

## Tree Planting & Preservation Fund – Portland Parks & Recreation

The Tree Planting and Preservation Fund enables the City Forester to mitigate for lost canopy because of unmet tree preservation or planting standards. Fund contributions come from several sources:

- Payment made in lieu of tree replacement as part of a tree permit issued as stated in Chapter 11.40;
- Payment made in lieu of preservation or planting where site or street characteristics or construction requirements make it infeasible to meet the requirements of Chapter 11.50;
- Payment of restoration fees for enforcement actions for private Trees; and Voluntary contributions.

Title 11 outlines the following allowable uses for the Tree Planting and Preservation Fund:

- Planting trees on public or private property, including streets. Planting trees includes the cost of materials and labor necessary to install and establish a tree for a five-year period;
- Purchasing conservation easements for the perpetual retention of trees and tree canopy.
- Such conservation easements shall allow the City to replace trees that are removed when they die or become dangerous; and
- Acquiring land to permanently protect existing trees or groves.

## Fiscal Year 2022-23 Fund Uses

### **Free Street Trees, 1,097**

PP&R offered a Free Street Tree planting program in Argay, Centennial, Cully, Glenfair, Portsmouth, St. Johns, and Sumner neighborhoods. Streets were surveyed to identify available planting spaces. Urban Forestry contacted adjacent property owners, notifying them that they would receive free street trees and allowing the opportunity to decline trees. Contractors planted trees and provide three years of establishment care (watering, weeding, mulching) at no cost to adjacent property owners.

### **Yard Tree Giveaway, 2,033**

PP&R offered free yard trees for Portland residents at events in East, Northeast, and North Portland. Residents received up to two trees at events held in Argay Terrace, Piedmont, Powellhurst-Gilbert, and Mt. Tabor neighborhoods. Free delivery was offered to St. Johns, Portsmouth, Sunderland, Cully, Sumner, Glenfair, and Centennial. Twenty-One different species were offered with a focus on climate resilient large-form, evergreen, and native trees. In addition to trees, participants received instruction on planting and care, a watering bucket, and mulch. PP&R is currently conducting a long-term monitoring effort to determine the success, survival rate, and health of free yard trees.

### **Learning Landscapes, 58**

PP&R partnered with community organizations to plant trees at schools and in public spaces. Students, teachers, and community members worked together to select sites and species. On planting day, students and volunteers gathered to dig holes, plant, water, and name their trees. Contractors support plantings and provide three years of establishment care (watering, weeding, and mulching). Sites included JOIN PDX, Lent School, Patrick Lynch Elementary School, Powell Butte Elementary School, Tamarack Apartments, Vernon Elementary School, Woodlawn Elementary School, Woodstock Elementary School, and Whitman Elementary School. Partners included Centennial School District, Depave, Home Forward, and Portland Public Schools.

### **Parks, Natural Areas, 1,384**

Native trees were planted as part of larger natural area restoration efforts in partnership with many PP&R friends groups. Sites included Forest Park, Kelly Point Park, Powell Butte, Whitaker Ponds, and Wilkes Creek.

**Recommendations for Future Uses**

- Tree planting expenditures are guided by the citywide tree planting strategy, Growing a More Equitable Urban Forest. Plantings are focused in low income, low canopy areas of Portland where the need is greatest. [portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/705823](http://portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/705823)
- PP&R anticipates planting 3,500 trees annually for the next five years with most trees planted in priority neighborhoods.
- Over the next five years, the Tree Planting and Preservation fund balance will decrease as planned expenses exceed anticipated revenue. Additional resources will need to be identified to sustain the current level of tree canopy expansion investments in priority neighborhoods.

**Financial Forecast**

When Title 11 was implemented in 2015 it capped mitigation fees for trees removed in development at \$1,200 regardless of tree size. Public concern emerged shortly thereafter about the removal of especially large diameter trees during development. As a result, Ordinance 187685, referred to as the Large Tree Amendment, was adopted to increase mitigation payments for trees larger than 36” DBH. Acknowledging that the amendment was a fast-tracked emergency ordinance, a sunset date of December 31, 2019. In 2019 City council extend the sunset date to December 31, 2024 and directed staff to conduct additional analysis.

In 2020, staff returned to City Council with a report which found the higher mitigating payments reduced the number of trees 36” DBH or greater removed in development by 71%. Further, economic analysis conducted by Johnson Economics concluded that reducing the threshold for higher payments to 20” DBH would only reduce future housing development by 54 units (0.06%) over twenty years. The staff report also detailed the significant economic, environmental, and human health services that urban trees provide. City Council adopted Ordinance 190200 to implement the report’s recommendations. PP&R’s financial projection assume the Large Tree Amendment provisions will continue beyond the current sunset date at the end of 2024. Should that provision expire, revenue into the Tree Planting & Preservation Fund will decrease by at least 50%. This will require significant programmatic changes including a reduction in staff, contractor costs, and number of trees planted.

**Portland Parks & Recreation - Tree Planting and Preservation Fund**

Resources	CY Estimate	FY2024-25	FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28	FY2028-29
		Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
Beginning Balance	\$5,530,000	\$5,680,000	\$4,410,000	\$3,840,000	\$2,870,000	\$1,620,000
Licenses & Permits	\$1,480,000	\$1,270,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,520,000	\$1,530,000	\$1,700,000
Fund Transfers - Revenue	\$480,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$80,000	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
<b>Resource Total</b>	<b>\$7,580,000</b>	<b>\$7,040,000</b>	<b>\$6,240,000</b>	<b>\$5,420,000</b>	<b>\$4,430,000</b>	<b>\$3,340,000</b>

  

Expenditures	CY Estimate	FY2024-25	FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28	FY2028-29
		Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
Personnel	\$950,000	\$1,500,000	\$860,000	\$900,000	\$930,000	\$970,000
External Materials and Services	\$920,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,510,000	\$1,620,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,910,000
Internal Materials and Services	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$1,900,000</b>	<b>\$2,630,000</b>	<b>\$2,400,000</b>	<b>\$2,550,000</b>	<b>\$2,810,000</b>	<b>\$2,910,000</b>

## Urban Forestry Fund – Portland Parks and Recreation

Restoration fees, civil penalties, or civil remedies resulting from City or street tree enforcement actions are paid into the Urban Forestry Fund. The purpose of the fund is to enhance the urban forest through the planting of street or City trees, and to increase public awareness of trees, tree care, and the values of the urban forest.

Title 11 outlines the following allowable uses for the Urban Forestry Fund:

- To replace, establish, and maintain street or City trees illegally removed or damaged;
- To plant, establish and maintain street or City trees where, in the judgment of the Forester, they will enhance the values of the Urban Forest;
- To provide education, outreach, and technical assistance to the community; and
- Other forestry-related actions or programs, as determined by the City Forester.

## Fiscal Year 2022-23 Fund Uses

### Street Tree Inventory

Funds supported the Tree Inventory Project, which has twin goals of providing data to support informed management of Portland’s public trees while educating the public about the benefits of these public assets. In 2023, PP&R Urban Forestry staff and volunteers completed year 2 of a 3-year effort to update the City’s inventory of more than 218,000 street trees, first completed in 2016. Information on street trees in all Portland neighborhoods will be updated by Fall 2024. Data collected on park trees will be used to:

- Track changes to the species composition, size, and condition of Portland’s street trees.
- Manage the impacts to Portland’s street trees from pests, diseases, and a changing climate.
- Identify opportunities for planting in City rights-of-way.
- Connect the public to trees in their neighborhoods, providing open data downloads

## Recommendations for Future Uses

- The UFF will continue to support the Street Tree Inventory which will conclude in 2024.

## Financial Forecast

The Urban Forestry Fund is anticipated to continue to receive revenue consistent with prior years.

### Portland Parks & Recreation - Urban Forestry Fund

Resources	FY2024-25		FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28	FY2028-29
	CY Estimate	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
Beginning Balance	\$ 950,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 360,000	\$ 390,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 420,000
Licenses & Permits	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
<b>Resource Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,000</b>	<b>\$ 390,000</b>	<b>\$ 420,000</b>	<b>\$ 450,000</b>	<b>\$ 470,000</b>	<b>\$ 490,000</b>

  

Expenditures	FY2024-25		FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28	FY2028-29
	CY Estimate	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
Personnel	\$ 620,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
External Materials and Services	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Internal Materials and Services	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ 680,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>