



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**PUBLIC
WORKS**

320 EAST MOSBY ROAD, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

OFFICE (540) 434-5928 • FAX (540) 434-2695

To: Ande Banks, Interim City Manager
From: Thomas Hartman, PE, PMP, LEED AP, Director of Public Works
Date: January 25, 2022
Re: Urban Forest Management Master Plan Presentation

Summary:

The Department of Public Works will present to City Council the recently completed Urban Forest Management Master Plan.

Background:

The City of Harrisonburg has a vision that its urban forest is safe, efficient to maintain, complements its development goals, delivers equitable benefits, and enhances the character and livability of the City. To accomplish goals to realize this vision, a comprehensive urban forest management master plan is required. This plan was developed to assist Harrisonburg to better understand its urban forest's composition, structure, and tree maintenance needs as well as plan for both short-term and long-term resource allocation and develop risk management strategies.

The plan was accomplished by completing these tasks:

- Analyze tree inventory data
- Incorporating citywide canopy cover information
- Obtaining public and stakeholder input
- Making data-driven, sustainable urban forest management recommendations
- Presenting a multi-year budget

The Urban Forest Management Master Plan provides nine (9) action steps that are needed in order for the City to realize its vision for our urban forest and those action steps are:

1. Perform Priority and Proactive Maintenance
2. Plant More Trees and Practice Purposeful Planting
3. Set an Urban Tree Canopy Goal
4. Improve Ordinances and Policies
5. Ensure Stable Funding and Identify New or Supplemental Funding Sources
6. Perform Public Engagement and Build Partnerships
7. Continue the Urban Wood Reuse Program
8. Increase Urban Forest Management Program Staff and Provide Professional Training
9. Regularly Update the Plan, Urban Tree Canopy Goal, and Inventory, and Monitor the Plan's Success

Key Issues:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

A well-maintained urban forest brings numerous environmental benefits.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Prior Actions:

N/A

Alternatives:

N/A

Community Engagement:

An online Community Survey was conducted in March 2021 and received 259 responses. A summary of that survey is included.

Recommendation:

N/A

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Urban Forest Management Master Plan
3. Community Survey Summary

Review: