



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

July 15, 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**
 - a. June 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- 3. Community Forum***
3 min each
- 4. Soils overview**
Staff to provide overview on soils.
- 5. Review Code updates as part of Comp Plan**
Staff to provide update.
- 6. Heritage Tree prep for 2027**
Review Heritage Tree Letters, Commission to discuss.
 - a. Heritage Trees outreach draft
- 7. Neighborhood Liaison Program**
Review survey responses, Commission to discuss
- 8. 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
Bianca Gonzalez

Public Works Department

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

2025 Vancouver Annual Report

- b. 2027-28 Urban Forestry Work Plan
- c. 2027-28 Budget Prep
- d. Old Apple Tree Festival
- e. Subcommittee Reports - Committees to continue to meet outside regular Commission Meetings

9. Urban Forestry Report

Commission to discuss

- a. Program and Staff Report July

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, June 17, 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, Lauren Danner, Ammaar Akhtar, Jamie Beyer, Jess Durfee,
Bianca
Gonzalez

Excused: Lucius Shields

Staff Present: Charles Ray, Jessica George

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

The June 17th, 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 – May 20th, 2026

Motion by Lauren Danner, seconded by Jess Durfee, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 20th, 2026 Urban Forestry Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: Community Forum – 3 minutes each

A community member shared a concern about communications regarding the street tree removal process. The Commission and UF staff will follow-up and investigate.

ITEM 4: Welcome new Urban Forestry Commissioner, Bianca Gonzalez

The Commissioned exchanged introductions with new UFC Commissioner, Bianca Gonzalez, including professional backgrounds, community involvement, and UFC subcommittee memberships.

Members

Clif Barnes
Chair

Jamie Beyer
Vice Chair

Ammaar Akhtar
Lauren Danner
Jess Durfee
Lucius Shields
Bianca Gonzalez

Public Works Department
Charles Ray

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ITEM 5: Street Tree Inventory Project

UF Staff shared an update on the street tree inventory project. Currently, 63 out of 71 neighborhoods have been inventoried as well as 65,354 street trees across the city. Data recorded includes species, any structural issues or damage to a tree, along with the assignment of maintenance priority. The Commission followed up with a discussion on current threats posed by various insect species to the city's trees.

ITEM 6: Subcommittee Review

The Commission presented the various UFC subcommittees to new Commissioner Bianca, including the mission, role, and current operations of each.

ITEM 7: Heritage Tree Prep for 2027

The Commission discussed the upcoming Heritage Tree Program cycle, including reviewing potential candidates and new nominations.

A Heritage Tree Hearing is potentially planned to take place in September 2027.

The Commission discussed how to increase outreach and potential outreach methods, including letters to potential Heritage Tree sites, letters to neighborhood associations, placing information within the Neighborhood Liaison newsletter, posting on social media targeted towards neighborhoods (like Nextdoor), and UFC events like the Pollinator Festival.

ITEM 8: Program Updates

Emailed out.

In-meeting updates include:

UF Staff presented a community member's request that went to City Council regarding waiving replanting requirements due to future maintenance concerns. The Commission recommended that staff focus on city code requirements, goal to grow tree canopy for collective good for the benefits trees provide, and concern with setting precedent. Staff will follow up with the community member.

Pollinator subcommittee met and discussed the upcoming Pollinator Festival.

ITEM 9: Urban Forestry Report

Emailed out.

ITEM 10: Commission Communications

Jamie shared of Pollinator subcommittee.

Ammaar shared of upcoming volunteer work with Washington Trails Association.

Lauren shared of finishing Tree Stewards.

Jess shared of Outreach and Pollinator subcommittees and a pollinator tour.

Clif shared of Water Center tour, summer inspector route, and Outreach subcommittee.

Bianca shared of UFC orientation and an upcoming meeting with a tree-related organization.

ITEM 11: New Business

The Commission discussed reviewing the new City code changes at the next UFC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

8:05pm

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.

Heritage Trees draft outreach

Letter to owners considering nominating their tree (built on Nick's):

Thank you for considering nominating a tree or grove of trees on your property for Heritage status. By preserving and recognizing significant trees in the City of Vancouver, the Heritage Tree program helps protect a vital natural resource in our community. Trees are added to the Heritage Tree register through a public hearing of the Urban Forestry Commission, which coordinates the program.

The attached packet contains information about the Heritage Tree designation process, including the nomination form and property/tree owner agreement. Property owners must agree to the nomination and potential designation of their tree(s) before the Urban Forestry Commission can consider the nomination.

The Urban Forestry Commission is truly grateful for your interest and looks forward to learning more about your tree. For assistance in determining if your nomination is appropriate, gathering the necessary data about a tree, or developing a maintenance plan, please contact the City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry department at urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us or 360-487-8332.

Outreach to potential applicants and neighborhood associations encouraging them to nominate trees (largely rewritten from the existing brochure):

Do you know of an exceptionally beautiful, old, or rare tree on your property or in your neighborhood? Perhaps one with historical significance? Consider nominating it for the City of Vancouver's Heritage Tree program!

The Heritage Tree program preserves and recognizes significant trees or groves of trees in our community. These are trees that meet one of more of the following criteria:

- **Specimen:** A tree of exceptional size, form, or rarity.
- **Historic:** A tree recognized for its age or association with a historical figure, property or district, or significant event.
- **Landmark:** Trees that are landmarks of the community, notable for their species or relationship to a natural resource such as along a stream bank or ridge line.
- **Collection:** Trees in a notable grove, avenue, or other planting.

Designated trees are marked with a small plaque and are listed in the Heritage Tree registry.

Anyone can nominate a heritage tree, although designation requires property owner consent. The next round of nominations will be considered by the Urban Forestry Commission in mid-2027, and now is a great time to get started with the process. For more information, visit cityofvancouver.us/heritagetrees or contact the City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry department at urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us or 360-487-8332.

Targeted outreach to property owners with known potential Heritage Trees, encouraging them to nominate their trees (these would be individually addressed and the tree specified):

Dear Property Owner,

The _____ tree on your property has been recommended to us as a potential Heritage Tree. The City of Vancouver's Heritage Tree program preserves and recognizes significant trees or groves of trees in our community that are exceptionally beautiful, old, or large, or that are a distinctive species or have historical importance.

Heritage Trees must meet one of more of the following criteria:

- **Specimen:** A tree of exceptional size, form, or rarity.
- **Historic:** A tree recognized for its age or association with a historical figure, property or district, or significant event.
- **Landmark:** Trees that are landmarks of the community, notable for their species or relationship to a natural resource such as along a stream bank or ridge line.
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Please consider nominating your special tree for the Heritage Tree program!

2025

Friends of Trees Vancouver Annual Report



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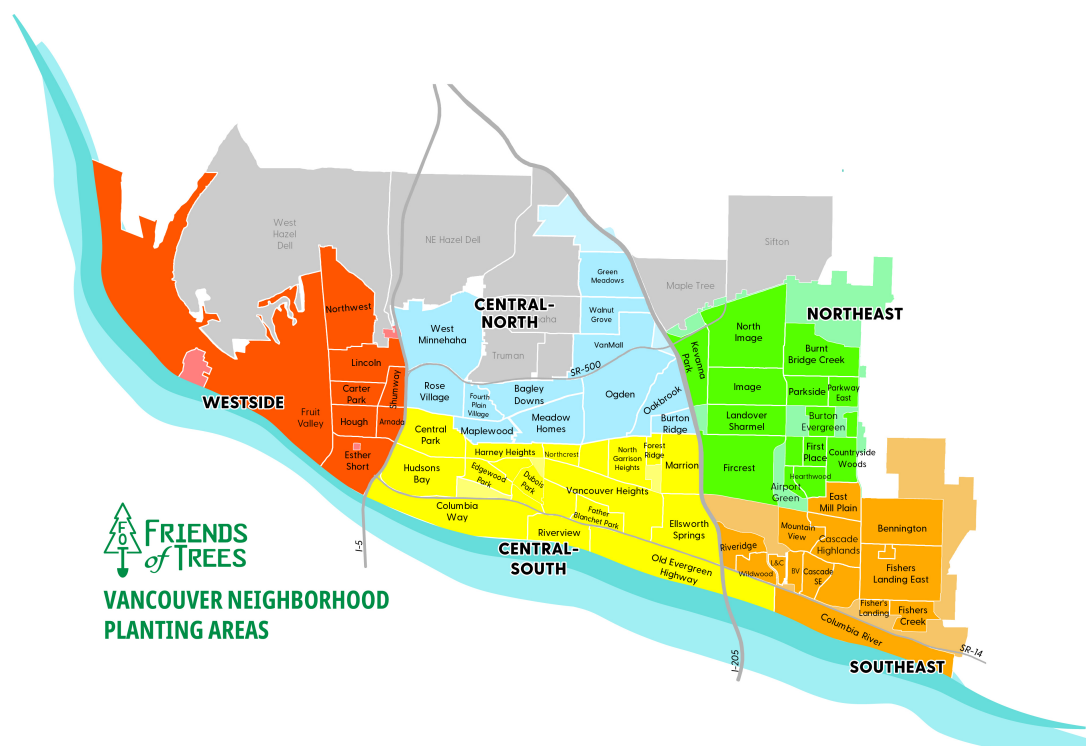
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FRIENDS OF TREES VANCOUVER

Trees play an integral role in Vancouver's infrastructure. Unlike many other investments that depreciate, a tree's value increases with each passing year. For every dollar spent on Vancouver's urban forest, \$2.50 in value is returned in benefits including stormwater mitigation, energy conservation, and pollution reduction. It is our goal to ensure that one day every single person in Vancouver, and the other communities we serve, has access to the benefits provided by trees.

Working with our partners at the City of Vancouver, Friends of Trees inspires stewardship of our community through a simple solution: *planting trees together*. We bring people together to plant and care for our urban trees in order to build and preserve community. Our model is to empower community members to help us organize and implement our neighborhood tree planting events. Through our Neighborhood Trees (NT) program, Vancouver homeowners and tenants purchase low cost, high-quality, nursery-grown street and yard trees that are planted by volunteers at our community-based, neighborhood planting events. It is through the support of the Vancouver community that we are able to work towards, and achieve, our goals.

Friends of Trees hosted 5 neighborhood planting events in Vancouver each planting season (Oct-April): in the neighborhood groupings of Central-South, Central-North, West, Northeast, and Southeast Vancouver. In the 2025 calendar year, Friends of Trees executed 6 planting events, planting in all neighborhood groupings except Southeast Vancouver. Thanks to the support of volunteers and local businesses, our Neighborhood Trees program planted a total of 507 new street and yard trees in over 49 Vancouver neighborhoods.



OUTREACH + COMMUNICATION

Outreach efforts have shifted and changed over the years, originally in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but also through the addition of new, effective methods of communication. On-the-ground outreach was conducted by our Field Technicians, Specialists, and Neighborhood Coordinators. Less direct, but equally effective, forms of outreach conducted included mailers to neighborhoods, text messages, yard signs, and social media engagement. Specialists also engaged with potential “treecipients” informally at outreach events.

This season, Friends of Trees reinstated the popular “Call Stars” volunteer role, now called “Canopy Callers.” This role enlists volunteers to support potential treecipients in placing their tree orders. Each week, our group of Canopy Callers would gather at the FoT office, and call folks who’d signed up to receive trees at an upcoming planting event, but had not yet placed their order. This gave consistent encouragement to those who were on the fence about ordering, and provided a space for customers to ask any questions that could help inform their decisions. Since the revival of this volunteer role in the ’25-’26 planting season, Canopy Callers have called **over 300 people**.



Friends of Trees also sent targeted mailings to a portion of the neighborhoods we conduct outreach within. The total number of mailers dispersed throughout Vancouver neighborhoods in 2025 was 9,354. The 2025 postcard campaign was significantly smaller than previous seasons, as we lean into more diverse outreach strategies. The importance of mailers as a primary outreach strategy has been illustrated by a reduced number of trees planted in the ’25-’26 season, leading Friends of Trees to increase mailer output to 32,000 for the ’26-’27 season.

A newer method of outreach that’s proven effective in recent years is the utilization of mass text messages. We use a text message software to send approximately two order reminders for every event - one two weeks before the order deadline, and one the week of (note: week of text includes a discount code). These text messages are often the final touch needed to encourage residents to place an order. We sent a total of 12 text messages in 2025.

We continue to hone our outreach efforts in Vancouver to be the most effective at producing tree orders, while balancing relevant and promising new strategies. City Arborist referrals, those made by staff of the City’s Urban Forestry program, produced the highest rate of follow through in placing orders, likely because these tree orders

were required through a removal/replacement permit. We were also able to note that passive outreach conducted by word of mouth, and the visuals of tree tags and yard signs, was encouragingly effective. We plan to thoroughly analyze the effectiveness of outreach in our '25-'26 season, and make necessary adjustments to maximize our reach in this upcoming season.

VOLUNTEERING

Vancouver is growing greener thanks to the support of community members, organizations, and businesses.

With the help of our Volunteer and Outreach program, Friends of Trees successfully gathered hundreds of community volunteers to support our tree planting and maintenance efforts in 2025. This included hundreds of volunteers who came out on planting day to volunteer: signing in fellow volunteers at the registration table, moving trees and tools in the parking lot, planting trees, driving their trucks to transport trees, mulching trees, providing food to feed fellow volunteers, washing dishes, setting out food, cleaning up the staging site, etc.

This support also included volunteers who helped before and after planting day: soliciting businesses for food donations, hanging up flyers around Vancouver, canvassing door-to-door, writing grants, making phone calls and sending emails to possible treecipients, tabling at events, pairing and sorting gloves, preparing crew leader clipboards, completing volunteer data entry post-planting, checking on trees, pruning trees, and more.



In total, volunteers contributed **3,096** throughout 2025 in support of our Vancouver work through **741** volunteer moments. Volunteers are an integral part of the success of Friends of Trees.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

In order to recruit enough volunteers, we used a multi-pronged outreach approach:

- **Targeted communications to individuals, schools, and community groups:**

Targeted communications were sent to previous season's volunteers, Vancouver Neighborhood Tree Stewards, to Neighborhood Associations, to faculty and staff at Vancouver area high schools (emphasizing environmental clubs, Key clubs, National Honor Society chapters, students needing volunteer hours, and science classes), to engaged community groups, to local colleges, etc. Our Volunteer & Outreach program contacted over 10 high schools across Clark County, as well Clark College and WSU-Vancouver. They regularly reached out to groups interested in volunteering -- a few specific groups who volunteered in 2025 include Clark County Restorative Community Service, Vancouver Dawn Lions, Salmon Creek Lions, C-Tran's Green Team, Blueprint Foundation, and quite a few high school clubs/groups.

- **Online engagement:** The Volunteer & Outreach program, FoT staff, and volunteers posted on (or with) Give Pulse (WSU), Penguin Jobs (Clark College), The Columbian, Lower Columbia Nature Network, VolunteerMatch, HandsOn Greater Portland, Nextdoor, Facebook, Craigslist, etc.

- **Posting flyers throughout the community:** Flyers were posted at community hot spots including grocery stores, libraries, community boards, coffee shops, etc.
- **Tabling at community events:** In 2025, FoT staff, and/or trained FoT volunteer ambassadors attended community events including the Vancouver Pollinator Festival, National Night Out - Vancouver, the Old Apple Tree Festival, and the Vancouver Farmers' Market.
- **Presentations for community organizations:** FoT staff presented to the Clark Conservation District Watershed Stewards, at Vancouver Neighborhood Association meetings, at Neighborhood Tree Stewards, at the Clark County Nonpoint Source Pollution Symposium, as a panelist for Friends of Clark County, etc.

Below is the total volunteers engaged at each Friends of Trees event in Vancouver, as well as the total number of hours dedicated by volunteers.

Date	Event	# of volunteers	# of volunteer hours
1/11/2025	Westside Vancouver neighborhood pruning	14	46
1/25/2025	Central-South Vancouver neighborhood planting	139	593
2/22/2025	Westside Vancouver neighborhood planting	158	659
3/6/2025	Thursday planting: Westside	17	56
3/15/2025	Central-North Vancouver neighborhood planting	106	428
3/15/2025	Central-North Vancouver neighborhood pruning	14	46
4/12/2025	Northeast Vancouver neighborhood planting	98	409
11/15/2025	Central-South Vancouver neighborhood planting	113	495
12/13/2025	Central-North Vancouver neighborhood planting	96	410
	TOTALS	741	3,096

Hosting successful planting events involves the support of both first-time, one-off volunteers (such as treecipients, community groups, students seeking service hours, etc.) as well as dedicated, longer-term volunteers. Two vital volunteer leadership roles that make our planting events possible are Neighborhood Coordinators and Crew Leaders.

NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATORS

Neighborhoods Coordinators (NCs) are a vital connection to the neighborhoods where Friends of Trees plants. NCs work closely with staff to help answer questions from tree purchasers, to request food donations from local businesses, to write grants to offset tree fees, to educate their neighbors about the benefits of trees, to canvass door-to-door in their neighborhoods, to make phone calls to volunteers, to deliver mulch, and to provide that much needed link between neighbors.

In 2025, we worked with 8 Vancouver Neighborhood Coordinators whose time commitment varied between 10 and 30+ hours a planting season, bringing elevated neighborhood support in Arnada, Bagley Downs, Carter Park, Emerald Landing, Hough, Hudson's Bay, Fourth Plain Village, Lincoln, Vancouver Heights, and West Minnehaha.

Neighborhood Coordinators and neighborhood volunteers in the Lincoln neighborhood received a grant to discount any native trees ordered and planting in their neighborhood, using the coupon code, LINCOLNNATIVETREES. This grant helped support the planting of ~10 discounted native trees in Lincoln,

encouraging the development of native habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and educating on the benefits of native trees.

CREW LEADERS

As the Neighborhood Coordinators get everything set up inside on planting day, our trained Crew Leaders come in to supervise the dirty work outside – planting trees! Crew Leaders supervise and train small groups of volunteers on planting day on the proper way to plant a tree and how to work together as a team.

They are the mentors to newly-trained Assistant Crew Leaders and the liaison between the planting group, FoT, and treerecipients on planting day. Prior to co-leading a crew, new Assistant Crew Leaders attended a training with FoT to learn proper planting techniques and how to guide volunteers during planting events. As part of the 2025 training, FoT trained 6 new Vancouver Assistant Crew Leaders. In 2025, we had **40 active Vancouver-based volunteers in leadership roles** (Crew Leaders, Pruning Leaders).

BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS



Engaging the community also involves engaging local businesses and organizations. The support of area businesses and organizations is pivotal to the success of Friends of Trees' Neighborhood Tree plantings in Vancouver. Businesses and organizations supported our efforts in a variety of ways in 2025, from donating food, product, or space to volunteering to providing financial support.

Seize the Bagel, a local Vancouver bagel chain, donated over 250 bagels in 2025, which fed our hungry volunteers before our planting events. Donut Nook, a beloved small business, donated over 150 donuts.

Sponsorship of events is a valuable way for Friends of Trees to not only expand our revenue stream, but also to deepen our relationship with the Vancouver business community. In 2025, Vancouver planting events were sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts and Exquisite Crystals.

In 2025, Friends of Trees collaborated with partner organization, Vancouver Bee Project, to provide free pollinator plants to treerecipients. This collaboration was offered in partnership with the City of Vancouver's Community and Neighborhood Grant's program, and the Firstenberg Foundation. Pollinator plants were distributed alongside trees at the Westside Vancouver and Central-North Vancouver events. Over 300 pollinator plants were planted in 2025, alongside trees, and 200+ were given away at planting events. <https://vancouverbeeproject.org/>



EXQUISITE
CRYSTALS



TREE MONITORING + SURVIVAL

A newly transplanted tree takes 3-5 years to establish. Young trees require on-going care to not only survive the establishment period, but thrive, including weekly watering during our dry summer months and the addition of mulch to help regulate temperature and moisture. In order to ensure the successful establishment, and survival, of our newly planted trees, Friends of Trees has a dynamic, multi-year approach to educating tree recipients about the care of their new trees.

SUMMER INSPECTORS

At the end of each planting season, Friends of Trees hosts a Summer Inspector training in which we teach volunteers how to assess the health of each of our recently planted trees (over the subsequent hot and dry months of summer). At each home they visit they talk to tree recipients about how best to care for their tree(s) while also leaving a door hanger with tree care guidance. They stress aspects of good tree care such as sufficient watering, the importance of mulch, weed removal around the base of the trees, and avoiding bark contact with string trimmers and lawn mowers.

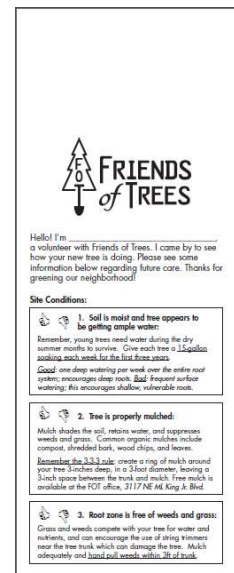
During the summer of 2025, a team of 28 Summer Inspectors completed 32 routes visiting 647 trees that were planted in the '24-'25 planting season. Inspectors checked to see that new trees were being watered, weeded, mulched, and cared for. Inspectors collected site and tree condition information, and their findings were then reported back to FoT to be analyzed. Site conditions included lack of water, lack of mulch, and whether weeds and grass were present in the root zone, important indicators of how well the young trees are being cared for. Tree conditions included damaged bark, broken/dead branches, root suckers, and a lack of leaves. All of these factors are detrimental to young trees. The underlying reason for collecting this information is to provide feedback to tree recipients on why each inspection result is important to the health of their new tree(s). However, it also informs FoT staff that there is a potential problem, which triggers a FoT staff visit to check on the tree.

In addition to the two Summer Inspectors visits, each homeowner receives a postcard and email as a reminder to begin weekly watering of their young trees. Homeowners receive this postcard and email for the first two summers after they plant their new tree(s). Friends of Trees also mulches all street trees the spring after they are planting, leaving an additional door hanger with tree care tips.

MONITORING

FoT created a weighted point system for tree assessment where site and tree condition measurements carried different point values in order to better exemplify that some conditions have a greater impact than others on the overall health rating of a tree. The purpose of this was to remove some of the subjectivity from the inspection process.

In the weighted point rating system, the sum of points is calculated as follows: 0-2=Good, 3-7=OK, 8-15=Bad, 16=Dead. For example, a tree that is dry (3), has no mulch (2), has weeds present (1), and suckers (1) adds up to a



Front of door hanger left by Summer Inspectors

total of 7 points and is therefore rated OK , but a tree that is dry (3), has no mulch (2), and has dead branches (3) adds up to a total of 8 points and is rated bad.

As the Friends of Trees planting season annually starts in fall and continues through winter, the trees inspected in the summer of 2025 were trees planted in fall of 2024 and spring of 2025 (which is why the number of trees planted number does not align with the number of trees inspected).

Of the 415 trees inspected (53 were inaccessible to volunteers and staff**) in the summer of 2025, **98%** survived their first year in the ground! The high rate of survival is amazing considering these trees are volunteer-planted and then left in the care of individual homeowners and tenants. Trees that failed due to reasons other than homeowner neglect (e.g. poor nursery stock) were replaced at neighborhood plantings in fall of 2025 and spring of 2026. We found that around 40% of the trees pulled from the '24-'25 planting season (in all municipalities) were Chinese Pistache, suggesting a stock issue, and prompting conversations with nursery partners.

2025 Summer Inspections	
Good	314
OK	89
Bad	2
Dead	10
Not Inspected	53
Total	468

The data supports that these face-to-face reminders are instrumental in maintaining such a high survival rate. Friends of Trees aims to involve the tree recipient in the tree selection and planting day as much as possible, encouraging them to feel connected and responsible for their trees.

****New to the 2024 Monitoring Season – In an effort to improve the volunteer experience, we are asking all SI volunteers to refrain from heading into backyards. This is for the comfort and safety of volunteers, as well as residents. Instead, FoT Staff inspect all backyard trees.**

Friends of Trees offers over 100 species and cultivars each planting season sourced from local nurseries. In 2025, residents chose a wide variety of species to plant, with over **83** different tree species planted in Vancouver. A diverse urban tree canopy is a resilient one, protecting wide scale loss from pests and disease, and offering a range of habitat and environmental services. The most popular species of the 2025 calendar year include the Afterburner Black Tupelo, the Princeton Sentry Ginkgo, and our native Oregon White Oak.

Top 10 trees planted January to December 2025	
Afterburner Black Tupelo	22
Princeton Sentry Ginkgo	22
Oregon White Oak	20
Paperbark Maple	19
Sterling Silver Linden	18
Autumn Gold Ginkgo	17
Vanessa Persian Ironwood	17
June Snow Dogwood	16
City Sprite Zelkova	14
Edith Bogue Magnolia	14
Tuscarora Crape Myrtle	14

COMMUNITY TREE CARE

Friends of Trees' Community Tree Care program (i.e. Pruning Program), has been hosting pruning events in Vancouver since 2016. We're grateful for the opportunity to extend our care for, and maintenance of, young trees in Vancouver beyond the 3-year establishment period. This programming has also provided existing Friends of Trees Vancouver volunteers an opportunity to deepen their tree knowledge to include young tree pruning.

PRUNING LEADERS

Drawing from our existing ranks of Crew Leaders, Neighborhood Coordinators, and Summer Inspectors, the Pruning Leader role functions as a volunteer advancement opportunity. New pruning leaders attend an online

training, consisting of several video modules, and an in-person training, in which they learn how to properly prune young trees through hands-on training. In 2025, FoT trained 4 new Vancouver-based Assistant Pruning Leaders, who attended an in-person training in October. These trained Pruning Leaders then attend 2-4 pruning events annually.

8 days before a pruning event, FoT staff and volunteers spend several hours tagging 4-to-7-year old street trees that would benefit from selective pruning. FoT staff identifies, and physically tags, the trees to be pruned while also leaving a door hanger explaining the program. Adjacent properties are able to opt out of the program by either removing the tree tags or contacting FoT. During a pruning event, groups of 3-4 Pruning Leaders (led by a more advanced Pruning Leader) prune approximately 10-20 trees per group, depending on the varied geography and nature of the trees. Prior to pruning a tree, Pruning Leaders knock on the door, inviting the tenant or homeowner to join them to learn about proper pruning. They also leave a door hanger highlighting future tree care information. This allows homeowners to be involved in the process, and informs on best pruning practices for future care. Pruners focus on removing broken or damaged branches as well as root suckers and epicormic growth, reducing or removing co-dominant leaders, lifting the canopy for clearance and visibility, and removing temporary branches. Friends of Trees does not tag or prune fruit trees.

In 2025 we hosted two Vancouver pruning events, including the in-person component of our program training. At our first event in January 2025, 14 trained Friends of Trees volunteers pruned 114 trees in the Arnada neighborhood. In March, we hosted our second event, in tandem with our Central-North planting event, pruning 68 trees in the neighborhoods surrounding our staging site (Northcrest, Bagley Downs, Harney Heights), with the support of 14 volunteers.

In 2025, Friends of Trees was able to prune 182 trees with the engagement of 28 volunteers (total of engaged volunteers at each event, may include repeat volunteer attendees). With 4 newly trained Assistant Pruning Leaders, our tree care programming continues to grow in Vancouver.



GROWING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Volunteers walked away from our events with not only a greater sense of community and information on how best to plant, and care for, their urban trees, but also a deeper sense of the impact trees make on the health and livability of our city. Our neighborhood events create a learning experience for every volunteer, and each event makes a difference in volunteers' neighborhood, in their lives, and their ways of thinking about their communities.

The sense of community and working together was excellent and rewarding. I met some great people doing great things. – Volunteer at Central-South Planting Event, 1/25/25

Being with a fun group of people who are looking to do some good together always makes these events a good experience. – Volunteer at Northeast Planting Event, 4/12/25

Adela Miller (She/They)

Vancouver Neighborhood Tree Specialist

AdelaM@FriendsofTrees.Org

Jillian Malone (She/They)

Regional Neighborhood Tree Specialist for Vancouver/Washington County

JillianM@FriendsofTrees.Org



July UFC Program and Staff Reports

8. Program Updates

Friends of Trees (FOT):

Attached is Friends of Trees 2025 Annual Report for Vancouver.

Below is FOT fall/winter schedule.

'26-'27 Vancouver Event Calendar		
Date	Planting	Lead
10/17/26	Vancouver Pruning	LV
11/14/26	Vancouver 1 - Central South - BIKE PLANTING	ACM
12/12/26	Vancouver 2 - Southeast	JM
12/19/26	Vancouver Pruning	LV
1/30/27	Vancouver 3 - Northeast	JM
2/20/27	Vancouver 4 - West Vancouver - BIKE PLANTING	ACM
3/13/27	Vancouver 5 - Central North	ACM

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.

2027-28 Budget Prep

The city is anticipating a budget shortfall in the General, Street and Fire Funds during the 2027-28 budget cycle. Urban Forestry does not receive any funding from these three funds as the program is funded by stormwater fees. UF staff does not anticipate requesting additional funding except to renew a three-year software subscription that would be paid in 2027. The city is required to have an approved budget by fall of 2026 for the 2027-28 cycle.

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 vendors selling apple-based products. Please reach out to Jessica if you have ideas or questions.

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

No report

Neighborhood Liaison:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report

9. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the June Commission meeting, staff have been focused on watering, scaled back version of our Environmental Youth Corps program, budget prep for 2027-28, preparing for the adopted new code as part of the Comprehensive Plan which goes into effect at the end of July; next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward.

Proactive Street Tree Program

The proactive street tree program continues to move forward in coordination with Transportation's Pavement Management program. UF Staff completed outreach and all 2026 streets have been serviced prior to paving season which is July-Sept. Staff coordinated 33 concrete cuts along Mill Plain from Interstate 205 to about 136th. These new cut outs will be planted fall/winter of 2027. 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 complete a tree canopy assessment using 2025 summer data. The city selected Plan IT Geo to complete the project. 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.

Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)

Staff welcomed our summer youth placements this month. They will be working with us on young tree care such mulching, watering and light pruning at a variety of sites. This is 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. 7 days (goal is 10 day response time) and completed 63 site visit tree inspections during the month of June. Development and final development inspection requests are steady.