



TO: Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager
FROM: Council Member Kristina Walker and Christina Caan, Policy Analyst
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee; Anna Le, Management Fellow; Ramiro Chavez, Environmental Services Director
PRESENTER: Council Member Kristina Walker
SUBJECT: Urban Forest Priority Action Plan Phase One: Community Engagement Report
DATE: January 21, 2026

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The “Urban Forest Priority Action Plan Phase One: Community Engagement Report” provides an overview of community feedback provided during discussions on the public benefits of trees, expanding City services for tree maintenance, and potential new land use regulations regarding tree preservation on private property, led by Council Member Kristina Walker. The report aims to assist City Council Members, City staff members, and members of the Planning Commission with implementing Phase Two and Three of the Urban Forest Priority Action Plan.¹

BACKGROUND:

In response to overwhelming community support for enhancing Tacoma’s tree canopy, the City Council adopted the Urban Forest Priority Action Plan (Resolution 41682) in May 2025.² The plan outlines a set of phased actions designed to develop policy options and budget proposals regarding the care and maintenance of Tacoma’s urban forest for City Council consideration.

Phase One of the Priority Action Plan called for City Council-led community engagement events to learn more about public perspectives on Tacoma’s urban forest. To kick off these efforts, Council Member Kristina Walker launched a series of meetings with Neighborhood Councils, as well as several Committees, Boards, and Commissions. In addition, Council Member Walker held community walks that were open to the public in the Lincoln District and South Tacoma. Urban Forest Manager Mike Carey also participated in the events to address technical questions.

Between October and December 2025, the following community groups participated in a Council-led outreach event:

- The West End Neighborhood Council
- The New Tacoma Neighborhood Council
- The North End Neighborhood Council
- The Eastside Neighborhood Council
- The Central Neighborhood Council
- The South End Neighborhood Council
- The Northeast Neighborhood Council

¹ [Urban Forestry Code & Policies: Priority Action Plan | City of Tacoma](#)

² [Resolution 41682](#)



- The Mayor's Youth Commission
- The Climate and Sustainability Commission

The qualitative data collected in this report reflects the responses of about 150 people to the following four questions:

- Do you think that our urban forest, including trees on private property, provides public benefits?
- Who should be responsible for maintaining trees in the public right-of-way—the City or private residents? If the City were to consider expanding maintenance for trees in the right-of-way, it would require revenue to support the work. Is this a service you would support paying for?
- Should a property owner be allowed to remove any tree on private property for any reason? Or do you believe there should be specific restrictions on when tree removal can take place?
- To continue contributing to our tree canopy, should the City charge a fee to remove a tree on private property? Should we use that money to plant trees elsewhere in the City to replace the lost benefits?

ISSUE:

The community feedback provided in the report aims to assist City Council Members, City staff members, and members of the Planning Commission with implementing Phase Two and Three of the Urban Forest Priority Action Plan, which launch in January 2026. The final sections of the report distill potential considerations for policy work based on the community feedback collected.

- Phase Two includes the development and consideration of potential budget options for expanding City tree maintenance in the right-of-way.
- Phase Three includes launching the Planning Commission process for developing proposals for new land use and development regulations regarding tree canopy management and preservation, including on private property.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Urban Forest Priority Action Plan Phase One: Community Engagement Report