



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.

NOVEMBER 2016 TREE REMOVAL DETAIL REPORT

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES			
"A" Permits	-	79	83
"B" Permits	-	11	11
Denied Removal Permits	6	-	-
PRIVATE TREES			
"A" Permits	-	196	225
"B" Permits	--	5	8
Denied Removal Permits	4		-
TOTALS			
"A" Permits	-	275	308
"B" Permits	-	16	19
Denied Removal Permits	10	-	-

NOVEMBER 2016 CODE COMPLIANCE

	STREET TREES	PRIVATE TREES
INVESTIGATION RESULT		
No violation found	8	8
Violation found - low limbs	0	0
Violation found - other	21	13
Total	29	21

NOVEMBER 2016 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES			
Planting, total street trees	655	196	395
<i>Non-development</i>	26	19	103
<i>Development</i>	245	48	82
<i>Environmental Services</i>	384	129	210
Pruning	28	202	396
Removal, total street trees	109	95	101
<i>Non-development</i>	109	90	94
<i>Development</i>		5	7
Root pruning	72	68	72
Other	19	1	1
PARK TREES			
Planting	0	0	1
Pruning	4	5	11
Removal	5	2	2
Root pruning	0	0	0
Other	8	0	0
PRIVATE TREES			
Planting, mitigation	--	--	197
Removal	190	201	233
Other	1	4	4
EMERGENCY RESPONSE			
Emergencies	58	--	--
TOTALS			
Planting	655	196	593
Pruning	32	207	407
Removal	304	298	336
Root pruning	72	68	72
Other	28	5	5
Emergencies	58	-	-
Total	1149	774	1413

Urban Forestry Operations Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

This report period remained relatively incident free in regards to storm damage and storm related work. A few days were dedicated to incidental emergencies, however nothing requiring more than a few hours for each incident. We were able to complete the last of our Dutch elm disease (DED) infected street tree removals. It proved to be a long season requiring the removal of some of the largest trees to date. This period we also played our part in the installation of the Pioneer Square Holiday Tree. It is a task we always look forward to and never have a shortage of volunteers willing to participate. Next report period will include updates on our DED stump removals, our annual tree delivery, and park pruning requests.

Park Tree Pruning

- Wilshire Park
- Overlook Park
- Pier Park
- Columbia Park
- Ed Benedict Park

Park Tree Removals

- Mt. Tabor Park: hazard big leaf maples
- Portland International Raceway: hazard cottonwoods
- University Park: dead pine

Special Projects:

- Gateway Green: clearance pruning
- Pioneer Courthouse: holiday tree set up
- Bond CIP Pruning and Removals: Colonel Summers Park
- Street tree DED removals
- Street tree DED stump grinding

Interagency Work:

- Humboldt Sewer Project: canopy lifting
- Streetlight clearance
- Traffic signal clearance
- SW Upper Drive: landslide mitigation work
- Fire Station 10: sewer emergency work

Reminder: Now Accepting Nominations for 2017 Naito Community Trees Award

SUBMITTED BY NIK DESAI, BOTANIC SPECIALIST I

Do you know an individual or group whose community efforts in tree planting, preservation, or stewardship have been amazing? If so, please submit a nomination by completing this very simple [online nomination form](#) today.

The nomination must include a one-page story about the nominee, describing their innovative and creative approaches, diligent commitment, and community-wide impact. Additional materials in support of the nomination are welcome and may include: news articles, captioned photographs, or letters of support. Finally, as this award is intended to honor extraordinary volunteer efforts on behalf of the urban forest, city employees are not eligible for nomination. Please visit: www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/96929 for more information on this award and a list of previous awardees.



2012 Individual Naito Award recipient, Phyllis Reynolds, accepting the coveted oak plaque from Bob Naito, son of Bill Naito. Phyllis was recognized for her lifelong advocacy in support of urban trees.

Nominations are due by midnight on January 27, 2017. Awardees will be honored by the Urban Forestry Commission at the [Portland's Arbor Day celebration](#) in April.

Questions? Nik.Desai@portlandoregon.gov

2016 Street Tree Inventory Complete

SUBMITTED BY JULIE FUKUDA, CSA II

As of October 2016, more than 1,300 volunteers, with help from Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Urban Forestry staff, have mapped, measured, and assessed nearly every public street tree in Portland – almost 220,000 in all, covering all 96 of the city’s neighborhoods. The street tree inventory provides Urban Forestry with crucial data to both guide stewardship of our urban canopy and empower neighborhood groups to care for their local trees.

Trees have also been measured, identified, and each one’s health rated as part of the City’s first comprehensive inventory of street trees. Findings from the tree inventory were presented at the 2016 Tree Inventory Summit on Saturday, November 5th at Mt. Scott Community Center.

Inventory Findings

Inventory results, recommendations, and maps have been compiled into individual neighborhood reports. Reports are available [here](#). An interactive map is also available for searching the nearly 220,000 trees in the database by address. Key findings from the Inventory are listed below:

- **Annual benefits:** Portland’s street trees provide \$28.6 million worth of environmental and other services each year, and are valued at nearly \$753 million.
- **Tree types:** Citywide, 161 tree types were found in 145 genera and 55 families. The ten most common tree types make up just over 52% of all street trees. This lack of tree species diversity makes the city’s forest susceptible to large-scale tree loss.
- **The two most common families:** Sapindaceae and Rosaceae, representing 28% and 25% of street trees, respectively.
- **Broadleaf deciduous trees** are the most common functional type citywide at 92%, followed by conifers at 7% and broadleaf evergreens at 1%.
- **The two most common genera** are maples (*Acer*) and cherry/plum (*Prunus*) which account for 27% and 12% of all street trees in Portland, respectively.
- **The ten most common tree types** in order of abundance are Norway maple (9%), red maple (7%), cherry (6%), pear (5%), plum (5%), other maple (5%), ash (4%), dogwood (4%), deciduous oak (3%), and crabapple (3%).

- **Site types:** Of sites where trees are planted, 82% are improved and 18% are unimproved, with the greatest proportion of unimproved sites occurring west of the Willamette River and east of 82nd Ave.
- **Stocking level:** Opportunities exist for more planting—citywide stocking level is just 60%. The lowest stocking levels occur in smaller sites and unimproved sites.
- **Planting site sizes:** 37% of trees were found in large sites, 37% in medium sites, and 26% in small sites. Large, medium, and small sites are not equally distributed throughout the city—smaller sites tend to occur in developed neighborhoods where narrow strips and cutouts prevail, while larger sites are often in unimproved areas but can also be found in neighborhoods that were laid out with the intention of having large strips.
- **Undersized trees:** More than half of large planting sites in all neighborhoods are stocked with trees that will not grow as large as the site can support.

Tree Plans

On November 5th, over 70 participants convened at the Tree Inventory Summit to discuss results and begin creating tree plans. After presentations on the data and hearing from guest speakers on species diversity, canopy, tree history, participants joined one of nine neighborhood groups to draft tree plans. The tree plans include a vision statement, goals, action items, and recommendations for property owners.

Urban Forestry AmeriCorps member Mason Wordell is serving as the Tree Plan Coordinator. He will work with each neighborhood tree team to plan two stewardship events between now and June 2017 to help groups stay organized and help meet tree plan goals. At the summit, Mason presented a menu of stewardship workshop options for participants to choose from, including tree walks, tree history, pruning, and maintenance events.

Future Direction

Urban Forestry staff will continue to work with tree teams to provide tree plan guidance and ongoing support. Now that the inventory is complete, Urban Forestry is using the data to identify goals that address questions of equitable distribution of forest benefits, pest and disease resilience, and planting to maximize long term benefits from community trees. A citywide report will be released in early 2017.

Congratulations to the Neighborhood Tree Steward Class of 2016

SUBMITTED BY NIK DESAI, BOTANIC SPECIALIST I

On November 19th, 30 students from 23 different Portland neighborhoods gathered at Floyd Light Park in East Portland to celebrate Neighborhood Tree Steward (NTS) graduation by planting seven trees exemplifying diversity:

Sweetbay magnolia: *Magnolia virginiana* ‘Moonglow’

Southern live oak: *Quercus virginiana*

Sourwood: *Oxydendrum arboreum*

Eye stopper cork tree: *Phellodendron amurense*

Willamette valley ponderosa pine: *Pinus ponderosa* var. *willamettensis*

Rivers purple beech: *Fagus sylvatica* ‘Riversii’

Persian ironwood: *Parrotia persica*

Special thanks to Gina Dake for helping with the planting plan, along with Debra Kneeshaw and Alexey Sarafinchan (Horticulture Services) for procurement and tree delivery. Additional thanks to Van Bogner, Gina Dake, Jim Gersbach, Larry Maginnis, and Damon Schrosk for helping to lead student groups in the tree planting. See photos of the tree planting here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/urbanforestry/sets/72157675324958132>



Our 2016 graduates join nearly 200 NTS alumni helping care for our city's trees since the program began in 1997

Following the tree planting, we feasted on tamales from Tierra del Sol (<http://www.tierradelsolpdx.com>) and had a graduation ceremony where students received certificates, NTS name badges, and official NTS hoodies after a few words of wisdom from Class Coordinator, Nik Desai and UFC chair, Mark Bello.

Overall, the class was a huge success with 92.3% of students that completed a post-course evaluation rating the experience as Very Good or Excellent and only one student each selecting Good or Fair. A huge debt of gratitude goes out to UF intern Hakima Siyad and UF AmeriCorps Member Mason Wordell for the countless hours they spent to help with class coordination and organization.

Here are some of the things that students shared about “the most enriching aspect of NTS:”

“I think the whole experience was well done. I enjoyed the discussion on habitats in the urban forest & Larry’s lecture, as well.”

“Call to action – speak for the trees!”

“History of Portland Trees. The enthusiasm of the Urban Forestry Department and Commission”

“I understood virtually no tree biology coming into the class. Also, I underestimated how sensitive trees are to improper care.”

“Brian French’s talk opened up a new aspect of the urban forest for me, so good!”

“How essential the urban forest is to the health of all people. Importance of diversity.”

“Power of community, especially with passion and knowledge.”

“Equity related to the urban forest.”

“Diseases and pathogens. Tree Codes.”

Fall 2016 Tree Planting Season Begins on the Roseway Park Blocks

SUBMITTED BY MASON WORDELL, TREE PLAN COORDINATOR, AMERICORPS MEMBER

Since the Tree Summit in November, we have been working hard to coordinate a calendar for the upcoming workshop season. We received workshop requests from nearly all of the neighborhoods that participated in the 2016 Street Tree Inventory, in addition to workshop requests from veteran tree teams. Working closely with the Creston-Kenilworth Tree Team, we hosted our first workshop of the season on December 10th. In the workshop, Jim Gersbach gave a presentation on the importance of selecting and planting diverse tree species. The presentation wove together the neighborhood level and city-wide findings from the street tree report, as well as the options homeowners have to select from when planting with Friends of Trees. Working together with Friends of Trees, we have developed a series of workshops that will help educate homeowners and motivate them to plant trees before their neighborhood planting date. These workshops build on our existing partnership with Friends of Trees to deliver programs in neighborhoods across Portland. Join us for the upcoming workshops!

Lents & Brentwood Darlington | [Register](#)

- December 17, 2016
- Zenger Farm Grange, 11741 SE Foster Rd.
- Community Workshop on selecting trees for your home, with Julie Fukuda

Albina | [Register](#)

- January 7, 2017
- Location: TBD
- Street Tree Pruning Workshop

Grant Park & Hollywood | [Registration coming soon](#)

- January 14, 2017
- Grant Park Church, 2728 NE 34th Ave.
- Community Workshop on selecting trees for your home, with Jim Gersbach

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. BES also contracts with other organizations to plant trees under their UF permit.

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 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 Brian Landoe, Assistant Program Specialist