

2023 TREE REPORT



TREE CITY USA

*48 Years of Planting Trees
Charter Member
17 Growth Awards*

The City's Community Forest is managed cooperatively by the Community Services Department (Urban Forestry Division, Parks Planning), Public Works Department (Stormwater Quality, Natural Resources Planning, Climate Action Planning), and Community Planning and Development Department (Planning, Development Services). The information provided in this report encompasses work accomplished across multiple departments and work groups. It does not represent all tree related work completed in 2023, rather focuses on highlights and major accomplishments.

New Trees Webpages

www.cityofsalem.net/community/natural-environment-climate/trees-and-plants



City of Salem Tree Crew



Emerald Ash Borer



Purple prism traps for Emerald Ash Borer

INFORM

A variety of inventories, assessments, and plans INFORM our understanding of the distribution of trees in our city, identify areas with low canopy and high planting potential, and help protect and expand our community forest while responding to ongoing and emerging threats and challenges.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

◆ **City Street Tree Inventory** – Maintained by the Urban Forestry Division, this inventory documents the location, species, size, and condition of City-owned street trees. Since 2018 the Urban Forestry Division has had boots on the ground surveying and adding trees to the inventory. Approximately 90% of trees located in designated planting strips between the sidewalk and the curb have been inventoried. In 2023, we also increased efforts for inventorying trees in developed parks.

Total number of City Trees Documented

(as of December 31, 2023)

35,381

- ◆ 28,765 Right-of-way (aka. street trees)
- ◆ 6,126 Developed Park
- ◆ Total number of suitable planting spaces identified = 5,538
- ◆ Trees added in 2023 = 4,882 (includes existing trees and new trees planted)

◆ In September 2023 the City was notified of a \$1,000,000 grant award from USDA Forest Service. Beginning in 2024 these funds will be used to enhance tree canopy in Salem’s disadvantaged communities.

◆ **Stream Shade Assessment** - PlanIT Geo modeled 2018 streamside shade, identified areas where additional trees can be planted to improve streamside shade, and measured the change of streamside canopy between 2009 and 2018. Results will help guide landowner outreach to promote resources for increasing native vegetation and shade along streams.

◆ **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Planning** – The first detection of EAB on the west coast occurred in June 2022, in Forest Grove, Oregon, less than 50 miles from Salem by vehicle. Throughout 2023, a significant amount of focus was placed on understanding associated risks, evaluating treatment and response options, and drafting a readiness and response plan.

◆ **1st Season of EAB Monitoring** – In 2023 staff established twelve monitoring locations in ash tree stands around Salem and Geren Island. In cooperation with ODF and ODA, we installed purple prism traps at each location in May, checked them in June, and removed and checked them again in September. Ash trees at each location were also inspected each time. No EAB were detected in any of Salem’s traps or trees in 2023.



Friends of Trees-Eagles View Park



Willamette University Planting Event 2023



Willamette Slough Riparian Tree Planting



AAUW tree planting at Stephens Yoshikai Park

INSPIRE

One of the primary goals of Salem’s Community Forestry Strategic Plan is to raise awareness and support for long-term care, planting, and protection of Salem’s trees. One of the best ways to INSPIRE support for the urban forest is through volunteer tree planting and care events and educational opportunities.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Arbor Month Activities:

- ◆ Arbor Month Proclamation – declaring the month of April as Arbor Month (Mar 13)
- ◆ April Clean Streams e-Newsletter, Stream Currents, highlighted Arbor Month with topics covering: Arbor Month, City of Salem Arbor Month Events, Tree City USA, Friends of Trees planting events, Free Tree Program
- ◆ Two Clean Streams Arbor Month Facebook posts: April 2 City Arbor Month Events, April 12 Tree City USA
- ◆ Urban Forestry “Tree Talks” at North Salem High School
- ◆ Volunteer Events all month long, including:
 - 25 trees planted on University St, Oak St & Leslie St (Willamette University)
 - 40 trees planted at Stephens-Yoshikai Park (Friends of Trees)
 - 6 trees planted at Fairmount Park
 - 30 trees planted at Stephens-Yoshikai Park (American Association of University Women)
 - 13 trees planted at Englewood Park with Northeast Neighbors
 - 20 trees planted at Richmond School Park (Richmond Elementary School)
 - 1 Oregon white oak planted with Chemeketa DAR in Bush Park

Mailers:

- ◆ Free Trees for Streams Program Spring 2023 (1,907 Recipients)
- ◆ Annual Streamside Guide, including information about SRC 808, Emerald Ash Borer, and co-existing with beaver (1,865 Recipients)
- ◆ Free Trees for Streams Program Fall 2023 (2,233 Recipients)
- ◆ Utility Bill insert about City-tree protections (SRC 86)

Events:

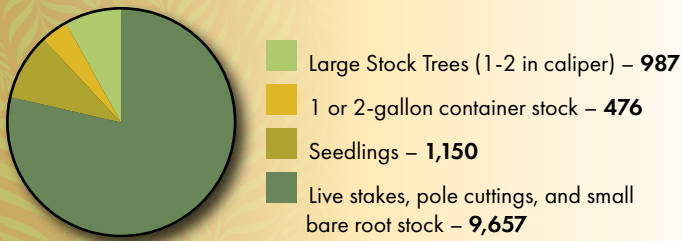
- ◆ Annual Urban Streams Stewardship Symposium included information about native trees, Emerald Ash Borer, and importance of trees for stream health and water quality.
- ◆ City Arborists attended the Englewood Forest Festival to provide info about City trees and Emerald Ash Borer.
- ◆ Urban Forestry staff demonstration on use of stump grinder, tree lift truck, and tree climbing setup at Salem Service Day.

GROW

Tree plantings across the city really add up! In 2023, 12,270 trees were planted by City programs and partners.

TREES PLANTED BY NURSERY STOCK

The trees we plant come in many different sizes, depending on the project, budget, and site needs. Seedlings, bare root stock, live stakes and pole cuttings are primarily used in natural area restoration projects, whereas larger nursery stock are typically used in developed parks and along streets.



TREES PLANTED BY LOCATION

City staff, contractors, and volunteers plant trees in parks, along streets, in the riparian areas of streams, in natural areas, and even on residential properties. The City currently has two tree give-away programs for residential properties: the Free Trees for Streams program which offers native trees to landowners to plant along their stream banks, and the Pilot Yard Tree program which offers large stock trees to residents of select low canopy neighborhoods.



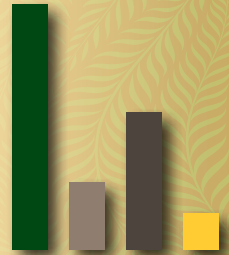
Tree Planting Contractors

- ◆ **Friends of Trees** –Volunteer Planting in Parks, Residential Neighborhoods, and Riparian Areas
- ◆ **Treecology** – Tree Planting and Establishment along Roads and in Parks
- ◆ **Ash Creek Forest Management** – Restoration Contractor for Natural Areas and Streamsides
- ◆ **Integrated Resource Management** – Restoration Contractor for Natural Areas and Streamsides

CARE

Salem Community Services Department’s Urban Forestry Division is the primary manager of City-owned trees located along streets, in City parks, and on other City-owned properties.

- City Trees Pruned = 2,065
- City Trees Removed = 345
- City Trees Watered = 1,404 (on average, each tree was watered 11 times)
- City Trees Treated for Aphids/Pests = 180



◆ ISA Certified Arborists on Staff

- Milan Davis
- Tom Bradley
- Don Gunther
- Kyle Fowler
- Nolan Rogers
- Kevin Pack

- ◆ **New Equipment Purchase:** Teupen Track Lift that can reach 75 feet high and fit through 36-inch-wide fence, great for parks and working in difficult to reach areas.



City Tree Fund

- ◆ Balance as of December 31, 2023 = \$584,595

2023 Tree Fund Revenue

- Tree code violations = \$148,379
- Interest = \$18,279
- Donations = \$550

