

# TREE BARK

NEWS FROM URBAN FORESTRY - ALL TREES, NO PULP.

## Tree Bark

Urban Forestry News from Portland Parks & Recreation

## Celebrating Black Environmentalism in Portland: the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Plan



Photo 1: This street view of unidentified houses in the Albina area shows the initial results of neighborhood beautification. City of Portland Archives, A2010-003.3955.

Photo 2: Rev. Roosevelt Rogers (holding a tree) next to Mrs. Lula Cran and E.H. Thiel, and Father Mel Stead after Portland General Electric dug the planting hole. City of Portland Archives, A2010-003.2402.

### Did you know there was a community tree planting program in the Albina neighborhood in the '60s?

A product of the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Plan (ANIP), this program was one of the first documented community tree planting projects in the city's history. And it was led by a group of Black community members in the Albina neighborhood.

ANIP started when a group of concerned community members met with city and utility officials to discuss a way to better the neighborhood. Their goal was to prevent areas deemed as blighted from being cleared for [urban renewal projects](#). This was a common racist planning practice that divided and shrunk this historically Black neighborhood. At the time large swaths of Albina had already been cleared for such projects. Some examples are the Fremont Bridge, I-5, the Lloyd Center, and the expansion of Emanuel Hospital.

ANIP ran from 1961-1972. There were many program goals such as cleaning up alleyways and abandoned lots and renovating houses. Another goal was to address the "environmental deficiencies" of the neighborhood. The group wanted to remove poorly planted large trees that were damaging property and plant new ones. Tree planting and removal were managed by the Tree Planting Subcommittee. Partners for ANIP included the Portland Development Commission (now [Prosper Portland](#)), Portland General Electric, PPL Electric Utilities, the City Forester, and other industry professionals.

With them, the group was able to remove 173 hazardous trees and plant 1,115 trees throughout the area north of Fremont Avenue. Many of the trees planted were Kwanzan Cherries, and some of them are still present in the neighborhood today.

The program was so successful it inspired tree planting efforts in other neighborhoods like King, Sabin, and Woodlawn. To learn more about the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Plan and its legacy, read local historian Dave Hedberg's study [here](#). To learn more about discriminatory planning practices of Portland, click [here](#).

## Event Highlight: Albina Black History Month Tree Talk



On February 11th, almost 100 community members gathered at the [June Key Delta Community Center](#) to celebrate Black environmentalism in Albina. This event was in partnership with the [Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.](#) The focus of the talk was the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Plan and two community members met our partner organizations [Oregon Walks](#), [Camp Elso](#), and [The Blueprint Foundation](#). Urban Forestry also had its own table to talk to community members about our own [Free Street Tree Planting Program](#) and other work we do. Delicious food was provided by [Erica's Soul Food](#), and we finished the event off with a short tree walk around Peninsula Park. It was a great event to mix and mingle with tree lovers and history buffs alike. We can't wait for another opportunity to celebrate trees and neighborhood history like this in the future.

## Upcoming Events

### [Opportunities to Learn and Volunteer](#)



**Bloomington Park Tree Planting**  
Saturday, 03/11/2023, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Bloomington Park ([10131 SE Liebe Street, Portland, OR 97266](#))

Volunteer to help plant trees at Bloomington Park with Urban Forestry. Meet your fellow community members and help beautify Portland by planting trees and performing tree care on established park trees.

Planting season falls at the same time as our rainy season, be sure to wear boots, raingear, and warm layers. Learn more about this event and [register online](#).

## Event Highlight: Kelley Point ParkTree Planting



Photo 1: A volunteer holds a sign that reads Gurthie (name for the tree). Photo 2: Youth Conservation Crew members dig a hole for their tree.

Saturday, February 4th over 50 volunteers, including 8 of our [Youth Conservation Crew](#) members, gathered with us at Kelley Point Park to plant 19 trees. Though it was rainy and cold, there were lots of smiles and good conversations to get us through the day. Spread out in three different places on the northern end of the park, the crews worked fast to get those trees prepped, planted, and watered in record time. We are so grateful for the hard work of everyone who came out. Check out our [Flickr](#) to see pictures from that day.

## In Other News

**Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry is hiring Seasonal Assistants.** The division is seeking Urban Forestry (approximate 10 positions) to conduct data collection for an ongoing [street tree inventory](#). Some work may involve training youth and volunteers for assistance in data collection for community workdays. As an Urban Forestry Assistant, you will measure, map, and identify street trees in Portland neighborhoods. Learn more and apply [here](#).

**The City will soon be requesting proposals from potential tree planting contractors** to assist with our goal of planting over 2,000 trees along streets, within schoolyards, and on commercial and industrial properties, beginning this fall! Tree planting contractors are strongly encouraged to register or update their profiles on the City's [BuySpeed website](#) to receive notification of the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP will include tree planting contracts with Portland Urban Forestry and the Bureau of Environmental Services. The RFP will be under NIGP codes: 947-Forestry Services /43 – Nursery & Gathering Services; and 595-Nursery (plants, stock, equipment) /61-plants/outdoor.

**Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry begins proactive park tree maintenance for the first time.** Due to recently available funds, on-staff arborists will perform preemptive pruning care of park trees to avoid future structural issues. This will help reduce the incidence of tree emergencies in inclement weather events. Learn more [here](#).

**The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) is having a virtual listening session on March 1st** to gather community feedback on Equitable Tree Canopy and Regulated Affordable Housing Phase 2. PCEF exists to fund projects that aim to address the disproportionate effects of climate change on vulnerable communities such as people living with low incomes and communities of color. Learn more [here](#).

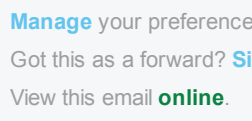
**The Oregon Department of Forestry quickly completes its collection of 900,000 ash tree seeds from across Oregon** after the arrival of the [emerald ash borer](#). Found in Oregon for the first time in Forest Grove last summer, the emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that has decimated ash tree populations on the eastern side of the country. Scientists hope to be able to find trees resistant to the beetle in their collection of seeds. Learn more [here](#).

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