

USDA Forest Service

URBAN FOREST CONNECTIONS

webinar series

Second Wednesdays | 1:00 – 2:15 pm ET

www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars



INTEGRATING EXPERTS, COMMUNITIES, AND ONLINE RESOURCES FOR EQUITABLY EXPANDING URBAN TREE CANOPY



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Integrating Experts, Communities, and Online Resources for Equitably Expanding Urban Tree Canopy



USFS Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series

January 11, 2017

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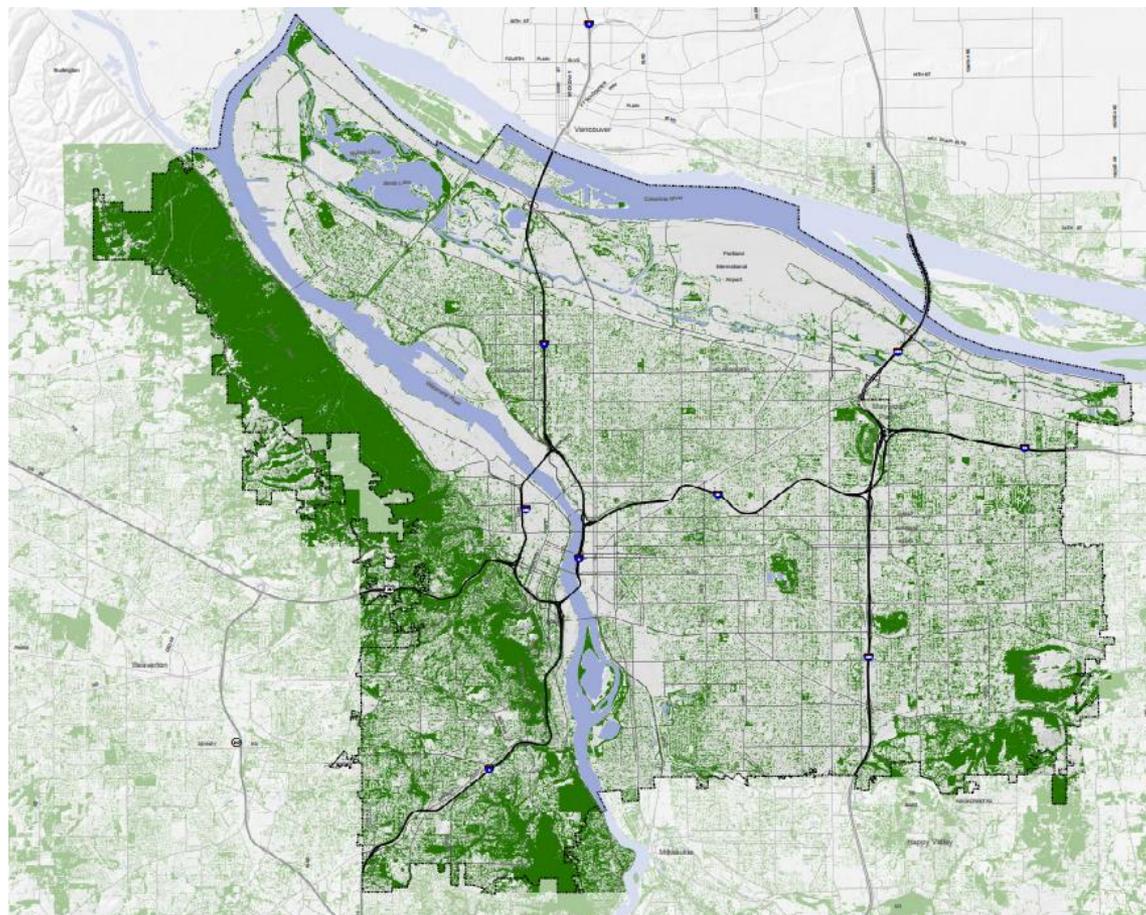
www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/treeinventory



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

www.PortlandParks.org



Portland, OR

- 530,000 residents
- 29% canopy
- Strong population growth
- Street trees maintained by adjacent property owner



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Starting with a Street Tree Inventory



Quantifying our resource

- Are we equitable?
- Are we resilient?
- Are we maximizing our urban forest's potential?



Inventory Method



- Organized by neighborhood groups
- Data collected by volunteers
 - species/type
 - size (DBH)
 - condition rating
 - location
 - planting site details
- Data accuracy >95%
 - Training, accuracy checks, volunteer arborists



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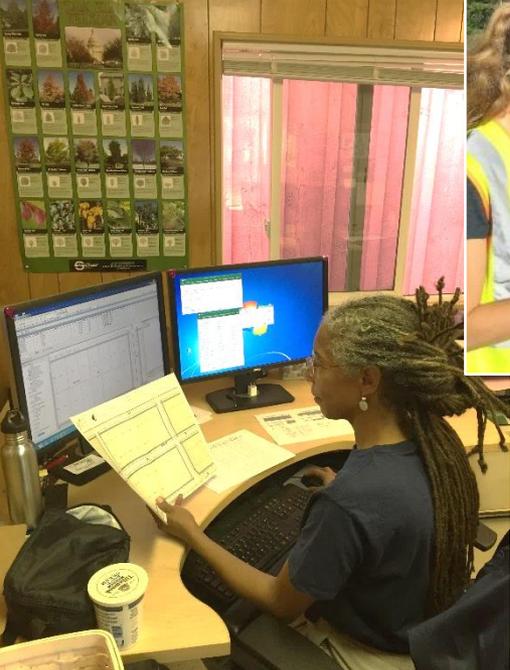


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Portland's Tree Inventory

220,000 trees inventoried from 2010-2016

1,400 volunteers

17,000 hours volunteered



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Products

- Engaged volunteers
- Neighborhood report, maps, data prepared by staff
- Neighborhood Tree Plans created by volunteers
- Ongoing partnerships between neighborhood groups and UF



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Mt. Tabor Tree Plan

VISION STATEMENT

Protect and enhance Mt. Tabor's trees and pursue opportunities to contribute to a resilient and diverse urban canopy.

GOALS

1. Assemble a committed team that works to enhance our neighborhood's canopy.
2. Foster an appreciation of a healthy and diverse urban canopy.
3. Increase our neighborhood canopy, both street and yard trees, to meet the Urban Forestry Management Plan's target of 47% canopy coverage for residential areas.

SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

1. Plant street trees in available spaces. Focus on planting the right tree in the right place. Focus first on planting large species trees.
2. Conduct a workshop where Mt. Tabor residents can learn about the right tree for their yard.
3. Replace dead or poor quality street trees.
4. Create a recommended list of street trees for Mt. Tabor.
5. Photo-document our progress to increase canopy cover, e.g. take before and after photos.
6. Identify potential Heritage Trees and increase the number in Mt. Tabor.
7. Hold a tree pruning workshop.

LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage a greater diversity of species to meet Urban Forestry's 5-10-20 goal.
2. Increase the overall percent of large species trees.
3. Provide resources for all residents so they see their role in protecting and increasing the canopy.



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Key Findings



- Inequitable distribution
- Overly reliant on *Acer* and *Prunus*
- Low diversity
- Few evergreens
- Few trees >24" DBH
- Many large sites planted with small trees
- Volunteers are worth the effort!



Community Stewardship



- >20 Tree Teams nurtured
- Ongoing event partnerships via “Workshop Menu”
- Seed money and resources for small projects



Policy Changes



- Planting lists updated early in the project
- Inventory to be migrated to asset management system
- Plan to re-inventory every ten years
- Data informs strategies and plans
- Resources allocated to low canopy and low income areas



Stewardship Challenges

- Maintaining long term momentum
- Developing trust and engaging underrepresented communities
- Addressing lack of resources for maintenance



Addressing Canopy Inequity

- Development of citywide planting strategy with PSU
- With abundant planting opportunities, how can we be strategic and use limited resources best?
- How can we involve affected communities?

