

February UFC Program and Staff Reports

6. Program Updates

AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees (FOT):

- 2 students from Hudson's Bay have successfully completed their 60-hour internship with Urban Forestry (UF), 3 others are close to completion, and 5 new interns will start this Saturday 2/17
- Rescheduled Sam Brown Naturespaces planting will occur this Saturday, 2/17 – limited to 50 volunteers but high community interest suggests high demand for native plantings, environmental justice, community-building opportunities
- UF planted 26 trees at the WA State School for the Blind on 2/3, will plant ~25 more trees this fall
- UF Commissioners Clif & Susan Law tabled at Farmer's Market on Saturday – 8 newsletter signups and 40+ educational conversations with community members

Friends of Trees

- Very successful planting with high volunteer turn-out on 1/27 makeup planting (rescheduled from 1/13 due to inclement weather)
- 150 trees will be planted at the 2/24/24 westside planting – thank you to commissioners who helped with outreach & coordination!

Annual Report 2023:

Staff is finalizing our 2023 Annual Report. Please send any highlights or partners to Jessica George.

Arbor Day 2024 Planning:

The Outreach Subcommittee and staff are developing plans for Arbor Day 2024.

Mac Awards 2023:

The Commission will be awarding the annual Mac Awards as part of Arbor Day. The Commission will vote on this year's nominees at the March meeting. Individuals, organizations, and businesses that have made a significant positive impact on Vancouver's urban forest are eligible for the Mac Award. Activities worthy of recognition include organizing a tree planting project, educating others about the benefits of trees or proper tree care, preserving trees during land development, donating time and/or funds to advance the mission of the Urban Forestry program, developing creative partnerships in community forestry, or any other activity that inspires community stewardship of the urban forest. Please nominate candidates.

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

Feb Outreach Meeting.

- Website: Whenever you visit the website, please keep note of anything you see that needs fixing or improving and email Jessica.
- Farmer Market: All set for Feb 10, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Table topic: Tree topping. Email Riley for more info. Our interns will join us and may do some pruning in Esther Short Park too.
- Arbor Day: Wed, April 10, around noon, with students. Planning for ceremony, service project, pop-up arboretum, and scavenger hunt.
 - o Do you have a MAC Award recipient in mind? Show them some love! Nominations are open. The nomination forms are attached.
 - o Save the date for Arbor Date! Commissioners welcome to come celebrate and volunteer.
- Tree Care Handbook: We can use the handbook to get out the word to homeowners when new subdivisions are built... can piggyback with the occupancy inspection process. Interns and AmeriCorps are on board for helping out to create the handbook!
- New Outreach Materials on the way: All materials are getting updated and revamped with the new city branding. Stay tuned.
- Canvassing Opportunities: Outreach committee members (and all commissioners) are welcome to join in for canvassing this spring... spread the word about tree care and corridor plantings. Email Ian to join in! Next canvassing date, Feb 24.
- Newsletter: Email Riley with content ideas for February or future months.

Policy:

No report

Invasive:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report.

8. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the January Commission meeting, staff has been onboarding our two new staff, winter planting projects, next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward. Our winter planting projects are being implemented and we anticipate planting more than 1,000 trees this winter. Nick Redmond returned to work on light duty at the end of January.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

We will be implementing our 2024 EAB action items which include: removal/replacement of declining ash trees (approx 20 trees); round 2 of treatment to preserve quality ash trees; and other action items. We are seeking funding from Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist with implementation of our EAB management plan.

Staff worked with Parks and Operations to finalize our 2024 Park Proactive Pruning sites which are as followed:

Pruning Cycle Year 3 (2024)

Fisher Basin, Bagley nature area, First Place, Cascade Park, Engineering Marine, Winter Park, Waterfront Park, Arnada, John Ball, Homestead, Liberty, Lieser Crest, DuBois, Van Vleet, Tanglewood/Stein. Parks not completed in 2024 will be move to the 2025 list.

Staff is also working closely with Pavement Management on 2024 Proactive Street Tree Management Program prior to paving season. Phase 1 streets postcards were mailed the week of Feb 11th and staff anticipate the start of canvassing and inventorying the streets the week of Feb 18th.

Staff is preparing for the five-year IRA Grant that was awarded to develop a green youth work force program to assist us with young plant care through the summer months.

Our site visit inspection backlog is less than 14 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 30 requests. Development and inspection request are steady. Staff is completing final site inspections for all new development to ensure quality trees are planted per the approved tree plan.