



Vancouver Urban Forestry 2023 Annual Report

Environmental Resources | Public Works

January 2024

Acknowledgements

Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle
Councilmember Kim D. Harless
Mayor Pro Tem Erik Paulsen
Councilmember Diana H. Perez
Councilmember Bart Hansen
Councilmember Ty Stober
Councilmember Sarah J. Fox
Vancouver City Council 2024

City Manager Eric Holmes
Deputy City Manager Lisa Brandl
Deputy City Manager Lon Pluckhahn
Director of Public Works Steve Worley
Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services David Perlick

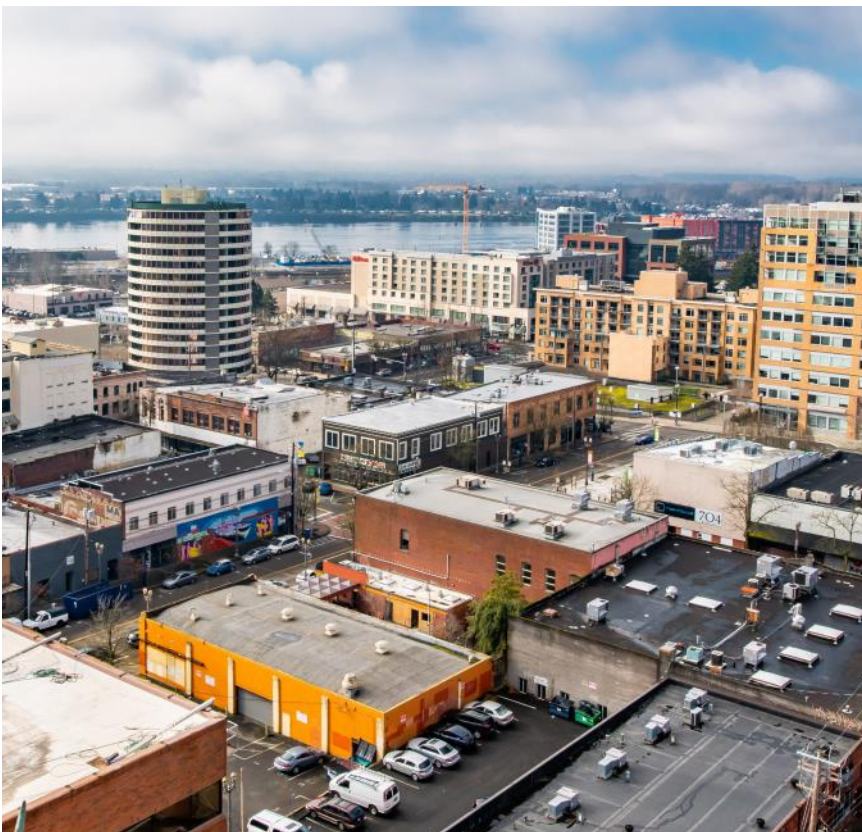


Table of Contents

Vision, Mission, Values and Goals.....1

Program Information.....2

Focused Funding.....4

Accomplishments.....5

Performance Measures.....15

Benefits of Trees.....16

Partners.....18

Urban Forestry Commission.....21



Vision, Mission and Goals

Introduction

Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program is part of the City's Department of Public Works and works closely across all departments.

Urban Forestry seeks to improve the quality of life in our city by enhancing tree canopy to provide clean air and water for current residents, visitors and future generations. Aesthetic, economic, social and environmental benefits associated with a healthy tree canopy significantly influence overall community health. Tomorrow's community vitality is closely linked with today's prudent management of the urban tree canopy, or green infrastructure.

Vancouver Urban Forestry continues to improve both the level and quality of service it provides to the community. In 2023, these efforts have grown through the participation of volunteers donating more than 3,000 hours of service, the strong support of Urban Forestry's many partners and the continued interest and dedication of the community to improving Vancouver's tree canopy.

Vision

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.

Mission

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.

Goals

Preserve existing trees and continue 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 the City of Vancouver's Operating Principles and establish Vancouver Urban Forestry as a leader in Pacific Northwest municipal forest management.

Program Information

Vancouver Urban Forestry Program

Urban Forestry is supported by the Urban Forestry Commission, a seven-member volunteer commission appointed by the Vancouver City Council. The Commission helps the City to develop good management practices to conserve the community's trees and forests, educate community members on the importance of urban trees, and organize tree plantings.

In 2023, the City of Vancouver's estimated population was 199,600. Increasing urbanization presents ongoing impacts to the health of Vancouver's tree canopy, as well as opportunities to enhance, expand, and appreciate our urban forest benefits.

In 2023, the Urban Forestry Program employed six full-time staff, which equates to about one full-time employee per 33,267 community members. The program is also supported by two AmeriCorps members, seasonal staff members and interns.

Vancouver's urban forest comprises all the trees in parks, in natural areas, along streets and on private property. In addition to improving the livability and vitality, our community's trees - quantified as tree canopy - provide numerous environmental benefits, including reductions in air pollution, greenhouse gases and stormwater runoff. According to the Tree Canopy Report, in 2021 there were 6,066 acres of tree canopy in Vancouver.

Vancouver's tree canopy covers approximately 21 percent of the City, helping to preserve watershed health and reduce runoff, while improving the livability of our neighborhoods.



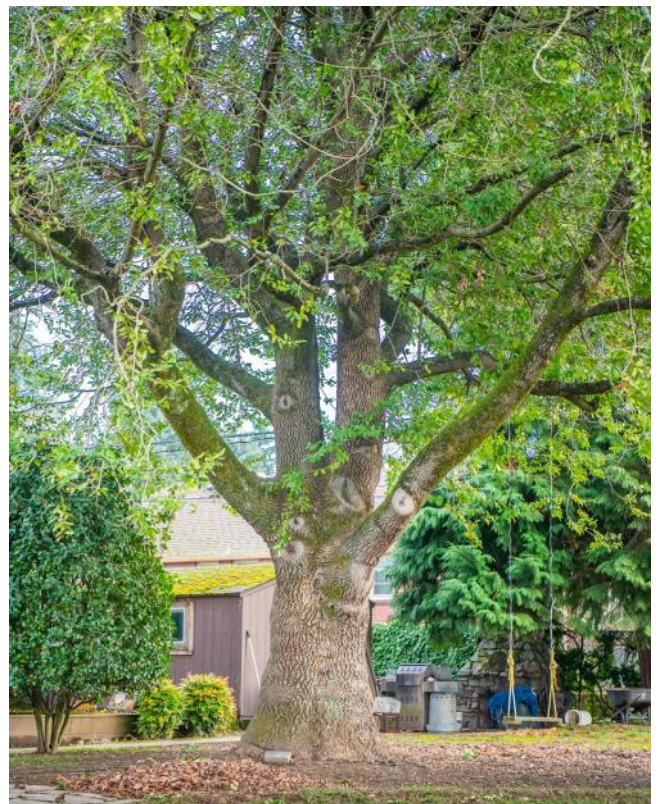
Program Information

Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program preserves and enhances our community's urban forest through:

- Assisting all City departments, residents and interest groups with tree issues.
- Developing and coordinating effective maintenance and stewardship programs to preserve existing trees and protect safety.
- Planning and managing the urban forest by coordinating related roles, responsibilities, policies, and projects of City departments, other agencies and public and private partners.
- Documenting, inventorying and assessing the health and condition of the urban forest.
- Identifying areas where additional trees and vegetation, especially native and large canopy trees, can be added to improve and enhance the urban forest.
- Administering ordinances that manage street trees, private property hazardous trees and tree conservation in development projects.
- Permitting all trees within the street right-of-way and assisting the City's Community and Economic Development Department with permitting for private trees and hazardous trees. This includes oversight of planting, major pruning, tree removal, alleviating hazardous conditions and mitigating damage to trees by development.
- Assisting in enforcement of effective regulations and in applying planting and design standards that ensure the health, quality and long-term benefits of trees.
- Increasing awareness and understanding of the value and benefits of the urban forest

through outreach and education.

- Promoting proper care for the urban forest by instilling environmental stewardship among residents and providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to make sound tree care decisions.
- Participating in partnerships, team building and networking within the community.
- Educating the Urban Forestry staff and Commission about the history of environmental justice and racism in communities and integrate equity and inclusion into all aspects of the program.



California Bay Tree (*Umbellularia californica*)
Heritage Tree located in the Arnada
neighborhood.

Focused Funding

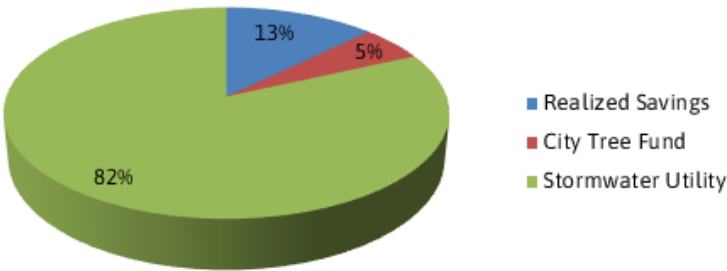
Vancouver’s Urban Forestry benefits from a mix of revenues. These include the City’s Department of Public Works Stormwater Utility Fund and the City’s Tree Fund, for a total budget of \$1,903,341.00 in 2023. Funding sources and the expenditures for 2023 are summarized in the following charts.

Including Urban Forestry in the City’s Surface Water (stormwater) Management Plan represents a comprehensive watershed approach to improving water quality. These dedicated funding sources are vital to the success of Urban Forestry. The sound public investment will pay dividends for many years to come by effectively improving water quality, decreasing runoff and flooding, improving fish and wildlife habitat and assisting the municipality in meeting state and federal regulations.

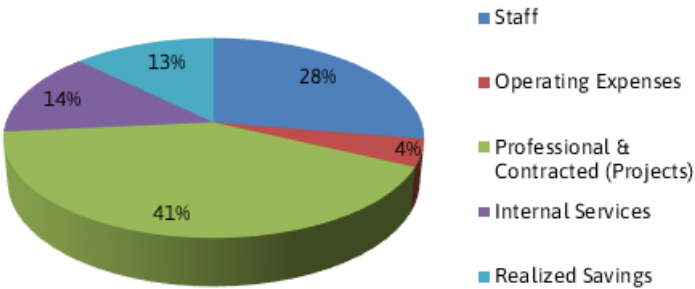
In addition to these dedicated funding sources, Urban Forestry receives thousands of hours of volunteer time and in-kind contributions from our many partners. (See pages 18-21). These factors enable the program to be much more accomplished through an active, integrated program that has grown with support and participation at all levels within the community. The in-kind dollars do not include contributions from other City programs based on their impacts related to the urban forest. Without such strong support, the City’s Urban Forestry Program would not be able to accomplish its mission.

In 2023, these in-kind contributions, along with grants and donations (including those for Witness Trees), totaled \$180,660.00.

2023 Funding



2023 Expenditures



Unaudited at the time of publication

Accomplishments

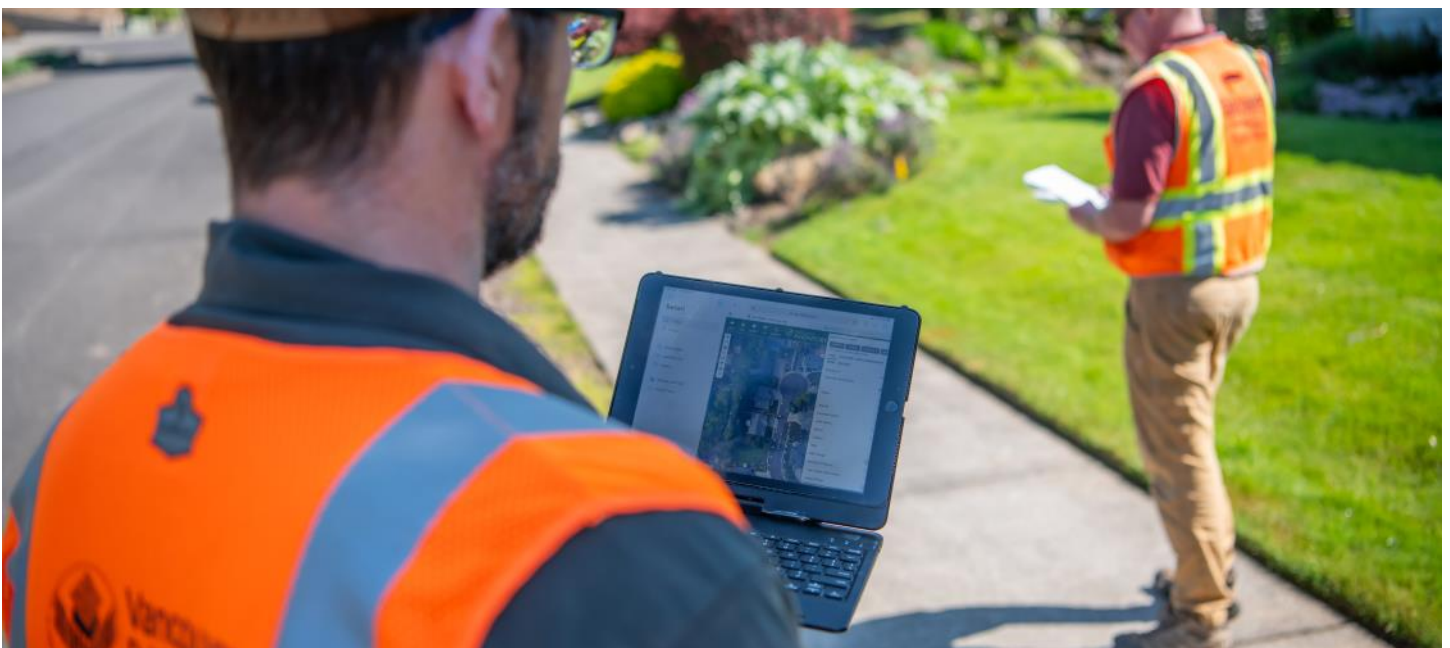
Program Developments

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded a \$300,000 grant to increase tree planting capacity through a new workforce development project that provides paid job training for young adults. The grant-funded project will help improve the health of Vancouver's urban natural systems, create green job opportunities, address climate change impacts and environmental justice and enhance community health, safety and quality of life.
- Developed an income-based tree care assistance program. The program will address hazards and long-term needs including invasive species, hazard abatement and planting of new, quality trees on both public and private property.
- City Council adopted the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) in October 2023. Urban Forestry was awarded a grant from Washington State Department of Natural Resources to partially fund the plan. Staff worked closely with the project consultants to develop the plan, which included extensive research of other communities plans, review of existing plans, policies and workflows, internal and external stakeholder discussions and community outreach which included two virtual and one in-person open house, online surveys and community presentations. The plan recommends directions and actions for Vancouver to optimize the benefits of trees. The plan incorporates an integrated, equitable and sustainable approach to preserving and enhancing the City's urban forest resources over the next 25 years.
- In 2022, City Council adopted the Climate Action Framework (CAF), a blueprint to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resiliency to climate change impacts in our community. The CAF provides strategies and specific actions to cut carbon emissions and build community resilience across six focus areas: Building Energy, Transportation and Land Use, Equity and the Green Economy, Solid Waste and Wastewater, Governance and Natural Systems. Urban Forestry is identified as working with natural systems to meet the goals of carbon neutrality by 2040.
- As part of the ambitious goals set by the CAF, in 2023 Urban Forestry increased tree planting, community engagement and tree maintenance goals to ensure an equitable urban forest for all community members. Urban Forestry received two additional positions to help meet these goals.
- Urban Forestry implemented a proactive street tree maintenance and planting program. This new program addresses inequities in tree canopy cover while improving climate resilience by improving street tree health and condition and planting in vacant street tree locations.
- Urban Forestry supported Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Volunteer Program to develop and implement the pilot Naturespaces Program. Naturespaces brings the community together to help restore and enhance select sites within the Vancouver parks system with a focus on preserving and expanding native habitat.

Accomplishments

Program Developments, cont.

- Urban Forestry supported Community Development by completing the final landscape inspections for all new development to ensure approved plans were followed and appropriate trees are planted in appropriate locations. In 2023, Urban Forestry staff inspected more than 230 sites.
- Urban Forestry hosted the Pop-Up Arboretum series at six parks during the summer. Our parks have wonderful collections of trees, the arboretum series showcases specimen trees with fun, informative signs in multiple languages. Community members were encouraged to explore and learn about the trees in our urban forest.
- Urban Forestry coordinates educational workshops aimed at property owners, homeowners, and landscapers on how what they do in their landscapes has a direct impact on water quality and watershed health. Urban Forestry coordinates on average one workshop a month and one month-long comprehensive volunteer training, Tree Stewards, annually. Participants learn about how behaviors in their landscapes can improve water quality, such as removing high maintenance lawns, planting native trees and shrubs, using organic mulch and fertilizers, preserving existing trees, reducing pesticide use and picking up pet waste.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive beetle, was detected in nearby Forest Grove, Oregon in June 2022, the first detection on the West Coast. EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America since it's arrival in 2002. EAB has not been detected in Vancouver yet. Staff developed an EAB management plan to guide the response and began implementation in 2023, which included presentations to key stakeholders, beginning to inventory ash trees, and treating priority ash trees with an insecticide.



Accomplishments

Program Developments, cont.

- Staff and Commissioners attended the Urban Forestry Commission retreat in April, focusing on team building and program goals. Topics included new programming for 2023, canopy goals, equity in the urban forest and reviewing the subcommittees. Urban Forestry Commission subcommittees include corridor, outreach, policy, and added pollinators and invasives.
- The Urban Forestry Commission's corridor subcommittee continues to identify and implement a 'corridor planting' program. The subcommittee collaborates with Transportation Planning to identify locations. In 2023, the group identified the east 18th street corridor to plant free street and yard trees to property owners along the corridor.
- Partnered with Friends of Trees to host an intern through their Adult Urban Forestry Internship program, that trains individuals from underserved communities in the green jobs sector.
- The City recognized Arbor Month in April and was recognized as Tree City USA for the 34th year and received the Growth Award for the 23rd year. The entire month of April was dedicated to celebrating our communities' trees with Pop-Up Arboretums at two parks, family-friendly online activities and an Arbor Day celebration. The celebration included a ceremony to recognize Vancouver's Tree City USA achievements, presented the annual Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award (Mac Award) to dedicated community volunteer and teacher Toree Hiebert, and a community tree planting along Campus

Drive. The Mac Award honors longtime, dedicated volunteers who have contributed significantly to Vancouver's urban forest, planting and nurturing trees for the next generation. Mrs. Hiebert brought her horticulture students to the event and they planted 30 new trees and 120 pollinator shrubs.

- The Urban Forestry Commission held a Heritage Tree Hearing in October and designated eight new trees and/ or groves as Vancouver Heritage Trees.
- The Urban Forestry Commission honored longtime dedicated volunteer Susan Sanders with the Silva Bolds-Whitfield Urban Forestry Award, recognizing her many contributions to growing and protecting Vancouver's urban forest.



Susan Sanders being honored at the Silva Bolds-Whitfield Urban Forestry Plaza.

Accomplishments

Awards and Recognitions

Vancouver was named “Tree City USA” for the 34th year and received the prestigious Tree City USA Growth Award for the 23rd year

Five full-time staff achieved 100 percent arborist re-certification through the International Society of Arboriculture.

Four staff members hold Tree Risk Assessor Qualification and three hold Municipal Specialists certification through the International Society of Arboriculture.

Staff presented Vancouver’s Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan at a Pest Readiness workshop hosted by the Department of Natural Resources and Washington’s Invasive Species Council which was attended by tree care companies, municipalities, and non-profits. Vancouver’s Plan was one of the first within the Pacific Northwest and a model for other communities.



Accomplishments

Urban Forestry in the Headlines

- 'Vancouver seeks knowledge about trees,' The Columbian, January 14, 2023. The City of Vancouver is soliciting insight from the community about local trees to use toward the creation of its Urban Forestry Management Plan.
- 'City of Vancouver seeks community input on plan to enhance its urban forest,' KPTV-PDX, January 25, 2023. The City of Vancouver wants the community's engagement as it develops a plan to protect its trees.
- 'Vancouver looks to expand its tree canopy,' KATU, January 25, 2023. The City of Vancouver wants your help preserving and enhancing its urban forest.
- 'Vancouver to revise urban forestry plan as it aims for equity, climate goals,' The Columbian, January 27, 2023. As climate change impacts become more severe, notably through heat domes and islands, the need for equitably placed canopies is becoming more immediate.
- 'Naturespace volunteers celebrate Vancouver's literal roots,' The Columbian, February 4, 2023. Goal of city's pilot program is to restore understory's native ecosystem.
- 'Vancouver neighborhood dedicated sequoia to those lost to COVID,' The Columbian, March 4, 2023. Tree could grow to 290 feet tall, a 'testimony to the love and life that we've shared'.
- 'Vancouver on lookout for tree pest the emerald ash borer,' The Columbian, March 14, 2023. Beetle has devastated 'tens of millions' of ash trees across the U.S.
- 'Tree-of-heaven is an otherworldly invader in Northwest,' The Columbian, April 24, 2023. Contrary to its name, fast-growing species is a menace that's difficult to eradicate.
- 'Officials rethink Vancouver forestry plan,' The Columbian, May 10, 2023. Preservation, environmental justice get new focus.
- In Your Neighborhood, The Columbian, April 16, 2023. After months of planning, a group of local women planted a tree to honor the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II by participating in Vancouver's Witness Tree Program.
- 'Vancouver eyes climate-adaptive trees for future,' The Columbian, August 10, 2023. Increasing high temperatures threaten regional natives.
- 'Make your own apple cider,' Woman's Day Magazine, October 2023. Washington is the nation's top producer of apples, and at the Old Apple Tree Festival you can get a cutting from the state's oldest one.
- 'How well do you know the trees in your neighborhood?,' The Columbian, October 2023. Branch out your tree knowledge and learn how to identify Southwest Washington's most common species.
- 'Vancouver to use \$300K grant to employ youth to plant trees, fight climate change,' The Columbian, October 12, 2023. Vancouver to employ young people to tend to local trees as it

Accomplishments

Urban Forestry in the Headlines, cont.

- 'Vancouver to use \$300K grant to employ youth to plant trees, fight climate change,' The Columbian, October 12, 2023. Vancouver to employ young people to tend to local trees as it fights climate change.
- 'City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Commission presents prestigious Silva Bolds award,' The Columbian October 14, 2023. The Commission presented longtime volunteer Susan Sanders with the Silva Bolds-Whitfield Award.
- 'A fine balance: Vancouver juggles protecting trees, managing growth as population expands,' The Columbian, November 16, 2023. City officials strive to preserve the urban canopy.
- 'City of Vancouver on track in plan to be carbon neutral by 2040,' The Columbian, December 23, 2023. Vancouver approved its Climate Action Framework one year ago.



Accomplishments

Tree Plantings

- Utilized the 2021 Tree Canopy Report and GIS data to identify low canopy and under resourced communities to prioritize for tree plantings. In 2023, Urban Forestry planted 1,817 trees at over 40 sites throughout the Vancouver community to ensure equitable benefits of our urban forest. Following is a snapshot of tree plantings throughout the Vancouver community, in partnership with volunteers, contractors, partner programs and neighborhood associations.
- Partnered with 55 Neighborhoods and Friends of Trees to plant 735 street and yard trees at five large-scale neighborhood plantings (central north, central south, west, northeast and southeast).
- Planted 22 trees at Frontier Middle School with 7th grade science students; the new trees represent a variety of species, providing a unique ongoing educational opportunity for engaging both students and teachers.
- Planted nine trees at the Volunteer Grove in partnership with the Volunteer Program to recognize six dedicated volunteers that have given their time serving with the City of Vancouver.
- Planted 30 new trees and 170 pollinator plants along Campus Drive with Fort Vancouver High School Horticulture students and community volunteers as part of Arbor Day celebrations.
- Planted 23 trees at Washington Elementary school with community volunteers to provide shade and manage stormwater.
- Partnered with property owners along E 18th Street to plant 34 new street and yard trees along the busy corridor with students from Fort Vancouver High School.
- Partnered with Fourth Plain Forward to plant free street and yard trees to residential property owners, planting 24 new trees in Rose Village and Meadow Homes Neighborhoods.
- Planted 15 new trees at Summers Walk Park in partnership with Master Gardeners in training.
- Planted 11 new trees at the Safe Stay Village in Downtown Vancouver to increase shade and access to nature for the residents.
- Planted 15 new trees at Water Station 1 with community volunteers to increase stormwater mitigation and habitat.
- Planted 24 new trees at Overlook Park to increase shade and neighbors access to nature.
- Planted 25 new trees at the Firefighters Union property in Fruit Valley Neighborhood with staff from the City Managers Office as a team building event.
- Friends and family helped to plant and dedicate nine individual Witness Trees across Vancouver in honor of their respective loved ones and significant events.
- In the fall, 85 native and climate-adaptive trees were given away to residential property owners to plant in their yards to grow the urban forest and improve air and water quality, increase shade and provide habitat.

Accomplishments

Tree Plantings, cont.

- Throughout Vancouver, 17 new street and yard trees were planted through the Treefund Program, an opportunity to incentivize planting on private property through a dedicated fund. Property owners who qualify for the Utility e-billing program and purchase and plant an approved tree on their residential properties are eligible to apply for a refund toward a portion of the tree cost.
- Planted 136 new street trees as part of the new proactive street tree management project to address inequities in tree canopy while improving climate resilience.
- Worked with volunteers, contractors, and City staff to plant 180 trees at 13 sites throughout Vancouver, including planting 34 trees along the McGillivray corridor, 43 trees along the Mill Plain corridor, 30 trees along French Rd, 25 trees at Tetra Pak in Fruit Valley, 32 trees at stormwater facilities and 16 trees at miscellaneous sites throughout the city.
- Maintained positive relationships with multiple local contractors to ensure contractual obligations are being met on all urban forestry projects.



Accomplishments

Tree Maintenance and Monitoring

- Achieved 96 percent survival of newly-planted large caliper trees through the critical first summer. The region continues to endure unprecedented drought summers impacting trees.
- Maintained and monitored all 2018 through 2023 plantings to ensure survival rates.
- After five years of monitoring, the tree survival rate was 96 percent for 2018 planting projects, which was the survival rate for 2017 planting projects.
- Partnered with volunteers from 11 community groups, resulting in 160 donated hours on Urban Forestry tree maintenance and restoration projects.
- Pruned 731 young trees with staff, interns, AmeriCorps members and volunteers to improve structure, provide clearance, reduce storm damage and improve the health of trees as they mature.
- Urban Forestry continued partnership with Friends of Trees on the street tree pruning program in Vancouver. Volunteers are trained on proper pruning practices of young trees, then work in groups to prune trees in identified neighborhoods. In 2023, trained volunteers spent a total of 275 hours and pruned 149 trees.
- Urban Forestry continued the partnership with the Parks Department and Public Works' Operations department on the proactive park pruning program. This program has moved the City from reactively to proactively maintaining public trees to increase longevity, reduce hazards and emergency care and maximize the many benefits of this public asset.



Accomplishments

Education and Outreach

- Responded to more than 2,159 requests for service and completed more than 979 site visits for residents with 90 percent customer satisfaction.
- Worked with 907 adults and 233 youth volunteers, contributing a total of 3,667 hours at tree planting and restoration events.
- The Urban Forestry Commission volunteered a total of 710 hours to further Urban Forestry's mission.
- Hosted nine TreeTalk workshops on tree planting and pruning, tree walks, Heritage Tree tours, and Tree of Heaven workshops attended by 130 individuals devoting 250 hours to tree care education.
- Hosted 43 educational presentations or events throughout the community on proper tree care, tree benefits, and tree planting, reaching 873 people.
- Incorporating Community Based Social Marketing strategies into outreach and education programs to promote sustainable behavior change and increase public tree stewardship.
- Continued an outreach strategy to raise awareness of tree permit requirements and proper tree care. The strategy included ads in The Columbian and The Messenger, media releases, social media posts and articles in neighborhood newsletters.
- 14 community members completed the Neighborhood Tree Stewards educational program. Stewards received free education from professionals on tree-related topics with the goal to empower them to be liaisons to their communities. The series took a hybrid approach, with virtual presentations and in-person field days.
- Surveys at Tree Stewards workshops showed 43 percent of participants reported an increased awareness of the role trees have in improving our water quality the active steps they can take to improve watershed health.
- The AmeriCorps team coordinated an Earth Day volunteer event and community festival at Bagley Community Park.
- AmeriCorps members coordinated two tree-related educational activities at Downs Park as part of Fourth Plain Forward's Art in the Park series.
- Staff attended the annual Eastside National Night Out, attended by east Vancouver neighbors, to share information on tree planting and benefits of trees.
- Hosted the annual Heritage Tree Bike Ride and two Heritage Tree walking tours of the five-mile loop through downtown highlighting 12 trees and their historical and arboricultural significance.
- Partnered with Cascade Park Library to host a display at the library entrance highlighting the benefits of trees in our watersheds.
- Implemented a community outreach campaign to ensure robust feedback and engagement while developing the updated Urban Forestry Management Plan, including open houses, surveys, presentations, a Be Heard webpage, press releases and social media outreach.

Performance Measures

		Actual 2022	Goal 2023	Actual 2023
Out- come	THE PUBLIC IS INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP			
	Calls for assistance & information	2,302	Work Load	2,159
	Site inspections	1,067	Work Load	979
	Average response time (site inspections)	15 days	10 days	13 days
	Customer satisfaction as rated by program participants (new)	100%	75%	90%
	Presentations and educational events	29	25	43
	URBAN FORESTRY ADMINISTERS A VIABLE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM			
	Volunteers trained (unique)	12	10	14
	Volunteers participating (adults)	780	300	907
	Volunteers participating (youth)	216	200	233
Out- come	THE PUBLIC TREES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IS EFFECTIVE			
	Acres of total tree canopy based on latest GIS report	6,066	6,066	6,604
	Technical reviews of projects completed on time	837	200	651
	YOUNG TREE SURVIVAL IS IMPROVING			
	Trees monitored (all projects in 5-year cycle)	6,921	3,750	7,452
	Survival rate of new trees	96%	≥95%	96%
	Trees pruned to improve health	621	≥500	731
	Estimated acres of added canopy from monitored trees at maturity	112	60	121
	NEW TREES ARE ADDED TO THE EXISTING CANOPY			
	Restoration projects (contractor, volunteer, youth)	40	10	50
	Trees planted	1,323	750	1,817
	Tree seedlings and shrubs planted	100	500	170
	Other plants distributed or planted	551	500	0
	Native species composition of new plants	>50%	50%	>50%
	Estimated increase in tree canopy this year, in square feet	16,538	9,375	22,713
Out- come	URBAN FORESTRY IS A GOOD INVESTMENT			
	Value of grants, donations, sponsorships, and reductions	\$98,971	\$35,000	\$180,660
	Estimated value of benefits from newly planted trees over 40 -year period*	2.7 million	1.6 million	3.6 million
	Value of program per tree cost (planted and maintained for 5 yrs)	\$667	\$700	\$1,047**

*Based on data from Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting

**Due to one time costs of UFMP, new truck purchase and new programming

Benefits of Trees

Trees Working for Us

A healthy urban forest in Vancouver builds a strong sense of community and improves quality of life for all community members.

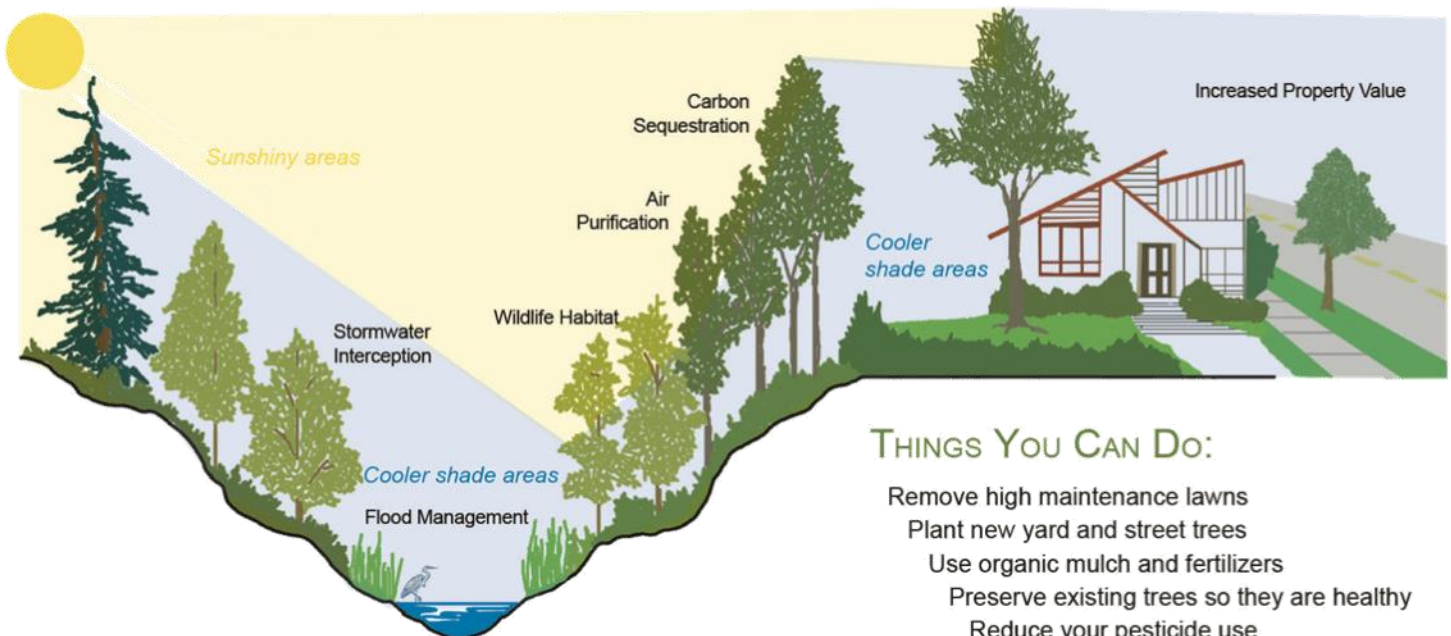
Urban trees can help the City manage stormwater as part of an integrated stormwater management plan to improve water quality, reduce pollutants and enhance wildlife habitat. Increased tree canopy aids in Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Endangered Species Act compliance.

Other benefits of urban trees include city beautification, downtown revitalization, increased civic pride, outdoor recreation opportunities, natural resource education, air quality improvement, energy conservation, shading and cooling and many other

environmental, social and economic benefits. Tree benefits can be optimized by reversing the trend of declining tree canopy within the city.

The 1,817 new trees planted in 2023 can be expected at maturity to intercept approximately 1,380,290 gallons of stormwater annually, equal to more than seven Marshall Center swimming pools, and absorb more than 18,170 lbs. of pollutants each year from the air we breathe.

Overall, these 1,817 new trees as they mature will provide greater than \$3 million worth of benefits, a 250 percent return on this wise investment.



Benefits of Trees

Did You Know These Facts About Trees...

The average tree absorbs 10 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.

Trees reduce the energy needed to heat and cool our homes by 15 to 35 percent nationwide.

The leaves of a mature tree intercept an average of 760 gallons of rainfall a year, reducing flooding, erosion and pollution from runoff.

A typical tree produces about 260 pounds of oxygen each year; two trees can supply a person's oxygen needs each year.

An average tree reduces greenhouse gases by absorbing 26 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

Trees contribute to neighborhood livability by reducing noise, heat and by calming traffic.

Trees improve habitat for endangered fish, migratory birds and other wildlife.

Trees stabilize soil, reduce erosion and mitigate flooding.

For every dollar spent on Vancouver's urban forest, \$2.50 in value is returned in benefits such as energy conservation, stormwater abatement and pollution reduction.

Unlike many other investments that depreciate, a tree's value increases with each passing year. Houses on tree-lined streets can sell for up to 20 percent higher than houses in like neighborhoods without trees.

Visit www.naturewithin.info for more information on the environmental, social, economic and human health benefits of trees.



Partners

Urban Forestry strongly values our relationships with our community partners. We value volunteers and partners to help us achieve our mission. Businesses and organizations improve the quality of life in Vancouver by becoming a partner and sponsoring a tree planting project and supporting a healthy urban forest.

Neighborhood Associations

Airport Green Neighborhood Association

Arnada Neighborhood Association

Bagley Downs Neighborhood Association

Bella Vista Neighborhood Association

Bennington Neighborhood Association

Burnt Bridge Creek Neighborhood Association

Burton Evergreen Neighborhood Association

Carter Park Neighborhood Association

Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association

Cascade SE Neighborhood Association

Central Park Neighborhood Association

Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association

Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association

Dubois Park Neighborhood Association

East Old Evergreen Neighborhood Association

Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association

Ellsworth Springs Neighborhood Association

Father Blanchet Park Neighborhood Association

Fircrest Neighborhood Association

First Place Neighborhood Association

Fisher's Creek Neighborhood Association

Fisher's Landing East Neighborhood Association

Forest Ridge Neighborhood Association

Fourth Plain Village Neighborhood Association

Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association

Green Meadows Neighborhood Association

Harney Heights Neighborhood Association

Hearthwood Neighborhood Association

Hough Neighborhood Association

Hudson's Bay Neighborhood Association

Image Neighborhood Association

Kevanna Park Neighborhood Association

Landover-Sharmel Neighborhood Association

Lewis and Clark Woods Neighborhood Association

Lincoln Neighborhood Association

Maplewood Neighborhood Association

Marrion Neighborhood Association

Meadow Homes Neighborhood Association

Mountainview Neighborhood Association

North Garrison Heights Neighborhood Association

North Image Neighborhood Association

Northcrest Neighborhood Association

Northwest Neighborhood Association

Northwood Neighborhood Association

Oakbrook Neighborhood Association

Ogden Neighborhood Association

Old Evergreen Highway Neighborhood Association

Parkway East Neighborhood Association

Partners

Urban Forestry strongly values our relationships with our community partners. We value volunteers and partners to help us achieve our mission. Businesses and organizations improve the quality of life in Vancouver by becoming a partner and sponsoring a tree planting project and supporting a healthy urban forest.

Neighborhood Associations, cont.

Riverridge Neighborhood Association
Rose Village Neighborhood Association
Shumway Neighborhood Association
Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association
VanMall Neighborhood Association
Village at Fishers Landing Neighborhood Association
Walnut Grove Neighborhood Association
West Minnehaha Neighborhood Association
Wildwood Neighborhood Association

Non-Profit and Community Organizations

Americans Building Community
Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Washington
Clark County Parks Foundation
Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center
ELSO, Inc
Fort Vancouver Lions Club
Fort Vancouver Historic Trust
Fourth Plain Forward
Friends of the Carpenter
Friends of Trees
International Society of Arboriculture
Latino Community Resource Group

Lower Columbia Nature Network
Master Gardner Foundation of Clark County
NAACP Vancouver Branch
National Arbor Day Foundation
Nature Play Designs
Pacific Education Institute
Parks Foundation of Clark County
SW WA LULAC Council 47013
The Confluence
The Corps Network
Urban Abundance
Vancouver Ridge Garden Club
Vancouver Dawn Lions Club
Vancouver Downtown Association
Vancouver Farmers Market
Washington Community Forestry Council
Watersheds Alliance of SW Washington

Faith-Based Organizations

First United Methodist Church
Saint Andrews Church
Mill Plain United Methodist Church
Unitarian Church

Public Agencies

Bonneville Power Administration
City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services

Partners

Urban Forestry strongly values our relationships with our community partners. We value volunteers and partners to help us achieve our mission. Businesses and organizations improve the quality of life in Vancouver by becoming a partner and sponsoring a tree planting project and supporting a healthy urban forest.

Public Agencies

City of Portland, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Urban Forestry Division

City of Vancouver, City Manager's Office

City of Vancouver, Community and Economic Development Department

City of Vancouver Fire Department

City of Vancouver Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance

City of Vancouver, Office of Neighborhoods

City of Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission

City of Vancouver Planning Commission

City of Vancouver, Public Works

City of Vancouver, Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

City of Vancouver, Water Resources Education Center

Clark College

Clark County Public Health

Clark Public Utilities

Clark/Vancouver Television (CVTV)

Evergreen School District

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District

National Parks Service

USDA Forest Service

Vancouver School District

Washington Department of Agriculture

Washington Department of Natural Resources, Urban & Community Forestry

Washington Department of Transportation

Washington Service Corps (AmeriCorps)

Washington State University

Washington State University Clark County Extension Service, Master Gardeners

Private Organizations/ Business

Arborscape LTD

Bartlett Tree Experts

J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co

Joe's Farm

KIND Snacks

Paper Tiger Coffee

Seize the Bagel

Shorty's Nursery—Dennis' 7 Dees

Starbucks Corporation

SOMA Kombucha

The Columbian

Tetra Pak

TreeWise, LLC

Urban Forestry Commission

Established for the purpose of preserving, managing, and increasing the City's urban forest thereby protecting a vital environmental, social and economic resource that benefits all residents and visitors, and for the purpose of assisting property owners and public agencies in improving and maintaining the urban forest in a manner consistent with adopted City policies. Seven members are appointed by City Council to four-year terms.

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. Sixth Street and virtually. For information, to submit comments, or attend, email urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us.

Current membership of the Commission

Melissa Johnston, Chair

Clif Barnes, Vice-Chair

Susan Law, past Chair

Jamie Beyer

Khanh Tran

Jeff Kessenich

Vacant





More Information

Webpage: www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry
Email: urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us

City of Vancouver | Public Works
PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995