



Urban Forestry Report

Inspections and Permits

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry issues permits for all street and park tree work, including planting, pruning, and removal. In certain cases, Urban Forestry issues permits for private tree removals. Currently, efforts are guided by City Code 20.40 Street Tree and Other Public Tree Regulations and 20.42 Tree Cutting.

Each month, the *Urban Forestry Report* gives monthly inspection and permit totals. Because not all inspections result in permit issuance, metrics of both inspections and permits issued are included. Inspection and permit descriptions and definitions are provided on the final page of this report.

URBAN FORESTRY EXPLORES ROOT BARRIER USE IN PLANTING STANDARDS

Urban Forestry staff engaged in discussions with PBOT and BES regarding a potential change to street tree planting standards to include the use of root barriers along sidewalks adjacent to street trees. Root barriers are already being used in PBOT capital improvement projects.

No official changes to City tree planting specifications have occurred yet, but discussions are continuing. Issues being discussed include the effectiveness of root barriers, alternative methods for protecting sidewalks, product specifications, a plan detail, and impacts to homeowner plantings, Friends-of-Trees plantings, Grey-to-Green plantings, and other capital project plantings.

JANUARY 2012 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	TREES INSPECTED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES				
Planting, general	93	158	28	150
Grey to Green	165	337	441	785
Land use reviews	59	-	1	2
Development	144	-	54	56
Pruning	67	293	85	270
Removal	51	161	88	152
Root pruning	28	52	24	48
Other	82	208	7	18
PARK TREES				
Planting	22	79	4	21
Pruning	8	110	8	73
Removal	3	16	35	0
Root pruning	1	28	1	21
Other	4	32	0	0
PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)				
Code applicability inspections	51	-	-	-
Planting, mitigation	-	-	-	59
Removal	14	29	33	64
EMERGENCIES				
Emergency call outs	138	196	-	-
TOTALS				
Planting	483	574	528	1073
Pruning	75	403	93	343
Removal	119	206	156	216
Root Pruning	29	80	25	69
Other	86	240	7	18
Emergencies	138	196	-	-
Totals	930	1699	809	1719

Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF CREW SUPERVISOR

Once again our report period started relatively quietly until Mother Nature paid us an unfriendly visit mid-month. In the early hours of January 18th a storm blew through dumping several inches of heavy wet snow coupled with southerly winds. This event reeked havoc on our urban forest bringing down trees in all four corners of the city. Our department received hundreds of calls and our arborists and tree crews responded to over 100 emergency situations. From road closures to extricating vehicles from under trees, our in house crews validated their abilities by handling every situation without incident. The storm event in total kept most of the entire crew busy for a total of eight days straight with some additional work to follow in the next few weeks. Although considered a small event compared to some past incidents, it still proved to be challenging and gave the crews the ability to showcase their talents.

Outside of the storm work, our crews focused primarily on large park projects. Westmoreland Park received the most attention with the pruning of over 80 trees for health, safety and clearance.

We are up to date on our larger interagency requests. Our largest, the streetlight clearing, had us provide service at approximately 200 light and tree conflict locations. It required the commitment of crew members and equipment for an entire report period which has now been refocused towards park projects again.

Our planting crew finished all street tree and interagency plantings slated for the year. We have now shifted our focus on to park tree plantings. With over a hundred trees still in need of a home we are confident we can get the planting season completed by early spring.

On a lighter note, I helped support the Urban Forestry Outreach program by presenting at the Neighborhood Tree Steward workshop, "Prune Like a Pro." By teaching basic tree biology, pruning techniques and small tree training, it proved to be a successful and rewarding workshop. I look forward to doing it again. The crews also closed the book on another holiday season with the removal of the holiday tree in Pioneer Square.

This next report should have our efforts focused on some larger pruning projects in Columbia and Washington Parks. Stay tuned.



January's storm damage generated over 100 emergency calls for Urban Forestry arborists and crew. These photos show some of the common calls of down trees blocking roads and rights-of-way and property damage.



Fruit Tree Pruning Work Day

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON

Dates and times:

Saturday March 4 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Saturday March 18 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Location:

Columbia Children's Arboretum

10040 NE 6th Drive

No pruning experience is necessary! Volunteers are needed to prune the orchard at Columbia Children's Arboretum. Pruning will focus on restoring neglected trees, general orchard maintenance and pruning to increase fruit production. This pruning class will be taught by Clackamas Community College Horticulture instructor Bruce Nelson. For more information or to sign up contact Karl Dawson at 503-823-1650 or email trees@portlandoregon.gov.



Volunteers pruning and mulching fruit trees at Columbia Children's Arboretum.

Bill Naito Award Nominations Due February 27

The Urban Forestry Commission created this annual award in honor of the builder and community leader who did so much to beautify Portland with trees. Bill Naito rarely missed a UFC meeting, which he founded in 1974 and chaired until his death. The Bill Naito Community Trees Award is presented to individuals, organizations, or projects that have continued Bill's work. Nominations are due February 27, 2012. For more information visit www.portlandonline.com/parks/.

Inventories Planned for Hosford Abernathy, NW District and Sunnyside Neighborhoods

Hosford Abernathy, Northwest District, and Sunnyside Neighborhoods were selected to conduct street tree inventories and create tree plans via a competitive application process. Urban Forestry staff is pleased to help these three enthusiastic neighborhoods begin by building their "dream team" of Neighborhood Tree Stewards and interested community members. Over the next few months, each group will plan three tree inventory days to collect data, and will be responsible for recruiting inventory team leaders, arborists, and other volunteers to assist. Urban Forestry will provide support throughout the process, and one seasonal staff member will be hired to help with workshops and data collection this summer.

Tree Stewards Staff Fix it Fairs

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON

On Saturday January 21 Neighborhood Tree Stewards Liz Stevenson, David Taylor, Barbara Wharton, and Kevin Kenaga staffed the second Fix-It Fair of the winter at Rosa Park Elementary school in Portsmouth Neighborhood. Over 600 people participated in the event with Portland Parks & Recreation distributing 25 Colorado blue spruces and 97 Pacific madrone trees. Karl Dawson also gave a general tree care class for 35 people during the event. Tree Stewards are still needed for the final Fix-it Fair on February 25 at Jefferson High School. To sign up contact Karl Dawson at 503-823-1650.



Overlook Tree Stewards Liz Stevenson and David Taylor staffing the Fix-It Fair booth in Portsmouth.

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STREET TREES

Planting, General: Requested by property owners (residential, commercial, some City agencies, etc). A UF Arborist inspects the site for existing trees, overhead wires, utilities, strip width, and other site conditions and marks where trees can be planted. Homeowners are given a Recommended Street Tree List appropriate for their site. A 2" caliper tree is standard. The property owner purchases the tree, reports the species to UF, and a permit is issued.

Planting, Friends of Trees: UF works cooperatively with Friends of Trees (FOT) and the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) to provide permits for FOT plantings. BES canvassers approach homeowners with potential planting spaces to sign up for tree plantings. Interested property owners contact FOTs and a BES canvasser completes the planting inspections. UF spot checks 10% of BES inspections and issues final permits. Property owners are given a list of trees appropriate for their planting strip and offered for sale by FOTs. This list varies from the UF Recommended Street List, and is established each year by UF and FOT. Property owners purchase and plant the tree with FOTs.

Planting, Land Use Reviews: In the proposed development process, UF Arborists review land use applications for possible impacts on street trees and trees that may pose future concern (i.e. Heritage Trees on private property). Recommendations on location and number of street trees that will be required as a condition of a future building permit are given. Because development is only proposed, no permits are issued during land use review, except for reviews involving land division. In land division cases, a street tree review is conducted for the parcel of land where the existing structure is, because once divided into separate lots this parcel will not come under further review.

Planting, Development: All new construction and remodeling projects over \$25,000 require a street tree review. Sites are inspected and street trees are required to be planted in all available spaces as a condition of the building permit.

Pruning: A UF Arborist discusses pruning requests with the property owner, inspects the trees and issues the permit. Conditions may be included.

Removal: Requested by property owner through an application process costing \$35. Permits are only granted if the tree

is dead, dying, or dangerous; applicants must demonstrate that their tree meets removal criteria, and the tree must be replaced if site conditions permit. A UF Arborist inspects the tree and site, and marks the curb for replanting. The property owner must purchase a replacement tree and provide a receipt to UF prior to issuance of the removal permit. Planting may be deferred until the following planting season, depending upon time of year.

Root pruning: Requested by property owners in the process of reconstructing damaged sidewalks, often due to lifting from root growth. A sidewalk permit must first be acquired before a root pruning inspection. A UF Arborist inspects the exposed roots once the sidewalk has been removed, and marks specific roots for removal.

Other: Other street tree permits include chemical application permits for contractors, and attaching temporary items to trees (i.e. ribbons and signage).

PARK TREES

The majority of reported Park inspections and permits are for developed parks. Most natural area parks activities fall under blanket permits and their activities are guided by master plans or desired future conditions established by PP&R.

Planting: Developed park plantings are planned by Parks planners, Parks maintenance staff, and occasionally friends groups. Planting is usually completed by the UF crew.

Pruning: A UF Arborist discusses pruning requests with Parks staff, inspects the trees and issues the permit. Work may be done by Parks staff or the UF crew.

Removal: A UF Arborist inspects the tree for removal criteria and removal is completed by the UF crew.

PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)

Code applicability inspection: A UF Arborist investigates City records to determine whether the Tree Cutting Ordinance applies. TCO applies to non-nuisance trees 12" DBH or greater on certain private properties.

Plantings, Mitigation: Trees planted as mitigation for removals under the Tree Cutting Ordinance.

Removal: Requested by property owner through an application process costing \$35, after code applicability is determined. Permits are granted for trees that are dead, dying, dangerous, as well as some additional circumstances. Mitigation may be required in the form of planting or paying into the City's Tree Fund.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency response is reported in terms of inspections and trees inspected. Permits that may result from the emergency response are listed under their appropriate categories (i.e. Street Tree pruning).