



**PORTLAND
PARKS & RECREATION**

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Urban Forest Action Plan

2015 Implementation Update

October 2016

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Cover photo:

Heritage Tree # 54, a European copper beech at Portland State University.

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In FY 2014-2015, volunteers contributed 71,682 hours valued at \$840,836 to diverse urban forestry activities, from young tree maintenance workshops (above) to street tree inventory (below), an increase of over 6,000 hours from the previous year.

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 2014-2015, which extends from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Over half of the action items are either completed or in progress.

Key challenges remain to reach 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 well-being 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

Implemented Citywide Tree Project

Title 11, Trees, was adopted in April 2011 as part of the Citywide Tree Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project (aka Citywide Tree Project). The overarching goals of the Citywide Tree Project were to 1) craft comprehensive tree regulations that support multiple City goals and are clear, consistent, easy to understand and work with, equitable, and cost-effective; 2) protect and enhance the urban forest; and 3) improve customer service. Due to limited resources associated with the recession, implementation of Title 11 was delayed and became effective on January 1, 2015.

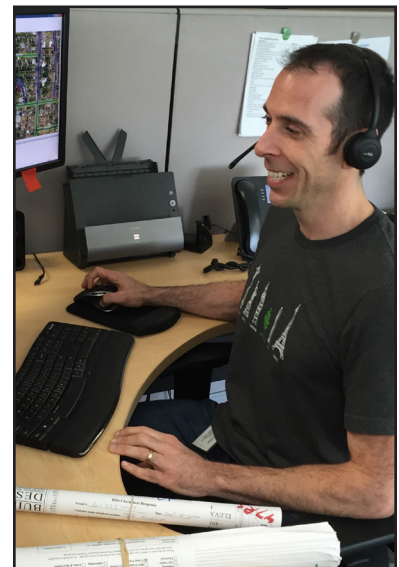
Leading up to and during the first six months of implementation, the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) and Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry (PP&R Urban Forestry) worked together to develop a coordinated program for staffing, training, outreach, and monitoring. Below is a summary of those activities.

Staffing, Coordination, and Program Development

The new requirements of Title 11 brought a need for greater coordination between City Bureaus, particularly the key implementing Bureaus – BDS and PP&R Urban Forestry. Permitting processes were successfully developed and new staff were hired to review plans, make inspections and respond to questions. Furthering the goals of the Citywide Tree Project, customer service was improved by creating a simple, efficient, and responsive system for answering tree-related inquiries.

To this end, the following staffing and process improvements were put in place:

- A “single point of contact” was established, providing clearer paths for customers to submit tree questions via a new website, caller menu, and central staff location. This function is staffed with three PP&R Urban Forestry Tree Technicians. The Tree Technicians answer questions via email, telephone and in-person in the Development Services Center. These staff also process permits and dispatch PP&R Urban Forestry staff for tree emergencies in City rights-of-way and on City properties.
- Some PP&R Urban Forestry staff are located at the 1900 Building to provide better access for the public, as well as improved inter-bureau coordination. These include the three Tree Technicians



Under Title 11, PP&R Tree Technicians served as a single point of contact for the public to answer questions about trees and permitting requirements.

mentioned above, two of the ten Tree Inspectors, and the Urban Forestry Permitting Supervisor who splits her time between the 1900 Building and the PP&R Urban Forestry main offices at East Delta Park.



PP&R Urban Forestry launched a new process to provide early consultation for the City's Capital Improvement Projects, which will aid in preservation of trees in development of City properties.

- PP&R Urban Forestry Tree inspectors at the 1900 Building provide subject-matter expertise for private development permits and land use reviews processed by BDS. This includes tree preservation inspections and on-call peer review of tree preservation plans and arborist reports. In addition, PP&R Urban Forestry now responds to early assistance applications related to private development proposals, providing information to customers about street tree requirements early in the process.
- PP&R Urban Forestry launched a new process to provide early consultation for the City's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The new process clarifies and standardizes application and plan review requirements, providing clear expectations for project managers and identifying opportunities for tree preservation at the project's earliest stages.
- PP&R Urban Forestry implemented an online, self-issued street tree pruning permit for small limbs as a means to improve customer service and work efficiency.
- The programmatic permitting process developed for public agencies and utilities have created a clear, streamlined system for regulating routine tree work in large areas of the city, aiming to ensure a net positive benefit to the urban forest. During this fiscal year, 14 public agencies and utilities began this process and are expected to be issued permits early in FY 15-16.

Implementation of Title 11 also involved a major staff training effort. In the three months leading up to implementation and the first six months after, more than 30 separate staff training sessions were held. Because the tree code touches many different areas, this included staff from multiple bureaus and divisions. Bureaus that received training include BDS, PP&R Urban Forestry, BES, PBOT, Water, and Parks (CIP), as well as City Attorneys.

Public Outreach

Public outreach and education on Title 11 followed a two-pronged approach.

- Training sessions on the details of the new code were scheduled throughout the community. Training sessions were scheduled both during the day and in the evening for neighborhood and other interested groups, development customers, tree care providers, and other agencies, such as the Multnomah County Drainage District and Port of Portland. Approximately 22 separate sessions were held. Training presentation materials were posted online for people who sought the information but could not participate.
- An Outreach Plan was developed in early 2015 working with consultant EnviroIssues. The plan includes goals, audiences, a tag line (“Call before you cut”), specific tools for outreach and a general implementation schedule. The primary goal of the outreach plan was to make Portlanders aware of the updated regulations and where to obtain more information. A secondary goal was for more Portlanders to understand the value of the urban forest to the community’s quality of life.

Outreach tools implemented include:

- The tree website including a language translation function (www.portlandoregon.gov/trees)
- The tree hotline (503-823-TREE), serving as the single point of contact for tree inquiries
- Press releases and articles
- Letters and phone calls to historically underrepresented communities
- Fact sheets, including translated versions
- A “Call before you cut” refrigerator magnet
- Display ads in community newspapers
- Social media posts
- Tabling at various community events



Outreach materials, including magnets, were produced as part of Title 11 implementation.

Expanded the Community Tree Care Program

Friends of Trees' Community Tree Care Program, in partnership with PP&R Urban Forestry, works with volunteers to structurally prune young street trees to aid their long-term growth. The 2014-15 pruning season kicked off with a Pruning Leader training held at Peninsula Park Community Center, followed by hands-on field work in the Piedmont neighborhood. Thereafter, trained pruners also attended a second event in Piedmont and events in the Hosford-Abernathy, Hazelwood, Parkrose Heights, and King neighborhoods. The second season of this program included pruning events run concurrently with plantings events. This model was both efficient and brought attention to the program. Approximately 1,200 young street trees were pruned for clearance, health, and structure this season with the help of about 60 trained volunteer pruners and arborist partners. About 500 properties were reached and given additional education on the importance of follow up street tree care.



Approximately 1,200 young street trees were pruned for clearance, health, and structure as part of the Friends of Trees Community Tree Care Program in FY 2014-15.

Expanded the Tree Inventory Project

Seeking to empower residents to better care for their neighborhood's tree canopy, PP&R Urban Forestry organized neighborhood stakeholders to conduct volunteer-led street tree inventories in Boise, Cully, Eliot, Foster-Powell, Kerns, Laurelhurst, South Tabor, Sullivan's Gulch and West Portland Park in 2014. This was the most ambitious year yet for the project, and staff were pleased to see that the volunteer model held up to the increased volume. Some 280 volunteers donated over 4,200 hours to project mapping, measuring, and identifying nearly 31,000 trees. In addition to collecting data in the field, volunteers entered all data into UF's ArcGIS database.

One hundred participants convened at November's "Tree Inventory Summit" to discuss results and begin creating tree plans. After presentations on the data and hearing from several guest speakers on species diversity and tree maintenance needs, participants broke into neighborhood groups to draft tree plans. The tree plans include a vision statement, goals, action items, and recommendations for property owners.

Service to low tree canopy neighborhoods

The Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and PP&R Urban Forestry partnered with the Confluence Environmental Center in FY 2014-15 to sponsor three AmeriCorps members to improve service delivery in low-income communities and communities of color with relatively low tree canopy cover.

Urban Forestry AmeriCorps members Elizabeth Specht and Danielle Voisin, serving as the Tree Plan Coordinators, worked with each neighborhood tree team to plan two stewardship events between November 2014 and June 2015 to help groups stay organized and help meet tree plan goals. At the Tree Inventory Summit, they presented a menu of stewardship workshop options to participants to choose from, including planting, pruning, and maintenance events.

Urban Forestry staff continues to work with tree teams to provide tree plan guidance and ongoing support. Staff is exploring how to best integrate tree plans into ongoing stewardship efforts, as well as expand the program. Staff is currently conducting an analysis of neighborhoods so that efforts can be prioritized to those that are low canopy, low income, and racially diverse, which aligns with the *Urban Forest Management Plan* goal of achieving greater equity.

BES AmeriCorps member Emily Percival developed new strategies for culturally relevant service delivery, tabled at community events, and strengthened partnerships with East Portland neighborhoods in support of tree planting and stewardship.



The 2014 Tree Inventory Project was expanded to 10 new neighborhoods collecting information on nearly 31,000 trees.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Planting Programs (Table 1):

In FY2014-2015, 6,902 street and park trees were planted through the PP&R Urban Forestry permit process by all tree planting partners.

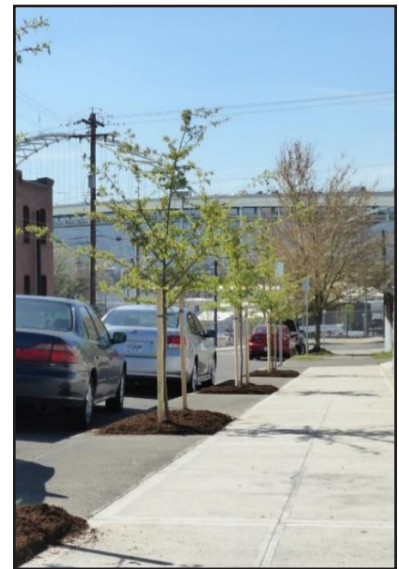
Property Owner and Development Planting: Permits to plant 3,905 street trees were issued to property owners and developers by PP&R Urban Forestry in FY2014-15.

Bureau of Environmental Services Urban Tree Canopy Program (formerly Grey to Green): 2,802 street trees and 1,072 yard trees were planted by the Environmental Services Tree Program. In partnership with Friends of Trees, other planting contractors, public partners, and Portland residents, the ESTP has planted over 41,000 trees over the past seven years.

BES managed a team of seasonal canvassers who located planting spaces in the right-of-way, assisted property owners in signing up to plant with Friends of Trees, and conducted 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 neighborhoods west of the river. BES has used these data to develop and manage tree planting efforts in industrial and commercial areas, to target low-canopy, low-income neighborhoods, and to target areas that offer opportunities to plant large canopy trees. In FY15, 87% of trees were planted in low-income communities and communities of color.

Additionally, 246 trees were the recipient of Treebate credits. The Treebate program offers an incentive in the form of a utility bill credit for stormwater fee ratepayers in Portland who plant trees on their residential private properties. Because larger trees manage more stormwater, Treebate credits 50% of the tree's purchase price up to \$50, \$25, or \$15, depending on mature tree size and stormwater 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 Plants 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. Over the past six years, the program



Urban Forestry permitted 2,662 street tree plantings through the Bureau of Environmental Services Tree Program in FY 2014-15.

TABLE 1: INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS ISSUED BY PP&R URBAN FORESTRY IN FY2014-2015

STREET TREES			
	INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	PERMITS ISSUED	TREES PERMITTED
Planting, property owner*	221	1,189	2,607
Planting, Environmental Services	2,066	1,783	2,662
Planting, development requirements	3,194	737	1,298
Pruning	609	2,098	5,177
Removal	990	1,102	1,853
Root pruning	786	719	1,395
General	507	160	302
PARK AND SCHOOL TREES			
Planting, Parks	0	49	240
Planting, School Arboreta	9	9	95
Pruning	86	86	317
Removal	140	143	294
Root pruning	1	1	23
General	79	13	17
PRIVATE TREES			
Removals	1,130	1,110	1,670
Planting, mitigation	n/a	n/a	1,572
Preservation, development	43	n/a	n/a
Other	65	56	104
EMERGENCY			
Emergency response	1,192	n/a	n/a
TOTALS			
Planting	5,490	3,767	8,474
Pruning	695	2,184	5,494
Removals	2,262	2,355	3,817
Root pruning	787	720	1,418
Preservation, development	43	n/a	n/a
General	651	229	423
Emergency	1,192	n/a	n/a
Totals	11,120	9,255	19,626

**Number of trees permitted includes trees required to be planted as part of other permits*

has granted credits to 1,281 Environmental Services customers for planting 2,654 trees.

BES continued to promote forest diversity and resilience to pests and pathogens by avoiding over-planted species and planting a wide variety of species. The greatest challenges to planting street trees in Portland were finding appropriate planting locations and then securing agreement from adjacent property owners to plant and care for them.

Parks Planting: 240 large-caliper trees were planted by PP&R Urban Forestry in parks in FY2014-2015, predominately as replacements for trees lost due to old age, structural failures, vandalism, and car accidents.



The Learning Landscapes program worked with students and teachers to plant 95 trees on 9 school sites in FY 14-15.

School and Community Tree Plantings: Ninety-five trees were planted at nine sites through a program called Learning Landscapes. Trees were planted at schools in the Portland, Parkrose, David Douglas and Centennial districts, as well as in areas benefiting the general public. PP&R Urban Forestry installs Learning Landscapes at sites using volunteers, students, and Neighborhood Tree Stewards. These Learning Landscapes provide educational opportunities for students, teachers, and neighbors to learn about different tree species and the importance of urban trees.

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. Efforts were guided in 2014 under City Code 20.40 Street Tree and Other Public Tree Regulations and 20.42 Tree Cutting, replaced in 2015 by Title 11 Trees.

Implementing Tree Rules: 11,120 tree inspections were completed for health assessments, planting, pruning, removals, and other regulated activities in FY2014-2015 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 on the situation. Much inspection time is dedicated to educating property owners about code requirements and proper tree care. Under Title 11, tree preservation requirements in development situations expanded beyond land divisions and environmental zones. While these requirements are administered by the Bureau of Development Services (BDS), Urban Forestry tree inspectors conduct site inspections.

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 2014, PP&R worked in Boise, Cully, Eliot, Foster-Powell, Kerns, Laurelhurst, South Tabor, Sullivan's Gulch, and West Portland Park neighborhoods, and 280 volunteers gave over 4,200 hours inventorying 31,000 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, the majority of neighborhoods with tree inventories have recognized tree teams to address neighborhood tree concerns, and most are associated with their Neighborhood Association. In 2014, Urban Forestry partnered with Confluence Environmental Center to sponsor two AmeriCorps members for an 11-month project to coordinate Neighborhood Tree Plans and associated stewardship activities. The AmeriCorps members worked closely with tree teams and coordinated stewardship events with over 400 volunteers participating. Events included young tree pruning, sharing inventory results with community stakeholders, tree walks, and tree plantings. Additionally, the AmeriCorps members conducted outreach to low-income and low-canopy neighborhoods to encourage participation in the inventory project with positive results.

General Public Educational Workshops: Twenty-six workshops were offered to give continued support for neighborhoods that had completed a street tree inventory, and to encourage additional involvement from Portland communities. Workshops were given on a variety of topics, including young tree pruning, fruit tree pruning, heritage tree walks, tree ID walks, invasive species, the tree code, and tree planting.

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,



Twenty six neighborhood workshops were held in FY 14-15 in support of urban forest management goals.

providing training on City regulations involving trees and approved pruning standards. After completing the workshop and providing proof of a valid business license and ISA Certification, workshop participants are listed on the PP&R Urban Forestry website as a local tree care provider. In 2015, one workshop was offered, with 34 professionals from 18 different landscape, consulting, and tree care companies participating.

Professional Training: Implementation of Title 11 involved a major staff training effort. In the three months leading up to implementation and the first six months after, more than 30 separate staff training sessions were held. Because the tree code touches many different areas, this included staff from multiple bureaus and divisions. Bureaus that received training included BDS, Parks Urban Forestry, BES, PBOT, Water, other Parks staff, and City Attorneys. Additionally, Parks North/Northeast Zone staff received training for tree pruning under their programmatic permit.



Portland's annual Arbor Day festival took place in April, 2015.

Events: Portland celebrated Arbor Day on April 11, 2015 in the South Park Blocks in partnership with Portland Farmers Market. The Arbor Day celebration included the presentation of the 38th Tree City USA Award to Portland, the presentation of the Tree Campus USA Award to Portland State University, and the announcement of the Bill Naito Community Tree Award winners. The award winners were John Iott, for demonstrating the care of fruit trees in all seasons and leading volunteers to restore the 80 trees of the Green Thumb Community Orchard, and Leigh Rappaport and the Leadership Corps of Rosemary Anderson High School for planting thousands of trees in Portland communities and transforming the lives of students by training them to become teachers, tree stewards and Friends of Trees crew leaders.

Volunteer work hours: 71,682 volunteer hours valued at \$840,836 were provided to the urban forest in FY2014-2015, 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. Volunteers contributed over 6,000 more hours than the previous fiscal year.

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 FY2014-2015, 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: 240 trees were planted in parks in FY2014-2015. An additional 436 trees were established in parks with regular watering schedules. PP&R Urban Forestry Arborists pruned 400 park trees. Some 294 park trees were removed.

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Control: As part of the PP&R Urban Forestry Elm Protection Program, 35 public, private, and park elms were removed due to Dutch elm disease in 2014. The program includes vigilant monitoring, timely diagnosis of DED, 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 select healthy right-of-way elm candidates for inoculation, as well as permit inoculation activity. Neighborhood groups inoculated 115 right-of-way elms and 148 park trees were inoculated by Urban Forestry staff in 2014.

Emergency Response: PP&R Urban Forestry responded to 1,192 emergency situations in FY2014-2015. PP&R Urban Forestry is the first responder to all tree-related emergencies within the city, providing immediate response to hazards around the clock. The majority of incidents involve tree failures on City property that pose a hazard to people, traffic, or infrastructure.

Youth Conservation Crew Tree Crew: In the summer of 2014, 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 watered and mulched over 470 small trees and pruned over 150 trees at parks, schools, and public spaces throughout Portland.

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 FY2014- 2015, the crew performed treatments in for Big Four Corners Natural Area, Forest Park, Maricara Park, Mitchell Creek Natural Area, and Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. In FY 2014-2015, 207 acres received initial treatments and 560 acres were re-treated. Since fiscal year 2008, over 4,000 acres have been treated at least once, and over 15,000 individual invasive trees (greater than one inch in diameter) have been removed. The majority of non-native tree species removed were English holly, European hawthorn, and non-native cherry. Removal helps stop the spread by eliminating seed sources.

Watershed Revegetation Program: In FY 2014-2015 BES' Watershed Revegetation Program managed over 1,400 acres of natural area projects on private and public property throughout Portland. Management by WRP includes the removal of invasive vegetation and the planting and maintenance of native plants. WRP planted nearly 33,000 trees on 190 acres in both natural areas and stormwater maintenance facilities during FY2014-2015.



Portland Parks & Recreation staff attended trainings in detection and response to invasive pests and diseases

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The *Urban Forest Action Plan* Performance Measures Task Force began meeting in 2007 to establish a set of performance measures for the *Urban Forest Action Plan* to gauge progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan. This report contains compiled performance measures using credible existing data for FY2007-2008 through FY2014-2015. Urban Forestry continues to work to establish targets, reporting frequency, and review performance measures.

TABLE 2: BASELINE MEASUREMENTS AND INDICATORS OF PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING *URBAN FOREST ACTION PLAN* GOALS FOR FY2007-2008 THROUGH FY2014-2015

PROTECT, PRESERVE, RESTORE, AND EXPAND PORTLAND'S URBAN FOREST								
	FY07-08	FY08-09	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15
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	3.3	3.5
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	20,713	21,279
Neighborhood Tree Stewards trained	0	0	23	11	29	32	30	0
Website visits, PP&R Urban Forestry and www.portlandoregon.gov/trees	32,440	46,959	90,831	70,844	118,292	152,345	374,206	442,839
Arboreta developed at Portland schools (total trees planted)	2 (54)	5 (185)	9 (152)	5 (160)	6 (78)	9 (57)	8 (91)	9 (95)
Total funding from grants in PP&R Urban Forestry budget	\$21,702	\$74,804	\$3,660	\$5,096	\$5,096	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total budget, PP&R Urban Forestry	\$2.52M	\$2.42M	\$2.47M	\$3.06M	\$3.01M	\$3.38M	\$3.34M	\$3.93M
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	2,016	2,061
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.

Key Challenges and Opportunities

Implementation of Portland's new tree code, Title 11 Trees

Preparations for implementing Title 11 Trees began in January 2014, and continued into FY 14-15 up to January 1, 2015, when the code took effect. Heavy workload associated with code implementation, including training of City staff and the public on new processes, updating permit materials, and development of a new website, www.portlandoregon.gov/trees, required an “all hands on deck” approach.

With trees and the new tree code in the spotlight, as well as requirements bringing hundreds of thousands of private trees under regulation for the first time, permit applications increased by 43% in the first six months of 2015 and public inquiries increased by 31%. Actual workloads after January 1, 2015 quickly required the use of temporary staff in addition to the 4.5 full time positions funded as part of the Citywide Tree Project. The high volume of PP&R Urban Forestry staff workloads continues to result in response rates at less than acceptable levels in some cases.

Title 11 has had positive effects on the urban forest by requiring tree planting and preservation in new types of development, and by expanding regulations in non-development situations. However, data suggests that the number and stature of trees planted in development and non-development situations will not fully replace tree canopy lost, resulting in long-term canopy implications. Proposed actions include a comprehensive analysis of permitting activity under the first year of Title 11, and, if necessary, a code amendment project to address areas where new regulations are not meeting intended goals.

Tree preservation and development

Title 11 came into effect as Portland was experiencing one of its strongest periods of development in recent history. With more attention on trees, PP&R Urban Forestry and the Bureau of Development Services heard concerns from many members of the public regarding the loss of trees on properties where development was occurring. While Title 11 resulted in the preservation of many trees that would not have been under previous code, in many cases residents did not feel it went far enough. In FY 15-16, PP&R Urban Forestry and BDS will look at ways to better incentivize preservation where it is possible, while balancing the need to meet other City goals to provide affordable housing to a growing population. Where trees cannot be preserved, funds paid into the newly created Tree Planting and Preservation Fund will be used strategically to address canopy loss by planting in areas where increased canopy will have the most long-term social and environmental benefits.