

# KCD Urban Forestry Initiative Working Group Recommended 2018 Urban Forestry Projects & Technical Assistance Priorities

## **Overview of Urban Forestry Initiative Project / TA Identification & Selection Process**

After three years of successfully partnering with 27 communities, the KCD Urban Forest Health Management (UFHM) Team initiated the 2018 KCD urban forest stewardship project solicitation and selection process with Member Jurisdictions. The project solicitation process commenced in early April 2018 with convening the Urban Forestry Initiative Working Group (UFIWG) and soliciting Letters of Interest and culminated at the end of August with the UFIWG recommending support of 6 jurisdiction proposed urban forest stewardship projects. These projects are summarized in the following section of this document.

KCD and the UFIWG are pleased to share that the UFHM Program is able to serve three new Jurisdictions through the 2018 project solicitation, bringing the total number of member jurisdictions served through the UFHM Program to **30** since program inception in 2015. The 2018 projects reflect a priority by most of our Member Jurisdictions to engage and educate their community about the importance of stewarding the urban forest, particularly on private land.

All recommendations of the UFIWG are outlined in the following sections. The UFIWG is requesting KCD Advisory Committee concurrence with the work group recommended 2018 project priorities as well as additional recommendations outlined in the following sections of this report.

## **Working Group Recommendations – 2018 Urban Forestry Projects & Technical Assistance Priorities**

### **1. Beaux Arts - Village Forest Assessment & Stewardship Project**

The Town has requested assistance by conducting a forest canopy assessment across the entire Village, providing management and stewardship recommendations to preserve the historic and Town leadership vision of preserving its natural forest character, and helping with the education of current and prospective residents of this Town's value.

KCD proposed work:

1. Canopy Survey & Forest Health Assessment Report *American Forest Management*  
baseline maps, field recon of health, composition, health; report on assessment and recommendations of future management to maintain and/or enhance native tree canopy cover.
2. Village Forest Stewardship Plan *KCD Urban Forestry*

Town-wide strategies based on report; priorities and proposed timeline; educational/outreach materials (see *Education Initiative*)

3. Community Engagement *KCD Urban Forestry*  
Present plan at Town Hall(s); facilitate discussions with residents for collaborative next steps in better stewarding their forest.

Community partners: Town Council (Paula Dix); WABA Board/Manager

Estimated project costs: **\$17,500**

## **2. Kenmore – Tree Canopy Assessment & Consultation**

Kenmore is requesting a tree canopy assessment to have data baseline about their urban forest cover. As part of what we provided to Clyde Hill, Yarrow Point and Hunts Point in 2016, we are including a follow-up consultation as to how the findings can be used to improve policy, planning and management of their urban forest. In addition, they requested help with community outreach/education, which is addressed in the *Urban Forest Stewardship Education Initiative* (see below).

KCD proposed scope:

1. Tree Canopy Assessment ‘Packet’ *Plan-it Geo LLC*  
Same deliverables as the 2017 South County TCA Initiative: maps, analysis, report, factsheet, 3-year subscription to Canopy Planner software
2. Technical assistance – Program consultation *KCD Urban Forestry*  
Provide consultation on suggested canopy goal (as requested) and current policy, planning and programming, in light of the TCA findings to help identify sustainable next steps for the City. Currently Kenmore doesn’t have an urban forestry program, so would begin with some high-level strategies that works with limited city resources.

Community partners: To be identified as part of the assistance

Estimated project costs: **\$21,500**

## **3. Mercer Island – Urban Forestry Public Engagement & Outreach**

In preparation for developing a comprehensive urban forest strategic plan, the City requests assistance in engaging the public in 1) providing information about Mercer Island urban forestry (benefits, programs, ways to be a steward, etc.) and 2) gathering current perceptions, concerns, and suggestions about the urban tree canopy. The education component (outreach) includes several topics, of which many can be generated in the *Education Initiative*, while others are specific to Mercer Island’s programs.

The engagement component includes identifying stakeholders, large landowners, and land managers and invite them along with a wide range of residents to facilitated meetings and/or participate in an online survey. This public feedback and established community engagement will then be incorporated into the strategic planning process.

KCD proposed scope:

1. Public Engagement around community priorities in urban forestry *Conservation Technix*  
Identify stakeholders and underrepresented community members; facilitate public forums; design and deliver survey and track results; summary of responses
2. Public Education on the urban forest and City services *KCD UF & other teams*  
In concert with the engagement, gather city specific materials and put into downloadable format (pdf); advise on webpage design/layout for optimal interface; provide access to materials created under the *Education Initiative*.

Community partners: Open Space Conservancy Trust, others to be determined (outreach to broad groups and organizations for equal opportunity to participate)

Estimated project costs: **\$30,000**

#### **4. Normandy Park – Marine View Park Forest Bluff & Community Forest Stewards Program**

Normandy Park has two separate requests that will significantly forward their urban forest stewardship efforts:

- 1) An assessment and restoration/management recommendations of the forested bluff in Marine View Park – The intent is to coordinate the findings and recommendations for the forested bluff in Marine View Park to be incorporated into the larger plan for the Park done by a consultant. Upon site visit and conferring with KCD Marine Shorelines team, the ‘bluff’ at this park does not represent a true bluff situation and therefore, does not require separate specialty process. The KCD team did however, offer to provide review of the whole plan (now covering the entire Park) for forest management and geo-technical guidance.
- 2) Assistance in managing and training volunteers to do forest stewardship in primarily Marine View Park with possible opportunities in Nature Trails Park (planting) and Walker Preserve. While the City has a good foundation of coordinating and hosting volunteer events in the public open space, assistance to organize, educate and provide technical support to the stewardship efforts will help in retention and greater vestment and interest to participate. The City plans to fund this program beyond the KCD assistance and expand to other open spaces as volunteer opportunities are identified.

KCD proposed scope:

1. Marine View Park Plan review *KCD teams*

Technical assistance in reviewing the whole plan by specialists in marine shoreline, forestry, and geo-technical

2. Community Forest Stewards Program *Restoration and Design LLC*  
Hybrid of Forest Stewards (Forterra) and Native Plant Stewards (WNPS) models – help recruit and provide a combination of up to 6 workshops and 6 work parties to apply new knowledge. City will support with community promotion, plants, materials, etc.

Community partners: Normandy Park District, Earthcorps, and WRIA 9

Estimated project costs: **\$30,000**

### **5. Woodinville – Tree Canopy Assessment and Program Consultation**

Similar to Kenmore, Woodinville is requesting a tree canopy assessment however, they have a 2009 assessment so, they are also looking for a change over time analysis. Upon review of their existing urban forestry program activities, they have a languishing Tree Board (no work plan, seldom convenes, and couple vacancies) and an outdated Community Urban Forestry Plan (1998). In our follow-up consultation, we will encourage reviving the Tree Board around an update to their Forestry Plan, which has elements of policy, planning and management of their urban forest. We will also offer any suitable materials generated in the *Stewardship Education Initiative* (see below).

KCD proposed scope:

1. Tree Canopy Assessment ‘Packet’ *Plan-it Geo LLC*  
Same deliverables as the 2017 South County TCA Initiative + Canopy Change: maps, analysis, report, factsheet, 3-year subscription to Canopy Planner software
2. Technical assistance consultation *KCD Urban Forestry*  
Provide consultation on current policy, planning and programming, particularly around their Tree Board and Community Urban Forestry Plan

Community partners: Woodinville Tree Board; to be identified in consultation

Estimated project costs: **\$26,000**

### **6. Urban Forest Stewardship Education Initiative** *KCD UF & Other Teams*

Nearly all of the proposals in this year’s round requested educational materials to provide to their community:

- Economic, social, and ecological benefits of a healthy urban forest and trees on private property (Mercer Island, Kenmore)

- Resources for homeowners and land managers who wish to plant, prune, and care for trees on private property (Mercer Island)
- Public outreach and education, which will engage the community, including residents, business owners, and local environmental groups (Woodinville)
- Provide educational materials that promote private and public property stewardship. “If stewardship is the fire, education and awareness is the match.” (Kenmore)
- Creating informational pieces for real estate agents and prospective buyers in which the tree- vision of the Village is stressed (Beaux Arts)
- Potential effects of climate change on cities’ existing tree canopy (Mercer Island)

Fortunately, we are creating a “Backyard Forest Stewardship Homeowners Guide” as part of the Seattle projects (2016) that is eagerly anticipated by several communities. It would make sense to create a portfolio of educational and outreach materials on a broad range of topics around urban forest stewardship on private property. This would be a crucial component to forward KCD Urban Forestry as the regional authority.

KCD proposed scope:

1. Identify all topics needed by our member jurisdictions (priority would be these in this round) for educational and informational materials
2. Research and collect existing documents, info, data
3. Adapt existing and create new info pamphlets/documents into a suite of templates with appropriate KCD branding and flexibility for cities to incorporate into their outreach efforts.

KCD teams involved: UFHM, Engagement, Environmental Education (+ possible contract work)

Estimated project costs: **\$25,000**

### 2018 Project and Technical Assistance Budget

Member Jurisdiction	Project Cost	KCD UFHM	Other Funds
Town of Beaux Arts*	17,500.00	17,500.00	-
City of Kenmore*	21,500.00	21,500.00	-
City of Mercer Island**	30,000.00	30,000.00	-
City of Normandy Park**	30,000.00	30,000.00	
City of Woodinville*	26,000.00	26,000.00	
Urban Forest Stewardship Education Initiative	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Total 2018 Project Costs	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -

\* New MJ partnership \*\* Participated in South County TCA Initiative (2017)

## **Next Steps**

- September 19, 2018 – KCD Advisory Committee concurrence with Urban Forestry Initiative Working Group recommendations
- October 8, 2018 – KCD Board of Supervisors approval of 2018 projects and technical assistance priorities.
- January 2019– Commence implementation of 2018 project and technical assistance priorities

## **Other Items**

### **1. 2019 RFP Process and Working Group**

The current UFHM project solicitation and selection process, the KCD UFHM Request for Proposals process, was endorsed by the KCD Board of Supervisors and KCD Advisory Committee in 2015 and updated in 2016. The process is facilitated by KCD with integral involvement of the UFIWG, and other than a 1-year suspension in 2017 to support advancement of the 2017 South King County Tree Canopy Assessment Initiative, the process has been in place, having been facilitated in 2015, 2016 and 2018. The KCD with support from the UFIWG will utilize this process in 2019 to support solicitation and selection of the final round of projects for KCD 5-year Work Plan. A summary of the 2016 RFP process follows.

- Continue to implement an RFP that solicits and develops dual project types – Technical assistance and Project Implementation
- Integrate an Equity & Social Justice criterion into the project review and selection process
- Integrate storm water runoff offset/mitigation as a guiding principle in the KCD Urban Forest Health Management program
- Continue to explore opportunities to integrate WA DNR Urban and Community Forestry support
- Integrate webinars into the project identification process
- Continue to develop KCD UFHM program elements that link private land stewardship with MJ urban forestry initiatives

### **2. 2018 Urban Forestry Initiative Working Group Members**

- Brenda Fincher, Councilmember, City of Kent (SCA Rep)
- Jason Ritchie, Councilmember, City of Sammamish (SCA Alternate)
- Mark Phillips, Councilmember, City of Lake Forest Park
- Dick Ryon, Chair, KCD Board of Supervisors
- James Rasmussen, Director, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition
- Jana Dilley, Trees for Seattle, City of Seattle
- Katherine Low, Private Citizen, City of Sammamish
- Patrick Boyd, Former Mayor/Councilmember, City of Medina
- Kristi McClelland, retired Forester, King County (invited guest)
- Andy Chittick, Rural Forest Commission (invited guest)