

November UFC Program and Staff Reports

5. Program Updates

AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees (FOT):

We had a successful Naturespaces planting Nov 4th. In addition to 30+ other native plants + shrubs, we planted 20 trees in Countryside park. Heather is leading field trip to Steigerwald Lake with Clark College restoration class Nov 17th. Second Countryside Naturespaces planting scheduled for mid-November with same Clark College restoration class. Volunteer Tree Planting Nov 21th, location still TBD, 10 am – noon, open to all AmeriCorps, interns, and volunteers. Volunteer Tree Planting Dec 16th, tentatively scheduled to plant 25 trees at Water Station 1 from 10 am – noon. Jan 15th MLK Day of Service which will be a Naturespaces Planting at Sam Brown Park 9 am – noon. There will be a keynote speaker: Dr. Julian Ankney, WSU Vancouver Director of Native American Programs.

FOT Updates: Nov 11th Crew Leader Training and planting, 55 trees in central-south Vancouver. Dec 2nd Southeast planting.

Annual Report and Volunteer Hours:

Staff will begin drafting our 2023 Annual Report. Please reflect on what you worked on in 2023 as a Commissioner and your partners to ensure they are incorporated into the Annual Report. Also please start compiling your 2023 volunteer hours as staff will be sending out an email requesting your estimated volunteer hours as a Commissioner. If you have any questions about how to compile your volunteer hours, contact staff.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be using Vancouver's Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan as a model for other communities. We will also be meeting with DNR staff in November to discuss how DNR can support Vancouver Emerald Ash Borer readiness.

Dec 13th Holiday Social:

The Commission typically does not have a meeting in December. Instead, the Commission typically has a social event in early Dec before the holiday season. This year Melissa has reserved the new Firehouse Axes (3701 Main St) on December 13th at 6 p.m. Everyone would be responsible for costs of their food, drink and optional throwing axes. Please RSVP to Melissa (guests are welcome) and if you want to be included in the axe throwing lane reservation.

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach Subcommittee: Tree Care Handbook

- Timeline
 - Month 1... outline topics for Tree Care Handbook
 - Month 2... seek out and compile existing resources
 - Month 3... Riley layout
 - Month 4... language and accessibility
- Discussion: Who is the audience
 - Homeowners
 - Commercial business owners
 - New tree planters
 - People with mature trees
 - Tree care companies...
- Start layout/outline (November)
 - Levels... 101, 201...
 - List topics, handbook sections
 - Tree permits info
 - Reference "Tips for your newly planted trees" – 1 pager...(Susan sent by email)
- Layout, final form
 - Riley made how-to guides... step by step how to install a rain garden.. visual aids... links to videos...
- A lot of the information already exists... on Vancouver websites...
- Outreach to tree care companies... Recent invasive trees workshop, Spanish speakers...
- When do properties sell? Notice used to be in the paper... Ian looked into it years ago... Jessica will ask Ian about it... Clif Kahn may know... could contact Clark County Real Estate Association... ask

Tree Tour

- Testing tour app for Esther Short Park
- Working on scripts for trees

Discussion; Outreach, increasing engagement...

- New website...
 - Let's compile recommendations for website...
 - Can you navigate website without using the search bar?
 - Test website and email recommendations to Jessica... discuss next month?
 - Still changing frequently...
- Are door hangers working...
- Columbian, using enough...
 - Add join newsletter....
- New ideas for connecting...
- Flyers weren't used much during pandemic, starting to use again...
- Audit of outreach methods
 - Rose pulled metrics on "how did you hear about this event"
 - Newsletter had the highest results in terms of brining community members to events...
 - QR code for newsletter...

- Forward recent newsletter to after conversation with someone... I think you'll like this...
 - UF staff reviews w/ communications team and citywide team...
 - For bigger initiatives, communications team helps strategize...
 - “your neighbors planted trees”, motivator...
 - Community Based social marketing
 - Riley connecting with Latina community group...
 - Map of networks to tap in to... new groups....
- Old Apple Tree Festival
 - People love the t-shirts!
 - Axe throwing
 - Cider Locust
- Clark County Fair Activity idea... costumes, roving entertainment, temperature gauge, encouragement to plant a tree...
- 5 p.m. meeting time better? We used to meet 2nd Wed... would it work to go back regularly or occasionally? (I have a conflicting 1st Wed meeting I would like to attend every few months.

Policy:

No report

Invasive:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report.

8. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the October Commission meeting, staff has been focused on next steps for the Heritage Trees Program, preparing for orientation of our two new staff, 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. Planting season is here and our fall contractor projects will start to be implemented in November. Staff hosted a successful Tree Giveaway Event on October 28th with 85 trees given away to homeowners. We planted trees at 3 homes where property owners needed assistance.

The Urban Forestry Management Plan was adopted by City Council on October 23, 2023. This is quite the achievement and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to see this through. Next steps will be to close out the project with our consultants and provide the final documents to the Department of Natural Resources. The Plan will also be rolled up into Comp Plan updates

this fall that Long Range Planning will be taking to Planning Commission and Council for updating.

Staff was preparing for our new staff which started their 1st day on Nov 6th by finalizing their work plans and preparing for their orientation.

Staff began drafting Vancouver's Tree City USA and Growth Award application which is due December 1st. We will be applying for the prestigious Growth Award for updating our Urban Forestry Management Plan, Pop Up Arboretums and the Old Apple Tree Festival.

Regarding the Federal IRA grant we were awarded this summer, staff will be meeting with the Federal IRA Grant representatives to begin to develop workforce development program around tree planting and maintenance. Staff will also be submitting a WA DNR Grant to complete a public tree inventory. This would support our proactive maintenance programs for street trees and park trees.

Urban Forestry is also partnering with Friends of Trees and working with Vancouver School District CTE (Career Technical Education) Program to host up to six high school students this fall in planting and maintenance projects.

Our site visit inspection backlog is approx. 20 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 35 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.

Here is an update on staff assigned to Subcommittees or groups:

- Outreach -Jessica
- Pollinator -Drew
- Corridor -Ian
- Policy -Charles
- Invasives -Nick
- New, internal: UFMP Internal Planning -Jesse