Planning, Environment & Economic Development Committee

December 16, 2025

Urban Forest Master Plan

ASHEVILLE

UPDATE

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ASHEVILLE

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A broad public engagement process is currently underway, including a project survey, and a series of small presentations called “roadshows”; stakeholder focus groups will occur in late winter/spring.
- The City’s People and the Environment Recovery Board has an active role in the project.
- Council will receive recommendations on policies, programs and actions that can improve Asheville’s Urban Canopy next winter, as part of final review of the plan.

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Project Engagement Schedule

- November
  - Launched Roadshows and Website.
- December
  - 12/1 Engaged P&E Recovery Board
  - Roadshows
- January
  - 1/28 Virtual Engagement
  - Roadshows
- February
  - 2/2 P&E Recovery Board, UCW Presentation
  - 2/20 Stakeholder Workshop #1
  - Roadshows
- March
  - 3/20 Stakeholder Workshop #2
  - 3/21 Public Workshop/Arbor Day Celebration
  - 3/27 Roadshows End
- April
  - P&E Recovery Board, Focus Group Review
- May
- June
  - P&E Recovery Board, Goals Review

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PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT RECOVERY BOARD TASKS

- **Engagement**
  - Amplify Roadshows
  - Drive Community Understanding
  - Connect with Stakeholders
  - Support Roadshows and Events

- **Review**
  - Documentation
  - Identify Areas of Focus
  - Support Council's goals

- **Implementation**
  - Community Education

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IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Certify City Schools as Tree Campus K-12.
- Engage students in seed collection and seedling propagation using Heritage and Historic Trees.
- Establish a Educational Urban Forest at Richmond Hill Park.
- Acquire Land and Develop Community Pocket Forests using Fee-In-Lieu Funds and Partnerships.
- Cultivate Arboriculture Talent by Partnering with Higher Learning Institutions and Non-Profits.
- Craft Policies to Maximize Ecological Benefits, Balancing Green Infrastructure and Responsible Development.

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