



**Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland**

April 13, 2022

As Mayor and Commissioner of Finance & Administration, I request Council confirmation of the following appointment to the Urban Forestry Commission:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
Ivory Iheanacho	4/21/2022 – 4/21/2026	Gregg Everhart
Roberta Jortner	4/21/2022 – 4/21/2026	Barbara Hollenbeck
Melinda McMillan	4/21/2022 – 4/21/2026	Damon Schrosk
Reappointment		
Megan Van de Mark	4/21/2022 – 4/21/2026	

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Ivory Iheanacho

Bio: Ms. Ivory Iheanacho is an experienced occupational health and safety professional. She has an academic background in environmental management and public health. Ms. Iheanacho is a board certified industrial hygienist (CIH). She works in Multnomah County's Finance and Risk Management Division, managing its industrial hygiene programs and supporting employee safety committees. Active with both local and national non-profit organizations, Ms. Iheanacho co-founded AIHA's Women in IH professional development committee; has served as President for AIHA's Pacific Northwest regional chapter and as Chair of AIHA's national Continuing Education Committee.

Ms. Iheanacho's recent achievements include being awarded Multnomah County's Chair's Excellence Award for her public service in 2021 and in 2020, she co-authored a free guidance document aimed at helping organizations apply an equity lens to its Covid-19 workplace response.

Interest Statement: The natural environment is one of the most important resources we have. Ensuring continued access to nature is a priority that is embodied by Portland Park & Recreation's Urban Forestry. It would be an honor to promote community efforts that prioritize equitable access to nature. I look forward to supporting PP&R's UF mission to ensure Portland's urban forest resource is available for generations to come.

Roberta Jortner

Bio: Roberta has more than 30 years professional experience in field of natural resources policy and planning, primarily working with state and local agencies in Oregon, California, and Wisconsin. She has a deep familiarity with the City of Portland, having held Senior Environmental Planner and Environmental Specialist positions with the Water Bureau, Bureau of Environmental Services, and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability over a period of 25 years. Roberta has applied her strong technical, policy, communication, and community engagement skills to complex planning projects that address water supply and conservation, stormwater and watershed management, natural resource inventories, and updates to environmental, land use, and urban forestry policies and regulations. Roberta managed the Citywide Tree Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project which established Portland's first comprehensive tree code, "Title 11, Trees". Roberta is a volunteer member of the Portland Urban Forestry Commission Policy Committee. She also serves on the Board of Portland Audubon and is a Wildlife Solutions Counselor with their Wildlife Care Center. Roberta earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in Environmental Studies and Sociology at the University of CA - Santa Barbara, and a Master of Science Degree in Water Resource Management from the University of WI - Madison. Roberta loves animals, music gardening, walking, cooking, and being in nature.

Interest Statement: I have always loved trees – being in and around them, watching them, the sound of the wind in their branches, their lovely scents, how the birds and

animals thrive among them, stories about them and what they mean to people. For more than 30 years (25 with the City of Portland), my professional work in natural resources policy and planning highlighted the unique role of trees in providing critical and valuable ecosystem and infrastructure services – services that sustain our health and well-being, and our environment. I am also aware of significant disparities in tree canopy across Portland and other cities, and the disproportionate impacts these disparities have on vulnerable and historically under-represented communities. Portland's tree canopy is at risk due to the climate crisis, impacts of future development, outdated policies, and inadequate investment in trees as a valuable infrastructure asset. However, I believe that addressing these issues has never been more important and that there are tremendous opportunities to do so. I hope that by bringing my experience, ideas, and enthusiasm to the Urban Forestry Commission, I can assist the city in pursuing creative, equitable, long-term approaches to meet our urban forest goals, engage the community more broadly, and benefit all Portlanders into the future.

Melinda McMillan

Bio: Licensed as both a landscape architect and architect, Melinda works as an Urban Designer for a Portland-based architecture firm. She raised her children along the Park Blocks while attending PSU for a second Bachelor's degree in Architecture (BS 2005). In 2018, Melinda returned after completing a dual master's program at the University of Pennsylvania and required internships for professional licensure (MLA, MA 2010). Her design experience ranges from product design to regional planning with an extensive parallel resume in volunteer and community work. Trained initially as a special educator (BS 1995), Melinda has prioritized accessible and equitable access to public space and parks in both a volunteer and professional capacity. Her volunteer experience includes working with the Deaf community, senior groups, community gardens, Habitat for Humanity, literacy programs, and Arts Councils.

Interest Statement: I am drawn to green space and urban areas. A vibrant city must have an integral connection to nature and what Portland offers is fantastic. My professional work began in Portland in the 90s and although I have studied and traveled elsewhere, I've ultimately returned as this city has my heart. I am invested in this place, the diversity of the people, the natural and built environments. Urban green spaces must serve residents of all backgrounds and equitable access is a professional and personal focus of mine. I have studied city planning, green infrastructure, urban design, horticulture, community initiatives, what works and what has failed. I would love to offer my passion and professional skills by serving on the Urban Forestry Council.

Megan Van de Mark

Bio: Megan Van de Mark works for Portland Audubon as the Backyard Habitat Certification Program Manager. She has a Masters in Sustainable Development, Bachelors in Women's Studies and Journalism, and has taken coursework in Landscape Technology. She comes to Portland Audubon after years at Friends of Trees, where she coordinated their SW Washington tree plantings and tree care efforts.

She is drawn to collaborating with the diverse communities that make up our region in order to build all the stories of our urban forest. When not immersed in the world of plants, Megan spends her time hiking, biking, reading many a book, listening to countless podcasts, sharing meals with friends and family, adventuring with her wife, or working in her yard.

Interest Statement: I want to continue to serve on the Urban Forestry Commission because I am passionate about trees, about our community, and about the benefits urban trees can provide to our community when carefully managed. In serving on this Commission I want to help our city work towards ensuring that the benefits of our urban forest are more equitably experienced by all Portland residents. In my role on the Commission, I want to contribute to my community's urban forest by helping to further educate and engage Portland residents with our urban trees and their benefits, by providing input on policies that will help us better accomplish this, and by listening to, learning from, and incorporating the community's feedback into these efforts.



REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE:

April 13, 2022

TO:

City Council

FROM:

Jenn Cairo, City Forester

SUBJECT:

Appoint Ivory Iheanacho, Roberta Jorner, and Melinda McMillan and reappoint Megan Van de Mark to the Urban Forestry Commission (Report)

I am pleased to submit Ivory Iheanacho, Roberta Jorner, and Melinda McMillan for appointment to the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC), and Megan Van de Mark for reappointment to a second term.

The UFC serves in an important advisory role to the City and is a valuable partner in preserving and expanding Portland's urban forest. These appointments are made as a result of a selection process that sought to value and reflect the diversity of the Portland community.

I look forward to working closely with all of them and the rest of the UFC.

Sincerely,

Jenn Cairo
City Forester

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PORTLANDPARKS.ORG
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Director Adena Long



Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work, and play.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Appoint and reappoint members to the Urban Forestry Commission for terms to expire April 21, 2026 (Report)

Contact name: Brian Landoe

Contact phone: 503-504-0836

Presenter name: Jenn Cairo

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

Appoint three community members and reappoint one to the Urban Forestry Commission.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

None

Community impacts and community involvement:

The Urban Forestry Commission serves an advisory role to the City in persevering and expanding Portland's urban forest. These appointments are made as a result of a selection process that sought to value and reflect the diversity of the Portland community.

100% Renewable Goal:

N/A

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

Claudio Campuzano

3/17/2022

Portland Parks & Recreation Finance Manager