



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

June 18, 2025
6:00 PM

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. UFC May 2025 Meeting Minutes
- 3. Community Introductions/Communications**
- 4. Special Guest - Comprehensive Planning, Our Vancouver Comprehensive Plan, update - Environmental Impacts Land Use Possibilities**
Commission to discuss
- 5. Street Tree Inventory Project**
Staff to provide update
- 6. Joint Meeting with Clean Water Commission July 16th**
Commission to discuss
- 7. Program Updates - Commission to discuss**
 - a. Friends of Trees Update
Program and Staff Report June
 - b. Old Apple Tree Festival Prep

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
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c. Subcommittee Report

8. Community & Arborist Communications* – 3 minutes each

9. Urban Forestry Report
Commission to discuss

10. Commission Communications
Commission to report & discuss 3 minutes each

11. New Business

Adjournment

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, May 21st, 2025

Time 6 p.m.

Location City Hall

Birch Conference Room

415 W. 6th St

Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

Commissioners/Board Members Present:

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

Excused: Susan Law

Staff Present: Charles Ray, Jessica George, Ian Bonham

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

The May 21st, 2025 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:00pm by Melissa Johnston (Chair). This meeting was held both in-person and online.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes – April 16, 2025

Motion by Jess Durfee, seconded by Clif Barnes, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2025 Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: Introductions – 3 minutes each

The Commission offered introductions for community members present.

ITEM 4: Commission Leadership Transition Chair/Vice Chair Election

The Commission reviewed the duties of the Chair and Vice Chair roles, culminating in a vote on new Chair and Vice Chair nominations.

Motion by Jamie Beyer to nominate Clif Barnes as Chair, with a vote of unanimous approval.

Motion by Clif Barnes to nominate Jamie Beyer as Vice Chair, with a vote of unanimous approval.

Members

Melissa Johnston Chair

Clif Barnes Vice Chair

Susan Law Past Chair

Jamie Beyer

Jess Durfee

Lucius Shields

Vacant

**Public Works Department
Charles Ray**

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ITEM 5: AmeriCorps Update

UF staff shared of update to AmeriCorps program regarding the suspension of service. On April 25, 2025, five AmeriCorps members serving with the City of Vancouver received federal notice that work was put on administrative hold. UF staff made contact with all members and subsequently met with other City departments to pivot regarding staffing. Working within the guidelines provided by the federal government, options were developed for affected members to become temporary staff, with the majority accepting return. Affected areas of UF programming include outreach, education, and community engagement, communications, plantings, along with the suspension of the EYC (Environmental Youth Corps); as of now, no new additional programming will be added as there is presently no anticipated return of AmeriCorps, with UF staff reworking current programming. Outreach subcommittee will aid in volunteering for tabling previously booked AmeriCorps engagements, with additional areas of potential volunteer service for Commissioners to be determined.

ITEM 6: Joint Meeting with Clean Water Commission July 16th

A joint meeting between the UFC and the Clean Water Commission is set for July 16th, 2025 at City Hall in the Birch room. UF staff presented a draft agenda for the meeting, followed up by discussion with Commission.

ITEM 7: Program Updates

Emailed out.

In-meeting updates include:

A call for volunteers was made for the Pollinator Festival, with UF staff to send out an email with additional information.

ITEM 8: Community & Arborist Communications

None.

ITEM 9: Urban Forestry Report

Emailed out.

ITEM 10: Commission Communications

Clif shared of Outreach subcommittee.

Lucius shared of upcoming Corridor subcommittee meeting.

Jess shared of Outreach and Pollinator subcommittee meetings.

Melissa shared of Outreach subcommittee as well as appreciation for the time and opportunity to serve as UFC Chair.

ITEM 11: New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

7:09pm

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.

June UFC Program and Staff Reports

7. Program Updates

Friends of Trees (FOT):

Ian will be checking in with Adela regularly this summer/planting season to ensure things go smoothly for with the loss of the AmeriCorps member. Ian will serve as primary contact for FOT. Ask Ian/Adela about getting a yard sign.

Old Apple Tree Prep

Planning for the October 4 Old Apple Tree Festival is underway. Staff is working with Special Events on permitting. Melissa is helping to coordinate the musicians. We are inviting back groups from previous years. Requests: **food vendors + Art/ sales of local goods vendors**. We would like to add more food vendors, especially vendors selling apple-based products. Also interested in bringing in any vendors that sell local or handmade products. Please reach out to Jessica if you have ideas or questions.

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

Outreach Subcommittee Meeting 6/10/25

Outreach Committee is moving to zoom for future meetings. Stay tuned for a new meeting invite from Jessica.

The Officers Row Trees Walking Tour - sold out!

Pollinator Festival

- Handout for Pop up arboretum, onsite
- Watering methods demo... new trees and mature trees
- Plant w/ FOT outreach... get a shade tree
- Melissa, Clif, Susan tabling... sharing tables
- Advertising Old Apple Tree festival/Apple recipe cart/and other events

Farmer Market

- Melissa, Clif, Susan tabling
- Watering focus

Watering Contract

- For corridors and new trees... contracting out....

Corridors – checking on trees – adopt a corridor discussion

Pop-up Arboretums

- Signs are coming on Friday
- Marshall, Haagan, Esther Short
- How to make a tree tour online? Interested... Jessica will ask City about approved formats (storymap, tourism app, QR codes to website)
 - Storymap option... advantages are that it can be hosted on a website rather than an app that needs to be downloaded. Can access from smartphone and used for tour and is informative/aesthetic for browsing on a desktop computer at home
 - Fort Vancouver has an app w/ self-guided tours <https://www.nps.gov/fova/learn/news/paradegroundtour.htm>
 - Columbia Springs put a tour on a GeoCaching app: <https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/jun/04/columbian-springs-launches-geocaching-app-to-explore-its-vancouver-site/>
 - Hilltop Tree Tour in Tacoma on the GeoTourist app: https://geotourist.com/tours/5033/Hilltop_Tree_Walk. Melissa took this tour a few years ago...
 - Melissa started a GeoTourist tour for Esther Short Park... a draft to test features... https://geotourist.com/tours/6861/Draft_Esther_Short_Park_Tree_Tour
 - Advantage: has audio feature, gives directions to next tree... Disadvantage: have to download the app, but could preview from computer
- Clif and Melissa interested in making tree tour, online/app version based on a pop-up arboretum

Heritage Trees

- Clif drafted... Heritage tree letter.... To go with a flyer...
- Do you want to share about your tree... preserve your tree... protect your tree
- Short and sweet
- Clif and Susan... several heritage tree candidates in mind...
 - Jane Weber Evergreen Arboretums
 - Several neighborhood and business trees

- o Pacific Madrone... Around Columbia/32nd

Presentation by Jason Griffith, Ninecreek Farm at Fort Vancouver visitor center

- About David Douglas, stayed at Ft. Vancouver to study trees, plants, animals...
- Sent seeds to London
- Helped by Hudson's Bay Company and Dr. John McLoughlin
- Talk was at full capacity! Audience loved speaker, history, tree facts...
- would be great presenter or tree tour guide... possible future event? He says he's interested in learning more about Old Apple Tree

Wikipedia – Let's update the Old Apple Tree page

- Pictures and info need updating
- Clif found video and login info for becoming a Wikipedia editor – emailed to outreach committee
- Let's spruce up the page!

Harvesting apples... apple presentation/tour, event idea

Officers Row Trees Walking Tour – June 25 at noon – Registration full - Clif and Melissa interested

Policy:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

Corridor Committee Notes

June 4, 3pm-4:30pm

1) Proactive Street Tree Management Program has funding to do more Corridor Plantings this year, so the team looked at the 4 corridors identified for Traffic Calming together and chose the following corridor for a planting this year:

NE 137TH AVE

FROM NE 4TH ST TO NE 9TH ST

The team will meet at the corridor on July 17th, 3pm, to walk the corridor and start planning the planting.

2) There's an increased use of contractors for watering newly planted trees. City staff is more focused on watering the trees that have been in the ground longer. With this loss

of Americorps funding and staffing, staff will need to manage getting these types of tasks done.

3) June is Susan Law's last month on the Urban Forestry Commission. Susan can still participate on the subcommittee, but the lead will need to be a Commissioner. Lucius Shields has volunteered to fulfill this role. We hope to recruit additional member's onto this committee from the 3 new Commissioners.

9. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the May Commission meeting, staff have been onboarding temp staff to help with our summer maintenance season, addressing our AmeriCorps program, Emerald Ash Borer, preparing for our three (3) new Urban Forestry Commissioners, next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward.

Summer staffing

We are hiring and onboarding summer tree tech staff to help with watering. Nick P and Brandon are returning from last summer. Arin (formerly an intern through Friends of Trees) is working with UF and Naurespaces this summer to help with young tree and plant maintenance. Nevaeh and Alex are previous Environmental Youth Corps members and are working as seasonal summer staff. We are excited to have people familiar with the program as well as young adults that are entering the workforce.

AmeriCorps

In April federal funding for AmeriCorps programs was eliminated due to DOGE cuts. A preliminary injunction was made in early June, effectively restoring AmeriCorps funding. Staff are waiting to hear what this means for Washington Service Corps, the state agency that receives the federal funding and administers the AmeriCorps program in which Vancouver has members through. It is unlikely Vancouver's AmeriCorps members will return before the end of their terms.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Davey Tree treated our third round of ash trees in May which totaled 324 inches.

Tree Inventory Grant 2025-26

PlanIT Geo has completed Phase 1 of the street tree inventory project which Ian will present at the June meeting.

Proactive Street Tree Program

The proactive street tree program continues to move forward in coordination with Transportation's Pavement Management program. All tree work has been completed. Staff will continue to work with property owner regarding planting the corridors this fall

and winter. It is anticipated this program will reduce storm damage in the right of way, address social/environmental justice, and improve climate resilience.

Urban Forestry's site visit inspection backlog is approx. 6 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 35 requests. Development and inspection requests are steady.