



Tree Bark

March 23, 2023

City Bureaus and Urban Forestry Join Forces to Plant More Street Trees



There are many streets in Portland that lack planting strips or don't provide enough space behind the curb for new trees to thrive. Many of these streets are in East Portland. These areas have less canopy cover and lower household incomes than other neighborhoods in the city.

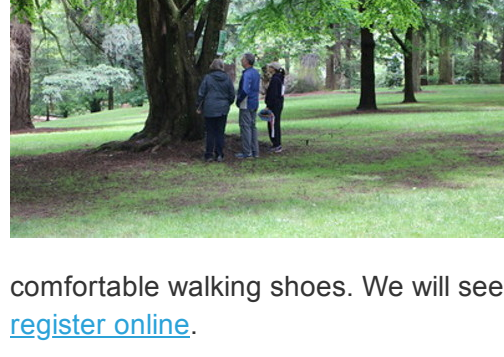
The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), Urban Forestry, and the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) are working together to address this problem with a pilot project to develop new space for trees in the curb/parking zone. The [Trees in the Curb Zone Pilot](#) provides an opportunity for the three bureaus to work together to install new street tree plantings. These new curb designs slow traffic to improve road safety and provide space for trees on streets that otherwise wouldn't have them.

The project comes directly from the PBOT's recently adopted [Pedestrian Master Plan \(PedPDX\)](#) and [Pedestrian Design Guide](#). This effort is a result of public support for more innovative approaches to tree planting in Portland. The pilot project is funded by PBOT and a "Percent for Green" grant from BES.

Urban Forestry is working with PBOT in all phases of planning and implementing the project. Urban Forestry's role is to provide expertise on tree care and spacing needs as well as feedback on the design. Urban Forestry will provide species selection, planting, and establishment for five years.

Project team members are hopeful that the designs developed can be a template for future plantings in other parts of the city.

Upcoming Tree Walk Event



Tree Walk at Knott Park
Saturday, 04/29/2023, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Knott Park ([NE 117th Avenue and NE Knott St, Portland, OR 97220](#))

Join us on a leisurely tree walk around Knott Park. This event is a great opportunity to practice tree identification skills and to learn some neat facts about trees of the park. Be sure to bring drinking water, a hat, and

comfortable walking shoes. We will see you there! Learn more about this event and [register online](#).

Celebrate Women's History Month and Meet Three of the Fabulous Women of Urban Forestry

This women's history month we are celebrating the incredible women of Urban Forestry. We wanted to take a moment to introduce some of our superstars and ask them a few questions about their work including:

- Julie Fukuda – Supervising Tree Technician
- Natasha Lipai – Operations Administrative Specialist
- Mari Aviles – Tree Planting Coordinator



Who or what inspired you to work in the urban forestry field?

Pictured: Julie's grandmother with Julie and her uncle playing on a tree

Julie - I was raised in Tokyo, a large sprawling city not known for its tree canopy, but my family lived in a small expatriate international neighborhood nestled under a mature canopy of katsura, zelkova, dawn redwood, Japanese live oak, and ginkgo. My siblings and I climbed trees, and my family had views of mature trees from every window of our home. A large (really!) Japanese maple filtered light through my bedroom window. My mom is a tree lover raised by nature lovers and she grew up on a tree-lined street with backyard access to a nature trail in Euclid, Ohio. Our phone books (remember those?) were always used more for pressing leaves than finding phone numbers. I immediately started planting with Friends of Trees when I moved to Portland in 1990. I completed a BS in biology at Portland State University – if they offered a forestry program I would have enrolled – and my love for trees has only grown since then.

Natasha - I have always loved nature, and growing up near Portland, I have a deep-seated appreciation for seeing trees and green everywhere I look. Then, while volunteering on the [Street Tree Inventory](#) as a college student, I learned to take a closer look at trees while practicing tree identification. Then things clicked, and trees became even more fascinating and important to me. I love that there is always something new to learn in the field, and it feels good to be one small part of ensuring the future health of our forest and community. What we do matters.

Mari - I was actually inspired to work in the urban forestry field by my older sister. She's only a year older than I am but she started working for Keep Indianapolis Beautiful's [Youth Tree Team](#) in 2007. She worked first as a youth and then as a team leader to provide establishment maintenance to hundreds of trees across the city. She tried to get me to apply for years and it wasn't until 2012 that I finally gave in. Most of my career has since been working in the urban forest. I would probably not be where I was if it wasn't for that push from her.



What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

Natasha (pictured to the left) - This is not emphasized or practiced enough, but the professional relationships with everyone you work with are so important. I am most proud of the quality of my working relationships with colleagues across Parks and in other bureaus, and in the face of a pandemic and so many stressful changes over the last few years.



What is the top urban forestry challenge that the city faces?

Mari (pictured to the left with her nephew) - I would say that one of the biggest obstacles that the urban forest faces is the loss of mature trees. All of the incoming funding for planting will be very instrumental in getting more trees in places where they are most needed. And we need to plant more trees. But it takes decades before young trees mature enough to provide the same level of shade and ecosystem services as a larger, mature tree. The more we can do to preserve trees in addition to planting them, the better we may be able to grow and enhance the urban canopy.

Julie - I still meet people who have never heard the term "urban forestry" and are unfamiliar with the concept that urban trees are an essential resource with specific management requirements. How do we garner support from the community when the community still lacks awareness? When I was a part of the performing group Portland Taiko I remember some in the performing community talking about spreading awareness of the artform so that "taiko" would become as familiar a word as "sushi." Similarly what can each of us do to help all Portlanders feel connected to our urban forest, to identify as forest-dwellers, and for more people to participate in our collective responsibility to steward this shared resource by preserving trees as well as planting for the next generation?

We are so grateful to Mari, Natasha, Julie, and all the other women that make Urban Forestry great!

Event Highlight: Bloomington Park Tree Planting



Saturday, March 11th was our final community planting event of the 2022–2023 season. We gathered at Bloomington Park with 37 volunteers to plant 8 trees. It was a great event with some dancing, lots of good conversation, and laughs. We also had group from for University of Southern California participate as part of their annual Alumni Day of Support. Thanks to all of those who came out for a beautiful day of planting. [Check out the photos](#) from the event.

In Other News

Emerald ash borer has not yet spread beyond Washington County. Research performed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) showed only 39 of 8,500 trees surveyed are infested with the insect. To fight the invasive beetle ODA is teaming up with other partners like the Tualatin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Clean Water Services. They are looking to find suitable sites to release tiny Asian wasps that are their natural predators. [Learn more \(PDF\)](#) about the Oregon agency survey and suppression efforts.

New changes are proposed for the city's Heritage Tree list. During a recent Urban Forestry Commission meeting, Nik Desai presented on 6 trees to be added and 7 trees to be removed from the heritage tree list due to weather damage or declining health. [Read more](#) about the proposed heritage trees and their locations.

Sellwood neighbors rally to honor the legacy of a fallen chestnut tree. After the 15,000-pound tree was blown over in a winter storm a group of neighbors started a GoFundMe to turn the tree into charcuterie boards and coffee tables so the wood wouldn't go to waste. [Read more](#) about how you can support their efforts.

We all know that trees help improve air quality, but which trees do the best job? A group of researchers at the University of Gothenburg set out to investigate that question and found that there are advantages to using both conifers and broadleaf trees for air quality. [Learn more](#) here about their research and findings.