





City of Portland

March 7, 2011

From: Commissioner Nick Fish 
Commissioner Dan Saltzman 

To: Mayor Sam Adams
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Randy Leonard

Cc: Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Re: Tree Code Implementation

The *Citywide Tree Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project*, now under consideration by the Council, consolidates regulations from ten City titles into one, Title 11. It also recommends numerous changes to streamline, simplify and improve accessibility for the public and staff.

Inspired by the same spirit that guided work on the regulatory package, we believe now is also the right time to take a closer look at implementation issues. Currently, the City's tree regulations are administered by no fewer than five City bureaus, each with a different mission, focus and expertise. This organizational fragmentation has raised a variety of concerns for stakeholders.

In order to ensure implementation is consistent, cost-effective and data-driven, in consultation with our colleagues, we have engaged a Special Projects Manager and charged her with the following assignment:

- 1. Convene an interbureau workgroup to explore tree code implementation issues and make recommendations to the Council on the following issues:**
 - Organizational realignments
 - Staffing needs
 - Equipment needs

- Sustainable funding
 - Efficiencies to be gained through technology, streamlining or other means
 - Data collection needs; how to measure success
 - Timing of implementation
 - How penalties should be imposed, reduced or waived
- 2. Convene a community advisory group and seek its feedback on the interbureau workgroup's deliberations.**
 - 3. Return to Council by the end of July 2011 to present recommendations addressing the issues listed above.**

Hannah Kuhn, Special Projects Manager, will be leading this effort. She may be reached at 503-823-3595 or Hannah.Kuhn@portlandoregon.gov.

We look forward to working with you, your bureaus, and public stakeholders on this important project.