









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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2023

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers

Thru: Kelly DiMartino, City Manager <sup>DS</sup>   
Tyler Marr, Deputy City Manager <sup>DS</sup>   
Dean Klingner, Interim Community Services Director <sup>DS</sup>   
Mike Calhoun, Parks Director <sup>DS</sup>   
Rebecca Everette, City Planning Manager <sup>DS</sup> 

From: Kendra Boot, City Forester <sup>DS</sup> 

Re: January 24, 2023 Work Session Summary: Urban Forest Strategy and Land Use Code Audit related to Forestry

**Introduction**

The purpose of this memo is to summarize and provide follow-up items from the January 24, 2023, work session around urban forest strategy and policy. Mayor Arndt and all Councilmembers attended the discussion.

**Discussion:**

The feedback gathered from Council on both the urban forest strategy and the tree related Land Use Code audit work sessions was supportive. The work sessions were a great opportunity for staff to bring Council up to speed on topics such as:

- Emerald ash borer management and the prohibited sale of ash trees.
- Current operations and the current operating budget shortfall on tree replacement.
- Proposed areas of focus for the urban forest strategic plan with a strong focus on canopy cover goals, prioritizing vacant planting sites, and advancing canopy equity.
- Concerns for large healthy tree removals and support for stronger code to incentivize more tree preservation.
- Acknowledge the benefits of having trees dedicated as important community infrastructure.



### **Next Steps:**

As requested by Council:

- Members of the Ad Hoc Committee assisting with the tree-related Land Use Code audit included:
  - Shelley Lamastra (Landscape Architect, Russell Mills Studio)
  - Mollie Bradehoft (Landscape Architect, BHA Design)
  - Fred Haberecht (Retired Landscape Architect and Planner, Colorado State University)
  - Elizabeth Judd (Urban Forestry Planner, City and County of Denver)
  - Daniel Burcham (Urban and Community Forestry and Arboriculture Professor, Colorado State University)
  - Edith Silvas (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator, One Health Institute, Colorado State University)
  - Dana Hornkohl (Civil Engineering Director, City of Fort Collins)
  - Marc Virata (Civil Engineer III, City of Fort Collins)
  - Kirk Longstein (Sr Environmental Planner, City of Fort Collins)
  - Freddie Haberecht (Forestry Specialist, City of Fort Collins)
  - Carrie Tomlinson (Forestry Specialist, City of Fort Collins)
  - Christine Holtz (Forestry Specialist, City of Fort Collins)
  - Ralph Zentz (Assistant City Forester, City of Fort Collins)
  - Kendra Boot (City Forester, City of Fort Collins)
  
- Approximately 22-percent of the urban forest resides in commercial areas, 75-percent in residential areas already developed, and 3-percent in open space (Community Tree Assessment, April 2016).
- American Forest's Tree Equity Score link - <https://treeequityscore.org/>
- The Urban Forest Strategic Plan will have a strong emphasis in setting canopy cover goals as well as addressing canopy disparities community wide. The proposed schedule for the plan is to kick-off in Spring of 2023 and wrap-up for Council adoption Spring of 2024.
- Staff plans to continue internal and external stakeholder engagement for the following themes to influence code amendment recommendations for adoption in Q3 of 2023:
  - Escrow for tree establishment
  - Improved mitigation standards to incentivize preservation
  - Increased penalties for healthy tree removal post construction
  - Heritage Tree Program – additional staffing resources would be required for this program.
- Further, Staff plans to explore the following code amendments during Phase 2 of the LUC update.
  - Improved parking lot standards to address urban heat island
  - Tree preservation and protection for residential redevelopment