

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: *Authorize a contract with Friends of Trees for community tree education, planting, and establishment services in the amount of \$5,882,216. (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The purpose of this work is to expand the capacity of the city's urban forest to support clean rivers, healthy watersheds, and livable, sustainable communities. Investments in tree planting and establishment, with a focus on low-canopy, low-income, racially diverse neighborhoods, help the City meet multiple goals: increasing urban forest canopy cover, improving stormwater management, protecting vulnerable populations from urban heat island, and providing services equitably.

Building on the success that began with the Grey to Green Initiative, the City will continue to invest in proper tree planting and establishment while providing residents the necessary tools to take on their tree maintenance obligations responsibly. Over the past eight years, the Environmental Services Tree Program helped to plant more than 40,000 trees in the city, and more than 30,000 of these trees were planted with the help of community volunteers through a contract with Friends of Trees.

This work directly supports the City's policies around advancing equity for all residents while advancing the urban forest canopy cover and equity goals of the *Comprehensive Plan*, *Portland Plan*, *Climate Action Plan*, *Climate Change Preparation Strategy*, *Portland Watershed Management Plan*, *Urban Forestry Management Plan* and the Environmental Services Tree Program. Without this contract with Friends of Trees, the City's ability to expand and enhance the urban forest and ensure the urban forest serves all residents equitably will be severely reduced.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The legislation will result in a new contract with current service provider, Friends of Trees. This contract will enable the continuance of an existing partnership substantially at current service level (less the 5% general fund reduction during FY16-17). The total amount of the five-and-a-half year contract will be \$5,882,216. The funds will come from the general fund (80%) and the Sewer System Operating Fund, Bureau of Environmental Services, Internal Order #9ESWS15WR002 (20%). Funds from the FY16-17 Budget have been budgeted for this use.

The contract will be managed and supported by Environmental Services Tree Program (ESTP) staff who have done this work for eight years under the current contract. The work accomplished under the contract is done in partnership between the ESTP and Friends of Trees (FOT). We estimate 50% of one staff position will be spent helping FOT develop the outreach and education programs and administering the contract. ESTP staff will also provide an estimated 500-800 hours of street tree planting inspection services. This item does not amend the FY16-17 budget, nor does it request any change to appropriations.

FY	Estimated Budget	GF	Rates	% from Rates	Notes
FY16-17 &17-18	\$1,111,870	\$878,005	\$233,865	21%	
FY17-18	\$1,185,748	\$946,296	\$239,452	20%	
FY18-19	\$1,185,748	\$946,296	\$239,452	20%	
FY19-20	\$1,185,748	\$946,296	\$239,452	20%	
FY20-21	\$1,185,748	\$946,296	\$239,452	20%	
FY21-22	\$27,355	\$21,884	\$5,471	20%	Funding for tree monitoring work only
TOTAL	\$5,882,216				

Community impacts and community involvement:

A primary goal of this legislation is to increase the urban forest canopy and the benefits it provides to residents—with a focus on low-canopy, low-income areas and communities of color. Trees in the urban environment provide critical services that improve quality of life for city dwellers. The additional trees planted under this contract will provide environmental, human health, and equity and livability benefits to the communities where they are planted. Urban trees require care and maintenance which will be provided by residents. In partnership with the City, Friends of Trees, community benefit organizations (CBOs), and community volunteers will help residents understand and undertake this responsibility. Through the contract, Friends of Trees will offer community tree care services in the form of young tree structural pruning and technical support. In this way, residents who volunteer with Friends of Trees gain valuable tree care skills. People of all ages, cultures, physical abilities, ethnicities, races, religions, language groups, and incomes will benefit from the expansion and enhancement of the urban forest in their communities. Taken together, the suite of services provided by this contract will directly support our vision of a prosperous, educated, healthy, equitable Portland.

Thousands of Portlanders have participated in planting tens of thousands of trees with Friends of Trees over the last eight years alone. There is significant need for and enthusiastic support of the services provided to our Portland community by Friends of Trees. Guided by the goals of the *Urban Forestry Management Plan*, the Environmental Services Tree Program (ESTP) has focused on low-canopy, low-income areas since planting its first trees in 2008. Over the past five years, the ESTP has partnered with Confluence Environmental Center to employ an AmeriCorps member to help improve equity in service delivery. Many of the partnerships developed through this intentional relationship building, as well as through the course of planting trees with a diversity of community partners, have enabled the ESTP to meet meaningful equity metrics. In FY13-14 and FY14-15, 87% of trees planted by the ESTP and partners like Friends of Trees were planted in low-income, low-canopy areas and communities of color.

The development of the RFP for this contract benefited from the experience and advice of CBO partners, Confluence Environmental Center, the Office of Equity and Human Rights and the BES Diversity and Equity Committee, among others. The contract aims for at least 75% service delivery in historically underserved, low-canopy areas with low-income residents, communities of color, and vulnerable populations. BES is working with PP&R Urban Forestry on a street tree planting permit that will ensure compliance with Title 11, Trees, while enabling us to meet the equitable service delivery goals.

Friends of Trees and some of their CBO partners will likely testify.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

187793

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