



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

May 20, 2026
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**

2. **Approval of Minutes**
April 15, 2026 and April 18, 2026
 - a. April 15th & 18th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

3. **Community Forum***
3 minutes each

4. **Special Guest - Kyle Roslund with Vancouver Bee Project**
To give an update on bee species identified locally.

5. **Review UFC Calendar**
Commission to discuss taking summer month off.

6. **Arbor Day 2026 Debrief**
Commission to discuss

7. **UFC Retreat 2026 Debrief**
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

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- a. Friends of Trees Update
- b. 2027-28 Urban Forestry Work Plan
- c. Old Apple Tree Festival
- d. Subcommittee Report

9. Urban Forestry Report

Commission to discuss

- a. Program and Staff Report May

10. Commission Communications

Commission to report & discuss 3 minutes each

11. 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, April 15, 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, Jess Durfee

Staff Present: Charles Ray, Jesse Batty

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

The April 15th, 2026 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:01pm by Clif Barnes (Chair). This meeting was held both in-person and online.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2026

Motion by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Lauren Danner, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2026 Urban Forestry Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: Community Forum – 3 minutes each

None.

ITEM 4: Removal of Norway Maple Heritage Tree—Jesse Batty, Urban Forestry

UF Staff Jesse Batty presented the current state of a Heritage Tree Program tree in Vancouver (a Norway Maple) with declining health, including a review of staff's on-site visit and documentation of physical and biological decay, attempts made to remedy these conditions, and the ultimate recommendation by UF Staff to remove the tree for health and safety as all viable remedies have been exhausted.

Members

Clif Barnes
Chair

Jamie Beyer
Vice Chair

Ammaar Akhtar
Lauren Danner
Jess Durfee
Lucius Shields
Vacant

Public Works Department
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Motion by Jess Durfee, seconded by Lauren Danner, and carried unanimously to accept the recommendation by Urban Forestry staff to remove the Norway Maple Heritage Tree presented.

ITEM 5: Arbor Day 2026

Arbor Day 2026 event preparations are complete, with Commissioners welcome to arrive before 12:30pm start for set-up.

ITEM 6: UFC Retreat Planning 2026

The 2026 UFC Retreat is planned for Saturday, April 18, 2026 from 10am-3pm. Preparations and logistics are finalized, including meetings with retreat facilitators.

Commissioners are to review pre-work materials, including Singapore multimedia and working documents, ahead of retreat start.

ITEM 7: Program Updates

Emailed out.

In-meeting updates include:

The 2025 Urban Forestry Annual Report has been completed and will be distributed directly to Commissioners; new PDF uploads to the City website are paused while ADA compliance is being confirmed.

Outreach subcommittee is actively planning for Arbor Day and the Old Apple Tree Festival, including procuring vendors for the latter.

Commissioners also discussed the upcoming American Planning Association Washington Chapter conference coming to Vancouver in October and potential workshop sessions with Urban Forestry.

ITEM 8: Urban Forestry Report

Emailed out.

ITEM 9: Commission Communications

Jamie shared of Pollinator subcommittee.

Ammaar shared of tree planting.

Lucius shared of the upcoming UFC retreat and seeking continued opportunities to continue tree education and volunteer service.

Lauren shared of attending a tree planting at Fruit Valley and Outreach subcommittee.

Jess shared of subcommittee meetings and accepting the Arbor Day Proclamation from City Council on behalf of the UFC.

Clif shared of multiple tree plantings, Outreach subcommittee meeting, and retreat prep.

ITEM 10: New Business

The Commission discussed the possibility of future tree giveaways.

In addition, Commissioners are to review summer calendars to determine possible summer month off from a UFC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

6:43pm

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.

2026 UFC Retreat
Saturday, April 18, 2026
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Water Resources Education Center
WREC Classroom
4600 SE Columbia Way
Vancouver, WA 98661

Commissioners/Board Members Present:

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

ITEM 1: Introductions and Getting to Know Each Other – Retreat Facilitator

The 2026 UFC Retreat was held both in-person and online.

Facilitators from Community Mediation Services (CMS) presented the programming for the day. Commissioners and City Staff then gave roundtable introductions and CMS facilitators conducted a series of ice breaker activities.

ITEM 2: Past Success, Programming for 2027-28, UFMP, and What’s Next – UF Staff and Facilitator

Urban Forestry Staff Charles Ray gave a presentation on the history of the Urban Forestry Commission, from establishment through present day. This chronological review included a timeline of major tree-events, including street tree ordinances, the establishment of Commission, the origins of the Urban Forestry department within City of Vancouver, becoming a Tree City USA, landmark zoning laws and statewide changes, the Heritage Tree program, how current programming came about, community partnerships, various marketing campaigns, adoption of various technologies, the history of tree inventories, evolution of the organization and roles, and the establishment of awards.

Facilitators then aided a discussion on future planning with the UFC. This included identifying goals, community needs, potential projects, impediments to implementation, and technologies that could be utilized.

Members

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Chair

Jamie Beyer
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These were determined as: increasing outreach efforts regarding code updates; stormwater plantings; continued depaving efforts; concern regarding the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer insect; identification of potential tree planting sites; utilizing and acting on data from Tree Equity and Canopy maps; and the continued importance of tree education with property owners and homeowner associations (HOAs), as well as with commercial landscapers regarding optimal tree species selection and planting.

ITEM 3: Lunch

Retreat attendees participated in a lunch break from 12:15pm-12:45pm.

ITEM 4: Neighborhood Liaison Role

Led by facilitators, the Commission reviewed the history, current responsibilities of, and ways to improve the Neighborhood Liaison role and program. Aims for improvement include ensuring an equal distribution of engagement across all neighborhoods (during this discussion, the Commission reviewed a map of Vancouver in the Tree Plotter software to identify areas for increased engagement); refined definition of goals and the intent of the role; utilizing outreach methods of attending neighborhood association meetings, bringing neighborhood leaders together, maximizing digital communications, and creating reusable and scalable templates; creating a calendar of scheduled contact with neighborhoods; and defining the metrics of goals in order to confirm and track progress.

The Commission's consensus is to restructure the program.

ITEM 5: UFC Subcommittee Assignments – UFC Chair and Vice-Chair with Facilitator

UFC subcommittees gave an overview of the subcommittee's history, current operations and processes, as well as projects and focuses. Each subcommittee was reviewed for its purpose, continued relevance and activity, in addition to identifying any adjustments needed. Potential future subcommittees could include focuses on tree monitoring as well as tree-related problem-solving/rapid response.

In total, it was determined:

Both Policy and Invasive Species subcommittees are inactive.

The Neighborhood Liaison subcommittee was created. Charles was assigned as the staff support.

ITEM 6: Wrap-Up, Parking Lot Items, and Identifying Personal Passions and Commitments to Action for 2027-28 – Facilitator

Facilitators helped Commission reflect on successes achieved so far. Parking lot items revisited included continued subcommittee growth, how to keep Commissioners engaged with the UFC after service term, and a review of the current Urban Forestry budget, including sources of constraints and current known forecast. Commission and staff completed retreat with discussion around ways to engage the community, with continued tree plantings being a top option.

Clif Barnes, Chair

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May UFC Program and Staff Reports

8. Program Updates

Friends of Trees:

Through Friends of Trees (FOT) Adult Internship Program, UF is hosting one intern in May/June. FOT has completed their winter projects and will begin their monitoring program.

Urban Forestry Work Plan 2027-28:

The Urban Forestry Work Plan is periodically updated to coincide with the biennial budget. Staff will begin updating the 2025-26 Work Plan for 2027-28 reflecting new program elements. The Commission is encouraged to review the 25-26 Work Plan and share any ideas and suggestions with staff. Staff anticipate sharing a draft with the Commission early fall.

Old Apple Tree Festival Prep

Old Apple Tree Festival planning is underway with the Outreach Committee. It will be held on October 3rd and we will be celebrating 200 years of the Old Apple Tree. We are working with Special Events on permitting. 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. Requests: **food vendors + Art/ sales of local goods vendors.**

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

No report

Neighborhood Liaison:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report

9. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the April Commission meeting, staff have been focused on wrapping up winter planting projects, preparing for watering season, 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 1,200 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 is underway this month. It consists of three consecutive virtual sessions on Thursday's and three Saturday in-person field sessions. We have nine participants this year. 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. All new Urban Forestry Commissioners are also encouraged to participate so they have a strong foundation on the volunteer training program.

Environmental Youth Corps

Staff are planning our summer youth workforce program to provide employment and career development opportunities in the natural resources field while establishing street trees and Naturespace sites in underserved communities. This April, we graduated four youth interns from Vancouver School District's CET internship program that worked with us Feb-April learning about urban forestry, tree planting, teamwork, leadership, and

the soft skills of working a first job! In partnership with [Portland Vancouver Canopy Collective](#) and ELSO, Inc, UF will host an intern this summer. This will be in addition to the internship we will be hosting with Friends of Trees. This is all part of a scaled back continuation of our Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) program due to the loss of Federal funding. The EYC program is a workforce development program to train youth and young adults in urban forestry management while growing and maintaining trees and plants in our urban forest.

Urban Forestry's site visit tree inspection backlog is approx. 6 days (goal is 10 day response time) and completed 77 site visit tree inspections during the month of April. Development and final development inspection requests are steady.