People and Environment 8/3/26 Email Comments Received	
TimeStamp	**Text**
8/2/2026 6:35:00 PM	"I have read the UFMP Goals and Strategies and have been following this process since its inception. In general I find the 6 guiding principles, the 4 goals, and the 12 action steps to be on track with what should be done. Below are some specific comments: 1. The first guiding principle is the ""Community Involvement is Key"". I totally agree and yet this has been lacking from my point of view. I asked Keith Aiken if he could accompany me to an educational presentation for several classes at a nearby high school. When he asked the Commision if he could go they said no. As an educator this made no sense to me. Through several sources I have had indications that the commission has limitations/goals/options/etc. they feel overrule public opinion and recommendations they might get from experts, citizens, etc. I hope this is not the case and the commission is open to all possibilities and to broad public input. 2. I do agree with other guiding principles including that trees are critical to infrastructure, we should focus on nature-based solutions that would advance riparian health and our urban ecosystem, and it should be well grounded in data and science. 3. I agree with all 4 goals and the ""adapt to climate challenges"" and all ""all residents should have access to the ecosystem benefits are crucial! 4. Under strategies I applaud preserving mature trees while expanding the canopy (3) improving the canopy quality (50 and expanding tree planting (4). 5. Maintaining spaces that will support trees long-term(6) is crucial and ties to (7) improve city regulations. Considering reducing the amount of paved area required for parking spaces in new developments as well as defining a percentage of the area that should be green - have trees and other plants is crucial!! Capital improvement projects are also needed as mentioned. 6. Providing access to all (11) and education (8) should go hand in hand. People need to understand the benefits of trees and canopy cover whether it's in a more suburban setting or an urban setting. Educating businesses and the public is crucial here. Part of the education should be educational installations in parks, along urban sidewalks, etc. that allow residents in any part of town to understand and appreciate trees and the importance of canopy. Thanks for reading my thoughts and don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss any of these points further.... Respectfully... Ed Maggart 27 Cranford Road Asheville NC, 28806 BTW - I am a 46 year resident of Asheville and have been involved in education and socially related environmental work in this area for all that time."