

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Dana Bowers, Associate Planner; Sharon Lumbantobing, Deputy Director
DATE: January 13, 2026
SUBJECT: Urban Forestry Code Updates

1) Recommended Action:

Discussion item only. No Action Requested.

2) Background:

Tumwater has been recognized as a Tree City USA for more than 30 years and identifies trees as an essential part of the City's character and livability. Recognizing the environmental, ecological, and social benefits of trees, Tumwater adopted an Urban Forestry Management Plan in 2018. Objective 4.1 of the Urban Forestry Management Plan requires regularly updating supporting regulations, including tree preservation, landscaping, and street tree standards.

Work to update Tree and Vegetation Preservation (TMC 16.08), Street Tree (TMC 12.24), and Landscaping (TMC 17.47) codes began in 2022. That effort was paused to allow time for clarity on state-level Wildland Urban Interface codes to progress. Staff monitored state discussions, which removed the immediate point of conflict with the urban forestry code updates.

In 2025, City Council directed staff to resume work on updating the urban forestry codes. Staff will present the proposed approach for resuming this work to the Planning Commission.

3) Alternatives:

None.

4) Attachments:

- A. Staff Report
- B. Presentation