



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. Efforts are guided by Portland City Code Title 11 Trees.

Inspection and permit descriptions and definitions are provided on the final pages of this report.

OCTOBER 2015 TREE REMOVAL DETAIL REPORT

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES			
"A" Permits	-	92	140
"B" Permits	-	5	7
Denied Removal Permits	8	-	-
PRIVATE TREES			
"A" Permits	-	240	377
"B" Permits	-	6	31
Denied Removal Permits	8	-	-
TOTALS			
"A" Permits	-	332	517
"B" Permits	-	11	38
Denied Removal Permits	16	-	-

OCTOBER 2015 CODE COMPLIANCE

	STREET TREES	PRIVATE TREES
INVESTIGATION RESULT		
No violation found	10	2
Violation found - low limbs	37	0
Violation found - other	45	7
Total	92	9

OCTOBER 2015 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES			
Planting, total street trees	1161	105	166
<i>Non-development</i>	15	85	131
<i>Development</i>	301	20	35
<i>Environmental Services</i>	845	0	0
Pruning	36	144	429
Removal, total street trees	133	110	172
<i>Non-development</i>	133	97	147
<i>Development</i>	-	13	25
Root pruning	74	81	111
Other	22	3	762
PARK TREES			
Planting	0	2	4
Pruning	5	4	7
Removal	11	4	6
Root pruning	0	0	0
Other	3	0	0
PRIVATE TREES			
Planting, mitigation	-	-	294
Removal	259	246	408
Other	12	4	3
EMERGENCY RESPONSE			
Emergencies	46	-	-
TOTALS			
Planting	1161	107	464
Pruning	41	148	436
Removal	403	360	586
Root pruning	74	81	111
Other	37	7	765
Emergencies	46	-	-
Total	1762	703	2362

Urban Forestry Operations Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

We were very fortunate this report period, with regard to a few forecasted weather events that either circumvented the City, or did not develop at all. Mother Nature had the opportunity to make it challenging, but it appears we were spared from experiencing the traumatic events of a year ago. As with our previous report period, much of our labor and equipment efforts had been focused toward Dutch elm disease and park tree removals. With equipment challenges earlier in the year, our removal season has been extended. We currently have a few large removals remaining but they will be completed by the end of November.

We took advantage of the mild weather by performing large park tree pruning and removal projects. A recent Parks acquisition, Eagle Point, located along Terwilliger Blvd, required technical support in the form of invasive and hazard tree removals necessary to meet PP&R standards. In addition, as part of the City's effort to address the many challenges with the North Park Blocks, we are doing our part by providing some necessary pruning of all the trees located there. It has been awhile since these trees received this kind of attention. After pruning for over a week, it was apparent that the trees had more to be addressed than originally anticipated. The trees are currently being pruned for canopy clearance and removal of larger deadwood. Our efforts will help improve vehicle and pedestrian clearances, address security and visibility issues, and improve the overall aesthetics of the park. During our operations, we also uncovered some structural defects that were not detectable from a visual ground assessment. With the removal of a few select branches, and in one instance an entire tree, our efforts will mitigate identifiable hazards.

By the end of this report period the rainy season was formally upon us. We elected to remain out of our soggiest parks and changed our focus to address many of our interagency issues. We are quickly catching up with our streetlight clearance requests and supporting the Portland Bureau of Transportation with their LED streetlight conversions. It is a huge energy saving endeavor and one we are happy to be a part of.



Three Elm removals at NW 18th Ave. and NW Couch St. due to Dutch elm disease.

Although still continuing with our Arborist I recruitments, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Xavier Ritchie-Martinez as a new member of our Arborist Team. Mr. Martinez brings a host of previous tree care related experience and worked with Urban Forestry this summer as a Seasonal Tree Establisher. During his tenure, he proved to be a very valuable asset and is now a welcomed addition to our Arborist Team. We hope to have some additional folks on board by next report period to assist with our stump grinding and tree planting efforts.

Next report period should provide updates on additional Arborist recruitments, stump grinding efforts and our favorite event... the installation of the holiday tree in Pioneer Square. Stay tuned.

Neighborhood Tree Stewardship Training In Full Swing

SUBMITTED BY NIKHILESH DESAI, BOTANIC SPECIALIST I

We are in the midst of the 2015 Neighborhood Tree Stewardship Training Program. 21 students, representing 20 neighborhoods, gathered at the East Portland Community Center for our first class on October 17th. This year's cohort brings a wide range of experience to the class and a common interest in becoming better advocates for trees in their communities.

At our first class, Jenn Cairo, the City Forester and City Nature Zone Manager, provided an inspiring welcome to the world of Urban Forestry and also a call to action. Tree Steward alumni- Catherine Mushel, Gregg Everhart, Starr Hogeboom, Barbara Wharton and Patrick Key, shared words of wisdom

from their own experiences as Tree Stewards. Gina Dake, a Botanic Specialist I for Urban Forestry, gave an excellent introduction to Tree Biology and Fred Nilsen, the former curator of the Hoyt Arboretum, took the



Fred Nilsen leaves out no details as he talks trees with the

class on a one of a kind tree walk through the grounds surrounding the Community Center.

At our second class, Dr. Geoffrey Donovan from the USDA Forest Service gave an entertaining presentation on his research into the benefits of city trees towards reducing crime, cooling the city, cleaning the air, and increasing healthy birth outcomes. Jim Gersbach, a CSA II with Urban Forestry, followed up with a presentation on his work planning and planting the Ainsworth Arboretum, providing useful insight into the process of successfully executing an urban forestry project.

For the October 31st class, Larry Maginnis, Operations Supervisor for Urban Forestry, gave an informative presentation on the importance of proper tree care and maintenance along with a pruning demonstration and pruning workshop. Check out our website for further class details: portlandoregon.gov/parks/nts



Larry Maginnis demonstrates proper pruning techniques outside of the East Portland Community Center.

2016 Street Tree Inventory Recruitment Is Underway

SUBMITTED BY MATTHEW DOWNS, TREE PLAN COORDINATOR, AMERICORPS

I want to thank Elizabeth Specht and Danielle Voisin for paving the way for the AmeriCorps members serving with Urban Forestry this year. Patrick Key and I have really hit the ground running. Our ability to quickly pick up where they left off has been aided by their selfless hard work and dedication. Thanks, you two!



We hope our summer volunteers felt the love at the Inventory Volunteer Celebration 2015 at Mercado!

Our first order of business as AmeriCorps volunteers is the 2016 Street Tree Inventory. “But wait!” you might say, “Did we not just finish the 2015 inventory?” While this is true – and a resounding THANK YOU to this summer’s tremendous volunteers – the entire city Street Tree Inventory project will wrap up in the autumn of 2016. This is the last year to participate! So, it’s time we start recruiting. Patrick and I are approaching the 18 remaining neighborhoods spread out across our great city.

Neighborhoods wanted for the 2016 Street Tree Inventory

Alameda	Glenfair	Madison South
Argay	Grant Park	Pearl
Beaumont-Wilshire	Goose Hollow	Reed
Brentwood-Darlington	Hollywood	Rose City Park
Creston-Kenilworth	Humboldt	Russell
East Columbia	Lents	Wilkes

A focal point for Urban Forestry is establishing equity across Portland's entire canopy, with particular attention to areas with low canopy coverage, and residents with low income. Often these two coincide. Fortunately, each neighborhood that participates in the Street Tree Inventory forms a partnership with Urban Forestry, where the neighborhood receives guidance and support from professional arborists to help the community increase and manage their local canopy.

We have contacted neighborhood associations and coalitions, attended community meetings, and are busy tracking down past volunteers and graduates of the Neighborhood Tree Steward program. We've had some success getting folks to commit, however, time is of the essence. The deadline for applications is **January 15, 2016**.



Happy, confused, and elated Tree Inventory volunteers!

Please contact Patrick or Matt for information on how to become a Tree Team leader in your neighborhood!

Matthew.Downs@portlandoregon.gov (971) 334-0348

Patrick.Key@portlandoregon.gov (971) 334-0347

Looking Ahead

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE
Holiday Tree Installation	Pioneer Courthouse Square	11/12/2015
Neighborhood Tree Steward Graduation	Lynch Wood Elementary	11/21/2015
Pruning/Tree Care Workshop	Cully-Concordia International Grove	12/4/2015

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 Portland City Code Title 11 Trees. Please see Title 11 (www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/title11) for details.

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.

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, total street trees: The sum of non-development and development (street tree review only) tree removal numbers.

Removal, non-development: Requested by the property owner through an application process costing \$25. Permits are granted if the tree is dead, dying, or dangerous. Certain approved removals are subject to a two-week public notice and appeal period. Appeals are heard by the Urban Forestry Commission Appeals Board. Removed trees must be replaced.

A Tree Inspector inspects the tree and site and marks the curb for replanting. The property owner must select a replacement tree species prior to the issuance of the removal permit. Planting may be deferred until the following planting season, depending on the season.

Removal, development: All new construction and remodeling projects over \$25,000 require a street tree review. Trees may be approved for removal during street tree review due to development conflicts and/or poor tree condition.

Root pruning: Requested by property owners or contractors in the process of reconstructing damaged sidewalks. 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, and other park tree permits include pesticide or fungicide application.

PRIVATE TREES

Planting, mitigation: Trees planted as mitigation for removals.

Removal: Requested by the property owner through an application process costing \$25. Permits are granted for trees that are dead, dying, dangerous, within 10 feet of a building, nuisance species trees, as well as some additional circumstances. Certain 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 is required in the form of replanting.

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

certain cases, permits are needed to prune native trees on private property in the Environmental and Pleasant Valley Natural Resources overlay zones.

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 (e.g. Street Tree Pruning).

TREE REMOVAL DETAIL

Title 11 classifies tree removal permits in non-development situations into two categories based on the level of mitigation, or tree replacement, required.

The categories are “A” and “B” permits. “A” permits require tree-for-tree mitigation, and “B” permits can require greater than tree-for-tree mitigation.

“A” Permits: “A” permits are issued automatically for trees that are dead, dying, or dangerous.

For street trees, “A” permits are also issued when trees less than 3” DBH (diameter at breast height, tree diameter measured at 4.5 feet above the ground) are allowed to be removed.

For private trees, “A” permits are also automatically issued for removal of trees on the nuisance tree list, trees within 10 feet of a building, and up to 4 healthy trees less than 20” DBH.

“B” Permits: “B” permits are issued when it is necessary to apply standards and review factors to the removal decision.

For street trees, “B” permits are required when healthy trees 3” DBH or greater are allowed to be removed.

For private trees, “B” permits are required when healthy, non-nuisance trees 20” DBH or greater are allowed to be removed, or when more than 4 healthy, non-nuisance trees 12” DBH or greater are allowed to be removed per calendar year.

Denied Removal Permits: The number of removal applications where the entire application was denied. Denials are based on the species and condition of the tree, as well as the applicable standards and review factors.

CODE COMPLIANCE

Title 11 specifies required tree maintenance standards and restricts certain tree activities in order to further the City’s goals for optimizing and enhancing the urban forest. For example, the code requires the adjacent property owner to maintain sidewalk clearance of 7.5 feet above the sidewalk and 11 feet above the street.

When a code violation of Title 11 is confirmed by site inspection and permit history investigation, the responsible parties are notified and informed of actions needed to correct the violation. If corrective actions are not taken in the specified time frame, fines and fees may be imposed.

Edited by Gina Dake, Botanic Specialist I