



Portland Urban Forest Plan **Community Advisory Committee Meeting 4 Summary**

Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendance: 9 Community Advisory Committee members, 6 Project Staff

Abstract

The purpose of Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #4 was to discuss and provide feedback on the Portland Urban Forest Plan (PUFP) draft vision and draft goals. The 2-hour meeting included a presentation on the draft vision and goals and an explanation of the process for creating and review the draft vision and goals. Attendees evaluated the draft vision and goals, and provided feedback on how to improve them.

Meeting 4 Outcomes

- CAC members evaluated draft vision statements and identified elements they liked, and didn't like, and concepts that were missing.

Administration

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Commissioner Dan Ryan



Director Adena Long

Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work, and play.

- CAC members evaluated draft goal statements and identified elements they liked, didn't like, and concepts that were missing.

Discussion Summary

Discussion #1: Draft Vision Statement

General comments expressed by CAC members include:

- People liked that it was well organized and appreciated seeing it bring together input from previous discussions.
- The vision needs to be more explicit that this is for both public and private trees/tree canopy.
- There needs to be more clarity on the key differences between trees and tree canopy, when one is used but not the other.
- There should be more context and explanation about what “protections” for trees/tree canopy means and how trees are being/will be protected.
- Make it clear that proactive planning and coordination with the community, and among city bureaus is needed. This needs to be more front and center.
- “Pleased to see numerous mentions of relationship between trees and public health.”

Comments on specific sections of the vision are listed below.

A healthy and climate resilient urban forest

- Biodiversity and climate resilience should be linked.
- Emphasize the need for diversity of trees, not always large trees. Could expand on this either here, healthy ecosystems discussion, and/or in sustainable design.
- Include understory and soil as part of tree health/ecosystem.

Racial and social equity guide decisions

- Add more explicit language emphasizing the shared responsibility that the City has with community groups to provide this guidance.

An urban forest that supports healthy people and ecosystems

- Be more specific about the connection between public health benefits and trees.

Collaborative care and shared responsibility

- Emphasize the cultural history of trees and the role people have to pass down information, stories, and history.
- Support intergenerational information and knowledge sharing. CAC Members want to see more children involved in the urban forest and tree planting.
- Should acknowledge major education and outreach services to maintain and grow our urban forest across all public and private spaces.
- Look to community groups for guidance and collaboration - trust groups in the community to do the work that benefits their community.
- Provide education about the benefits of trees and how to plant, care, and manage trees, and pest management.

Sustainable urban design

- Add another sentence about the diversity of trees (not just large/mature trees).
- It is important to make adequate space for all types of trees across all land uses and on public and private property. Call out the collaborative care and shared responsibility of yards, streets, parks, and other spaces.

Discussion #2: Draft Goals

Comments on specific goal themes are listed below.

Equitable Preservations, Care, and Expansion

- Add “work, and play” to #2 (where they live).
- Like how the language is inclusive and prioritizes and centers communities alongside trees.
- Would like to see more language around accountability of the plan, accountability of stakeholders, and enforcing protections.
- Incorporate more planning language to number 5.

Education and Outreach

- Clearly communicate the educational services the city currently provides and future services.
- Education around tree planning both within the City (i.e., across work groups) and with the public.
- Add lived experience when we talk about being responsive to community needs (needs and lived experiences).
- Workforce development opportunities - especially for underrepresented communities.
- Acknowledge lived experience to measure our impact on quality of life.
- Would like to see a goal about empowering people to become stewards of the urban forest through City led efforts, and trust building with the City, community-based organizations, and residents.

Collaborative Partnership

- Use stronger, more compelling language, rather than “encourage”.
- Inter-bureau collaboration is critical, a shift in attitudes and shared priorities will need to happen.
- Coordination and integration with public health work over at the

county, these should be more integrated.

- Change needs to come from leadership.
- Community partnerships should be transparent and lead to residents taking ownership of PUFPP goals, strategies, and actions in the process.
- Community partnerships make it more likely that the programming or implementation of goals will be culturally appropriate, responsive, and tailored to the community it should be serving.
- Include “residents” in addition to local governments and community-based organizations.

Climate action and monitoring

- Clarify the meaning of "service gaps".
- Monitoring the urban forest is also a present and future process, and should still be done even if it is healthy.
- Include monitoring how our activities impact people and community health, not just urban forest health.
- Add a third goal that addresses how we know whether we are making a difference in people's lives, and how we are measuring that difference.

Meeting Design and Engagement Accountability Measures

- The meeting was held virtually and designed to prioritize bringing people together and two-way communication rather than just sharing information from City staff.
- Project staff worked to accommodate CAC members’ schedules and accessibility needs and provided communication leading up to and in follow up of the meeting.
- Qualitative data was collected and valued as inputs into the project’s process.

- The presentation showed how CAC member input directly informed the draft vision and goals.