

SPRAB

Urban Forestry Division

Monthly Report

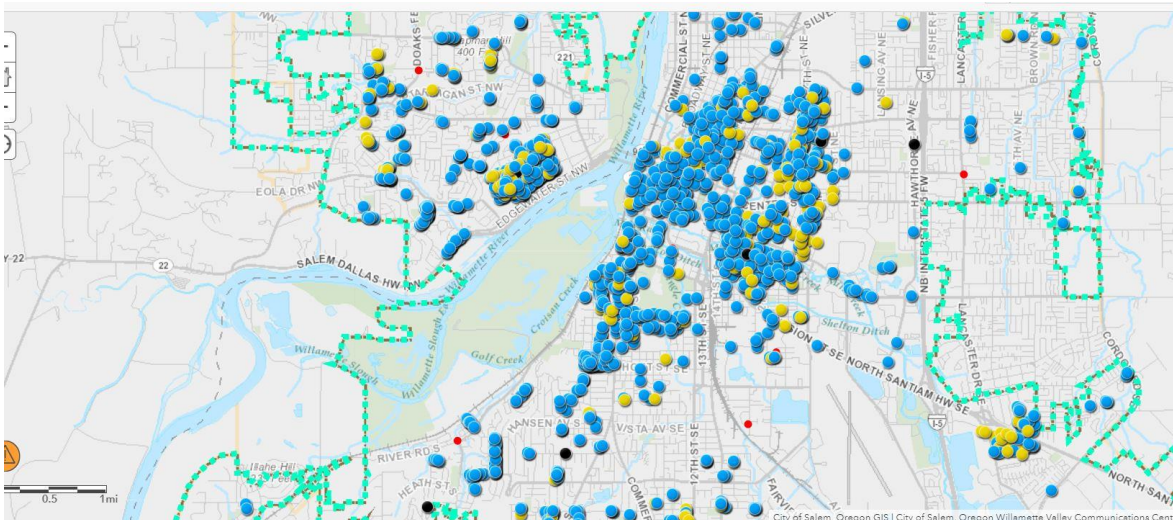
October 1st, 2020

The Urban Forestry Division is pleased to present the SPRAB with our monthly report for October of 2020. It was a very difficult period for the Division, working during a pandemic and then to be tasked with being an emergency response crew during the wildfires for trees down citywide. There have been multiple strong wind events during September that we responded to as well as being on call in case we were needed to provide assistance. We were informed on 9/9 that our assistance may be needed to protect Geron Island had the fires gotten close enough, we were briefed on the situation multiple times, and were ultimately never required to respond due to the proximity of the fire. We were asked by the Salem FD to assist with raising heights in multiple Salem Parks where there was concern that grass fires could engulf stands of trees adjacent to residential neighborhoods. Much of this work was done prior to and after the dangerous air quality periods. A lot of our normal operations ground to a halt during the bad air quality event and we focused on planning, safety and training during the days we had together indoors. For more than a week we only responded to tree emergencies that were blocking roadways or influenced Salem residents property and safety directly.

From 9/1/20 thru 9/30/20 the Urban Forestry Division received 115 service requests through the Public Works Dispatch Center. Due to the wildfire event, we were not able to conduct inspections in the field for over 10 days, for that reason there are currently over 60 requests that have not yet been inspected. The high wind event on 9/8 generated over 15 requests and multiple emergency calls resulting in over 20 work orders including multiple large trees falling. Since August the tree crew has been detailing two staff for standby time over the weekends to cover the high volume of tree calls for limbs/trees blocking the right of way. Currently the tree crew has three tree trimmers, one maintenance operator and one seasonal doing tree related pruning and removal work.

We are actively working on the street tree inventory and currently have one seasonal employee spending his time updating the database. I am working closely with the PW GIS Analyst to determine how and what we are tracking as well as working with the City GIS Analyst and IT Team to work out the kinks in the new IPS City Asset Management System. Currently we are working on connecting work orders and City service requests directly to data points on the maps that represent the trees we own. When we connect a work order or service request to a tree point, we are able to archive that information in the city IPS system and have a working history of all the work orders. That is why it is important for us to continue to strive towards a complete right-of-way tree inventory. I am going to share a few screen shots from our Inventory so you can have a better idea of what this may look like.

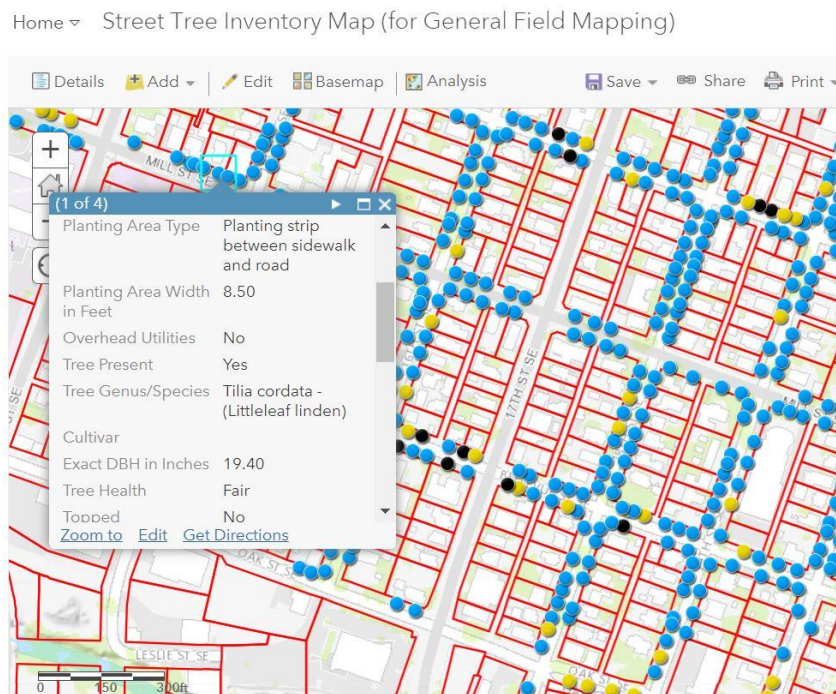
We have inventoried approximately 14,000 tree locations. By our estimation when we have a complete inventory of street trees, (trees between the curb and sidewalk in most cases) we will have anywhere from 40,000-80,000 trees. A big differential in the estimation, another reason it will be good to know how many trees we have so we know how much money and resources we will need to manage them.



This image is a screenshot overview of tree points on the ESRI Salem Maps Online of the 14,000 locations.



This is a screenshot zoomed in to see the actual points on the map. A blue dot is an existing tree, yellow represents an open location for a future tree and the black represents a stump.



This screenshot shows the drop-down menu for each data tree point when selected. This information is collected in the field using Arc-GIS Collector app on city iPhones or iPads. Arborists or parks employees will observe each tree to determine the genus and species, measure the dbh of tree, determine the size of the planting strip, inspect the health of the tree and multiple other aspects that we are collecting. If there is a space that is available for planting we will determine the space available and suggest a future species in the notes section of the data collection.

Other report related information for the month of September:

- The Gatti's settled out of court for the topping of trees, and will be paying a heavy fine for the damage done to city trees on Superior, Washington and Liberty St SE
- We will be planting more trees by almost double the amount in previous years in 2021, numbers coming in next report
- Jacob Downer, Tree Trimmer for the City is taking the ISA Certified Arborist Exam in October. Good Luck Jacob!
- We are working again with the Salem FD in October to do another Aerial rescue Training Workshop

Thank you, Milan