparedness Collaborative Small Communities cohort to develop a vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan of community, built assets, natural assets, and city operations to climate change hazards.
Assess staffing need and cost to implement Climate Element	50	0	0	Climate Element	Estimate the number of staff, types of positions, funding, and potential funding opportunities to fully implement the Climate Element.

Investigate incentive and grant programs from Climate Element	100	0	50	Climate Element	Including but not limited to bike/e-bike rebate, technical assistance to existing rental housing providers for EV charging, neighborhood scale resilience grants, and portable cooling program or rebates.
Vulnerable population database	47	0	60	Climate Element	Working with community based organizations to develop a list of vulnerable community members who require aid and/or check in calls during or after emergencies.
PSE Pole EV Charging program	5	0	0	TCMP	Working with PSE to deploy pole EV charging in Tumwater
Train city staff on climate element	8	0	35	Climate Element	Develop training materials for Tumwater employees on the Climate Element and provide opportunities for instruction.
Tribal resources exposure analysis	40	0	0	Climate Element	In collaboration with the Tribes, identify consumptive and non-consumptive resources that would be adversely impacted by climate change
Tribal forage access	60	30	0	Climate Element	Collaborate with tribes to provide access to foraging opportunities including but not limited to camas, evergreen huckleberry, bog plant species, and cedar.
Equity Commission support	10	0	0	City Priorities	Assisting Executive Department as needed.
Community Resilience Hub support	10	0	100	Climate Element	Support the work of community based organizations and regional agencies creating and implementing resilience hubs
Post-Disaster mental health resource creation	10	0	50	Climate Element	Develop and share guidance for navigating post-disaster mental health and social resources, translated into multiple languages
Food equity partnerships	10	0	100	Climate Element	Identify relevant stakeholders who can further sustainable, climate-adapted, and equitable food distribution in Tumwater. Assist in Food System Plan implementation.
Thurston County Extreme Heat, Emergency Response, and Illness Prevention Plan.	15	15	100	Climate Element	Implement any Tumwater actions in the Thurston County Extreme Heat, Emergency Response, and Illness Prevention Plan. Placed on below the line projects because the date for completion of the plan is unknown.

Solar plus storage construction, assisting Parks & Facilities (pending grant funding)	45	0	0	TCMP and Climate Element	If funding is awarded, assist with Parks & Facilities and coordinate with the Fire Department and Library to install solar and battery storage systems at both buildings.
Increase access to 24 hour cooling centers	10	0	250	Climate Element	Coordinate with other agencies and jurisdictions to provide more cooling centers with 24-hour capacity
<b>Urban Forestry</b>					
Tree Board	25	25	0	TMC 2.66	Preparation for and holding Tree Board meetings
TMC 16.08 Tree & Vegetation Protection Code Amendments	25	75	0	UFMP	Working with CDD to update code
TMC 18.47 Landscape Code Amendments	25	75	0	UFMP	Working with CDD to update code
TMC 12.24 Street Tree Code Amendments	25	75	0	UFMP	Working with CDD to update code
Tree City USA	0	15	0	UFMP	Maintaining the City Tree City USA accreditation
Arbor Day celebration	2	15	0	UFMP	Supporting Tree Board in their annual Arbor Day celebration
Tree Inventory	0	350	0	UFMP	Mapping Tumwater maintained trees.
Invasive Pest Management (EAB/MOB/Emergent pests)	0	360	0	UFMP	Managing City response on invasive pests to the area.
Development Review	0	260	0	UFMP	
Tree Planting & Distribution programs	0	75	0	UFMP	Per River Network Grant
Code Enforcement	0	25	0	UFMP	
Tree Assessments	0	100	0	UFMP	

## General Administration

TCMC Meetings	110	0	0	TCMC ILA	Staff Team, Community Advisory Workgroup, and Executive Committee meetings and associated meeting preparation
Green Team	35	0	0	Council Strategic Priorities	Interdepartmental team focused on city operations sustainability
Commute Trip Reduction	50	0	0	WA Commute Trip Reduction Law	Serving as the City Employee Transportation Coordinator of the Commute Trip Reduction program. Includes promoting the program, processing enrollments, and required reporting.
WRS Team Meetings	78	25	10		Regular departmental staff meetings
Grant writing and management	50	25	15	Opportunities	Aggressively seeking funding opportunities to support planned work
Employee Management	300	25	0	TCMP and Climate Element	Including staff, temporary staff, and interns. Internship projects could include but are not limited to behavior change campaign, deconstruction standards, pre-event recovery ordinance, access to green space, urban forest inventory updates, and reviewing adaptation plans from communities with similar risks.
Developing 27/28 budget	30	10	0	Biennium Budget Process	Developing the Sustainability Division's biennium budget request.
Onboarding	20	0	50		Onboarding the Civic Spark Fellow
Green Business Committee	25	0	0	ILA with Chamber of Commerce	Participation in the Thurston Chamber of Commerce Green Business Committee, inclusive of meetings, review of applications, and planning award luncheon.

## Other

Community outreach & relationships	100	50	100		Including but not limited to relationship building with community based organizations, attending city events, attending events organized by frontline community members and organizations, community based organizations, providing education and outreach on topics outlined in Climate Element, TCMP, and UFMP
Professional Development	50	50	30		Civic Spark fellowship determines the number of hours for professional development training

Ecosystem Services Assessment	10	20	0		Initially completing an inventory of natural assets in Tumwater, per stormwater SMAP.
Civic Spark Requirements	0	0	210		Requirements of the Civic Spark program.
Yet to be determined	40	100	0		Hours available for projects/programs yet to be determined.
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1200</b>		
<b>Total Available Staff (FTE)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Total available staff time (hours X FTE)</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1200</b>		Civic Spark is a 8 month fellowship from January to September.
<b>Staff Time Difference (hours x FTE)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

**Below the line projects (to be considered as projects above are completed and staff time is available)**

Project	Sustainability Manager Hours	Urban Forester Hours	Civic Spark Fellow Hours	Project Origin	Project description/comments
Existing building technical assistance	45	20	0	Climate Element	Provide educational resources and/or technical assistance to industry professionals and building owners and managers on energy-efficient building design, retrofits, and operations for new and existing buildings
Boost PSE Energy programs locally	25	0	0	Climate Element	Collaborate with PSE and/or other energy providers to promote and/or deploy energy efficiency programs, local funds, and customer enrollment in clean energy projects and programs
Public-Private Partnerships for renewable projects	60	0	60	Climate Element	Pursue private-public partnerships to accelerate clean energy projects
Public-Private partnerships for Level 3 EV chargers	60	0	60	Climate Element	Develop public-private partnerships to install two or more Level 3 EV chargers at commercial centers
First and last mile improvements	250	0	250	Climate Element	Work with Intercity Transit or other agencies/consultants on first and last mile improvements

Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Unknown	10	0	Climate Element	In collaboration with the Tribes, develop guidelines and standards for incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Tumwater programs and planning efforts to adapt to climate change impacts
Proactive historic and cultural site protection	Unknown	10	0	Climate Element	Request recommendations from the Tribes for actions Tumwater can take to preserve historic sites and cultural properties.
Workforce development for climate impacted workers	150	50	0	Climate Element	Form partnerships with workforce development organizations to provide services and resources to Tumwater community members that support workers and local businesses affected by climate change.
Sustainable food production and consumption	50	20	20	Climate Element	Explore opportunities for the community to provide and engage in local and sustainable food production and consumption, such as farmers markets and community gardens.
Increase food bank access	50	0	0	Climate Element	Coordinate with the Food Bank to expand access to food assistance services.
Nutritious food access gap analysis	75	15	0	Climate Element	Conduct community outreach to find gaps and barriers in consistent access to nutritious food.
Food Forest Implementation	20	100	0	UFMP	Identify locations in Tumwater and begin scope of work to grow an equitable food forest
Stormwater Design Implementation	0	250	0	UFMP	Working with stormwater utility engineers to identify alternatives to stormwater hardscapes
Additional Tree Plantings	0	20	0	UFMP	Sapling planting in undevelopable parcels throughout the City of Tumwater
Hazard Tree Mitigation	0	60	0	UFMP	Removal and abatement of Hazard trees in City owned properties
Sidewalk Repair	0	100	0		Working with TED to find alternative solutions to sidewalk upheaval

Thurston County Municipal Tree Group	0	40	0	UFMP	Coordinate with the other municipalities to share resources and information to combat issues regards trees in the urban environment.
HOA Engagement	100	100	0	UFMP	Meeting with HOA's to educate them on tree care and mitigation options
Pruning	0	30	0	UFMP	Either assist with or supervise tree pruning in the ROW and Parks
Wood Recycling Program	50	150	0	UFMP	Create, manage, and partner with local industry to recycle all our urban wood waste.
Low Carbon Freight	50	0	0	Climate Element	Collaborate with local businesses and industries to explore low-carbon options for deliveries and the movement of goods into, out of, and through Tumwater
Pre-Event Recovery Ordinance	100	20	25	Climate Element	Explore developing a pre-event recovery ordinance using American Planning Association's guidance that will allow Tumwater to facilitate a Local Recovery Management Organization charged with planning for long-term resident disaster recovery.
Green Space Access Gaps	25	25	25	Climate Element	Utilize data from the Trust for Public Land and from community outreach efforts to find any gaps in equitable access to public green spaces
Native Plant Nursery	10	200	0	Climate Element	Work with local partners, especially representatives of the Tribes, to facilitate a native plant nursery and seed bank to support long-term ecological restoration and foster continued access to culturally significant plants
Historical and Cultural Sites	30	10	0	Climate Element	Request recommendations from the Tribes for actions Tumwater can take to preserve historic sites and cultural properties
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>440</b>		
<b>Number of FTEs to complete work</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.24</b>		



**DRAFT TUMWATER TREE BOARD - 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Note: Schedule is tentative and subject to change

<b><u>MEETINGS</u></b>	<b><u>AGENDA ITEMS</u></b>
Monday, January 12, 2026	
Monday, March 9, 2026	<u>Discussion</u> : Arbor Day
April: Arbor Day Celebration	
Monday, May 11, 2026	
Monday, July 13, 2026	
Monday, September 14, 2026	
Monday, November 9, 2026	<u>Presentation</u> : Urban Forestry Management Plan Implementation Update