



URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN DISCUSSION

PLANNING COMMISSION AND PARKS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

APRIL 6, 2017



BACKGROUND

- Comprehensive Plan Policy EC.10.10 – Create and support a robust and comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan starting in 2016.
- City held 4 scoping meetings in 2016 with Council, Planning Commission, and Parks Commission.
- Based on input at these meetings, staff developed draft mission, vision, project objective, and scope of work statements.



Fall street trees near
Inglewood Middle School
(credit: Sammamish Friends)



Evergreen trees on
228th Ave SE

Policy EC.10.3 Maintain and enhance a street tree maintenance program. Use trees and other vegetation, both native and non-native, as appropriate, in all restoration.

Policy EC.10.4 Encourage community residents and property owners to preserve the green and wooded character of existing neighborhoods.

Policy EC.10.5 Within the city, allow off-site options for replanting and restoration where not feasible on-site in order to meet tree retention requirements and achieve tree canopy coverage and storm water capture.

Policy EC.10.6 Develop and enforce effective regulatory penalties and practices for unauthorized removal or damage of trees.

Policy EC.10.7 Prioritize restoration and enhancement of environmentally critical areas and buffers, with the aim of enhancing ecosystem function.

Policy EC.10.8 Consider incentivizing retention of trees on existing lots, prioritizing clusters and/or a continuous canopy with trees on adjacent lots when feasible.

Policy EC.10.9 Promote regulatory tools that take into consideration the case-by-case context-sensitive nature of tree retention and canopy coverage.

Policy EC.10.10 Create and support a robust and comprehensive Urban Forestry Management Plan starting in 2016.

Policy EC.10.11 Develop incentives to prioritize the retention of high value trees, including heritage and/or landmark trees.



Residential tree
coverage

BACKGROUND

- Council approved \$115,000 for professional services related to the Urban Forest Management Plan in 2017-18 budget.
- In March, City received \$15,000 matching grant from WA DNR for canopy cover assessment.



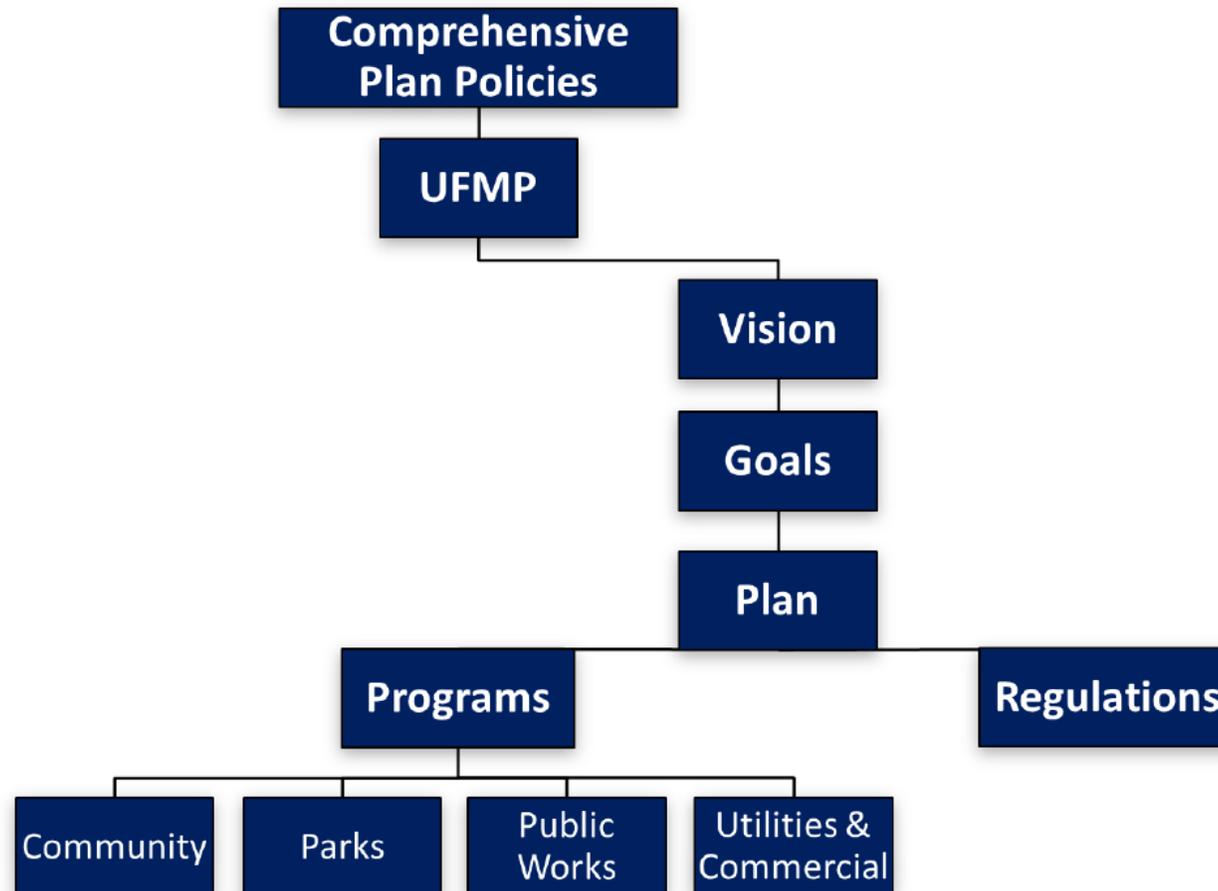
WHAT IS AN URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN?

- Urban forest refers to “all publicly and privately owned trees within an urban area.”
- An Urban Forest Management Plan...
 - Creates a shared community vision for the future of the urban forest.
 - Highlights and incorporates information from data-gathering exercises.
 - Establishes goals relating to the health, management, and extent of the urban forest and steps required to reach them.
 - Establishes shared priorities across departments.
 - May result in development of new programs and regulations.

WHAT IS AN URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN NOT?

- An Urban Forest Management Plan is not...
 - A regulatory document
 - A section of municipal code
 - A program
 - A budget
 - A maintenance guide
- The UFMP will **set the framework** for all of these things.

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN PROJECT FLOW CHART



VISION

The Sammamish urban forest is a healthy and sustainable mix of trees, shrubs, and other associated vegetation that functions as a connected ecosystem. It is valued and cared for by the greater Sammamish community because of the abundant environmental, economic, educational, aesthetic and health benefits the urban forest provides to current and future generations.

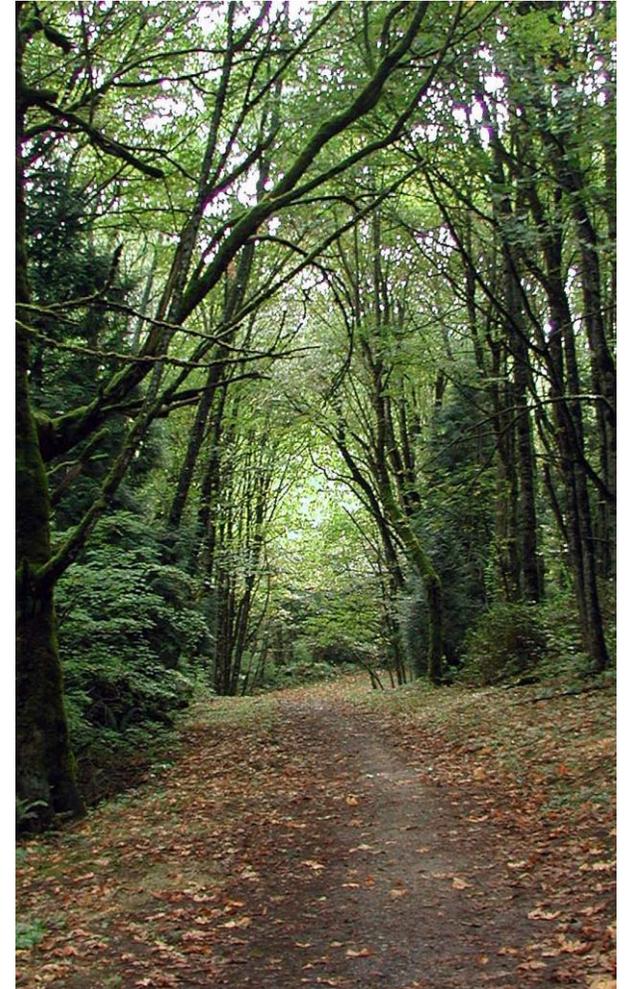
MISSION

The Urban Forest Management Plan is a guide and an action plan that the Sammamish community will use to enhance, protect, and manage our urban forest. The Plan will set ambitious but attainable goals, identify the necessary tools to reach those goals, and establish metrics to quantify the City's progress. The Plan is a collaborative effort between City leadership, staff and the public, and reflects the high value the community places on its natural environment. Successful implementation of the Plan results in a thriving urban forest that is visibly evident to those who enter Sammamish.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES (1/2)

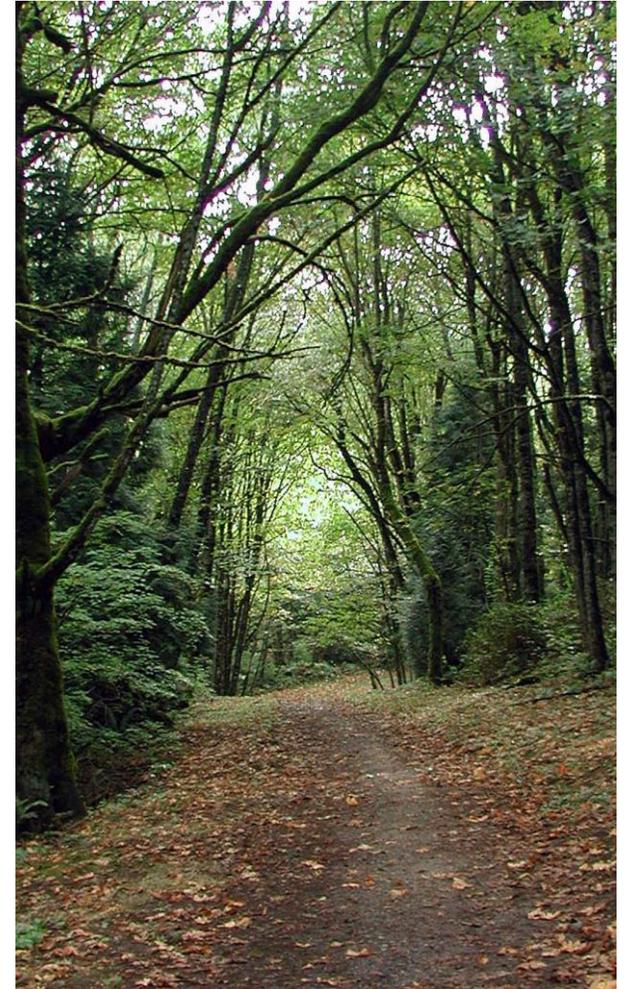
The primary objectives of the Urban Forestry Management Plan are to:

1. Ensure that the City of Sammamish has an accurate and complete picture of its urban forest.
2. Draft a road map for effective and efficient management of the urban forest.
3. Adopt best practices and technical standards reflective of the latest in urban forestry.
4. Engage the community to determine public needs for the urban forest.
5. Establish a monitoring protocol to address the effectiveness of the plan and how success will be measured, as well as how the plan will be updated.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES (2/2)

6. Analyze the City's forest community for environmental benefits, including but not limited to:
 - Stormwater management
 - Energy conservation
 - Improved air quality
 - Sequestration of carbon dioxide
 - Aesthetic and social value
 - Habitat and ecosystem connectivity
 - Public health
7. Set and reach goals to increase the environmental benefits of the City's urban forest.



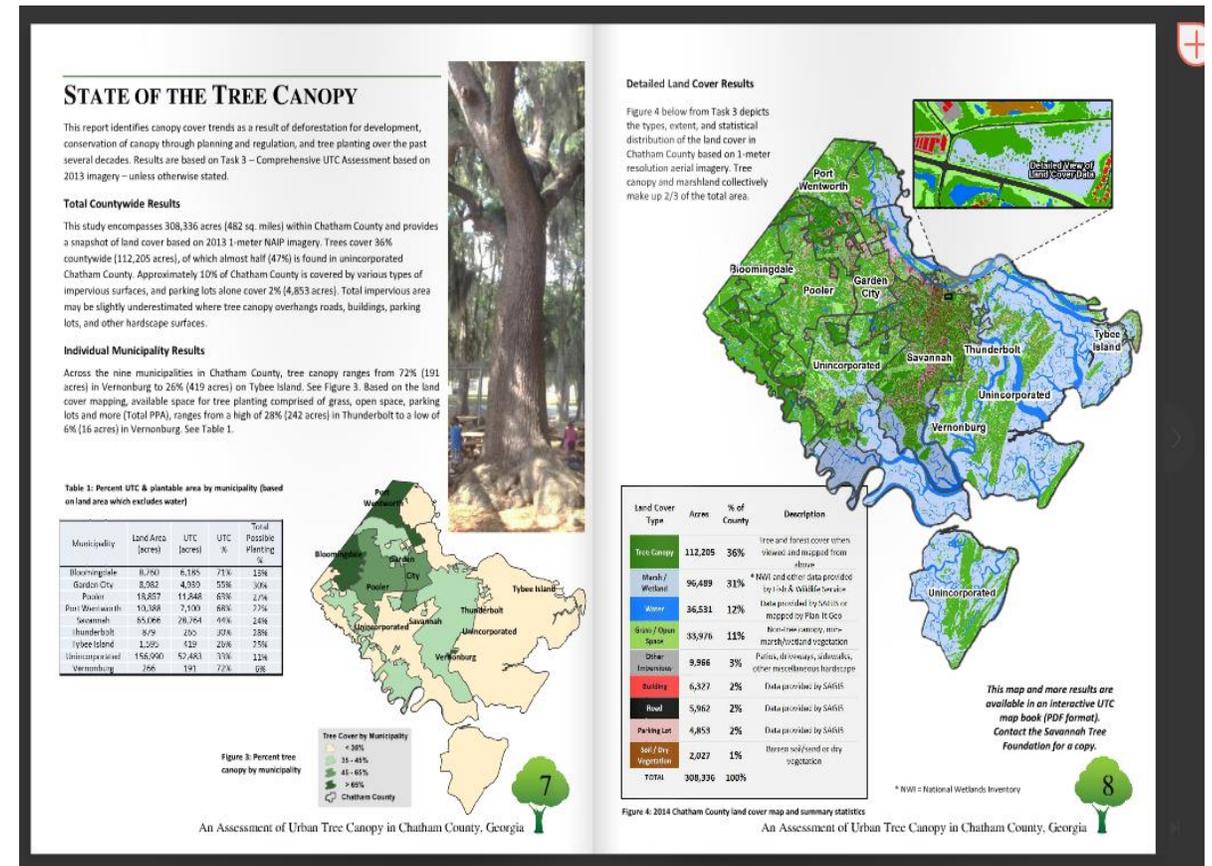
SCOPE OF WORK

The successful consultant will be expected to:

1. Attend public meetings.
2. Obtain public input by engaging established stakeholders and identifying new groups for community engagement.
3. Coordinate a citywide tree canopy cover assessment.
4. Conduct a tree inventory analysis on publicly owned land.
5. Establish long-term, comprehensive objectives and goals.
6. Specify actions to meet the objectives and goals.
7. Create a monitoring and informational feedback loop so that effectiveness can be measured over time.
8. Ensure that the Plan communicates in a definitive, and easy-to-follow way.

CANOPY COVER ASSESSMENT

- Measures existing canopy cover.
- Data can be used to identify trends, where trees can and should be planted.
- Quantifies benefits of tree cover:
 - Increased property values
 - Energy savings from summer shade and winter heating
 - Storm water management
 - Habitat/recreation value



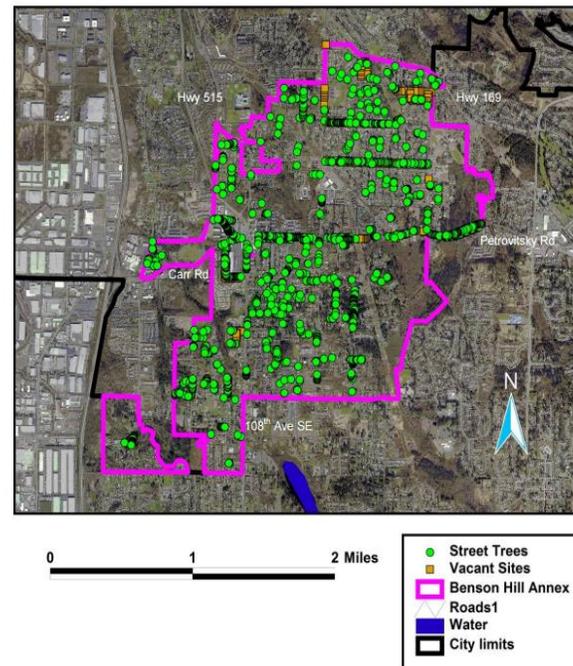
TREE INVENTORY

- Measures tree quantity, quality, age, environmental value, and diversity.
- Assists in establishing tree management cycles and cost.
- Usually only inventories trees maintained by the city (parks, ROW, street trees) or on public property.
- Important baseline information for any management plan.

3. Street Tree Inventory – Summary Results

Within the Benson Hill project area, there are 44 miles of public right-of-way. Through the systematic patrol and inspection of the right-of-way, there were 1,677 trees inventoried and 195 vacant planting sites identified. Since the historical development of the project area had a lot of variety in infrastructure design, there was variation in the right-of-way locations. The Benson Hill project area had many streets with no curbs, sidewalks, or street trees.

Figure 2. Map of Distribution of Street Trees.



3.2 Diameter/Age Groups

Using the approximate age classes established in the 2007 tree inventory for diameter at breast height (DBH), the street trees are mostly 7 to 50 years of age (Table 4). This indicates a tree population that is moderately young to mature.

Table 4. Summary of Street Trees DBH Classes and Approximate Ages.

1-3" DBH	% of Total	4-12" DBH	% of Total	13-24" DBH	% of Total	25-36" DBH	% of Total	37"+ DBH	% of Total
227	13.5%	898	53.5%	429	25.6%	91	5.4%	32	1.9%

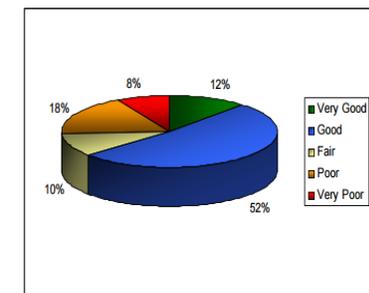
3.3 Tree Condition

The majority of trees across Benson Hill are in fair to good condition. Almost 12% of the trees are in very good condition, and only 8% fall into the very poor condition class. These results indicate a measurable potential for improving the overall health and safety of the street trees by performing maintenance on the poor and fair trees to improve their health, and conducting maintenance or removal/replacement mitigation where necessary. Table 5 displays the condition rating percentage ranges by class and Figure 3 displays the proportions.

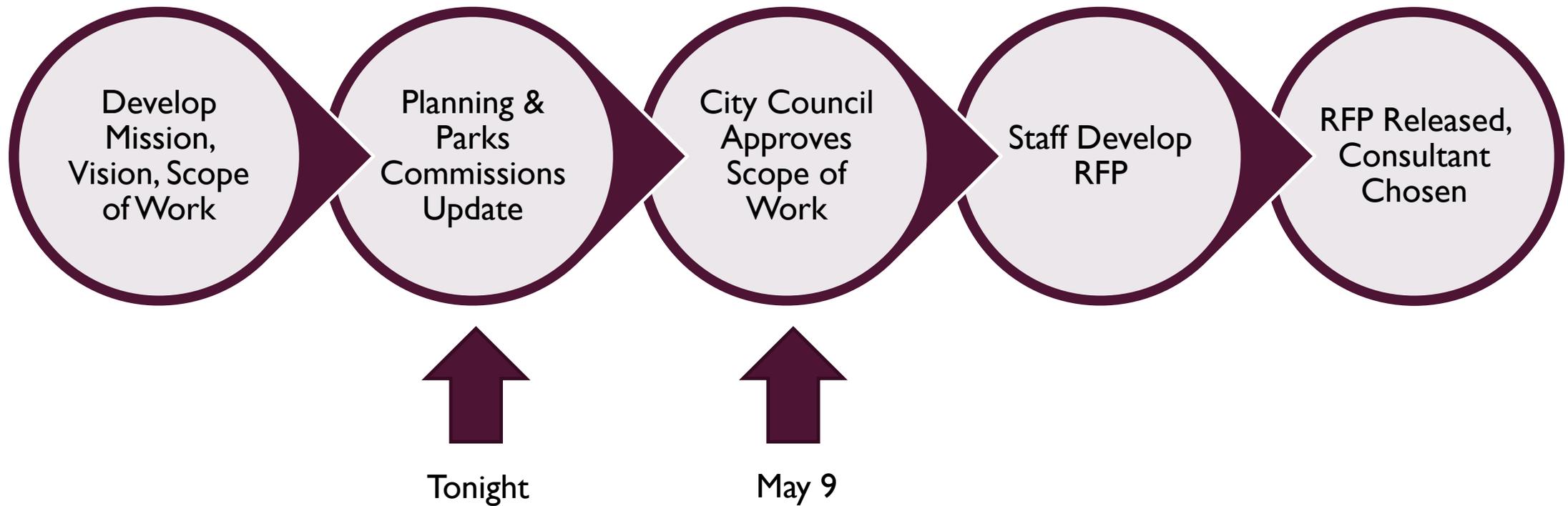
Table 5. Number of Street Trees by Condition Rating Percentage.

Very Good	% of Total	Good	% of Total	Fair	% of Total	Poor	% of Total	Very Poor	% of Total
197	11.7%	871	51.9%	169	10.1%	304	18.1%	136	8.1%

Figure 3. Street Trees Condition Class Percentages.



PLAN PROCESS MAP



NEXT STEPS

Date	Action
May 9, 2017	Joint Parks Commission, Planning Commission, City Council Study Session
May 2017	Staff finalizes RFP & Project Scope
June – July 2017	Staff releases RFP, Evaluates Proposals
June 26-27, 2017	Consultant Interviews & Selection
July 18, 2017 (tentative)	City Council Approves Consultant Contract
August 2017	Consultant Begins Work