



City of Edmond

Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Edmond encourages participation from all its citizens. To request an accommodation due to a disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be contacted by email: ADACoordinator@edmondok.gov or phone: 405-359-4518.

Urban Forestry Commission Regular Meeting Agenda

**City Hall Main Street Conference Room B, 22 E Main Street, Edmond, Oklahoma
4:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2026**

Notice to the Public

Official action can only be taken on items which appear on the agenda. The Urban Forestry Commission may discuss, adopt, approve, amend, reject, deny, strike or continue any item listed on the agenda. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Urban Forestry Commission may refer the matter to Urban Forestry Commission staff. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred/continued to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely.

1. Call to Order.
2. Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes: July 08, 2026.
3. Introduction of Guests.
4. Urban Forestry Progress Report:
 - Urban Forestry Division Operations
 - Tree Management
 - Upcoming Events
5. Consideration of Approval of Edmond Tree Grants Applications
6. Consideration of Approval of Updates to the Community Forestry Plan
7. Discussion of Urban Forestry Commission Goals

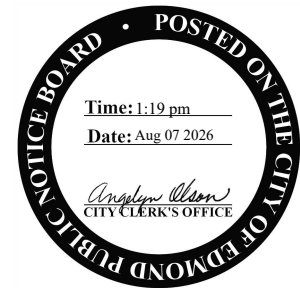
8. Citizen Comments.

This is an opportunity for residents and non-residents to address the Urban Forestry Commission on Urban Forestry Commission related matters not on the agenda or scheduled for a public hearing. All remarks must be directed to the Chair of the meeting, are limited to three minutes or less, and must otherwise be made in accordance with Section I of the City Council / Public Works Authority rules, available [here](#) and upon request at City Hall.

Please note that members of the Urban Forestry Commission cannot respond to issues brought up in Citizen Comments if they are not on the agenda, in accordance with state law.

9. Comments from the Urban Forestry Commission Chair and Members.

10. Adjournment.



Urban Forestry Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
July 08, 2026

1. Call to Order of the Urban Forestry Commission

Chairperson Lugene Jones called the regular meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 4:30 PM, Wednesday, July 08, 2026, in Main Street Conference Room B at the City Hall (22 E Main St) in Edmond, Oklahoma. The agenda for this meeting was posted in the City Hall Breezeway, July 06, 2026 at 11:12 a.m.

Members Present: Chair Lugene Jones, Vice Chair Kurt Atkinson, Ed Cunliff, Dena Bleeker, Stefanie Harris, Justin Scott, Andrea Sampley, Mae Kiggins, and Esen Yildirim, Youth Member.

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Leigh Martin, Ken Bryan, Shain Armstrong, and Raziel Polach.

2. Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Dena Bleeker, seconded by Justin Scott to approve meeting minutes from June 10, 2026.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introduction of Guests.

John Harkess and Taylor Wilson, Edmond Citizens.

4. Urban Forestry Progress Report.

Leigh Martin gave an overview of information in the Urban Forestry Activity Reports from June 2026.

5. Presentation of Progress on Park Tree Inventory and Maintenance Strategy Implementation.

Leigh Martin gave a thorough report on the Park Tree Inventory and went over the maintenance strategy that was used and will be used in the future.

6. Discussion of the Community Forestry Plan.

The committee went over the Community Forestry Plan and removed and/or updated topics. There will be an updated list to go over at next meeting.

7. Citizen Comments.

John Harkess and Taylor Wilson, Edmond Citizens, spoke about trees in the downtown area and Taylor Wilson spoke about development case that involves possible variance to the landscape requirements.

8. Comments from the Urban Forestry Commission Chair and Members.

Lugene Jones thanked staff for their hard work.

9. Adjournment.

Motion made by Dena Bleeker, seconded by Justin Scott to adjourn the Urban Forestry Commission meeting at 6:06 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Lugene Jones

Chair, Urban Forestry Commission

Kurt Atkinson

Vice Chair, Urban Forestry Commission

Monthly Highlights

- ◆ Updated the Urban Forestry Division Mission Statement:
Edmond's Urban Forestry Team improves quality of life, social connections and community health by promoting, conserving and enhancing our urban forest, tree canopy and natural areas through outreach, stewardship, and proactive forest management.
- ◆ Reviewed and updated the Division's internal "Visions and Goals" and "Action Plan" documents.
- ◆ Began accepting applications for the Edmond Tree Grants program
- ◆ Hosted a Pop-Up Nature Center with Marcus Long from Oklahoma Conservation Commission and their rain simulator. 26 people were in attendance, learning about soil health and what happens when rain falls on different soil environments.
- ◆ Interviewed by Channel 4 about tree removals in Hafer Park due to disease.
- ◆ Delivered branch samples from Hafer Park persimmon trees to OSU Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostics Lab for culturing, to diagnose disease.
- ◆ Met with representatives from Oklahoma Conservation Commission and Oklahoma County Conservation District at the Charles D Lamb Nature Preserve to discuss recommendations for stewardship practices, specifically conversion from invasive species to native grasses and forbs within the meadow areas.
- ◆ Continued refining the Charles D Lamb Nature Preserve Stewardship Plan.
- ◆ Met with AC Caplinger contractor about consulting on phases of landscape development.
- ◆ Edmond Electric's FY27 utility line clearance pruning contract was awarded.
- ◆ Met with Arbor Day Foundation contacts to review the spring Energy Saving Trees event and began planning for the fall distribution.



Above: Example of a tree with recent lightning damage.

Edmond ReLeaf Grant Project

- ◆ Raziel is working through the list of residential tree maintenance requests. Performed tree inspections at 28 locations, administered agreement forms and planned tree maintenance.
- ◆ 65 trees were inspected, 26 trees were pruned, and 12 trees were removed.
- ◆ Grant reporting and reimbursement request

Upcoming Opportunities

- ◆ Next EUFC meeting: 9/9
- ◆ Parks for Pollinators Bioblitz in Bickham-Rudkin Park: numerous events in September
- ◆ Arboretum Enhancement volunteer opportunity: 8/29 at 10 AM
- ◆ ReLeaf Tree Planting at 400 N Broadway: 10/3 at 10 AM
- ◆ Energy Saving Trees launch: 10/5
- ◆ Tree Planting at Hafer Park (meadow in NE corner): 10/13 at 4 PM



Above: Pop-Up Nature Center on soil health at Chitwood Park.

Landscape Administration

- ◆ Zoning Reviews: 0
- ◆ Tree Preservation Inspections: 1
- ◆ Landscape Pre-Installation Meetings: 3
- ◆ Final Landscape Inspections: 2
- ◆ Landscape Follow Up Inspections: 2
- ◆ Open Landscape Violations: 33

Tree Management

Tree Planting

No trees were planted by Urban Forestry this month.

Tree Maintenance

- ◆ Tree Inspections: 78
- ◆ Trees Pruned: 29
- ◆ Trees Removed: 12
- ◆ Consultations: 40
- ◆ Soil Analyses: 0
- ◆ Trees Fertilized: 0
- ◆ Trees Mulched: 0
- ◆ Pest/Disease Treatments: 2
- ◆ Rounds of Tree Watering: 5

Utility Forestry (Edmond Electric)

Tree Removal/Customer Service

- ◆ Tree Removals: 0
- ◆ Service Requests: 2
- ◆ Edmond Electric Customer Consultations: 4

Status of FY27 Pruning Areas

- ◆ Notification in Progress: 0 of 8
- ◆ Notification Completed: 0 of 8
- ◆ Pruning in Progress: 0 of 8
- ◆ Pruning Completed: 0 of 8

Upcoming Projects

- ◆ Update of the Edmond Tree and Landscape Guide

Edmond Tree Grants Applications (August 2026)

APPLICATION 1

Organization Name: Danforth Crossing HOA

Organization Type: Neighborhood/HOA

Points of Contact: Stephen Roberts, Jennifer Roberts

Project Description and Objectives:

On the SE corner there is a new walking trail with sprinkler system and no trees! The objective would be to bring the neighboring forest more into the neighborhood and inspire others to plant trees! Beacon Homes is also the developer of the community- who are major sponsors of St Jude. Beacon Homes ranks among the absolute highest-performing production builders in Oklahoma. With an average HERS Index score of 37, their homes are over 60% more energy-efficient than standard new construction—outperforming nearly all standard volume builders in the state.

Location of Project: To the direct south of 1000 Harmony Drive. It would filter the trees from the east into the neighborhood.

Planting Option: Neighborhood – Common Area

Size of Trees Requested: 15-gallon containers

Tree Quantity: 8

Community Engagement Proposal: “Forest to Footpath: Growing Our Neighborhood Canopy”

Planting Objectives:

Who will plant the trees? Beacon Homes, Steve Roberts and Neighbors

Who will be responsible for performing tree establishment care? Steve Roberts.

What is your plan for providing water to the trees? Sprinkler system and hose if needed





APPLICATION 2

Organization Name: Bristol Park Owners Association

Organization Type: Neighborhood/HOA

Points of Contact: Julie Bisbee Wheeler, Rodney Jones

Project Description and Objectives:

The Bristol Park neighborhood is made up of 311 homes and the homeowner's association maintains several common areas including the field near a playground and a large field near the neighborhood pool. These areas are in use by residents and members of the public daily. The Bristol Park neighborhood is located along the city street, Bristol Park Drive, and sees a high number of walkers and Edmond residents who drive to the playground as it has ample off-street parking. Bristol Park Drive sees as many as 1,800 cars daily, according to traffic count data collected by Edmond Police Department between June 16, 2023 and July 5, 2023.

The HOA Board of Managers is seeking trees through the Edmond Tree Grant program to establish a shade canopy for the park and playground in a heavily used area. The neighborhood is nearly 30 years old and has lost several trees due to storm damage or disease. This HOA-maintained area is a hub of neighborhood connectedness and physical activity all months of the year. We believe investing in shade in this area would continue to support board goals to maintain an inviting area for residents and public alike.

Bristol Park is located less than a mile from Centennial Park, and compliments the city's plan to have connected, attractive parks. The addition of shade trees in the Bristol Park HOA property would increase the likelihood of residents traversing between the two parks and increase pathways for physical activity. Bristol Park also has residents who are engaged in adding to urban habitat with several homes choosing native plants that support pollinators as well as residents who have created certified butterfly habitat areas.

It's also worth noting that Bristol Park is one of the southern most neighborhoods in Edmond and is seeing an increase in light industrial development to the south in the Oklahoma City boundaries. This development has removed grassy spaces and trees and replaced them with large buildings, concrete parking lots that add to the ambient heat in the area. Adding trees would help offset the ambient heat and further establish the distinction between the light industrial landscape along the Oklahoma City limits and Edmond's residential areas.

Bristol Park Owners Association was a successful participant in the Foster a Tree program in fall 2019 and has since maintained trees planted along the sidewalk on the southwest side of Aurora Drive. The owner's association would use the same care and diligence in ensuring the success of additional trees.

Location of Project: The trees would be planted in HOA managed areas near 2817 Bristol Park Drive, where the neighborhood pool, playground and activity fields are located. The HOA Trees would be planted at recommended spacing in the field south of the playgroup equipment to provide shade canopy for the playground and adjacent areas where visitors gather. We also propose adding a tree in the field north of the pool to replace a non-native tree that was removed due to damage and disease. See map attached.

Planting Option: Neighborhood – Common Area

Size of Trees Requested: 15-gallon containers

Tree Quantity: 8

Community Engagement Proposal: Residents in Bristol Park would be included and help celebrate the "groundbreaking" for the trees if request is granted. Planning and receipt of the trees would be publicized in the neighborhood's monthly newsletter. Bristol Park has a monthly newsletter with more than 300 active subscribers and an open rate of more than 30% -- well above industry standards. Bristol Park also has an active website and closed Facebook group that helps residents learn about activities and accomplishments.

To plant the trees, the Board would organize a resident workday that would include in-kind labor from residents and board members. The neighborhood's last workday to prepare the pool for the summer season attracted more than expected participants including several youth who live in the neighborhood.

Planting Objectives: The objective for planting the trees near the playground and activity field is to create a shade canopy that will benefit users of the playground and activity fields.

Who will plant the trees? Bristol Park HOA would choose trees that would thrive in the conditions of the location to reduce the risk of tree loss before establishment. Our maintenance plan would be in line with recommendations from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension, Arbor Day Foundation and landscaping expertise from the City of Edmond Forestry division.

Who will be responsible for performing tree establishment care? Maintaining the trees would be a duty the board would oversee and work in conjunction with existing landscape contractor to ensure appropriate care, regular watering and monitoring of the tree's progress in establishing roots. Watering bags would also be utilized to ensure proper watering standards are met.

What is your plan for providing water to the trees? Some trees would be within existing irrigated areas. Waterbags with weekly checking and refilling would be instituted to ensure proper care.





Edmond Community Forestry Plan
Edmond Urban Forestry Commission
Adopted June 2025

Urban Forest Management Programs

- I. Tree Planting
 1. **Connect tree planting efforts with the Route 66 Centennial celebration.**
 2. Encourage the planting of trees in the development of new public projects
 - ~~3. Exceed the minimum requirements of the City landscape ordinance on public projects~~
- II. Tree Maintenance
 - A. Public Trees
 1. Expand proactive maintenance plans for public trees
 2. Develop procedures and obtain resources for keeping park tree inventory up to date.
 - ~~3. Centralize tree care under the office of a City Arborist/Forester~~
 - ~~4-3.~~ Prioritize areas for insect and disease control on public trees (e.g. spraying) and develop a disease/insect management and soil improvement plan
 - B. Private Trees
 1. Create incentives to promote good tree management for developers and HOAs
- III. Urban Forest Conservation
 - A. Public Property
 - ~~1. Support establishment of a nature park~~
 - ~~2-1.~~ **Nurture continuing relationships with other City Departments to encourage the retention of trees in the development of new public projects early in the planning process**
 - ~~3-2.~~ Retain native tree cover and habitat in linear parks and greenways as a part of drainage retention and improvement
 - B. Private Property
 1. Support implementation of the Unified Development Code ~~Update project as a stakeholder~~
 2. Create incentives and provide education to encourage greater preservation of native forest and trees as a part of the development process
 3. Explore ways to use native forest habitat in storm water drainage planning (e.g. linear parks)
 4. ~~Encourage the use of~~ Use conservation easements to conserve and protect native forested areas where appropriate
- IV. Other Environmental Programs
 1. Support Urban Wood Utilization programs

Education Programs

- I. Proper Tree Planting and Care

1. Develop an educational campaign on Firewise land management practices
2. Plan potential educational programming for the Charles D. Lamb Nature Preserve
3. Promote public use of the Urban Forestry Department web site
4. Look for opportunities to partner with local organizations on urban forestry education
5. Schedule educational activities/workshops throughout the year
6. Publish in local news outlets articles written by the City Arborist/Forester, extension agents, and other tree ~~advocates~~**professionals**.
7. Develop educational materials that emphasize the benefits of xeriscaping and native tree plantings

II. Respect and Appreciation for Trees and Nature

1. Implement education programs at local schools
2. ~~Promote use of the Arboretum~~**Support expansion of the arboretum and promote its use as appropriate,**
3. Identify new ideas for pilot projects and demonstration areas
4. ~~Pursue Commission-led outreach opportunities, such as the Edmond Neighborhood Alliance event~~**Develop a speaker's bureau for tree-related presentations**
5. ~~Promote the~~**Quantify** monetary contributions of trees to citizens (reduced energy consumption, storm water abatement, reduced cost of maintenance for shaded streets, etc)
- ~~6. Update the Urban Forestry Commission web page that provides information about the Commission members~~
- ~~7.6.~~ **Develop tree tour guides (possibly using smart phone/computer "apps")**
- ~~7.~~ Assist the City of Edmond community health programs in developing educational tools that emphasize the importance of trees
8. Support community engagement activities at the Charles D Lamb Nature Preserve

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Urban Forestry Program Support

I. Obtain Financial Support

1. Identify and apply for other sources of support for continued Urban Forestry projects and programs, such as Edmond ReLeaf
2. Advocate for Urban Forestry program funding in the City budget.

II. Partnerships and Internal and External Alliances

1. **Partner with a nonprofit to obtain funding and support for Urban Forestry Commission projects.**
2. Obtain civic group support for targeted area planting projects (e.g. 'Neighborhoods' concept)
3. Form alliances with community ~~horticultural~~**botanical** groups and businesses willing to participate and assist with public tree plantings and projects
4. Build coalitions with neighborhood associations
5. Create internship opportunities for individuals interested in aspects of community planning related to urban forest management

6. Advocate to EPS School Board for importance of tree planting at schools and building urban forestry partnerships

Note: Items in bold are identified as priority goals.



Urban Forestry Commission

2026 Goals

1. Connect tree planting efforts with the Route 66 Centennial celebration.
2. Develop an educational campaign on Firewise land management practices.
3. Partner with a nonprofit to obtain funding and support for Urban Forestry Commission projects.
4. Plan potential educational programming for the Charles D. Lamb Nature Preserve.