

City of Vancouver

URBAN FORESTRY

PROGRAM

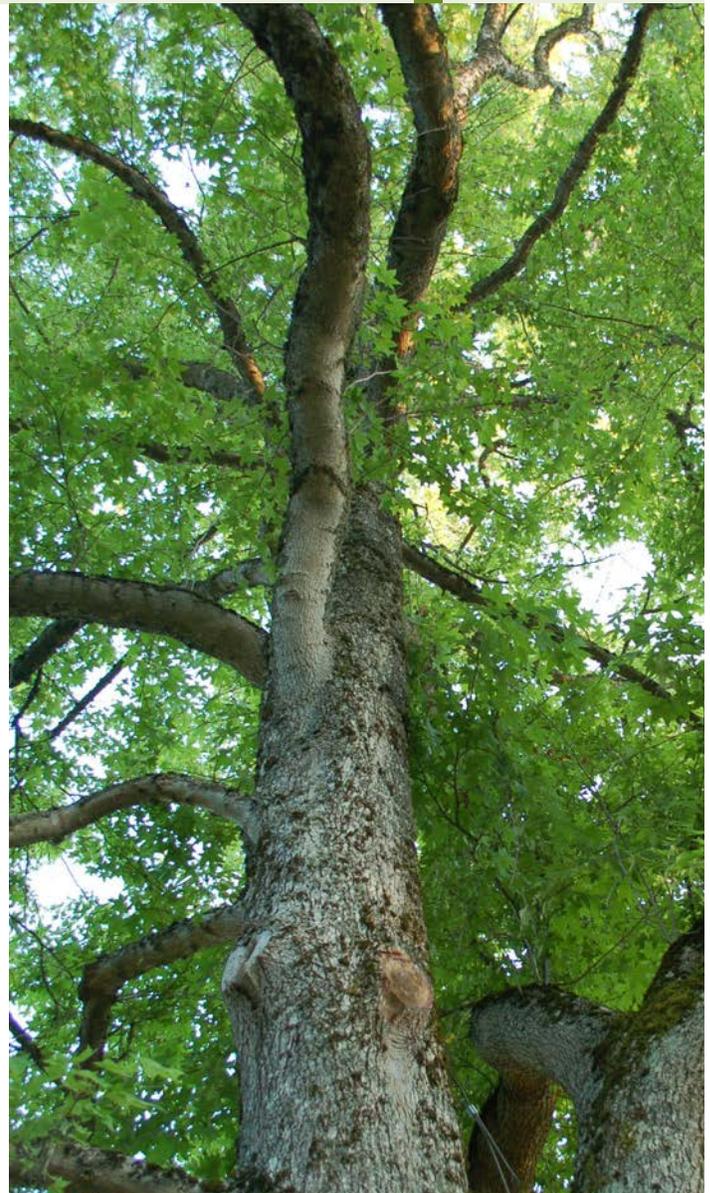


2011-2012
Work Plan

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. This 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 2011-2012.



*“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

CITY OF VANCOUVER URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM 2011–2012 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 **2011–2012 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 the City of Vancouver’s Operating Principles and establish Vancouver Urban Forestry as a leader in Pacific Northwest municipal forest management.



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. The Commission is charged with 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 with assisting property owners and public agencies to improve and maintain trees in a manner consistent with adopted city policies.

Six members are appointed by City Council to four year terms and one member is appointed as liaison by Vancouver-Clarks Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. The Commission meets third Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Esther Short Building, 610 Esther St.

COMMISSION

Jim Wasden, chair	Erika Johnson
Terry Toland, vice chair	Phil Kimery
Chris Buchheit	Vacant Position
Anne Friesz, VCPRAC liaison	

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Mayor: Timothy D. Leavitt

Council Members: Jeanne Harris, Jeanne E. Stewart, Larry J. Smith, Pat Campbell, Jack Burkman, Bart Hansen

City Manager: Eric Holmes

GOAL ONE

Preserve existing trees and institutionalize planning, maintenance and operating principles that improve canopy health.

Support the Community Development Department 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 Public Works and Community Development Department 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 and Public Works 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.

Support all Public Works divisions on priority projects and implementing reforestation projects to improve watershed health.

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's requirements.
- Refine protocols for reviewing and issuing permits for major pruning, removal, planting of street trees; and for the 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 every biennium; announce new Heritage Trees at 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.

Collaborate with the Old Apple Tree Research Team (OATRT) to evaluate progress and chart a course of action to repair the Old Apple Tree. The OATRT includes representatives from: Arborscape Tree Care; City of Vancouver, City of Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission, Collier Arbor Care, Joe's Farm, and the National Park Service.

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.



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.

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.naturewithin.info 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.

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.

Pro-actively 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 pro-actively 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 city staff and developers through training.
- 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 by nominating projects for the Community Pride Design Award or the Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award.

Encourage proper tree placement and pruning to reduce conflicts between trees and transportation corridors 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 Public Works and Parks Acquisition Programs.

Conduct a GIS-based canopy coverage study using the 2003 study as baseline, to respond to Surface Water Management's Department of Ecology identified environmental deficiencies and understand changes in the urban forest.

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 regularly repeat GIS canopy analysis; establish a five to ten year 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 types 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 to 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 unused 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.
- Ensure equitable geographic distribution of tree planting projects.

Encourage street tree planting.

- Coordinate with Friends of Trees to conduct volunteer neighborhood tree plantings in at least fifteen neighborhoods; encourage new neighborhoods to participate.
- Secure an AmeriCorps 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 trees and in medians as an effective traffic-calming technique.
- Partner with the Vancouver Downtown Association to revitalize downtown through street tree plantings.

Call Before You Cut!

Before removing any tree or pruning any street tree, call (360) 487-8328 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 sub-divided 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.





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. All residents are encouraged to help Urban Forestry reach this goal by caring for and planting trees.

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.

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

Encourage tree planting on private property; partner with property owners on project design, incentives and implementation.

Partner with Washington Department of Transportation to restore canopy along highways.

Assist NeighborWoods Stewards in coordination of canopy restoration projects.

Review development project proposals to maximize tree planting opportunities.

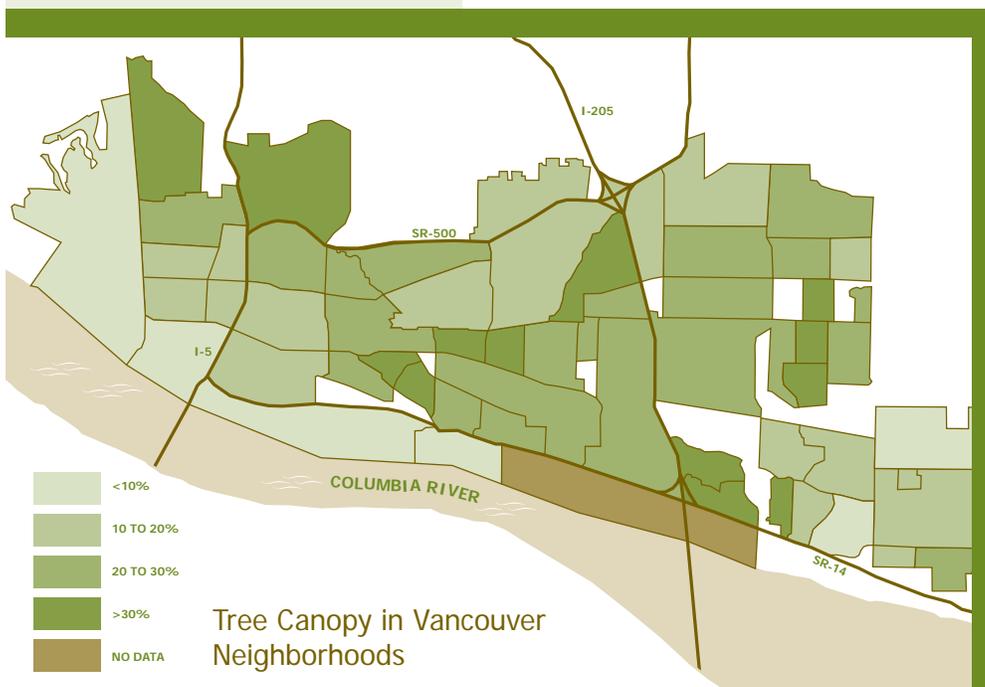
Promote stewardship of native plant communities on private and public property.

- 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 planting costs.



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.

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 (especially Operations and Surface Water Management)
- Civic, faith-based 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 10 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 e-mail list-serve 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.

- Continue to meet the community's needs by developing new workshops such as hazard tree identification (to alleviate the perception that healthy, large trees are dangerous) and residential landscape design to reflect our regions native landscape.

Celebrate trees on Arbor Day in April.

- Host an Arbor Day event involving youth and elected officials.
- Award the Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award(s) annually as part of Arbor Day to recognize individuals, organizations and business that have made a significant positive impact on the urban forest.
- 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 the Silva Bolds Whitfield Award.



Did you know?

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.



Get involved!

Volunteer opportunities:

- become a NeighborWoods Steward
- attend a Tree Talk workshop
- coordinate a neighborhood tree planting
- help plant trees throughout the community
- 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) 487-8308 to volunteer.

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 from 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 over 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.

Partner with Neighborhood Associations to enhance local urban forest management.

- Encourage every Neighborhood Association to incorporate urban forestry elements and planting projects into Neighborhood Action Plans; assist neighborhoods with implementation of these projects.
- Give presentations to at least twelve 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.
- Nominate neighborhood associations for the Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award 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 target 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 and community.

Partner with the Water Center to design and build a Nature Explorer Outdoor Classroom to re-connect visitors to the natural environment at the Water Center through an awarded grant from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.



Collaborate with the Water Center to secure grants to design and build an indoor “Benefits of Trees” interactive exhibit to provide an innovative visual and spatial educational experience for children and adults while raising the awareness of trees in order to produce behavior changes.

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

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

Collaborate with Washington Department of Natural Resources to continue the comprehensive and creative tree awareness campaign, Think Before You Top, to reduce topping, an improper tree care practice.

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 October, to increase awareness of the fact that ivy is killing otherwise-healthy mature trees throughout the city, inspire removal efforts and promote landscape alternatives.

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.

CITY LICENSED STREET TREE WORKER

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

The Economic Benefits of Trees

Consumer Behavior

Recent research by Dr. Kathy Wolf at the University of Washington suggests that trees in business districts can significantly impact consumer behavior. 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.naturewithin.info 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.



Replanting with natives

Removing invasive vegetation and restoring native plants reduce stormwater volume, filters stormwater pollutants and cools the air, pavement and our streams. Natives also need little or no fertilizer and less water to flourish.



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.

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 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 partnerships 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 Strategic Commitments.

Highlight program accomplishments in an 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” recognition 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.

URBAN FORESTRY’S ROLE IN SUSTAINABILITY

Improvements to the urban forest promote sustainability and can counteract local threats of poor air and water quality and the global threat of climate change.

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. To improve our water quality requires a watershed approach that looks not just at waterways, but the land and land uses that send polluted runoff to rivers and streams.

Here are 10 steps you can take to help improve our water quality:

1. Don’t overuse fertilizer and pesticides. Instead, use non-toxic alternatives.
2. Preserve established trees in your yard and neighborhood.
3. Plant street and yard trees, shrubs and groundcovers that filter pollutants and reduce stormwater runoff; remove turf and invasive plants.
4. Mulch landscape beds to prevent erosion and reduce irrigation water.
5. Don’t let sprinklers water sidewalks and streets.
6. Use non-toxic alternatives to home-cleaning chemicals.
7. Never dump used motor oil, paint or household chemicals on the ground or in a stormwater drain.
8. Sweep instead of hosing driveways and sidewalks.
9. Drive less, and use public transportation, carpool, bike or walk more.
10. Scoop pet poop, bag it and put it in the trash.



Did you know?

Vancouver’s tree canopy covers 19 percent of the city, helping to preserve watershed health and reduce runoff while improving the livability of our neighborhoods.



Did you know?

92 percent of Urban Forestry customers reported Urban Forestry staff was professional and provided quality information based on customer reply cards.

Friends of Trees

Friends of Trees is Urban Forestry's non-profit partner that assists in coordinating community tree plantings to build social networks with neighborhoods and the community.

To learn more about the Friends of Trees organization and how to coordinate a community planting in your neighborhood, please visit their website:

www.friendsoftrees.org

Witness Tree Program

Plant a tree in honor or memory of a special person or event through the Witness Tree program, which is both a memorial program and an adopt-a-tree program that provides a way to commemorate special occasions while also enhancing our urban forest.

CONCLUSION

The opportunities to reap the many 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
- Volunteer at a community 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 needs
- Never top a tree
- Share your tree knowledge with friends and family

Call Urban Forestry at (360) 487-8308 or visit www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry to learn more about how you can get involved.



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.

