

TO: General Government Committee
FROM: Brad Medrud, Planning Manager
DATE: May 10, 2023
SUBJECT: Tree and Vegetation Preservation Regulation Update

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 a consultant, DCG/Watershed, 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 the fall of 2022 and winter of 2023, the community survey, community conversation and internal stakeholder meetings, and initial worksessions with the Planning Commission and Tree Board were completed. Based on the information gathered as part of that process, DCG/Watershed and staff developed draft amendments to TMC 16.08 for review by the Planning Commission and Tree Board.

The focus of this briefing will be presenting key components of the proposed amendment language and discussing next steps, including presenting Ordinance No. O2023-006 at the June 13, 2023 Joint Planning Commission and Tree Board worksession.

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. Staff Report
- B. Presentation