

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** March 21, 2023

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Stan Gryczko, Director - Public Works Utilities & Operations  
Charles Murphy, Urban Forestry Manager

**SUBJECT:** Urban Forest Management Plan Review and Submission to CAL FIRE

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### **Recommendations**

Action Item.

1. Receive presentation on draft Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) and approve the Resolution (Attachment 1) to do the following:
  - a. Authorize submission of the UFMP to CAL FIRE to meet the requirements of the Proposition 68 grant funding the planning effort; and
  - b. Accept and adopt the Final Draft of the Urban Forest Management Plan with any adjustments as directed by City Council; and
2. Direct staff to return with task prioritization based on resource allocations determined by City Council.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The total amount for the Urban Forest Management Plan is not to exceed \$180,000, funded in part by a CAL FIRE Proposition 68 grant. The grant and City match funding is a one-time expenditure for the UFMP.

The fiscal impact to fully implement all recommendations of the UFMP, based on staff and consultant recommendation for implementation of the UFMP, is significant. The current condition of Davis' urban forest and community service level expectations are key contributors to the goals and objectives in the UFMP and to the recommendations in this staff report. Four (4) additional FTE positions are estimated to be required for full implementation, with an approximate annual general fund impact of \$465,000. With the understanding that this would be a significant increase to the Urban Forest budget, for which there is not a dedicated fund source, staff is recommending a phased approach to adding additional positions as the implementation of work based on the UFMP will be completed over multiple years. This phased approach would likely involve adding two of the four positions at an approximate annual general fund impact of \$175,000.

A suggested approach and phasing of any staff additions would be made with the upcoming budget proposal, to ensure that the City Manager and City Council can review the proposed adjustments in the context of other citywide budgetary needs. Contracted service costs, as well as materials and supply costs, are not recommended to be increased at this time, due to previous Council action on the urban forestry contract budget. In the future, additional allocations of funding may be requested as the implementation of the UFMP is more fully developed.

### **Council Goal(s)**

The completion of a UFMP for the City of Davis is consistent with the following City Council goals: Ensure a safe, healthy, equitable community; pursue environmental sustainability; fund, maintain and improve infrastructure; enhance a vibrant downtown and thriving neighborhoods; and foster excellence in city services.

### **Commission Input**

The UFMP has been a focus of the work of the Tree Commission since May 2022. Prior to the start of the Tree Commission discussions, a call for Commission liaisons to participate in the discussions of the UFMP was shared with all City Commissions. Eight City Commissions elected to send liaisons to participate in the discussions: Bicycling, Transportation and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC), Finance and Budget Commission (FBC), Historical Resources Management Commission (HRMC), Natural Resources Commission (NRC), Open Space and Habitat Commission (OSHC), Planning Commission (PC), Utilities Commission (UC), and Social Services Commission (SSC). These liaisons participated in the discussion, have provided helpful feedback, and reported back to their respective commission on the progress of the UFMP.

A special Commission meeting was held on February 8, 2023 to provide a walkthrough of the draft webpages for commissioners, liaisons and public after the draft was released on February 3, 2023. At the regularly scheduled Commission meeting in February, the UFMP was discussed and the Tree Commission passed motion to recommend adoption of the Plan by City Council. More detail on these discussions is provided in this report.

### *Materials related to the UFMP provided to the Tree Commission*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Materials</b>
<b>2022</b>	
<b>May 19</b>	1. <a href="#">Urban Forest Management Plan – Public Engagement Plan Draft</a> 2. <a href="#">Draft Public Engagement Plan</a>
<b>June 16</b>	1. <a href="#">Framework of Tree Planting Efforts</a>
<b>July 21</b>	1. <a href="#">Urban Forest Management Plan: Resource/Land Use Analysis</a> 2. <a href="#">City Tree Resource Analysis</a> 3. <a href="#">Terms to Know</a> 4. <a href="#">Urban Forest Summary</a> 5. <a href="#">PowerPoint Presentation from Davey Resource Group: Davis Tree Resource Analysis</a>
<b>August 18</b>	1. <a href="#">PowerPoint Presentation from Davey Resource Group: Scope &amp; Progress/Challenges &amp; Opportunities</a>
<b>September 15</b>	1. <a href="#">Urban Forest Management Plan: Review &amp; Consider 2002 Community Forest Management Plan Goals &amp; Vision</a> 2. <a href="#">Excerpt from the 2002 Community Forest Management Plan</a>
<b>2023</b>	
<b>February 8</b>	1. <a href="#">Urban Forest Management Plan: Draft Orientation</a>
<b>February 16</b>	1. <a href="#">UFMP Questions and Answers PowerPoint Presentation</a> 2. <a href="#">Urban Forest Management Plan: Discussion &amp; Recommendation</a>

## **Background**

The City of Davis received a CAL-FIRE Grant utilizing Proposition 68 funds to develop an UFMP and to plant 1,000 new trees within the city limits. Tree Davis, a non-profit community organization and co-applicant on the grant, took the lead in the planting of the 1,000 trees.

The draft UFMP under consideration is intended to replace the current Community Forest Management Plan adopted in 2002. The UFMP is drafted as a 40-year plan that will be an overall guide for the management of Davis' urban forest program. The UFMP looks at key areas of the urban forest and includes recommendations for managing, budgeting, service level matrices, and process improvements that will help improve and optimize the overall management of the City's urban forest.

The online draft UFMP is located here: <https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/urban-forestry/city-of-davis-urban-forest-management-plan>

## **The UFMP Drafting Process**

The UFMP is required to be submitted to CAL FIRE by March 25, 2023. The process of drafting the UFMP and collecting feedback from the public, Commissions and collaborators is detailed in the table below. The involvement of the Tree Commission will continue through the adoption and into the prioritization and implementation of UFMP recommendations where applicable.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Steps</b>
May - present	The Tree Commission has participated in this process through the review of draft sections and providing comments. The specific presentations and timing are listed in the Commission Input section.
July 21, 2022	The Tree Commission formed a UFMP subcommittee.
July 2022	Collaborator interviews with the individuals and representatives of groups in the community with vested interest and/or knowledge of Davis' urban forest.
August 24 & September 24, 2022	Tabling at the Farmer's Market
August – November 2022	Tree Davis Photo Contest
November 10, 2022	Virtual public forum on the UFMP
December 6, 2022	UFMP check-in with City Council
February 3, 2023	Draft UFMP released, public comment period opened
March 1, 2023	Virtual public forum on the UFMP

March 3, 2023	Public comment period closed
March 21, 2023	Final UFMP review and adoption by City Council
March 25, 2023	Submit UFMP and Prop 68 Grant Report to CAL-FIRE

**Online Format**

The presentation of the UFMP as a series of webpages rather than as a single PDF document is a departure from standard practice. Historically, guiding documents and plans have been completed as stand-alone documents and either printed, posted online as a single document, or posted online in separate sections to allow for easier access and navigation. These stand-alone (and often static) documents, however, are not able to take advantage of improvements in technology and data analysis tools introduced in recent years; tools that now contribute greatly to the functionality of the draft UFMP.

A web-based presentation for the UFMP allows for these tools, including the Story Map and TreeKeeper Canopy, to be utilized by City staff and the community. In addition, this format will utilize frequent-interval updated data to both create and measure Urban Forestry capacity based off of transparent metrics, while providing an accessible management plan and program for the community. Prior to the development of the UFMP, this level of data analysis would not have been possible.

*Benefits of the Online Format*

The UFMP is presented in sections, with each section represented by a webpage or subpage which allows for the reader to navigate to specific sections of interest. Sections can contain hyperlinks to connect with additional information, definitions, or other sections helpful for context which can be more challenging or cumbersome with PDF documents. Additionally, as suggestions are provided to improve navigability of the pages, they can be updated in real-time. Ultimately, the greatest benefit of having an online plan (aside from full access to the UFMP tools) is the ability for the UFMP to be frequently updated and adjusted in response to accomplishments, new information and changes in community expectations, and available resources.

*Challenges with the Online Format*

From the beginning of the process, there was support from collaborators and the community for an online-based plan, however, there were no plans to use as examples to understand the format or functionality. This hindered efforts to clearly explain how the draft UFMP would function. Additionally, the ability to navigate through sections directly, rather than following a document with a standard ‘table of contents’, can lead to confusion as to how the UFMP is meant to be read, or how the sections connect to each other. Navigation challenges presented by the City’s webpage platform (chosen to allow for regular and frequent updates) have been an issue, as well as mobile access to the pages, as different mobile device operating systems can impact how the pages load.

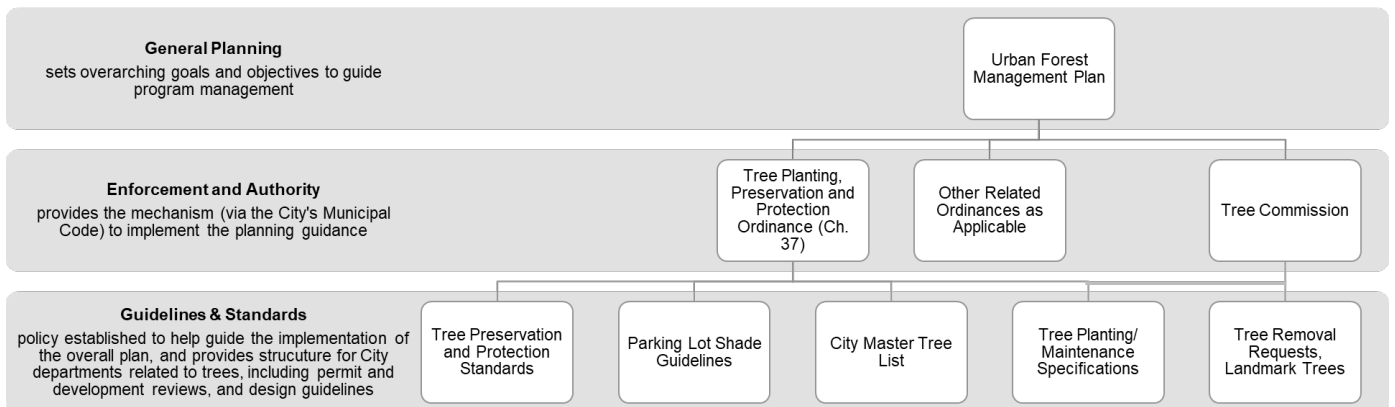
At this stage, the challenges of the online format do not appear to outweigh the benefits. It is important to note the challenges, however, to explore ways to address them now, and

to inform future efforts to implement online-based plans and guidance. Ideally the process can help determine the best ways to mitigate those challenges as much as possible.

**Building a Framework for Urban Forestry Efforts**

Throughout the process of drafting the UFMP, the role of the UFMP in the City’s urban forestry program operations, larger urban forestry planning, and enforcement and guidance efforts has been discussed.

While the UFMP is intended to be the guiding force of the Urban Forestry division by setting overarching goals and objectives, it is not intended to be the end-all, be-all document in urban forestry management. The UFMP provides a framework, in which operations and activities are guided by a combination of planning and policy documents, as well as supported by the City’s Municipal Code. The City’s Municipal Code chapter on trees (Chapter 37) will require updates independent of the UFMP, which along with policy guidance updates have been underway for a few years. The UFMP is not intended to get into the details around inter-departmental processes or detailed best management practices (BMPs), rather, it points to the necessity of updating City planning & policy documents and the creation of technical guidance incorporating the goals and objectives set forth in the UFMP.



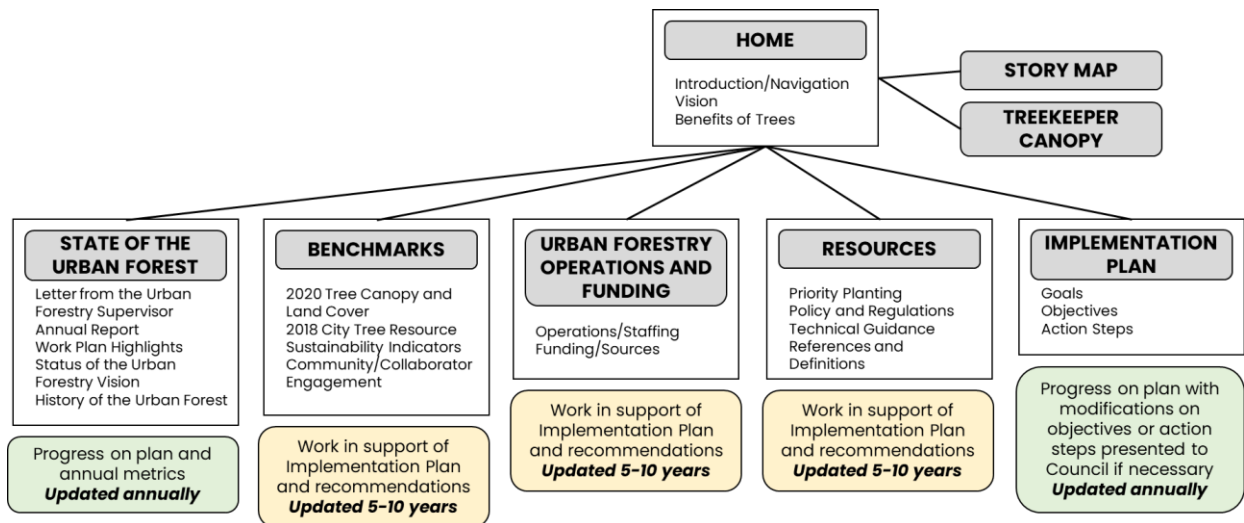
*Note: items included in Guidelines & Standards are examples and not a comprehensive list.*

City operations are also managed by a number of other guiding documents, including the Downtown Specific Plan, the General Plan and the (currently draft) Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) for example. In each of these documents and others, trees are referenced in some amount of detail. Much like these plans, the UFMP itself does not get in to the specifics of individual locations, rather provides the data, goals and objectives to inform recommendations to improve and protect Davis’ urban forest.

**What is the Urban Forest Management Plan?**








The UFMP on the City’s website is a collection of 17 webpages organized within six main “sections”: Benefits of Trees, State of the Urban Forest, Benchmarks, Urban Forestry Operations and Funding, Resources, and the Implementation Plan. Of these pages, it is intended that the State of the Urban Forest and Implementation Plan pages are updated the most frequently, followed by the Benchmarks and Urban Forestry Operations and Funding pages less frequently. The Benefits of Trees page would be updated rarely, as it is intended to share benefits of trees that are both quantifiable and

not quantifiable. More detail and links to the sections can be found in the memo provided to the Tree Commission at their Special Meeting on February 8, 2023 (included in the table of Tree Commission materials above). A map of the webpages is also provided below.



While updates on progress are anticipated annually, any substantive changes to the Implementation Plan objectives or action steps would return to Council for review and requested approval.

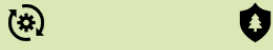
The collection of public engagement responses, commission feedback, collaborator feedback, operational information and data, best management practices and industry expertise has been compiled to form seven overarching goals. These goals are presented below and in the UFMP in no particular order:

-  Promote tree preservation and protection
-  Continue to maintain a safe and resilient urban forest
-  Set a baseline of no net loss in tree canopy cover
-  Optimize urban forestry programming
-  Engage the community to further stewardship for the urban forest
-  Adopt the Urban Forest Management Plan and align with other guiding documents
-  Grow a climate resilient urban forest

Each goal is supported by measurable objectives and specific actions intended to guide Davis' urban forest programming, providing the foundation for annual work plans and budget forecasts. Addressing public comments and feedback has been a priority focus for the UFMP, along with links to the goals as proposed. Throughout the Benchmarks and Urban Forestry Operations sections, comments and feedback from collaborators is included within applicable sections, along with a notation (via the graphics for each goal) of which goals address the collaborator remarks. An example is provided here from the Urban Forestry Operations section.

**Collaborator Findings:**

Collaborators emphasized the importance of an up-to-date tree inventory and expressed an interest in tracking vacant sites. There is desire to expand the inventory to include more information about the site conditions (e.g., irrigation, planter space). There was particular emphasis on the importance of collecting inventory data on trees in downtown that are along important pedestrian/bike corridors, along public transportation routes, and near schools to gain a better understanding of how to improve the use of public transportation through the enhancement of the urban forest. Collaborators expressed concern that there is some confusion as to what constitutes a City tree and how to consider private trees planted in the easement.



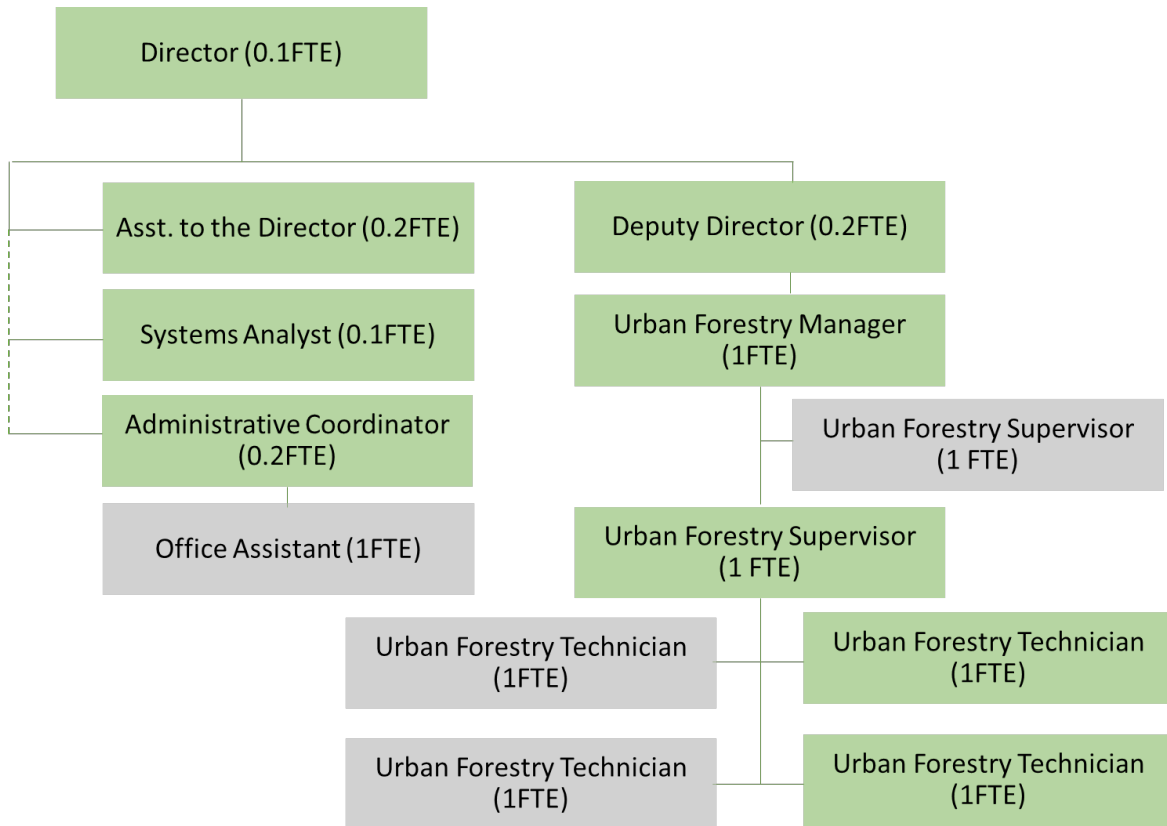
Optimize urban forestry programming      Promote tree preservation and protection

### **Resources**

The Urban Forest Operations section of the UFMP outlines the current staffing levels and associated challenges with the workload of the division. Within the Identified Shortfalls and Budget Projections section, two charts summarize the staff time necessary to complete the work of the division to accomplish the objectives and tasks within the Plan.

While these charts denote staff hours associated with meeting the objectives of the plan, it is important to note that the resources are not just internal Urban Forestry Division staff. It includes Public Works Utilities & Operations staff, other City staff, contractors and non-profits. With that note, however, in-house staffing within the Urban Forestry Division still falls short of the number necessary to provide the services expected by the community. Before Urban Forestry can conduct the necessary assessments to meet the objectives within the UFMP, division staffing must be at sufficient levels and/or service levels and community expectations must be adjusted based on Council direction.

To begin to implement the objectives and action steps within the UFMP, City staff and Davey Resource Group (DRG) have included the following recommendations for staffing levels within the program. Existing positions are included in green, and recommended new positions are in grey.



DRG and City staff believe the staffing augmentation is the minimum necessary to achieve the objectives outlined in the UFMP. Like the UFMP itself, regular assessments of how the division is performing will be necessary to understand the successes, challenges and what adjustments to staffing may be necessary, as resources allow, to accomplish the objectives.

Understanding the challenges of funding staff augmentation in the near-term, City staff has proposed a phased approach to adding additional resources to meet the goals and objectives outlined in the UFMP. Knowing the UFMP is based on a 40-year timeline, and acknowledging that many of the objectives and tasks will take years to fully implement, staff believe a phased approach makes sense both for funding additional resources and allowing for significant progress to continue in the Urban Forestry Division.

Immediate needs associated with the activities of the Division include assessing service requests and inquiries from the community, providing quality control and contract management for the contracted service provider, working with the Tree Commission and other collaborators to continue efforts to update Chapter 37 of the Municipal Code, begin to address enforcement challenges for the urban forest, and develop specifications and standards to assist in guidelines for developers to use and understand what the City requires relative to the planting, care, management and replacement of trees. As many of these needs are programmatic and/or policy drivers, staff is recommending funding for the office assistant and the Urban Forest Supervisor positions be considered as part of the upcoming FY23-25 budget proposal. Once



priorities are developed further for the objectives in the UFMP, staff will identify appropriate timing for consideration by City Council for additional staff.

Absent an approach that includes adding resources it will limit the ability of the current program staff to begin implementation of the UFMP, and may also require reductions in current service levels. These actions will be more fully addressed in the next steps relative to providing a task prioritization and timeline for Council consideration.

### *Funding Opportunities*

As indicated in this staff report and the UFMP, current levels of resource allocation for the Urban Forest Division are not sufficient to maintain existing service levels, meet service level expectations of the community, or meet the goals and objectives in the UFMP. There are a number of options to seek additional resources to adequately fund the Urban Forestry Program and meet the goals outlined in the UFMP.

Staff recommends that the UFMP resource needs be considered by the City Council Revenue Subcommittee as they weigh various revenue enhancement options across a variety of city resource needs.

Additional avenues to achieve the current and future service levels in the Division include continued or enhanced partnerships with non-profit organizations and/or private organizations with similar goals, volunteer efforts to implement some of the objectives of the UFMP, and grant funding. Grant funding should not be considered for routine and ongoing activities associated with urban forestry as grant funds typically address one-time allocations, such as with the current grant to plant and initially maintain 1,000 trees. Ultimately, the ongoing maintenance of those trees will be borne by the Urban Forestry Division and ongoing resource allocations.

As a next step, and with Council direction, staff intend to explore options for ongoing revenue to support the Urban Forestry Division and programming and to return with recommendations for near term resource allocations as part of the budget proposal.

### **Community Engagement & Feedback**

With the release of the draft UFMP on February 3, 2023, staff and DRG received many comments, ranging from grammatical corrections to the suggested removal of entire sections. Each of the comments received has been reviewed by City staff and the consulting team, and modifications to the draft have been incorporated where applicable and appropriate.

The comments received can (at a high level) be grouped into four categories: website or navigation, minor content, significant content, or not applicable to the UFMP itself.

### *Navigation/Website/Minor Issues*

As expected with a unique presentation format of being completely online, there were concerns expressed around navigation. These comments included general formatting questions and concerns, webpage issues, and mobile access. While many of these comments are being addressed, some will take additional time to address fully. Navigational concerns have begun to be addressed by changes to the sidebar within

the UFMP, quick links being added, and rearrangement of information has been completed. Additional changes are expected to continue to ensure the plan is as cohesive as possible, including the creation of a short orientation video on how to navigate and utilize the plan.

Additionally, comments tied to minor content updates were received. These comments included, but were not limited to: clarifying language, term definitions, word choice, grammatical changes, and identifying broken links. Updates to the UFMP have captured these corrections.

### *Larger Content Concerns*

Some comments shared sparked conversations about larger, more significant content edits to the plan. These comments were discussed, understood, and plans of action to address were instituted. These comments included significant problems with the section of the UFMP on the history of the urban forest, tree species selection, a lack of prioritization presented within the UFMP itself, and the inclusion of additional data in the analysis tools. Greater detail on how the City is looking to address these concerns now and into the future is included in the sections below.

### *History of the Urban Forest*

The history of the urban forest section, as presented in the initial draft of the plan, led to a much larger and important conversation around the City's presentation of Indigenous history and stewardship of the lands now occupied by the City of Davis. Inaccurate language in the UFMP has been revised and replaced with language that was produced and approved in previous joint efforts with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. While the revisions to the UFMP by itself are important, staff recognizes the need for the City as a whole to not only continue to learn about the history of the land and its stewards, but to remain open to revisiting the history of and gathering input from all of the communities that call this area home.

### *Tree Species Selection*

Tree species selection is a major component of urban forestry management, and in Davis it is no different. Climate change has caused the dynamics of tree species selection, and what makes up a tree species selection list, to evolve. It is anticipated that the advances in forecasting future climates for our region will contribute to the expansion of trees under consideration, as well as the ongoing conversation of tree species selection in the community. Planning for trees that will survive not only in our current but future climate is key to the resiliency of the urban forest as a whole. Creating a climate ready tree species list that can be updated on a regular basis with new species that have been tested in Davis also plays into the proposed dynamic nature of the UFMP. Davis, housing not only UC Davis, but both United States Forest Service (USFS) and CAL FIRE field stations means there is an abundance of tree species-based knowledge that can be utilized for planning such efforts. In fact, a climate ready tree species working group of local collaborators has been working on this for several months.

It is important to underscore that the draft of the UFMP intended to include tree species as examples of what characteristics are most desirable in urban planting areas until the working group efforts were finalized. Comments on the tree species list in the draft

UFMP have included the concern that the species included constitute a revision to the Master Tree List. For this reason, the example species listed have been removed.

#### *Data Points and Layers*

Trees are the great multi-tasker; they improve air quality, provide cooler temperatures, reduce crime, provide wildlife habitat, contribute to energy savings, improve water quality, provide noise reduction, economic stimulation, improve academic performance and health outcomes. This means the UFMP has to build out a framework to include data driven solutions to target efforts around a wide-ranging audience. The TreeKeeper program that houses the City's tree inventory data is a useful tool to assess and prioritize different tree efforts, as the tool can estimate outcomes for tree planting and performance based on a wide range of criteria. As more data becomes available, and the tool is updated, it becomes more powerful and useful in the prioritization of forestry efforts. Recommendations for additional GIS data layers included: bike and shared-use paths (including greenbelts), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), parking lots, and transit stops.

#### *Comments Received Not Specifically Related to the UFMP*

Finally, comments from the community regarding their priorities for future endeavors were received in the collection of public comment for the UFMP. As the intent of the UFMP is to be a framework and not a detailed, comprehensive, step-by-step plan, these comments have been noted for when these respective projects arise as part of our next steps in implementing the plan. These comments included, but were not limited to: the need to conduct an updated inventory, performing a tree ownership/responsibility assessment, to create specific plans related to the Downtown, individual neighborhood palates, and species types, and comments on ordinance updates, including enforcement and parking lot shade requirements. Staff will work with the Tree Commission to prioritize as part of 'next-step' efforts.

#### *Prioritization of Objectives/Action Steps*

The UFMP adoption by City Council is the first step in setting the course for the City's urban forestry program, and urban forestry goals over the next 40 years. Many comments received on the draft indicated that the lack of clear "next steps" could either signal lack of ongoing support for the UFMP actions, or a confluence of too many priorities.

As the drafting of the UFMP has been a community collaboration, the prioritization of next steps is proposed to continue as a collaboration, staff working with the Tree Commission, where public and collaborator comments will help guide the process.

However, it is essential to keep in mind that the Urban Forestry division is resource constrained, which has limited the ability to keep up with community expectations for a number of years. Ultimately, prioritizing next steps to achieve the objectives in the UFMP will rely heavily on the resources allocated for the Urban Forestry Division. Staff will work closely with the Tree Commission to provide Council with a realistic series of next steps and timeframe to achieve those steps once resources for the division are understood.

## **Tree Commission Discussions**

As previously listed, the Tree Commission has been discussing elements of the draft UFMP since May of last year. The review of the draft UFMP as a document took place over two meetings, a special meeting on February 8, 2023 and at the regular meeting on February 16, 2023. The intention of the special meeting was to provide an overview (for the Commission and members of the public in attendance) of the draft UFMP to facilitate returning with detailed questions for the second meeting on February 16.

Feedback at the special meeting included comments on webpage navigation, site structure, and clarification of information, as well as more detailed comments on the draft including:

- Concern that the history of the urban forest page included significant issues that need to be addressed with the history of Native Americans and the history of Yolo County.
- Concern that the tree planting list included in the draft included problematic species and should be addressed prior to Council review.
- The importance to prioritize canopy cover along active transportation routes.
- The suggestion to move the sustainability indicators from the Benchmark section to the State of the Urban Forest.
- Appreciation for the plan, with a note that the implementation objectives and action items reflected the conversation of the Tree Commission. Outstanding was an action item to include a plan for the Tree Commission's role in the development projects approval process.
- Appreciation for the TreeKeeper Canopy as a tool for use not only by the City's Urban Forestry Manager for planning, also the community to keep tabs and track as well.
- It was noted that the webpages were well-organized, utilized GPS technology well, and appreciation was expressed for working within the existing City webpage structure.
- How the City Council would approve the UFMP if the plan was built to be modified regularly. It was noted that what was first approved by Council would need to be recorded.
- The need to include information on fire resilience and the urban canopy.

At their meeting on February 16, the Commission provided more detailed questions for City review and response. The timeline for responses to comments was presented as "short-term" (completed before the review of the final draft at this Council meeting) and "long-term" (comments or questions that would require additional resources, information, partnerships, etc. to complete or fully address). Most of the comments fell into both categories, with short-term ways to address them, and longer-term follow-ups necessary.

Discussion at the meeting included:

- Additional navigation comments, and reiteration of concerns regarding the History of the Urban Forest and Tree Species Selection pages.

- Expected timing of updates to the “Benchmarks” sections (including the tree canopy and land cover assessment, and City tree resource assessment). Staff indicated every 5-10 years.
- What Council will actually approve with an online, dynamic plan. Staff indicated the approval would likely be for the Implementation Plan, and approach set forth by the UFMP, with updates to the UFMP approved by City Council if necessary.
- Inclusion of an action item to discuss the Tree Commission role in development reviews with City Council.
- Concern about the lack of priorities set forth in the UFMP.
- Appreciation of the UFMP as a tool, rather than a static plan, and an important opportunity to try something new.
- How the work to develop the UFMP will inform the updates of the City’s municipal code chapter on trees.

At the meeting, the Commission made three motions as follows:

**MOTION:** Tree Commission strongly recommends that local indigenous people be actively engaged in rewriting the historical section UFMP to make a more complete and accurate narrative and this update take place within three months of Urban Forest Management Plan adoption.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by C Walsh. Approved by the following votes:  
 Ayes: Walsh, Guenther, Cramer, Daniel, Reuter  
 Noes: Lowry

**MOTION:** The Tree Commission recommends that the City Council adopt the Urban Forest Management Plan as a dynamic framework with consideration of further recommendations by the Tree Commission.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by J Cramer. Approved by the following votes:  
 Ayes: Walsh, Guenther, Cramer, Daniel, Lowry, Reuter  
 Noes:

**MOTION:** The Tree Commission recommends local indigenous people and other experts in traditional ecosystem management, be engaged with the Urban Forestry division to improve alignment between future management practices and precolonial management practices and natural processes.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by C Walsh. Approved by the following votes:  
 Ayes: Walsh, Guenther, Cramer, Daniel, Reuter  
 Noes:  
 Absent: Lowry

**Environmental Review**

The UFMP is a visioning document, and represents a planning effort for the City’s urban forestry program, from which future projects will be based. The UFMP is not considered a project pursuant to CEQA, so no environmental determination is necessary at this time.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff is recommending adoption of the UFMP (with any adjustments by Council) and authorizing submission of the UFMP to CAL FIRE to satisfy the grant requirements.

Staff is also recommending Council direct staff to develop a prioritization schedule for tasks within the UFMP. This schedule will outline the next steps toward meeting the objectives within the UFMP and will be developed in consultation with the Tree Commission. This prioritization and schedule will be developed based on the level of funding allocated for the Division and include realistic expectations to deliver progress for the program.

**Attachments**

1. Resolution

## **RESOLUTION NO. 23-XXX, SERIES 2023**

### **RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, in 2002, the City Council adopted the Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP), to set forth goals, objectives and action steps to guide the maintenance and operation of the City's urban forestry program; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, identifying the need to revisit the 2002 CFMP, the City partnered with Tree Davis to apply for and receive a grant contract utilizing Proposition 68 grant funds awarded through CAL FIRE to plant 1,000 trees and develop an updated Urban Forest Management Plan for the next 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Tree Davis led the effort to successfully plant 1,000 trees throughout the City of Davis; and

WHEREAS, the City did publish a request for qualifications to solicit interested consultants to aid the City in preparation of the Urban Forest Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of interested submissions, a consultant team led by Davey Resource Group (DRG) was selected to work with the City and community to develop the 40-year plan; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2021, the City Council did approve a consultant agreement with DRG; and

WHEREAS, City staff, DRG, the Tree Commission, other engaged City Commissions via liaisons, key urban forestry collaborators and the community did undertake an eleven-month long effort to develop a 40-year Urban Forest Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, after four community events with 100 combined participants, a photography contest with 73 submissions, 53 virtual comment box submissions, collaborator interviews, many email messages and nine discussions with the Tree Commission, along with liaisons from the Bicycling, Transportation and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC), Finance and Budget Commission (FBC), Historical Resources Management Commission (HRMC), Natural Resources Commission (NRC), Open Space and Habitat Commission (OSHC), Planning Commission (PC), Utilities Commission (UC), Social Services Commission (SSC) and an update discussion with Council, a Plan has been developed expressing a vision the management of the City's urban forest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Davis does hereby adopt the Urban Forest Management Plan as the framework to guide future decisions about operations of the City's Urban Forestry program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes City staff to submit the Urban Forest Management Plan website to CAL FIRE by March 25, 2023 to satisfy the requirements of the Proposition 68 grant.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis this 21st day of March 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Will Arnold  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC  
City Clerk