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**CITY OF UKIAH LAUNCHES “TREEKIAH,” UKIAH’S URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM**

**Ukiah, CA. September 24, 2026.** – The City of Ukiah is officially launching “Treekiah,” the City’s new urban forestry program, to expand and improve Ukiah’s urban tree canopy through community engagement, tree planting, tree care, education, and long-term climate adaptation & resilience planning.

Treekiah is the public-facing program of the City’s Climate Resilient Forests project, implemented through the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Division within the Community Development Department. The project began implementation in 2025 and is supported by \$1.39 million in competitively awarded funding through the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, administered through the



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The grant-funded project term extends through March 2028.

“Treekiah is about growing Ukiah’s urban forest together,” said Aaron Yang, Urban Forest Manager for the City of Ukiah. “Trees are more than landscaping. They are living community infrastructure that can provide shade, cooler public spaces, environmental benefits, and a stronger connection between people and place. Treekiah gives our community new ways to learn, participate, plant, care for trees, and help shape the future of Ukiah.”

## A Community Program Built Around Trees and People

Treekiah is designed as a collaborative, community-based initiative. The program connects residents, businesses, community organizations, schools, volunteers, and City departments around a shared goal: a healthier, more resilient, and more equitable urban tree canopy.

The program's initial initiatives include:

- Free Trees Planting— expanding opportunities for community members to receive and establish trees with guidance on appropriate planting and care.
- Ditch Your Lawn — encouraging water-conscious landscape changes that can create better opportunities for trees and other climate-resilient vegetation.
- Cool Parking Lots — exploring ways trees and shade can make paved areas more comfortable while supporting broader climate-resilience goals.
- Workshops — providing practical education so residents can understand how to select, plant, establish, and care for trees.
- Community Engagement and Volunteer Opportunities — creating opportunities for residents and local partners to participate directly in the urban forestry program.
- Urban Forestry Planning and Standards — developing the planning tools, resources, and coordination needed to support healthy trees as part of Ukiah's long-term community infrastructure.

## A New Online Home for Treekiah

The City has also launched a public online presence for Treekiah. Residents can learn about the program, explore current initiatives, find upcoming events, access educational resources, and connect with opportunities to participate.

**Treekiah website:** <https://cityofukiah.com/treekiah/>

**Treekiah StoryMap:** <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d16bfe9b27944e769ddeb8c0d95046bb>

**Treekiah Events & Resources Hub:** <https://treekiah-cou.hub.arcgis.com/>

## Growing the Urban Forest for the Long Term

Treekiah recognizes that successful urban forestry is about more than the number of trees planted. Healthy trees need appropriate locations, adequate growing space, water, care, and time to mature. The program therefore combines planting with education, maintenance, planning, community participation, and long-term stewardship.

“A healthy urban forest doesn't happen by accident. It takes thoughtful planning, the right trees in the right places, and a commitment to caring for them long after they're planted,” said Councilmember Heather Criss. “Treekiah gives us an opportunity to make those investments now, creating a healthier, more beautiful Ukiah for generations to come.”

Treekiah also builds on the City of Ukiah's broader climate and sustainability work. The City Council adopted the 2025 Ukiah Climate Action Plan on May 21, 2025. Later In 2025, the City began implementation of Climate Resilient Forests through its newly formed Urban Forestry Program.

“We want residents to see themselves as part of Ukiah’s urban forest. Whether someone plants a tree, attends a workshop, volunteers at an event, changes a landscape, or simply learns more about the trees around them, every action contributes to a healthier community canopy,” Yang said.

For more information, visit the Treekiah website at <https://cityofukiah.com/treekiah/> or contact Urban Forest Manager Aaron Yang at (707)463-6273 or [climate@cityofukiah.com](mailto:climate@cityofukiah.com).



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