



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

April 15, 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**
Chair/Vice Chair
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
March 18, 2026 Minutes
 - a. UFC March 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- 3. Community Forum * -**
 - a. 3 min each
- 4. Removal of Norway Maple Heritage Tree. Jesse Batty Urban Forestry Specialist to review the decline of a Norway Maple Heritage Tree and request approval from the Urban Forestry Commission for removal. Per VMC.20.770.120.D.**
Commission vote to approve removal.
- 5. Arbor Day 2026**
Commission to discuss.
- 6. UFC Retreat Planning 2026**
Commission to discuss
- 7. 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 98668
TTY: 711
www.cityofvancouver.us

- a. Friends of Trees Update
- b. Annual Report 2025
- c. Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Role
- d. Subcommittee Report

8. Urban Forestry Report

Commission to discuss

- a. Program Report

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.

Meeting Minutes

Date Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Time 5 p.m.
Location Marine Park Engineering
Marine Park Engineering Conference Room
4500 Columbia Way
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

Commissioners/Board Members Present:

Clif Barnes, Lucius Shields, Lauren Danner, Ammaar Akhtar, Jamie Beyer

Excused: Jess Durfee

Staff Present: Charles Ray

Special Guest: Jonathan Schetky, Assistant City Attorney, City of Vancouver

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

The March 18th, 2026 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:02pm by Clif Barnes (Chair). This meeting was held both in-person and online.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes – February 18, 2026

Motion by Lauren Danner, seconded by Lucius Shields, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2026 Urban Forestry Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: Community Forum – 3 minutes each

None.

ITEM 4: Special Guest – Jonathan Schetky, Assistant City Attorney, City of Vancouver

Assistant City Attorney Jonathan Schetky gave a presentation on the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records Act, and Robert’s Rules of Order, including guidelines and best practices to ensure compliance, followed up by a Q&A with the Commission.

Members

Clif Barnes
Chair

Jamie Beyer
Vice Chair

Ammaar Akhtar
Lauren Danner
Jess Durfee
Lucius Shields
Vacant

Public Works Department
Charles Ray

415 W 6th St
P.O. Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668
360-487-8328
TTY: 711
charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us

ITEM 5: Arbor Day 2026 Prep

The Arbor Day celebration will take place at Lincoln Elementary School on Thursday, April 23, 2026 with a schedule of events to include a tree planting and school assembly.

ITEM 6: 2026 MacAwards

The Commission discussed potential MacAward nominees.

Motion by Lauren Danner, seconded by Ammaar Akhtar, and carried unanimously to award the 2026 MacAwards to Jim Worrall and the Lincoln Tree Squad.

ITEM 7: Program Updates

Emailed out.

In-meeting updates include:

Final logistics for the 2026 UFC Retreat have been completed.

The Commission continued discussion on appointing a new Parks and Recreation Commission liaison.

Corridor subcommittee shared of meeting and reviewing the 2026 Paving Preservation and Resurfacing Street Maps and potential new sites for corridor plantings.

Pollinator subcommittee shared of meeting and discussing the planting list at The VIC (Vancouver Innovation Center) as well as reviewing new bee species being reported in Vancouver.

ITEM 8: Urban Forestry Report

Emailed out.

ITEM 9: Commission Communications

Jamie shared of Pollinator subcommittee.

Ammaar shared of visiting Wind River Arboretum through Washington Trails Association and photos with the Commission.

Lucius shared of attending Deciduous Tree Communities Nature Day at Columbia Springs and Corridor subcommittee meeting.

Lauren shared of working on the Old Apple Tree's interpretative panel, attending the time capsule placement at the Urban Forestry Plaza, webinar education, and attending the Boards and Commission open house.

Clif shared of Friends of Trees planting and Outreach subcommittee meeting.

ITEM 10: New Business

UF Staff will share details of an upcoming Department of Natural Resources tree equity workshop as soon as registration opens.

ADJOURNMENT

7:31pm

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.

April UFC Program and Staff Reports

7. Program Updates

Friends of Trees:

Through Friends of Trees (FOT) Adult Internship Program, UF will host 1 – 2 interns this spring. FOT has completed their winter projects and will begin their monitoring program.

Annual Report 2025:

Jessica will share the Annual Report when finished.

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 March Commission meeting, staff have been focused on winter planting projects, scaled back version of our Environmental Youth Corps program; our Tree Inventory grant project; Annual Report, 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.

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 have 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 a request for proposal 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.

Tree Stewards 2026

The annual Urban Forestry Tree Stewards training will be hosted this May, consisting of three consecutive virtual sessions on Thursday's and three Saturday in-person field sessions. Applications are currently being accepted.

This is an opportunity for community members to engage with Urban Forestry staff and local arborists on best practices, with the goal of taking this information, being a resource for their neighborhoods and implementing projects in their neighborhoods. So far, 5 community members have signed up to participate. Please encourage community members to sign up. All new Urban Forestry Commissioners are also encouraged to participate so they have a strong foundation on the volunteer training program.

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.

Our Youth Crew is going well and their 10 weeks will be wrapping up this month. Four youth from area high schools are learning about urban forestry, tree planting, teamwork, leadership, and the soft skills of working a first job!

Urban Forestry's site visit tree inspection backlog is approx. 7 days (goal is 10 day response time) and completed 58 site visit tree inspections during the month of March. Development and final development inspection requests are steady.