

Annotated Urban Forestry Plan Goals, Policies, and Objectives
Urban Forestry Plan Advisory Committee Recommendation to City Council
August 11, 2008

GOAL:

Restore, establish and maintain a healthy urban forest with age and species diversity that keeps pace with urban growth, recognizing the numerous functions and benefits a healthy urban forest provides.

POLICIES:

1. Achieve a healthy urban forest through a multi-faceted approach, including regulation and enforcement, interagency coordination, incentives, education, training, planting programs, partnerships, and celebration of trees and their benefits.
2. Establish a forestry plan that addresses tree planting, protection and retention of existing trees, and ongoing health and maintenance of trees.
3. Establish age and species diversity of trees to ensure a healthy urban forest over the long term which is resistant to disease and insects, and which includes continual planting and replacement of trees to account for tree loss that occurs over time as a result of natural conditions, urban development, and mortality.
4. Recognizing that street trees comprise only part of the urban forest, plan for a healthy urban forest that addresses street trees and other trees.
5. Recognizing that many of the benefits and functions of trees are substantially greater with mature larger tree species, the plan should include provisions to ensure planting of large tree species.
6. Determine realistic tree canopy coverage targets and establish programs to achieve measurable targets within specific timeframes.
7. Take advantage of the “green infrastructure” provided by the urban forest, recognizing trees provide a cost-effective investment toward stormwater management, pollution control, energy conservation, “heat island” mitigation, and other related benefits.
8. Work within the framework of a “tree ethic” for the city that helps guide decision-making.

OBJECTIVES

I. City's Development Standards and Regulations (and Non-Development Regulations).

1. Tree Guide and Street Tree, Front Yard Tree, Parking Lot Tree List.

- a. Eliminate multiple permitted/prohibited tree lists. Provide a comprehensive tree list that serves the needs of the Development Code (permitted and prohibited trees) and is also educational and informational.
- b. Ensure the list identifies “the right trees for the right sites”.
- c. Greatly expand list of permitted trees that are suitable to encourage species diversity and remove barriers to species diversity.
- d. Evaluate whether certain trees should be identified as “prohibited” street trees or front yard trees, or whether they should be allowed but not count as part of the “required” street trees, front yard trees or parking lot trees.
- e. Separate the list of permitted “street trees” from “front yard trees” to allow for a greater variety of front yard trees that might not be suitable for street trees.
- f. Consider defining categories of trees to aid selection, such as “parking lot trees”, “street trees”, “front yard trees”, “shade trees”.
- g. Include requirements that at least some trees be large species canopy or shade trees and include requirements to ensure long-term age and species diversity.
- h. Encourage more evergreens and native trees in suitable planting locations where they don't create conflicts with infrastructure.
- i. In addition to identifying various characteristics of trees and suitability for different sites, the street tree guide should also identify “green infrastructure” qualities for different species, such as the greater effectiveness of larger species for shading, pollution removal, and stormwater management.
- j. Where overhead utilities exist, provide for planting of smaller trees under utilities and planting larger trees where there aren't overhead utilities.
- k. Investigate whether it might be preferable to plant certain larger trees in planter strips that are smaller than optimal, but still achieving more desirable results than planting smaller trees in smaller planter strips, provided they don't create problems with infrastructure. A less than desirable result with a larger, longer living tree may still be preferable to a smaller, shorter living tree planted in its optimal location.
- l. Identify larger tree species that work well in narrower planter strips and tree wells. Determine whether wider planter strips and/or larger tree wells should be required.
- m. Consider whether some trees are appropriate based on their production of chemicals that may contribute to formation of smog or be toxic (reference p. 67 of Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide). Balance this with other potential benefits.

Staff will review the existing Street Tree list/requirements in the development code, the list developed by the tree committee, and other documents, and bring back some ideas for consideration by the committee that meets all of the needs: educational, informative, and regulatory. We will consult as needed with tree experts.

2. **Evaluate Planter Strip Standards.** *(This issue deals with continuing to require new developments to install sidewalks behind planter strips. It doesn't address protection of existing old trees in planter strips).*
- a. Determine whether standards are sufficient for tree planting, balanced with recognition that additional right-of-way would be required for wider planter strips. *The committee agreed that planter strip widths should remain as they currently exist (don't eliminate them, don't narrow them, and don't widen them recognizing trade-offs for wider right-of-way. It is possible to get some "canopy" species that are suited to these spaces. There is a need for sufficient technical planting requirements to be addressed, such as sufficient soil depth, etc.*
 - b. Review standards that provide flexibility for front-yard tree planting requirements to ensure planting of trees in planter strips. *The committee directed staff to change this to require at least some of the trees are planted in the planter strip.*
 - c. Review the list of allowable planter strip street trees to ensure the list contains species that have the least potential for causing damage to adjacent public infrastructure such as utilities and sidewalks. Staff will also evaluate technical aspects of street tree planting for methods that prevent or minimize impacts to public infrastructure.
 - d. Explore opportunities to allow for greater flexibility when incorporating planter strips into street designs, so that the impact on existing natural features can be minimized when street improvements are installed. *This also partially addresses the issues related to item I-5(h) below, regarding narrower street standards in forested areas.*

3. Parking Lot Trees.

- a. Increase the requirements for parking lot trees, including size of species, planting area, and spacing in order to establish greater shading of paved surfaces. *The committee agreed and identified some specific issues. Should eliminate “diamond” planting spaces as illustrated in development code that provide insufficient planting area. 6x8 planter concept between compact spaces is okay. If possible, standards should achieve the “canopy” objective in a way that doesn’t substantially consume land that could otherwise be used for parking spaces. There was substantial discussion of technical issues: improve soil conditions (24” depth); need to ensure conditions allow for drainage after area has been compacted and paved; may need to auger to allow drainage. There was discussion about whether someone such as a landscape architect should be required to prepare the landscape plans, at least for commercial projects. There was also discussion about whether the landscape designer should be required to certify everything was installed according to approved plans prior to final inspection—and what qualification might be necessary to sign-off to have significance. This wasn’t resolved, but staff will research this further and bring back information to help understand implications. Jim Love distributed research literature to consider in looking at these standards.*
- b. Eliminate exemptions for paved “outdoor storage” and “outdoor retail” areas for commercial properties, most notably retail car sales lots. *The committee concurred.*

4. Permitting.

- a. Eliminate confusion and conflicts between Municipal Code and Development Code. For example, if a land use approval includes planting of new trees in planter strips within the right-of-way, do the permitting requirements of the Municipal Code also apply? Are Planning and Field Operations both required to approve the tree plantings? *The committee concurred. Staff will draft recommended language.*
- b. Consider a requirement for tree removal permits on existing developed lots, to provide an indication of the number of trees being removed over time. *The committee also suggested that a replanting provision may be appropriate in some instances where a certain number of significant trees have been removed from existing developed lots.*

5. **Tree Retention and Removal.** *The tree retention issue and its resolution are of substantial interest and discussion. This will require additional committee work to resolve. Staff suggested a meeting with the members most interested in the issue (a small subcommittee) to work on this and come back to the full committee, especially discussion related to the tree valuation guide).*
- a. **Hillside Development.** Consistent with the community survey that identified a desire to protect hillside trees:
 - i. Review adequacy of existing hillside tree retention provisions and community-wide tree retention provisions.
 - ii. Review site plan review requirements and land division requirements, as site plan review may not contain the same requirements as land divisions. **Committee concurred.**
 - iii. Clarify provisions for parent parcels vs. new lots and rights-of-way. **Committee concurred.**
 - iv. Evaluate whether similar provisions should be added for non-hillside properties, including provisions governing tree deposits and replanting. **Committee said these should also apply in non-hillside areas. Jeff Nelson raised the question about whether there is adequate area with larger homes on smaller lots for this to be feasible.**
 - b. **Fees for Removal of Significant-Sized Trees.**
 - Evaluate current code provisions pertaining to fees for removal of significant sized trees. Identify whether fees should be tiered and based on relative value or size of trees. Evaluate whether maximum fee of \$2,000 should be retained or eliminated. *As noted for #5 above, the tree retention issue and its resolution are of substantial interest and discussion. This will require additional committee work to resolve. Staff suggested a meeting with the members most interested in the issue (a small subcommittee) to work on this and come back to the full committee, especially discussion related to the tree valuation guide).*
 - Ensure fees are evaluated to avoid unintended consequences. For example, if fees for tree removal are too severe, they may become a disincentive for people to voluntarily plant trees if they are concerned they may have a severe fee in the future if they want to remove it for something such as a home expansion. **The committee will review these issues as part of the tree retention/removal discussion.**
 - Consider allowing a developer to replace trees on a property at a higher ratio than what was removed, in lieu of paying the re-vegetation fee. **The committee felt it was important that if provisions allow removal of healthy significant trees, then the replanting requirements should be more than the minimum requirements.**

- c. **“Significant Tree” Definition.** Amend the Development Code definition for “significant tree” to account for tree species. *The committee would also like to add provisions that consider the health of existing trees, so the retention of unhealthy or diseased trees that meet the definition of “significant tree” would not be required, or could be addressed through replanting.*
- d. **Eliminate Loopholes.** Review “development regulations” and “non-development regulations” and eliminate loopholes that allow for tree removal in advance of filing a land use application without the same tree-retention requirements that apply to development sites. *The committee will review these issues as part of the tree retention/removal discussion.*
- e. **Consequences of Development Site Alterations.** Evaluate how regulations can best provide a balance between minimizing avoidable impacts to existing significant trees that may occur during site development, versus preparing for unavoidable impacts that occur that could potentially cause retained trees to become hazard trees. *For example, if piping an irrigation canal may cut off a tree’s water supply, the impact should be recognized and, if feasible, separate irrigation provided. If separate irrigation cannot be provided, then the tree’s health should be monitored to ensure it does not become a hazard, or the tree removed all together.*
- f. **Stands vs. Individual Trees.**
- Evaluate whether in some cases the Code should focus on preserving stands of trees rather than individual trees, recognizing there could be greater benefits in the long-term. *There is no consensus on this issue yet. This needs to be discussed as part of the tree retention/removal discussion. Staff will need direction from the committee on this issue.*
 - Explore alternatives to ensure survival of trees that were retained in the interior of tree stands when surrounding trees have been removed, where the remaining trees may be susceptible to wind and sun damage due to inadequate root development and lower canopy vegetation. *This is an issue that will require additional technical expertise and recommendations as part of the tree retention/removal discussion.*
- g. **Required Trees.** Revise Development Code to prohibit removal of trees planted in conjunction with site plan approval and replacement with smaller or younger trees, predominantly for commercial development. Requirements for planting of long-lived or large canopy shade trees are ineffective if the trees die or are routinely removed and replaced. (See “Education” provisions to work with developers to plant trees where they won’t obstruct signs when mature). *The committee concurred that staff should recommend language to require retention of trees planted to meet the site plan review requirements, and to have a permit process for removal these trees when there is cause.*

damage to the cambium layer of new trees and alkaline soil conditions resulting from leaching of concrete and asphalt. Identify examples of locations where this has/hasn't been a problem to help determine variables.

- Evaluate whether requirements for size of initial stock should to a more optimal size that best ensures the survival and health of trees.
- Update Development Code to clarify irrigation requirements. Require automatic irrigation for planter strips. Evaluate and clarify requirements for automatic irrigation for front yard and/or other landscaping.
- **Financial Security.** Decide whether financial security should be provided from new development to guarantee survival or replacement of new tree stock for a specified time. *Staff sought direction from the committee, and there was general direction from the committee that there should be some form of security, especially related to commercial projects, to ensure initial survival of trees until they are established.*

8. Riparian Trees. Consider establishing standards for new development to establish minimum tree plantings within riparian zones to improve water quality, riparian habitat, and water temperature. *The committee concurred that staff should propose language that would require a certain amount of trees along a riparian area for new development (either retention or new planting). This isn't the same as a riparian setback which is independent of this discussion; for example, with this proposal, trees could be planted to the side of a structure rather than between the structure and the stream.*

9. Street Tree Plan. Consider development of a specific street tree planting plan in any core commercial areas that currently lack street trees/grates within the sidewalk area. *Staff recommended that any location-specific street tree planting plans be done as a subsequent phase. Any new downtown plans should include a street tree planting plan component. Staff recommended that the committee request resources to do the inventory and work. This could be a task undertaken by the new urban forester. The committee concurred with these recommendations and recommended that resources be provided to do the inventory and work.*

10. Property Owner Responsibility for Landscaping Along Existing Frontage Installed Through LID or Other Public or Developer Installed Project. Together with evaluation of City responsibility for landscaping and irrigation requirements associated with street projects, explore alternatives for responsibilities of adjacent property owners where properties are vacant or already developed. *This item will require further discussion before the committee decides on what, if any, recommendations to make on this item.*

11. Heritage Tree Program. Evaluate whether the City should establish a Heritage Tree Program. Heritage Tree Programs provide protection to significant trees of historic interest. Evaluate how this would interface with and/or affect the Significant Tree recognition program. Heritage Tree Programs are typically regulatory to ensure

protection and preservation while also providing recognition, whereas the Significant Tree recognition program is voluntary and provides recognition.

Staff initially understood this to be a program that required application for a specific tree to be included on a list and then received protection. The San Mateo example from committee member Allan Hammer is very different. It is basically a tree retention/removal ordinance that pre-designates trees based on a definition. That ordinance is really a more general “significant tree” retention/removal ordinance. It should be addressed in that discussion. Staff recommends that the committee consider a comprehensive approach that includes both components, a “significant tree” retention/removal ordinance that specifies tree retention and removal requirements for properties, including provisions that allow for removal of some trees for development, and a component that ensures retention of specifically designated trees that have special importance to the community. Staff understood there to be concurrence on this issue, but this issue appears to be unresolved and in need of discussion as part of tree retention and removal policies. Without making the distinction between the two in an ordinance that allows for removal of some percentage of “significant” trees, the true “Heritage” trees could then be removed as part of that percentage unless they were designated separately.

In short, the term “Heritage Tree Ordinance” is used very differently depending on the community. Some codes designate a class of trees as heritage trees, others designate individual special trees, and others have provisions that designate classes of trees and individually designated trees. It is important to be clear about the intended substance of the issue since the title can create some confusion.

II. City Budgeting

1. Evaluate staffing levels and qualifications and contracting options to determine if there is a need for a certified arborist to provide a role in management of the urban forest, especially related to street trees and parks trees. *This is a management decision, and needs to be made by the Director based on program requirements. Staff suggested that the committee should provide clarification to the Director as to what current or proposed program activities they feel this position would specifically relate to. This position was budgeted and advertised, but has not been filled. One of the required qualifications is that the person be a certified arborist.*
2. Evaluate whether funding levels are adequate or should be increased for educational materials, educational programs, and planting programs to achieve objectives and targets. *Staff recommended that Field Operations staff work with the committee to identify and set objectives and targets for programs, determine needs, and obtain information about current funding levels for the various programs to determine if current funding levels enable the desired level of program operations. Staff recommended that the committee and Field Operations staff complete program synopsis sheets and provided samples to help achieve this.*

3. Identify a funding source to underground existing overhead utilities. ***Staff sought a committee endorsement on this item. The committee concurred and made this recommendation. This is already be pursued by Administration through a potential amendment to franchise agreement.***

4. Consider whether the upcoming storm drainage utility should include a financial incentive for properties that have trees of a minimum caliper, with a tiered benefit for trees of larger caliper. Staff sought a committee endorsement on this item. ***The committee concurred and made this recommendation. Staff has already communicated this to the staff working on this issue. This provides an incentive for retaining trees and for planting trees when not otherwise required. The committee also recommended that staff come back to the committee with information about the types of incentives and their purposes and a staff recommendation about how to get what we need for the least cost.***

III. City Operations

-Inventory and Monitoring

1. Conduct a tree canopy analysis of the overall urban forest to assess the current state of the urban forest and help establish tree planting targets and monitor progress toward goals over time. ***Staff recommended that this be done and the committee concurred.***

2. Conduct a street tree inventory to identify age, species, size and health of trees to assess the overall health of this part of the urban forestry and enable management decisions to be made for street trees as a whole rather than on a lot-by-lot basis. Incorporate the inventory into GIS system. Identify sites available for street tree planting to identify potential increase in street trees, as well as constraints, such as overhead utilities. Consider including some information about front yard trees in this inventory to identify areas devoid of trees vs. areas where street trees are small or lacking but where large front yard trees are present and provide canopy. ***Staff recommended that this be done and the committee concurred.***

3. Consider creating a database of new street trees and front yard trees planted in new developments to facilitate a current and updated inventory of street trees. ***Staff recommended that this be done through update of inventory noted above and the committee concurred. The specific approach to managing the inventory will need to be addressed by staff.***

-Coordination of Plans

1. Ensure the Urban Forestry Plan is coordinated with the Stormwater Master Plan Update. Large trees are an important part of that plan due to the riparian and stormwater quality and management benefits they provide. ***No committee action is needed on this item. This will be coordinated by staff.***

2. Establish tree planting provisions that can be put in place before any UGB expansion, so the provisions will apply when urban zoning is provided.

-Financial Incentives

1. In conjunction with the stormwater utility and financing provisions, consider financial incentives for properties that have trees of a specified minimum caliper. Provide progressive incentives for larger trees, proportional to the benefit they provide. ***Staff has communicated this to the staff working with the committee on the stormwater utility and financing provisions.***

-City Staff Training and Coordination. *No committee direction is required on these items. These need to be addressed internally.*

1. During inspections, staff needs to verify trees are meeting the minimum initial caliper requirements.
2. Provide staff training regarding tree-protection measures and ensure adequate cross-training and clear assignment of responsibility for Community Development staff to ensure appropriate tree protection measures for existing trees are in place at the time of initial inspections and remain in place during subsequent inspections.
3. Provide additional staff training for inspections for adequacy of initial tree health and planting conditions. Coordinate this effort with decisions as to whether landscape professional is required to sign off the final installation, provide financial security, and/or add more specialized technical staff.
4. Evaluate whether there is sufficient staff expertise regarding site modifications that can affect tree health. Provide training or evaluate need to staff specialization in this area.

-Street Tree Management. *This is a substantial issue and will need significant committee and political discussion. This issue is very important to the committee. This needs committee discussion and feedback. The committee can help provide examples of codes from other communities with which they are familiar.*

1. **Street Trees.** Identify whether the City should take a more proactive role in the management of street trees. Identify whether the City should inventory these trees, evaluate the age and species diversity, health, disease, insect problems, and presence of trees relative to available planting spaces, and establish a proactive management plan. Evaluate whether the City should have in-house staff capacity such as a certified arborist or contract for such a program. If in-house staff, evaluate where in the organization that staff best fits. Evaluate whether the City should begin to directly manage the trees, including planting, pruning, and maintenance, or notify owners of required actions and have them perform the work.

Some communities specify that trees in the public right-of-way are publicly owned and maintained. They have control over the planting and maintenance of these trees. There is cost and liability associated with this approach. A tree-by-tree inventory is frequently a useful management tool for these communities to establish a maintenance cycle and to assess health, age diversity, and species diversity and plan for planting and replanting based on this information.

The City of Grants Pass provides that these trees are privately owned trees in public or semi-public areas. Property owners are required to maintain the trees and have liability for these trees. Permits are required for planting, removal, and some pruning of these trees. The City has some control over tree species and removal(?), but is unable to establish a routine maintenance cycle, as this is the responsibility of the homeowners, and is handled on a code compliance basis.

-Park Tree Management

This plan won't focus on specific park tree management decisions, but may include recommendations for future parks to avoid potential conflicts. Staff recommended that this not be addressed as part of the current planning tasks, but could be an item for the Urban Tree Advisory Committee to address with Field Operations Staff and City Council.

-Progress Monitoring

1. Through tree and canopy inventories, evaluation of statistics, and community surveys, monitor progress over time from a technical and perception standpoint. ***Staff will bring back ideas to the committee, and the committee concurred. There was no specific committee feedback on the issues so far.***

-Program Summaries

Provide a 1-page synopsis of all existing programs/events for compilation in one location.

1. Programs
 - a. Significant Tree Recognition Program
 - b. Memorial Tree Program
 - c. Joint Tree Planting Program
 - d. Urban Forest Tree Program
 - e. Hazardous Tree Program
 - f. School /Other Partner Planting Programs (proposed)
 - g. Tree Ambassador Program (proposed)
 - h. Training sessions for homeowners/development community (proposed?)
 - i. Downtown Tree Management Programs
 - j. Distinguished Landscape Award (Beautification)
2. Events
 - a. Tree Walks
 - b. Arbor Day Celebration

IV. Code Compliance, Enforcement, and Penalties. *This needs to be discussed as part of the tree retention/removal discussion.*

1. For trees to be retained, evaluate appropriate penalties for damage to trees or site alterations that will kill trees (altered drainage, inappropriate irrigation, root damage, heavy equipment damage, soil compaction, and imported fill soil placed over roots that suffocates roots).
2. Evaluate current code provisions pertaining to penalties for removal of trees in violation development approval or other law. Identify whether penalties should be tiered and based on relative size and value of trees.

3. Ensure penalties are evaluated to avoid unintended consequences. For example, if penalties for tree removal are too severe, they may become a disincentive for people to voluntarily plant trees if they are concerned they may have a severe penalty in the future if they want to remove it for something such as a home expansion.
4. Determine code enforcement resources and priorities for review of trees approved through site plan review continue to ensure they continue to thrive and ensure owners replace trees that die or are damaged.

V. Education

1. **Tree Walk.** Continue to provide programs such as Tree Walks. Evaluate programs for needs, such as printed materials, self-guided walks with a guide, etc. Determine if there are any resource needs to enhance the program. Consider expanding to a series such as a downtown tree walk, tree walks in different parks, etc.
2. Work with local nurseries to ensure they are aware of requirements and any new changes. Ensure they are aware of tree planting requirements and can have time to have available stock of sufficient size and species.
3. **Tree List.** Ensure the street tree list provides an educational and informative component, in addition to a regulatory role. *No separate action required at this time. To be addressed as part of tree guide.*
4. **Work with property owners to avoid tree conflicts.** Education may help with a range of issues. Work with commercial developers to plant trees where they won't obstruct signs when mature. *Options include the city newsletter, website, brochures, training sessions, etc.*
5. Increase property owner awareness of ownership issues and permitting requirements for pruning or removal of trees in the public right-of-way. *Options include the city newsletter, website, brochures, training sessions, etc.*
6. **City Newsletter.** Write a series of short articles to be included in the monthly newsletter. Include information about the benefits of urban forestry. *A committee member or subcommittee could develop series of article topics and write for the monthly newsletter? Staff can help with topics.*
7. **Brochures.** Develop a series of information brochures addressing key technical issues and explaining benefits of the urban forest. Identify existing sources that may already have such brochures, such as the National Arbor Day Foundation and University of Washington Urban Horticulture Program. *The full set of brochures has been obtained from the National Arbor Day Foundation and is available in the Community Development Department. Materials from the National Arbor Day Foundation and University of Washington Urban Horticulture Program are now referenced and linked on the web page to applicable sites. Tree-related resources on the website have been*

provided on one tree resource page, bringing together information that had been compiled and presented separately on pages for different departments and committees.

8. **Case Studies, Current Events, and Examples.** Use case studies and current events as examples of what is happening in other communities, what is being done proactively and reactively, and the problems they are experiencing and the solutions they are using. *Case studies should be used in educational materials to promote awareness, success stories, and examples of achievable results.*
9. Investigate reasons why some people and businesses have not planted trees or don't want to plant trees. If people haven't planted trees but aren't opposed, seek opportunities to plant trees or make it easy for them to have trees planted. If people don't want to plant trees, identify opportunities to overcome objections, whether education about benefits would help overcome objections, and whether incentives might overcome objections.
10. Work with developers to help them recognize that good tree preservation and hillside development practices may reduce opposition to development. Some of the opposition to new development may not be related to growth as much as it may be related to certain development practices. *Explore the best ways to address this. Examples include information sharing opportunities with different groups including the homebuilders association.*
11. Identify why property owners don't want to have trees replaced when trees are removed from under powerlines.
12. Provide training to staff, contractors, and landscape installers, and members of the development community on technical issues related to tree health, such as initial tree planting issues, proper protection of trees to be retained, etc. *Staff recommended, and the committee concurred, that an annual training session should be planned and budgeted. It could be jointly sponsored by others.*
13. Make sure informational and educational materials are available on the website. A good first step has already been completed to make sure tree-related items are coordinated, rather than separated by department. *Staff has completed work on a new tree resource page that brings together tree resources that were previously on separate department and committee pages. New resources have been added to the page. The committee should periodically review the site to determine if there are any additional resources or links that should be included on the website. (Copyright restriction prevented the Arbor Day Foundation brochures from being made available electronically, but there is an index on the website and the brochures are available in Community Development. The website can also be further publicized and referenced on educational materials.*

VI. Planting Programs

1. Identify direction on the replacement tree planting program: When trees under powerlines are removed, should smaller trees be replanted under powerlines as street trees, or should larger trees be planted in the front yard, but without replacing smaller trees under the powerlines too. (Gives up on the street trees in these locations). ***This item will require further committee direction.***
2. **Tree Planting Program.** Continue to use the tree planting program to plant larger canopy trees. Set targets for planting consistent with the targets of this plan and provide funding accordingly. Coordinate this work with a Tree Ambassador program, see item VII.4. below.
3. **Memorial Tree Program.** Continue the Memorial Tree Program. Determine if there are any resource needs to enhance the program. Identify whether the program is operating optimally or whether any aspects should be formalized. ***The committee indicated there is a need to better publicize this program.***

VII. Advocacy

1. Continue to advocate a healthy urban forest through current and expanded programs such as participation in Tree City USA
2. Find other opportunities to be an advocate, such as proclamations, etc. and when informal opportunities arise.
3. **Significant Tree Recognition Program.** Continue the program to recognize significant trees. Determine if there are any resource needs to enhance the program. Identify whether the program is operating optimally or whether any aspects should be formalized.
4. **Consider a “Tree Ambassador” program.** The City could extend its resources by having individual volunteers in the community help encourage people to plant and retain trees. ***The committee recommended this be pursued. There could be some specific requirements or training, but there should be some recognition for these efforts. If the Urban Tree Advisory Committee takes the lead, this can provide additional recognition for the committee’s work. There could be a booth at the Growers Market, or similar.***
5. **Regularly Scheduled Items.** If not already in existence, the UTAC should set up a calendar and schedule regular annual events (maybe monthly) throughout the year to increase awareness and interest.

VIII. Partnerships. *These will need work to put together. Staff will look to the committee for ideas, existing work in progress, and to provide volunteer assistance with programs.*

1. Establish partnerships with public landowners, private landowners, individuals, volunteers, nonprofit groups, and service clubs to help achieve objectives for planting, education, and advocacy.

-Public Land Owners

1. Work with the School Districts, RCC, and the County to identify potential planting sites on their properties and coordinate voluntary planting and management plans.
2. Work with ODOT to identify locations within the public right-of-way where additional plantings can occur.

-Private Landowners

1. Work with interested property owners, including homeowners, churches, and commercial property owners to identify potential planting sites on their properties and coordinate voluntary planting and management plans. ***The committee members and/or “Tree Ambassadors” could potentially provide volunteer assistance.***
2. Work with private property owners along streams to identify options for plantings to improve streamside habitat and provide shading to reduce water temperatures. ***If committee members know of existing programs or funding sources for this, they will provide information? Staff will contact the watershed association and look at opportunities to coordinate efforts. Otherwise, staff can work on putting together an independent City program.***

-Other Organizations

1. Coordinate planting efforts and other programs with existing programs that might already exist that could be coordinated or expanded. Existing programs to explore are any programs of the Mid Rogue Watershed Council, Rotary, and the County Forestland planting program that involves youth and the Boy Scouts. ***Committee members could help coordinate efforts.***

-Other Agencies

1. Evaluate whether the City and Oregon Department of Forestry should implement a “land use compatibility” process to ensure requirements of both agencies are being satisfied. ***No committee action is required. Staff will investigate this.***
2. Inform the Oregon Department of Forestry of materials we have found and types of the types of materials that would be helpful to us and other communities, including technical information, more direct “how-to” resources and model plans and ordinances for communities undertaking similar planning efforts. ***No committee action needed. Staff will pursue.***
3. Much of the ODF outreach appears to focus on street trees and park trees. Encourage the program to include additional outreach with materials such as the Forest Service documents for watershed-based urban forestry, including links to such documents and similar materials from their website. ***No committee action needed. Staff will pursue.***
4. Coordinate with ODOT to establish agreements regarding planting of trees for state highway projects to help address aesthetic, stormwater, water quality, and air quality impacts of transportation facilities. ***No committee action needed. Staff will pursue.***

-Interagency and Multi-Organization Coordination

1. **School Programs.** Coordinate city programs, tree planting programs, and educational efforts to involve students and provide “hands-on” experience. ***This type of program will take time to develop. The committee concurs it should be pursued.***
2. **Utilities.** Review and, if necessary, formalize permitting and franchise provisions governing pruning and removal of trees in the right-of-way and easements. Clarify where “blanket” permitting is authorized for certain activities and where special permits are required from the city for other activities. Identify whether current pruning practices are acceptable and whether they are formalized in any permit or blanket agreement. Evaluate needs to be addressed as part of next franchise renewal. Identify whether power, phone, and cable all have authority to prune or remove street trees. Identify authority is provided to subcontract services to Trees Inc. or other subcontractors and whether they are obtaining required permits. ***Staff will review, work with City Attorney, and come back to committee with recommendations. No committee action needed at this time.***

IX. Lobbying. ***These items are not high priority, but could be pursued.***

1. Contact state and federal representatives to seek greater funding of Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry Urban & Community Forestry Programs to provide grants, staffing, and technical resources to assist communities in the development of Urban Forestry programs.
2. Evaluate whether other cities or the League of Oregon Cities have similar priorities and could lobby collectively for additional funding, especially in areas of growing importance related to “green infrastructure”.

X. City as Property Owner

1. Evaluate City-owned properties to identify whether there are underutilized sites that could be more intensively planted. ***Staff recommended that a committee member or subcommittee evaluate sites and come back with recommendations, and the committee concurred.***
2. As part of this plan, don’t address management of existing park use/tree protection issues, but develop recommendations for future park design and management that avoid similar conflicts. ***This item can be address independently from work on this plan by the UTAC if desired.***

XI. Public Works

1. Utilize trees to reduce costs associated with other infrastructure and facilities, such as stormwater management, energy conservation, water quality, and air quality. ***No action needed. To be addressed under other specific action items.***
2. Find the most effective ways to incorporate trees along streets when adjoining properties are vacant or already developed without irrigation in place. ***This should be further evaluated, but there is no specific direction on the best alternative.***

3. **Property Owner Responsibility for Landscaping Along Existing Frontage Installed Through LID or Other Public or Developer Installed Project.** Together with evaluation of City responsibility for landscaping and irrigation requirements associated with street projects, explore alternatives for responsibilities of adjacent property owners where properties are vacant or already developed. *This should be further evaluated, but there is no specific direction on the best alternative.*
4. Evaluate ways to recapture investment from adjoining vacant or already developed properties when trees and irrigation are installed as part of a street project. Consider something similar to an Advance Finance District that would address capital expenditure and some mechanism for operational expenses such as a monthly fee for maintenance and irrigation. Coordinate with “street tree management” issues. This would become a non-issue if the City takes over responsibility for street trees. *This should be further evaluated, but there is no specific direction on the best alternative.*

Non-Issues

1. There don't appear to be conflicts with state regulations governing forestry or urban-wildland interface issues where state requirements would pre-empt local decisions or alternatives that would be addressed in the forestry plan.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Unsure What to do with the Following:

1. ~~Require that trees are certified to be disease free. This appears to be more of a USDA or Oregon Department of Agriculture issue to be addressed statewide. Is there an existing certification program already? It doesn't appear this could be implemented locally without a statewide program in place.~~ *The committee agreed this shouldn't be pursued further. This isn't a local issue.*

Overall Guidance

1. The Forest Service's Urban Forestry Planning for Watersheds provides excellent guidance for consideration. Many of the ideas in this document could be of use in carrying out the above items.

Existing Nonconforming Commercial Properties that Lack Trees

1. Explore alternatives to stimulate tree planting in nonconforming commercial properties and parking lots that are currently lacking trees. This may be a difficult area to address, but it is an area which could make a big difference. *Staff can explore and also look for further information from the committee on good examples, and will bring back ideas.*

Technical Expertise Needs for this Plan

1. Obtain technical expertise to help address the following issues.
 - a. Tree planting guide
 - b. General tree health and planting conditions
 - c. What are some alternatives to retain native trees such as oaks, madrones, and manzanitas that may be well adapted to the climate and soils but may be susceptible to stress or death when residential planting and irrigation occur?
 - d. What is the most effective way to identify potential structural failure of trees that may occur such as loss of limbs or falling trees for trees that may appear healthy?