

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Accept report of the Street Tree Inventory (Report)

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Purpose of report and background information:

This report provides the results of the City's most complete street tree inventory, which was conducted between the years 2010 - 2016, along with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Urban Forestry recommendations for improving the street tree resource. Over 1,300 volunteers guided by PP&R Urban Forestry staff collected data on nearly 220,000 trees in the public right-of-way in 95 neighborhoods.

Street trees are critical for public health, livability, climate resilience, habitat, and beauty. This vital publicly owned asset has an estimated replacement value of \$753 million, and street trees provide nearly \$28 million annually in environmental and aesthetic benefits. Tree inventory findings confirm significant challenges: street trees are not equitably distributed throughout the city, as East Portland has far fewer than westside neighborhoods. Planting opportunity is abundant and only 60% of planting sites contain trees. Portland is also vulnerable to significant tree losses from pests and diseases as a result of an overreliance on too few species.

The report provides details on what species comprise the urban forest, tree condition, where street trees are distributed throughout the City, recent planting trends, and the economic value of street trees. Recommendations address increasing resilience to pests, pathogens, and climate change; how to optimize tree canopy; how to improve equitable distribution of street trees; and how community members can advocate for trees in their neighborhoods.

PP&R Urban Forestry is now seeking to implement policy changes to address inequities and challenges revealed by the inventory, including updating approved planting lists, using data to inform strategies and plans, and allocating additional resources to low canopy and low income areas.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

There are no financial or budgetary impacts directly resulting from the presentation of this report.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The tree inventory project is a community-driven project and over 1,300 volunteers collected data on nearly 220,000 street trees. Volunteers self-organized as neighborhood Tree Teams, and data have been used to inform the creation of 40 Neighborhood Tree Plans to guide volunteer groups in caring for their community's trees. As a result, over 30 independent Tree Teams are

currently operating and conduct events such as pruning, planting, and education events in their communities.

The findings presented in the report were shared with the public in November 2016 at PP&R Urban Forestry's Tree Summit and with the Urban Forestry Commission in March 2017. The report is posted on Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R) Urban Forestry website. Data from the inventory are available to the public in spreadsheet or ArcGIS format. Visit the Tree Inventory Project website at <http://portlandoregon.gov/parks/treeinventory> to download reports, data, and maps.

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

