



**PORTLAND
PARKS & RECREATION**

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Urban Forest Action Plan 2013 Implementation Update

February 2014

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Cover photo:

PP&R Urban Forestry Arborist Kimble Hicks helps prepare for the tree planting season.

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Contents

Background	1
Urban Forest Action Plan Goals and Outcomes	2
Accomplishments.....	3
Ongoing Programs and Projects	10
Performance Measures	16
Key Challenges and Opportunities.....	18



In FY2012-2013, volunteers contributed 61,082 hours valued at \$710,378 to diverse urban forestry activities, from pruning young park trees (above) to planting school trees (below).

BACKGROUND

In 2007, a City of Portland inter-bureau team created the *Urban Forest Action Plan* to meet the goals established in the 2004 *Portland Urban Forest Management Plan*. The *Urban Forest Action Plan*, accepted by City Council on March 15, 2007, contains the major goals and desired outcomes of the management plan, along with 63 action items to attain those goals. Each action item was initially assigned a priority and time frame (current, early, 5-year, and 10-year).

This report summarizes annual fiscal year progress and accomplishments for the *Urban Forest Action Plan*, with efforts led by Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry as well as other City bureaus. This report covers Fiscal Year 2012-2013, which extends from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Over half of the action items are either completed or in progress.

Key challenges remain to reaching all goals in the *Urban Forest Action Plan*, and greater support is needed to achieve those goals. Many of the 5- and 10-year actions can only be initiated if so directed by the City Council and funded through the City's work planning and budget process.

URBAN FOREST ACTION PLAN

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

GOAL 1: PROTECT, PRESERVE, RESTORE, AND EXPAND PORTLAND'S URBAN FOREST.

- **Outcome A: Enhanced Canopy**
The tree canopy is optimized, meeting stocking and canopy targets.
- **Outcome B: Regulatory Program**
The City has a comprehensive, consistent, and clear regulatory program for trees.
- **Outcome C: Development**
The urban forest is enhanced through development and redevelopment.

GOAL 2: DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR THE URBAN FOREST.

- **Outcome A: Shared Stewardship**
Stewardship of the urban forest is shared by residents, agencies, non-governmental organizations, and businesses.
- **Outcome B: Public Education**
The public has a strong awareness of tree benefits and ecosystem health issues; education opportunities are abundant.
- **Outcome C: Stable Resources**
Stable resources support the urban forest.

GOAL 3: MANAGE THE URBAN FOREST TO MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

- **Outcome A: Street Tree Distribution**
Street trees are equitably distributed throughout the City.
- **Outcome B: Livability**
The urban forest contributes to the health and wellbeing of Portlanders.
- **Outcome C: Watershed Health**
The urban forest contributes to improved watershed health, including water quality, stream flow, floodplain function, habitat, and biological communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Caller Menu Improves Customer Service

Helping to meet the customer-improvement-related goals of the Citywide Tree Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project (adopted in early 2011), PP&R Urban Forestry has made several improvements to expedite the tree permitting process. One of these improvements involved establishing a new caller menu for PP&R Urban Forestry's main intake line.

Currently, PP&R Urban Forestry has only one staff person dedicated to intake, and the volume of calls received in a typical day precludes responding to each call as it is received. Inevitably a percentage of calls go to voicemail, and customers complain about not being able to reach a staff person in an emergency.

The caller menu routes calls so that priority situations, such as tree emergencies, are immediately brought through to the intake staff, while other calls are recorded as messages and can be returned in priority order. Priority calls include tree emergencies, which must be returned within 15 minutes, and root inspections, which must be inspected within 48 hours. Other types of calls must be returned within the same day if possible or by the next business day. The system has provided a faster response to emergency calls and requests for root inspections, and allows more customers to reach a live person. It has greatly helped the intake staff person manage the volume of calls received in a typical day.

The caller menu provides customers with clear options for each type of situation they might encounter. The new caller menu supports *Urban Forest Action Plan* Goal 1 – Outcome B: Regulatory Program, clarifying PP&R Urban Forestry's permitting policies. The caller menu clearly directs customers who are seeking tree removal, pruning, planting, or root pruning permits to the appropriate extension and also lets staff know ahead of time what the customer will be asking about. The caller menu reflects PP&R Urban Forestry's current tree permit system and will be updated to reflect the specifications of Title 11 Trees, when the new tree code is implemented in January 2015.

Online Pruning Permit System Reduces Time and Staff Costs

Another customer service improvement implemented in accordance with the Citywide Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project is the establishment of the City's new Online Pruning Permit system. For certain types of tree pruning at residential properties, pruning permits



Arborists and property owners can now get pruning permits online for young tree pruning.

can be obtained instantaneously online by the homeowner or the arborist, saving time and making more efficient use of staff resources.

Online Pruning Permits are free and valid for 30 days. Their flexibility allows either the homeowner or the contractor to obtain the permit. Customers log in to the website with their *PortlandOnline* user account, which they can also use for many other City services. The website explains who is and is not eligible for an Online Pruning Permit, links to City pruning standards, and provides resources that explain proper pruning techniques. There is also a link to a list of local tree care providers who have taken a course with PP&R Urban Forestry to better understand the City's tree regulations.

Like the caller menu, the Online Pruning Permit program directly supports the *Urban Forest Action Plan* Goal 1– Outcome B: Regulatory Program, and also supports Goal 2 – Outcome A: Shared Stewardship. The Online Pruning Permit portal educates property owners about their responsibilities for the care of street trees and provides technical support to community and nonprofit groups engaged in tree maintenance.

Customers conducting more intensive pruning or pruning at commercial or industrial properties must call PP&R Urban Forestry to request a pruning inspection from a Tree Inspector. Customers who are eligible for Online Pruning Permits may also still request traditional pruning inspections. The Online Pruning Permit system is optional but has eagerly been embraced by PP&R Urban Forestry staff and the arborist community. On average, about 50 Online Pruning Permits are issued each month, saving staff time and exposing arborists to important resources available on the PP&R Urban Forestry website.

Updated Website Enhances User Experience

The City of Portland switched web platforms in 2012, providing PP&R Urban Forestry the opportunity to clarify and update the information posted on its website. This new platform is easy to navigate, with bold headers and featured content. The website details when a permit is required, what to do if there is a tree emergency, and how to properly care for trees. It also has program pages for the Heritage Tree Program and the Urban Forestry Commission.

PP&R Urban Forestry's website improvements support the *Urban Forest Action Plan* Goal 2 – Outcome B: Public Education, by providing information about trees and tree care and the benefits and services provided by the urban forest, as well as explaining and providing links to tree-related regulation. The website improvements also reflect Goal



The PP&R Urban Forestry website makes tree information accessible to the public, including information about Portland's Heritage Trees.

1 – Outcome B: Regulatory Program, explaining the regulations and permitting process and providing links to more detailed information. Customers can obtain certain permits and permit applications directly from the website, expediting the permit process and saving staff time.

Besides being a user-friendly resource for Portland's urban forest, the website provides a community space for people to stay informed on current tree-related activities and view photos of volunteers participating in urban forest activities. Pages for PP&R Urban Forestry's volunteer-focused programs, including the Neighborhood Tree Steward Program and the Tree Inventory Project, are customized with community event calendars, picture slideshows, blogs, and links to social media. The new website platform is easy to update, easy to navigate, informative, and interactive.

Service to Low Tree Canopy Neighborhoods Increases

The Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) partnered with the Confluence Environmental Center in sponsoring an AmeriCorps member to improve service delivery to communities with relatively low tree canopy cover. The AmeriCorps member developed a map and tree walk for Lents Park, tabled at community events, and strengthened partnerships with East Portland neighborhoods in support of tree planting and stewardship. The AmeriCorps member also developed an arboretum planting with 50 trees, including many Oregon natives, as well as an international tree grove with trees from different continents, representing the diversity of the community.

BES also addressed low canopy neighborhoods through canvassing efforts with the Grey to Green project. During the five years of the Grey to Green partnership, Friends of Trees (FOT) and BES planted approximately 3,500 trees in East Portland neighborhoods, which are generally lower canopy. BES also planted in the Central Eastside Industrial District, which has relatively low tree canopy.

These efforts support Goal 1 – Outcome A: Enhanced Canopy, Goal 2 – Outcomes A and B, and all three outcomes of Goal 3 of the *Urban Forest Action Plan*. The AmeriCorps member worked to optimize tree canopy and support the equitable distribution of street trees throughout the city. BES and PP&R Urban Forestry are also extending partnership with AmeriCorps in FY2013-2014 for urban canopy programs.

Arbor Day Celebration Extended to Arbor Month

2013 was the first year that Arbor Week was extended to a whole month of tree-related activities. The Urban Forestry Commission's



One of the Arbor Month events was a magnolia walk at Hoyt Arboretum, led by curator Martin Nicholson.



The Arbor Day Festival was the crowning celebration of the 2013 Arbor Month events.



Portland hosted the International Society of Arboriculture annual conference, with activities in Laurelhurst Park.

Education and Outreach Committee, with support from PP&R Urban Forestry and BES staff, worked hard to provide fun and educational activities for the public, and almost every day was filled with a tree-related event. Events ranged from tree planting to tree walks and bike rides and many skills workshops. 2013's Arbor Month theme was Heritage Trees, celebrating Portland's unique and majestic Heritage Trees found throughout the city. Closing the month-long celebration was a Heritage Tree dedication ceremony at Hoyt Arboretum.

This month-long celebration of the urban forest supported several *Urban Forest Action Plan* goals, including Goal 2 – Outcome B: Public Education and Goal 2 – Outcome A: Shared Stewardship. Abundant educational opportunities provided during Arbor Month led to strong awareness of tree benefits and ecosystem health issues. Most activities provided educational opportunities. Several activities also engaged volunteers as stewards of the urban forest, planting or pruning trees to enhance the urban canopy. Each event educated property owners about their responsibilities for the care of street trees.

Portland Hosts the International Tree Climbing Championship

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) annual conference and Tree Climbing Championship took place in Portland in August, 2012. The ISA reported it was the largest conference ever attended, and PP&R Urban Forestry played a large role in the activities.

PP&R Urban Forestry Arborists conducted extensive pruning activities in Laurelhurst Park prior to hosting the Tree Climbing Championship, Arbor Fair, and Arbor Market. The City had a strong presence during the events, with PP&R Urban Forestry Arborists and new aerial lift trucks providing free bucket rides to the community. Staff and volunteers also provided a stewardship booth.

During the conference, PP&R Urban Forestry also hosted the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) tour through the city. Ninety-five city arborists and foresters from across the world boarded buses and were shown Portland's beautiful parks and introduced to many of the City's tree-related programs. The tour was a big success, and PP&R Urban Forestry continues to receive inquiries in regards to their standards and practices. The ISA was extremely grateful for PP&R Urban Forestry's involvement and support, and hopes to re-create the success of this event for future conferences.

These activities support Goal 2 – Outcome A: Shared Stewardship and Goal 2 – Outcome B: Public Education. The ISA annual conference drew local, national, and international crowds to watch tree work activities and participate in tree-related events. The support and

solidarity shown for Portland's tree resources will carry enthusiasm for urban forest stewardship into the future.

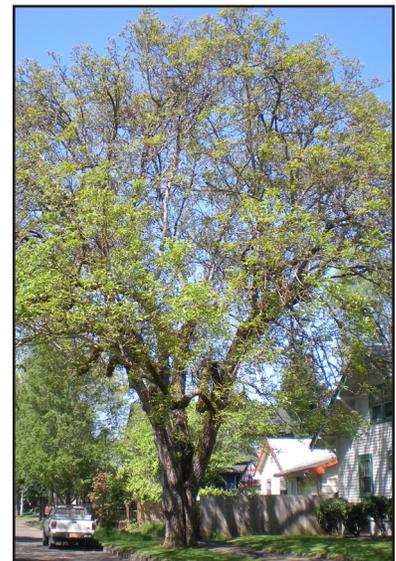
Urban Forest Integrated into the *Comprehensive Plan*

The City is currently updating its *Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies (Comprehensive Plan)*. In January 2013, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) released an initial Working Draft of the new *Comprehensive Plan* for public review and comment. Building off the *Portland Plan (2012)*, which is a citywide strategic plan to 2035, the Working Draft also incorporates key goals from the *Urban Forestry Management Plan (2004)*. These goals include protecting and enhancing the quantity, quality, and diversity of the urban forest, and ensuring that the benefits provided by the urban forest are equitably distributed throughout the city. The draft goals and policies also recognize the important contribution of trees, vegetation, and other natural resources to watershed hydrology, habitat, water quality, and resiliency to natural hazards and climate change.

The Working Draft also calls for weaving nature into the built environment and includes new policies under the heading "Designing with Nature" that highlight the importance of incorporating trees into development and infrastructure project design. The addition of urban forest and tree-related policies in the *Comprehensive Plan* will provide important direction in future City land use planning efforts and zoning code updates, as well as priorities for City infrastructure investments.

PP&R Urban Forestry, BES, and BES (Bureau of Development Services) staff contributed extensive input to the Working Draft between January and May, 2013. There was general support for proposed policies relating to the urban forest. One of the questions raised in the comments was how the *Comprehensive Plan* will help set priorities, resolve conflicts, and guide decisions relating to goals for enhancing the urban forest and goals for encouraging increased use of solar energy systems.

In summer of 2013, BPS embarked on Part 2 of the *Comprehensive Plan*, which involved producing a draft Urban Design Framework map, an updated Land Use Designation map, and a new *Citywide Systems Plan* that outlines City infrastructure investment priority projects and programs. Tree canopy maps informed portions of Part 2, including the development of a draft urban habitat corridor concept map that will be part of the City's new Urban Design Framework. These draft products were made available for public review and comment via a new online "Map App" tool, which allowed Portlanders to provide their comments online. BPS also provided numerous briefings to



The Working Draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan recognizes the important contribution of trees to Portland's resiliency in the face of climate change.

community organizations and held several public workshops during the public comment period.

Public comments on the Working Draft Part 2, including comments from the Urban Forestry Commission, will inform the development of the Proposed Draft of the *Comprehensive Plan*. The Proposed Draft of the *Comprehensive Plan* will include revised goals, policies, maps, and *Citywide Systems Plan*. The Proposed Draft will be released for public review in early 2014.

City staff are working to make sure that the *Comprehensive Plan* supports all of the goals of the *Urban Forest Action Plan* as well as the *Urban Forestry Management Plan*. This includes protecting and expanding Portland's urban forest, solidifying stewardship for the urban forest, and ensuring equal access to this important resource.



The Central City 2035 Concept Plan establishes policies to expand the use of green infrastructure, such as street trees and bioswales.

Central City 2035 Concept Plan and Other Quadrant Plans Support Urban Forest Goals

In October 2012, City Council adopted by resolution the *Central City 2035 Concept Plan*. This plan sets the stage for updating the existing 1988 *Central City Plan*. The plan establishes broad-based goals and policies, including expanding the use of green infrastructure, such as trees, vegetation, swales, and ecoroofs, as a component of the Central City's overall infrastructure system, improving watershed health by reducing effective impervious surfaces, increasing the quality and diversity (both species and age distributions) of the tree canopy, and protecting and restoring riparian and upland fish and wildlife habitat.

More detailed plans are being developed for sub-areas of the Central City, or quadrants. In October 2012, City Council adopted by resolution a plan for the North/Northeast (N/NE) Quadrant, which includes highly developed areas such as the Rose Quarter, Lower Albina, and Lloyd District. The N/NE plan provides direction for streetscapes, including the incorporation of green features and additional tree canopy to realize goals for future boulevards and tree canopy and water quality corridors.

The *N/NE Quadrant Plan* establishes an 18 percent tree canopy target for the Lloyd district (current canopy is 10 percent) and a 10 percent tree canopy target for Lower Albina (current canopy is 6 percent). Lists of recommended actions in the plan include development of tree planting strategies for these areas.

In 2013, the City has made progress toward completing the *West Quadrant Plan*. A West Quadrant Atlas of maps was produced, which includes maps of open spaces and tree canopy. A West Quadrant

“Issues and Opportunities” summary report was published in June 2013, documenting the results of activities, including a public charette. The desire for additional mature street trees, green corridors, and open space was highlighted for many subareas of the West Quadrant.

When these plans are complete, BPS will pull together the entire *Central City 2035 Concept Plan* package for consideration by the Planning and Sustainability Commission and adoption by City Council.

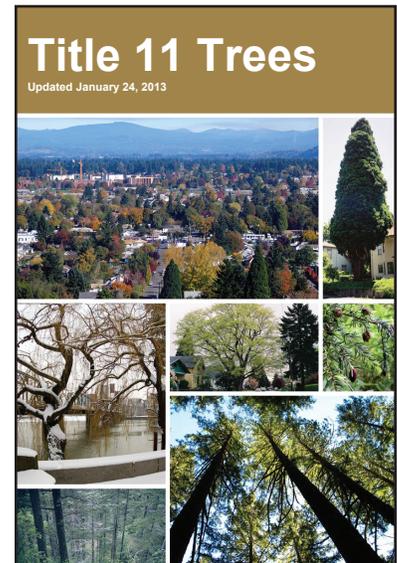
Updating these plans provides the opportunity to integrate the goals of the *Urban Forest Action Plan*. By preparing these regulatory frameworks, the bureaus support Goal 1 – Outcome B: Regulatory Program by consistently reiterating goals that will produce a healthy urban forest. The *Central City 2035 Concept Plan* directly supports all three outcomes of Goal 3 of the *Urban Forest Action Plan* by emphasizing equal access to natural resources, improving watershed health, and highlighting the benefits of nature to human health.

Bureaus Prepare for Implementation of the New Tree Code

PP&R Urban Forestry and BDS continued preparing for the implementation of the new tree code, Title 11 Trees. Title 11 is anticipated to go into effect in January 2015.

During 2013, staff continued to work on creating a comprehensive citywide website that will provide resources on the new tree code, the planting and care of trees, and the benefits of trees. This website is a multi-bureau effort that will combine information and resources from each bureau involved in the care of the urban canopy, providing a one-stop shop for the public’s tree concerns. The website will also explain the new tree code and assist the public in obtaining tree permits. People will also be able to learn about the City’s tree programs and how to get involved in tree-related activities. This website will go live in phases in summer and winter 2014.

Preparing for implementation of Title 11 provided the bureaus the opportunity to advance several of the *Urban Forest Action Plan* goals, including Goal 1 – Outcome B: Regulatory Program and Goal 2 – Outcome B: Public Education. Staff were able to clarify current policies and procedures while developing policies for Title 11, and public outreach for Title 11 continues the City’s emphasis on the benefits of our urban forest resource.



The City of Portland’s new Tree Code, Title 11 Trees, is anticipated to go into effect in January, 2015.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Planting Programs (Table 1):

In FY2012-2013, 8,073 street and park trees were planted through the PP&R Urban Forestry permit process by all tree planting partners.

Property Owner and Development Planting: Permits to plant 2,182 street trees were issued to property owners and developers by PP&R Urban Forestry in FY2012-2013.

Grey to Green: 5,411 street trees and 839 private trees were planted by the BES-led Grey to Green program. In partnership with Friends of Trees, other planting contractors, public partners, and Portland residents, the five-year Grey to Green initiative has resulted in the planting of 32,200 new trees.



Grey to Green funds helped plant over 5,000 trees in FY2012-2013, including trees in partnership with Friends of Trees.

BES manages a team of seasonal canvassers who locate planting spaces in the right-of-way, assist property owners in signing up to plant with Friends of Trees, and conduct planting inspections under the guidance of PP&R Urban Forestry. BES staff have collected existing and potential street tree data for most of the City of Portland east of the Willamette River and for some sections west of the river. BES has used this data to develop and manage tree planting efforts in industrial and commercial areas, to target low canopy areas, and to target areas that offer opportunities to plant large canopy trees.

BES continues to promote forest diversity and resilience to pests and pathogens by avoiding over-planted species, planting a wide variety of species, and investigating new species. The bureau is also implementing planting standards to promote tree health and reduce infrastructure conflicts. The greatest challenges to planting street trees in Portland, however, are finding appropriate planting locations and then securing agreement from adjacent property owners to plant and care for them. BES staff signed up more than 2,200 customers for Friends of Trees and 1,200 participants for BES planting projects. Outreach staff talked with nearly 1,400 interested people about trees at community events, signing up 89 customers and 45 Friends of Trees volunteers.

Additionally, 399 trees were the recipient of Treebate credits. The Treebate program, funded through the Grey to Green initiative, offers an incentive in the form of a utility bill credit for storm water fee ratepayers in Portland who plant trees on their residential private properties. Because larger trees manage more storm water, Treebate

TABLE 1: INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS ISSUED BY PP&R URBAN FORESTRY IN FY12-13

STREET TREES				
	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED*	TREES INSPECTED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
Planting, property owner	622	1345	479	967
Planting, Grey to Green	5516	9876	2956	5411
Planting, development requirements	2947	n/a	1151	1215
Pruning	917	3537	1788	4805
Removal**	1062	2412	898	2128
Root pruning	667	1391	524	1018
General	1117	3472	144	327
PARK AND SCHOOL TREES				
Planting, Parks	65	192	49	138
Planting, School Arboreta	9	57	9	57
Pruning	117	867	115	896
Removal***	113	322	101	1051
Root pruning	9	29	7	23
General	154	2459	13	222
PRIVATE TREES				
Removals, Tree Cutting Ordinance	370	666	234	340
Planting, mitigation	n/a	n/a	n/a	285
EMERGENCY				
Emergency response	447	486	n/a	n/a
TOTALS				
Planting	9159	11470	4644	8073
Pruning	1034	4404	1903	5701
Removals	1545	3400	1233	3519
Root pruning	676	1420	531	1041
General	1271	5931	157	549
Totals	13,661	26,582	8,793	19,664

**Because not all inspections result in permit issuance, metrics of both inspections and permits issued are included.*

***Street tree removal includes removal for development projects, such as street improvements, light rail, and green streets facilities.*

****Park tree removal includes removal of a large number of invasive tree species, such as English holly and European hawthorn.*

credits 50% of the tree's purchase price up to \$50, \$25, or \$15, depending on mature tree size and storm water management potential.

Treebate trees must be at least 1 inch caliper and 6 feet tall (4 feet for conifers) at time of planting and may not be otherwise subsidized by the City (e.g., trees planted through Friends of Trees), required by a condition of mitigation or development, or on the City's nuisance plant list. The program relies on local retail nursery partners, utility bill inserts, Treebate web pages, media coverage, and word of mouth to get the word out about the offer.

Parks Planting: 138 large-caliper trees were planted by PP&R Urban Forestry in parks in FY2012-2013, predominately as replacements for trees lost due to old age, failures, vandalism, and car accidents.

School Arboreta: 57 trees were planted at nine sites as school arboreta, called Learning Landscapes, with the help of over 692 students and 101 adult volunteers. PP&R Urban Forestry installs Learning Landscapes at schools using volunteers, students, and Neighborhood Tree Stewards. These Learning Landscapes provide educational opportunities for students and neighbors to learn about different tree species and the importance of urban trees. Portland Public Schools staff are amenable to tree plantings, and have ensured that community infrastructure is in place to care for, water, mulch, and replant the trees as needed. In addition, to help teach students and community members about the benefits of the urban forest, over 550 native tree seedlings were distributed to Portland residents this year.



Students helped plant 57 trees in schools throughout Portland as part of the Learning Landscapes program.

Regulatory Programs

PP&R Urban Forestry issues permits for all street, park, and City tree work, including planting, pruning, and removal. In certain cases, PP&R 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.

Implementing Tree Rules: 13,661 tree inspections were completed for health assessments, planting, pruning, removals, and other regulated activities in FY2012-2013 under PP&R Urban Forestry (Table 1). PP&R Urban Forestry enforces City tree code regulations related to street trees and some private trees, depending upon the development situation. Much inspection time is dedicated to educating property owners about code requirements and tree care issues. BDS continues to administer tree preservation requirements when certain types of development are proposed, including new land divisions and development in environmental zones.

Education and Outreach Programs

PP&R Urban Forestry teams up with public and non-profit partners to provide education for the public on the importance of trees in the city. BES also provides substantial financial support for various City education and outreach programs.

Tree Inventory Project: Seeking to empower residents to better care for their neighborhood's tree canopy, PP&R Urban Forestry began organizing neighborhood stakeholders to conduct volunteer-led street tree inventories in 2010. In 2012, PP&R worked in Hosford-Abernethy, Northwest, and Sunnyside neighborhoods, and 165 volunteers gave over 2,000 hours inventorying 14,000 trees. Inventory results, including species diversity, stocking level, site conditions, and ecosystem benefits, were presented to neighborhood stakeholders alongside recommendations to improve the neighborhood's trees. Neighborhood tree teams created tree plans that included a vision statement, goals, action items, and recommendations for property owners. Tree teams presented information to their Neighborhood Associations for community input.

As a result of the project, these three neighborhoods now have recognized tree teams to address neighborhood tree concerns, and most are associated with their Neighborhood Association. PP&R Urban Forestry staff will continue to work with these tree teams to provide tree plan guidance and ongoing support. Staff are exploring how to best integrate tree plans into ongoing stewardship efforts, and are seeking funding to expand the project into other neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Tree Steward Program: The Neighborhood Tree Steward program is a volunteer training course that provides participants with the knowledge and tools to lead local urban forestry projects. In 2012, PP&R Urban Forestry partnered with members of the Tree Steward Coalition, including the Urban Forestry Commission, BES, Friends of Trees, Portland State University, and the Portland Fruit Tree Project. The course included seven classes for a total of 26 hours. The course was taught by 16 instructors from 10 different organizations. A wide variety of topics were covered, including tree identification, permitting, tree biology, inventory, and planning projects. Thirty-two people from 19 neighborhoods and three neighboring cities participated, bringing the total number of Neighborhood Tree Stewards to 144 trained over the past four years.

General Public Educational Workshops: Workshops are offered to give continued support for Neighborhood Tree Stewards and to encourage additional involvement from Portland communities. Workshops were given on a variety of topics, including general and mature tree care,



Volunteers identified, mapped, and measured 14,000 street trees in three neighborhoods for the Tree Inventory Project.



Thirty-two people became Neighborhood Tree Stewards in 2012.



Volunteers pruned trees at Director Park during a “Prune Like a Pro” workshop.



Hundreds of people participated in Arbor Month events, which lasted the entire month of April.

young tree pruning, winter tree identification, trees and construction, Dutch elm disease prevention, and fruit tree pruning. In addition, PP&R Urban Forestry and BES staff coordinate Heritage Tree walks, neighborhood tree walks, and volunteer work days, all intended to educate the community on the different roles and values of trees in their community.

Tree Care Providers Workshops: PP&R Urban Forestry staff offer a Tree Care Providers Workshop for local tree care professionals. The program consists of free workshops offered on a semi-annual basis, providing training on City regulations involving trees and approved pruning standards. After completing the workshop and providing proof of a valid business license, workshop participants are listed on the PP&R Urban Forestry website as a local tree care provider. In 2013, one workshop was offered, and to date 45 landscape, consulting, and tree care companies have participated in the program.

Professional Training: PP&R Urban Forestry provides training to other City bureaus and agencies on pruning, tree care, high climber emergency rescue, and planting permit inspections.

Events: Portland celebrated its first ever Arbor Month in 2013, with tree events held nearly every day in April. Events included workshops, lectures, bike rides, tree walks, workdays, bucket truck rides, and a Heritage Tree dedication ceremony. Arbor Day was held on Saturday, April 20, 2013 in the South Park Blocks in partnership with Portland Farmers Market. The Arbor Day celebration included the presentation of the 36th Tree City USA award and the announcement of the 2013 Bill Naito Community Tree Award winners. The fifth Annual “Dig-It” event kicked off the 2012- 2013 planting season by planting 10 trees at Lent Elementary School and graduating the 2012 Neighborhood Tree Steward class.

Volunteer work hours: 61,082 volunteer hours valued at \$710,378 were provided to the urban forest in FY2012-2013, as reported by PP&R. Volunteers planted, pruned, and maintained trees in parks, natural areas, and rights-of-way; removed invasive species; and worked at environmental education events, among other activities.

Citywide Tree Care and Maintenance Programs

PP&R Urban Forestry oversees tree maintenance for parks and some additional City-owned properties through inter-agency agreements. In FY2012-2013, maintenance activities included establishment care and watering, pruning, canopy raising, removals, and hazard abatement for PP&R, BES, Portland Fire & Rescue, Bureau of Transportation, Portland International Raceway, and Water Bureau properties.

Parks Tree Maintenance: 138 trees were planted in parks in FY2012-2013. Over 600 trees were established in parks with regular watering schedules. PP&R Urban Forestry Arborists pruned 896 park trees. 1,051 park trees were removed; this number includes a large number of invasive species such as English holly and European hawthorn.

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Control: 42 public and private elms were removed due to DED in 2012 as part of the PP&R Urban Forestry Elm Protection Program. The program includes vigilant monitoring, timely diagnoses, and preventative maintenance of elms, as well as public education on symptom recognition, proper pruning, and elm wood disposal. Staff arborists worked with Neighborhood Associations and friends' groups to provide workshops on DED inoculation, inoculating approximately 90 street trees and 115 park trees in 2012.

Emergency Response: PP&R Urban Forestry responded to 447 emergency situations in FY2012-2013. PP&R Urban Forestry is the first responder to all tree-related emergencies with the city, providing immediate response to hazards 24/7. The majority of incidents involve tree failures that pose a hazard to people, traffic, or infrastructure.

Youth Conservation Crew Tree Crew: In the summer of 2012, PP&R staff hired six high school students plus one crew leader to conduct much needed maintenance and establishment tree work. The Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) Tree Crew established over 350 small trees and pruned throughout Portland. In addition, the YCC Tree Crew pruned 78 park trees along 6 miles of trails at Mt. Tabor Park.

Protect the Best: PP&R's Protect the Best program, with funding from BES, is designed to prevent small patches of invasive, non-native plant species from spreading in ecologically healthy natural areas. In FY2012-2013, the crew performed treatments in Forest Park, Powell Butte, Buttes Natural Area, Tideman Johnson Natural Area, Errol Heights Natural Area, Whitaker Ponds, Mitchell Creek Natural Area, and Elk Rock Island. In FY2012-2013, 342 acres received initial treatments and 540 acres were re-treated. Since 2008, a total of 3,700 acres have been treated at least once, and approximately 13,100 individual invasive trees (greater than two inches in diameter) have been removed. The majority of non-native species removed were English holly, European hawthorn, and non-native cherry.

Watershed Revegetation Program: BES' Watershed Revegetation Program (WRP) works on over 1,500 acres of public and private property throughout Portland. WRP removes invasive vegetation and plants native vegetation as part of site management. WRP planted trees on nearly 300 acres in both natural areas and storm water maintenance facilities during FY2012-2013.



The PP&R Urban Forestry Arborists removed 42 elm trees throughout Portland due to Dutch elm disease.



The YCC Tree Crew pruned trees throughout Portland parks during the summer of 2012.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The *Urban Forest Action Plan* Performance Measures Taskforce began meeting in 2007 to establish a set of performance measures for the *Urban Forest Action Plan* to measure progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan. This report contains compiled performance measures using credible existing data for FY2007-2008 through FY2012-2013. The task force will continue to work to establish targets, reporting frequency, and provide review of performance measures.

TABLE 2: BASELINE MEASUREMENTS AND INDICATORS OF PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING UFAP GOALS FOR FY2007-2008 THROUGH FY2012-2013

PROTECT, PRESERVE, RESTORE, AND EXPAND PORTLAND'S URBAN FOREST						
	FY07-08	FY08-09	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13
Urban forest canopy cover* % of total city	26%*	-	-	29.9%	-	-
Urban forest canopy coverage* % of public property	27%*	-	-	-	-	-
Urban forest canopy coverage* % of private property	26%*	-	-	-	-	-
Ratio of street tree plantings to removals	-	6.6	11.1	5.9	3.6	3.6
DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR THE URBAN FOREST						
Volunteer hours, Friends of Trees (FOT)	17,860	17,003	18,307	22,482	25,518	29,002
Neighborhood Tree Stewards trained	0	0	23	11	29	32
Website visits, PP&R Urban Forestry	32,440	46,959	90,831	70,844	118,292	152,345
Arboreta developed at Portland schools (total trees planted)	2 (54)	5 (185)	9 (152)	5 (160)	6 (78)	9 (57)
Total funding from grants in PP&R Urban Forestry budget	\$21,702	\$74,804	\$3,660	\$5,096	\$5,096	\$0
Total budget, PP&R Urban Forestry	\$2.52M	\$2.42M	\$2.47M	\$3.06M	\$3.01M	\$3.38M
MANAGE THE URBAN FOREST TO MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR ALL						
Trees planted in low income and low canopy neighborhoods by FOT	962	1,510	1,261	1,597	2,044	1,843
Carbon sequestration, lbs**	24,854,356	-	-	-	-	-
Air pollutants removed, lbs **	599,023	-	-	-	-	-
Stormwater retained, gallons**	413,676,636	-	-	-	-	-
Canopy cover in riparian areas	-	66.6%	-	-	-	-

*Urban forest canopy cover data uses imagery for year 2002 as a baseline, but were reported in FY2007-2008.

**Carbon sequestration, air pollutants, and stormwater retained are baseline data derived from 2002 conditions and reported in FY2007-2008.

DATA SOURCES FOR PERFORMANCES MEASURES

Urban forest canopy cover: PP&R's *Tree Canopy Monitoring: Protocol and Monitoring from 2000-2010* (2012) calculated canopy cover using point interpretation of aerial photos.

Ratio of street tree plantings to removals: PP&R Urban Forestry tracks street tree removal and planting permits. Net change is determined by dividing planting permits issued by removal permits issued.

Volunteer hours with Friends of Trees: FOT tracks total volunteer hours each planting season.

Website visits for PP&R Urban Forestry: The City of Portland Urban Forestry website (www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/trees) tracks total visits.

Arboreta developed: PP&R Urban Forestry's Outreach and Education program creates Learning Landscapes at willing partner schools in the city. Arboretums developed involve planting multiple trees, creating a volunteer network for establishment care, and working with teachers to use the arboreta for class lessons.

Total funding from grants: Amount of funding in the PP&R Urban Forestry budget received from grants.

Total budget, PP&R Urban Forestry: Total budget for PP&R Urban Forestry.

Trees planted in low income and low canopy neighborhoods by Friends of Trees: Trees planted in rights-of-way and yards in neighborhoods with <25% canopy (Poracsky and Lackner 2004) and where >51% of individuals are at or below 80% of the median income according to HUD (2003).

Carbon sequestration, air pollutants removed, and storm water retained: *Portland's Urban Forestry Canopy Report* (2007) used CITYgreen software to calculate the environmental benefits provided by trees based upon classified aerial imagery derived from a 2002 multi-spectral image.

Canopy cover in riparian areas: Reported in the *State of the Watersheds 2008 Environmental Indicators Report* issued by Metro. Corresponds to Indicator 2, the percentage of trees within 50 feet of streams and wetlands. Data were derived from 2007 aerial photographs using Feature Analyst software.

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Citywide Tree Project: Planning for Implementation

The new tree code, Title 11 Trees, creates opportunities for collaboration as the implementation date nears. Although the code was adopted in 2011, implementation of the tree code and associated zoning code amendments has been delayed on two separate occasions due to limited resources. The most recent delay took place on May 29, 2013, establishing a new implementation date of January 1, 2015.

As part of the delay, City Council included a staff directive to BDS, BES, the City Budget Office, and PP&R Urban Forestry to submit an implementation report focusing on staffing requirements and funding sources for both initial and ongoing code implementation. City Council will review this report no later than December 18, 2013.

Although this delay is disappointing, the extra time has allowed staff to work on improving inter-bureau coordination in addition to completing implementation tasks. Improving coordination benefits customers today and will create a smooth transition to the new regulations in January 2015.

The implementation team is working on updating customer response procedures and conducted training on the updates for both bureaus. The team has completed an after-hours tree emergency response pilot project and is currently in the process of updating protocols for tree removal in parking lots, reflecting requirements in the new tree code.

Next steps in the Citywide Tree Project include refining budget and funding sources (fall 2013), updating requirements for capital improvement and public works projects (fall 2013), finishing a tree code monitoring plan to evaluate the effectiveness of customer service improvements and canopy enhancements under Title 11 (fall/winter 2013), completing the new tree website (winter/spring 2014), and completing computer programming for the new permit types, including standard operating procedures (spring 2014).

The Portland Trees website is currently being drafted and will go live in phases. It will be completed by January 2015, when Title 11 goes into effect. The Portland Trees website will be a one-stop-shop for all tree-related concerns, from permitting to tree care to trees in development situations. The website will explain the new permit requirements and allow customers to apply for permits online. It will also provide details on how to protect trees during development, resources explaining how to plant and care for trees, information on the benefits of trees, and links to programs and volunteer opportunities with the urban forest.

Funding for the Urban Forest

For FY2013-2014, PP&R Urban Forestry was asked to prepare a budget at 90% of the FY2012-2013 budget by offering up packages of programs that could potentially be cut if necessary. Fortunately, PP&R Urban Forestry came out relatively unscathed in the budget process and was able to keep all current programs. However, funding for urban forest management issues is always a struggle and funding did not increase for current or desirable additional activities.

The FY2013-2014 budget also reallocated some funding for the Grey to Green tree planting program from BES sewer management revenue to the General Fund. Transferring management of the General Fund portion of the program from BES to PP&R Urban Forestry was also proposed during budget creation. This

transfer could potentially streamline permitting and reporting processes, resulting in increased efficiency for managing this program. However, this transition is still under discussion and there is no set transfer date.

This year a permanent position for an Urban Forestry Permitting Supervisor was created, as well as a Botanic Specialist I – Forestry Specialist. These positions were funded through reassignment of funds for existing vacant positions within PP&R and increased permitting fee revenues from the nascent economic upturn. The Permitting Supervisor will be working with the PP&R Urban Forestry Tree Inspectors to ensure the regulation and compliance of City tree codes, as well as assisting in the implementation of Title 11. The Permitting Supervisor will be essential to streamline and ease the complexities of permitting trees in the City of Portland. The duties of the Botanic Specialist will include helping prepare for implementation of the new tree code as well as engaging in monitoring and reporting on the urban forest. The Botanic Specialist will also be the main backup person for the PP&R Urban Forestry intake line.

Being a General Fund bureau will always create tension for PP&R because of the regular fluctuations of General Fund revenue. PP&R faced five consecutive years of economic challenges leading to budget reductions. However, Mayor Charlie Hales has been working with PP&R Director Mike Abbaté and other bureau directors and has proposed a “stabilization budget,” meaning he will not be asking General Fund bureaus to submit reduction packages for FY2014-2015. Director Abbaté is also forming a Budget Ideas Group, a group of PP&R employees who will evaluate ideas for efficiencies or revenues that might allow PP&R to better serve customers or to free up resources to restore previous reductions.

Updating the *Urban Forest Management Plan*

Next fiscal year will mark the need for the ten-year update to the 2004 *Urban Forestry Management Plan*. Portland’s first *Urban Forestry Management Plan* was prepared and adopted in 1995 and is scheduled to be updated approximately every ten years. The *Urban Forestry Management Plan* supports the *Portland Plan* as well as other federal, state, and local regulations and guidelines. These include federal mandates such as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act, Oregon’s Statewide Planning Goals 5-7 and 15, Metro mandates, and Portland City Code. An inter-bureau team will work to update the management plan with current programs, goals, and challenges. This will provide a critical opportunity to assess the City’s strategies for improving the urban forest.

PP&R will need to establish funding for the management plan update process. The process will take several months and involve collaboration between several bureaus. There will also be opportunities for public input and comment during the update process.

Climate Action Plan and Climate Preparation Plan

BPS has begun working with key stakeholders to update the City’s 2009 *Climate Action Plan*. That plan highlights the role of natural systems and the urban forest in helping capture and store carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. The City is also working with Multnomah County to develop a new *Climate Preparation Plan* that will describe the potential impacts of climate change and recommend actions to reduce negative effects, while increasing resiliency to those impacts.

The draft *Climate Action Plan* and *Climate Preparation Plan* are expected to be released for public review in late 2013 or early 2014. The update and development of these plans provides an important opportunity to review existing urban forestry-related programs and determine if changes are needed to better meet City goals for addressing climate change.

Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies

PP&R Urban Forestry is contributing to the BPS-led efforts to update the *Comprehensive Plan*. The updates will guide the implementation of the *Portland Plan*, the City of Portland's comprehensive plan adopted by City Council on April 25, 2012. The *Comprehensive Plan* will guide the City of Portland's actions for the next 20 years.

Throughout the update process, PP&R Urban Forestry is highlighting the benefits of Portland's urban forest resource and emphasizing the necessity of ensuring the urban forest's healthy existence throughout the future. Public comments on the part of the *Comprehensive Plan* pertaining to trees and vegetation express a desire for stronger language to protect the urban forest and promote equity of urban forest benefits. Commenters also support increased efforts to plant and preserve native trees and trees in the public right-of-way. As population increases, with accompanying land development, continue to threaten our urban forest resource by potentially eliminating space for this asset, PP&R Urban Forestry is working diligently with supporters to ensure the actions set by the City for the future will continue to support and enhance the urban forest. PP&R Urban Forestry will continue these efforts throughout the next year.