

# Launching the Urban Forest Tree Story Project



BEST PARK SYSTEM  
IN THE NATION –  
GOLD MEDAL AWARD  
2011

**A Year in Tree Stories Culminating in the First Annual  
Collective and Citywide Display of Tree Stories  
March and April...Arbor Day 2017**

## **BEFORE Arbor Day 2016:**

**Everyone—Please send in a tree story:**  
—your own or another’s with permission to share—  
...pictures with text...  
...words (500+/-)...prose, poetry...  
...2 minute films...music...  
...the promise of a story hour!

**Learn more:**  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/arbor](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/arbor)  
**Email Story Submission:**  
[TreeStory@PortlandOregon.Gov](mailto:TreeStory@PortlandOregon.Gov)

## **On Arbor Day Festival 2016:**

- **Come to Arbor Day to celebrate trees and see & hear tree stories**
- **Volunteer at Arbor Day**

**Portland Farmers Market at Portland State University  
8:30 a.m.—2 p.m.  
Naito Awards at Noon**

**Deadline...for Submission of Tree Stories to be Displayed at Arbor Day 2016  
.....1 April 2016.....**

# The Urban Forest Tree Story Project: Fact Sheet



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## Why a Year-long Storytelling Project?

The main reason for collecting, displaying, and saving tree stories is to turn the table from telling the public about the value of trees based on the scientific literature to listening to what the public has to say about trees based on memory, experience, and culture in story form. The object is to bring new voices into the conversation, to build a broad-based community in support of the city's urban forest--to bring trees to the fore in citywide, community, and individual decision-making. The hope is to foster long-term relationships among different communities who care about trees and to create historical records either in archives or in reference to where oral storytelling that keeps history alive can be found in local communities.

## How will the stories be used?

- **Stories Urban Forestry collects** will be used in several ways:
  - Some will be posted on the Tree and Portland Parks websites and displayed at events centered around the urban forest.
  - Many will be archived in a time capsule dating from Arbor Day 2016 to Arbor Day 2017.
  - All will inform the conversation within Urban Forestry and between Urban Forestry and partners regarding the City's urban forest.
  - Many stories will be used to celebrate trees during Arbor Day festivities.
- **The stories community or neighborhood leaders share** may be restricted to their oral form, retained only within the group's archives, or they may be archived with Urban Forestry.

## What are the crucial roles in this project?

- **Author/Interviewer:** Find your voice and tell your own tree story, listen to and record your friends and family's tree stories, collect and record voices in your community.
- **Teacher/Educator:** Teach storytelling in the broadest sense of story and build community with a focus on trees. Record and collect students' stories. Create a platform to share students' stories on line, in libraries, community centers, park visitor centers, and galleries around Portland.
- **Agent:** Create a tree story forum through social media; submit tree stories to community and partner newsletters; stage a performance event; book or offer a gallery space for March – April 2017, for Arbor Day 2017, or Arbor Day 2018.
- **Contest Designer:** Create a citywide photo contest whose winner will be the center of next year's Arbor Day Poster, including collection point, jury, and display of winners.
- **Archivist--** for group, communities, institutions, or for Urban Forestry--of the year's collection of stories, news of the stories, and a storage place for the future.

**Deadlines: Story format and Urban Forestry and Project Participants' yearly workplans will determine planning deadlines for Arbor Day 2017.**