

TO: General Government Committee
FROM: Brad Medrud, Planning Manager
DATE: February 8, 2023
SUBJECT: Urban Forestry Management Plan – Tree and Vegetation Preservation Regulations

1) Recommended Action:

Review attached materials and be prepared to discuss.

2) Background:

The next step in the implementation of the *Urban Forestry Management Plan* is the preparation of an update to the City's tree preservation regulations found in TMC 16.08 *Protection of Trees and Vegetation*.

The update process involved hiring The Watershed Company to work with staff, stakeholders, and the Tree Board, Planning Commission, and City Council to update the City's tree and vegetation preservation regulations, as well as review and update other relevant City development guides, plans, and manuals.

The project started in October 2022 with the development of the Public Engagement Plan for the project. Public engagement efforts were launched in the fall of 2022. They included a project website, community survey, and external stakeholder meetings called Community Conversations. The project team also developed a gap analysis that looked at the City's current tree preservation regulations.

In January 2023, the community survey, external and internal stakeholder meetings, and initial worksessions with the Planning Commission and Tree Board were completed. Based on the information gathered to date, The Watershed Company will develop draft amendments to the Tree Ordinance for staff review and feedback in February and March 2023.

Worksessions on new Ordinance No. O2023-006 with the Tree Board, Planning Commission, and City Council will start in April 2023 with the final adoption of the new tree and vegetation regulations by the City Council expected by the end of summer 2023.

3) Policy Support:

Conservation Element Policy C-1.1: Protect the ecological integrity of the natural environment while allowing for compatible growth and development.

Conservation Element Policy C-1.5: Maximize retention of a healthy tree cover and native vegetation and encourage restoration, replacement, and enhancement of unhealthy trees and disturbed vegetation.

Land Use Element Implementation Policy 16: Implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan through the municipal code, Development Guidelines, City employee processes, and community education and engagement.

4) Alternatives:

None.

5) Fiscal Notes:

Internally funded.

6) Attachments:

- A. Tree and Vegetation Preservation Regulations Public Engagement Plan
- B. Tree and Vegetation Preservation Regulations Gap Analysis
- C. Presentation