



# 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.

### PERMIT NOTES

Permit totals in this report are for combined months of October and November. Totals were not reported in last month's report due to a software problem.

Park tree removals in October and November include the following permits for work conducted by the Bureau of Environmental Services:

- 375 trees at Beggar's Tick Wetland to control regeneration of invasive tree species
- 165 trees at Indian Creek Natural Area to control invasive trees prior to beginning a restoration project
- 40 trees at Ash Creek to continue invasive tree species control for restoration
- 55 trees at Mt Tabor Park to continue invasive tree species control for restoration

### OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2012 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	TREES INSPECTED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
<b>STREET TREES</b>				
Planting, general	85	87	91	162
Grey to Green	2282	4012	73	116
Land use reviews	90	-	1	1
Development	394	-	206	204
Pruning	112	340	263	667
Removal	202	486	187	323
Root pruning	133	386	81	157
Other	190	408	21	28
<b>PARK TREES</b>				
Planting	4	8	3	4
Pruning	23	85	16	50
Removal	19	69	15	656
Root pruning	2	12	2	12
Other	18	196	1	4
<b>PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)</b>				
Code applicability inspections	136	-	-	-
Planting, mitigation	-	-	-	67
Removal	80	159	49	70
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>				
Emergency call outs	99	108	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>				
Planting	2855	4107	374	554
Pruning	135	425	279	717
Removal	468	714	251	1049
Root Pruning	135	517	83	169
Other	208	604	22	32
Emergencies	99	108	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3900</b>	<b>6356</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>2521</b>

## Park Property Permit Highlights

SUBMITTED BY DAVE KAHLER, UF TREE INSPECTOR

- *Buckman Field / Portland Tennis Center:* Portland Tennis Center is planning to construct a “bubble” over multiple tennis courts to allow for additional year-round play. The canopy of several trees may conflict with the design, resulting in a few removals and appropriate replacement or mitigation. The project is currently in the design phase.
- *Portland Children’s Museum:* Design continues to be refined to accommodate an extensive nature play area on the east side of the Children’s Museum building. The design is almost entirely under existing tree canopy and the project is negotiating significant tree protection challenges. It is likely several smaller trees will need to be removed and mitigated.
- *Werbin Property (NE Alberta and 52nd):* Planning for a new park on this 2010 property acquisition has begun in earnest. Most existing trees will be preserved, although a few are in conflict with PBOT required half-street improvements. An early design team met to weigh decisions in order to minimize canopy loss and maximize features and use of the soon to be built park.
- *Westmoreland Park:* A nature play area is proposed near the existing playground that will be removed during the Westmoreland Duck Pond Removal and Crystal Springs Floodplain Restoration Project set to begin construction next year. The nature play area



*Tree damage at Woodlawn Park.*

design and construction is challenging due to existing tree canopy and Environmental Zone designation. The design features logs, stumps, a water feature, sand, and other nature related play equipment.

- *Woodlawn Park:* Many Park properties routinely suffer from various minor tree vandalism, such as torn branches, manual injuries and knife carving. Periodically, even complete destruction occurs. For example, a neighbor recently reported a tree in Woodlawn Park that seems to have been damaged due to a car crash. The subject 18” DBH pine suffered injuries to approximately one-third of the circumference of the lower stem bark, cambial and sapwood tissue. No Police Report or record of the incident was found, but broken vehicle debris was observed at the site. The tree may tolerate the damage, but is likely to have reduced longevity. Therapeutic pruning is the preferred treatment.

## Urban Forestry and Friends of Trees Partner for Pilot Pruning Project

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO, BOTANIC SPECIALIST

In December, Friends of Trees, Urban Forestry, and volunteers joined forces to prune young trees in the Concordia neighborhood. Working alongside ISA-certified arborists, volunteers learned to properly prune young trees to promote good street tree structure. Together, 234 trees planted by FOTs two to four years prior were pruned.

FOT Neighborhood Trees Senior Specialist Jesse Batty summarized the purpose of the pilot project: “By structurally pruning young street trees at an early age, we can remove defects that may become hazardous in the long term. Early investment in young tree care is important to ensure that these urban trees continue to be assets which provide a suite of benefits, rather than liabilities.”

This one time pilot was a success and Urban Forestry and FOT are looking for funding to continue partner-

ing to provide much needed maintenance for the many young street trees recently planted throughout the city.



*UF Tree Inspector Luke Miller demonstrates proper pruning techniques to volunteers on a young Japanese snowbell tree.*

# Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF SUPERVISOR

This report period had our crews focusing heavily in our parks. We completed a significant amount of priority work orders, however, the rains have now limited access to sensitive park areas. This is always expected and there is certainly no shortage of tasks to be completed, so we continue to move forward.

Our large pruning projects have been Kenton Park and Pittock Acres. In Kenton Park we are pruning to clear buildings and paths and to also improve park lighting. Virtually all four corners of the park will be getting some sort of extra attention. What work we have performed so far has made a significant difference and we have additional days slated for the future. At Pittock Mansion we have completed work on view clearing as well as the removal of a handful of invasive trees. We are fortunate to have this task completed before the holiday season.

We have completed all of this season's requests for our stop sign and traffic signal interagency agreement. With the leaves now fallen from most of the trees, we will wait for next spring for the next batch of traffic clearance issues. We are transitioning to our annual street light clearance efforts. This season welcomes us with another healthy list of streetlights in need of attention and we should be well on our way by next report period.

Our stump grinding season is in full swing. We are currently focusing on our previous DED removals first and moving on to our parks. We have a significant amount of stumps on this year's list and it will require the dedication of one crew plus equipment well into the next reporting period.

Every report period seems to have a unique job task associated with it. This month it was supporting the set up of the Holiday tree in Pioneer Square. It is always a fun festive event that we are proud to be a part of.

We responded to two days worth of storm emergencies, however, I would consider it relatively mild in relation to our October report period. We are anticipating a considerably busy winter season and have been working feverishly to winterize our response equipment and outfit our personnel. We are hoping that now that we have made the preparations, the season will be mild.

This next report period should again include updates from our stump grinding efforts, tree harvesting at the Mt. Tabor Nursery for our upcoming planting season, interagency agreements and hopefully minimal storm damage reports.



*Portland's 2012 holiday tree arrived in Pioneer Courthouse Square in early November (above). Donated by Stimson Lumber, some branches are removed for transport. Urban Forestry crews trimmed the base (below), moved the tree into place, and reattached branches on the 75-foot tall Douglas fir. Photos courtesy of the Oregonian.*



# Street Tree Inventory and Tree Plans: Project Review

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO, BOTANIC SPECIALIST

Seeking to empower residents to better care for their neighborhood's tree canopy, PP&R Urban Forestry organized neighborhood stakeholders to conduct volunteer-led street tree inventories in Hosford-Abernethy, Northwest District, and Sunnyside in 2012.

This concludes the third year of the neighborhood tree inventory project, and staff were pleased to see increased support for the project. 99% of all data was collected by volunteers, compared to 60% last year. 165 volunteers donated over 2,000 hours to the project.

## INVENTORY RESULTS

Inventory results, recommendations, and maps were compiled into individual neighborhood reports. Reports are available at <http://portlandonline.com/parks/tree-inventory>. An interactive map is also available to search the 40,000 trees in the database by address.

Inventory highlights are listed below.

*Composition:* 100 tree types are found, ranging from 82 in NW District to 97 in Hosford-Abernethy. Tree counts range from 3,000 - 5,500 trees/neighborhood. The most common trees across all areas are Norway maple, red maple, cherry, and pear. 97% of all street trees are deciduous broadleaf trees.

*Species diversity:* Neighborhoods did not meet recommended guidelines for species diversity. Maples are widely overrepresented at the species, genus, and family level. The rose family (Rosaceae) is also widely overrepresented.

*Age distribution:* The three neighborhoods have a fairly uneven age distribution, which is desirable. Approximately one-third of trees are between 0-6" DBH, 30% are between 6-12" DBH, and 25% are between 12-18" DBH. The larger diameter size classes are less represented.



Sunnyside volunteers preparing to inventory trees.

*"I loved learning about trees and I felt good about volunteering for my neighborhood. I thought the staff was outstanding (upbeat, well organized, supportive, having fun at their work) and I liked meeting new work partners each week."*

—Naomi Bishop, Hosford-Abernethy

*Tree condition:* Across neighborhoods, 91-95% of trees were rated in good or fair condition, 3-7% rated poor, and 1% are dead. Staff believe volunteer ratings are skewed towards positive ratings.

*Stocking levels:* The percentage of available spaces for planting ranged was 26% in Hosford-Abernethy, 25% in Sunnyside, and 13% in Northwest District. Over 2,800 spaces were identified for tree planting.

*Planting strip size:* Disparities were found amongst neighborhoods. 38% of planting strips in Hosford-Abernethy are large compared to only 8% in Northwest and 17% in Sunnyside. Planting strip size corresponds to the size of a tree that can be supported in the strip.

*Annual benefits:* Total annual environmental and aesthetic benefits provided by street trees ranged from \$216,000 to \$521,000 annually (<http://itreetools.org>).

*Replacement values:* Replacement value of the street tree population range were \$10.4 million in Sunnyside, \$19.1 million in Northwest District, and \$24.4 million in Hosford-Abernethy. (<http://itreetools.org>).

## TREE PLANS

In November, 70-plus participants convened at a "Tree Inventory Summit" to discuss results and create tree plans. After presentations on the data and hearing from several guest speakers on species diversity and tree maintenance needs, participants broke into neighborhood groups to draft tree plans. The tree plans include a vision statement, goals, action items, and recommendations for property owners.

## CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTION

Urban Forestry staff will continue to work with tree teams to provide tree plan guidance and ongoing support. Staff is exploring how to best integrate tree plans into ongoing stewardship efforts, as well as how to expand the program to accommodate areas of the City without developed rights-of-way. Applications for 2013 inventories are available on the project website and are due January 15.

## Tree Steward Profile: An Interview with Bryan Burch

SUBMITTED BY AUTUMN MONTEGNA, UF OUTREACH

I met Bryan Burch and his partner Mark Wensel back in 2009 at a Sylvan-Highlands Neighborhood Association meeting I attended in the hopes of rounding up urban forest volunteers. The rest is history. Since then both Bryan and Mark have been an integral part of our education and outreach efforts in Urban Forestry. They both graduated from the Neighborhood Tree Steward training in 2009 and have gone on to organize school arboretum plantings and a Dig-It celebration, and are now planning Arbor Day 2013 with the UFC Education and Outreach Committee. With the recent graduation of the 2012 Tree Steward class, this interview with Bryan Burch highlights how Tree Stewards can use their training to give back to the urban forest.

### **Q: Why are you passionate about trees?**

A: I'm passion about trees for a couple of reasons. I grew up in Southern California (please don't laugh at me). When I was twelve, my family drove up to visit relatives in Portland and Vancouver area. I was amazed that there were so many trees so close to the highway. How could this be? There were trees everywhere. Who watered all those trees? I was amazed. Sadly, whenever we passed a section of naked barren, logged-off hillsides I felt oddly comfortable, as if that was the natural way for a landscape to look. Since I moved to Portland a few years ago, I've spent a lot of time in the Sylvan area and the West Hills. I love the sheer number of trees and green. The other day I was walking in a wild area under a canopy of vine maple completely awestruck at the number of shades of green filtering through the leaves. Moments like these make me passionate about trees and their significance to the Northwest legacy.

### **Q: How has the Neighborhood Tree Steward program changed your life?**

A: Well, the more positive change has been meeting enthusiastic city staff like Autumn (Montegna) and Karl (Dawson) and Angie (DiSalvo) and Jennifer (Karps) who lead the Tree Stewardship program. The Portland Tree Steward course is taught by a highly knowledgeable and competent group of educated naturalists who have a stunning knowledge base and are willing to share. As a lay person and knowing very little about trees and the natural world I was overwhelmed by the amount of resources these professionals could present. Slowly but surely and with many repeat questions I now feel I have an understanding of how the urban forest works and



*Mark Wensel (left) and Bryan Burch (right) at the 2010 Dig-It celebration at Sylvan Middle School.*

how we work within it. I may only know a few of the Latin species names, but my identifications skills have increased dramatically. I now have knowledge that I can actually share with others and am happy to do so.

### **Q: What would you say to prospective NTS students?**

A: Just do it! If you have reservations or concerns that you won't "get it" they are probably valid. BUT! Like with any field, one starts as an apprentice and learns a little bit and a little bit more until you become a journeyman and eventually a pro. I'm no pro, but I feel like one sometimes because I learned so much valuable and personally stimulating information about trees and their stewardship. There are so many opportunities – big and small – for you to take part in once you become a Portland Tree Steward. I've used my skills as a crew leader with Friends of Trees. My partner Mark and I have initiated a tree planting program at a local middle school which ended up as the 2010 Dig-It Event. The middle school planting became a target project that several of my neighbors in Sylvan-Highlands have taken on as part of our community outreach program. I thought that the tree planting program would involve a couple of trees and a few active neighbors, but it blossomed into a much larger event. I had so much support that the event was actually easy and a pleasure to produce. We never would have imagined doing it all by ourselves, but we got so much support it was fun, educational, and served our community all at the same time.

## Urban Forestry Permits

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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).