



# 2016 Youth Conservation Crew

## Tree Crew Report

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## **Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) Program Overview**

Portland Parks & Recreation's Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) program is an eight week summer employment opportunity for a diverse population of youth ages 14-18. Crews protect, restore, and manage Portland's parks, schools, and natural areas while developing essential job skills and exploring environmental career paths.

Since 2009, Urban Forestry has sponsored one YCC Tree Crew. Six crew members and one crew leader visit selected sites around the city and perform a variety of tree related activities, including pruning, weeding, mulching, and most recently, inventorying.

The 2016 crew had a summer full of learning and career exploration. They displayed great teamwork and enthusiasm. During the summer, they gained experience in many different areas within the environmental and natural resources fields. They worked on developing important skills including leadership, effective communication, hard work, efficiency, respect, and integrity.

Throughout the eight week program, the Tree Crew teamed up with neighborhood associations, Street Tree Inventory Volunteers, Natural Area Stewardship Coordinators, Urban Forestry staff, Metro naturalists, historians, and representatives from East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and Willamette River Keepers. These connections helped the Tree Crew to learn about the environment, urban ecology, conservation and careers within natural resource management.

We wish to express our gratitude to all those who shared their knowledge, advice, and experiences with the 2016 YCC Tree Crew.

## 2016 YCC Tree Crew Staff

**Program Coordinator**

Kelly Rosteck

**Tree Crew Sponsor**

Gina Dake

**Tree Crew Leader**

David Grandfield

**Tree Crew Members**

Anil Bharati

Dawa Gyalpo

Adrian Munoz

Tamika Perez

Charlie Prince

Hakima Siyad



## Summary of Accomplishments

### In 8 weeks, 6 Crew members:

- Weeded 375 trees
- Inventoried 270 street trees
- Pruned 180 trees
- Mulched 38 trees
- Removed 3 dead trees
- Removed 200 sq. feet of ivy
- Removed 200 sq. feet of blackberry

### Crew members worked at:

- 12 Portland public schools
- 6 Portland city parks
- 1 Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) property
- 1 Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) property

*“If it wasn’t for YCC, I wouldn’t get to explore nature.” – Adrian Muñoz*

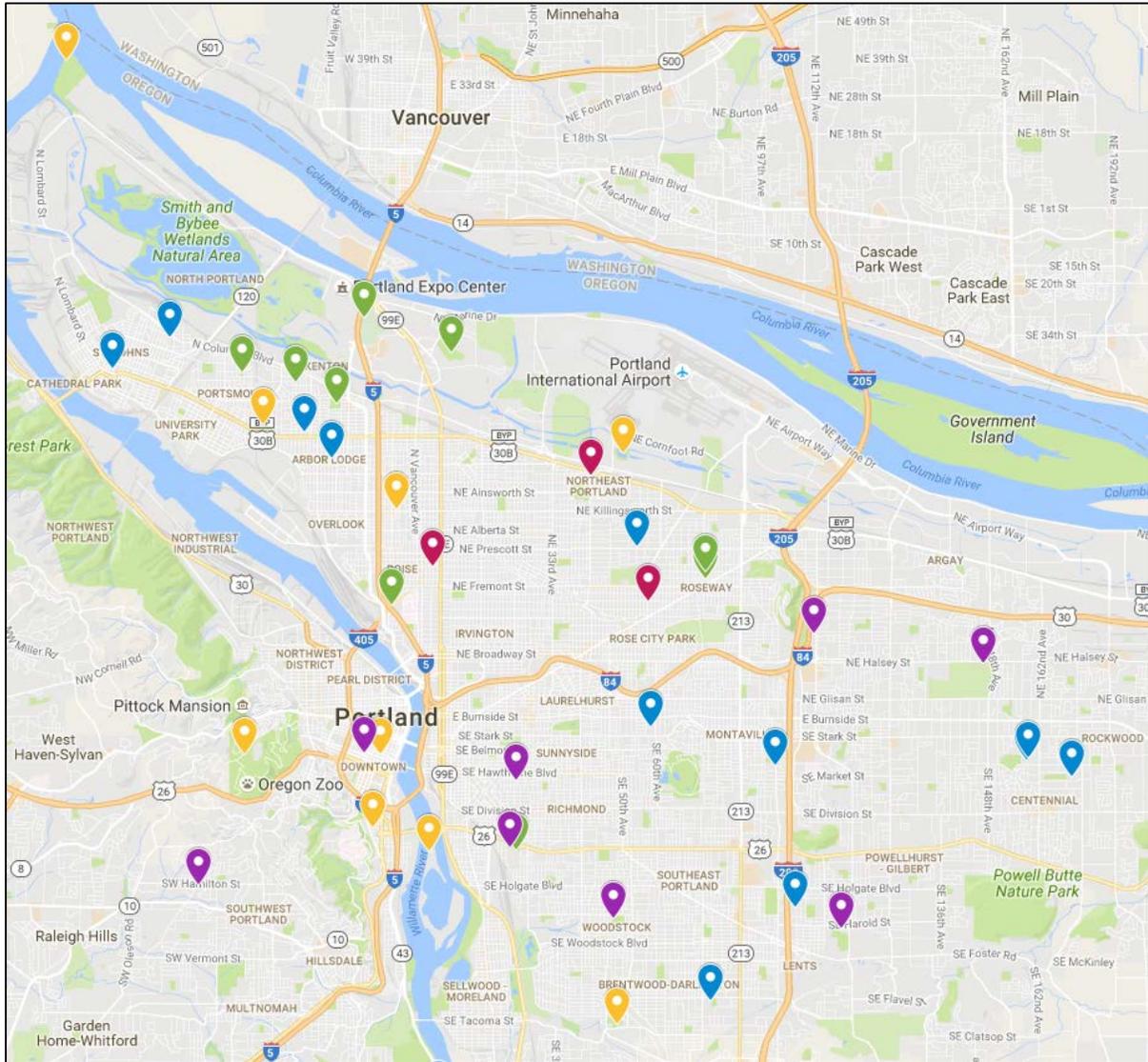
*“I’m proud to be part of the generation of tree protectors.” – Charlie Prince*

*“Thanks to the Tree Crew, I learned a lot about Urban Forestry.” – Dawa Gyalpo*



*“Working on YCC Tree Crew opened new opportunities for me.” – Hakima Siyad*

# Site Map – All



<b>Schools</b>	
<b>Parks &amp; Public Spaces</b>	
<b>Inventory Sites</b>	
<b>Heritage Trees</b>	
<b>Career Enrichment Sites</b>	



## City Parks & Public Spaces



YCC crew members remove an invasive tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

The Tree Crew worked at eight city parks and public spaces.

Their work included:

- Pruning trees over sidewalks and parking areas
- Removing suckers from the base of tree trunks
- Weeding, mulching, and adjusting stakes

Along the way they interacted with many community members who inquired about and thanked them for their work.

### Sites visited:

- Columbia Children's Arboretum
- Delta Park – Urban Forestry
- Kenton Park
- McCoy Park
- N Mississippi Ave. right-of-way (ODOT)
- Powell Park
- Roseway Park Blocks (PBOT)
- Trenton Park



YCC crew members meet Portland Parks & Recreation Director, Mike Abbaté, at the Urban Forestry Division headquarters at Delta Park.

## Heritage Trees

YCC Tree Crew members had a unique opportunity to participate in Portland's Heritage Tree Program. They began with a private guided tour of downtown Portland's Heritage trees, led by Urban Forestry's Nik Desai, and historian, David Hedburg. During this tour, the Tree Crew learned about Portland's history of tree removal, planting and preservation. Exposure to historic trees helped to reinforce the importance of establishing trees in our urban spaces.

Following their introductory tour, the Tree Crew was invited to a private residence to learn about Heritage Tree #130, a Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), pictured below on the left. During this visit, crew members removed invasive ivy and blackberry from the base of two historic pear trees, protecting the landscape adjacent to the trees to promote longevity.

Finally, each crew member chose a Heritage Tree from the database to visit and learn about, such as Heritage Tree #7, a European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), pictured below on the right. At each location, the person who selected the tree guided a discussion where they recorded field notes and observations.



## Street Tree Inventory

YCC Tree Crew members were fortunate to be able to participate in the last year of Urban Forestry’s Street Tree Inventory Project. After two days of training, crew members helped collect street tree data in two neighborhoods, Humboldt, and Rose City Park. This process demonstrated the importance of accuracy when collecting data in the field. Over the course of three days, the Tree Crew inventoried 270 trees.



Top left: Crew members count bundles of pine needles to hone their identification skills. Top right: Urban Forestry’s Julie Fukuda helps prepare crew members for data collection. Bottom right: A collection of leaves the crew used to learn tree identification. Bottom left: Crew members pose with neighborhood volunteers.

## Career Enrichment Days

Throughout the summer, Tree Crew members participated in a variety of career enrichment activities around Portland. These activities are designed to enhance professional skills, as well as offer exposure to environmental career opportunities.

### Location

Hoyt Arboretum  
Lair Hill Park  
Oxbow Regional Park  
Canoe to Ross Island  
Portland Building  
Errol Heights Natural Area  
Whitaker Ponds Natural Area  
Kelly Point Park  
Portland Com. College & PSU  
Columbia Park

### Enrichment Theme

Horticultural collections in urban spaces  
Team building activities  
Environmental education  
Recreation & natural area restoration  
Allyship & Financial beginnings training  
Native plant identification  
Native wetland plant identification  
Ecological & Natural area history  
Exposure to campus atmosphere  
Public speaking & networking



A day of environmental exploration and learning at Oxbow Regional Park.

## Tree Crew Photos

