



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 08/04/2025

ITEM NO: 4

DATE: July 31, 2025
TO: Parks and Sustainability Commission
FROM: Nicolle Burnham, Parks and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Urban Forest Management Plan Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a report on the proposed work plan for the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan for the Town of Los Gatos

REMARKS:

On July 1, 2025, Public Works staff issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit qualified consultants to prepare an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the Town of Los Gatos. The goal of establishing a UFMP is to implement a set of policies, procedures, and standards to guide the Town as it pertains to the urban forest.

Once a qualified Consultant has been selected, the process of creating an UFMP will begin. Public Works staff will work closely with the Consultant to assess the current state of the urban forest along with the Town's current approach to managing the urban forest. This will be an in-depth review of current town policies, procedures and ordinances that affect management of private and street trees followed by the creation of a comprehensive UFMP. The Consultant will assess many factors such as the unique landscape and ecosystem of Los Gatos, the existing urban forest, and input from residents through public outreach. Staff estimates that this process will take 12 to 18 months after a consultant has been chosen.

Implementing a UFMP will allow the Town of Los Gatos to manage the urban forest with consistency and a clear path forward. An urban forest is a long-term commitment and by referring to a UFMP, staff will be empowered to maintain the urban forest for years to come.

Staff recognizes the role of the Parks and Sustainability Commission with regard to tree management and the trust the Commission holds with the residents regarding this important community value. Staff intends for the Consultant to perform community outreach. During the community outreach phase of the UFMP process, staff wishes to include the Commission and utilize the knowledge of the Commission as well as the commission's relationship with the

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Superintendent

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Town and its residents. The overall goal of the UFMP is to create a plan that will serve the Town decades into the future.