

# Irvington Tree Team and Tree Plan

- Inventory Findings
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Lacebark elm *Ulmus parvifolia*

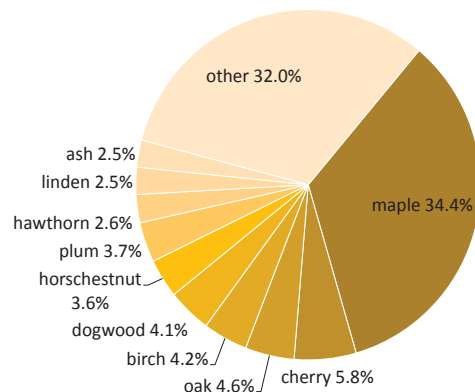
## Why Street Trees?

Street trees shade us, lower our energy costs, filter our water, clean our air, calm traffic, increase our property values, and provide wildlife habitat. They enhance our health and neighborhood livability.

## Irvington Tree Inventory and Tree Plan

In Irvington we are fortunate to have a rich tree canopy that includes many old trees. As of 2017 we are home to 32 of Portland's 329 Heritage Trees. But our canopy faces threats from storms, pests, and disease. Ensuring our trees' survival requires stewardship by residents and the city. The Irvington Tree Team, part of the Irvington Community Association, was created to address the vulnerabilities revealed by the city's 2015 street tree inventory. That year, under the direction of Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry staff, trained resident volunteers collected data on each of Irvington's 5,601 street trees.

## Most Common Street Trees in Irvington



## Inventory Findings

- *More than 54 percent of our trees fall into only two families.* Both the *Acer* (maple) and *Prunus* (plum, cherry) genera are especially overrepresented, leaving over half of our trees susceptible to tree-killing pests and disease.
- *Broadleaf deciduous trees, which drop leaves in winter, make up 95 percent of our canopy.* Planting more conifer and broadleaf evergreens will give us year-round benefits and diversify our urban forest.
- *More than 25 percent of our street trees are young and need proper watering and pruning if they are to reach their full lifespan.*
- *We have 1,400 empty spots that can accommodate trees.* That's 1,400 missed opportunities for shade, cleaner air and water, and lower energy costs.
- *Large trees such as oak and Douglas fir make up only 21 percent of our street trees.* Yet such trees live four times longer and provide many times the benefits of small ornamentals like cherry, dogwood, and snowbell.
- *Almost 75 percent of our street trees are undersize for the site in which they're planted.* This makes us one of the city's worst offenders of planting small trees in large sites capable of holding large (over 50' high) trees.
- *Our canopy lacks enough young trees to adequately replace aging trees.*
- *Our street trees produce \$1.3 million annually in environmental and other benefits.*



# Irvington Tree Plan

This plan, based on 2015 tree survey data, is a guide to the team's planned stewardship activities.

## VISION STATEMENT

Bring neighbors together to protect and expand our tree canopy for the health and livability of our community.

## BROAD GOALS

1. Promote to residents the community-wide economic, aesthetic, and environmental benefits of a large, healthy tree canopy.
2. Boost tree health and diversity to increase resilience to storms, pests, and disease.
3. Increase tree canopy across the whole neighborhood.

## CONCRETE GOALS

1. Organize community members to participate in tree-related events such as tree walks, talks, surveys, and workshops.
2. Nominate trees for Portland Heritage Tree status.
3. Replace dead or dying trees with new trees that increase species diversity and provide the most bang for the buck in terms of expanding neighborhood tree canopy.
4. Plant wherever possible more long-lived trees including conifers and broad-leaf evergreens.
5. Better maintain young trees by holding pruning workshops: proper pruning--and watering--increase trees' chances of reaching their full lifespan.
6. Fill our available but empty planting spaces, focusing first on placing large, long-lived trees in large sites.

## How you can help

### Join the Irvington Tree Team!

Take a leadership role and help us to achieve our goals. Help plan and take part in tree events. Help increase tree planting and maintenance in Irvington. For more information, contact us at [treeteam@irvingtonpdx.com](mailto:treeteam@irvingtonpdx.com) and see [www.irvingtonpdx.com/tree-team](http://www.irvingtonpdx.com/tree-team).

### Plant

Call PP&R Urban Forestry for your free permit, and partner with Friends of Trees for the best deal (contacts for both are below).

Water your young trees or they will die. Newly planted trees need 15-20 gallons of water every week during the dry (late) spring and summer months for two to three years after planting.

### Mulch

Add mulch to the base of street trees every year. Apply a 3" depth in a 3' radius around the tree. Make sure to keep mulch and soil away from direct contact with the trunk, to prevent disease and decay.

### Maintain Trees Throughout Their Lifecycle!

Trees need occasional pruning to remove dead wood, provide clearance for sidewalks and streets, and to promote good form in order to survive storms. Not sure how to prune? Contact PP&R Urban Forestry for your free permit or ask the Irvington Tree Team for guidance.

### Replace Your Dead or Dying Trees

Keep our Irvington urban forest growing by replacing dead trees with young healthy ones that also increase tree species diversity. Contact the Irvington Tree Team for help or questions.

ver. 3/23/2017

## Contacts

### Irvington Tree Team

Website: [www.irvingtonpdx.com/tree-team](http://www.irvingtonpdx.com/tree-team)  
Email: [treeteam@irvingtonpdx.com](mailto:treeteam@irvingtonpdx.com)

Join us at the Whole Foods (Fremont) dining area for our monthly meeting. See website for dates and times and upcoming events.

### Irvington Community Association

<https://www.irvingtonpdx.com/>

Monthly general meetings are held at 7 pm on second Thursdays at the Irvington Elementary School library, 1320 NE Brazee Street.

### Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry

[www.portlandoregon.gov/trees](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/trees)  
503-823-TREE (8733)

### Friends of Trees

[www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org)  
503-282-8846

### Download the complete map and report

[www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/treeinventory](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/treeinventory)



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