

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 5, 2025

TO Honorable Chair and Members of the Parks, Trails, and the Environment Committee

SUBJECT **Urban Forestry Master Plan Spring Update**

The Citywide Urban Forestry Team continues to maintain and enhance our City's built, natural, and open spaces. This spring, a series of initiatives are underway to strengthen the management of our green infrastructure in alignment with the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP), Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), and broader conservation goals.

Asset Management:

Managing tree health, species diversity, and canopy coverage is vital for public health, safety, stormwater management, and long-term sustainability. Because trees are public assets delivering substantial benefits for Dallas residents, the City is implementing an asset management approach to public trees. The first component of asset management is a tree inventory. To support this, the City uses [TreeKeeper](#), an asset management system that helps guide decisions such as maintenance needs (trimming, preventative treatments for threats like Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Oak Wilt, removals for safety). Additional asset management includes prioritizing new tree plantings (targeting low-canopy areas), reducing urban heat island effects, improving air quality, and supporting stormwater mitigation through canopy coverage and reduced runoff.

On September 11, 2024, City Council authorized a contract with Davey Resource Group, Inc., a comprehensive citywide public tree inventory not to exceed \$6,295,802.00 over the five-year term of the contract. This Council action does not encumber funds; the purpose of a service contract is to establish firm pricing for services, for a specific term, which are ordered on an as-needed basis.

- USDA Forest Service Grant (\$750,000): Funding active through FY26.
 - To date, the City has spent \$177,474 of this grant funding
- Stormwater Enterprise Fund (\$200,000): Allocated for FY25.
- General Fund: No FY25 allocation; future funding discussions for FY26 onward.

To date, over 70,000 trees have been assessed and inventoried by professional arborists providing data on location, species, condition, size measurements and potential risks. The current tree count represents approximately 51% of the first-year goal of 134,000 trees. Public inventory efforts focus on priority areas such as the Floodway Management Areas, the Dallas Floodway Extension/Great Trinity Forest, park properties, and major street corridors.

In April, LiDAR imaging technology was launched as part of the assessment and inventory process on Transportation and Public Works Streets Operations (TPW) and Park and Recreation (PKR) properties. By the end of FY 25, TPW and PKR anticipate at least 18,500 trees each inventoried with mapping and tree condition information completed.

Boundary Survey Update:

The survey of the Dallas Floodway Extension/Great Trinity Forest is nearing completion. Accurate boundaries are crucial for conservation, public safety, and community engagement efforts, with neighborhood meetings planned for the Fall.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Response:

In 2024, EAB was detected at 7 of 16 monitoring sites. In 2025, additional traps were deployed along White Rock Creek and other priority areas. City staff are continuing to monitor and treat significant ash trees (>15" diameter in good condition), as well as removing hazardous and infected trees where necessary. Staff are also providing public resources through the [EAB Information Center](#). The City's goal remains to slow EAB spread and protect remaining ash populations.

Tree Planting Highlights

Over 5,000 trees were planted through Reforestation Fund projects, partnerships, and Branch Out Dallas homeowner giveaways annually. The Spring 2025 plantings included 477 new trees in parks, schools, neighborhoods, and rights of way.

- 662 trees through 12 Branching Out projects (six with Texas Trees Foundation) and 1 Community Development Block Grant planting
- 450 trees planted in the Great Trinity Forest with Texas A&M Forest Service, PepsiCo, Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council, and Texas Conservation Alliance.
- 2,600 trees were distributed to Dallas residents via the Branch Out Dallas program.
- 300 trees through our partnership with Texas Trees Foundation and the Cool Schools program.

Alternative Vegetation Management:

In April, the first project of the Alternative Vegetation Management contract was launched at Bachman Greenbelt to manage invasive species. Two hundred eighty goats cleared over 16 acres in approximately two weeks, improving visibility and reducing brush buildup and wildfire risk.

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Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP):

Staff have coordinated two meetings on the CWPP, led by Dallas Fire Rescue. The CWPP focuses on community education, preventative maintenance actions, tabletop emergency exercises, and short- and long-term wildfire resilience goals. A detailed briefing will be presented later this year.

Texas Trees Foundation Agreement:

The City and Texas Trees Foundation have finalized a Memorandum of Agreement to guide future tree planting, maintenance, and community programming, enhancing a well-established partnership.

The City remains committed to protecting public health, safety, and the environment through stewardship, collaboration, and responsible resource management. We appreciate the continued support of our community, local partners, state and federal agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact M. Renee Johnson at 214-670-8871 or Sarah Standifer at 214-670-3188.



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