

Good morning.

My name is Jane Bacchieri and I manage the Watershed Services Group for the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services. BES manages stormwater and wastewater to protect public health, water quality, and the environment. My group specifically invests in green infrastructure in service of clean rivers, healthy watersheds, and equitable, sustainable communities.

The Environmental Services Tree Program just completed its eighth season planting trees in the city, and to date we have planted over 40,000 trees in residential, commercial, and industrial areas, in school yards and along transportation rights-of-way. The Environmental Services Tree Program focuses on three main program areas:

- Providing services equitably to meet the needs of diverse and traditionally underserved communities,
- Managing stormwater sustainably, and
- Protecting human health by reducing urban heat island.

Expanding the urban forest with a focus on low-canopy, low-income areas and communities of color supports the City's policies around advancing equity for all residents as well as the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, The Portland Plan, Climate Action Plan, Climate Change Preparation Strategy, Portland Watershed Management Plan, and Urban Forestry Management Plan.

There are a few items on today's agenda that are of interest to BES. One of these is the "Permit Appeals" topic. The BES Tree Program is currently in negotiations with Urban Forestry over a programmatic permit for our tree planting activities in the City right of way. Unfortunately, there are a small number of key items, including Urban Forestry's small trees policy, on which we cannot reach agreement so we may be in a position where we will need to appeal the permit.

The "Right of Way Planting Space" is another topic in which we are interested. You received a document with your email packet on Monday, May 16, entitled, "*Portland Street Tree Planting Standards: Minimum Width Requirements for Unpaved Rights-of-Way.*" This document references concerns that the BES has regarding the unintended consequences that these planting standards will have on the equitable distribution of street trees in the city. BES has prepared more detailed information that explains these concerns and we will provide copies of this document to the Urban Forestry Commission.

Thank you for your time this morning. Jennifer Karps and Amy Chomowicz from the Environmental Services Tree Program are here to answer any questions you may have.