



**Special Meeting of the
City of Spokane Park Board
Urban Forestry Tree Committee and
Citizen Advisory Committee to the Urban
Forestry Tree Committee
Joint Field Trip to Friendship Park
3:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 30, 2023**

UFTC Committee Members:

Kevin Brownlee – Chair (Absent)
Nick Sumner (Absent)
Kevin Cash (Absent)
Kris Neely (Absent)
Hannah Kitz – Alternate – (Absent)

Parks Staff:

Katie Kosanke
Lars Erpenbach, City Arborist

UFCAC Committee Members:

Kris Neely – Chair (Absent)
X Tim Kohlhauff
X Beth LaBar
Guy Gifford (Absent)
Toni Sharkey (Absent)
X Catherine Olsen
Cindy Deffe - Absent
Joe Zubaly (Absent)
X Matt Stewart
X Ben Kappen
Justyce Brant (Absent)

MINUTES

Katie Kosanke and staff arborist Lars Erpenbach walked through the park and talked about tree needs for clearance over paths and over the streets, overall tree health and public safety. Members walked around the park and engaged with staff in discussions related to tree species, placements, and maintenance objectives for many trees. All of the trees at Friendship Park are scheduled to be pruned by staff this year, as time allows around other reactive tree work which frequently arises along with many other ongoing routine tree tasks in other park-maintained areas.

Inflation Reduction Act - Katie Kosanke provided an overview of the Inflation Reduction Act grant opportunity, which was due by June 1st. An overview of the project was provided to the Park Board and was distributed to members in attendance and is included in the minutes. There was a window

of just 6 weeks to prepare a significant proposal. With Garrett Jones's oversight, staff requested nearly 25 million dollars. A full match waiver was requested since the project will focus on urban forestry work only in disadvantaged communities. The Federal Disadvantaged Community map encompasses much of the community – and specifically NE Spokane where there are the fewest trees/lowest canopy cover, and the greatest number of trees in urgent need for care/maintenance. Also included were funds to assist in caring for trees located on School District grounds.

Tree Equity Spokane proposes to plant a significant number of trees and provide care for existing trees, so they live longer and provide benefits for longer. This also would help to relieve a financial burden to abutting property owners who are typically responsible for care and maintenance of trees within the public right-of-way. Many trees in these areas receive no care, or inconsistent care. If successful, the program will greatly assist in working towards canopy cover goals and promoting increased urban forest health in parks, at schools, and along city streets.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023.



May 19, 2023

Dear Park Board Members,

We want to inform you about a recently released grant opportunity through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Urban and Community Forestry Program under the Inflation Reduction Act, the Urban and Community Forestry Program received a historic **\$1.5 billion** to support urban tree-planting, urban forest planning and management, and related activities, particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Forest Service is requesting proposals from eligible entities that are working to provide equitable access to trees and green spaces and the benefits they provide. The funding opportunity is open to proposals spanning a broad range of investments working at a community, regional, and national scale.

The grant was just announced in April and has a swift deadline of June 1st for applications for consideration. Urban Forestry staff are working diligently to form a proposal with Garret Jones' oversight. The grant funds are to be spent within **five years**.

Proposals being accepted with a \$100,000 minimum request, 50 Million max. Match is 50%, or, a match waiver can be requested if only working in disadvantaged communities. We plan to request a **full match waiver** and plan to focus on only disadvantaged communities. The Federal Disadvantaged Community map (blue shading on map) encompasses much of our community – and specifically NE Spokane where there are the fewest trees/lowest canopy cover, and the greatest number of trees in urgent need for care/maintenance.



Proposal Overview:

- Forest Health / Maintenance of Street Trees and Park Trees in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods – provide care for the trees we have, so they live longer and provide benefits for longer. This also relieves a major financial burden to abutting property owners who are typically responsible for care and maintenance of trees within the public right-of-way. Many trees in these areas receive no care, or inconsistent care due to the substantial cost to citizens.
 - Formative/structural prune young trees (correct issues while young to prevent serious defects)
 - Clearance prune (prune lower limbs over the street and sidewalk) and remove large dead branches
 - Remove/replace very poor condition and dead trees street side (safety issue)
- Include funding to assist in maintenance for trees on school grounds in these same areas
- Planting a significant number of new street trees to add canopy cover in disadvantaged neighborhoods and work towards our goal of 30% Canopy Cover by 2030.
- Temp workers, and consultants are expected to be utilized with this project. Tree Work will be contracted to tree services. We also plan to utilize current programs such as SpoCanopy, our planting partnership with The Lands Council.

We plan to submit a substantial multi-million dollar proposal – as much of the community is located within this federally recognized map. This opportunity will provide resources to plant trees where they are needed the most, as identified also by Gonzaga's Heat Study. According to Spokane Beat the Heat research, not all regions or demographics in Spokane are equally affected by extreme heat. Differences in green space and the built environment, mean that some people in Spokane experience more heat than others, which is environmentally unjust.

Please let us know if you have questions and we will provide more information as it becomes available. We apologize we were unable to craft a proposal for your review prior to submission. We hope you will be confident in our efforts to seek out this once in a lifetime opportunity - which will provide an immense lasting positive impact on our community forest and our citizens.