

TO: City Council  
FROM: Alyssa Jones Wood, Sustainability Coordinator  
DATE: August 20, 2024  
SUBJECT: Urban & Community Forest Grant Acceptance Agreement with River Network

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1) Recommended Action:

Authorize the Mayor to sign the Subaward Agreement with River Network for the City of Tumwater Urban Forestry Capacity and Equity Project. The Public Works Committee recommended this agreement for Council consideration at their July 18, 2024 meeting.

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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.

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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%).

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6) Attachments:

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