



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.

ANNUAL PLANTING REPORT RELEASED

In the 2011-2012 planting season, PP&R was involved with the planting of 33,469 trees throughout Portland! PP&R grows and procures trees; plants trees in parks, schools, and on city property; issues permits for street tree plantings; and requires trees to be planted when certain private trees are removed and when development occurs. The annual report provides a tally of the many trees that PP&R is involved in planting each year.

The report can be downloaded at: <http://www.portland-online.com/parks/index.cfm?c=38294&a=310898>



School children helping at a Learning Landscapes planting.

SEPTEMBER 2012 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	TREES INSPECTED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES				
Planting, general	57	115	36	53
Grey to Green	217	371	0	0
Land use reviews	45	-	1	1
Development	228	-	90	107
Pruning	110	325	130	411
Removal	98	251	76	369
Root pruning	57	80	44	67
Other	104	180	30	53
PARK TREES				
Planting	0	0	0	0
Pruning	14	203	14	244
Removal	8	17	7	17
Root pruning	0	0	0	0
Other	18	98	1	10
PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)				
Code applicability inspections	70	-	-	-
Planting, mitigation	-	-	-	20
Removal	29	64	23	26
EMERGENCIES				
Emergency call outs	49	60	-	-
TOTALS				
Planting	547	496	127	181
Pruning	124	528	144	655
Removal	205	332	106	412
Root Pruning	57	80	44	67
Other	122	278	31	63
Emergencies	49	60	-	-
Totals	1104	1774	452	1378

Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF CREW SUPERVISOR

With the delivery of our new aerial lift trucks and September's pleasant weather, the Urban Forestry crew's efforts focused on tree removals and unique time sensitive projects. It was a very productive month with the necessary removals quickly filling our log storage facilities. Removals were focused primarily on DED-infected elms, hazardous elms in the South Park Blocks and 12 dangerous bigleaf maples in Sellwood Park. A majority of the removal processes were relatively routine, however one particular South Park elm proved to be particularly challenging. This tree was located directly adjacent to Portland State University Campus. It was the largest elm removal performed during my tenure here and the entire process was monitored by the university community. The sheer size of the tree almost exceeded our equipment capacity and dismantling the tree was a careful process. The landscape at Sellwood Park looks a bit different these days with the removal of the maple trees however the area will provide us with a nice palette in which to replant. The removed trees had a host of decay issues and failures were routine. Sellwood Park is now a much safer place. Sweetgum trees continue to be a challenge failure wise. Many of our emergency calls have been due to the failure of these trees. These are occurring across the city and appear to affect the larger more mature trees.

One interesting task we were assigned was for the removal of the McCoy Park Ancestor Tree located in the New Columbia neighborhood. The Ancestor Tree was a creation of the Regional Arts and Culture Council and was a former London plane tree located in the park be-



A windy October day brought on this tree failure. Urban Forestry responded to 50 emergency callouts on October 3rd.

fore re-development. The tree was treated with preservative and turned upside down to serve as a play structure for the neighborhood. Due to decay, the installation had become a hazard. The heavy lifting was performed by our in house staff with our tree specific equipment and crane. We were outfitted perfectly and provided our seasoned tree veterans a unique challenge not experienced before. The tree's top portion which is designed in the shape of a crown is currently being stored at Urban Forestry to be redeployed as part of another installation by the arts council.

The unseasonably late warm and dry conditions have been challenging for our tree establishment crews. Although we had record setting precipitation levels in the spring, only 0.25 inches of precipitation have fallen since July 1st. Crew members have been working feverishly to get as much water to our new plantings as possible with a possibility of an extension to their watering season in order to nurse these trees into fall. Any other year we would expect there would be relief in the way of precipitation, however, rain is not in the forecast through mid October.

Special projects include stop sign and traffic signal clearance as well as clearance and removal work at a handful of our City fire stations. At the time of this report, crews have been dispatched to all four corners of the City for wind storm emergencies. The next report period should include updates on this storm event, additional elm removals including one remaining in the South Park Blocks.



UF arborist Rory Cramer begins removing the Ancestor Tree art installation in McCoy Park. John Watkins operated the crane and Scott Montague provided ground support.

Elm Season Ends with 42 Removals

SUBMITTED BY DANIELLE FUCHS, ELM MONITOR

The 2012 elm season is over and the final numbers are in. Here are the findings from the final report, which can be found on the Urban Forestry website at www.portlandonline.com/parks/trees.

2012 DED FINDINGS

Forty-two trees were removed due to Dutch elm disease in 2012. Nineteen of these trees were on Parks' owned or managed property, thirteen were right-of-way trees, and ten were private property trees. The diameter range of removed elms was 2-48 inches, with 17 inches as the average DBH (diameter at breast height).

The majority of elms removed were in southeast Portland (27), in the Hosford-Abernethy, Eastmoreland, and Sellwood-Moreland neighborhoods (11, 2, and 14 elms removed, respectively). Southwest Portland lost nine elms, all from the Downtown neighborhood. Four of the Downtown elms were from Lovejoy Fountain, one was from the South Park Blocks, and four were along SW 1st Avenue between Harrison and Lincoln. Five elms were removed due to DED in northeast Portland, two in Laurelhurst and three from the Piedmont neighborhood. One elm was removed from north Portland in the Arbor Lodge neighborhood. No DED was detected in northwest Portland this year.

The number of elms removed in 2012 is just about average compared to the last decade of elm removals (Figure 1). Cases of DED by location in 2012 also followed the trend of the last decade, with most removals in southeast, followed by southwest and northeast, with few removals in north and northwest Portland (Figure 2).

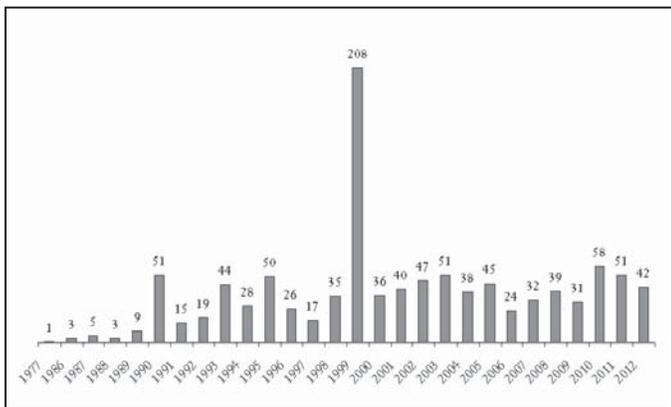


Figure 1. Number of elms removed annually due to DED in Portland, 1977-2012.

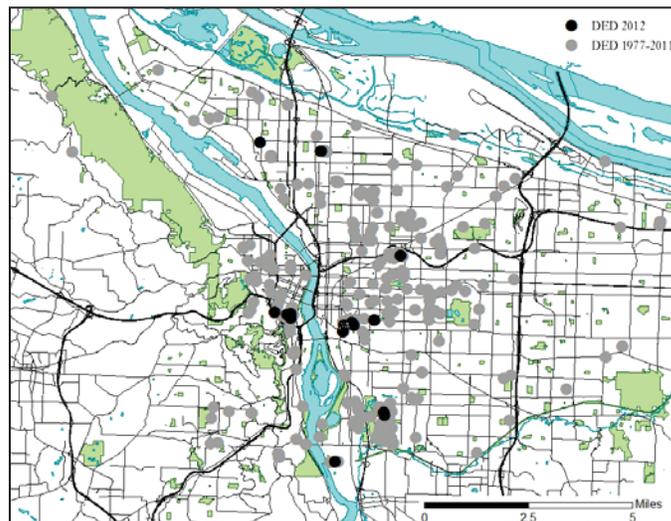


Figure 2. Elms removed annually due to DED in Portland, 1977-2012.

A total of 1,048 elm trees have been removed in Portland due to Dutch elm disease since the fungus has appeared in the city. Assuming that the elm population was about 3,700 in 1986, 28.3% of the elm population has been lost due to DED between 1986 and 2012, an average of 1.2% of the elm population lost per year. This is a very small loss rate, especially compared to historic loss rates on the east coast, where often 30-50% of a town's elm population died within a year. A majority of the elms removed in Portland are replanted, often with hybrid elms that are resistant to DED, so Portland's elm population has actually remained fairly stable over time.

ELM INOCULATIONS

Urban Forestry inoculated 112 elms in eight locations with the Arbotect macroinjection technique this summer. This was a light year for Save Our Elms (SOE) and affiliates, with only two neighborhoods conducting inoculations. SOE in Ladd's Addition pursued a new strategy to target a small number of high-risk elms with Arbotect, instead of blanketing the neighborhood elms with weaker fungicide using the microinjection technique. After losing record numbers of elms over the past two years, SOE determined that the microinjection technique was not ideally effective for Ladd's Addition. SOE inoculated 16 elms with Arbotect in Ladd's Addition in 2012 over two workdays. SOE affiliates in Eastmoreland was the only other group to undertake neighborhood elm inoculations this year. They inoculated 76 elms with Systrex using the microinjection technique.

30 Tree Stewards to Graduate at 2012 Dig-It Celebration

SUBMITTED BY AUTUMN MONTEGNA, UF OUTREACH

Join Urban Forestry on Saturday, October 27th, to kick off the planting season at Dig-It, and to graduate this year's class of Neighborhood Tree Stewards (NTS). The graduating NTS class is one of the largest yet with 30 participants from 19 neighborhoods and 3 neighboring cities. During their training, participants learn about tree biology, pruning, identification, city rules and regulations, benefits of trees and ways to become tree advocates. The last NTS class is a hands-on work day held in conjunction with Dig-It.

Dig-It will be held at Lent school at 5105 SE 97th Ave. Lent School was the location of 2007's Arbor Day celebration where nearly 70 trees were planted. Now, five years later, Dig-It will replant some trees that did not survive and help to maintain others by pruning and mulching. All Neighborhood Tree Stewards are invited to use their combined knowledge and skills to improve the urban forest at this local school. The work party runs from 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Following the work party, the NTS graduation ceremony will be held at 11:45 am and pizza enjoyed. Urban Forestry Commissioners, partners, and volunteers are invited to join.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Autumn Montegna at 503-701-7622 or autumn.mon-tegna@portlandoregon.gov.



UF Tree Inspector Luke Miller (far left) teaches the 2012 Tree Steward class how to prune young trees.

Learning Landscape Recognized at Rieke Elementary School

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON, UF OUTREACH



Rieke students help accept the Green Flag award.

On September 7, the National Wildlife Federation presented Mary Rieke Elementary School with the prestigious Green Flag Award. The Green Flag Award is given by the National Wildlife Federation to schools whose students are involved in developing environmental action plans to reduce utilities, increase recycling and improve the school grounds. Rieke is the first Oregon school to receive this honor. Rieke parent and Portland Parks volunteer Jamie Repasky has been working with Portland Parks and Rieke School to develop and implement eco-action plans concerning energy usage, biodiversity education, and reduction of consumption and waste.

Last year PP&R worked with all 16 classes at Rieke to plant a Learning Landscape. This tree collection is used to teach environmental, geographical and biological skills.

Urban Forestry will coordinate six more Learning Landscapes this winter in David Douglas, Parkrose and Portland School Districts. Tree planting sites and times are being finalized. To get involved please contact Karl Dawson at 503-823-8779.

Volunteer at Upcoming Fix-It Fairs

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON, UF OUTREACH

Portland Parks & Recreation is excited to be part of the City of Portland's Fix It Fairs for 13 years. These free city events allow anyone to learn simple home and yard improvement tasks such as composting, gardening, healthy cooking, home insulation and tree care from city and county resources. Fix It Fairs offer Neighborhood Tree Stewards the opportunity to share their tree knowledge with citizens. This year Urban Forestry will be offering a general tree care class and a tree identification walk. Visit the Urban Forestry booth and get a free vine maple, madrone or Oregon white oak by signing up for the Tree Bark Newsletter. To volunteer for either a morning or afternoon shift call Karl Dawson at 503-823-8779. Fix It Fairs will be held November 17, January 26, and February 23, from 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Online Pruning Permit Update

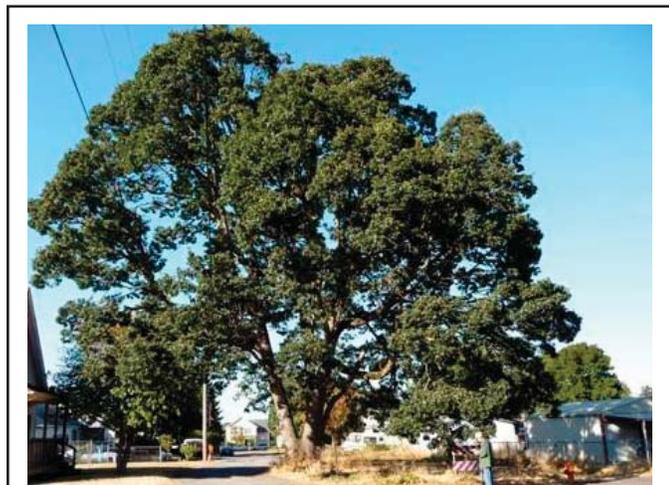
SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO, BOTANIC SPECIALIST

On September 14, Urban Forestry launched an online pruning permit program for street trees. The program has been enthusiastically received by both the public and arborists. Most callers are pleased to find out that the permit can be received immediately without waiting for a tree inspection and mailed permit.

To qualify for an online permit, street trees must be at a residential property. Pruning must be for young tree pruning, crown cleaning, or crown raising for clearance of the street and sidewalk (7.5' above the sidewalk, 11' above residential streets, and 14' over arterial streets) and the permit is only for branches less than 6" in diameter. Applicants visit www.portlandonline.com/parks/pruningpermit to apply for and receive their permit.

Beginning in November, Urban Forestry tree inspectors will begin checking pruning work completed under online permits to verify that work meets pruning standards and online permit requirements.

Online Pruning Permits September 14 - October 5 (first 3 weeks)	
Number of online permits received	48
Number of unique applicants	39
Number of trees permitted	137
Percentage of permits issued to arborists	33%
Percentage of permits issued to property owners and managers	67%



Volunteers Kevin Kenaga and Faye Yoshihara snapped this photo of Heritage Tree #247, a Garry Oak in north Portland. Volunteers recently completed inspections of 60 heritage trees throughout the city.

Register Now for Tree Inventory Summit on November 10

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO, BOTANIC SPECIALIST

DATE AND LOCATION:

Saturday, November 10 at St. Johns Community Center

AGENDA:

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration

9:00 AM-noon: Inventory findings, analysis, and recommendations from Urban Forestry staff

Noon-1:00 PM: Break for lunch

1:00-4:00 PM: Tree Plan work session - setting goals and priorities, working with partners, and gearing for action

REGISTRATION:

Online at <http://tinyurl.com/treesummit12>

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.



Arborist Kris Day (far right) helps key out an unknown tree species during a tree inventory work day.

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 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).