



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION SM

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Urban Forestry Learning Landscapes Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17

June 2017



Third grade students at Parklane Elementary put mulch around their newly planted tree.

What is Learning Landscapes?

A Learning Landscape is a dynamic collection of trees that are planted and cared for by students and Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Urban Forestry staff and volunteers. The Learning Landscapes program provides an outdoor educational experience for students, as well as environmental and aesthetic benefits for a school or other public place. The program is designed to connect youth and community members to places they live, work, and play, and to promote responsible stewardship of our shared spaces. Trees serve as an excellent resource to demonstrate principals of biology, chemistry, history, and geography, all while promoting outdoor physical activity and cooperation.

Program Goals

Portland's Tree Code, Title 11 Trees, established the Tree Planting and Preservation Fund. Often referred to as the mitigation fund, its purpose is to facilitate tree planting and to advance the City's goals for the urban forest and equitable distribution of tree-related benefits across the city. The Learning Landscapes program utilizes mitigation funds to help ensure that trees are replanted in Portland's watersheds as land use and development pressures affect our urban forest.

Learning Landscapes program goals include:

- Plant 75 trees each year, at 10 locations around the city, with 65% of the plantings in low canopy neighborhoods
- Have 500 students and 50 community volunteers participate in tree planting events
- Plant 50% of the trees as either large-form, evergreen, or native species



Learning Landscapes helped to host a ceremonial elm tree planting in honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month on the South Park Blocks.

History of the Program

The Learning Landscapes program began over 10 years ago. Since that time more than 1,000 trees have been planted at 51 locations throughout Portland. The program currently averages over 20 trees planted per location. Additionally, since 2009, PP&R's Youth Conservation Crew (YCC), a summer employment program for a diverse group of youth ages 14-18, have participated in an Urban Forestry sponsored YCC Tree Crew. The crew performs maintenance activities on select Learning Landscapes trees to help ensure long-term survival and structural integrity, while gaining work experience.

Learning Landscapes in FY 2016-17

Eleven Planting locations:

- 10/29/2016 Roseway Park Blocks
- 11/19/2016 Floyd Light Park
- 12/14/2016 Lynch View Elementary
- 2/16/2017 Wellington Park
- 2/28/2017 Vernon School
- 3/2/2017 Parklane/Oliver Elementary
- 3/16/2017 Alliance High School at Meek
- 3/22/2017 Llewellyn Elementary
- 4/26/2017 Forest Park Elementary
- 5/16/2017 South Park Blocks
- Spring 2017 Ainsworth Park Blocks



Community volunteers of all ages planted trees on the Roseway Park Blocks.

Number of trees planted: 61

Percentage of large-form, evergreen or native tree species planted: 56% (34 trees)

Number of student volunteers: 556

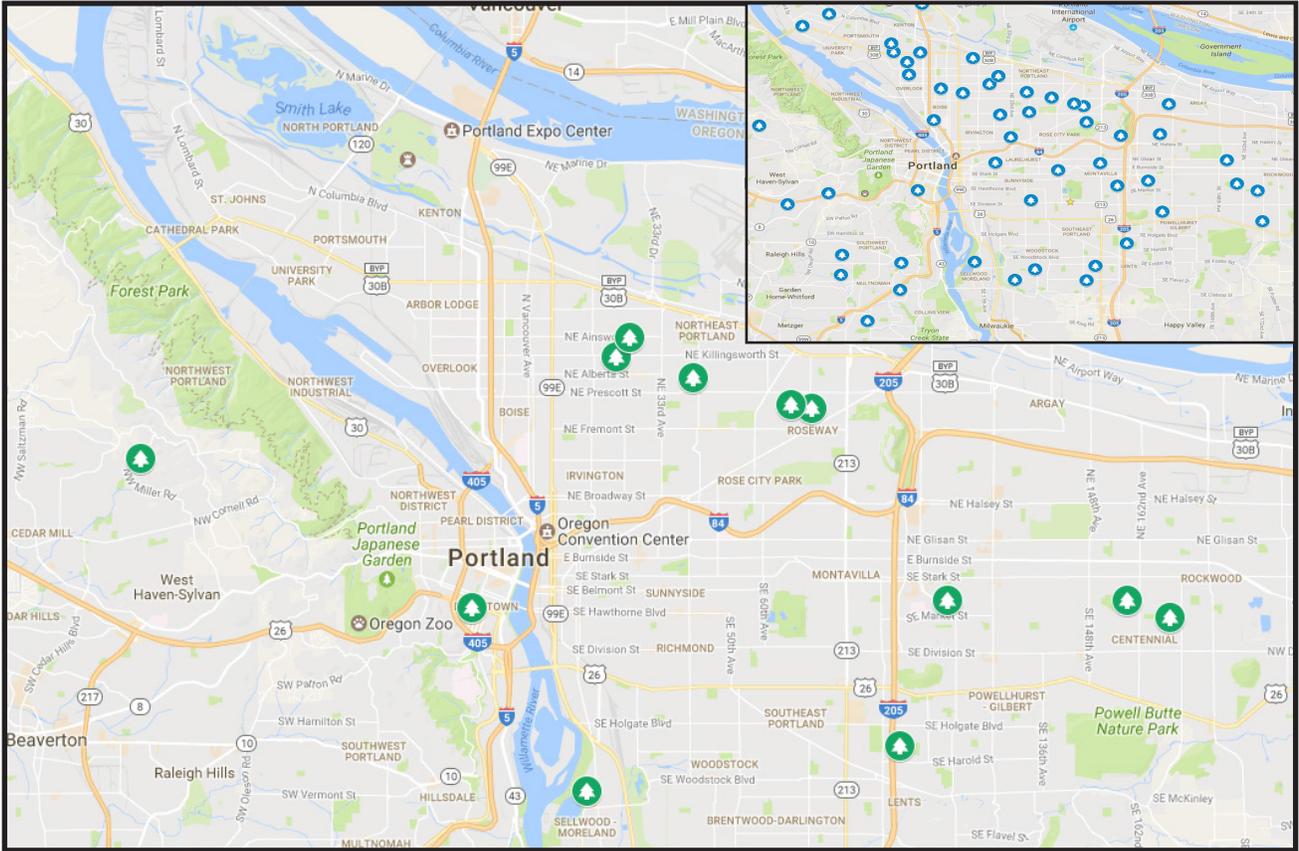
Number of community volunteers: 128

Percentage of trees planted in low canopy neighborhoods: 82%

Watersheds planted: Columbia Slough, Willamette River, Johnson Creek



Vernon Elementary, in partnership with Depave and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, made room for trees with the removal of pavement from sections of their school yard. Students helped to plant the trees.



A map of the 2016-2017 fiscal year tree planting locations. The inset map shows all Learning Landscapes tree planting locations to date.



A new arboretum was established at Forest Park Elementary, where students proudly showed off their handy work.