



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

MEETING DATE: 04/06/2026

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: April 06, 2026
TO: Parks and Sustainability Commission
FROM: Nicolle Burnham, Parks and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Update on the Los Gatos Urban Forest Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a written report announcing the commencement of the Los Gatos Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) Project and community survey via social media and point community members to the project webpage for more information.

REMARKS:

The Los Gatos Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) project, a first-of-its-kind 15-year planning effort for the Town, officially kicked off this last December to guide the long-term care, preservation, and expansion of the community's urban forest. The UFMP will provide a strategic framework of goals and actions intended to improve tree health, climate resilience, wildfire preparedness, and equitable access to the benefits provided by the Town's trees. The Town has hired the environmental consulting firm Dudek to help create the UFMP over the next 15 months. Dudek is also currently serving as the Town's on-call consulting arborist for tree removal permits, as well as working with the Town on a wildfire evacuation plan project and a roadside vegetation management project. The UFMP project is currently in the analysis and community engagement phase. Staff interviews are being conducted, and Town documents are being reviewed to understand the Town's current urban forest management program, policies and practices, a Town-wide canopy cover analysis has begun, and analysis will begin shortly to understand the condition and diversity of Town's public trees. An urban forest background and operations report, and an urban forest assessment report will be completed by August of this year. The first draft of the UFMP is expected to be completed in October 2026.

Earlier this month, the project team completed a Public Outreach Plan and created a [webpage](#) for the UFMP project on the Town's website which provides an overview of the project as well as announcements of planned outreach events. As part of the outreach effort, the project team has created an urban forest [community survey](#), which will be open from mid-March through the end of May, to gather input from residents, workers, visitors, and students in Los

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Superintendent

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Gatos on their priorities and values related to trees and urban forest management. In terms of in-person engagement, Dudek staff tabled at the Los Gatos Farmers Market on March 22nd to promote both the survey and the broader UFMP process, engaging attendees and distributing project information. Input gathered during this engagement phase will directly inform the UFMP Technical Advisory Committee (to be formed in the next couple months) and help with the development of UFMP recommendations. The next in-person event Dudek will table for is the Spring into Green Event on Sunday, April 26th.