

Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

September 18, 2024

6:00 PM

Vancouver City Hall

Birch Conference Room

415 W 6th St

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. August 21, 2024 Minutes

3. Introductions- 3 minutes each

4. Special Guest

- a. 29th and 30th Safety Mobility overview. Maggie Derk and Laurel Priest, City of Vancouver Transportation Planning staff will share project. Commission to discuss
- b. Bee City USA presentation. Kyle Roslund, Vancouver Bee Project and Jamie Beyer, Urban Forestry Commissioner will present. Action requested: Commission to discuss and vote to support.

5. Program Updates – Commission to discuss

- a. AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees Update b. Urban Forestry Work Plan 2025-26 c. 2025-26 Budget Prep d. Old Apple Tree Festival Prep e. Subcommittee Reports – Committees to continue to meet outside regular Commission meetings

6. Community & Arborist Communications* – 3 minutes each

*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: • In Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments) via email to Charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting. • Remotely: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8328 or email Charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us by

5pm the day before the meeting • 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.

7. Urban Forestry Report - Commission to discuss

- a. Report packet

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

9. New Business/Agenda topics for future meetings - Commission to discuss

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Meeting Minutes

Date Wednesday, August 21st, 2024

Time 6 p.m.

Location City Hall

Aspen Conference Room

415 W. 6th St

Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

Commissioners/Board Members Present:

Melissa Johnston, Clif Barnes, Jamie Beyer, Susan Law, Jess Durfee, Lucious Shields, Khanh Tran

Staff Present: Charles Ray, Jessica George

Guests: Members of Vancouver Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)

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

The August 21, 2024 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:10pm by Melissa Johnston (Chair). This meeting was held both in-person and online.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes – July 17th, 2024

Unanimously approved.

ITEM 3: Introductions – 3 minutes each

The Commission offered introductions for community members and guest speakers present.

ITEM 4: Special Guest-Vancouver Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)

Program Overview

Members of the Vancouver Environmental Youth Corps gave a presentation on the work of this season's EYC, including member introductions, an overview of the experience including impact data and milestones, and overall reflections, followed up with Q&A from Commission.

Members

Melissa Johnston Chair

Clif Barnes Vice Chair

Susan Law Past Chair

Jamie Beyer

Jess Durfee

Lucious Shields

Khanh Tran

**Public Works Department
Charles Ray**

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ITEM 5: UFC Subcommittee Discussion

Commission discussed current subcommittee assignments, with commissioner Jess Durfee joining the Outreach subcommittee and commissioner Lucious Shields joining the Corridor subcommittee.

ITEM 6: Program Updates

Emailed out.

In-program updates include:

Pollinator Committee met and are preparing presentation to City Council for Vancouver to become a Bee City USA, as designation would require the creation of a successful resolution by Council.

Friends of Trees shared that seasonal calendar and events are finalized, with upcoming volunteer opportunities to be shared.

A new marketing graphic for event and merchandise has been generated for the Old Apple Tree Festival, the event occurring on Saturday, October 5th, 2024, 11am-3pm. After an overview of festival activities, a call for volunteers was announced with instructions to contact Jessica George to participate.

ITEM 7: Community & Arborist Communications

None.

ITEM 8: Urban Forestry Report

None.

ITEM 9: Commission Communications

Jamie shared of Tree of Heaven project in progress.

Melissa shared of Outreach subcommittee and Old Apple Tree Festival prep.

Clif shared of EYC work, completion of second Friends of Trees inspector route, and Outreach subcommittee.

Lucious shared of looking forward to getting started with Corridor subcommittee.

ITEM 10: New Business

Commission discussed revisiting Campus Drive planting to assess health of companion plants.

ADJOURNMENT

6:51pm

Melissa Johnston, 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.

September UFC Program and Staff Reports

6. Program Updates

AmeriCorps:

We are excited to announce the new AmeriCorps team with the city. These members serve in volunteer and environmental services programs, supporting volunteers and stewardship opportunities across the community. Please welcome the members as you see them around doing great work!

Bri Graw, The Urban Forestry AmeriCorps, September 3

Jacob Luthardt, Water Center, Sept 17

Abbey Schole, Naturespaces, October 16

Sofia Deyanira, Volunteer Programs, September 17

Kristen Allard, Solid Waste, Sept 17

Friends of Trees (FOT):

Friends of Trees is planning 2 plantings and 1 pruning this fall season.

Urban Forestry Work Plan 2025-26:

The Urban Forestry Work Plan is updated to coincide with the biennial budget. Staff will begin updating the 2023-24 Work Plan for 2025-26 reflecting new program elements and the newly adopted Urban Forestry Management Plan. Staff anticipate sharing a draft with the Commission early fall.

2025-26 Budget Prep:

The city is anticipating a budget shortfall in the General, Street and Fire Funds during the 2025-26 budget cycle. Urban Forestry does not receive any funding from these three funds as the program is funded by stormwater fees. As part of this budget shortfall, enterprise funds such as water, sewer, stormwater and solid waste have been asked to plan for at least a 5% reduction. UF staff have submitted the Urban Forestry budget with reductions to Public Works. The city is required to have an approved budget by fall of 2024 for the 2025-26 cycle.

Old Apple Tree Festival Prep:

Vancouver's Old Apple Tree Festival returns Saturday, Oct. 5, at Old Apple Tree Park, 112 S.E. Columbia Way.

Strongly rooted in our community, the legendary Old Apple Tree has made its comeback. Planted in 1826 at Fort Vancouver, Vancouver's venerable Old Apple Tree is the oldest apple tree in the Northwest and is considered the matriarch of Washington

State's apple industry. Despite the tree trunk failing in June 2020, a new tree from the original root system has grown to take its place.

The festival will take place between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, at Old Apple Tree Park, directly east of the Interstate 5 Bridge in the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. The family-friendly, free event offers live music, hands-on arts and crafts, apple tastings, apples and food for purchase, and a free apple pressing station. Community members are encouraged to bring clean apples and containers to participate.

Local musical groups The Ottomatics and JT Wise will be providing live music throughout the day. The City's Urban Forestry Commission will give away a limited number of tree cuttings from the Old Apple Tree during the festival.

The Old Apple Tree Festival is presented by the Urban Forestry Commission in partnership with the City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry, a division of the City's Public Works department; Bartlett Tree Care; Urban Abundance; and the National Park Service.

Action Items: Volunteer support needed to help staff the Commission booth and emcee the event. Please share event details, follow Public Works on social media, you can share posts about the event from them

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

Old Apple Tree Festival: Oct 5, 11-3. <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/events/old-apple-tree-festival-2/>

Music : Ottomatics, JT Wise Band

Food vendors set... but could use an apple type dessert vendor, hand pie vendor is not available... Please ask vendors you know or chat w/ at farmer market or other events and see if they'd like to vend at Old Apple Tree. Get a business card. Talking points: we have 1,000+ plus attendees... no charge to vend...

Outreach booths: All set!

Urban Abundance/Cider Press/Market: Urban Abundance will run the cider press and market. You can bring apples to press, buy at the market, or pick apples in the orchard. Need more cider press volunteers.

Apple Picking/Land Bridge Tour: We will have a U-Pick activity in the orchard combined with a walk and history talk over the land bridge. Urban Abundance will provide apple picking tools... we will have a map of tree varieties... Jessica will give land bridge tours and apple picking excursion... need more volunteers to help lead tour and apple picking excursion.

UF booth: Jess D. will volunteer at the booth... and UF staff

When was the first Old Apple Tree Festival? Kelly Putney and Jess discussing when the first Old Apple Tree festival was held... likely 1980s? Let us know if you know!

National Parks... Not available to give history talk this year... we're chatting about who can provide history talk in future years... Kelly, Pat Jollata, historical museum staff? Let us know if you have ideas for someone who would volunteer to give a history talk at Old Apple Tree.

MC: Kurt will MC morning... Jess will MC 1:15 and 1:45... Melissa wrap up MC at 3.

T-Shirts... working on getting a printing vendor... Ian and Riley and Bri...

Columbia Play... will provide kid activities

Free speech zone? Jessica will follow up.

September 14, 10-noon, Prep Party at the Old Apple Tree park in prep for the festival. Email Riley or RSVP on the City event calendar.

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/events/party-prep-at-old-apple-tree-park/>

Photo Booth: Example of DIY selfie booth at Oregon State Fair below. I'll bring a few props people can use for fun in their photo.



Policy:

Urban Forestry hired a consultant to review the draft code updates staff has been working on since 2021. The consultant has met with Planning and Urban Forestry and will be providing recommendations on the draft code updates. Staff will bring the final recommendations back to the Urban Forestry Commission for review in October or November. The goal is to provide the proposed code update to Planning to be incorporated in the city's Comprehensive Plan update.

Invasive:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report

8. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the August Commission meeting, staff have been focused on summer maintenance season; implementing our 5-year IRA grant; our Tree Inventory IRA grant; Emerald Ash Borer action items, fall/winter planting projects, next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward.

At the August Urban Forestry Commission meeting, the Commission requested an update on the Campus Drive companion planting of pollinators with trees. That memo is attached.

Events

Saturday, September 14 10 a.m. to noon. As we approach the Old Apple Tree Festival, UF is hosting a [Party Prep at Old Apple Tree Park -The City of Vancouver, WA](#). Please share, and join if you are around!

Thursday, September 19 noon – 1:30 p.m. Staff is hosting a lunch and learn for Tree Stewards Alumni. Folks are invited to City Hall to learn about Emerald Ash Borer, it's impacts on the region and action items. We will have a presentation and go outside to look at ash trees. In addition, we will check in with Tree Stewards and learn topics for further lunch and learn events. Email Riley, riley.schleiss@cityofvancouver.us if you want more information or to sign up.

Staff are monitoring all our planting sites this month to develop replacement plans for this fall. Through a federal grant, Urban Forestry developed a summer youth workforce program to provide employment and career development opportunities in the natural resources field while establishing street trees and Naturespaces sites in underserved communities. The Vancouver Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) will be assisting with our fall planting projects.

Heritage Trees

Work continues on the most recent designated Heritage Trees. Staff is working on installing the Heritage Tree signs, recording the covenants as well as drafting the update to the Heritage Tree Inventory and updating the application.

Hazard and Invasive Assistance Program

The backlog for assistance as part of this program is growing. While the program has reached its limit for participation this year, staff is working with property owners to prioritize next year. This new program supports low-income property owners with hazard and invasive tree removal or pruning to help meet the City's equity and inclusion goals. Trees that are removed, will be replanting with quality trees. This program is funded through the City Tree Fund.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Staff secured grant funding from Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) help with ash tree removal, purchase of treatment supplies and other action items to assist with implementation of our EAB management plan. The timeline for the grant is short as funds have to be used by September 21, 2024. Staff has scheduled the removal of approx. 27 trees, scheduled 2 EAB presentations with community groups, created treatment & removal signs, purchased treatment supplies, purchased quality replacement trees and hosting a trap tree workshop with DNR.

Tree Inventory Grant 2025-27

This summer Urban Forestry was awarded a \$350,000 to complete a tree inventory from Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as part of an Inflation Reduction Act grant. Staff will be requesting City Council to approve the grant agreement in October. After that, staff will be working on a request for proposal to secure a contractor to complete the project.

Proactive Street Tree Program

The proactive street tree program continues to move forward. In August staff continued outreach to develop planting plans along these corridors for fall/winter. It is anticipated this new program will reduce storm damage in the right of way, address social/environmental justice, and improve climate resilience.

Our site visit inspection backlog is less than 14 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 40 requests. With fall approaching, staff has been following up on expired permits ensuring quality trees have been replaced. Development and inspection request are steady.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 6, 2024

TO: Urban Forestry Commission

FROM: Jessica George, Urban Forestry Outreach Coordinator

RE: **Pollinator Co-Plantings**

CC:

I am pleased to provide an update on our pilot project aimed at enhancing pollinator habitats in urban areas, specifically focusing on the Campus Drive initiative. This project, a collaboration between Urban Forestry and the Naturespaces Program, was designed to address the growing need for pollinator-friendly environments in our city.

Project Overview:

In the 2022-23 planting season, staff identified Campus Drive to plant 30 new street trees. Campus Drive is adjacent to Campus Community Garden and Fort Vancouver High School Horticulture Program's gardens. Knowing the importance of pollinators to these gardens, the tree plan included some native and pollinator-friendly trees. Partnering with the Naturespaces Program, we decided to increase pollinator habitat by co-planting pollinator plants in the tree wells of the newly planted trees.

Planting Details:

The project included:

- **30 Trees:** A mix of trees, including native and pollinator-friendly species.
- **170 Pollinator Plants:** Varieties included Golden currant, kinnikinnick, Douglas aster, Western columbine, great camas, Oregon iris, smallflower lupine, and Farewell to spring.

The planting took place on Arbor Day 2023 with the help of students from Fort Vancouver High School. 5 – 6 pollinator plants were co-planted in each tree well. All trees and pollinator plants were installed and mulched.

Observations and Challenges:

- **Summer 2023:** The newly planted trees and pollinator plants were watered weekly. We observed that several pollinator plants, notably the Douglas aster

and lupine, were thriving, while the Farewell to spring and camas did not have a high success rate.

- **Summer 2024:** Staff continued weekly watering, we noticed that some plants, including Common camas, Farewell to spring, and Oregon iris did not survive. Additionally, early in the summer, we experienced vandalism which resulted in significant damage to the remaining pollinator plants.

Current Status:

- **Surviving Plants:** A few kinnikinnick and Yarrow remain, with Douglas aster and lupine continuing to thrive.
- **Vandalism Impact:** Staff noted random pulling out of plants and tossing aside. The tree wells were re-mulched, and staff documented the remaining plants.

Future Plans:

We are in the process of compiling a list of pollinator plants better suited to the challenging environment of street tree wells. Potential candidates include Douglas aster, Oregon sunshine, native geraniums, and lupine. Moving forward, co-planting will be carried out under specific conditions, including obtaining land-owner support and ensuring awareness of maintenance standards for pollinator plantings.

Importance of Pollinators:

It is crucial to recognize that pollinators are vital to our ecosystem. They play a key role in the reproduction of over three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and around 35% of the world's food crops. Their contribution ensures the availability of a significant portion of the food we consume daily. Protecting and enhancing their habitats is essential for sustaining both natural and agricultural environments.

Conclusion:

We remain committed to improving urban pollinator habitats and appreciate your continued support and involvement in these efforts. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions regarding the project. Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.