

## March UFC Program and Staff Reports

### 9. Program Updates

#### **AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees (FOT):**

The winter intern cohort wrapped up and we have begun working with the spring cohort of interns. Riley has done an excellent job leading the youth on their 60 hours with our program, including orientation, ongoing communication, developing & coordinating projects, and supporting the youth in professional and personal growth.

- Planted 21 conifers at southeast stormwater facility with help of 15 volunteers
- 7 trees planted in Volunteer Grove to honor COV's amazing volunteers, including Kyle Roslund with Vancouver Bee Project
- Drew & Jesse have hosted a successful pruning workshop in Brickyard park, 12 excited attendees on a rainy Thursday morning
- Riley & Rose working with Cascadia Schools to transplant natives in Tranquility Park
- Successful Farmer's Market Tabling in February (thank you Clif & Susan L!): great educational opportunity; lots of newsletter signups; some community members attended UF events after!

#### **Friends of Trees:**

214 people volunteered at the Westside Planting.

Last 2 Friends of Trees Planting for the season are:

Mach 23<sup>th</sup> Northeast Neighborhoods with 77 trees ordered

April 13<sup>th</sup> Central North Neighborhoods with 80 trees ordered

#### **Annual Report 2023:**

The 2023 Annual Report is with the Communications team and will be released and posted after their review.

#### **Tree Stewards 2024:**

Tree Stewards will take place this May with a hybrid format of online presentations on Thursday evenings and field days on Saturdays. We are finalizing the program for this year, it will be similar to past years with education on benefits of trees, urban forestry, pest and disease, codes and ordinances, proper pruning, tree selection and planting, and presentations from our community partners on how to get involved.

**ACTION Requested: As we develop outreach communication, we will share with Commission. Please share with your networks.**

## **Subcommittee Reports:**

### **Outreach:**

Here are some notes from our March outreach meeting on 3/7. Feel free to add on:

#### **Newsletter Book of the Month idea: Cascadia Field Guide**

1. Interpretive sections followed by poetry written by locals
2. **Tacoma Tree Foundation – Trees of Significance**
  1. <https://tacomatreefoundation.org/programs>
3. **Farmer's Market reflections**
  1. lots of newsletter sign ups, some visitors attended volunteer events after
  2. interns were helpful
  3. should do 2x/year
  4. should do sapling giveaway
  5. try to get booth in late summer to capture people before planting season
    1. spinny wheel
    2. watering demonstration (bag, bucket, ooze-tube)
    3. temperature sensor (sun v. shade)
4. **Summer Outreach Meeting**
  1. Let's meet up for coffee for one of our summer monthly meetups!
5. **Community connections to follow up on**
  1. Someone who worked for Cowlitz County volunteered at westside FOT event, highlighted Carbon Sequestration charity
  2. (Jess?) Neighbor who lives by a cemetery wants a nature/tree walkway
6. **Be Heard Vancouver**
  1. <https://www.beheardvancouver.org/projects>

### **Policy:**

Staff met with Long Range Planning to discuss timelines for moving the proposed tree and landscape code updates forward. The proposed updates would need to be in final draft by fall 2024 and would move forward as part of the Comprehensive Plan update project.

### **Invasive:**

No report

### **Pollinator:**

No report

### **Corridor:**

Canvassed NE 39<sup>th</sup>, a lot of interested in planting trees along this corridor. The project is scheduled for fall 2024 due to tree availability.

## **10. Urban Forestry Staff Report**

Since the February Commission meeting, staff has working on implementing our winter planting projects, planning for Arbor Day, next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward. We anticipate planting more than 1,100 trees this winter.

Arbor Month and Arbor Day:

Arbor Month proclamation on April 8, Khanh has agreed to accept the Proclamation from the Mayor. FYI, Native Plant Appreciation Month proclamation is also on April 8. Pop up Arboretums all month long at Fisher Basin Park and Edgewood Park. Urban Forestry and Naturespaces will have a display at the Cascade Library for the month of April.

Arbor Day is Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at Hough Elementary School. Staff is collaborating with the Hough Student Equity Team (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders) to plan the event.

8:45 a.m. school wide assembly, led by the equity team focusing on benefits of trees and the theme of the month, compassion. The assembly will be followed by a small tree planting on school grounds with 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and the equity team.

Due to the location, we need to plan ahead for non-students to attend. Jessica will provide details as we learn more.

Earth Day at Mother Camas island and Cascade Community Library:

Saturday, April 20, 1 – 4 p.m. at Mother Camas Unveiled: An Earth Day Celebration

Landscape island at 4<sup>th</sup> Plain and St Johns Blvd is being re-imagined into a gateway to the Fourth Plain International District. A collaboration of many community partners, this area features a statue of Mother Camas (designed and created by Native American artist) and native planting throughout the landscape island. The celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup> is a community event with outreach booths, food, games, and a ceremony to celebrate the space. Are any Commissioners interested in helping to staff a UF booth?



Cascade Community Library, Saturday, April 20, 2- 4 p.m. Courtyard opening celebration and Heritage Tree recognition

Message from the library,

*“The Cascade Park Community Library is having a Courtyard celebration on April 20th to officially open our courtyard and to celebrate the designation of our Douglas Fir as a Heritage Tree. I want to invite you and the Urban Forestry folks to attend. We'd love to have someone say something about trees and/or participate by announcing the "name" of our Heritage Tree (kids are submitting names right now and the public will get to vote. The winning name will be announced at the celebration).*

*If this is something you or another representative could attend, please let me know. We are planning the event for Sat April 20th, roughly 2-4pm.*

*Thank you so much,*

*Rachael”*

**ACTION Requested: This event conflicts with the Earth Day event. Are any Commissioners interested/ available to attend and to say a few words?**

Hazard and Invasive Assistance Program:

We received our first applications for our new Hazard and Invasive Tree Assistance Program. This new program is to support 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):

Our [EAB website](#) is up and includes our EAB Management Plan. We partnered with Clark Public Utilities to remove approx 80 ash trees along se 34<sup>th</sup> under powerlines. Outreach was conducted and we will be replanting this fall with utility friendly trees. We are planning for the 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 is working closely with Pavement Management on 2024 Proactive Street Tree Management Program prior to paving season. Phase 1 streets have been notified and tree work has begun. Staff anticipate the start of Phase 2 streets canvassing and inventorying late March. Earlier this month we received notice from DNR that our street tree inventory grant was approved. This is a no match grant that will help inform our new proactive street tree management program. Completing a street tree inventory is also an early action item identified in the newly adopted 2023 Urban Forestry Management Plan. This DNR grant is in addition to 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 which will begin summer of 2024.

Our site visit inspection backlog is less than 14 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 20 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.