
MEMORANDUM



Date: October 9, 2023

To: Tree Board

From: Alyssa Jones Wood, Sustainability Coordinator

Tumwater Public Urban Forest Inventory

Recommended Action

Discuss this project and the ways in which the Tree Board might like to be involved.

Fiscal Impact

The City was awarded a grant for \$40,000 of the estimated \$60,000 total project costs.

Background

The Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) was adopted by the Tumwater City Council on March 2, 2021, by Ordinance No. 2020-004. The UFMP includes a myriad of goals, objectives, and actions intended to guide the City's management of the Urban Forest.

On March 30, 2023, City staff submitted a grant proposal for the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban & Community Forestry grant opportunity. The proposed project intends to address the following actions from the UFMP:

Objective 2.2. Develop a City street tree-trimming program.

Action A. Develop tree-trimming areas based on optimal equipment mobilization, priority locations, current tree inventory, and best management practices.

Objective 3.1. Promote efficient and cost-effective management of the community and urban forest by selecting, situating, and maintaining urban trees appropriately to maximize benefits and minimize hazards, nuisances, hardscape damage, and maintenance costs.

Action D: Prioritize and schedule City-assigned street tree maintenance activities according to inventory-documented needs.

Objective 3.2. Adopt best management practices and resource management assessment tools and data management to improve City tree maintenance to manage City-owned community and urban forest areas.

Action C. Develop a program to eliminate deferred maintenance while being mindful of budgetary constraints.

Objective 5.1. Develop a stable funding source and budget for activities that support the community and urban forest.

Action C. Secure funding for a four-year cycle of tree trimming.

Action D. Conduct, budget, and report to City staff on an inventory of trees for species, number, condition, and maintenance needs in developed landscaped areas on City property, such as City street trees and trees in City facilities and parks.

Objective 7.1. Promote collaborations between residents, neighborhood associations, governments, nonprofits, and businesses.

Action H. Involve volunteers in the tree inventory of all City street trees and trees in City Parks performed regularly.

The proposal was selected by DNR and a grant agreement between the City and DNR was fully executed on July 7, 2023. To carry out much of the work related to this Project, the City has entered into a service provider agreement with Davey Resource Group, Inc. The project was kicked off on September 13, 2023.

The Scope of Work and estimated timeline for this Project is as follows:

Activity 1: Tree Inventory		
Task	Tentative Timeline	Notes
Task 1A: Consultant updates existing street tree inventory data	October 10 – December 9, 2023	In line with UFMP Objective 7.1 Action H, the City will recruit and coordinate volunteers to review 2018 Street Tree data and update it utilizing a tool the consultant will provide.
Task 1B: Consultants collect new point-based tree inventory data and performs data analysis	October 10 – December 9, 2023	
Task 1C: Consultant collects new inventory using a sample-based approach	October 10 – December 9, 2023	
Activity 2: Community and Urban Forest Maintenance Report		
Task 2A: Consultant writes summary of methodology and inventory results	December 9, 2023 – February 24, 2024	
Task 2B: Consultant reports on the results of the iTree analysis	December 9, 2023 – February 24, 2024	City staff plan to utilize this data to create a GIS StoryMap

		after the project is completed to visualize the ecosystem services provided by trees by property.
Task 2C: Consultant develops maintenance prioritization and strategy	December 9, 2023 – February 24, 2024	
Task 2D: Consultant provides cost estimates for maintenance work	December 9, 2023 – February 24, 2024	This will be utilized to formulate budget requests for the 2025/2026 Budget.
Task 2E: Consultant develops planning strategy for improving tree canopy equity	December 9, 2023 – February 24, 2024	This task will utilize the WA Department of Health Environmental Health Disparities Map, the Trust for Public Land Heat Island data, and City data.

The Consultant has requested that one or more members of the Tree Board visit field data collection as well as review data collected for quality assurance purposes early in the project.

Staff requests input from the Tree Board regarding the ways in which they would like to be involved in this project.

Funds for this project were provided by the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, administered through the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.