

# TREE BARK

NEWS FROM URBAN FORESTRY - ALL TREES, NO PULP.

## Tree Bark

Urban Forestry News from Portland Parks & Recreation

## Get to Know the Free Street Tree Planting Program



Did you know that Portland supports tree planting through multiple programs? Providing various ways to get a tree planted helps make tree planting more accessible. In the coming months we'll introduce some of Portland's planting programs. Today we feature Urban Forestry's [Free Street Tree Program](#).

### What is the Free Street Program?

The Free Street Tree Program plants trees in the public right-of-way, which is the space between the curb and the sidewalk.

### How does it work?

Urban Forestry first identifies available planting space through field surveys. Adjacent property owners are contacted and notified that they will receive free street trees. No action is required unless the adjacent property owner does not want trees. Contractors then plant carefully selected trees and provide three years of watering, weeding, and mulching. There is no cost to tree recipients.

### Say that again, you don't ask people to sign up for trees?

That's right. In this program no action is required from adjacent property owners to receive trees. To eliminate confusion, UF conducts five communications with adjacent property owners that include notification letters, postcards, and doorhangers. Although adjacent property owners can decline trees, most (two-thirds) do not.

### Why do you use this 'opt out' method?

Requiring a sign up can be a barrier to planting a publicly owned street tree. Many people don't feel strongly enough about wanting trees to complete a sign-up process. Others may not have time or resources to seek out planting help, and may not be aware of how to get trees planted. This program also makes the planting process easy for multi-family and rental properties.

### What does maintenance look like?

City contractors water, weed, and maintain trees for three summers after planting. This maintenance includes critical watering to establish a healthy tree. After the third summer, tree maintenance becomes the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, which is the same for all street trees.

### What neighborhoods are getting free street trees?

This 2022-2023 planting season, about 1000 free street trees were planted in Argay, Centennial, Cully, Glenfair, Hazelwood, Lents, Mill Park, Parkrose, Parkrose Heights, Portsmouth, St. Johns, and Sumner neighborhoods.

### Why these neighborhoods?

Portland's tree planting strategy ([Growing a More Equitable Urban Forest](#)) defines [priority planting areas](#). Priority areas are low canopy neighborhoods with higher percentages of communities of color and people living with lower incomes. These neighborhoods historically lack tree coverage due to inequitable planning practices and have several barriers to getting access to more trees.

### What trees get planted?

Trees are selected to be low maintenance and drought tolerant, maximizing the benefits trees provide while minimizing infrastructure conflicts. Species selection is based on the [City's Approved Street Tree Planting List](#). Some of our staff favorites this year were Oregon white oak, Southern live oak, incense cedar, and Chinese pistache.

### Can I sign up for the Free Street Tree program?

Only adjacent property owners who receive a notification letter are eligible. But [see this link](#) for information on other City-sponsored ways to plant trees.

## 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](#).

## Now Hiring Seasonal Positions with Urban Forestry



We are hiring 10 Urban Forestry Assistants (Community Service Aide II) to conduct data collection for an ongoing [Inventory of Street Trees](#) in Portland. Data from this project helps us to better manage our urban forest.

If you love exploring the city, connecting with community, and working with trees, spend your summer working with our team!

### Duties will include the following:

- Collecting street tree data, including tree identification and measurement using mobile GIS
- Leading, training, and coordinating the work of youth and volunteers in data collection
- Traveling to neighborhoods across Portland, interacting with a diversity of residents and providing information on Portland's urban forest

### Position details:

- Work schedule is 40 hours/week, M-F 7:00 am – 3:30pm, may include occasional weekends or evenings
- Start date is May 11, 2023; runs for 5-6 months (start dates may be flexible)
- Starting pay rate is \$24/hour
- Primary work site is The Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Ave, Portland OR 97204

Applications are due 3/20/23. Apply [here](#)!

Questions? [nik.desai@portland.gov](mailto:nik.desai@portland.gov)

## In Other News

**Portland Parks & Recreation is hiring 10 Adult Crew Leaders for the Youth Conservation Crew (YCC).** Crew Leaders lead a group of teenagers ages 14-19 as they work on trees, trails, habitat, and gardens during the summer. Hourly rate is \$19 - \$24 an hour, depending on experience and training. Learn more and apply [here](#).

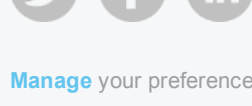
**Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) is hosting an open house** for community input on its investment plan. PCEF exists to fund community projects focused on addressing climate change and advancing racial and social justice in our community. This is a fun family-friendly drop-in event where you can meet with PCEF staff, make crafts, and share your ideas. Learn more [here](#).

**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](#).

**Rockaway Beach Old Growth Cedar preserve is home to a cedar that's 49ft in diameter.** A short walk along the boardwalk in this preserve leads hikers to a massive western red cedar that is said to be 154 feet tall. Make sure to check out this incredible tree and others like it along the short, fully ADA-accessible walk through the ancient forest. Learn more [here](#).

**Trees are responding to increasing atmospheric carbon coindexed levels in surprising ways.** A study published in the New Phytologists suggests that trees become more efficient in their storage of water by taking in more carbon dioxide from their environments. This response was found across different tree species and leaves interesting implications for climate models. Learn more [here](#).

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

1900 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, OR | 97201 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.