



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.

ELM PROTECTION SEASON BEGINS

June begins the season for sampling elms with signs of flagging or stress for Dutch elm disease. For the third year, Danielle Fuchs returned as Elm Monitor and elm concerns can be directed to her at pkelm@portlandoregon.gov. Between June 18 and July 16, Urban Forestry arborists will inoculate 112 select Park and public trees with Arbotect to help prevent the spread of the disease.

GREY TO GREEN CANVASSER TRAINED

Frank Krawczyk provided street tree planting training for ten BES Grey-to-Green canvassers on May 30th at St. Johns Community Center. Classroom and field training was provided to help canvassers determine street tree planting potential during their summer door-to-door efforts throughout Portland's neighborhoods. Actual planting inspections and curb marking will be performed by experienced, returning staff that will receive a more detailed training later in the season.

MAY 2012 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	TREES INSPECTED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES				
Planting, general	15	66	38	87
Grey to Green	0	0	160	421
Land use reviews	29	-	1	2
Development	243	-	140	144
Pruning	115	408	120	344
Removal	97	260	72	184
Root pruning	60	143	52	113
Other	106	360	14	141
PARK TREES				
Planting	2	2	1	1
Pruning	5	16	6	22
Removal	6	12	4	5
Root pruning	0	0	0	0
Other	13	294	0	0
PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)				
Code applicability inspections	87	-	-	-
Planting, mitigation	-	-	-	10
Removal	12	22	10	19
EMERGENCIES				
Emergency call outs	62	77	-	-
TOTALS				
Planting	287	66	339	654
Pruning	120	424	126	366
Removal	202	294	86	208
Root Pruning	60	143	52	113
Other	119	654	14	141
Emergencies	62	77	-	-
Totals	850	1658	617	1482

Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF CREW SUPERVISOR

Forestry crews focused primarily on large park projects and interagency agreements throughout the city this month. Desirable weather conditions earlier this month allowed us to get into various parks normally inundated with moisture and soggy turf conditions. We were fortunate to be able to complete a lot of pressing issues that we normally would not be able to access.

Elm removals in the South Park Blocks and the view clearing along Terwilliger Boulevard continued to be high profile jobs. After additional investigation and assessment in the South Park Blocks, we have identified four additional removals to be completed in the near future. The view clearing along Terwilliger Boulevard is almost finished. Weather permitting we hope to have it completed in time for the centennial celebration. We have also been working on safety issues along the entire boulevard corridor. All low hanging and hazardous limbs threatening the roadway are being removed.

Special events include the Women In Trades Fair at which Arborists Joe Mendez and Jayne Lacey represented PP&R with a tree elevator activity. According to event organizers, it was one of the most popular booths at the event.

Now that the trees are fully leafed out, our interagency agreements for stop signs, traffic signals and street lights has increased ten fold. It is a necessary responsibility in regards to public safety and we are outfitted perfectly for this task.

Our planting season was very successful and rains have helped minimize the transplant shock we would normally expect. With summer arriving, we are signing on our seasonal tree establishers who will be responsible for the watering, weeding, mulching and monitoring of all our trees planted in the last few years. This includes in-house as well as our interagency tree plantings. All of our seasoned establishers from last year are returning.

We are getting a little closer in completing the recruitment process for our new staff arborists. By next report period we should have completed the hiring of five positions for both the Arborist I and Arborist II vacancies.

The next report period will have us focusing on additional South Park Block and Sellwood Park removals as well as performing work in our new land acquisitions. Stay tuned.



Arborists Jayne Lacey and Joe Mendez assist a Women in Trades Fair participant as she heads up the tree elevator.

Summer Fruit Care Workshops

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON

Dates: June 12, June 19, and June 27

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Join PP&R to learn the basics of summer fruit tree care during this three-part class. Each class will include a lecture and hands-on practice working in the Delta Park and Columbia Children's Park orchards. Topics include common insect and disease problems and their control measures, tree selection, summer pruning, tree structure, and fruit thinning. The classes will provide information about all aspects of apples, pears, plums, cherries, and peach trees. Classes will be taught by Clackamas Community College horticulture instructor Bruce Nelson and PP&R staff. No pruning experience is necessary and tools are provided. Question? Contact Karl Dawson at 503-823-1650 or trees@portlandoregon.gov.

Root Barrier Test Initiated

SUBMITTED BY FRANK KRAWCZYK, UF ARBORIST



DeepRoot barriers are made of injection molded polypropylene and are .080" thick.

A root barrier test site was created as part of a joint effort with PP&R Urban Forestry, the Bureau of Environmental Services, and the Bureau of Transportation to monitor the long term effectiveness of root barriers in small planting strips. Two inch caliper street trees and linear root barriers were installed at Albina Yard, a Bureau of Maintenance site bound by N. Mississippi Ave., N. Cook St., and N. Borthwick Ave. Verde Landscape, managed by Urban Forestry Commissioner Ricardo Moreno, planted 28 Rocky Mountain Glow Maple, Persian Ironwood, and Japanese Snowbell trees in three foot wide or smaller planting strips. Each species group received one of three root barrier treatments, either a 12" DeepRoot root barrier, an 18" DeepRoot root barrier, or no root barrier. Barriers were 6 feet in length, assembled from 2' long rigid panels that clip together, and were installed along the sidewalk face only. Staff will monitor the site over time to evaluate the effectiveness of rigid root barriers of different sizes in reducing sidewalk damage.



The Verde Landscape crew installing trees and root barriers.

Tree Code Amendment Update

SUBMITTED BY MIEKE KEENAN, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

On May 17, 2012 the Urban Forestry Commission voted unanimously to forward the Proposed Housekeeping Amendments to Title 11 Trees and Title 33 Planning and Zoning to City Council. The UFC also discussed general Tree Code permit requirements and code implementation. Although unrelated to the amendments, UFC's recommendations are relevant to the implementation and overall administration of the new regulations. The following provides staff response to concerns.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The UFC focused their discussion on public outreach and how staff will communicate the new regulations to the public. Staff is committed to launching a far-reaching public outreach plan that will include creating and distributing materials on the new regulations in plain language. Staff will include the UFC in review of outreach materials.

CODE COMMENTARY

The UFC raised questions on the description of abutting right of way provided in the amendment commentary. Staff clarified that the amendment commentary is provided to describe the proposed amendments and will not be part of the final code. Staff will revise and simplify commentary for the recommended draft prior to Council review.

STREET TREE PRUNING SIZE THRESHOLD

Two people testified on the effectiveness and enforceability of the ¼" branch pruning size- threshold for street trees. The UFC echoed their concern and asked staff to analyze and clarify the size threshold. Staff will explain the ¼" size threshold in communication and outreach efforts, and monitor the outcomes and effects of the online street tree pruning program.

TREE PERMIT TRACKING

The UFC directed staff to monitor tree permit activity for large tree removal on private property when a public notice is not required. The existing permitting system, TRACS, has the ability to track and produce reports on permits and permit related information. Staff is in the process of creating tracking requirements for new permits that will include such monitoring. Staff will include the UFC in review of monitoring protocols.

Volunteers Visit Heritage Trees to Practice Inspection Techniques

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO



Volunteers learn about the Heritage Tree program and how to get involved in nominating and publicizing the program.

On Rose Festival day, parade goers may have encountered a dozen yellow-vested volunteers inspecting trees in Washington Park and Goose Hollow. Urban Forestry staff Lou Phemister, Angie DiSalvo, and Autumn Montegna taught volunteers how to complete inspections on Heritage Trees, including conducting a visual survey, adjusting plaques, photographing, measuring, and reporting problems. Additionally, volunteers will contact property owners in order to gather history and anecdotes on their heritage trees. With 300 trees in the Heritage Tree program, volunteer inspections help a busy staff stay on top of pressing issues with these important trees.

Inventory Team Leaders Needed

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO

Looking to improve your tree identification skills? Team Leaders are needed to guide small groups collecting street tree inventory data in Hosford-Abernethy, NW District, and Sunnyside neighborhoods. Team leaders must attend a training session and commit to participate in three inventory work days. During work days, team leaders will teach novice volunteers how to identify, measure, map, and assess condition of trees. Training is offered Saturday, June 23, at SE Uplift at 3534 SE Main St. Sign up for one session, either 8:30 AM-noon or 1:00-4:30 PM, at <http://tinyurl.com/teamleader2012>.

Street tree inventory work days will be conducted on Saturdays from June 30 through September 22 from 8:30 am to noon. Staff estimate that volunteers will inventory 15,000 in the three participating neighborhoods.

Tree Inventory Project Welcomes Christina Schull



Christina Schull joins PP&R as this season's tree inventory coordinator.

Please welcome Christina Schull to Urban Forestry's tree inventory team. Christina will be leading inventory work days, collecting data, and analyzing tree inventory findings. She has been a conservation advocate, botanist, and landscaper in many regions and has worked for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, and the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center. Christina worked as a seasonal for PP&R City Nature East last year providing natural area maintenance. She also volunteered for Urban Forestry collecting tree inventory data and contributing to the Concordia neighborhood stewardship plan. Also, she is a crew leader for Friends of Trees. Outside of the workplace, she enjoys gardening, hiking, cooking, and creating music and art. Christina is looking forward to plant identification challenges and bringing the community together, and she welcomes your questions and input as we delve into the 2012 season.

To contact Christina, please call her Tuesday through Saturday 7:00 to 3:30 at 503-823-6332 or e-mail: christina.schull@portlandoregon.gov.

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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 FOT 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 FOT. 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 FOT.

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,

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).