



URBAN FORESTRY

2018 Trust Fund Annual Report



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION SM

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Portlanders planted nearly 600 trees through Urban Forestry's Yard Tree Giveaway in 2017-2018.



PORTLANDPARKS.ORG

Commissioner Nick Fish | Director Adena Long

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Volunteers planted ten native trees in Chimney Park.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

as of June 30, 2018

	BEGINNING BALANCE FY 17/18	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	END BALANCE
Tree Planting and Preservation Fund	1,519,068.35	1,185,082.81	426,438.48	2,277,712.68
Interest	6,332.29	19,527.85	N/A	25,860.14
Columbia River Slough Watershed	70,543.44	396,848.27	133,421.58	333,970.13
Willamette Watershed	74,049.52	1,169,658.02	276,904.46	966,803.08
Tryon/Fanno Creek Watershed	107,215.01	167,094.00	27,575.51	246,733.50
Johnson Creek Watershed	239,270.68	355,074.75	82,315.43	512,030.00
Revenue to be allocated*	1,021,657.41	(923,120.08)	(93,778.50)	192,315.83
Urban Forestry Fund	66,988.90	93,405.79	84,713.64	75,681.05
TOTAL	1,586,057.25	1,278,488.60	511,152.12	2,353,393.73

**Revenue is allocated quarterly using permit data from FY16. The current allocation is: Columbia Slough 19%, Willamette 56%, Johnson Creek 17%, and Tryon and Fanno Creek 8%. Allocations will be updated on a three-year cycle.*

11.15.010 TREE PLANTING AND PRESERVATION FUND

portlandoregon.gov/citycode/article/514531

The Tree Planting and Preservation Fund enables the City Forester to mitigate for lost canopy as a result of unmet tree preservation or planting standards. Fund contributions come from several sources:

- Payment made in lieu of tree replacement as part of a tree permit issued as stated in Chapter 11.40;
- Payment made in lieu of preservation or planting where site or street characteristics or construction requirements make it infeasible to meet the requirements of Chapter 11.50;
- Payment of restoration fees for enforcement actions for private Trees; and
- Voluntary contributions.

Title 11 outlines the following allowable uses for the Tree Planting and Preservation Fund:

- To plant trees on public or private property, including streets, in the same watershed as the site from which the funds were collected. Planting trees includes the cost of materials and labor necessary to install and establish a tree for a two-year period;
- To purchase conservation easements for the perpetual retention of trees and tree canopy. Such conservation easements shall allow the City to replace trees that are removed when they die or become dangerous; and
- To acquire land to permanently protect existing trees or groves.

1,000 students, teachers, and parents planted trees in Urban Forestry's Learning Landscapes program in 2017-2018.



TREE PLANTING AND PRESERVATION FUND

Expenditure Highlights

A tree planting strategy was developed with a report titled “Growing a More Equitable Urban Forest.” Visit portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/677078 for this report.

Portland Parks & Recreation partnered with Portland State University to conduct a one-year project on how to best use the Tree Planting and Preservation fund to grow a more equitable urban forest.

Due to the high correlation between income and tree canopy, many historically underserved communities are present in low-income, low-canopy areas of Portland. This creates a significant opportunity to increase tree canopy in critical areas of the city while also improving mental and physical health outcomes for people of color, immigrants, and refugees. To achieve that outcome, this project focused on understanding the barriers and opportunities that trees pose to low-income community members by directly engaging them in conversations about trees.

This report provides recommendations to the City of Portland for increasing the equitable distribution of tree canopy in the city based on those conversations. Extensive outreach and community engagement was conducted to ensure that we heard directly from community members living in low-canopy areas. Community engagement strategies included focus groups, stakeholder meetings, and working with a Community Advisory Committee to ensure significant representation from people of color, immigrant, refugee, and low-income communities.

Findings from this project provide critical guidance for future tree planting efforts, as well as for updating the city’s *Urban Forest Management Plan*.

Feedback from the community was key in developing Urban Forestry’s tree planting strategy.



KEY FINDINGS

- Portland's tree canopy is not distributed evenly throughout the city and is correlated to income. West of the Willamette river tree canopy is 56% while east of the Willamette tree canopy is only 21%. Tree canopy in individual neighborhoods varies from 5-70%. This vastly uneven distribution means that tree services and benefits are not accessible to many of Portland's residents.
- Significant barriers to tree planting for communities of color, low-income, refugee, and immigrant communities include: varying cultural values and relationships with trees, competing priorities and limited resources, fears and concerns, cost, disempowerment of renters, and a need for more authentic engagement from government.
- Tree planting outreach to underserved communities must include culturally-specific elements, such as conducting culturally-specific educational events, tailoring events to the community, providing translation and interpretation, and adapting existing volunteer programs to specific communities.
- Community members favor an active role for the city in maintenance and planting. 67% of survey respondents believe the city should maintain street trees in the right-of-way and 74% believe the city should prioritize maintenance in lower-income areas.
- Additional opportunities for engaging underserved communities in tree planting include eliminating cost barriers, creating jobs, advocating for trees at rental properties, and building trust.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Fund planting and maintenance in low-income, low-canopy areas to reduce costs for residents. This includes increasing planting programs that focus on rental properties and advocating on behalf of tenants who want trees.

- Conduct culturally-specific outreach and education for communities of color, immigrant, and refugee communities to promote participation in planting; develop long-term partnerships and relationships with these communities to promote planting and trees.
- Update canopy targets in the *Urban Forest Management Plan* and develop corresponding planting goals and timelines.
- Improve collaboration among city bureaus and community partners to clarify and define roles for planting and future development, improve effectiveness of planting efforts, and minimize redundancies.
- Assess and monitor planting efforts in low-income, low-canopy areas to determine the success of planting and outreach efforts.
- Promote use of the planting web tool, *branchoutpdx.org*, developed during the project for identifying areas that would benefit the most from tree planting.

TREES PLANTED

TYPE OF AREA OR OUTREACH	NUMBER OF TREES
Developed Parks	133
Parks Natural Areas	17,198
Learning Landscapes	83
Yard Tree Giveaway	574
TOTAL	17,988

Developed Parks, 133

Large-caliper trees are planted for their immediate impact and resilience to vandalism. Trees receive two years of watering and establishment care.

Parks Natural Areas, 17,198

Native trees are planted as part of larger natural area restoration efforts. Sites included Baltimore Woods, Beggar's Tick, Errol Heights, Forest Park, Gabriel Park, George Himes City Park, Johns Lake, Kelley Point Park, Kelly Butte, Marquam Nature Park, Mocks Crest, Oaks Bottom, Powell Butte, Springwater Corridor, Whittaker Ponds, and Wilkes Creek.

Learning Landscapes, 83

PP&R partners with volunteers to plant trees at schools and in community spaces. Students, teachers, and community members work together to select sites and species. On planting day, students and volunteers gather to dig holes, plant, water, and name their trees. Over 800 youth and 200 adult volunteers planted trees at Alliance High School at Meek, Lent K-8 School, Roseway Park Blocks, Rigler Elementary School, Vernon K-8 School, Woodmere Elementary School, and Woodstock Elementary School.

Yard Tree Giveaway, 574

PP&R piloted offering free trees for Portland residents, focused on low-canopy and low-income neighborhoods in East Portland. Residents received up to two large-species trees at events held in Hazelwood, Centennial, Cully, and Mt. Scott-Arleta. PP&R is currently conducting field assessments to determine if the 574 trees given out were planted, survival rate, and health.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE EXPENDITURES

- Tree planting expenditures will be guided by the citywide tree planting strategy, *Growing a More Equitable Urban Forest*.
- FY19 expenditures will include tree plantings for yards, schools, and parks, and will be focused in low income, low canopy areas of Portland where the need is greatest.



Volunteers work in teams to collect data on park trees in the Tree Inventory Project.

11.15.020 URBAN FORESTRY FUND

portlandoregon.gov/citycode/article/514534

Restoration fees, civil penalties, or civil remedies resulting from City or street tree enforcement actions are paid into the Urban Forestry Fund. The purpose of the fund is to enhance the urban forest through the planting of street or City trees, and to increase public awareness of trees, tree care, and the values of the urban forest.

Title 11 outlines the following allowable uses for the Urban Forestry Fund:

- To replace, establish, and maintain street or City trees illegally removed or damaged;
- To plant, establish and maintain street or City trees where, in the judgment of the Forester, they will enhance the values of the Urban Forest;
- To provide education, outreach and technical assistance to the community; and
- Other forestry-related actions or programs, as determined by the City Forester.

URBAN FORESTRY FUND

Expenditure Highlights

PARK TREE INVENTORY

Funds supported the Tree Inventory Project, which has twin goals of providing data to support more-informed management of Portland's public trees while educating the public about the benefits of these public assets. To date, more than 1,500 volunteers have given over 20,000 hours to the project, making it Urban Forestry's most popular and successful public education program.

Data collected on park trees will be used to:

- Identify new areas for planting on PP&R properties, and to track the performance of individual species as Urban Forestry ramps up its planting program in the near future.
- Connect the public to their parks, providing open data downloads for research and analysis, as well as interactive web maps and guided tree walks.
- Provide an overview of the makeup of the trees of Portland's parks, including species diversity, functional type, size, age, and condition. This information will inform future parks plantings, ensuring that they are best suited for long-term success and will contribute towards a resilient forest in the face of climate change by:
 - Building species diversity to reduce the threat of catastrophic pests or diseases;
 - Building functional diversity, to maximize the environmental and public health benefits that evergreens, natives, and large form trees provide; and
 - Meeting goals for maintaining and expanding canopy cover in parks, especially in low-income and low-canopy areas of the city.
- Create maps of park trees accessible to all PP&R work groups, facilitating maintenance, removal, and planting requests (data is available in MapWorks).

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

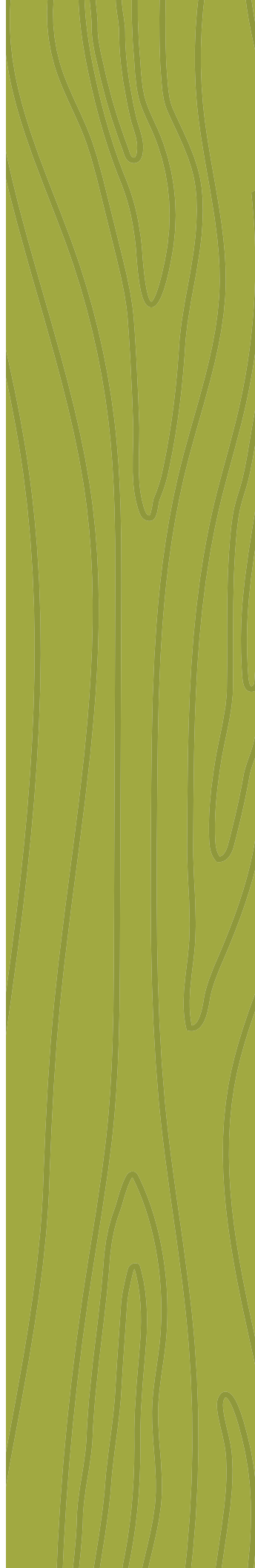
Funds supported seasonal staff who assist with outreach and education events. In FY18, Urban Forestry conducted thirty education and outreach events, which include classes teaching tree planting, pruning, and identification to hundreds of participants.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE EXPENDITURES

- Continue supporting Park Tree Inventory, which will conclude in 2019.
- Continue supporting education and outreach activities, with a focus on events in East Portland.



Ready to plant!





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