

Urban Forest Plan Implementation Working Group

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Urban Forest Plan Implementation Working Group?

The Urban Forest Plan Implementation Working Group is planned to be a group of City staff and community volunteers who will work together to help increase the number of trees in Sacramento. Community members requested the group to ensure transparency and active public involvement in work to expand Sacramento's tree canopy. When City Council adopted the Urban Forest Plan, the official resolution ([Resolution 2025-0194](#)) gave formal direction to staff to create the working group.

2. Why hasn't the working group started yet?

Staff tried to kick off the working group in early 2026, but at that time discovered that the legal language used in the resolution to create the group accidentally triggered state public meeting rules (the Brown Act). This formal direction automatically requires the group to be formed as an official City Commission rather than a working group. This discovery led to the effort being paused so that staff could determine how to move forward.

3. Staff are recommending an informal working group. Why shouldn't this group be a formal City Commission?

After assessing the options, staff are recommending that, instead of creating a formal City Commission, the City establish an informal working group. The original community request was to create a group that allowed the City and community volunteers to work together to implement the Urban Forest Plan. The formal City Commission does not match what community members originally asked for because strict meeting rules make flexible teamwork and collaboration difficult, commissions have a limited number of seats preventing broader community involvement, and formal Commissions require significant staff time and financial resources.

4. What is City Council voting on at the October 13, 2026, 2 p.m. meeting?

City staff are asking City Council to remove the specific section (Section 4) of Resolution 2025-0194 that created the Commission requirement. Removing this section will allow staff to set up an implementation working group that focuses on

flexible community collaboration. The rest of the Urban Forest Plan would remain fully approved and unchanged.

5. Why can't the City add new language to the Plan or resolution about establishing the Urban Forest Plan Implementation Working Group?

Any formal direction from City Council in the resolution to create a working group triggers state rules to create a commission. Changing the text of the main Urban Forest Plan document itself would require a new environmental review under state law (CEQA). That environmental review would take a significant amount of time, causing further delays. Removing Section 4 of the resolution is the most efficient way to move forward with the community's original request.

6. What are the next steps and how can I get involved?

If approved by City Council, staff will be able to move forward quickly to create a working group.

- **October 13, 2026, at 2 p.m.:** City Council votes on this item. Meeting Materials and details on how to share your feedback will be posted on the [City's Public Participation Hub](#) page at least 72 hours before the meeting.
- **November 2026:** An informational session will be held to explain the working group structure and how to participate.
- **Late 2026:** Applications will be open for residents and community partners to join the group.
- **Spring 2027:** Official launch and first meeting of the Urban Forest Plan Implementation Working Group.

Sign up for the [Urban Forest Plan newsletter](#) to receive updates on the working group and be alerted when applications are available.