Urban Forestry Management Plan

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Public Works Natural Resources
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“The City's urban forest should be managed in a way that optimizes the environmental, economic and social benefits it provides. An urban forestry management plan is the best tool for maintaining a healthy and desirable urban forest.”

– City of Bellingham Comprehensive Plan, Environment Chapter (2016, p. 12)
Purpose

Create a strategic plan that helps maintain a healthy and desirable urban forest through well-coordinated, consistent, efficient, and sustainable long-term urban forestry management.
Examples

- Bainbridge Island
- Covington
- Edmonds
- King County
- Kirkland
- Lacey
- Lake Forest Park
- Longview
- Redmond
- Seattle
- Sammamish
- Shoreline
- Vancouver
Overview

• Inter-departmental effort

• Scope is City limits and UGA
Overview

• Informs existing plans and regulations, including:
  – Comprehensive Plan
  – Climate Action Plan
  – Pedestrian Master Plan
  – PRO Plan
  – Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
  – Land Clearing Chapter (BMC 16.60)
  – Critical Areas Ordinance (BMC 16.55)
  – Park Policy (PAR 06.00.01)
  – Street Tree Inventory
# Scope of Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Completed August 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1 - Assessment</strong></td>
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<td>Tree Canopy Assessment</td>
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<td>Wildlife Corridor Analysis</td>
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<td>Wildland-Urban Interface Analysis</td>
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<td><strong>Phase 2 – Goals Establishment</strong></td>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
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<td>Community Values, Goals, and Objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 3 – Plan Development</strong></td>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
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<td>Review Current Practices</td>
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<td>Prioritize Forest/Tree Management Actions</td>
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<td>Plan Development</td>
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Results – Canopy Assessment
Results – Canopy Change

Greater than 40% loss
20 to 40% loss
5 to 20% loss
Indiscernible loss or gain
5 to 20% gain
20 to 40% gain
Greater than 40% gain

Boundaries
- City
- UGA
- City + UGA
Results – Forest Structure
Results – Wildland-Urban Interface

Fuel Loading

Light
Medium
Heavy

Boundaries
- City
- UGA
- City + UGA

2 Miles
Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat

- Important Wildlife Habitat Areas
- Significant Movement Barriers
- Important Wildlife Corridors

Boundaries:
- City
- UGA
- City + UGA
Results – Street Tree Inventory
Canopy Cover

2018 Tree Canopy %

- Private: 38%
- Right-of-Way: 26%
- Other public: 44%
- All City-Owned: 75%

2018 Tree Canopy Acreage

- Private: 5,197
- Right-of-Way: 982
- Other public: 1,157
- All City-Owned: 2,243
Riparian Areas

2018 = 45%
# Next Steps

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**Community Outreach**
Urban Forestry Management Plan

The City of Bellingham is creating an Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP). Development of the first phase of the UFMP is with a consultant selected for their notable experience and skills in urban forestry assessment and management. The purpose of the UFMP is to create a strategic plan that helps maintain a healthy and desirable urban forest through well-coordinated, consistent, efficient, and sustainable long-term urban forest management. The UFMP will encompass all trees, in forests and elsewhere, within City limits and the Urban Growth Area (UGA).

Sign up here to receive email updates about the UFMP process.
Questions?

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