
STAFF REPORT

Date: February 10, 2025
To: Tree Board
From: Alyssa Jones Wood, Sustainability Manager



Draft Street Tree List

Background

At the January 2025 Tree Board meeting the Tree Board requested to review and discuss the most recent draft of the approved street tree list at its next meeting.

The City Council adopted the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) on March 2, 2021, by Ordinance No. 2020-004. The UFMP includes the following actions relevant to this item:

- **Objective 3.3 Action A.** Develop the recommended City Street tree and Landscaping Tree lists based on local experience.
- **Objective 4.1 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.

The current City of Tumwater Approved Street Tree list is available on [the City website](#). The draft Street Tree list being discussed today is just that, an unofficial draft of potential changes for discussion.

Timeline

February 2023

On February 27, 2023 the City held a stakeholder meeting related to the City street tree code (TMC 12.24). [Slides](#) and [Zoom recording](#) of the meeting are available.

March 2023

A second stakeholder meeting related to the City street tree code (TMC 12.24) was held on March 20, 2023. [Slides](#) and [Zoom recording](#) of the meeting are available.

Staff received a draft street tree list and Street Tree Ordinance/Plan Gap Analysis from their consultants in March 2023 as part of the process to update the Tumwater Municipal Code Chapter 12.24 Street Trees.

April 2023

On April 17, 2023 a third stakeholder meeting was held related to the City street tree code (TMC 12.24). A [Zoom recording](#) is available.

May/June 2023

City staff formally paused all work on tree code amendments, including TMC 12.24 to pivot focus on advocacy for changes to the Washington Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

November 2023

On November 13, 2023 Evergreen State College Intern Amita Devarajan presented their work completed in the previous quarter to the Tree Board. Amita's work focused on cross-referencing the draft street tree list with a report titled "Climate Change Vulnerability of Urban Trees, Puget Sound Region, Washington." The street tree list provided by the consultant to staff in March was then reduced considering the findings from Amita's work.

March 2024

The City Tree Inventory and Maintenance Plan was presented to the Tree Board. The report noted that no single species should represent greater than 10% of the total population and no single genus more than 20% (Santamour, 1990). Norway maple and maples exceed this best practice. The report asserted that to increase species diversity and promote greater resilience in the overall resource, future plantings should reduce reliance on species of maple trees.

April 2024

Following staff training on the Principles of Urban Forestry, field and operations staff suggested edits focused on removing species or cultivars of trees that staff have struggled with on the ground.

May 2024

That refined draft street tree list was then provided to Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban and Community Forest program staff for comments. DNR staff suggested:

- Considering adding *Magnolia grandiflora*;
- Remove Ash trees from the list;
- Adding a column for high-voltage-friendly/not high-voltage-friendly trees; and
- Removing all maples except *Acer macrophyllum*, *Acer buergeranum*, *Acer glabrum*, and *Acer tataricum*.

January 2025

The City Council approved the Community Development Department (CDD) workplan, which included re-starting work on one (TMC 16.08 Tree and Vegetation Protection) of the three tree codes previously being worked on. The CDD has not been authorized to re-start work on the TMC 12.24 amendments, but CDD staff have advised that Water Resources & Sustainability or Transportation & Engineering Staff should be able to amend the Street Tree list administratively. Staff time has not explicitly been budgeted for this item, so progress on those administrative changes will be as staff capacity allows.

On January 13, 2025. Washington House Bill 1254 “Implementing the International Wildland Urban Interface Code” was introduced. City staff are working with the Association for Washington Cities again to reemphasize the requests made last year on this topic.