

DIRECTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council established “Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability” as one of its Strategic Priorities with the goal of “Develop new approaches to tree preservation and urban forestry management.”

To achieve this goal, the Tree Board prepared the Urban Forestry Management Plan with the support of stakeholders and Community Development Department staff.

The intent of the Plan is to build on the 1996 Urban Forestry Plan and 2002 Comprehensive Street Tree Plan. The Plan provides recommendations for updating Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) 16.08 Protection of Trees and Vegetation as well as TMC 12.24 Street Trees and TMC 18.47 Landscaping with the primary goal of ensuring “The Right Tree in the Right Place,” as well as establishing a number of other implementation Actions.



The City Council approved the Urban Forestry Management Plan by Ordinance No. O2020-004 on March 2, 2021.



City of Tumwater
Tree Board



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URBAN FORESTRY Management Plan

PLAN PURPOSE

What is an Urban Forest?

An urban forest consists of all trees and understory plants on public and private property in a City. It includes a diverse mix of vegetation, managed by a broad group of individuals and groups, and located in a range of urban and natural settings including private properties, developed parks, rights-of-way, conservation areas, and other public lands.



Benefits of the Urban Forest

Trees and their understory are an essential part of the character of the City. A healthy urban forest provides benefits including pollution mitigation, habitat for wildlife, carbon sequestration, stormwater runoff reduction, as well as socioeconomic and aesthetic benefits. Urban and natural forests work constantly to mitigate the negative effects of urbanization and development, while protecting and enhancing lives within the community. (Jo and McPherson 1995)

ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The Urban Forestry Management Plan provides recommendations for updating Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) 16.08 Protection of Trees and Vegetation as well as TMC 12.24 Street Trees and TMC 18.47 Landscaping with the primary goal of ensuring “The Right Tree in the Right Place,” as well as establishing other implementation actions and a monitoring structure.

The Urban Forestry Management Plan is organized into three chapters and series of appendices.

CHAPTER 01

Introduction talks about the reasons why the City developed the Plan, its benefits, and its purpose.

CHAPTER 02

Inventory and Assessment Discusses the community engagement and the inventory and evaluation work done to prepare the Plan.

CHAPTER 03

Strategic Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring addresses the three components of the Plan:

Strategic Planning

Outlines the Plan’s Vision, Concepts, Goals, Objectives, and Actions to address inventorying, protecting, establishing, maintaining, and enhancing the community and urban forest through resource management in City operation, permitting, and enforcement activities as well as community outreach and education.

Implementation

Summarizes what will need to be done to translate the Plan’s Vision, Concepts, Goals, Objectives, and Actions into reality over the 20-year term of the Plan.

Monitoring

Describes the monitoring and adaptive management program that will be used to evaluate progress towards the Plan’s Vision, Concepts, Goals, Objectives, and Actions.

APPENDICES

include the technical reports used to prepare the Plan and other materials that direct implementation of the Plan.

ONGOING MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

The urban forest in the City did not simply grow untended or unplanned. Although the landscape, which makes up the City today, is naturally heavily wooded, most of the original trees were clear-cut by the late 1800s.

The existing urban forest in the City is mostly human-made and requires active stewardship to remain healthy. The Plan is intended to have a 20-year term, with smaller evaluation time segments established in the Implementation and Monitoring phases.

IMPLEMENTATION

The next stage of the process is implementation of the Plan. In addition to the Plan’s Actions that City Departments are working on now, the City’s Tree Board is responsible for monitoring the Plan’s implementation process as well as working on the community education and coordination work for the Plan.

