



Urban Forest Management Plan & Code Update

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services Department

Infrastructure Planning and Sustainability

August 21, 2019

ITEM #



AGENDA & OVERVIEW

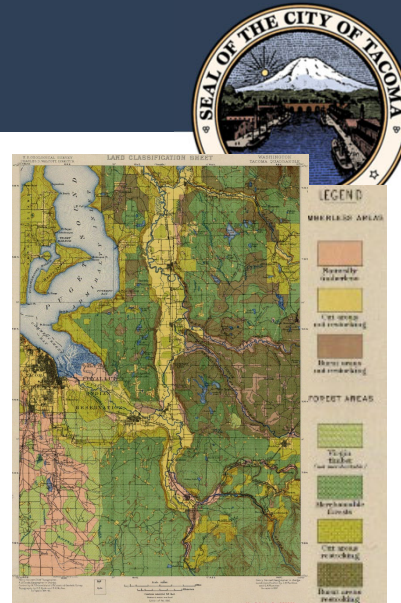


1. Background
 - Issues Identified
2. UFMP Overview
 - Scope of UFMP discussion
 - Phase 1 - Benchmarking Research
 - Phase 1 - TMC Review
 - Phase 2 – Implementation Strategies
3. Opportunities for Review
4. Questions/Comments

BACKGROUND

Existing Policy & Code

- 1992: Urban Forest Management Plan
- 2010: Urban Forest Policy Element
- 2014: Urban Forest Manual
- 2015: Tacoma 2025
- 2016: Environmental Action Plan
- 2016: Right-of-Way Design Manual
- 2019: Urban Forest Management Plan & TMC Expert Review



Land Class Map (1897)

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IDENTIFIED ISSUES

- Outdated tree-related ordinances
- Lack of tree preservation
- Limited City ROW tree responsibility
- Unclear responsibilities and workflows for trees in ROWs, Critical Areas, and private property
- Disproportioned resources: tree canopy and associated benefits
- Environmental equity/justice



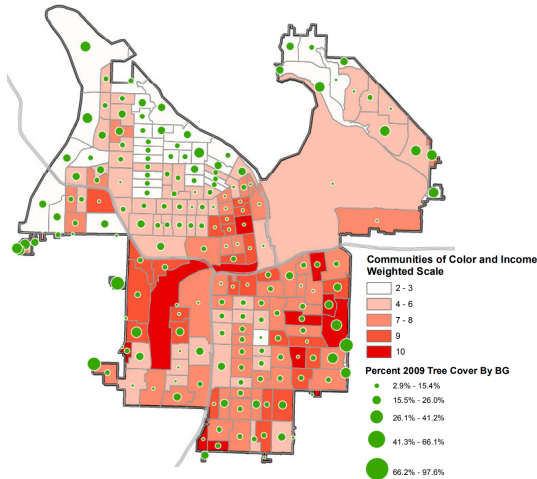
Tree Canopy Map (2018)

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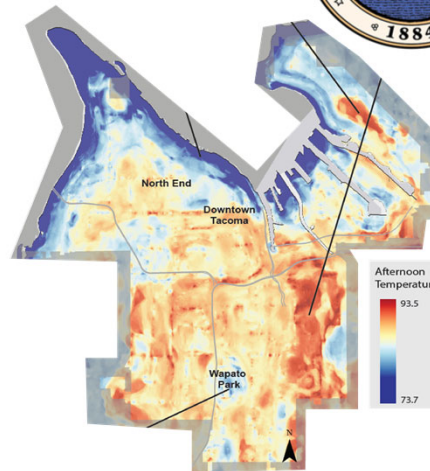
●●● ID'D ISSUE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



Communities of Concern (2014)



Urban Heat Study (2018)



●●● WHY WE'RE HERE



- ✓ City and community engagement
- ✓ Benchmarking research
- ✓ TMC review & recommendations
- ✓ Baseline conditions assessment
- ✓ Research, technology, & studies
- ✓ Short and long-term strategies
- ✓ Community outreach & stewardship
- ✓ Measures & adaptive management

Timeline

- ✓ April 2019: Kick Off
- ✓ April - July: Phase 1
 - Inventory (Current State)
 - Existing Conditions & Operations
 - Benchmarking Research
- Aug. – Nov.: Phase 2
 - Education & Engagement
 - Implementation – Short/Long Term
- January 2020: Phase 3
 - Sustained Funding
 - Tree Risk Reduction
 - Trees and Sidewalks Operations ⁶

Phase 1 - BENCHMARKING RESEARCH



US Forest Service's UF Sustainability & Management Audit

Description
Management Policy and Ordinances
Professional Capacity and Training
Funding and Accounting
Decision and Management Authority
Inventories
Urban Forest Management Plans
Risk Management
Disaster Planning
Practices, Standards, and BMPs
Community
Green Asset Evaluation (Observed Outcomes)
TOTAL

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Phase 1 - BENCHMARKING RESEARCH



Criteria & Indicators of Urban Forest Sustainability



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Phase 1 - TREE REGULATION RESEARCH



TREE ORDINANCE BENCHMARK STUDY

LANDMARK TREE PROGRAMS ACROSS WASHINGTON

Jurisdiction	Program Name & Code Section	Description of Qualifying Trees	Voluntary Designation?	Designation Committee	Recorded on Title?	ISA Certified Arborist Requirement?	Notes & Designation Expiration/Removal
Auburn	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bainbridge Island (expired)	Landmark Tree Ordinance B/MC 16.32	Select species and diameter depended. Approx. 25 species were selected and supplied a diameter criteria.	No	N/A	No	No	NOTE: This regulation was designed to be a moratorium on landmark tree removal. It existed in code for 12 months, naturally expired and was not extended by Council. No Certified Arborist intervention was required.
Bonney Lake	Internal Program – No Ordinance	Size ≥ 36"	Yes	N/A	No	No	No actual designated trees. Never used.
DuPont	25.120.040: Development Code	Distinctive in Size/Age					
Federal Way	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Issaquah	Landmark Tree (IMC 18.12)	Any trees ≥ 30" diameter Distinctive in Size/Age	No	N/A	No	No	Removal due to risk or development conflict; may require replanting
Issaquah	Heritage Tree (not in code)	Historic or Ecological Value	Yes	Park Board	No	No	Notification to Park Board
Lacey	Historical Tree IMC 14.32	Historical value only	Yes	Planning Director decision	Yes	No	Land clearing permit or Tree Risk Assessment Qualified high-risk rating required for removal. Director has discretion depending on reasons for removal.
Lake Forest Park	Landmark Tree Ch. 16.14	Any tree ≥ 28" diameter	No	N/A	No	No	Permit required to remove significant and landmark trees; minimum amount of tree canopy required varies by zone and lot size.
Lakewood	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lynnwood	Heritage Tree IMC 17.15.070	Size, Age, Usual Species, Historical Association	Yes	Park and Recreation Board	Yes	Yes	Director of Public Works evaluates if heritage tree designation can be revoked based on criteria in subsection (g). Certified Arborist supplies documentation.
Mercer Island	Landmark Trees & Groves MICC 19.10.140	Groves: mature, distinctive, historic. Tree: tree ≥ 36" diameter, unique/historic	Yes	City Arborist	Yes	No	Requires Tree Risk Assessment Qualified high-risk qualification and tree permit to remove, or justification for removal because development conflicts.
Olympia	Landmark Tree OMC 16.56	Historic, rare, unusual species or exceptional aesthetic quality	Yes	Planning Director decision; Forestry Advisory Board hears appeal	Yes	No	Permit required to remove; DCD Director has discretion depending on reasons for removal.
Port Orchard	Lg. Significant trees POMC 16.50	Any trees ≥ 36" diameter	No	N/A	No	No	City Council will vote to allow removal under POMC 16.50.180. ISA Certified Documentation helpful.
Puyallup	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Redmond	Landmark Tree RMC 21.72	Any healthy tree > 30" diameter	No	N/A	No	Yes	ISA Certified Arborist must determine tree is hazardous/diseased/dead and submit permit or apply for exemption. Required 3:1 replacement.

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TMC RECOMMENDED CHANGES



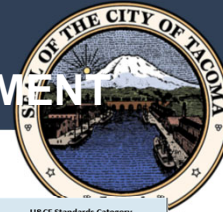
1. Identify and align urban and community forestry goals and policy with One Tacoma policy.
2. Develop new stand-alone Urban & Community Forestry Chapter in TMC.
3. Renovate existing TMC to remove discrepancies and align with best-management-practices.

Planned Actions

- Review TMC revision ordinances
- Update Urban Forest Manual
- Update supplemental marketing information

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TMC Review - ONE TACOMA ALIGNMENT



Linkages, actionable policy, U&CF standards

Comprehensive Plan Chapter	Comprehensive Plan Goal	Policy & Actions	Urban Forest Alignment/Consultant Notes	Actionable Urban Forest Policy	U&CF Standards Category
Urban Form	GOAL UF-1 Guide development, growth, and infrastructure investment to support positive outcomes for all Tacomans	Policy UF-1.5 Strive for a built environment designed to provide a safe, healthful, and attractive environment for people of all ages and abilities.	Investment into street tree infrastructure, especially to vulnerable populations, supports positive outcomes for all Tacomans Trees provide extensive benefits, and at times, can provide risk of personal injury and property damage.	• Develop standard SOP's for City employees who work with trees to identify signs and expressions of risk.	Resource Management – UF Resiliency/Risk Management
Urban Form	GOAL UF-1 Guide development, growth, and infrastructure investment to support positive outcomes for all Tacomans	Policy UF-1.8 Recognize the importance of the city's established street grid pattern, block sizes, and intersection density in supporting multi-modal transportation, quality urban design, and 20-minute neighborhoods. Whenever practicable, the established grid pattern should be preserved and enhanced to achieve the city's goals for urban form, and design and development.			Resource Management – UF Resiliency/Risk Management
Urban Form	GOAL UF-11 Preserve and protect open space corridors to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment and to provide opportunities for Tacomans to experience nature close to home	Policy UF-11.2 Improve Open Space Corridors using a mix of tools including natural resource protection, property acquisition, natural resource restoration, tree planting and landscaping with native plants, and ecological design integrated with new development.		• Use FLAT priority assessments to prioritize natural resource restoration in open spaces. • Develop priority matrix to identify criteria for open space acquisition • Encourage use of native and regional plants in landscape plans	Resource Management – UF Resiliency/Risk Management
Urban Form	GOAL UF-11 Preserve and protect open space corridors to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment and to provide opportunities for Tacomans to experience nature close to home	Policy UF-11.3 Ensure that connections between Open Space Corridors, streets and trail systems are located and designed to support the functions of each element, and create positive interrelationships between the elements, while also protecting habitat functions, fish, and wildlife.		• Coordinate site designing with Certified Arborists to better assess and amplify function of trees and natural resources in projects. • Code modifications to require Certified Arborists on planning teams or consulted for some projects.	Resource Management – UF Resiliency/Risk Management

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TMC Review - ONE TACOMA ALIGNMENT



Linkages, actionable policy, U&CF standards

1) Resource Management

- a) Resilience and risk management
- b) Street trees
- c) Viewsheds

2) Equity and Accessibility

3) Canopy Growth-30/30

4) Long-term funding

5) Climate Resiliency

- a) Risk mitigation
- b) Energy savings

6) Municipal Code and Policy

- a) Preserving Trees During Development
- b) Landmark Tree Policy
- c) Single Title/Consolidation

7) Environmental

- a) Net-loss
- b) Watershed scale planning

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●●● TMC Review - CONSOLIDATED UF TITLE



Urban Forestry Title Topics:

- 1) Definition of Urban Forest
- 2) Landmark Tree Protection
- 3) ROW Tree Protection
- 4) City-wide Tree Planting Goals
- 5) Reference to Urban Forest Manuals and other Policies
- 6) Tree Pruning Standards
- 7) Urban Forest Committee/Commission

Outcomes:

- ✓ Single source of urban forest policy, outside of standards triggered through development/disturbance actions
- ✓ Improve cross-sectoral processes; increase permit efficiency and workflow
- ✓ Promote policies through regulation, incentives and stewardship

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●●● TMC Review - LANDMARK TREES



Common State/National Themes: Outcomes:

- Voluntarily/non-voluntarily
 - Committees for designation
 - Documentation and inventorying
 - Qualifying criteria
 - Variances and relief for tree protection are often provided through:
 - High-risk
 - Spatial conflict
 - Utility work
 - Goals of other UF plans
- ✓ Conservation of culturally or historically relevant landmarks
 - ✓ Inventory of large, important trees and quantification of their provided ecosystem services
 - ✓ Species diversity improvement

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●●● TMC Review - ROW TREE PROTECTION



Outcomes of ROW Protection:

- Equitable accessibility
- Reasonable tree preservation
- Protection during construction
- Tree outcomes:
 - reduced risk
 - canopy retention/longevity
 - reduced maintenance costs
 - improved public health
 - reduced infrastructure conflicts
- Decision matrix to address tree and infrastructure conflicts

Outcomes Will Support:

- ✓ Improved permitting process
- ✓ Inventory/ assessment of trees
- ✓ Monitoring of ROW trees to inform management decisions and tree/infrastructure mitigation
- ✓ Appropriate species selection for new plantings in the ROW
- ✓ Tree planting best practices

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●●● TMC Review - RENOVATION



Goals:

- Renew outdated TMC & update to reflect industry BMPs
- Correct inconsistencies/conflicts between existing TMC & Policy
- Remove references to permits & process that no longer exists
- Correct conflicts between critical areas and right-of-way codes

Example:

- 110 tree-related code references with existing TMC
 - 37 contain outdated/ inaccurate information related to current urban forest policy

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PHASE 2 - STRATEGIES

Short-Term (2025) & Long-Term (20 years)



GOAL 2: MAXIMIZE THE EFFICIENCIES IN MAINTAINING THE BENEFITS OF TREES.	COLLABORATORS C-coordinator L-lead S-support					IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING	YEAR
Objective 2B: Promote efficient and cost-effective management of the urban forest.	Community Services Dept.	Maintenance	Community & Human Services Commission	Planning/Engineering Division	Sustainable Claremont	SUSTAINABLE CITY PLAN LINKAGE	UFMP CRITERIA & INDICATORS LINKAGE
Use tree inventory data and software for a cyclical program of inspections, routine pruning, and young tree training. Use this information to inform and plan budgets	C,L	S	S	S			Year 1
Establish and maintain an optimal level of age and species diversity. Use the tree inventory and UTC data to inform tree planting species and locations	C,L	S	S	S	S		Year 1-5
Minimize urban tree risk by conducting routine inspections and proper tree care	C	L	S	S	S		Year 1-5
Plant urban trees appropriately to maximize benefits and minimize risk, nuisance, water restraints, hardscape damage, and maintenance costs	C,L	S	S	S	S		Year 1-5

Short-term strategy ex.

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PHASE 2 – ENGAGEMENT & FINAL PLAN



Public Engagement

Final Plan

Public Surveys



End of August

Public Meetings



Sept – Oct – Nov

UFMP Website



Tacomatreeplan.org

Presentation to Council



December

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● ● ● OPPORTUNITIES FOR REVIEW



Requesting feedback on & support for upcoming development of:

- ✓ Municipal Code review & recommendations
- ✓ Tree canopy cover goals, targets, priorities, phases, etc.
- ✓ Community outreach & engagement approach
- ✓ UFMP website content
- ✓ Short & long-term UFMP strategies

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Urban Forest Management Plan

Questions/Comments



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