

Summary of Feedback from Commissions

Following the release of the Draft Sacramento Urban Forest Plan on April 26, 2024, staff presented the draft plans to various City commissions. Each commission was asked to review and provide feedback on the draft plans. This document summarizes the feedback staff received.

Preservation Commission (May 15, 2024)

- Concerned about insurance policy cancellation due to trees on properties.
- Highlighted importance of conducting outreach to local Tribes and considering importance of tree to indigenous culture.
- Encouraged staff to remove Old Town Sacramento from the Priority Intervention Areas map due to historical data suggesting tree planting should not be pursued in the area to maintain historical integrity.
- Encouraged staff to incorporate policies to protect historically important and significant trees.
- **Public comment:** none

Active Transportation Commission (May 16, 2024)

- Emphasized importance of trees shading sidewalks.
- Highlighted importance of equity in addressing gaps in tree shading over streets, sidewalks, and bike lanes.
- Emphasized importance of large trees to reach significant shading over the transportation network.
- Expressed curiosity about how the City will support tree care and planting on private property.
- Expressed concern about tree canopy expansion on rental properties.
- Expressed concern about leaves falling in bike lanes and landscaping that obstructs cyclist's sightline.
- **Public comment:** none

Planning and Design Commission (May 23, 2024)

- Expressed appreciation for equity considerations in the plan.
- Expressed concern that canopy expansion goals are unrealistic.
- Expressed appreciation for “right tree right place” tree planting approach.
- Expressed concern about need for permeant irrigation infrastructure and the effect of drought conditions on tree health.
- Expressed concern about private property owner’s willingness to plant and maintain trees.
- Expressed support for measure to preserve large trees during the development process.
- Expressed support for complete street updates to include trees along sidewalks without them.
- Recommended staff consider rooftop gardens.
- Recommended staff consider conditioning tree removal permits on successful completion of building permits.

- Recommended staff consider incentives to offset costs for irrigation and tree care.
- Recommend staff incorporate point in time snapshots of canopy levels on regular intervals to show change over time.
- **Public comment:**
 - Expressed support for the Urban Forest Plan
 - Emphasized the importance of trees as infrastructure within development.
 - Emphasized the importance of trees in residential zones and especially for protecting and include trees in infill development.
 - Encourage Planning Commission to consider trees a cornerstone of city planning.
 - Expressed concern about a lack of objective requirements for trees along streets and in development.
 - Recommended mandatory inclusion of trees in all development projects.
 - Emphasized importance of trees for heat reduction, environmental benefits, and livability.
 - Expressed support for most robust requirements for preserving trees in development projects.
 - Expressed concern that tree permits currently happen too late in the permitting process to be appropriately considered, through exploring design alternatives to preserve trees.
 - Expressed concern that urban forestry is underfunded.
 - Expressed concern about increasing density decreasing spaces for trees

Sacramento Youth Commission (June 3, 2024)

- Expressed appreciation for equity considerations.
- Expressed appreciation for youth and school considerations.
- Encouraged collaboration with Landscape and Learning program.
- Supported incentive programs for private property tree care and maintenance.
- Expressed interest in opportunities to volunteer and participate in tree planting efforts.
- Expressed concern about the level of disparity in tree canopy between areas of the city.
- Recommended staff consider opportunities to plant trees near businesses and in parking lots.
- **Public comment:** none

Disabilities Advisory Commission (June 5, 2024)

- Expressed concern about a lack of available planting space for trees.
- Expressed concern about water usage and water availability for trees.
- Emphasized that large trees need to be planted as rapidly as possible to achieve goals.
- Recommended staff improve ADA accessibility of community outreach methods and materials.
- **Public comment:** none

Parks and Community Enrichment Commission (June 6, 2024)

- Encouraged a collaborative approach to the strategy and responsibilities in the Plan. Don't want YPCE to be seen as the only one responsible for City trees.
- Recommended staff consider incentive programs to offset costs of tree care, maintenance, and water for low-income private property owners.
- Noted the challenge of vandalism in maintaining trees in parks.
- Emphasized the importance of improving tree inventory and maintenance program for park trees.
- Expressed appreciation for recent grant funding for park trees.
- Expressed interest in opportunities to support Urban Forest Plan public review and outreach.
- Emphasized importance of dedicating most or all City tree planting efforts to Priority Intervention Areas.
- Recommended staff consider opportunities for citizen science programs.
- **Public comment:**
 - Expressed strong support for increased City investment of staff and resources to reach tree canopy goals.
 - Emphasized importance of tree canopy goals in achieving Climate Action and Adaptation Goals of Carbon Neutrality by 2045.
 - Emphasized importance of expanding tree canopy in parks.

Measure U Community Advisory Committee (June 17, 2024)

- Expressed gratitude for the project.
- Emphasized the importance of trees for addressing urban heat island effect.
- **Public comment:** none

Racial Equity Committee (August 13, 2024)

- Emphasized importance of outcome-based reporting and accountability to achieve tree canopy goals.
- Emphasized need to prioritize intentionality, incentives, and requirements in Plan to ensure meeting goals to avoid continuing inequities and canopy disparities.
- Wondered how the City and County can gain more local funding for ensuring that trees are part of any climate infrastructure initiative.
- Recommended all-hands-on-deck strategy considering urgency of situation. Includes involving schools, neighborhood associations, CBOs, the public, and Congresswoman Matsui's office.
- Encouraged a public campaign to reach private property owners and educate the public about the importance of trees, especially in disadvantaged communities.
- Asked if the same presentation has been given to the Parks Commissioners given overlap between work. Noted importance of this information being shared to all council members to discuss with their Parks Commissioners.
- Expressed a sense of urgency to get trees planted after seeing report and heat map and tree canopy data.
- Directed research into how the \$8 million of tree funding is being spent. Emphasized need to operate from an equity lens and avoid perpetuating racist practices through the current

maintenance allocation funds that are benefiting wealthy neighborhoods because that is where the most trees are to maintain.

- Expressed need for innovative solutions to allocate more funding to SUFP that tangibly prioritize disadvantaged communities and getting trees in the ground.
- Emphasized complications in reallocating Lighting and Landscaping (L & L) funds because they are very perspective. Interested in further conversations to shift around funding to make more equitable and better supportive of SUFP equity lens.
 - Need legal understanding of what is and is not possible with the L & L funding.
- Recommended after more information gained on funding breakdown that the options and alternatives are brought to Council, debated, and the Racial Equity Committee puts forward recommendations.
- Thanked staff for presenting and putting equity on the forefront of the SUFP. Emphasized SUFP's necessity to make equitable changes in tangible ways and direct culture.
- **Public comment:** none