

City of Vancouver

URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM 2009–2010 Work Plan



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Established for the purpose of managing, conserving, and enhancing the existing trees located in the parks and public areas owned by the City of Vancouver and in public rights-of-way, and thereby enhancing the appearance of the city and protecting an important environmental and economic resource for the benefit of the city's residents and visitors, and for the purpose of assisting property owners and public agencies to improve and maintain trees in a manner consistent with adopted city policies.

Six members appointed by City Council to four year term and one member appointed as liaison by Vancouver-Clarks Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (VCPRAC).

Meets Third Wednesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at the Esther Short Building, 610 Esther Street, Vancouver.

COMMISSION

*Erika Johnson, chair
Jim Wasden, vice chair
Gordon MacWilliams
Terry Toland
Chris Buchheit
Fred Zensen
Anne Friesz, VCPRAC liaison*

The urban forest comprises all the trees, shrubs and other vegetation within the City of Vancouver. Along with the Columbia River, trees are one of Vancouver's most prominent natural features. But Vancouver's trees are not merely beautiful — the urban forest is critical to the healthful, functioning of the city and greatly improves the quality of life for all residents.

Urban trees are considered “green infrastructure” and provide significant environmental, social and economic benefits. By capturing stormwater, trees help prevent flooding, reduce pollution from runoff, minimize erosion and promote groundwater recharge. Urban trees filter airborne pollutants, including particles such as dust and soot and gases, such as ozone and nitrogen oxides. Trees also produce oxygen and store vast amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. By shading, cooling and blocking wind, trees reduce heating and cooling energy use by up to 30 percent. In neighborhoods, trees promote stronger social ties, encourage more outdoor activity, decrease crime and violence, and increase community pride. These benefits translate directly into increased real estate values for homes with large, well-maintained trees. New research suggests that urban trees also have significant economic benefits, such as positively influencing consumer behavior in business districts and promoting economic development.

However, a healthy urban forest doesn't just happen. A healthy urban forest requires thoughtful planning and on-going maintenance. Unfortunately, a recent study showed that Vancouver's tree canopy cover, currently at less than 20 percent, continues to be much lower than the recommended level, which means that Vancouver is not realizing the maximum of potential urban forest benefits. Vancouver's Urban Forestry program works to optimize urban forest benefits by preserving and enhancing tree canopy, while engaging the community in

stewardship. This document outlines Urban Forestry program activities for 2009–2010.

CITY OF VANCOUVER URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM 2009–2010 WORK PLAN

Our **vision** is that Vancouver's urban forest is a healthy, dynamic, diverse and cohesive ecosystem that is valued and cared for through community stewardship because it balances economic vitality with the conservation of natural resources now and for future generations.

The **mission** of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program is to maximize the aesthetic, environmental and economic benefits that trees provide to city residents and visitors by preserving, managing and enhancing existing trees and other vegetation and promoting the reforestation of the urban area, through an active integrated program with community support and participation.

The 2009–2010 **goals** of the Urban Forestry program are to:

- Preserve existing trees and institutionalize planning, maintenance and operating principles that improve canopy health.
- Restore canopy-deficient areas through tree planting to provide equitable distribution of urban forest benefits to all Vancouver residents.
- Promote an urban forest stewardship ethic within the community.
- Adhere to City of Vancouver's Operating Principles and establish Vancouver Urban Forestry as a leader in Pacific Northwest municipal forest management.

VISIT [WWW.CITYOFVANCOUVER.US/URBANFORESTRY](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry) OR CALL (360) 619-1108 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED.

CITY OF VANCOUVER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Brian Carlson, Director

*Charles Ray
Urban Forester
Phone: 360-619-1128
Charles.Ray@ci.vancouver.wa.us*

*Jessica Antoine
Urban Forestry Outreach Coordinator
Phone: 360-619-1108
Jessica.Antoine@ci.vancouver.wa.us*

*Nicholas Redmond
Urban Forestry Specialist
Phone: 360-619-1132
Nick.Redmond@ci.vancouver.wa.us*

*PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668
Fax: 360-696-8009
<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry>*

VANCOUVER MUNICIPAL CODE

Tree regulations in the Vancouver Municipal Code:

VMC 12.02, Urban Forestry Commission established and defined the role of the Urban Forestry Commission, a citizen advisory group appointed by City Council.

VMC 12.04, Street Trees regulates the planting, pruning, and removal of trees within the right-of-way. Visit the website or contact Urban Forestry for permit requirements.

VMC 20.770, Tree Conservation regulates tree removal on private property before, during, and after development.

Contact Urban Forestry for more information about permits and tree regulations.

THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF TREES

Research at the University of Michigan and at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign demonstrates the profound impact that trees can have on psychological well-being and community. Because trees reduce stress and mental fatigue caused by urban living, create a cooler and more pleasant outdoor environment, encourage more walking and biking, are aesthetically beautiful, and provide many other benefits, they help make our community more livable. For example, increased greenery has been shown to: accelerate recovery from surgery and reduce reported pain; reduce crime, especially domestic violence; and help kids diagnosed with ADHD concentrate better. See www.herl.uiuc.edu for more information about the social benefits of trees.

DID YOU KNOW?

For every \$1.00 we spend on our urban forest today, our region will receive more than \$2.50 in benefits over 40 years.

Goal One

PRESERVE EXISTING TREES AND INSTITUTIONALIZE PLANNING, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES THAT IMPROVE CANOPY HEALTH.

Support Development Review Services in critical review of all development tree plans and all violations of the Tree Conservation Ordinance.

Support Code Compliance in enforcement of the Minimum Property Maintenance Ordinance by evaluating the hazard potential of trees on private property; ensure that trees that are not hazardous are not unnecessarily removed.

Support Transportation by reviewing all street plans for tree species selection and locations to maximize planting of site appropriate trees and to minimize future hardscape infrastructure damage.

Support Parks and Recreation in the development of natural resource management plans for significant urban natural areas, especially natural area parks and respond to tree issues within the Park system.

Integrate into the Public Works team by supporting all divisions on priority projects and implementing reforestation projects to improve watershed health.

Assist City efforts toward becoming a more sustainable community by working with the Sustainability Program and assessing the feasibility of participating in a carbon offset program that credits tree planting.

Enforce the Street Tree Ordinance to preserve street tree canopy, minimize conflicts between trees and the built environment with replacements and reduce incidence of improper tree care.

- Continue outreach to the general public and tree care providers about the Ordinance requirements.
- Refine protocols for reviewing and issuing permits for major pruning, removal, planting of street trees; and for Street Tree Worker License program.
- Enforce Ordinance in a fair and reasonable manner.

Recognize and protect significant trees through Heritage Tree program.

- Increase awareness of program through outreach, tours, publications and events.
- Solicit nominations from the general public, NeighborWoods Stewards and Urban Forestry Commission.
- Consider and designate new Heritage Trees annually; announce new Heritage Trees at existing festivals or community events.

- Record relevant historical and arboricultural information about each tree; compile information into Heritage Tree Inventory and install signs at each tree.

Continue to update a dynamic inventory of street trees and trees on City property to facilitate effective management, assess the overall condition and value of the urban forest, and improve record keeping.

- Refine data collection protocol to maximize efficiency and accuracy.
- Build inventory gradually over time, beginning with canopy projects and service requests.
- Update street tree inventory with removal requests and new planting projects.

Proactively manage trees on City property for safety and to minimize storm-damage costs through hazard tree identification and removal.

Coordinate young tree pruning on canopy restoration project sites and explore options for the city to proactively maintain trees through a pruning cycle as city assets.

Provide training for Operations crews and other City staff on proper pruning and tree care to improve management of City grounds; encourage City staff to contact Urban Forestry personnel for further assistance.

Promote tree-friendly development and land use practices, such as preserving mature trees and planning for appropriate replanting.

- Explore incentives to preserve mature trees and incorporate these into policy and planning; establish criteria.
- Develop protocols for tree preservation on construction sites using the most current research and practices; share these techniques with developers through workshops and trade journals.
- Encourage retention or planting of canopy corridors, or tree tracts, to function as buffers and wildlife corridors; utilize these corridors to connect parcels and build a cohesive forest ecosystem.
- Recognize model projects, such as the Firstenburg Community Center, by nominating projects for the Community Pride Design Award.

Encourage proper tree placement and pruning to reduce conflicts between trees and transportation and safety elements, including street lights, traffic signs and vehicle visibility.

Identify significant wooded areas as natural resource systems and support the acquisition and/or protection with the

Goal Two

RESTORE CANOPY-DEFICIENT AREAS THROUGH TREE PLANTING TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN FOREST BENEFITS TO ALL VANCOUVER RESIDENTS.

Use canopy GIS data to strategically plan Canopy Restoration Program efforts.

- Categorize neighborhoods based on tree cover ratio and distribution patterns; prioritize lowest canopy areas for tree planting projects.
- Plan and budget to repeat GIS canopy analysis in 2011; establish a five to ten years cycle for future canopy mapping.

Promote the city-wide tree canopy goal of 28 percent total canopy.

- Market the specific canopy goals based on zoning and property type identified in the Urban Forestry Management Plan.
- Foster community support for the canopy goal through education and outreach focusing on the benefits of trees.

Plant trees and shrubs on public property, including parks and natural areas.

- Assess park properties and other public lands and determine tree planting needs.
- Plant in lowest-canopy parcels first.
- Utilize both contractor (to maximize efficiency and effectiveness) and volunteer labor (to maximize public involvement and reduce costs) for planting projects.
- Work with park planners and designers to include canopy targets in the park development process; encourage incorporation of tree planting as a funded element in park master plans.
- Plant trees to replace turf in hard to mow or underutilized grassy areas.
- Plant native trees and shrubs where appropriate.
- Maximize canopy through species selection and tree location.
- Develop inter-planting and replacement projects to enhance mature tree stands and manage succession.

Public Works and Parks Acquisition Programs.

Explore the feasibility to conduct a GIS-based canopy coverage study in 2011, using the 2003 study as baseline, to study and understand changes in the urban forest.

- Ensure equitable geographic distribution of tree planting projects.

Ensure proper maintenance and monitoring of all trees.

- Continue a summer tree maintenance program involving AmeriCorps, youths as interns or temporary seasonal employees.
- Hold contractors accountable on all projects.
- Monitor all projects for at least five years.
- Replace all trees that decline during the first three growing seasons.
- Coordinate volunteer efforts at community-driven projects.

Encourage street tree planting.

- Coordinate with Friends of Trees to conduct volunteer neighborhood tree plantings in at least six

CALL BEFORE YOU CUT!

Before removing any tree or pruning any street tree, call (360) 619-1128 to check if a permit is required.

In Vancouver, a permit is required to remove a tree if the tree is:

- a street tree in the public right-of-way;
- a nuisance or hazard tree;
- on property zoned for industrial, commercial, or multi-family use;
- on a single-family residential lot that is larger than one acre or can be further subdivided in the future;
- on an undeveloped or developing parcel;
- in a sensitive area such as a slope, riparian area, or wetland buffer.

According to the Street Tree Ordinance, **VMC 12.04**, a permit is also required for major pruning of street trees. The ordinance requires the work be performed according to national arboricultural standards by an individual or company with a Street Tree Workers License.



Through the Canopy Restoration Program, Urban Forestry is planting trees with both contractors and volunteers to achieve the 28 percent canopy goal. Tree plantings can occur in parks, in natural areas, on school grounds, in neighborhoods, and even on private property. Contact Urban Forestry to learn more about how you can help restore Vancouver's canopy.

VANCOUVER CANOPY PROJECT

In 2003, Vancouver Urban Forestry conducted a tree canopy study using high-resolution infra-red imagery and LiDAR (light detection and ranging) data. This study revealed that Vancouver's total tree canopy has declined to only 19.7 percent, down from approximately 46 percent in 1972. To maximize the benefits of trees, American Forests recommends 40 percent canopy cover for Pacific Northwest cities. Vancouver has established an achievable goal of 28 percent total tree canopy. Tree plantings can occur in parks, in natural areas, on school grounds, in neighborhoods, and even on private property. Contact Urban Forestry to learn more about how you can help restore Vancouver's canopy. All residents are encouraged to help Urban Forestry reach this goal by caring for and planting trees.

neighborhoods; encourage new neighborhoods to participate.

- Secure an AmeriCorps team or member to increase neighborhood participation in tree planting projects.
- Update and distribute the Street Tree Selection guide annually.
- Inspect all proposed street tree planting sites prior to installation to minimize future infrastructure conflicts.
- Encourage planting of street and median trees as an effective traffic-calming technique.

Partner with local school districts to plant trees on school grounds with students.

Encourage tree planting on private property zoned commercial, industrial, multi-family, and mixed-use; partner with property owners on project design and implementation.

Partner with Washington Department of Transportation to plant trees along highways.

Assist NeighborWoods Stewards in coordination of canopy restoration projects.

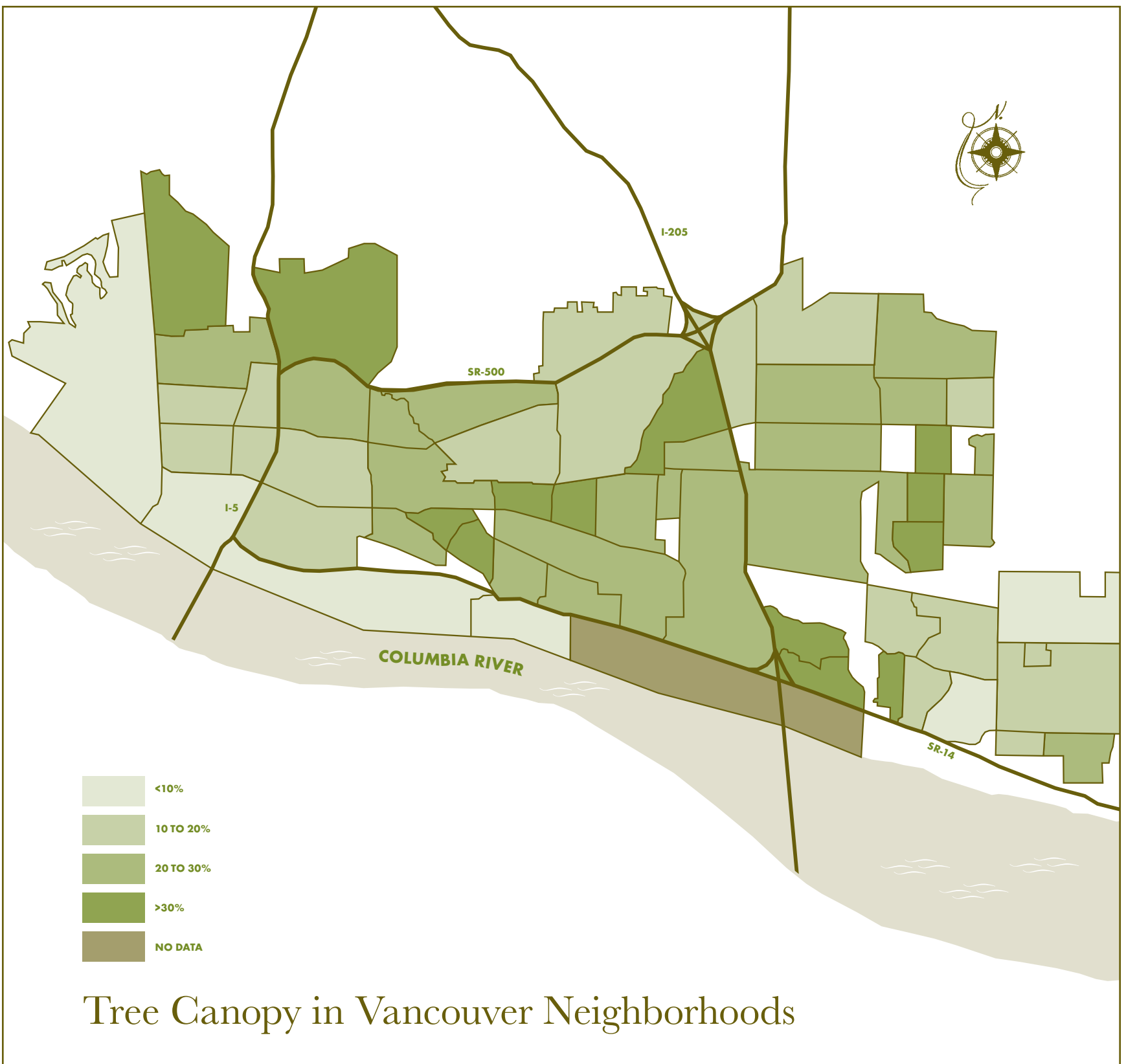
Review development project proposals to maximize tree planting opportunities.

Promote stewardship of native plant communities on private and public property.

- Encourage planting of native trees and shrubs where appropriate.
- Distribute a comprehensive list of Vancouver's native trees and shrubs.
- Encourage local nurseries to expand stock of native trees and shrubs.

Market Witness Tree program as a means to memorialize loved ones through planting trees.

- Update the Witness Tree mapping interface.
- Utilize Witness Tree funding to reduce tree plantings costs.





NeighborWoods Stewards receive more than 20 hours of free tree-related education. In exchange, they serve as a resource for their neighborhood and coordinate a tree planting or educational project.

Goal Three

PROMOTE AN URBAN FOREST STEWARDSHIP ETHIC WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

Strengthen and expand community partnerships, especially with the following groups:

- local businesses
- tree care companies
- Vancouver and Evergreen school districts
- other City departments
- civic and service organizations.

Foster civic involvement through the NeighborWoods program, a comprehensive training and education program that empowers neighborhood volunteers to become leaders in urban forest management.

- Recruit at least 15 new NeighborWoods Stewards to participate annually.
- Refine training program and binder annually based on participant feedback.
- Involve partners as program presenters.
- Assist Stewards with identification of potential projects and provide support to help them successfully implement their projects.
- Maintain communication with Stewards through email listserv and occasional social gatherings.
- Recognize NeighborWoods Stewards and their accomplishments.

Offer at least six Tree Talk workshops on various tree-related topics throughout the year as a low-commitment alternative to NeighborWoods.

Celebrate trees on Arbor Day in April.

- Host an Arbor Day event involving youth and elected officials.
- Sponsor a local Arbor Day poster contest for fifth-graders.
- Capitalize on Arbor Day as an opportunity for media exposure.

Celebrate Heritage Trees at Old Apple Tree Festival in October.

- Explore strategies to boost attendance and improve the festival.
- Include more entertainment, booths from partner organizations and children's activities.

Recognize extraordinary contributions to Urban Forestry through Silva Bolds Whitfield Award.

Partner with Neighborhood Associations to enhance local urban forest management.

- Encourage every Neighborhood Association to incorporate urban forestry elements and planting projects in Neighborhood Action Plans; assist neighborhoods with implementation of urban forestry projects.
- Give presentations to at least seven neighborhood meetings.
- Submit articles for inclusion in neighborhood newsletters.
- Encourage neighborhoods to apply for grants and seek sponsors to implement urban forestry projects; provide assistance if necessary.
- Continue Urban Forestry Commission liaison program.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF TREES

Urban trees provide significant environmental benefits that improve quality of life in the city. Trees are absolutely critical to protecting wildlife habitat and maintaining clean air and water. For example:

- 100 mature trees intercept approximately 250,000 gallons of rainwater each year. This reduces pollution due to runoff, prevents erosion, and lowers the risk of flooding.
- Trees increase the rate of rainwater infiltration into the soil, which helps recharge groundwater resources and filter the water before it discharges into streams.
- Two trees can produce enough oxygen for one person.
- 100 mature trees annually sequester more than five tons of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas linked to global warming.
- 100 mature trees absorb or intercept more than 500 pounds of airborne pollutants each year, including particulate matter, nitrogen and sulfur oxides, and ground-level ozone.
- Trees, especially native species, provide food, shelter, and other habitat values for urban wildlife.

GET INVOLVED!

Urban Forestry volunteer opportunities:

- become a NeighborWoods Steward
- attend a Tree Talk workshop
- coordinate a neighborhood tree planting
- help plant trees at a Saturday event
- remove invasive species such as ivy and blackberries
- water and maintain trees and shrubs in summer
- assist with outreach, special events or data entry

CALL (360) 619-1108 TO VOLUNTEER.

DID YOU KNOW?

Trees can increase the real estate value of a home by up to 20 percent! Larger, well-maintained trees in green neighborhoods have the biggest impact on home values.

Protect Your Assets with Proper Tree Care

THINK BEFORE YOU TOP— GET THE FACTS

“Topping” is defined as indiscriminate cutting of branches to stubs or branches too small to assume the terminal role. Research in the last several decades has repeatedly proven that topping is very harmful to trees and is almost NEVER an acceptable practice. Do not top your trees, and do not hire any tree care provider that suggests this service.

ISA CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

Arborists certified by the International Society of Arboriculture have demonstrated a minimum level of knowledge and a commitment to stay current with national standards and best practices. Although not a guarantee of good service or performance, ISA certification suggests that the company or individual takes tree care seriously. The City of Vancouver cannot recommend an arborist, but a complete list is available by calling 1-888-472-8733 or visiting www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/findarborist.aspx.

CITY LICENSED STREET TREE WORKER

Urban Forestry maintains a list of contractors who have met the minimum qualifications to work on street trees.

- Officially recognize neighborhood associations that meet all the following criteria: implement a neighborhood tree planting (with Friends of Trees or otherwise), have an active NeighborWoods Steward, and have urban forestry elements in Neighborhood Action Plan.

Communicate the benefits of trees and the importance of an effective Urban Forestry program to City Council and other decision makers.

Engage volunteers in hands-on urban forestry projects such as tree plantings, invasive species removal, and young tree care.

Use existing and new marketing tools to deliver priority messages to priority audiences on a seasonally-appropriate timeframe.

Maintain Urban Forestry website as a comprehensive and dynamic source for urban forestry information.

Utilize available free and low-cost media such as Clark-Vancouver Television, public service announcements, and newsletter articles to deliver marketing messages and promote Urban Forestry activities.

Release at least one media advisory (press release) per month to ensure continued media presence.

Distribute tree care brochures and outreach materials

Increase visibility of Urban Forestry by tabling at least six community events, such

as the Home & Garden Idea Fair, Earth Day Events and the Sturgeon Festival.

Give presentations to various civic, service, or community organizations and involve these organizations in volunteer projects.

Expand environmental education efforts in local schools.

Inform the general public and tree care companies about Vancouver’s tree ordinances.

Encourage proper tree species selection and optimal planting location to maximize benefits of trees and minimize future conflicts (i.e. “right tree, right place”).

Implement a comprehensive and creative tree awareness campaign to reduce topping an improper tree care practice and measure awareness through a pre and post survey.

Empower the general public to take action about the degradation of native plant communities due to invasive species.

- Work with volunteers to remove and control invasive species, such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry, which threaten native plant communities on public lands.
- Coordinate a comprehensive and creative “No Ivy” campaign, centered on “No Ivy Day” in early May, to increase awareness of the fact that ivy is killing otherwise-healthy mature trees throughout the city, inspire removal efforts and promote landscape alternatives.

Urban Forests Improve Watersheds

Improvements to the urban forest promote sustainability, counteract impacts to air and water quality, and make this a better community for everyone. You can help.

WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED!

Watersheds are regions or areas defined by ridges where the water drains into a particular stream, lake or river. In Vancouver, our community has bountiful water bodies, including Vancouver Lake, Burnt Bridge Creek and the Columbia River. What happens in our neighborhoods affects water quality in Vancouver’s waterways. That’s why Urban Forestry partners with the Vancouver Watersheds Council to improve our watersheds. Here are 10 steps you can take to help improve our water quality:

1. Preserve established trees in your yard and neighborhood.
2. Plant new street and yard trees, shrubs and groundcovers that filter pollutants and reduce stormwater runoff.
3. Cut out or cut back on fertilizer and pesticides. Use non-toxic alternatives.
4. Use drip hoses and landscape mulch to better retain moisture and reduce sediment runoff. Don’t water sidewalks and driveways or streets.
5. Use non-toxic alternatives to cleaning chemicals in and around your home.
6. Never dump used motor oil, paint or household chemical cleaning products on the ground or where they could find their way to a stormwater drain.
7. Sweep instead of hosing driveways and sidewalks. Use a commercial carwash that captures and filters water.
8. Drive less. Use public transportation, carpool, bike or walk more.
9. Scoop pet waste, bag it and put it in the trash.
10. Get involved. Visit www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry or www.vancouverwatersheds.org.



Goal Four

ADHERE TO CITY OF VANCOUVER'S OPERATING PRINCIPLES AND ESTABLISH VANCOUVER URBAN FORESTRY AS A LEADER IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL FOREST MANAGEMENT.

Coordinate the roles, responsibilities, policies, and projects of City and County departments, other government agencies, and local partners to ensure sound planning and management of the urban forest.

Ensure stable and adequate funding to achieve Urban Forestry goals.

- Maintain partnership with all departments.
- Seek grants and sponsorships to leverage program funds and expand capacity.
- Utilize the Parks Foundation to accept private donations and business sponsorships.
- Promote Urban Forestry as a core municipal service that works across all departments and is directly linked to the City's Stormwater Management Strategy and Sustainability Goals.

Highlight program accomplishments in Annual Report and provide quarterly Urban Forestry updates to Public Works and Parks managers.

Revise and submit Urban Forestry Work Plan and Urban Forestry budget request biennially.

Utilize and implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan, which is an integrated and sustainable approach to preserving and enhancing the City's urban forest resources, to achieve the goals over the next twenty years.

Employ an adequate number of highly-qualified individuals.

- Maintain active International

Society of Arboriculture certification for all full-time staff.

- Maintain Municipal Specialist certification for at least one staff member.
- Maintain Tree Risk Assessor certification for at least one staff member.
- Seek opportunities for meaningful continuing education.
- Remain current with latest arboricultural research, trends, techniques, and knowledge.

Integrate Urban Forestry Commission into City planning by coordinating joint meetings with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and Vancouver Planning Commission.

Manage all tree pruning and planting contracts to ensure contractor compliance with specifications.

Respond to all citizen requests for service and information.

- Achieve at least 75 percent customer satisfaction, as evidenced through customer reply cards.
- Reduce average response time for site inspections to less than eight days.

Apply for "Tree City USA" annually and prestigious "Tree City Growth Award" when applicable; promote receipt of awards at Arbor Day celebration.

Seek opportunities for Urban Forestry staff to speak at regional and national arboriculture events and submit articles for publication in magazines and journals.

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TREES

For example, trees can increase the real estate value of a home by up to 20 percent! Larger, well-maintained trees in green neighborhoods have the biggest impact on home values. They can also impact consumer behavior in other ways.

Consumer Behavior: Recent research by Dr. Kathy Wolf at the University of Washington suggests that trees in business districts can significantly impact consumer behavior. Dr. Wolf found that shoppers were willing to travel farther to, pay more for parking, and shop longer at business districts with more trees. Those shoppers also assume that goods or services sold there are higher quality and that retailers are more trustworthy. Most importantly for business owners, shoppers in tree-lined business districts are willing to pay up to 11 percent more for goods and services. See www.cfr.washington.edu/research.env-mind for more information about this research.

Economic Development: Trees greatly improve quality of life for urban dwellers. Quality of life is often a significant determining factor when businesses are considering a move to a new location, sometimes even more so than taxes. A healthy, well-cared for urban forest signals that residents take pride in their community and that local government is effective at meeting the needs of its citizens. Thus, a healthy urban forest can help attract new businesses and jobs to Vancouver.

DID YOU KNOW?

Urban forests play a key role in protecting our planet. Two mature trees produce enough oxygen for one person. Trees clean the air by removing dust and other particles, and absorbing pollutants such as ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide. The least expensive and easiest way for individuals to help offset the CO₂ they generate in their everyday lives is to plant a tree. Visit the Urban Forestry website at www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry to learn more about the benefits of trees.



An urban forester consulting with a citizen on proper tree care. Call (360) 619-1108 or visit www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry to learn more about how we can serve you.



TREE CITY USA

Vancouver has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA each year since 1989. The Tree City USA program is designed to recognize communities that effectively manage their urban forest and meet the four Tree City USA standards. Vancouver has continually been selected for this national recognition for managing its urban trees as a valuable natural resource and for making trees a priority. Maintaining this national status shows that Vancouver and its citizens recognize that urban trees are closely linked to quality of life. Our citizens take pride in working together as stewards to preserve and enhance the urban forest.



“Trees are the best monuments that a man can erect to his own memory. They speak his praises without flattery, and they are blessings to children yet unborn.”

—LORD ORRERY, 1749

PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Urban Forestry strongly values our relationships with the community. We rely heavily on both volunteers and partners to help us achieve our mission. Your business or organization can improve Vancouver’s livability by being a Canopy Restoration Program partner.

Sponsors are needed to help fund tree planting projects, youth programs, Arbor Day and the Old Apple Tree Festival, outreach materials and campaigns, and other projects and programs. Donations are fully tax deductible and we are committed to giving our partners the recognition they deserve.

We are also always looking for volunteer groups and potential planting locations on private property.

Call (360) 619-1108 or visit www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry to find out how you can help!

MAYOR

Royce E. Pollard

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Jollota

Jeanne Harris

Jeanne Stewart

Tim Leavitt

Larry J. Smith

Pat Campbell

CITY MANAGER

Pat McDonnell

CONCLUSION

The benefits of trees are too numerous and significant to squander. Immediate action is required to reverse tree canopy decline and ensure a high quality of life for future generations in Vancouver. Specifically, widespread community tree planting and improved tree maintenance will help restore tree canopy throughout the city.

This Work Plan outlined the many ways that Vancouver Urban Forestry will work to promote sound urban forest management. However, there are multiple opportunities for every Vancouver resident to make a difference. What can you do to restore tree canopy in Vancouver?

- Become a NeighborWoods Steward or attend a Tree Talk workshop.

- Participate in a volunteer tree planting.
- Organize a community tree planting in your neighborhood.
- Plant trees on your property and remove English ivy.
- Educate yourself about proper tree care.
- Hire an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture for major pruning and tree care.
- Never top a tree.
- Share your tree knowledge with friends and family.

Call Urban Forestry at (360) 619-1108 or visit www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry to learn more about how you can get involved.

INTERNET SOURCES FOR URBAN FORESTRY INFO

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry>

City of Vancouver Urban Forestry

www.friendsoftrees.org

Urban Forestry’s nonprofit partner

www.americanforests.org

The United States’ oldest nonprofit citizens’ conservation organization

www.arborday.org

National Arbor Day Foundation

www.communitytrees.org

Nonprofit website promoting the planting and care of trees in urban and community neighborhoods

www.pnwisa.org

Pacific Northwest chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture

www.treelink.org

Urban forestry portal with links to other sites, news, and information

www.forestsforwatersheds.org/

Center for Watershed Protection and U.S. Forest Service

www.isa-arbor.com

International Society of Arboriculture

www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/5/cufr_164.pdf

“Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting”

www.naturewithin.info

Human Dimensions of Urban Forests & Urban Greening, Univ. of Washington, Dr. Kathleen Wolf

www.lhhl.uiuc.edu

Human-Environment Research Laboratory, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

www.treesaregood.com

ISA’s consumer tree care site

www.tlcfortrees.info

Another good tree care site

http://www.epa.gov/dced/pdf/sg_stormwater_BMP.pdf

“Using Smart Growth Techniques as Stormwater Best Management Practices”