



City of Tumwater

Landscape and Buffering Ordinance

Public Engagement Plan

January 9, 2023

Introduction

The City of Tumwater is working to implement the 2021 adopted *Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP)*. The public participation plan identifies actions and priorities in order to achieve the goals of the UFMP, many of which call for amending various sections of code, specifically TMC 18.47 *Landscaping*. The last major update to TMC 18.47 *Landscaping* was done in 2008. Since then, the City has experienced development, growth and a community need to preserve and enhance landscaping, street trees, and create clear and concise regulations.

This document outlines the public participation process for the update of TMC 18.47 *Landscaping*. The intent of the public participation plan is to engage elected officials, community members and groups, local developers, professional consultants (landscape architects, foresters, and arborists), and staff throughout the process so that everyone has the opportunity to review, comment, question, and provide input.

The early top priorities for the public participation process are to create outreach materials and conduct stakeholder meetings, public work sessions, and host workshops for internal and external stakeholders. The public participation plan will include strategies aimed at encouraging preservation of existing healthy urban canopy and public and stakeholder engagement. Completion of the Landscaping and Buffering Ordinance is anticipated by December 31, 2023.

To be successful the project will:

- Update the City's landscaping and buffering regulations in TMC 18.47 *Landscaping*, Citywide Design Guidelines, development guide, and other related regulations.
- Support Urban Forestry and implementation of the *Urban Forestry Management Plan*.
- Support the City's efforts to address climate change and implementation of the *Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan*.
- Promote equity and environmental justice throughout the public participation process.
- Conduct meetings with City Staff, Stakeholders, and the public.
- Conduct public work sessions with the Tree Board, Planning Commission, and City Council.
- Identify community-supported strategies that promote increased urban forest canopy through the landscaping regulations, including updates to policies, regulations, and programs.
- Adopt the updated Landscape and Buffering Ordinance and other related municipal code updates or documents.

This document provides an overview of all of the planned public engagement activities, describing their approach, format, intent, and outcomes. We will keep this plan up to date, modifying it as necessary to reflect changes in the process, and what is learned along the way.

Public Participation Goals

- Provide the city and interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to participate.
- Actively seek information from stakeholder groups to gather input from advocates, developers, and social service organizations about their concerns, questions, and priorities. (A detailed list of potential stakeholder groups is listed below).

Communication Methods

External Communication

Members of the public and stakeholder groups will have the opportunity to communicate with City and Consulting staff regarding this project. Electronic versions of draft and final documents will be available at www.tumwatertreecity.com under Landscaping Project Updates.

Public notices will be distributed in accordance with TMC 14.06.070 and the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30.060).

Internal Communication

Rachel Granrath at SCJ Alliance is the project manager and Malissa Paulsen is the primary point of contact for the consultant team. Rachel can be reached at Rachel.granrath@scjalliance.com, 720-273-7172, 108 N Washington, Ste 300, Spokane, WA 99201. Malissa can be reached at malissa.paulsen@scjalliance.com, 253-314-9539, 8730 Tallon Ln NE Ste 200, Lacey, WA 98516.

Brad Medrud, Long Range Planning Manager, is the primary point of contact for the City of Tumwater. His contact information is bmedrud@ci.tumwater.wa.us, 360-754-4180, 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501.

Public Participation Outline

Kickoff Meeting	October 20, 2022
Draft Public Engagement Plan	December 2022
Final Public Engagement Plan	January 2023
Outreach Materials	October 2022 – June 2023
Stakeholder Meetings	March 13, 2023 & April 3, 2023
Committee Engagement	
Joint Planning Commission/Tree Board Introduction	February 13, 2023
Joint Planning Commission/Tree Board Briefing	July 10, 2023
General Government Committee - Briefing	October 9, 2023
Work Sessions	
Joint Planning Commission/Tree Board	August 14, 2023
Planning Commission	August 28, 2023
City Council	October 23, 2023
Public Hearings	
Planning Commission	September 11, 2023
City Council	November 20, 2023

General Process for Public Engagement and Adoption of Code

Public engagement is the forefront and main component to inform the draft and final version of the updated Landscaping code. The Public Engagement process outline, above, is a general idea of when each item will take place. Below is a discussion regarding the importance of each element.

SCJ Alliance and the City of Tumwater will meet with both the Planning Commission and Tree Board in a joint meeting to introduce the project and create a baseline understanding of how the project will proceed. This introduction provides time for the commission and tree board to ask questions, provide input, and communicate their understandings to inform the draft ordinance.

After the introductory meeting with the Planning Commission and Tree Board, SCJ Alliance and city staff will conduct two stakeholder meetings and develop both a first and second draft of the ordinance. Then another joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Tree Board will be held to discuss the draft ordinance and hear input from commission and board members. SCJ Alliance will take that information and update the ordinance to reflect the input and return to the commission and board to complete the final draft of the ordinance.

For an ordinance to be adopted within the City of Tumwater, the Planning Commission must review the proposal, hear public comment, and make a recommendation to move to City Council at a public hearing*. If the Planning Commission recommends for the proposed ordinance to go in front of the City Council, the City Council will then hold another Public Hearing to make a determination on formally adopting the ordinance.

*Public Hearings and Notices are regulated under TMC 14.06.070 and the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30.060).

Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder meetings will be held on **March 13, 2023**, and **April 3, 2023**. These meetings are meant to encourage community involvement and input from a variety of stakeholders, including those who have a stake in the conservation, forestry, construction, economic development, and local tribes.

This list incorporates a general list of known stakeholders and their organizations.

Black Hills Audubon Society

Anne Van Sweringen
Kim Adelson
Samuel Merrill
Sue Danver

Chehalis Tribe

Amy Loudermilk
Colleen Parrot

City of Olympia – Urban Forester

Michelle Bentley

City of Tumwater

Community Development
Parks and Recreation
Planning Commission
Transportation & Engineering
Tree Board
Water Resources and Sustainability

Community Members

Eric Campbell
Gay Gorden
Jorjana Pedersen
Laurie Schaetzel-Hill
Nancy Partlow

Intercity Transit

Rob Fontaine

Kaufman Construction and Development

John Kaufman

LOTT Cleanwater Alliance

Lisa Dennis-Perez

Nisqually Tribe

Annette Bullchild
David Trout
George Walter
Joe Cushman
Justine Capra

Olympia Master Builders

Jessie Simmons

Port Blakely

Court Stanley

Port of Olympia

Lisa Parks

Puget Sound Energy

Amy Tousley

Restoring the Earth Connection

Lynn Fitz-Hugh

South Sound Urban Forestry

Kevin McFarland

Squaxin Island Tribe

Shaun Dinubilo

Thurston Chamber of Commerce

David Schaffert

Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT)

Melinda Hughes

Thurston County Conservation District

Sarah Moorehead

Thurston Thrives – Environment & Climate Action

Chris Hawkins

Thurston Economic Development Council

Michael Cade

Together!

Meghan Sullivan

Tumwater Chamber of Commerce

David Schaffert

Tumwater School District

Mel Murray

Vine Street Investors

Glenn Wells

Washington National Wildlife Federation

Courtney Sullivan

Washington State Nursey & Landscape Assoc.

Breanne Chavez

Washington Native Plant Society – South Sound

Deb Naslund

WSU – Thurston County Extension Office

Stephen Bramwell