



## Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

September 16, 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. July 15, 2026 Minutes

#### 3. Community Forum

To provide public testimony, please see instructions below.

#### 4. Special Guest -

Neighborhood Program Coordinator, Koko Olszewski to discuss the Commission's Neighborhood Liaison Program revamp with the Commission.

#### 5. Heritage Tree prep for 2027 –

overview and plan for 2027 Hearing. Commission to discuss

#### 6. Program Updates -Commission to discuss

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

## 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](http://www.cityofvancouver.us)

e. Subcommittee Report

**7. Urban Forestry Report -**  
Commission to discuss

a. Program and Staff Report Sept

**8. Commission Communications -**  
Commission to report & discuss 3 minutes each

**9. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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, July 15, 2026

**Time** 6 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, Jamie Beyer, Jess Durfee, Bianca Gonzalez

**Excused:** Ammaar Akhtar, Lucius Shields

**Staff Present:** Charles Ray, Jessica George

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

The July 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 – June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Motion** by Lauren Danner, seconded by Jess Durfee, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Urban Forestry Commission meeting.

**ITEM 3: Community Forum – 3 minutes each**

None.

**ITEM 4: Soils Overview**

UF Staff Andrew Land offered a presentation on soil science, including its history, role within urban forestry, and the specifics related to urban soil, along with recommendations for further learning resources.

**ITEM 5: Review Code Updates as part of Comp Plan**

UF Staff Charles gave a presentation on the major tree code updates, including regarding tree preservation, redesign specifications,

## Members

**Clif Barnes**

*Chair*

**Jamie Beyer**

*Vice Chair*

Ammaar Akhtar

Lauren Danner

Jess Durfee

Lucius Shields

Bianca Gonzalez

**Public Works Department**

**Charles Ray**

415 W 6<sup>th</sup> St

P.O. Box 1995

Vancouver, WA 98668

360-487-8328

TTY: 711

[charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us)

**To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:**

Charles Ray | 360-487-8328 | TTY: 711 | [charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us)

incorporating street trees, minimum tree canopy coverage, and parking lot landscaping, along with a Q&A with the Commission.

**ITEM 6: Heritage Tree Prep for 2027**

The Commission reviewed the language and formatting of current application documents, along with a discussion on outreach for the program.

**ITEM 7: Neighborhood Liaison Program**

Commissioners reflected on the Neighborhood Liaison Program to date and brainstormed ways to update the program, including: aligning neighborhood contact with Commissioner geographic location; utilizing social media and other digital tools to increase outreach and effectiveness; and collaborating with the Office of Neighborhoods to more effectively make contact with neighborhood associations.

**ITEM 8: Program Updates**

Emailed out.

In-meeting updates include:

Pollinator subcommittee reviewed TreePlotter software and specifically pollinator-friendly trees with the aim of creating a pollinator environment map for the Bee City USA website.

Outreach subcommittee is preparing for the Old Apple Tree Festival as well as the American Planning Association's Washington Chapter meeting including an Urban Forestry tree walkabout.

**ITEM 9: Urban Forestry Report**

Emailed out.

**ITEM 10: Commission Communications**

Jess shared tree observations from travels to Denver.

Lauren shared of research and rewriting the entry for the Old Apple Tree on Wikipedia and volunteering at the Pollinator Festival.

Clif shared of summer tree waterings, Outreach subcommittee, and the Pollinator Festival.

Bianca shared of finishing OPMA training and recent tree walks.

**ITEM 11: New Business**

The Commission will not meet in August, but Outreach subcommittee will still meet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

8:01pm

---

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.

## **Sept UFC Program and Staff Reports**

### **6. Program Updates**

#### **Friends of Trees (FOT):**

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

**7. Urban Forestry Staff Report**

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

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) identified in Vancouver area August 2026**

Vancouver Urban Forestry developed and began implementing a [Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan](#) in 2022. EAB has proven fatal to ash trees within approximately five to ten years after detection, creating an unavoidable and significant obligation for communities and property owners. There has never been a successful effort to eradicate EAB once it becomes established. There are no reliable methods to stop its spread or contain an outbreak other than limiting the transportation of firewood, treating high-quality ash trees that are suitable for preservation, removing affected or unsuitable ash trees, and replacing them with climate forward (climate adopted trees for our region that are urban/drought tolerant), insect and disease resistant trees.

Vancouver's EAB Management Plan has positioned the city to be better prepared for the arrival of EAB. Now that EAB has been positively identified in the Vancouver area August 2026, the population of Emerald Ash Borer is anticipated to increase significantly over the next five to ten years. The goal moving forward is to continue implementing the EAB Management Plan in coordination with partners to minimize the impacts of ash tree loss on the community. The [City's EAB website](#) has been updated to reflect the pest's arrival in Vancouver. Staff are also working on the following outreach efforts:

- Postcards to homeowners with ash street trees explaining management and treatment options.
- Outreach to tree care providers regarding EAB identification and management.
- Neighborhood outreach regarding EAB and privately owned ash trees.
- Continued communication and coordination with regional and community partners.

Community members who suspect they have identified EAB can report sightings to the Washington Invasive Species Council online at [invasivespecieswa.gov](https://invasivespecieswa.gov) or email [invasivespeciesinfo@rco.wa.gov](mailto:invasivespeciesinfo@rco.wa.gov). Vancouver Urban Forestry staff are a resource to community members as a first point of contact regarding this pest or the next invasive pest to impact Vancouver's growing urban forest.

#### Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grant 2026

Vancouver Urban Forestry are working on submitting a grant application to help support the community's response to EAB specifically targeting ash trees on school sites.

#### Proactive Street Tree Program

The proactive street tree program continues to move forward in coordination with Transportation's Pavement Management program. UF Staff are working on the replanting plans for the streets serviced in 2026 which will be implemented as part of our fall projects and winter 2027 projects. 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.

Urban Forestry's site visit tree inspection backlog is approx. 7 days (goal is 10 day response time) and completed 67 site visit tree inspections during the month of August. Development and final development inspection requests are steady.