



Forestry Division
413 S. Bryan Avenue
PO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522

WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

Date: December 16, 2024

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers

Through: Kelly DiMartino, City Manager *kd*
 Tyler Marr, Deputy City Manager *TM*
 Dean Klingner, Community Services Director *DK*

From: Kendra Boot, City Forester *KB*

Subject: December 10, 2024 Work Session Summary: Rooted in Community, Urban Forest Strategic Plan

BOTTOM LINE

The purpose of this memo is to document the summary of discussions during the December 10 Work Session. All Councilmembers were present. After gaining feedback from Council and making some minor adjustments, staff will plan to move the Urban Forest Strategic Plan forward for adoption in Q1 2025.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Staff provided a quick overview of the benefits that trees provide to the community, the state of the urban canopy, and shared the recommended growth strategies within the draft Urban Forest Strategic Plan. General feedback and support for the plan was provided by Council. The Urban Forest Strategic Plan shares a vision, dataset, community perspective and strategic best-practice policy recommendations for supporting the urban forest over the next two decades. Changes to the Land Use Code and other tree policies will be brought to Council as separate work streams. Tree policies within the Land Use Code are currently scheduled to have decisions in front of Council before the end of this council term.

Other feedback included:

- Adjustments requested to Transformational Initiative in Growth Strategy 3:
 - Currently states, "Develop additional policy for newly acquired homeownership who make changes to their landscapes. Educate and engage with the public about policy scenarios to gauge public support."
 - Adjust to, "Create educational support, incentives and potential policy improvements to support homeowners and other private property owners achieve long-term success in preserving and planting trees."

NEXT STEPS

Staff will make a few updates to the plan capturing Council's feedback and bring forward for adoption, currently scheduled for February 4, 2025.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Peer cities utilized for benchmarking:

- The Davey Resource Group (consultant) benchmarked the City of Fort Collins Forestry Division with the [*Municipal Tree Care and Management in the United States*](#) (Hauer and Peterson, 2016).
- The Hauer report provides benchmarks for forestry programs among U.S. cities by region and population size and had 667 communities respond to their survey.
- While no specific communities are called out in the report, Davey Resource Group focused on population size as well as the West Region.
- The use of the Hauer report was primarily used for comparing municipal urban forestry staffing and operations, budgets, and ordinance/code comparisons.

Zoning and Forestry have been working with the Lemay and Stuart Business Park in bringing their approved landscape plan back into compliance after the large cottonwood trees were removed. Trees will be replaced on site during the most appropriate planting season.
