

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Urban Parks and Forestry Board

FROM: Mitch Overton, Director of Parks and Recreation
Alex Nordquest, Forestry Division Manager

SUBJECT: Work Session: Review and Discuss Urban Forest Management Plan - Draft Outline

MEETING DATE: April 23, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: Review and Discuss Urban Forest Management Plan - Draft Outline

STRATEGIC PLAN: 6.5 Parks, Trails & Open Space: Support the maintenance and expansion of an interconnected system of parks, trails and open spaces.

BACKGROUND: The City of Bozeman is currently developing an updated Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), to replace the existing 2016 document. The Urban Parks & Forestry Board recently adopted this project's Community Engagement Plan, which details major milestones throughout the year as the plan develops with input from the Board, relevant city staff, and the community at large.

A significant component of plan development includes Work Sessions with the Urban Parks & Forestry Board, to discuss and review key themes of the project's scope. For this meeting, a draft outline of the overall plan has been prepared by the consulting team from DJ&A and PlanIT Geo. This Work Session allows for advisory comments, discussion, and review of the overall structure for the finished product, ensuring we have adequately accounted for major considerations impacting Bozeman's urban forest.

Major scope items include:

- 1) Tree Infrastructure and Management: Analysis and recommendations regarding tree inventory characteristics, canopy cover goals, staffing and equipment levels, contract budgeting, and related areas.
- 2) Planning and Development: Evaluation and guidance on integration with other City departments, acceptance of contract tree installations, establishment of a heritage tree program, review of tree protection zones, assessment of private property trees removed by construction/development, and code recommendations.
- 3) Community Engagement: Offer strategies to strengthen volunteer initiatives, address public concerns, and expand community education and outreach efforts.

4) Insect, Disease, and Disaster Preparedness: Advise on preparation for Emerald Ash Borer and other adaptations to climate change impacts.

Future Topics for Board Work Sessions:

- a) Review public survey feedback and preliminary data (June 25th)
- b) Review Board feedback on Preliminary Draft UFMP (July 23rd)
- c) Review updates based on public comments: Draft UFMP to Final UFMP prior to City Commission review (September 24th)

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: Additional Work Sessions are scheduled to address any Unresolved Issues.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the Urban Parks & Forestry Board.

FISCAL EFFECTS: The Urban Forest Management Plan is a CIP item allocated within the FY26 Forestry Division budget. Carryover into the FY27 budget year will occur, as the consultant is billing on a monthly basis throughout plan development.

Attachments:

[UFMP Outline Draft.docx](#)

Report compiled on: April 14, 2026