
2025 Urban Forestry Management Plan Action Report



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To: Tree Board

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Executive Summary

The City of Tumwater continues to advance its Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) through actions designed to expand canopy cover, protect existing trees, improve management practices, and engage the community. The 2025 Implementation Report demonstrates meaningful progress while also identifying challenges and opportunities for the years ahead.

Key Highlights:

- **Grow:** Canopy expansion targets have been established, with emphasis on planting large-canopy and native species to maximize ecological and community benefits. Partnerships with schools, homeowner associations, and local organizations are helping to diversify plantings and promote resilient species.
- **Protect:** Enforcement of tree protection codes, improved pruning standards, and collaboration with nonprofits and state agencies are strengthening safeguards for Tumwater’s relatively young but growing urban forest.
- **Manage:** Updated street tree inventories, adoption of best management practices, and new training programs for City staff are improving efficiency. Efforts are underway to reuse urban wood products and to measure the ecological and economic benefits of the forest.
- **Engage:** Community outreach is expanding public awareness and stewardship. The city continues to maintain its “Tree City USA” status and is building stronger partnerships with residents, nonprofits, and local businesses.

Looking Ahead:

The report underscores the importance of stable funding, interdepartmental coordination, and adaptive management to meet long-term canopy goals. With climate change, development pressures, and community expectations shaping the future of Tumwater’s landscape, the UFMP provides a flexible but focused framework to ensure that the City’s trees remain a defining and enduring asset.

Introduction

The *2025 Urban Forestry Implementation Report* provides an update on the implementation of the City's UFMP. It highlights the progress made to date, outlines ongoing initiatives, and identifies areas requiring continued focus to ensure the long-term health, resilience, and sustainability of Tumwater's urban forest.

Urban forestry plays a critical role in shaping the quality of life for residents by improving air and water quality, reducing stormwater runoff, mitigating climate impacts, enhancing biodiversity, and creating more livable neighborhoods. This report is not intended as a binding directive but as a strategic guide that reflects the dynamic nature of the Urban Forester's work. It captures the evolving priorities, partnerships, and practices that are essential to maintaining and expanding the community's tree canopy while balancing the demands of growth and development.

By documenting actions across the core themes of **Grow, Protect, Manage, and Engage**, this report provides transparency, accountability, and direction for the City's efforts to steward its urban forest as a shared community resource.

Grow

Objective 1.1. Increase canopy cover in the city to expand the community and urban forest.

Action A. Establish tree-canopy cover targets for the City and its neighborhoods to increase canopy cover in appropriate areas, taking into account land uses established by the Comprehensive Plan, community desires, tree functions, climate, and ecosystems.

The Urban Forestry Management Plan established tree-canopy targets city-wide and by zoning.

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.

In 2023 work began to update the Landscaping Code (TMC 18.47), but the work was paused. However, work continues to ensure the existing Landscaping Code is followed.

The Urban Forester is a part of the Design Review Committee (DRC) and reviews all new development applications throughout the city. Also, the Urban Forester will be on site as these developments continue to make sure Tree Protections Plan/Critical Root Zone (TPP/CRZ) are followed. Any new planting will also be supervised to ensure good nursery stock and planting practices are being followed. Lastly, the Urban Forester will continue to update code to ensure that modern BMPs are practiced.

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.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has begun working with Homeowner Associations (HOA's), private industry, the Tumwater School District, and other interested parties to ensure this action is carried out.

Action D. Explore non-regulatory programs and incentives to engage the community, plant more trees, and reforest property owned by the City.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has begun to explore partnerships/service agreements with local businesses and non-profits. This particular action will require a great deal of time to develop

ongoing relationships with those involved in sourcing, planting, and caring for trees as we begin to echo the canopy goals to parties interested.

Action E. Support and incentivize the use of large-canopy trees in appropriate areas to provide maximum benefits.

This is ongoing. As Tumwater begins to replant in areas that we are beginning to target, we are using a mix of medium and large canopy trees (primarily Coastal Redwood, Giant Sequoia, Bitter Cherry, Pacific Dogwood, and Quaking Aspen). We are encouraging and updating all recommended tree planting lists to include these recommendations.

We are incentivizing this to the public through education and outreach in illustrating to them the direct benefits trees, especially large canopied species, can provide to their property. The cost of installation and maintenance is relatively small in comparison to the lifetime of benefits provided.

Action F. Promote the use of native tree and understory species on public and private property to enhance desired wildlife habitat in the City.

This is crucial and something that the Urban Forester began to implement immediately. Not only are we focusing on native vegetation but introducing pest resistant cultivars to ensure the species is protected. An example being the Heritage River Birch, which is resistant to the Bronze Birch Borer that is impacting local native stands. This will support the ecosystem and help restore native habitat to protect impacted wildlife.

Objective 1.2. Improve and maintain an optimal level of age distribution and species diversity of trees in the community and urban forest by increasing the use of desirable trees.

Action A. Designate tree species based upon specific purposes and site conditions for each project and maximize the benefits of trees while maintaining species diversity.

This is ongoing. This was implemented immediately in the update for the approved street tree list in summer 2025. We are focusing on recommending species that are resilient to pests, diseases, and climate change as well as individual species for site-specific projects. By monitoring we can ensure we never have more than 30% of a genus, 20% of species, or 10% of a cultivar planted (International Society of Arboriculture).

Action B. Stagger new and replacement tree plantings to encourage age distribution and species diversity.

This is a difficult action to maintain, but work has been completed to assess. In 2024 the city produced the Tree Inventory and Maintenance Plan which showed that 80%+ of the trees in Tumwater’s urban and community forest are younger than 25 years. When trees become threatened/die, then they must be replaced. It will be very difficult for Tumwater to vary the age of its Urban Forest, but it is something that will be the focus of the Urban Forester to protect its aging trees. Also, this gives added pressure to maintain our mature trees, and it highlights that we are just beginning to see real benefits from our urban forest.

Action C. Consider whether planting of edible landscaping such as berry plants and fruit trees would be appropriate in City parks or open spaces, taking into consideration factors such as public safety, attraction of vermin, disease transmission, and maintenance ability and costs.

In 2025 the Urban Forester identified potential sites that may be ideal for an “edible forest” and is working with various City departments to determine if they are viable, or not.

Objective 1.3. Establish a full complement of beautiful, healthy trees in the City by planting trees in locations that maximize their ability to grow while minimizing damage to the essential infrastructure of the City.

Action A. Plan citywide for trees along City streets and in City parks and open spaces, maintain an approved City planting list, and designate nuisance trees for removal and replacement.

This is ongoing. In 2025 the Urban Forester and Sustainability Manager updated the approved street tree list and associated list of recommended shrubs and groundcovers which had previously contained climate vulnerable species, nuisance trees, and noxious weeds. The Urban Forester also provides professional recommendations for new tree projects.

Action B. Develop a partnership with the City Stormwater Utility to support maintenance of the City's urban forest and staffing.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forestry program is housed within the Water Resources & Sustainability Department and works closely on a daily basis with the Stormwater Division. The Stormwater Division needs to be able to reserve the right to provide maintenance to trees that are impacting their ability to operate, as well as, safety of their workers. As Tumwater continues to grow, as will

the needs of the Stormwater Division, therefore, it is crucial that they work together and utilize the Urban Forest as an asset to slow/treat runoff. Lastly, the Department of Ecology issues a Stormwater General Permit to municipalities which includes a lot of language in regard to canopy coverage and requires reporting on changes, which will be crucial to developing a relationship moving forward.

Action C. Look at enlarging planting sites to capture stormwater, benefit trees, and reduce hardscape damage such as sidewalk failures or gratings not fitting due to confined growing space for trees. Consider increasing resources to prioritize repairing sidewalk damage.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester interacts regularly with the DRC, Streets and Stormwater Divisions, and Transportation & Engineering (TED) to develop better green stormwater infrastructure.

Action D. Encourage engineering solutions in planting sites such as silva cells, automatic watering systems, or similar options to ensure the healthy growth of trees.

This is ongoing but will take considerable time to promote institutional culture change. Using Silva Cell type infrastructure in tandem with engineered soils, has shown that trees can grow exponentially healthier and have greater benefits to the city. Currently, we are exploring alternatives to sidewalk replacement where we do not have to remove the offending tree. These include using stone pavers, poured rubber, or suspended sidewalks.

Protect

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.

This is ongoing. In 2025, the Urban Forester received two complaints related to enforcement of existing Tree codes. Tree code enforcement will be handled and addressed as infractions/complaints appear. The one complaint was in regard to road clearance and was resolved by the community before the Urban Forester needed to take action. The goal is to promote as much protection for our aging trees. Tumwater has a relatively young Urban Forest; therefore, extra care must be taken to protect its aging trees. This also implies the protection and replacement of trees on developed properties. Being a part of the DRC, the Urban Forester will ensure that all CRZ's are being upheld and that developers are going to be accountable to replace trees they damage and remove accordingly.

Action B. Enforce landscaping regulations to preserve existing trees and understory as well as replace on public and private properties.

This is ongoing. Property owners are held accountable, and if trees are removed due to their actions, they are required to replace them. In the case of new developments, maintenance agreements and bonds are put in place with contractors installing the landscapes to ensure the plantings survive and thrive. Lastly, any TPZ's established by developers will be reviewed and enforced by the Urban Forester.

Action C. Implement tree-pruning standards for trees on public property such as street trees, trees in critical areas, public land, parks, and trees in natural areas and remnant forests.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester began training the Streets Division and Parks Department on up-to-date pruning techniques to maintain canopy health and Right-of-Way (ROW) safety standards. These are maintained to the ANSI Z-133 standard as issued by ISA.

Action D. Explore non-regulatory programs and incentives to engage the community and allow for the retention, planting, and replanting of more trees.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has already reached out to several non-profits and businesses to implement better Urban Forestry practices and health. Ideally, Tumwater would partner with them to help plant, water, and maintain more trees within city limits to increase our canopy over the long-term. Also, we can partner with these organizations to aid in our urban wood recycling program. In concordance with contacting local groups there are grants available, we currently have a grant through the River Network which is designated to help in the establishment of trees in low-income/at-risk neighborhoods.

Action E. Develop incentives to promote tree retention, planting, and replanting.

This is ongoing. Work will begin again in 2025 to amend TMC 16.08 in line with the public engagement that occurred in 2023. Staff plan to develop incentives to add additional protections to Pacific Madrone and Pacific Yew. Also, it is the job of the Urban Forester to ensure developers are held to these standards and retained trees are indeed protected, newly planted trees have the resources they need to survive, and that plans are being followed.

The River Network grant that helps fund Urban Forestry work in Tumwater also includes programs and incentives to promote tree retention and care as well as new planting.

Action F. Put into practice tree pruning requirements and standards.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has already reached out to maintenance crews to begin promoting healthier pruning habits and practices.

Action G. Implement, in coordination with the Noxious Weed Board and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, an invasive flora and fauna species control strategy citywide to safeguard the health of the community and urban forest.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is in contact with various maintenance crews to identify invasive plants and species that could harm native Tumwater species. Also, the Urban Forester is also in regular contact with various state and out-of-state agencies, such as ODF, WSDA, and DNR to coordinate response efforts to invasives.

Additionally, the Urban Forester provides regional leadership to educate and coordinate with other urban foresters about invasive pests, such as the Emerald Ash Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer, including South Thurston County municipalities.

Action H. Coordinate with the Fire Department on actions to minimize fire risks associated with urban forestry.

This has not happened yet and will be addressed at some point in the future.

Action I. Remove trees and understory in specific situations identified in the Tumwater Annex to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region to guard against wildfire.

This has not been addressed and will be once other projects have been completed with a higher priority.

Action J. Designate, register, and promote heritage trees.

This is ongoing, however, in 2025 no new Heritage Tree nominations were submitted. The designation of Heritage trees will always be encouraged and is important to the development of Tumwater's Urban Canopy. Tumwater has a unique issue with so many trees being young, which just adds emphasis to protect what we have that is mature, even greater.

Action K. Prioritize replacement of dead, diseased, or dying trees, as well as those damaged or removed for other reasons, such as motor vehicle collisions and construction projects.

This is ongoing and is addressed on an "as needed" basis. As trees are being impacted by people, pests, etc., the Urban Forester has laid out plans and communication lines to get trees replaced in a timely manner. The goal being to always get trees replaced immediately and never have stumps in the ground.

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.

This is ongoing. This work was outlined in the Tree Inventory and Maintenance Plan commissioned by the City of Tumwater in 2024, and as such a pruning plan will be designed to be cyclical every four to five years. In the coming year(s), we will be changing the height requirements and amending the TMC Code 12.24 to ensure trees should be pruned to fifteen feet over the ROW and a minimum of twelve feet over the sidewalk.

Objective 2.3. Respond to view blockage complaints regarding City trees blocking private views.

Action A. Thin and skirt trees before considering removal.

This is ongoing. Removal will always be considered a last resort. All other avenues will be exhausted before trees are recommended for removal.

Action B. Develop criteria and findings in order to make consistent decisions for requests to alter trees for view purposes.

Vista pruning will never be encouraged, and the Urban Forester will always try their best to educate and communicate that trees should not be removed, topped, or pruned in ways to allow better views. Also, when staff resume work amending TMC 16.08 staff intend to prohibit the practice of vista pruning.

Action C. Prohibit inappropriate tree topping using education and enforcement. Where overhead power lines are creating conflicts, consider replacing the trees with shorter species or burying the power lines to reduce such conflicts.

This is ongoing. City Municipal Code clearly prohibits tree topping. The new approved street tree list (2025) includes tree species selected to be placed under power lines.

Action D. Consider tree growth patterns as a factor prior to planting, especially in instances where a dense sight obscuring barrier or exceptionally large tree is not desirable, such as in front of a business.

This is ongoing. Tree growth patterns are always a factor considered when doing any planting. The “right tree right place” is echoed throughout all City decisions being made in planning and implementation. The Urban Forester reviews landscape plans for future development with the DRC, which includes providing recommendations for species for certain placements.

Objective 2.4. Support managed resource forests where they exist.

Action A. Document managed resource forests in the city.

This has been completed. As part of the development of the 2025 Tumwater Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element, all managed resource lands including forest land have been mapped and identified. As new forest land is added, City staff will update maps.

Action B. Allow the harvesting of trees in managed resource forests if the management practices of these forests follow Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices Act rules and provide for continued growth and health of managed resource forests.

City staff reviewed the Washington State Forest Practices Act and Tumwater Urban Forest Management Plan to update the draft Conservation Element for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Updates included alignment with Washington State Department of Natural Resources regulations and the community's values to preserve and enhance the natural environment. Work to update vegetation, landscaping and tree removal regulations is scheduled to restart in Fall 2025 which may include exemptions for forest practices.

Action C. Consider only allowing sustainable harvest methods such as selective logging along with replanting as a way to reduce impacts associated with tree harvesting in managed resource forests and City-owned forests.

Goals and policies throughout the draft Climate and Conservation Elements of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan support retaining trees where possible for habitat and climate benefits. Work to update vegetation, landscaping and tree removal regulations is scheduled to restart in Fall 2025 which may include allowances or incentives for sustainable harvest practices. The new codes will initiate review of internal policies and operation guidance to comply with city codes.

Action D. Allow the harvest of trees if done in support of Comprehensive Plan policies for new or expanded agricultural uses that grow or raise food for at least ten years.

Updates to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan did not include specific goals and policies to allow forest conversion for agriculture. However, policies supported agriculture and forest uses together which would support both agriculture and forestry resource goals. Preserving and providing access to culturally important resources was included as a Climate Element draft Implementation Action that can be added to City Work Programs in future years for City Council approval. Work to update vegetation, landscaping and tree removal regulations is scheduled to restart in Fall 2025 which may include allowances for agriculture use.

Action E. Designate tax revenues, such as the business and occupation tax, from timber harvests in managed resource forests specifically for tree related projects and programs within the city.

There are currently no plans to alter tax revenues to support tree related projects. The only revenue source is a fee paid in-lieu of developers not reaching the required tree standards for development.

Manage

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 A. Ensure that future development of City property is consistent with the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is an active member of the DRC and reviews all development applications, including development on City properties.

Action B. Develop and enforce design phase and preconstruction coordination protocols to ensure “The Right Tree in the Right Place.”

The Urban Forester reviews all development applications and tree related permit applications to ensure the right tree is put in the right place, amongst other priorities in the UFMP. Furthermore, once construction has begun all new plantings are being reviewed by the Urban Forester to ensure that we are selecting the right tree, healthy stock, up to date planting standards, and have a plan for care after the tree is in the ground.

Action C. Define and assign street tree maintenance and care responsibilities and publicize for greater awareness and compliance.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is in the process of updating the Street Tree Inventory (2018) inclusive of identifying City-owned and maintained trees throughout Tumwater. From this, he is assigning care as needed. All City-owned trees will be under a cyclical pruning cycle to be assigned no later than winter of 2026.

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

This is in progress. Currently, the Urban Forester is updating the Street Tree Inventory (2018). Once this is updated, a pruning/maintenance cycle will be created to support further growth of city owned and maintained trees. Private street tree maintenance continues to be the responsibility of the property owner and enforcement is utilized for non-compliance.

Action E. Develop a program to work with public and private property owners in maintaining and providing for public safety with the community and urban forest.

This is ongoing but currently utilized under “as-needed” basis until the street tree inventory is updated and the Urban Forester is given proper time to update City standards and communication efforts.

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 A. Maintain an ongoing training program for City staff to retain the expertise and professional qualifications to manage the city-owned portion of the community and urban forest.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has reached out to several departments and provided professional guidance, insight, and training opportunities. As City Employees seek further certification/training opportunities, the Urban Forester will arrange and design them according to staff availability. Training and education will always be encouraged. The Urban Forester has even offered to mentor current staff to achieve ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) credentials,

Action B. Regularly review and update the Public Works standards, the Development Guide, and facilities procedures for the maintenance of City trees and the community and urban forest and modify to reflect best tree management practices and employee safety.

This is ongoing. In 2025 staff updated the approved street tree list in the Development Guide. A holistic update of the Development Guide, including incorporating edits related to Urban Forestry is expected to begin in 2026. Staff attend training and educational opportunities as often as possible to ensure that best management practices are being followed in concordance with ISA professional standards.

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

This is in progress. However, Staff is working on the update of the tree inventory first. Once that is finished maintenance cycles will be established to give realistic and budget approved standards. Maintenance will be done during the winter season to promote tree growth.

Action D. Train staff in City departments who work with trees in basic tree biology, minimum requirements for health and stability, tree care, and other topics as pertinent to assigned staff duties.

This is ongoing. The city, in partnership with the WA Department of Natural Resources, provided this training in 2024 but further education is always encouraged. Currently, this is offered on “as-needed” basis to staff who work with trees either directly or indirectly.

Action E. Train City staff interested in more advanced arboriculture and support development of an in-house professional team to plan and care for City-owned trees.

This is ongoing. Funding was allocated in the 2025/2026 budget to financially support four staff studying and taking the ISA Arborist exam.

Action F. Develop resources for proper tree care that are available to the public, simple to reference, and easily understood.

This is ongoing. Tumwater has developed a new tool to aid the public in selecting the right tree for their project, as well as developing GIS tools to help the public understand their urban canopy and heritage tree program.

Staff also have Arbor Day Foundation educational pamphlets that are given to the public as needed.

Objective 3.3. Improve the health and care of City trees through good horticultural practices.

Action A. Develop the recommended City Street Tree and Landscaping Tree Lists based on local experience.

This has been completed for the Street Tree list, which can be accessed via the City of Tumwater’s website under the Water Resources & Sustainability webpage and Urban Forestry section. The Landscaping Tree List is still in process and will be updated along with the Landscape Code.

Action B. Encourage the planting of City trees that have the potential for good local performance and over time will achieve a diversity of species for greater stability of the community and urban forest.

This is ongoing. As we update our inventory, we can better determine the diversity of the Urban Forest. Then, we can better understand what trees we can recommend and/or approve. The Urban Forester strives to achieve a diversity of species to protect Tumwater's canopy for future generations.

Action C. Monitor the composition and performance of existing trees on City property and assess their sustainability.

This is ongoing. It is the goal of the Urban Forester to survey the city-owned trees as often as possible to determine health of canopy. More specifically, the more intimate the Urban Forester can be with the existing tree infrastructure, the better. As we develop our inventory and maintenance work plans, Tumwater has begun documenting the diversity and performance/growth of trees throughout the city. Therefore, moving forward we can have a better idea as to where we want to plant and what we would like to plant in our urban corridors.

Action D. Develop an experimental species program to identify and plant new tree species.

This is ongoing. Several places have been identified and even a few species selected to begin planting as soon as winter 2025. Examples:

- 'Heritage' River Birch - *Betula nigra* 'Heritage'
- Hardy Rubber Tree – *Eucommia ulmoides*
- Frontier Elm – *Ulmus x 'Frontier'*
- Northern Hackberry – *Celtis occidentalis*

As our climate continues to change, The City of Tumwater will continue to monitor additional appropriate species to begin planting in small quantities to test their viability.

Action E. Consider the implications of having the city assume maintenance responsibilities for all street trees in City rights-of-way.

No resources have been used to assess the cost of this proposal. We need to update the Street Tree Inventory in order to begin exploring the possibilities of maintaining all right-of-way trees in-house.

Objective 3.4. Establish or enhance the character of City streets using trees in City rights-of-way, where adequate rights-of-way exist.

Action A. Use the updated Comprehensive Street Tree Plan to guide the enhancement of the visual appeal of the City.

This is ongoing but paused. The work done on updating the Street Tree Plan was paused in 2023 and staff have not had the capacity to continue the work yet.

Action B. Maintain and regularly update an ongoing planting plan for vacant street tree sites based on inventory data, which includes designating species for new and replacement trees based on the Street Tree List that focuses on filling canopy gaps to produce equitable access to tree benefits and green space throughout the City.

This is ongoing. The City of Tumwater is currently in the process of generating the data necessary to support this. Once we have determined the scope of work, replanting will be prioritized to replace existing trees/gaps, then we will begin to explore new species to further increase the diversity of trees within Tumwater.

Action C. Consider developing unified street tree themes as part of the Development Guide update.

This is ongoing. While diversity is important to achieve, uniformity on a street level is ideal to track inventory, species, pests, health, coverage, climate, etc. While Tumwater has relied too heavily on Maple, Pear, Cherry, and Oak, it is the goal of the Urban Forester to bring more diversity to the urban landscape and begin to incorporate more evergreen plantings.

Action D. Incorporate Street trees and landscaping when the city reconstructs streets to the extent feasible.

This is currently the standard. Whenever a new development is approved, frontage must be improved and trees planted.

Objective 3.5. Reuse all green products from City trees considering highest and best use such as lumber for wood products down to mulch for planting areas.

Action A. Establish a program with protocols for collecting materials from tree removals and distributing them to local users, such as other public agencies, schools, green industries, or woodworkers.

This is just starting and is a crucial goal of the Urban Forestry program in 2025 and 2026. Currently, the City of Tumwater is exploring service agreements and partnerships to explore cost effective and sustainable ways to reuse our urban wood waste.

Objective 3.6. Measure the ecological, environmental, and economic benefits of the community and urban forest.

Action A. Maintain the citywide street tree inventory data on an ongoing basis by using municipal tree asset management software such as Lucity, TreePlotter, or TreeWorks with the geographic information system (GIS).

This is in progress. First, we need to clearly understand which trees are Tumwater’s responsibility to maintain, and then it is the goal of the City of Tumwater to partner with local educational institutions to update our current inventory over several years. Once we get a complete update, it will then be crucial to review it every 8-10 years. As we update our inventory, we can then begin to upload it into Lucity as assets that can be attached to work orders.

Action B. Use a citywide work order system that enters all street tree work automatically as performed to assure quality data through consistent data collection methods and ensure an accurate progressive tree inventory.

We currently do not have a city-wide work order system, and there are no resources dedicated to this at this time. Work will begin on this action once the city has transitioned to a new work order system, which is a few years from being complete.

Action C. Update the street tree inventory data with major surveys regularly coinciding with the review and update of the Comprehensive Street Tree Plan.

This is ongoing. Staff have begun to plan and map labor to accomplish keeping the inventory up to date. The update to the Comprehensive Street Tree Plan is currently on pause.

Action D. Take the tree health assessment prepared for the Urban Forestry Management Plan and identify specific varieties regularly that will survive the urban environment, climate impacts, and winter wind and ice storms.

This has been accomplished.

Action E. Calculate the economic benefits of the community and urban forest in the city regularly.

This has been accomplished. Staff will continue to monitor and update the values periodically.

Action F. Assess the benefits of the community and urban forest, and potential benefits from new and replacement plantings, including carbon storage, increased canopy cover, stormwater captured, energy saved, and aesthetics regularly.

This has been accomplished.

Action G. Integrate the community and urban forestry into the city framework for sustainability.

This has been accomplished.

Action H. Consider the effects of climate change when reviewing the long-term health and suitability of the community and urban forest in the city to manage diseases and pests.

This is ongoing. All new tree plantings and project formulations are considering what our local climate will be like for the anticipated lifespan of the tree.

Action I. In measuring the ecological and environmental benefits, periodically review similar findings of the Thurston County and Cities of Lacey and Olympia Forest management plans.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forster has established communication with urban forestry staff from all municipalities in Thurston County.

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 A. Ensure that mitigation and conservation areas created under an approved Habitat Conservation Plan are exempt from tree preservation regulations.

This is ongoing and integrated into the City's efforts for the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Action B. Review the Urban Forestry Management Plan regularly to monitor its progress, maintain its schedule, revise based on new information, and ensure that it is working with other City strategic priorities, plans, and regulations.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester refers to regularly and this meeting is the annual progress check-in.

Action C. Use adaptive management to review the effectiveness of specific Actions during the Urban Forestry Management Plan timeline.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester utilizes adaptive management to keep Tumwater on pace to meet its timelines within the UFMP.

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.

This is ongoing. This action is one that takes a considerable amount of the Urban Forester's time. All new landscape designs/specifications are being reviewed by the Urban Forester with redline notes provided to the DRC applicants.

Action E. Review and update the Comprehensive Street Tree Plan regularly to reflect "The Right Tree in the Right Place" strategies, including plantings in planter strips and medians and encourage planting of native tree species, where appropriate.

This is currently paused, but some progress was made in 2023.

Action F. Review the Street Tree List and Landscaping Tree List regularly to ensure plant choices and tree selection implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

This has been accomplished for the Street Tree list. The Landscaping tree list has not been started yet and will likely coincide with updates to the City Landscaping Code.

Action G. Review regulations to allow the continued operation of managed resource forests.

This is ongoing as city staff has begun to review the Washington State Forest Practices Act in coordination with implementation with the Urban Forest Management Plan. However, updates to the comprehensive plan do not currently state any goals in relation to sustainable harvesting of any kind.

Fund

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

Action A. Develop a stable funding source and budget for annual maintenance and selective harvest of trees within developed landscaped City property, such as City street trees and City facilities and parks.

Each year there is funding allocated to tree maintenance in several Department's budgets. However, with the establishment of the Urban Forester role, it is the goal to grow the budgets of these departments to better reflect the needs of the UFMP. Additionally, the City Tree Fund remains and can be utilized to perform maintenance of City owned and maintained trees.

Action B. Develop a stable funding source and budget for maintenance of natural forests on City lands such as critical or shoreline areas and their buffers and other such areas.

This is accomplished, but on an "as-needed" basis.

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

We currently have a maintenance plan done by Davey Resource Group and published in February of 2024. This highlights the need for establishing a pruning cycle and needs for deferred maintenance throughout the City of Tumwater. It will be utilized moving forward to secure funding to promote canopy health throughout the city.

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.

This has been accomplished but remains ongoing as the data is maintained.

Action E. Provide a budget for training, education, and public outreach in regards to best management practices for tree trimming.

This can be accomplished in-house with the creation of the Urban Forester position and resources provided by the Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forest program. As further interest grows within the city, the program will expand to the community.

Objective 5.2. Fund and manage the community and urban forest to maximize community benefits for all.

Action A. Establish consistent City staffing and resources to sustain the Urban Forestry Management Plan and maximize benefits for the community.

With the hiring of the Urban Forester the goal is to grow the department and create a greater understanding of vegetation management across the city as a whole. This will allow, ideally, more data to track and new jobs to create to grow the landscape management of the City of Tumwater.

Action B. Establish new community and urban forestry maintenance enhancement funding sources.

This is in progress. New resources/grants are continuously being explored. All resources are being tapped to create sustainable long-term growth for the urban forestry program. Trees do not operate on budgetary cycles, and all programs need to be considered with a lens of 20 years into the future.

Action C. Work with City departments and other public agencies that have facilities in the city to make tree preservation and tree planting a priority in their plans and operations.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is actively promoting tree health to all departments and encouraging crew leads to explore what their responsibility within the urban forest is, and how it can be improved.

Action D. Hire an urban forester, certified arborist, or urban ecologist on City staff or look to share that position with other jurisdictions or departments or as part of a wider City environmental manager position to manage the community and urban forest to assist in development review, respond to inquiries, and assess individual tree-health issues.

This has been accomplished. The Urban Forester was hired in May 2025.

Engage

Objective 6.1. Increase awareness and engage the community in active stewardship of the community and urban forest as a community resource.

Action A. Communicate how the community and urban forest is integral to quality of life in the City and affirm that it is considered when the City Council establishes strategic priorities and makes budget and regulatory decisions; City boards and commissions make development and regulatory recommendations; City staff implement adopted plans and codes; and City residents, property owners, and business owners make landscaping decisions.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is in regular communication with City Council, staff, and the public on the benefits a healthy tree canopy can provide. It is the goal of the Urban Forester to promote good tree practices to keep Tumwater's canopy protected for generations to come.

Action B. Actively maintain the City Tree webpage to educate the public on the importance of trees, property care and maintenance, and other tree related information.

Small edits have been made to the City Tree webpage to date. Staff anticipate an overhaul of the pages with the adoption of the revised Tumwater Municipal Code 16.08 in 2026. Additionally, the Tree Board has been working to suggest resources to be added as part of that overhaul.

Action C. Use the Urban Forestry Management Plan as a springboard for a citywide habitat and stewardship strategy.

This is ongoing and is integral to the work in the Water Resources & Sustainability Department. The Urban Forester is present when discussions are occurring in regard to habitat and stewardship strategy to make sure that sustainable plans are put forth related to trees and vegetation.

Action D. Work with schools, nurseries, or other public and private landowners to construct tree species test plots.

This is in progress, several new species and locations have been selected, but it requires multiple agencies to coordinate, which simply takes time.

Objective 6.2. Maintain a community and urban forestry educational program.

Action A. Look for opportunities to build on and expand existing City educational outreach programs to increase the understanding of the value of the community and urban forest, as well as the responsibilities of the public and private landowners regarding its planting, maintenance, thinning, and harvest.

This is ongoing. In 2025 the Urban Forester has already done several outreach presentations with the Tumwater School District, various HOAs, and other interested parties.

Action B. Develop a citywide volunteer planting program.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is coordinating with the City Volunteer Coordinator, Stream Team staff, and has also garnered interest from the Tumwater School District and several non-profits to aid in community planting events.

Action C. Compile and publicly distribute a list of recommended tree species and their potential uses in the community and urban forest, which would include notable traits, such as whether they produce an allergic response, and appropriate locations for planting individual species.

This has been accomplished for the approved street tree list. A wider list of trees and vegetation to recommend has not yet been completed.

Action D. Collaborate with non-profit groups, such as schools or other organizations to provide community and urban forestry education.

This is ongoing. In 2025 the Urban Forester has already collaborated and taught classes with Tumwater School District, met with several local non-profits, and presented to HOAs.

Action E. Enhance awareness of trees within the city by providing interpretive species labels at prominent City locations and along key pedestrian streets. This could include botanical name, origin, common name, and date planted.

This has not yet started. However, we are developing an online GIS tool that will be made available to the Public where people can look up species and locations throughout the city, like what was accomplished with the Heritage Tree story map.

Objective 6.3. Provide education and incentives for maintaining and enhancing the number of trees in community and urban forests on private property.

Action A. Develop education and incentive programs focused on maintaining the community and urban forest found on private property.

The Urban Forester currently has no plans to develop this program but will get started on this in 2026 as The City of Tumwater will launch press releases, educational materials, and potential financial assistance for private property owners to plant new trees and care for existing ones on private property. This is contingent on Federal Grant programs currently awarded to the city.

Action B. Share best tree maintenance practices with private landowners.

This is ongoing on an as-needed basis. The Urban Forester has met with several private landowners to educate them on better management practices and receives countless phone calls and emails from the public on this topic.

Action C. Provide educational material on-line regarding tree selection and care.

This is in process. The Urban Forester has met with the communications department several times to share information to develop for the City Website, social media, etc.

Action D. Encourage additional tree planting on private properties.

This is ongoing. Additional planting will always be encouraged, and ideally this will occur as more public outreach and the benefits of trees are shared with the community.

Action E. Work with homeowner associations to manage designated tree areas in subdivisions.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester is responsive to HOA questions, concerns, and requests for information. Additionally, the Urban Forester is on the DRC and helps determine tree tracts and plantings in all new developments.

Objective 6.4. Improve communication and coordination regarding the community and urban forest.

Action A. Retain "Tree City USA" status by complying with Arbor Day Foundation requirements.

This is ongoing and annually accomplished.

Action B. Hold annual meetings between City department representatives and the Tree Board as part of the implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

This report is for that annual meeting.

Action C. Establish administrative procedures to enhance City interdepartmental communications and aid in the further success of the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

This is ongoing. Several new procedures have already been created. We have created a more efficient permitting and communication systems, design and review communications, hazard tree assessment communications, and planting/pruning maintenance plans.

Action D. Prepare and distribute a “State of the community and urban forest” regularly.

This has not yet been started.

Action E. Connect with residents by hosting a citywide celebration of community and urban forests in the city every year on Arbor Day.

This is ongoing with the annual Arbor Day celebration in April.

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

Action A. Maintain and support the Tree Board.

This is ongoing.

Action B. Formalize relationships with organizations and green industries that share common aims affecting community and urban forest sustainability.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has spoken/met with several local businesses to begin creating some sort of service agreement or partnership. The urban forest can provide benefits to several local industries if utilized more efficiently.

Action C. Collaborate with service organizations to plant City street trees and trees in City parks and open spaces.

This is ongoing. This is a crucial step to the continued support of the Urban Forest. We need to not only maintain the current canopy but ensure its continued growth and diversity to protect the community for the future. We have goals in the next year to work with local non-profits to plant in several open spaces where we have identified a need to increase canopy and retain greater benefits.

Action D. Build on and support the improvements made to the tree cover by the Stream Team program, the Parks and Recreation Department, and other organizations that meet multiple City aims.

This is ongoing.

Action E. Work with neighborhood and homeowner associations in community and urban forestry activities.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester's relationships with HOAs will be critical in developing and protecting the urban canopy for the City of Tumwater. The Urban Forester has already reached out and spoken with several HOA and will continue to reach out and communicate with the 100+ HOAs registered within the city.

Action F. Collaborate with local tree and landscape contractors to distribute informational materials.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has spoken with several local businesses, however, there are many more to communicate with in regards of their practices within City limits. We want to make sure any business operating/impacting trees within Tumwater know of the standards we will be enforcing to ensure the longevity of our urban forest. Specifically, the Urban Forester has spoken with local contractors and local nurseries to make them aware of our newer street tree regulations, as well as local property owners to make them aware of incoming pests and other City goals aligned with canopy standards.

Action G. Work with the Tree Board to develop a prioritized list of community and urban forest enhancement opportunities and projects citywide.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester will work continuously with the Tree Board to reflect the needs of the community.

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

There is a plan in place to work with trained interns to build the inventory and help map the city owned trees starting in the Spring/Summer of 2026.

Action I. Work with representatives of the Native Plant Salvage Project to accomplish tree-planting projects.

This is ongoing but has changed. The Urban Forester has spoken with several organizations, and they are still working out the details of how potential partnerships will take place. The Native Plant Salvage Project now only offers consultation and no longer salvages plants.

Action J. Work with local tree and landscape contractors, as well as retail and wholesale landscaping firms, to stock trees suitable for the urban environment.

This is ongoing. The city has developed a new approved street tree list and are working with local nurseries to ensure that they will carry the necessary species. Also, it is crucial to build the above relationships to ensure that we continue to get healthy stock for our plantings in the future.

Objective 8.1. Provide an example through the highest standard of care and management for all City-owned trees, in order to ensure the perpetuation of the community and urban forest.

Action A. Use the City website and social media for periodic articles on the proper care and maintenance of trees on public and private property.

This is ongoing. The Urban Forester has met with the Communications Department several times to spread urban forestry stories using social media and will continue to.

Action B. Identify tree specimens, including heritage trees, on City property that illustrate proper tree care and discuss in articles on the City website and social media.

This has not started yet.

Action C. Compile and distribute a list of local tree species and their performance under known conditions.

This was accomplished under the new approved street tree list.