



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.

WESTMORELAND PARK REDEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Frank Krawczyk and David Kahler have been reviewing plans and producing an arborist report for the redevelopment of Westmoreland Park. PP&R and BES are partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore Crystal Springs Creek and enhance the riparian area for improved fish habitat. A large buffer zone consisting of native aquatic and marsh plants will accompany creek bank and creek bottom restoration, and the placement of logs and root wads in the creek. Several bridges over the creek will be removed and paths will be moved away from the banks. More information on the project can be found at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=55261>

AUGUST 2012 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

| | INSPECTIONS COMPLETED | TREES INSPECTED | PERMITS ISSUED | TREES PERMITTED |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| STREET TREES | | | | |
| Planting, general | 64 | 102 | 25 | 55 |
| Grey to Green | 749 | 1554 | 0 | 0 |
| Land use reviews | 37 | - | 1 | 2 |
| Development | 196 | - | 77 | 82 |
| Pruning | 157 | 484 | 160 | 476 |
| Removal | 91 | 146 | 56 | 97 |
| Root pruning | 59 | 198 | 43 | 79 |
| Other | 112 | 976 | 22 | 26 |
| PARK TREES | | | | |
| Planting | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Pruning | 22 | 136 | 23 | 134 |
| Removal | 15 | 27 | 19 | 53 |
| Root pruning | 3 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Other | 26 | 298 | 4 | 29 |
| PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO) | | | | |
| Code applicability inspections | 106 | - | - | - |
| Planting, mitigation | - | - | - | 12 |
| Removal | 37 | 47 | 25 | 37 |
| EMERGENCIES | | | | |
| Emergency call outs | 46 | 56 | - | - |
| TOTALS | | | | |
| Planting | 1048 | 1666 | 103 | 151 |
| Pruning | 179 | 620 | 183 | 610 |
| Removal | 249 | 220 | 100 | 187 |
| Root Pruning | 62 | 205 | 46 | 86 |
| Other | 138 | 1274 | 26 | 55 |
| Emergencies | 46 | 56 | - | - |
| Totals | 1742 | 4041 | 458 | 1089 |

Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF CREW SUPERVISOR

This was a very exciting report period for the Urban Forestry crew. The International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) annual conference and Tree Climbing Championship was located in Portland this month and many of our staff took the opportunity to benefit from all the activities. Based on ISA reports, it was the largest conference ever attended and we had a large role in many of the happenings. There was a continual outpouring of adoration and awe over our tree resource and it was great to be a part of the event.

Laurelhurst Park proved to be a great location hosting the Tree Climbing Championship, as well as an Arbor Fair and Arbor Market. Portland residents poured into the park and took part in the festivities. Our department had a strong presence as well with our arborists and new aerial lift trucks giving free bucket rides to the community and our Urban Forestry Stewardship booth at the fair. The common theme and feedback for the weekend was "Wow." The ISA was extremely grateful for our involvement and support, and hopes to re-create the success of this event at next year's conference.

Several of our staff attended the conference itself and are extremely grateful for the opportunity. We also had several staff members who took the certified arborist exam and have received their results. I am happy to report that we now have 4 additional Certified Arborists on the Urban Forestry crew. Congratulations to John Watkins, Jerome Johnson, Rory Cramer and Scott Montague for a job well done. This increases the number of crew certified to seven with more to follow. Another accolade attained this during the conference was by arborist Joe Mendez who attended a three day workshop hosted by the Tree Care Industry Association. He is now a Certified Tree Care Safety Professional and will be introducing many of the ideas and lessons learned to our in house crews.

During the conference Urban Forestry also hosted the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) tour through the city. 95 city arborists and foresters from across the world boarded buses and were provided with a tour of our beautiful parks and introduced to many of our initiatives. Stops included Ira Keller Fountain with Mike Abbaté, Hoyt Arboretum with curator Martin Nicholson, Washington Park with tree inspector Lou Phemister and former Urban Forestry Coordinator Rob Crouch. A stop at 12th and Montgomery provided folks with an intro-



Urban Forestry arborists and their new bucket trucks were a hit with the public at the Tree Climbing Championship.

duction to our bioswales and Green Streets initiative hosted by tree inspector Frank Krawczyk. The tour was a big success and our department continues to receive inquiries in regards to our practices.

Summer limb drop phenomenon has been plaguing our elm and sweetgum trees, with one incident injuring an athlete. These incidents have captured the eyes of the media.

Other crew efforts were focused on removals at Lovejoy Fountain. The elms are exceptionally large and require a significant amount of equipment and labor to facilitate their removals. With several completed we anticipate a handful more before the end of the season. PP&R Director Mike Abbaté joined the crew for the removal of three elm trees located in city right-of-way. It was an eye opening visit which included crane work and a bucket ride by Mike himself. It was proved to be a nice team building event that was appreciated by the crew.

The next report period should include additional elm removals including a few remaining in the South Park Blocks. Also, hazardous bigleaf maple removals (8) in Sellwood Park should hopefully be completed. Inter-agency agreements and the rush to complete tasks before the rainy season should round out our task list and keep us very busy.



This 72" diameter bigleaf maple failed at Council Crest Park in August and was removed by the Urban Forestry crew. The tree is located in the turf area in the top circle of Council Crest Park, just to the southwest of the water tower and near the sculpture. The tree had recently been nominated for Heritage Tree status but did not receive committee approval due to its questionable health.

Elm Monitor Update

SUBMITTED BY DANIELLE FUCHS, ELM MONITOR

While we have been enjoying a nice long summer, the elm trees are starting to show their first blush of fall color, thankfully signaling the near end of the Dutch elm disease season. 37 elm trees have been diagnosed with Dutch elm disease this year. SE Portland was hit the hardest, with 26 cases. Of the ten Hosford-Abernethy cases, three were in Ladd's Addition. The seven Downtown cases were in Lovejoy Fountain (four trees) and along SW 1st Avenue between Harrison and Lincoln. The 14 Sellwood-Moreland trees were in a cluster along the railroad tracks in the Springwater Corridor Gap at SE 11th Avenue, at the very southern edge of the city. These trees ranged in size from saplings to 12 inches in diameter.

Most of the trees that were diagnosed with DED this year have been removed already, but many stumps remain. Urban Forestry crews will work on removing the stumps in the next few weeks after all of the DED-positive trees have been removed.

Two elm samples are currently in the lab being tested for DED. One of the trees sampled is also along SW 1st Avenue between Harrison and Lincoln, and the other one is in the southernmost South Park Block, near SW Jackson Street.

The final DED report will be presented to the Urban Forestry Commission on October 18th, time TBD, in the Lovejoy Room of City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Avenue. The meetings are open to the public. The final DED report will also be published online and will present more details about the yearly and cumulative incidence of Dutch elm disease in Portland.

Pruning of elm trees can resume on October 15th. Call Urban Forestry at 503-823-4489 for a free pruning permit before pruning any street tree.



UF Arborist Rory Cramer tours PP&R Director Mike Abbate through an infected elm tree being removed.

INCIDENCE OF DUTCH ELM DISEASE, SEPTEMBER 2012

| Neighborhood | Quadrant | Confirmed cases | Suspected cases |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Laurelhurst | NE | 1 | |
| Piedmont | NE | 3 | |
| Eastmoreland | SE | 2 | |
| Hosford-Abernethy | SE | 10 | |
| Sellwood-Moreland | SE | 14 | |
| Downtown | SW | 7 | 2 |
| | <i>Totals</i> | 37 | 2 |

OSU Plant Pathology Lab Visit

SUBMITTED BY DANIELLE FUCHS, ELM MONITOR

In August I visited the Oregon State University Plant Pathology Clinic along with Frank Krawczyk, the elm removal inspector, and Angie DiSalvo, Urban Forestry's Botanic Specialist. Urban Forestry has been sending elm samples to the Plant Clinic to test for Dutch elm disease (DED) for the past three summers, and I finally got the opportunity to put faces to names and see what this troublesome fungus looks like under a microscope.

In Corvallis, Melodie Putnam, the lab's director, welcomed us into a cramped lab space with a strong fungal odor. She introduced us to Maryna Serdani, the head diagnostician, who walked us through their work after receiving a sample from a tree suspected to have DED.

The samples I send consist of several branch pieces, ½-1" in diameter and around 6" long. Each branch gets plated separately. The fungus responsible for DED lives inside the cambium, and Serdani's first task is to sterilize the outside of each branch piece so other fungi do not contaminate the sample. The bark is scrubbed to remove any dirt and moss, and then the sample is dipped in a bleach solution, rinsed, and dried. Once the outside of the sample is sterile, the bark is sliced off to expose a section of the inner sapwood. Serdani looks for discoloration of the sapwood to indicate the presence of the fungus. She then slices five thin pieces from each branch and plates them in a cross pattern on nutrient agar Petri dishes. The Petri dishes are labeled and incubated for one week at 20 degrees Celsius.

The Dutch elm disease fungus has two states: *graphium* and *sporothrix*. In an elm, the sporothrix state develops first, blocking the xylem and starving the tree. The graphium state is the sporific state; the fungus develops balls of spores under the bark that burst upon contact with a bark beetle. The beetle then carries these spores stuck to its back from tree to tree.

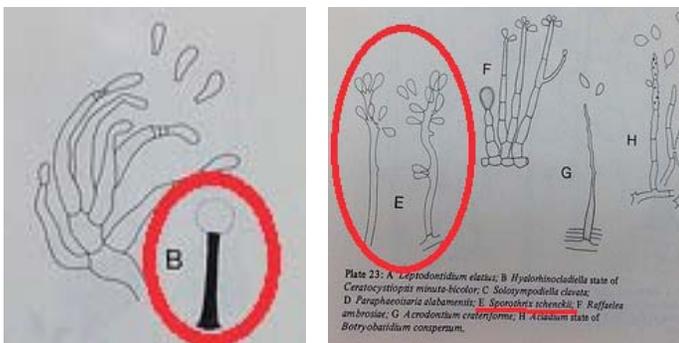


Maryna Serdani explains the DED diagnosis procedure.

Serdani confirms the presence of DED when both fungal stages are visible on the plate. She brought out a sample plate where the fungus had been growing for a week or so. Viewing the plate under 10x magnification, I immediately recognized the graphium state. It resembles a lamp post, with a single black stock holding up a globular white ball. The sporothrix state is much smaller in comparison, and I had to focus in to view the pale, cartoonishly tree-like structures.

Serdani also cultivates pure cultures once the fungus is revealed on a sample. The fungus can live up to several months on the agar plate. Serdani and Putnam don't know exactly which species of *Ophiostoma* are infecting Portland's elm trees, but they suspect that both *O. ulmi* and *O. novo-ulmi* are present. Putnam explains that research into the genetics of *Ophiostoma* has been conducted recently in Spain, but not in the Pacific Northwest.

Angie, Frank, and I leave with a great appreciation for the work that these two women do in their tiny lab at OSU. They diagnose common and mysterious plant diseases from all over Oregon and neighboring states, analyzing dozens of specimens each week. We'd like to thank them for their intense dedication and skill!



From left to right: the sporothrix state, the graphium state, *Ophiostoma* growing around infected sapwood on a nutrient agar plate, and a pure culture of *Ophiostoma*.

Neighborhood Tree Steward Training to Begin

SUBMITTED BY AUTUMN MONTEGNA, UF OUTREACH

The 14th annual Neighborhood Tree Steward (NTS) training begins September 25. The seven class survey course is the result of collaboration with partners to provide a high quality and unique program.

Damon Schrosk from Treecology, Inc., Kris Day from Friends of Trees, Jennifer Karps from Bureau of Environmental Services, Pam Sodja from Portland General Electric, and Geof Donovan from USDA Forest Service are just a few of the expert guest speakers who will be donating their time to teach this year's new cohort of Tree Stewards. Urban Forestry staff Jenn Cairo, Karl Dawson, Angie DiSalvo, Dave Kahler, and Larry Maginis are also presenting. After graduation, Neighborhood Tree Stewards take on the role of tree resource, guide and advocate for trees in their neighborhood.

The training culminates at Dig-It, an event to celebrate the beginning of planting season and the NTS graduation. Dig-It will be held at Lent Elementary School in southeast Portland and is past location of the 2007 Arbor Day and Learning Landscape tree plantings.

Urban Forestry Commission members are invited to attend any or all of the NTS classes including Dig-It. This is a great opportunity to meet this year's group of tree enthusiasts and future tree advocates. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Autumn Montegna at 503-701-7622 or autumn.montegna@portland-oregon.gov.

NEIGHBORHOOD TREE STEWARD SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 6:00-8:30 PM

Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Ave.

Orientation: Overview of the NTS program, meet members of the Tree Steward Coalition and program organizers, and hear from seasoned Tree Stewards.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Mt. Scott Community Center, 5530 SW 72nd Ave

Pruning: Learn tree biology basics and practice pruning with certified arborists.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Charles Jordan Community Center, 9009 N. Foss Ave.

The City's Trees: City programs and tree identification

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mt. Tabor Middle School, 5800 SE Ash St.

Trees in the City: Role of PP&R Urban Forestry and utilities

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

TBD

NTS Projects: Networking with local tree organizations and volunteer opportunities.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Ave

The Value of Urban Trees: Benefits that trees provide

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 8:00 AM - 1 PM

Lent School, 5406 SE 97th Ave.

Dig It: Tree planting and graduation ceremony



The 2011 Neighborhood Tree Steward Class graduation photo at Dig-It. A recent graduate noted that the best part of the training was "being exposed to many experts, their skills and ideas. I was impressed with the quality of presenters and their love of their work."

Youth Crew Completes Season

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON, UF OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The Portland Parks & Recreation's Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) completed their six week tree care program August 29. In total, the six-member YCC established over 350 trees and pruned 150 trees for low branches. Establishment included mulching, weeding, pruning, and watering trees planted by Neighborhood Tree Stewards. Pruning projects occurred at Ed Benedict Park for trail passage and visibility improvement. Urban Forestry Supervisor Larry Maginnis and the Urban Forestry arborists taught YCC members about proper tree care and careers in arboriculture.

The 2012 crew members included Crew Leader John Ryan, 3rd year crew members Omar Salazar and Mubarak Husein, 2nd year crew member Brandon Montoya, and first year crew members Nikki Acevedo, Dayja Curry, and Eden Haskins-Hahl.



YCC Crew Leader John Ryan assists crew members Nikki Acevedo and Ed Haskins-Hahls with a park pruning.

Orchard Harvest Help Needed

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON, UF OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Fruit Tree Project and the East Columbia Neighborhood Association are partnering to harvest and clean up the Columbia Children's Arboretum orchard at 10040 NE 6th Drive. Planted in 1977 by school children, the orchard has over 40 apple trees which produce an immense amount of fruit. Help is needed on Saturday September 22nd and October 13th from 9:00 am to noon to harvest fruit, remove rotting fruit, and rake leaves. This annual clean up helps remove winter habitat of orchard pests. Fruit harvested is shared among the volunteers and with a local food bank. For more information, contact Karl Dawson at 503-823-1650.

Save the Date for Tree Inventory Summit on November 10

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO, BOTANIC SPECIALIST



A crew preparing to inventory Sunnyside street trees.

Neighborhood street tree inventory work days are over and staff and volunteers are busy entering data and compiling results. Now is the time for neighborhoods to begin thinking about the next step - how will tree teams use the data to improve their urban forest? To help, Urban Forestry is planning a Tree Inventory Summit on Saturday, November 10 at St. Johns Community Center. The summit will review results, compare findings amongst neighborhoods, and assist communities in creating neighborhood tree plans. Residents of Hosford-Abernethy, NW District, and Sunnyside are encouraged to attend, along with others interested in crafting a plan to ensure the urban forest thrives. Urban Forestry Commissioners are invited to participate and attend.



Hosford-Abernethy volunteers identifying an apricot tree.

Urban Forestry Permits

Portland Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry issues permits for all street and park tree plantings, pruning, and removals. In certain cases, UF 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. Please see City Codes 20.40 and 20.42 for details.

Each month, the Forester's Report gives monthly inspection and permit totals. Because not all inspections result in permit issuance, metrics of both inspections and permits issued are included. Below are descriptions of the inspection and permit types reported.

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).