



# Urban Forestry Report

## Monthly 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.

### QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

Urban Forestry Tree Inspectors permit tree planting, pruning, removal, and root pruning on City property and City right-of-way. Non-routine tree work on City Property is reported as part of Interagency Agreements, Capital Improvement Projects, and Public Works Permits. These special projects are reported quarterly.

**Interagency Agreements:** Urban Forestry enters into budgeted agreements with other City bureaus such as Portland Bureau of Transportation, Bureau of Environmental Services, the Fire Bureau, and the Water Bureau to do the necessary tree permitting and tree work for bureau projects. An Urban Forestry Tree Inspector conducts inspections and plan reviews and Urban Forestry Arborist crews may complete the tree work.

**Capital Improvement Projects:** A Capital Project is a project that helps maintain or improve a City asset, often called infrastructure. To be included in the Capital Budget, a project must meet specific criteria. An Urban Forestry Tree Inspector conducts inspections and plan review and issues permits for tree work.

### DECEMBER 2014 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
<b>STREET TREES</b>			
Planting, total street trees	409	742	1326
<i>Non-development</i>	7	306	604
<i>Development</i>	241	58	115
<i>Environmental Services</i>	161	378	607
Pruning	52	155	353
Removal	73	128	235
Root pruning	61	90	156
Other	26	38	54
<b>PARK TREES</b>			
Planting	0	6	120
Pruning	2	14	34
Removal	29	20	68
Root pruning	0	0	0
Other	4	2	3
<b>PRIVATE TREES</b>			
Planting, mitigation	-	-	62
Removal	46	37	58
Other	1	2	2
<b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>			
Emergencies	234	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>			
Planting	409	748	1508
Pruning	54	169	387
Removal	148	185	361
Root pruning	61	90	156
Other	31	42	59
Emergencies	234	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>1234</b>	<b>2471</b>

**Public Works Permits:** A Public Works Permit is a permit required for privately funded public improvements constructed in a public right-of-way in the City of Portland. Because these public works improvements are intended for public use, City staff must review and approve plans prior to construction. An Urban Forestry Tree Inspector conducts inspections and plan review and issues permits for tree work.

**Land Use Reviews:** In the proposed development process, an Urban Forestry Tree Inspector reviews 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.

**Appeals Received:** Chapter 20.40 and Chapter 20.42 allow appeals to tree removal permit decisions. For street trees, the adjacent property owner may appeal a decision to deny a permit request to the Urban Forestry Commission. For private trees, the property owner may appeal a decision to deny a permit request to the Urban Forestry Commission. In certain cases, a member of the public may appeal a decision to issue a tree removal permit to the Urban Forestry Commission.

Appeals initially undergo an administrative review, and if the issue is not resolved a hearing is set up for the Urban Forestry Commission Appeals Board. Numbers reported on are the number of appeals received.

**Code Compliance:** City Code 20.40 Street Tree and Other Public Tree Regulations and 20.42 Tree Cutting prohibit illegal tree activity in order to further the city's goals for optimizing and enhancing the urban forest. Urban Forestry makes every attempt to investigate all code compliance complaints received from the public.

When a code violation of 20.40 or 20.42 is confirmed by a tree inspection, responsible parties are notified and informed of actions needed to correct the violation. This quarterly report compares the number of code compliance complaints received versus the number of code violations found after investigating, for both street and private trees.

**SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2014 PERMITS**

	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
<b>INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS</b>		
Planting	5	70
Pruning	10	149
Removal	9	53
Root pruning	0	0
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>		
Planting	4	2642
Pruning	4	48
Removal	7	123
Root pruning	6	38
<b>PUBLIC WORKS PERMITS</b>		
Planting	0	0
Pruning	0	0
Removal	0	0
Root pruning	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3123</b>

**SEPT-DEC 2014 CASES PROCESSED**

<b>LAND USE REVIEWS</b>	
Land use reviews	182
<b>APPEALS</b>	
Appeals heard by UFC	1

**SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2014 CODE COMPLIANCE**

	STREET TREES	PRIVATE TREES
<b>INVESTIGATION RESULT</b>		
No violation found	45	8
Violation found - low limbs	82	2
Violation found - other corr. req'd	37	8
Violation found - no corr. req'd	8	1
Referred to BDS	1	2
Still under review	13	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>22</b>

## Urban Forestry Operations Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Once again we have been challenged by the forces of Mother Nature. This report period witnessed a third significant storm event just as we finished cleaning up from the previous two. Sustained, record-breaking winds were reported, and ultimately our city was littered with downed trees. Unlike previous storms, we experienced a great deal of whole-tree failures versus limb failures. With saturated soils and extreme winds to accompany them, trees with any type of root disorders or limited growing space were challenged.

At this time we have spent over two and half months primarily dedicated to storm response, and we predict a few more weeks to go. Crews have been working feverishly and their dedication to the cause is apparent. Countless night and weekend hours have been logged by the crews; fortunately there is some end in sight. Most right-of-way issues have been addressed and we are now beginning to focus on parks as issues are identified. Saturated soils make those assignments very challenging as we have to weigh the impacts of our operations to park infrastructure versus the tree needs.

Our ability to respond to interagency requests and complete our stump grinding efforts has been challenging. The storm response has capitalized most of our efforts and we have lost momentum with some of our usual seasonal responsibilities. We have a significant number of requests at this time that we aim to address shortly.

On a positive note, the Forestry crew was able to attend some job training sessions. Pesticide training, chainsaw safety meeting, and a Parks & Recreation compliance training workshop were on the docket this month. Next reporting period we will be attending temporary traffic control training as well as a crane operators training.

This next report period should include updates on our interagency agreements, tree plantings, and ideally very little storm work. Stay tuned.

## Community Tree Plantings

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The Arbor Lodge Tree Team worked through a very wet morning to plant three Oregon white oak trees in the Omaha Park Blocks. Great Job to Tree Stewards Liz

Stevenson and David Taylor for taking on this project. Over this last five years they have worked to replant nine elm trees that have died in the Omaha median.



*A young volunteer drives a tree planting stake into the ground for a newly planted tree in the Omaha Park Blocks*

Learning Landscapes community tree plantings continue with six more tree plantings this winter. For more information about the tree planting visit [www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/learninglandscapes](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/learninglandscapes). Volunteer Tree Stewards are needed to help with anything from digging holes to teaching students. To get involved call Karl Dawson at 503-823-8779.

### UPCOMING PLANTING DATES

January 15	Rieke Tree Planting
January 16	Richmond Tree Planting
February 12	Vernon Tree Planting
February 14	Roseway Tree Planting
March 11	Lent Elementary school
March 13	Sacrament Elementary school



*Volunteers planted trees in the Omaha Park Block to replace trees lost due to Dutch elm disease*

## Local Arborists to Help Teach Tree Care Classes

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO, BOT SPEC II

Arborists Gina Dake and Van Bogner will be working with PP&R Urban Forestry AmeriCorps members Elizabeth Specht and Danielle Voisin to provide tree care workshops to Neighborhood Tree Teams from January through July. Gina and Van are both certified arborists and bring diverse experience from the arboriculture world.

They will be leading weekend workshops on pruning young street trees, general tree care, selecting diverse tree species, and more. For the full list of workshops offered this year to groups that have recently inventoried their street trees, visit: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/474351>.



*Arborists Gina Dake (left) and Van Bogner (right) will be teaching tree care classes with Urban Forestry*

GINA DAKE

From Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, I have lived in Oregon since 2004. I have a B.A. in Environmental Studies/Politics from Whitman College, and worked as a GIS Specialist for a LiDAR company before becoming an Urban Forestry Consultant. Having consulted on projects throughout the country, working with utilities, municipalities, as well as state and federal agencies, I now have over 12 years of Urban Forestry experience. I am an ISA Certified Arborist, Certified Utility Specialist, and am Tree Risk Assessment Qualified. I enjoy sharing information with others about trees and am looking forward to a fun and educational opportunity to benefit Portland's Urban Forest.

VAN BOGNER

Born a Buckeye from Ohio, I've been an Oregonian since 2001! I arrived from Flagstaff, AZ, where I was a Lumberjack at Northern Arizona University. I needed

just one more class, US Geography, to earn my diploma in Exercise Physiology. This was when I learned about the beauty of Oregon and the simplicity of Portland. I became curious about urban renewal, civic duty, public transportation, clean drinking and trees. I knew with its natural surroundings, Portland was where I wanted to be.

Since then, I've worked in physical therapy (sports rehabilitation), attended graduate school (Loyola University of Baltimore), taught Montessori to 3-6 year-olds (I loved it!), and became more involved with what I love most about Portland. Currently, I am a working arborist with a love for trees! My love for trees was sown with a Friends of Trees planting in 2005 and took root, as I became a Tree Steward in 2010. All the while, I've enjoyed working, volunteering and collaborating with others in the area of arboriculture. Now, I am open to learning more and excited for this new experience, working for my city.

## New Tree Code in Effect

SUBMITTED BY DANIELLE BOHANNAN, BOT SPEC I

Portland's new tree code, Title 11 Trees, went into effect on January 2, 2015. Urban Forestry's customer service center has moved downtown to the Development Services Center, 1900 SW 4th Avenue, first floor. The new tree hotline is 503-823-TREE (8733), and the Portland Trees website is [www.portlandoregon.gov/trees](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/trees). On the website you can find customer service hours, download tree permit applications, and learn about tree care.

The biggest change from the old tree code is that now a permit is required to remove trees on all private properties if the tree is 12 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH, measured at 4.5 feet above the ground) or greater. Trees that are dead, dying, or dangerous will automatically be granted a permit for removal and require one-for-one tree replacement. On private properties, trees that are within 10 feet of a building and trees on the nuisance plants list will also automatically be granted permits for removal and require only tree-for-tree replacement. Also, property owners will be granted permits to remove up to four trees per year on private property if the trees are less than 20 inches DBH.

Because more trees are regulated and tree replacement is required for nuisance species removal, we anticipate that this new code will do a better job of preserving Portland's urban canopy than the previous tree code.

## Urban Forestry Permits

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry (UF) 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.

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### STREET TREES

Routine street tree work not part of Interagency Agreements, Capital Improvement Projects, or Public Works Permits.

**Planting, total street trees:** The sum of non-development, development, and Environmental Services Tree Program planting numbers.

**Planting, non-development:** Requested by residential or commercial property owners. An Urban Forestry Tree Inspector (Tree Inspector) inspects the site for existing trees, overhead wires, utilities, strip width, and other site conditions and marks where trees can be planted. A 2" caliper tree is standard. The property owner purchases the tree, reports the species to the Tree Inspector, and a permit is issued.

**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.

**Planting, Environmental Services:** UF works cooperatively with the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and Friends of Trees (FOT) 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 Approved Street Tree Planting List and is established each year by UF and FOT. Property owners purchase and plant the tree with FOT.

**Pruning:** A Tree Inspector discusses pruning requests with the property owner, inspects the trees and issues the permit. Conditions may be included. For certain pruning conditions, permits may be obtained online.

**Removal:** Requested by the 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. The tree must be replaced if site conditions permit. A Tree Inspector 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 on the season.

**Root pruning:** Requested by property owners or contractors in the process of reconstructing damaged sidewalks, often due to lifting from tree root growth. A sidewalk permit must first be acquired before a root pruning inspection. A Tree Inspector inspects the exposed roots once the sidewalk has been removed and marks specific roots for removal.

**Other:** Other street tree inspections include health inspections; other street tree permits include chemical application permits and attaching temporary items to trees, such as holiday lights and signage.

### PARK TREES

The majority of reported park tree 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 Portland Parks & Recreation.

**Planting:** Developed park plantings are planned by Parks planners, Parks maintenance staff, and occasionally friends groups. Planting is usually completed by the UF arborist crew.

**Pruning:** A Tree Inspector discusses pruning requests with Parks staff, inspects the trees and issues the permit. Work may be done by Parks staff or the UF arborist crew.

**Removal:** A Tree Inspector inspects the tree for removal criteria and removal is completed by the UF arborist crew.

**Root pruning:** A Tree Inspector inspects the exposed roots once the sidewalk has been removed and marks specific roots for removal.

**Other:** Other park tree inspections include health inspections.

### PRIVATE TREES

**Planting, mitigation:** Trees planted as mitigation for removals under the Tree Cutting Ordinance.

**Removal:** Requested by the 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. Approved removals are subject to a two week public notice and appeal period. Appeals are heard by the Urban Forestry Commission Appeals Board. If removal is allowed, mitigation may be required in the form of planting or paying into the City's Tree Fund.

**Other:** Other private tree permits can include pruning permits, such as for Heritage Trees on private property.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**Emergencies:** Emergency response is reported in terms of number of inspections. Permits that may result from the emergency response are listed under their appropriate categories (i.e. Street Tree Pruning).

*Edited by Danielle Bohanman, Botanic Specialist I*