



Urban Forestry Report

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. Currently, efforts are guided by City Code 20.40 Street Tree and Other Public Tree Regulations and 20.42 Tree Cutting.

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. Inspection and permit descriptions and definitions are provided on the final page of this report.

PERMIT NOTES

- *Japanese Garden*: 60 trees were inspected at the Japanese Garden for pruning. The pruning goal is to restore the historic view from the East Pavillion.
- *Lents Park*: 100 trees were inspected at Lents Park to assist with species identification for a Bureau of Environmental Services Americorp member to complete a tree map of the park.
- *Online pruning permits*: 41 online pruning permits were issued for 102 trees in December.

DECEMBER 2012 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS

	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	TREES INSPECTED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
STREET TREES				
Planting, general	59	95	32	101
Grey to Green	183	238	487	886
Land use reviews	45	-	1	4
Development	159	-	74	65
Pruning	157	377	199	413
Removal	57	104	66	129
Root pruning	50	82	54	124
Other	52	288	8	84
PARK TREES				
Planting	0	0	0	0
Pruning	4	87	7	17
Removal	3	12	3	2
Root pruning	0	0	0	0
Other	4	111	0	0
PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)				
Code applicability inspections	44	-	-	-
Planting, mitigation	-	-	-	10
Removal	25	45	17	26
EMERGENCIES				
Emergency call outs	32	32	-	-
TOTALS				
Planting	446	333	594	1066
Pruning	161	464	206	430
Removal	129	161	86	157
Root Pruning	50	82	54	124
Other	56	399	8	84
Emergencies	32	32	-	-
Totals	874	1471	948	1861

Outreach and Education Events

SUBMITTED BY KARL DAWSON & AUTUMN MONTEGNA,
OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

FIX-IT FAIR ON JANUARY 26

Love talking about trees? Staff the Neighborhood Tree Steward table at the January 26th Fix-It Fair. Share your tree knowledge, give away dawn redwood seedlings, have fun, and learn about trees too! The Fix-It Fair will be at Self Enhancement Inc. at 3920 N. Kerby and shifts are available from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and 12:30 to 3 pm. Email karl.dawson@portlandoregon.gov to sign up.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEARNING LANDSCAPES

Portland Parks & Recreation is planting six Learning Landscapes this planting season. Learning Landscapes are tree plantings at schools where Tree Stewards, volunteers and students work together to plant unique tree species. These trees are then identified and mapped by students and used as part of the class curriculum.

Learning Landscapes will be planted at Rieke Elementary (1405 SW Vermont), Lent K-8 (5105 SE 97th), Lincoln Park Elementary (13200 SE Lincoln Street), Gilbert Park (13132 SE Ramona St) and two other schools. Volunteers are needed to help make these tree plantings possible. Tree Stewards teach a brief "Structure & Function" curriculum on the parts of a tree, then go outside and make sure the students plant the tree correctly. Email karl.dawson@portlandoregon.gov to sign up.



Orange cones mark tree planting locations at Lincoln Park Elementary for a Learning Landscape planting.

TREE STEWARD MONTHLY WORKSHOP: PRUNE LIKE A PRO

The 2013 workshop series will kick off with Prune Like a Pro on Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Director Park. Participants will learn basic tree biology and pruning techniques to help promote good structure in young street trees, and will work side-by-side with certified arborists to prune young trees in Director Park. Prune Like a Pro is a free workshop and is open to the public. Registration is full for the event. Director Park is located at SW Park Ave. and SW Yamhill St. For more information, contact Autumn Montegna at 503-701-7622 or autumn.montegna@portlandoregon.gov.

Six Tree Inventories and Tree Plans to be Completed in 2013

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO, BOTANIC SPECIALIST

Applications for Urban Forestry's street tree inventory and tree plan program are due January 15. Communities applying to participate in the project must submit an application which is available at <http://portlandoregon.gov/parks/treeinventory>.

Tree inventories are designed to be fun and educational community events. Requesting communities first work with their neighborhood association to organize a tree team. Tree teams organize four inventory work days, recruit volunteers, and conduct the inventory. Urban Forestry provides organizational and inventory training, supplies, and work day leaders. After the inventory, Urban Forestry will guide tree teams in interpreting data and creating tree plans. Applicants should be willing to commit at least two years to the project.

Announcements on the six selected communities will be in mid-February. For more details on the project, contact Angie DiSalvo at angie.disalvo@portlandoregon.gov.



Volunteers learning tree identification and inventory protocol during inventory training in summer 2012.

Urban Forestry Crew Report

SUBMITTED BY LARRY MAGINNIS, UF SUPERVISOR

This report period was relatively calm. Given the holiday season, requests from many of our partners were minimal. A few storm events provided some excitement in the way of tree failures and landslides, however, things were business as usual for our Urban Forestry crew.

Our big projects this report period focused on stump grinding and street light clearances around the city. We have approximately 150 locations for each task that should take us up to the end of January to complete. These tasks require considerable equipment resources, however, they are a necessary service we provide. With all of our elm stumps removed, we are focusing on stumps located mainly in parks. Planting will follow shortly thereafter. Our streetlight clearances are one of our larger interagency agreements requests, and are complaint driven safety issues that need addressed. These locations are all over the city and each location can have 1- 4 streetlights that need to be cleared from branches.

We have completed our two large park pruning projects from December. Kenton and Pendleton Parks have received some much needed attention and are safer due to visibility and light clearances. We will be addressing other security pruning this month in Argay and Glenhaven Parks.



A landslide occurred on NW Cornell just west of NW 53rd Drive. The Urban Forestry crew removed two 16" diameter alder trees that came down with the mud. The 55' high trees were only a few feet from high voltage lines and PGE assisted with power shut off and road closures.



A large douglas-fir tree failed across Wildwood Trail in Forest Park approximately ¼ miles from nearest trailhead. The tree fell from an upper slope toward downhill. The tree root mass came to rest beyond it's own center of gravity and was at risk of tipping over on to the trail once the log was cut. Urban Forestry expert arborists were needed to ensure the safe cutting and moving of the downed wood. The trail has since been cleared and is safe for park users.

The excitement this report period arrived in the form of a landslide and a few tree failures. The landslide occurred on Cornell Road near 53rd Drive. The cleanup required the assistance of our crews which were responsible for the removal of a few alder trees that came down with the slide. In order for our team to access the trees, electrical service had to be disconnected for dozens of customers due to the proximity of the trees to high voltage power lines. After the tree removals, other city agencies addressed the slide. Additionally, three large tree failures were addressed where trees uprooted. These trees included a large douglas-fir tree over the Wildwood Trail in Forest Park and two large street trees that forced the closure of roadways.

This next report period we will be receiving delivery of hundreds of trees for both our city capital projects and park plantings. Our tree sources are our very own Mt. Tabor nursery and a handful of local nurseries.

This next report period should again include updates from our stump grinding efforts, ramping up for our planting season, future heritage tree maintenance pruning, and future park projects.

Online Pruning Permit Update: Compliance Inspection Results

SUBMITTED BY ANGIE DISALVO, BOTANIC SPECIALIST

In fall 2012, Urban Forestry launched an online pruning permit program for street trees. The program has been enthusiastically received by both the public and arborists. Only certain types of properties and pruning work are eligible for online permits.

To determine if permittees were following permit guidelines, Urban Forestry staff conducted compliance inspections on 20% of all permits issued online in the first two months of the program. The following are results and observations from the compliance inspections.

Upon inspection, no pruning work was done after the date specified on the pruning permit for nearly 20% of permits issued. These cases were excluded from further compliance inspection calculations. Property owners who specified themselves as the pruning agent were most likely to not follow through with pruning work on their trees. It may be that property owners had not sought the services of an arborist at the time of application, resulting in a delay. Also, no procedure currently exists online for a property owner to cancel a pruning permit if he changes his mind and decides not to have pruning work done.

For permits where pruning work was completed, the online pruning permit system appears to be running successfully. Even though only 79% of applicants followed all instructions to the letter, all of the pruning work done under the online pruning permits issued during this time period was in compliance with the City of Portland Street Tree Pruning Standards.

For the most serious cases of non-compliance, more intense pruning was conducted than allowed by the online pruning permit instructions. In another case of non-compliance, one applicant had stated a pruning date that was 34 days after the issue date of the permit. This may be avoided with more reminders on the website that permits are only valid for 30 days.

For more information on the online pruning permit, visit www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/pruningpermit.

Online Pruning Permits Issued from September 18 - November 20	
Permits issued	136
Range between date of application and date of work	0-55 days
Trees permitted	365
Average # of trees per permit	3
Range of trees permitted per permit	1-20
Pruning agent	
Arborist	120 (88%)
Property owner	7 (5%)
Unspecified	9 (7%)

Compliance Inspection Results	Permits	Trees
All online permit requirements met	79% (15)	83% (34)
Online permit requirements not met	21% (4)	17% (7)
Non-residential property	0% (0)	0% (0)
Pruning branches > 6"	0% (0)	0% (0)
Pruning other than young tree pruning, crown cleaning, or crown raising	16% (3)	12% (5)
Pruning Heritage Trees	0% (0)	0% (0)
Pruning not meeting standards (violations)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Permit requested >30 days in advance	5% (1)	5% (2)



Young tree structural pruning is one pruning type eligible for a self-issued online permit.

Tree Stewards Recognized for Work at Columbia Children's Arboretum

REPRINTED FROM WWW.PORTLANDPARKS.ORG

Portland Parks & Recreation recently dedicated a bridge in the Columbia Children's Arboretum to the late Dick Towle and his wife, Gyrid.

We honor the memory of Mr. Towle with a permanent plaque installed on a native stone next to the bridge named in his honor. PP&R is proud to memorialize the many contributions Richard "Dick" Towle made to this beautiful park during his lifetime.

The late Dick Towle and his wife, Gyrid (Jer-EED), have been residents of the East Columbia neighborhood for many years. In that time they have played very active roles in park advocacy, volunteerism, and fundraising – most notably for the Columbia Children's Arboretum. The Towles belonged to the East Columbia Neighborhood Association (ECNA), working with PP&R on numerous community enhancement activities.

Dick and Gyrid organized numerous work parties over the years to clean up natural areas, to remove invasive blackberries, and to build a soft-surface path in the Columbia Children's Arboretum. Some of their other efforts included neighborhood celebrations in the park, planting events, Earth Day clean-up efforts, working on the development and realization of the Arboretum's Master Plan, and planting native vegetation. Dick and Gyrid were also supporters of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council.

"When I first started as a Portland Parks & Recreation supervisor, Dick walked me through a tall grass field covered with blackberries and small apple trees at the end of a field," recalls Louie Guerrero, PP&R Services Supervisor. "He said he called it the Columbia Children's Arboretum because nearby schoolchildren would walk through and enjoy the natural area that was his backyard."

Dick and his neighbors spent countless hours mowing grass and pruning to keep the park in top shape for all users. Today, Dick's dream continues to be realized in the area officially known as Portland Parks & Recreation's Columbia Children's Arboretum at 10040 NE 6th Ave., off NE Meadow Drive. PP&R acquired the land in 1999 and established a master plan for the area in 2004.

Dick and Gyrid were instrumental in raising money for the trust fund that was set up by ECNA for work in the park (in conjunction with Multnomah County Drainage District #1.) They raised nearly \$132,000 from public



Clockwise from lower right Gyrid Hyde-Towle, Karen Myers, Gyrid's son Keith Hyde, Urban Forestry staff Karl Dawson and Gyrid's grandson attended the Towle Bridge dedication.

and private sources. These funds were used to make improvements to the drainage ditches through and around the park, and to plant native plants on the ditch banks. As a result of their efforts, two bridges were installed to provide access to the park from NE Meadow Drive and between the two sections of the arboretum. The bridges replaced culverts and were made out of recycled railroad car frames.

The Towle family invites well-wishers to donate to the Columbia Children's Arboretum in lieu of flowers. Contributions are welcomed:

Columbia Children's Arboretum – NPCW
2209 N. Schofield, Portland, OR 97217



This recently installed plaque dedicated the Towle Bridge and acknowledges the many contributes of Dick and Gyrid Towle to the Columbia Children's Arboretum.

Urban Forestry Permits

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Each month, the Forester's Report gives monthly inspection and permit totals. Because not all inspections result in permit issuance, metrics of both inspections and permits issued are included. Below are descriptions of the inspection and permit types reported.

STREET TREES

Planting, General: Requested by property owners (residential, commercial, some City agencies, etc). A UF Arborist inspects the site for existing trees, overhead wires, utilities, strip width, and other site conditions and marks where trees can be planted. Homeowners are given a Recommended Street Tree List appropriate for their site. A 2" caliper tree is standard. The property owner purchases the tree, reports the species to UF, and a permit is issued.

Planting, Friends of Trees: UF works cooperatively with Friends of Trees (FOT) and the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) 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 Recommended Street List, and is established each year by UF and FOT. Property owners purchase and plant the tree with FOT.

Planting, Land Use Reviews: In the proposed development process, UF Arborists review land use applications for possible impacts on street trees and trees that may pose future concern (i.e. Heritage Trees on private property). Recommendations on location and number of street trees that will be required as a condition of a future building permit are given. Because development is only proposed, no permits are issued during land use review, except for reviews involving land division. In land division cases, a street tree review is conducted for the parcel of land where the existing structure is, because once divided into separate lots this parcel will not come under further review.

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.

Pruning: A UF Arborist discusses pruning requests with the property owner, inspects the trees and issues the permit. Conditions may be included.

Removal: Requested by property owner through an application process costing \$35. Permits are granted if the tree is dead,

dying, or dangerous; applicants must demonstrate that their tree meets removal criteria, and the tree must be replaced if site conditions permit. A UF Arborist inspects the tree and site, and marks the curb for replanting. The property owner must purchase a replacement tree and provide a receipt to UF prior to issuance of the removal permit. Planting may be deferred until the following planting season, depending upon time of year.

Root pruning: Requested by property owners in the process of reconstructing damaged sidewalks, often due to lifting from root growth. A sidewalk permit must first be acquired before a root pruning inspection. A UF Arborist inspects the exposed roots once the sidewalk has been removed, and marks specific roots for removal.

Other: Other street tree permits include chemical application permits for contractors, and attaching temporary items to trees (i.e. ribbons and signage).

PARK TREES

The majority of reported Park 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 PP&R.

Planting: Developed park plantings are planned by Parks planners, Parks maintenance staff, and occasionally friends groups. Planting is usually completed by the UF crew.

Pruning: A UF Arborist discusses pruning requests with Parks staff, inspects the trees and issues the permit. Work may be done by Parks staff or the UF crew.

Removal: A UF Arborist inspects the tree for removal criteria and removal is completed by the UF crew.

PRIVATE TREES, TREE CUTTING ORDINANCE (TCO)

Code applicability inspection: A UF Arborist investigates City records to determine whether the Tree Cutting Ordinance applies. TCO applies to non-nuisance trees 12" DBH or greater on certain private properties.

Plantings, Mitigation: Trees planted as mitigation for removals under the Tree Cutting Ordinance.

Removal: Requested by property owner through an application process costing \$35, after code applicability is determined. Permits are granted for trees that are dead, dying, dangerous, as well as some additional circumstances. Mitigation may be required in the form of planting or paying into the City's Tree Fund.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency response is reported in terms of inspections and trees inspected. Permits that may result from the emergency response are listed under their appropriate categories (i.e. Street Tree pruning).