



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

August 20, 2025
6:00 PM

Marine Park Engineering

Marine Park Engineering Conference Room
4500 Columbia Way
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 - Chair/Vice Chair**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. UFC July Joint Meeting 2025 Minutes
3. **Community Introductions/Communications**
3 minutes each
4. **Possible Tour of the Water Resource Education Center as part of future Commission meeting**
Commission to discuss
5. **New Commission Members Introductions Ammaar Akhtar and Lauren Danner**
3 minutes each
6. **Debrief Joint Meeting with Clean Water Commission July 16th**
Commission to discuss
7. **UFC Retreat Planning 2026**
Commission to discuss
8. **Program Updates - Commission to discuss**

Urban Forestry Commission

Members

Jesse Durfee
Lucius Shields
Jamie Beyer
Ammaar Akhtar
Clif Barnes
Lauren Danner
Vacant

Public Works Department
4500 Columbia Way
Vancouver, WA 98660
TTY: 711
www.cityofvancouver.us

- a. Friends of Trees Update

City of Vancouver 25-25 Report FOT

- b. Old Apple Tree Festival Prep
- c. Subcommittee Report
- d. Program and Staff Report

9. Community & Arborist Communications*

3 minutes each

10. Urban Forestry Report

Commission to discuss

11. Commission Communications

Commission to report & discuss 3 minutes each

12. New Business discuss future meeting location Marine Park Engineering or City Hall. Agenda topics for future meetings

Commission to discuss

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.

Joint Meeting Urban Forestry Commission and Clean Water Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date Wednesday, July 16th, 2025

Time 6 p.m.

Location City Hall

Birch Conference Room

415 W. 6th St

Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

UF Commissioners Present:

Clif Barnes, Jess Durfee, Jamie Beyer, Ammaar Akhtar, Lauren Danner, Heidi Mandler-Huff

Excused: Lucius Shields

UF Staff Present: Charles Ray, Jessica George

Clean Water Commissioners Present: Ted Gathe, Glen DeWillie, Tracy Ceravolo, Emily Hess, John Chatel

Excused: Alejandra Cortes, Rudy Salakory, Alison Schweitzer

Clean Water Staff Present: Devan Rostorfer, Alice Millward

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

The July 16th, 2025 joint meeting of the Urban Forestry and Clean Water Commissions was called to order at 6:04pm by Clif Barnes (Chair). This meeting was held both in-person and online.

ITEM 2: Approval of UFC Minutes – June 18, 2025

Motion by Jess Durfee, seconded by Jamie Beyer, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2025 Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: Community Communications – 3 minutes each

Executive Director of Watershed Alliance Sunrise O'Mahoney shared information about organization and its programming.

Urban Forestry Commission Members

Clif Barnes

Chair

Jamie Beyer

Vice Chair

Ammaar Akhtar

Lauren Danner

Jess Durfee

Heidi Mandler-Huff

Lucius Shields

Public Works Department

Charles Ray

360-487-8328

charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members

Ted Gathe

Chair

Glen DeWillie

Vice Chair

Tracy Ceravolo

John Chatel

Alejandra Cortes

Emily Hess

Rudy Salakory

Alison Schweitzer

Vacant

Clark County Public Works

Alice Millward

564-397-4345

Alice.Millward@clark.wa.gov

To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:

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

ITEM 4: Commission Introductions

UFC and Clean Water Commissioners exchanged introductions, including professional backgrounds and motivations for joining respective commissions.

ITEM 5: Presentation: Urban Forestry Program

UF Staff Jessica George presented an overview of Urban Forestry's mission and programming for Clean Water Commissioners and staff, followed up by Q&A.

ITEM 6: Presentation: Clean Water Program

Clark County Clean Water Staff Devan Rostorfer presented an overview of Clean Water's mission and programming for UF Commissioners and staff, followed up by Q&A.

ITEM 7: Discussion: Connection Between Clean Water, Trees and Human Health

UF and Clean Water Commissioners exchanged ideas and best practices in pursuit of missions, including navigating policy and resources surrounding forestry, clean water, city growth and development, and biodiversity.

ITEM 8: Discussion: Partnership and Main Messages

UF and Clean Water Commissioners identified common areas of focus and goals for the future, including growing community engagement and ongoing collaboration between commissions.

ITEM 9: Commission Communications

Jamie contacted properties regarding Tree of Heaven treatment, pollinator subcommittee, attending the Pollinator Festival, and potential collaborations with other UFC subcommittees and groups.

Clif shared of summer tree care and waterings, attending the Pollinator Festival, and outreach subcommittee.

Ammaar shared of attending recent workshops, a potential tree planting collaboration with WSUV, and a research article regarding trees and stormwater interception.

Jess shared of attending the Pollinator Festival and outreach subcommittee.

Lauren shared of outreach subcommittee, meeting with former UFC Chair Melissa Johnston, beginning Tree Board University, attending American Forest Coaching Network series, attending a webinar on resilient city-making, creating a Google map of the Heritage Trees, and attending the Pollinator Festival.

Heidi shared of outreach and community engagement for the UFC.

ITEM 10: New Business

UF Commissioners expressed interest in having Watershed Alliance present at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

8:22pm

Clif Barnes, 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.



FRIENDS of TREES

ANNUAL VANCOUVER REPORT

2024

To our valued partners at the City of Vancouver,

Thank you for your continued support of Friends of Trees! This past year, the City of Vancouver helped us celebrate our 36th season of inspiring community stewardship by bringing people together to plant and care for city trees. We're especially thrilled to share that this past season we planted our one-millionth tree - a tremendous milestone made possible by the steadfast support of partners like you. Together, we've grown something truly remarkable, and we look forward to planting the next million trees alongside you!

During 2024, over 650 tree planting volunteers, contributing a total of 2853 hours, helped us plant and care for 533 trees across 6 planting events!

It is through this community involvement in hands-on stewardship that we hope to expand awareness and appreciation of our city trees and urban green spaces. These new trees will go a long way towards expanding tree canopy coverage, improving water and air quality, and positively impacting community livability in our region.

Thank you again for your support of Friends of Trees. We truly value our partnership and look forward to continuing to grow this legacy—one tree, one volunteer, and one neighborhood at a time.

Sincerely,

ADELA MILLER, Vancouver Neighborhood Trees Specialist
and the Friends of Trees Team



CITY OF VANCOUVER IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Central-South Vancouver Planting 1/13/2024 (Rescheduled to 1/27/2024)

TREE QTY.	60 Trees
VOLUNTEER QTY.	83 Volunteers
VOLUNTEER HOURS	350 Total Hours

Westside Vancouver Planting 2/24/2024

TREE QTY.	138 Trees
VOLUNTEER QTY.	193 Volunteers
VOLUNTEER HOURS	818 Total Hours

Northeast Vancouver Planting 3/23/2024

TREE QTY.	68 Trees
VOLUNTEER QTY.	103 Volunteers
VOLUNTEER HOURS	418 Total Hours

Central-North/Fourth Plain Corridor Vancouver Planting 4/13/2024

TREE QTY.	108 Trees
Plant QTY.	125 Pollinator Plants
VOLUNTEER QTY.	99 Volunteers
VOLUNTEER HOURS	414 Total Hours

Crew Leader Training (NE Vancouver) Planting 11/9/2024

TREE QTY.	51 Trees
VOLUNTEER QTY.	89 Volunteers
VOLUNTEER HOURS	418 Total Hours

Southeast Vancouver Planting 12/14/2024

TREE QTY.	108 Trees
VOLUNTEER QTY.	107 Volunteers
VOLUNTEER HOURS	435 Total Hours



August UFC Program and Staff Reports

8. Program Updates

Friends of Trees (FOT):

Staff met with Friends of Trees to begin planning for next planting season. Friends of Trees 2024 Annual Report for Vancouver is attached.

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 Notes 7/8/25

Old Apple Tree Festival

New: Taco vendor

New: candle vendor (confirming)

Bands: JT Wise Band, The Ottomatics, seeking 1 more (School of Rock cancelled due to scheduling conflict). Discussed the Juleps, River Twain, and Lauren has new band contacts

New: coffee tent

Urban abundance is running cider press and market... May team up with Riverview to offer packaged snacks.

Possible plant trade table

Seeking: Carmel Apple/Apple treat vendor. Possibly Cascadia tech culinary school

Returning history presenter

Jess D will MC

Considering reaching out to Mela cider about cider garden, will run possible partnership idea by urban abundance first first <https://melacider.com/nw-apple-history>

Tabling/Outreach Ideas

Table activity: vote on fave tree benefits. 5 or so jars (nesting, durable), 5 or so tree benefit cards, about 1 gal collected western/mountain hemlock cones for voting)

Seeking small potted tree/fake tree/tree cutout for displaying a watering bag and bucket.

Can we find an apple costume?

Discussed roving outreach activity, fun tree/nature-related costumes, temperature gun, guess temp in sun and shade, tree give-away and other handouts.

Talked about feasibility of volunteers/commissioners picking up tabling gear and doing set up/take down.

Wikipedia page, let's log on and update the old apple tree page.

Policy:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report

10. Urban Forestry Staff Report

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

Summer Watering

With support from temp staff, UF staff have been ensuring our projects receive adequate care. Staff partnered with Vancouver School District Career Technical Education program to host a summer youth intern. Valeria is working alongside staff for 60 hours this summer learning about young tree care, pruning, and supporting volunteer events at Campus Garden and Downs Neighborhood Park.

So far, 27 trees have been identified for replacement this fall. The majority of trees failed due to vandalism and poor root stock. UF staff are continuing our young tree care program this spring/summer focusing on our 2020-21 project sites. Young trees will be pruned to improve structure and focus growth. This pruning will reduce future storm

damage and improve the health of the trees to maximize the benefits they provide. Anticipate pruning over 400 trees.

Tree Inventory Grant 2025-26

PlanIT Geo will continue Phase 2 of the street tree inventory project spring of 2026 prior to the grant deadline of May 2026. This project will support our Proactive Street Tree Management Program to address equity and climate resilience.

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.

Outreach updates

Staff partnered with the Historical Society to lead a trees and history walk along Officers Row. Staff led the annual Heritage Tree Bike Ride, visiting 12 spectacular trees on a 5 mile loop through west Vancouver. Commissioners supported the Urban Forestry outreach booth at the Pollinator Festival on June 21st (soooo rainy!!!, thank you!), and the Farmers Market on June 28th. Staff partnered with Tree Steward Jeff Kessenich to lead a Tree of Heaven walk in Rose Village with 35 community members learning about identification and management of this noxious weed. Staff had an outreach booth at the East Vancouver Neighborhood Night Out event.

Urban Forestry's site visit inspection backlog is approx. 7 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 30 requests. Development and inspection requests are steady.