



City of Portland, Oregon
Bureau of Development Services
Land Use Services
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
David Kuhnhausen, Interim Director
Phone: (503) 823-7300
TTY: 711
www.portland.gov/bds

Briefing

DISCUSSION MEMO

Date: March 13, 2024
To: Portland Design Commission
From: Tanya Paglia, Design & Historic Review Team
(503) 865-6518, tanya.paglia@portlandoregon.gov
Re: Portland Urban Forest Plan
Briefing Cover Memo – March 21, 2024

This memo is regarding the upcoming Briefing on March 21, 2024, for the Portland Urban Forest plan by Urban Forestry. A copy of Urban Forestry's briefing memo is available for review online:

- <https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/record/16618738>

More information can also be found on the public website for the plan at the following URL

- <https://www.portland.gov/trees/portland-urban-forest-plan>

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry staff have been working on an update to the city's Urban Forest Plan. The plan should be completed by spring 2025. Portland's Urban Forest Plan was previously updated in 1995 and 2004 and is now due for an update address current needs and priorities. It is important to note that Portland's urban canopy is declining.

An Urban Forest Plan is a 10-year roadmap of goals, policies, actions, and priorities to guide City urban forestry management activities and decisions. It is meant to:

- Protect, preserve, restore, and expand Portland's urban forest.
- Develop and maintain support for the urban forest.
- Manage the urban forest to maximize benefits to all residents.

The Portland Urban Forest Plan will be created in three phases. The project is currently in the Listen and Learn phase. Therefore, the Design Commission is invited to provide advice to the project team. The Historic Landmarks Commission will also be providing advice to the project team on April 8th.

II. SOME THOUGHTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Are the tools in our regulatory toolbox aligning with the goals of this plan? Is the commission missing resources and direction for how to advocate for trees and other urban forest goals within our three tenants: Context, Public Realm, Quality and Resilience?
- Tools related to Design Review include:
 - Design Review Guidelines – not a *comprehensive* list of applicable guidelines:
 - [Portland Citywide Design Guidelines](#) (01, 03, 05, 06, 07, 09)
 - [Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines](#) (A1, A2, A4, A5, B1, B2, B4, B5, D1)
 - [South Waterfront Design Guidelines](#) (A4-1)
 - [South Waterfront greenway design guidelines](#) (1, 6, 8)
 - [Gateway Regional Center Design Guidelines](#) (A1, C3, C6)
 - [Marquam Hill Design Guidelines](#) (1, 4, 5, 7, 8)
 - [Terwilliger Parkway Design Guidelines](#) (B)
 - [River District Design Guidelines](#) (A5-1-2, A5-1-4, B5-1)
 - [Goose Hollow Design Guidelines](#) (A5-3, A5-4, B5-1)
 - [Lloyd District Design Guidelines](#) (A3-1, A3-2, A5-1, A5-5, A5-6, B1-3, C1-1,
 - [Central Eastside Design Guidelines](#) (A7-1)
 - Portland Zoning Code (Title 33)
 - Tree Code (Title 11) (regulates all city and street trees, and private property trees above 12" DBH)
 - Building Code (relevant to resilience to wildfire hazard increasing with climate change)
- Work on the plan thus far has identified the following urban forest management needs & challenges – input from the commission on these would be useful:
 - How do we manage our urban forest?
 - What is working well? What's not working well?
 - How are we preparing for climate change?
 - How are we incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion into our work?
 - How can we do better?