

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize an intergovernmental agreement between Portland Parks & Recreation and Portland State University to develop a citywide tree planting strategy (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

This ordinance authorizes an intergovernmental agreement between Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and Portland State University (PSU) to develop a citywide tree planting strategy. PP&R and PSU together will assess tree planting locations as part of a broader initiative for meeting the City's canopy goals. Under this Agreement, PSU will consult with PP&R staff to: design the strategy for conducting the literature review and City plan analysis; conduct the spatial analysis and development of a planting plan; and provide a summary of the Project findings, and produce a report that captures the work completed.

Analysis will be completed to identify areas in the city where expanding tree canopy will have direct benefit to the social and environmental conditions in the city. The approach will be multi-scaled, which assumes that expanding tree canopies requires a consideration of varying factors that constrain tree plantings at city, neighborhood, and planting site levels. By using publicly available data, including a recently acquired LiDaR dataset, along with socio-demographics, land use, among other datasets, each neighborhood will be described in terms of the potential plantable locations. By working directly with Urban Forestry staff, each neighborhood will further contain a proposed hierarchy for prioritizing planting locations. We assume that each neighborhood will contain different factors that impact planting options, and any efforts must consider the local context. Equitable distribution of tree canopy and its benefits are a primary concern, as directed by the 2004 *Urban Forestry Management Plan*.

Background. Title 11 Trees, implemented January 2, 2015, created a Tree Planting and Preservation Fund to facilitate tree planting. Money in this fund is restricted in use to tree planting, purchasing conservation easements, and acquiring land for tree protection. To determine the best strategic use of this fund, PP&R and PSU will research best options for tree planting that will have the most long-term and beneficial impact on citywide canopy. The agreement will also identify existing planting efforts in the City and their impact, in order to recommend strategic use of the limited planting fund that prevents duplication of efforts and expands the reach of canopy. Canopy expansion is particularly vital for low-income and low-canopy areas and communities of color, in order to improve the distribution and equitable delivery of urban forest services to all Portland residents.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The total cost of this one-time agreement is \$50,000, which will be paid from the Planting and Preservation Trust Fund.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This agreement and its project will engage relevant stakeholders. During the preliminary phase, engagement efforts may be directed to urban forestry staff from select cities. In the second phase, PSU will reach out to community groups and other potentially affected communities to understand the opportunities and challenges of expanding tree canopies in select neighborhoods. While the spatial analysis will point to specific locations as high potential for expanding tree canopy, having community buy-in will be essential. To that end PSU will conduct solicit involvement through community groups, neighborhood associations, attending local events, and emailing relevant list serves and other online media. The substance of the outreach will focus on past experiences, current challenges, and the options for supporting the maintenance of any expansion in neighborhood canopy. The outcome of our outreach efforts will be a context-specific understanding about community concerns and support, which will help to refine the recommendations for planting potential by neighborhood. Outreach will support the specific project goal of improving the distribution and equitable delivery of urban forest services to all Portland residents.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES: Please complete the information below.
- NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

Attachment A: Intergovernmental Agreement: Citywide Tree Planting Strategy

Jill Shultz

9/16/16