



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Vancouver City Hall
415 W. 6th Street
PO Box 1995 – Vancouver, Washington 98668-1995
www.cityofvancouver.us

Melissa Johnston - Chair, Clif Barnes - Vice Chair
Susan Law - Immediate Past Chair, Jamie Beyer, Jeff Kessenich, Khanh Tran, Chuleana Wheeler

August 19, 2023

SPECIAL PROGRAM: On-Site Tour of Heritage Tree Nominations + Monthly Meeting

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The August 19, 2023 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 1:07 pm by Melissa Johnston (Chair) off-site during the Heritage Tree Nomination tour.

Present: Melissa Johnston – Chair, Clif Barnes – Vice Chair, Jeff Kessenich, Susan Law, Khanh Tran, Jessica George – Urban Forestry, Adela Miller– Urban Forestry, Dorian Curtin – AmeriCorps

Excused: Jamie Beyer, Chuleana Wheeler

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Kessenich, seconded by Clif Barnes, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from July 19, 2023 Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: INTRODUCTIONS & COMMUNITY COMMENT

None.

ITEM 4: HERITAGE TREE NOMINATION TOUR

Currently taking place.

At September 20, 2023 meeting, Heritage Tree Hearing will take place in City Council Chambers. Commissioners and public will be in attendance, with both virtual and in-person options

available. Commission is directed to review all materials and findings in advance of hearings, with public comments taking place during September meeting.

In preparation for the hearing, Urban Forestry will prepare staff report containing its recommendation of tree packages to advance. In addition, Charles with UF will share script and program order from previous hearing with Commissioners.

ITEM 5: SILVA BOLDS AWARD PLANNING

The Silva Bolds Award will be presented to Susan Sanders on Monday, September 25th, 2023. Gathering begins at 5pm, and ceremony will commence at 5:15pm, followed by gathering at Tap Union Freehouse.

ITEM 6: PROGRAM UPDATES

See Report.

The Old Apple Tree Festival will be held the first Saturday in October. An email will be distributed shortly containing Commission volunteer opportunities available in event set-up, break-down, UFC and Commission booth staffing, as well as for an individual to serve as MC. Largest volunteer need remains in staffing cider pressing station. Parking for event is still TBD; previous parking lot is now a construction staging site. Potential parking option is available near Fort Vancouver but presents challenges in ensuring accessibility.

ITEM 7: COMMUNITY & ARBORIST COMMUNICATION

None.

ITEM 8: URBAN FORESTRY REPORT

See Report.

ITEM 9: COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

1:20pm

Melissa Johnston, Chair

Meetings of the Urban Forestry Commission are electronically recorded on audio. The audio tapes are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.



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September UFC Program and Staff Reports

5. Program Updates

AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees:

Friends of Trees 23-24 schedule, see attached

6 planting events for the 23-24 planting season

3 pruning events for the 23-24 season

AmeriCorps

5 new positions starting in September. Riley Schleiss is supporting Urban Forestry/ Friends of Trees and Heather Day-Melgar is in the shared position with UF and Volunteer Program supporting Naturespaces.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

Staff will be presenting at a virtual Washington Department of Natural Resources on Vancouver's Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan. Staff are developing priority ash removal project to be implemented Oct-March as well next spring's ash treatment plans.

Silva Bolds Award Planning:

The ginkgo tree at the Silva Bolds Plaza was vandalized over the Labor Day weekend. Staff is working with the Main Street Project team to have the tree replaced with a larger caliper 3-6" caliper ginkgo as part of the Main Street Project. The Commission will be recognizing Susan Sanders with the Silva Bolds Award on September 25, 2023 at 5pm.

Old Apple Tree Festival prep:

Saturday, October 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Former Commissioner Dawn Freeman and Tree Steward Kurt Berning are sharing emcee duties.

We are hosting the cider pressing booth this year and need help. We will send out a call for volunteer support next week.

Available to volunteer during the event, roles include:

Set up 9 to 11 a.m.

Take down 3 – 5 p.m.

Tabling at outreach booth

Tabling at Old Apple Tree Cutting giveaway booth

Subcommittee Reports

No written reports.

8. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the August Commission meeting, staff has been focused on Heritage Trees Program, summer tree care, next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward while one staff member is out on medical leave. Staff is starting to transition to planting season and finalizing our fall/winter planting projects. UF's planting goal for this fall is approx 600-700 new trees.

Our site visit inspection backlog is approx 20 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 50 requests.

Development and inspection request are steady. Staff is completing final site inspections for all new development since June to ensure quality trees are planted per the approved tree plan.

The proactive street tree program continues to move forward. Next steps are continued outreach to develop planting plans along these corridors to be implemented fall through winter.

Urban Forestry receive funding for 2 new staff members in the 23-24 budget to support our growing workload and program. The positions were posted in late August, anticipate interviews end of Sept or early Oct.

Tree of Heaven Awareness Walk on September 16, please share with your contacts and encourage folks to attend and learn! [Tree of Heaven Awareness Walk | The City of Vancouver, WA](#)

Silva Bolds award ceremony on September 25 at 5p and celebration to follow at Tap Union. Let's celebrate Susan Sanders.

DATE: September 8, 2023

TO: Chair Johnson and Urban Forestry Commission members

FROM: Charles Ray, Urban Forester, Public Works/Environmental Resources

RE: Final Draft Urban Forestry Management Plan

Background

In 2022, Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program secured a \$20,000 grant from WA Dept. of Natural Resources to fund the update of the adopted 2007 Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP).

The adopted 2007 Urban Forestry Management Plan helped guide Vancouver to make strategic improvements over the last 15 years with support from both internal City stakeholders as well as the greater community. The updated UFMP will help Vancouver identify what is next with strategic actions to work towards in the next 5 years, 10 years and beyond with community input and support, including:

- Identify and create plans to address inequities in our tree canopy
- Review our tree data, plans, policies and other available data
- Plan for an equitable, climate resilient tree canopy in the future
- A roadmap to achieve a shared vision for the future of Vancouver's trees

The purpose of the updated UFMP is to recommend direction and actions for Vancouver to optimize the benefits of trees by envisioning an equitable, climate adaptive, integrated, and sustainable approach to managing the city's urban forest resources over the next twenty-five years. The final draft UFMP includes: a comprehensive analysis of the current state of Vancouver's urban forest; a discussion of existing management structures and policies; community outreach; a vision for the future; and goals and action items to support the realization of the vision. The draft UFMP also includes a monitoring plan and implementation schedule.

Development of the draft UFMP involved extensive research of other communities; review of existing plans, policy and workflows; community outreach, and discussions with stakeholders, the Urban Forestry Commission and City staff. Community outreach efforts included two online meetings, one open house, an online community survey, and internal/external stakeholder outreach.

The final draft Long-Term Framework in the UFMP identifies 3 Goals:

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3
Proactively manage public trees, continue to grow and expand a healthy canopy to achieve the 28% citywide canopy goal, maintain public safety, and optimize urban forest benefits.	Achieve environmental justice through a partnership with the City and its residents to improve well-being, human health, local economies, and urban forest sustainability.	Strengthen policies for preserving the environmental benefits, management, and the character of Vancouver's urban forest.
1.1A Update and maintain the public tree inventory.	2.1A Maintain Tree City USA recognition.	3.1A Protect trees during construction projects.
1.1B Utilize current and future canopy assessments.	2.1B Maintain active communications with diverse audiences.	3.1B Apply a no-net-loss approach to tree canopy cover.
1.2A Align staffing levels with the needs of the urban forest and the community.	2.1C Provide education and training workshops.	3.1C Use tree canopy assessment data for tree management policies.
1.2B Establish and implement a proactive pruning cycle and management program for City-maintained trees.	2.1D Implement program services through the lens of environmental justice.	3.1D Update and strengthen tree-related ordinances, design standards, and protocols.
1.2C Ensure newly planted trees receive post-planting care and young tree training.	2.2A Expand partnerships and the Neighborhood Tree Stewards program.	3.2A Enforce tree regulations.
1.3A Formally update the Tree Planting Initiative.	2.2B Coordinate Plan implementation and community engagement with the Urban Forestry Commission and local partners.	
1.3B Increase citywide tree canopy cover.	2.2C Effectively manage volunteers and events.	
1.3C Grow a sustainable and resilient urban forest.		

The first draft of the UFMP was released for public comment on March 8, 2023. Additionally, the first draft was reviewed by the Urban Forestry Commission on March 15th and the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission on April 9th. The second draft, released April 27, 2023, was reviewed with City Council during a workshop on May 8, 2023 and Planning Commission on May 23, 2023. The second draft also underwent State review through the Department of Commerce and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process in May-July of 2023.

The project team refined and finalized the draft UFMP based on feedback received from the community, City Council, Vancouver Planning Commission, State agencies and others and is now posted on [Project's Be Heard website](#).

Action Requested

Review the final draft of the Urban Forestry Management Plan which is posted on [Project's Be Heard website](#) and vote to approve and recommend adoption of the final draft Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Next Steps

Pending Urban Forestry Commission review and action taken on September 20, 2023, staff anticipate bringing the final draft UFMP forward to the Planning Commission and City Council for hearings fall of 2023 for consideration to be adopted as a policy and planning document, and by reference, as a component of the Vancouver Comprehensive Plan.

Staff Contact Information

- Charles Ray, Urban Forester, charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us, 360-487-8328
- Jessica George, Urban Forestry Outreach Coordinator, jessica.george@cityofvancouver.us, 360-487-8308

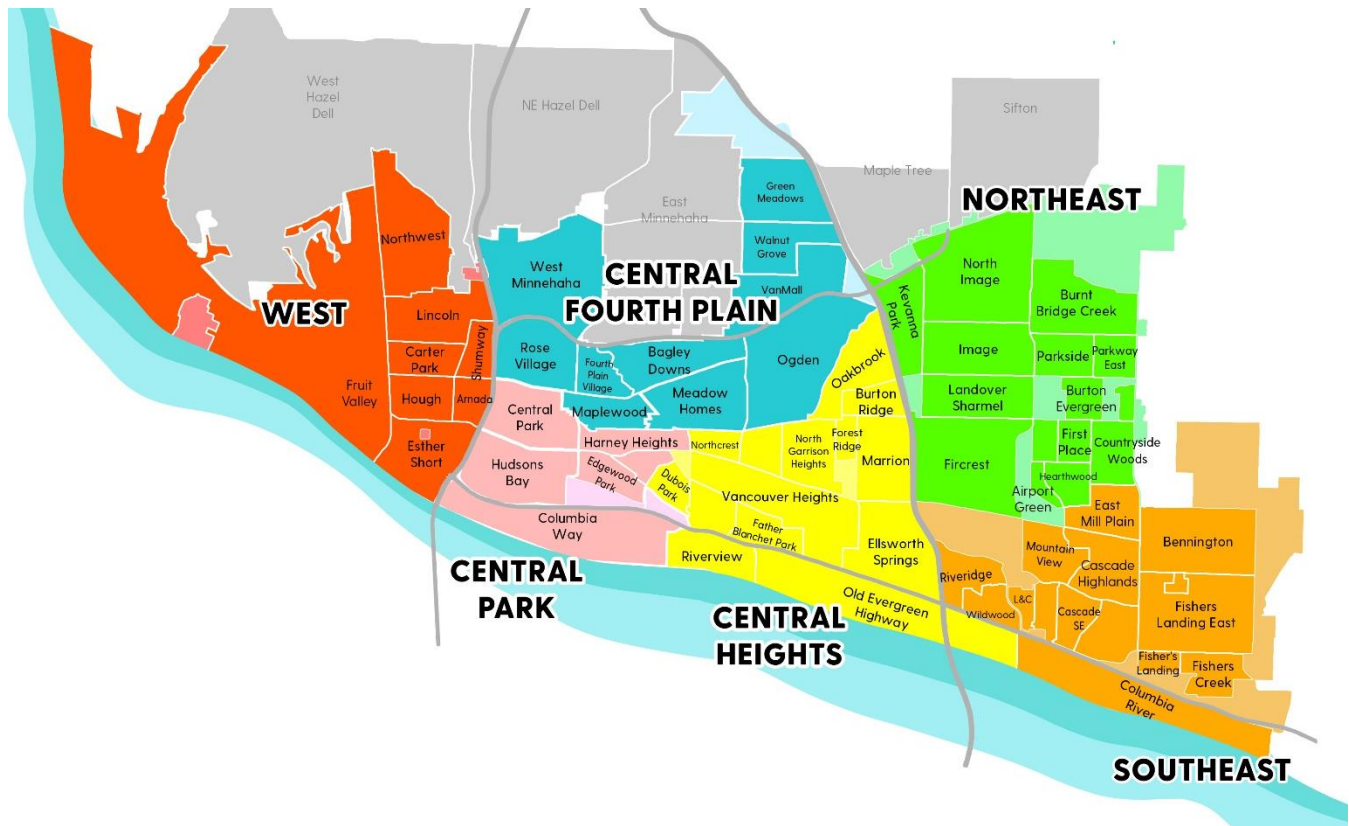
Attachments

- A. Final Draft UFMP is available on the [Project's Be Heard website](#).

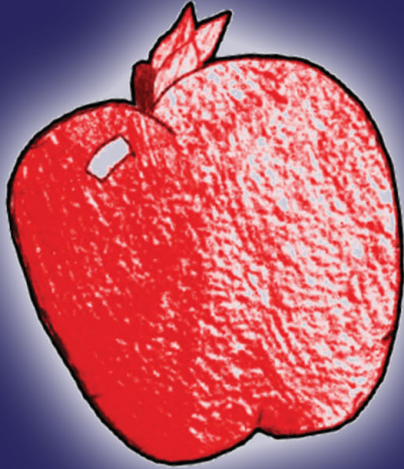


Friends of Trees - Vancouver 2023-2024 Schedule

Signup Deadline	Order Deadline	Event Date	Event	Staff Lead
--	--	10/21/2023	Community Tree Care Pruning 1 - Vancouver Eastside	AL
--	--	11/11/2023	NT Crew Leader Training - Vancouver	IB
--	--	11/11/2023	Vancouver Planting 1 (Central-South neighborhoods)	AM
11/7/2023	11/14/2023	12/2/2023	Vancouver Planting 2 (Southeast neighborhoods)	IB
1/18/2024	12/25/2023	1/13/2024	Vancouver Planting 3 (Central-East neighborhoods)	AM
1/29/2024	2/5/2024	2/24/2024	Vancouver Planting 4 (Westside)	IB
3/4/2024	3/11/2024	3/30/2024	Vancouver Planting 5 (Northeast neighborhoods)	IB
3/18/2024	3/25/2024	4/13/2024	Vancouver Planting 6 (Central-North neighborhoods)	AM
--	--	4/27/2024	Community Tree Care Pruning 2 - Vancouver Westside	AL
--	--	TBD	Community Tree Care Pruning 3 - Vancouver Central	AL



Old Apple Tree Festival



Saturday, Oct. 7
11 am - 3 pm
Old Apple Tree Park
112 Columbia Way

- ✓ Enjoy live music
- ✓ Bring your apples for cider pressing
- ✓ Attend tree walks
- ✓ Plus kids' activities,
food vendors & more!

Free Family Fun