

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Chair Lee called the regular meeting of the Energy and Environment Commission to order at 5:30 p.m. from 200 Old Bernal, Council Chamber.

Chair Lee led pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Bowman, Klein, Nene, and Chair Lee

Commissioners Absent: Commissioners Jaishankar, Liu, and Vice Chair Bloom

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the meeting minutes of September 18, 2024

Recommendation: Approve the meeting minutes.

MOTION: It was m/s by Klein/Lee to approve the Consent Calendar, as recommended. Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Commissioners Klein and Chair Lee
Noes:	None
Absent:	Commissioners Jaishankar, Liu, and Vice Chair Bloom
Abstain:	Commissioners Bowman and Nene

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Public comment regarding items not listed on the agenda.

Chair Lee opened the public comment. There were no public comments. Chair Lee closed the public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING AND OTHER MATTERS

3. Regular Meeting Calendar 2025

Recommendation: Approve the 2025 meeting calendar

Associate Planner Megan Campbell presented the staff report. The proposed regular meetings are January 15, March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17, and November 19. The Energy and Environment Commission discussed the proposed schedule.

MOTION: It was m/s by Klein/Bowman to approve the 2025 meeting calendar, as recommended. Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Commissioners Bowman, Klein, Nene, and Chair Lee
Noes:	None
Absent:	Commissioners Jaishankar, Liu, and Vice Chair Bloom
Abstain:	None

4. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Recommendation: Select a chair and vice chair for 2025

Associate Planner Megan Campbell presented the staff report. The Energy and Environment Commission discussed the potential chair and vice chair.

MOTION: It was m/s by Klein/Lee to nominate Commissioner Bloom for Chair and Commissioner Nene for vice chair.

Ayes:	Commissioners Bowman, Klein, Nene, and Chair Lee
Noes:	None
Absent:	Commissioners Jaishankar, Liu, and Vice Chair Bloom
Abstain:	None

5. Selection of Sub Committee Representatives

Recommendation: Select a BPTC subcommittee primary and alternate representative

Associate Planner Megan Campbell presented the staff report. The Energy and Environment Commission discussed the potential sub committee representatives.

MOTION: It was m/s by Nene/Lee to nominate Bowman as the primary representative and Klein as the alternate.

Ayes:	Commissioners Bowman, Klein, Nene, and Chair Lee
Noes:	None
Absent:	Commissioners Jaishankar, Liu, and Vice Chair Bloom
Abstain:	None

6. Recording Future Meetings

Recommendation: Decide if the Commission would like future meetings to be recorded

Associate Planner Megan Campbell presented the item. The Energy and Environment Commission discussed the potential to record future meetings.

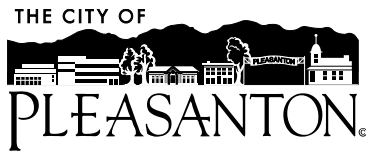
MOTION: It was m/s by Nene/Bowman to record future meetings.

Ayes: Commissioners Bowman, Klein, Nene, and Chair Lee
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioners Jaishankar, Liu, and Vice Chair Bloom
Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Campbell



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

January 15, 2025

Item 3

TITLE: REVIEW THE DRAFT URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN (CIP NO. 22773)
AND PROVIDE STAFF WITH COMMENTS

SUMMARY

City staff and its consultant, Dudek, have completed the first draft of the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP), CIP No. 22773. The planning process for the UFMP started in early spring 2023 and included an extensive public outreach effort, an updated tree inventory, a canopy cover analysis, and an updated Tree Preservation Ordinance. The outreach, inventory, canopy cover analysis, and updated ordinance serve as the foundation for the master plan and are now complete with the City Council adopting the updated Tree Preservation Ordinance on December 17, 2024.

The draft UFMP is the result of the public's desire to maintain a healthy urban forest that prioritizes public health, property values, and Pleasanton's character, and by the need to identify a roadmap for a sustainable urban forest management plan with achievable goals, such as those identified in CAP 2.0.

The UFMP is divided into three components:

- Part 1 summarizes the findings of the UFMP process and focuses on the purpose and importance of a management plan for the city's urban forest.
- Part 2 goes into the technical details of the process and serves as a tool for staff to plan for and implement management strategies and identifies funding needs and opportunities.
- Part 3—Addresses staff and community concerns with responses to frequently asked questions and situation-specific concerns, such as wildfire planning.

Staff recommends that the Energy and Environment Commission review the plan and provide staff with comments. The draft UFMP will also be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and then presented to City Council in March 2025, with the expectation that the plan will be adopted in May or June.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive the staff presentation on the Draft Urban Forest Master Plan.
2. Provide staff with comments.

BACKGROUND

In the early 1970s, the City of Pleasanton recognized the importance of trees to the community and prioritized the preservation of them by adopting a Tree Preservation Ordinance and creating a report for tree management.

With the adoption of the Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP 2.0) in 2022, the changing conditions and growth of the city, new state regulations, and the need to determine a management strategy for the city's aging urban forest, on March 21, 2023 the City Council approved a contract with Dudek for an Urban Forest Master Plan project, CIP No. 20773. The Urban Forest Master Plan was determined as necessary to manage the City's aging urban forest, update the city's tree inventory and tree preservation ordinance, and meet the urban forestry goals as identified in the CAP 2.0.

Staff held their project kick-off meeting with Dudek in May 2023. A website (www.ptowntrees.com) was created, a survey was posted, and public outreach events were held.

The city's public outreach plan was initially presented to the Energy and Environment Commission on May 24 and based on that feedback, staff and Dudek conducted a survey from August to October 2023. In addition, the city held several public outreach events to obtain input on the plan, including an event at the August 5 and September 16 Farmers Markets, the August 11 "Concert in the Park" event, and the April 20 "Earth Day" event. The outreach results, including over 600 responses to the survey, were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on August 10. The Commission recommended that staff conduct further outreach to the youth, so staff posted another survey that targeted the youth and presented the project to the Youth Commission on February 14, 2024. The additional outreach resulted in responses from more than 50 youth under the age of 18.

While the public outreach was taking place, Dudek also inventoried the 27,601 city-owned trees identified in the city's maintenance inventory, and staff continued to work on updating the Tree Preservation Ordinance. The inventory was completed in Summer 2023, and the ordinance was reviewed by the City Council at their December 3, 2024, meeting and adopted on December 17.

DISCUSSION

The updated inventory and ordinance are crucial components of the UFMP to ensure that tree canopy projections and the management strategy are realistic and attainable, and that trees that increase the benefits to the community and environment are prioritized.

The UFMP sets the vision, goals, and objectives for Pleasanton's tree canopy over the next 25-year period and provides a roadmap on how to manage our trees to sustain a healthy urban forest that helps to address climate challenges while also meeting the challenges of an aging city with an expanding population. The plan directly affects the way Pleasanton residents, the development community, and city staff interact with, protect, and manage trees.

The vision of the Urban Forest Master Plan is that Pleasanton's urban forest is a well-managed, vital resource providing social, economic, and environmental benefits which contribute to the community's quality of life, value, character and beauty. The plan is broken into three components to address different audiences and concerns:

Part 1- The Urban Forest Master Plan

This section is meant for the public, is based on the outreach process, and summarizes the history of Pleasanton's urban forest and its current state. It also defines the key findings of the plan and implementation and monitoring strategies, including the guiding principles for managing the urban forest.

Key findings of the report include:

1. Canopy cover is increasing through improved management action
2. Trees on private property provide the majority of the City's urban forest canopy
3. The future of Pleasanton's urban forest may be at risk without active measures to increase species diversity
4. Additional funding is required for the city to achieve its urban forest goals (essentially, maintaining what we have)
5. There is a need for a team dedicated to the health of the urban forest

Guiding principles for our urban forest include:

1. Create a resilient community
2. Support a community that is invested in growing and preserving the urban forest
3. Fund and manage city trees to maximize public benefit
4. Integrate trees from the start

The implementation and monitoring plan sets short, intermediate, and long-term actions to manage the urban forest. The actions, such as planting 50 trees per year, maintaining trees for a 3-year establishment period, educating the public about the urban forest's importance, and promoting tree giveaways, are reasonable and measurable actions that can be implemented to meet the goals of the UFMP.

The UFMP outlines a strategy to ensure an equitable, resilient, and sustainably managed urban forest and clearly and concisely communicates a framework for the long-term care, preservation and expansion of the community's urban forest. To establish equitability and help ensure the urban forest remains healthy, the plan establishes a 25 percent canopy cover goal citywide. Currently, a number of neighborhoods meet or exceed the 25% goal, and the overall canopy cover is 25.3 percent, but the plan establishes actions for an equal distribution of the urban forest among every neighborhood and district within the city.

The plan will guide future Tree Preservation Ordinance updates, tree inventory updates and maintenance management, and public outreach and education regarding the city's

urban forest. The UFMP is intended to be comprehensive enough to provide a broad vision for the future of the city's urban forest and detailed enough to address individual community concerns, such as potential hazards with trees relating to storms and fires, infrastructure conflicts and the urban heat island effect, which were some of the most important topics staff heard from the public outreach conducted during the plan creation.

Part 2 - Technical Assessment

This section is tailored for city staff and provides a detailed account of Pleasanton's urban forestry program, including a deep dive into the analysis of the city's canopy cover, budgeting and community engagement.

Funding for urban forest management is currently approximately \$1.2 million annually. The funding covers pruning, removals, management activities, storm cleanup, downed tree cleanup, planting, and establishment care for the city's 23,000+ trees. The need for funding is expected to increase to approximately \$3.2 million by the end of the 25-year management period covered by the UFMP so the city is going to need to identify additional funding sources for urban forest management.

The projected cost of management, along with the need for community engagement and support, is why the plan recommends creating a dedicated staff that focuses on the urban forest and why working with residents, developers, the school district, and other property owners to maintain the health of the urban forest is so critical.

The technical assessment section analyzes the urban forest's environmental impact, such as carbon sequestration, average pollutant capture, avoided runoff, avoided emissions, and structural and functional values. Dollar amounts are estimated for these benefits, which will be useful for education, long-term planning, and securing tree program funding. The UFMP found that a healthy urban forest is one of the first lines of defense against storms and climate change impacts. Urban forests greatly reduce the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect and help absorb the sun's heat. Studies have found adjacent pavement and buildings could be 50 to 90 degrees hotter than the surrounding air temperature.

Part 3 – Appendices

The appendices provide best management practice standards, wildfire planning and answers to frequently asked questions that are useful for property owners and city staff. They also include a list of trees recommended for Pleasanton, recommendations for potential funding sources, solutions for infrastructure and sidewalk conflicts, and other documentation relevant to, or obtained during, the public outreach process.

OUTREACH

The creation of the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) is rooted in an extensive public outreach process, summarized in the background section of this agenda report and shown in detail in the Appendix of the UFMP, so that the plan represents the desires and needs of the community regarding the urban forest.

In addition to the general public, outreach included the business community and city employees. A series of working groups for the plan were conducted and included staff from Public Works and Community Development departments and James Paxson representing the Hacienda Owners Association.

Next Steps

The Draft UFMP will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their February meeting and to the City Council in March with the expectation that the final UFMP will be adopted by the City Council in May or June.

EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The creation of the Urban Forest Master Plan was specified under the Climate Action Plan 2.0 action items. This will help facilitate an increase in tree canopy and native habitat to reduce and store carbon emissions, reduce the impacts of climate change, and create a healthier environment. The UFMP outlines the path to ensure an equitable canopy cover of 25 percent in every neighborhood in the city so that the benefits of the urban forest can be enjoyed by all regardless of where one lives.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The public outreach for and creation of the UFMP and the amendment to the Municipal Code's Tree Preservation chapter helps achieve all five key strategic plan goals. The UFMP strategizes a 25-year plan to maintain, protect, and improve our urban forest, including the costs associated with maintenance. The amended municipal code provides more clarity regarding tree removal penalties and costs, which provides a funding mechanism for tree planting projects, and will help maintain the fiscal sustainability of the forest. The UFMP and the amended Ordinance should lead to more efficient use of staff time, investments in our environment's health, and help protect the city from extreme weather events and climate change. The benefits of our healthy urban forest will serve residents for generations to come.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from the review of the draft UFMP.

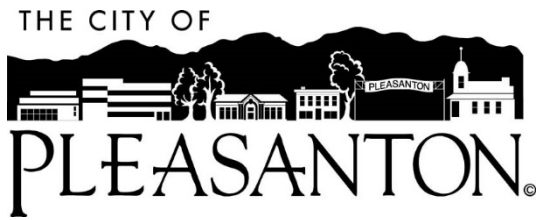
Submitted by:



Matt Gruber
Landscape Architect, Public Works Department

Attachments via links:

1. Part 1 - [Urban Forest Master Plan](#)
2. Part 2 - [Technical Assessment](#)
3. Part 3 - [Appendices](#)



Energy and Environment Commission
Agenda Report
January 15, 2025
Item 4

TITLE: COMPREHENSIVE FACILITY UPGRADES

SUMMARY

As City facilities and infrastructure continue to age and new regulations are imposed, it is imperative that the City complete comprehensive improvements. In February, the City intends to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit submissions from qualified design-build firms capable of providing comprehensive municipal facility improvements that reduce consumption and improve energy efficiency and resilience.

RECOMMENDATION

Review and provide feedback on the RFQ scope of work.

BACKGROUND

The City is actively developing an Asset Management Plan to address comprehensive long-term planning and maintenance, renovation, repair and/or replacement of infrastructure and public facilities to meet current and future needs. This process is anticipated to be completed in 2025.

The importance of comprehensive improvements has been reinforced through the Asset Management Plan process. In addition to aging assets nearing end of life, the City's facilities do not have the required infrastructure to meet new and upcoming legislative requirements. For example, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation requires 50 percent of municipal fleet vehicles purchased must be ZEVs; that requirement increases in 2027 to 100 percent. At this time, the City does not have the necessary infrastructure installed to make the required transition to ZEVs.

In conjunction with the Asset Management Plan, the City intends to engage with a firm that can complete comprehensive municipal facility improvements that reduce consumption and improve energy efficiency and resilience. Project goals include:

- Achieve long-term cost savings
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to energy and water use (through reduced consumption and greater efficiency)
- Increase facility and infrastructure resilience in the face of extreme events (e.g., wildfires and power outages)
- Create/bolster community resilience hubs
- Upgrade/modernize facilities and replace assets at end of life
- Promote staff health and well-being.

The project is in alignment with the City's Strategic Plan including:

- **Funding Our Future:** Fiscal Sustainability

- **Investing in Our Environment:** Infrastructure, Public Facilities, and Sustainability
- **Safeguarding Our City:** Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Of particular importance to the Energy and Environment Commission, the project will help the City accomplish its climate action goals and implement Climate Action Plan 2.0 strategies including:

- **Strategy BE-1:** Advance the decarbonization of buildings
- **Strategy BE-2:** Improve energy consumption and efficiency
- **Strategy TLU-1:** Advance vehicle decarbonization
- **Strategy WR-1:** Improve water supply and increase conservation
- **Strategy CRW-1:** Improve community resilience and vulnerability to climate change.

DISCUSSION


A draft RFQ is being prepared at this time and will be issued in early February. City staff has begun the ideation of priorities to include in the RFQ scope of work. These priorities may not be applicable to all 100+ City facilities (i.e., some improvements may be suggested at some locations but not all locations). These include:

- Solar and battery storage
- Electric vehicle charging
- Transitioning HVAC to heat pumps
- Transitioning lighting to LED
- Installing smart technology/automation (e.g., lighting that turns off automatically if there is no motion and irrigation controls that automatically turn off when it rains)
- Building envelope weatherization

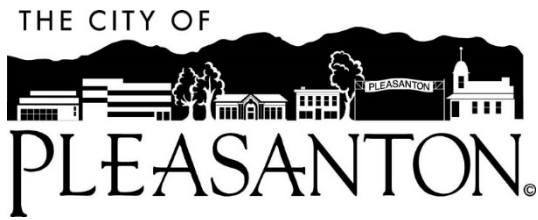
The City will be looking for the selected firm to identify and pursue funding sources (e.g., local, state, and federal grants) and detail projected savings for installing specific improvements. The intent is for the firm to be a design-build firm and will work with the City from plan development through installation. Staff will work with the selected firm to prioritize facilities and infrastructure based on several factors including but not limited to urgency/condition of facility, importance of facility to City operations, cost savings, and cost relative to greenhouse gas emission reductions.

As staff drafts the RFQ, input from the Energy and Environment Commission is requested (no formal action is necessary). Please review and provide feedback on the suggested scope of work. Specifically, please note if there are measures that should be considered for inclusion in the scope with respect to 1) reduced consumption, 2) improved efficiency, or 3) increased resilience.

Submitted by:



Megan Campbell
Associate Planner



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Item 5

TITLE: YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DAY BRAINSTORMING

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Youth in Government Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Youth in Government Day is an annual event that immerses participants in local government functions. The event involves opening and closing remarks, two job shadowing sessions with various City Departments, and a team-building lunch. This year's Youth in Government Day theme is climate action and teamwork.

As staff plans the day, staff requests input from the Energy and Environment Commission on the team-building activity. No formal action is necessary at this time. Some activity ideas include:

- Create campaign material (e.g., brainstorming catchy slogans that inspire climate action, design social media posts, etc.)
- Group or personal pledges to combat climate change

Submitted by:

Megan Campbell
Associate Planner