Urban Forest Management Plan Update

Urban Forest Commission Listening Session
Urban Forest Management Plan

• Management of trees:
  • Along streets
  • In parks
  • On private property
  • Near power equipment
• Work across 9 departments
• Guides goals and actions
Hopes for New Plan

• Data driven approach
  • Canopy cover
  • Street tree inventory
• Emphasis on equity
• Impacts of climate change
• Measurable actions / accountability
• Robust public engagement
Focus on Equity

• Committed to:
  • Dedicating most resources to engaging historically under-represented communities
  • Seeking input prior to drafting goals or actions
  • Valuing feedback equitably
  • Transparency
Equity & Environment Initiative Communities

- People of color
- Low-income populations
- Linguistically isolated households
- Foreign-born populations
- Native populations
Inclusive Public Engagement Phase I

• Public input prior to plan drafting

• Engaging EEI communities:
  • SPU’s Community Connections
  • DON’s Community Liaisons

• Online comment input form
Inclusive Public Engagement Phase I

• Stakeholders listening sessions:
  • Tree advocates
  • City implementation partners
  • Government agencies
  • Private arborist companies
Inclusive Public Engagement Phase I

• City Boards & Commissions:
  • Urban Forestry Commission
  • Environmental Justice Committee
  • Pedestrian Advisory Board
  • Planning Commission

• Urban Forestry Management Team
Urban Forestry Commission Involvement

- Listening session: September 5
- Update plan content
  - 2-3 Commissioners
  - Key strategic conversations
Outside Technical Review

• Gap analysis of current policies & programs now

• Draft review in comparison to BMPs winter 2019
Plan Development

- Data sources:
  - Public input
  - Canopy cover
    - Analysis of canopy cover by land use and management unit
  - SDOT street tree inventory
  - Gap analysis findings
Inclusive Public Engagement Phase II

- Spring / Summer 2019
- Public comment on draft plan
- Participants from Phase I will be invited to Phase II
Timeline

• Now – end of October: Public input period
• November - March 2019: Plan drafting
• April - June, 2019: Public engagement phase II (draft plan review)
• July - November, 2019: Final plan production
• November, 2019: Submittal to Mayor's Office for adoption
Questions?
Urban Forest Management Plan Values

- **Ecosystem and human health**: maximizing the mental health and human well-being, air quality, water quality, storm water runoff reduction, carbon sequestration, recreation, wildlife habitat, beauty, and other benefits of trees

- **Commitment to equity**: including diverse perspectives and equitable distribution of urban forestry resources and program

- **Community stewardship**: engaging the Seattle community, including residents and businesses, in appreciating and caring for the urban forest

- **Tree health, human safety, and property protection**: keeping the urban forest healthy using best management practices with a focus on public and crew safety

- **Good governance**: working in conjunction with other City and community goals such as transportation, utility provision, and housing