



City Clerk's Office  
300 LaPorte Avenue  
PO Box 580  
Fort Collins, CO 80522  
970.221.6515  
970.221.6295 - fax  
Boardsandcommissions@fcgov.com

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 16, 2024  
TO: Mayor and City Councilmembers  
FROM: Dan Welsh, Chair of the Air Quality Advisory Board  
Dawson Metcalf, Chair of the Natural Resources Advisory Board  
RE: Urban Forest Strategic Plan

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

On August 19, 2024, and September 16, 2024, the Air Quality Advisory Board (AQAB) and the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) came together in two joint meetings to review City considerations that relate to the missions of both Boards. The purpose of this joint statement is to offer AQAB and NRAB's support of and address additional suggestions regarding the Urban Forest Strategic Plan: Rooted in Community.

AQAB and NRAB were engaged by the City's Forestry Division through presentations to each Board. AQAB and NRAB both support the overall direction of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan (UFSP) and think that successful implementation aligns with The City's Climate Goals, as well as Council Priorities; specifically Priority 6: Reduce climate pollution and air pollution through best practices, emphasizing electrification.

Along with general support for the UFSP, NRAB and AQAB wish to convey the following recommendations, to be considered as this plan is implemented:

- Use of electric vehicles and equipment when possible, minimizing use of internal combustion engines.
- Assessment/modeling of overall climate and air quality impacts of urban forest management; considering benefits and drawbacks of UFSP implementation.
- Emphasis of native species within the urban forest, with priority placed on species indigenous to Colorado/U.S./North America.

NRAB and AQAB thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to engage on this matter.

Respectfully,

Dan Welsh, Air Quality Advisory Board Chair

Dawson Metcalf, Natural Resources Advisory Board Chair