

## Notes: Tree Advocacy Dinner, 11/4/16

Portland Urban Forestry (UF) [Urban Forestry | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

### ❖ “How do dedicated tree advocates apply their energies going forward?”

#### 1) **Maintain the trees we have**

- just like bridges and roads, the return on the investment is when they are maintained.
- maintained trees produce greater services, live longer, and are less likely to be public safety hazards.
- Large majority of US cities proactively maintain their street tree assets (publicly-owned assets) - In Portland this is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.
  - Means most street trees are not maintained
  - Recognize this as an area for improvement
- Maintain your trees - use experienced, certified Arborists
  - List of local certified Arborist companies which have completed Urban Forestry (UF) training and had no documented tree code violations in past year [Local Tree Care Providers | Resources | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

#### 2) **Watch and weigh-in on city budget activity for tree-related items**

- Parks is primarily general fund; the Urban Forestry program is primarily general funded
- For fiscal 17-18, directed to prepare budget cuts
- Residents have opportunities to give input on their (your) funding priorities to:
  - City elected officials,
  - Parks public meetings this winter, and
  - City Budget Office hearings in spring
  - [City Budget Office | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

#### 3) **Think Sustainability**

- *Practice Urban Forestry:* [Resources | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
  - support and promote management of the forest using the accumulated experience and science of the field:
    - Best Management Practices,
    - quality tree stock and tree work,
    - good species selection,
    - maximize tree planting opportunities,
    - plant strategically for the whole life of the tree,
    - etc.
  - Increasingly important with climate change effects

#### 4) **Get tree educated and apply it where you are**

- Take advantage of the abundant local, free or low-cost educational opportunities in Portland, for example:
  - UF Neighborhood Tree Stewards – basic arboriculture and urban forestry training each fall [Neighborhood Tree Stewards \(NTS\) | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
  - UF and Neighborhood Tree Team workshops on tree planting/ pruning/ maintenance, species diversity, pest and pathogens, and other urban forest management topics. [Workshops with Urban Forestry | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
  - Various reports on UF website, and links to other web resources [Resources | The City of Portland, Oregon](#) [Plans & Reports | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
    - Example:
      - iTREE (USFS)–calculate approximate, minimum service value of your trees. [i-Tree Design](#)
  - East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District education programs- native plants, naturescaping, includes trees [Workshops and Events | EMSWCD](#)
  - Audubon Society Backyard Habitat program, native ecosystems including native trees [Backyard Habitat Certification Program — Audubon Society of Portland](#)
  - There are others....

#### 5) **Work with your, or create your, Neighborhood Tree Team**

- are local community groups of Portland residents who work for trees in their own neighborhoods, with UF support
  - “menu” of activities that can be done in their community to support and promote trees and the urban forest, original ideas welcome <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/474351>
  - Host trainings, workshops, lectures/walks, tree planting events in your community and UF can help, we want to help! [Resources for Tree Teams | Tree Inventory Project | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
- TreeBark – UF free e-newsletter with urban forestry news and information for Portland. [Tree Bark Newsletter | Urban Forestry | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

#### 6) **Plant trees with Friends of Trees**

- many opportunities around the city all winter
- [Volunteer](#)

#### 7) **Nominate Heritage Trees**

- Designated by City Council,

- Greatest protection of any trees in city,
- Specific information on criteria and nomination process on website [Heritage Trees of Portland | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
- Requires property owner agreement

#### 8) **Inventory park trees-**

- First inventory of park trees (Park Tree Inventory project)
- Volunteers needed
- Trainings starting spring 2017
- New effort, now that baseline street tree inventory completed
  - Summit giving the results of the street tree inventory and next steps is tomorrow at 8:30 at Mt. Scott CC
  - [Data, Reports, and Maps | Tree Inventory Project | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

#### 9) **Report tree violations**

- First check Portland Maps to see if tree permits were issued [PortlandMaps](#)
- If not and you think it is a violation, email [trees@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:trees@portlandoregon.gov) or call 503-823-TREE (8733) and UF will pursue it.

#### 10) **Give input on design of new and re-programmed parks properties in your neighborhood** [Projects | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

- Portland Parks and Recreation solicits resident input on park designs – advisory groups for Parks projects
- Public “tree voice” at the table can help identify and support opportunities and goals in park designs to:
  - retain existing trees and
  - plant new trees
    - Create future heritage trees!

#### 11) **Attend and/or join relevant volunteer city advisory bodies to represent tree values**

- For example:
  - Development Review Advisory Committee (DRAC), [Development Review Advisory Committee \(DRAC\) | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
  - Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC), or [Planning and Sustainability Commission | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
  - Of course, the Urban Forestry Commission or its committees [Urban Forestry Commission | The City of Portland, Oregon](#) [UFC Committees | Urban Forestry Commission | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
- Application on the Office of Neighborhood Involvement website

[City Boards, Committees and Commissions | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

**12) Tell your elected officials what you care about and what you want –**

- Email,
- Write,
- Meet, [Elected Officials | About Council | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
- Go to Council and speak, [City Council Meetings | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)  
[ADM-7.02 - Council and Contracts Program Policies & Procedures | Council | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)
- work with your Neighborhood Association or other organizations [Neighborhood Directory | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

**13) Connect with and support people in places *without* trees so they get them**

- Trees help everyone, but some people in Portland have them and some don't, and these are often low-income, and racially- diverse communities.
  - Often are some of the people who need tree services most.
  - <http://www.portlandonline.com/portlandplan/index.cfm?a=270889&c=51427> (see page 9 )
- Environmental justice means investing more where there isn't for the benefit of those communities, and supporting low-canopy communities in tree investment.

**❖ Introduction to Jim's discussion of tree regulations by recognizing that a key challenge for Portland's urban forest right now is property development**

- Hot development can mean the loss of good trees and future tree space
- Read the Staff Report on initial tree code implementation, and the Tree Code Implementation Oversight Advisory Committee Report  
[Report to City Council on First Year of Implementation of Citywide Tree Project | News & Events | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)  
<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/article/564719>