



**City of Spokane
Citizen Advisory Committee to the
Urban Forestry Tree Committee**

3 p.m. Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Hybrid in-person and WebEx virtual meeting
Katie Kosanke - Urban Forester

Committee Members:

- X Kris Neely – Chair (arrived 3:08 p.m.)
- X Tim Kohlhauff
- X Beth LaBar
- X Guy Gifford
- X Cindy Deffe
- Joe Zubaly (Absent – Excused)
- X Matt Stewart
- X Justyce Brant
- Ben Kappen (Absent – Excused)
- Paul Lower – (Absent – Excused)
- X Logan Callen

Parks Staff:

Katie Kosanke
Amber Ramirez
Angel Spell
Karin Cook
Sarah Deatrach

Guests:

Nancy MacKerrow
Toni Sharkey

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by committee member Tim Kohlhauff.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from October 2024 were approved.

Discussion Items:

1. Ceremonies, Appointments, Announcements
 - None

Public Comments:

- None.

Standing Report Items:

1. Community Assembly – No report.
2. Staff Report - Katie Kosanke – The staff report was included in the Fall Update.

Old Business:

1. **IRA Grant Update** – Amber Ramirez

Amber Ramirez presented an IRA Grant update.

- a. City of Spokane Urban Forestry received a 6-million-dollar IRA Urban and Community Forestry grant for projects to be completed within the boundaries of the City of Spokane in areas defined by the Climate and Economic Justice screening tool. There are 15 neighborhoods within the boundary and the work order for the neighborhoods was established using census data and Tree Plotter software, which was sponsored by Avista.
- b. A sub-award agreement has been completed for the Lands Council to provide Outreach and Education services for tree planting. They will be finding planting suitable locations for approximately 250 trees to be planted each spring and fall, securing commitment to care from residents who sign up, providing education about tree care (especially watering) and much more. In addition, they will coordinate two smaller scale volunteer planting projects a year. The first volunteer planting took place on October 18th with 15 trees planted in the Nevada Heights neighborhood. The first tree planted through the program was a Kentucky coffeetree planted at Glass Park. After planting, The Lands Council will monitor trees to ensure their success and catch any possible problems early on.
- c. Tree planting for Fall 2024 has begun. The Lands Council is coordinating the free tree signups and commitment to care from citizens who sign up for a tree. They then sort the requests to indicate if they are in or out of the CEJST area. Five species of trees have been confirmed for the fall plantings. Two tree planting contracts have been secured with Bartlett Tree Experts and Delk Management and they have started planting. One additional contract has been requested and will be presented to the Park Board for approval at the November Park Board meeting. The trees were purchased for Urban Forestry by the Spokane Conservation District through their Urban & Forestry Community Grant and the trees will be stored and cared for at the Quarry nursery. A future project is planned with the Downtown Spokane Partnership to offer replacement trees in the Riverside neighborhood. The first neighborhood to be planted was East Central Neighborhood with 21 trees planted. Four other neighborhoods are currently being planted. Approximately 80-100 trees are expected to be planted this season with plan to boost the number planting for Spring/Fall 2025.
- d. A total of 380 trees and 41 stumps have been identified for removal with the possibility of more being discovered as work progresses. Tree removals will be packaged by neighborhood with removals taking place in several neighborhoods at a time depending on volume. Three contractors were chosen from competitive bid and the contract requests were presented today at the UFTC meeting. The contracts will be present as consent agenda items at the Park Board meeting on November 14th. Contractors will take wood chips and 30-40 logs, possibly more to the Spokane Conservation District for their Urban Wood Network.
- e. Pruning through the grant will address major issues such as reducing risk, street and sidewalk clearance, large deadwood and formative pruning of young trees. Bids from contractors were submitted on September 16th and two to three contractors are expected to be chosen. Urban Forestry will present the contract requests for pruning for approval at committee and Park Board meetings in January 2025.
- f. All 15 neighborhoods were vetted for dead and very poor condition trees by certified arborists. Scopes of work with detailed requirements were created for contractors and a pre-

bid meeting took place September 6th for all three scopes of work (tree planting, removal, and pruning). Contractors submitted bids by September 16th. Urban Forestry presented contract requests for planting to the Finance committee on October 8th and Park Board on October 10th for approval. Utility locates are in progress and a small volunteer planting of 15 trees took place in the Nevada Heights Neighborhood on October 18th. Stephen Baker, the Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager with the USDA FS visited on October 22nd. Amber and Katie showed Stephen some of the project areas. The Tree Equity website is live. The website address is SpokaneParks.org/TreeEquity and the website provides information on timelines for neighborhood work, neighborhood maps, link to the CEJST tool, and much more. Truck magnets showing the project and funding sources will be provided to contractors to display. Three removal contracts will be presented to the UFTC for approval today.

New Business:

1. **Fall Update** – Katie Kosanke

- a. **Fall Leaf Festival** - The annual Fall Leaf Festival was a great success with more educational booths than we have ever had in the past. The event was sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts and their sponsorship covered the music for the event. The refreshments (coffee, hot cocoa and kettle corn) were sponsored by Avista. There was a compost fair with the Master Composers and Recyclers. The Corbin Art Center did several craft projects including one using cross sections from the failed willow tree to make ornaments. That project was very popular, and they used all 150 cuttings from the willow tree. The day before the event, volunteers from the Fairchild Airforce Base came and assisted with table and bench set up and last-minute preparations for the event.
- b. **Finch Willow Update** - Survey results regarding the willow tree were released at the Fall Leaf Festival. Over a thousand responses were received. Sixty-five percent of the responses indicated the community wants a nature-based playground created using the wood components from the willow tree and for replacement trees to be planted from cuttings from the original tree. Urban Forestry will work with parks planning to come up with a design concept and identify next steps. Fundraising opportunities are being identified. The Parks Foundation had a QR code on the survey results sign at the Fall Leaf Festival which allowed people to scan the QR code to donate. An attendee generously donated two hundred dollars to get the fundraising started. A press release will soon go out as well outlining the survey results and path forward.

A photo mosaic of the willow tree is being worked on for the Woodland Center lobby. The mosaic will contain smaller pictures people have submitted showing them and their family with the Willow that will make up the larger mosaic.

A hundred cuttings from the willow tree were given to SCC and they are growing the trees in their greenhouse/nursery program. Some of the trees will be planted at the Arboretum and some used for possible fundraising efforts. Many people have indicated they would like a cutting from the special tree and would purchase a cutting.

Urban Forestry is working with the Spokane County Conservation District's Urban Wood Program to use components of the tree for the playground, for example for a balance beam or bench.

- c. **Downriver Tree Planting** – Steven Nittolo with Urban Forestry has been working with the course superintendent Ben Nelson to coordinate tree planting. A restoration planting will take place on November 7th at Downriver Golf Course. Fifty larch trees will be planted throughout the course with assistance from volunteers and Urban Forestry staff. A smaller planting of larger sized trees will be contracted out.
- d. **Qualchan Golf Course Tree Planting** – Steven Nittolo with Urban Forestry has been working with the course superintendent Rob Decker to coordinate tree planting. Approximately 70 seedlings were planted on October 26th by volunteers from Spokane Ponderosa, Friends of the Bluff and the community to enhance the course and provide a visual and noise buffer between the highway and the course.
- e. **SpoCanopy Street Tree Plantings** – In partnership with The Lands Council, 15 trees were planted on October 17th by volunteers. Large plantings will be contracted out. The Lands Council is supporting Urban Forestry by taking volunteer signups and doing education and outreach. The UF Crew also assists by completing sod cutting ahead of time and placing the trees, so they are ready to be planted, contributing to a successful event.
- f. **Indian Trail Library** – The Indian Trail Library has installed a pollinator garden. Urban Forestry worked with Juan Juan Moses from the library and planted trees in an unused turf area. The area now has paths, benches and lots of wildflowers. Amber and Lars from Urban Forestry did a tree planting demonstration at the opening day celebration of the garden. Nancy MacKerrow was also there planting a Susie Forest Tree. Nancy did the Read for Trees program through the library and if a child read a book, they would get to cast a vote for which tree they would like planted, either a Linden tree or Lilac tree, and the Lilac tree won and was planted at the event.
- g. **Tree Crew** – The crew has been busy with miscellaneous dead tree removals and day to day reactive work. They helped with some minor tree needs at the Southside Community Center and community center staff were very grateful to have the work done. The crew pruned tree branches away from lighting for the Lawn Bowling group. There will be an upcoming pruning training for seasonals and Operations crews which will allow select staff to assist with minor pruning tasks and work with the urban forestry crew. An additional training for upcoming chainsaw use for operations crew and Public Works employees is planned.
- h. **Other Miscellaneous Plantings** – New and replacement trees have been planted at various locations throughout the park system. A large tree that had been stored in the UF nursery was recently planted. Another round of planting will be done at Comstock but may have to wait until spring if the weather turns. Trees were offered again through the Downtown Spokane Partnership to prompt replacements downtown. A quantity of free trees were offered, signups took place through DSP, and arborists had to pick up and plant the trees with a valid Tree Permit. A replacement seedling volunteer project at Manito may also take place this fall.
- i. **Tree Equity Collaborative, WA DNR** – A Tree Equity Collaborative with WA DNR took place on October 24th at Finch Arboretum. Urban Forestry had the opportunity to share about the Tree Equity Spokane Grant Program and everything staff are doing to add tree canopy to areas of town that need it the most. Information on current projects and examples of work was shared by many who attended. There are many like-minded organizations and locally more can be accomplished together.

- j. **Tree City USA** – Urban Forestry is working on the annual Tree City USA application for reaccreditation. Data is being compiled with the program criteria adding up to at least \$2 per capita including expenses, volunteer time, etc.

2. **Downtown Tree Program** – Katie Kosanke

Katie advised downtown is included in the CJEST area. In prioritizing the areas for work to be completed using Canopy software to determine areas of most need based on income and environmental disparities, , downtown was ranked last. Urban Forestry however wants to invest in downtown and wrote into the grant they would create a separate program for downtown. In the past the city has invested parking funds to help with tree issues in the downtown area, but soon after the projects, property owners are often not engaged or provide any care for the new trees, so it's not successful, and this model is not sustainable for the downtown area. UF may continue to help with replacements where free trees are offered, and the property owner hires a tree service contractor to plant the tree(s). A larger program is sought that combines an educational effort to bring solutions for complex long-term issues. Katie asked for the committee to start thinking about ideas for a program and to let her know if they are interested in being on a subcommittee to focus on fine tuning program ideas for downtown.

Other Program and Partnership Ideas: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3 p.m. December 3, 2024.

Inflation Reduction Act Update

Urban and Community Forestry Grant

UFTC November 5, 2024



IRA Urban and Community Forestry Grant

1+ Billion in Nationwide Investments

Spokane Urban Forestry Award Amount- \$6,000,000

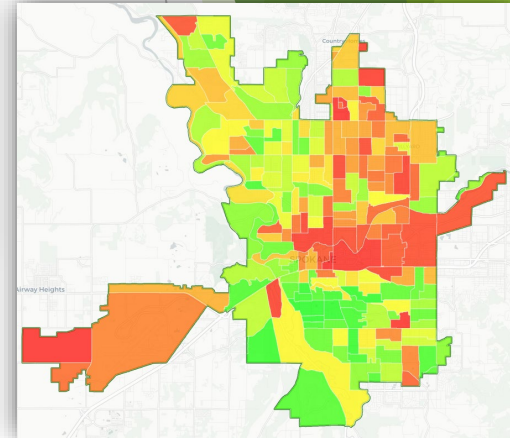
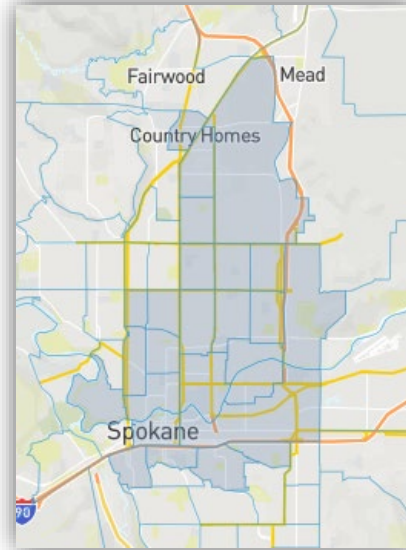
Within the boundaries of the City of Spokane on City properties. All tree planting and maintenance work must be performed in disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment, as identified on a Federal Map (GRANT REQUIREMENT)

15 neighborhoods all or partially within the boundary

Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool

Neighborhood work order established using census data and TreePlotter software:

- ▶ Low existing canopy
- ▶ Low income
- ▶ Population below poverty
- ▶ Vulnerable population
- ▶ Unemployment %



Sub Award for Outreach & Education to the Lands Council complete

- ▶ Find homes for approximately 250 trees each planting season
- ▶ Secure commitment to care from resident
- ▶ Provide education about tree care (mostly watering)
- ▶ Conduct summer health checkups for new trees & provide extra assistance with locations that are struggling
- ▶ 10 or more coordinated community outreach events per year to garner CEJST tree planting locations
- ▶ 2 (smaller scale) volunteer planting projects per year
 - **October 18th, Nevada Heights 15 trees planted**



Spocanopy





Tree Planting- Fall 2024

- ▶ Free tree sign ups and commitment to care coordinated by the Lands Council
- ▶ 5 species for fall
- ▶ 2 contracts secured and contractors planting now
- ▶ 1 additional contract to be requested
- ▶ Trees purchased by Spokane Conservation District's Urban & Community Forestry grant
- ▶ Stored & cared for at the Quarry nursery
- ▶ Working on a future project DSP to offer replacement trees in Riverside neighborhood that property owners can claim and have planted with certified and licensed city arborists

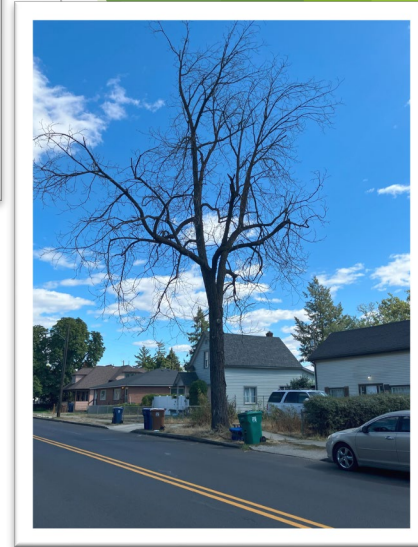
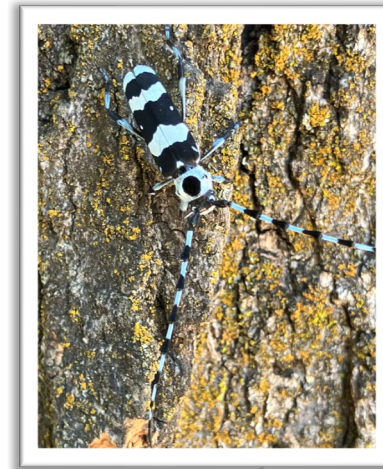
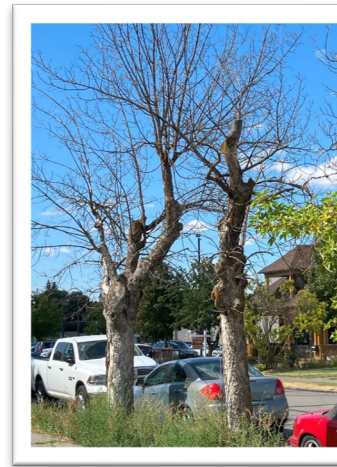


- ▶ First neighborhood planted - East Central
 - ▶ 21 trees
- ▶ Currently being planted- Hillyard, Nevada Heights, Shiloh Hills and Logan
- ▶ 80-100 trees expected to be planted this season
- ▶ Plans to boost Spring/Fall 25' planting numbers to make up for late start



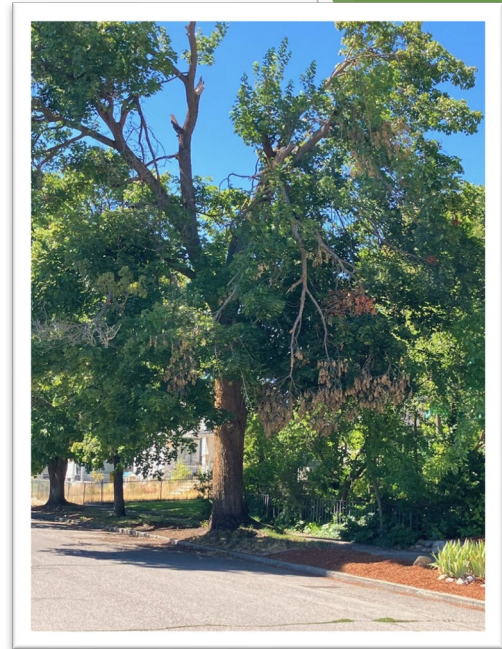
Tree Maintenance-Removals

- ▶ Packaged by neighborhood
- ▶ Several neighborhoods at a time depending on volume
- ▶ 1-71 trees per neighborhood
- ▶ 3 contractors chosen
- ▶ Contract requests presented today
- ▶ 380 dead tree & 41 stumps identified for removal
 - ▶ possibility for more to be discovered as work progresses
- ▶ Highest # Logan- 71 Lowest- Rockwood and Lincoln Heights- 1
- ▶ Wood chips and 30-40 logs brought by contractors to Spokane Conservation District for Urban Wood Network- possibility for more



Tree Maintenance-Pruning

- ▶ Contractor bids submitted 9/16
- ▶ 3-4 expected to be chosen
- ▶ Contract requests presented to Finance Committee and Park Board in January 2025
- ▶ **Major Issues-** reduce risk, street & sidewalk clearance, large deadwood, formative pruning of young trees
- ▶ Specific tasks to ensure funding goes as far as possible
- ▶ Mulching all trees after pruning where there is room



Progress Update

- ▶ Project Start Date: February 2024 to 2029
- ▶ All 15 neighborhoods vetted for dead and very poor trees- **380 trees and 41 stumps**
- ▶ Scopes of work created with detailed requirements for contractors ensuring that grant funds go as far as possible
- ▶ Pre-Bid meeting held for 3 scopes September 6th
- ▶ Bids returned 9/16
- ▶ 2 Planting contract requests brought to Finance Committee 10/8 & Park Board 10/10
- ▶ Utility locates for tree planting sign up sites in process and final markings being made
- ▶ Small volunteer planting in Nevada Heights neighborhood 10/18- 15 trees
- ▶ 10/22 Visit from Stephen Baker, Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager with the USDA FS
- ▶ Website SpokaneParks.org/TreeEquity with project information complete
 - ▶ Timelines for neighborhood work, acknowledgement, neighborhood maps, link to CEJST tool, FAQ's, sign up for trees
- ▶ Truck magnets for contractors to display acknowledging project and funding sources
- ▶ 3 Removal contracts to be requested today



Thank you!

Amber Ramirez
Spokane Urban Forestry
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aramirez@spokanecity.org



Urban Forestry



Fall Updates

November 5, 2024

Fall Leaf Festival



Saturday, October 19th

- Educational Booth, crafts, free swag, & more
- Event Sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts
- Refreshments Sponsored by Avista
- Compost Fair w/ Master Composters and Recyclers
- Corbin Art Center Crafts
- Fairchild Airforce Base Volunteers assisted day prior
- Way to go staff!!



Finch Willow, update

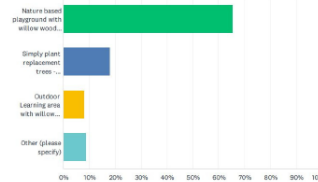
What should we do with the willow tree?



- Public Survey
- Mosaic
- SCC Growing 100 seedlings
- Fall Fest craft project
- Press release
- Donations
- Concept
- Identify Funding
- SCD Urban Wood Program

NEXT STEPS FOR THE WILLOW TREE

We received over 1,000 responses to our survey asking you what we should do after our 78 year old willow tree succumbed to gravity and old age.



65% of respondents said we should create a nature based playground using willow wood components, and plant replacement tree(s) from cutting of original tree in or around this area. Keep an eye out for concepts of this playground in the future.

Help us make a willow tree mosaic!

Share your photos and memories of Finch Arboretum's iconic willow tree for a chance to be included in a photo mosaic for future display at the arboretum. Scan this QR code to participate!



Donate!

Donate to the Spokane Parks Foundation to help us in funding a new nature based playground incorporating components of the willow tree. Scan this QR code to donate!



Downriver Tree Planting



Restoration Planting

Ben Nelson, Course Superintendent

Steve Nittolo, Urban Forester

Second round of re-planting efforts,
volunteer plantings.

Date: November 7th

- Golf Staff
- Community Volunteers
- 50+ larch trees throughout the course
- Other – contracted planting of larger trees



Qualchan Golf Course Tree Planting



Course Enhancement Planting

Rob Decker, Superintendent

Steve Nittolo, Urban Forester

Second round of seedling planting efforts, volunteer plantings

- Buffer from HWY

Date: October 26, 2024

- Spokane Ponderosa
- Friends of the Bluff
- Community Volunteers
- 70+ seedlings



SpoCanopy Street Tree Plantings

October 17th

- Partnership with The Lands Council
- 15 street trees by volunteers
 - IRA USDA/USFS Grant
- Open volunteer sign-ups with TLC
- Education and outreach by TLC
- Crew Support



Indian Trail Library

- Staff planted 6 trees prior to the event
- Susie Forest, Read for Trees Program
- Tree Planting Demo at pollinator garden event




**Bird Garden &
Pollinator Meadow
Opening Celebration**
September 21 @ 11am
Indian Trail Library

Susie Tree Dedication
Tree Giveaway
Live Music
Treasure Hunt
& More!



Tree Crew

- Misc removals of dead trees
 - Audubon
 - Comstock
 - Cannon Hill
 - Liberty
 - Downriver Drive + Downriver Disc Golf + new launch area near Downriver and TH Meenach
- Day to day reactive work
- Assistance to Southside Community Center for various tree needs
- Lawn Bowling tree work
- *Upcoming* - Pruning training for seasonals + Operations for minor tasks
- *Upcoming* - Chainsaw training for Ops + Public Works employees



Other Misc Plantings

September - November

New and replacement trees in parks system

- 3 trees at Hillyard Pool
- 2 at Liberty Park
- 3 at Audubon (more pending)
- 3 at Chief Garry
- 1 at 21st/Madison Island
- 1 at Corbin Park
- 3 at Mission Park
- 2 at BA Clark
- 1 at Underhill
- 1 at Parkwater
- 2 along Main (Peaceful Valley)
- 1 at Esmerelda
- 3 at Rochester Heights (bald cypress in wet area)
- Another round at Comstock (pending)
- DSP free trees program (on-going)
- Replacement Seedlings at Manito (pending, volunteer project)



Tree Equity Collaborative, WA DNR

- Finch Arboretum, October 24th
- Shared Learning Lab
- Opportunities
- Current Projects / Examples of this work
- Role of Collaboration in UF



Tree City USA



TREE CITY USA®





Questions?

