

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

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

SUBJECT: Special Presentation: 2026 Urban Forest Management Plan (Mid-Process Update)

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: None

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's current Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) was created in 2016 and presented a plan to "sustainably, holistically, and efficiently manage Bozeman's urban forest to realize the full expanse of benefits urban trees can provide." Ten years later, many of the goals and recommendations from this UFMP have been accomplished and an updated plan is in progress. The 2026 plan will build upon its predecessor's framework and serve as an overarching guiding document for all Forestry Division operations, planning, and public outreach through 2036. Essential components of this project include: Analysis and recommendations regarding tree inventory characteristics, canopy cover goals, staffing and equipment levels, contract budgeting; Evaluation and guidance on integration with other city departments, acceptance of contract tree installations, and assessment of private property trees impacted by construction; Recommendations and strategies to strengthen volunteer initiatives, address public concerns, and expand community education/outreach efforts. This project was included in the Forestry Division's FY25-26 Work Plan and CIP budgeting; a Request for Proposals (RFP) was published in November 2025 detailing the desired scope for such an effort. DJ&A submitted a compelling RFP and was chosen as the desired consultant through a Scoring Committee. Major accomplishments of the UFMP process thus far are summarized below:

- * Community Engagement Plan adopted by Urban Parks and Forestry Board
- * Several "Coordination Meetings", involving urban forestry discussions with other city departments completed
- * One virtual and one in-person public meeting for UFMP involvement completed; 2 additional public meetings scheduled for August 2026

- * City Staff and Public surveys completed
- * Draft Assessments of Tree Inventory, Canopy Data, Disaster & Emergency Preparedness under review
- * 3 out of 5 scheduled Urban Parks & Forestry Board Work Sessions completed

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: The Urban Forest Management Plan is a CIP item allocated within the FY26 Forestry Division budget, at a total cost of \$113,634.50. Carryover into the FY27 budget year will occur, as the consultant is billing on a monthly basis throughout plan development.

Attachments:

[26.07.16 City Commission Mid-Process Update.pptx](#)

Report compiled on: June 24, 2026