



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.

UF HOSTS ROOT BARRIER INSTALL DEMONSTRATION

Tree planting partners from BES, FOT, PBOT, and UFC attending a demonstration tree planting and root barrier installation with UF staff on February 8. The demonstration aimed to show techniques for proper installation and introduce recommendations for using root barriers to help prevent sidewalk damage from roots in small planting strips.



UF staffer Karl Dawson (left) digs a trench where a rigid root barrier will be installed flush with the sidewalk.

JANUARY 2013 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	TREES INSPECTED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES				
Planting, general	44	97	34	60
Grey to Green	195	281	952	1683
Land use reviews	33	-	1	2
Development	224	-	100	108
Pruning	34	181	227	450
Removal	91	392	75	361
Root pruning	41	81	26	60
Other	88	346	9	66
PARK TREES				
Planting	49	125	0	0
Pruning	6	60	4	90
Removal	8	9	7	8
Root pruning	0	0	0	0
Other	3	29		0
PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)				
Code applicability inspections	70	-	-	-
Planting, mitigation	-	-	-	11
Removal	22	44	18	25
EMERGENCIES				
Emergency call outs	28	30	-	-
TOTALS				
Planting	545	503	1087	1864
Pruning	40	241	231	540
Removal	191	445	100	394
Root Pruning	41	81	26	60
Other	91	375	9	66
Emergencies	28	30	-	-
Totals	936	1675	1453	2924

Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF SUPERVISOR

This report period was suspiciously quiet in regards to storm damage and emergency work. This supervisor is cautious and thinks Mother Nature may have something big in store for March. With the absence of an emergency event, the Urban Forestry crew has been able to complete some other large projects while remaining primed to chase down some storm work. Our vehicles are outfitted and ready to respond to whatever the month may throw at us.

This report period we had one crew focused entirely on our street light interagency agreement. With over 150 sites to visit, the project required a good deal of time and resources to complete. Busy arterials and highways such as SE McLoughlin Boulevard required extensive traffic control measures. However, it is now a much safer road thanks to our efforts. These street light requests engaged virtually every neighborhood in some capacity. We also performed a considerable amount of work for the Portland Water Bureau removing hazardous trees on their sites.

Following our successes with large park pruning projects we have tackled two additional parks for this report period. Woodlawn and Lincoln Parks both received some much needed attention. In Woodland we pruned trees throughout the park for low limbs and deadwood as well as clearing park and street lights. We also gave some extra attention to the basketball courts and low hanging limbs over NE Dekum Street. In Lincoln Park 75 trees were pruned for low limbs, dead wood, and structural



Urban Forestry crews used a crane to lift trees being removed at the Lan Su Chinese Garden up and over the large pond.

training. Our structural training efforts will benefit the park greatly in the future.

Our stump grinding efforts are currently winding down. This year's stump tally was very high and we are rounding out the season with stumps located in deep southeast Portland. We are anticipating completion in mid-February. With the completion of stump grinding, the crew will be transitioning to tree planting for the remainder of the spring. We have accepted delivery of all of the trees for this season's interagency tree plantings. A decent tree harvest at Mount Tabor nursery will round out our tree planting inventory.

An interesting project this period was a handful of tree removals in the Lan Su Chinese Garden. The Garden has a very unique built environment that can be challenging to work in however we were able to remove some trees that were overcrowding others. We accomplished this by setting up our crane and hoisting materials over their compound walls.

This next report period should have some big news in regards to our tree harvesting and planting season. We are eager to get it underway.



Urban Forestry arborists Kimball Hicks and Charles McCreary organize the year's tree planting order.



Receiving the year's tree planting shipment at Delta Park.

Bureau of Environmental Services Stream Restoration Projects

SUBMITTED BY FRANK KRAWCZYK, UF ARBORIST

Several stream restoration projects on BES and PP&R sites are in progress. South Ash Creek, in the extreme southwest corner of the City, and Wilkes Headwaters Park, in outer northeast Portland, are in the design and plan review phase. Several portions of Crystal Springs Creek are in various phases, including completed creek restoration and culvert replacements between SE Umatilla Street and SE Tenino Street, and restoration work will be starting soon at the SE Tacoma Street culvert, throughout Westmoreland Park, and on Eastmoreland golf course. The large East Lents Floodplain project along Johnson Creek at SE Foster Road and SE 111th Ave., that was presented to the Urban Forestry Commission in 2011, is also finally nearing completion.

Stream restoration projects often involve the deconstruction of artificial elements, such as culverts, concrete creek bottoms, and steep banks. Creek banks are usually stepped back to allow for a wider channel with room for stormwater to flood onto a widened stepped bank, while still remaining in the channel. Logs, rocks, and tree root wads are often placed in the creek, in creek banks, and next to creeks to provide fish and wildlife habitat. Anchoring logs so they appear natural, yet do not float away in a flood and dam up flow, is important.

Restoration projects also involve significant invasive plant removal and native planting. Invasive trees are usually removed and stumps treated to prevent regrowth. Hundreds or thousands of seedling and bare-root native trees are planted, along with native shrubs and groundcovers. Urban Forestry removal and planting permits



Anchored trees and root wads placed in-stream and along the banks of the Columbia Slough enhance in-stream and riparian habitat.

for such projects often have high numbers of trees listed for removal and planting compared to typical street tree permits.

Urban Forestry Tree Inspector, Frank Krawczyk, works with BES through project planning, permitting, and construction. Early plan review, site inspection, and tree inspection assist with the development of construction plans, tree inventories, mitigation needs, and tree preservation plans. Urban Forestry crews have removed trees, placed logs, and carefully excavated roots for tree preservation purposes.

Sites located in preservation or conservation overlay zones often require an environmental review by the Bureau of Development Services Planning and Zoning. Projects often require construction work near trees and are not able to provide a standard root protection zone of one-foot radius per diameter-inch of trunk. These alternative root protection zones require an arborist report. Frank drafts and submits an arborist report in these cases detailing alternative tree protection measures that will provide tree protection equal to the standard root protection zone.

The deconstruction of buildings, bridges, culverts, and channelized concrete creeks, coupled with the placement of logs, removal of invasives, and the planting of natives really transforms a site in a big way. The naturalization of these sites is actually development in reverse. It is a joy to see the transformation take place and to appreciate the benefits that aquatic, terrestrial, and avian wildlife will enjoy long into the future.



The Mt. Tabor Park Invasive Plant Control and Revegetation Project is a multi-year project to restore a healthy native forest community. The project is removing non-native, invasive vegetation, restoring native trees, shrubs and grasses and controlling erosion in natural areas. Removing invasive plants and planting native plants in Mt. Tabor Park enhances watershed health by improving stormwater management and habitat.

Ladd's Prunes 192 Young Trees

SUBMITTED BY AUTUMN MONTEGNA, OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Urban Forestry helped Ladd's Addition and Save Our Elms volunteers prune 192 young street trees. Using data from the neighborhood's street tree inventory, Urban Forestry identify the locations of 230 young street trees in Ladd's Addition that were under 6" in diameter. Dave Kaplan and Louis Miles from Save Our Elms used the data to canvass the neighborhood, identify trees to be pruned with small tags, and drop off information and an "opt out" letter to property owners.

On Saturday, January 26, 24 neighborhood volunteers arrived ready to prune. Urban Forestry supplied the tools and Ned Sodja, UF Arborist, and Terry Brier, Davey Tree Expert District Manager, led a pruning training before sending the volunteers to work. Within four hours the group visited and pruned nearly 200 young street trees.



Volunteers participate in a training session prior to pruning trees in Ladd's Addition.

Join Urban Forestry for a "Tree Lovers Reception" Celebrating Volunteers

SUBMITTED BY AUTUMN MONTEGNA, OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Volunteers and tree lovers are invited to a volunteer appreciation reception. This is a great time to connect with fellow volunteers and partners and to celebrate past projects and make



goals for the future. Join us to share stories, find out which neighborhoods were selected for tree inventories in 2013, and hear a preview of Arbor Month. We hope to leave you inspired to continue your good work in the urban forest!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Lucky Lab Tap Room

1700 N Killingsworth Portland, Oregon 97217

Just 3 blocks west of N Killingsworth MAX Stop

Please RSVP with Autumn Montegna (autumn.montegna@portlandoregon.gov) to be entered to win a copy of Phyllis Reynold's new edition of *Trees of Greater Portland*.



UF Staff and Outreach & Education Committee Plan Big for Arbor Month

SUBMITTED BY AUTUMN MONTEGNA, OUTREACH & EDUCATION

This year Arbor Day has expanded to Arbor Month and Portland will be celebrating the urban forest and heritage trees throughout all of April. Join Urban Forestry and the Urban Forestry Commission for many activities, including a lecture series, work days, tree walks, bike rides, and more.

This year's Arbor Day Festival will be on Saturday, April 20th at the South Park Blocks in conjunction with the Portland Farmers Market. The Farmers Market will

open at 8:30 am and close at 2:00 w and the Arbor Day Festival will feature booths with tree learning activities and plenty of the City's tree partners to help celebrate. The ceremony will begin promptly at 10:00 am and will include the announcement of the Bill Naito Award, recognition of Portland's 36th year as a Tree City USA, and reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation. For more information and a listing of all the events visit the Arbor Day webpage at www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/trees.

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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).