

DATE: September 8, 2023

TO: Chair Johnson and Urban Forestry Commission members

FROM: Charles Ray, Urban Forester, Public Works/Environmental Resources

RE: **Final Draft Urban Forestry Management Plan**

Background

In 2022, Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program secured a \$20,000 grant from WA Dept. of Natural Resources to fund the update of the adopted 2007 Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP).

The adopted 2007 Urban Forestry Management Plan helped guide Vancouver to make strategic improvements over the last 15 years with support from both internal City stakeholders as well as the greater community. The updated UFMP will help Vancouver identify what is next with strategic actions to work towards in the next 5 years, 10 years and beyond with community input and support, including:

- Identify and create plans to address inequities in our tree canopy
- Review our tree data, plans, policies and other available data
- Plan for an equitable, climate resilient tree canopy in the future
- A roadmap to achieve a shared vision for the future of Vancouver's trees

The purpose of the updated UFMP is to recommend direction and actions for Vancouver to optimize the benefits of trees by envisioning an equitable, climate adaptive, integrated, and sustainable approach to managing the city's urban forest resources over the next twenty-five years. The final draft UFMP includes: a comprehensive analysis of the current state of Vancouver's urban forest; a discussion of existing management structures and policies; community outreach; a vision for the future; and goals and action items to support the realization of the vision. The draft UFMP also includes a monitoring plan and implementation schedule.

Development of the draft UFMP involved extensive research of other communities; review of existing plans, policy and workflows; community outreach, and discussions with stakeholders, the Urban Forestry Commission and City staff. Community outreach efforts included two online meetings, one open house, an online community survey, and internal/external stakeholder outreach.

The final draft Long-Term Framework in the UFMP identifies 3 Goals:

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3
<p>Proactively manage public trees, continue to grow and expand a healthy canopy to achieve the 28% citywide canopy goal, maintain public safety, and optimize urban forest benefits.</p>	<p>Achieve environmental justice through a partnership with the City and its residents to improve well-being, human health, local economies, and urban forest sustainability.</p>	<p>Strengthen policies for preserving the environmental benefits, management, and the character of Vancouver’s urban forest.</p>
<p>1.1A Update and maintain the public tree inventory.</p>	<p>2.1A Maintain Tree City USA recognition.</p>	<p>3.1A Protect trees during construction projects.</p>
<p>1.1B Utilize current and future canopy assessments.</p>	<p>2.1B Maintain active communications with diverse audiences.</p>	<p>3.1B Apply a no-net-loss approach to tree canopy cover.</p>
<p>1.2A Align staffing levels with the needs of the urban forest and the community.</p>	<p>2.1C Provide education and training workshops.</p>	<p>3.1C Use tree canopy assessment data for tree management policies.</p>
<p>1.2B Establish and implement a proactive pruning cycle and management program for City-maintained trees.</p>	<p>2.1D Implement program services through the lens of environmental justice.</p>	<p>3.1D Update and strengthen tree-related ordinances, design standards, and protocols.</p>
<p>1.2C Ensure newly planted trees receive post-planting care and young tree training.</p>	<p>2.2A Expand partnerships and the Neighborhood Tree Stewards program.</p>	<p>3.2A Enforce tree regulations.</p>
<p>1.3A Formally update the Tree Planting Initiative.</p>	<p>2.2B Coordinate Plan implementation and community engagement with the Urban Forestry Commission and local partners.</p>	
<p>1.3B Increase citywide tree canopy cover.</p>	<p>2.2C Effectively manage volunteers and events.</p>	
<p>1.3C Grow a sustainable and resilient urban forest.</p>		

The first draft of the UFMP was released for public comment on March 8, 2023. Additionally, the first draft was reviewed by the Urban Forestry Commission on March 15th and the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission on April 9th. The second draft, released April 27, 2023, was reviewed with City Council during a workshop on May 8, 2023 and Planning Commission on May 23, 2023. The second draft also underwent State review through the Department of Commerce and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process in May-July of 2023.

The project team refined and finalized the draft UFMP based on feedback received from the community, City Council, Vancouver Planning Commission, State agencies and others and is now posted on [Project's Be Heard website](#).

Action Requested

Review the final draft of the Urban Forestry Management Plan which is posted on [Project's Be Heard website](#) and vote to approve and recommend adoption of the final draft Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Next Steps

Pending Urban Forestry Commission review and action taken on September 20, 2023, staff anticipate bringing the final draft UFMP forward to the Planning Commission and City Council for hearings fall of 2023 for consideration to be adopted as a policy and planning document, and by reference, as a component of the Vancouver Comprehensive Plan.

Staff Contact Information

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Attachments

- A. Final Draft UFMP is available on the [Project's Be Heard website](#).