



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

3 p.m. Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Hybrid in-person and WebEx virtual meeting
Katie Kosanke - Urban Forester

Committee Members:

- X Kris Neely – Chair
- X Tim Kohlhauff – (Arrived 3:10 p.m.)
- X Beth LaBar
- X Guy Gifford
- Cindy Deffe – (Absent - Excused)
- Matt Stewart – (Absent Excused)
- Justyce Brant – (Absent - Excused)
- X Ben Kappen
- Logan Callen – (Absent – Excused)
- Kathryn Alexander – (Absent – Excused)

Parks Staff:

Katie Kosanke
Angel Spell

Guests:

Scott Mills

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by committee chair Kris Neely.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from **July 2025** and **September 2025** were not discussed or reviewed due to the lack of quorum.

Discussion Items:

Ceremonies, Appointments, Announcements - Two positions open on the UFCAC (Commercial Representative and Downtown Spokane Partnership Representative).

Angel mentioned there will be four evening sessions coming up for the Climate Plan. Once dates have been set, she will share to the group for anyone interested in attending.

Public Comments: Scott Mills shared appreciation for completed grant work in the Cliff Cannon neighborhood to remove dead trees. He provided a photo example of a building on Capitol Hill and stated that the building's foundation was required to be moved in order to preserve a tree. He provided this as an example that development can happen around trees successfully.

Standing Report Items:

1. Community Assembly – Kris Neely provided a Community Assembly update.
The comp plan was discussed. The CA has a candidate for the Climate Resiliency Board.
2. Staff Report - Katie Kosanke provided a staff report update.
 - a. Urban Forestry participated in the SCC career fair. UF frequently hires seasonal candidates from their program and is exploring having more apprentices.
 - b. Urban Forestry participated in the Conservation Forestry Field Day. Several apprentices were provided to work with the UF crew. They gained beneficial experience and were able to assist with project work and tree removals.
 - c. The downtown pilot program launched, and free trees are being provided to downtown property owners.
 - d. The American Forest will highlight the grant program, and the article will be featured nationwide.
 - e. UF crew are completing removals and will soon be transitioning to fall planting.
 - f. Two new seasonals are being hired to work on the crew.
 - g. Fall plantings will begin soon.

Old Business:

1. IRA/USDA/USFS Grant Update – Katie Kosanke

Katie Kosanke presented an IRA/USDA/USFS Grant update.

- a. Transitioning to fall planting starting October 13th with three planting contractors. Ontrack to meet goal of planting 250 trees this fall. Many have signed up for trees through the SpoCanopy planting program.
- b. Forty trees are available through the downtown free tree planting program and the Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) is coordinating the signups for the trees.
- c. The pilot program for downtown passed. The pilot program will provide city arborist oversight and assistance if the property owner chooses to hire a landscaper or someone else for planting.
- d. Approximately 350 out of 400 dead trees have been removed throughout many neighborhoods through the grant program. Many citizens are thankful Urban Forestry (UF) can help with the removals of these dead trees. Neighborhoods with removals in progress are Emerson Garfield and North Hill. Amber Ramirez, who oversees the grant program, has presented information regarding the grant program at many of the neighborhood council meetings.
- e. Work through the grant is transitioning to pruning in parks. Pruning is complete at Grant Park and Harmon Park, pruning is in progress at Wildhorse Park, Liberty Park and Kehoe Park

and will be done at Jim Hill Park next. Pruning through the grant will assist in completing pruning in areas where pruning was previously deferred for years and will primarily address major structural issues, removal of deadwood, and pruning lower branches for clearance.

- f. Urban Forestry is working on two sub-awards. One with Pacific Education Institute for education and outreach which will build on the prior program with the Spokane Public School district and On-Track Academy. It will provide continuing education for teachers to learn about trees and teachers to provide tree related programs in their classes. Students will be available to help with plantings and it will also provide momentum and support for plantings at schools and neighborhoods that want to plant trees.

The second with Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) for a downtown specific program. In addition to offering free trees to downtown property owners arborist oversight will be provided through the new pilot program. DSP will provide education and outreach to property owners and property managers and will reach out to them to resolve issues with trees and assist with watering of trees where needed. UF will invest in a DSP employee to assist them in becoming a certified arborist so they can help with small tasks and possibly tree replacements downtown. UF is also proposing a cost share program for maintenance that DSP would help administer.

New Business:

1. Beetle Management Update – Katie Kosanke

Katie shared a Beetle Management Update.

Beetle damage from three pests (Ips Borer, Western pine beetle, and Red Turpentine beetle) is being seen more frequently. Urban Forestry is monitoring and watching for signs and symptoms to help keep trees healthy. UF has consulted with a Washington DNR Entomologist to confirm beetles and get expert advice. Dead trees affected by beetles and trees that show beetle damage are being removed in several parks and at several golf courses. Neighborhood notifications have been provided through various channels and UF will be placing signs in areas where trees are being removed to explain that the trees must be removed to reduce further spread. Treatment options for beetles are being explored including chemical treatments and other treatment methods such as luring beetles and using pheromone packets. Some treatment options being worked on are in the process of being approved but it is a slow process. To help manage the beetle issues removals are being done as quick as possible and the wood being disposed of. UF currently pays to dispose of the wood and is in talks with the Spokane Conservation District to see if they may want the wood and have a method to kill the beetles. Replacement trees will be planted in some areas depending on the level of impact. UF is working with Washington DNR Entomologist Dana Brennan to provide a community workshop on Pine Beetles to the community and tree services in the spring.

1. Fall Planting Plans and Volunteer Opportunities – Katie Kosanke

- a. The first annual Tree Trot Fun Run is Saturday October 4th. Approximately 70 people are currently registered, and late registration will be open until Thursday. If committee members would like to volunteer with registration or at the event let Katie know. Sponsors donated funds to assist with event costs and 100% of registration fees will go directly to the fund for the Nature Based Playground. A concept design of the Nature Based Playground, provided by

Parks Planning, will be on display at the event for participants to see. UF is planning to expand the run in future years.

- b. **Tree Ribbon Cutting** – There will be a ribbon cutting at On-Track Academy for their outdoor forest project on Tuesday October 14th at 10 a.m. This will be an outdoor area where they will be able to meet outside for part of the day. Urban Forestry provided some trees for their outdoor forest project through the grant.
- c. A SpoCanopy planting will be on Wednesday October 15th.
- d. **Fall Leaf Festival** - The Fall Leaf Festival will be on October 18th at Finch Arboretum.
- e. Additional trees are being planted at Downriver Golf Course and native plantings will be done at Polly Judd Park and Riverfront Park.

Other Program and Partnership Ideas: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3 p.m. November 4, 2025.



Pine Bark Beetle Management

Fall 2025

About the Pests..

- ▶ Ips Borer
- ▶ Western pine beetle
- ▶ Red Turpentine beetle
- ▶ Native beetles
- ▶ Extra generations (during longer, hotter years)
- ▶ Very cold winter weather can help reduce populations
- ▶ Drought conditions
- ▶ Stressed trees



2025 Areas of Impact

- ▶ Audubon (earlier in the year, dead trees have all been removed)
- ▶ Coeur d'Alene Park (20+)
- ▶ Hamblen Park (12+)
- ▶ Manito Park (20+)
- ▶ Downriver Disc Golf Course area
- ▶ Golf Courses (Downriver and Indian Canyon Primarily)
- ▶ Smaller numbers throughout the Parks System



Management

- ▶ Monitoring
- ▶ Routine Inspecting
- ▶ Scope of Works / Work Scheduling with crew (and/or contractors)
- ▶ Consult with WA DNR Entomologist
- ▶ Neighborhood Notifications
 - ▶ Blog Posts
 - ▶ Informational signage at Parks
 - ▶ Neighborhood Council notifications
 - ▶ Neighborhood Council meeting(s)

SELECT TREE REMOVALS PLANNED FOR THIS AREA, DUE TO BEETLE INFESTATION

BEETLES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN SOME TREES IN THIS AREA, AND IMPACTED TREES ARE UNFORTUNATELY NOT ABLE TO SURVIVE. INFECTED TREES NEED TO BE REMOVED TO REDUCE FURTHER SPREAD.

**MORE INFORMATION AT
WWW.SPOKANEPARKS.ORG/URBANFORESTRY**

For questions, please call 509.363.5495
or email urbanforestry@spokanecity.org



Management

- ▶ Swift Removals
- ▶ Dispose of wood (\$)
- ▶ Plant Replacement Trees

Other:

- ▶ Explore chemical treatments
- ▶ Explore other treatment methods such as luring beetles (with Entomologist oversight)
- ▶ Evaluate any proposed projects near trees, especially pines, monitor watering, and limit watering changes etc.



Photo Credit Seattle Tree Care

[Return to minutes](#)

Meet Us At The Trees



STUDENT-DESIGNED AND BUILT, ALONGSIDE
VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS,
"MEET US AT THE TREES" IS A PLACE-BASED
LEARNING CENTER IN OUR OWN BACKYARD.

**On Track Academy's
Schoolyard Forest**

SAVE THE DATE!

**Tuesday, Oct 14th
10-11AM**

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

**Join Mayor Brown, community partners,
and OTA Students and Staff**



Return to minutes

FALL LEAF FEST

OCT 18 | 11AM-2PM
FINCH ARBORETUM

LIVE MUSIC | CLIMBING DEMO | ACTIVITIES
EDUCATION | GIANT LEAF PILE! | FREE!

**FREE KETTLE CORN AND COFFEE OR HOT COCOA TO FIRST
150 PEOPLE THANKS TO AVISTA!**

