

September UFC Program and Staff Reports

5. Program Updates

AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees:

Friends of Trees 23-24 schedule, see attached

6 planting events for the 23-24 planting season

3 pruning events for the 23-24 season

AmeriCorps

5 new positions starting in September. Riley Schleiss is supporting Urban Forestry/ Friends of Trees and Heather Day-Melgar is in the shared position with UF and Volunteer Program supporting Naturespaces.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

Staff will be presenting at a virtual Washington Department of Natural Resources on Vancouver's Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan. Staff are developing priority ash removal project to be implemented Oct-March as well next spring's ash treatment plans.

Silva Bolds Award Planning:

The ginkgo tree at the Silva Bolds Plaza was vandalized over the Labor Day weekend. Staff is working with the Main Street Project team to have the tree replaced with a larger caliper 3-6" caliper ginkgo as part of the Main Street Project. The Commission will be recognizing Susan Sanders with the Silva Bolds Award on September 25, 2023 at 5pm.

Old Apple Tree Festival prep:

Saturday, October 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Former Commissioner Dawn Freeman and Tree Steward Kurt Berning are sharing emcee duties.

We are hosting the cider pressing booth this year and need help. We will send out a call for volunteer support next week.

Available to volunteer during the event, roles include:

Set up 9 to 11 a.m.

Take down 3 – 5 p.m.

Tabling at outreach booth

Tabling at Old Apple Tree Cutting giveaway booth

Subcommittee Reports

No written reports.

8. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the August Commission meeting, staff has been focused on Heritage Trees Program, summer tree care, next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward while one staff member is out on medical leave. Staff is starting to transition to planting season and finalizing our fall/winter planting projects. UF's planting goal for this fall is approx 600-700 new trees.

Our site visit inspection backlog is approx 20 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 50 requests.

Development and inspection request are steady. Staff is completing final site inspections for all new development since June to ensure quality trees are planted per the approved tree plan.

The proactive street tree program continues to move forward. Next steps are continued outreach to develop planting plans along these corridors to be implemented fall through winter.

Urban Forestry receive funding for 2 new staff members in the 23-24 budget to support our growing workload and program. The positions were posted in late August, anticipate interviews end of Sept or early Oct.

Tree of Heaven Awareness Walk on September 16, please share with your contacts and encourage folks to attend and learn! [Tree of Heaven Awareness Walk | The City of Vancouver, WA](#)

Silva Bolds award ceremony on September 25 at 5p and celebration to follow at Tap Union. Let's celebrate Susan Sanders.