



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

March 26, 2025
6:00 PM

Special Set Meeting City Hall

Birch Conference Room
415 W 6th St
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), the Urban Forestry Commission meeting will be open to in-person attendance. Options for viewing and/or participating in the meeting remotely will also be accommodated (see details below).

MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION [Click here to join the meeting](#). To access by phone (audio only), call: 1-347-941-5324
Phone Conference ID: 989 890 263#

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 19, 2025

3. Community Introductions/Communications

3 min each

- a. Introductions- 3 Minutes each

4. 2025 Mac Awards

Commission to vote for this year's recipients.

- a. Mac Award Guidelines and 3 Mac Award Nominations
2025

Adjournment

Urban Forestry Commission

Members

Jesse Durfee
Lucius Shields
Melissa Johnston
Susan Law
Jamie Beyer
Clif Barnes
Vacant

Urban Forestry Department

415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
TTY: 711
www.cityofvancouver.us

Community Forum Instructions

The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public testifying are asked to limit testimony to three minutes. There are three ways to provide comments:

1. Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments)

via email to charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us by noon on the day of the meeting.

2. Remotely: Remotely: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8328 or email charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting
3. In Person: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8328 or email charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting or fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting.

City Hall is served by C-TRAN. Route information and schedules are available online at www.c-tran.com. You also may reach C-TRAN at (360) 695-0123 for more information on times, fares, and routes.

Anyone needing language interpretation services or accommodations with a disability at a Vancouver City Council meeting may contact the City Manager's staff at (360) 487-8600 (RELAY: 711). Assistive listening devices and live Closed Captioning are available for the deaf, hard of hearing and general public use. Please notify a staff person if you wish to use one of the devices. Every attempt at reasonable accommodation will be made. To request this agenda in another format, please also contact the phone numbers listed above.

Meeting Minutes

Date Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Time 6 p.m.

Location City Hall

Aspen Conference Room

415 W. 6th St

Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

Commissioners/Board Members Present:

Clif Barnes, Melissa Johnston, Susan Law, Jamie Beyer, Jess Durfee,
Lucius Shields

Excused: Khanh Tran

Staff Present: Charles Ray, Nick Redmond, Jessica George, Ian Bonham

ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call – Chair/Vice Chair

The February 19, 2025 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:00 pm by Melissa Johnston (Chair). This meeting was held both in-person and online.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2025

Motion by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Jess Durfee, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2025 Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: Introductions – 3 minutes each

The Commission offered introductions for community members and guest speakers present. Environmental Youth Corps members Villa Pope and Nevaeh Ellison-Shearhart introduced themselves.

ITEM 4: Heritage Tree Program:

Urban Forestry Specialist Nick Redmond gave an overview of what has occurred regarding the Heritage Tree Program since the addition of the new Heritage Trees in 2023 and inform the Commission he has only received two new nominations followed up by a Q&A with Commission.

Members

Melissa Johnston Chair

Clif Barnes Vice Chair

Susan Law Past Chair

Jamie Beyer

Jess Durfee

Lucius Shields

Khanh Tran

**Public Works Department
Charles Ray**

415 W 6th St

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To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:

Charles Ray | 360-487-8328 | TTY: 711 | charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us

ITEM 5: Arbor Day 2025 Prep

Urban Forestry Outreach Coordinator Jessica George reviewed the 2025 Arbor Day plans. Commissioner Beyer volunteered to accept the Arbor Day Proclamation from the Mayor on April 7th. Commissioner Durfee volunteered to be the MC for Arbor Day on April 9th.

ITEM 6: Corridor Committee Update

Commissioner Law and Urban Forestry Planting Coordinator Ian Bonham gave an overview of the Corridor Committee, projects and opportunities for commissioners to support by canvassing with staff or the monitoring of newly planted trees. Commissioners are encouraged to follow up with Ian Bonham regarding routes that are in their area.

ITEM 7: Program Updates

Emailed out.

Pollinator subcommittee continues to work towards Bee City USA and preparing for Pollinator Festival in June.

ITEM 8: Community & Arborist Communications

None.

ITEM 9: Urban Forestry Report

Emailed out.

Urban Forester Charles Ray informed the Commission, Urban Forestry will be relocating to Marine Park Engineering. There may be an opportunity for the Commission to tour the Water Center and have their monthly meetings at Marine Park Engineering. Charles Ray also informed the Commission the Clean Water Commission is interested in meeting with the Urban Forestry Commission in the future.

ITEM 10: Commission Communications

Clif shared he has been participating in planting projects and Outreach Subcommittee. of farmer's market, Outreach subcommittee, and EYC planting.

Jess shared he has been participating in planting projects.

Jamie no further updates.

Susan shared she has been participating in planting projects and a call party with Friends of Trees for planting sign ups.

Lucius shared he participated in the Corridor Subcommittee and suggested Clark Public Utilities send an email to their customers to contact them should they notices branches interfering with powerlines.

Melissa shared she has been participating in planting projects, attended the Science on Tap, Outreach Committee, working on an apple crisp recipe card with the Mayor. Melissa encouraged others when traveling to see if their destinations have tree tours.

ITEM 11: New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

7:14 pm

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.

Award Guidelines for the Mac Award

Purpose of the Guidelines: to guide the UFC in choosing the winners of the annual Mac Award

Who is eligible?

Individuals, organizations, and businesses that have made a significant positive impact on Vancouver's urban forest are eligible for the Mac Award. Activities worthy of recognition include organizing a tree planting project, educating others about the benefits of trees or proper tree care, preserving trees during land development, donating time and/or funds to advance the mission of the Urban Forestry program, developing creative partnerships in community forestry, or any other activity that inspires community stewardship of the urban forest.

How many nominees can be awarded per year?

No more than five award winners will be acknowledged each year.

Consider past award winners

To retain consistency but not duplicate acknowledgement of programs/ projects, it's important to consider previous winners and nominees. If an individual/ group receive a nomination after already being recognized, recognize the efforts but don't approve award unless another unique project has been accomplished.

Voting procedures and rules

Only Urban Forestry Commissioners are allowed to vote.

Unanimous vote to grant the award to a nominee.

Recognize nominees at the UFC meeting

Invite the nominees not selected for the award to the meeting to bring them into the fold & officially recognize their achievements. Consider them for future awards if they stay relevant and engaged in their tree steward activities.



Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award Nomination Form

The Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award (Mac Award) recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses that have made a significant positive impact on Vancouver's urban forest. Activities worthy of recognition include organizing a tree planting project, educating others about the benefits of trees or proper tree care, preserving trees during land development, donating time and/or funds to advance the mission of the Urban Forestry program, developing creative partnerships in community forestry, or any other activity that inspires community stewardship of the urban forest.

*** NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SECOND TUESDAY IN MARCH ***

Nominee contact info:

Name: VSD Career and Technical Education Program (Nina Lupo)
Phone (C): 360-313-1355 Email: nina.lupo@vansd.org
Address: 2901 Falk Rd. City, State, ZIP: Vancouver, WA 98660

Nominator contact info:

Name: Ian Bonham Phone (C): 908-391-6161
Email: ian.bonham@cityofvancouver.us
Address: 639 N Buffalo St City, State: Portland Zip Code: 97217

Narrative – On a separate sheet, describe in 250 words or less how the nominee has made a significant positive impact on Vancouver's urban forest. You may also include photos or other materials associated with the individual, project, or program.

Nomination and Selection Process

- Submit nominations to the Urban Forestry Commission no later than the third Tuesday in March. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

mail: Urban Forestry
Commission
Attn: Mac Awards
PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668

email:
urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us
fax: (360) 487-8305

- The Urban Forestry Commission will review all nominations and make selections.
- Nominees and nominators will be notified of selections.
- All nominated parties will be notified and invited to Vancouver's Arbor Day, the second Wednesday in April. Nominators will also be invited to Arbor Day.
- Award winners will be publicly announced and recognized at the Arbor Day celebration.

We are happy to submit Vancouver School District's (VSD) Career & Technical Education program as a Mac Award nominee.

In 2023, Friends of Trees and Vancouver Urban Forestry were invited to participate in VSD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program as a worksite to host student interns. The CTE program prepares students to enter the workforce through meaningful on the job experience, extended direct interaction with professionals in workplace settings and supervised applications of skills and knowledge.

Students participate in a job readiness training program, attend interviews with prospective placement sites, earn school and college credit, and are paid for their work time. The CTE program has provided stipends to the interns who contribute 60 hours to the program. This encourages strong attendance and commitment to the role from all of the students who have participated, and it allows Urban Forestry to offer a paid internship role.

The CTE program has placed multiple interns with Urban Forestry each fall, winter, and summer term. These interns contribute every Saturday alongside our Americorps members, attending all Urban Forestry tree planting events, pruning projects, and outreach events. With the support of the CTE interns, Urban Forestry is now able to schedule a planting project almost every Saturday throughout the planting season, helping us reach our goal to plant 2000 trees each year. Several CTE interns have graduated into our summer Environmental Youth Corps / Workforce Development program, and some are now ready to apply for roles as Summer Tree Care Techs with Urban Forestry.

The CTE program also bolsters our support for the Friends of Trees (FOT) program by allowing interns to attend all FOT events and trainings scheduled during their term. Throughout each term, the interns grow into leadership roles as they become familiar with the programs and events; they help set up and break down events, and they lead and train first-time volunteers.

Nina Lupo is the District Career Connected Learning Coordinator for the Career Technical Education program. She coordinates the program's partnerships with employers in the community, the student interview and placement process, informational interview sessions, and more. Nina met with Urban Forestry in 2023 to explain how we could participate and she helped us develop the internship role at Urban Forestry for the students. Her work helps prepare youth in our community for the transition into adulthood and out of high school and has helped many local employers connect with their future workforce.



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*** NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SECOND TUESDAY IN MARCH ***

Nominee contact info:

Name: _Riley Schleiss + EYC_____ Phone (H): _____ Phone (C): 719-640-7166
Email: __riley.demorow@gmail.com_____
Address: _____ City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Nominator contact info:

Name: _____ Phone (H): _____ Phone (C): _____
Email: _____
Address: _____ City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Narrative – On a separate sheet, describe in 250 words or less how the nominee has made a significant positive impact on Vancouver's urban forest. You may also include photos or other materials associated with the individual, project, or program.

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Attn: Mac Awards
PO Box 1995 fax: (360) 487-8305
Vancouver, WA 98668

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We proudly nominate Riley Schleiss and the Environmental Youth Corps for outstanding commitment to protecting our planet and empowering young leaders!

In a time when our Earth needs us most, the Environmental Youth Corps has shown what it means to take action. This amazing program gives high school students the chance to work summer jobs that help the environment and make their communities greener and healthier.

In 2024 Urban Forestry was awarded a grant to start a green workforce development program. Riley was instrumental in developing and implementing the program that we call the Environmental Youth Corps.

These young environmental heroes focus on planting trees, restoring nature, and making sure everyone has access to green spaces. Not only do they get to make a real difference, but they also learn important skills that can help them become the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

Riley was integral in building strong partnerships with local non-profits, nurseries and schools, creating a network of people that share their passion protecting the planet with the next generation. By offering paid jobs, the program values students' hard work and shows that taking care of the environment is a job worth doing.

Thanks to this incredible effort, our community is greener, our youth are more empowered, and the future looks brighter for everyone. Congratulations to Riley and the EYC for making a lasting impact and leading the way toward a more sustainable world!



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*** NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SECOND TUESDAY IN MARCH ***

Nominee contact info:

Name: Vancouver Bee Project Phone (H): _____ Phone (C): 360-524-2798
Email: info@vancouverbeeproject.org
Address: _____ City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Nominator contact info:

Name: JAMIE BEYER Phone (H): _____ Phone (C): 518-888-5585
Email: jamiebeyer@gmail.com
Address: 2910 E 14th Ct, Vancouver, WA 98664 City, State: _____ Zip Code: 98661

Narrative – On a separate sheet, describe in 250 words or less how the nominee has made a significant positive impact on Vancouver's urban forest. You may also include photos or other materials associated with the individual, project, or program.

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The Vancouver Bee Project has significantly enhanced the urban forest in Vancouver, Washington, through its dedicated efforts in conservation, education, and community engagement. By focusing on the protection and promotion of pollinators, the project has fostered a healthier and more resilient urban ecosystem.

One of the key impacts of the Vancouver Bee Project is its role in habitat restoration and conservation. The project collaborates with local communities and landowners to plant native flowering plants, reduce pesticide use, and protect critical habitats.

These efforts have led to the creation of numerous pollinator-friendly spaces, which not only support bee populations but also enhance the overall biodiversity of the urban forest.

The project's educational initiatives have also played a crucial role in raising awareness about the importance of pollinators. Through workshops, presentations, and educational resources, the Vancouver Bee Project educates residents about the vital role bees play in maintaining the balance of ecosystems and ensuring food security.

This increased awareness has encouraged more community members to participate in conservation efforts, further strengthening the urban forest.

Additionally, the Vancouver Bee Project's advocacy efforts have led to the development and promotion of policies that protect pollinators and their habitats.

By working closely with scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders, the project ensures that the needs of pollinators are considered in urban planning and development.

Overall, the Vancouver Bee Project has made a positive impact on the urban forest in Vancouver, Washington, by creating a more sustainable and pollinator-friendly environment. Its efforts in habitat restoration, education, and advocacy have not only benefited bee populations but also contributed to the health and resilience of the entire urban ecosystem.