



**Agenda Planning Commission
Gig Harbor Civic Center
Thursday, April 6, 2023 5:30 P.M.**

This meeting may also be accessed through Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/95353411299> or by calling (253) 215- 8782 and entering Meeting ID 953 5341 1299. Please see the Public Comment & Decorum section at the end of this agenda for information on options to make public comment.

This meeting may also be viewed live in the Community Rooms at the Civic Center.

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call:**
- II. Approval of Minutes:** March 16, 2023
- III. Public Comment:**
- IV. Agenda Items:**
 - a. Update on Outreach Engagement
- V. Other Business:** Next meeting Thursday, April 20, 2023
- VI. Adjournment:**

PUBLIC COMMENT & DECORUM

Commenters will be allotted 3 minutes per individual, unless revised by the Chair. In-person comments shall be made from the microphone, first giving the speaker's name and address. When there are 30 seconds remaining, staff will alert you to summarize your comments. At the end of your comments, staff will notify you it has come to the end of your comment period. Anyone making "out of order" comments may be subject to removal from the meeting.

Public comment may be made remotely via Zoom or by phone during designated portions of the meeting. To speak during the meeting, press the Raise Hand button near the bottom of your Zoom window or press *9 on your phone. Please refrain from raising your hand until the Chair has announced that the Commission has opened the public comment portion of the meeting. Your name or the last three digits of your phone number will be called out when it is your turn to speak. When using your phone to call in, you may need to press *6 to unmute yourself. All speakers will have up to three minutes to speak.

All remarks shall be addressed to the Commission as a body and not to any specific Commissioner. All speakers shall be courteous in their language and deportment and shall not engage in or discuss or comment on personalities or indulge in derogatory remarks or insinuations with regard to any Commissioner, the Chair, or any member of the staff or the public.

There will be no demonstrations during or at the conclusion of any public comment. These guidelines are intended to promote an orderly system of holding a public meeting, to give every person an opportunity to be heard and to ensure that no individuals are embarrassed by voicing their opinions.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) ACCOMMODATIONS ADA accommodations can be provided upon request. Those requiring special accommodations should contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@gigharborwa.gov or (253) 853-7613 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.



**Minutes for Gig Harbor Planning Commission
Gig Harbor Civic Center
Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:30 P.M.**

- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Chair Krawczyk called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Bradbury (virtually), Soltess (virtually), Brown, Burcar, Jordan and Snodgrass were present.
City Staff: Principal Planner, Robin Bolster-Grant; Senior Planner, Roxanne Robles & Planning Technician, Michelle Thomas were present
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Move to approve minutes for March 2, 2023 (Brown/Bradbury) Unanimously approved
- III. **Public Comment:** No Public comment
- IV. **Agenda Items:**
 - a. Tree Ordinance Study Session – Presentation by Robles and Commission discussion
- V. **Other Business:** Next meeting Thursday, April 6, 2023, update on outreach, engagement and greenhouse gas inventory for climate action plan & review draft urban forestry management plan
- VI. **Adjournment:** 7:16



TO: Gig Harbor Planning Commission

FROM: Planning Staff

DATE: March 30, 2023

RE: **Climate Action Plan Update**

The City of Gig Harbor has committed to planning for the emergency of climate change and has contracted with Cascadia Consulting Group to prepare a Climate Action Plan (CAP). The final draft will be delivered in June 2023. The Climate Action Plan is comprised of three parts:

- 1. Greenhouse gas emissions inventory and analysis:** This piece will comprise gathering information about greenhouse gas emissions generated by the City including municipal operations, resident and worker commuting and travel, waste, water, and more. Cascadia will analyze current greenhouse gas emissions and develop emissions targets to inform our adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- 2. Climate adaptation and mitigation strategies:** This piece will include a set of adaptation and mitigation strategies to help the City meet emissions targets derived from the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and analysis. The strategies will be vetted through a cost-benefit analysis and then prioritized based on several factors. Outreach and engagement will then further the prioritization effort.
- 3. Engagement and outreach:** The City cares about the priorities of our residents and workers. Proposed adaptation and mitigation strategies will be further prioritized by feedback from the survey and workshops.

City staff last presented a Climate Action Plan update in early March and the consultant has made a lot of progress in that time:

- The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory is complete with a forthcoming detailed analysis to be. Cascadia presented the following preliminary assessment of Gig Harbor's 2019 GHG emissions during the March 29th public workshop:
 - o 50% Transportation (flights from SEA-TAC, off-road equipment like lawnmowers, and on-road vehicles);
 - o 30% Built Environment (electricity, gas, and other sources which heat, cool, and power buildings);
 - o 13% Land Use
 - o 7% Refrigerants
 - o 1% Solid Waste and Wastewater
- Adaptation and mitigation strategies have been developed based on the GHG emissions inventory, and will be further refined by the public survey, public workshop, and the staff implementation workshop in May.
- The public workshop was held March 29th, 2023 and had 13 participants. Further analysis to be delivered soon.
- The public survey closes March 31st, 2023 and currently has 117 responses. Preliminary results of the survey are as follows:
 - o 117 participants
 - o High awareness of, and concern for, climate change impacts (95%)
 - o Highest level of concern for increased wildfires, plastic pollution, loss of habitat and species, loss of urban trees and tree canopy, and threats to public health
 - o Improved resiliency to climate change impacts is thus far the most popular climate change strategy
 - o Lots of additional comments with additional strategies and suggestions for regional collaboration

City staff is sharing this update for informational purposes and so that Planning Commissioners are aware of CAP progress and next steps for their engagement.



TO: Gig Harbor Planning Commission

FROM: Planning Staff

DATE: March 30, 2023

RE: **Urban Forestry Management Plan Development Update**

The City of Gig Harbor has committed to the long-term management and stewardship of its urban forest through the development of an Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP). The City has conducted public outreach through an online survey which launched on February 9th, 2023. City staff promoted the survey through a postcard mailer to all residential and business addresses (about 3,000 addresses) the week of March 9th, 2023.

A draft of the UFMP, and associated goals, was recently provided by the consultant; however, the draft does not include an analysis of the public outreach. The analysis of the preliminary public outreach is a great opportunity for the Planning Commission to provide feedback on how to best synthesize the public outreach with proposed goals and actions. The draft UFMP currently includes three types of goals:

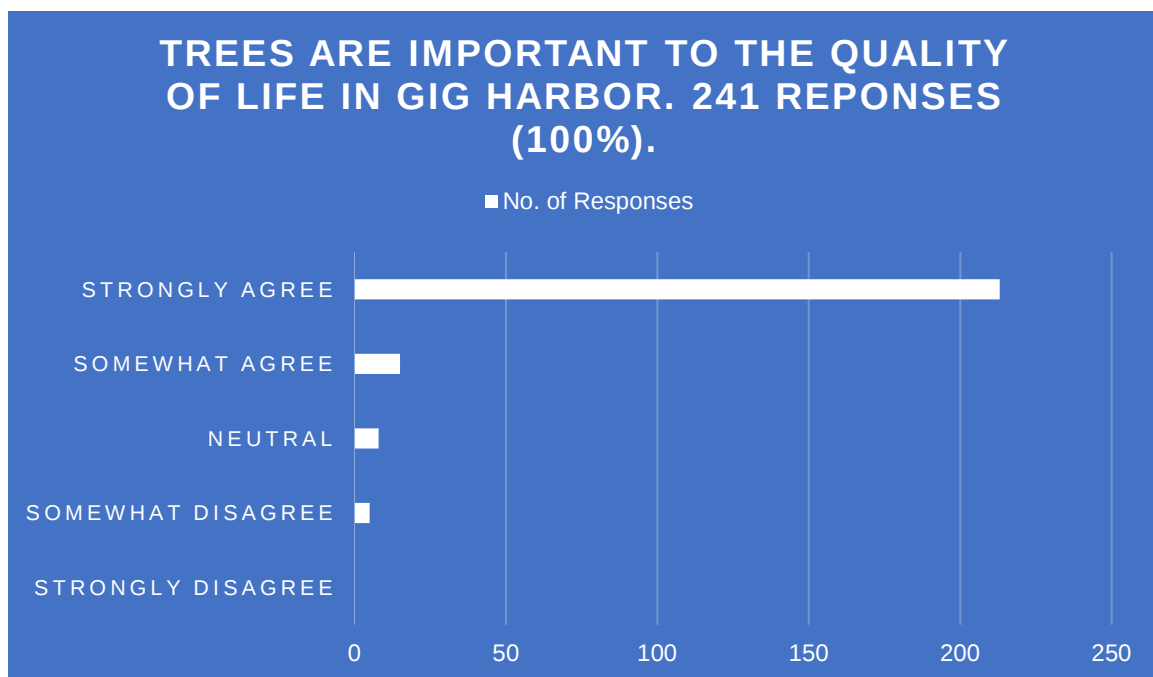
- 1. Urban Forest Sustainability Goals (UF):** These goals are intended to improve the urban forest resource over the next 20 years by developing specific metrics to track expectations. To accomplish these goals, the most common action will be to increase the amount of information the City maintains about the resource. This includes activities like routine tree canopy assessments and a public tree inventory, both of which are fundamental investments in urban forest management.
- 2. Municipal Operations Goals (M):** These goals are intended to drive improvements in City policy and practices by developing efficiency and alignment of efforts within City departments. The common tactics for accomplishing these goals center around developing policies that promote routine tree inspection and formalized tree management strategies for City-owned trees. These goals encourage the City to improve its awareness

and mitigation of tree hazards and eliminate barriers to effective urban forest management.

- 3. Community Collaboration and Engagement Goals (C):** These goals are intended to build stronger community engagement and public participation in urban forest stewardship. The common tactics for accomplishing these goals coordinate with the public and encourage the participation of citizens and businesses to align with the City's vision.

As of March 27th, 2023 at 12:00pm, there were 241 responses to the online survey and the overwhelming majority of participants (over 95%) answered every question. The survey will close at 5:00pm on March 30th, 2023. It is important to remember that the results of this survey are not scientifically sound as the City did not control for participants' demographics and participation is random and at will.

Public Outreach Results & Urban Forest Management Goals



It is clear that trees are important to survey respondents, as 88.4% responded they *strongly agree* that trees are important to the quality of life in Gig Harbor. The UFMP consultant has proposed goals to maintain existing citywide canopy coverage and to strategically increase canopy in areas which are below average citywide canopy coverage. These goals address the maintenance of canopy and current infrastructural and aesthetic benefits of trees in well-covered areas and aim to bring other less-covered areas up to the standard other areas enjoy.

Goal #UF1 Maintain Citywide Canopy Coverage

Performance Measure	Tree canopy cover (% of City land covered by tree canopy)
Rationale	Gig Harbor has no set canopy goal. The current canopy 41% (461 Acres) is not significantly different from the 2017 estimate. This means that the City has been maintaining tree canopy and could continue this trend as a baseline objective.
Risk	The City has identified 28 parcels (106.94 acres of canopy) that are being considered for development. The impacts of these pending developments could reduce the overall canopy in the City by 5%. Diminished canopy cover can increase flooding, urban heat island effects, and energy use, reduce air quality and degrade asphalt road surfaces. Canopy loss also negatively impacts wildlife travel corridors and decreases habitat.
Benefit	Canopy cover can help optimize the ecosystem services provided by the urban forest.
Actions	Develop and adopt an overall canopy goal for Gig Harbor.
	Adopt a City policy to avoid any net loss to overall tree canopy.
	Conduct urban tree canopy (UTC) analysis every 10 years to determine changes and progress toward community canopy goals.

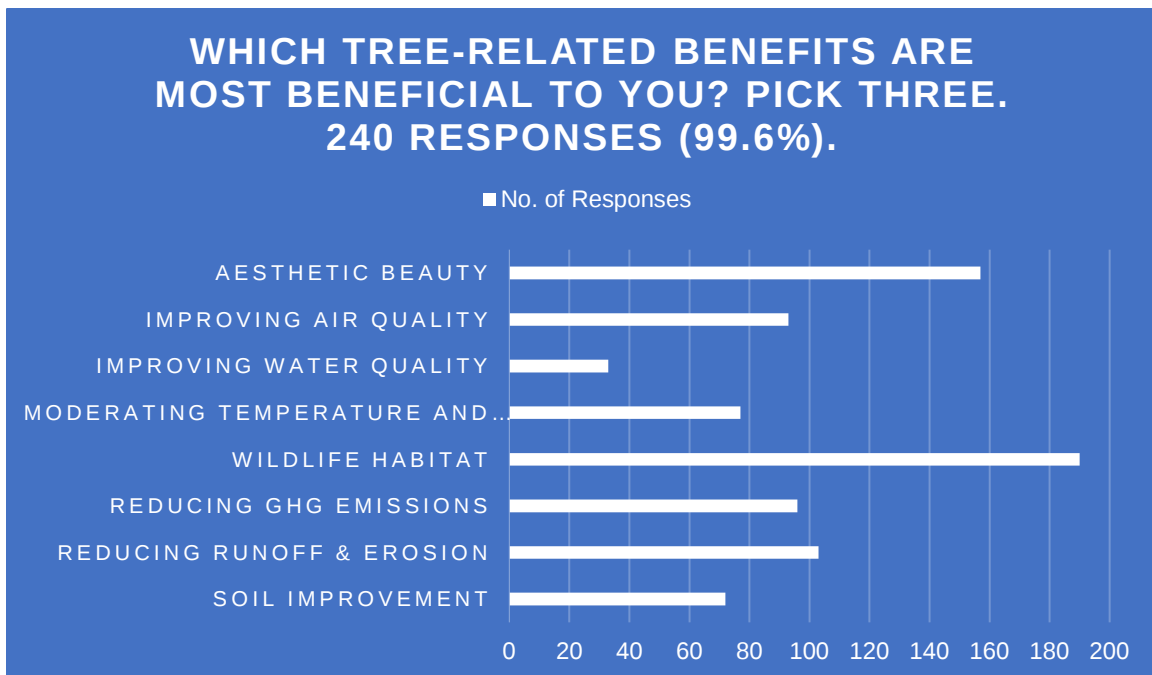
Goal #UF2 Increase Canopy in Key Areas

Performance Measure	Census Block Group Canopy Cover (% of City land covered by tree canopy)
Rationale	Below Average tree canopy cover has been identified in 5 Census Blocks (Currently 1,520 acres, 37% canopy cover). Planting 409 Trees in these areas each year for 10 years would increase overall canopy cover in the City to 42%.
Risk	Increasing inequity in the distribution of canopy and environmental services provided by trees throughout the City.
Benefit	The City can develop efficient strategies for increasing canopy and targeting specific areas to improve and distribute the benefits provided by the urban forest.
Actions	Identify areas within these census blocks where tree planting will enhance overall canopy cover, improve stormwater management, and/or protect existing natural resources.

Goal #C5 Establish a Heritage Tree Designation

Performance Measure	Number of trees considered Heritage Trees.
Rationale	It's fairly common for residents to have limited interest in regulations for trees on private properties. However, trees that are removed can be very slow to replace. The public can recognize the social compact of land ownership and educate the community by having trees designated as part of the City's heritage.

Risk	There are limited controls for the public to ensure the retention of substantial tree assets in the community.
Benefit	Trees that are considered heritage trees to the community could potentially receive additional protection and perhaps financial compensation to the owner/steward of the tree.
Actions	Develop a definition for Heritage Trees within City Ordinances.
	Develop a historic tree registry to celebrate and educate the public about the legacy created by tree stewardship.



The answers within the survey question above demonstrate that survey participants have a good understanding of the wide range of benefits provided by trees and urban forests. This question demonstrates that participants are most interested in the aesthetic and wildlife benefits of trees, followed closely by infrastructural benefits such as air quality and stormwater improvements. The consultant has proposed some goals which relate to the management of urban forest through responsible management of species diversity and including the infrastructure benefits of trees into other planning efforts, goals, and actions.

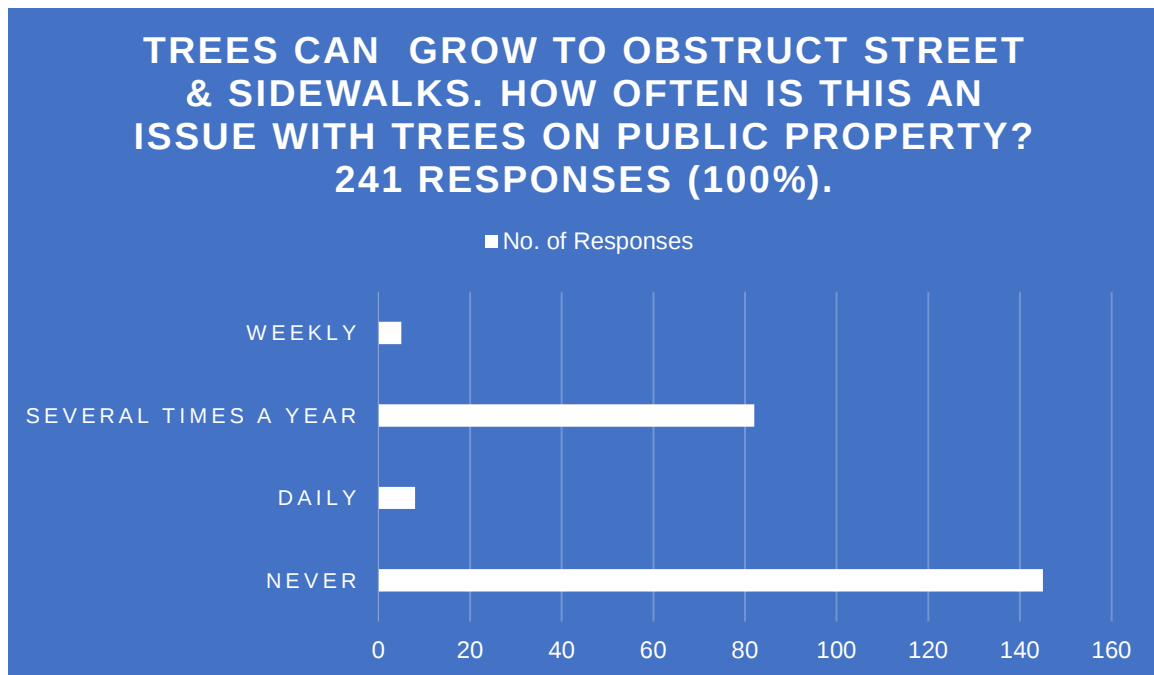
Goal #UF5 Manage for Species Diversity	
Performance Measure	Species Distribution (%) on City properties and public rights of way.
	Species Importance Value (IV)
Rationale	No species should represent more than 10% of the population and no genus should represent more than 20%. Exceptions could be made for native species in naturalized areas.

Risk	The predominance of a few species can lead to substantial impacts from pests or diseases that tend to be species-specific, and storms that may predominantly damage certain species.
Benefit	The urban forest will be healthier, more resilient, and sustainable.
Actions	Increase species diversity in the public tree resource through diversity goals. 1. No single species represents >10% of the resource. 2. No single genus represents >20% of the resource. 3. No single family represents >30% of the resource. Analyze the public tree resource using iTree Eco to calculate Importance Value and reduce reliance on overused species. Develop an updated list of preferred regionally compatible species (including native species). Choose pest and disease-resistant varieties when available.

Goal #UF7 Include Ecosystem Services of Trees Into Climate Action Strategies	
Performance Measure	Ecosystem services tracked by the City 1. Air Quality - \$48K (annually). 2. Carbon Storage - 99,260 tons (2022) 3. Carbon Sequestration - 3,330 Tons (annually) 4. Stormwater Gallons - 22 M Gallons (annually)
Rationale	Aligning with the City's Comprehensive Plan elements, the City would be favorably positioned to understand and optimize the ecosystem benefits provided from trees by documenting and tracking the ecological function of publicly-owned trees.
Risk	If services are not tracked, the value of tree assets remains misunderstood. It can be more difficult to garner public support for preservation and maintenance efforts.
Benefit	Financing for urban forestry program efforts could come from stormwater management fees. Political and public support for trees will be easier with a quantified understanding of their ecosystem services (values).
Actions	Periodically review changes and improvements to the urban tree canopy.

Goal #M7 Establish Urban Forestry Funding Relationships to Stormwater Fees	
Performance Measure	Gallons of stormwater intercepted by tree canopy.
Rationale	The City's opportunity is to integrate tree canopy stormwater benefits as a quantifiable solution to stormwater management projects. Funding for trees can come from Stormwater fees.
Risk	The City will not fully realize the benefits provided by urban forest canopy.
Benefit	The City will have an additional funding source for urban forest management.
Actions	Include the benefits of trees in any stormwater management plans.

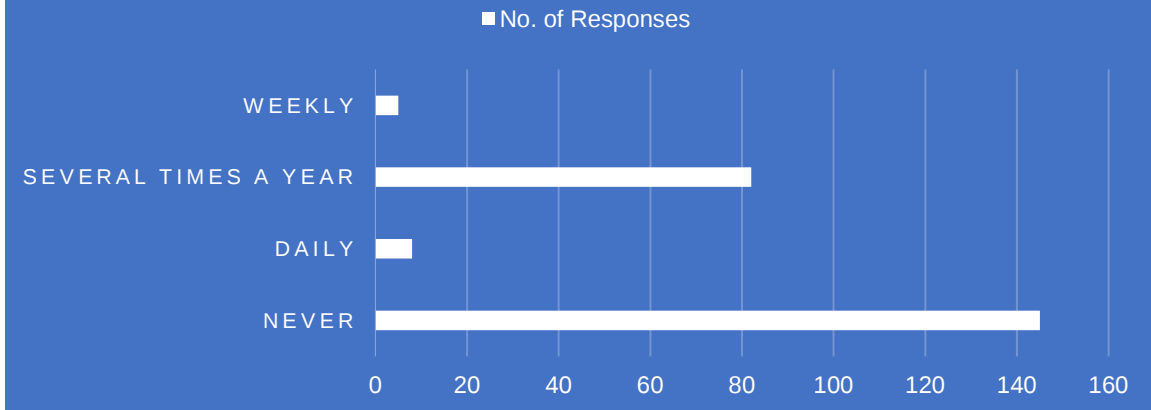
	Include funding for trees in related capital improvement projects wherever possible.
	Secure non-General Fund program funding sources – utility tax, Surface Water utility funds, etc.



It is great to see that the vast majority of respondents do not encounter obstructions due to public trees. However, it is always the goal to have as few incidents as possible and mitigate risk to life and property as much as possible. The consultant has proposed Goal #UF4, which is intended to address ongoing public tree management and regular maintenance.

Goal #UF4 Plant Suitable Trees and Schedule Phased Replacement for Unsuitable Species	
Performance Measure	Relative Performance Index (RPI)
Rationale	Species demonstrating poor performance in the City should not continue to be planted. Phased removals of existing poor-performing species should be considered for key areas.
Risk	Unsuitable species require substantial maintenance and must be replaced more frequently.
Benefit	The community will have lower tree maintenance costs.
Actions	Document and track tree species information when performing tree work to understand and identify unsuitable tree species.
	Create, consolidate, and analyze tree inventory data using iTree Eco .

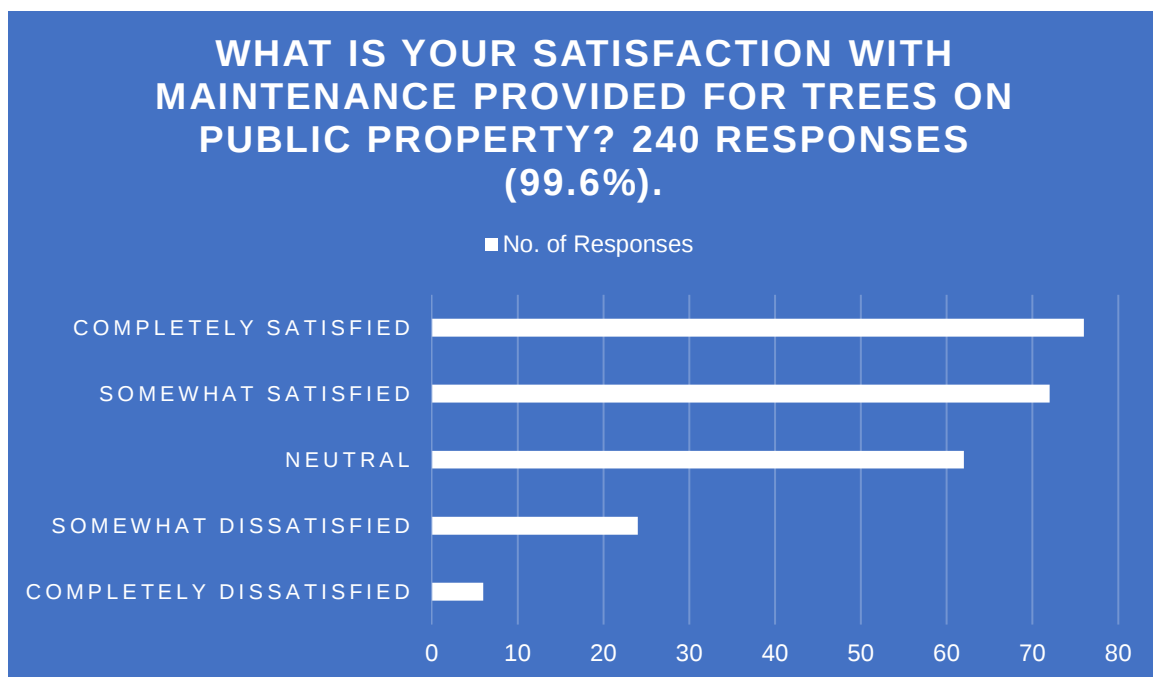
TREES CAN BECOME DAMAGED OR DEVELOP STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENCOUNTER THIS WITH TREES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY? 240 RESPONSES (99.6%).



Trees inevitably age and are subject to any number of health and structural risks such as storms, wildfires, heat stress, drought, pests, disease, car accidents, and vandalism. It is important that high-risk trees are identified and addressed quickly to prevent harm to life and property. Additionally, a complete public tree inventory will help the City update its Director's Preferred Planting List and Street Tree List to include trees that will help diversify the urban forest (related to Goal UF5) with species that are more heat and drought tolerant, and to mitigate the risk of mass die-off from having too many of a single species.

Goal #UF6 Conduct an Inventory to Document Tree Condition and Risk	
Performance Measure	Percent of City-managed property with documented tree inspection. Average age of trees citywide.
Rationale	The City is not actively managing its database of trees. The City cannot quantify tree assets, risks, or liabilities associated with its trees.
Risk	Without data on all publicly-owned trees, planning, and prioritization of urban forestry activities are reactive and driven by anecdotal evidence.
Benefit	The City can develop proactive tree management strategies and distribute workloads efficiently. Efforts on this goal contribute to general green infrastructure planning.
Actions	Develop a tree inventory policy for public trees.
	Develop a standard tree inspection protocol, including the following: 1. Identify and prioritize plant health care needs/requirements. 2. Identify signs or symptoms of disease, pests, and abiotic disorders including environmental stress. 3. Identify obvious signs of decline and/or failing structure. 4. Identify and assess the risk of trees causing injury or damage.

	5. Identify risk factors and mitigation strategies for mature, over-mature, and declining trees.
	Integrate inventory data into easily-accessed software or data management systems. 1. Evaluate applications for smartphones/tablets to allow for updates to occur simultaneously as maintenance and/or inspections are completed. 2. Coordinate with Information Technology staff to evaluate urban forest tree inventory software.
	Develop a policy and responsibility for keeping inventory data up to date. 1. Establish workflows for City staff that allow for access to inventory data by supervisory and field staff. 2. Integrate tree inventory data updates into tree work contracts.



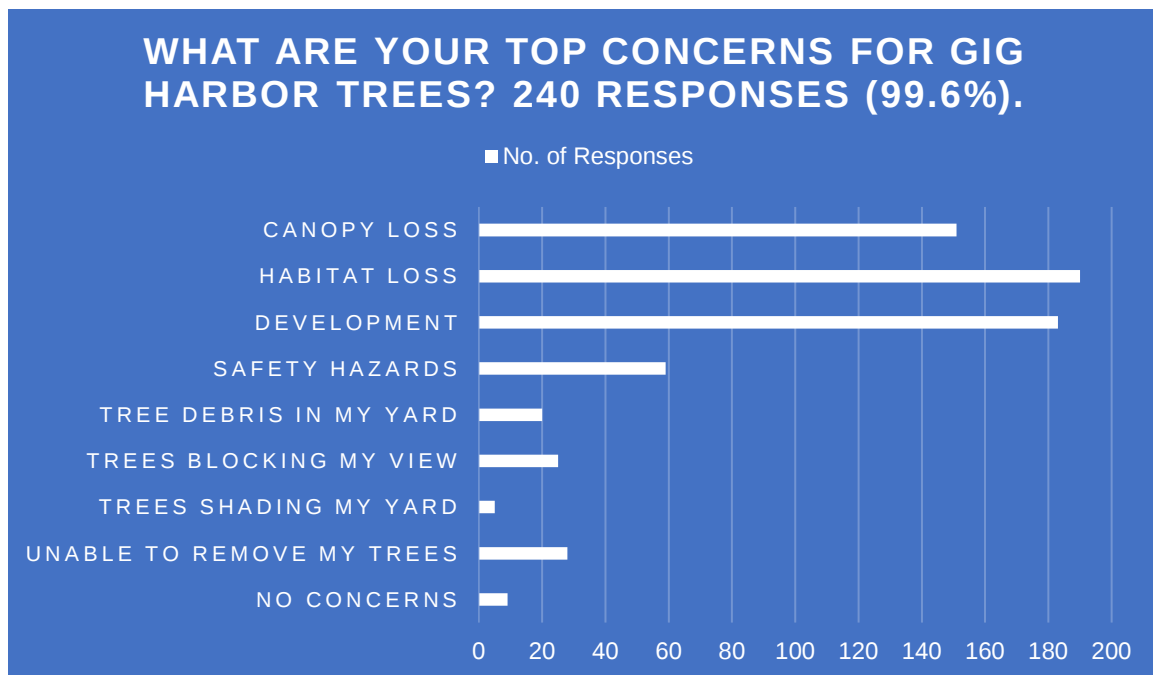
Public tree maintenance is one of the most visible markers of the success of an urban forestry management program. The City is pleased that survey participants provided generally positive feedback on the maintenance of public trees. The proposed goals aim to improve City coordination and planning for public tree maintenance and will also be aided by a complete public tree inventory.

Goal #UF3 Manage Public Tree Population Age Distribution for Diversity	
Performance Measure	Average DSH of public trees.

Rationale	Maintenance costs and expensive end-of-life tree care are more evenly distributed when a population has a balanced distribution of tree ages (approximated by DSH).
Risk	City staff have limited information about the increased risks of whole tree failure due to a growing number of trees in decline. Serious and substantial expenditures on tree removals can be necessary for even-aged populations that reach the end of their useful life in a few years.
Benefit	Annual costs for the care of public trees can be more evenly distributed over many years.
Actions	For any tree inventory efforts, collect DSH to estimate tree age. 1. Create removal plans for the eventual decline (particularly for large, high-risk trees).
	Develop specific age distribution goals for different populations. 1. Type: Coniferous/Evergreen. 2. Size: Small/Medium/Large.
	Identify mature/over-mature trees that have reached the end of their lifespan and plan for their gradual replacement.

Goal #M6 Establish a Formal Interdepartmental Working Team	
Performance Measure	Number of urban forestry team meetings annually.
Rationale	Team meetings will ensure that UFMP goals are routinely referenced, and obstacles addressed through collaborative problem-solving. An interdepartmental working team ensures all City departments cooperate with common goals and actions.
Risk	Miscommunication with the public or misalignment of goals and priority actions may occur. Isolation from decisions and collaborations can result in limited UFMP effectiveness.
Benefit	The team will optimize and align city staff efforts on urban forestry projects.
Actions	Designate an Urban Forester within City Staff to provide leadership to the working team.
	Establish Quality Assurance protocols for urban forestry activities such as: 1. Risk assessment/Risk management. 2. Sidewalk repair inspections and recommendations for Public Works/Engineering. 3. Arborist reports recommendations, and assessments (interdepartmental). 4. Tree inventory data collection input/update. 5. Tree inspections. 6. Issuing service requests and work orders. 7. Volunteer coordination/Public outreach.

	Develop an annual work plan to guide routine operations and objectives. 1. Pruning schedules for maintenance contract(s). 2. Tree planting and replacement plan. 3. Prioritize risk mitigation actions and tree removals. 4. Identify and prioritize trees for inspection/risk assessment.
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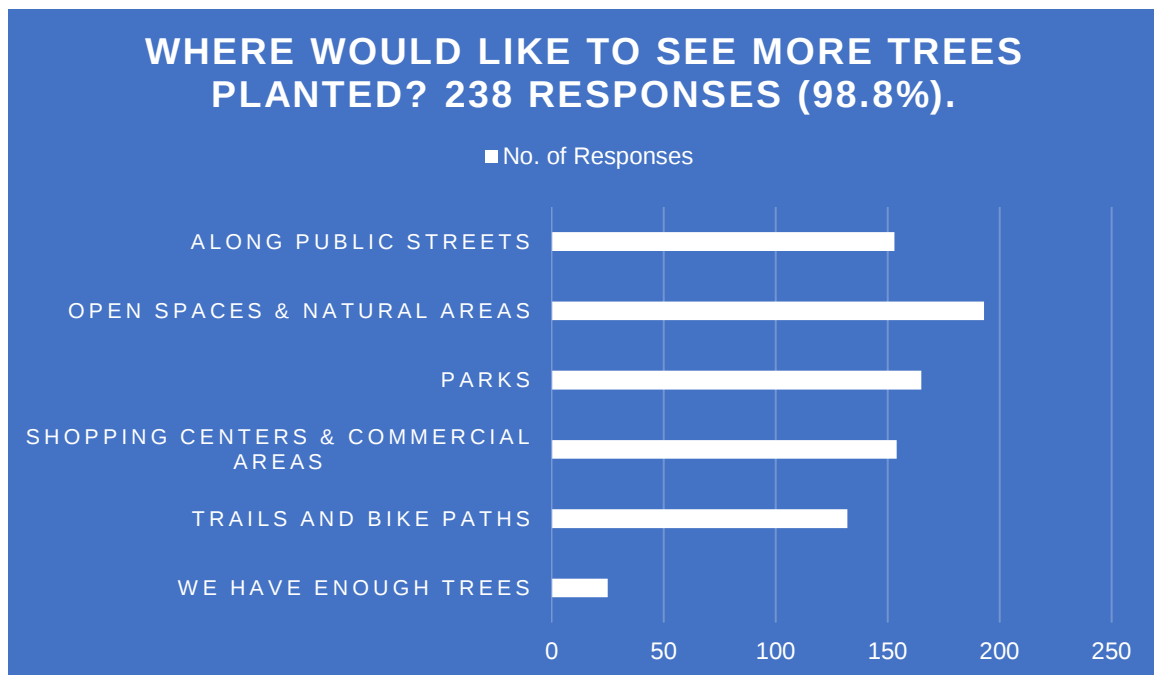


The survey question above demonstrates that there are fewer concerns about tree-related aesthetic or safety issues. Survey participants appear more concerned about the loss of trees from development and its associated effect on habitat and canopy loss. The consultant has proposed goals which include the regular review of the plans and City code regulating tree removal and replacement.

Goal #M1 Maintain a Routinely-Updated Urban Forest Management Plan	
Performance Measure	Annual work plans
Rationale	For this plan to adapt to evolving circumstances and maintain relevance to the community and City Staff, periodic reviews and amendments are required. This high-level alignment with the community will ensure public support for urban forestry project funding.
Risk	The plan may become unused and obsolete
Benefit	This will create pathways to stable and predictable funding.
Actions	Review and revise the UFMP every five to ten (5 - 10) years. 1. Adjust targets as necessary. 2. Align City objectives and actions into the annual work plan.

	- Periodically review the UFMP for alignment with community values and expectations for the urban forest. - Determine community satisfaction measured through surveys or as evidenced by public support for realizing the UFMP goals and actions. - Gauge the level of public engagement and support for urban forest programs, workshops, and issues.
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Goal #M2 Perform a Periodic Review of Tree Ordinances	
Performance Measure	Date of last revision of tree-related ordinances
Rationale	The City needs to adapt tree-related regulations with evolving community values and priorities.
Risk	Development activities on private property may not sufficiently protect trees or align with community values.
Benefit	The ordinance will stay updated and aligned with urban forestry best practices and community values.
Actions	Review and revise the Tree Ordinances every five to ten (5 – 10) years

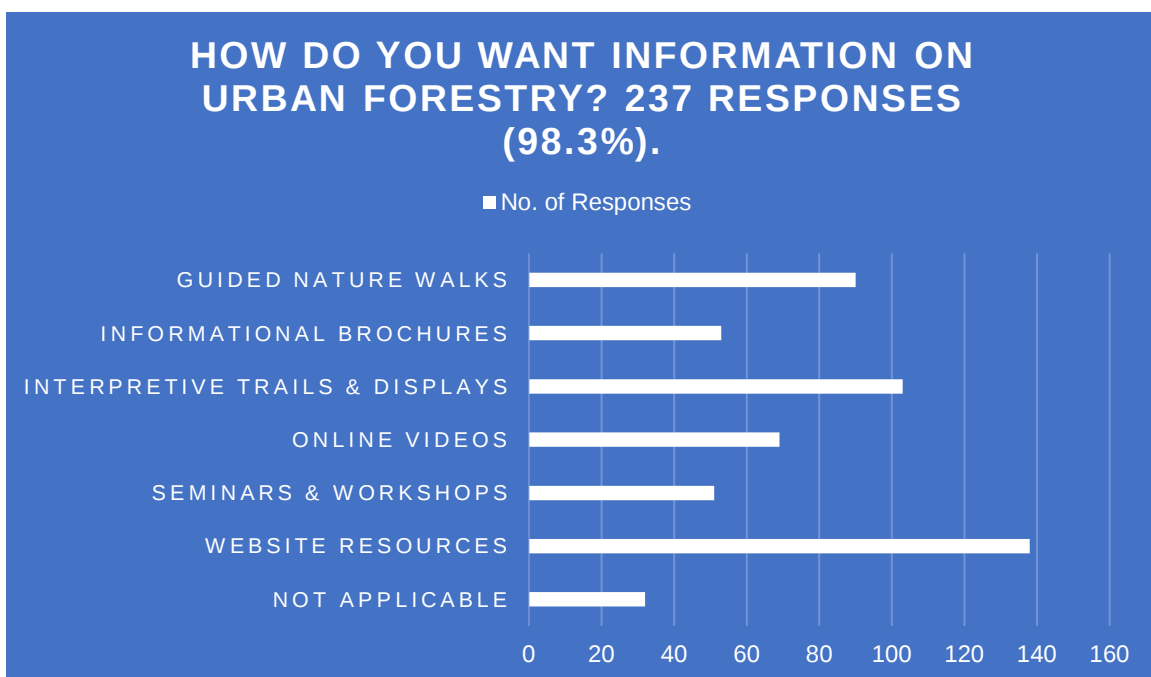


Survey participants are very interested in tree planting throughout the City. This finding is reflective of answers to other survey questions which show that participants are concerned about the number of trees and habitat in the City. The goals proposed below directly address the City's ability to plant and manage its tree population.

Goal #M4 Plant Trees Annually	
Performance Measure	Number of trees planted per year.
Rationale	To combat normal tree mortality, the City must engage in annual tree planting or risk a decline of the urban forest. Without data to quantify the tree mortality rate, the minimum number of trees that should be planted annually cannot be determined. However, the 2022 canopy assessment suggests there are 393 acres considered to be very high-priority tree planting opportunities.
Risk	The number of trees in the City will decline without active replanting.
Benefit	This goal will help ensure the sustainability of ecosystem services provided by the urban forest and control costs by proactively directing the future state of the urban forest.
Actions	Develop a tree planting and replacement plan as a supplement to the UFMP 1. Use GIS mapping data to identify and prioritize planting sites and ensure coordination with planned improvements and construction. 2. Classify and prioritize planting sites based on: a. Space and minimum planting setbacks. b. Soil characteristics. c. Available soil volume. d. Irrigation infrastructure. e. Landscape objectives and tree density. f. Site constraints and existing infrastructure, including hardscape, utilities (overhead and underground), bridges and culverts. 4. Communicate Right Tree-Right Place both internally and publicly. a. Reducing hardscape and utility conflicts. b. Matching tree species to soil and water conditions. c. Matching tree species to planter size and intended use. 5. Optimize shade and environmental benefits by planting large stature trees where feasible.
	Set a replacement ratio of 1:3 for trees that are removed in natural areas.
	Ensure funding for trees and planting sites is included in projects funded by Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funds. 1. CIP-funded projects should include adequate consideration of trees and planter space, including the construction of planters and pavements that support mature tree development and tree health.

Goal #C1 Establish a Tree Bank (Fund)	
Performance Measure	Dollars (\$) in fund
Rationale	Establishing a funding mechanism whereby residents can pay in-lieu fees to fund planting trees or maintaining trees in other areas of the City when tree removal and replacement at the same site is not a reasonable option.

Risk	Residents and developers get frustrated with having to replace trees at a site where they do want them, or where replanting is not practical.
Benefit	Trees will be preserved, cared for, and/or planted in desirable locations with more City controls to ensure their successful establishment and growth.
Actions	Establish a tree in-lieu fund. 1. Ensure funds are dedicated specifically for tree care operations, including tree planting, maintenance care, and replacement. 2. Work with finance staff at the City to develop appropriate fees and mechanisms for tree replacement. 3. Perform in-lieu fee comparison in the region and adjust the in-lieu fee to reflect a common fee structure. Identify opportunities for additional sources of revenue to the fund. 1. Appraisal fees for trees damaged in vehicular accidents. 2. Fines for malicious damage to public trees. 3. Charitable contributions and 'in-memorials.'

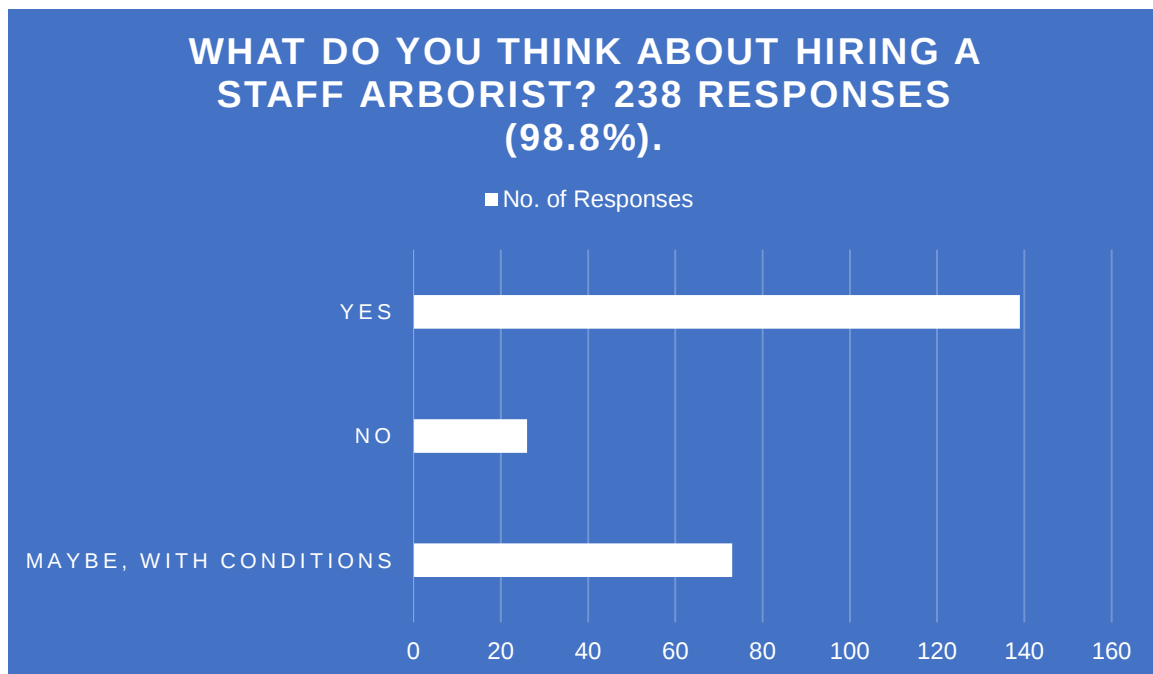


The City has an ability to disseminate information through a number of internal channels, as well as by strategically partnering with local and regional organizations. A key recommendation from the consultant is for the City to consider Tree City USA status which will demonstrate that the City is committed to ongoing commitment to urban forestry. Tree City USA status requires a tree board, a tree ordinance, and a financial commitment of at least \$2 per capita to urban forestry.

Goal #C4 Establish a Tree Board

Performance Measure	Number of Tree Board Meetings Annually
Rationale	Having relationships with other community organizations will promote volunteerism and alignment of efforts to benefit the City and its non-profit partners.
Risk	The public will not have a consistent City-sponsored group to engage with urban forest activities, provide input, and assist with public education.
Benefit	This can improve community support for urban forestry funding.
Actions	Collaborate and partner with City departments, nonprofits, and neighborhood groups for tree replacement and improvements to urban forest health. 1. Work with organizations like Forterra to build up volunteer engagement in the community. 2. Establish routine involvement with the Puyallup Tribe to guide priorities for natural resource and cultural resource improvements. Develop outreach materials that communicate information about trees and the community's urban forest.

Goal #C6 Formalize Relationships with Organizations that Share Common Objectives Impacting Urban Forest Sustainability	
Performance Measure	Number of stakeholder organizations engaged with this plan.
Rationale	Having a community tree board that meets on a regular basis will increase community participation on urban forestry issues and help ensure success with plan goals by raising community awareness of the urban forest.
Risk	The public will not have a consistent City-sponsored group to engage with urban forest activities, provide input, and assist with public education.
Benefit	This can improve community support for urban forestry funding.
Actions	Develop and deliver an annual Tree Board Report. 1. Update residents on the urban forest activities and services that the board has performed, including the number of trees pruned or planted, and educational materials provided. 2. Identify any urban forestry awards or grants that could be pursued by the City.

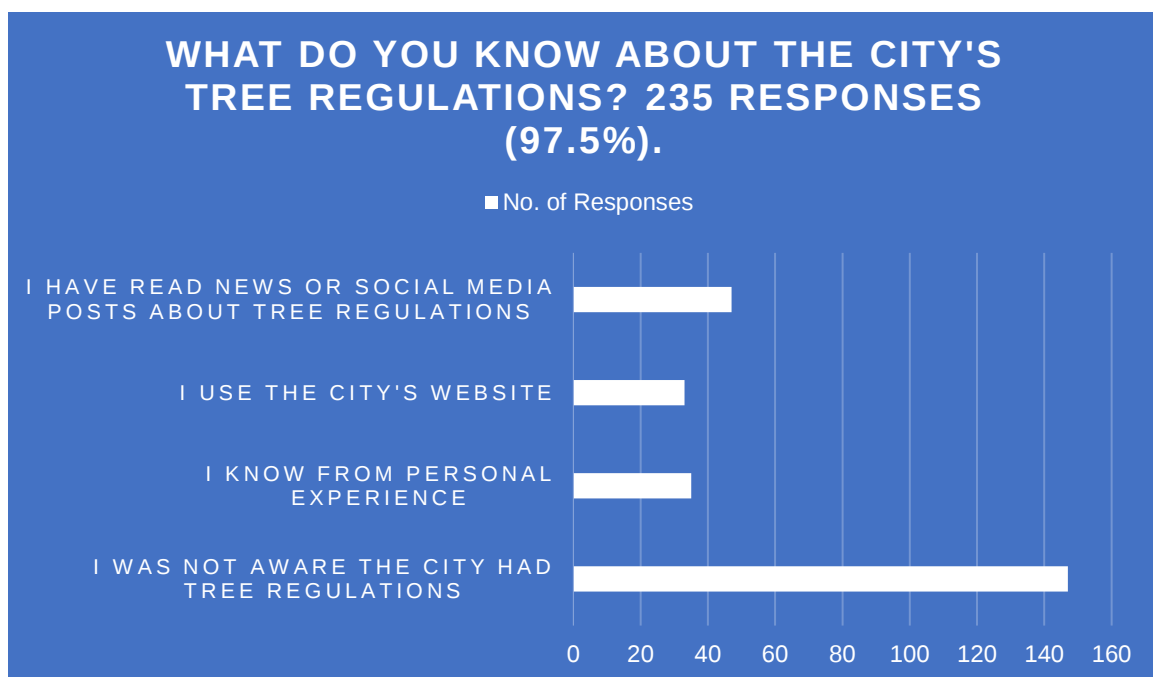


One of the consultant's recommendations is to create (a) staff position(s) dedicated to urban forestry. This is a commitment that will require not only annual budgeting for salary and benefits, but also careful consideration of staff responsibilities and ongoing training and certifications.

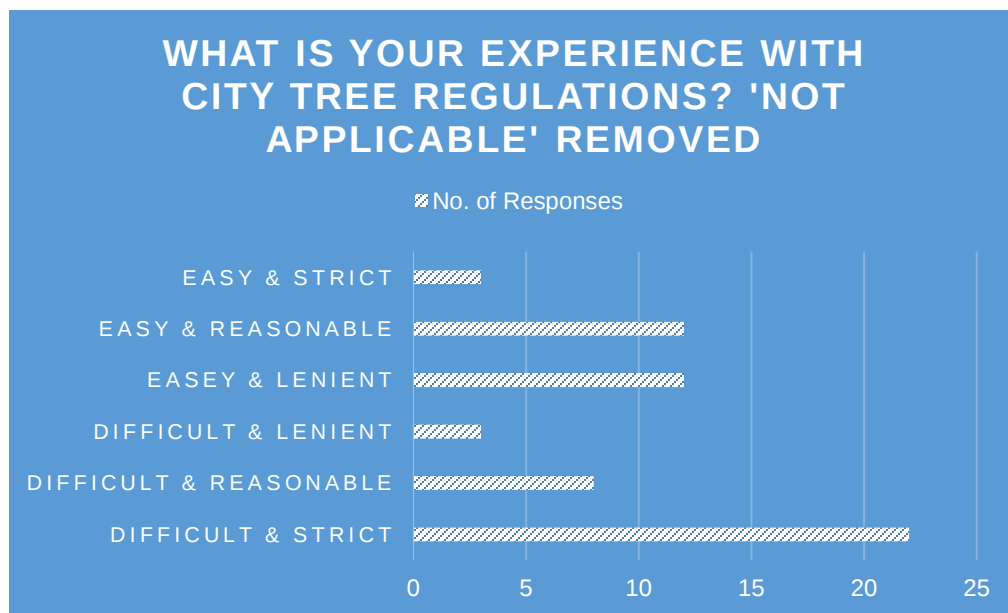
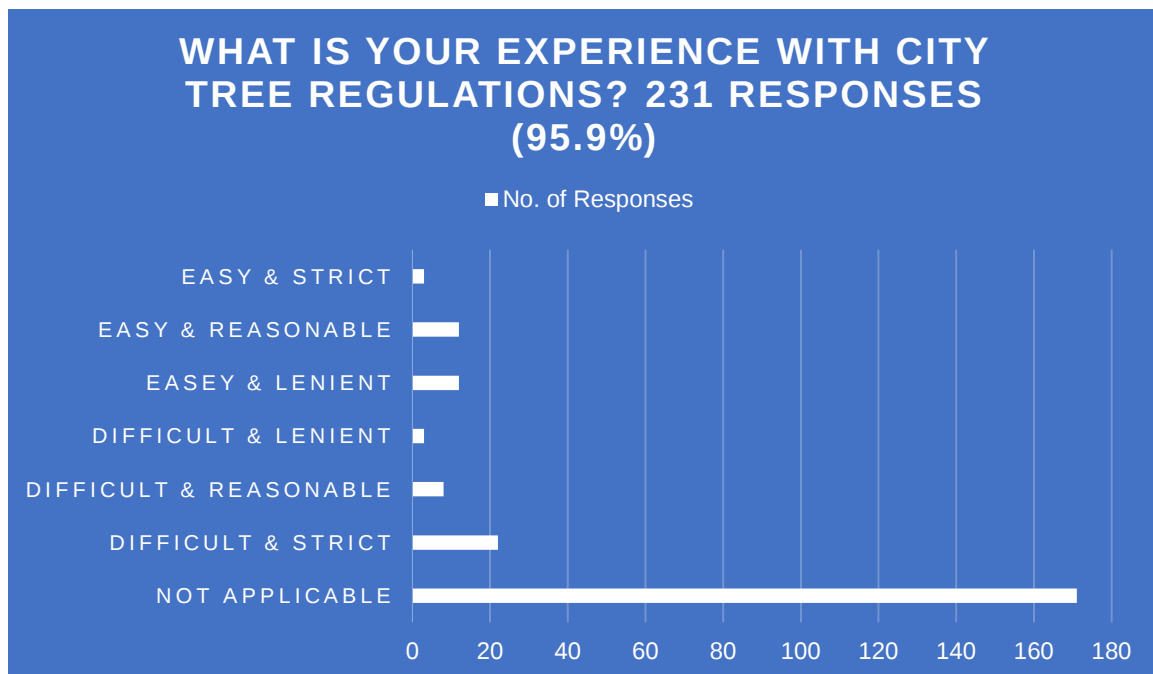
Goal #M3 Train Staff to Maintain Expertise and Professional Qualifications	
Performance Measure	Annual Number of Urban Forestry Training Hours per FTE
Rationale	Each City staff person who makes decisions that impact the urban forest should receive annual training specific to their duties. This will strengthen the qualifications of the urban forestry team and increase their capacity to effectively implement the plan.
Risk	Staff may not be aware of the most recent best management practices and industry standards.
Benefit	Staff is more likely to manage urban forest risks and control costs using the best available science and practices.
Actions	Establish a protocol for ongoing staff training on urban forestry issues.
	Establish training protocols for City Staff performing tree work. 1. City tree crews will be supervised by an ISA-certified arborist. 2. City tree crews should be fully trained and qualified for bucket work, climbing, and rescue.

Goal #M5 Create a Dedicated Urban Forester/Arborist Staff Position	
Performance Measure	Full-Time Employees working in Urban Forestry.

Rationale	The City has a certified arborist as part of its Public Works department. The arborist helps advise on tree issues for City properties and rights of way but their routine tasks are not always urban forestry. Urban forestry-related efforts throughout the city are estimated to be the equivalent of 0.06 FTE.
Risk	Insufficient staff resources could limit active management of the urban forest and full implementation of the UFMP.
Benefit	Having a dedicated urban forester would allow the City to provide effective leadership in natural resource management.
Actions	Identify tasks and responsibilities for this position through an analysis of the level of need for a certified arborist (for example, whether half-time, full-time, or on contract).
	Evaluate risks and benefits of using contracted staff resources.
	The City Council will consider the level of need and the availability of funds and, as part of a budget process, decide on adding an arborist to City staff resources.



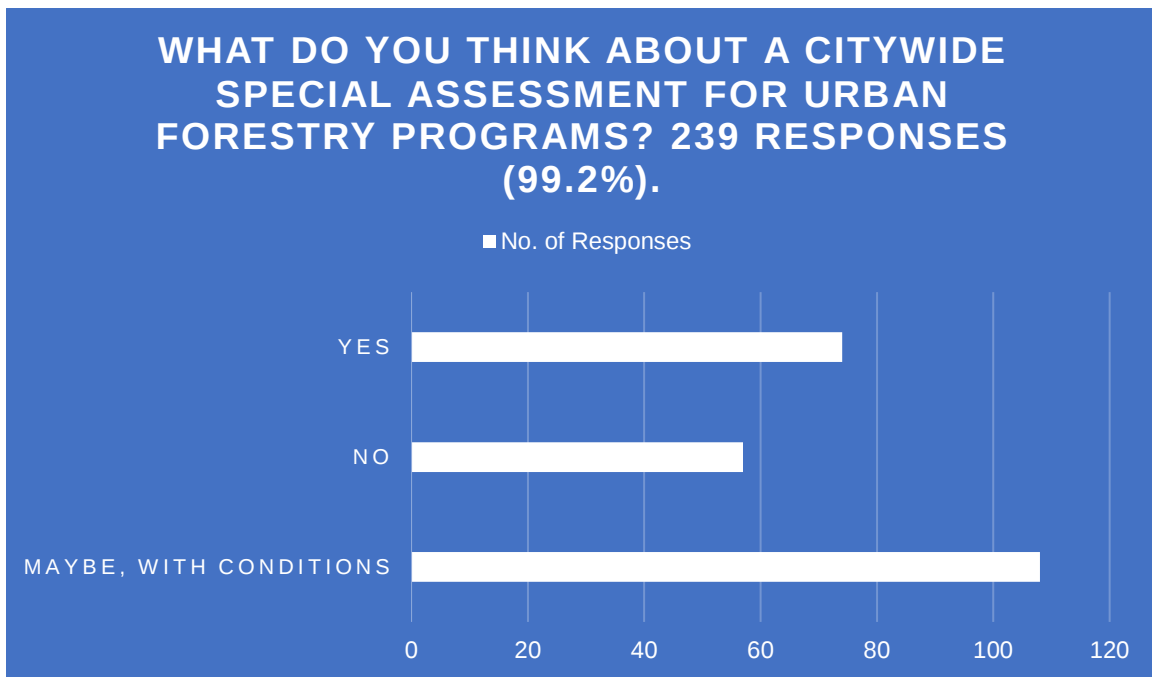
This survey question was particularly interesting and likely explains the quantity of calls and comments City staff receives regarding tree removal during development. 62 percent of survey respondents were not aware that the City regulates tree removal and replanting. The lack of public awareness could be addressed with public outreach during the planned update of the City's tree ordinance, as well as through outreach through a potential Tree Board and/or dedicated urban forestry staff.



171 of the 231 respondents to this question had no experience with City tree regulations, as is reflected in the prior question about respondent awareness of tree regulations. Of the 60 respondents with tree regulation experience:

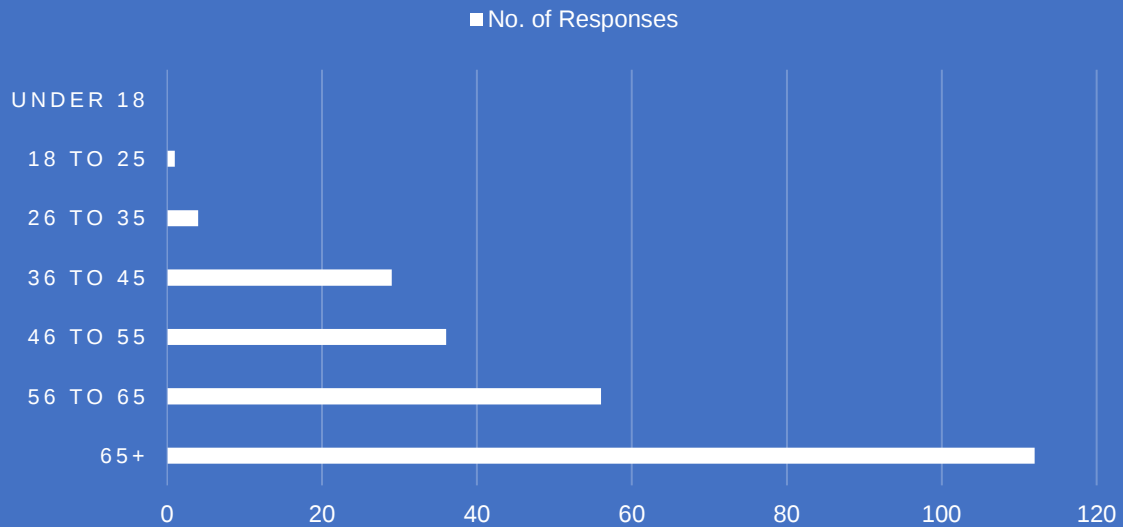
- 45% found it was easy to apply
- 55% of respondents found it was difficult to apply
- 25% found regulations too lenient
- 33% found regulations reasonable
- 42% of respondents found the regulations too strict

There was no distinct majority around whether regulations are too lenient, reasonable, or too strict; however, it is clear that the largest number of respondents (22) found tree regulations to be difficult to navigate and too strict. This survey question reveals that the application process and/or navigating regulations can be easier, and this should be addressed through the planned tree ordinance update.



The response to this survey question, and the question about urban forestry staff, indicate that survey respondents are generally supportive of public funding for urban forestry but need to know more about how the money is utilized. In this case 45% of respondents said they may be supportive of a citywide special assessment with conditions.

WHAT IS YOUR AGE? 238 RESPONSES (98.8%).



WHAT IS RELATIONSHIP WITH TREES IN GIG HARBOR? 238 RESPONSES (98.8%).

