

April UFC Program and Staff Reports

6. Program Updates

AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees (FOT):

We are working with the spring cohort of interns. Riley continues to support and lead 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.

Friends of Trees (FOT):

The last FOT planting will be April 13th Central North Neighborhoods with 90 trees ordered.

Arin Dhanani is Urban Forestry's new intern from the Connecting Canopies/Friends of Trees Adult Urban Forestry Internship program. He will be with us approx. 100 hours over the next couple of months.

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. Please feel free to share with your networks

[Urban Forestry Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities -The City of Vancouver, WA](#)

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

Outreach Team – 4/4 notes....

Lots of volunteer opportunities are coming up!

- Kahn accepting arbor day proclamation
- Hough, April 10... 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. student assembly equity team, benefits of trees, biology and photosynthesis, and student art presentation...
- 9:45 a.m. ceremony starts... transition out back with PTA and other ceremony attendees in back of school... student equity team to give the welcome and intro to Mayor... Mayor will give MAC award and recognize the tree city/campus/utility awards... then plant 10 trees...
- Commissioners can come to assembly and/or ceremony... arrive 15 min early...

- Library display at Cascade Park about urban forestry, heritage tree... Saturday, April 20... opening of the court yard... for the Douglas Fir heritage tree... UF coming to speak at ceremony... 2-4 p.m. Nick and Jamie Haygood will be there to co-present.
- Mother Camas artwork unveiling at St. John's and U Street, drum circle... 1-4 p.m. Outreach table... Lion's club providing food and indigenous food...
- Pop Up Arboretum... Fisher Basin and Edgewood (by Harney)...
- Clark College Spanish class... nature/children... April 26th...
- June 1, multi-lingual tree walk... Spanish...
- Multi-cultural fair at Hudson Bay Highschool... share booth with Friends of Trees
- Planting at First Place Park
- Planting with Hudson Bay High School... pavement management program... Reserve and Ft. Vancouver and McLoughlin... pavement management... a few trees needed to be removed at the school... and they agreed to planting trees around the track!
- Discussion: Apple Tree festival t-shirt!
- Discussion: Incorporate pollinator festival booths at the Old Apple Tree festival. Invite organizations to table.
- Discussion: April 9 chat w/ Tacoma Tree Foundation...
- Discussion: upcoming guest speakers... Melissa and Clif to talk to Charles about Tacoma Tree Foundation and I-5 Bridge guest speakers...

Policy:

No report.

Invasive:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report.

8. Urban Forestry Staff Report

At the March meeting, staff stated they would send out the Planning Commission schedule. Reviewing the [Planning Commission website](#), it states:

- *Meetings scheduled as needed on the second and fourth Tuesday (this can vary) of each month;*

- Workshops 4-6 p.m.; Hearings 6:30 p.m. (times can vary depending on agenda). See agenda for further information.
- [Testify before the Planning Commission](#)
- [Sign up for email updates](#)

Reviewing the Agenda and Minutes page, an upcoming Planning Commission meeting could not be found. It might be best for individual commissioners interested in the activities of the Planning Commission, sign up for email updates in the link above.

Since the March Commission meeting, staff has working on implementing our remaining winter planting projects, planning for Arbor Day, planning for our summer maintenance season, implementing our recent grant work, next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward.

Earth Day

Saturday, April 20, 1 – 4 p.m. Mother Camas Unveiled: An Earth Day Celebration
Landscape island at 4th 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 20th is a community event with outreach booths, food, games, and a ceremony to celebrate the space. **Action: Are any Commissioners interested in helping to staff a UF booth? Clif and Melissa are signed up. Email Jessica and Riley.**

Cascade Community Library

Saturday, April 20, 2- 4 p.m.

Courtyard opening celebration and Heritage Tree recognition. PRAC Chair Jaynee Haygood and staff member Nick Redmond will speak about UFC and the Heritage Tree Program. Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Dia del niño/ libro/ arbol celebration

April 26, 6- 9 p.m. at Clark College; celebration of children and books and trees. This annual event falls on national Arbor Day, so they are incorporating trees and nature into the theme this year. **Action: Are any Commissioners available to help table? Contact Riley she is taking the lead.**

Heritage Trees

Work continues on the most recent designated Heritage Trees. Staff has ordered the Heritage Tree signs, drafting the covenants that will be recorded as well as draft the update to the Heritage Tree Inventory.

Hazard and Invasive Assistance Program

We received our first applications for our new Hazard and Invasive Tree Assistance Program. Staff is currently meeting with our contractor and property owners to schedule the work. 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 34th under powerlines. Outreach was conducted and we will be replanting this fall with utility friendly trees. We have contacted local wood recycling facilities and they will chip all ash logs. We are currently finalizing round 2 of treatment to preserve quality ash trees. We are planning for the removal/replacement of declining ash trees (approx 20 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. Staff has been marking trees for pruning, removal and planting opportunities along the 2024 list of streets that will be serviced. Phase 2 streets have been notified and tree work has begun. Staff anticipate canvassing and inventorying the final Phase streets late April. We have been coordinating with Transportation staff, property owners and our tree contractor. Working with property owners, we will be developing planting plans for implementation this fall/winter. It is anticipated this new program will reduce storm damage in the right of way, address social/environmental justice, and improve climate resilience.

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.