

Urban Forestry Commission

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) - Vision, Mission and Values

This document is a living document that will be updated on an as needed basis as the UFC refines its workplan, adjusts membership, and responds to changes in the city's priorities.

Reference to: [Ordinance 123052](#) establishing UFC

VISION:

Seattle will strive to reach and sustain 30% canopy cover that is equitably distributed by 2037. Seattle's urban forest is a thriving, interconnected ecosystem that supports climate resilience, biodiversity, and the well-being of all who live, work, worship, learn, and play in the city.

MISSION:

The Urban Forestry Commission works to ensure Seattle's urban forest is protected, well-managed, and thriving. We advise the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on policy development, budget priorities, planning and implementation. We ground our recommendations in science and data, equity, and meaningful collaboration with community members and City staff.

VALUES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK

1. **Equity and Environmental Justice**

We recognize that communities most impacted by climate change and environmental degradation often have the least canopy cover. We center equity in our decision-making to ensure that all communities—especially frontline populations disproportionately impacted by historic marginalization, redlining, underinvestment, socioeconomic challenges, and exposure to pollution and urban heat islands—benefit from urban forestry investments and meaningful involvement in environmental course-setting.

2. **Accountability and Transparency**

We are committed to transparent processes and clear communication. We hold ourselves and the City accountable to equitable urban forestry goals and policies.

3. **Informed Decision-Making**

We draw on the best available science, place-based knowledge, community experience, and urban forestry best management practices to inform our recommendations and provide clear, credible advice to the Mayor, City Council, and City departments.

4. **Cultural Humility and Inclusion**

We recognize and value the cultural relationships that diverse communities have with trees and nature. We commit to engaging respectfully and meaningfully with all communities—especially Tribal nations and communities of color.

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5. **Collaboration and Partnership**

We believe that meaningful change is built through inclusive collaboration. We strive to work with communities, the Seattle government, Tribal nations, and those who are connected to these lands and waterways since time immemorial, and other partners—nonprofits, private landowners, the public, and other governmental agencies—to strengthen Seattle’s urban forest.

6. **Intergenerational Stewardship**

We consider the long-term impacts of our decisions on future generations. We view the urban forest as a legacy we collectively inherit and are responsible for passing on in a healthier state.