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.

RAIN, WIND, AND SNOW BRING EMERGENCY CALL OUTS

Heavy rain, wet snow, and wind in March brought many tree failures throughout all parts of the City. The northwest and southwest areas were the centers of activity, including NW Germantown Road, NW Cornell, and the SW hills, with their higher elevations and abundance of trees in undeveloped rights-of-way.



A flowering plum failure in March.

MARCH 2012 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

| | INSPECTIONS COMPLETED | TREES INSPECTED | PERMITS ISSUED | TREES PERMITTED |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| STREET TREES | | | | |
| Planting, general | 87 | 279 | 36 | 100 |
| Grey to Green | 204 | 501 | 926 | 1802 |
| Land use reviews | 56 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Development | 193 | - | 83 | 197 |
| Pruning | 95 | 277 | 101 | 288 |
| Removal | 59 | 120 | 88 | 1875 |
| Root pruning | 25 | 42 | 23 | 45 |
| Other | 76 | 145 | 8 | 11 |
| PARK TREES | | | | |
| Planting | 7 | 21 | 10 | 66 |
| Pruning | 15 | 61 | 15 | 61 |
| Removal | 13 | 402 | 12 | 25 |
| Root pruning | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Other | 19 | 363 | 4 | 58 |
| PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO) | | | | |
| Code applicability inspections | 69 | - | - | - |
| Planting, mitigation | - | - | - | 12 |
| Removal | 27 | 46 | 19 | 21 |
| EMERGENCIES | | | | |
| Emergency call outs | 83 | 106 | - | - |
| TOTALS | | | | |
| Planting | 547 | 801 | 1053 | 2178 |
| Pruning | 110 | 338 | 116 | 349 |
| Removal | 168 | 568 | 119 | 1921 |
| Root Pruning | 26 | 45 | 24 | 48 |
| Other | 95 | 508 | 12 | 69 |
| Emergencies | 83 | 106 | - | - |
| Totals | 1029 | 2366 | 1324 | 4565 |

Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF CREW SUPERVISOR

This report period was an absolute whirlwind. Between storm events, equipment failures, high profile work orders, training and outreach opportunities, this proved to be the most exciting month I have had since my tenure here. There is not enough praise to go around for our inhouse forestry team and the way they stepped up for our latest round of storm events. We had a few high profile tree failures in the South Park Blocks that proved to be very challenging. These tree failures were followed by a wind and snow event in the northwest and southwest hills which accounted for sleepless nights and numerous street closures due to toppled trees.

Washington Park view clearing occurred, where we carefully removed and pruned selected trees to reclaim the inspiring views of the City and Mt. Hood. A failure of a Douglas-fir tree near a play structure at Mt. Tabor Park brought our attention to an additional handful of trees that had to be removed due to decay.

Special events included our assistance with tree planting at Rieke Elementary School. It was a fun rewarding event that involved both classroom instruction and planting. Events such as this remind us why we got into this business! It was truly a fun experience. Another outreach opportunity was a Tree Steward workshop, where I presented on minimizing the impacts of construction on trees. It proved to be informative and engaging.

Interagency agreements this month included finishing up the Portland Bureau of Transportation's pedestrian bridge project across N. Going St. and a road widening project on Swan Island. Another week was added to the



Scott Montague, currently a Utilility Worker, tests for the ISA Certified Tree Worker exam.

BES Columbia buffer project, which includes pruning of 60+ trees along the Columbia buffer.

The forestry crew trained and studied feverishly for their International Society of Arboriculture Certified Tree Worker Exam, which included a written and skills test. The skills test included climbing and bucket operation. Both exams focused on knowledge, skills and most importantly, safety. Everyone helped their fellow workers prepare for the challenge.

South Park Block Trees Inspected



Elm failure at SW Jefferson and SW Park

Several high profile elms failed in March, causing Urban Forestry to inspect trees for safety concerns. On March 21, a 75' elm at SW Jefferson and SW Park toppled into St. James Lutheran Church. A pedestrian was trapped beneath tree and suffered a broken clavicle and the church sustained several broken windows. A week later, on SW Park Avenue, between Southwest Columbia and Southwest Clay, a large elm branch failed, totaling a car and breaking windows in a nearby apartment complex. Urban Forestry crews responded and removed both trees.

The two high profile failures prompted inspections of trees in the South Park Blocks by Urban Forestry Tree Inspectors and supervisors. The blocks are predominately occupied by elms, many of which are 80 to 100 years old. Using tree hazard assessment criteria, seven elms were identified for removal. A dozen elm trees will receive substantial weight reduction to reduce failure risk and pruning to minimize low limbs, hangers and dead wood. An additional eight elms will undergo resistograph testing for wood decay and will be further monitored. Crews will begin work on the highest priority trees now, and work will continue in coming months.

2012 Arbor Week Celebrates Trees With Diverse Activities

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON







PP&R Urban Forestry staff Myles Black, Rory Cramer, and Harvey Fullwiley at the Arbor Day Celebration; Rory guides a passenger on a bucket ride; a young audience gathers to watch the bucket truck.

On Thursday April 5th Portland's Arbor Week peaked with an Arbor Day Celebration in the South Park Blocks. Parks' Director Mike Abbaté and Urban Forestry Commission Chair Joe Poracsky accepted Portland's 35th Tree City USA Award from Oregon State Urban and Community Forester Paul Ries. Portland Parks & Recreation partners were also there to celebrate trees including Hoyt Arboretum, Friend of Trees, Bureau of Environmental Services, Neighborhood Tree Stewards, PSU's Ecological Restoration Guild, Verde, Portland Fruit Tree Project, Parks' Environmental Education, and Urban Forestry high climbers and our own "Tree Doctors," Urban Forestry tree inspectors. During the ceremony, Bob Naito presented the 15th annual Bill Naito Community Trees Award.

Arbor Week was an opportunity to have fun and learn about trees. The day after receiving the Bill Naito Award, Phyllis Reynolds led a group of 42 people on an extensive 90 minute tree walk of Laurelhurst Park.

On Monday, Martin Nicholson gave a fascinating tour of the beautiful Hoyt Arboretum Magnolia collection and on Tuesday, Urban Forestry high climber Joe Mendez and Forestry Supervisor Larry Maginnis gave a detailed tree care walk of Holladay Park. Portland Parks & Recreation also sponsored a "brown bag" lecture on drought tolerant trees by Neighborhood Tree Steward Jim Gersbach. Urban Forestry supervisors Rob Crouch and Larry Maginnis taught a Portland Tree Care Providers workshop for local arborists and 2011 Neighborhood Tree Steward Emily Wilson led a great heritage tree bike ride looking at heritage trees in Overlook neighborhood. The week ended with a neighborhood Greenway plantings in SE Portland with Friends of Trees and opportunities for work with PP&R on natural area restoration in Forest Park. Something tree for everyone in all parts of the City to celebrate Portland's 35th year as a Tree City USA!







Phyllis Reynolds introduces tour members to the trees of Laurelhurst Park; Hoyt Arboretum curator Martin Nicholson explains magnolia flower structure; Neighborhood Tree Steward Jim Gersbach discusses drought tolerant trees for Portland.

2012 Bill Naito Awards Recognize Community Leaders in Forestry

The Bill Naito Community Trees Award was created in honor of the late developer and community leader Bill Naito, who did so much to beautify Portland with trees. Mr. Naito helped found Portland's Urban Forestry Commission in 1974 and served as chair for 22 years, rarely missing a meeting. No one in Portland was more tenacious than Bill Naito at encouraging the planting of trees. Please join Urban Forestry in acknowledging the following individuals and groups who recieved the 2012 Bill Naito Award Community Tree Awards.

Individual Award: Phyllis Reynolds is recognized for her four decades of imaginative, accurate, tireless, generous, and outspoken advocacy of urban trees. Examples of her work include her well-known book, Trees of Greater Portland, her many articles about noteworthy trees in subsequent years, her numerous tree identification walks, and her achievements in helping to map trees in both public parks and on private land such as the Reed College campus.

Group Award: The Concordia Tree Team is a leader in their community and the City. The Concordia Tree Team proved what can be accomplished when a handful of people are dedicated to increasing their understanding of their urban forest, to educating others, and to actions that will benefit future generations who will be caring for neighborhood trees. They are recognized for forming a cohesive and productive tree team, conducting tree planting and education events, completing an inventory of their diverse neighborhood's street trees, writing a neighborhood tree plan that reflects their neighborhood's needs, and communicating their efforts to their neighbors.

In Memoriam Award: David Odom is recognized for his unselfish dedication to protecting trees and for his generous and articulate way of teaching. David was a tireless volunteer for various tree groups, even while he worked as a professional forester for the cities of Lake Oswego and Gresham and non-profit Friends of Trees. As an Urban Forestry Commissioner, David logged long hours working on budget and policy issues, writing the annual report, and attending public meetings.



Bill Naito's son, Bob Naito, presented awards during the Arbor Day celebration. Phyllis Reynolds received the individual award for her numerous contributions.



Bob Palleson and Dove Hotz of the Concordia Tree Team accepted the group award for their many efforts to improve the urban forest in their neighborhood.



Emma Gray of Friends of Trees accepted the In Memoriam Award for past Urban Forestry Commissioner David Odom.

Urban Forestry Permits

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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).