

CITY OF SALEM 2025 SUMMARY OF TREE PROJECTS
March, 2026

2025 TREE REPORT



TREE CITY USA

49 Years of Planting Trees
Charter Member
19 Growth Awards

Scan to learn about
Salem's Urban Forest



CITY OF *Salem*
AT YOUR SERVICE



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.

2025 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 been surveying and adding trees to the inventory. Bolstered by six grant-funded Urban Forestry Interns in 2025, over 17,000 trees along rights-of-ways and in parks were added to the inventory.

Total number of City Trees Documented (as of December 31, 2025)

49,836

- ◆ 32,444 Right-of-way (aka. street trees)
- ◆ 15,396 Developed Park
- ◆ Total number of suitable planting spaces identified = 5,521
- ◆ Trees added in 2025 = 17,662 (includes existing trees and new trees planted)

- ◆ **Preparing for 50th Tree City USA Award** – In 1976, the Arbor Day Foundation partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters to launch Tree City USA. The goal was to recognize communities dedicated to their community forests. That first year, 42 communities across 16 states joined the program, including the City of Salem, making Salem the oldest Tree City USA in Oregon. Our commitment to urban forestry is also reflected in our 19 Tree City USA Growth Awards, which recognize our efforts in going above and beyond minimum requirements to reach Tree City USA standards. Staff spent 2025 preparing for the 50th anniversary of Tree City USA which will officially kick-off in April 2026.
- ◆ **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Planning** - Emerald ash borer is the most destructive forest pest in the history of North America, and it was first detected in Oregon in 2022. Since then, Salem has been taking numerous steps to prepare and plan for emerald ash borer being found in our community. These steps include inventorying ash trees along rights-of-way and parks, drafting an Emerald Ash Borer Readiness and Response Plan, and starting management for ash trees including removing ash trees in poor health and injecting insecticide into trees deemed good candidates for protection.
- ◆ **Urban Forestry Internship Program** – After receiving funding from the U.S. Forest Service, Salem’s Urban Forestry department launched a three-year internship program. We hired six interns with the goal of increasing the urban tree canopy and providing career development opportunities. Interns have been supporting the Urban Forestry Department through tree planting, tree watering, tree inventorying, tree removal, structural pruning, and leading volunteer planting events.





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, care events, and educational opportunities.

2025 Highlights

Arbor Month Activities:

- ◆ Arbor Month Proclamation – declaring the month of April as Arbor Month (April 25)
- ◆ Clean Streams e-Newsletters
 - January - Friends of Trees planting
 - April – Arbor Month, Tree information, Friends of Trees events, and native plants
 - October – Free Tree Program (for streamside residents only)
- ◆ Salem Connection Newsletter about Arbor Month
- ◆ Salem Web News Story about Arbor Month
- ◆ Clean Streams Arbor Month Facebook Post January 21 for Friends of Trees events and April 9 for Arbor Month
- ◆ Urban Forestry “Tree Talks” at North Salem High School
- ◆ Volunteer Events all month long, including:
 - 25 trees planted at Stephens Yoshikai Park
 - 50 trees planted at Minto-Brown Island Park
 - 50 trees planted at Minto-Brown Island Park Dog Park (Jane Goodall Middle School)

Mailers:

- ◆ Doorhangers sent with every tree removal, pruning, planting, and stump grinding within the right-of-way
- ◆ Annual Streamside Guide
- ◆ Free Trees for Streams – mailer sent to 1,882 streamside residents, email sent to 460 streamside residents in September 2025.

Events:

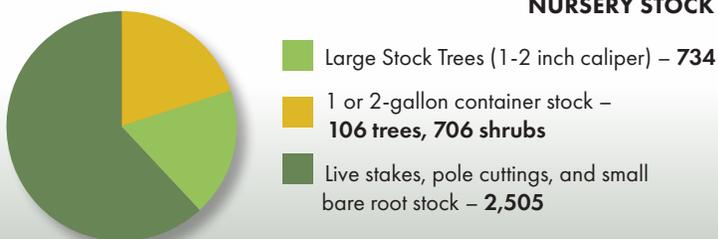
- ◆ Two riparian planting events occurred with Friends of Trees
 - March 22, 2025, at McKay Park
 - November 22, 2025, at McKay Park
- ◆ Natural Resources Planning staff provided information about Emerald Ash Borer at large events in Salem at World Beat, Englewood Forest Festival, and Pride in the Park.
- ◆ City arborists attended Englewood Forest Festival to present information about Emerald Ash Borer and lead tree walks through the park.

GROW

Plantings across the city really add up! In 2025, 4,105 trees and shrubs 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 is typically used in developed parks and along streets.



Trees Planted by Location

City staff, contractors, and volunteers plant trees in parks, along streets, in 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.

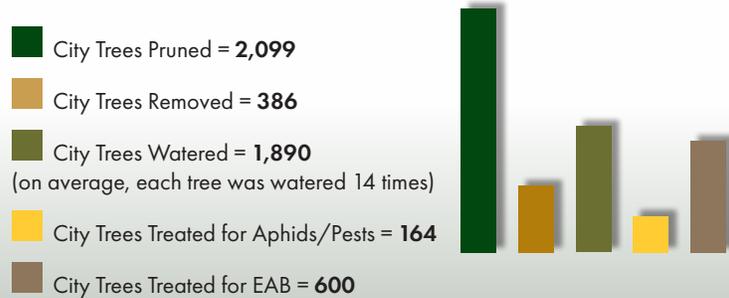


Tree Planting Contractors

- ◆ Friends of Trees – volunteer planting in parks and riparian areas
- ◆ Mountain View Tree Service – tree removal and pruning
- ◆ 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.



ISA Certified Arborists and Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide Certified Applicators on Staff

- ◆ **Milan Davis**
Board Certified Master Arborist
- ◆ **Tom Bradley**
Certified Arborist with Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, Oregon Department of Agriculture License Pesticide Applicator
- ◆ **Don Gunther**
Certified Arborist with Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, Oregon Department of Agriculture License Pesticide Applicator
- ◆ **Kyle Fowler**
Certified Arborist, Oregon Department of Agriculture License Pesticide Applicator
- ◆ **Nolan Rogers**
Certified Arborist, Oregon Department of Agriculture License Pesticide Applicator
- ◆ **Kevin Pack**
Certified Arborist, Oregon Department of Agriculture License Pesticide Applicator

City Tree Fund

 Balance as of December 31, 2025
\$145,353.78

