



# 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.

### SPANISH CHESTNUT HERITAGE TREE REMOVED

An inspection of Heritage Tree 72, a Spanish chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), revealed that the tree was in very poor condition. Around 90% of the circumference of the basal root flares were dead, and decay was significant over much of the circumference at ground level. The crown was less than 30% of natural size, with substantial dieback within much of the existing crown. The tree was removed by the UF crew.

### FEBRUARY 2012 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	TREES INSPECTED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
<b>STREET TREES</b>				
Planting, general	71	162	45	172
Grey to Green	317	598	888	1153
Land use reviews	56	-	1	8
Development	155	-	61	61
Pruning	84	318	82	248
Removal	76	193	63	423
Root pruning	50	78	46	90
Other	74	201	2	3
<b>PARK TREES</b>				
Planting	10	57	0	0
Pruning	8	33	8	34
Removal	6	12	5	6
Root pruning	0	0	0	0
Other	9	132	0	0
<b>PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)</b>				
Code applicability inspections	73	-	-	-
Planting, mitigation	-	-	-	35
Removal	31	49	11	18
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>				
Emergency call outs	33	36	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>				
Planting	609	817	995	1429
Pruning	92	351	90	282
Removal	186	254	79	447
Root Pruning	50	78	46	90
Other	83	333	2	3
Emergencies	33	36	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1053</b>	<b>1869</b>	<b>1212</b>	<b>2251</b>

## Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF CREW SUPERVISOR

This report period had a considerable amount of precipitation that kept our parks a little squishy. The possibility of turf damage and rutting limited our access to some of our intended park projects. However, we took this opportunity to address the abundance of work orders that were a little deeper in our priority list that normally might not have been gotten to as quickly.

One of the projects included raising canopies and the dead wooding of trees in the Columbia Park Annex. This was a successful project that earned us some great accolades from both citizens and park maintenance personnel. We also provided some assistance with tree pruning and removals for future community garden locations.

The project with the most exposure this period was the Washington Park view clearing. In an effort to reclaim the postcard view of downtown Portland and Mount Hood, we spent a few days pruning to help frame the iconic view. Additional view clearing work is slated for the next few months, however, we are addressing each of these challenges on a case by case basis.

Interagency agreements have proved to be a constant and welcomed responsibility. The largest interagency projects we had this period was for the Portland Bureau of Transportation's pedestrian bridge project across N. Going St. and a road widening project on Swan Island. These large projects required considerable equipment and manpower to prune and remove a few dozen large trees. A smaller project for BES was for the pruning of 60+ trees along the Columbia buffer, which runs along the south side of North Columbia Boulevard.

Our planting crew is currently completing the latest of our park plantings and should have the last tree in the ground within the next few weeks. We will have a few trees leftover due to cancellations or conflicts and will work on finding homes though out the spring.

Our in house Arborist team is currently working feverishly to obtain all the necessary certifications for their new job classifications. We recently certified 6 arborists as crane operators and have 7 arborists slated to take the I.S.A. Certified Tree Worker exam later this month.

This next report should have our efforts focused on our annual firewood give-away, a Tree Steward workshop, an arborist recruitment and some larger pruning projects such as clearance work on Terwilliger Boulevard and Columbia Park. Stay tuned.

## Halprin Conservation Restoration Work at Pettygrove Park

Last year, Parks and the Halprin Conservancy entered into a partnership to allow the Conservancy to restore and enhance the Halprin sequence of spaces in the South Auditorium District. The Conservancy is fundraising for these efforts and has already raised approximately \$250,000. The first part of this effort is to restore and improve the park experience at Pettygrove Park. The work includes pruning trees in the park (which has already been completed), removing and replacing approximately twelve park trees, as well as irrigation and groundcover upgrades.

The Conservancy worked closely with the designer of the sequence, the influential landscape architect Lawrence Halprin before he passed away in 2009, to ensure that he supported the proposal. With regard to the trees, Mr. Halprin confirmed that they were planted to result in an early full canopy, later to be thinned over time to avoid overgrowth. The intent of the work at Pettygrove Park is to enliven the space, restore the irrigation and groundcover, and improve the tree root systems. Future work will also improve the park's grading and drainage, paved walks, and site furnishings.

A focused outreach with public noticing (signs, leaflets) will inform the public and neighbors of the planned work. Parks and the Conservancy look forward to completing this restoration work, reviewing the tree permit, and also to the anticipated placement of the sequence on the National Register of Historic Places. The Conservancy has also generously offered to provide on-going enhanced maintenance work, going above and beyond the care that Parks currently provides for Pettygrove Park.



*Improvements at Pettygrove Park are part of a larger partnership with the Halprin Conservancy to restore and enhance trees along the Halprin sequence of spaces in the South Auditorium District.*

## BES Interagency Updates

SUBMITTED BY FRANK KRAWCZYK, UF ARBORIST

CRYSTAL SPRINGS CREEK RESTORATION

For additional project information visit: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=55261&>

### *Eastmoreland Golf Course Section*

Twenty large logs, including several 30' long with large root wads attached, were delivered from E. Delta Park to Eastmoreland Golf Course for use in a BES project to restore a section of Crystal Springs Creek. The project area is at the north end of the golf course where Crystal Springs Creek passes through a culvert under a golf cart path.

Concrete will be removed from the creek bottom and a bridge will be installed over the creek. The creek banks and nearby floodplain will be graded and planted with native plants. BES will begin the project in May and will utilize the logs in and around to the creek as habitat for fish and other wildlife. Several large and declining weeping willows in the project area will be preserved for wildlife habitat.

### *SE 21st and Tenino Fish Passage Section*

Frank Krawczyk has been working with BES on a project to remove three culverts at SE 21st Ave and SE Tenino St. that pass under SE Tenino St., under a driveway at 8220 SE 21st Ave, and under SE Umatilla St. The banks of Crystal Springs Creek will be graded back and the vacant lot restored with native plantings. The plan is to eventually convert the restored corner lot where a house once stood at the 8220 SE 21st address to a Portland Park.

Urban Forestry crews performed exploratory root excavations next to a 30" western red cedar to determine if any significant roots were located where a new concrete wing wall is planned to be installed. Since no significant roots were found, plans to preserve the tree are moving forward. Urban Forestry crews removed private silk and cherry trees; a 7" cedar; a hazardous, leaning, beaver-damaged 24" cottonwood; and a hazardous, very hollow, seven-foot diameter Carolina poplar. An 80' aerial lift truck was rented to remove the 100' tall, ivy-covered poplar safely. Plans are also being developed to widen the narrow section of SE 21st Ave between SE Tacoma St. and SE Tenino St., where the giant poplar stood.



*The Urban Forestry crew removed a hazardous seven foot diameter Carolina poplar as part of the Crystal Springs creek restoration project.*

### EAST LENTS FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PHASE II

For additional project information visit: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=33213&a=286175>

The East Lents Floodplain Restoration Project is restoring historic floodplain along Johnson Creek. Work began in summer 2011 and the city completed the first construction phase in October 2011.

The second phase of work along Johnson Creek, just south of SE Foster Rd. between SE 106th Ave and SE 110th Ave is underway. Frank Krawczyk issued a permit to BES to remove 175 trees next to bridges and along the creek banks that will be deconstructed. A new street will be built to connect remaining residents in the area to SE 110th Ave when several existing streets and bridges over Johnson Creek are removed. The third, and last, phase of the project will involve the removal of remaining invasive trees in the project area. The flood control project will be planting 8,260 trees during Phase II, and a total of 18,884 trees overall.



## Save the Dates for Arbor Week

Portland will celebrate Arbor Week April 1-7 with a diverse array of tree tours, plantings, workshops, and socials. On Thursday, April 5th at the South Park Blocks the formal Arbor Day program will include a reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation, presentation of the Bill Naito Award, and a celebration of Portland's 35th year as a Tree City USA. A full schedule of Arbor Day events is included on page 5. For more information, contact Karl Dawson at 503-823-1650 or [karl.dawson@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:karl.dawson@portlandoregon.gov).

## Neighborhoods Meet to Begin Planning for Tree Inventories

Street tree inventory organizers from Hosford, Abernathy, Northwest District, and Sunnyside neighborhoods completed a planning workshop on organizing a tree team and completing a tree inventory. Over the next few months, each group will recruit tree team members and volunteers and plan four tree inventory work days.

Volunteers are especially needed to become inventory team leaders. Team leaders are paired with novice volunteers on work days, and the role requires some knowledge of tree identification, attendance at a training session on June 23, and commitment to participate in at least three inventory work days. Becoming a Team Leader is an excellent opportunity to improve your tree identification skills and learn more about assessing tree health and site conditions. For more information, contact Angie DiSalvo at [angie.disalvo@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:angie.disalvo@portlandoregon.gov).



*Kenton street tree Inventory volunteers preparing to collect data in 2011.*

## School Plantings Need Volunteers

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON

Neighborhood Tree Stewards are needed to teach tree planting to students at four school tree plantings this spring. These schools are in need of trees, and more importantly, the students need help learning to plant trees properly. These plantings are great opportunities to teach tree planting, green your neighborhood and work with students.

Plantings are part of PP&R's "Learning Landscape" program. Learning Landscape plantings are installed at schools using volunteers, students, and Neighborhood Tree Stewards. These plantings provide educational opportunities for students and neighbors to learn about tree genera and the importance of urban trees. PP&R works with Portland Public Schools staff to ensure that community infrastructure is in place to care for, water, mulch and replant the trees as needed.

### UPCOMING PP&R LEARNING LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS

- 3/3/2012 Da Vinci Art Middle School (2508 NE Everett). 9 trees.
- 3/16/2012 Rieke Elementary (1405 SW Vermont Ave). 16 trees with 400 students.
- 3/23/2012 Mt Tabor Middle School (5800 SE Ash St). 8 trees with 26 students.
- 3/18/2012. Woodmere Elementary School (7900 SE Duke). 26 trees with 300 students.

To volunteer, contact Karl Dawson 503-823-1650 [karl.dawson@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:karl.dawson@portlandoregon.gov). Volunteers are especially needed on March 16 and April 18th when we will be planting with the whole school!



*Neighborhood Tree Steward Casey Meredith teaching tree planting at Whitman Elementary school in 2007.*



## Arbor Week: April 1st - 7th, 2012

### **Willamette Bluff Heritage Tree Bike Ride**

Peninsula Park Rose Garden, 700 N Ainsworth St.

Join City Arborists and Neighborhood Tree Stewards for this 6-mile bike ride to Overlook Neighborhood's unique heritage trees. Learn their history, tree identification, and pedal through North Portland's smaller parks.

**Sunday, April 1st**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **Magnolia Tour**

Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center, 4000 SW Fairview Blvd.

Walk along with Hoyt Arboretum's Curator Martin Nicholson. Come see and smell this season's magnolia blooms and learn amazing facts about the magnolia species located at Hoyt Arboretum.

**Monday, April 2nd**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

### **Mature Tree Tour**

Holiday Park, 1101 NE Holladay St.

Join City Arborist for a fun lunch time tour of Holladay Park's mature trees. Learn about tree care techniques, pruning equipment, best practices, and information to know when hiring arborists.

**Tuesday, April 3rd**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

### **Drought-Tolerant Trees for Portland's 21 Century**

Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Ave. 2nd Floor

Join Neighborhood Tree Steward Jim Gersbach for a talk on hardy, drought-tolerant trees for Portland's future urban forest.

**Wednesday, April 4th**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

### **Local Tree Care Providers Workshop**

Arborist & tree care companies are encouraged to learn more about Portland's tree permitting requirements and street tree maintenance standards. To register, contact Urban Forestry at 503-823-4489.

**Wednesday, April 4th**

### **In the Shadow of An Elm, Arbor Day**

South Park Block, SW Market St. & SW Clay St.

Learn about the benefits of trees with activities and booths from members of the Tree Steward Coalition. Get a squirrel's-eye-view of the urban forest in Urban Forestry's bucket truck. Celebrate Portland's 35th year as a Tree City USA with the Arbor Day Proclamation and Bill Naito Community Trees Award. Food & drinks provided.

**Thursday, April 5th**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **Evening Social**

Lucky Lab Public House, 7675 SW Capitol Hwy.

Celebrate Portland's trees and our amazing Tree Stewards. Hear about new Tree Steward projects and mingle with fellow tree enthusiasts. Snacks provided & no host bar.

**Thursday, April 5th**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### **Ladybug Walk**

Laurelhurst Park, SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. SE Ankeny St.

Take your youngster on a guided nature walk. Touch slimy slugs, smell tree bark, feel crinkly and soft leaves, and hear musical bird songs. \$3 per preschooler, no charge for adults.

**Friday, April 6th**

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

### **Portland State University Community Orchard Planting**

SW 12th Ave. & SW Montgomery St.

Come learn about the newest student garden on PSU's campus. The PSU Community Garden is a partnership between the ODOT & PSU Sustainability where a diversity of fruit tree species will be planted.

**Friday, April 6th**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **Laurelhurst Park Tree Walk**

Laurelhurst Park, SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. SE Ankeny St.

Take a historical walk through one of Portland's oldest parks with Phyllis Reynolds, author of *Trees of Greater Portland* and expert taxonomist.

**Friday, April 6th**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

### **Neighborhood Greenway Planting**

SE 86th Ave. - SE 87th Ave.

Help Friends of Trees "Green the Greenways" by assisting in planting trees along the bike boulevard running from NE Hassalo to SE Bush. For more information, visit [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org).

**Saturday, April 7th**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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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 granted if the tree is dead, dy-

ing, 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).