



Urban Forest Action Plan 2012 Implementation Update

February 2013

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Compiled by:

Angie DiSalvo, Portland Parks & Recreation

Urban Forest Action Plan Implementation Team:

Jenn Cairo, Portland Parks & Recreation Rob Crouch, Portland Parks & Recreation Angie DiSalvo, Portland Parks & Recreation Roberta Jortner, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Jennifer Karps, Bureau of Environmental Services Morgan Tracy, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability John Warner, Urban Forestry Commission

Cover photo: Portland Parks & Recreation staff examine a tree being removed due to Dutch elm disease.

Portland Parks & Recreation

1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1302 Portland, Oregon 97204 (503) 823-PLAY www.PortlandParks.org



Contents

Background
Urban Forest Action Plan Goals and Outcomes
Accomplishments
Ongoing Programs and Projects
Performance Measures
Key Challenges and Opportunities





In FY 2011-2012, volunteers contributed 66,548 hours valued at \$774,000 to diverse urban forestry activities from orchard harvest and maintenance (above) to pruning young street trees (below).

BACKGROUND

In 2007, a City of Portland interbureau team created the *Urban Forest Action Plan* to meet the goals established in the 2004 *Portland Urban Forest Management Plan*. The *Urban Forest Action Plan* contains the major goals and desired outcomes of the management plan, along with 63 action items to attain those goals. Each action item was initially assigned a priority and time frame (current, early, 5-year, and 10-year). This report summarizes annual progress and accomplishments for the *Urban Forest Action Plan*, with efforts led by Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry as well as other City bureaus. Over half of the action items are either completed or in progress.

Key challenges remain to reaching all goals in the *Urban Forest Action Plan*, and greater support is needed to achieve those goals. Many of the 5- and 10-year actions can only be initiated if so directed by the City Council and funded through the City's work planning and budget process.

URBAN FOREST ACTION PLAN GOALS AND OUTCOMES

GOAL 1: PROTECT, PRESERVE, RESTORE, AND EXPAND PORTLAND'S URBAN FOREST.

Outcome A: Enhanced Canopy

The tree canopy is optimized, meeting stocking and canopy targets.

• Outcome B: Regulatory Program

The City has a comprehensive, consistent, and clear regulatory program for trees.

• Outcome C: Development

The urban forest is enhanced through development and redevelopment.

GOAL 2: DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR THE URBAN FOREST.

• Outcome A: Shared Stewardship

Stewardship of the urban forest is shared by residents, agencies, non-governmental organizations, and businesses.

• Outcome B: Public Education

The public has a strong awareness of tree benefits and ecosystem health issues; education opportunities are abundant.

• Outcome C: Stable Resources

Stable resources support the urban forest.

GOAL 3: MANAGE THE URBAN FOREST TO MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

• Outcome A: Street Tree Distribution

Street trees are equitably distributed throughout the City.

Outcome B: Livability

The urban forest contributes to the health and wellbeing of Portlanders.

• Outcome C: Watershed Health

The urban forest contributes to improved watershed health, including water quality, stream flow, floodplain function, habitat, and biological communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Integrating the Urban Forest into the Portland Plan

The Portland Plan, the city's new strategic plan led by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, was adopted by the City Council in April 2012. With an eye toward the year 2035, the plan establishes goals, objectives and short-term actions to achieve long-term prosperity, education, health and equity. The Portland Plan also helps set the stage for the city's Comprehensive Plan update which will occur in phases over the next three years.

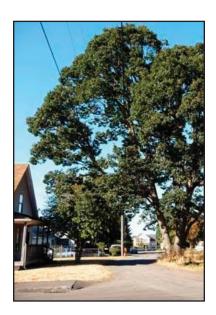
The Portland Plan explicitly recognizes the importance of trees for healthy neighborhoods and watersheds, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and for community identity and resiliency. The Portland Plan recognizes the city's urban forest canopy targets in the 2035 objectives for a Healthy Connected City. One of the objectives calls for trees to shade at least one-third the city, and to be more equitably distributed. And one of the 5-year actions calls for continued investments including tree planting, implementation of updated codes and programs outlined in the Citywide Tree Project, and review and refinement of the tree canopy targets in the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

The Portland Plan also recognizes tree canopy as an important equity issue. One of the plan's "Measures of Success" calls for all residential neighborhoods, commercial, and industrial areas to meet a minimum level of tree canopy which would greatly enhance tree deficient neighborhoods.

Canopy Cover Monitoring Protocol Established

The *Urban Forest Action Plan* and Portland Parks & Recreation utilize tree canopy as a measure of program success. In addition, meeting the city's tree canopy targets is also called for in the *Climate Action Plan* and *The Portland Plan*. Previous studies of the city's canopy utilized varying methodology and source data, which prevented a true comparison of the canopy measures over time. To monitor trends in Portland's urban forest canopy, Portland Parks & Recreation established a protocol for measuring canopy change using point interpretation of aerial photos. Canopy cover was measured in 2000, 2005, and 2010 citywide and in commercial, industrial, open space, and residential zoning classes.

Utilizing this new standardized method, citywide canopy cover was found to be 27.3% in 2000, 28.0% in 2005, and 29.9% in 2010. Across



Canopy change analysis showed a citywide canopy increase of 2.6% between 2000 and 2010.

zones, canopy was highest in the open space zone and ranged from 53.9% in 2000 to 55.3% in 2010. Residential zone canopy cover ranged from 29.8% in 2000 to 33.1% in 2010. Canopy was lowest in commercial and industrial zones. Commercial zone canopy ranged from 9.1% in 2000 to 12.5% in 2010. Industrial zone canopy ranged from 6.4% in 2000 to 7.9% in 2010.

From 2000 to 2010, canopy cover increased citywide and in all zoning classes. Citywide canopy cover increased by 2.6%, commercial by 3.4%, industrial by 1.5%, open space by 1.5%, and residential by 3.3%. All changes were statistically significant (McNemar's test, p < 0.05) and represent an addition of 2,384 acres of canopy. The upward trend is positive and encouraging for the urban forest.

The protocol adopted in this study is an important step in a long-term commitment to consistently and cost effectively tracking canopy trends within the city and the next measurement will be taken in 2015.

Improved Service in Low Tree Canopy Neighborhoods

BES partnered with the Confluence Environmental Center in sponsoring an AmeriCorp member to improve service delivery to communities with relatively low tree canopy cover. The Americorp member serviced as a neighborhood tree steward, volunteered with Friends of Trees, developed a map and tree walk for Ventura Park, tabled at community events, and strengthened partnerships with east Portland neighborhoods in support of tree planting and urban forest stewardship.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

<u>Planting Programs (Table 1):</u>

In FY2011-2012 8,129 street and park trees were planted through the PP&R Urban Forestry permit process by all tree planting partners.

Property Owner and Development Planting: Permits to plant 2,458 street trees were issued to property owners and developers by PP&R Urban Forestry in FY2011-2012.



Grey to Green funds helped plant over 5,000 trees in FY2011-2012, including these trees in east Portland in partnership with Friends of Trees.

Grey to Green: 5,402 street trees and 2,381 yard trees were planted by the Bureau of Environmental Services-led Grey to Green program in partnership with Friends of Trees, public partners, and Portland residents in FY2011-2012, the fourth of an eight-year initiative. Goals for the next fiscal year are to plant more than 5,000 street and yard trees with these and other partners, including thousands of residents living in more than 50 neighborhoods east of the Willamette River and several Portland-area schools. The Environmental Services bureau manages a team of seasonal canvassers who locate planting spaces in the right of way, assist property owners in signing up to plant with Friends of Trees, and conduct planting inspections under the guidance of PP&R Urban Forestry. The greatest challenges to planting street trees in Portland are finding appropriate planting locations and then securing agreement from adjacent property owners to plant and care for them. City canvassers signed up more than 2,400 customers for Friends of Trees. Outreach staff also talked with over 800 interested people about trees at community events, signing up 88 customers and 104 volunteers to work with partner Friends of Trees.

Additionally, 318 trees were the recipient of the Treebate credits. The Treebate program, funded through the Grey to Green initiative, offers an incentive for storm water fee ratepayers in Portland who plant trees on their residential private properties in the form of a utility bill credit. Because larger trees manage more storm water, Treebate credits 50% of the tree's purchase price up to \$50, \$25, or \$15, depending on mature tree size and storm water management potential. Treebate trees must be at least 1" caliper and 6' tall (4' for conifers) at time of planting and may not be otherwise subsidized by the city (e.g., trees planted through Friends of Trees), required by a condition of mitigation or development, or on the city's nuisance plant list. The program relies on local retail nursery partners, utility bill inserts, Treebate web pages, media coverage, and word of mouth to get the word out about the offer.

Parks Planting: 191 large-caliper trees were planted by PP&R Urban Forestry in parks in FY2011-2012, predominately as replacements for trees lost due to old age, failures, vandalism and car accidents. PP&R grows many of their park trees at their Mt. Tabor nursery.

School Arboreta: 78 trees were planted at six sites as school arboreta, called Learning Landscapes, with the help of over 800 students. PP&R Urban Forestry installs Learning Landscapes at schools using volunteers, students, and Neighborhood Tree Stewards. These



Students planted this tree as part of a Learning Landscape installation at Rieke Elementary School.

Learning Landscapes provide educational opportunities for students and neighbors to learn about different tree species and the importance of urban trees. Portland Public Schools staff are amenable to tree plantings, and have ensured that community infrastructure is in place to care for, water, mulch and replant the trees as needed. In addition, to help teach students and community members about the benefits of the urban forest, over 1100 native tree seedlings were distributed to Portlanders this year.

Regulatory Programs Portland Parks & Rec

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry issues permits for all street, park, and city tree work, including planting, pruning, and removal. 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.

Implementing Tree Rules: 13,284 tree inspections were completed for health assessments, planting, pruning, removals, and other regulated activities in FY2010-2011 under PP&R Urban Forestry (Table 1). PP&R Urban Forestry enforces city tree code regulations related to street trees and some private trees, depending upon the development situation. Much inspection time is dedicated to educating property owners about code requirements and tree care issues. The Bureau of Development Services continues to administer tree preservation requirements when certain types of development are proposed, including new land divisions and development in environmental zones.

Citywide Tree Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project: On April 13, 2011, Portland City Council unanimously approved the Citywide Tree Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project (Citywide Tree Project), creating a new Title 11 Trees, and amending the Portland Zoning Code to strengthen existing tree regulations. In addition to creating a new regulatory framework the Citywide Tree Project established a set of customer service improvements including a new staff position to serve as a resource for public inquires, a new tree website, and a 24-hour hotline to report suspected tree violations. Implementation was staggered with some of the zoning code amendments going into effect in July 2011 and the majority of the changes, including the new Title 11 Trees, scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2013.

Since adoption, staff has been gearing up to full implementation. On August 15, 2011 the implementing bureaus hired a Program Coordinator to help facilitate implementation of the Citywide Tree



Over 13,000 tree inspected were completed for many permit types, including root pruning inspections during sidewalk repair.

TABLE 1: INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS ISSUED BY PP&R URBAN FORESTRY IN FY11-12

STREET TREES				
	INSPECTIONS	TREES	PERMITS	TREES
	COMPLETED*	INSPECTED	ISSUED	PERMITTED
Planting, property owner	889	1,518	315	1,199
Planting, Grey to Green	5,021	9,429	2,818	5,402
Planting, development requirements	2,287	n/a	1,048	1,259
Pruning	1,156	4,229	1,172	3,450
Removal**	948	2,234	805	2,196
Root pruning	603	1,349	533	1,276
General	833	2,388	56	312
PARK AND SCHOOL TREES				
Planting, Parks	102	173	20	191
Planting, School Arboreta	6	78	6	78
Pruning	123	895	132	1,126
Removal***	100	1,199	129	1,541
Root pruning	20	185	19	98
General	163	2,571	22	231
PRIVATE TREES				
Removals, Tree Cutting Ordinance	1,039	500	223	392
Planting, mitigation	n/a	n/a	n/a	329
EMERGENCY				
Emergency response	571	688	n/a	n/a
TOTALS				
Planting	8,305	11,198	4,207	8,129
Pruning	1,279	5,124	1,304	4,576
Removals	2,087	3,933	1,157	4,129
Root pruning	623	1,534	552	1,374
General	996	4,959	78	543
Totals	13,290	26,748	7,298	18,751

^{*}Because not all inspections result in permit issuance, metrics of both inspections and permits issued are included.

^{**}Street tree removal includes removal for development projects, such as street improvements, light rail, and green streets facilities.

^{***}Park tree removal includes removal of a large number of invasive tree species, such as English holly and European hawthorn.

Project. Over the course of establishing protocols to administer the new tree regulations, staff from the Bureau of Development Services and Portland Parks & Recreation, the two primary bureaus responsible for administering the tree code, identified some glitches in the regulations that required amendments. These amendments were designed to improve the day-to-day usability of the new and amended codes and ensure a coordinated and seamless implementation. The amendments did not change the adopted policies; rather they were intended to further the objectives of the tree project by simplifying and clarifying the regulations for staff and customers. On September 19, 2012, with the full support of the Planning and Sustainability and Urban Forestry Commissions, City Council adopted the recommended amendments.

The bureaus have completed several customer service improvements adopted with the Citywide Tree Project. In September 2012, staff launched a new online pruning permit program, a provision of Title 11, which allows customers to receive a self-issued street tree pruning permit for some pruning requests. This new option eliminates permit processing time, making it easier for tree care professionals and homeowners to receive a permit quickly and efficiently. In November 2012, the bureaus began the 24-hour tree hotline pilot project allowing city residents to report suspected tree violations after regular business hours and on the weekends using the existing Bureau of Environmental Services spill response hotline. Staff will conduct a site visit, take pictures of the tree in question and review permit history to determine if a tree removal permit has been issued or if a tree plan has been approved as part of a development proposal.

The bureaus are currently updating initial budget estimates for full tree code implementation. These revised estimates are based on examination of current development activity and greater familiarity with code requirements. Given the pending fiscal outlook, funding may not be available for the new staff positions required for full implementation. If funding is not available the effective date of the tree code will likely be postponed further.

Education and Outreach Programs

PP&R City Nature teams up with public and non-profit partners to provide urban forestry education for the public on the importance of trees in the city.

Tree Inventory Program: Seeking to empower residents to better care for their neighborhood's tree canopy, PP&R Urban Forestry began organizing neighborhood stakeholders to conduct volunteer-led street tree inventories in 2010. In 2012, PP&R worked in Hosford-Abernethy, Northwest District, and Sunnyside neighborhoods, and 165 volunteers gave over 2,000 hours inventorying 14,000 trees. Inventory results, including species diversity, stocking level, site conditions, and ecosystem benefits were presented to neighborhood stakeholders alongside recommendations to improve the neighborhood's trees. Neighborhood tree teams created tree plans that included a vision statement, goals, action items, and recommendations for property owners. Tree teams presented information to their neighborhood associations for community input.

As a result of the project, these three neighborhoods now have recognized tree teams to address neighborhood tree concerns, and most are associated with their neighborhood association. Urban Forestry staff will continue to work with these tree teams to provide tree plan guidance and ongoing support. Staff is exploring how to best integrate tree plans into ongoing stewardship efforts, and is seeking funding to expand the project into other neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Tree Steward Program: The Neighborhood Tree Steward (NTS) program is a volunteer training course that gives participants knowledge and tools to lead local urban forestry projects. In 2012 PP&R partnered with members of the Tree Steward Coalition, including the Urban Forestry Commission, the Bureau of Environmental Services, Friends of Trees, Portland State University, and the Portland Fruit Tree Project. The course included seven classes for a total of 26 hours. The course was taught by 18 instructors from 10 different organizations. A wide variety of topics were covered, including tree identification, permitting, tree identification, tree biology, inventory, and planning projects. Twenty-nine people from 17 neighborhoods participated, bringing the total number of Neighborhood Tree Stewards to 251 trained over the past 14 years.

As a follow up to the NTS training, monthly workshops were developed to give continued support to Tree Stewards and encourage others to become involved in urban forest advocacy. Workshops gave participants hands-on experience and all materials and tools were available for participants to recreate similar workshops in their neighborhoods. Workshops included "Prune Like a Pro," "Winter Tree Identification," "Trees and Construction," and "Assessing Portland's Heritage Trees."



165 volunteers contributed thousands of hours to inventorying street trees in Hosford-Abernethy, Northwest District, and Sunnyside neighborhoods.

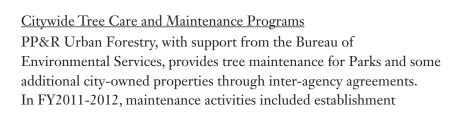
General Public Educational Workshops: Workshops were given on a variety of topics, including general and mature tree care, young tree pruning, Dutch elm disease prevention, fruit tree pruning, and high climbing demonstrations. In addition, PP&R Urban Forestry staff coordinate neighborhood and Heritage Tree walks and volunteer work days, all intended to educate the community on the different roles and values of trees.

Tree Care Providers Workshops: PP&R Urban Forestry staff offer a Tree Care Providers Certification Workshop for local tree care professionals. The program consists of free workshops offered on a semi-annual basis that provide training on city rules and regulations involving trees and approved pruning standards. After completing the workshop and providing proof of a valid business license, workshop participants are listed on the Urban Forestry web site as a "Local Tree Care Provider." In 2012, two workshops were offered, and to date 36 landscape, consulting, and tree care companies have participated in the program.

Professional Training: PP&R Urban Forestry provided training to other city bureaus and agencies on pruning, tree care, high climber emergency rescue, and planting permit inspections.

Events: Arbor Week events occurred over a week long period in April, and included workshops and tree walks, and culminated in the Annual Arbor Day Celebration at the South Park Blocks. The celebration included the presentation of the 35th Tree City USA award, a community tree planting, educational activities, and a giveaway of native seedlings. The fifth Annual "Dig-It" event kicked off the 2012-2013 planting season by planting 10 trees at Lent Elementary School and graduating the 2012 Neighborhood Tree Steward class.

Volunteer work hours: 66,548 volunteer hours valued at \$773,947 were provided to the urban forest in FY2011-2012, as reported by PP&R. Volunteers planted, pruned, and maintained trees in parks, natural areas, and rights-of-way; removed invasive species; and worked with environmental education events, among other activities.





Arbor Week events included the presentaiton of the Bill Naito Community Trees Award.

care and watering, pruning, canopy raising, removals, and hazard abatement for Parks, BES, Comnet, Fire Bureau, General Services, Golf, Maintenance Bureau, Portland Department of Transportation, Portland International Raceway, Department of Traffic Management, and the Water Bureau.

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Control: 42 public and private elms were removed due to DED in 2012 as part of the PP&R Urban Forestry Elm Protection program. Twenty-seven of the removals occurred in southeast Portland. The program includes vigilant monitoring, timely diagnoses, and preventative maintenance of elms. Staff arborists worked with neighborhood associations and friends groups to provide workshops on DED inoculation and inoculated approximately 90 street trees and 150 park trees in 2012. The elm program also includes public education on symptom recognition, proper pruning and elm wood disposal.

Emergency Response: PP&R Urban Forestry responded to 571 emergency call outs in FY2011-2012. PP&R Urban Forestry is the first responder to all tree-related emergencies with the city, providing immediate response to hazards around the clock. The majority of incidents involved tree failures that posed a hazard to people, traffic, or infrastructure.

Summer Youth Crew: PP&R staff hired six high school students from SE Works, a GED and career program, to conduct much needed maintenance and establishment tree work. The Summer Youth Crew worked to water, mulch, and maintain 325 trees planted by Neighorhood Tree Stewards and volunteers at 12 different schools. The crew also pruned low limb branches at various Portland Parks for structure, mower clearance, and visibility.

Protect the Best: PP&R's Protect the Best program, with funding from the Bureau of Environmental Services, is designed to prevent small patches of invasive, non-native plant species from spreading in ecologically healthy natural areas in Forest Park, Powell Butte, Buttes Natural Area, Clatsop Butte Park, Maricara Park, Tideman Johnson Natural Area, Errol Heights Natural Area, Bundy Natural Area, Whitaker Ponds, Marshall Park and Elk Rock Island. In FY 2011-2012, 530 acres received initial treatments and 600 acres were retreated. Since 2008, a total of 2,300 acres have been treated at least once, and approximately 10,600 individual invasive trees (>3" DBH) have been removed. The majority of non-native species removed were English holly, European hawthorn, and non-native cherry. The



PP&R Urban Forestry responded to 571 emergency calls, most involving trees down in the public right-ofway.



The Summer Youth Crew watered, mulched, and maintained hundreds of trees planted by volunteers and staff throughout Porland's parks.

program has exceeded its treatment goals and is moving into the more challenging stages of retreatment and effectiveness monitoring.

Watershed Revegetation Program: The Bureau of Environmental Services' Watershed Revegetation Program (WRP) works on over 1,500 acres of public and private property throughout Portland. WRP removes invasive vegetation and plants native vegetation as part of site management. WRP planted trees on more than 70 acres in both natural areas and storm water maintenance facilities during FY 2011-2012.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The UFAP Performance Measures Taskforce began meeting in 2007 to establish a set of performance measures for the *Urban Forest Action Plan* to measure progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan. This report contains compiled performance measures using credible existing data for FY2007-2008 through FY2011-2012. The task force will continue to work to establish targets, reporting frequency, and provide review of performance measures.

TABLE 2: BASELINE MEASUREMENTS AND INDICATORS OF PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING UFAP GOALS FOR FY2007-2008 THROUGH FY2011-2012

PROTECT, PRESERVE, RESTORE, AND EXPAND PORTLAND'S URBAN FOREST								
	FY07-08	FY08-09	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12			
Urban forest canopy cover* % of total city	26%*	-	-	29.9%	-			
Urban forest canopy coverage* % of public property	27%*	-	-	-	-			
Urban forest canopy coverage* % of private property	26%*	-	-	-	-			
Ratio of street tree plantings to removals	-	6.6	11.1	5.9	3.6			
DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR TH	IE URBAN FOR	EST						
Volunteer hours, Friends of Trees (FOT)	17,860	17,003	18,307	22,482	25,518			
Neighborhood Tree Stewards trained	0	0	23	11	29			
Website visits, PP&R Urban Forestry	32,440	46,959	90,831	70,844	118,292			
Arboreta developed at Portland schools (total trees planted)	2 (54)	5 (185)	9 (152)	5 (160)				
Total funding from grants in PP&R Urban Forestry budget	\$21,702	\$74,804	\$3,660	\$5,096	\$5,096			
Total budget, PP&R Urban Forestry	\$2.52M	\$2.42M	\$2.47M	\$3.06M	\$3.01M			
MANAGE THE URBAN FOREST TO MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR ALL								
Trees planted in low income and low canopy neighborhoods by FOT	962	1,510	1,261	1,597	2,044			
Carbon sequestration, lbs**	24,854,356	-	-	-	-			
Air pollutants removed, lbs **	599,023	-	-	-	-			
Stormwater retained, gallons**	413,676,636	-		-	-			
Canopy cover in riparian areas	-	66.6%		-	-			

^{*}Urban forest canopy cover is baseline data using imagery for year 2002, but was reported in FY2006-2007

^{**}Carbon sequestration, air pollutants, and stormwater retained is baseline data derived from 2002 conditions and reported in FY2006-2007

DATA SOURCES FOR PERFORMANCES MEASURES

Urban forest canopy cover: PP&R's *Tree Canopy Monitoring*: *Protocol and Monitoring from 2000–2010* (2012) calculated canopy cover using point interpretation of aerial photos.

Ratio of street tree plantings to removals: PP&R Urban Forestry tracks street tree removal and planting permits. Net change is determined by dividing planting permits issued by removal permits issued.

Volunteer hours with Friends of Trees: FOT tracks total volunteer hours each planting season.

Website visits for PP&R Urban Forestry: The City of Portland Urban Forestry website (www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/trees) tracks total visits.

Arboreta developed: Urban Forestry's Outreach and Education program creates Learning Landscapes at willing partner schools in the city. Arboretums developed involve planting multiple trees, creating a volunteer network for establishment care, and working with teachers to use the arboreta in classrooms.

Total funding from grants: Amount of funding in the PP&R Urban Forestry budget received from grants.

Total budget, PP&R Urban Forestry: Total budget for Portland Parks & Recreation's Urban Forestry division.

Trees planted in low income and low canopy neighborhoods by Friends of Trees: Trees planted in rights-of-way and yards in neighborhoods with <25% canopy (Poracsky and Lackner 2004) and where >51% of individuals are at or below 80% of the median income according to HUD (2003).

Carbon sequestration, air pollutants removed, and storm water retained: Portland's Urban Forestry Canopy Report (2007) used CITYgreen software to calculate the environmental benefits provided by trees based upon classified aerial imagery derived from a 2002 multi-spectral image.

Canopy cover in riparian areas: Reported in the State of the Watersheds 2008 Environmental Indicators Report issued by Metro. Corresponds to Indicator 2, the percentage of trees within 50 feet of streams and wetlands. Data were derived from 2007 aerial photographs using Feature Analyst software.

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Citywide Tree Project: Planning for Implementation

The Citywide Tree Project adopted by City Council was the result of three years of extensive public process and staff work, and public expectations for its implementation are high. An interbureau implementation group is working to prepare for the many changes that Title 11 will bring by the 2013 implementation date. In particular, Parks & Recreation and Bureau of Development Services staff are developing policy, procedures, and organization structure for new permitting requirements. In addition, the bureaus are executing a communications plan, conducting staff training, revising permit databases, and revising all printed materials.

Although the adopted project package includes several streamlining components, refined workload estimates indicate that costs may be higher than the bureaus initially projected. A refined budget reflects the implementation workgroup's increasing familiarity with the new code and the effort required for implementation. Bureaus will continue to identify approaches to improve program efficiency and cost effectiveness. Funding is necessary to implement key elements of the new code, including creating a single point of contact position and handling the increased workload in tree inspection, permitting, and enforcement for both Parks & Recreation and Bureau of Development Services. Securing additional funding in FY2012-2013 and FY2013-2014 will be challenging, especially given the recent forecast predicting declining city revenue that will require substantial general fund budget cuts.

Funding for the Urban Forest

The Grey to Green investment in outreach, education, and tree planting has brought key partnerships and leveraging power to programs supporting tree establishment in Portland. The Grey to Green program supports local non-profits Friends of Trees and Verde, invests in other green jobs in the community, works towards the city's tree canopy cover and carbon reduction goals, and supports community outreach and education programming in multiple bureaus. Continued funding of a tree planting program is an effective and efficient way to meet multiple objectives while investing in an ever more livable Portland.

In addition to planting programs, a commitment to maintenance of young and mature trees is needed to ensure their continued growth and contribution to the urban forest, thus maximizing the city's investment in this important resource.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Over the next year, the city will be completing an update of the *Portland Comprehensive Plan*. The update will address numerous issues, guided in part by the objectives and guiding policies in *The Portland Plan*. The updated *Comprehensive Plan* policies will also reflect the goals and policies of other adopted city plans, including *Urban Forestry Management Plan* goals and desired outcomes.

Establishing strong *Comprehensive Plan* policies for urban forest quantity, quality and distribution will establish a basis for more systematic consideration of the urban forest in land use and infrastructure planning efforts. Policies will provide a basis for potential updates to the Zoning Code and infrastructure investments. An initial draft of the plan will be released for public review in early 2013. It is important that city bureaus implementing the plan and the Urban Forestry Commission participate in this effort.