

# Urban Forestry Commission Proposal

## Street Tree and Right-of-Way Tree Asset Management Strategy

Portland City Council briefing  
May 10, 2017



# Street/ROW trees – Valuable City Asset

- Uniquely situated to improve urban livability & public health
- Services and benefits  
energy savings, air quality, UHI mitigation, stormwater management, carbon sequestration, aesthetics, traffic calming, and more!
- Replacement value ~\$0.5 billion
- Annual value ~\$18.6 million



# Livability and Resilience

- **New goals and policies**

- *Comprehensive Plan (2016)*
- *Climate Action Plan (2015)*
- *Climate Change Preparation Strategy (2014)*

- **Call for green infrastructure and the urban forest to make more Portland safer, healthier and more equitable**

- **Address impacts of future growth and density**
- **Reduce/adapt to natural hazards and climate change**



## URBAN FOREST, NATURAL SYSTEMS AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION

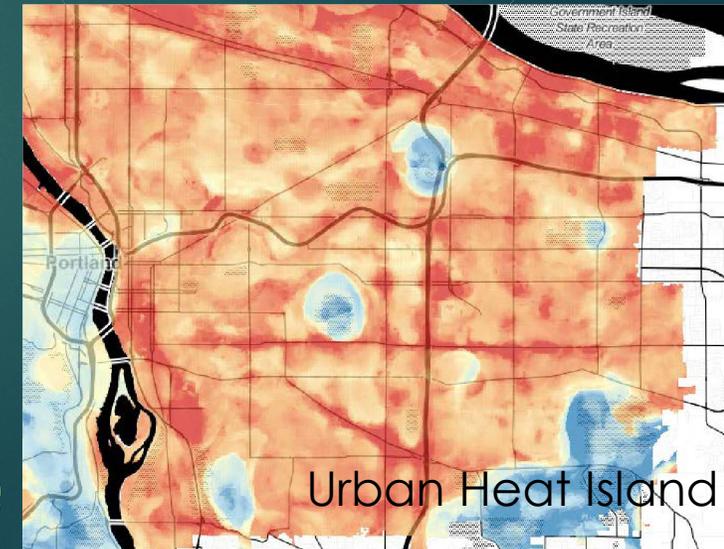
2030 OBJECTIVES

13

Sequester carbon through increased green infrastructure (trees, plants, soil) and natural areas. Reduce effective impervious areas by 600 acres. Expand the urban forest canopy to cover at least one-third of the city with a minimum canopy cover of 25 percent of each residential neighborhood and 15 percent of the central city, commercial and industrial areas.



READ MORE ON PAGES 102-105



# What's the problem?

- No Street/ROW Tree maintenance program
- Adjacent property owner responsible
- Consequences
  - Backlog of trees in poor condition – tree damage
  - Reduced public investment value
  - Public resistance to planting new street trees
  - Public safety hazards
  - Public impacts
  - Damaging Pruning
  - Inequities
  - Can't use capital funds



# What's the problem?

Trees not prioritized in street/ROW improvements and new development

- Inadequate tree preservation
- Areas w/unimproved ROW at high risk of tree loss
- Limited space for new street trees
- Competition for sidewalk corridor, e.g., utility vaults, bike parking, signs, etc.
- Not meeting ROW tree canopy targets



# Street and Right-of Way Trees

## Why now?

## Three Primary Reasons



# 1. Steward public investments and honor community volunteer efforts

- City-sponsored Friends of Trees planting 30,000 trees!
- Street tree inventory – 17,000 volunteer hours
- City and FOT Pruning workshops



## 2. Inform and support current and upcoming efforts

- Citywide tree planting strategy
- Urban Forest Plan update
- Future tree code updates
- Livable streets program
- ROW Management Manual update
- Land use plans
- Jade Greening Project



Major roads and areas with less vegetation result in “hot spots”

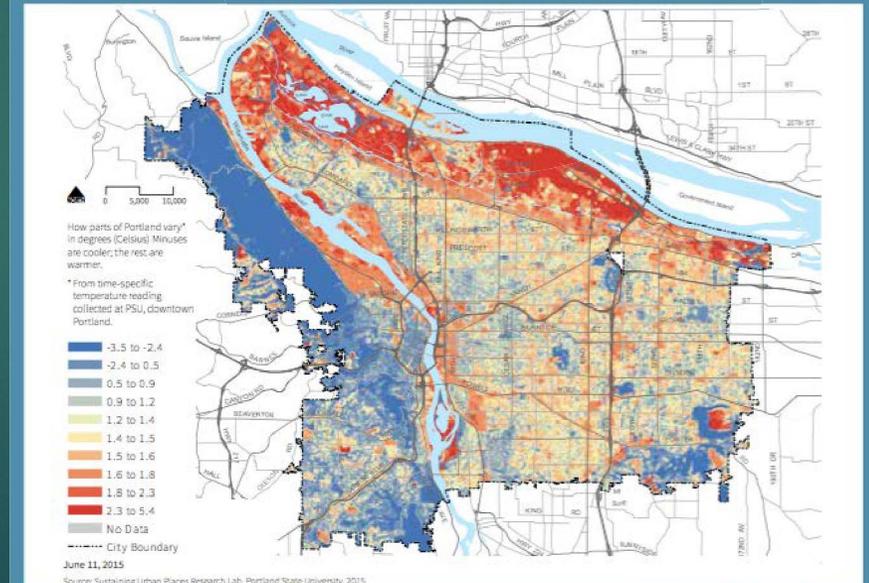


Figure 41. Urban heat islands in Portland. Source: Sustaining Urban Places Research Lab, Portland State University, 2015.

### 3. Investment in street trees = investment in local green jobs and work force.



Chance to build on community programs, e.g., Verde – employment for low income individuals; planting street trees in underserved neighborhoods.

# Tree Code Oversight Committee Recommendations Report - Feb 2016

*“A unified inter-bureau planning effort is **needed** to develop strategies to meet the canopy targets by retaining and planting trees in and near the right-of-way...”*



# UFC Street/ROW Tree Proposal

1. **Initiate collaborative process (e.g., task force) - assess/recommend options to:**

- **Maintain & steward Street/ROW trees**
- **Integrate street trees in ROW improvements & development**

2. **Include:** key bureaus, stakeholders, facilitation/mediation, technical services



# Street/ROW Tree Maintenance Topics

- Programs in other cities (e.g., San Francisco, Washington DC, Vancouver BC)
- Level(s) and areas of service, equity
- Program administration and funding
- Green jobs and vocational training
- Pilot project options
- Code changes needed



# Street Trees in ROW Improvements and Development - Topics

- Tree preservation
- Space for new trees
  - physical and regulatory barriers
- Technological innovations
- Code, procedure, policy changes



# First step –City Council Work Session

- UFC reps and staff from key bureaus (PP&R/UF, PBOT, BES, BDS, and City Council offices to prepare
- Opportunity to:
  - delve into issues and priorities
  - ID staff/\$ needs, options to move forward, and timeline
- Work Session - Sept 2017 (invite key stakeholders)



Questions – discussion?

