



**City of Seattle**  
Urban Forestry Commission

Becca Neumann (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Co-chair

Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO), Co-Chair

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Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • Falisha Kurji (Position #3 – Natural Resource Agency) • Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • Hao Liang (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • David Moehring (Position #8 – Development) • Blake Voorhees (Position #9 – Realtor) • Jessica Hernandez (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • Jessica Jones (Position #12 – Public Health) • Lia Hall (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

## 2023 Work Plan

### 2023 Priority Action Areas:

1. Advise City on tree and urban forest protection ordinance update	4. Climate change issues and impacts
2. Incorporate RSJI principles into UFC work	5. Support Comprehensive Plan update
3. Urban Forestry-related Statements of Legislative Intent	6. Community engagement/education

The Urban Forestry Commission's work for 2023 is organized in five focus areas; tree-related City regulations and policies, urban forestry funding, outreach and engagement, Seattle Comprehensive Plan 2024 update, and internal operations. The following five worksheets contain the topics and actions, and their related tracking information, for each of these focus areas. The topic areas are arranged in order according to priority. Then within each topic area, actions are prioritized from 1 to 3, using criteria including urgency/timeliness and topic importance. All work of the Commission is conducted with the lenses of the impacts to and importance of environmental justice and climate change

1. Tree-related City Regulations/Policies								
Topic Area/Action	Priority Level	UFC Lead	UFC Additional	Other Parties Involved	Start Date	Outcome/Deliverable	Response Tracking	Status
1.1 Urban Forestry Statements of Legislative Intent								
1.1.1 UF Consolidation SLI - Participate in deliberative sessions with City staff and Council around urban forestry consolidation	1	Stuart			TBD	Coordination/relationship		
1.1.2 Coordinate with city staff in the process of filling the City Urban Forester position.						Issue/project monitoring		
1.1.3 Urban Forestry Funding SLI - Participate in deliberative sessions with City staff	1	Stuart			TBD	Recommendations		
1.2 Advise City on tree and urban forest protection ordinance update								
1.2.1 Participate in deliberative sessions on Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance update	1	Stuart			Q2	Recommendations		
1.2.2 Provide input to SDCI regarding payment-in-lieu as mitigation	1	Stuart			Q2	Recommendations		
1.2.3 Review and provide input on legislation dealing with zoning that can affect urban forestry	2	TBD		SDCI/CC LUC	TBD	Recommendations		
1.2.4 Reviewing and advising on tree loss data as it becomes available	2		Julia, Hao	SDCI/CC LUC	TBD	Recommendations		
1.2.5 Monitor implementation tree service provider registration process						Issue/project monitoring		
1.2.5.1 Provide feedback on potential ordinance amendments						Recommendations		
1.3 Advise the City on urban forestry policies								
1.3.1 Review climate change issues and impacts, and identify areas for UFC involvement and action	1	Hao	Becca		TBD	Issue/project monitoring		
1.3.1.1 Engage with Green New Deal Oversight Board	2	Julia, Laura			Q3	Coordination/relationship		
1.3.2 Explore opportunities for tree planting in industrial areas: Port of Seattle, Freight Advisory	3	TBD	Hao, Becca		TBD	Recommendations		Hao will update on his work on this in early 2032

2. Funding for Urban Forestry								
Topic Area/Action	Priority Level	UFC Lead	UFC Additional	Other Parties Involved	Start Date	Outcome/Deliverable	Response Tracking	Status
2.1 City budget tracking								
2.1.1 Engage with city budget process during development	2	Josh			Spring	Recommendations		
2.1.2 Provide feedback on draft city budget	2	Josh			November	Recommendations		
2.2 Encourage City to allocate necessary budget to implement new tree ordinance								
2.2.1 Confirm budget needs for ordinance implementation	2	TBD			TBD	Recommendations		
2.2.2 Include in city budget recommendations	2	TBD			TBD	Recommendations		
2.3 Green Seattle Partnership use of funds and reimagining process								
2.3.1 Receive annual briefing from GSP/SPR staff	2	Patti			TBD	Issue/project monitoring		
2.4 Trees for Seattle program update								
2.4.1 Receive annual briefing	2	Patti			TBD	Issue/project monitoring		

3. Outreach and Engagement								
Topic Area/Action	Priority Level	UFC Lead	UFC Additional	Other Parties Involved	Start Date	Outcome/Deliverable	Response Tracking	Status
3.1 City Council and Mayor’s Office interaction: Hold meetings with Council and Mayor’s Office								
3.1.1 Hold meetings with Council and Mayor’s Office	2	Josh	Stuart		1/1/2023	Coordination/relationship		
3.2 Community engagement/education								
3.2.1 Intentionally expand the diversity of voices the UFC engages with. Expressly seek out underrepresented communities that have not been historically at the table.	1	Jessica H., Lia	Laura, Falisha, Josh		TBD	Coordination/relationship		
3.2.2 Develop info sheet to respond to community inquiries/communications		Hao	Lia, Laura, Falisha		TBD	Other external product		Subgroup developed draft document
3.2.2.1 Break down the conversation of trees vs. X (gentrification, development vs. trees, affordable housing, etc.)	2				TBD	Other external product		
3.2.3 Meet with community groups to engage in dialogue about the importance of trees, the UFC role, and community interests/priorities (Key Arena redevelopment, tree protection ordinance update, development and real estate community)	3	Lia	Josh, Laura, Falisha		TBD	Coordination/relationship		First meeting scheduled with Rainier Beach Community Club February 2023
3.2.4 Work with city staff to implement recommendations for updating the UFC website developed in 2022	3	Josh	Laura, Hao		TBD			
3.3 Race and Social Justice Initiative								
3.3.1 Incorporate RSJI principles into UFC work	1	Jessica H.			TBD	Internal product		
3.3.1.1 Equity and Diversity Committee meet (monthly?) to identify opportunities and make ongoing recommendations to the UFC, with intended outcomes for the group to become more inclusive and equitable in its membership and work,	1	Julia, Josh, Laura			TBD	Recommendations		
3.4 Internal Engagement								
3.4.1 Align UF IDT and UFC’s work plan (Hold annual joint UFC/IDT meeting)	3	Patti		UFC/IDT members	TBD	Coordination/relationship		
3.4.2 Develop annual calendar to invite City Departments to brief the UFC	2	Patti, Julia, Josh			1/1/2023	Coordination/relationship		
3.4.3 Review canopy cover assessment work; provide any additional input	2	Julia	Hao		TBD	Recommendations		
3.5 Engagement with Community Organizations and Urban Forestry Partners								
3.5.1 Incorporate integrated perspective (including public health)	3	TBD	Hao	TBD	TBD	Coordination/relationship		
3.5.2 Identify opportunities to engage with landowners	3	TBD	Hao	TBD		Coordination/relationship		

4. Seattle Comprehensive Plan 2024 Update								
Topic Area/Action	Priority Level	UFC Lead	UFC Additional	Other Parties Involved	Start Date	Outcome/Deliverable	Response Tracking	Status
4.1 Support Comprehensive Plan update: Engage with planning team, provide review of and input to draft plan								
4.1.1 Track update process	1		Hao	OPCD	TBD	Issue/project monitoring		
4.1.2 Schedule briefings at appropriate intervals	1		Hao	OPCD	TBD	Recommendations		Recommendations submitted Jan. 5 and Aug. 17
4.1.3 Participate in deliberative sessions with update team	1		Hao	OPCD	TBD	Recommendations		

5. Tree Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan								
Topic Area/Action	Priority Level	UFC Lead	UFC Additional	Other Parties Involved	Start Date	Outcome/Deliverable	Response Tracking	Status
5.1 Support development of this Plan: Engage with planning team, provide review of and input to draft plan								
5.1.1 Track update process		Becca						
5.1.2 Schedule briefings at appropriate intervals								
5.1.3 Participate in deliberative sessions with update team								

6. Internal Operations							
Topic Area/Action	Priority Level	UFC Lead	UFC Additional	Other Parties Involved	Start Date	Outcome/Deliverable	Status
5.1 Issue 2022 Annual Report	3	Patti			January	Other external product	
5.2 Create 2023 work plan	3	Patti, Co-Chairs			January	Internal product	
5.3 Participate in interviews for UFC members recruitment	3	Patti, Co-Chairs			January	Internal product	
5.4 Hold Chair and Vice-chair elections	3	Patti			December	Internal product	