



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

March 18, 2026
6:00 PM

Marine Park Engineering

Marine Park 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**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. UFC February 2026 Meeting Minutes
- 3. Community Forum -**
3 min each
- 4. Special Guest -**
Jonathan Schetky, Assistant City Attorney, to present about Open Public Meetings, Public Records, and related topics. Commission to discuss.
- 5. Arbor Day 2026 Prep -**
Commission to discuss.
- 6. 2026 MacAwards -**
Commission to vote for this year's recipients.
 - a. Applications and Program Guidelines
- 7. Program Updates - Commission to discuss**
 - a. Friends of Trees Update

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 98661
TTY: 711
www.cityofvancouver.us

- b. Annual Reprot 2025
 - c. UFC Retreat Planning 2026
 - d. Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Role
 - e. Subcommittee Reports
- 8. Urban Forestry Report -**
Commission to discuss
- a. Program and Staff Report March
- 9. Commission Communications -**
Commission to report & discuss 3 minutes each
- 10. New Business. 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.

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

Mac 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: Jim Worrall Phone (H): _____ Phone (C): _____
Email: JWORRALL@FORESTPATHOLOGY.COM
Address: _____ City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Nominator contact info:

Name: Urban Forestry 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.

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 email: urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us
Attn: Mac Awards
PO Box 1995 fax: (360) 487-8305
Vancouver, WA 98668

- 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 proud to nominate Jim as a Mac Award recipient! A 2019 Tree Steward graduate and North Image neighbor, Jim is a retired forest pathologist who has become an invaluable resource to Urban Forestry staff. He generously shares his expertise by helping identify fungal conks and decay pathogens in trees—knowledge that plays an important role in completing risk assessments for potential hazard trees. Jim is kind, personable, and always willing to lend a hand. When staff are stumped, Jim is often the one who comes to the rescue.



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

Nominee contact info:

Name: Lincoln Tree Squad

Phone (C): _____

Email: kurtberning@gmail.com; jfostering@gmail.com

Address: _____ City, State, ZIP: Vancouver, WA

Nominator contact info:

Name: Urban Forestry Outreach Subcommittee Phone (C): 360-487-8308

Email: Jessica.george@cityofvancouver.us

Address: Vancouver City, State: WA 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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We are pleased to nominate the Lincoln Tree Squad for a Mac Award.

This dedicated group of neighbors formed the Lincoln Tree Squad in 2023 with a shared goal of caring for and expanding the tree canopy in their neighborhood. Jordan, Kurt, Cynthia, and Pamela are passionate about trees, native plants, and connecting neighbors to nature. They volunteer with Friends of Trees, are graduates of the Tree Stewards program, host biannual native plant giveaways, and actively educate and inspire their community around tree planting and care.

Their grassroots energy and commitment are helping grow a healthier, greener neighborhood—plus, they even have a pretty cool Lincoln Tree Squad sticker!

March UFC Program and Staff Reports

7. Program Updates

Friends of Trees:

Through Friends of Trees Adult Internship Program, UF will host 1 – 2 interns this spring.

Event Date	Event	Staff Lead
1/24/2026	Vancouver Planting (SE)	AM
2/28/2026	Vancouver Planting 4 (Westside)	AM
3/28/2026	Vancouver Planting 5 (Northeast neighborhoods)	JM
3/28/2026	Community Tree Care Pruning 2 – Neighborhood in NE	LV

Annual Report 2025:

Jessica will share the Annual Report when finished.

UFC Retreat Planning April 18, 2026:

After the February meeting, staff secured the Water Center downstairs classroom for the Commission's Retreat on April 18th from 10-3pm. The Chair (Clif) and Vice Chair (Jamie) will be meeting with the facilitator to review the retreat. Lunch will be provided, please look for an email from staff to order your boxed lunch for the retreat.

Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Role

At the January Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) meeting there was a discussion about wanting more collaboration with the Urban Forestry Commission. PRAC suggested to assign a specific liaison from the PRAC that would attend Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) meetings and report back to PRAC on items of interest. The same offer for an UFC member to attend PRAC meetings. This would be to support collaboration between the two commissions but the liaison role would be an observer/member of the public that attends meetings. Commissioners should review their schedule and see if they would be interested in attending future PRAC meetings. PRAC meets every third Wednesday of the month from 4:30pm to 6pm at City Hall.

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

No report

Policy:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report

8. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the February Commission meeting, staff have been focused on winter planting projects, scaled back version of our Environmental Youth Corps program; our Tree Inventory grant project; Arbor Month, supporting Community Development as part of the Comprehensive Plan; Emerald Ash Borer management; next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward. Our winter planting projects are being implemented, and we anticipate planting more than 1,000 trees this winter.

Volunteer Plantings Opportunities

Fruit Valley Park planting, Thursday, March 19 10am to noon

Flex Academy planting, Thursday, March 26 12:47 – 1:42 p.m. It will just be Jesse and Jessica so any extra hands would be much appreciated.

Tree Inventory Grant 2025-26

Urban Forestry was awarded \$350,000 to complete a tree inventory from Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as part of an Inflation Reduction Act grant. Phase 1 was completed in 2025 and Phase 2 will be completed before May 2026.

Proactive Street Tree Program

The proactive street tree program continues to move forward in coordination with Transportation’s Pavement Management program. UF Staff has begun outreach and services to 2026 streets which will be completed before June. It is anticipated this program will reduce storm damage in the right of way, address social/environmental justice, and improve climate resilience.

Tree Canopy Assessment for Stormwater Management

Staff has been working with Surface Water staff to release and request for proposals this month to complete a tree canopy assessment using 2024 or 2025 summer data. The goal is to identify how existing or future tree canopy can support stormwater management and improve water quality to improve watershed health. Conducting a tree canopy assessment in 2026 is the optimum time to support watershed management and water quality improvement activities required in Vancouver’s 2024-2029 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit.

Declining Heritage Tree

There is a declining Heritage Tree at 119 W 24th St that may need to be removed soon. It is a Norway maple street tree that is reaching the end of its life span. We are currently evaluating options to retain the tree. Per VMC 20.770.120.D. if staff determines the tree does need to be removed, we will need the Urban Forestry Commission to vote and approve the removal. We may need to bring this before the Commission at a future meeting. If you have an opportunity, feel free to look at the tree, it is a street tree.

In partnership with [Portland Vancouver Canopy Collective](#) and ELSO, Inc, UF will host an intern this spring. This will be in addition to the internships we will be hosting with Friends of Trees.

Youth Crew is going well! Half way through the 10 week crew, four youth from area high schools are learning about urban forestry, tree planting, teamwork, leadership, and the soft skills of working a first job!

Neighborhood Tree Stewards is in May. First 3 Thursday evenings virtual, first 3 Saturdays in person.

Urban Forestry's site visit tree inspection backlog is approx. 5 days (goal is 10 day response time) and completed 44 site visit tree inspections during the month of February. Development and final development inspection requests are steady.