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COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMISSION

Zoom Video Conferencing
Public Webinar ID: 878 5299 4490
Passcode: 912640
Click Link:

January 12, 2022
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Community Auditorium 1915 Main St.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87852994490?pwd=cDYwcVlyNjNNWXNOZDdoMHZPeTVvUT09>
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During the pandemic, all public meetings are held in a “hybrid” format allowing the public to attend meetings both virtual and in-person. The Community Auditorium is open and has limited availability and social distancing measures. The public can observe the meetings **LIVE** on **Zoom Webinar** or on television on Tualatin Valley Community Television (TVCTV) Government Access Programming or **LIVE** on their website: <http://tvctv.org/>. Written comments may be submitted by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to: driordan@forestgrove-or.gov.

Michael Howell, Vice Chair
Bruce Countryman
Jeremy Sapp
Jen Warren

Mark Nakajima, Chair
David Hunter
Vacant

Kristy Kottkey, Council Liaison
Vacant, Student Advisor
Dan Riordan, Staff Liaison

All public meetings are open to the public and all persons are permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided by ORS 192. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Forest Grove will make reasonable accommodations for participation in the meeting. Request for assistance can be made by contacting City Recorder's Office, aruggles@forestgrove-or.gov, 503-992-3235, at least 48-hours advance notice of the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: This is a time provided for anyone wishing to speak on an item not on the agenda or on the agenda, and not scheduled for a public hearing. Testimony is electronically recorded. Written comments may be submitted by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to: driordan@forestgrove-or.gov.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**:
 - a) Approve Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2021
4. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**: Sesquicentennial Participation
5. **DISCUSSION/DECISION/PRESENTATION ITEMS**:
 - a) Elect Officers for 2022
 - b) Adopt Calendar Year 2022 Meeting Calendar
 - c) Tree City USA and Tree Growth Award Applications Submitted
 - d) Downtown Street Trees Replanted
 - e) ODF Tree Plotter Inventory Project – City Participation?
6. **COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**:
7. **COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS**:
8. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**: TBD
9. **ADJOURNMENT**



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**CFC Meeting Minutes November 10, 2021
Zoom Community Auditorium**

1. **Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Nakajima at 5:34 p.m. noting a quorum was present

Present: Mark Nakajima, Michael Howell, Bruce Countryman, David Hunter, Jen Warren, Councilor Kristy Kottkey

Absent: Jeremy Sapp

Staff Present: Dan Riordan

Guest Present: TVCTV

- 1.A. **Approval of Minutes:**

The Commission unanimously approved the October 13, 2021, meeting minutes

2. **CFC Discussion:**

- a) **Tree City USA/Growth Award Applications and 2022 CFC Work Plan:** The Commission discussed ideas for projects during calendar year 2022. Ideas included an in-person Arbor Day celebration that could include planting trees at Thatcher Park or oak trees at Thatcher Woods. Other locations suggested included Rueter Farm Park or Forest Glen Park outside of the area used for sledding. Another suggestion was planting a tree to honor City Councilor, Ron Thompson, who was the Council Liaison to the Commission. Councilor Thompson passed away just before the pandemic. Bruce suggested creating a tree inventory using GIS building on the 2011 street tree inventory and Register Tree database. The data could be added the state tree database. Other project ideas that were suggested included preparing policies for tree planting on small lots in subdivisions, a policy to help property owners interested in pre-emptively removing trees that could damage sidewalks, or a policy related to trees resistant to disease.
- b) **City Sesquicentennial Celebration CFC Participation:** The Commission discussed ideas for Commission participation during the City's sesquicentennial in 2022. The Commission reached consensus to highlight the Giant sequoia at the corner of Pacific Avenue and B Street. David noted the tree is a Gold Rush era tree.

3. **Council Liaison Report:** Councilor Kottkey asked the Commission for direction on

what Commission members would like to hear for the Council liaison report.

4. **Staff Liaison Report:**
5. **Commissioner Communications:**
6. **Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m. The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Riordan
Staff Liaison to the CFC

Community Forestry Commission 2022 Meeting Calendar

January 12
February 9
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14

Annual Council Report: April 11, 2022

J. T. Walker Tells Story of Sequoia Tree About Grove

Origin of the Sequoia trees which are a distinctive part of Forest Grove and vicinity is retold in an interesting letter appearing in a Portland paper and written by S. T. Walker, native son and source of much information on local history.

For Forest Grove residents who may not know the history of the trees the letter is quoted:

"Someone speaking of the Sequoia trees growing in Forest Grove, Hillsboro and other parts of Washington county makes the statement, 'It is a mystery where these trees came from.'"

"As one of the oldest native sons of Washington county (1852) I want to give their origin."

"Mr. John Porter, a son of William Porter, one of the early pioneers, had a nursery a few miles northeast of Forest Grove. He grew a lot of the trees from seed and gave a number of them to be planted around the courthouse in Hillsboro. One tree was planted by Henry Buxton Jr. on B street, between Second and Third avenue North. This tree has been cut back and is not over 25 feet. Dr. Bowlby, who owned the lot on Pacific avenue and B street Southeast, also planted one which adorns the well-kept grounds of Dr. Via. Another fine specimen grows on Main street South, on the block south of the Central school block. Another grows on the block nearly diagonally across from the Christian church, and another two blocks east."

"A large number of them were planted. One was cut down on A street near the Christian Science church to make room for a building. A large number grow in Verbort, which is no doubt one of the causes we cannot hear the bell on the church there as we used to. A long row of them grew on a road at the Porter farm."

"It is asserted that the redwood never bears seed. A number of persons were discussing the question in a feed store when one of them who had lived where they grow was very positive in asserting they do not. It is possible that the trees 800 to 1,000 years old do not produce seed and that the younger trees do not until they are 25 years old. One thing is certain, Mr. Porter got the seed somewhere and raised several hundred seedlings."

First Sequoia Planted Here Some 60 Years Ago

There are about 90 redwood trees in Washington county, and according to the best information obtainable all came from seed brought from California to this county by John R. Porter about 1870. This information was brought to the Chamber of Commerce on Monday by Dr. H. L. Bates who was one of the speakers on the program to tell of earlier days in Forest Grove.

The original planting of redwood trees made in this county can be observed today in the lane of Sequoia trees on the Porter farm north of the Masonic home. The trees in this county which are of the upland variety of Sequoia came from California as seed, being brought by John Porter who was the father of R. B. Porter who operates the Porter nursery.

The largest of the redwood trees in this county can be found on the Pacific university campus where there are three trees. The second

largest tree is that found on the Via home on Pacific avenue east.

Earlier days when railroads ruled were recalled by John A. Thornburgh who told how Holladay, the pioneer railroad builder in Oregon left Hillsboro and Forest Grove off from direct connections from his lines in 1872 because they would not pay \$30,000 for him to bring the railroad into these two towns. Later about 1884 the Southern Pacific took the railroad over. It was some years after this that Forest Grove ceased to use the horse car to connect with the Southern Pacific at Carnation.

The visit of Jim Hill to Forest Grove upon the completion of the Oregon Electric was another event related by Mr. Thornburgh who told of having possession of a picture of the celebration taken at the time of his visit.

Days when he hauled ash wood 11 miles and received \$2 for a full cord were also told by Mr. Thornburgh.

HORSE CAR!
NOT TRUE

NEWS TIMES

4/22/36

1st SEQUOIA PLANTED HERE 60 YRS AGO

TALK by DR H. L. BATES
AT C. C. C.

WENT
4/23/36 2

NEWS TIMES

4/23/36

SELECTED PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

Man and the Giant Sequoia in the Willamette Valley of Oregon

TOM BURNS, Jr.¹

University of Oregon

The giant sequoia [*Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Lindl.) Buchh.] has only a small natural range extending from Placer to Tulare County, California. The area of the isolated groves totals about 50,000 acres in a narrow belt on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. Although its range is static and quite possibly diminishing, an entirely new range may be developing in another region due to man's enthusiasm for the tree (Fig. 1). In the Sierra Nevada the trees occur in 72 isolated groves of from 6 to perhaps 6,000 trees each in a belt 250 miles long and 20 miles wide between 4,000 and 8,000 feet elevation, and within a mean annual precipitation range of 35 to 60 inches. Some trees have attained a diameter of 30 feet, a height of 300 feet, and an age of nearly 3,000 years.

In 1852, A. T. Dowd was the first man to carry the word of these remarkable giants from this locale to the outside world (Farquhar, 1966). In just over a century, sequoias now flourish throughout the world, from England, Switzerland and Hungary to New Zealand; but the most intensive and continued planting has been in the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

Almost as soon as the big sequoias were being acclaimed as wonders of the world and were being disseminated over much of it, some of the original sequoia stands were being devastatingly logged. The Converse Basin stand, totally razed, was considered by John Muir and others to have equalled in grandeur the Giant Forest Grove (Johnston, 1966). The pillage of this unique species finally aroused the public, including citizens from communities around Visalia, California, and naturalists like Muir, to help protect the remaining trees. The last major logging ended about 1915. Now, nearly all the Sierra sequoia groves are under some kind of protection, over 90 per cent under public ownership. Ironically, this has, inadvertently, amounted to overprotection and reproduction of the

¹Word has been received of the death of Tom Burns, Jr. October 23, 1970. Mr. Burns, employed at the University of Oregon Photo Bureau, was a graduate student in Geography and had recently completed his M.A. at the University of Oregon. His paper, "Man and the Giant Sequoia in the Willamette Valley of Oregon," is an outgrowth of his thesis work on the same topic.

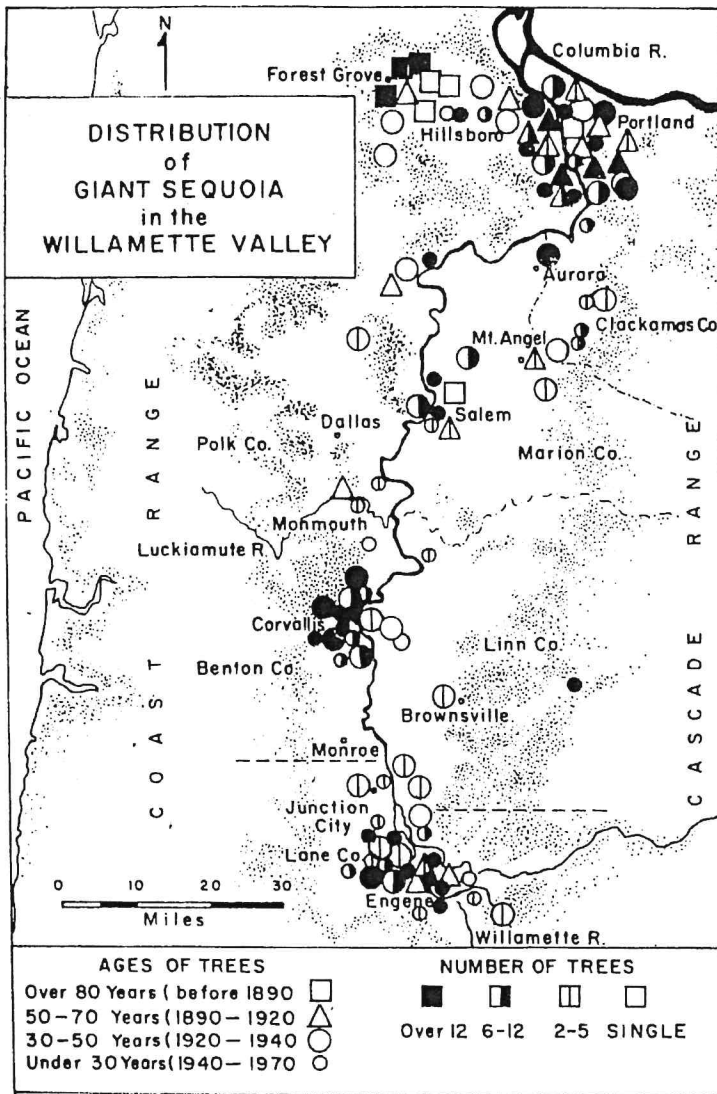


Fig. 1

trees has been seriously hampered. They require mineral soil for germination, and now, with little of it being exposed by fire, flooding, or even by logging, noticeable reproduction of sequoias in their native habitat is not occurring (Hartesveldt, 1964; H. C. Sampert,

pers. comm.). In addition, the small trees require open sunlight for optimum growth, and in many cases the protective policies of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service have allowed more shade-tolerant species, mostly white fir, to overtop the small sequoias, with the result that those that do germinate cannot survive (Schubert and Beetham, 1962; Biswell, 1964; Hartesveldt and Harvey, 1968).

The history of the giant sequoia in Oregon begins with John Ramsey Porter who filed a donation land claim near present Forest Grove in 1852. Porter made several trips to California, introducing sequoia seeds when he settled permanently in Oregon as a nurseryman after 1860. Family records (J. Van Dyke, pers. comm.) indicate the date of germination of the Oregon trees to be no earlier than 1868. His plantings in two rows of 36 trees bordering a lane to his house are the first known in the state. Of these, there remain today 31 trees, four stumps from the 1962 Columbus Day storm blow-down, and one apparent gap. A stump ring count places the earliest germination at 1874. One of the fallen trees had reached a height of 160 feet by 1962, an interval of less than 100 years.

Porter, a nurseryman, was no doubt responsible for all the earliest sequoias in the Hillsboro-Forest Grove area (Fig. 1). He gave 24 seedlings to the Verboort Catholic Church in 1882, and five seedlings to the Hillsboro Courthouse in 1888. He probably was also the source for the earliest Portland trees in the Lone Fir Cemetery, which includes the four trees marking Captain Walker's grave (dated 1874), and one other tree in the cemetery. The Porter sequoias in the Forest Grove-Hillsboro area today, tower over all the surrounding native trees, many sequoias having reached an age for the crown to begin rounding off, a morphological characteristic of the old giants in their natural locale. The largest Porter introduction, growing south of Hillsboro, has a d.b.h. of 9.2 feet. A tree in Waldo Park, Salem, probably was planted about 1882 and may also have come from Porter.

A second planting occurred in the 1890's and covered an extensive area from Portland south: Mount Tabor, Portland Heights, Riverview Cemetery, Milwaukie-Oak Grove, Oswego, Mt. Angel, Monmouth, and Eugene. Trees of this era with sharp pointed crowns towering above all other trees, dominate the skyline of Riverview Cemetery, and also the Mount Tabor area. Some of these are nearly as large as the first Oregon sequoias.

Since its discovery, the tree has been admired for its aesthetic qualities. Planting was at first associated with churches and public buildings. This was also part of the 1890's planting pattern, but in addition, in this second wave of planting, the tree was used to mark-off properties, from full section corners to small grave plots of 12x12 feet. It was also used as an ornamental, and became a fashionable late-Victorian status symbol. Parker F. Morrey, in developing his estate, Glen Morrie, south of Oswego, employed an English-trained

landscape architect who specified several sequoias for the formal estate grounds. There were other estates planted in similar fashion between Oswego and Portland. In the Milwaukie-Oak Grove area, the trees were used less formally than on the estate plantings and were commonly planted on large farms as ornamentals around farm houses. This farm ornamental pattern also prevails on Mount Tabor where these giant sequoias also surpass all other trees in height.

A third wave of planting, from about 1925 into the late 1930's, spread from the School of Forestry, Oregon Agricultural College, now Oregon State University, Corvallis. T. J. Starker and other faculty members were instrumental in many plantings solely for aesthetic value. There has been no commercial consideration throughout the entire history of the giant sequoia in Oregon. On the Corvallis High School grounds Starker himself planted trees that reached 60 to 70 feet before they were felled for a building addition (T. J. Starker, pers. comm.). Around Corvallis, there are literally hundreds of giant sequoias dating from this third era. Several, growing in unusually favorable conditions north of the Oregon State University Student Union building, have achieved a size comparable to trees of the 1890 period. However, photographs (Fig. 2) from the Oregon State University archives establish this planting as post-1925 (S. J. Wilson, pers. comm.).

By the 1930's, Sierra sequoia seed was being sold by seed brokers all over the world. As an example, the Hoyt Park Arboretum in Portland obtained the seed for their trees from Herbst Brothers, New York City (E. E. Fischer, pers. comm.). These were sown at the Mount Tabor city nursery in Portland on January 30, 1931. Presently, propagation from cuttings as well as seed is extensive in Portland; where the big trees are regularly specified for city golf courses and parks. Now the trees are available as ornamentals at nearly all nurseries, and in addition to the large specimens, many thousands of sequoias 12 feet and under are growing throughout the Willamette Valley.

Perhaps the most significant Oregon planting of all was from the third period, just west of Eugene. In 1937, Dorvin Dudeck planted from Oregon State College stock 148 one-year-old seedlings, all of which are living (D. Dudeck, pers. comm.). This grove is quite important because of its nearly natural growing conditions. In contrast, most other plantings are considerably manipulated by man, i.e., irrigated and cultivated. These trees have had no summer irrigation since infancy. Except for a small orchard plot, the planting area shows no evidence of cultivation. The relatively undisturbed Dudeck grove offers a unique opportunity to study sequoias in relation to native species. The size of the grove permits some variation of conditions within a single ecological situation. Although the grove is on marginal farm land (shallow soil above clay pan and poor drainage), the sequoias grow well and appear to be extremely healthy; however, trees standing in poorly-drained, shal-

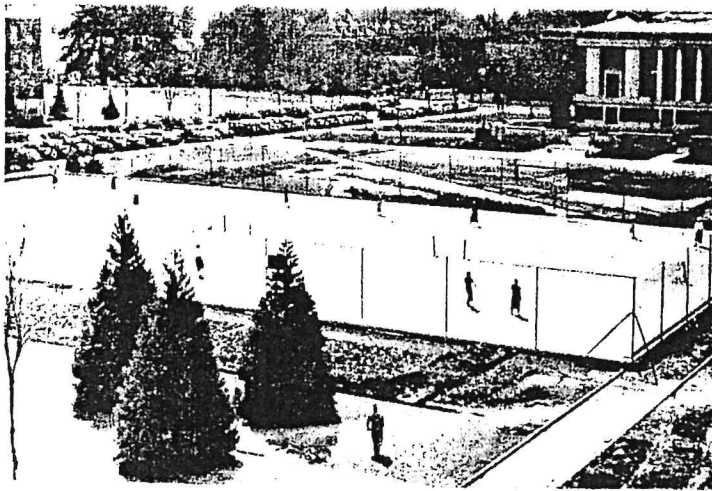
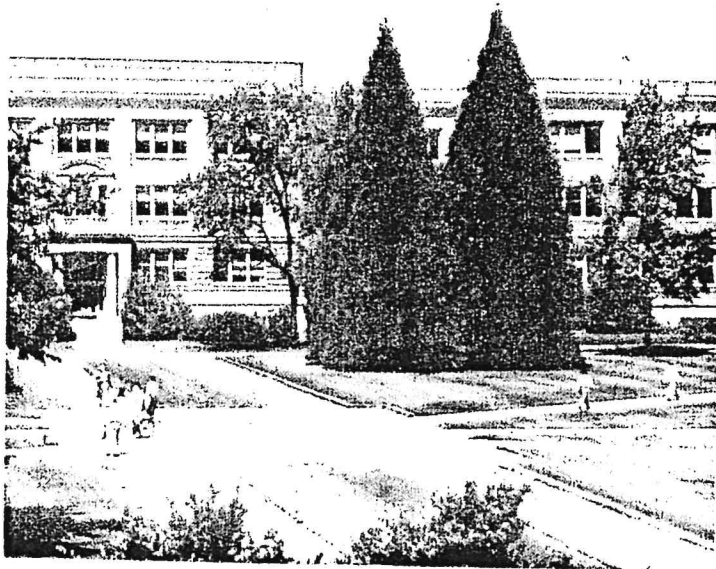
*Ca. 1933**Ca. 1938*

Fig 2. Sequoia plantings displaying extremely rapid growth at Oregon State University.

low swale have reached only a quarter of the size of nearby, well-drained specimens, which measure an average d.b.h. of 2 feet 3 inches. Most other exotic species planted by Dudeck in the same swale area are dead or dying. This grove compares favorably in growth rate with California's second growth Converse Basin trees within the natural range, which germinated about 1910 following extensive logging in the 1890's and early 1900's. Dudeck's trees, on a year-by-year basis, show a consistently 20 percent better growth rate than those in Converse Basin (Figs 3 and 4). Giant sequoias in the Hoyt Arboretum, also growing in a state approximating natural conditions, do not do as well, due to overcrowding and dense shade.

The giant sequoia never sprouts vegetatively as does the coast redwood. The exacting conditions required for natural reproduction have been a major limiting factor for its distribution in the natural range and make it dependent on man for broader distribution (Schubert and Beetham, 1962; Hartesveldt, 1964). It thrives in many settings where man has intentionally germinated and/or transplanted it. In fact, once established two to four years after germination, its extremely high survival rate becomes largely independent of man.

In the Willamette Valley, *Sequoiadendron* grows best in the lower elevation range of the native Douglas fir, within a mean annual precipitation range of 35 to 60 inches. In favorable situations sequoia outperforms the Douglas fir by a large margin, in a few cases 50 percent larger in volume (Figs. 3 and 4). The only serious experimental plantings of the giant sequoia in the North-

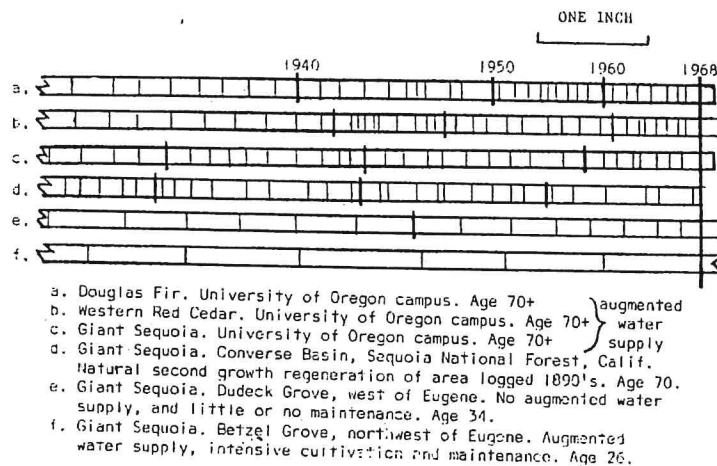


Fig. 3. Selected growth ring samples from giant sequoia, Douglas fir, and western cedar under various conditions.

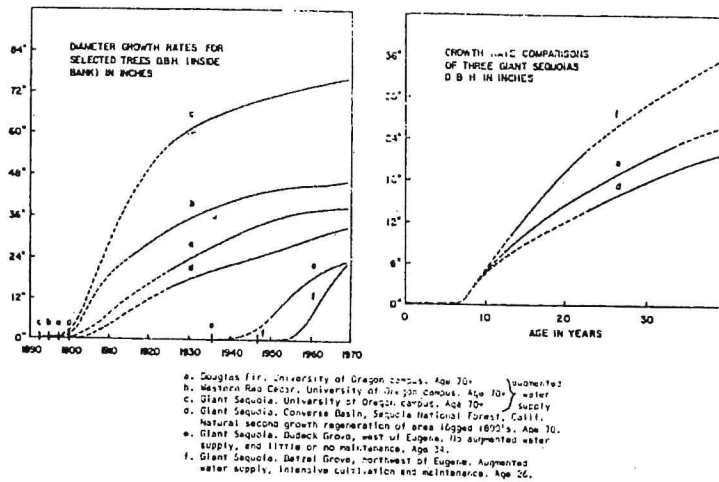


Fig. 4. Growth curves for giant sequoia, Douglas fir, and western red cedar under various conditions.

west were made by the U.S. Forest Service; one in the Wind River Arboretum, Washington, in 1915 (Silen and Woike, 1959), and the other at Cascade Head (Krygier, 1958) on the Oregon coast. In both cases the mean annual precipitation was between 90 and 120 inches which probably precluded any possible success. On the basis of these "testings," foresters have not considered the sequoia a serious commercial possibility for the Pacific Northwest. However, even at the Wind River Arboretum, the growth rate of surviving trees is 0.89 of Douglas fir at the same site (Silen and Woike, 1959). Since the trees in California were put under protection, their commercial value has ceased; consequently, until recently little research has concerned this tree even in its natural range. Because of the unfavorable response of the two initial Northwest test plantings, no further research on its commercial value has been considered in this area.

For the Willamette Valley really to be a successful habitat, the giant sequoias now growing in this area would have to produce viable seed under natural conditions. There is some evidence that this is taking place. From the Porter trees, Robert F. Myers of Beaverton has germinated seed with about 25 percent success (R. F. Myers, pers. comm.). In Portland, naturally established seedlings from under a 75-year-old sequoia have been successfully transplanted. At the Dudeck grove, there are numerous seedlings, some of which have survived their first summer without irrigation.

Despite visual evidence that the big tree is one of the most vigorous, hardy and fast-growing species in the Willamette Valley, it is largely ignored. The two Forest Service studies, which were in

a precipitation range double that of the natural range and that of the Willamette Valley, seem to have proved conclusively to professional foresters that there is no reason for further study of the tree. The vigor of the original Porter trees, as well as that of the younger Dudeck trees growing on relatively marginal soil for farm land, indicate economic potential, although at this writing this is difficult to determine. The School of Forestry at Oregon State University has never studied the tree even though there are some growing in the school's Peavey Arboretum.

I am continuing research on the tolerance limits for the tree, the best sites for optimum growth, the potential for natural germination, the minimum care necessary for seedling survival, the selection of the optimum sequoia stock for the Willamette Valley, and the future economic and aesthetic uses of the tree. With the rapid increase in population in the United States, it is incumbent on us to do what we can to increase and/or diversify our semi-natural woodlands. In view of the limited locale and high degree of vulnerability of the giant sequoia, it seems most important for man to try to extend its range, not solely for valuable economic reasons, but as a legacy for the future.

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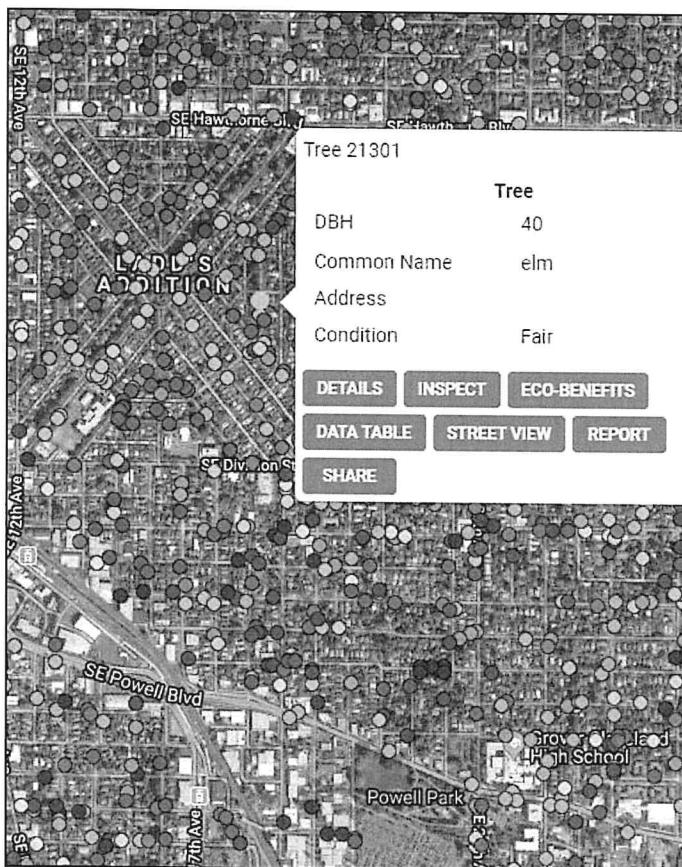


Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

Where Do We Begin?

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is designed to help your community or group decide if it wants to map and inventory its public trees using the Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory (TPI). Oregon TPI was specially designed using TreePlotter™ INVENTORY software developed by PlanIT Geo™. As of 2020, this software is available statewide for free. The Urban & Community Forestry Program (ODF-UCF) is planning on making the application a permanent offering as its use expands in Oregon.

While the actual software is relatively easy and intuitive to learn, your city will benefit from addressing some preliminary questions. For example, what does your community/group want to do with the data? How much training will your city staff need? What are the necessary technical resources required and who manages the data once collected? This document is intended to help your community determine some of these answers.



The first set of questions address WHY to inventory your community's trees and WHAT the tree mapping platform -- or software -- is, and the types of information your city will be able to collect.

The next section pertains to the technical requirements of the project and what to do if your city already has an inventory.

The following section has answers to questions about who will and can participate in collecting tree data, and how to train staff and volunteer tree data collectors.

Finally, the last section answers questions not answered elsewhere. Also, at the end of the document, there is a link to the PlanIT Geo website with additional resources.

Still have questions not answered in this document?

Contact Kristin Ramstad, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager: kristin.ramstad@oregon.gov



Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

Tell Me More About the Project

What is this tree mapping “platform,” I keep hearing about?

After an extensive review process, funded through a Landscape Scale Restoration grant from the USDA Forest Service, the ODF-UCF program subscribed to the TreePlotter™ INVENTORY platform offered by PlanIT Geo™ and designed Oregon TPI. Oregon is one of only a handful of states with a system like this. This platform, or software, will allow cities, using tablets and smartphones, to inventory and map their trees. Additionally, in the areas of the state that have LiDAR coverage, LiDAR tree data can be combined with Oregon TPI to show the location and size of the trees in a city. Data collected can be as minimal as tree species and DBH or can include more location data (such as tree cutout size) and work order information.

Why should my city inventory and map its trees?

At its heart, a tree inventory is a management tool for your community forest. Unlike an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment, a tree inventory contains information on individual trees – primarily those on public rights of way, such as along streets, or in parks. It will help city tree managers and planners understand and closely track the condition, age distribution, and species diversity of their urban forest. It will help cities prioritize tree work, see where infrastructure is damaged or limiting, identify potential tree-planting sites, and much more. Whether you are managing a specific population of trees or all the street trees in your entire city, it helps to know what you have, where they are, and the factors affecting their health. Oregon TPI will allow users to map and capture tree DBH, species, location, condition, and many other aspects of your city trees so that your tree managers can make management and funding decisions for optimal care of your town’s trees.

Along with the mapping and inventory capabilities of the software, cities can also create reports and tree walks, estimate the cost of dealing with invasive insect outbreaks, quantify the “EcoBenefits” supplied by the inventoried trees, and much more.

Why should my city participate?

Not only will a participating city be able to use its tree inventory data to make urban & community forestry management decisions, but its tree data will also be part of a statewide aggregated tree database that can calculate things such as rainfall interception of the mapped trees and other ecological services; the percentages of the “top 10” species planted; the average condition/age class of mapped trees in Oregon communities, (in all cities, or just a specific city), etc. Additionally, ODF-UCF program staff can view your city’s tree data when asked to assist with its tree management options. Cities are in complete control of their tree data. ODF-UCF staff cannot and will not change any of the data you collect.

Still have questions not answered in this document?

Contact Kristin Ramstad, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager: kristin.ramstad@oregon.gov



Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

Can nonprofit – or other – groups participate and/or use Oregon TPI?

If your group is committed to inventorying publicly owned trees, such as those on school/university grounds or in a county or state park, has a designated project leader, and is willing to become trained on how best to use this software, then it can access Oregon TPI. In some cases, an MOU with the school district, university, or county or state park managers may be required. If your group wants to inventory a city neighborhood or other city trees, make sure you clear the project with the city/county staff first.

What type of information will we be able to collect?

The screenshot displays two overlapping windows from the Oregon TreePlotter software. The top window, titled 'TREE DETAILS - 019789', shows 'LOCATION INFORMATION' with fields for Address (2600 State Street), Address Number (2600), Address Street (State Street), City (Salem), and checkboxes for 'Street the tree is on?' and 'City Managed'. The bottom window, titled 'TREE INFORMATION - 019789', shows 'TREE INFORMATION' with fields for Primary ID (019789), Scientific Name, Common Name, Genus, Cultivar, Status (Alive/Archived), Year Planted, Number of Stems (1/Multiple Stems), DBH, DBH Range (N/A), Tree Height (estimated), Height Range (N/A), Condition (Excellent/Good/Fair/Poor/Dead), Percent Dieback (%), Crown Class, and Clearance Conflicts (Clear/Building/Light).

Oregon TPI can be used by people who know relatively little about trees or by trained professionals. Its primary use is to collect tree data about street trees and park trees in the public rights-of-way. The quality of the “output,” as always, relies on the quality (and quantity) of the “input.” Users do not have to fill all the data fields for each tree. *Portions* of the data collection/input screens and an example of *part* of the eco-benefits screen (for one tree) are included here.

For each tree, users will be able to collect, change, and/or update:

- Location information: Land use, address, location on site, growing space size/planting strip width, etc.
- Tree details: botanical name and common name, Genus, cultivar, “status” (e.g., alive, proposed, stump), year planted (if known), DBH actual and range; single stem multi-stem; estimated tree height, condition, percent dieback, crown class, clearance conflicts, other observations, and users can upload photos of the tree.

Still have questions not answered in this document?

Contact Kristin Ramstad, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager: kristin.ramstad@oregon.gov



Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

DELETE CLOSE LOAD LAST INSPECT

* All changes are saved automatically.

LOCATION INFORMATION TREE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT NEEDS HISTORY

Primary Maintenance Clear

- ☐ Critical Concern (safety)
- ☐ Large Tree (immediate)
- ☐ Large Tree (routine)
- ☐ None
- ☐ Plant Tree
- ☐ Prune
- ☐ Remove Stump
- ☐ Remove Suckers
- ☐ Remove Tree
- ☐ Small Tree (immediate)
- ☐ Small Tree (routine/train)

Secondary Maintenance Clear

- ☐ Amend Mulch
- ☐ Crown Clean
- ☐ Monitor
- ☐ None Needed
- ☐ Other (describe)
- ☐ Pest Problem
- ☐ Prune- Clear
- ☐ Prune- Struct
- ☐ Raise
- ☐ Reduce
- ☐ Remove
- ☐ Remove- For
- ☐ Remove- Gro
- ☐ Remove- Han
- ☐ Restoration
- ☐ Sidewalk Dam
- ☐ Thin

Overall

Overall Monetary Benefit
\$167

Stormwater Management

Runoff Prevention (Gallons)
5,723

Stormwater Monetary Benefit
\$167

Property Value

Property Value Total
\$0.08

- Management needs – Primary maintenance, secondary maintenance, overhead wires, monitor tree, user data, and Inspection history. One can also view the “eco-benefits” provided by individual trees, a portion of your city’s urban forest, or your whole urban forest. Eco-benefits include stormwater management, property values effects, energy conservation estimates, air quality gains, etc.

- The software also generates reports, schedule tree inspections, and design a tree walk. Users can select color-coded attributes to display on their maps: e.g., all ashes; all trees above xx” DBH; all trees of a specific genus; all trees in an area of your city; or all trees in your city.

Still have questions not answered in this document?

Contact Kristin Ramstad, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager: kristin.ramstad@oregon.gov



Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

What Technology Do We Need?



To participate, what type of technology do we need?

Tree inventory data is most easily collected in the field on a tablet interface, such as an iPad or Surface, but smartphones can also be utilized. In the office, the cloud-based platform can be accessed through desktop/laptop computers. Tablet, computers, etc. will need to be the property of the participating city/group.

Is Oregon TPI downloaded to a computer/tablet or is it cloud-based?

The platform is cloud-based so it is accessible from just about anywhere. When you are in the field with your tablet or phone, users will have several options to map a tree – you can locate a tree in the field, you can use the platform to map the tree for you, or you can preload the tree placement with LiDAR data, if available in your area. If users notice that the tree is not placed on the map where the actual tree is located, you can drag/tap the point to the appropriate position. If you cannot access data, or have other connection issues in the field, Oregon TPI can be used offline in the field to collect data and then synced online with a desktop/laptop computer.

How can I find out if my city has access to LiDAR data?

If you have a GIS section/division in your city/county, you can ask them. Also, ODF-UCF can help you find and work with this data if necessary.

What if my city already has a tree inventory?

It is not mandatory that a city “adopt” Oregon TPI to manage its tree inventory. Cities that already have tree inventories and are happy with their system have the option to share their tree data with ODF-UCF so that it can be added to the statewide tree database.

How will our existing street tree and park tree inventories interface with Oregon TPI?

A city shares a copy of its tree data as a CSV or shapefile including the X/Y coordinates. This data is crosswalked or matched up with Oregon TPI data and then uploaded. Please contact the ODF-UCF Program manager, Kristin Ramstad, for instructions on how to do this. This will not in any way “corrupt” the tree data you use since you will only need to provide a COPY of your tree data.

Could we import Survey123 data for trees into TreePlotter fields?

Yes. Any data with coordinates (or possibly addresses) can be uploaded. There is an “Uploader” tool that’s very flexible for mapping data fields from one inventory into the statewide inventory database.

Still have questions not answered in this document?

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Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

My city's existing tree inventory and other public works data use ArcGIS software (e.g., "Collector"). Can the tree data collected using Oregon TPI be exported to ArcGIS?

Yes. ODF-GIS or PlanIT Geo technicians can help your city GIS staff do this.

How Will We Get It Done?

First, ask these initial questions: Who in your city staff will "own" this project – become trained to inventory trees, manage the data, and interact with the ODF-UCF staff? You may want to meet with city decision-makers to review this document and answer these questions.

Will the grant cover the cost of our city doing the inventory?

Oregon TPI is currently funded through a grant to the ODF-UCF program by the Forest Service. For the duration of the three-year grant period, cities can access the software at no cost, and we are hoping and expecting to be able to fund this opportunity beyond the life of the grant. The grant does **not** provide or pay for people to conduct tree inventories. The ODF-UCF staff recommends cities engage the community/city staff in the inventory process, as we have found doing so is usually important for the ongoing use of the inventory by city staff and other users. That said, your city can hire a consultant to conduct the inventory, but that expense will not be covered by the ODF-UCF grant. If needed, PlanIT Geo™ offers this [service](#).

This project will cost your city time —time to go through the process of planning and preparing to do an inventory of your city's trees as if your city were itself purchasing inventory software.

What if none of our city staff or volunteers know anything about trees or tree identification?

The skills needed to conduct a basic tree inventory are quite easy to learn. As skills are honed and comfort with using the software improves, users can collect additional tree data. There will be a variety of face-to-face, online, training, and other resources available to cities to help them use the platform and write management plans, *but the onus will be on the cities themselves to commit time and staff to inventory its trees.*

How will our city's staff/volunteers be trained? What type of assistance does ODF-UCF provide?

ODF-UCF offers training sessions, PlanIT Geo webinars, Zoom video-conferencing sessions, and some onsite visits to help cities progress. Staff is available to help with tree ID and troubleshoot any issues with the software. Anything ODF-UCF cannot handle is referred to the support people at PlanIT Geo.

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Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

Can the grant be used to provide internships to OSU Urban Forestry students to help with the inventories?

Yes, it can, however, the interns would be hired by ODF-UCF, not by the cities themselves.

Can our city use volunteers to conduct our inventory?

Yes, you can use trained volunteers (ODF-UCF staff recommend they be at least high-school age) to collect basic tree information. Trained city staff or highly trained adult volunteers (such as Master Gardeners) are best to use to collect tree management information, especially when it relates to tree risk. Many volunteers are interested in helping with tree inventories because they are interested in learning how to identify trees. When training volunteers, FIRST plan for tree ID training for a few sessions and then train them on how to use Oregon TPI.

Does this software have crowd-sourcing capability?

PlanIT Geo offers a crowd-sourcing module, but the Oregon TPI software does **not** include it. Why not? With crowd-sourcing, it can be very difficult to control the QUALITY of the tree data. Without careful and ongoing training and monitoring, the data collected by the public could easily be inaccurate or wrong. Most cities would not have the capacity to monitor publicly sourced data, and ODF-UCF does not either.

Can our city hire a consultant to inventory its trees?

Yes. See the answer above under, "Will the grant cover the cost of our city doing the inventory?" Your city may contract with a consultant to collect tree data at its own expense. ODF-UCF staff believe it is important for cities to engage with the inventory process to help them make their best urban forest management decisions, but we understand that staff and volunteer time can be limited or unavailable to do this work.

Who owns the data that is uploaded into this tree inventory program? What happens to these inventories if the funding is not renewed?

The data can be exported at any time at no cost. If the application is not renewed, all data will be saved/exported and provided to the states and any communities that have used it. That said, ODF-UCF intends to invest in and support this project for the foreseeable future.

Still have questions not answered in this document?

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Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

Other Questions

How is a tree inventory different from an urban tree canopy assessment?

A tree inventory collects individual tree information, tree care needs, etc. An urban tree canopy assessment uses aerial and/or satellite data to determine canopy coverage over a specified land area and bases its analyses on the type and distribution of tree canopy and land use. PlanIT Geo offers canopy assessment tools that are separate from TPI that are available via an individual contract with your city. For a free canopy assessment tool, visit [iTree CANOPY](#).

Are the eco benefits calibrated to local conditions?

Yes. Currently, the eco benefits calculation is based on the [National Tree Benefits Calculator](#), which uses your zip code to determine the Climate Zone of your city when it estimates the eco benefits of your trees. PlanIT Geo is currently revamping this feature to align with the iTree eco benefits algorithm, which will use additional tree location data for more precise estimations.

Can we inventory just a portion of our trees?

Yes. Every city can determine how many trees and which trees they want to inventory. It could be trees in a certain section of town (e.g., a downtown shopping district), or just trees of a certain genus (e.g., just the ash trees so that a city can determine its emerald ash borer risk level). Oregon TPI has a function that will allow users to create “tree walks.” These maps guide targeted audiences to view specific features of trees while they walk. (This can be used for things such as creating a “volkswalk” of a town’s most interesting trees or a walk for city councilors to view tree-sidewalk conflicts).

Which trees should we plan to inventory?

The basic guideline for which trees to inventory are the ones that:

- your city/school/group has jurisdiction over -- so you can make management decisions about them, or
- are in relatively well-defined groups or areas, such as along streets in a neighborhood or downtown designation, but not in stands or densely growing groups, or
- you have a reason to be concerned about safety risks or susceptibility to invasive insects, such as emerald ash borer (EAB).

If you do not have a clear picture of what trees to inventory in your city, consider contacting the ODF-UCF staff to discuss.

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Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

What exactly will we need to “report” to the ODF Urban Forestry Program?

For grant reporting purposes, ODF UCF needs to show how much time participating groups and communities are spending using Oregon TPI. This helps us “match” the grant dollars that were awarded for this project. ODF-UCF will ask cities/groups to simply keep basic track of how many people are using the software and the amount of time they are spending with it – either on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Will Oregon TPI help my city develop management plans?

Yes. ODF-UCF staff can help your city develop a simple urban forest management plan to share with city leaders.

Can I view Oregon TPI on my computer?

Yes! Please contact the ODF-UCF program manager directly for login info.

Does PlanIT Geo™ and TreePlotter™ Inventory have other “add-on” attributes that my city can buy, or additional software for tree canopy analysis?

Yes. There are other “bells and whistles” your city may be interested in obtaining from PlanIT Geo. These will need to be negotiated between your city and PlanIT Geo and will need to be paid for by your city.

What happens after the grant funding/grant period has finished?

The TreePlotter™ Inventory software is provided as a “Service as Subscription” through PlanIT Geo and is priced according to the number of trees in the database. Presuming there has been a strong engagement with the software during the three-year grant period, the ODF-UCF program is committed to keeping the subscription for PlanIT Geo’s service running. This may take the form of cost-sharing the software with larger cities, or if affordable, covering the cost through its program budget. Additionally, cities will have the option of working with PlanIT Geo to purchase and customize additional software.

A worst-case scenario would be that PlanIT Geo no longer supports the ODF-UCF project after the grant funding runs out. If this were to occur your city will still be able to keep its tree data collected using Oregon TPI. You can then use it as is, “cross-walk” it into another application/software or work directly with PlanIT Geo to support your city via a subscription with them. ODF-UCF will also keep the tree data in the statewide tree database.

Still have questions not answered in this document?

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Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Oregon TreePlotter™ Inventory FAQ

Can any of the forms be updated or tailored to our city's needs? Can additional trees be added to the "picklist?"

All changes to the forms and tree picklist will be undertaken solely by the ODF-UCF staff. The forms may be tailored slightly to your city's needs, but whatever is added to the forms will be available to all OR TPI users. Once a field is added to the form, it is very difficult to remove, so changes to the form would need to be discussed with ODF-UCF staff first to find a "workaround" if possible. Ideas for additional picklist trees should be emailed to ODF-UCF staff.

If our city is collecting minimal data on each tree, can we alter the tree collection form to view just the fields we want to collect (to minimize confusion)?

Not currently.

Where can I find more information?

For an excellent set of FAQs about the TreePlotter™ INVENTORY Software, visit the TreePlotter FAQ page on the PlanIT Geo website. Here you will find a software overview, a technology overview, data management, and functionality information, pricing structure (for future reference), and information on platform security and privacy. The TreePlotter website is at <https://support.treeplotter.com/article-categories/faqs/>.

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