

May UFC Program and Staff Reports

6. Program Updates

AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees (FOT):

Riley continues to support and lead the youth interns 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):

Friends of Trees has wrapped up their Vancouver season with the final planting last month on April 13th. There is a Friends of Trees Vancouver volunteer appreciation event schedule for June 12th. Invites will go out soon.

Tree Stewards 2024:

The 2024 Neighborhood Tree Stewards training is underway. We have 14 individuals going through the course, including AmeriCorps, temp staff, an intern, and community members.

Urban Forestry Work Plan 2025-26:

The Urban Forestry Work Plan is updated to coincide with the biennial budget. Staff will begin updating the 2023-24 Work Plan for 2025-26 reflecting new program elements and the newly adopted Urban Forestry Management Plan. Staff anticipate sharing a draft with the Commission late summer/early fall.

2025-26 Budget Prep:

Staff will begin developing the Urban Forestry budget to be submitted to Public Works this summer. Urban Forestry will be requesting existing funding levels to continue to implement our workload and the Urban Forestry Management Plan. The city is anticipating a budget shortfall in the General, Street and Fire Funds during the 2025-26 budget cycle. Urban Forestry does not receive any funding from these three funds. The city is required to have an approved budget by fall of 2024 for the 2025-26 cycle.

Old Apple Tree Festival Prep:

With Arbor month behind us, Old Apple Tree Festival planning begins. Please start thinking about last year's event and ideas to improve this year's event.

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

No report

Policy:

No report

Invasive:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report

8. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the April Commission meeting, staff has been working on implementing our remaining winter planting projects, planning for our summer maintenance season, implementing our 5-year IRA grant, Emerald Ash Borer action items, next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward.

There are several outreach events scheduled. The Commission is encouraged to attend:
June 1st: Multilingual Tree Walk at Clark College

June 12th: Friends of Trees Vancouver volunteer appreciation

June 25th Officers Row Tree Walk

All of our winter trees should be planted by the end of May. By the end of the month, over 1054 trees will have been planted this winter/spring.

We are bringing on summer help to assist with summer maintenance and starting to implement our summer workforce grant. Our summer workforce grant managers, The Corps Network, will be in Vancouver on May 14th to discuss our 5-year IRA grant.

Heritage Trees

Work continues on the most recent designated Heritage Trees. Staff is working on installing 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)

Staff went out for bid for the 2nd round of treatment to preserve quality ash trees. Arborscape was the most qualified lowest bidder. They have the maps of this years Ash which totals 402 inches, which will be treated by June.

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. Staff is canvassing and inventorying the final Phase streets this month with tree work to start towards the end of the month. 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.