Our Mission: *To foster an environment of economic growth and opportunity through effective partnerships with our citizens, businesses, and visitors while maintaining a high standard for quality of life in a progressive community which embraces its heritage.*

City of Oregon
Tree Board Agenda
Tuesday, September 16th, 2025 @ 4:30 pm.

115 N 3rd Street

City Hall Conference Room

Public Comment

1. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of July 15th, 2025

2. Review Forestry Plans: Planting, Maintenance, Tree Removal

3. Discuss and Approve 2026 Meeting Dates:
   - March 17th, 2026
   - May 19th, 2026
   - July 21st, 2026
   - September 15th, 2026

4. Adjournment

The City of Oregon, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities, who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in the meeting(s) or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting(s) or facilities, contact the City Manager Darin DeHaan at 815-732-6321 at least 24 hours before a scheduled meeting to allow the city to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

Chairperson: Mark Herman
Secretary:
Jordan Plock, Street Foreman
Bill Covell, Dir. Of Public Works (Ex-officio)

Tyler Hagemann
Grant Afflerbaugh
Caleb Jenks
Darin DeHaan, City Manager (Ex-officio)

Tree Board Minutes
Tuesday July 15th, 2025, 4:30 pm
115 N 3rd Street

City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Grant Afflerbaugh, Bill Covell, Darin DeHaan, Mark Herman, Cheryl Hilton, Caleb Jenks, Josh Pickering, and Jordan Plock.

Mark Herman called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

No public comment.

Mark Herman moved to approve May 20th, 2025 minutes, Seconded by Grant Afflerbaugh.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Update on Bird City: Caleb said a migratory bird day event was completed as part of the requirement to become a bird city. Caleb stated he can organize and provide supplies for the event next year. He asked the city to provide volunteers. Celeb and Terry Schuster are in the process of compiling information for the bird city application.

Urban Tree Management Plan: The committee discussed creating a tree management plan to help guide the city for future projects and planning. The committee discussed scaling down the plan provided by Morton Arboretum into a plan more suitable for a community of four thousand. The current plan is to replace trees in terraces when a tree stump is removed. Jordan stated sometimes terrace reconstruction and sidewalk repair are necessary after stump removal. They also discussed partnerships, public education, and tree inventory. Josh shared a potential tree management plan he has been working on. Josh's plan will be used as the starting point.

New Business: The committee talked about the Trees Forever grant. The city does not qualify for this grant but there are others the city could explore. Jordan said he contacted Hidden Timber Garden to get pricing for trees for the replacement program.

Mark Herman moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Jordan Plock.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Future meeting dates for 2025: City Hall Conference Room September 16th, 2025 at 4:30 pm.

Submitted by Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk

City of Oregon Community Tree Plan

Introduction

Trees are vital to the health, beauty, and resilience of our community. They provide essential ecosystem services including improved air and water quality, stormwater management, urban cooling, wildlife habitat, and enhanced mental and physical well-being. This Community Tree Plan establishes a clear vision for growing and managing the urban forest across the City of Oregon.

The plan supports the City's Tree Ordinance and serves as a practical guide for tree planting, care, preservation, and community engagement over the next decade and beyond.

Vision Statement

To develop and maintain a healthy, diverse, and sustainable urban forest that enhances the quality of life for all residents of the City of Oregon now and into the future.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Increase Tree Canopy Cover

Objective: Expand urban canopy from **22% to 30%** over the next **10 years**.

- Plant **20-30 new trees** annually on public property.
- Replace all trees removed due to age, disease, or safety concerns.
- Prioritize planting in neighborhoods with less than **20% canopy cover** or identified as heat islands.
- Partner with local organizations and schools to expand planting on private and institutional properties.

Goal 2: Improve Tree Health and Maintenance

- Conduct a comprehensive tree inventory and health assessment every **5 years**.
- Establish a **5–7 year** pruning cycle for all public trees.
- Train city maintenance staff and contractors in ANSI A300 best practices for tree care.
- Develop a Tree Risk Assessment Protocol (TRAQ) system for high-use public areas.

Goal 3: Protect Existing Trees

- Enforce protective measures during construction and development projects.
- Require tree protection plans for all new developments impacting existing canopy.
- Create incentives (e.g., permit fee waivers, recognition awards) for preserving mature trees on private land.
- Launch a **Heritage Tree Program** to recognize and protect historically or ecologically significant trees.

Goal 4: Community Engagement and Education

- Host an **Annual Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Giveaway**.
- Develop and distribute a **Homeowner Tree Care Guide** covering species selection, planting, pruning, and pest management.
- Launch an **Adopt-a-Tree** and **Sponsor-a-Tree** program to promote public involvement and fundraising.
- Coordinate **Volunteer Tree Planting Days** each spring and fall.

Tree Species Selection Guidelines

"**Right Tree, Right Place**" is the guiding principle for all planting decisions.

- Use a **diverse mix** of **native** and **climate-adapted nonnative** species to enhance biodiversity and resilience.
- Select species based on:
    - **Mature size** appropriate to the site
    - **Soil type**, **sunlight exposure**, and **drainage**
    - **Aesthetic appeal**, **fall color**, **flowering**, and **shade potential**
- Avoid all **invasive species** as defined by state or federal guidelines.
- Maintain no more than **10%** of any single species, **20%** of any genus, and **30%** of any family in the overall tree population (per ISA diversity guidelines).

Maintenance and Risk Management

- Develop a **Proactive Tree Maintenance Program**, including:
    - Routine pruning by certified arborists
    - Annual inspections for high-risk locations
- Implement a **Tree Risk Management Plan** to identify and mitigate hazardous trees.
- Monitor for **pests and diseases**, especially emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease, and oak wilt.
- Develop and test an **Emergency Response Plan** for major storm events and natural disasters impacting urban trees.

Funding and Resources

To ensure long-term success, the city will pursue multiple funding sources:

- **City Budget Allocations**: Dedicated urban forestry budget line.
- **State and Federal Grants**: Including the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program.
- **Nonprofit and Corporate Grants**: Partnerships with groups like Tree City USA, Arbor Day Foundation, and local green businesses.
- **Private Donations**: Individual and corporate contributions.
- **Tree Mitigation Fees**: Assessed on developers who remove trees without replanting.

Implementation and Evaluation

- Maintain a **Tree Board** to oversee implementation.
- Develop a **10-Year Implementation Plan** with milestones, mapped planting areas, and annual progress reports.
- Provide transparent updates via a **public dashboard** on the city's website.

Conclusion

With strategic action, sustained investment, and strong community involvement, the City of Oregon can cultivate a thriving, diverse, and resilient urban forest. This plan provides the roadmap to ensure trees continue to be a valuable community asset—now and for generations to come.

City of Oregon, IL – Proactive Tree Maintenance Program

Program Purpose

To preserve and enhance the health, safety, aesthetics, and longevity of the urban forest by implementing a structured, data-driven tree maintenance program that includes proactive pruning, regular inspections, risk mitigation, and community communication.

Guiding Principles

1. **Public Safety First** – Remove or mitigate hazardous trees that pose a risk to people or property.
2. **Preventative Maintenance** – Reduce costly reactive work by addressing tree needs early.
3. **Tree Health & Longevity** – Promote natural form, structural integrity, and long-term vitality.
4. **Cost Efficiency** – Lower emergency response costs through scheduled care.
5. **Equity & Transparency** – Ensure all neighborhoods benefit equally from maintenance efforts.

I. Annual Tree Inspections

Objective: Identify health, structural, and safety concerns before they become critical.

Frequency

- **Annual inspections** for high-use public areas.
- **Biennial inspections** for lower-use or residential areas.

Inspection Types

- **Level 1:** Visual walk-by assessment (all public trees annually).
- **Level 2:** Detailed inspection (trees showing signs of disease, decay, or structural weakness).
- **Level 3:** Advanced assessment (use of tools or climbing for high-value or high-risk trees).

Data Collection

- Tree species, size, age class
- Visible defects or pest/disease presence
- Location risk (e.g., near power lines, streets)
- Work priority (Low, Medium, High, Critical)

> **Tool Recommendation:** Use GIS-based inventory software to track data and generate work orders.

II. Structured Pruning Cycle

Objective: Promote healthy growth, improve safety, and reduce future maintenance needs.

Cycle Duration

- **Young Trees (0–10 yrs):** Every **3–5 years**
    - Focus: Structural pruning to develop strong form.
- **Mature Trees (10+ yrs):** Every **5–7 years**

    - Focus: Deadwood removal, clearance pruning, canopy thinning.

- **High-risk Areas (downtown, schools):** Every **3–5 years**
    - Focus: Clearance and risk mitigation.

Pruning Types

- **Structural Pruning:** For young trees to improve form.
- **Crown Cleaning:** Removing dead, diseased, or broken limbs.
- **Crown Raising:** For vehicle and pedestrian clearance (8 ft sidewalk, 14 ft street).
- **Crown Thinning:** Increase light and air flow to reduce wind resistance.
- **Restoration Pruning:** For damaged or previously topped trees.

Best Practices

- Follow **ANSI A300 Pruning Standards**.
- Avoid excessive pruning (never remove more than 25% of live canopy per year).
- Prune during dormant season (late fall to early spring) unless risk mitigation requires otherwise.

III. Emergency & Reactive Maintenance

Objective: Respond quickly to urgent tree risks while minimizing service delays.

Triggers

- Storm damage
- Sudden limb or tree failure
- Public safety complaints or hazards

Response Time Goals

- **Critical Risk:** Within 24 hours
- **High Risk:** Within 3–5 business days
- **Moderate Risk:** Within 30 days

IV. Pest & Disease Monitoring

- Monitor for invasive threats like:
    - **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**
    - **Dutch Elm Disease**
    - **Oak Wilt**
- Use trapping and sampling in high-risk zones.
- Remove and replace infested trees promptly with diverse species.
- Consider biological control and integrated pest management (IPM) strategies.

V. Risk Management

- Prioritize trees with:
    - Structural defects (cracks, decay)
    - Location hazards (near traffic, utilities, or playgrounds)
- Tag and assess high-risk trees in inventory software.
- Use **ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)** certified staff for evaluations.

VI. Staff Training & Equipment

- Train all urban forestry staff and contractors in:
    - ANSI A300 and Z133 safety standards
    - Proper climbing, rigging, and chainsaw use
    - Tree biology and identification
- Maintain proper equipment:
    - Bucket trucks
    - Chainsaws and pole pruners
    - PPE and safety gear
    - Inspection tools (resistance drills, binoculars)

VII. Reporting & Public Communication

- **Annual Maintenance Report**:
    - Number of trees inspected and pruned
    - Identified risks and removals
    - Pest/disease outbreaks
    - Budget overview
- Provide updates via:
    - City website (tree maintenance dashboard)
    - Quarterly newsletter

    - Community meetings

VIII. Budget & Funding Sources

- Allocate a consistent **annual urban forestry budget line**.
- Supplement with:
    - **State grants** (e.g., Illinois Urban Forestry Grants)
    - **Federal programs** (e.g., USDA Urban & Community Forestry)
    - **Development mitigation fees**
    - **Volunteer partnerships**

Implementation Timeline

Year	Action Item	Target Completion
1	Complete citywide tree inventory	Q4
1–2	Begin pruning rotation by zones	Q2 each year
1–10	Complete 5–7 year pruning cycle across city	Ongoing
Ongoing	Annual inspections + emergency response	Every spring/fall
Ongoing	Monitor for pest and disease outbreaks	Monthly (seasonal)

Recommendations for Tree Removal

The City of Oregon recognizes the benefits of trees and will cautiously analyze a tree's condition before recommending a removal. A certified arborist may be consulted **if City Staff feels it necessary for the proper assessment of a tree.**

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1. Hazardous Condition / Safety Risk

- **Dead or dying tree**: The tree is dead or in irreversible decline and poses a fall hazard.
- **Structural instability**: Cracks, splits, or large cavities compromise trunk or limb integrity.
- **Root failure**: Evidence of root plate movement, heaving soil, or root decay undermines stability.
- **Storm damage**: Major limbs or trunk damaged beyond repair from wind, lightning, or ice.

Note: Trees deemed an "immediate hazard" should be prioritized for removal.

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2. Pest or Disease Infestation

- **Severe pest infestation** (e.g., Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorned Beetle).
- **Incurable disease** (e.g., Dutch Elm Disease, Oak Wilt, Verticillium Wilt).
- Infestation or disease is widespread and the tree is in terminal decline.
- Risk of spreading to other healthy trees in the area.

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3. Interference with Infrastructure or Utilities

- Roots causing damage to sidewalks, foundations, or underground utilities.

- Branches interfere with power lines and cannot be managed with pruning.
- Obstruction to visibility at intersections or traffic signage.
- Conflicts with planned infrastructure development that cannot be mitigated.

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4. Poor Structure or Form

- Multiple weak branch unions or codominant stems with included bark.
- Unrecoverable topping or past poor pruning practices that led to decay or poor growth.
- Leaning severely toward structures, traffic areas, or pedestrian zones.

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5. Invasive or Unsuitable Species

- Identified as an **invasive species** under state or federal guidelines (e.g., Tree-of-Heaven).
- Tree species are poorly suited to the site (e.g., shallow roots, brittle wood, or short lifespan).
- Poor aesthetics or excessive maintenance burden.

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6. Construction or Development Impacts

- Tree is within the construction footprint and preservation is not feasible.
- Excavation will damage more than 30% of the root zone.
- Grade changes, soil compaction, or drainage alterations will threaten tree survival.

Staff should assess tree viability using pre-construction evaluation criteria.

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7. Overcrowding or Declining Forest Health

- Tree is suppressing or crowding out more valuable or healthy trees in the stand.
- Removal improves air flow, light access, or reduces risk of competition-related decline.
- Tree is part of a thinning or forest health improvement plan.

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8. Cost-Benefit and Long-Term Viability

- Tree requires repeated costly maintenance due to poor health or location.
- Tree is not expected to recover or thrive despite interventions.
- Risk and maintenance costs outweigh the benefits provided.

Documentation & Best Practices

Before removal, a certified arborist should:

- Conduct a formal inspection of the tree.
- Document the tree's condition with:
    - Species
    - Size (DBH, height)
    - Location
    - Photographs
    - Observed defects or disease
- Provide a written **Tree Removal Recommendation Report** for municipal records.

Calendar for Year 2026 (United States)

January

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