



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Urban Forest Action Plan

February 2007

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Accepted by City Council March 15, 2007

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PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

www.PortlandParks.org

Commissioner Dan Saltzman • Director Zari Santner



Introduction



This action plan was developed to implement the goals established in the *2004 Portland Urban Forest Management Plan*. That plan's Executive Summary reminds us of the need for a healthy urban forest in our community, and the City's role in maintaining it:

"The urban forest surrounds us and contributes to the quality of our daily lives. It provides environmental, psychological, and economic benefits ranging from improved air and water quality to savings from decreased heating and cooling costs to aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods and increased resale values. It is vital to our efforts to restore fish and wildlife habitat and it provides countless opportunities for recreation and refreshment.

... "Without care and attention, a healthy urban forest cannot exist. The decisions we make now and the consequences of our actions determine how well or poorly the urban forest will function in ten, twenty and fifty years."

The plan summarizes the variety of benefits that trees provide to our community.

Environmental benefits:

- Provide wildlife habitat
- Decrease erosion
- Decrease flooding
- Protect biodiversity
- Recharge groundwater
- Manage stormwater
- Improve air quality
- Reduce greenhouse gasses/combat global warming

Social benefits:

- Provide shade
- Provide a wind break
- Improve mental and physical health
- Improve neighborhoods
- Reduce heat islands
- Create visual and sound buffers

Economic benefits:

- Reduce cooling costs
- Increase property values
- Reduce flood damage
- Reduce engineered infrastructure needed for stormwater management
- Draw business and tourism

The 2004 plan identified the Urban Land Environments noted below and set tree canopy targets for some of them. Canopy is the area occupied by the crowns of all trees, as seen from above. New analysis using 2002 multispectral images provides information about canopy conditions that was not available when the plan was written.

Urban Land Environment	Target Canopy (2004 Plan)	Current (2002) Canopy
Residential	35-40%	30%
Commercial/ Industrial	15%	7%
Developed Parks and Open Spaces	30%	28%
Rights-of-way	35%	17%
Natural Areas and Streams	-----	79%
Overall Canopy	-----	26%

ABOUT THE ACTION PLAN

Recognizing the City’s responsibility to reach the goals of the 2004 *Management Plan*, the following *Action Plan* was developed by an interbureau committee to ensure attainment of the goals and recommendations of the 2004 *Management Plan*. Members of the team that developed the action plan included staff from:

- Portland Parks & Recreation
- Bureau of Planning
- Bureau of Environmental Services
- Bureau of Development Services
- Office of Sustainable Development
- Portland Department of Transportation

GOALS

The three goals of the *Action Plan* are the primary goals of the 2004 *Management Plan*.

Actions:

The prioritized actions of the action plan can be done by City of Portland bureaus, although achieving all of the plan's goals will require participation from private organizations, individuals, and other public agencies. Additional city resources will be required to fully realize the city's vision for the urban forest.

NEXT STEPS

- An expanded interbureau committee, with representation from the Urban Forestry Commission and community groups, will meet quarterly to coordinate and monitor progress. One of the first tasks will be to develop performance measures.
- The Urban Forestry Commission will report annually to City Council on implementation progress.



Westmoreland Park



South Waterfront Park

Summary of Goals and Actions

DRAFT 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, and non-governmental organizations (NGO's), 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.



Kenton neighborhood before and after

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 wellbeing 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

DRAFT ACTION PLAN KEY TERMS

- **Priority:** the importance of the action in accomplishing the outcome under which it is listed. Items may be high priority actions but may lack resources or specific work plans.
- **Time Frame:** when the action will or could be initiated or accomplished.

Selected current actions are examples of current programs that have recently been initiated or are proposed for significant expansion.

Early actions can be initiated or accomplished within two years with existing or identified resources.

Five-year and ten-year actions could be initiated within those time frames if so directed and funded through the City's work planning and budget process.

- **Lead:** identifies the coordinating or responsible bureau for a particular action.
- **Support:** bureaus or organizations that serve as minor or major participants.



Johnson Creek Park

GOAL 1

PROTECT, PRESERVE, RESTORE, AND EXPAND PORTLAND'S URBAN FOREST

Goal 1 - Outcome A: Enhanced Canopy

Tree canopy is optimized, meeting stocking and canopy targets.

Selected Current Actions

- Assess street, right-of-way, and park tree status (quantity, type, condition) through standardized sampling.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
- Track numbers of street and right-of-way trees permitted to be planted and removed.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Tracking began in 2006
- Continue and increase programs to plant trees throughout the city.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services
Note: Additional resources would augment current effort.
- Reevaluate tree management, especially pruning by utility companies. Develop collaborative effort to better ensure the health of trees near utility lines.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
- Continue work of the established interbureau team to coordinate actions and monitor progress toward Urban Forestry Plan Goals
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Bureau of Planning, Bureau of Development Services, Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Department of Transportation, Office of Sustainable Development

High Priority Actions

Early actions

- Adopt tracking system to periodically evaluate overall city tree canopy.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Bureau of Environmental Services, Office of Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Commission, Coordinating Committee
Note: Performance measures to be adopted by interbureau committee
- Develop standard performance measures for determining city-wide urban forest quality (e.g. diversity, tree health, appearance).
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services
Note: Performance measures to be adopted by interbureau committee
- Evaluate current city programs for effectiveness in preserving older trees. Look for new opportunities and approaches.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Bureau of Planning
- Develop additional methods to promote trees that are appropriate for their location and optimize urban forest benefits (e.g., broad canopy, native, or evergreen trees where appropriate, discourage columnar and pest prone species; maximize shade and stormwater interception).
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
- Review and Revise current approved list of street trees, incorporating, where appropriate, additional large, evergreen and native trees.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation

Five-year Actions

- Complete Assessment of street tree planting opportunities (stocking level).
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Based on completed street tree inventory
- Restore and expand City maintenance of designated street trees.
Lead: Portland Department of Transportation
Support: Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Funding has been reduced in recent years; fewer street trees are now maintained by the City.
- Develop a regular maintenance schedule for street and park trees.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Department of Transportation
- Develop and adopt standards and Best Management Practices (BMP's) for selection, purchase, planting, and care of urban trees.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
- Train city employees who work on or around trees on adopted tree care standards.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Based on development and adoption of standards
- Develop quality tree care training program for arborists and landscapers.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation

Medium Priority Actions

Early actions

- Design green streets to coordinate with street tree requirements and opportunities.
Lead: Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Portland Department of Transportation
- Consider urban forest condition and potential in site planning for new and existing parks.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation

Five-year Actions

- Work with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to plant and maintain trees on state highway rights-of-way.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services
Note: Expand existing efforts into a larger program.
- Adopt tracking system to evaluate number of trees approved for planting and removal through development permit review.
Lead: Bureau of Development Services
Note: Current systems do not capture or allow tracking of this information.
- Explore the possibility of the City managing all street trees.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Currently, adjacent property owners are responsible for most street tree planting and care.

Ten-year Actions

- Conduct full street tree inventory and update on a regular basis.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
- Upgrade City-owned parking lots, by planting trees, to meet current standards.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, and others



Columbia Park

Goal 1 - Outcome B: Regulatory Program

The City has a comprehensive, consistent and clear regulatory program for trees.

Selected Current Actions

- Continue to implement process and code "quick fixes" that promote the goals of the *Urban Forest Management Plan* such as the Regulatory Improvement Code Amendment Package (RICAP) for the zoning code, and other bureau specific efforts.
Lead: Bureau of Planning, Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, Bureau of Development Services
Note: Each City Title has its own process for code amendments.

High Priority Actions

Early actions

- Review and amend mitigation requirements in Title 20 for tree removals.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Bureau of Environmental Services

Five-year Actions

- Review and clarify city goals and policies relating to topics such as tree preservation, tree removal and replacement, tree planting, trees for wildlife habitat, tree species and age diversity, and trees as part of the city's green infrastructure. Update the Comprehensive Plan as necessary to reflect city adopted policies relating to trees, such as the *Urban Forest Management Plan*, the *Portland Watershed Management Plan*, and *Sustainable Development Principles*, and to address policy gaps as determined during the policy review.
Lead: Bureau of Planning
Support: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Fire and Rescue, Portland Department of Transportation, Office of Sustainable Development
Note: This item may require a separate scoping phase, and must be coordinated with code review.

Action Plan



Maricara Natural Area

- Review codes (including incentives) and processes (including enforcement) related to tree preservation, removal, and planting for internal clarity and consistency with city policy and other (city, state, fed) mandates.
Lead: Bureau of Planning
Support: Bureau of Development Services, Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services
Note: This item may require a separate scoping phase. To be coordinated with policy review.
- Revise tree-related codes, administrative rules, standard operating procedures (SOP's), memoranda of understanding (MOU's) etc. for clarity and consistency
Lead: Bureau of Planning, Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Development Services
Support: Bureau of Development Services
Note: Based on code review action
- Ensure compliance with tree planting requirements and construction-related tree protection as part of site or building permit inspection.
Lead: Bureau of Development Services

Medium Priority Actions

Five-year Actions

- Ensure compliance with tree preservation requirements as part of site or building permit inspection
Lead: Bureau of Development Services

Goal 1 - Outcome C: Development

The Urban Forest is enhanced through development and redevelopment.

Selected Current Actions

- Continue to develop and provide clear and simple information for customers during development permitting process.
Lead: Bureau of Development Services, Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Expand current program
- Continue to develop and enhance design information and technical assistance for developers (commercial, industrial, and residential) and residents on tree protection, planting, and maintenance.
Lead: Bureau of Development Services
Note: Expand current programs

Medium Priority Actions**Early actions**

- Develop awards program for innovative projects that protect existing trees or provide new trees during development.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation

Low Priority Actions**Five-year Actions**

- Explore options for methods to notify new property owners of existing land use review (LUR) requirements such as tree preservation.
Lead: Bureau of Planning
Support: Bureau of Development Services

Ten-year Actions

- Develop a system to facilitate access to tree preservation plans from land use reviews.
Lead: Bureau of Planning
Support: Bureau of Development Services

GOAL 2

DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR THE URBAN FOREST

Goal 2 - Outcome A: Shared Stewardship

Stewardship of the urban forest is shared by residents, agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGO's), and businesses.

Selected Current Actions

- Educating property owners about their responsibilities for the care of street trees.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Bureau of Environmental Services
Note: Expand program currently in progress through Neighborhood Tree Liaison Program
- Providing financial and technical support to community and non-profit groups engaged in planting and maintenance of trees.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services
Note: Expand current programs

Medium Priority Actions

Five-year actions

- Outreach to and coordination with state and federal agencies to encourage proper tree establishment and maintenance procedures.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Based on standards to be developed (see Goal 1)

Goal 2 - Outcome B: Public Education

The public has a strong awareness of tree benefits and ecosystem health issues; education opportunities are abundant.

High Priority Actions

Early actions

- Establish website with information about trees and tree care, and links to regulations.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Bureau of Environmental Services, Bureau of Development Services, Office of Sustainable Development
- Develop materials about tree benefits, care and regulations to be disseminated by realtors.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
- Augment Neighborhood Tree Liaison Program to include more neighborhoods, additional training and support.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
- Present annual report to City Council from Urban Forestry Commission, and post on website.
Lead: Urban Forestry Commission, Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: All
- Assess environmental and social benefits from Portland's public trees.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Based on standardized sampling of public trees (see Goal 1)
- Disseminate Information about the benefits/ services provided by the urban forest and the status of the urban forest.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Office of Sustainable Development, Bureau of Planning
Note: Based on benefit assessment



Street trees bring beauty to Portland's neighborhoods

Medium Priority Actions

Five-year Actions

- Promote research on urban forest topics and disseminate results (e.g. analyzing trends in land use and effects on the urban forest).

Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation

Support: Bureau of Planning

Note: Coordinate with academic institutions

Goal 2 - Outcome C: Stable Resources

Stable resources support the urban forest.

High Priority Actions

Early actions

- Increase funding to enhance tree planting in city parks.
- Work with corporate sponsors to contribute funding for urban forestry tree and maintenance activities.

Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation

Medium Priority Actions

Five-year Actions

- Incorporate tree establishment and long-term maintenance into all appropriate capital project plans

Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Water Bureau, Portland Department of Transportation, Bureau of Planning.

GOAL 3

MANAGE THE URBAN FOREST TO MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE CITY

Goal 3 - Outcome A: Street Tree Distribution

Street trees are equitably distributed throughout the city.

High Priority Actions

Early actions

- Target low income neighborhoods for street tree planting.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Continue existing efforts; establish formal prioritization system

- Target neighborhoods with lower canopy for street tree planting.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Bureau of Environmental Services
Note: Continue existing efforts; establish formal prioritization system.

Medium Priority Actions

Five-year Actions

- Develop neighborhood tree planting plans through neighborhood tree liaison program.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation



Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Goal 3 - Outcome B: Livability

The urban forest contributes to the health and well-being of Portlanders.

High Priority Actions

Early actions

- Coordinate tree-related actions from the City's plans such as Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Local Action Plan on Global Warming, Portland Watershed Management Plan.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation
Support: Bureau of Environmental Services, Bureau of Planning, Portland Fire and Rescue, Portland Department of Transportation, Bureau of Development Services
Note: Coordination through Interbureau Committee.

Five-year Actions

- Augment leaf removal and composting capacity
Lead: Portland Department of Transportation
Support: Bureau of Environmental Services

Medium Priority Actions

Five-year Actions

- Support planting of food-producing trees in appropriate locations.
Lead: Office of Sustainable Development



Leach Botanical Garden

Goal 3 - Outcome C: Watershed Health

The urban forest contributes to improved watershed health, including water quality, stream flow, floodplain function, habitat, and biological communities

Selected Current Actions

- Reducing extent of invasive weed problem.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services
Note: Expand and coordinate existing programs

High Priority Actions

Early actions

- Develop an integrated strategy for compliance with Metro's Nature in Neighborhood (NIN) program and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements (e.g. for water temperature).
Lead: Bureau of Planning, Bureau of Environmental Services
Support: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Development Services
Note: Identify the role of the urban forest in the compliance strategy.
- Implement revegetation (tree planting) actions specified in Portland Watershed Management Plan.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services
- Increase canopy and shade in natural areas and along streams.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services
- Develop specific canopy targets, where appropriate, by land use and watershed.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, Coordinating team

Five-year Actions

- Implement integrated strategy (described above) using regulatory and non-regulatory tools.
Lead: Bureau of Development Services, Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks & Recreation
Note: Based on developed compliance strategy above

Medium Priority Actions

Five-year Actions

- Revise Portland Plant List (PPL) native and nuisance lists periodically.
Lead: Bureau of Planning
Support: Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Fire and Rescue.
- Develop concept plans for “nature spots” for parts of the city deficient in access to nature: areas of native trees and understory shrubs in appropriate locations in parks.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services

Ten-year Actions

- Increase canopied areas around large open recreational spaces in developed parks.
Lead: Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services



Westmoreland Park
