

TO: Planning Commission and Tree Board
FROM: Dana Bowers, Associate Planner, Sharon Lumbantobing Deputy Community Development Director
DATE: May 26, 2026
SUBJECT: Urban Forestry Code Updates

1) Recommended Action:

Review the proposed approach and provide feedback on the concepts guiding the updates to Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 12.24 Street Trees, TMC Chapter 16.08 Tree and Vegetation Protections, and TMC Chapter 18.47 Landscaping.

2) Background:

Current tree and vegetation protection codes were adopted in 1989 and amended in 1994 and 2002. These codes establish basic standards for tree removal and replanting and help maintain Tumwater's character of lush green streets. Adopting and maintaining these standards is also part of the criteria required for Tumwater to retain its status as a Tree City, which it has held for over 30 years.

Since 2018, city council, Tree Board, and community members have identified concerns with the current tree codes, including limited clarity for implementation and enforcement and a lack of emphasis on retention of large trees. The Urban Forest Management Plan, adopted in 2021, identifies updates to tree and vegetation regulations as a key implementation action.

The update process includes Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) 12.24 Street Trees, TMC 16.08 Tree and Vegetation Protections, and TMC 18.47 Landscaping. The updates are intended to support tree retention, urban canopy goals, and implementation of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Introduce the consultant team
 - Review project goals and timelines
 - Provide an overview of the tree density credit approach
 - Discuss tree incentives and landmark tree protections
 - Identify areas where additional clarification or information may be needed
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3) Alternatives:

None.

4) Attachments:

- A. Staff Report
- B. Presentation