

TO: Public Works Committee
FROM: Alyssa Jones Wood, Sustainability Coordinator
DATE: July 18, 2024
SUBJECT: Urban & Community Forest Grant Acceptance Agreement with River Network

1) Recommended Action:

Place the Subaward Agreement with River Network for the City of Tumwater Urban Forestry Capacity and Equity Project on the August 20, 2024, City Council consent calendar with a recommendation to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign.

2) Background:

The Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) was adopted by City Council on March 2, 2021, by Ordinance No. 2020-004. The UFMP includes Objective 5.2, Action D.: “hire an urban forester, certified arborist, or urban ecologist on City staff or look to share that position with other jurisdictions or departments as part of a wider City environmental manager position to manage the community and urban forest to assist in development review, respond to inquiries, and assess individual tree-health issues.” This grant award supports the initial three years of an urban forester FTE and the development and implementation of projects related to the UFMP. This grant provides 50% of the funding for the urban forester position including benefits through 2028.

This grant also provides 100% of the funding for ambient air temperature data loggers to be deployed around the City, a tree establishment program to increase canopy in disadvantaged areas of the City, and funding to contract with a street tree trimming contractor for private property owners in disadvantaged areas of the City who cannot afford maintenance of the street trees adjacent to their property.

3) Policy Support:

City Council Strategic Priorities and Goals 2025 - 20246

- Be a Leader in Environmental Health and Sustainability
 - Sufficiently resource programs identified in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and Urban Forestry Management Plans and prioritize implementation.
 - Urban Forestry Management Plan, Objective 5.2(D), adopted March 2, 2021.
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4) Alternatives:

- ☐ Reject the grant funding and do not authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.
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5) Fiscal Notes:

This grant will provide \$333,301.75 over three years, with City funds matching \$61,502.50 annually for three years. Match funding is included in the forthcoming 2025/2026 Budget Proposal from both the Stormwater Utility Fund (75%) and the General Fund (25%).

6) Attachments:

- A. Subaward Agreement with River Network for the City of Tumwater Urban Forestry Capacity and Equity Project