



City Council

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www.eugene-or.gov

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

October 16, 2024

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Wednesday work sessions are held using virtual meeting technology. Information about online or other options for access and participation will be available at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3360/Webcasts-and-Meeting-Materials>

Meeting of October 16, 2024; Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding

Councilors

Matt Keating, President

Emily Semple

Alan Zelenka

Greg Evans

Randy Groves, Vice President

Lyndsie Leech

Jennifer Yeh

Mike Clark

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

1. WORK SESSION: Draft Urban Forestry Management Plan

2. WORK SESSION: Police Commission FY 2024 Annual Report

The Eugene City Council welcomes your interest in these agenda items. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Draft Urban Forestry Management Plan

Meeting Date: October 16, 2024
Department: Public Works
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Carrie Peterson
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-4889

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Draft Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) provides a comprehensive 30-year strategy to expand and sustain Eugene's urban forest and address critical challenges such as climate change, environmental equity and urban resilience. The focus of this plan is primarily City-owned street trees within the public right-of-way, though recommendations and actions will address parks and other publicly owned land. It does not address private tree regulation. City Council is requested to review the four-phase project timeline and draft plan.

BACKGROUND

Eugene's current Urban Forestry Master Plan was adopted in 1992, as a refinement of the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area Plan (Metro Plan). While the concepts and principals in the 1992 Plan remain accurate, the technology tools, data resources, expertise, and scientifically backed industry best management practices have made significant strides in the last several decades. The draft plan is intended to strategically align urban forestry management practices with the current needs, priorities and demands of our growing community. Completion of the final plan is intended to achieve the goal outlined in Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP2.0), action R13.

Currently, Eugene's urban forest covers approximately 24 percent of the City's land area. The urban tree canopy is unevenly distributed, with some neighborhoods enjoying as much as 50 percent coverage, while others, particularly in the western districts, have as little as 9 percent. This disparity highlights the need for strategic action to increase canopy cover in underserved areas, improve urban resilience, and enhance overall quality of life for Eugene residents. The draft UFMP proposes to increase the tree canopy to 30 percent by 2040 across all neighborhoods.

The Urban Forestry Program's mission is to manage, preserve and grow Eugene's urban forest by implementing adaptive strategies that prioritize sustainability, risk reduction, community engagement, and long-term ecological health. The program manages approximately 70,000 public street trees, however the majority of the urban canopy (72 percent) is located on private property, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in achieving the City's canopy goals.

October 16, 2024 Work Session – Item 1

The framework of the draft UFMP is built on three foundational pillars:

1. **Grow and sustain the Urban Forest:** Expand Eugene's tree canopy through strategic tree planting and establishment, preservation of planting sites and mature trees, and the promotion of species diversity.
2. **Environmental Justice and Equity:** Address disparities in tree canopy cover, particularly in underserved and low-income communities.
3. **Resiliency and Emergency Response:** Enhance Eugene's resilience to environmental challenges such as climate change, storms, wildfires and pests.

Three core principles guide all actions and strategies:

1. **Natural Resources:** Ensure the protection, expansion, and sustainable management of Eugene's natural tree assets, with a focus on preserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services.
2. **Community Engagement:** Foster active participation and collaboration with Eugene's residents, neighborhoods, and organizations to build a shared sense of ownership and responsibility for the urban forest.
3. **Governance and Operational Excellence:** Implement strong leadership, data-driven decision-making, and adaptive management practices to address evolving environmental challenges and ensure long-term urban forest resilience.

The draft UFMP aligns with council goals for sustainability and community livability; the City's strategic plan commitment to environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and equitable distribution of urban forest benefits; and builds upon the urban forestry program's status as a Tree City United States of America for 45 consecutive years.

Key Goals and Considerations:

1. Increase overall tree canopy cover to 30 percent Citywide by 2040 - expanded planting and establishment programs will have significant financial implications. The quantity of trees required to reach 30 percent canopy coverage is 214,220 across all six planning districts. With an estimated cost of \$625/tree, the overall costs exceed \$130 million. (CAP2.0 action R11 and high impact action in City's Strategic Plan focus on Urgent Community Needs)
2. Implement a 10-year, or better, proactive tree care and maintenance cycle – an expanded maintenance program will have an additional financial impact of approximately \$250,000 annually. (CAP2.0 action R14)
3. Urgent need to address environmental resilience by focusing on the imminent threat posed by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which jeopardizes 9 percent of Eugene's street tree population, and will result in overall canopy loss of approximately 92 acres. The potential economic loss from these trees is valued at approximately \$8.5 million and removal and replacement are expected to cost in excess of \$6.5 million. Parks and Open Space is working on an integrated response plan across all areas of tree populations including the right-of-way, developed parks, and natural areas to mitigate this threat and minimize long-term impacts.
4. Enhance environmental justice and equity in urban forest distribution and benefits, while also ensuring divested communities receive tree benefits without an additional financial

burden due to liabilities. (High impact action in City's Strategic Plan focus on Urgent Community Needs)

Project Timeline:

Phase 1: RESEARCH, 2020-2022

- Stakeholder input (internal and external) leading to key insights such as incentives and assistance to private property owners, better incorporation of stormwater and tree requirements, and utilizing technology and data to ensure environmental justice and equity.
- Best management practices and national benchmarks
- Content development

Phase 2: BUILD, January -September 2024

- Process development
- Content refinement + draft plan development + district profiles

Phase 3: REFINE, October 2024-March 2025

- Determine full extent of land use implications on the Metro Plan and identify key provisions from the 1992 Urban Forestry Management Plan impacted by this refinement.
- Community engagement and stakeholder vetting
 - Community at large
 - Neighborhood associations, schools, commissions
 - Underrepresented communities
 - Urban forest related businesses and non-profits
 - Governmental organizations and utilities (internal and external)
 - Development community
 - Environmental advocates
- Incorporate feedback, refine and finalize plan and implementation strategy
- Begin process with Eugene Planning Commission

Phase 4: LAUNCH, April 2025 – In honor of Oregon's Arbor Month

- Rollout final plan and interactive virtual tools to ensure ongoing community involvement and education
- Provide specific actions, recommendations and financial impact report

RELATED CITY POLICIES

[Climate Action Plan 2.0 \(CAP 2.0\)](#): The draft Urban Forestry Management Plan directly supports goals R11-R16, which focus on increasing urban tree canopy and maximizing ecosystem services.

[Eugene Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#): This draft plan directly supports the "Urgent Community Need" key focus area, while the broad reaching ecosystem service benefits of trees cross all four focus areas.

[Eugene Code Chapter 6.300-6.330](#): Outlines requirements for street tree removal and replacement.

[Eugene Code Chapter 7.280](#): Guidelines for the Developer Street Tree Program

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

[June 12, 2024 Work Session](#)

Planning and Development staff presentation on Tree Preservation. As this draft UFMP does not address private tree preservation or regulation, this previous material is provided as the counterpart to public tree management.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

Information only.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

None.

SUGGESTED MOTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Urban Forestry Management Plan, September 2024
- B. UFMP strategic planning framework
- C. Summary of initial stakeholder feedback
- D. 1992 Urban Forest Management Plan

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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City of Eugene

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Vision in Action

September 2024

Acknowledgement

The City of Eugene Interim Land Acknowledgement Statement (updated June 8, 2022)

Since time immemorial, the Kalapuya people have been the Indigenous stewards of our region, building dynamic communities, maintaining balance with wildlife, and enacting sustainable land practices. Land acknowledgment is a way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and honoring Native communities by inviting truth and reconciliation. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, the Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their Indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. As we consider the impacts of colonization, we also acknowledge the strength and resiliency of displaced Indigenous people. The City is built within the traditional homelands known as Kalapuya Ilihi. Kalapuya descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon; they continue to contribute to our communities here and across the lands. We express our respect for the inherent political sovereignty of all federally recognized Tribal Nations and Indigenous people living in Oregon and across the nation.

Our interim Land Acknowledgement Statement will evolve as we build relationships with and listen to local tribal nations and learn more

Contributors

The City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Management Plan represents a collaborative effort, drawing on the expertise, support, and dedication of numerous individuals and organizations. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping a vision that reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

Primary Contributors:

Name No. 1

Name No. 2

Name No. 3

City of Eugene Staff & Internal Review Team

The City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Program dedicated staff and internal review team have provided invaluable input, ensuring the plan's alignment with the city's strategic objectives and the diverse needs of the community.

Community Members

We extend our sincere appreciation to the community members who offered their insights and feedback, helping to shape strategies that are both inclusive and responsive to the needs of Eugene's residents.

Supporting Organizations

We would like to acknowledge the following organizations for their expressed support of the vision and strategies outlined in this plan:

- City Council
- Planning Commission
- Sustainability Commission's Tree Committee
- Eugene Parks Foundation
- Rivers to Ridges Partnership
- NAACP Eugene-Springfield Environmental Justice Committee (NAACP EJC)
- Friends of Trees
- Neighborhood Leaders Council
- Home Builders Association of Lane County
- Native Plant Society of Oregon - Emerald Chapter (NPSO-Emerald Chapter)
- Long Tom Watershed Council
- 350Eugene
- Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

Photo Credits

The visual elements of this plan have been enhanced by the contributions of the following designers and photographers:

Name No. 1

Name No. 2

Name No. 3

Acknowledgment

As this is a draft version, additional contributors may be recognized in the final document. We are deeply grateful to all who have played a role in the development of the City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Letter from Mayor

Letter of Introduction from Mayor

To be prepared for the final draft of the Plan

[provide a short list of possible talking points for the Mayor that will align with general themes in the plan]

- *Trees = public health and community wellbeing*
- *Trees = a great public infrastructure investment*
- *Resilient urban forests don't happen by accident, they are the product of years of planning & hard work and lots of community dialogue and collaboration*
- *If we design and build thoughtfully, we can have a top-quality urban forest, high-density development, and enhanced urban sustainability; however, we'll need to plan and budget for it*
- *We can reach our goals if we follow the pavement preservation project (PPP) model which has proven to be an extremely effective program and example of how to best tackle big problems*

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Executive Summary

Eugene's Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) provides a comprehensive approach to the stewardship of the city's vital urban forest. It enhances the social, environmental, and economic benefits that trees provide, while addressing challenges such as climate change, equitable tree distribution, and ecosystem resilience. The UFMP is guided by three strategic principles: Natural Resources, Community Engagement, and Governance, and is built upon three foundational pillars: Grow and Sustain the Urban Forest, Environmental Justice and Equity, and Resiliency and Emergency Response.

1. Urban Tree Canopy and Current Status

Eugene's urban forest covers approximately 24% of the city's land area. The urban tree canopy is unevenly distributed, with some neighborhoods enjoying as much as 50% coverage, while others, particularly in the western districts, have as little as 9%. This disparity highlights the need for strategic action to increase canopy cover in underserved areas, improve urban resilience, and enhance overall quality of life for Eugene residents. The UFMP proposes to increase the tree canopy to 30% by 2040 across all neighborhoods.

Eugene's Urban Forestry Program manages approximately 85,000 public trees, the vast majority of the urban canopy (61%) is located on private property, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in achieving the city's canopy goals.

2. Vision and Mission

The vision of Eugene's Urban Forestry Program is to create a resilient, thriving, and equitable urban forest that enhances environmental quality, supports the health and well-being of residents, and provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations.

The mission is to manage, preserve, and grow Eugene's urban forest by implementing adaptive strategies that prioritize sustainability, community engagement, and long-term ecological health.

3. Strategic Framework Principles

The Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) is grounded in three core principles that guide all actions and strategies:

- **Natural Resources:** Ensuring the protection, expansion, and sustainable management of Eugene's natural tree assets, with a focus on preserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services.
- **Community Engagement:** Fostering active participation and collaboration with Eugene's residents, neighborhoods, and organizations to build a shared sense of ownership and responsibility for the urban forest.
- **Governance and Operational Excellence:** Implementing strong leadership, data-driven decision-making, and adaptive management practices to address evolving environmental challenges and ensure long-term urban forest resilience.

These principles underpin the UFMP's strategic goals and guide the efforts laid out in the following three foundational pillars: Grow and Sustain the Urban Forest, Environmental Justice and Equity, and Resiliency and Emergency Response.

4. Strategic Goals and Foundational Pillars

The UFMP's strategic framework is built on three core pillars:

- **Pillar 1: Grow and Sustain the Urban Forest**

This pillar focuses on expanding Eugene's tree canopy through strategic tree planting, preservation of planting sites and mature trees, and the promotion of species diversity. The plan sets a goal of achieving a 30% tree canopy in all districts by 2040. Achieving this target will require the planting of an additional 214,220 trees over the next 15 years, at an estimated cost of approximately \$134 million, which includes planting and three years of establishment watering. Reaching this target will rely on a mix of public and private planting efforts, with a focus on underserved areas.

To support these efforts, the city will apply for grants from the Oregon Department of Forestry to update the city's tree inventory. In addition, the city will seek EPA federal grants to plant 3,000 trees over three years, focusing on underserved, disinvested, and BIPOC communities. This funding will ensure the successful planting and establishment of trees, both in the right-of-way (ROW) and on private properties, in collaboration with local community-backed organizations.

Note: Planting on private property is essential to achieving the 30% canopy target. The 15-year timeframe allows for tree growth and canopy expansion to reach full coverage.

- **Pillar 2: Environmental Justice and Equity**

This pillar focuses on addressing disparities in tree canopy cover, particularly in underserved and low-income communities. By prioritizing tree planting and outreach in these areas, the UFMP ensures that every neighborhood benefits equitably from the urban forest. The plan utilizes the Tree Equity Score, a socio-environmental tool, to both show and ensure that tree canopy coverage is equitably distributed. This score helps guide planting efforts to the areas where they can provide the most significant social and environmental impact.

- **Pillar 3: Resiliency and Emergency Response**

The UFMP emphasizes the role of the urban forest in enhancing Eugene's resilience to environmental challenges such as storms, wildfires, and pests. The Urban Forestry Team, composed of ISA-certified arborists, is equipped and actively responds to emergencies, mitigating risks to ensure the safety and health of the city's trees. This proactive approach includes maintaining a 10-year pruning cycle to promote tree health and reduce risks.

5. Key Objectives and Performance Indicators

The UFMP outlines clear objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor progress, ensuring Eugene's urban forest grows sustainably and equitably. These include:

- **Canopy Coverage Target:** Increase citywide tree canopy to 30% by 2040, up from the current 24%, with a focus on underserved neighborhoods where canopy coverage is below 9%.
- **Tree Planting Goals:** Plant 214,220 trees over the next 15 years, with an annual goal of planting 3,000 ROW street trees. This includes a focus on right-of-way (ROW) areas, parks and other public lands, and school campuses to meet the canopy target.

- **Pruning and Maintenance Cycles:** A 10-year pruning cycle for all public trees ensures regular health checks, disease prevention, and structural integrity. This proactive management includes preserving mature trees and mitigating risks from environmental stressors.
- **Stocking Levels:** Achieve 90% stocking levels for street trees and 85% for park trees. Stocking levels refer to the percentage of available planting sites filled with trees, ensuring optimal use of space for trees in both public and private areas.
- **Funding and Grants:** Currently in the process of applying for ODF state grants to update Eugene's tree inventory and EPA federal grants to support planting initiatives in ROW and on private property, with an emphasis on collaboration with community-backed organizations. \$2M to support street tree projects is included in the 2025-2029 Transportation Bond and will be implemented across underserved areas.
- **Community Involvement:** Engage residents through partnerships with organizations like Friends of Trees, neighborhood associations, and school districts encouraging tree planting on private properties to achieve the 30% canopy target.
- **Data-Driven Monitoring:** Use GIS and remote sensing technologies, including the Right Tree, Right Place methodology, to monitor progress and ensure equitable distribution of tree canopy across neighborhoods.
- **Climate Resilience:** Conduct vulnerability assessments every five years, focusing on climate risks such as wildfires, pests, and drought. Use these assessments to guide tree planting and preservation efforts.
- **Community Workforce Development:** Focus on training and educating the next generation of urban forest stewards through partnerships with local organizations like Northwest Youth Corps, fostering community engagement and green job training.

6. Implementation Approach

The success of the UFMP relies on a combination of adaptive management, strategic use of technology, and strong community partnerships. Key implementation strategies include:

- **Team and Tools**

The City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Program is operated by a skilled staff of nine professionals who ensure the ongoing health, resilience, and expansion of the urban forest. The team plays a crucial role in providing 24/7/365 emergency response services, managing tree planting, maintenance, and community engagement efforts. Their work is central to expanding Eugene's tree canopy and ensuring it meets the community's needs.

- **Research and Analytics (Experience and Data Driven Research)**

The Urban Forestry Program utilizes a comprehensive technology toolkit that includes advanced geospatial analysis and data management systems. These tools allow for accurate monitoring, planning, and real-time decision-making, ensuring the urban forest is managed efficiently and sustainably. By leveraging geographic information systems (GIS) and real-time data, the team maintains a proactive approach to tree care and hazard mitigation, while fostering community engagement and environmental justice.

Program insights incorporate geosocial research and socio-economic metrics to ensure that tree canopy and urban forest services are distributed equitably across all neighborhoods. Through strategic analysis and continuous community engagement, the Urban Forestry Program makes informed decisions that adapt to Eugene’s evolving needs, ensuring a resilient and sustainable urban forest.

- **Urban Forestry Planning District Profiles**

The Urban Forestry District Profiles are the culmination of the research, analysis, and expertise gathered by Eugene’s Urban Forestry Program. After extensive experience and data-driven research, the team develops tailored profiles for each of Eugene’s six planning districts. These profiles leverage on-the-ground observations, geospatial tools, and community engagement to highlight the unique characteristics, challenges, and opportunities in each district.

Each district profile is designed to:

- Identify specific environmental, social, and economic factors impacting urban forestry within the district.
- Provide targeted strategies to address tree canopy gaps and improve urban forest resilience.
- Ensure equitable distribution of tree canopy coverage and access to urban green spaces across neighborhoods.

The profiles also serve as a strategic guide for making informed decisions on tree planting, maintenance, and preservation. They allow the Urban Forestry Program to tailor its approach to the specific needs of each district, ensuring that efforts are both efficient and effective.

The creation of these district profiles allows the Urban Forestry Program to work toward sustainable urban forest management across Eugene, with a focus on community engagement, environmental justice, and long-term resilience.

7. Conclusion

Eugene’s Urban Forestry Management Plan lays the foundation for a greener, more resilient city. By focusing on sustainability, community engagement, and equity, the UFMP will not only improve the environmental quality of Eugene’s neighborhoods but also contribute to the city's long-term resilience to climate change. The actions outlined in this plan will create a thriving urban forest that supports the health, well-being, and livability of Eugene for generations to come.

[Insert: widescreen photo of a Eugene vista.]

Section 1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Management Plan represents a vital commitment to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty, environmental health, and quality of life in our community. The trees that line our streets, fill our parks, and grace our private properties compose Eugene's urban forest. This collection of trees are more than just elements of our landscape—they are a critical part of Eugene's identity and a living legacy that we are entrusted to protect for future generations.

In alignment with Eugene's Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP 2.0) and the Eugene Strategic Plan 2023-2026, this Urban Forestry Management Plan is designed to address the multifaceted benefits of our urban forest, with a particular focus on natural element sustainability, community engagement and resiliency and emergency response. As the City of Eugene (City) continues to grow, this plan will serve as a guide to ensure that our urban forest remains a vibrant and enduring asset.

The Urban Forestry Management Plan presents a comprehensive strategy to grow and sustain Eugene's urban forest. This document provides the context of Eugene's urban forest and goals to guide our work over the next 20 years. We aim to revisit and revise this document every 5 years to keep up with the City's needs and best management practices.

1.1.1. What is an Urban Forest?

The "urban forest" is a collection of all the trees in our City. This includes trees found in our parks and natural areas, growing along our streets, growing inside school campuses and other private properties. The management of these assets are just as diverse- they may be maintained and cared for by multiple city departments, other governmental agencies, and by private citizens. It takes everyone to collectively care for our urban forest

The City of Eugene has multiple departments that care for the publicly owned trees in different capacities. The Urban Forestry Department specifically not only cares for street trees but also collaborates with other departments on tree related issues. This management plan speaks to our collective urban forest but has specific information and guidelines for and by the Urban Forestry Department.

1.1.2. Why Trees?

Eugene has been fondly referred to as the "Emerald City" because of the vast population of trees it contains. Eugene has a storied history of its relationship with trees and has been recognized as a "Tree City USA" city for more than 45 years. Trees are integral to the ecological and social fabric of Eugene. They improve air quality, filter water, and enhance the aesthetic and cultural values of our neighborhoods. Trees are so much more than just a landscape element; they are a significant component of the natural solutions to the challenges we face. To understand why we care so much about trees, we invite you to explore all the benefits our trees provide in Section 1.2.

1.1.3. Commitment to Equity and Community Engagement

Eugene is fully committed to ensuring that the benefits of our urban forest are equitably distributed across all neighborhoods, particularly in areas that have historically experienced lower tree canopy coverage. The plan aligns with the principles of the Tree Equity Score and is informed by community input gathered through public engagement initiatives. By involving residents in the planning and

care of their local urban forest, we aim to build a sense of ownership and stewardship that will ensure the long-term health of our trees.

To strengthen this commitment, Eugene will continue to work closely with local organizations such as Friends of Trees, Willamette Resources and Educational Network and Rivers to Ridges. We also seek to foster continued relationships with all 25 neighborhood associations. These partnerships are crucial in fostering community participation and ensuring that our urban forest reflects the values and needs of our residents.

1.1.4. Strategic Goals

This Urban Forestry Management Plan sets forth a comprehensive approach to managing Eugene's urban forest. Our strategic goals are outlined below:

- **Enhance the Urban Tree Canopy:** Increase canopy coverage across the city, particularly in underserved areas, to maximize ecological, social, and economic benefits.
- **Promote Tree Health and Diversity:** Ensure a diverse and resilient urban forest by selecting species that are well-suited to the local environment and capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change, pests and diseases, and cultural conditions.
- **Engage the Community:** Foster community involvement and education in urban forestry and empower citizens to participate in tree planting, maintenance, and advocacy.
- **Support Sustainable Development:** Integrate urban forestry into city planning and development processes to balance growth with the preservation of natural resources.
- **Strengthen Climate Resilience:** Utilize the urban forest as a critical component in Eugene's climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

1.2. Urban Forest Contributions

Over the years, Eugene's urban forest has delivered a range of environmental, economic, and social benefits to our residents and communities. Due to the effectiveness of our urban forest, the incidence of childhood asthma, contaminated water, and species extinction in our community has reduced. Our urban forest has continued to serve as a protective shield against floods and storms, protecting the City's infrastructure from severe damage. The total annual value Eugene derives from removing airborne pollutants and preventing stormwater runoff is worth \$13 million.

In addition to providing a natural filtration system that helps to create a healthier environment for all residents, Eugene's urban forest also enhances the aesthetic and cultural value of our neighborhoods. They are living relics of our city's history. The canopy that stretches across our city not only softens the hard lines of urban infrastructure but also creates spaces that foster community connection and well-being. The diverse species that populate our urban forest reflect the unique character of Eugene, blending native trees with other thoughtfully curated and climate adapted species that contribute to the overall resilience and beauty of our City.

Environmental Benefits

- **Air Quality Improvement:** Eugene's urban forest consists of diverse trees and plants that are strategically located across our districts to absorb dust, wildfire smoke, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and other air pollutants that may cause respiratory problems for our residents.

- **Water Quality Improvement:** Water pollution is a common occurrence during storms and flooding. The City's urban trees slow down stormwater with their roots and canopies, filtering pollutants that make our groundwater undrinkable and unfit for agriculture.
- **Soil Conservation:** Eugene's urban trees have extensive, spreading roots that are strong enough to stabilize the soil and prevent soil erosion in our community. The tree canopy reduces soil compaction by intercepting falling storm water and cushioning impact with the layer of materials they drop that carpet the soil surface.
- **Climate Regulation:** The City's urban forest captures and stores significant amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide, mitigating the impacts climate change may have on our community.
- **Biodiversity and Habitat:** Eugene's urban forest is known to provide adequate food and shelter to support bees, birds, and other wildlife that are essential for plant reproduction and carbon sequestration.

Economic Benefits

- **Health Savings:** Every dollar we spend on improving Eugene's urban forest has helped the City reduce health costs such as those associated with asthma and other respiratory diseases.
- **Energy Savings:** The City's urban forest provides ample tree cover to cool the surrounding air and surfaces thereby reducing the energy consumption of commercial and residential buildings, saving Eugene residents money and putting less demand on energy systems.
- **Stormwater Cost Savings:** The natural filtration system provided by the City's urban forest offsets the need for expensive stormwater infrastructure, saving us stormwater costs in the long term.
- **Workforce Development:** Our urban forestry program promotes workforce development with seasonal jobs in tree planting, maintenance, and day to day operations.
- **Increased Property Values:** Our urban forest, with its tree-lined streets and greenspaces, has increased the market value of properties, enhancing business and real estate activities in Eugene.
- **Increased Revenue:** Tree lined streets create a more inviting environment to spend time – and money. Businesses in tree lined areas reap increased revenue from the increased foot traffic and longer times people spend in those areas.
- **Longevity of Streetscape:** Shading of roads blocks UV rays from hitting the street, making asphalt roads last longer, in turn reducing maintenance costs.

Social Benefits

- **Community Cohesion:** Eugene's urban forest offers aesthetically pleasing trees and greenery where people can gather for recreation, social interactions, and community events.
- **Natural Aesthetics:** The natural aesthetics of our urban forest enhance mental well-being, foster community connections, and inspire pride in public spaces, making cities not just livable but truly vibrant and welcoming.
- **Enhanced Public Mental Health:** Eugene's urban forests contribute significantly to residents' psychological well-being. The presence of trees provides shade, reduces stress, and improves overall quality of life. Time spent in natural environments, including urban forests, has been scientifically linked to numerous health benefits. These include improved mood and sleep quality, reduced stress levels, lowered blood pressure and heart rate, decreased stress hormone levels, and increased overall well-being. Even brief interactions with urban

greenery, such as walking along tree-lined streets, can provide these benefits. This underscores the importance of urban forests in promoting community mental health.

- **Urban Identity:** Eugene's urban forest reflects the residents' deep appreciation for the harmonious blend of nature and urban life. This commitment fosters a unique sense of place, belonging, and livability for all, who call Eugene home.
- **Traffic Calming:** Planting trees along roadways has naturally slowed down traffic in Eugene, creating safer, more mindful environments for our residents and tourists to drive, walk, and ride their bicycles within our neighborhoods.
- **Pedestrian Safety:** Street trees act as a separation barrier between vehicle traffic and pedestrians. In the event of a traffic accident, trees can act as bollards, keeping vehicles from entering spaces outside of the roadbed.
- **Beacons of History:** Trees tell a story of cultural use and practices over their longer lifecycles.

1.3. Urban Forest Risks and Challenges

Our urban forest contributes to Eugene's social, economic, and environmental growth. To maximize the full potential of our urban forest, we must address risks like:

- i. Tree clearance, visibility, and urban safety initiatives
- ii. Aging trees
- iii. ROW space competition
- iv. Street tree damage to sidewalks due to tree roots



Figure 1.1: Four Photos of i – iv.

1.3.1. Tree Clearance, Visibility and Urban Safety Initiatives

In urban settings, trees contribute significantly to the aesthetic appeal and environmental health of a community. However, it is equally important to balance these benefits with public safety. For instance, trees that obstruct the visibility of stoplights, stop signs, speed limits, and school crossing signs can pose significant hazards. To address this, the City has implemented "vision triangle" clearance standards to ensure trees and vegetation do not block views within 35 feet of intersections. The Urban Forestry Program has also taken steps to prune or remove trees that impede drivers' views, ensuring that motorists can clearly see signals and pedestrians waiting to cross the road.

One specific example is the Safe Routes to Schools project at the intersection of River Road and Hatton Ave. As part of this initiative, the City built a new pedestrian crossing with improved lighting, striping and signals, which required the removal of certain trees that blocked visibility. Although these actions resulted in the loss of potential tree planting locations, the decision underscores the Urban Forestry Program's commitment to addressing urgent community needs while maintaining a sense of well-being and safety for all residents. By carefully managing the placement and growth of urban trees, we ensure that public safety is not compromised.



Figure 1.2: River Road and Hatton Ave Photo North and South Bound Photos.

1.3.2. Aging Trees

As the City's urban forest matures, trees undergo physiological changes that increase their vulnerability. The natural aging process can lead to brittle branches, which are more susceptible to failure during adverse weather conditions such as strong winds, heavy snow, or ice storms. Consequently, these weakened structures could pose a risk to urban infrastructure, including roads, buildings, vehicles, and other public assets. To mitigate these risks and maintain a resilient urban environment, Eugene has implemented a comprehensive tree management strategy. This approach encompasses:

- Regular arboricultural assessments
- Urban Forestry staff are required to achieve ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification
- Proactive maintenance planning and protocols
- Strategic renewal through selective removal and replacement

The Urban Forestry Program has also applied innovative pruning techniques such as retrenchment pruning to preserve valuable mature trees in certain situations when it is reasonably feasible to do so. This allows us to reap the greater benefits of a mature tree for a longer period while mitigating risk.

By executing this multifaceted plan, the City ensures the continued safety and vitality of its urban forest while safeguarding public infrastructure.



Figure 1.3: UF crew performing a Retrenchment Pruning Job.]

1.3.3. ROW Space Competition

1.3.3.1. Right of Way (ROW) Space Competition for Urban Tree Planting

In urban environments, the right of way (ROW) is a crucial public space that serves multiple purposes. Such land designated for public use typically includes streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, planter strips and other infrastructure such as utility lines, streetlights and signage. While trees are essential components of urban landscapes, they often face competition for space within the ROW from these various other urban elements and infrastructure.

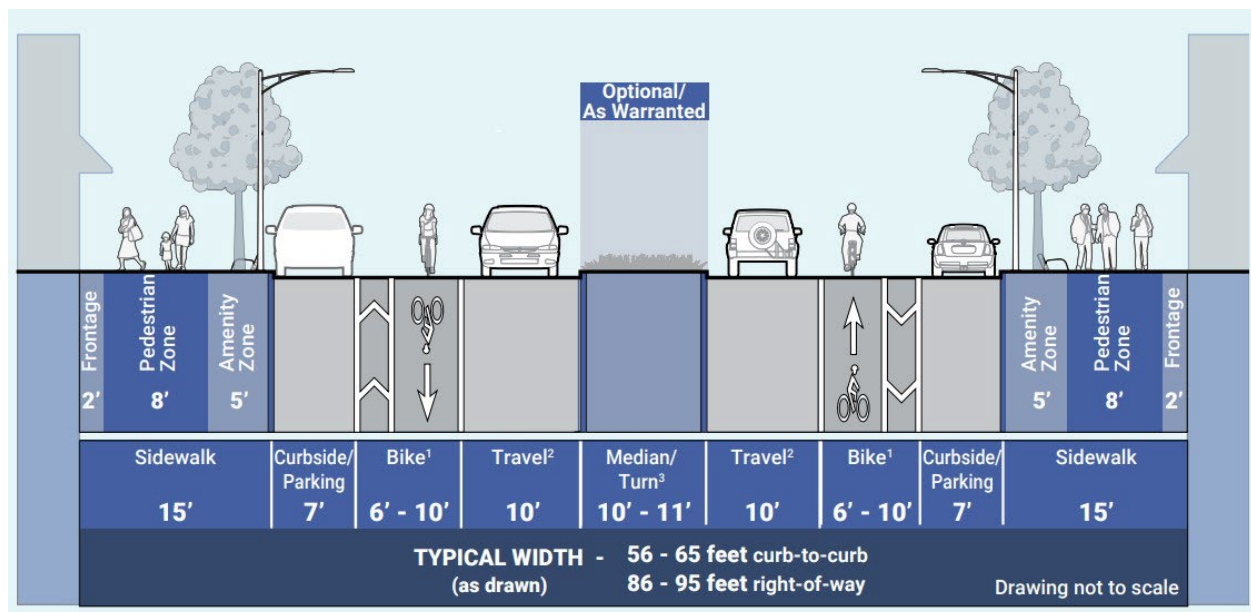


Figure 1.3.3.1.: Typical cross section for a mixed-use neighborhood street

Table 1.3.3: Competing Elements in the ROW.

Category	Elements
Utilities	Underground: Water pipes (potable water), sewer and stormwater lines, gas lines, electrical conduits. Aboveground: Power lines, telephone lines, streetlights
Transportation Infrastructure	Roads and lanes for vehicles, bike lanes, sidewalks, bus stops, shelters, signage (traffic and street name signs, wayfinding)
Street Furniture	Benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, bike share stations
Commercial Uses	Café seating, parklets, food truck spaces, farmers markets
Parking	On-street parking for cars, bike parking
Stormwater Management	Bioswales, rain gardens

1.3.3.2. Challenges for Urban Tree Planting in the ROW

Several challenges affect urban tree planting in Eugene's ROW, such as:

- **Limited Space:** The various infrastructure elements often leave insufficient room for larger tree species, which need ample soil volume.
- **Soil Compaction:** Heavy use of ROW areas compacts the soil, hindering root growth and water absorption.
- **Utility Conflicts:** Underground and overhead utilities restrict where trees can be planted and limit their size.
- **Safety and Visibility:** Trees must be placed to ensure clear sightlines for traffic signs and pedestrian crossings.
- **Maintenance Access:** Sufficient space must be left for maintaining utilities and infrastructure.
- **Cultural Misconceptions:** Misunderstandings about trees can lead to poor pruning practices or unnecessary removals.

1.3.4. Tree Roots Interactions with Infrastructure in the ROW

One of the primary concerns in urban environments is the interaction between tree roots and surrounding infrastructure, particularly in the ROW. While street trees offer numerous benefits, their root systems can become a perceived risk when sidewalks, driveways, and streets experience damage. However, the root cause of these issues often lies not in the trees themselves but in the conditions under which they are planted.

Understanding the True Challenges:

- **Inadequate Planting Space:** When trees are planted in spaces too small to accommodate their mature root systems, the roots may begin to press against nearby infrastructure, leading to cracks and displacement. Proper planning and adequate planting space are essential to avoid these risks.
- **Poor Soil Conditions:** Compacted or low-quality soil forces tree roots to grow closer to the surface, increasing the likelihood of interactions with infrastructure. In urban settings, where soil compaction is common due to high pedestrian and vehicle traffic, this challenge can be significant.
- **Species Selection:** Certain tree species have more expansive root systems that require larger planting areas. Choosing species ill-suited for the limited space in ROW areas can increase the risk of roots causing damage to sidewalks and streets.
- **Shallow Watering Practices:** In the ROW, surface-level lawn irrigation encourages trees to develop shallow roots. Without sufficient deep irrigation, trees tend to form surface roots in search of water, increasing the potential for interactions with infrastructure.

Addressing these Challenges:

The key to minimizing these risks lies in thoughtful urban planning. By providing adequate planting space, improving soil conditions, and selecting appropriate tree species, we can reduce the potential for infrastructure damage; this methodology is called Right Tree Right Place. While tree roots are often blamed for such damage, the actual challenge is the lack of planning and poor site conditions.



Figure 1.4: Tree Roots Destroying Our Sidewalks.

1.4. Urban Forestry Management Plan

The Urban Forestry Management Plan is not just a roadmap for Eugene; it is a call to action for every member of our community. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats identified in this plan highlight the critical role that our urban forest plays in the health, resilience, and vitality of our community.

All citizens of Eugene have the power to shape the future of our urban forest. By understanding the challenges, we face and the opportunities before us, every person living in the City can become an active steward of this invaluable natural resource. Whether you plant a tree in your yard, volunteer for community tree-planting events, or advocate for urban forestry initiatives, every action you take counts.

Together, we can harness the strengths of our urban forest and take advantage of our diverse tree canopy and excellent growing conditions to create a more sustainable and resilient environment in which we can all take pride. We can address critical challenges, like the uneven distribution of canopies and development pressures we face daily, through strategic planning and community collaboration. By seizing opportunities to expand our tree canopy and implementing innovative management practices, we can enhance the ecosystem services and biodiversity that our urban forest provides.

As we work to mitigate the threats posed by climate change and unchecked deforestation, we must remember that our urban forest is a shared responsibility. We can only succeed with the support and engagement of our citizens.

We invite everyone to join us on this journey to create a thriving, resilient, and equitable urban forest for future generations. Together, we can ensure that Eugene remains a leader in urban forestry practices, setting a benchmark for cities across the nation. Let us unite in our efforts to protect, enhance, and celebrate the trees that make Eugene an extraordinary place to live, work, and play.

1.5. Goals and Objectives

This Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) considers the impacts and implications the urban forest will have over for decades to come, ensuring Eugene's urban forest ROW street trees, medians, stormwater gardens and parks continue to expand, thrive and provide benefits for generations to come. The plan is written to guide efforts over the next 30 years and will be revised every 5 years to keep up with the changing needs of the urban forest.

The UFMP is a guiding document for the efforts surrounding the portion of the urban forest under Eugene's management, including street trees, park trees, natural area trees, and trees in stormwater facilities, while also continuing to advocate for the portion of the urban forest contained on private property.

1.6. Mission and Vision

1.6.1. Mission

To manage, preserve and grow Eugene's urban forest by implementing adaptive strategies that prioritize sustainability, risk reduction, community engagement, and long-term ecological health.

1.6.2. Vision

We stand at a pivotal moment in Eugene's history. With over 170 years of urban forest development behind us, we now look forward to shaping the next 150 years of Eugene's green legacy. Our vision is to create a resilient, thriving and equitable urban forest that will continue to enhance the quality of life for all Eugene residents. Our long-term goals are five-fold. We plan to:

- Continue to meet urgent community needs in real time.
- Update the City's comprehensive tree inventory for proactive planning.
- Implement advanced, innovative, sustainable maintenance practices.
- Advocate for land preservation within the ROW to grow healthy street trees.
- Grow community-backed partnerships to grow tree stewards for private land planting and preservation efforts.

Section 2. History of Eugene and Its Urban Forest

2.1. About Eugene

The City of Eugene (City) covers approximately 28,294 acres and is situated at the southern end of the Willamette Valley, not far from the intersection of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers (Figure 2.1). The valley stretches from the Cascade Mountains in the east to the Coast Range in the west. The proximity of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers has drawn migrants from afar to settle in Eugene. The Willamette River, which flows directly through Eugene, not only nurtures our natural resources but also provides fresh water for the City's residents and businesses. The City is also surrounded by several hills and ridges, most notably the Coburg Hills to the northeast and the South Hills. These topographic features provide scenic views and recreational opportunities and contribute to the City's diverse ecosystems.



Figure 2.1: Aerial Photo of Eugene.

Eugene is currently the 2nd largest city in the state of Oregon. Eugene's population has grown significantly from about 50,000 in 1960 to 178,329 in 2024, a 256.7% increase over 64 years (Figure 2.2). This growth, averaging 2% annually overall and 1.5% annually since 2000, has profound implications for the urban forest. As the population more than tripled, the increased demand for housing, commercial areas, and infrastructure has intensified, potentially reducing space for trees and putting pressure on existing green spaces, particularly affecting tree canopy cover and right of way (ROW) street trees.

Eugene also has a significant college student population as it is home to University of Oregon (UO) and Lane Community College (LCC) and Bushnell University. The population of the City shifts throughout the year as schools resume or close for a session. As colleges and universities continue to expand, the need for housing and other City resources continues to grow.

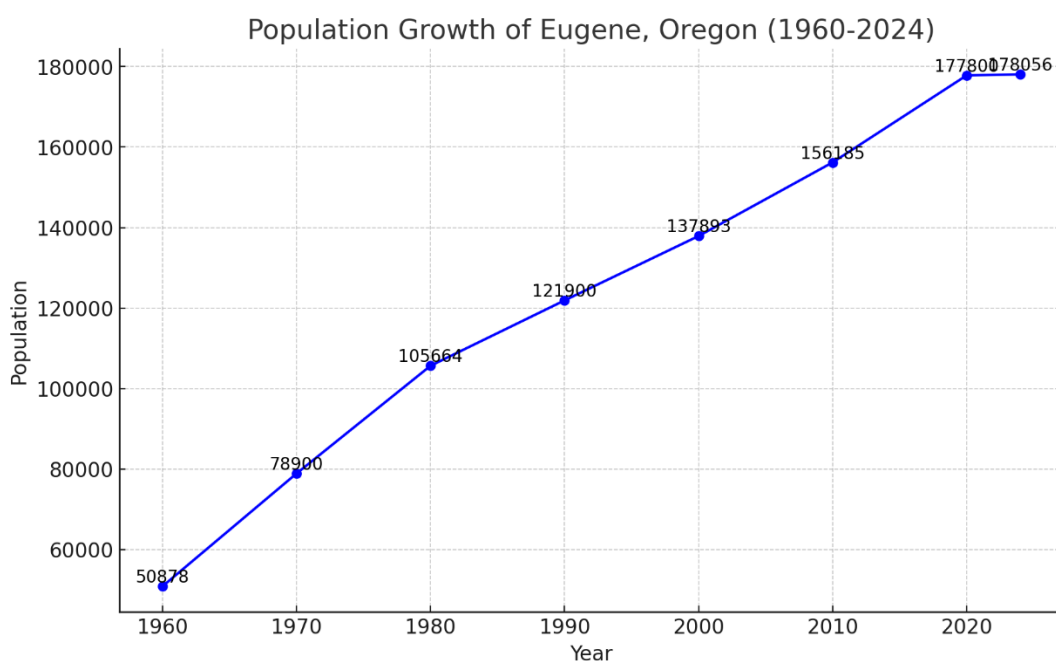


Figure 2.2: Figure 2.2: Population Growth of Eugene, Oregon (1960-2024).

Population Growth and Urban Development

- Current population (2024): 178,329
- Growth since 1960: 256.7% increase (from ~50,000)
- Average annual growth: 2% overall, 1.5% since 2000
- Significant student population from University of Oregon, Lane Community College, and Bushnell University

Implications for Urban Forest Management

- **Expanding Infrastructure:** Population growth correlates with street network expansion, increasing demand for right-of-way (ROW) and median trees.
- **Canopy Coverage Challenges:** Maintaining consistent tree canopy amid new developments and urban density increase.
- **Heat Island Mitigation:** Strategic tree planting to offset the rise in impervious surfaces and mitigate urban heat island effects.
- **Strategic Planning:** Balancing urban development with preservation and enhancement of green infrastructure.
- **Interdepartmental Collaboration:** Coordination between Urban Forestry Program and city planning, engineering, and development departments to integrate tree management into broader city planning efforts.

2.1.1. Urban Forestry Management Plan: Demographic Considerations

Understanding the demographic composition of Eugene is crucial for developing an effective and inclusive Urban Forestry Management Plan. This document outlines key demographic insights and their implications for urban forestry initiatives.

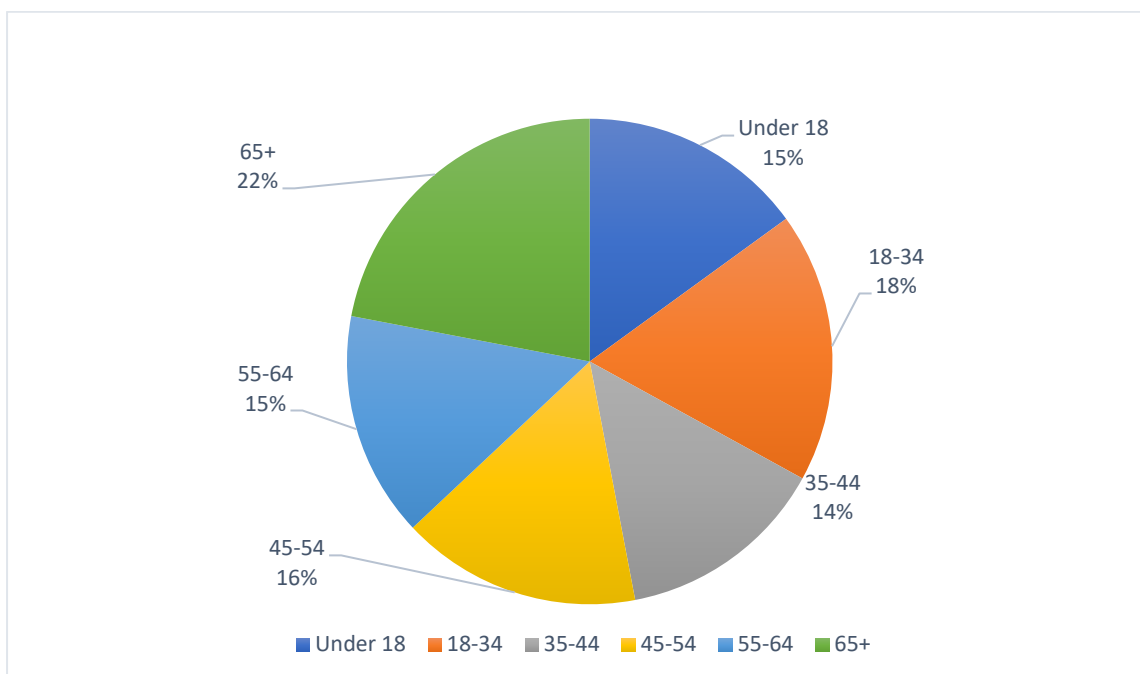


Figure 2.3: Eugene's Age Distribution.

Understanding the demographic composition of Eugene is crucial, but it's important to clarify how these insights directly relate to right-of-way (ROW) street trees. While parks provide recreational opportunities, ROW street trees play a vital role in creating livable, safe, and aesthetically pleasing urban streets. Here's how these demographics interact specifically with ROW street trees:

- **Youth (Under 18):** Integrating ROW Street trees with the Safe Streets Initiative ensures that children have safe routes to schools, parks, and community centers. Tree-lined sidewalks not only provide shade and beauty but also create a calming environment that can reduce stress, improve focus, and positively impact academic performance. Street trees contribute to safer streets by calming traffic, and shaded pathways promote walking and biking, further supporting active transport for younger populations.
- **Young Adults (18-34):** This demographic often seeks vibrant, sustainable urban environments. ROW street trees contribute to this by reducing urban heat islands, improving air quality, and supporting a walkable city. Shaded, tree-lined streets encourage environmentally conscious lifestyles and enhance the aesthetic appeal of urban spaces, promoting outdoor recreation and socializing.
- **Middle-Aged Adults (35-64):** For this age group, ROW street trees offer both practical and aesthetic benefits. They enhance the visual appeal of neighborhoods and business districts, reduce noise pollution, and provide shaded areas for walking and relaxing. Trees in ROWs also serve as buffers between pedestrians and traffic, increasing safety and making urban areas more welcoming for families and workers. These benefits support property values, providing economic advantages to homeowners and business owners.
- **Seniors (65+):** Ensuring that ROW sidewalks are shaded and comfortable is especially important for older adults. Street trees provide essential heat relief during warm months, making outdoor activities more accessible. Well-maintained trees, along with smooth, level pathways, minimize risks and support safe mobility for seniors. By ensuring that sidewalks are free from obstructions, ROW street trees can encourage seniors to walk more, stay active, and remain socially connected.



Figure 2.4: Showing Various Age Groups Interacting with ROW street Trees.

In addition, the presence of well-shaded, tree-lined streets contributes to improving the City's walkability score. Enhanced walkability supports the overall livability of neighborhoods, making the urban environment more conducive to walking, biking, and community interaction.

2.1.2. Climate

Eugene's climate is defined by its Mediterranean-like characteristics, with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. During the peak of summer, temperatures can range from 50 to 86 °F (10 to 30 °C), while winters, though mild, occasionally bring snow and ice with average temperatures around 40 °F (4.8 °C). The city experiences most of its rainfall from November through March, leaving the summer months relatively dry, creating unique challenges for maintaining urban greenery.



Figure 2.5: Eugene's Climate.

This seasonal pattern is a key consideration in urban forestry planning. Drought-resistant tree species are vital to sustaining Eugene's canopy through the extended dry periods, while proper management is needed to balance winter rainfall and occasional storms. By addressing these climatic factors, the Urban Forestry Program works to build a resilient, thriving tree canopy that not only survives Eugene's current conditions but is also adaptable to future climate changes.



Figure 2.6: Eugene's Heat Map.

2.1.3. Soil and Underlying Geology

Eugene's soils and underlying geology are shaped by the region's geological history and location within the Willamette Valley. Millions of years ago, a combination of volcanic eruptions, melting ice, and seismic activities led to cataclysmic floods that deposited large amounts of gravel, sand, and silt across the Willamette Valley and Eugene. Some soils in Eugene can also be traced directly to weathering and breakdown of volcanic and sedimentary rocks beneath the City. This explains why the soil types in Eugene are not uniform across our districts.

The City has over 100 different soil types. However, only three categories of soil support tree growth in Eugene – Class A (river soil), Class B (hill soil), and Class C (hydric/wetland soil) (Figure 2.7). Class A soils are fertile and highly suitable for planting trees and supporting biodiversity. In contrast, Class B soils are shallow, fairly well-drained, and suitable for most trees if the area has enough soil volume and moisture. Class C soils are the least favorable for tree growth among the three soil types because they are poorly drained and characterized by extreme wetness in winter and extreme dryness in summer.



Figure 2.7: Soil Types in Eugene.

2.2. Historical Background

2.2.1. Native American Habitation and Influence

Eugene's urban forest cannot be fully appreciated without mentioning the City's early inhabitants. The Kalapuyans were the first to inhabit the area we know as Eugene today (Figure 2.8). This group included various tribes, such as the Tualatin, Yamhill, Ahantchuyuk, Santiam, Luckamiute, Chenapinefu, Chemapho, and Chelamela. The Kalapuyans lived in different parts of Eugene and communicated with one another using three languages: Northern Kalapuya, Central Kalapuya, and Southern Kalapuya. Historians estimate that the Kalapuyans lived in the Willamette Valley for over 10,000 years before encountering Euro-Americans.

These tribes were primarily nomadic people. The Kalapuyans engaged in various forms of trade, exchanging plants, berries, fish, whale products, and dentalium shells as they traveled between the Cascades, Coast Range, and Chinookan territories. Historical evidence shows that the Kalapuyans employed various agricultural techniques, such as using grasslands and oak-dominated areas to double the number of crops they produced. They also diverted water from the Willamette River to

their farms near the riverbanks. The legacy of the Kalapuyans is an integral part of Eugene's urban forest today.



Figure 2.8: The Kalapuya People.

2.2.2. Historical Vegetation Communities

The only record we have about the pre-settlement vegetation patterns in the Willamette Valley is the survey notes commissioned by the federal government in the 1850s. These notes detail Eugene's vegetation communities and other notable features in the surrounding areas. In the 1990s, the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center converted this information into maps. This information reveals how our early settlers traded plants and livestock, constructed unpaved roads, and developed drainage and tilling systems to make Eugene more habitable. According to the survey notes, Eugene has diverse vegetation types, including Prairie, Savanna, woodland, upland forest, riparian forest, marsh/shrub swamp, and water (Figure 2.9). The maps also show the conifer forests we cherish today in Eugene. But they remained confined to small areas. Overall, the survey notes depict the City as a landscape dominated by oak trees, open prairies, and savannas.



Figure 2.9: Vegetation Types in Eugene.

2.2.3. How Settlement Shaped Eugene's Landscape and Urban Forest

Historical Context of Urban Forestry in Eugene

Native American Influence and Early Settlement

In the early 1800s, Native American populations, including the Kalapuyans, experienced devastating declines due to diseases introduced by European settlers. This demographic shift led to the abandonment of traditional land management practices, including large-scale burning, which had shaped the local ecosystem for centuries.

Later, in the late 1900s, Euro-American settlement further transformed the landscape. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed dams and implemented irrigation farming along the

Willamette River. While these practices increased agricultural productivity, they also reduced natural flooding patterns. This alteration disrupted the cycle of nutrient-rich sediment deposition, crucial for the natural regeneration of riparian forests in the Eugene area.

Early Urban Forestry Initiatives

Around 100-120 years ago, Eugene demonstrated remarkable foresight in urban planning:

- The City initiated a street tree planting program.
- Citizens were paid 10 cents to dig up bigleaf maples growing near the river.
- These trees were then replanted along city streets.
- This initiative is the reason for the abundance of large, mature bigleaf maples in City Central neighborhoods today.

This early action laid the foundation for Eugene's urban forest and demonstrates the city's long-standing commitment to green infrastructure.

Modern Urban Forestry Challenges and Progress

In the 1990s, Eugene experienced a pivotal moment in its urban forestry history:

- The city saw massive tree protests, indicating growing public concern for urban trees.
- These protests led to significant changes in Eugene's tree code.
- The revised regulations aimed to better protect and manage the urban forest.

This period marked a shift towards more community-involved and environmentally conscious urban forestry practices in Eugene.

Eugene's urban forest is a product of both natural processes and human intervention. From the land management practices of Native Americans to early city planning initiatives and modern environmental movements, the city's trees reflect a rich tapestry of historical influences. Understanding this history is crucial for informed urban forestry management today, as we face new challenges like climate change and continued urban development.



Figure 2.10: Modern Farming Practices in Eugene.

Section 3. Current State of Eugene's Urban Forest

3.1. Introduction

The current state of Eugene's urban forest reflects the City's ongoing commitment to preserving its natural heritage while adapting to the needs of a growing urban population. This management plan provides a high-level overview of the urban forest's current condition, including right of way (ROW) street trees and trees within ROW areas such as medians and stormwater facilities. Key aspects such as canopy cover, tree population, diversity, and equity considerations are highlighted throughout.

While Eugene has made significant strides in urban forest management, challenges remain. These include maintaining and expanding canopy cover in the face of development pressures, ensuring equitable distribution of tree benefits across neighborhoods, and adapting to changing environmental conditions.

3.1.1. Eugene's Urban Forest Management Efforts and Impacts

Over the years, Eugene has implemented several initiatives to enhance its urban forest. The City's Parks and Open Spaces Division has conducted comprehensive tree inventories and tracked them using ESRI ArcGIS. Eugene's Urban Forestry Program has also implemented a proactive maintenance program and pruning cycle for the city's street trees. The city has engaged community-backed organizations (CBOs) in outreach efforts to promote tree planting on private property.

These efforts have resulted in a more diverse and resilient urban forest. According to TreePlotter Canopy data, there has been a notable increase in overall canopy cover from 19% in 2019 to 24% in 2022, demonstrating tangible progress in just a three-year period. 1% UTC canopy coverage equates to approximately 5,000 trees with a 30-foot canopy spread.

Eugene's focus on equitable distribution of urban forest benefits has led to targeted planting programs in underserved neighborhoods, improving air quality and reducing heat island effects in these areas. The city's innovative stormwater management techniques, incorporating trees and other green infrastructure, has significantly reduced runoff and improved water quality in local waterways.

3.2. Urban Tree Canopy Cover

Tree Canopy Coverage Across Eugene: Citywide, Neighborhoods, and Planning Districts

The City of Eugene's Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) varies across its six planning districts. While the overall citywide UTC averages 24%, covering 8,264 acres, the canopy within each district presents unique trends.

In 2022, data from TreePlotter, a GIS technology tool, revealed that Eugene's Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) increased by 2% between 2020 and 2022, reaching a new high of 24%. This growth was driven by concerted efforts in tree planting, site remediation, and preservation techniques. However, when viewed over a longer period, the city's average UTC decreased by 1% between 2012 and 2020,

underscoring the need for ongoing preservation and strategic planting efforts to reverse this earlier decline and sustain the city's urban forest for future generations.

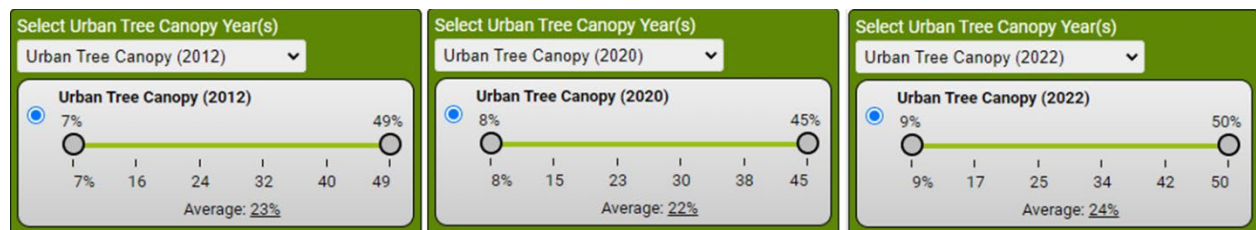


Figure 3.1: Trends in Eugene's Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Coverage from 2012 to 2022.

In the public right-of-way (ROW), the UTC generally holds steady around 17%, but this can differ between districts. Table 3.1 and Figure 3.2 offer a detailed summary of tree canopy data across all six planning districts, including neighborhood-specific insights and trends.

Table 3.1: Current UTC by Neighborhood Association.

Neighborhood-specific Data	Average UTC (2022)	Average UTC 10-Year Trend	ROW UTC (2022)	10-Year ROW Trend
Santa Clara Community Organization	19%	0%	14%	0%
River Road Community Organization	25%	0%	17%	0%
Goodpasture Island Neighbors	26%	3%	17%	2%
Cal Young Neighborhood Association	26%	-1%	21%	1%
Northeast Neighbors	17%	1%	14%	3%
Harlow Neighbors	23%	2%	16%	2%
Whiteaker Neighbors	28%	-1%	28%	-2%
Downtown Neighborhood Association	16%	1%	24%	3%
West University Neighbors	18%	3%	28%	5%
Fairmount Neighbors	49%	2%	39%	1%

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens	58%	3%	30%	2%
Jefferson Westside Neighbors	26%	2%	35%	1%
South University Neighborhood Association	29%	1%	33%	-1%
Amazon Neighbors Association	29%	2%	27%	4%
Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association	53%	0%	35%	0%
Southeast Neighbors	55%	1%	33%	3%
Churchill Area Neighbors	32%	3%	21%	3%
Far West Neighborhood Association	23%	1%	17%	0%
West Eugene Community Organization	7%	1%	8%	2%
Trainsong Neighbors	7%	0%	7%	0%
Active Bethel Citizens	11%	2%	13%	5%
Industrial Corridor Community Organization	3%	0%	2%	0%
Friendly Area Neighbors	24%	1%	22%	1%
UO Campus	22%	1%	22%	1%



Figure 3.2: Current UTC by Neighborhood Association, Treeplotter.

Tree Canopy Coverage by Eugene Planning Districts

These districts will serve as the primary geographic areas for reporting and analysis throughout this document.

The map illustrates the tree canopy cover across the six planning districts, with darker green indicating higher tree canopy coverage. The callouts provide examples of current geospatial information from TreePlotter, offering detailed insights into each district's tree canopy status.

The six Eugene planning districts:

WILLAKENZIE RIVER ROAD/SANTA CLARA BETHEL DOWNTOWN SOUTHWEST SOUTHEAST

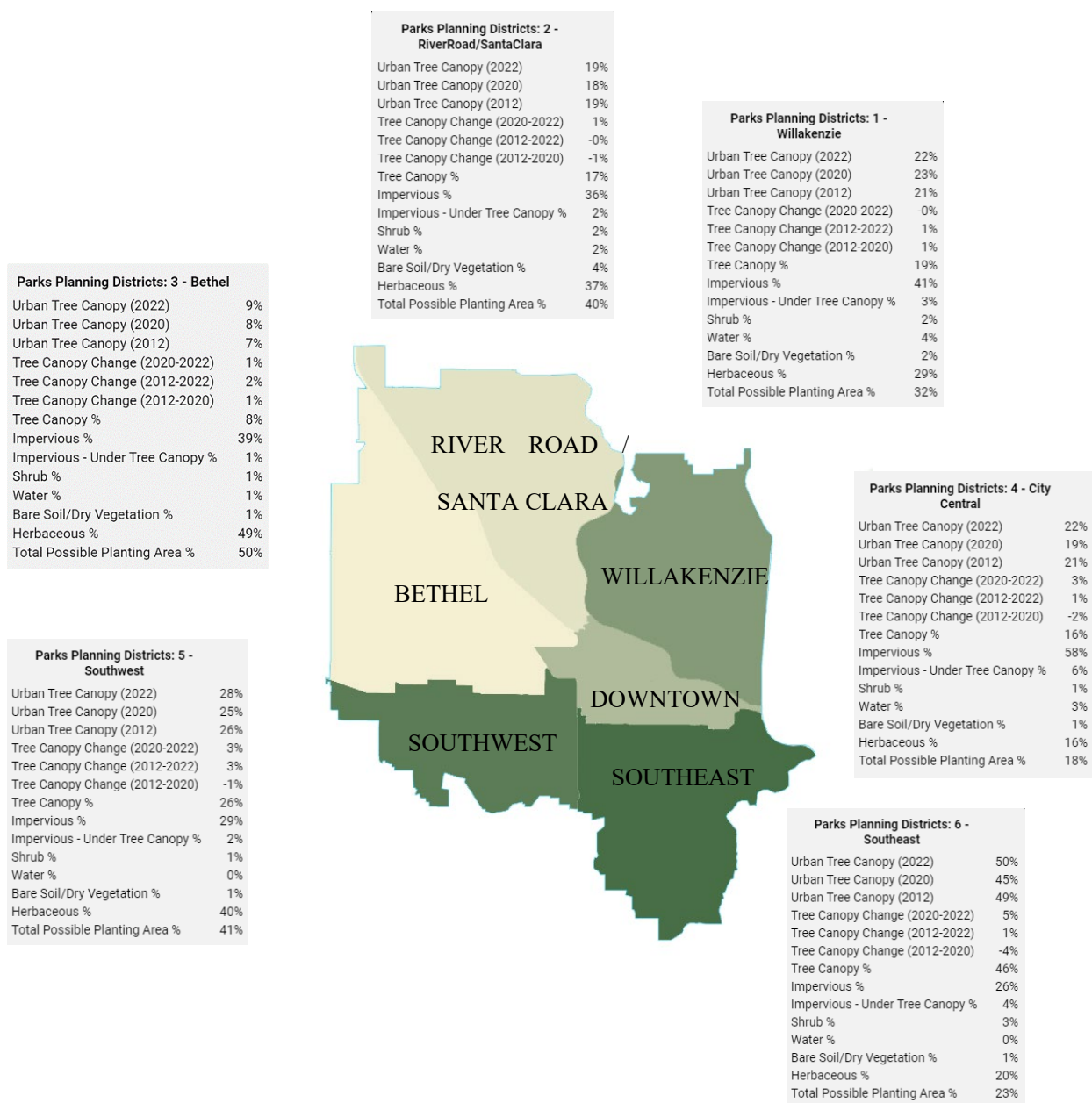


Figure 3.3: Eugene Planning Districts - TreePlotter Canopy and Land Cover Overview.

3.3. Urban Tree Population & Distribution

Approximately 1 million trees over 35 feet tall exist within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). This substantial number of mature trees indicates a well-established urban forest that provides significant environmental, social, and economic benefits to the city and its residents.

The urban tree canopy (UTC) covers 8,264 acres, representing about 24% of the city's total area. This percentage suggests that Eugene has a relatively healthy urban forest coverage, contributing to air quality improvement, temperature regulation, and overall ecosystem health within the city limits.

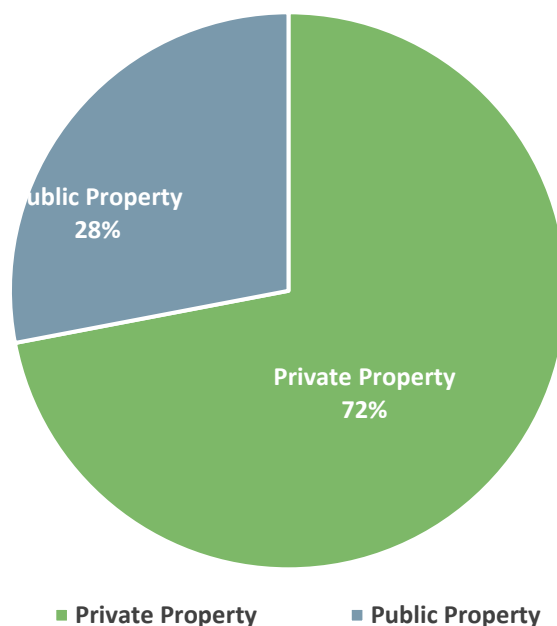


Figure 3.4: Eugene's Urban Forest Distribution.

While 72% of this canopy is situated on private property, the remaining 28% is on public land (Figure 3.4). This public land is managed by various entities including the City of Eugene, Bureau of Land Management, Lane County, and other public landowners. This distribution highlights the crucial role that both private property owners and public entities play in maintaining and expanding Eugene's urban forest. The majority being on private land emphasizes the importance of community engagement and education in urban forestry efforts.

Meanwhile, the significant portion of public land underscores the city's responsibility in managing and preserving these shared natural resources. This balance between private and public tree ownership also suggests the need for collaborative approaches in urban forest management, involving both citizens and local government in conservation and expansion initiatives. With multiple public entities holding control over parts of the collective urban forest, the need for local, state and federal government coordination is also important.

The City's tree inventory provides detailed insights into our public trees:

- Street Trees: 70,000 trees were inventoried, with a stocking level of approximately 73%.
- Developed Park Trees: 13,003 trees were inventoried (primarily Hendricks Park).
- Stumps: 3,053 trees were recorded, representing a portion of potential replanting opportunities.

The distribution of tree sizes indicates a predominance of younger trees, which bodes well for future adaptability (Figure 3.5). At the same time, this highlights the importance of preserving and maintaining larger, mature trees that provide significant ecosystem services.

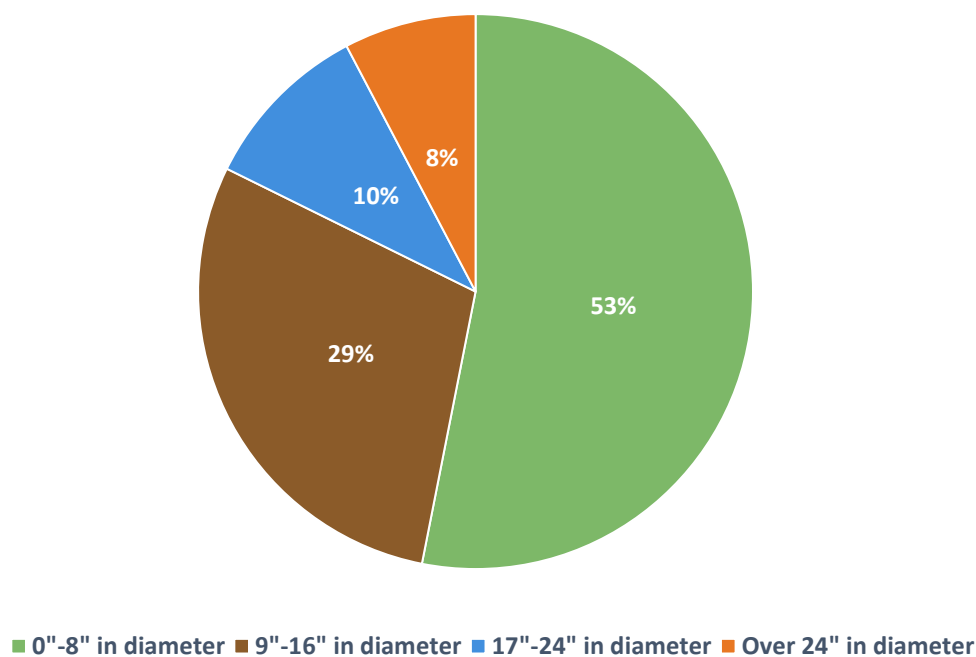


Figure 3.5: Size Distribution of ROW Street Trees in Eugene, OR.

Diverse Urban Forest

Eugene's urban forest is composed of over 200 species on public property, providing ecological richness and enhancing the city's environmental resilience. However, like many urban forests, a significant portion of trees belong to certain dominant genera, which can present challenges to long-term sustainability.

Risks of Genus Dominance

An overreliance on any single genus increases vulnerability to pests, diseases, and climate shifts. For example, approximately 28% of Eugene's public trees are maples (**Acer**), which illustrates the broader concern of reduced genus diversity. When a city's tree population becomes too concentrated in certain genera, the overall resilience of the urban forest is compromised.

Proactive Management for Diversity

To address these risks, the City has been promoting greater species diversity in new plantings. Efforts focus on reducing reliance on dominant genera like maples, while encouraging the introduction of a wider range of tree species to improve long-term forest resilience and adaptability.

Economic and Environmental Value

Eugene's urban forest provides substantial economic value, with Eugene's urban forest valued at over \$155 million. This underscores the importance of protecting and enhancing the forest's diversity to maintain its ecological and financial benefits for future generations.

Top Ten Genus Composition of Eugene's Urban Forest

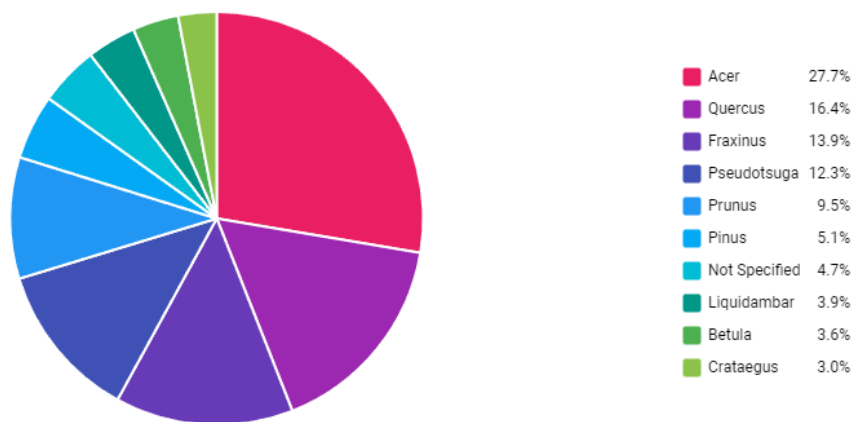


Figure 3.6: Top 10 Genus Composition of Eugene's Urban Forest.

Recognizing this vulnerability, the City of Eugene has actively worked to reduce the number of maples planted in recent years. Instead, the city is focusing on encouraging a wider variety of species to be planted across both public and private lands. By increasing species diversity, the City aims to enhance the resilience of the urban forest, making it better able to withstand environmental threats and adapt to changing conditions.

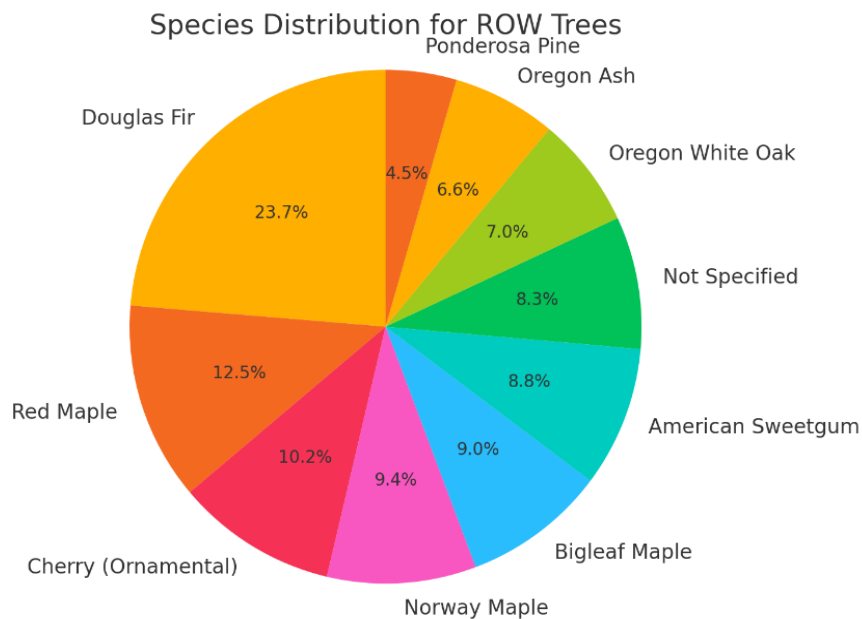
Top Species Composition of Eugene's Urban Forest

Figure 3.7: Species Distribution for ROW Trees in Eugene's Urban Forest.

3.3.1. Recommendations

To address these issues and improve tree diversity, the plan recommends:

- Establishing tree diversity requirements for various scales/contexts and incorporating them into the Approved Street Tree Species List and Planting Guide.
- Using the "5/10/20 rule" (no more than 5% of one species, 10% of one genus, and 20% of one family) as a guideline.
- Utilizing tree inventory systems to track tree provenance, cultivars, species, genera and family information continuously.
- Ensuring a diverse selection of high-quality trees is available locally.



Figure 3.8: A Close-up of Tree Labels or Tags AND OR Species Tree planting map from UFP.

3.4. Urban Tree Equity

Eugene's commitment to tree equity is reflected in our Tree Equity Scores, which range from 69 to 94 across different planning districts. This data helps us identify areas for targeted improvement. Currently, Eugene has an overall Tree Equity Score of 85, with individual district scores ranging from 69 to 94. While the city's score is commendable, the disparity in canopy cover between districts underscores the need for targeted efforts to reduce inequities and ensure that all residents, regardless of race, income, or socioeconomic status, benefit from the urban forest. (For detailed Tree Equity Scores by district, see Appendix A).

3.5. Urban Forestry Stakeholders

To effectively manage and enhance Eugene's urban forest, it is essential to recognize and engage the diverse stakeholders who play a vital role in its stewardship. The table below outlines the key stakeholder groups involved in urban forestry in Eugene, detailing their roles and levels of influence within the city's urban forest management framework.

Roles of Eugene's Stakeholders

Table 3.2: Roles of Eugene's Stakeholders.

Stakeholder Group	Description/Role	Level of Influence/Involvement
Municipal Government Departments	Includes the Urban Forestry Team, Parks and Open Space Division, Public Works Department, and Planning Department. These groups are responsible for the planning, management, and maintenance of Eugene's urban forest.	High – Direct involvement in decision-making and implementation.
Local Elected Officials and Commissions	City Council, Planning Commission, and Sustainability Commission's Tree Committee. They provide policy direction and approval for urban forestry initiatives.	High – Influence through policymaking and funding decisions.
Community Organizations and Nonprofits	Friends of Trees, Rivers to Ridges Partnership, and NAACP Environmental Justice Committee. These organizations advocate for tree planting, environmental justice, and community engagement.	Medium – Influence through advocacy, public participation and education.
Residents and Neighborhood Associations	Residents and neighborhood groups who are directly impacted by and can influence the urban forest in their communities.	Medium – Influence through community engagement and feedback.
Private Landowners and Businesses	Property owners and businesses, including developers and utilities like EWEB, who manage trees on private land or near infrastructure.	Medium to High – Influence through private property management and development projects.
Educational Institutions	Schools and universities, including the University of Oregon, that contribute to research, education, and outreach related to urban forestry.	Medium – Influence through research and education.
Environmental and Conservation Groups	Organizations focused on biodiversity, wildlife conservation, and sustainable development in urban areas.	Medium – Influence through conservation efforts and public awareness.
Industry Professionals	Arborists, landscape architects, landscape designers, landscape contractors, landscapers and urban planners involved in	High – Direct involvement in technical aspects of urban forestry.

	the design, care, and management of Eugene's urban trees.	
Regional and State Agencies	Lane County, State of Oregon, and regional planning organizations that have jurisdictional or regulatory influence over urban forestry in Eugene.	Medium to High – Influence through regulatory authority and funding.
The General Public	Citizens who benefit from the urban forest and may participate in public consultations or volunteer activities.	Low to Medium – Influence through public opinion and volunteer efforts.

3.6. Guiding Policies and Regulatory Framework

Eugene's Urban Forestry Program is grounded in several key policies and funding structures that align with local, state, and federal goals for sustainability, climate action, and community engagement.

3.6.1. Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP 2.0)

Adopted in 2020, CAP 2.0 is Eugene's comprehensive plan to address climate change, reflecting local, state, and federal policies. It sets actionable goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience across the city. CAP 2.0 has significant implications for urban forestry, including:

- **RT R11:** Increase the city-wide urban tree canopy to 30%.
- **RT R12:** Track and maximize ecosystem services provided by the urban forest, utilizing tools like i-Tree and Canopy Analytics.
- **RT R13:** Develop and regularly update the Urban Forest Management Plan.
- **RT R14:** Solidify a best management practice 10-year pruning cycle by 2025.
- **RT R15:** Establish a regional collaboration and community engagement campaign for tree planting.
- **RT R16:** Enhance soil standards for public tree planting, including biochar use.

3.6.2. Funding Structure

Eugene's Urban Forestry Program is supported by various funding sources:

City Funding

- **Road Fund:** Supports urban forestry efforts related to street trees and right-of-way maintenance.
- **Stormwater Fund:** Finances tree planting and maintenance for stormwater management.

State and Federal Funding

- **State Grants:** The Oregon Department of Forestry and other state agencies provide grants for urban forestry projects.
- **Federal Programs:** The U.S. EPA and other federal bodies offer funding and technical assistance for urban forestry initiatives.

3.6.3. Federal and State Regulations

Several federal and state regulations impact Eugene's Urban Forestry Program:

- **Clean Water Act (CWA):** Administered by the EPA and ODEQ, this Act impacts stormwater management practices, including tree planting for water quality.
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA):** Compliance of this Act is required for urban forestry activities in areas providing habitat for protected species.
- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** Federal projects or those receiving federal funds must comply with NEPA, including environmental assessments.
- **Oregon State Land Use Planning (Goals 5 & 6):** This law focuses on protecting natural resources, including urban forests, and maintaining air, water, and land quality.
- **2024 ODOT Standards:** These are state regulations that govern all capital and engineering projects to ensure compliance and consistency.

3.6.4. Local Policies and Regulations

Eugene's urban forestry practices are supported by a range of local policies and regulations, which are detailed in Section 4.3.1. These policies provide a foundation for tree preservation, planting, and maintenance across the city. For a comprehensive overview and recommendations for strengthening these policies, please refer to Section 4.3.1: Policies, Regulations, and Incentives.

3.6.5. Lane County and Regional Coordination

Eugene's Urban Forestry Program involves coordination with Lane County and regional partners:

- **Jurisdictional Boundaries:** Collaboration with Lane County on tree management in unincorporated areas, ensuring consistent practices across the boundary.
- **Regional Partnerships:** Engaging with regional bodies like Rivers to Ridges Partnership and Friends of Trees for tree planting and conservation. I don't know if mentioning Oregon Community Trees and having an embedded COE employee on the state tree advocacy board is something to add here (educational opportunities and cross state collaboration).

Section 4. Eugene's Strategic Framework

The City of Eugene (City) remains committed to fostering a resilient, sustainable, and vibrant urban forest. Through our comprehensive Urban Forestry Strategic Framework, we aim to address the critical aspects of urban forestry management. This framework comprises three interrelated components: Natural Resources, Community Engagement, and Governance and Operational Excellence (Figure 4.1).



Figure 4.1: Components of Urban Forestry Strategic Framework.

- **Natural Resources** This component focuses on our efforts to preserve and enhance Eugene's natural resources and develop strategies, such as increasing tree canopy cover, mitigating climate change impacts, promoting tree diversity, and maximizing the ecosystem services and biodiversity benefits of our urban forest. By understanding and managing Eugene's natural resources effectively, we can enhance the health and longevity of trees and deliver numerous ecological, social, and economic benefits to our communities.
- **Community Engagement** Central to our vision is the active involvement and equitable engagement of Eugene residents in the Urban Forestry Management Plan. This component addresses tree equity, environmental justice, public education, outreach programs, and partnerships that empower Eugene residents to participate in the stewardship and expansion of the City's urban forest.
- **Governance and Operational Excellence** Effective management is crucial for the success of our urban forestry initiatives. This component reveals our drive to secure funding and resources, establish robust policies and regulations, implement strategic plans, and ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation to achieve operational excellence.

Together, these components form the backbone of the City's Urban Forestry Strategic Framework. They guide our efforts to create a sustainable, equitable, well-managed urban forest that benefits all our residents. By integrating ecological, community, and governance principles, we ensure our urban forest's long-term health and vitality and transform Eugene into a model for urban forestry excellence.

4.1. Natural Resources

As we embark on a long-term vision for Eugene's urban forest, it is crucial to prioritize the preservation and enhancement of our natural resources and ecological sustainability. We plan to adopt a forward-looking approach by focusing on the next 150 years to ensure that our urban forest remains healthy, resilient, and biodiverse for generations to come.

Eugene has remained focused on creating a thriving, sustainable urban forest in Eugene that benefits both the environment and the community. As a testament to our commitment to understanding and managing our urban forest, we have:

- Conducted an exhaustive street tree inventory.
- Continuously updated and maintained a state-of-the-art urban forestry database.
- Leveraged geographic mapping software (ESRI) maintained by our Parks and Open Space GIS Team.
- Comprehensively assessed the health and condition of each tree.

Our dedicated Urban Forestry Team (UFT) understands the importance of staying connected with the community and interacting with the public to stay abreast of emerging trends in real time. This close relationship with our community is a source of pride and a key factor in our success.

As we move forward, we will focus on key areas to ensure the long-term health of our natural resources, making it one of the three core overarching elements in this Urban Forestry Management Plan. We plan to:

- Identify and preserve our most valuable natural areas, from old-growth forests to wetlands and river corridors, to protect biodiversity and the essential services the City's ecosystems provide.

- Utilize a comprehensive tree inventory and canopy assessment to guide planting efforts and ensure that every neighborhood in Eugene enjoys the benefits of a robust urban forest.
- Implement a robust tree planting and replacement program and prioritize climate-adapted species to build a resilient and sustainable canopy.
- Promote the use of green infrastructure – like bioswales, permeable pavements, and green roofs – to manage stormwater, improve water quality, and provide habitats for our urban wildlife.
- Continue to engage our people and community through education, outreach, and stewardship programs to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for our shared urban forest.

These goals are the bedrock of our vision. By making natural resources and ecological sustainability core priorities, we can create a resilient urban forest in the face of climate change and other threats. These goals will also help us to enhance biodiversity and provide a wide range of environmental, social, and economic benefits for all who live in, work in, or visit Eugene. Hence, this long-term vision highlights our commitment to embrace collaboration, innovation, and adaptive management as we work together to create a healthy and vibrant urban forest legacy.

4.2. Community Engagement

At the heart of our Urban Forestry Management Plan lies a deep commitment to community engagement and equity. We recognize that the success of our urban forestry initiatives depends on the active participation and equitable inclusion of all Eugene residents in the stewardship and expansion of our urban forest (Figure 4.2).

Our community goals are designed to foster a sense of tree awareness, tree equity and environmental justice. Through our public education and outreach programs, we aim to:

- Raise awareness about the value of urban trees.
- Engage residents in hands-on tree planting and care activities.
- Forge strong partnerships with schools, community organizations, and volunteers.
- Cultivate a sense of ownership and empowerment among our citizens.
- Foster a culture of stewardship that will ensure the long-term health and vitality of our urban forest.



Figure 4.2: Eugene Residents Attending our Urban Forest Programs (UO Ducks football Arbor Day tree planting event May 2023).

4.2.1. Tree Equity and Environmental Justice

Tree equity is a key concept in urban forestry, emphasizing the need to ensure that all communities have equal access to the numerous benefits trees provide as critical infrastructure. In many cities, the distribution of tree canopy cover is often uneven, with underserved neighborhoods frequently receiving fewer tree-related benefits compared to more affluent areas. This disparity can have significant consequences for public health, environmental quality, and social well-being.

The Tree Equity Score, developed by American Forests, is a metric designed to assess the equitable distribution of trees and greenspaces across different communities. The score ranges from 0 to 100, with a lower score indicating a greater imbalance in tree distribution, and a higher score reflecting a more equitable spread of tree resources. This tool enables cities like Eugene to evaluate how effectively tree canopy cover is being provided to all residents, particularly those in underserved neighborhoods.

Several key factors influence a neighborhood's Tree Equity Score, including:

- **Soil type and quality:** Certain areas may lack the necessary soil conditions for healthy tree growth, limiting the potential for establishing and sustaining trees.
- **Impervious land coverage:** Industrial areas and neighborhoods with high amounts of impervious surfaces, such as asphalt and concrete, face challenges in planting and maintaining trees.
- **Historical inequities:** Past practices such as redlining, discrimination, and uneven investments have left lasting impacts, creating disparities in tree canopy cover between neighborhoods.

The City of Eugene's urban forestry program recognizes these challenges and is committed to addressing them to improve tree equity across the city. Currently, Eugene has an overall Tree Equity Score of 85, with individual district scores ranging from 69 to 94 (Table 4.1). While the city's score is commendable, the disparity in canopy cover between districts underscores the need for targeted efforts to reduce inequities and ensure that all residents, regardless of race, income, or socioeconomic status, benefit from the urban forest.

Table 4.1: Tree Equity Score Comparison by Planning District.

City Planning District	Tree Equity Score
Willakenzie	78
Santa Clara / River Road	82
Bethel	69
Downtown	85
Southwest	90
Southeast	94

Community engagement and stewardship activities are vital in improving tree equity and advancing environmental justice. By involving residents in tree planting and care, we can foster a sense of ownership and empowerment, ensuring that the benefits of Eugene's urban forest are shared by all. A notable example is the partnership between Active Bethel Citizens and the City of Eugene's urban forestry program (Figure 4.3). Together, they planted trees along highway 99, illustrating the power of collaboration in creating a more equitable and sustainable urban environment.



Figure 4.3: Community Collaboration in Action, Active Bethel Citizens Highway 99.

Moving forward, the City is committed to taking robust initiatives and implementing strategies to improve tree equity and environmental justice. These include:

- Conducting targeted tree planting initiatives in underserved neighborhoods to increase canopy cover and provide equal access to tree benefits.
- Engaging and empowering communities in tree stewardship and decision-making processes, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their needs are met.
- Forging partnerships and collaborations with community organizations and stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise in addressing tree equity issues.
- Continuously monitoring and assessing the Tree Equity Score to track progress and identify areas for improvement.

4.2.1.1. Addressing Concerns and Building Trust

The Urban Forestry Program understands that tree planting, while providing numerous benefits, also raises valid concerns for residents, particularly those in underserved communities. These concerns include the potential for trees to increase property values, which may contribute to gentrification and displacement, as well as worries about the future costs of tree care and upkeep.

We are committed to addressing these concerns through the following actions:

- **Affordability of Tree Maintenance:** While the City maintains trees on public property, we recognize that private property owners may feel burdened by future tree care costs. To address this, we are exploring potential partnerships and grant programs that could help cover maintenance costs for low-income homeowners.

- **Sidewalk and Infrastructure Protection:** We practice "right tree, right place" to minimize future damage to sidewalks and infrastructure. Additionally, we are working with community members to ensure that the placement of trees does not result in unexpected financial burdens.
- **Managing the Fall Leaf Burden:** Many residents have expressed concerns about leaf raking and other seasonal upkeep, particularly those juggling multiple jobs. The City currently has a leaf pick up program and are exploring ways to offer community support, such as organizing neighborhood leaf cleanup days or collaborating with local organizations for assistance.

By incorporating these discussions into our engagement strategy, we ensure that the community feels heard, their concerns are addressed, and their priorities are respected. This approach prevents the imposition of a one-sided agenda and fosters collaboration. Our goal is to facilitate open, honest, and sometimes challenging conversations, while staying committed to finding solutions that benefit all residents and contribute to a healthier, more equitable urban forest.

4.2.2. Public Education and Outreach

Engaging the community through effective public education and outreach is crucial for the success of urban forestry initiatives in Eugene. By raising awareness about the benefits of trees and involving residents in planting and stewardship activities, we can foster a strong sense of ownership and responsibility for our urban forest. The City has a proven track record of collaborating with community organizations, schools, and dedicated volunteers to achieve these goals.

Our successful public education and outreach efforts include:

- **Eugene Tree Foundation (1997-2011):** Organizing tree planting events and educational workshops on tree care, providing community members with hands-on opportunities to contribute to the enhancement of our urban green spaces.
- **Friends of Trees Eugene Metro Partnership (2011-present):** Collaborating with this non-profit organization to facilitate neighborhood tree planting events, focusing on areas with low canopy cover and offering workshops on proper tree care practices.
- **Highway 99 Tree Planting Initiative:** In collaboration with the Active Bethel Citizens neighborhood group, the City of Eugene Urban Forestry team coordinated two volunteer-led tree planting events along Highway 99. The neighborhood group facilitated outreach to adjacent property owners, fostering local engagement, while the Urban Forestry team worked collaboratively to implement the tree planting efforts. This partnership highlights a shared commitment to community involvement and the enhancement of Eugene's urban forest.



Figure 4.4: Neighborhood's Planting Events.

- **Annual Arbor Day Celebrations:** Hosting events that serve as a platform to educate the public about the importance of trees in our urban environment, typically including tree planting activities, educational presentations, and interactive displays.



Figure 4.5: 2024 Arbor Day Planting.

- **Public Works Day Video - "How to Plant a Tree":** During COVID, a video series was created to engage kids with various public works topics. Urban Forestry was invited to help create a video tailored to kids about tree planting.



[Insert Quotes: Students and Teachers on the Impact of Urban Forestry Education]

Moreover, the Urban Forestry program actively participates in community outreach through presentations, informational booths, and educational materials at local events. Resources are also available on the City's webpage to further support public engagement. The program has also developed volunteer stewardship opportunities such as Adopt-a-Park and the Tree Maintenance Permit Program, empowering residents to take an active role in tree care with city guidance.

Looking ahead, the Urban Forestry program is committed to expanding its outreach, including:

- Deploying a comprehensive communications plan targeting key audience.
- Engaging underserved communities through partnerships with local organizations.
- Expanding hands-on learning opportunities for schools and youth organizations, including a potential Citizen Forester Program.
- Enhancing digital resources and multilingual outreach to ensure inclusivity.

4.3. Ecological Management

Our urban ecological management encompasses the strategies, practices, policies, and teams we use to plan, oversee, maintain, and enhance all the trees and greenspaces in Eugene. The following sections shed light on the key components of Eugene's urban ecological management.

4.3.1. Policies, Regulations, and Incentives

Eugene's urban forestry efforts are governed by a set of policies and regulations that provide a strong foundation for managing the city's tree canopy. The following key codes outline the city's approach to tree management:

- **Eugene Code 6.300-6.330:** Establishes requirements for street tree removal and replacement, as well as standards for tree planting, maintenance, and protection during construction.
- **Eugene Code 7.280:** Defines the Developer Street Tree Program, ensuring that new trees are planted when new rights-of-way (ROW) are created and providing guidelines for tree planting.
- **Eugene Code 9.6885:** Provides guidelines for tree preservation and planting during the land use approval process for new development and redevelopment projects.
- **Eugene Code 9.8030:** Establishes standards for tree conservation and removal within the city's overlay zones.

While these codes form a solid framework, there are opportunities to strengthen Eugene's urban forestry policies to better address current and future challenges. The following improvements are recommended:

Policy Strengthening Opportunities

Table 4.2: Policy strengthening opportunities

Opportunity	Description
Increase planting standards	Implement higher tree canopy targets for development projects, focusing on areas with low canopy cover and urban heat island effects.
Enhance heritage tree program	Revitalize and incentivize the preservation of heritage trees through tax breaks or public recognition.
Align with climate action	Ensure urban forestry policies align with the City's Climate Action Plan, promoting climate-resilient species and supporting sustainable development.
Expand incentives	Offer stormwater fee discounts, property tax credits, and expedited permitting for projects that enhance tree-friendly ROW improvements.
Strengthen soil standards	Enforce stricter soil preservation measures to support tree health and long-term growth.

By focusing on these key improvements, Eugene can create a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable urban forest that provides lasting benefits. These enhancements will help mitigate the effects of climate change, improve air and water quality, and contribute to the overall livability of the city for future generations.

4.3.2. The Urban Forestry Team and Structure

Eugene's Urban Forestry Team (UFT) consists of arborists, natural systems specialists, analytical technicians, community outreach coordinators, and seasonal staff. Key features include:

- **Certification Requirements:** Park Specialists and Natural Systems Specialists must obtain ISA Certified Arborist credentials within one year of hire.
- **Additional Qualifications:** Staff pursue ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification for emergency preparedness.

Emergency Response

- UFT serves as first responders for tree-related incidents.
- Handles emergencies such as storm damage, car accidents involving trees, and other unforeseen hazards.
- Works closely with emergency services to ensure public safety.
- Rapidly assesses and addresses tree risks in urgent situations.
- Clears roads and public spaces efficiently to minimize disruption.

Guiding Principles

- Leading by example
- Whole systems thinking
- Continuous improvement
- Collective impact through partnerships
- Multi-functionality

The UFT's expertise in both routine management and emergency response ensures Eugene's urban forest provides lasting social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Urban Forestry Program Roles and Responsibilities*Table 4.3: Roles and Responsibilities of the Urban Forestry Team.*

Role	Responsibilities
Program Management and Planning	Oversee the implementation of urban forestry operations and plans, ensuring alignment with city initiatives and resource management.
Community Engagement and Public Service	Serve as the public face of the urban forestry program, guiding residents through tree-related issues and regulations.
Tree Care and Maintenance	Ensure the health of the urban forest through tree pruning, planting, and regular maintenance.
Health and Risk Assessment	Evaluate the condition and safety of public trees to identify risks and recommend necessary interventions.
Field Operations Management	Direct daily operations for arborist teams, ensuring efficient and safe execution of fieldwork.
Equipment and Resource Management	Manage the tools, vehicles, and resources required for urban forestry operations and maintenance.
Contract and Quality Management	Oversee contracts with external tree services and ensure quality control of all contracted work.
Specialized Roles	Provide expertise in tree health, arboriculture practices, and specialized tasks related to urban forestry.
Permit Management	Coordinate the issuance and compliance of urban forestry permits for both commercial and residential properties.
Emergency Response	Prioritize and manage responses to urgent tree-related issues and emergencies in the community.
Team Development and Training	Train and mentor arborist teams to ensure adherence to best practices and improve skill levels.
Process Improvement and Project Management	Leverage PMP and Six Sigma Black Belt (CSSBB) certifications to lead process improvements, streamline urban forestry projects, and enhance operational efficiency.

In addition to these roles, the Urban Forestry team manages a wide array of program areas, including:

- Responsive field crew operations
- Contract management for external forestry services
- Tree planting and establishment programs
- Plan review and consulting for city development projects
- Sidewalk program coordination related to tree impacts
- Permit programs to regulate and enforce urban tree management policies

The Urban Forestry program takes a comprehensive approach, managing multiple interconnected program areas that require a broader staffing and resource base. Given the complexity and growing needs of the urban forest, additional staffing is essential to maintain the high level of service and care expected by the community.

Table 4.4: The City of Eugene's SWOT Analysis.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly trained professional staff and interdisciplinary teams. • Excellent Emergency response. • Relatively stable budget to finance forestry initiatives. • Effective street tree trimming and care. • Strong community relationship and cross-departmental collaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codes and policies have not kept pace with changing conditions. • Insufficient staffing and budget to fully implement plans and manage tree-related activities. • No clear metrics for determining success. • Lack of defined performance measures. • Lack of ROW code enforcement. • Lack of public understanding of tree policies (especially as population grows and people from out of the area move into town).
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a tree mitigation bank • Grants and private donations. • Improved coordination and collaboration with key regional partners. • Close loop so that fines/fees related to tree issues gets returned to the UF program (which in turn may also help fund future positions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High competition for funding and public attention. • Development codes favor unsustainable practices over natural resource conservation. • Unpermitted removals (occurs even when people are told not to, especially in more affluent areas where they can pay our puny fines). • Pending pest outbreaks- there are currently 3 new beetles that have moved into the state. EAB is on the horizon, and we need funds to remove/replant and treat valuable ash trees. This is a city-wide crisis with major implications to our canopy coverage in all areas of town.

4.3.3. Funding and Resources

The City's Urban Forestry Management Plan requires adequate funding, resources, and dedicated staff. In fiscal year 2024, we were budgeted \$2.4 million, which equated to a per-capita expenditure of \$12.63, for our urban forestry program. This budget supported various aspects of our program, such as staffing, operations & maintenance, tree planting & establishment, community engagement & outreach, and research & monitoring (Figure 4.6). This includes a dedicated team of 9 full-time employees, who have been instrumental to the success of this program.

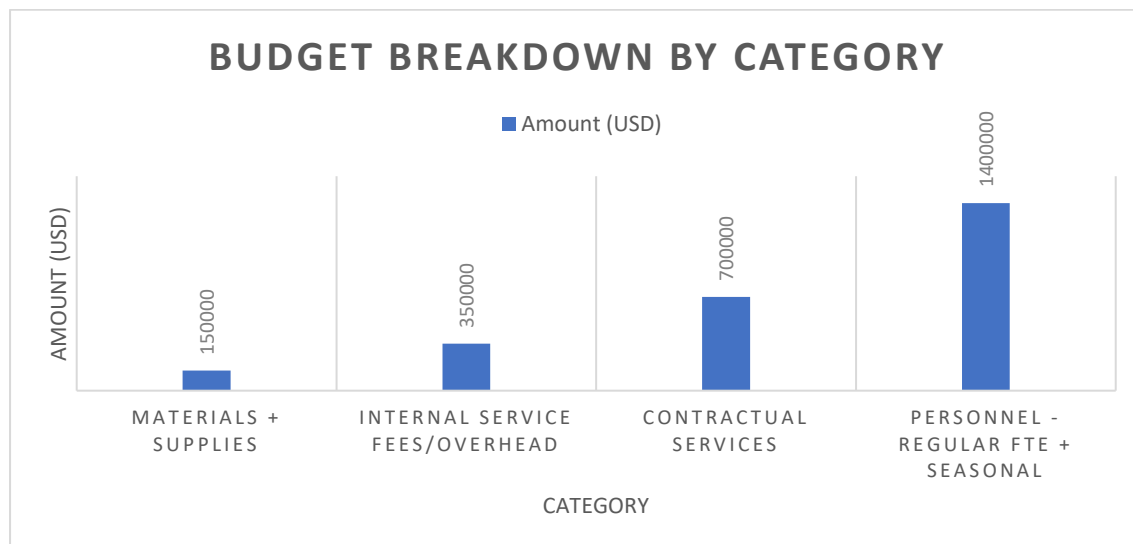


Figure 4.6: Urban Forestry Program Budget Breakdown 2022.

Despite having these resources at our disposal, we have identified many setbacks we need to overcome to fully implement best practices and proactively manage our urban forest effectively.

For instance, there is one urban forestry arborist for every 16,412 street trees. This current situation makes it difficult for our staff to keep up with routine tree maintenance and assessments. To address these problems and support the growth and enhancement of the City's urban forestry program, we look for additional funding sources and partnership opportunities such as:

- **Grants and Donations:** Grants and donations will be obtained from federal and state agencies, including corporations and private individuals.
- **Volunteer and In-Kind Contributions:** Communities and residents will be encouraged to contribute their time, skills, and resources to supplement the City's budget and expand the reach of urban forestry programs.
- **Dedicated Fee:** Property owners will be asked to pay a new fee, which is based on the amount of impervious surface area on their property.
- **Tree Mitigation Bank:** The Tree Mitigation Bank allows developers to contribute funds for tree planting in alternative locations when all on-site options have been thoroughly exhausted due to construction constraints. The goal of this policy is to prioritize on-site tree retention and planting wherever feasible, ensuring that the environmental benefits of trees are maintained on the site of development. The Tree Mitigation Bank funds will be strictly allocated to planting trees in high-priority areas identified by the city's Urban Forestry

Program, with a preference for locations that benefit underserved communities, improve tree equity, and maximize environmental impact. This policy ensures that off-site planting is a last resort and does not incentivize developers to bypass on-site planting obligations.

- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaborations between private developers, businesses, and philanthropic organizations will be pursued to fund tree planting and green infrastructure projects that provide multiple community benefits.

4.3.4. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Eugene has some strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, which we want stakeholders to keep in mind (Table 4.3). The City has an outstanding and experienced Urban Forestry Team with diverse skill sets, consisting of urban foresters, arborists, analytical, technical natural system specialists, community outreach coordinators, and seasonal staff. With their expertise, Eugene has responded proactively to environmental disasters, built community support, and stayed at the forefront of sustainable initiatives. In addition to having a relatively stable budget to support urban forestry initiatives, Eugene takes pride in maintaining the diversity of its trees and providing special protection to exceptional, unique and/or rare trees.

Nonetheless, our management plan is not bullet-proof. We currently do not have well-defined forestry goals. The lack of clear goals also makes it difficult for our partners to measure the success of their forestry initiatives. On top of that, some of the City's codes are outdated in tackling current climate change problems. Some regulations are not consistently enforced or applied with the rigor needed to ensure full compliance. These problems, including insufficient finance, have continued to plague Eugene in supporting Eugene's natural environment and residents.

The major threat we face right now is linked to finance. There are many public organizations in Eugene jostling for funding and public attention. This intensive competition for financial resources threatens our ability to fund our Urban Forestry Management Plan. However, we can neutralize this threat if we explore alternative funding sources and public-private partnerships.

Table 4.5: The City of Eugene's SWOT Analysis.

Section 5. Foundational Pillars

5.1. Introduction

Foundational Pillars

The Foundational Pillars represent the essential principles and strategic priorities upon which the Urban Forestry Program is built. These three pillars are more than just areas of focus; they embody the core values that guide every aspect of the program.

- **Fundamental Principles:** Each pillar reflects a fundamental principle that drives the program's mission. For instance, a pillar like "Environmental Justice and Equity" underscores the commitment to fairness and inclusivity in all activities, ensuring that every decision and action aligns with these core values.
- **Core Strategic Priorities:** The pillars identify the most critical areas where the Urban Forestry Program must direct its resources and efforts. These are the strategic priorities that will ensure the success of the broader framework, helping the program achieve its goals related to natural resources, community engagement, and governance.
- **Guiding Themes:** Serving as thematic guides, the pillars shape the strategies and actions within the management plan. Each pillar aligns with the overarching framework but delves into specific aspects, ensuring that the plan remains focused, actionable, and effective in meeting its objectives.

5.2. Pillar 1: Grow and Sustain the Urban Forest

The "Grow and Sustain the Urban Forest" pillar of our Urban Forestry Management Plan outlines a comprehensive strategy to expand and sustain Eugene's tree canopy, addressing the disparities in coverage across the city. Currently, the City of Eugene's urban forest covers 22% of the city, but there are significant variations depending on the district. Western neighborhoods average around 15% coverage, while southern areas reach as high as 30%.

This disparity affects more than just aesthetics—it has measurable impacts on air quality, temperature regulation, and overall quality of life for residents. To address these inequities, our goal is to achieve a minimum of 25% tree canopy coverage in all districts by 2030, with an overall city-wide target of 30%. This will ensure a more balanced distribution of benefits throughout the city, improving environmental outcomes and fostering healthier, more livable neighborhoods for all.

Our focus on achieving equity in tree coverage aligns with broader efforts to address environmental justice, ensuring that every community—regardless of socioeconomic status—has access to the benefits provided by a robust urban forest.

5.2.1. Goals and Objectives

This pillar articulates our primary objectives, measurable outcomes, and strategic initiatives designed to increase the quantity, quality, and distribution of our urban canopy. Our goals are five-fold:

- **Increased Quantity, Quality, and Distribution of Canopy Cover:** Our goal is to increase Eugene's overall tree canopy, creating a greener, healthier urban environment. This plan involves planting the right tree in the right place to maximize ecological and aesthetic benefits.
- **Implement Strategic Planting and Maintenance Practices:** We are committed to methodical, sustainable tree planting and maintenance practices. By adhering to best practices, we ensure our urban forest's long-term health and viability.
- **Foster Resilience and Biodiversity:** A diverse and resilient urban forest is essential for withstanding environmental stressors. Our strategies promote species diversity and resilience against pests, diseases, and climate change.
- **Engage the Community:** Community involvement is pivotal to the success of our urban forestry initiatives. We strive to foster a sense of ownership and stewardship among Eugene residents, businesses, and organizations through active engagement and participation.
- **Tree Preservation:** Urban Forestry Program is dedicated to maintaining the existing canopy of healthy trees, which is a key component of the program's long-term sustainability strategy. Preservation efforts are equally as important as planting new trees. Urban Forestry will implement both innovative strategies and simple, low-tech solutions to ensure tree preservation remains a priority. These efforts include advocating for tree retention in development projects and undertaking tree improvement initiatives such as concrete cutting to expand planting areas for established trees. Preservation ensures that the environmental and social benefits of mature trees are maximized alongside ongoing efforts to expand the tree canopy.



Figure 5.1: Eugene's Urban Forestry Strategic Framework.

5.2.2. Measurable Outcomes

Measuring the outcomes of Eugene's urban forest is essential to track our progress and ensure our trees and green spaces are managed effectively, equitably, and sustainably. The information below specifies how we intend to measure our urban forestry goals:

- **Increase Tree Canopy Coverage:** The goal is to increase the city-wide tree canopy cover to 30% by 2040, up from the current 24%. This ambitious target reflects our commitment to significantly enhancing the urban forest and its associated benefits.
- **Proactive Tree Care and Maintenance:** A 10-year or better pruning cycle, in alignment with R12 CAP 2.0, will be conducted and sustained. This approach ensures the health and longevity of our urban forest by regularly maintaining trees to prevent disease, structural issues, and clearance issues.
- **Land Preservation:** Street tree planting sites in the right of way (ROW) will be secured and preserved. This strategy involves identifying and protecting potential planting sites to ensure that future tree-planting efforts can be effectively implemented.
- **Maximize Stocking Levels:** The Urban Forestry Program is committed to achieving street tree and park tree stocking levels exceeding 90% and 85%, respectively. To meet the 30% canopy coverage goal, an estimated 214,220 trees must be planted and established, requiring an investment of approximately \$134 million. This investment includes not only

the initial planting but also the critical three-year establishment period, which ensures proper watering and care for the new trees. Given the scale of the project and the need for accurate data on available planting spaces, the target date for reaching these stocking levels will be extended beyond 2040. For example, if a block is designed to support 75 trees but currently has only 50, efforts will be made over time to plant the remaining 25 trees and reach the desired stocking level.

- **Preserve Healthy High-Value Trees:** The Urban Forestry Program will implement refinements and adopt policies to preserve heritage, legacy, and significant trees on both public property and recommends similar refinements to private property. These trees are invaluable assets, contributing to the city's historical and ecological richness. Additionally, the Urban Forestry program will consider establishing a 10-year moratorium on the removal of any newly planted trees, ensuring that once a tree is established, it cannot be removed for at least a decade unless it is dead, dying, or diseased. This policy would provide an extra layer of protection for the city's growing canopy, allowing trees to mature and deliver their full range of benefits over time.
- **Promote Community Involvement:** Residents will be encouraged to participate in tree planting and maintenance activities to foster a sense of ownership and stewardship. Increased community involvement will enhance the success of our urban forestry initiatives and build a culture of care for the urban environment.
- **Enhance Livability for Economic Growth and Expansion:** As a designated Tree City, Eugene's high commitment to maintaining and growing its urban forest contributes significantly to the city's overall livability, making it more attractive to businesses and residents who value a green and sustainable urban environment. This enhanced livability supports economic growth and expansion.

5.2.3. Strategies for Growing the Urban Forest

Growing the urban forest and canopy is a vital component of Eugene's vision for a sustainable and resilient future. By implementing Urban Forestry's strategic planning, establishment, and maintenance practices, our Vision in Action aims to create a robust urban forest that delivers ongoing benefits—from improving air quality and enhancing biodiversity to fostering community well-being and economic resilience.

5.2.3.1. Right Tree Right Place (RTRP)

The "Right Tree, Right Place" principle is a fundamental guideline in urban forestry, landscape design, and environmental planning that ensures the long-term success and sustainability of tree planting projects. This principle emphasizes the importance of selecting tree species that are well-suited to the specific environmental conditions of a planting site, as well as the social, aesthetic, and infrastructural context of the surrounding area.

Key Considerations:

- **Site Conditions:** Trees should be chosen based on the specific conditions of the planting site, including soil type, drainage, sunlight exposure, temperature, and moisture levels. Hardscape site conditions such as building setbacks and road types are also considerations. A thorough site assessment helps ensure that the tree will thrive in its environment.
- **Mature Size and Growth Characteristics:** Consideration of a tree's full-grown height, canopy spread, and root system is crucial to avoid future conflicts with buildings, power lines,

sidewalks, and other infrastructure. This helps in reducing maintenance costs and preventing potential hazards.

- **Purpose of Planting:** Trees should be selected based on the intended purpose, whether for shade, windbreaks, aesthetic value, wildlife habitat, or energy conservation. The purpose guides the choice of species that will best fulfill the desired function.
- **Ecosystem Compatibility:** Preference is given to species that are well-adapted to local pests, diseases, and climate conditions. Native trees often support local wildlife and contribute to the ecological balance of the area. The Urban Forestry Program is monitoring which native trees will best adapt to changing climate and which may not survive the changes.
- **Maintenance Requirements:** Different tree species have varying needs in terms of water, pruning, and care. Selecting species with maintenance requirements that match the available resources ensures the tree's health and longevity.
- **Long-Term Impact on Urban Environment:** The selection process includes evaluating how a tree will interact with the surrounding environment over time. This includes considerations like potential infrastructure conflicts, leaf litter management, and the tree's contribution to urban biodiversity and air quality.

By adhering to the "Right Tree, Right Place" principle, urban forestry professionals and landscape designers can create sustainable, functional, and aesthetically pleasing green spaces that contribute to the health and well-being of the community while preserving and enhancing the natural environment.

5.2.3.2. Site Selection and Planning

The City's Urban Forestry Program utilizes skills and experience of our highly trained Urban Forestry staff, data-driven approaches, including GIS and remote sensing, to identify optimal planting sites. We prioritize areas with low canopy cover, high social vulnerability, and significant environmental impact. We prioritize planting along arterial and collector streets first, followed by lower traffic neighborhood streets. Data-driven planning enables the City of Eugene to create a balanced canopy with focused planting: increasing tree planting in underserved areas with low canopy coverage to mitigate urban heat islands and enhance environmental quality. This aligns with enhancing the living conditions in all neighborhoods and addressing historical inequities.

5.2.3.3. Data-Driven Resources

To enhance the City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Program management and emergency preparedness, we utilize a range of advanced tools:

- **Canopy Analytics:** Provides detailed analysis of current tree canopy coverage and trends over time.
- **Public Tree Inventory:** Contains a comprehensive database of all public trees, including their health, species, and location.
- **Tree Plotter Canopy Tool:** Allows for mapping and visualization of canopy cover to identify gaps and opportunities for planting.
- **Tree Plotter Community Engagement Map:** Engages the community in tree planting and maintenance efforts by providing a platform for participation and feedback.
- **Tree Equity Tool:** Measures tree canopy in relation to social and demographic factors to ensure equitable distribution of urban forestry benefits.
- **Nature Score Tool:** Evaluates the ecological benefits of trees and green spaces, helping prioritize planting locations for maximum impact.
- **i-Tree Landscape:** Provides a suite of tools for assessing the ecosystem services provided by trees, such as carbon sequestration, air quality improvement, and stormwater management.

5.2.4. Tree Planting Techniques

5.2.4.1.1. Location Planning

Urban Forestry focuses on identifying optimal RTRL planting locations to ensure new trees provide maximum ecological and aesthetic benefits. Evaluating urban areas to determine the best locations for tree planting, considering factors like sun exposure, space availability, and public accessibility.

- Planning tree locations to enhance urban landscapes, improve air quality, and provide maximum community benefits.
- Integrating trees into existing and future urban planning initiatives to ensure cohesive development, including stormwater management design.

Urban Forestry always seeks to preserve the "planting site" for the residents of Eugene. Trees will cycle in and out, but the land must remain dedicated to urban forestry efforts.

Planting Techniques: Using best practices in tree planting to ensure healthy growth.

- Applying scientifically backed planting methods that promote root growth and tree health, such as proper hole depth, root pruning, and soil preparation.
- Using appropriate planting materials and techniques to protect young trees during their critical initial growth phases.
- Providing training for staff, volunteers, and landscape professionals on best practices in tree planting to maximize survival rates and growth success.

5.2.5. Pruning and Health Checks

The City of Eugene implements a 10-year city-wide pruning cycle to ensure the health and longevity of its urban forest. This includes early pruning at 5 years to shape and direct growth. Proper pruning techniques include structural pruning for young trees, crown cleaning to remove dead or diseased

branches, and crown raising for clearance when necessary. Regular health checks are conducted to address any immediate concerns, such as pest infestations or diseases, ensuring that trees are maintained in optimal condition.

5.2.6. Tree Care and Ongoing Maintenance

The City of Eugene prioritizes ongoing maintenance to support tree health and longevity. This includes mulching, soil preparation, and employing soil decompaction techniques in compacted urban areas to enhance tree growth. Newly planted trees receive three years of watering to establish strong root structures, ensuring their long-term health and survival.

5.2.7. Tree Watering Strategies

Efficient and consistent watering is crucial for the successful establishment of newly planted trees in Eugene. The city uses smart irrigation systems and soil moisture sensors to optimize watering schedules and conserve water. Techniques such as deep watering are used to encourage deep root growth, which supports the long-term health of the trees.

5.2.8. Soil Management

Soil management is a critical aspect of Eugene's urban forestry practices. The city implements soil decompaction techniques to improve air and water penetration and root growth in compacted urban soils. Regular soil testing is conducted to ensure that nutrient levels and pH are conducive to tree health. The use of biochar is also employed to enhance soil biology and improve overall tree

5.2.9. Tree Removal and Renewal

The City of Eugene has established clear criteria for tree removal, focusing on balancing the health and safety of the urban forest. Renewal strategies include planting new trees to replace those that are removed, ensuring continuity of canopy cover.

The Urban Forestry Program also utilizes strategies like retrenchment pruning when appropriate. This technique can extend the lifespan of mature trees, allowing the community to benefit from them for a longer period while maintaining public safety.

At times, Parks and Open Space (POS) teams may choose to create wildlife snags instead of fully removing trees. A wildlife snag is a standing dead or dying tree left in place to provide habitat for wildlife, offering nesting sites, shelter, and food sources for various species such as birds, mammals, and insects. This technique is more commonly implemented in natural areas than in right-of-way (ROW) locations, though snags can be found in all POS work areas.

Additionally, the city emphasizes the importance of land preservation to secure street tree planting sites in the ROW. This approach helps maintain a robust urban forest and ensures that the benefits of the urban canopy are equitably distributed across the community.

5.3. Pillar 2: Environmental Justice and Equity

Environmental justice and equity are foundational to the City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Program. This pillar recognizes that the distribution of urban tree canopy often reflects and perpetuates existing socioeconomic disparities. To address these inequities, we are committed to implementing strategies that ensure all communities, especially those historically underserved, receive equal access to the benefits provided by urban forests. By focusing on three dimensions of equity—

recognitional, procedural, and distributional—we aim to create a more just, inclusive, and resilient urban environment for all residents.

5.3.1. Recognitional Equity

Recognitional equity is about acknowledging and respecting the diverse identities, histories, and needs of different communities within Eugene. Our urban forestry practices must be culturally relevant and inclusive, ensuring that all communities see themselves reflected in the green spaces that we create and maintain.

- **Cultural Relevance:** We will develop urban forestry initiatives that honor the cultural and historical significance of green spaces for various communities. This includes selecting tree species and designing green spaces that resonate with the cultural values of different groups.
- **Tailored Outreach:** Communication and engagement strategies will be adapted to reflect the unique cultural contexts of Eugene's diverse communities, ensuring that everyone has access to information and opportunities to participate.

5.3.1.1. The Peace Tree at Alton Baker Park

The Peace Tree at Alton Baker Park is a profound symbol of peace, resilience, and healing. Planted as part of a broader initiative by Oregon Community Trees (OCT) and One Sunny Day Initiatives, this tree was grown from seeds of trees that survived the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Peace Tree serves as a living testament to global nuclear disarmament and connects Eugene to a broader narrative of international peace and historical remembrance. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to fostering culturally significant green spaces that resonate with both local and global histories. By including this and similar efforts, we ensure that our urban forest reflects not only environmental goals but also the diverse cultural heritage of our community.



Figure 5.2: Peace Tree at Alton Backer Park.

5.3.2. Procedural Equity

Procedural equity ensures that all community members, particularly those from marginalized groups, receive equitable service in the planning and implementation of urban forestry initiatives. This inclusive decision-making process is crucial for promoting fairness and transparency in how we manage and expand Eugene's urban forest.

- **Community Engagement:** We actively inform the community about our urban forestry services through various channels, including postings and door hangers. However, we recognize that there is currently a gap in providing residents with opportunities to engage with us and share what they want from these services. Moving forward, we are committed to exploring ways to better involve residents in the decision-making process, ensuring that their cultural needs and preferences are heard and respected.
- **Multilingual and Culturally Sensitive Communication:** Information about urban forestry programs will be provided in multiple languages, and outreach will be conducted with cultural sensitivity to ensure that non-English-speaking residents can fully participate.
- **Adaptive Solutions:** Recognizing the unique challenges of different neighborhoods, we will implement flexible and adaptive practices to ensure that all areas can benefit from urban forestry, even where space or soil quality may be limited.

5.3.3. Distributional Equity

Distributional equity focuses on the fair distribution of urban forestry benefits across all communities. This includes equal access to green spaces, cleaner air, and cooler temperatures, which are essential for the health and well-being of Eugene's residents.

- **Data-Driven Equity Mapping:** We will utilize GIS and demographic data to identify neighborhoods with low tree canopy and high social vulnerability. The development of an "Equity Priority Index" will guide resource allocation and ensure that tree-planting efforts are focused on the areas that need them most.
- **Targeted Planting Programs:** Initiatives like the "Trees for All" program will focus on increasing canopy cover in high-priority, underserved areas. These programs will offer free or subsidized trees to residents and involve them in the planting process. This will foster a sense of ownership and connection to their urban environment.
- **Health-Focused Initiatives:** Tree planting will be prioritized near schools, senior centers, healthcare facilities and areas impacted by heavy industrial use in underserved neighborhoods to address health disparities related to air quality and urban heat islands.

5.3.4. Strategies

Eugene plans to implement the following strategies to achieve its environmental justice and equity goals:

- **Data-Driven Equity Mapping:** Identify right-of-way areas with the greatest need for tree canopy through the Equity Priority Index and focus resources accordingly.
- **Targeted Planting Programs:** Continue programs with community-backed organizations, such as Friends of Trees (FOT), to enhance canopy cover in high-priority areas by offering free or subsidized trees and engaging the community in the planting process. Additionally,

partners like FOT conduct tree and plant giveaways, encouraging residents to plant on their own private property, further expanding the urban forest beyond public spaces.

- **Community Forestry Stewardship:** In collaboration with parks and open space Volunteer Program, establish neighborhood-based "Tree Steward" programs with community-backed organizations such as Oregon State University extension programs to educate and train the next generation of urban foresters, Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN), that train residents in tree planting to youth internship programs in urban forestry targeting students from underrepresented and all communities.
- **Culturally Relevant Outreach and Education:** Develop multilingual educational materials about the benefits of urban trees and partner with community organizations to host culturally specific tree planting and care workshops.
- **Green Job Training:** Continue the Green Infrastructure Section program to train and employ residents from underserved communities in urban forestry work in partnership with local community-based organizations like Northwest Youth Corp (NYC).
- **Health-Focused Initiatives:** Engage schools, senior centers, and healthcare facilities in underserved and all areas, offering urban forestry community-backed programs to grow and expand the benefits of trees.

The City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Program is deeply committed to advancing environmental justice and equity by addressing the disparities in urban tree canopy distribution across the community.

Through a focus on recognition, procedural, and distributional equity, the Urban Forestry Program is dedicated to creating an inclusive and resilient urban environment that benefits all residents, particularly those from historically underserved and disinvested communities.

By implementing targeted strategies—such as data-driven equity mapping, culturally relevant outreach, and health-focused initiatives—the program aims to ensure that every neighborhood has equal access to the vital benefits that urban forests provide.

The City's Urban Forestry Program not only seeks to enhance the physical landscape of Eugene but also to foster a stronger, more connected community where everyone has a stake in the shared goal of a greener, healthier city.

5.4. Pillar 3: Resiliency and Emergency Response

5.4.1. Eugene's Urban Forest: Our First Line of Defense

At the heart of the Willamette Valley, Eugene's urban forest is a testament to our community's commitment to green infrastructure. Eugene's street trees don't just provide shade on a hot summer day or a splash of color in the fall — they are our silent guardians, our first line of defense against the environmental challenges we face. As climate change intensifies these challenges, Eugene's Urban Forestry Team (UFT) has risen to the occasion, not only as caretakers of our urban forest but also as first responders in times of crisis.

5.4.2. Threats Facing Eugene's Forest

Eugene's unique geography and changing climate present us with a specific set of challenges. Our winters bring the risk of ice storms, like the severe event in January 2024 that tested our resilience. Summers increasingly bring the specter of wildfires; their smoke casts a haze over our city, and wildfire particulates threaten our forest's health. Imminent pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer will

dramatically impact Eugene's current Urban Forest. New pests, like the Mediterranean Oak Borer and Japanese Cedar Longhorn Beetle, pose risks we're only beginning to understand. And always, there are human elements — development pressures, vandalism, and accidental damage that can harm our urban canopy.

5.4.3. Proactive Stance: Preventing Crises Before They Occur

The City's UFT employs a preventative approach to urban forest management. Our strategy centers on proactive care, with City arborists systematically addressing tree health and structural integrity through designated Maintenance Pruning Zones. This methodical process not only enhances aesthetic appeal but also fosters a resilient urban forest capable of withstanding environmental stressors.

The UFT operates on a comprehensive pruning cycle, ensuring that all city-managed trees receive regular attention. This systematic approach allows for the early identification and mitigation of potential hazards, thereby reducing the risk of branch failure during severe weather events such as ice storms. By removing weak or overextended limbs, we enhance the structural integrity of our urban forest, making it more resilient to extreme weather conditions. During this pruning cycle, the UFT inspects and removes trees that are dead, dying, diseased or majorly structurally defective to mitigate problems before they become safety issues. (Figure 5.3)



Figure 5.3: Routine Tree Inspections and Maintenance.

Our management practices are carefully calibrated to support urban trees across all city locations. Upon completion of a full pruning cycle, we have not only maintained our urban forest but have also strengthened its overall health and resilience. This proactive stance helps ensure that Eugene's street trees are optimally prepared for future environmental challenges, contributing to a safer and more sustainable urban environment.

The UFT also operates with a request-for-service system. The public acts as additional eyes in the field, helping to identify trees that need attention. This support encourages the team to be responsive and proactive and helps prioritize needed work around the City.

5.4.4. When Nature Calls: Emergency Preparedness and Rapid Response

The City's UFT maintains a high level of readiness to address unforeseen events impacting our urban forest. Our ISA-certified and TRAQ-certified arborists function as skilled emergency responders, equipped to efficiently assess risks, mitigate hazards, and ensure public safety.

The UFT's emergency response capabilities were effectively demonstrated during the severe ice storm of 2024. Immediately following the event, our teams were strategically deployed to clear critical transportation corridors and address high-priority situations. This prompt mobilization underscores the UFT's commitment to preserving public safety and maintaining urban forest health under adverse conditions. (Figure 5.4)



Figure 5.4: Safe Removal of Storm-Damaged Tree.

The UFT's emergency response protocol includes:

- Rapid assessment of storm damage
- Prioritization of hazard mitigation efforts
- Coordinated deployment of personnel and equipment
- Efficient clearance of affected areas
- Ongoing monitoring and follow-up care for impacted trees

This systematic approach ensures that our urban forest receives timely and appropriate care during and after emergency events, contributing to the overall resilience of our city's green infrastructure.

5.4.5. Cultivating Future Urban Forestry Stewards

The Urban Forestry Program fosters resilience through collaborative community efforts, emphasizing education and public engagement. Our initiatives aim to nurture stewardship and increase community involvement in urban forestry practices. As we continue to plant and grow trees, we need to grow the next generation of arborists to care for them.

Community outreach efforts include:

- City-sponsored volunteer programs
- Youth-oriented tree planting events
- Tree distribution initiatives
- Partnerships with non-profits and community-based organizations (CBOs), such as:
 - Willamette Resource Education Center (WREN)
 - Friends of Trees (FOT)
 - Northwest Youth Corps (NYC)
 - OSU Extension

These initiatives expand Eugene's urban forest while cultivating future stewards. By engaging citizens, especially youth, in hands-on activities, we instill understanding of urban trees' role in environmental health, climate resilience, and quality of life. This supports our vision of a community actively involved in sustainable urban forest management.

Through these educational and participatory programs, we're building a foundation for Eugene's urban forest, enhancing both its physical expanse and community capacity to support its growth and maintenance.

5.4.6. A Commitment to Our Community

Our Urban Forestry team plays a crucial role in enhancing Eugene's resilience to environmental stressors and responding to emergencies, and offers this official statement:

The Urban Forestry program of the City of Eugene is committed to maintaining and enhancing our community's vital tree canopy. As certified arborists and urban forestry professionals, we adhere strictly to the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Code of Ethics and industry best practices in all our operations.

Our mission is multifaceted:

- **Preservation and Enhancement:** We employ evidence-based strategies to preserve healthy trees and enhance our urban forest's overall vitality.
- **Decision-Making:** Our actions are guided by comprehensive assessments, considering factors such as tree health, public safety, and long-term environmental benefits.
- **Environmental Resilience:** We play a crucial role in bolstering Eugene's resilience to environmental stressors and contributing to emergency response efforts.
- **Professional Standards:** Our team consists of qualified professionals who undergo continuous training to stay abreast of the latest arboricultural practices and technologies.
- **Community Engagement:** We are committed to transparency and public education, fostering a community-wide understanding of urban forestry's importance.

It is imperative to note that tree removal is always a last resort, undertaken only when necessary for public safety or the overall health of our urban forest. We approach each decision with the utmost care and professional judgment.

The Urban Forestry Division takes pride in its role as stewards of Eugene's tree canopy. Our unwavering commitment is to nurture a thriving, resilient urban forest that will continue to benefit our community for generations to come.

We welcome community engagement and are always available to address questions or concerns regarding our operations and decisions.

Section 6. Plan Implementation —Strategy in Action

6.1. Strategy in Action

The "Strategy in Action" section outlines the implementation of Eugene's Urban Forestry Plan, emphasizing the expertise of the dedicated Urban Forestry team and the advanced tools leveraged in the process. This section demonstrates how the team monitors and evaluates their processes, ensuring they remain both proactive in planning and responsive to the evolving needs of the city.

The strategy involves creating detailed profiles for each of Eugene's six planning districts, capturing their unique characteristics, challenges, and opportunities. These district profiles are critical for tailoring urban forestry efforts to meet the specific needs of each community.

By compiling data from these profiles, the Urban Forestry Program shares its analysis in a user-friendly format to effectively communicate with the public. This approach not only enhances transparency but also provides residents with accessible and up-to-date information about urban forestry activities in their neighborhoods.

6.2. Urban Forestry Team

Infographic (team and toolkit are one infographic)

The Urban Forestry team, composed of ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified arborists, is responsible for ensuring the safety, health, and longevity of Eugene's urban forest. These professionals provide essential services throughout the year, focusing on both proactive and reactive measures to protect and enhance the city's tree canopy. Their ISA certification affirms their commitment to adhering to the highest industry standards in urban tree care, risk management, and community engagement.

Core Responsibilities

- **24/7 Emergency Response:** The Urban Forestry team offers 24/7 response services to address tree-related emergencies, including storm damage, hazardous tree failures, and urgent safety concerns. Their rapid deployment mitigates risks to public safety and infrastructure, ensuring a swift and effective resolution of critical incidents.
- **Comprehensive Tree Health and Risk Assessment:** Regular tree inspections are conducted to assess health, structure, and potential hazards. The team applies advanced diagnostic tools and methodologies to evaluate tree stability, identify diseases or pests, and recommend interventions. This proactive approach minimizes the likelihood of tree failures in high-risk areas.
- **Sustainable Tree Care and Maintenance:** To ensure the long-term health of the urban forest, the team implements strategic maintenance practices, including precision pruning, mulching, fertilization, and soil management. These measures are designed to improve tree resilience, reduce disease susceptibility, and enhance growth conditions.
- **Efficient Watering and Irrigation Strategies:** Effective watering techniques are essential to tree health, particularly during periods of drought or for newly planted trees. The team uses targeted irrigation methods to optimize water usage, ensuring trees receive adequate hydration while maintaining sustainable resource practices.
- **Soil Management and Enhancement:** Healthy soil is fundamental to the well-being of urban trees. The team conducts soil assessments and applies remediation techniques such as

aeration, composting, and amendments to address issues like compaction and poor drainage. These practices promote root development and improve overall tree vitality.

- **Strategic Tree Planting and Canopy Expansion:** In alignment with citywide urban forestry goals, the team coordinates tree planting initiatives aimed at increasing canopy coverage, with a particular focus on under-canopied and underserved neighborhoods. The selection of species is carefully tailored to suit specific environmental conditions and to enhance biodiversity.
- **Advanced Hazard and Risk Mitigation:** The team is responsible for identifying and mitigating potential hazards posed by trees. This includes assessing trees for structural weaknesses, performing targeted pruning (e.g., retrenchment pruning for mature trees), and, when necessary, safely removing trees that pose an unacceptable risk to public safety or property.
- **Permit and Regulatory Compliance:** The team facilitates the issuance and management of permits for tree removals, plantings, and other urban forestry activities on both public and private lands. They ensure that all work complies with city regulations and environmental policies, maintaining accountability and transparency in urban forestry operations.
- **Community Engagement and Public Outreach:** The team serves as the public face of the Urban Forestry Program, engaging with residents to educate them about tree care and the benefits of the urban forest. Through workshops, planting events, and direct communication, the team fosters community involvement and promotes shared stewardship of Eugene's trees.
- **Contract Management and Quality Assurance:** External contractors are often engaged for large-scale operations such as tree removals or major planting efforts. The Urban Forestry team oversees these projects to ensure adherence to city standards and ISA best practices. Quality control measures are rigorously applied to ensure all contracted work meets the city's specifications.
- **Specialized Expertise and Technical Arboriculture:** The team's ISA certifications equip them with the expertise necessary to handle complex arboricultural tasks, including tree risk mitigation, advanced pruning techniques, and the application of cutting-edge tree care methodologies. Their specialized knowledge ensures the city's urban forest is managed according to the latest scientific and industry standards.
- **Data-Driven Urban Forestry Management:** The team utilizes geospatial and inventory management tools (e.g., ArcGIS, Tree Plotter) to gather, analyze, and interpret data on tree health, canopy coverage, and environmental impact. This data informs decision-making processes, ensuring that management practices are both efficient and sustainable.

6.3. Technology Toolkit Infographic

The Urban Forestry program employs a range of advanced tools and technologies to ensure efficient management and maintenance of Eugene's urban forest. These tools enable the team to make informed, data-driven decisions, enhancing both proactive planning and responsive operations. The oversight of these technologies is guided by credentialed staff, ensuring that resources are used effectively and that operations are continuously optimized.

Key Technology Components:

Esri ArcGIS: This critical geospatial platform allows the team to manage Eugene's tree inventory with precision. It tracks the health, location, and maintenance needs of public trees, providing a comprehensive data system that supports both immediate fieldwork and long-term strategic planning.

- **Tree Plotter Canopy Tool:** The Tree Plotter Canopy Tool is essential for monitoring and managing Eugene's urban canopy. By analyzing coverage and density, the team uses this tool to track the city's progress toward its canopy expansion goals, ensuring that planning and operational efforts remain aligned with the city's overall objectives.
- **Community Engagement Map:** This interactive platform enhances communication between the Urban Forestry Program and the community, allowing residents to view tree-related activities and provide feedback. The team ensures the map is regularly updated, creating a transparent and accessible interface for the public.
- **Tree Equity Score Tool:** This tool is used to assess the distribution of canopy coverage across different neighborhoods, ensuring that tree planting efforts focus on addressing inequities. The team uses this data to prioritize areas with low canopy cover, directing resources to where they are most needed.
- **Public Tree Inventory Tool:** A real-time inventory system that maps the locations and health status of public trees across Eugene. This tool helps the team efficiently manage tree care schedules, hazard response, and overall urban forest health, ensuring that every public tree receives the necessary attention.
- **Nature Score Tool:** The Nature Score Tool evaluates access to natural spaces, helping the team identify areas where green space is lacking. This data supports urban planning decisions and guides tree planting initiatives to increase both ecological and social benefits for Eugene's residents.

Operational Efficiencies and Credentialed Oversight

The Urban Forestry program's use of these tools is enhanced by a focus on operational efficiencies. Credentialed staff ensure that data collection, reporting, and resource management are streamlined and optimized for maximum impact. By continuously refining workflows and employing best practices, the team is able to meet the city's urban forestry goals effectively, all while maintaining high standards of service delivery and environmental stewardship.

6.4. Research and Analysis

Infographic (monitoring and Evaluation and Right Tree Right Place one infographic)

The Research and Analytics component underpins the City of Eugene's Urban Forestry Program, transforming field experience and expertise into actionable insights. By leveraging advanced search tools for data collection and analysis tools for interpretation, the program effectively addresses the unique characteristics, challenges, and opportunities of each district. The Urban Forestry team's extensive on-the-ground knowledge, combined with cutting-edge technology, creates a robust framework for sustainable urban forest management.

Search Tools

Search tools provide the foundation for understanding Eugene's urban forest by collecting essential data on tree distribution, canopy coverage, and public engagement. These tools offer detailed, real-time views of tree health and conditions across the city, ensuring a comprehensive perspective for planning and management.

- **Tree Plotter Community Engagement Map:** This interactive tool visualizes tree locations, species, and canopy coverage across Eugene's neighborhoods. The Urban Forestry team uses this map to engage with the community and to provide accessible information about

ongoing tree management activities. The tool also enables residents to explore tree data relevant to their local areas, fostering transparency and public involvement.

- **Geospatial Research (GIS):** The use of GIS technology allows for the precise mapping of Eugene’s urban forest. By collecting data across the six planning districts, the team can accurately assess the density, health, and spatial distribution of trees. This geospatial data forms the basis for decision-making and helps to prioritize areas requiring immediate attention.

Analysis Tools

Analysis tools convert raw data into meaningful strategies. Drawing from both field expertise and sophisticated data processing, the team analyzes the distinct characteristics, challenges, and opportunities within each district to inform risk-aware, sustainable management plans.

- **Urban Tree Canopy Metrics:** These metrics are essential for assessing the canopy coverage in each district. The team evaluates how well urban forestry goals are being met, adjusting planting, pruning, and removal strategies to ensure an equitable distribution of tree benefits. These metrics provide insights into areas of need, allowing the team to direct resources effectively.
- **District Profile Analytics:** The Urban Forestry team synthesizes field observations with geospatial data to create detailed profiles for each district. These profiles highlight the unique ecological characteristics, socio-environmental challenges, and potential opportunities specific to each area. By blending technical data with on-the-ground expertise, the team ensures that management strategies are tailored to the needs of each community, delivering risk-aware and context-sensitive urban forestry solutions.

Experience and Expertise

The success of Eugene’s Urban Forestry Program is rooted in the expertise of its certified arborists and their ability to apply years of field experience to the management of the urban forest. The team’s intimate knowledge of each district’s unique conditions—combined with state-of-the-art research and analytics tools—ensures that strategies are not only data-driven but also informed by practical, hands-on understanding. This expertise allows the team to proactively address both current challenges and emerging opportunities, ensuring the urban forest remains resilient, healthy, and aligned with community values.

Through the integration of advanced search tools, rigorous analysis, and expert-driven insights, the Research and Analytics framework supports Eugene’s long-term urban forestry goals. The combination of experience, data, and technology enables the team to manage the urban forest with precision, sustainability, and a deep understanding of the city’s diverse needs.

6.5. District Profiles Overview

Eugene’s Urban Forestry Program develops detailed, data-driven profiles for each of the six planning districts: Willakenzie, Santa Clara/River Road, Bethel, Downtown, Southwest, and Southeast. These profiles are designed to address the unique environmental conditions, socio-economic dynamics, and urban forestry needs of each district. Using the latest geospatial technologies and field expertise, the profiles offer a tailored approach to managing and improving the urban forest in each area.

Willakenzie Planning District Urban Forestry Profile

Willakenzie is a quiet, residential neighborhood in northeastern Eugene known for its schools, parks, and local businesses. This district features a mature tree population, with **12,788 ROW street trees** and an **urban canopy cover of 22%**, with urban forestry efforts focusing on maintaining and renewing the tree cover.

The Role of ROW Trees in Willakenzie:

In Willakenzie, mature trees provide critical environmental benefits such as shade and air purification. The district has a well-established tree canopy, but the aging tree population calls for strategic planning to preserve and renew the canopy, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Willakenzie District – Key Data Insights

- **Urban Tree Canopy Coverage:** 22%, with a target of 30% by 2040.
- **Tree Equity Score:** 78, reflecting moderate tree distribution across different socio-economic groups.
- **ROW Tree Count:** 12,788 trees, contributing 19.34% of the total ROW tree population in Eugene.
- **Number of Trees Needed to Reach 30% Canopy:** Willakenzie needs 31,940 additional trees to reach its 30% canopy coverage goal. Currently, the district has 3,959 known ROW planting sites available. To meet the remaining goal, an additional 27,981 trees must be planted in parks, other publicly owned land, or private property to bridge the gap. Estimated cost: \$19,962,500.
- **Impervious Land:** 41%, indicating some challenges in finding new planting spaces.
- **Available ROW Planting Sites:** 3,959 sites currently identified.

Climate Resilience and Community Benefits:

Willakenzie's mature tree population helps remove over 255 tons of pollutants each year, improving air quality and reducing respiratory issues. The shade provided by these trees cools neighborhoods, reducing the urban heat island effect and lowering energy costs for residents. The mature canopy also promotes safer streets by slowing traffic and making walkways more comfortable, encouraging outdoor activities.

Willakenzie District Tree Benefits

Metric	Value	Units
ROW Tree Count	12,788	Trees
Pollutants Removed	255.76	Tons/year
Carbon Sequestered	319.70	Tons/year
Pollution Removal Value	\$2,046.08	Dollars/year
Carbon Sequestration Value	\$23,977.34	Dollars/year
Total Monetary Value (Annual)	\$26,023.42	Dollars/year

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Willakenzie faces the challenge of maintaining its mature tree population while also introducing younger trees to ensure long-term resilience.
- The district's relatively high impervious land percentage presents opportunities to collaborate with private property owners to meet tree planting goals.

Strategic Focus for 2024-2030: The primary goal is to increase tree canopy to 30% by 2040. The strategy will focus on preserving existing mature trees while planting new species that are climate-resilient and well-suited to Willakenzie’s conditions, such as Southern Magnolia and Douglas Fir. Additionally, efforts will include land preservation, community-backed partnerships to plant trees on private land, and collaborations with BLM, EWEB, and Lane County to form a coalition for planting on private property.

Community Engagement: Local businesses and residents play an essential role in tree preservation and new plantings. The Urban Forestry Program encourages Willakenzie residents to participate in tree care efforts to enhance their neighborhoods and maintain the district’s high quality of life.

Santa Clara / River Road Planning District Urban Forestry Profile

Santa Clara and River Road are rapidly growing suburban areas in northern Eugene. These neighborhoods offer a mix of residential and agricultural landscapes, with new developments adding to the district’s evolving urban character. The district contains **5,071 ROW street trees** and an **urban canopy cover of 19%**, with ongoing urban forestry efforts focused on expanding the canopy as the area develops.

The Role of ROW Trees in Santa Clara / River Road:

ROW trees are crucial for maintaining green corridors amidst the district’s ongoing suburban development. These trees help mitigate the effects of urban sprawl, improving air quality and providing shade for streets and homes.

Santa Clara / River Road District – Key Data Insights

- **Urban Tree Canopy Coverage:** 19%, with a target of 30% by 2040.
- **Tree Equity Score:** 82, indicating fair tree distribution across the area with some disparities.
- **ROW Tree Count:** 5,071 trees, contributing 7.67% of the total ROW tree population in Eugene.
- **Number of Trees Needed to Reach 30% Canopy:** Santa Clara / River Road needs 50,821 additional trees to reach its 30% canopy coverage goal. With only 823 available ROW planting sites, an additional 49,998 trees must be planted on parks, other publicly owned land, or private property to bridge the gap. Estimated cost: \$31,763,125
- **Impervious Land:** 36%, highlighting the need for strategic tree planting in both ROW and private spaces.
- **Available ROW Planting Sites:** 823 sites currently identified.

Climate Resilience and Community Benefits:

As Santa Clara and River Road expand, ROW trees continue to play a vital role in removing over 100 tons of pollutants annually, contributing to a healthier environment for families. These trees provide much-needed shade for homes and roads, reducing cooling costs and making streets more pedestrian-friendly. The urban forest in these areas also contributes to flood prevention by reducing stormwater runoff.

Santa Clara / River Road District Tree Benefits

Metric	Value	Units
ROW Tree Count	5,071	Trees
Pollutants Removed	101.42	Tons/year
Carbon Sequestered	126.78	Tons/year
Pollution Removal Value	\$811.36	Dollars/year

Carbon Sequestration Value	\$9,508.55	Dollars/year
Total Monetary Value (Annual)	\$10,319.91	Dollars/year

Challenges and Opportunities:

- The district’s rapid development poses a challenge to maintaining green spaces.
- There are significant opportunities for collaboration with new housing developments to incorporate tree planting into their design, as well as leveraging agricultural land for additional canopy.
- Patchwork of City and County ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

Strategic Focus for 2024-2040:

By 2040, Santa Clara/River Road aims to increase its tree canopy to 30%. Strategic planting in residential and agricultural areas will be crucial, with tree species like Red Horse chestnut and Turkish Filbert being ideal for this region. Efforts will include land preservation, forming partnerships to plant trees on private property, and working with agencies like BLM, EWEB, and Lane County to ensure tree canopy expansion on private land.

Community Engagement:

The community is actively involved in urban planning, and residents are encouraged to collaborate on tree planting efforts to maintain and improve the district’s green infrastructure as part of Eugene’s growth plan.

Bethel Planning District Urban Forestry Profile

Bethel, located in northwestern Eugene, is a predominantly residential area with an industrial influence. The district has one of the lowest tree canopies in the city, with **9,510 ROW street trees** and an **urban canopy cover of 9%**. Bethel is a prime focus for urban forestry efforts aimed at increasing tree cover to improve air quality and shade for residents.

The Role of ROW Trees in Bethel:

ROW trees in Bethel play a vital role in mitigating the effects of the district’s industrial areas and combating the urban heat island effect. These trees are essential for improving air quality, providing shade, and enhancing the livability of residential neighborhoods. For the past four years, Bethel has been a central focus for the Urban Forestry Program, with ongoing efforts dedicated to tree planting, establishment, and preservation to strengthen the district’s canopy and environmental resilience.

Bethel District – Key Data Insights

- **Urban Tree Canopy Coverage:** 9%, with a target of 30% by 2040.
- **Tree Equity Score:** 69, showing lower tree equity, suggesting targeted efforts to improve tree distribution are needed.
- **ROW Tree Count:** 9,510 trees, making up 14.38% of Eugene’s total ROW trees.
- **Number of Trees Needed to Reach 30% Canopy:** Bethel requires 114,424 additional trees to reach its 30% canopy coverage goal. Currently, the district has 2,508 known ROW planting sites available. To meet the remaining goal, an additional 111,916 trees must be planted in parks, other publicly owned land, or private property to bridge the gap. Estimated cost: \$71,515,000

- **Impervious Land:** 39%, indicating limited available planting spaces and a need for innovative planting strategies.
- **Available ROW Planting Sites:** 2,508 sites currently identified.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Bethel's industrial areas and high impervious land percentage present significant challenges.
- Urban forestry efforts to plant and establish over 900 trees in the past 4 years grew the urban tree canopy 1% from 8% in 2020 to 9% in 2022.
- Large acreage of wetlands, not suitable for tree planting.

Bethel District

Climate Resilience and Community Benefits:

In Bethel, a neighborhood that faces industrial challenges, street trees offer significant environmental benefits, removing nearly 200 tons of pollutants per year. These trees help buffer industrial noise and pollution while providing much-needed shade to counter the heat effects from large, paved areas. ROW trees also contribute to reducing energy consumption by cooling homes, making the district more livable and walkable for residents.

Bethel District Tree Benefits:

Metric	Value	Units
ROW Tree Count	9,510	Trees
Pollutants Removed	190.20	Tons/year
Carbon Sequestered	237.75	Tons/year
Pollution Removal Value	\$1,521.60	Dollars/year
Carbon Sequestration Value	\$17,831.25	Dollars/year
Total Monetary Value (Annual)	\$19,352.85	Dollars/year

Bethel District Tree Benefits

Strategic Focus for 2024-2040:

The goal is to raise Bethel's tree canopy to 15% by 2030, continuing a focused strategic planting in residential areas and along industrial corridors. By 2040 the goal is to raise the urban tree canopy to 30%. In addition, the strategy includes preserving land, engaging in partnerships with private landowners to expand tree canopy, and collaborating with BLM, EWEB, and Lane County to form a coalition for planting on private property.

Community Engagement:

Bethel's residents have a strong sense of local pride and are actively involved in advocating for community improvements, including urban forestry efforts. The program will continue to engage the community in tree planting initiatives.

Downtown Planning District Urban Forestry Profile

Downtown Eugene is the city's commercial and cultural hub. Despite its urban nature, the downtown area has seen significant growth in its tree canopy over recent years. The district has **10,309 ROW street trees** and an **urban canopy cover of 22%**, with ongoing efforts to enhance green spaces and mitigate the heat island effect through strategic urban forestry.

The Role of ROW Trees in Downtown:

ROW trees are critical in making downtown streets more pedestrian-friendly and environmentally sustainable. These street trees help mitigate the heat island effect, provide shade for pedestrians, and improve air quality in the urban core.

Downtown Canopy Increase: Downtown Eugene has experienced a 3% increase in urban tree canopy, growing from 19% to 22% over recent years. This growth is part of the city's focused effort to mitigate the urban heat island effect and enhance green spaces within the downtown area. The increase reflects ongoing urban forestry efforts to plant new trees, preserve existing mature trees, and integrate more green infrastructure into the urban landscape.

Downtown District – Key Data Insights

- Urban Tree Canopy Coverage: 22%, with a target of 30% by 2040.
- Tree Equity Score: 85, indicating strong tree equity and distribution in the district.
- ROW Tree Count: 10,309 trees, contributing 15.59% of Eugene's total ROW tree population.
- **Number of Trees Needed to Reach 30% Canopy:** Downtown needs 12,179 additional trees to reach its 30% canopy coverage goal. Currently, the district has 1,737 known ROW planting sites available. To meet the remaining goal, an additional 10,442 trees must be planted in parks, other publicly owned land, or private property to bridge the gap. Estimated cost: \$7,611,875
- Impervious Land: 58%, the highest in the city, underscoring the need for strategic tree planting in limited available spaces
- Available ROW Planting Sites: 1,737 sites currently identified.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Downtown faces the challenge of high impervious surfaces and limited planting spaces.
- Revitalization efforts have opened opportunities for integrating trees into streetscape designs, particularly through concrete cutting and depaving.

Climate Resilience and Community Benefits:

Downtown Eugene's growing urban tree canopy has made significant progress in mitigating the heat island effect. Over 200 tons of pollutants are removed annually by ROW trees, improving air quality and making the city center more pleasant for residents and visitors. The increased canopy cover also enhances the aesthetic value of streets, encouraging foot traffic, and creating more vibrant public spaces.

Downtown District Tree Benefits

Metric	Value	Units
ROW Tree Count	10,309	Trees
Pollutants Removed	206.18	Tons/year
Carbon Sequestered	257.73	Tons/year

Pollution Removal Value	\$1,649.44	Dollars/year
Carbon Sequestration Value	\$19,329.75	Dollars/year
Total Monetary Value (Annual)	\$20,979.19	Dollars/year

Strategic Focus for 2024-2040:

By 2040, the goal is to increase the downtown tree canopy to 30%. The focus will be on planting in high-pedestrian traffic areas and incorporating green infrastructure into new urban developments. Additionally, partnerships will be formed with local landowners, businesses, and agencies like BLM, EWEB, and Lane County to plant trees on private land and preserve downtown green spaces.

Community Engagement:

Business owners and residents are key partners in maintaining and expanding downtown's tree canopy. The Urban Forestry Program will continue to work with local businesses and community groups to plant and care for ROW trees.

Southwest Planning District Profile

Southwest Eugene is a diverse district with a mix of suburban neighborhoods and natural areas. This district boasts **7,219 ROW street trees** and an **urban canopy cover of 28%**, which is higher than many other parts of the city. Urban forestry efforts here focus on maintaining the established tree canopy while planting new trees in under-canopied areas.

The Role of ROW Trees in Southwest:

ROW street trees in Southwest Eugene provide essential environmental services, from reducing soil erosion in hilly areas to creating green corridors along suburban streets. The district's mature tree canopy is an important asset for environmental sustainability.

Southwest District – Key Data Insights

- Urban Tree Canopy Coverage: 28%, with a target of 30% by 2040.
- Tree Equity Score: 90, reflecting high tree equity, ensuring equitable tree distribution across socio-economic groups.
- ROW Tree Count: 7,219 trees, contributing 10.92% of Eugene's total ROW tree population.
- **Number of Trees Needed to Reach 30% Canopy:** Southwest needs 4,856 additional trees to reach its 30% canopy coverage goal. Currently, the district has 1,373 known ROW planting sites available. To meet the remaining goal, an additional 3,483 trees must be planted in parks, other publicly owned land, or private property to bridge the gap. Estimated cost: \$3,035,000
- Impervious Land: 29%, providing opportunities for further tree planting.
- Available ROW Planting Sites: 1,373 sites currently identified.

Climate Resilience and Community Benefits:

Southwest Eugene benefits from an established tree canopy that removes over 140 tons of pollutants annually. These trees cool residential streets, contributing to energy savings and a reduction in air conditioning costs. ROW trees also support wildlife habitats and create green corridors, enhancing the area's connection to Eugene's natural surroundings.

Southwest District Tree Benefits

Metric	Value	Units
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ROW Tree Count	7,219	Trees
Pollutants Removed	144.38	Tons/year
Carbon Sequestered	180.48	Tons/year
Pollution Removal Value	\$1,155.04	Dollars/year
Carbon Sequestration Value	\$13,535.85	Dollars/year
Total Monetary Value (Annual)	\$14,690.89	Dollars/year

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Southwest’s hilly terrain poses challenges for tree planting, but it also offers unique opportunities for expanding the canopy in under-canopied areas.
- Preservation of mature tree canopy and succession planting to ensure the high percentage of canopy coverage continues for future generations.

Strategic Focus for 2024-2040:

The goal is to increase canopy coverage to 30% by 2040, focusing on strategic planting in lower-canopy residential zones and partnering with residents on tree care and maintenance initiatives. The strategy includes preserving existing land for tree canopy expansion, engaging private landowners, and collaborating with BLM, EWEB, and Lane County to meet canopy goals through partnerships.

Community Engagement:

Southwest Eugene residents are already active in environmental planning, and the Urban Forestry Program will continue to engage them in tree planting and care efforts, particularly in areas where ROW trees are needed to stabilize soils and improve air quality.

Southeast Planning District Urban Forestry Profile

Southeast Eugene is known for its scenic beauty, higher elevations, and proximity to natural areas like Hendricks Park. This district boasts the highest tree canopy in the city, with **21,239 ROW street trees** and an **urban canopy cover of 50%**. Urban forestry efforts here focus on maintaining this high canopy cover while planting in new developments to preserve the district’s green character.

The Role of ROW Trees in Southeast:

ROW trees in Southeast Eugene help connect residential neighborhoods to the surrounding natural areas, providing shade, reducing wind exposure, and supporting local biodiversity. These trees play a key role in the district’s environmental resilience.

Southeast District – Key Data Insights

- Urban Tree Canopy Coverage: 50%, with a target of maintaining at least 50% canopy.
- Tree Equity Score: 94, representing excellent tree equity, with widespread access to green spaces for all residents.
- ROW Tree Count: 21,239 trees, making up 32.11% of Eugene’s total ROW tree population.
- Number of Trees Needed to Reach 30% Canopy: Southeast has already surpassed the 30% canopy goal, so no additional trees are needed at this time. However, there are still opportunities for strategic planting in ROW areas and in residential developments to maintain or expand this coverage.
- Impervious Land: 26%, offering room for additional plantings in residential and commercial zones.

- Available ROW Planting Sites: 3,016 sites currently identified.

Climate Resilience and Community Benefits:

Southeast Eugene's significant tree canopy removes over 400 tons of pollutants annually, contributing to one of the highest environmental quality levels in the city. ROW trees provide shade that cools streets and homes, reducing energy usage and supporting local biodiversity by maintaining habitat continuity with nearby natural areas like Hendricks Park.

Southeast District Tree Benefits

Metric	Value	Units
ROW Tree Count	21,239	Trees
Pollutants Removed	424.78	Tons/year
Carbon Sequestered	530.98	Tons/year
Pollution Removal Value	\$3,398.24	Dollars/year
Carbon Sequestration Value	\$39,823.35	Dollars/year
Total Monetary Value (Annual)	\$43,221.59	Dollars/year

Challenges and Opportunities:

- While Southeast Eugene has the highest tree canopy in the city, there are still opportunities to plant more trees in residential and commercial zones.
- Preservation of mature tree canopy and succession planting to ensure the high percentage of canopy coverage continues for future generations.

Strategic Focus for 2024-2040:

The goal is to maintain the district's tree canopy at 50%, focusing on filling planting gaps in newer developments and enhancing wind protection through strategic tree plantings.

The strategy also includes preserving existing natural forests, planting in residential developments, and forming partnerships with BLM, EWEB, and Lane County to plant trees on private land.

Community Engagement:

Southeast Eugene's residents are deeply committed to environmental preservation. The Urban Forestry Program will continue to work with local communities to protect existing trees and expand the urban canopy in key areas.

6.6. Citywide Compilation Profile

The Compilation Profile integrates data from all six districts, providing a comprehensive citywide analysis of Eugene's urban forest. This profile allows for a holistic understanding of city-level challenges and opportunities, informing broader urban forest management and policy decisions.

Citywide Tree Canopy Coverage

By compiling district data, the team can assess Eugene's overall canopy coverage and set citywide goals for growth and maintenance. This ensures alignment with both local and regional environmental sustainability initiatives.

Equity and Distribution

The citywide profile evaluates tree equity across neighborhoods, ensuring that tree planting efforts focus on underserved areas and communities most affected by environmental challenges, such as urban heat islands.

Citywide Challenges and Opportunities

Broader issues, such as citywide air pollution, development pressures, and equitable resource distribution, are addressed at the strategic level. The Compilation Profile highlights opportunities for cross-district collaborations and citywide environmental improvements.

Unified Action Plan

A city-level strategy, built on the individual district plans, integrates goals and actions to create a cohesive urban forestry approach. This unified action plan emphasizes sustainability, resilience, and community well-being, ensuring that all neighborhoods benefit from the Urban Forestry Program.

By combining distinct district profiles with a comprehensive citywide view, Eugene's Urban Forestry Program effectively manages its urban forest. The program's ability to tailor solutions for each district while maintaining a unified, strategic approach ensures that the city's urban forest thrives sustainably, equitably, and in alignment with community needs.

Section 7. Conclusion

7.1. Summary — Call to Action

As we embark on a long-term vision for Eugene's urban forest, it is crucial to prioritize the preservation and enhancement of our natural resources and ecological sustainability. This Urban Forestry Management Plan adopts a forward-looking approach by focusing on the next 100 years to ensure that our urban forest remains healthy, resilient, and biodiverse for generations to come.

Eugene has remained focused on creating a thriving, sustainable urban forest in Eugene that benefits both the environment and the community. As a testament to our commitment to understanding and managing our urban forest, we have:

- Conducted an exhaustive street tree inventory.
- Continuously updated and maintained a state-of-the-art urban forestry database.
- Leveraged geographic mapping software (ESRI) maintained by our Parks and Open Space GIS Team.
- Comprehensively assessed the health and condition of each tree.

Our dedicated UFT (Urban Forestry Team) understands the importance of staying connected with the community and interacting with the public to stay abreast of emerging trends in real time. This close relationship with our community is a source of pride and a key factor in our success.

As we move forward, we will focus on key areas to ensure the long-term health of our natural resources, making it one of the three core overarching elements in this Urban Forestry Management Plan. We plan to:

- Identify and preserve our most valuable natural areas, from old-growth forests to wetlands and river corridors, to protect biodiversity and the essential services these ecosystems provide.
- Utilize a comprehensive tree inventory and canopy assessment to guide planting efforts and ensure that every neighborhood in Eugene enjoys the benefits of a robust urban forest.
- Implement a robust tree planting and replacement program, prioritizing native and climate-adaptive species to build a resilient and sustainable canopy.
- Promote the use of green infrastructure, like bioswales, permeable pavements, and green roofs, to manage stormwater, improve water quality, and provide habitats for our urban wildlife.
- Continue to engage our people and community through education, outreach, and stewardship programs to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for our shared urban forest.

These goals are the bedrock of our vision. By making natural resources and ecological sustainability core priorities, we can create an urban forest that is resilient in the face of climate change and other threats. These goals will also help us enhance biodiversity and provide a wide range of environmental, social, and economic benefits for all who live in, work in, or visit Eugene. Hence, this

long-term vision demands our commitment to collaboration, innovation, and adaptive management as we work together to create a legacy of a healthy and vibrant urban forest.

We, the UFT, are rolling up our sleeves and building the urban forest that will define Eugene for generations to come. Together, we can preserve the trees that shade our streets, the interconnected system of green spaces that fill our parks, and the natural habitats that sustain our wildlife. This dream will continue to flourish, and we will continue to make Eugene—our beloved "Track Town"—an even more exceptional place to call home.

7.2. Recommendations

7.2.1. Long-Term Goals: Laying the Foundation for Eugene's Urban Forest

The recommendations presented in this section are more than just immediate actions—they are strategic investments in the future of Eugene's urban forest. By focusing on sustainable funding, proactive tree care, and community partnerships, the City is ensuring that today's efforts pave the way for tomorrow's success. These recommendations are designed to turn current strategies into lasting realities, creating a resilient and vibrant urban forest that will benefit the community for generations to come.

7.2.2. Key Recommendations:

- Secure adequate and sustainable City-generated funding to support an increased level of service for core urban forestry services and programs (explore options for a stand-alone UF fund/fee or a levy similar to the citywide Pavement Preservation Project model).
- Undertake a comprehensive review and update of tree-related City codes and policies to support better UF outcomes (updating language, fees, and general requirements to better address our community's current and future needs).
- Implement a proactive tree monitoring & maintenance program for Eugene's City-managed street and developed park trees (institute a sub-ten-year tree inspection & maintenance cycle). Consider expanding UF's area of responsibility to include developed parks.
- Bolster street tree and park tree planting programs and set annual targets in line with canopy cover goals. Develop and strengthen tree planting and young tree establishment programs for private property trees.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan/program to monitor and proactively address threats to the urban and community forest (such as wildfires, exotic pests and pathogens, severe weather, and climate change).
- Increase the preservation and protection of heritage-class trees and native forest fragments on both public and private lands.
- Work with Neighborhood Associations to secure funding to develop and implement neighborhood-level tree plans and monitoring/enhancement projects and to document/celebrate exceptional trees and tree stories.
- Secure outside grants and philanthropic funding to support additional urban forestry services, projects, and initiatives and programs beyond the core level of service (such as for ecological restoration, habitat enhancement, wildfire risk reduction, and local nursery capacity building).

- Ensure that fees, fines, and claims related to tree issues are allocated back to the Urban Forestry Program to support and invest in tree-planting initiatives.
- Develop an urban forest best management practices/policies & procedures manual for use by City staff, partners, and the broader community.
- Establish robust, long-term programs and partnerships that encourage participation and investment by volunteers and community members in UF activities.
- Continue building relationships and partnerships with businesses, professional groups, and contractors whose activities impact urban trees by instituting regular meetings and dialogue.
- Institute a formal outreach program to inform and educate residents about the urban forest issues (improve websites, develop school curricula, and media/social media offerings).
- Work to ensure the highest and best use of wood from trees removed by both the City and private contractors by establishing full life-cycle tree management policies; begin by securing a dedicated location for log/wood receiving and sorting (preferably with covered space).
- Expand and formalize City-staff working groups to better coordinate activities and projects that impact the urban and forest.
- Work to secure full-time GIS support staff dedicated to UF monitoring, assessment, reporting, and outreach.
- Review and revise the UF Vision and Action Plan every 5 years. Report annually on status/progress.
- Develop a preferred tree care contractor's list or licensure requirement to improve the overall quality of tree care in Eugene. These contractors would participate in City-sponsored training to ensure they understand and meet all City standards and specifications.
- Institute a standing UF&GI Committee for the Sustainability Commission.
- Pass a local ordinance that requires 30% UTC on all school properties (excluding playgrounds, ballfields, etc.)
- Strengthen tree protection measures to prevent unpermitted and untimely tree removal. Reevaluate City code and fine structures to ensure alignment with State policies and regulations, addressing concerns similar to those in #2 above.

This concludes the Urban Forestry Management Plan for Eugene, Oregon. The document provides a comprehensive framework for maintaining, expanding, and enhancing the city's urban forest, with a strong emphasis on community engagement, environmental justice, and long-term sustainability.

Appendix

References

Additional resources may be found on our website: www.eugene-or.gov/urbanforestry

Approved Street Tree List & Planting Guide: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/39567/Approved-Street-Tree-List-and-Planting-Guide?bidId=>

Pertinent City Code: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3677/City-Code-and-Regulations>

GIS Tree Inventory: <https://eugene-pwe.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8c2c6e0c1599456dabd1f18fbbf6676c>

Tree Plotter Canopy: <https://pg-cloud.com/EugeneOR/>

Tree Equity Score: <https://www.treeequityscore.org/map#11/44.0651/-123.1226>

Other Guiding City Policy Links:

Eugene's Climate Action Plan 2.0:

- Webpage: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4284/Eugenes-Climate-Action-Plan-20>
- Document: https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/55835/CAP-20_Summer_2020_FINAL-w-appendices-compressed

Previous UF Management Plan (1992)

Glossary

Adaptive Management: An intentional, iterative approach to making decisions and process adjustments in response to new information and changes in context. Often referred to as "learning while doing".

Biodiversity: The variety and abundance of living things, including plants, animals, and micro-organisms, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form.

Biochar: A type of charcoal used to improve soil health and increase carbon sequestration.

Caliper: The trunk diameter of young trees, usually measured at 6 inches above ground level.

Canopy Cover: The percentage of land area covered by tree canopy when viewed from above.

Carbon Sequestration: The process by which trees and other plants absorb carbon dioxide and store the gas as solid carbon in leaves, branches, and roots.

City Limits: The current defined boundary of incorporated areas where City fees are assessed, City services are provided, and City Code applies.

Climate Resilience: The capacity for a socio-ecological system to absorb stresses and maintain function in the face of external stresses imposed upon it by climate change.

Co-benefits: Positive secondary effects that result from climate mitigation and adaptation measures. The co-benefits of urban trees are numerous and include a wide variety of social, economic, and environmental contributions.

Critical Root Zone (CRZ): The circular area surrounding a tree that needs to be protected against root disturbance or soil compaction to promote a tree's continued normal growth, vitality, and structural stability; generally, the CRZ extends 1 to 1.5 feet on the ground for every inch of tree diameter depending on the condition and species of the tree and the context of the site.

Crown Cleaning: The selective removal of dead, dying, diseased, and broken branches from a tree's crown.

Depaving: The removal of unnecessary impervious surfaces (typically concrete or asphalt) to improve urban soils and ecosystems, water quality, air quality, and human wellbeing.

Developed Park: An area open to the public for active or passive outdoor recreation that contains structures, other improvements, or alterations of the landscape, including but not limited to picnic shelters, permanent restrooms, playground equipment, and sports fields. "Developed Park" is distinguished from "Natural Area" by the level and type of landscape alteration.

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH): The standard measurement in the US for the diameter of a tree's trunk (4.5 feet above mean ground level).

Ecosystem: All the living things (plants, animals and micro-organisms) in a given area, interacting with each other, and with their non-living environments (weather, earth, sun, soil, climate, atmosphere).

Ecosystem Disservices: The functions or properties of ecosystems that cause effects perceived as harmful, unpleasant, or unwanted. Because all urban trees have their own "pros and cons", it is important to consider the net benefits of a tree or group of trees when assessing its value.

Ecosystem Services: The many and varied benefits to humans provided by the natural environment and functioning ecosystems.

Ecosystem Services Approach (ESA): A unique approach to natural resource policy and management that assigns value to the many benefits that Nature provides in order to maximize the long-term wellbeing of humans while reversing the declining status of ecosystems. ESA prioritizes the logics of economic and social self-interest over any ethical imperatives for environmental stewardship.

Environmental Justice: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Extensively managed Trees: Those trees within a broader urban forest system that don't require individualized monitoring or care and that can be monitored and managed at the stand level because of their low target rating.

Fragmentation: A term that can apply to ecological or social systems. Ecologically, fragmentation refers to a process where large, contiguous habitats get divided into smaller, isolated patches of habitats. These isolated patches tend to have reduced biodiversity and resilience to disturbance. Social fragmentation refers to the absence, loss, or underdevelopment of connections between individuals and society. Urban trees can help improve ecological and social connectivity/cohesion.

Full Life Cycle Tree Management: An UF management approach which considers and strives to maximize the many benefits that trees provide not just when they are alive, but also when they are not living (as habitat, carbon storage, wood products, etc.).

Green Infrastructure (GI): A strategically planned and managed network of natural areas, open space, parks, working lands, greenways, waterways and various landscape features (including street trees and vegetated stormwater facilities) that provides vital ecosystem services to a community and addresses environmental, economic, and social concerns simultaneously.

Heritage Tree: Any tree of exceptional value to our community based on its size (relative to species), history, location, or species, or any combination of these criteria. The specific methodology for

classifying a tree as a heritage tree is established by administrative rule of the city manager adopted pursuant to section 2.019 of Eugene Code.

Impervious Surface: Any hard-surfaced, human-built area that does readily absorb or retain stormwater or allow for soil gas exchange. This includes buildings, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, roads, and paved recreational facilities.

Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR): A standard used to measure development intensity on a given site. The higher the ISR the greater the likelihood of hydrological and ecological impairments to the site. Tree canopy cover is one of the best ways to mitigate the negative impacts of impervious surfaces.

Inclusivity: The practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): An ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, and modification of cultural practices.

Intensively managed Trees: Those trees within a broader urban forest system that require individualized monitoring and care due to their prominence and/or target rating.

Invasive Species: Non-native organisms likely to spread, disrupting the natural balance of an ecosystem.

i-Tree: A state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban and rural forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools.

Limiting Factors for Tree Wellbeing: Minimum temperatures, climate, water availability, soil quality and quantity, space, quality of nursery stock.

Natural Area: Undeveloped park land that has been preserved or restored and that is managed for its natural features and passive recreation opportunities.

Open Space: Land that is undeveloped or lightly developed for uses other than agriculture.

Parcel/Taxlot: The smallest unit or plot of land having an identified owner, boundaries, and surface area which is documented for property tax purposes and given a tax lot number.

Park Strip (aka Planting Strip): A narrow strip of land between the street and sidewalks that is often used as a planting area for street trees and as a right-of-way for public utilities. In Eugene the vast majority of street tree grow in park strips. In order to avoid damage to sidewalks and root problems, street tree in Eugene are not permitted to be planted in planter strips less than 4 feet wide.

Place Attachment: A term used interchangeably with "sense of place"; personal identification with a location or landscape on an emotional level as an individual or as a member of a community; a person-place bond that evolves from specifiable conditions of place and characteristics of people.

Private Property: Parcels/taxlots owned by non-governmental entities.

Private Tree: Any tree that has more than half of its trunk diameter located on private property, including residential and commercial parcels.

Public Property: Parcels/taxlots or rights-of-way owned by governmental entities.

Public Right-of-way (PROW): Any street, highway, sidewalk, alley or utility corridor which is owned or controlled by a governmental entity. Rights-of-way can be developed or undeveloped.

Public Tree: Any tree with more than half of its trunk diameter situated on public property.

Resilience: The capacity of a complex system to respond to disturbance/disruption by resisting damage and/or recovering quickly.

Right Tree, Right Place (RTRP): A principle of urban forestry that emphasizes selecting and planting trees based on the specific conditions of a site to ensure optimal growth and minimize conflicts.

ROI (return on investment): A financial ratio used to calculate the benefit an investor will receive in relation to their investment cost (R/I). Because of their many co-benefits and ability to appreciate in value, trees are considered to have an excellent ROI relative to built infrastructure and other types of capital assets.

Significant Tree: In Eugene, a live tree having a minimum size of 8" at 4.5' above ground level.

Snag: A standing dead tree. Snags are often retained in urban landscapes to benefit numerous wildlife species and ecosystem processes.

Social-ecological System (SES): An ecological system intricately linked with and affected by one or more social systems.

Social Equity: An ideal state of affairs where all members of a community have equal status and can enjoy civil and property rights, freedom of speech, and equal access to goods and services.

Soil Cells: Engineered modular units that assemble to form a strong skeletal matrix capable of supporting urban pavement and traffic loads above ground while providing large volumes of uncompacted soil for tree root growth and stormwater infiltration below ground.

Soil Compaction: Compression of the soil which breaks down soil aggregates, increases bulk density, and reduces air space. A compacted soil has reduced rates of water infiltration and drainage. Soil compaction is one of the greatest threats to urban trees and can occur from heavy equipment or foot traffic.

Soil Decomposition: The process of loosening compacted soil to improve air and water penetration and root growth.

Soil Volume: One of the most important and limiting factors for long-lived, healthy urban trees. Adequate soil volume is essential for good tree root growth. In general, two cubic feet of soil are needed for every square foot of crown projection (the expected area under the dripline at maturity). Absolute minimum soil volumes for small, medium, and large urban trees are: 300 cubic feet, 600 cubic feet, and 1,000 cubic feet, respectively.

Solar Access: The ability of one property to receive sunlight across property lines without obstruction from another's property. Despite their many benefits trees can negatively impact solar access and result in unwanted and problematic shading. To prevent solar access problems, good site planning and design is critical. Additionally, good municipal policies/ordinances can help strike a reasonable balance between tree protection and solar access.

Stocking Level: The ratio of trees currently occupying a given area to the ideal number of trees possible in that area.

Stormwater Management: The practice of planning, designing and implementing strategies to control the flow and volume of runoff of storm, rainwater, or melted snow, preventing them from entering streets, lawns, rivers, lakes, and other important sites.

Street Tree: A living, standing tree with a trunk diameter of at least 1.5 inches at a point six inches above mean ground level at the base of the trunk, and that is located within the public right-of-way (ROW). In Eugene, street trees are owned and the responsibility of the City, whether or not they were planted by the City. Many trees growing on private property just beyond the public ROW function and provide the same benefits as street trees but are owned and the responsibility of the property owner.

Structural Pruning: A pruning technique used on young and medium-aged trees to promote a strong branch structure and reduce the potential for future failure.

Sustainability: The ability to maintain ecological, social, and economic benefits over time. Urban forest sustainability is the ability to maintain healthy and functional vegetation associated systems that provide long-term benefits desired by a community.

Target: People, property, or activities that could be injured, damaged, or disrupted by tree failure.

Tree: A self-supporting, perennial woody plant characterized by one main trunk, or in some cases, multiple trunks, and one main crown of leaves and branches, usually growing to a height of 15 feet or more.

Tree Canopy: Collective branches and foliage of a tree or group of trees' crowns. Aggregate or collective tree crowns.

Tree Crown: The leaves and branches of an individual tree measured from the lowest branches on the trunk to the top of the tree.

Tree Diversity: A range of tree species and ages which supports a healthy urban forest.

Tree Equity: A metric developed by American Forests that helps cities assess how well they are delivering equitable tree canopy cover to all residents. The score combines measures of tree canopy cover need and priority for trees in urban neighborhoods. It is derived from tree canopy cover, climate, demographic and socioeconomic data. It can be applied at the citywide level or at the Census Block Group level.

Tree Pit (aka Tree Well): A street tree planting site in urbanized areas where the tree is entirely surrounded by concrete or impervious surfaces. Often times steel grates are placed over the soil in these pits to provide additional walking surface for pedestrians and to prevent soil compaction.

Urban Forest: The complex system of trees and smaller plants, associated organisms, soil, water, air, and people in and around towns and cities.

Urban Forest System: A complex social-ecological system comprised of 3 main components: a natural resource component, a community component, and a management component.

Urban Growth Boundary (UGB): A municipal boundary set in an attempt to limit urban sprawl, to protect natural areas, farms, and working forest-lands. Canopy coverages varies, and to promote urban efficiency and resource conservation. Oregon was the first state to implement a statewide UGB requirement for in the early 1970s.

Urban Heat Island (UHI): Developed areas that are significantly warmer than nearby rural areas due to greater amount of built impervious surfaces that absorb and hold heat from the sun. Trees and other types of vegetation are known to be one of the best ways to help mitigate the UHI effect.

Urban Tree Canopy (UTC): The layer of tree leaves, branches, and stems that provide tree coverage of the ground when viewed from above. Typically, this only includes tree crowns that are 12' or taller.

Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Assessment: A study that uses aerial imagery and GIS technology to measure and map a city's tree canopy cover.

Riparian: The vegetated areas around roads, sidewalks, and impervious surfaces. The term comes from combining urban and riparian to form a single word. In less urbanized systems, the corridor around streams (the riparian zone) is extremely important for water quality. This area of vegetation captures and processes pollutants before they can make it into surface waters. In urban areas, riparian zones are often less effective at removing pollutants. By increasing tree canopy in the riparian zone, it is possible to gain some of the environmental benefits of riparian areas for urban systems.

Viewshed: A viewshed is the geographical area visible from a given location. It includes all surrounding points that are within line-of-sight and excludes points that are obstructed by terrain and other landscape features such as buildings or trees. The presence or absence of trees in cities can enhance or detract from urban viewsheds.

Vista: A view of a distant scene, especially one observed through a long, narrow passage or avenue, as between rows of trees or hills.

Whole Systems Thinking: An approach used for understanding how complex systems operate and how various elements/sub-components within these systems are related and influence one another. In Whole Systems Thinking there is a focus on cyclical - rather than linear – cause and effect.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

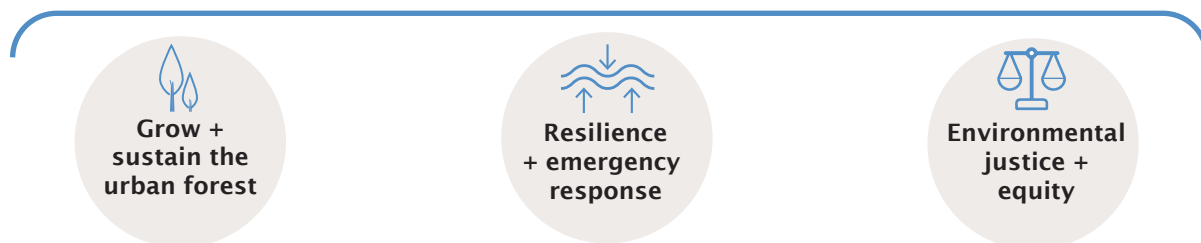
VISION IN ACTION 

LONG TERM GOALS

CRITICAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES



FUNDAMENTAL PILARS



IMPLEMENTATION

Urban Forestry
Planning District Profiles



Objective, Goal, Focus



Action & Recommendations



Funding Strategy



Summary of Stakeholder Input

Eugene Urban Forestry Vision and Action Plan

Compiled: October 4, 2021

Background

The City of Eugene is in the process of updating the three decade old Urban Forest Management Plan to be replaced with a new Urban Forest Vision and Action Plan (UFVAP) in 2022. The need for this plan update was identified as one of our team's top priorities in the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2.0 published in 2020. In order to gain a better understanding of plan priorities, a set of six high-level of questions were emailed to a group of Stakeholders representing key interest groups, organizations, and City staff with expertise or interactions with the urban forest. Submitted responses are listed below are verbatim (word for word) from what was submitted and are being used to shape the content of the UFVAP. A total of 32 responses were received. A summary of key findings is included below the verbatim responses.

Question 1: *From your perspective, who are the key "stakeholders and agents of change" in Eugene's urban forest? That is to say, who plays a significant role in our community's urban forest system (for better or for worse) and really needs to be considered/involved in this planning process?*

Summary of Input from Question #1

The following table is a compilation of recommended stakeholders from question #1 responses.

Key Stakeholders Identified	Notes
Citizens of Eugene	
• All current citizens of Eugene	All community members (renters/owners/students)
• Future citizens of Eugene	Youth and future residents
• Neighborhood associations	Represent residents (owners and renters)
• Homeowners and property owners	Maintaining trees and the urban forest
• Vulnerable population	Underserved residents (e.g., heat islands), Homeless
• Schools	Educational opportunities and younger citizens
• Chambers of commerce	Represent citizens and business
• Eugene Sustainability Commission	Implementing CAP 2.0/Advocate for budgeting
• BIPOC community	Environmental justice (support by NAACP, Latinx)
Urban Forest Related Business and Non-Profits	
• Friends of Trees	Establishment/installation
• Arborists and tree care community	Maintenance/pruning/removal
• Landscapers and pesticide applicators	Establishment/maintenance
• Processing businesses who receive biomass	Biomass management
• Landscape architects and designers	Design and establishment
• Civil engineers	Design
• Nurseries and suppliers	Supply and plant diversity
• Beyond toxics	Environmental justice and healthy environment
Governmental Organizations and Utilities (staff and policy makers)	

Key Stakeholders Identified	Notes
• City of Eugene (local government)	PWE, POS, P&D (standards, enforcement, maintenance)
• Lane County (urban interface areas)	LCPW Land Use, Engineering and Parks
• Utility providers (EWEB, EPUD, BLEC)	EWEB, EPUD, B-L Electric Coop
• University of Oregon	Campus forest and riverfront riparian
• Eugene-Springfield Fire	Wildfire hazard response and reduction
• Oregon Department of Forestry	Liaison to landowners in the wildland urban interface
Development Community (new development)	
• Individual developers	Guided by tree cutting ord. and planting requirements
• Large landowners	Managing urban forest (pre-development)
Nature and the Environment	
• Biotic plant and wildlife community	Habitat benefits and biodiversity
• The trees themselves	The greater urban forest and individual trees
• Water (shade/filtration provided by trees)	Supports both human health and aquatic species

All Responses to Question #1 (verbatim)

- Neighborhood associations, as they have the communication infrastructure to reach neighbors.
- Rental property owners.
- The main stakeholders are really the trees themselves and the lives they support. The homeowners/property owners who live with the trees on their property
- The arborists who work on the trees
- The processing businesses who receive the biomass from the tree work. The city, including both local government and its citizens
- Individual developers and property owners affect the urban forest in the way they develop their properties. The code that limits the maximum number of trees that can be cut in any one year is frequently abused by developers. The fine for violating the code is not sufficient to deter the over-cutting of trees which occurs prior to seeking a building permit.
- Eugene is rapidly expanding; more people are moving to the area without understanding the nuances of our urban forest; many trees are being removed in the South hills for 'more sun' and improved views, as well as a myth of increased fire safety. If the goal is to protect native species removal (e.g., 25+ year-old Douglas Firs that are doing the hard work of holding our hillsides together, reducing stormwater runoff, and processing carbon, creating a permitting process for tree removal on existing private residential property is essential.
- Vulnerable populations, future generations/stakeholders who will inherit tomorrow's urban forest, policy makers, PW folks, and very importantly, commercial sector folks. Be sure to consult with NAACP and LatinX community.
- Developers, builders, arborists, landscapers, landowners, residents, schools, businesses, and visitors are obvious human stakeholders and agents of change. Add to that the local, state, and even federal agencies and governing bodies. But how about the biotic community, the plant and animal communities that are being displaced by our activities. I believe we have a moral responsibility and clear human benefit to try to learn to cohabit in the human enclave known as the City of Eugene without wholesale destruction. How can the needs (voice) of the biotic community be not just noticed, but prioritized?
- All of those examples are vitally important and can be addressed. Ultimately the Eugene City Code is the fallback document for resolving disputes, but it is the values of the people involved that matter most. How

can this work help to resolve the conflict between restoring our canopy and creating higher-density build-out? I believe it is partly a culture war issue (although I am loath to use that term), people and planet just aren't valued as much as profit for too many people, and we need to address that first. I hope this UF Vision & Action Plan can avoid the pitfall of the 2014 City of Eugene Stormwater Manual. The stormwater document offers excellent information and clearly supports approaching stormwater management from more than the cheapest possible option, however, City Code allows the cheapest possible option, therefore... The City has a history of progressive language prefacing its code, however, the code itself too often undercuts the language it purports to support.

- City of Eugene primarily. Both your department and the building codes/code enforcement folks. EWEB is also another important player since their arborists seem to just hack trees without looking at the consequences (at least in my neighborhood.)
- Individual homeowners are not really stakeholders since there are too many to have a unified voice.
- The County is an important stakeholder because they coordinate with the city at the urban interface and provide recreational opportunities for Eugene people who do not have large parks in their neighborhoods.
- Developers and private property owners represent the single largest “agents of change” other than City staff. It’s a large and diverse group of interests and are likely to be impossible to fully engage but it’s important to try. Above them are the policy makers- largely City Council and execs who need to be involved to a level that they can be educated about the need to make some important changes to the codes that govern the urban forest. It might help to have equity, human rights, and sustainability leaders working on your behalf to help create space for any necessary changes to code. Finally, I think City Planning and Development staff need to be at the table so that the issues of housing affordability, densification of the City, and functions of the urban canopy can be discussed together.
- Friends of Trees, parks volunteer organizations, hiking groups like Obsidians, MWMC for shading projects, watershed councils like Long Tom, EWEB, native plant society and nursery at Mt Pisgah.
- Property owners
- Developers
- Land use planners/civil engineers/landscape architects/architects/arborists
- County appraiser
- Eugene planning commission and City Council
- Neighborhood groups
- The urban forest is so important for all, I have a hard time identifying who should NOT be engaged in this process. To narrow it down a touch, I would include the Neighborhood Associations, City Club, Chambers, the local ASLA Chapter (American Society of Landscape Architects), Arborists & other tree workers. Next level organizations that come to mind include OSU Master Gardeners, pesticide applicators, landscapers, and groups that engage in homeless site clean ups.
- City staff - planning and public works. Developers, architects and civil engineers.
- Those that live in the urban forests on the hills and those that need a better canopy in their neighborhoods.
- Homeless population, general public, planning commission, public works & utility companies, elected officials, landscape/maintenance companies, arborists, nurseries and parks and open spaces.
- Although folks building new subdivisions don't see themselves as having an impact on the urban forest, they are quite influential on the outcome of the success of the future forest in their subdivisions. The way they build their roads, the poor soil quality they leave in the planting strip, the choice of where to put street-lights, etc., are all factors of how well trees will survive and how many trees are able to be planted into a subdivision.

- There are a huge amount of new tree services that have popped up over the last few years. So many that I scratch my head as to how there is enough work to support them all.
- Unfortunately, there is a lot poor pruning. Not sure what to do about it, but this does have an impact on the community's trees.
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- Neighbors, as stewards (good or bad) of the trees in the planting strip, as well as on their property. Neighbors, as residents enjoying/benefitting from the urban forest. Professionals with knowledge of trees. City staff.
- The agent of change that comes to mind for me are those in the private development community who propose larger projects that result in the removal of street trees, or in the creation of new streets where the trees become a component of our urban forest. That said, I don't know that this group needs to be involved in the higher level planning. I think checking in with them if changes to permitting for street tree removal or planting changes, or in the event a mitigation bank was set up I think their input could be useful.
- Considering the urban forest as only within street right-of-way, then I would say: the UF team, arborist companies, landscape architect companies, the business community, neighborhood associations (especially those lacking in trees), private property owners, utilities, PDD, UO. I think these might truly be in a few groups, some more 'core' than others, but only have a vague understanding of the issues in the ROW.
- Appropriate boards and commission – these are folks who have great networks to leverage in reaching community members and can offer great insight into the systems. The Sustainability Commission in particular is invested in this work, and if there was a good process worked out between staff and commissioners has the potential to be a beneficial resource.
- Neighborhood associations and nonprofits representing under-resourced neighborhoods and communities (ABC in particular comes to mind, as well as NAACP/Beyond Toxics that works with folks in our industrial areas)
- Families, the unhoused, recreators, developers, data hubs like NatureQuant, iTree, etc.
- Other Divisions and Departments at the City from PDD, PWE, PWM and more City Council (as leaders in policy direction)
- Developers/planning consultants
- Business organization (Chamber): trying to attracting businesses to Eugene Watershed councils
- ASLA
- UO PPPM, other departments
- NAACP Environmental Justice and other similar groups Neighborhood associations?
- Friends of Trees
- Of course the community is the primary stakeholder in these discussions. However, to achieve maximum benefit, a diverse array of professionals should also be included to represent the best practices of implementation for the community's goals. Examples include: Architects, Urban Designers, Landscape Architects, and Wildlife & Forest Specialists.

- Home builders, developers, private engineering and LA community, UO, neighborhood associations, FOT, PW Engineering, Planning Dept., Planning Commission, local arborists (the good ones). I'm sure these are already on your list though.
- The development, construction and design community seem to have a big impact on both the expansion of the urban forest plus working in and round the existing forest systems. Both public and private. Including current planning, BPS Land Use and the PWE development review team would be beneficial so we can coordinate our standards. It would also be a good time to work with the group that is developing the new street design standards. That document determines the size of everything in the right of way.
- I think the major stakeholder group are private property owners, not only because it is their tax money we're using to provide services, but because the majority of the Urban Forest is on private property. Sadly this is a truly gargantuan group that's nearly impossible to entirely understand or address; much easier to address tree care companies, or PWE for example. But if we really want buy in and support for a revised Vision and Action Plan, then getting private property owners onboard is vital. Not easy, but vital.
- I believe that UF plays an important part during the planning review period for capital projects, your team advocates for the trees and make suggestions on how to better preserve them in the urban land. I also think that POS, Engineering, and Planning are obvious stakeholders and should be in the know early on for all projects.
- PDD and PWE for development review and design standards that potentially limit the available area for tree planting (narrow or no planter strips, frequency of driveways, increased use of stormwater planter where trees are not allowed, etc.).
- Community members
 - Property owners who may have control over canopy on their property
 - Renters who either benefit from or are hurt by the lack of canopy
- Environmental Advocates
 - Environmental Justice Communities
 - Traditional Environmental Advocates
- Staff – esp. Urban Forestry staff of course

Question 2: *In your opinion, what are some of the most important general issues that should be addressed in our UF Vision & Action Plan? Examples might include: identifying threats to/opportunities for improving our urban forest, clarifying UF program goals and strategies, clarifying community stakeholder roles and responsibilities, establishing clear metrics for monitoring progress, quantifying the benefits and ROI of trees in Eugene, suggesting updates to Eugene City Code, etc.*

Summary of Input from Question #2

The following table includes a summary of input and key points from question #2 responses.

Issued that should be Addressed	Notes
Items Proposed by UF Staff in the Question	
Note: <i>Many respondents stated that they supported all five of the topics listed below</i>	
• Clarifying the UF Program goals and strategies	
• Clarifying community stakeholder roles and responsibilities	
• Establishing clear metrics for monitoring progress	Critically important for gauging success or need.

Issued that should be Addressed	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantifying the benefits of and return on investment (ROI) of trees 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggesting updates to Eugene City Code, etc. 	Strengthen tree protection ordinance. Addressing tree loss from infill development. Provide incentives for developers who provide larger than required planting areas.
Additional Issues Suggested by Respondents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent education and outreach 	Wildfire prevention (when to remove and when to keep). Easy to find planting and care instruction; Recommendations by soil type. Education about value of trees for combatting climate change. Make connection between climate action goals (CAP 2.0) and tree planting to elected officials and the public. Explain basic ecology of the WV and why trees are not necessarily desired in some areas (prairie and savanna)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding ways to make infrastructure work with trees 	Alternative approaches to removal (e.g., Santa Cruz use of pavers in root zones instead of concrete). Undersized planting strips (modify standards). Making bioswales and stormwater retrofit projects more tree friendly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserving significant trees 	Protecting trees from infill through land use code. Portland example of requiring carbon offset for removed trees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood salvage 	Reuse of logs from tree work (milling). Notify mills of significant tree removal in advance to allow for pickup. Recycle chipped wood (fuel, clean chips, or compost).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase tree planting on private property 	Financially support tree planting on private land (not just right-of-way); Provide free nursery stock; Consider creation of a tree mitigation bank to fund plantings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees on pedestrian corridors 	Focus planting of large canopy shade trees along common pedestrian routes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for climate change 	Quantify value of shade. Plant heat islands. Periodically update permitted street trees list toward species suited for changes in climate (e.g., drought or heat tolerant). Consider a carbon balance requirement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfire prevention 	Manage large natural area parks to serve as buffers to wildfire.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set neighborhood-specific goals 	Goal setting (e.g., two large canopy tree species per block). Creating great streets.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure adequate funding for maintenance, planting, and monitoring 	Tree mitigation bank to fund replanting. Monitoring for tree disease (early detection, rapid response approach).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a tree mitigation bank 	Financially supports adequate re-planting and discourages unnecessary cutting.

All Responses to Question #2 (verbatim)

- Metrics, consistent education and outreach, stronger tree protection in city code - we need to find ways to make infrastructure work with trees instead of removal. For example, alternatives to concrete. In Santa

Cruz, California they use pavers to gradually slope sidewalks over significant tree roots. Protecting significant trees from infill development.

- We should work hard to ensure that there is a system in place to process the logs that come from tree work. While not all wood from tree work is suitable for milling purposes, there could be some standard guidelines in place to ensure that valuable trees are given consideration for wood salvage. Examples of these guidelines might be:
 - Notifications are sent out when a tree removal is scheduled to allow for planning for pickup or receiving of logs to be processed.
 - Trees over 12" in diameter are to be considered for ethical wood salvage. Smaller diameter trees go through the existing recycling process
- General issue being lack of discretion in the removal of trees. Not using common sense judgement on what is best for the immediate environment of the area.
- Given the concern with wildfire and how defensible space is interpreted by many residents it would be helpful for the Urban Forestry Team to undertake an educational campaign to help residents better understand the role that trees can play in protecting their property from wildfire.
- To best protect the urban forest, permit requirements in addition to education are necessary for tree removal from individual existing private property owners. Portland does this by restricting the removal of trees 12" or greater in diameter on private residential property and requires planting carbon-offset for tree removal; Eugene requires no permit and individuals may remove up to five trees in a 12 month period. This adjustment to the permitting process/City Code is in direct support of the Climate Action Plan 2.0.
- All the above listed items. Be sure to address the full range of threats and opportunities for building resilience (social, environmental, and economic).
- Undersized planting strips.
- Failing to build in-fill and retain space for mature tree canopy. Developers don't even bother with tree preservation, we lost that battle. Let's require setbacks/set-asides (planting/maintenance) for future large canopy trees in both residential and business areas.
- Making unfortunate soil decisions. Paving, stormwater, hydrology, topsoil health and volume decisions will ultimately determine our canopy.
- Let's add City-supported tree planting on private property, not just City ROW, to help recover snow and ice storm losses. Perhaps the City provides the nursery stock, homeowners plant or contract to plant.
- Not enough median strips planted with trees.
- We're not creating enough new 'forest parks' in the City (mostly 'meadow parks'). Then we can start to connect forested corridors snaking through private property to City parks.
- Let's turn some streets into pedestrian blocks, with large canopy trees as part of the design.
- Let's start to think of our City as a forest waiting to happen.
- Climate change is your biggest challenge in my world view:
 - Include the value of shade when analyzing value
 - Look for inequities of shade and focus energy there (think Bethel needs trees, Jefferson Westside is good.)
 - Come up with a public facing document and work with local nurseries to recommend climate change tolerant trees that are UF endorsed for homeowners and lead by example in planting these trees in parks.
 - Come up with signage that explains how the changing climate impacts trees and put those in high visibility areas around the community (such as parks/trails/etc)
- Seems like you have the key ones there.

- Climate change/drought impacts on existing tree health and selection into future; age/appropriate species of current canopy (right tree/right place) tends towards more loss/ removals.
- Good list of general issues above. You might add - ways to manage forested areas to help minimize fire risk; how to balance tree preservation goals with renewable energy objectives – e.g., solar protection; viable ways to include more trees with fruit and nuts addressing edible landscaping goals.
- All of the things that you list here are important, absolutely. Some changes to City Code could include requiring at least 2 big trees per block, no pesticide or chemical fertilizer use in the City right of way (where the urban trees are planted) to limit transfer of these substances to the stormwater system. Another City Code that needs to change is encouraging smart new development design to keep the healthy trees on a lot, or at a minimum, the larger healthy trees. I see way too many developments that cut down trees to put in a grid of housing which is just lazy and serves no one but the developer. Remove any wording that relates to 'as feasible'; if it's a no, it's a no and costs do not get to be a factor in whether or not a tree comes down.
- Are there areas in Eugene that should have higher priority for street trees / plantings? Great streets? Busy / big streets like Franklin.
- Fire, species selection, shade for all for the neighborhoods.
- Continued integration of the urban forestry program into all aspects of community planning and development: long term planning (including code amendments and additions) to maximize ecosystem services and community benefits of urban forests through the prioritization and maintenance of resilient urban forests. Continue to adaptively manage forests to increase the economic ROI of the Program. Ensure UF allocates time and resources to conduct effectiveness monitoring.
- I think there should be a minimum of an 8' planting strip in all new subdivisions. The amount of plantable spaces in new subdivisions could be increased if we planned ahead for maximum canopy coverage. For instance why are streetlights ever planted in the middle of a 40' planting strip instead on one end or the other? bio-swales sometimes take up an entire block and no trees are planted. Soil isn't even a consideration when building planting strips, sometimes they are filled 100% with gravel
- I think there should be a minimum of an 8' planting strip in all new subdivisions. The amount of plantable spaces in new subdivisions could be increased if we planned ahead for maximum canopy coverage. For instance why are streetlights ever planted in the middle of a 40' planting strip instead on one end or the other? bio-swales sometimes take up an entire block and no trees are planted. Soil isn't even a consideration when building planting strips, sometimes they are filled 100% with gravel.
- All of the above plus a vision of our idealized future in different settings (streetscape, parks, open space, private property, etc) so we will know what success looks like.
- I think that future changes in our community and increasing demands from development will result in scenarios where trees on private property are removed. I think that having a robust urban forest management plan will serve a critical role in maintain relaxing natural spaces for our community, and the other functions that trees serve. See comments below about a mitigation bank.
- I will also note that I think the separation between publicly managed forest and trees on private property is an important one and I am hoping that this process would only connect the two as far as a mitigation bank might be useful. It would be great for the plan to have a clarifying statement that confirms that it is not intended to regulate trees on private property, or be used in making decisions on land use applications. The most recent Transportation System Plan has texts that clarifies this point and has been useful in a number of application's where folks wanted to use any and all City documents to defend, or oppose an application. I would be happy to clarify this comment more, or point that text out.
- Highest priorities: clearly outlining goals and strategies for the City's urban forest, describing opportunities, issues, and barriers, and supplying sufficient background to frame all. What are you trying to achieve, and

why? Base this on science and equity, and identify externalities that could affect our urban forest - climate change (generally - drought, insects/pathogens, storm events specifically), code, policies that prevent tree planting, etc. Program direction, gaps, policy or code revisions, priorities, etc. will become clear from that foundational work.

- Strategic planning: goals, metrics
- Role of UF with climate action planning, achieving carbon savings and investments for the City
- Code updates to prevent unnecessary tree loss
- Increase capacity to address disease outbreaks, tree maintenance, etc.
- Identifying key stakeholder roles and responsibilities
- Including private property considerations
- Equity in canopy cover
- Connections between canopy cover and resiliency
- UF Communications: how to tell the Urban Forestry story – how do we improve our relationship with trees as a community?
- The examples you list look great! I would include all of those. I would include with the quantification of benefits a clear description of the “why”. How does the private urban forest play into this, any incentives or education opportunities with UF or partners? Also, thinking about the connection to natural areas, parks, and neighboring communities (Springfield, Lane County)
- Monitoring progress. That’s the only way to know if you’re meeting your goals.
- We’ve talked about it many times but the conflict between street trees and stormwater facilities in the ROW. We need to get the message out to stormwater management and policy teams and make updates to city code and Stormwater / PIDS manuals that either allow trees in facilities or create incentives for developers to create more regional type facilities. We also need to push for the use of tree wells to treat stormwater. The City has been reluctant to use proprietary design solutions like this but I’m sure there are examples from other jurisdictions that show they work.
- My suggestion for the biggest general issue is the conflict between the street tree program and the multitude of other standards and policies that we have. The current street tree program seems to be in conflict with where the city is heading in general. We are moving towards more dense development, denser streetscapes, green infrastructure and narrow rights of way. Private side lot development is getting denser and taller. That seems to limit the locations for trees and the palette of trees that could potentially be used.
- One somewhat narrow question I’d like to see addressed in the new plan is an evaluation of the “carbon balance” of a typical City-maintained street tree. For example, do our current practices of leaf pickup and delivery (and the ocean of fuel burned in doing so) totally negate any carbon benefits of an individual tree? Perhaps this is mostly curiosity, and perhaps we shouldn’t characterize the “main benefit” of a mature street tree as carbon-centric – but if we find that a typically maintained street tree actually produces more carbon (via our maintenance practices) than it stores, then would should not publicly claim otherwise. Certainly a much different carbon equation for natural area (i.e. “unmaintained”) trees.
- In terms of code: create incentives or other means to compel developers to create large plantable spaces with good soil. We’ve made efforts at this (Eric Wold) in the past - but it’d be great to complete this work somehow.
- In my opinion, clarifying community stakeholder roles, involvement, and responsibilities would be helpful as well as providing clear metrics for monitoring progress of urban canopy, specifically how often are we measuring our canopy?
- Perhaps more discussion with PDD and PWE for the issues in #1 about reduced areas for planting.
- Establishing a clear link to the CAP2.0

Question 3: *What are some of the current urban forestry “pain points”/opportunities for improvement that you feel need to be addressed? Can you think of any important urban forest system needs that are currently not being met here in Eugene?*

Summary of Input from Question #3

The following table includes a summary of input and key points from question #3 responses.

Opportunity for Improvement	Notes
• Preservation of trees on private property	Funding to support management and planting,
• Better ensure large tree removal is for valid reason and unavoidable	Work with utilities to limit tree loss; Heritage tree preservation,
• Reducing wildfire risk	Clean up downed and dead-standing trees in south hills; Adequate thinning and brush removal in large natural area parks; Reduce unauthorized camping; Monitor to determine positive trends in threat reduction.
• Better nursery stock needed	Currently a lack of affordable and/or large trees.
• More planting in low income neighborhoods	Not enough tree planning on private lands or public right of way in some neighborhoods.
• More street tree integration into stormwater facilities	Improve design standards and provide technical assistance.
• Better control homeless camping in urban forests	Negatively impacting trees and water quality; Increase wildfire threat.
• Continue to support pruning program	Street tree pruning has improved and should continue.
• Complaint driven street tree maintenance is inadequate	Increase proactive City monitoring of street tree health and related issues (e.g., stump grinding, sidewalk care).
• Improved coordination between urban forestry and natural area park management	Currently structurally separated work groups.
• Make urban forest GIS app and other tools widely available across City divisions	Training for City staff on available tools.
• Evaluate and rectify areas where City standards are in conflict	Coordination with stormwater standards and planting strip standards.
• Mechanism for protecting topsoil during development process	Poor planning conditions often a problem in new development.
• Concerns with “Street Tree Agreements”	Performance bonds, timing of the agreement and new planting.
• Compatibility with green infrastructure	Lack of trees in stormwater features (swales and retrofits).
• Address street tree/sidewalk issues	Broader planting strips; Right tree – right place; Innovative sidewalk approaches.
• Ensuring street tree planting is compatible with other urban infrastructure	Clear vision sightlines, safe illumination, sign placements, and sidewalk preservation.
• Greenhouse gas mitigation	Clarify importance and limitations of GHG mitigation and better quantify offset levels.
• Addressing the tension between compact urban development/infill and trees	Evaluate likely impacts and limitations; Propose solutions to maintain canopy even in light of density.

All Responses to Question #3 (verbatim)

- Preservation of trees on private property, a mechanism where people can get tree work done via grants or on no-interest payments. Tighten-up the rules on EWEB tree removal, I think this gets abused by some property owners.
- From our 15+ years in the local tree scene, we have noticed how long it takes for trees to grow and then how easy it is for them to be removed. Often times, it can appear that the removals are with questionable motives. It would be ideal to see a slightly more in-depth process on determining which trees need to be removed and why. Establishing
- Much of the public lands along Eugene's south UGB are overgrown with invasive plants and downed trees from the ice storm in 2018. The potential for fire in these areas is significant and nearby neighbors are concerned that the city is not taking this issue seriously enough. The Urban Forestry Team could advocate with the Council for more funding to systematically thin those public lands in need of it. In addition, care and maintenance of undeveloped private tax lots needs to be considered to help mitigate wildfire safety. Neighbors need a city representative contact that is specifically designated to address wildfire related landscape issues.
- Current barriers to UF wellbeing/progress include difficulty and high cost of tree procurement and establishment (availability of quality nursery stock and poor conditions for tree planting). Competition for space in ROW and "Green Infrastructure" which is actually "Not So Green Infrastructure". Better plan for addressing wildfire concerns proactively and regionally (not just locally).
- Yes! The fact that we are now tracking canopy cover metrics is a great start. The UF direction you have established is clearly on track. Providing the right growing conditions for those goals throughout the rest of the City is a challenging, but inspiring project. You have my full support. I hold that Eugene is attractive, because of its trees. It's one of the first things people think of when they think of Eugene.
- There are neighborhood inequities. Focus on neighborhoods that are struggling to invest in UF—low income and communities of color.
- Much like other community goals that start in the code and planning realms, there is often a lack of resources for caring for the public infrastructure we build. There needs to be a better funding mechanism for caring for the urban forest in the ROW. It's also important to recognize that we have several thousand acres of urban forest in our parks that is also underfunded. As climate changes begins to change our local forest canopy, we're going to need funding and a plan to work on species conversion and to deal with the overwhelming number of dead and dying trees we'll see in our system. The other thing I think is also important to talk about with tree folks when we talk about trees is that tree's aren't wanted or needed everywhere. We have amazing prairie habitats in our region which are important ecologically. We also love viewsheds and vistas, and many of us need access to sun in the winter to chase away dark thoughts when daylight is scarce. Finally, trees compete with other needs in the ROW so we need to have important conversations about all of the needs and the tradeoffs or compromises needed to meet multiple objectives. Being planful about where we want trees and where we don't is important and it's always to include this in the conversation when we have tree-centric conversations.
- Lack of street trees in certain neighborhoods (west eugene industrial areas), realistic goals for coverage goals/planting needs given labor and maintenance & competition for space in the ROW.
- Requiring a survey of existing trees, even on a small site, discourages preservation. The cost of the survey would be better used towards planting new trees after construction or to protect those intended for long-term preservation. A general assessment of the health, type, and location of trees would better serve the

goal of identifying significant trees worthy of preservation without the substantial delay and costs associated with detailed official surveys.

- Stormwater facilities often require substantial area and are frequently overlooked as suitable locations for trees.
- Impacts of Climate Change are not being properly addressed (I am hearing more and more that we will be like Hawaii, not Sacramento as was previously thought). I find it maddening that trees that thrive in Mexico and points further south are being prioritized over native trees that are JUST south of us, or we are on the northern border of which would have us selecting for trees that will still support native wildlife including pollinators. I would love to see more soil improvements before planting and maintaining soil health (add biochar to every new planting)/carbon capture opportunities over the long run, continuous additions of wood chips at their base, not just over the first few years. Along this same thought is to encourage people to select something other than grass for the planting spaces that are not treed. I also see people cutting down big trees on their properties over fear of a branch falling, so educating the populace about the enormous benefits of trees, especially evergreen and big shade trees. People seem to be super hip on creating food forests, but there are known issues with this from disease and pest control to fruit drop and the wasps that love rotting fruits, so if this is a pressure that the City bends to, I would require adoption of each of these food sources by Gleaners, Master Gardeners, or similar (maybe the City develops their own volunteer community, or supports these nonprofits as they do Friends of Trees) so those groups can coordinate with landowners to help them with care and collection of the foods to distribute. Also, please stop planting London Plane Trees as they really do not thrive in our (typically) wet spring, develop anthracnose and then spread that disease to other plants in the vicinity. I would take a hard look at other trees that we know get diseases in our still wet climate.
- Often, the existing ROW (right-of-way) is barely big enough to allow for street trees. The developer is trying to maximize their footprint / profit and has little or no incentive to pull back the front of the building to allow for trees and plantings. Can requirements or incentives evolve to allow for a wider ROW for street trees?
- Lots of standing dead trees around the edges of openspace and private land.
- Community forest ecosystems in Eugene need more active management: overall forest health in heavily trafficked areas (Willamette river corridor for example) are generally not a good example of functioning systems. In light of climate change and wildfire risk, high densities of stems and vegetation are increasing latent risk/costs of community forests.
- Community forests are generally impacted by waste via homelessness. In my mind, this sometimes unsanitary picture is a dangerous association for folks to connect to urban forests and public spaces: Can we integrate our approach to homelessness with our approach to forest management - from wildfire to aesthetic appeal?
- One issue urban forestry has that could be improved upon is the sidewalk conflict issue. Home owners adjacent to trees pushing up the sidewalks are responsible to fix the sidewalk. I understand the City does not have the budget to take on the burden of the sidewalk replacement along with the expense of removing the tree/s and grinding the stumps. Folks feel that they didn't plant the tree, so why is it their problem. I think this has created some animosity towards the City and also makes folks hesitant to plant new trees even when they move away from the original problem tree.
- There have been a lot of things changed / improved with Urban Forestry in the last decade. Urban Forestry has a team of folks who care and are willing to put in the effort to make changes. Trees are getting pruned that have never been pruned before. The pruning cycle is on tract to be predictable. Soon (it appears) tree planting will become a bigger part of the program. Urban Forestry a decade ago was tough to work with, it was tough to get decisions when trying to deal with problem trees. There has been a complete 180. I feel

that now if problem trees are brought to Urban Forestry a citizen can expect to get answers / decisions in a timely manner.

- One issue urban forestry has that could be improved upon is the sidewalk conflict issue. Urban Forestry recognizes that things are changing. Our climate isn't the same as it was just 20 years ago. I applaud the City for being willing to try new varieties of trees, asking for thoughts / advice.
- One issue urban forestry has that could be improved upon is the sidewalk conflict issue. Home owners adjacent to trees pushing up the sidewalks are responsible to fix the sidewalk. I understand the City does not have the budget to take on the burden of the sidewalk replacement along with the expense of removing the tree/s and grinding the stumps. Folks feel that they didn't plant the tree, so why is it their problem. I think this has created some animosity towards the City and also makes folks hesitant to plant new trees even when they move away from the original problem tree.
- Complaint-driven street tree maintenance/development. E.g. stumps in planting strips for years, when a tree could have been growing all this time. Not all neighbors care (or know) about their contribution/responsibility to the urban forest. More active management on the part of the city and nonprofits would be something to consider.
- My work intersects with UF when developments create streets, or remove street trees. My perception is that this is generally working well, and my only comment is about the potential for a mitigation bank which I discuss more below.
- UF interacts with my work through wooded/forested natural areas (Ridgeline for me, also along riparian areas and forested wetlands for remainder of the Ecological Services Team). I would not call it a pain point (!) but I think that as a City we should think more holistically about our forested areas and tree cover. Within POS, we are structurally separated by work group, but out in our landscape there is certainly overlap - and this also holds true for trees on private property. How do these programs coordinate with one another? How should they?
- I should start with the fact that I'm not very familiar with the UF system needs or processes that are already at play (I'm hoping to learn more over time). However, our work intersects quite a bit between UF and climate recovery (as well as the NHMP). Trees and vegetation play a significant role in helping to reduce air pollution, carbon dioxide and erosion prevention. Our program area looks not only at climate action planning mitigation, but also resiliency measures. Urban Forestry plays a huge role in this area, most especially for areas that have been historically under-resourced. Greenery and lushness also provide quality of life that aids in the mental and physical wellbeing of community members (or conversely when there is a lack of such vegetation). While Eugene is known for its greenery and care for the environment, our lush forestry is not evenly distributed among all parts of the city. Some of this is due to natural differences in geography. However, much could be done in the way of investments for certain areas, like Bethel, where tree canopy is significantly lacking. I also wonder how UF can play a part in meeting the needs of the unhoused community in the way of edible forests. As well, with NHMP in mind, trees and vegetation can help prevent erosion. Outside of resiliency, trees also help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon (though this may not be effective with our local trees) both through the trees and within the soil. I think it would be awesome to nurture a program that invests in carbon offsets related to forestry to help fund this work (which I think is in the works?).
- I would love it if we looked at the City Code for issues like we just had with the tree on Wood Duck Way and the exemption for occupied small lots. I feel like we need some in-reach to other POS and City teams around the value of trees and how to approach work more holistically and with the long view in mind. I'd love to understand the capacity for incentives to encourage builders to keep existing trees rather than cut and start over. The value of big trees is immense in terms of quality of life, ecosystem benefits, and wildlife benefits. Maybe there is some "marketing" potential to tying the tradition UF/street trees to park and NA trees and forests through the concept of "every doorstep is a trail head".

- Yes. While I am a fan of stormwater features and the role they play in humanity's effect on the ecosystem, more consideration should be given to trees for their role in stormwater management. Often, the best solution will likely be tree canopy and not in-ground built features.
- Probably answered most of this above but I also think we have an opportunity to work closer with PWE, especially with Jenny, to emphasize the importance of trees in the ROW and get them to include more capital funds in public projects for tree planting. A recent example is the N Terry Street paving project. I had asked Rachel Love if we could include improvements to the medians on Terry which have at least 10 trees that have been cut down over the years. Unfortunately the project is now over budget so nothing will be done unless we fund the work. If tree replacement was part of the original project scope and made a priority things may have turned out differently.
- I don't know if the UF GIS app is available to the folks in Engineering who are planning capital projects but if not, it should be.
- Development review staff is mainly concerned with the spots where standards are in conflict. We trust the UF team is doing the right thing and try to get them involved in the process. This might be the right time to take a deeper dive into how the rights of way are developed and how street trees need more consideration earlier in the process.
- Here are a few concerns that we have noted over the years. These come from contractors, designers, and developers:
 - Heritage trees
 - Concerns about development and available space in the right of way along with how that space is apportioned for everything
 - Protecting the topsoil throughout the development process. The full development process goes beyond the PEPI process.
 - General concerns with street tree removal the process/fees/notice/appeals that are required
 - The determination of when a street tree agreement is required. Eg. creating of a right of way or development of the street and/or sidewalk frontage.
 - Cost of the trees that come along with street tree agreements
 - Concerns with street tree agreements and performance bonds
 - Timing of the agreement and new planting. E.g should an agreement (along with bond or fee) be required at the time of subdivision or should the requirement kick in at the building permit stage and be the responsibility of the builder or property owner. Similar to now sidewalk infill works.
 - Ability to use surplus fees elsewhere in the City
 - Utility conflicts and spacing standards
 - Compatibility with green infrastructure
 - The desire to create landscaped and tree medians
 - Sizes of planter strips and medians
 - Green strips vs paved area with tree wells
 - The sidewalk conflict and long term maintenance issues with tree grates
 - Developing a uniform standard for rooting zones
 - Concerns about the abutting property owners responsibility to fill and maintain the area between the property line and the curb or edge of pavement
 - Utilizing the erosion program for tree protection
- Of the two major elements of the publicly owned urban forest (street trees and natural area/park trees), I'd say a major street tree issue is concrete impacts. Broken sidewalks not only break the hearts of the adjacent property owner – but the carbon involved in creating the concrete to replace the broken sidewalk panel very likely exceeds the carbon sequestered by the tree over many years. So for street trees, continuing to prioritize "right tree/right place", ample growing spaces and innovative concrete sidewalk

solutions will help. For natural area/park trees, significant die off of large Douglas-firs is a worrisome symptom of climate change. Additionally the role played by this part of the urban forest (natural areas) in wildfire risk has truly entered into the public consciousness since the 2020 wildfire season. We are making efforts at reducing fire risk as you know – but it’s hard to know if our level of input/effort is sufficient to the task. Seeing what happened in Paradise California and the McKenzie Valley is truly humbling – and has tempered my faith that we’re doing enough.

- We seem to cut down trees for the sake of renovating infrastructure, I think there are ways to mitigate but seems to be push back. Why isn’t the city held responsible for paying to remove trees when we hold private development responsible for doing the same? We are losing canopy, valuable and mature canopy, faster than we are re-planting.
- Tree planting and canopy compete with clear vision sightlines, safe illumination of the roadway and intersections, placement and visibility of required signs.
- Getting clear on the ghg mitigation impact of the urban canopy (It’s a small part of an urban ghg mitigation strategy, but it doesn’t come close to getting us to our carbon reduction goals alone.)
- Getting clear on the importance of trees for climate resiliency (extremely important for things like mitigating urban heat island effect and mental health/calming for example.
- Addressing tensions between compact urban development and trees.

Question 4: *In terms of our local approach to urban forestry, are there certain things that you would say Eugene is doing well and that we need to continue/build upon?*

Summary of Input from Question #4

The following table includes a summary of input and key points from question #4 responses.

Eugene UF is Doing Well:	Eugene UF Needs Improvement:
1. Street tree trimming and care	1. Securing adequate and stable funding to support our community’s urban forest vision
2. Planting new trees	2. Pruning cycle could be tightened up (needs funding)
3. Laying groundwork for a great urban forestry program	3. Fuels reduction in large natural areas and on private properties
4. Cross agency coordination (partnerships)	4. Required public process for removal of large trees could be expanded
5. Good at working with the development community	5. Combining stormwater requirements and street trees
6. Well trained and dedicated urban forestry staff	6. City involvement in promoting tree planting outside of parks and right of way
7. Strong partnership with Friends of Trees	7. Incentives or assistance for private landowners to plant trees
8. Annual leaf pick-up program	8. Lack of overall tree cover in specific neighborhoods
9. Allowing a developer have an option of contracting with City to install and maintain trees	9. Currently no tree mitigation bank (important as infill expands and tree loss increases – provides

Eugene UF is Doing Well:	Eugene UF Needs Improvement:
<p>10. Long-term care of large trees</p> <p>11. City often retains portions of dying large trees for habitat (snags)</p> <p>12. Green pipe approach for retaining trees in urban waterways</p> <p>13. An increasing focus on tree planting</p> <p>14. Urban Forestry is easy to work with (a big shift noted in the past 10-15 years)</p> <p>15. Supportive City Council and engaged community members</p> <p>16. Great data resources (NatureQuant, iTrees, etc.)</p> <p>17. Clear direction for moving forward from the Climate Action Plan (increase canopy)</p> <p>18. Continual updates of direction appropriate and diverse species through street trees list</p>	<p>disincentives to cutting while financially supporting replanting)</p> <p>10. Using quantification tools to help achieve environmental justice and equity</p>

All Responses to Question #4 (verbatim)

- Street tree trimming and care is quite excellent.
- There is some good groundwork being laid for a potentially great urban forestry program here in Eugene. Programs like the UF Vision & Action Plan are great examples of Eugene is doing right.
- The Urban Forestry Team is doing a great job of planting new trees and maintaining our street trees. We should continue with and build upon both of these efforts
- Good partnerships/conversations have been/are being initiated. Continue building a strong interagency, interdisciplinary, cross-sector, network of partners. Continue communication and collaboration.
- I've always started by asking people to close their eyes and envision Eugene devoid of all trees. Our history is that of people and trees. Even before European settlement, people were burning to keep the forest at bay. We now have an opportunity to carry history to its next evolution, that of people recovering our forests. Jared Diamond claims that deforestation is one of the prime indicators of human activity that predicts civilization collapse. People who recognized and reversed deforestation trends survived. Japan recognizes that. Yes, the City of Eugene is not a forest, but perhaps we can close our eyes and imagine a city with a nurtured forest spread throughout it. Begin where you are, and in this case it is the city.
- My neighborhood is amazing but I do not know enough to comment on other parts of the program.
- We are pretty good at working with the development community to facilitate the planting of trees in the ROW and I know there is still room for improvement. We have a well-trained and engaged urban forestry staff. I'd like to see the program be better funded to be more aggressive about replanting trees when they die and are removed. I'd like to see the pruning cycle be tightened up significantly. This takes money and I'm like to see more funding for the program in order to do those things.
- You also need to find at least two more Jason Steins.
- Love partnership with FOT and other ways we engage the public in tree planting/maintenance and ways we tie together urban forest to community health – air quality, shade, habitat, water quality, etc. Fuels

reduction work is increasingly important. It seems like our parks are in good shape when it comes to tree canopy and health but I may be mistaken here

- Annual leaf pick-up is a great program and should be continued.
- Street tree program very successful, especially giving developer option of contracting with city to install and maintain trees.
- The long term care of big, old trees is fabulous! As you know, we have an ancient beauty that was turned into a wildlife tree with a sign. I would highly encourage the continuation of these practices. I would also say that the new community involvement practice for any tree that needs to come down has helped to build trust between urban forestry and the populous, especially those that do see the benefit of trees, and do not want to see them come down before their time (or ever).
- The City of Eugene has required implementation of stormwater planters both in the public and private realms. Stormwater management / treatment is an important strategy for climate change. UF needs to work with the city to resolve better ways to combine required landscaping and stormwater facilities.
- We have a great canopy that makes everyone feel better. Also love the approach of the “Green pipe” for protecting waterways and providing ecological function.
- You guys are doing fantastic! Eugene has been referenced by scientific literature as a city with robust investment in urban trees: especially street trees. Continuing investments into management planning and inventory is great, and it looks like I am preaching to the choir as this is a stakeholder engagement forest action plan. I also understand you consistently weigh the costs and benefits of planting native vs. planting hardy species. I know this is contentious, and appreciate the long term economic considerations when selecting specimens to plant.
- Unfortunately, Urban forestry isn't taking a role in private trees. Most large municipalities have written into code that the City has control of trees on private property. If you wanted to remove a private tree in San Jose over 10" in diameter you had to get a permit. That was over 20 years ago, I can only assume it is stricter now. All of the Bay area cities had codes to the same effect. If the City of Eugene really wants to increase its canopy coverage then it should write code to get involved with private trees.
- Why stick with Right of Way trees for tree planting. Obviously we need to fill the empty right of way planting spaces, but if the City were to offer an incentive for folks to plant private trees, then canopy coverage could go up considerably. Think about it, let's say there was a website where folks could pick a tree they want for their yard or street, the City uses tax dollars to cover the cost of the tree, the homeowner watches a 3 minute video about how to plant it then plants the tree.
- In the end it all seems pretty simple, canopy coverage needs to grow. In order to grow the canopy we need a plan to deal with poor soil. A goal must be set of how many trees are to be planted each year until a total goal is reached. Of course, funding must be allocated to manage all of these trees.
- There have been a lot of things changed / improved with Urban Forestry in the last decade. Urban Forestry has a team of folks who care and are willing to put in the effort to make changes. Trees are getting pruned that have never been pruned before. The pruning cycle is on track to be predictable. Soon (it appears) tree planting will become a bigger part of the program. Urban Forestry a decade ago was tough to work with, it was tough to get decisions when trying to deal with problem trees. There has been a complete 180. I feel that now if problem trees are brought to Urban Forestry a citizen can expect to get answers / decisions in a timely manner.
- Urban Forestry recognizes that things are changing. Our climate isn't the same as it was just 20 years ago. I applaud the City for being willing to try new varieties of trees, asking for thoughts / advice.
- Friends of Trees is a boon to the city.
- The item that jumps out to me is the potential for a tree mitigation bank. When we see development on private property, we often address trees on the site through on-site mitigation or preservation. With

increasing demands on our land supply in Eugene, and infill development on smaller lots, having an option to pay into the urban forest might be an option for the future where we could address the concerns over the removal of a natural resources while also ensuring that we are able to provide housing. I would be happy to talk about this item more, and am aware that it came up during the recent Clear and Objective Code Amendment.

- I admit that I should know more about this - but since I don't I will refrain from answering!
- Going well:
 - SO MANY TREES! I love that Eugene is not only covered in trees, but other lush vegetation. Since the roll of UF is to build on that...mission accomplished
 - Thoughtful staff
 - Engaged community members and supportive Council (RE: Budget Committee, ha!)
 - Resources like NatureQuant, iTrees, etc.
- Could build on:
 - I think it would be amazing to see how resources like NatureQuant can be paired with local Environmental Justice folks out of NAACP, Beyond Toxics, UO, etc to expand work in equitably investing UF resources. There is also so much work that could be done across governments with our local tribes that could really help inform work moving forward.
- I recently took a course in Equitable Mobility that opened my eyes a ton to how our built environment impacts how people access the natural world (i.e., how highways physically separate people from other people, from greenspace, etc). I'm not sure exactly what building on this looks like, but I think having conversations about the role of UF with agencies like PW and Transportation could be helpful in identifying how to move forward with goal setting and metrics. Would love talk more about this. That course was transformational in my thinking about connecting our work with humans and meeting physical and emotional needs in a way that our systems historically have not. Trees are such a big part of that!
- The fact that you're asking these questions and pushing the envelope in terms of creating connections to the Climate Action Plan, livability, and more speaks volumes in terms of the positive direction the UF team is going. In the five years I've been here, I know a lot of effort has gone into being more thoughtful in terms of approaches to the work, tracking work and the health of our canopy and other metrics. Those things are important to understanding where we are as a City and organization and helps frame goals for the future.
- I believe Urban Forestry should have a seat at the table in any Design Review Committees the city has should they choose to implement one. UF needs to have approval of plans just like engineering would.
- I'm not sure I know enough about current operations to know if this is happening or not but the fact that we're tracking when trees are lost in GIS seems like a great way to prioritize new tree plantings, especially in under served neighborhoods. A program could be put together to look at all the plantable spaces, analyze the data and target tree planting.
- Your people are awesome, I really like the collaborate and solution oriented approach that UF takes. It wasn't always that way and this has been a positive change for us.
- Everyone in UF has been willing to look at the specific needs of a project and look for ways to get increased canopy and enhance the streetscape. I want to make sure that we continue to work towards better outcomes for street trees on development projects. In terms of street tree stuff, the City has made giant (GIANT!!) strides from where we were just 15 years ago. The level of replanting and preventative maintenance pruning are truly "next level" when compared to 15 years ago. This is welcome, wonderful, worthy of celebration – and should continue to be funded and expanded upon. In terms of natural area

trees, we've made more modest changes – but our emphasis on climate adapted species, preservation of habitat snags, awareness of fire risk, etc are all worthy of continuation and amplification.

- UF does a wonderful job when it comes to community outreach, I would love to see more programs aimed toward tree planting for homeowners (like a DIY), more trees in industrial corridors, and remain active in plan review.
- We do a good job of identifying appropriate species for new planting as well as maintaining our urban forest for positive environmental/sustainability outcomes.
- You don't know what you've got until its gone. I don't have many specifics, but I think that's because you all are doing a great job!

Question 5: *In your view, what would an ideal state or vision for our urban forest system entail? How might we best achieve this vision and what should we prioritize?*

Summary of Input from Question #5

The following table includes a summary of input and key points from question #5 responses.

Ideal Vision for Our Urban Forest System:	Notes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy, vibrant, and contiguous urban forest with maximized tree canopy in all neighborhoods. 	Provides a hedge against climate change. Supports a livable and sustainable built environment. Includes all neighborhoods.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ready supply of diverse and affordable trees available for replanting 	Consider creating a seedling nursery to feed the urban forest tree cycle.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greatly reduced wildfire threat 	Full time fire specialist to assess properties for fire mitigation and recommending fire-smart planting and management. Managing the urban fringe including natural area parks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built-in resiliency in the urban forest 	Species diversity and species that are resilient to changes in climate. Species that will thrive in the denser urban environment planned for the future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged landowners and developers collaborating with the City to create a world class urban forest 	Development code should only be a fallback for resolving disputes. Engaging and empowering citizens and developers create a world class urban forest. A sense of pride. Community understanding the value of the urban forest! Offer incentives and SDC fee offsets for exceeding requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greatly reduced wood waste 	Urban lumber materials and recycled wood chips.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees are widely appreciated by the community for their multiple benefits 	Shade, mental health, energy, carbon sequestration, quality of life, economic benefits, and beauty. Education and promotional materials to help build understanding and appreciation. An urban forest advertising campaign! Trees matter!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City has an in-depth understanding of the urban forest condition 	Monitoring tree health in new sub-divisions over a longer period of time. City utilizing new canopy analytic tools.

Ideal Vision for Our Urban Forest System:	Notes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-department collaboration and partnerships thrive as we work toward shared goals 	Partnerships with development community, Friends of Trees, and professionals.

All Responses to Question #5 (verbatim)

- Maximum tree canopy as a hedge against climate change. Robust outreach and programs, Friends of Trees x10!
- From our aspect, we would like to see a system in place that would process and utilize the wood material so that there was little to no waste. Urban lumber materials are then made available for consumers. Taking it one step further would be to setup a seedling nursey, for the replanting step in the UF tree cycle
- The ideal vision would be to privilege the planting of trees in addition to increased tree removal restrictions. The vision includes an updated urban forestry program that incorporates educational components to ensure both wildfire and carbon mitigation in accordance with the Climate Action Plan 2.0.
- Best achieve the vision by having a full time Eugene/Springfield Fire person assessing properties for wildfire mitigation and reviewing permits that pertain to development and tree removal. This person would be readily available to private property owners. Urban forestry representatives would be responsible for replanting and landscaping recommendations as well as species lists as part of the residential and developer/commercial tree removal permitting process.
- General resilience to disturbance and the ability to thrive no matter what the future throws at us. We need to focus on achieving multiple objectives with all that we do (work force development, environmental protection/enhancement/justice, promoting social justice and human wellbeing, etc.
- All of those examples are vitally important and can be addressed. Ultimately the Eugene City Code is the fallback document for resolving disputes, but it is the values of the people involved that matter most. How can this work help to resolve the conflict between restoring our canopy and creating higher-density build-out? I believe it is partly a culture war issue (although I am loath to use that term), people and planet just aren't valued as much as profit for too many people, and we need to address that first. I hope this UF Vision & Action Plan can avoid the pitfall of the 2014 City of Eugene Stormwater Manual. The stormwater document offers excellent information and clearly supports approaching stormwater management from more than the cheapest possible option, however, City Code allows the cheapest possible option, therefore... The City has a history of progressive language prefacing its code, however, the code itself too often undercuts the language it purports to support
- Whew, that is a big question. The most visibly urgent problem we have right now is housing. How can we shift the perception that trees are an impediment to the profit-oriented build-out instead of the basis for that profit? That trees improve mental health, quality of life and just might help solve some of our pressing problems. If we can shift perception then code follow
- UF are vitally important for resilience to the changing climate. Not from a carbon sequestration perspective but rather from a shade and comfort perspective. More shade means less AC and other energy intensive ways of staying cool. We should be maximizing our UF canopy. That said—trees should not get in the way of density and development. We need people living in compact environments where walking and cycling makes things accessible. We need to have more 4+ unit buildings and using a tree as reason to hold on to single family housing stock is short sighted and flexing privilege. We can replant trees (yes, they take a long time to grow) and they should be required of any new development but our population is going to start to rapidly grow and our housing market is already thin—we need more density. Density is more important than trees (again, trees have to be part of that but we need density!).

- The future will not be about trees versus houses and roads(though some will frame it that way), it will be about trees and people and houses and transportation. The vision is about finding a way for it all to co-exist. I think that something that is less car-centric so that the land dedicated to cars is reduced to make way for more housing. Finding tree species that can function in smaller spaces will be crucial. The era of single family lots as mini-parks may be ending. We have to prioritize function over form/ aesthetics and the community over individual. It will likely be small steps because many people aren't ready for these kind of changes yet. I do recommend supporting code changes to reduce parking requirements and to require regional stormwater quality facilities over facilities in the ROW as a first step.
- No bright ideas here from me – but I think things like healthy trees/healthy neighborhoods; Right tree, right place; big trees and rain. Prioritize street tree planting by locations with tree canopy deficits and where we know age of trees will require removal in next ten year so get them started now.
- Sustainable urban forestry is a difficult concept and challenging to implement. Example – a new subdivision will have new street trees installed, not sure there is a mechanism for checking on the health and replacing trees at the ten, twenty, and thirty year mark. To be sustainable, there would be an on-going assessment. Some land use regulations are being interpreted to allow 40 plus year old site plans to remain in effect indefinitely. While this may stimulate re-use of older buildings, it prevents certain land use code standards from being applicable - e.g., WinCo move into old building vacated by ShopKo at Coburg and Crescent was determined by city staff to not require any upgrades to current code standards. The 1982 parking lot is a sea of asphalt and following its construction was part of the impetus to amend the code to require parking lot landscaping. Since the 1982 approved Site Review plan was determined still in effect, the change in use is being allowed with no trees being required – so council goals to address climate change, walkability, and other sustainable community measures go unmet.
- Healthy, vibrant, contiguous urban forest that represents and supports the regional ecosystem, reducing the deleterious impacts of urban development, and creating a livable, sustainable built environment.
- I think UF needs an advertising campaign! The general community needs to know who UF is and understand why the goals are important (climate change, etc.). Incentives for developers / architects - SDC fee offset?
- Could frame the whole effort around community safety and health. Take the risk of fire away from the hills and provide shade and the risk of heat from the lower income neighborhoods.
- Ideal state for Eugene's Urban forests is one that is clearly demonstrating economic return, helps improve social friction (community forests are inviting places that provide for homeless use while increasing the safety of the community (clear visibility, reduced fire risk, etc.), and provides functioning habitat for native plant and animal communities. We can best achieve this by better understanding and managing for the connection and perception of public forested spaces with homelessness, sense of belonging, recreation and visceral emotions elicited by these forest conditions. An ideal urban forest system would be a fully funded program capable of addressing these issues. Perhaps one day there are some areas where prescribed burning could eventually re- enter.
- Endeavor to have a robust, dense street tree canopy throughout the city that can thrive in the natural Eugene climate without irrigation. Jefferson-Westside has the ideal street tree environment. No puny, mostly vertical trees. Full street coverage. While I understand this might be more maintenance, I would be interested in knowing the cooling/heat island-combatting impacts of a dense street tree environment like this.
- From my perspective working with development, I think a focus on mitigating impacts and carefully managing the forest as our City develops will be important. I think that this management needs to have clear rules and guidelines for the development community when street trees are impacted, and when new streets are built.

- I think the answer to this is the outcome of your planning process. It will take a lot of work to really get to the answer of this question.
- This question feels a bit too big for email, there's so much that I could say about this. I think I've mentioned a lot above. I would be happy to talk further about this question. As far as priorities, I think:
 - A focus and coming back to centering beings (people, animals) in the planning and implementation
 - Prioritizing equitable growth
 - A focus on co-benefits (equity, health, enhanced quality of life)
 - An emphasis on cross-department collaboration to support the CRO, TSP, development needs, operational anti-racism work and a focus on serving under-resourced community members
- I envision our urban forest as creating a lush, diverse, and welcoming environment supporting livable, walkable and affordable neighborhoods across the City. Our street trees create corridors for wildlife and people to travel to and from our parks and natural areas, and people walk, bike, bus, and drive on tree lined streets throughout the day traveling for work, school, errands and pleasure.
- The ideal state would be blending in to the natural environment as much as possible at the city scale. A diverse, lush landscape that benefits the environment and not simply mitigate impacts.
- I think the work you've done around heat island and adaptive management practices is fantastic and needs to be part of planning efforts moving forward. The negative effects of climate change and stress on natural resources needs to be built into long range forestry goals. We have a good start with changes to the approved street tree list including more drought tolerant species but we need to do more in terms of reaching canopy cover goals both in tree loss and planting. There also needs to be strategies for managing the private forest for fire risk and canopy loss. Education and outreach efforts along with partnerships are essential to achieve this goal.
- I see a number of trees get removed for legitimate reasons but it seem like the planting side of the program isn't catching up. I am not speaking about the development street tree process here. This is coming from personal experience. I lived in a couple neighborhoods where nearly all the street trees were removed. Unfortunately, there was no budget to replace them. It definitely changed the look and feel of the street. The focus on safety, maintenance and tree health was there but it seemed like that was the end of the road. It left me questioning what the long term goal was.
- The ideal vision for our urban forest system would not just include healthy, mature, diverse, well-maintained street trees and healthy forests surrounding the city – but it would also include a general community sense that “Trees Matter”. In comparison to many other communities, Eugene already embodies that general shared sentiment, and I'm hard pressed to detail how to increase that sentiment. But I do just want to say that (obviously) there's the physical/biological element to the ideal urban forest – but how the community understands, appreciates, protects and manages these trees is just as important. It's easier to plant a tree in the ground than to plant an appreciation for a tree in a mind, but it's worth the effort to cultivate that mental soil too. (Too long for a bumper sticker, but I like it anyhow.....).
- Prioritize plan review, suggest methods to preserve tree rather than cut down, inventory tree canopy often and provide update to collaborating teams.
- Continue to collaborate to identify competing goals and ways to align positive investments.
- I don't feel qualified to answer this one. From a personal perspective, it would include some elements that recognize trees role in mental health and cooling. Is there are way to honor trees from an Indigenous Ecological Knowledge perspective? There's so much reciprocity between trees and humans. Our planet, and we as people, are so much better off when we care for each other (trees/people).

Question 6: Do you have any additional thoughts/ideas about this plan update that weren't addressed above?

All Responses to Question #6 (verbatim)

- Creation of The Urban Forest Vision and Action Plan is welcomed and timely due to the increased risk within the UGB from wildfire, Eugene population expansion, and the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2.0.
- Thanks for your work Scott, you are a visionary.
- It's definitely a challenge! Good luck.
- My nephew is on a shade tree commission – developers have to pay into the fund and they do projects and have quite a bit of funding so they are looking at building. Could we have a way to think about options for developers to meet minimum tree standard and contribute to a dedicated fund as an option with some other benefits? Not to complicate land use code anymore!
- Good luck. Keep it simple and don't spend too much time collecting endless amounts of data.
- If there are important policies you want to be considered during review of land use decisions, I encourage you to have document adopted via ordinance and considered part of the general plan. If document is meant to guide staff resources and set priorities it will still be viable tool, just not in the land use arena.
- Request more money under the frame of risk/safety money. Thanks for your Work!!
- I think sometimes urban forestry gets too caught up on individual tree care. Of course, urban tree care is the body of work for urban forestry programs. But, as an identity, Urban Forestry should better "own" community forests, especially around trails and in natural areas where residents connect with forests . These places are therefore a strategic place to invest for an urban forestry program.
- How can the city leverage assets like nonprofit tree orgs to help implement this plan in a cost effective way?
- Thank you!!



City of Eugene

**URBAN
FOREST
MANAGEMENT
PLAN**

DECEMBER 1992

City of Eugene

URBAN

FOREST

MANAGEMENT

PLAN

D E C E M B E R 1 9 9 2

Second printing April 1997
No policy changes made to original plan published in December 1992



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“Trees are probably the single most important contributor to the health and beauty of the urban environment. Their presence brings physical, psychological and spiritual well-being to a community and helps to create a sense of peace and harmony with nature.”

“Trees temper climate and air quality. They take carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air, and give oxygen in return. Their roots stabilize the soil and impede erosion.”

“Within an urban environment, trees give life by softening the geometric rigidity and hard surfaces of streets and buildings. With their infinite variety of form, texture, color, and mood, trees can be used to create diverse spatial configurations.”

“Why trees? Because trees bring life to a city. Trees inspire us and exemplify the continuity of time and space, and provide a sense of beauty for future generations to enjoy.”

Nena Lovinger, as quoted in ***Trees for Eugene***
June, 1985

The Eugene Tree Commission developed the Urban Forest Management Plan. It contains goals and policies that will guide the City of Eugene in its actions and decisions affecting trees within the city limits. The plan will help the City effectively and equitably manage trees on both public and private property. Urban forest is defined as all trees and associated vegetation within the city limits. Though not readily quantifiable the urban forest also is comprised of the effects provided by the trees in total such as thermal regulation, hydrological buffering, food and shelter for wildlife, and the human experiences with fragrance, sound, and visual interest. This plan focuses on the tree component of an urban forest, including trees along streets, in parks, in yards, by rivers, creeks, streams, ponds, and on the hillsides.

The plan addresses many of the tree-related concerns voiced by citizens in the past few years. The City responded to some of the concerns by enhancing the urban forestry program, but it became apparent a management plan was needed to guide the future of the program.

In developing the plan, the following assumptions were made:

- The people of Eugene believe that an urban forest adds to the quality of life.
- Trees contribute to the vitality of the community and enhance its appearance and attractiveness.
- With sufficient information, the citizens of Eugene will make sound choices with regard to trees.
- Trees help offset the detrimental effects caused by the pollution of air, water, noise, and sight.
- Public safety is vital to the community. It is essential to remove deadwood, remove low limbs over traffic ways, clear critical visual zones at intersections, and control planting so that a tree’s growth does not interfere with safe traffic movement. It is also essential to protect the urban forest from its greatest danger: fire.

While this plan focuses on the overall management of urban trees, other documents also address this subject and were used as a starting point to develop this plan.

- **Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals.** Goal 5, Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources, calls for the conservation of open space and the protection of natural and scenic resources. This goal also requires programs that promote healthy and visually attractive environments.
- **Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan.** Specific elements address environmental resources, river corridors and waterways, and environmental design.
- **The Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan.** Policies require maintaining and improving natural resources and minimizing damage to vegetation and wildlife habitats.
- **The draft Metropolitan Natural Resources Special Study.** This study proposes policies to manage riparian vegetation along riverbanks. It would restrict the removal of trees in areas ranging from riparian zones to uplands, except to gain solar access and for environmentally sensitive development. The study also recommends restoration of the natural riparian environment.
- **The South Hills Study.** The City's policy for trees on public property along the ridgeline is outlined in this adopted study. It recommends that land be acquired along the ridgeline to preserve its natural character.

Appendix B includes further information about these and other planning documents that affect the Urban Forest Management Plan.

The Urban Forest Management Plan should help raise citizen awareness of the benefits of a healthy and diverse urban forest, proper tree selection, and care. This should lead to an increase in the number, condition, and diversity of trees in the urban area. A strong management plan will also help the community retain trees that are links to Eugene's past.

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People’s interest in city trees extends back to the development of cities. The earliest recorded urban plantings were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. As some cities became wealthy through trade, nobles and business leaders could afford the space for landscaped courtyards. Examples of the privileged using landscaping to enhance their personal environments extend throughout history. Excavations at Pompeii uncovered remnants of flowers, shrubs, and trees in the private gardens of wealthy citizens. In time, and as some nations became more affluent, trees spread from the courtyards of the rich to public streets and parks. These public trees generally were maintained by the municipality.

The management of urban trees is a relatively new field of study. Most cities do not have the benefit of established standards for urban tree management. Some cities are beginning to develop their own methods for addressing tree issues. A few very large cities have formal tree-management programs; however, many cities only respond to crisis situations, such as removing a tree only when it has become a hazard. Eugene may be the first city to take a comprehensive approach to the management of trees on both public and private property.

The following summarizes the major events leading to the preparation of this plan. In 1947, the Bureau of Governmental Research and Services, University of Oregon prepared a document titled “Street Trees For Cities.” It was prepared as a guide for cities in Oregon to use in developing tree programs. A quote from the document states that: “Although planting of street trees is common practice in many Oregon cities, full value has not generally been achieved from such planting because of the lack of a comprehensive community plan.” The document provided a sample tree ordinance and several designs for street tree plantings.

In 1963, the City produced a report titled “A Street Tree Program for Eugene, Oregon.” It offered a number of options to meet Eugene’s tree maintenance and planting needs in street rights-of-way. The report recommended the City take responsibility for planting and maintaining trees in street rights-of-way and called for a tree inventory and a master plan. The City subsequently assumed the responsibility for tree planting and maintenance in all rights-of-way and conducted a partial inventory of trees.

Recent efforts at developing an integrated Urban Forest Management Plan began in 1985 with the formation of the Mayor’s Tree and Beautification Commission. The commission assisted with the 1987 Entrance Beautification Study, which resulted in recommendations for landscaping the major entrance corridors into Eugene. After the completion of the Entrance Beautification Study, the Mayor’s commission began examining street-tree issues.

In 1988, the Mayor’s Tree and Beautification Commission prepared a report that expanded the traditional concept of tree planting and maintenance to include preservation of trees on both public and private property. Over the years, the community’s concept of an urban forestry program has changed. Many citizens now believe both publicly owned and privately owned trees in the urban forest must be addressed in a coordinated fashion.

In 1989, the Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan recommended the development of a coordinated approach, which supported efforts leading to the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Also in 1989, the City Council formally changed the Mayor’s Tree and Beautification Commission to the Eugene Tree Commission. The commission advises the council and staff on matters relating to trees. Its early and continuing efforts focus

on raising the public's and City government's awareness of the benefits of trees. The commission believes that a comprehensive management plan approach is needed to develop a community consensus on acceptable and coordinated approaches to all tree issues.

The Urban Forest Management Plan provides direction to develop regulations and incentives to manage tree-related issues in a proactive manner. The plan addresses trees on both public and private property. It also discusses planting, maintenance, and removal of trees along streets and on other public properties, such as parks and riparian areas; the retention and addition of trees on private property; and the preservation and maintenance of heritage trees on all properties.

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Policies are the main component of this management plan. As stated earlier, these policies will guide the City in its decisions and actions affecting trees within the city. In this plan, policies are grouped into the following five basic elements:

1. **Tree Selection**
2. **Trees on Public Property**
3. **Trees on Private Property**
4. **Heritage Trees**
5. **Education**

Three elements in this plan, Tree Selection, Heritage Trees, and Education, affect both public and private property.

Associated with each element are *goals* that provide an overall framework and direction for the development of policies. Goals are broad statements of philosophy that describe the intent of each element. While all of the goals may not be completely reached, goal statements help establish a direction for action and serve to describe the desires of the community regarding trees.

Each element also includes *findings* that are used to identify issues to be addressed within the management plan. Findings are factual statements that result from investigations, analysis, or actual observations. Findings also provide support for policy statements.

Following each element's goals and findings are *policies* that address a wide range of issues. The City Council adopts the plan's *policies* to provide specific courses of action to attain the plan's goals. Due to budget constraints, it may not be possible to implement all policies in the short term.

Each policy is followed by a series of *proposed actions*. The proposed actions are recognized (but not adopted) by the City Council as possible ways to carry out policies. In some cases, proposed actions will require further analysis; others will require additional funding to be carried out.

The element that addresses trees on public property encompasses trees along public street rights-of-way and trees on all other publicly owned land, including parks, the downtown mall, publicly owned riparian areas, and land owned by public agencies other than the City.

The following terms add parameters to related policy and action statements.

Defensible space: The area between a building and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and which provides an opportunity for firefighters to safely defend a building.

Significant tree: A tree that is healthy, structurally sound, environmentally appropriate for the site, and has the ability to successfully adjust to proposed changes to the site. If the tree lacks any of these factors, it is not a significant tree.

Well-sited tree: A tree that enhances the environmental and scenic quality of the site relative to nearby trees. In addition, the tree is not within the building envelope, solar access area, utility easements, or rights-of-way, and does not preclude fire prevention measures. If the tree does not meet all these criteria, it is not well-sited.

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Tree Selection

INTRODUCTION

Over one hundred years ago, a mixture of trees and grasslands were scattered throughout Eugene. In the intervening years, settlers changed the landscape by plowing under most of the grasslands and removing the trees. Houses were built and businesses developed, all requiring streets, parking lots, and the necessary utilities. Historically, people used trees to cool buildings and other areas by shading, but eventually trees were planted for their appearance alone. Tree selection varied from natives, such as Bigleaf Maple and Douglas Fir (i.e., trees found within the Willamette Valley before the early 1800s) to nonnative, with nonnative trees outnumbering native species for fashion and convenience.

The conditions under which trees now grow in Eugene are generally less than ideal. The soil is often a mixture of disturbed soils, construction debris, and assorted added chemicals. The trees generally have restricted rooting space, and what space they do have is often covered with concrete or asphalt. Some nonnative trees do well in a city environment because their native habitat had similar conditions, such as limited root zones or other restrictive conditions.

The urban environment is not the same as surrounding woodlands, nor does it mirror any other natural environment. The choice of trees used to create a stable urban environment should include a mixture of native and nonnative trees, with no single species dominating. Dutch Elm Disease in the eastern states demonstrates that the predominance of a single genus of trees can lead to biological and economic disaster for a community.

The use of fruit trees (trees that produce food for human consumption) in an urban environment is also worthy of consideration. As with any tree planting, care must be taken to carefully choose fruit trees in relation to soils (e.g., excessively wet or dry soils limit fruit tree selections), solar requirements, and maintenance needs.

GOALS

1. Increase the diversity of trees in the urban forest
2. Increase the use of native trees in the urban forest

FINDINGS

1. More diversity in the urban forest leads to greater stability and less wide-scale damage from insects or diseases.
2. Many people in Eugene expect street trees to be planted throughout the city.

3. Trees enhance the urban environment. For example:
 - a. Trees reduce air pollution by trapping dust on their leaves and in the bark, while also absorbing gaseous and liquid air pollutants in their leaves and roots.
 - b. Tree roots stabilize the soil and impede erosion.
 - c. Trees reduce summer heat by blocking direct sunlight and glare. Evaporation of moisture from the leaves cools the surrounding air and moderates temperatures.
 - d. Trees soften the geometric rigidity and hard surfaces of streets and buildings.
 - e. Trees muffle city noises.
4. Native trees have adapted to local environmental conditions, but are underutilized in the urban landscape.
5. Most local retail and wholesale nurseries do not carry a wide selection of native species.
6. By prohibiting broad classes of trees, the Eugene Code excludes some species that would be acceptable.
7. Fruit and nut trees can provide food for people and wildlife, but they require a high level of maintenance to be productive. However, the City currently does not have adequate resources to establish and maintain fruit trees.
8. Fruit trees may produce litter that can be a nuisance and a hazard to the public, depending on the placement of the trees (i.e., if not removed promptly, fallen apples can be a slipping hazard to the visually impaired).

Policies and Proposed Actions

POLICY

- 1.0 The City will plant trees on public property that have potential for good local performance and will, over time, achieve a diversity of species for greater stability of the urban forest. The City will recommend that trees with these characteristics be used in private developments as well.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 1.1 Monitor the composition and performance of existing trees on public property and assess their viability for future use.
- 1.2 Compile and distribute to the public a list of local tree species and their performance under known conditions.
- 1.3 Develop a long-range public tree planting plan that will result in a diversity of tree species.
- 1.4 Amend the Eugene Code to delete the prohibition of certain broad classes of trees.

- 1.5 Develop a recommended species/variety list based on local experience.
-

POLICY

- 2.0 The City will plant native tree species in appropriate locations on public land and encourage their use on private lands, but not to the detriment of species diversity.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 2.1 Compile and distribute to the public a list of recommended native tree species and their potential uses in the urban forest. The list would include notable traits and appropriate locations for planting individual species.
 - 2.2 Work with representatives of the landscape industry (e.g., the Oregon Association of Nurserymen) and local tree retail outlets and wholesale firms to stock quality native trees.
-

POLICY

- 3.0 The City will encourage citizens to grow trees that produce food.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 3.1 Work with existing local programs and agencies to provide information and assistance to volunteers who maintain fruit trees in designated areas.
- 3.2 Study the feasibility of setting aside designated public land to provide an opportunity for citizens to grow trees that produce food.

Trees on Public Property

INTRODUCTION

The City plants and cares for trees along streets, in its parks, along City-owned riparian areas, and on other City property. Trees along streets have a greater effect on most citizens than do trees in all other public areas. People spend more time traveling along tree-lined streets than they spend on other public property. An estimated 75,000 trees line the approximately 445 miles of city streets. These trees range in size from sapling dogwoods to a big-leaf maple that has an 88-inch diameter breast height (dbh). (*NOTE: Diameter breast height is measured 45 feet from the ground.*) Each of these trees requires periodic maintenance throughout its life.

Many planting opportunities exist in the City, such as along underplanted arterials; on older, established neighborhood streets where trees may have been lost; and in new, treeless neighborhoods. Planting must follow landscaping standards that take into consideration current and future maintenance needs; ensure that selected trees have adequate room to grow; and ensure their mature size and placement adds to the community's quality of life.

Once trees have been established, proper maintenance is critical to ensure that they remain a community asset. It is important that maintenance provided to public trees is of the highest quality, and that private citizens, public employees (City, County, and State), and utility companies use correct procedures when servicing public trees. This element addresses a reasonable level of maintenance for existing public trees, acceptable criteria for determining under what conditions public trees can and will be removed, and strategies for planting new trees and replacing others along street rights-of-way. Tree policies in connection with private development of public streets are discussed mainly in the Tree On Private Property element.

This City, like many other cities, has limited resources to address all the work needed to plant, maintain, and, when necessary, remove trees along streets. However, given the willingness of many Eugene citizens to volunteer their time to improve the urban environment, the City may be able to expand its resources by calling upon these citizens through a volunteer program.

GOALS

1. Monitor and improve the condition of public trees by improving the quality of maintenance provided.
2. Balance development needs with the physical needs of public trees.
3. Identify suitable planting locations for trees on public property and identify appropriate trees for those sites.

FINDINGS

1. Many people in Eugene place a high value on trees along streets and on public lands. They expect that these trees will receive quality maintenance, reach their full potential, and exhibit a natural form.
2. Some sites exist in the city that could be set aside as natural areas.
3. Some trees planted under utility lines eventually require extensive maintenance to provide adequate and safe clearance between their limbs and the wires.
4. Some procedures used in the installation and maintenance of underground facilities can severely damage the roots of established trees.

5. Roots of inappropriately placed trees can damage underground facilities and other infrastructure in and next to the street rights-of-way.
6. Poor maintenance and service provided to some public trees have reduced their longevity and value while increasing their future maintenance needs.

Policies and Proposed Actions

POLICY

- 4.0 The City will establish or enhance the character of its streets through the use of trees in rights-of-way.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 4.1 Inventory all trees and available planting spaces in street rights-of-way to determine composition and planting needs.
- 4.2 Work with neighborhood groups and residents to establish individual neighborhood street-tree planting plans. When preparing a street-tree planting plan consider the historic character of the area.
- 4.3 Work with interested groups and citizens to establish a street-tree planting plan for arterials that helps unify the diverse areas within the City.
- 4.4 Develop the street-tree planting plans in concert with appropriate plans and studies. (See Appendix B for a listing of policies from existing studies and plans that affect the Urban Forest Management Plan.)
- 4.5 Establish programs to implement the above tree planting plans.

POLICY

- 5.0 The City will enhance the quality of all developed public land by planting and maintaining appropriate trees.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 5.1 Inventory trees on developed public lands for species, number, condition, and maintenance needs.
- 5.2 Ensure that planting plans address tree conditions and incorporate National Uniform Fire Code requirements for access of fire equipment.
- 5.3 Work with the Downtown Commission to develop and implement a downtown planting plan. In conjunction with a building permit, development and major renovations in this district would require landscaping to meet the conditions of a downtown planting plan.

POLICY

- 6.0 The City will ensure that all work performed on public trees will enhance their natural attributes, maintain a safe environment, and minimize maintenance requirements.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 6.1 Amend the Eugene Code to require a permit to ensure that work performed on trees on public land or in street rights-of-way complies with City standards.
- 6.2 Develop standards for all work done on public trees, such as removing deadwood, crown elevation, pruning for public safety, fertilizing, and treating for insects or diseases.
- 6.3 Develop standards for pruning trees that interfere with above-ground utility lines.

POLICY

- 7.0 The City will adopt measures intended to ensure that new trees planted on public land and along street rights-of-way are of the highest quality, require low maintenance, and do not interfere with public safety.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 7.1 Amend the Eugene Code to require a permit to ensure that trees planted in street rights-of-way comply with City standards.
- 7.2 Develop planting standards addressing the quality of city trees, location criteria, and planting pit design.

POLICY

- 8.0 The City will amend the Eugene Code to protect trees on public land and street rights-of-way from the potential adverse impacts of construction-related activities.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 8.1 Amend the Eugene Code to require that adequate tree protection measures are employed while performing construction-related activities that may adversely impact trees on public land or street rights-of-way.
- 8.2 Develop public tree protection standards for trees in construction areas and furnish that information to applicants for building permits.
- 8.3 Require that accurate locations of trees within street rights-of-way be included on permit applications.

POLICY

- 9.0 The City will retain healthy public trees that do not compromise the defensible space around buildings and other structures for the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 9.1 Amend the Eugene Code and develop standards to specify under what conditions public trees may be removed. The standards will address development, maintenance of infrastructure, nuisance factors, safety considerations including potential fire hazard, aesthetics, and solar access.

POLICY

- 10.0 Amend the Eugene Code to provide suitable space for trees to grow in new or reconstructed street rights-of-way to the maximum extent practical.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 10.1 Develop standards for minimum area requirements to ensure that trees of differing mature size classes can thrive along new and widened streets.
- 10.2 Develop standards for planting and spacing of trees in street rights-of-way.
- 10.3 Amend the Eugene Code to require that one percent of total dedicated Road Funds expended through the Capital Budget for street construction and reconstruction (excluding overlays) be set aside for associated landscaping on or near project locations.

Trees on Private Property

INTRODUCTION

Most trees within the city are on private property. They are in people's yards, on commercial and industrial properties, and on undeveloped lands. The status of these trees and the care they receive is dependent on the owners. This element addresses two major issues—retaining existing trees and adding more trees to the urban landscape. (Retaining a tree includes taking steps to assure it remains healthy throughout its normal life span.)

An area of concern within this community is the loss of trees within developments. Sometimes when development occurs, trees need to be removed and the ground disturbed. Trees that are weak and dying are an obvious choice for removal. Some healthy, vigorous trees also may need to be removed to accommodate construction. However, with forethought, many buildings, driveways, and utilities can be located to minimize tree removal, while allowing adequate clearance for building construction, solar access, and fire safety. With adequate planning, trees remaining after development can be healthy, vigorous, and well-sited.

Some construction practices that injure or destroy trees can be avoided. For example, when excavating for a new building, top- (fertile) soil may be moved to another location on the site where trees are to be retained. However, if poor-quality soil from deeper within the excavation is placed on top of the fertile soil, the landscape contractor may have to bring in topsoil to cover the infertile layer. Eventually, the additional layers of soil placed over the root system of the retained trees may kill them unless expensive corrective measures are taken.

Some actions by home owners can cause the loss of trees. For example, planting and maintaining annual flower beds under trees can kill tree roots. String trimmers used to cut the grass next to a tree often cut through the bark and eventually kill it.

Trees are removed for a variety of reasons, such as the desire for an open area to build on, to allow more sunlight to reach the ground, and to reduce a perceived nuisance caused by tree litter. These purposes are reasonable, but the methods used to achieve the desired effects are sometimes excessive.

GOALS

1. Retain healthy, well-sited trees that do not compromise the defensible space around buildings and other structures on private property.
2. Balance the need for development with the need for trees.
3. Provide incentives and information to owners and developers that encourage tree planting and retention.

FINDINGS

1. Nationwide, trees often add significantly to the value of property, and lots containing mature trees often sell more quickly than similar lots without trees.
2. The public's demand for tree planting and preservation is increasing as more of the natural spaces within the city are developed with large-scale residential and commercial developments.
3. Trees can take up to seven years to succumb to construction-related injuries.
4. Trees with overhanging limbs within 10 feet of dwellings and other structures can be a potential fire danger to those structures, particularly in the dry months of the year in the South Hills.
5. Information on tree-protection techniques is not readily available to the public.
6. The Eugene code does not regulate or provide protection for trees on developed residential properties of less than 20,000 square feet.
7. The Eugene Code does not regulate or provide protection for trees on properties larger than 20,000 square feet in size, unless more than five trees are to be removed in any single calendar year.
8. Many citizens believe that the City's regulation of tree removal on fully developed residential properties should be minimal unless the tree removal involves a heritage tree.

Policies and Proposed Actions

POLICY

- 11.0 The City will encourage the planting and retention of healthy, well-sited trees that do not compromise the defensible space around buildings and other structures on developed residential, commercial, and industrial sites.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 11.1 Prepare a list of public agencies and private organizations that offer advice on tree condition and maintenance.

POLICY

- 12.0 Except where adopted plans, special studies, and regulations apply, the City will encourage the retention and planting of healthy, well-sited trees that do not compromise the defensible space around buildings and other structures in connection with initial and subsequent residential, commercial, and industrial development. This policy and subsequent proposed actions will not negate current regulations associated with the development or building approval process. City Council will monitor the results in two years.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 12.1 In connection with some types of development the Eugene Code requires that disruption or removal of attractive vegetation is to be avoided. When Code provisions and regulations do not apply, encourage the protection of significant, healthy, well-sited trees that do not compromise the defensible space around buildings and other structures. Require that permit applications note the locations of all significant trees. Provide information for identifying healthy, well-sited trees in connection with permit applications.
- 12.2 Encourage the retention of healthy, well-sited trees on development sites if it does not prevent reasonable use of the property or compromise the defensible space around buildings or other structures. Develop protection guidelines to provide methods and options for preserving trees.
- 12.3 Offer education, information, and advice to construction personnel on methods for retaining and maintaining healthy, well-sited trees on development sites during construction.
- 12.4 Provide incentives for retaining trees, such as flexible development standards, in connection with property development. For additional possibilities refer to the section titled Tree Protection Measures following the Heritage Tree element.
- 12.5 Review the Eugene Code to determine if barriers to tree retention can be removed.

POLICY

- 13.0 The City will require an approved street-tree plan in developments involving the creation of streets. Assure that the party obtaining the approval provides for planting the street trees, according to the approved plan, as each lot or area is developed.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 13.1 Develop street-tree planting standards for proper siting, tree selection, and installation.

- 13.2 Provide incentives, such as flexible development standards, for planting street trees in new developments.
- 13.3 Develop flexible sidewalk standards that will accommodate a variety of mature-sized trees within street rights-of-way.

POLICY

- 14.0 The City will structure tree plan review and approval to work within existing development processing time frames for subdivision, planned unit development, and development permit approval. Criteria and information for approval will be available with all other permit information.

Heritage Trees

INTRODUCTION

Some trees on private and public lands reach back to our early days and are a major element in defining Eugene's personality. Their growth adds character, and their size and age have an awe-inspiring beauty. The loss of a tree from natural calamity is understandable. Even the loss for development is understandable if it fulfills a need and the tree's intrinsic value to the community has been considered. The unacceptable loss is that which results from personal whim or from poor site planning or maintenance practices.

Many citizens are concerned with this overlooked element of Eugene's heritage. This element focuses on the preservation of the vital part of Eugene's heritage that certain trees provide. Because these heritage trees occur throughout the community on public and private property, this element overlaps other elements in this plan.

In this section, policies and proposed actions are separated into those that apply to public and private lands. Some apply to both and are listed in both subsections.

GOAL

1. Retain trees that are links to Eugene's past.

FINDINGS

1. The Eugene Tree Commission has defined a "heritage tree" as: "Any tree of exceptional value to our community based on its size (relative to species), history, location, or species, or any combination of these criteria."
2. Heritage trees are found on both public and private property.
3. Heritage trees provide aesthetic and cultural value to the community.
4. An estimated 200,000 trees eight inches or greater in diameter breast height are in the city. An estimated one percent (2,000) may be heritage trees.

Policies and Proposed Actions

POLICY

- 15.0 The City will retain heritage trees on street rights-of-way, in parks, and on other City property, except when otherwise necessary for the public health, safety, or welfare.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 15.1 Amend the Eugene Code to prevent the removal of heritage trees (as defined in proposed action 15.2) on public property except when otherwise necessary for the public health, safety, or welfare.

- and -

- 15.2 Determine heritage tree status of any tree that is to be removed or otherwise affected by development. A tree may be a heritage tree if it is listed in the Heritage Tree Species Ratings (see Appendix C) and is at least 107 inches in circumference (34 inches in diameter) 4.5 feet above the ground for any oak and 138 inches in circumference (44 inches in diameter) 4.5 feet above the ground for other trees. To qualify as a heritage tree, it also must meet the minimum point value derived from the following formula:

Location factor	X	Condition factor	X	Basal area	X	Historic factor	=	Point value
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(See Appendix D.)

- 15.3 Adopt Eugene standards to require heritage tree preservation techniques that assure these trees are not damaged or destroyed.
- 15.4 Seek funding to identify heritage trees on public property throughout the city.

POLICY

- 16.0 The City will develop and distribute information on the special characteristics of heritage trees.

POLICY

- 17.0 The City will encourage retaining heritage trees on private property, except when otherwise necessary for the public health, safety, or welfare. Monitor results after two years. Revisit use of the word “require” at that time.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 17.1 Determine heritage tree status of any tree indicated below that is to be removed or otherwise affected by development on private property. A tree may be a heritage tree if it is listed in the Heritage Tree Species Ratings (see Appendix C) and is at least 107 inches in circumference (34 inches in diameter) 4.5 feet above the ground for any oak and 138 inches in circumference (44 inches in diameter) 4.5 feet above the ground for other trees. To qualify as a heritage tree, it also must meet the minimum point value derived from the following formula:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Location} & \times & \text{Condition} & \times & \text{Basal} & \times & \text{Historic} \\ \text{factor} & & \text{factor} & & \text{area} & & \text{factor} \\ & & & & & & = & \text{Point} \\ & & & & & & & \text{value} \end{array}$$

(See Appendix D.)

- and -

- 17.2 Determine criteria under which heritage trees are to be maintained or may be removed (e.g. public safety).
- 17.3 Design and implement a volunteer program in which the City provides heritage tree care assistance. This may include providing information to property owners on how to record a deed restriction to better ensure retention of heritage trees.
- 17.4 Expand the Eugene Code provisions that allow flexible design standards to make it easier to retain heritage trees (See Tree Protection Measures in Appendix A.)
- 17.5 Seek funding to identify heritage trees on private property throughout the city.
- 17.6 Amend Eugene Code to include heritage tree preservation techniques that assure these trees are not damaged or destroyed.

Education

INTRODUCTION

Education is an integral and primary element of the Urban Forest Management Plan and overlaps all the other elements. Education tempers the use of regulations by empowering citizens. The City believes citizens will act responsibly if given the information they need to make sound choices.

Distinct educational strategies can be developed to reach a wide range of affected people, including the general public, the development community (property owners, architects, realtors, engineers, investors, builders, and contractors), public agencies, and educational institutions. The common factor in educating these groups is to provide them with information about how proper tree planting, maintenance, and protection can contribute to and enrich the quality of life. Educational programs stress:

- Ways property owners can avoid practices that damage or kill trees.
- Methods and examples of development designs that successfully integrate trees on a development or building site.
- Urban forest fire prevention.

- Construction practices that help to reduce the impact of construction on trees that will be retained on a building site.
- Approaches, standards, and practices that contribute to designs that include trees.
- Educational programs that include information about the benefits of trees. If students have positive early experiences with trees, it greatly reduces the need for ordinance enforcement in later years. By including information on the benefits of trees in curriculums, schools can have a long-term, positive effect on the urban environment.

GOALS

1. Raise public awareness of the benefits of planting and maintaining trees in the urban environment.
2. Increase the public's knowledge of proper tree care including measures to reduce potential fire hazard with the defensible space around buildings and other structures.
3. Increase the public's knowledge of proper tree selection and the benefits of species diversity in the urban landscape.

FINDINGS

1. The public, through the comments given at the scoping sessions, emphasized that the City should provide information on tree care and proper tree selection to its citizens.
2. Many citizens are unaware of how tree roots grow and how they can be damaged (e.g., rototilling beneath the crown of the tree can lead to the tree's death by destroying the fine tree roots near the surface).
3. Given adequate information regarding the mature size and growth habit of trees, citizens can avoid planting trees that grow too large for the given site or too close to utility lines, buildings, walks, and driveways.
4. Information on proper landscape practices can maximize tree longevity if it includes facts on how to avoid actions that injure trees (e.g., string trimmers can cut through the bark and eventually kill a tree).
5. Currently, there is no comprehensive mechanism in place to effectively provide information to the public on tree selection and care.

Policies and Proposed Actions

POLICY

- 18.0 The City will provide and distribute information to interested citizens, property owners, and the development community on proper tree selection relative to climate, solar aspect, soils, potential fire hazard, water regimen, and on proper tree siting and maintenance.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 18.1 Develop and distribute written material for the proper selection, siting, and maintenance of trees.
- 18.2 Coordinate with other public agencies to offer training in the selection, siting, and maintenance of trees.
- 18.3 Provide tree selection, siting, and maintenance information to citizens applying for a building permit.

POLICY

- 19.0 The City will distribute educational materials to the public and the development community on ways to minimize construction-related damage to trees that are to be retained on building sites.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 19.1 Develop written materials to be provided upon request and during the building permit process.
- 19.2 Coordinate with other public agencies to offer training that will reduce the impact of construction on trees.
- 19.3 Create an effective urban forestry educational program for use in the schools.

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Appendix A - TREE PROTECTION MEASURES

This appendix describes additional measures that might be used to protect trees on private property. They are measures that have been used by Eugene or other cities to address natural resource issues such as protection of waterways, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. They are presented with a brief explanation. Further analysis will be necessary to determine which of these measures could be crafted to apply to retaining trees on private property. Work being done on implementation of the West Eugene Wetlands Area Study and the Metropolitan Natural Resources Special Study will help in this effort.

RESOURCE PROTECTION MEASURES REVIEWED

- **Site Planning/Design Standards.** Develop design standards that can be used as incentives to retain trees.
- **Riparian Setbacks.** Options include a standard building setback that is applied to all streams and a variable building setback based on stream classifications or application of performance standards.
- **Best Management Practices (BMPs).** Develop a list of ideal management practices for developments or activities in sensitive areas, such as steep slopes or near waterways.
- **Environmental Or Natural Resources Zoning District.** Develop a new zoning district designed to limit uses on natural resource sites.
- **Acquisition By Outside Organizations.** The City could establish relationships with private nonprofit conservation organizations to encourage acquisition and cooperation for purchase and subsequent management. For example, a Eugene heritage tree conservancy or tree trust could be formed to raise and receive money for the acquisition of heritage trees.
- **Density Transfers.** Through planned unit development or cluster subdivision provisions, density within a development site could be transferred to nonwooded areas.
- **Strengthen Existing Regulations.**
 - Tree Preservation Ordinance
 - Hillside Development Regulations
 - Planned Unit Development Site Review and Land Division Regulations
 - Minimum Yard And Landscaping Requirements
- **Public Education.** All protection and planting programs could be accompanied by an educational program that discusses protection and planting, the value of trees, and those activities that damage trees.

- **Incentives For Gifts Or Donations.** These are usually tax incentives, such as rebates, lowered rates, credits, or deductions.
- **Limiting “As of Right” Development, Coupled with Development Incentives and Design Review Standards.** This is a complex approach that has been used to protect historic buildings in other areas. A set of design standards would be created. Restrictions would be placed on certain types of development that adversely affect trees. Density bonuses would be awarded to developers who meet the prescribed design standards.
- **Public Acquisition Purchase Options:** These options may be used to acquire trees identified as “to be retained” and the land necessary to support them.

Full Title, Willing Seller. The City would buy property outright from property owners who are willing to sell.

Full Title, Condemnation. The City would pay the fair market value for the property and force the sale through condemnation procedures.

Development Rights. The City would purchase the right to develop the property, similar to a conservation easement as listed below.

Covenants. The City would purchase property, attach a restrictive covenant to it, and resell the property on the open market. The covenant would specify allowed uses and management practices and would bind all subsequent owners.

Conservation Easements. The City would acquire easements through gifts or purchase. An easement would restrict the property owner’s right to conduct certain uses or activities on the property, or it would grant the City or some other party the right to conduct certain uses or activities. Easements that could be applied to significant tree areas include conservation easements and scenic easements.

- **Transfer Of Development Rights.** It may be possible to transfer the development rights from one tax lot to another tax lot under the same or different ownership.

Appendix B - ADOPTED AND PROPOSED TREE-RELATED POLICIES FROM EUGENE’S PLANS AND STUDIES

A number of policies are included in the draft Urban Forestry Management Plan. If adopted by the Eugene City Council, they will provide direction on how to achieve the stated goals and will help guide future tree-related decisions. These proposed policies, along with adopted tree-related policies from other studies and plans, will provide a comprehensive approach to tree issues.

Eugene has developed a number of studies and plans in which trees have been singled out for special policy consideration. Each study includes policies that provide direction to enhance the role trees play in improving or maintaining the environment.

Listed below, under broad categories, are some locally adopted policies, as well as several proposed policies in draft plans that are now in the public review phase (July 1991). These policies affect how this community addresses tree issues. This is not an exhaustive list, but it is representative of all tree-related policies that have been adopted or are being considered for adoption.

The reference number after each policy refers to the page in its respective study or plan. If a study or plan includes the word “draft,” it is currently under public review and has not yet been adopted by the council.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Develop an urban forest management plan, (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, Page 16.)
2. When planning for and regulating development, local governments shall each continue to consider the need for protection of open spaces, including those characterized by significant vegetation and wildlife. Means of protecting open space include but are not limited to outright acquisition, conservation easements, planned unit development ordinances, streamside protection ordinances, open space tax deferrals, donations to the public, and performance zoning. (Metro Plan -1987 Update, page III-C-10.)
3. Public and private facilities shall be designed and located in a manner that preserves and enhances desirable features of local and neighborhood areas and promotes their sense of identity. (Metro Plan - 1987 Update, page III-E-3.)
4. Carefully develop sites that provide visual diversity to the urban area and optimize their visual and personal accessibility to residents. (Metro Plan - 1987 Update, page III-E-3.)
5. Local jurisdictions shall carefully evaluate their development regulations to ensure that they address environmental design considerations, such as, but not limited to, safety, crime prevention, aesthetics, and compatibility with existing and anticipated adjacent uses (particularly considering high- and medium-density development locating adjacent to low density residential). (Metro Plan - 1987 Update, page III-E-3.)
6. Site planning standards developed by local jurisdictions shall allow for flexibility in design that will achieve site planning objectives while allowing for creative solutions to design problems. (Metro Plan - 1987 Update, page III-E-3.)
7. Develop a “Public Lands Policy” in conjunction with other jurisdiction to: Provide for the preservation and use of surplus public lands having recreational and open space potential through acquisition or management. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 15.)

8. Use the Trees for Eugene street tree planting guide when designing streetscape next to and within parks and other recreational facilities. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 16.)
9. Minimize the impact of park use on surrounding lands through:
 - a. Buffering borders shared with residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 16.)
10. Treat environmental enhancement as a component of recreational development. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 16.)
11. Include aesthetic amenities in parks and cultural events sites that create a memorable positive image. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 17.)
12. Natural resources zone - permanent protection of outstanding natural resources sites. (Metropolitan Natural Resources Special Study - Policy Report - March 1991 Draft, page 13.)
13. Retain existing significant vegetation whenever possible to provide buffering between residential and nonresidential uses, as well as between low-density and higher density residential uses. (Willakenzie Area Plan-Draft, June 1991, Page 15.)
14. The City shall require future developments on parcels abutting the unincorporated area to provide an effective transition between urban and rural land uses. This transition is intended to minimize potential conflicts with adjacent agriculture operations. (Willakenzie Area Plan - Draft, June 1991, page 73.)
15. Berms that are used to fulfill a noise-buffering requirement shall be landscaped and irrigated with a permanent irrigation system. (Willakenzie Area Plan - Draft, June 1991, page 16.)
16. The City shall work with developers and the State of Oregon to ensure that noise attenuation is provided for existing and proposed residential developments along State highways when improvements are made to those roads. (Willakenzie Area Plan -Draft, June 1991, Page 102.)
17. The City shall require new residential developments occurring along State highways and streets identified as Traffic Noise Control Corridors to use appropriate siting and design techniques to bring the development into compliance with State and Federal noise standards. (Willakenzie Area Plan - Draft, June 1991, page 102.)
18. Encourage growth and development patterns that are compatible with natural features and discourage the alteration of natural features. (Willakenzie Area Plan - Draft, June 1991, page 132.)
19. The City shall develop an overall design strategy for park areas which is consistent with the Natural Resources Special Study. (Willakenzie Area Plan - Draft, June 1991, page 136.)
20. Promote attractive and functional commercial areas that protect and enhance the quality of Eugene as a desirable community to live, work, and play, in and that will result in increased commercial property values. (Draft Eugene Commercial Lands Study, page III-25.)
21. Encourage parking lot design that is attractive and does not exceed a reasonable ratio of parking spaces per building area and use. (Draft Eugene Commercial Lands Study, page III-28.)

DEVELOPMENT OF UPLAND, HILLSIDES, AND THE SOUTH HILLS

22. Eugene shall maintain and improve and Springfield shall adopt hillside development regulations. (Metro Plan 1987 Update, page III-C-10.)
23. Site review criteria shall be applied to large vacant parcels on Gillespie Butte to protect vegetation and scenic values to the maximum extent practicable. (Metro Plan - 1987 Update, page III-C- 11. Zone Change 89-27, approved June 22, 1989, applied the Site Review subdistrict to all parcels on Gillespie Butte.)
24. That all vacant property above an elevation of 901 feet be preserved from an intensive level of development, subject to the following exceptions:
 1. Development of individual residences on existing lots; and
 2. Development under planned unit development procedures when it can be demonstrated that a proposed development is consistent with the purposes of this section. (South Hills Study - Exhibit A, page 1)
25. That the area specified for preservation be protected through a variety of techniques including but not limited to acquisition, scenic easements, density transfers, and dedication. (South Hills Study - Exhibit A, page 2.)
26. The City should adopt an ordinance concerning the removal of vegetation. (South Hills Study - Exhibit A, page 2.)
27. That the planned unit development procedures shall be utilized for the following purposes:
 1. To encourage clustering of development in areas characterized by:
 - a. Shallowest slopes;
 - b. Lowest elevations;
 - c. Least amount of vegetation; and
 - d. Least amount of visual impact.
 2. To encourage preservation as open space of those areas characterized by:
 - a. Intermediate and steep slopes;
 - b. Higher elevations;
 - c. Significant amount of vegetation; and
 - d. Significant visual impact. (South Hills Study - Exhibit A, page 4,5.)
28. That development be reviewed to encourage clustering of open space elements of different developments in order to preserve the maximum amount of continuous open area. (South Hills Study-Exhibit A page 5.)
29. That all proposed road locations be reviewed to insure minimum grade disturbance and minimum cut-and-fill activities, particularly in those areas most visible due to slope, topographic or other conditions. (South Hills Study - Exhibit A, page 5.)
30. That all developments (planned unit developments or subdivisions) in the south hills area be reviewed to insure maximum preservation of existing vegetation. (South Hills Study - Exhibit A, page 6.)
31. Preserve the character and habitat value of the South Hills by siting and developing recreational facilities and other improvements in a way that preserves and enhances the natural conditions of the area. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan. July 1989, page 21.)

32. Upland development design - allow development of upland areas while protecting environmentally and visually sensitive areas, e.g. stream corridors, ridgelines and steep slopes. (Metropolitan Natural Resources Special Study - Policy Report -March 1991 Draft, page 13.)

DEVELOPMENT WITHIN OR PRESERVATION OF RIPARIAN AREAS, WATERWAYS, RIVERS, PONDS, AND WETLANDS

33. New development that locates along river corridors and waterways shall be limited to uses that are compatible with natural, scenic, and environmental qualities of those water features. (Metro Plan - 1987 Update, page III-D-4.)
34. New industrial development that locates along the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers shall enhance natural, scenic, and environmental qualities. (Metro Plan - 1987 Update, page III-D-4.)
35. Natural vegetation, natural water features, and drainageways shall be protected and retained to the maximum extent practicable, considering the economic, social, environmental, and energy consequences in the design and construction of urban developments and landscaping shall be utilized to enhance those natural features. (Metro Plan - 1987 Update, page III-E-3.)
36. Preserve and enhance natural habitats and scenic corridors that deserve special merit along the rivers (i.e., Willamette and McKenzie Rivers). (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 21.)
37. Prepare and observe measures that protect the environmental integrity of the Delta Ponds. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan July 1989, page 23.)
38. Encourage future urban development to be sensitive to the natural conditions, character, and habitat value of the ponds (i.e Delta Ponds). (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 23.)
39. Protect natural stream courses, sloughs, and wetlands in connection with parks and recreational facilities. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 24.)
40. Develop and adopt ordinances to protect wetlands and waterways in the plan area. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan - 1991, page 16.)
41. Amend existing policies that conflict with protection of regulated wetland functions and values to make them consistent with WEWSAS goals and policies. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study-Draft Plan 1991, page 17.)
42. Establish, maintain and protect physical and hydrologic linkages between protected wetlands and adjacent transitional and upland wildlife habitat and natural areas. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 17.)
43. Include rare plant protection in ordinances developed to protect wetlands and other resources. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 17.)
44. Create buffer areas between regulated wetlands boundaries and adjacent uses or developments. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 17.)

45. Mitigation efforts shall help to reestablish a connected system of wetlands, waterways and uplands resources. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 29.)
46. Mitigation efforts shall concentrate on restoring wetland type, habitat, functions and values that represent the historic, ecological landscape of the Amazon Creek basin. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 29.)
47. Mitigation efforts shall use local, native plants species. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 29.)
48. Mitigation efforts shall be designed and constructed to minimize the level of ongoing maintenance. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 29.)
49. Develop, adopt and implement a comprehensive wetland mitigation program. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study -Draft Plan 1991, page 29.)
50. Amend applicable City codes, policies and maintenance operation procedures to comply with the provisions of this Plan and implementation measures. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 29.)
51. Develop performance standards corresponding to the stated mitigation goals of WEWSAS and utilize those standards in designing and evaluating an operation and maintenance program. (West Eugene Wetlands Special Area Study - Draft Plan 1991, page 38.)
52. Waterside protection - control development to maintain and protect water quality and wildlife habitat within minimum setback areas. (Metropolitan Natural Resources Special Study -Policy Report - March 1991 Draft, Page 13.)
53. Waterside development - balance environmental and development interests by allowing sensitive, creative development within or immediately adjacent to water features. (Metropolitan Natural Resources Special Study - Policy Report - March 1991 Draft, page 13.)
54. Significant wetland, riparian, waterway, and upland sites in the Willakenzie area shall be protected from encroachment and degradation in order to retain their important functions related to fish and wildlife habitat, flood control, sedimentation and erosion control, water quality control, and ground-water pollution control. (Willakenzie Area Plan - Draft June 1991, page 160.)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE

55. The planting of street trees shall be strongly encouraged, especially for all new developments and redeveloping areas (where feasible) and new streets and reconstruction of major arterials within the urban growth boundary. (Metro Plan -1987 Update, page III E-3.)
56. Identify the most direct and attractive routes into the City, encourage their use, and maintain and improve the character and quality of the entrance experience along these routes. (Entrance Beautification Study, page 3.)
57. Design and implement improvements to Eugene's entrances which recognize the diversity and identity of the areas in which the entrances are located. (Entrance Beautification Study, page 3.)
58. When evaluating designs for entrance beautification projects, give preference to designs which reduce long-term maintenance costs. (Entrance Beautification Study, page 3.)

59. Involve private businesses and community groups in entrance beautification programs and projects. (Entrance Beautification Study, page 3.)
60. As development activities are proposed along designated entranceways, provide a mechanism for additional landscape and buffer treatments on the site and along the street to ensure that the proposed developments respond to Eugene's entrance beautification policies and projects. (Entrance Beautification Study, page 3.)
61. Identify attractive entrances to Eugene and take necessary steps to conserve their attractive qualities, with particular attention to maintaining significant views. (Entrance Beautification Study, page 4.)
62. Require street improvement projects located along designated entrances to include landscaping or other beautification treatments. (Entrance Beautification Study, page 4.)
63. Prepare general plans for major parklands and facilities prior to development or renovation in order to promote project coordination and to conserve and protect natural open spaces where appropriate. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 12.)
64. Insofar as funds are available for maintenance, provide parks from the neighborhood level to the metropolitan level as well as special purpose recreation facilities such as, but not limited to, bicycle paths, jogging trails, botanical gardens, and sports field complexes. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 13.)
65. Design maintenance and improvement programs that support natural resources and minimize damage to natural vegetation and critical wildlife habitats. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 17.)
66. Encourage the development of symbolic "gateways" to the Willakenzie area through the effective use of landscape materials in areas indicated on the Neighborhood Gateway map. (Willakenzie Area Plan - Draft June 1991, page 146.)
67. The City shall identify and encourage preservation of significant historic and cultural resources including buildings, sites, structures, objects, and landscape elements in the Willakenzie area. (Willakenzie Area Plan - Draft June 1991, page 162.)

EDUCATION

68. Provide natural areas, cultural amenities, and unique open spaces for educational and passive leisure use. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 13.)
69. Inform the public of its responsibilities for preserving the community's natural heritage when using its recreational resources. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 15.)
70. Inform the public about the recreational opportunities as well as its responsibility to preserve the environment in the South Hills. (Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, July 1989, page 23.)

Appendix C - HERITAGE TREE SPECIES RATINGS

The two columns reflect different growth rates in selected species. Column “A” contains rapidly growing trees while “B” has the slower growing oaks. The number below each column heading was determined by using the minimum circumference for each class (107" for oaks and 138" for the other trees listed) then multiplying by the maximum rating for location and condition. The column numbers are then the minimum number of points necessary for each tree under that column to be rated as a heritage tree. These lists are expendable both with additional species added to any column or by addition of more columns as experience dictates.

A (MIN. 38,200 POINTS)		B (MIN. 22,800 POINTS)
Bigleaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Shore Pine <i>Pinus contorta</i>	Oregon White Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i>
Incense Cedar <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	Ponderosa Pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>
Port Orford Cedar <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	California Black Oak <i>Quercus kelloggii</i>
Oregon Ash <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Giant Sequoia <i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	
Butternut <i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Redwood <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	
Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	Western Red Cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	
English Walnut <i>Juglans regia</i>	American Elm <i>Ulmus americana</i>	

Appendix D - HERITAGE TREE FORMULA

Location X Condition X Basal Area X Historic Factor = Point Value

LOCATION

- 5 = street adjacent yard
- 4 = side yard
- 3 = back yard
- 2 = wooded lot within developed subdivision
- 1 = forested area

CONDITION

- 5 = excellent Perfect form, little to no deadwood, all limbs have good attachments, no sign of decay.
- 4 = very good Good form, multi-leader, but with good attachment, 10% or less large deadwood.
- 3 = good Unbalanced or incomplete crown, tight limb angles, 15% - 20% larger deadwood.
- 1 = poor Evidence of some decay, 20% - 30% larger deadwood, history of being topped.
- 0 = very poor Structurally unsound, extensive decay, dieback, poor form, unbalanced or greatly reduced crown.

BASAL AREA

Basal area is the measure of the surface area in square inches of the horizontal cross section of the trunk at four and a half feet from the ground.

HISTORIC FACTOR

Historic factor is determined by the tree's relative historic significance. Historic significance is determined by the tree's association with historic or famous events, the broad cultural history of the nation, state, or community, or a person or persons who have significantly contributed to the history of the nation, state, or community.

- 5 = very significant (definitions to be determined with assistance of the Historic Review Board)
- 4 = significant
- 3 = somewhat significant
- 2 = marginally significant
- 1 = not significant

The following is an example of the Heritage Tree formula:

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
 5 & \times & 5 & \times & 916 & \times & 1 & = & 22,900 & \text{heritage tree points} \\
 | & & | & & | & & | & & & \\
 | & & | & & | & & | & & & \text{(front yard tree)} \\
 | & & | & & | & & | & & & \text{(excellent condition tree)} \\
 | & & | & & | & & | & & & \text{(107" circumference tree squared X 0.08)} \\
 | & & | & & | & & | & & & \text{(not significant)}
 \end{array}$$

Appendix E - CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

PROCESS DESCRIPTION

The citizen involvement process enabled community individuals and interested groups to provide feedback and participate in the development of the Urban Forest Management Plan. The following steps culminated in a City Council hearing and plan adoption. They ensured that the public would have sufficient opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan. The process also offered the public and the Tree Commission insight into the broad range of public issues and concerns.

Specifically, this process helped determine those areas in which the public expressed consensus, as well as those issues where the public expressed differing solutions.

- City staff and the Tree Commission first identified groups that would have a special interest in the plan then outlined strategies for reaching them. Staff generated an interested parties list of approximately 5,000 names. The list included citizens and business organizations who asked to be kept informed and people who were involved in the development of the tree protection ordinance that Lane County adopted in 1990 for the area between the city limits and the urban growth boundary (UGB).
- The Tree Commission and the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) prepared and approved a citizen involvement process to use during the plan's preparation. The CIC oversees the citizen involvement process for all large City projects and plans.
- Once the citizen involvement process was adopted, staff prepared an Urban Forest Management Plan fact sheet, a project time line, and a comment form for citizen use during the scoping phase.
- The Tree Commission hosted two publicized scoping sessions to obtain feedback from the community and to identify critical elements to include in the plan. These sessions were held on April 9 and 11, 1991. About 5,000 letters were mailed out notifying the community of the sessions. Over 70 people attended, including property owners, environmental groups, and some members of the building community.
- City staff made eight presentations to targeted community groups to discuss the development of the plan and allow community residents and property owners to identify issues to address in the plan. These groups included:
 - the Lane County Home Builders Association;
 - the Eugene section of the American Institute of Architects;
 - the Eugene Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects;
 - the Eugene Joint Parks Committee;
 - the Eugene Neighborhood Leaders Group;
 - the Eugene Building Codes Advisory Committee;
 - the Lane Utilities Coordinating Council; and
 - the Eugene Citizen Involvement Committee.
- A Tree Commission subcommittee provided overall direction to the staff on the development of the plan and helped resolve critical issues. All meetings of the subcommittee were advertised in the local newspaper and were open to the public.
- The Tree Commission released the draft Urban Forest Management Plan for public review on September 3, 1991. On October 10, the Tree Commission held a public hearing on the Plan. Approximately 30 citizens attended the hearing, with 12 people testifying. After

taking into consideration over 100 written and oral comments obtained through the public input period, the Tree Commission revised the draft Plan. Recommendations were then sent to the Eugene City Council for adoption.

- Sixteen citizens testified at the Eugene Planning Commission public hearing on December 3, 1991, on the Urban Forest Management plan. On December 16, 1992, the Planning Commission reviewed all written and oral statements on the draft Plan and forwarded its recommendations to the City Council. The Planning Commission recommended that two policies for preserving trees on private property not be developed into ordinances.
- On January 6, 1992, the City notified the Department of Land Conservation and Development that if the Urban Forest Management Plan were adopted, the Metro Plan would possibly require modification.
- The Council Commission on Infrastructure reviewed the Plan and requested additional information and options be brought to Council. Thirty-four citizens testified at an April 13, 1992 public hearing. On October 14, 1992, the City Council adopted the attached Urban Forest Management Plan.
- The City notified the Department of Land Conservation and Development of the Plan's adoption on October 16, 1992.



City of Eugene
Public Works
Maintenance

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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Police Commission FY 2024 Annual Report

Meeting Date: October 16, 2024
Department: Police Department
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 2
Staff Contact: Holly Mathews
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5852

ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session is to present Council with the Police Commission Annual Report and Work Plan to review its past work and to discuss upcoming work of the Police Commission.

BACKGROUND

The Police Commission (as governed by [Eugene Code \(EC\) 2.368](#)) acts as an advisory body to Council, the City Manager, and the Police Chief regarding police policy issues.

[EC 2.368\(4\)\(b\)](#) states that the Police Commission shall develop a mission statement and a yearly work plan, to be reviewed and approved by Council, which will articulate how the listed outcomes will be achieved.

Leadership from the Police Commission will present to Council the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Annual Report.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

The [City of Eugene Strategic Plan](#) outlines direction and organizational priorities for the 2023-2026 period. The strategic plan identifies four key focus areas: Urgent Community Needs, Culture of Belonging, Communication and Outreach, and Organizational Wellbeing.

The Police Commission Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee aligns with the Organizational Wellbeing focus area strategic goal: increase employee engagement, wellbeing, and sense of belonging in the workplace.

High Impact Action: Continue to pursue and support policies, practices, and procedures that advance overall worker wellbeing, including flexibility in meeting employee needs due to the changing workplace and moving toward sustainable workloads.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

[July 19, 2023 Work Session](#)

Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to approve the Police Commission FY 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) Work Plan.

Passed 7:0

Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Keating, move to extend the timeline on the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Committee for two years.

Passed 7:0

COUNCIL OPTIONS

Information only.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

None.

SUGGESTED MOTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Police Commission FY 2024 Annual Report including the FY 2024/FY 2025 Work Plan

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Holly Mathews, AIC Police Commission Analyst

Telephone: 541-682-5852

Staff E-Mail: hmathews@eugene-or.gov

City of Eugene Police Commission

FY 2024 Annual Report



www.eugene-or.gov/policecommission

For more information about the Eugene Police Commission, please contact:

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Eugene Police Commission FY 2024 Annual Report

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Introduction

Background and Objectives

The Eugene Police Commission is a twelve-member volunteer body that acts in an advisory capacity to the city council, city manager, and police chief on police policy and resource issues. The Commission's enabling municipal code, [20136](#) adopted in December of 1998, requires that it develop a work plan for City Council for review and approval. In 2013, the Commission moved to a biennial work plan, with the understanding of presenting an annual report to City Council each year.

As outlined in [Municipal Code 2.368\(4\)\(a\)](#), the objectives of the Eugene Police Commission are to:

- 1) To increase communications between police and the community, leading to a greater understanding of the preferred policing alternatives for this city;
- 2) To identify police policy and resource issues related to preferred policing alternatives;
- 3) To decrease misunderstandings regarding the nature of adopted police policies, practices, and approaches;
- 4) To provide input on police policies and procedures that reflect community values; and;
- 5) To assist the City Council in balancing community priorities and resources by advising on police resource issues.

Police Commission Mission Statement

The Police Commission recommends to the city council, the city manager, the police department, and the people, the resources, preferred policing alternatives, policies, and civilians' responsibilities needed to achieve a safe community. We strive to create a climate of mutual respect and partnership among people and between people and the police department that helps to achieve safety, justice, and freedom for all people.

Working Together

Eugene Police Commission Members (During FY 2024)

- Dallas Boggs, *Chair (deceased)*
- Jensina Hawkins, *Vice chair (current Chair)*
- Dr. Silky Booker
- Bonnie Dominguez
- Vi Huynh
- Alan Leiman, *Civilian Review Board Liaison*
- Scott Lemons, *Human Rights Commission Liaison*
- William Parham
- Silverio Mogart
- Sean Shivers
- Councilor Jennifer Yeh
- Councilor Alan Zelenka



FY2024 Police Commission members from left to right: Alan Leiman, Chair Jensina Hawkins, Councilor Jennifer Yeh, and Scott Lemons. Not pictured are Bonnie Dominguez, Dr. Silky Booker, Vi Huynh, William Parham, Silverio Mogart, Sean Shivers, and Councilor Alan Zelenka

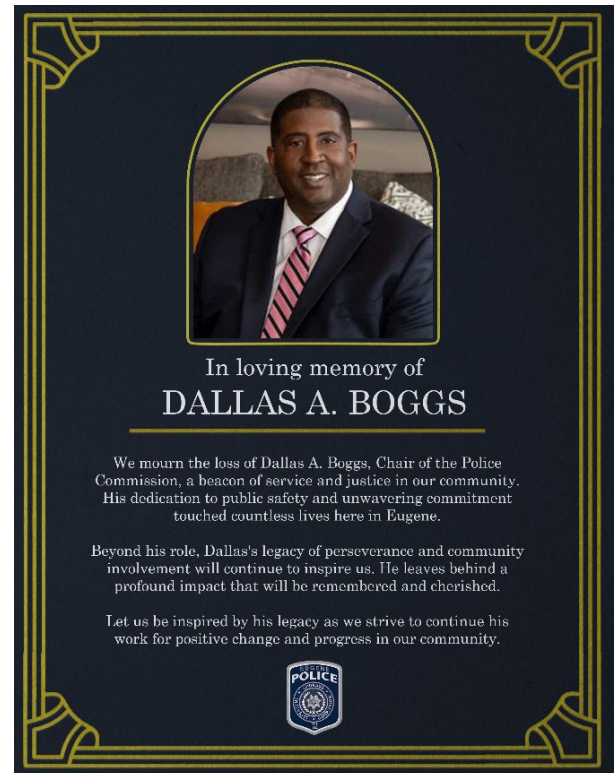
In Memory of Dallas Boggs

On March 5, 2024, the Police Commission suddenly lost an endearing and well-respected member and chair, Dallas Boggs.

Dallas served on the police commission from July 27, 2020, until his passing, and was chair of the commission for three consecutive terms.

Dallas' esteemed leadership guided the commission to recommend policies and procedures which supported the Eugene Police Department in creating a safer and more inclusive approach to policing.

As a proud police commission member, Dallas was honored to work with the Eugene Police Department to work towards positive change, inclusivity, and progress in the Eugene community.



Honoring Dallas and his Family



During the June 13, 2024, Police Commission meeting, members of Dallas Boggs' family, including his daughter Jada Boggs (pictured to the left), were presented with a certificate of appreciation in honor of Dallas and for the work he accomplished during his time with the police commission.

Changes in Membership

During FY 2024, the Police Commission experienced several dynamic changes in membership.

In November 2023, Commissioner Vi Huynh moved from Eugene and therefore was not able to fulfill his four-year term which was set to expire on June 30, 2027. Subsequently, on March 1, 2024, Commissioner Bonnie Dominguez announced that she was also moving from Eugene and would not be able to fulfill her term which was set to expire on June 30, 2024. Then, sadly, on March 5, 2024, Chair Dallas Boggs suddenly passed away, during which time Vice-chair Jensina Hawkins stepped into the role of Interim Chair.

In addition, four positions were set to expire on June 30, 2024, which were currently being held by commission members Dr. Silky Booker, Jensina Hawkins, William Parham, and Silverio Mogart.

Per [City of Eugene Code 1971 2.368\(3\)](#) "Appointments and Terms of Office, members of the Police Commission shall be nominated by the mayor and appointed by the council."

During the January 11, 2024, Police Commission meeting, three members were identified to serve on a recommendation subcommittee to review applications and interview selected candidates at the request of Mayor Vinis. The subcommittee consisted of Silverio Mogart (chair), Dallas Boggs, and Scott Lemons.

The Recommendation Subcommittee reviewed 21 applications and opted to interview seven candidates. The interviews were conducted on Zoom on February 19, 2024, and were made available for the public to view. A recording of the Zoom interview sessions was posted on the Police Commissions' website.

Meetings

During FY 2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), the Police Commission met eleven times. The Police Commission does not meet during the month of August, to allow the commission members a summer break.

The Police Commission uses a hybrid meeting method with some members attending in person at the Eugene Police Department in the Kilcullen Classroom, while other members join virtually through Zoom. In accordance with Oregon Public Records Law, all meetings during the FY 2024 year were made available to the public. The public is welcome to attend in person or virtually. A recording of each meeting along with meeting minutes can be found on the Eugene Police Commission's [webpage](#).



Left to right, current Chair Jensina Hawkins, Mayor Lucy Vinis, and the late Chair Dallas Boggs during the quarterly meeting with the Mayor and City Manager (November 2023)

In addition, the chair, vice-chair, and staff liaison meet on a quarterly basis with the mayor and city manager to provide an update on the work the Police Commission is doing and allow for any questions and or recommendations the mayor and city manager may have for the commission.

FY 2024 and FY 2025 Overview

FY 2024 and FY 2025 Work Plan and Priorities

The following items were identified and defined during the May 6, 2023, Police Commission Retreat as areas of focus for the next two-year work plan. The items are prioritized from top to bottom with the intent to remain flexible to support emerging community and law enforcement issues.

Eugene Police Commission Work Plan FY 2024 and FY 2025

Order	FY 2024 & 2025 Commission Community Issues and Priorities	Weighted
-------	---	----------

Top 10

1.	<i>Virtual Policing</i> – overview of new software program	8
2.	<i>Mutual Aid (Policy 107)</i> – review and discuss	7
3.	<i>Downtown Safety</i> – staffing and presence	7
4.	<i>Discipline Matrix</i> – employee retention	7
5.	<i>Recruitment and Retention (DEI)</i> – promotional development	6
6.	<i>Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy</i> – update	5
7.	<i>Communications with Persons with Disabilities (Policy 370)</i> – review and discuss	5
8.	<i>Employee Performance Evaluations</i> – how often are they being done? Are lateral police officer candidates' prior performance evaluations reviewed during the hiring/background phase?	5
9.	<i>Strike and Labor Disputes (Policy 313)</i> – review and discuss	4
10.	<i>Emergent technology</i> – review and discuss	4

Order	FY 2024 & 2025 Commission Community Issues and Priorities	Weighted
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Parking lot items

11.	<i>Internal EPD budget review</i> – funding for recruitment and employee wellness	3
12.	<i>Limited English Proficiency Services</i> – diversity, equity, and inclusion	3
13.	<i>Employee Assistance Program</i> – law enforcement mental health and wellness	3
14.	<i>Mental Health Crisis Response (Policy 418)</i> – review and discuss	3
15.	<i>Welfare checks</i> – review and discuss	3
16.	<i>Qualified Immunity</i> – review and discuss	3
17.	<i>Uniforms (DPSST Numbers)</i> – review and discuss	3
18.	<i>Officer Response to Calls (Policy 416)</i> – review and discuss	3
19.	<i>Searches and Inventories of Detained Persons (Policy 702)</i> – review and discuss	3

Order	FY 2024 & 2025 Commission Community Issues and Priorities	Weighted
-------	---	----------

Potential items to discuss as time allows

20.	<i>Hate Crimes</i> – review and discuss	2
21.	<i>No Stop Citations</i> – alternatives to [traffic] and stopping individuals	2

Police Commission Annual Report FY 2024 | 7

22.	<i>Call Center Policy and Procedure Prioritization</i> —reviewing appropriate response level and how it is determined during calls for service	2
23.	<i>Gender Inclusivity (DEI)</i> —promotions and recruitment	2
24.	<i>EPEA Contract Review</i>	2
25.	<i>Flexible Restraint Devices (Policy 806)</i> —review and discuss	2
26.	<i>Storage of Prisoner Property (Policy 703)</i> —review and discuss	2
27.	<i>Non-criminal Detox (Policy 311)</i> —review and discuss	1

Work Completed in FY 2024

Scope of Work

The Police Commission identified ten areas of focus to work from on their FY 2024 and FY 2025 Work Plan, with nine areas deemed parking lot items, and eight items identified as potential items to discuss as time allows.

As of June 30, 2024, thirteen areas of focus have been deemed completed and three remain in progress.

The below spreadsheet (on the next page) captures the work conducted by the Police Commission in **FY 2024**.

FY 2024-FY 2025 Police Commission Work Plan (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025)					
Status	Commission Community Issues and Priorities		Date	Work Performed	Outcome
Complete	1	Virtual Policing (overview of new software program)	10/12/2023	Overview of MyPDConnect with Chief Skinner and CSO Supervisor. Colin Woolston	Received overview of MyPDConnect
Complete	2	Downtown Safety (staffing and presence)	10/12/2023	Chief Skinner provided an overview of staffing,	Received overview of downtown safety model (safety, cleanliness, & activity), along w/the new co-responder model, Yellow Jackets (EPD volunteers), and staffing/officer coverage (including new Downtown Incident Commander).
Complete	3 & 10	Downtown cameras/ <i>Policy 1210 Public Safety Cameras</i>	11/9/2023, 01/11/2024, 02/08/2024, 4/11/2024, 05/09/2024	DC Adams addressed questions regarding the use of cameras in the downtown as well other areas; reviewed <i>Policy 1210 Public Safety Cameras</i>	Received overview of how and why cameras are used in downtown Eugene as well as other areas of Eugene. Initial review of <i>Policy 1210</i> . 5/9/24: the commission recommended to Chief Skinner the following edits to <i>Policy 12.10</i> : Signage will be posted conspicuously at eye level to inform the public the area is being observed for public safety purposes. The EPD public safety cameras will not be used in conjunction with any facial recognition software. Each camera system will store up to 90 days of rolling data
Complete	5	Recruitment and Retention (DEI) (promotional development)	1/11/2024, 02/08/2024, 5/9/2024	Sgt. Kara Williams presented a PowerPoint covering EPD recruitment, retention, and promotional development.	1/11/24: Received overview of how EPD recruits and what the hiring process entails; retention, and promotional development. 2/8/24: Discussed email from former female EPD officer--Chief Skinner addressed the email and the commission's concerns. 5/9/24: The commission passed a motion by Commissioner Lemons to recommend to City Council that EPD seek out an RFP to have an independent cultural audit from a consulting firm specialized in bias and workplace conduct that also has experience with police. The Police Commission recommended the contract for the audit to be executed by December 31, 2024.
In progress	9	Strike and Labor Disputes Policy 313	7/22/2024	Reviewed Strike and Labor Disputes Policy 313	(7/11/24) Reviewed Strike and Labor Disputes Policy 313. Chief Skinner and Sgt. Barrong addressed questions and provided feedback to the commission.
Status	Emergent Issues		Date	Work Performed	Outcome
Complete	A	Review Police Commission bylaws & mission statement	7/13/2023	Reviewed bylaws and mission statement	Changes were made to the bylaws and mission statement in adherence with COE boards and commissions ordinances

Complete	B	Internal Affairs Annual Report	9/12/2023	Presentation of the Internal Affairs 2022 Annual Report with Cindy Coleman, AIC Professional Standards Manager	Yearly review of annual report
Complete	C	Police Auditor's Annual Report	9/12/2023	Presentation of the Independent Police Auditor's 2022 Annual Report with Leia Pitcher, Police Auditor	Yearly review of annual report
Complete	D	2022 Hate and Bias Crimes Annual Report	11/9/2023	Presentation of 2022 Hate and Bias Crimes Annual Report with Drae Charles	Yearly review of annual report
Complete	E	Demond Hawkins, NAACP Lane County President	11/9/2023	Met Demond Hawkins, NAACP Lane County President	Introduction and learned of NAACP of Lane County's mission and current community issues within the BIPOC community
Complete	F	Constantin Severe, Public Safety Advisor, State of Oregon	12/14/2023	Met Constantin Severe, Public Safety Advisor, State of Oregon	Constantin shared what his position is, Governor Kotek's public safety priorities for 2024, and answered Q&A.
Complete	G	Procedure 12.18 Naloxone (Narcan)	12/14/2023, 05/09/2024, 6/13/2024	Reviewed Procedure 12.18 Naloxone (Narcan)	12/14/23: Chief Skinner gave an overview of Procedure 12.18 Naloxone (Narcan) as well as how often officers administer Narcan daily, and that public safety officers are not required to carry Narcan. 5/9/24: Interim Chair Hawkins requested to have a second review of Procedure 12.18 to allow for more discussion. As a result, the commission recommended the following to Chief Skinner: add verbiage at the end of the section under section 12.18.2 b. Issuance and Use that each EPD user will be equipped with no fewer than two active doses of Narcan. 6/13/24: Update to recommendation that Naloxone be kept in officers' duty bags during their shift due to the need for Naloxone to be stored at safe temperatures between 68 degrees F and 77 degrees F.
Complete	H	Independent Police Auditor's Role	3/14/2024	Overview of the Independent Police Auditor's Role in reviewing personnel complaints (EPD employees)	Leia Pitcher explained her role when receiving personnel complaints such as the complaint from former EPD Officer Kirsten Cardwell.
In progress	I	Policy 1015 Special Teams, Ad-hoc, AIC Assignments	3/14/2024	Reviewed Policy 1015	Discussion. To be continued.
In progress	J	Cultural Audit of EPD	4/11/2024, 5/9/2024	Discussion of what a cultural audit of EPD would encompass/look like, and where the recommendation should go (City Council or Chief Skinner).	Work is in conjunction with priority number 5 Recruitment and Retention (DEI) (promotional development)
Complete	K	Review of Policy Process	7/11/2024	Sgt. Barrong gave an overview of how police policies and procedures are created, reviewed, and revised. An overview of police accreditation was also provided.	The commission received an overview of how police policies and procedures are created, reviewed, and revised, as well as the role of the police commission in police policy and procedure revision.

Policies and Procedures Reviewed

The Police Commission requested to review the following policies and/or procedures in FY 2024:

- Policy 1210 Public Safety Cameras
- Procedure 12.18 Naloxone (Narcan)
- Policy 1015 Special Teams, Ad-hoc, AIC Assignments

Highlights of Work Performed

Virtual Policing:

The Police Commission listed virtual policing as their number one priority on their FY 2024-FY 2025 Work Plan.

On October 12, 2023, Chief Skinner along with Officer Colin Woolston provided an overview and demonstration of Eugene Police's new online (virtual) reporting system, [MyPDConnect](#), which was made available to the Eugene community in the spring of 2023.

Officer Woolston provided a demonstration of various analytical tools that MyPDConnect can create such as crime reporting heatmaps and satisfaction surveys.

Downtown Safety (Staffing and Presence):

The Police Commission identified Downtown safety (staffing and presence) as priority number three on their FY 2024-FY 2025 Work Plan.

Chief Skinner provided an overview of the Downtown Safety Model which centers around safety, cleanliness, and activity; during the October 12, 2023, Police Commission meeting.

In addition, Chief Skinner provided information to the commission about the Yellow Jackets, a team of Eugene Police Department volunteers who provide an additional set of eyes and ears in the downtown, while dealing with less serious situations; the new Co-responder Model, and the responsibilities of the Downtown Incident Commander and the Downtown Team.

Public Safety Cameras:

In November 2023, the police commission requested to hear from the department about the use of cameras in downtown Eugene regarding safety and how information and data from the cameras is being used.

The discussion of downtown cameras and the review of Policy 1210 Public Safety Cameras speak to both community safety issues and priorities as they relate to downtown safety and emerging technology.

The police commission identified downtown safety as well as emergent technology as number three and ten on their FY 2024 and FY 2025 Work Plan.

During the months of November 2023; and January, February, April and May of 2024, the Police Commission determinedly worked to review Policy 1210 Public Safety Cameras so that a recommendation could be made to update the policy to reflect current community needs while not infringing on people's privacy.

On May 9, 2024, The Police Commission made the following recommendation on Policy 1210 Public Safety Cameras to Chief Skinner:

- Signage will be posted conspicuously at eye level to inform the public the area is being observed for public safety purposes.
- The EPD public safety cameras will not be used in conjunction with any facial recognition software.
- Each camera system will store up to 90 days of rolling data.

Chief Skinner approved the commission's recommendation effective May 29, 2024. A link to the updated 1210 Public Safety Cameras policy can be found on the [Eugene Police Department's website](#).

Emerging Topics

Narcan (Naloxone):

During the November 9, 2023, Police Commission meeting, Commissioner Parham shared that he was made aware of an incident in which emergency personnel were summoned for an individual suspected of overdosing.

It was reported to Commissioner Parham that four Eugene Police Department officers who arrived on scene did not have Narcan on their person.

As a result of this information, the police commission requested the Eugene Police Department to investigate the incident.

Subsequently, the incident was reported to the Independent Police Auditor's Office and the Eugene Police Internal Affairs Unit.

It was later determined that two Eugene Police Department officers and a Eugene Police officer recruit assisted an officer from the University of Oregon Police Department with the overdose incident and that Eugene Police officers did in fact administer two doses of Narcan to the individual who overdosed. Eugene-Springfield Fire also responded and transported the individual.

During the April 11, 2024, Police Commission meeting, Interim Chair Hawkins shared that she planned to conduct a second review of Procedure 12.18 Naloxone (Narcan) at the May 9, 2024, Police Commission meeting as she felt the initial review in December 2023 did not allow sufficient time for discussion.

During the May 9, 2024, Police Commission meeting, the commission approved the following motion for recommendation to Chief Skinner: add verbiage under section 12.18.2 b. Issuance and Use, at the end of the existing sentence: Each EPD cruiser will be equipped with no fewer than two active doses of Narcan. Chief Skinner stated his interpretation of the term *cruiser* as *patrol vehicle*.

Following the May Police Commission meeting, it was determined that the proper and safe storage of NARCAN® Nasal Spray in the blister and cartons provided is to be stored at controlled room temperature 68°F to 77 °F (20°C to 25°C). Excursions permitted between 41°F to 104°F (5°C to 40°C). Do not freeze or expose to excessive heat above 104°F (40°C).

Considering this information, it was deemed not viable to store NARCAN in police cruisers due to variations of temperatures. As a result, during the June 13, 2024, Police Commission meeting, a recommendation was made to Chief Skinner by the Police Commission to store Narcan in officer's on-duty bags during their shift to ensure proper

storage at recommended temperatures. Chief Skinner accepted the recommendation and Narcan (Naloxone) Procedure 12.18 was updated on June 24, 2024.

A link to the updated Narcan (Naloxone) Procedure 12.18 can be found on the [Eugene Police Department's website](#).

Women in Policing and Eugene Police Culture:

In January 2024, a former female Eugene Police Officer wrote to the Police Commission after viewing the January 11, 2024, Police Commission meeting in which a presentation was made about police recruitment, retention, and promotional development. Police recruitment, retention, and promotion development is listed as number five on the FY 2024 and FY 2025 Work Plan.

The former police officer found some of the statements made during the presentation as being inaccurate and offensive. The former police officer shared that while employed with EPD, they experienced a toxic culture of sexism and sexual harassment and that the reason female employees, officers in particular, are leaving the Eugene Police Department to seek employment elsewhere, is due to a toxic workplace that they perceived as being tolerated by leadership. Furthermore, they shared they felt EPD leadership does not protect and support women in policing.

The Police Commission took this information seriously and requested the Chief of Police, City Council, and the Independent Police Auditor to investigate the claims made by the former police officer and to report back their findings to the Police Commission.

During the February 8, 2024, Police Commission meeting, Chief Skinner addressed the email from the former police officer and the steps that the City of Eugene has taken in processing and investigating the complaint. Then, at the March 14, 2024, Police Commission meeting, Leia Pitcher, Independent Police Auditor, explained her role when receiving personnel complaints such as the complaint from the former EPD officer.

At the April 11, 2024, Police Commission meeting, the commission continued the discussion of what the City of Eugene could do to help address sexism, sexual harassment, and toxic work culture at Eugene Police. Further discussion ensued regarding a cultural audit of Eugene Police as the first step in addressing the issue.

During the May 9, 2024, Police Commission meeting, the commission passed a motion by Commissioner Scott Lemons to recommend to City Council the following: The Eugene Police Department seek out an RFP (request for proposal) to have an independent cultural audit from a consulting firm specialized in bias and workplace conduct that also has experience with police. The Police Commission recommends the contract for this audit be executed by December 31, 2024.

Noteworthy Presentations

Throughout FY 2024, the Police Commission had the opportunity to receive noteworthy presentations from City of Eugene staff to local and state dignitaries.

During the September 12, 2023, Police Commission meeting, the Independent Police Auditor presented the 2022 Independent Police Auditor's Annual Report. In addition, the Eugene Police Department's Professional Standards Manager presented the Internal Affairs 2022 Annual Report. The police commission had the opportunity to ask questions and seek additional information.

At the November 9, 2023, Police Commission meeting, Mr. Demond Hawkins, NAACP Lane County President,

provided an overview of NAACP of Lane County's mission and current community issues within the BIPOC community. Members of the police commission were able to ask Mr. Hawkins questions and express ideas and concerns as it relates to police policy and procedure.

Also, during the November 9, 2023, Police Commission meeting, Drae Charles with the City of Eugene's Office of Equity and Community Engagement, presented the 2022 Hate and Bias Crimes Annual Report.

On December 12, 2023, the Police Commission had the honor of meeting with Constantin Severe, Public Safety Advisor with the State of Oregon. Constantin gave an overview of what their position entails as well as Governor Kotek's public safety priorities for 2024.

Community Outreach

The Police Commission continually seeks opportunities to connect with the Eugene community. Several outreach opportunities arose in FY 2024:

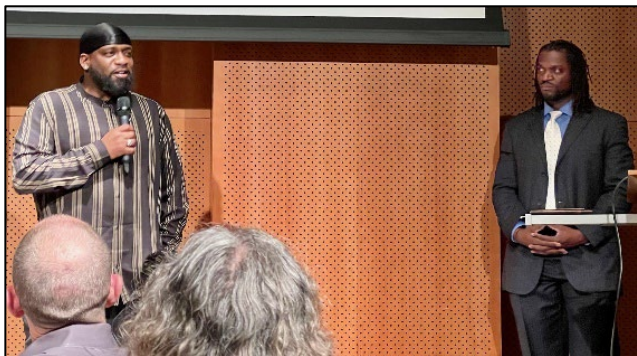
- The Asian Celebration
- The Black Cultural Festival
- Suddenly Sleepy 5k
- MLK Jr. March
- NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner



Left to right: Chair Jensina Hawkins, Community Engagement Specialist Janina Rager, and Officer Naivasha Tester at the MLK Jr. March, February 19, 2024

During public outreach events such as the Asian Celebration and the Black Cultural Festival, the Police Commission partners with staff from the City of Eugene's Independent Police Auditor's Office to staff a booth.

Police Commission members are provided with promotional materials such as brochures about the Police Commission and whistle/flashlight safety keychains to pass out to event participants.



Commissioner Silky Booker (on the left) speaking at the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, May 17, 2024



Commissioner Scott Lemons (far right) speaking at the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, May 17, 2024

Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee

The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee (LEMHW) was created in February 2023. Its purpose is to research, develop, and recommend new or improved policies and/or procedures to help the department foster viable wellness and mental health initiatives for all employees at the Eugene Police department.

During FY 2024, the LEMHW Subcommittee was chaired by Jensina Hawkins and was comprised of the following Police Commission members: Dr. Silky Booker, Scott Lemons, and William Parham.

The subcommittee met six times using Zoom as a preferred meeting place. The meetings took place on the first Thursday of each month from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

In accordance with Oregon Public Records Law, all LEMHW meetings during the FY 2024 year were made available to the public. The public is welcome to attend virtually on Zoom. A recording of each meeting along with meeting minutes can be found on the Eugene Police Commission's [webpage](#).

Highlights of Work Performed

Return to Duty:

The LEMHW Subcommittee invited Pat Bentley, LMFT, and leader of the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program for Kern County, California, to provide insight into Kern County's program and how it was developed. Pat also provided an overview of how the program assists law enforcement personnel with mental health care following critical incidents and how officers involved in critical incidents return to duty is evaluated.

During the February 6, 2024, meeting, Chief Skinner provided an overview of post-critical incident mental health evaluations and shared that the Eugene Police Department currently does not require officers to have a mental health evaluation prior to their return to duty. NOTE: Eugene Police does require and/or provide, as highlighted under Senate Bill (SB)111 the following: pay for two of the one required mental health evaluation session, within a six-month period of their critical incident, provide paid leave, enabling employee to receive help; and the employee has the choice to see a provider of their choosing or Eugene Police will provide resources for them to choose one.

In addition, the subcommittee reviewed return to duty policies from Hillsboro Police Department and Beaverton Police Department; Oregon Senate Bill 111, Post-Critical Incident Procedures (Procedure 10.6) and Use of Deadly Force (UDF) Investigations (Policy 810) from the Eugene Police Department; the City of Eugene Employee Handbook, and the Eugene Police Employees' Association (EPEA) Contract (2022-2025) as reference materials.

Moving into FY 2025, the subcommittee continues to do work to eventually make a recommendation to the Police Commission in hopes to make a final recommendation to Chief Skinner and City Council that a policy be developed to address the gaps that currently exist in a return to duty policy for police officers.

Overview of the Peer Support and Resiliency Team (PSRT):

Peer Support and Resiliency Team (PSRT) Supervisor Emily Macauley provided an overview of the PSRT program, and the services offered to Eugene Police employees including mental health services, trainings, peer support counseling, wellness activities for employees and their families, as well as the role PSRT plays during critical incident debriefs.

The subcommittee reviewed Procedure 11.23 Peer Support Team to coincide with the PSRT presentation.

Police Officer Hiring and Background Process:

Chief Skinner provided a high-level overview of the police officer hiring process to include testing, interview, background (including psychological), and 1:1 final interview with the Chief of Police.

In addition, Dr. Ryan Roberts with Public Safety Psychological Services gave an overview of the pre-employment mental health screening process to include grounds for disqualification and their process to submit findings to the Eugene Police Department.

The subcommittee also reviewed a sample Personal History Questionnaire (PHQ) and was provided with a general overview of the questionnaire by the Police Commission Staff Liaison.

Conclusion

The Police Commission takes their role seriously and mindfully in creating a climate of mutual respect and partnership between the community and the Eugene Police Department to help achieve safety, justice, and trust for all people in Eugene.

Moreover, the Commission appreciates the support of the City Council, Mayor, City Manager, and the Chief of Police, and looks forward to addressing police policies and procedures that reflect a healthy, transparent, and safe balance between the Eugene Police Department and the community.

The Police Commission looks forward to the work set forth for them as outlined in the 2024-2025 biennial work plan.