

Public Engagement Plan

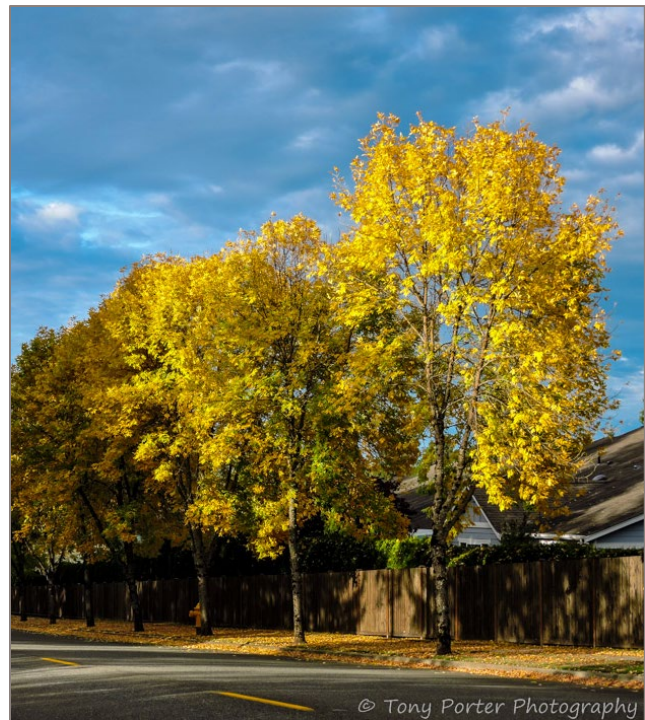
TREE AND VEGETATION PRESERVATION CODE UPDATE CITY OF TUMWATER

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Title-page image: Fall in Tumwater by Tony Porter Photography

All discussions, conclusions and recommendations reflect the best professional judgment of the author(s) and are based upon information available at the time the plan was developed. All work proposed within this document does not supersede the approved scope and fee. Deliverables described will be provided within the previously agreed upon scope, budget, and timeline. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made.



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1 Introduction

The City of Tumwater’s urban forest provides environmental, health, and aesthetic benefits to the entire community. The urban forest is a dynamic ecological system that includes canopy trees as well as associated understory vegetation on both public and private land that contribute to the city’s character and a variety of ecosystem services such as reducing urban heat island effects, stormwater absorption, erosion reduction, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, improving mental health and wellness, recreation, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Like many cities in the Puget Sound region, the Tumwater community is also faced with the need to support smart growth and development while also ensuring environmental sustainability and promoting equity and environmental justice.

To meet this challenge, on March 2, 2021, Tumwater City Council adopted the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) and made urban forestry one of four top priorities for 2022-23. To achieve the objectives of the UFMP, the City identified review and revision of the City’s tree preservation code (TMC 16.08 *Protection of Trees and Vegetation*) as a high priority action (Tumwater UFMP 2021). The City recognizes that the community’s urban forest is managed by and benefits a diverse group of stakeholders that are in a range of urban and natural settings, including private properties, developed parks, rights-of-way, conservation areas, and other public lands.

To ensure that the implementation of the UFMP and the associated municipal code updates are grounded in equity, inclusion, and environmental justice, the City is embarking on a public engagement process that utilizes a diverse suite of tools aimed at minimizing barriers to participation, provides multiple opportunities and mechanisms to share ideas and perspectives, and engages a wide cross section of Tumwater residents and community stakeholders. The City, with support from The Watershed Company, has developed the following Public Engagement Plan, which lays the framework for a robust community outreach effort.

2 Overview of Code Update Process

The project comprises two major phases: (1) public outreach and engagement and (2) code revision and update. During the public outreach and engagement phase the project team will identify and communicate with stakeholders—both internal and external—to solicit feedback and document attitudes and perceptions about urban forest management and tree and vegetation preservation. To capture a wide range of feedback that represents the varied and

balanced interests of stakeholder groups, public outreach, and engagement efforts will be conducted through the lens of equity and environmental justice.

Why are environmental justice and equity important to the success of this engagement effort and tree preservation code update project? Environmental justice refers to fair and equitable treatment of all people regardless of race, color, nationality, physical and mental ability, or income in all areas of natural resource management, policies, and practices. Environmental justice ensures that all community members benefit from a safe, healthy, sustainable environment, are protected from ecological harm (e.g., pollution, impacts from climate change etc.) *and* actively participate in the decision-making that affect their communities.

The uneven distribution of the tree canopy in urban areas and the benefits trees provide have profound implications for environmental equity and justice. Analysis of tree canopy cover distribution across urban areas of the United States, including the Puget Sound region, correlates low tree canopy cover with disadvantaged socio-economic groups and/or people of color. These groups have also been historically marginalized and excluded from local decision-making for environmental policy and natural resource allocation. This public engagement plan seeks to break down barriers to engagement and participation in order for the voices of all Tumwater community members to be heard in a meaningful way.

The public outreach and engagement effort will yield multi-layered feedback, which will be analyzed and interpreted into guidance that will help to inform the subsequent code revision and ordinance update.

3 Engagement Goals and Strategies

3.1 Urban Forest Management Goals and Objectives

The goals and strategies that will guide the outreach and engagement effort are derived from the City's UFMP. The UFMP guides the stewardship of the urban forest within the City through a series of implementation actions; its core focus is "The Right Tree in the Right Place." The primary goals, objectives, and actions of the UFMP that specifically apply to the municipal code updates and address the preservation of trees and vegetation include:

- **Goal 1.** Restore and enhance the community and urban forest.
 - **Objective 1.1.** Increase canopy cover in the City to expand the community and urban forest.
 - **Action B.** Ensure that landscaping regulations provide for the preservation of trees with potential and the planting of new trees and

- understory when removing existing trees and understory on public and private properties.
 - **Action C.** Require appropriate tree planting in new development and redevelopment, by emphasizing proper planning for trees, correct planting techniques, and aftercare that supports the healthy establishment of newly planted trees.
- **Goal 2.** Protect and preserve the community and urban forest, which includes trees, understory, habitat, and soils.
 - **Objective 2.1.** Use regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to protect and retain the community and urban forest to the extent practicable within the context of necessary growth and development.
 - **Action A.** Enforce tree protection regulations to protect healthy existing trees and forested areas and replace on public and private properties.
 - **Action J.** Designate, register, and promote heritage trees.
- **Goal 4.** Balance the protection and support of the community and urban forest with other City strategic priorities, which include, in part, providing affordable housing, developing a walkable urban community, economic development, addressing climate change, and protecting endangered species.
 - **Objective 4.1.** Update the Urban Forestry Management Plan and supporting regulations regularly and ensure they work in harmony with other City strategic priorities.
 - **Action D.** Review tree preservation, landscaping, and street tree regulations regularly to ensure that they are working with other City strategic priorities, plans, and regulations, responding to changes in climate, and implementing the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

3.2 Public Outreach Goals and Strategies

The following goals and strategies will guide the outreach process.

- **Learn about the community's preferences for tree and vegetation preservation in the City of Tumwater.**
 - Seek insights and perspectives from community members to capture their desires for tree and vegetation preservation to update the City's tree and vegetation preservation regulations (TMC 16.08 *Protection of Trees and Vegetation*).
 - Establish and maintain on-going long-term relationships with project stakeholders and members of the community.
- **Stay in touch – inform and involve.**

- Keep stakeholders and the public informed on the status of the outreach initiative and code update process.
- Identify a point of contact(s) who will be responsible for ongoing communication and updates on the project.
- Maintain current lists of organizations and groups identified in the Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement section.
- Communicate with key stakeholders on project process, updates, and upcoming outreach and engagement activities.
- Respond to emails whenever possible to acknowledge input and concerns.
- Update project information and status in a timely manner.
- Use multiple avenues, such in-person outreach and interviews, social media, post, and email, to engage diverse user groups. See the Notification Tools section.
- **Be inclusive.**
 - Select activities, locations, and times that are accessible, consider busy schedules, and best create opportunities for inclusive engagement to reach a broad group of participants.
 - Make sure we hear broadly from the community and that input represents the community's diverse demographics and neighborhoods.
 - Create multiple ways to engage, whether on-line or in-person, and through multiple outreach activities.
- **Learn from outreach efforts to improve and document feedback.**
 - Keep records of outreach attendance.
 - Make time to reflect on the outcome of each activity – what went well, what could be improved, and what was learned.
 - Document feedback and update this plan accordingly with summary information.

3.3 Success Metrics

The project team will employ the following success metrics to measure achievement of the outreach goals stated in the prior section.

Table 1. Summary of Outreach Success Metrics

Success Strategy	Success Metrics
Reach a broad audience of residents, organizations, and businesses that reflects the Tumwater community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct mailing to all addresses within the City of Tumwater, including roughly 9,750 households and 670 businesses. ○ Aim for 2,500 impressions through the project website and social media campaign (e.g., visitors, views, likes, or reposts), representing approximately 10% of the City's population. ○ Conduct targeted outreach to groups, individuals, or organizations representing the three demographic trends outlined in Table 2. ○ Conduct direct outreach to groups or organizations representing 11 interests outlined in Table 2.
Provide flexible opportunities for participation that cater to differing community needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use social media and a project website to maintain a digital presence throughout the duration of the project that provides on-demand information on project scope, progress, and how to participate. ○ Leverage the popularity of mobile phones for assistive technologies and translation by formatting the project website for viewing on phones and tablets.
Maintain clear and accurate documentation and clearly define project team goals and responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use a collaborative cloud-based platform for project documentation (i.e., SharePoint), including stakeholder contact lists, project schedules, and feedback logs. ○ Use team meetings as a regular touch point to report and reflect on outreach and engagement efforts.

4 Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement

The goal of stakeholder identification is to achieve a representative sample of the Tumwater community that considers both demographic trends and balances the broad and competing interests relevant to the scope of the tree and vegetation preservation ordinance. To achieve this goal, outreach and engagement efforts are structured to target the community's specific needs and profile. Further, targets help to determine the extent to which effective outreach is achieved.

4.1 Stakeholder Identification

4.1.1 Demographics

According to Census.gov, as of July 1, 2021, the City of Tumwater hosts a population of 25,844 residents across 9,272 households and 663 employers (non-farm establishments). While

stakeholder participation is encouraged broadly by any interested parties, the project team aims to capture feedback that reflects the specific demographics of the greater Tumwater community. Specifically, the following groups should be represented in the feedback received.

- **Working Families with School-Aged Children.** Several statistics captured by the 2020 U.S. Census paint a picture of working families with school-aged children as a key demographic in Tumwater. Specifically, more than one quarter of the population of Tumwater is under the age of 18 (27.1%) and the average persons per household is 2.51. More than two-thirds of the population is in the civilian labor force (69.2%) and an overwhelming majority of persons over age 25 have at least a high school diploma (95.6%). Further, an overwhelming majority of households have a computer with broadband internet (94.2% and 91.0%, respectively). Altogether, this suggests that digital engagement and outreach to schools and workplaces could be effective means of outreach. Further, it suggests that a middle- to high-school reading level would be appropriate for use in outreach and engagement materials.
- **Diverse Communities.** According to U.S. Census data, most of the Tumwater's population self-identifies as white (76.2%); however, other ethnic communities are significantly represented, including Hispanic or Latino (8.6%), Two or More Races (8.2%), Asian (3.5%), and Black or African American (3.3%). Further, less than 1% of residents self-identify as American Indian and Alaska Native (0.4%) or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (0.2%). Although some households speak a language other than English at home (6.2%), a large majority of households are English-speaking (93.8%); therefore, outreach material in English with opportunities for translation, such as using web-enabled translation tools, could be helpful in engaging a broad audience.
- **Long-term Residents.** According to the U.S. Census data, more than three-quarters of residents lived in the same house a least one year prior to the census (80.2%). This is supported by the large number of owner-occupied housing units (57.3%), also captured by the Census. The number of long-term residents and owner-occupied housing units both support that direct mailing could be an effective outreach tool.

Table 2. Summary of Demographic Engagement

Demographic Group	Potential Outreach Avenues, Liaisons, and Partners in Outreach
Working families with school-aged children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daycare and childcare centers ○ Elementary, middle, and high schools ○ School districts ○ Parent-Teacher organizations ○ Youth advocacy and engagement organizations ○ Community centers and libraries
Diverse communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faith-based organizations ○ Cultural and ethnic organizations ○ Local circulation media, including English and non-English publications
Long-term residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighborhood and community organizations ○ Community destinations (e.g., grocery stores, retail centers, parks) ○ Homeowner associations

4.1.2 Interest Groups

The City identified numerous stakeholder groups that represent interests related to tree and vegetation preservation. Acknowledging that some groups may be more organized and vocal than others, targeted outreach will be conducted to seek diverse input and to balance the interests of input received.

Table 3. Summary of Stakeholder Interest Groups*

Interest	Potential Stakeholders
Tumwater residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Homeowners ○ Renters
Residential property owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Homeowner associations ○ Residential landlords (single and multi-family) ○ Residential property management companies ○ Non-resident homeowners (i.e., owners of second or vacation homes) ○ Owners of short-term rentals (e.g., Airbnb, VRBO)

Interest	Potential Stakeholders
Commercial, industrial, and institutional property owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business owners and operators and their employees ○ Commercial landlords (warehouse, office, service, and industrial) ○ Commercial property management companies ○ Port of Olympia ○ Tribes
Residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individual construction and development companies ○ Construction and developer advocates and trade organizations
Professional consultants, such as landscape architects, foresters, and arborists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Companies located in Tumwater ○ Companies who serve Tumwater ○ Individual consulting companies ○ Industry advocates and trade organizations
Tree cutting/landscape maintenance companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Companies located in Tumwater ○ Companies who serve Tumwater ○ Individual tree cutting/landscape maintenance companies ○ Industry advocates and trade organizations
Environmental groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tribes ○ Tree and arboricultural advocacy organizations ○ Wildlife groups ○ Land conservancies ○ Climate change advocacy groups ○ Hunting and fishing / sportsman groups ○ Outdoor recreational advocacy groups
Utility providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Puget Sound Energy ○ Other private utility providers ○ Tumwater Water Resources and Sustainability Department (water and stormwater services) ○ LOTT (sewer services)
Economic development groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tumwater Chamber of Commerce ○ Thurston Chamber of Commerce ○ Olympia Master Builders
City development review staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community development department staff (zoning, environmental) ○ Building department staff ○ Transportation and development engineering department staff

Interest	Potential Stakeholders
City maintenance staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Parks and recreation department staff○ Transportation and operations department staff○ Utility department staff
City code enforcement staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Police department staff○ Community development department staff○ Building department staff○ Water resources department staff○ Utility department staff

*Stakeholder groups also apply to the Street Tree Plan and Code Update Project

5 Outreach Strategy

The following table describes methods of notification that can be used to provide the public with project information and inform them of upcoming public participation opportunities. When providing notification about upcoming opportunities for public engagement, the City should consider how best to reach key stakeholders and demographic groups identified in the Stakeholders section.

5.1 Notification Tools

The following table describes methods of notification used to promote the project and share opportunities for public participation.

Table 4. Summary of Notification Tools

Notification Tool	Key Actions	Due	Lead
Online Open House The online open house will provide a homebase for information about the project and engagement opportunities, including links and schedules.	Build framework Populate content Soft (test) launch Launch	Launch ASAP, at least 2 weeks prior to the first stakeholder workshop	Watershed
Postcard A postcard will provide direct outreach to all mailing addresses within the City of Tumwater to promote the project and drive traffic to the online open house.	Design postcard Coordinate printing and mailing	ASAP, at least 2 weeks prior to the first stakeholder workshop	Watershed to design postcard; City to coordinate printing and mailing
Poster* A poster will provide direct outreach to select venues within the City of Tumwater to promote the project and drive traffic to the online open house.	Design poster Coordinate printing and distribution	ASAP, at least 2 weeks prior to the first stakeholder workshop	Watershed to design poster; City to coordinate printing and distribution. Locations include the library, post office, Senior Center, Olympia-Tumwater Foundation Park
Social Media Promotion Use the City's established social media channels for broad engagement beyond the city limits to raise awareness of project goals and objectives, promote the project, and drive traffic to the online open house.	Regular and frequent posting across all social media channels	At project milestones (e.g., online open house launch, collateral mailing, and distribution); per Schedule of Outreach	City

Notification Tool	Key Actions	Due	Lead
Direct Engagement Project liaisons will forge and foster direct relationships with stakeholder groups identified. Direct engagement may include email, phone, or in-person communication; attendance at regular group meetings; and routing of project information and feedback between interest groups and the project team.	Regular communication with leadership or key representatives of each group	At least monthly, or as needed, throughout project duration	City

**Poster design is not included in Watershed's executed contract but was discussed as an additional useful tool to reach a wide audience. Project team to discuss additional budget needed and benefits to outreach.*

5.2 Alternate Engagement Tools

The project team identified several alternate means of outreach that may or may not be possible within the scope of the Tree and Vegetation Preservation Ordinance Update effort, due to schedule constraints, or the availability of budgetary or staff resources.

Table 5. Outline of Alternate Engagement Tools

Engagement Tool	Potential Benefits, Limitations, and Concerns	Status
<p>Community Task Force A formal body of community members who convene regularly for direct consultation with City staff. The task force may be appointed for a single project or advise on multiple projects. They make formal recommendations to the City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides regular recurrent feedback to City and project team, from a body who is willing to participate in in-depth discussions and be educated on topics, if needed. ○ Requires pre-planning and ongoing effort by City staff. May require formal authorization from City Council, Mayor, or other leadership. ○ Requires volunteer community members who have interest and availability to serve on Task Force for designated term. ○ May attract stakeholders who are likely to be proactive participants in the regular engagement process, which could result in overrepresentation of well organized, vocal, and/or privileged populations. ○ Should target representatives of historically underrepresented populations and interests. 	<p>The City's Tree Board will satisfy this role for the purpose of this project.</p>

5.3 Stakeholder Meetings

A major component of the engagement effort will include a series of both internal and external stakeholder meetings. A total of one internal and three external stakeholder meetings are planned. If needed, a fourth external stakeholder meeting may be conducted. The purpose of the stakeholder meetings will be to facilitate iterative discussions that build on the feedback received and inform subsequent steps in the ordinance update process. An outline of the scope of discussion for each stakeholder meeting is provided below.

Internal Stakeholder Meeting (1 of 1)

- Attendees: City departments and staff
- Discussion: Scope of project, project schedule, scope of current ordinance
- Desired feedback: Concerns about current code, experience with current code, primary concerns regarding tree and vegetation preservation
- Exercises:

- Priority setting (ex. “What do you see as the main priorities for tree and vegetation preservation? heritage trees, climate change, canopy cover, environmental justice, etc.)
- Rank priority
- What are the key concerns affecting each priority?
- What is the desired outcome for management of each priority?
- Which of these priorities are inextricably linked? (Generate pairs or groups)

External Stakeholder Meeting (1 of 3)

- Attendees: Any external stakeholders
- Discussion: Scope of project, project schedule, scope of current ordinance
- Desired feedback: Concerns about current code, experience with current code, primary concerns regarding tree and vegetation preservation
- Exercises:
 - Priority ranking (ex. “What do you see as the main priorities for tree and vegetation preservation? (Rank top 3) champion trees, climate change, canopy cover, environmental justice, etc.)
 - “If we had a focused discussion about your TOP priority, would you be interested in participating in that session? If yes, provide your contact information.”

External Stakeholder Meeting (2 of 3)

- Attendees: Select external stakeholder based on interest from External Stakeholder Meeting 1 (invite only)
- Discussion: Focused breakouts on priorities that emerged from External Stakeholder Meeting 1
- Desired feedback: Gaps, targets for revision, focus areas within code
- Engagement questions:
 - What are the key concerns affecting this priority?
 - What is the desired outcome for management of this priority?
 - What are some methods or strategies for achieving the desired outcome?

External Stakeholder Meeting (3 of 3)

- Attendees: Select external stakeholders chosen based on interests represented at External Stakeholder Meeting 2, but targeting equal representation across interest (invite only)
- Discussion: Breakouts on balanced interested that emerged from External Stakeholder Meeting 2

- Desired feedback: Actionable code guidance, compromise
- Engagement questions

6 Outreach Schedule

To provide accountability and build trust with community stakeholders, the project team will maintain a regular schedule of outreach through the duration of project. In the initial phase of outreach and engagement, outreach will be interactive, including both outreach to and feedback from community members. Through the later project phase of code revision and outreach, the project team will keep stakeholders informed of project progress and milestones. An outline and relative schedule of social media posting is provided after the overall schedule of outreach.

Table 6. Target Schedule of Outreach and Engagement

Date	Milestone / Notes
August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft Public Engagement Plan
September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finalize Public Engagement Plan ○ Build online open house framework and content outline ○ Draft templates for outreach collateral ○ Final postcard and poster provided to City ○ Soft Internal Launch online open house
October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City coordinates postcard mailing and poster distribution ○ Joint meeting of Tumwater Tree Board and Planning Commission (Scheduled for October 11th) ○ Live Launch Event - online open house ○ Internal Stakeholder Meeting (late October)
November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External Stakeholder Meeting #1
December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External Stakeholder Meeting #2 ○ Work Session with Tree Board
1 st Quarter 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External Stakeholder Meeting #3 (Early January) ○ Work Session with Tree Board
2 nd Quarter 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ordinance Adoption Process

Social Media Promotion

The following table provides an outline of key messages for social media posts along with a targeted timeline for posting relative to project milestones and events.

Table 7. Outline of Social Media Promotion

Milestone / Event	Key Messages	Relative Timing
Online open house launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visit the Online Open House [provide direct link] ○ Share project goals ○ Share project timeline ○ Sign up for project updates [provide direct link to sign up form] ○ Who should participate? (Everyone!) 	Coincident with launch of online open house
Postcard mailing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look out for postcard [share image of postcard] ○ Visit the Online Open House [provide direct link] ○ Sign up for project updates [provide direct link to sign up form] ○ Who should participate? (Everyone!) 	1 day before expected delivery date
Poster distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look out for poster [share image of poster] ○ Visit the Online Open House [provide direct link] ○ Sign up for project updates [provide direct link to sign up form] ○ Who should participate? (Everyone!) 	2 days after expected distribution date
External stakeholder meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are you interested in tree and vegetation preservation? ○ Sign up for project updates [provide direct link to sign up form] ○ Save the Date [publish date] ○ Register today! [share registration link] ○ Reminder, meeting is tomorrow! ○ Reminder, meeting is today! 	Starting at least 6 weeks before scheduled meeting
Project milestone achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The City is making progress on the tree and vegetation preservation update! [share about milestone and share direct link, if available] 	Within 3 days of achievement

Milestone / Event	Key Messages	Relative Timing
New content posted to online open house for public review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The City needs your input about tree and vegetation preservation! View the [content description] and share your feedback! [provide direct link] ○ Reminder: your input is needed by [date]! 	<p>Coincident with posting</p> <p>2 weeks before feedback period is closed</p> <p>1 week before feedback period is closed</p> <p>1 day before feedback period is closing</p>

References

Census.gov, Tumwater, WA: Quickfacts. Accessed, August 2022.

City of Tumwater Urban Forestry Management Plan. March 2021

Appendix B **STAKEHOLDER INDEX**

Content to be added during the public engagement and municipal code update process.

Appendix B **STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARIES**

Tumwater Urban Forestry Municipal Code Updates

TMC 16.08 Protection of Trees and Vegetation

Community Conversation #1 – Questions and Comments November 21, 2022

1	Question or Comment	These topics are all interconnected. Hard to separate them or a comment!
	City Response	Staff agrees that the topics under tree preservation are interconnected, but in order to evaluate potential options, the topics should be considered both individually and together to ensure they achieve the goals of the City's Urban Forestry Management Plan. Staff would like to hear suggestions about how to best present the issues for discussion.
2	Question or Comment	Has the City of Tumwater identified through its surveys residential areas that are tree poor? If yes, where are they?
	City Response	<p>Yes, as part of the development of the City's Urban Forestry Management Plan, a public street tree survey was conducted that showed which neighborhoods were lacking street trees.</p> <p>In addition, as part of the City's recent work on affordable housing, climate mitigation, and urban forestry, questions about neighborhood equity are often raised. Through some preliminary mapping we have identified such areas, which include areas where tree cover is lacking.</p> <p>The City has used the Tree Equity Score tool and the Washington Health Disparities Map to determine areas that are "tree poor" and the links to these tools is below</p> <p><u>Tree Equity Score</u></p> <p><u>Information by Location Washington Tracking Network (WTN)</u></p> <p>The Urban Forestry Management Plan has identified actions that are separate from this code update process to address this issue.</p>
3	Question or Comment	Did the canopy/green space survey already identify "hot spot" areas or neighborhoods lacking street trees? Do some of these areas also overlap with environmental justice considerations (for example lower income or industrial edge areas etc.)? Are these areas with appropriate space/opportunities where tree planting and long-term stewardship could be a focus? If no, could retrofits be considered to accommodate tree planting initiatives etc.
	City Response	See answer above.
4	Question or Comment	I think it's important to evaluate the investments that the City can make to increase forest cover and habitat, through a multi-criteria analysis that includes human health data (disparities, risks, possible benefits/beneficiaries), as well as environmental quality (air, water, climate).

	City Response	That is part of the actions identified in the Urban Forestry Management Plan. See answer above.
5	Question or Comment	I appreciate the challenge of the City to balance the competing interests of achieving growth management/compact development, affordable housing, and the desire of residents for protecting forest land and having access to open space/green space.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
6	Question or Comment	Can the city consider reducing tree removal permits from six to three or four trees, as part of the Climate Solution? Lacey amended its tree removal permits to preserve more trees; With growth in Grand Mound and other adjacent areas, Tumwater will need to go further than Lacey's amendment.
	City Response	The City will be evaluating potential options to consider through the code amendment process. The growth in Grand Mound and other adjacent areas is in Thurston County, not the City of Tumwater.
7	Question or Comment	We are several hundred thousand units short for housing in this state. That includes several tens of thousands of units in this community. We also are facing another existential threat in climate change. If we use code as a punitive measure to stifle development, while saving the trees, we will only see that impact working families in our community. We must find a way to balance both of these existential crises. How will the city utilize code to incentivize, rather than punish, homebuilders to make housing more affordable and available for all of the working families that will inevitably move here? Maybe this is an incentive for private tree planting? Moving and preserving old growth? The fact is people are coming here whether we accept it or not. How will we incentivize smart choices for future property developers/owners?
	City Response	<p>The City will be evaluating potential regulatory and incentive based options to consider through the code amendment process.</p> <p>We recognize that it is also important to identify and discuss the possible effects of actions taken on this project will have on other City priorities, such as providing more housing to increase overall housing supply to reduce homelessness in the community and to provide more affordable housing opportunities, as well as protecting federally listed prairie species and other City priorities.</p> <p>Under the Growth Management Act, the City will need to accommodate nearly 9,000 more people in 2035, which translates into nearly 6,500 new housing units in the City by 2035 built primarily by private developers. Because of the aftereffects of the 2008 recession, despite the recent surge in building single-family and multifamily housing in the City, the City has not built enough new housing units to make up for the deficient in housing units of the past decade.</p>
8	Question or Comment	Excellent point by the current speaker about the preferably of keeping contiguous tracts of forest land/cover, particularly corridors, in the ongoing efforts of maintain trees/vegetation... from a habitat/conservation standpoint, that seems correct.

Community Conversation #1 – Questions and Comments
November 21, 2022

	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
9	Question or Comment	Good point on the value of older trees in terms of sequestering carbon, and the opportunity to pool funds (from a variety of projects) to ensure they are used to address areas underserved in terms of forest cover across the city.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
10	Question or Comment	General comment regarding the last topic- I appreciate the emphasis on incentives for work on both public/private lands, both are critical for successful urban forest preservation/reforestation. I think there is opportunity to partner with local organizations to achieve this goal. With clear priorities and focus areas (like replanting street trees in specific tree deserts or public spaces), the city can work with their Stream Team program volunteers, the Conservation District, or other organizations to create effective community initiatives to plant additional trees. Any of these efforts will need to integrate a long-term stewardship plan as well, with adequate funding to maintain new plantings in public spaces over time.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
11	Question or Comment	I like the comment about the importance of providing good information/education for local residents, developers and other project managers, to ensure we're understanding each other and ultimately better compliance toward City goals.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
12	Question or Comment	Re: tree preservation/replacement- what types of incentives could be made available to promote tree retention? (For example) reduced stormwater fees for properties that have retained/maintain large trees or plant a certain percentage of their property in tree/shrub cover, vs. those properties that instead maintain lower-performing vegetation like lawn? Can there be greater costs in development fees or taxes for properties/development strategies that remove urban forests and lower fees for those that maintain or protect them?

	City Response	The City will be evaluating a range of potential incentives to support tree preservation through the code amendment process.
13	Question or Comment	Thank you, to several of the folks speaking in the past half-hour, for your bringing up the connection of forest protection to the capture and storage of carbon, to help reduce the pace of climate change. That aspect of tree management has numerous health impacts, in addition to the more acute mitigation of air pollutants and direct health benefits of access to green space.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
14	Question or Comment	A special tree/grove designation program would likely need support for those people who end up having designated trees on their properties- they would benefit and possibly be more accepting of the designation if they received support/guidance on actions to protect/care for the tree, and potentially help with appropriate tree care costs like hazard proper pruning etc. With support they can maintain those trees properly and they will be less likely to be threatened by the idea of having a tree with special status- otherwise many people will see this type of designation as a burden rather than privilege. Another consideration would be transfer of land ownership - how could the tree designation be disclosed - would it be attached to a deed/parcel? How do you ensure new landowners are aware of the tree status, and are willing to maintain care rather than remove more trees as typically happens with each successive landowner (I hope noting observations this way is a useful way to contribute to the conversation).
	City Response	Comment acknowledged. The City's experience in managing the existing heritage tree program in TMC 16.08 will inform any changes to the designated tree process in the code update. The City recognizes that education and incentives will be as important as regulations in making it easier for the community to care for the urban forest.

Community Conversation #1 – Questions and Comments
November 21, 2022

15	Question or Comment	Consider strategies for how regulatory penalties can impact both individuals/businesses that remove trees improperly and the companies that do that work for them, despite knowing they should not (if this doesn't already happen).
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
16	Question or Comment	Tree account funds should be invested in the city's urban forest maintenance fund, to ensure consistent and quality care for street trees - skilled arborists, better tree selection etc., replacement as needed. There is never enough funding for maintenance.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.

1	Question or Comment	Unless the city is willing to provide for all costs of trees, maintenance, insurance, etc. there should be no requirements on the landowner in excess of those protections required under State Forest Practices Act RCW, 79.06, the Forest Practices Rules, Title 222 WAC, and the Stewardship of Non-industrial Forest and Woodlands, RCW 76.13.
	City Response	The state has not precluded the ability of cities and counties to regulate the preservation of trees and vegetation beyond what is required under state law. Under its strategic priority “Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability,” the City Council has identified the goals of implementing the Urban Forestry Management Plan and updating the City’s current tree and vegetation protection regulations. This project is a part of that work and the Urban Forestry Management Plan includes a number of actions that emphasize using education and incentives to achieve the City’s goals in addition to regulation.
2	Question or Comment	In my community, we have huge maple trees lining the street, which are ripping up the sidewalks. In accordance with Tumwater's "Urban Forest" commitment, what provisions does it include for community sidewalk restoration?
	City Response	The City is undertaking a related project in 2022 and 2023 to update the Street Tree Plan. As part of those discussions, we anticipate that the City will be discussing the ongoing issues of damage from street trees to public sidewalks, streets, and curbs.
3	Question or Comment	The more trees, the more forests, the better for our health. They clean the air, provide oxygen, shade to cool us. Also, as I am Adjunct Faculty at the Evergreen State College, I have read the copious research that shows that being around trees is immensely good for psychological health. You simply can't go wrong with trees, trees, and more trees. Trees should be native to our area
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
4	Question or Comment	<p>As a resident participant in the past two public forums addressing the city's Urban Forest objectives, I was thankful for the opportunity. It was an enlightening experience. My attendance, combined with prior knowledge regarding the subject, has led me to the following post-forum conclusions and confirmations.</p> <p>CONFIRMATIONS:</p> <p>1. "If you build it, they will come." National studies have demonstrated that development does NOT pay for itself (schools, hospitals, police, fire, roads) - it just places more demand on the economic and natural resources of the "developed" community.</p> <p>2. There is NO disincentive for development anywhere in America where fresh air, clean water, and moderate climate exists - all of which Tumwater possesses.</p>

		<p>CONCLUSIONS:</p> <p>1. Based on #2 above, our city has lost, and is continuing to lose, the rich urban forest (and the by-products thereof) at a much faster pace than we can possibly ever expect to retain or reclaim - regardless of proposed future incentives, fines, or education.</p> <p>2. Because the numerous municipal agencies (i.e. Parks, Transportation, Water Resources) involved in addressing the sustainability of the city's urban forest have their own self-identified interests and challenges (silos if you will), and there exists no ONE substantive central agency responsible for the accountable management of the same, a viable Urban Forest policy is an exercise in futility.</p> <p>Tumwater is faced with a zero-sum game regarding our "Urban Forest." Unless the city is committed to having developers (the LARGEST destroyer of the urban forest in my opinion) INTEGRATE existing vegetation and forest THROUGHOUT their developments (not just a patch of trees here and there to meet the city's non-scientific numbers), the resources to be dedicated to an "Urban Forest" project should be suspended. As a taxpayer, bureaucracy without a return on investment is not what I expect of my government.</p>
	City Response	<p>Thank you for your detailed comments.</p> <p>Under the Growth Management Act since the 1990s, the state has directed most of the growth into cities to reduce sprawl outside cities and protect rural lands in the state; however, as noted, it did not give the cities the ability to stop growth, only to direct how it could occur.</p> <p>While that does mean it is more difficult to protect and grow the urban forest in the City while still accommodating required growth, the City Council asked that the Urban Forestry Management Plan be developed and implemented to pursue for all the benefits a healthy urban forest can bring. Balancing all the competing goals of the City, such as affordable housing, protecting the urban forest and prairie species, economic development, etc., is an ongoing challenge.</p> <p>The Urban Forestry Management Plan recognizes that while individual City departments will have different responsibilities to address the City's urban forest there is an ongoing need to coordinate those actions. Our Sustainability Coordinator does this work on a daily basis. In addition, our Tree Board meets together on an annual basis with all City department directors to discuss how they are implementing the Urban Forestry Management Plan.</p>

Tumwater Urban Forestry Municipal Code Updates
TMC 16.08 Protection of Trees and Vegetation
Community Conversation #2 – Questions and Comments
December 8, 2022

1	Question or Comment	Is road or street placement a consideration as part of equity?
	City Response	The City is beginning a broader work effort to develop an equity toolkit that the City can use to examine equity issues for a wide variety of City processes, including policy, budget, and administrative decisions. This ongoing discussion is intended to improve equity in all facets of City operations. While not a part of the discussion about tree preservation, the location of streets is an important part of the larger equity discussion.
2	Question or Comment	Is this the topical area for discussion of wildlife habitat corridors?
	City Response	Habitat corridors fall into several possible areas, but are primarily part of critical areas regulations. While the tree protection regulations do not address wildlife habitat corridors, they can support other City policies and regulations.
3	Question or Comment	Please consider streamlining permits. Tracking permits and exemptions of tree protection and tree loss is, and will be, critical to ensure no net loss. A clear, transparent process for measuring no net loss and net ecological gain would protect the tree environments and increase public confidence that the county's shoreline master program is being effectively implemented.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
4	Question or Comment	I totally agree with giving incentives to homeowners to save heritage trees. How they are identified might be a challenge perhaps.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
5	Question or Comment	Could the city adopt a point system that more highly values larger trees (rather than the minimum number of trees)? Habitat is key.
	City Response	As part of the tree and vegetation protection regulation update process, the City is looking at a variety of options to address the issue and a point system or something similar.
6	Question or Comment	Is there data on infractions?
	City Response	As part of the Urban Forestry Management Plan and a new permit tracking system, the City is implementing new data tracking means. In the meantime, City staff would need to do an individual search of our electronic and paper data files to gather the data.

Community Conversation #2 – Questions and Comments
December 8, 2022

7	Question or Comment	For larger plots of forest land, please consider establishing an ordinance to place a non-commodity based “working forest” conservation easement through the Forest Legacy Program (with the USFS) and DNR.
	City Response	As part of the tree and vegetation protection regulation update process, the City is looking at a variety of options to address the issue of larger properties in the City that want to manage actively the urban forest on their site.
8	Question or Comment	Regarding streamlining the permit process, public confidence would be increased regarding the city’s SMP and other programs.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.
9	Question or Comment	I appreciate the process. I learned a lot this evening even though I came in late to the discussion. I concurred with the concept of a point system related to the value of a tree. As far as incentives and enforcement...a major education program will be needed to make the system work. I can't emphasize that enough.
	City Response	Comment acknowledged.