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# TREES

Adding trees to landscaping is easy, attractive, and has many stormwater benefits. A single mature tree with a 30 foot crown can intercept over 700 gallons of rainfall annually. Evergreen trees will capture more rainwater in winter months than deciduous trees.



## Benefits

Trees capture and hold rainfall in leaves and branches. They slow runoff flow and can decrease stormwater volume by 35% or more for small storms. Trees improve water quality by filtering rainwater and holding soils in place, which is especially important along stream banks. Their shade reduces pavement heat, which in turn lowers runoff temperature. Tree wells can provide additional benefits by accepting runoff from sidewalks or other paved areas.

## Maintenance

Selecting appropriate trees reduces maintenance needs. Trees usually require watering in the summer and wind protection in the first one to three years. Stake loosely for the first year. Routine maintenance includes raking and disposing of leaves and debris, removing weeds, pruning dead branches, and controlling pests.

## Cost

Costs vary with the type and size of the tree, but the general range is \$20 to \$100 each, not including planting. Local non-profit groups often supply free or low-cost trees that are appropriate for our climate.

## Safety and Siting Requirements

- Trees provide the greatest stormwater and environmental benefit when their canopy covers impervious areas and intercepts water before it falls to the ground.
- Choose trees suitable for the soil type, amount and intensity of sunlight and space requirements.
- Street trees are regulated by Portland Parks & Recreation. Call 503-823-PLAY for more information.
- Locate utilities before digging. Call 503-246-6699. (Portland)
- Refer to Portland's Stormwater Management Manual for information on sizing, placement, and design.

## Permits

- No permits are required for planting trees on private property.
- Planting or removing trees from the public right-of-way requires a tree permit from the City Forester.
- Natural area trees are regulated by E-Zone requirements.

- To receive stormwater management credit per the *Stormwater Management Manual*, new deciduous trees must be at least 2" caliper and new conifers must be at least 6 feet tall. In the right-of-way, new trees must be at least 2" caliper for residential areas and 3.5" caliper in commercial and industrial zones.
- For Clean River Rewards credit trees must be at least 15 feet tall and on private property. This does not include trees in the public right-of-way such as street trees.

### Examples

SW Park Blocks

Friends of Trees, 3117 ML King Jr. Blvd.

NE Ainsworth Linear Arboretum,  
NE Ainsworth from ML King Jr. Blvd.  
to NE 42nd

SE Ladd's Addition

Hoyt Arboretum

