

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Jan Wellman, Public Works Director

Subject: URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: May 18, 2016

Background

The Urban Forestry Committee consists of seven members. The purpose of the Urban Forestry Committee is to serve as an advisory committee to the City Council in regard to urban tree and forestry issues. The Committee provides technical assistance, advice, and recommendations to City Council and Staff as it relates to various tree issues throughout the City. Each year, the Committee reports to the City Council summarizing the past year's activities and accomplishments. Urban Forestry Committee Chairman, Wayne Kleckner will be in attendance to present the report, including a power point presentation.

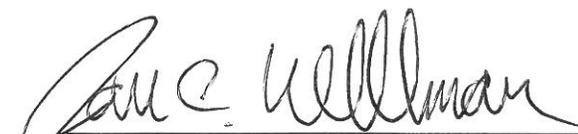
Recommendation

No Staff recommendation in regard to the report.

Cost

No cost associated with the report.


Richard Meyers, City Manager


Jan Wellman, Public Works Director

REPORT TO COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015-16
FROM COTTAGE GROVE URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The past year has been very active and visible for the Cottage Grove Urban Forestry Committee.

The following activities were accomplished:

- The committee continues to be filled by seven members that meet regularly to plan the reports and plan the activities.
- April 11, 2015 was a tree planting in parking lot area of Bohemia Park. These were replacement trees for damaged and/or vandalized trees.
- September 9, 2015 we hosted a Brown Bag lunch seminar “The Cost of Not Maintaining Your City’s Trees” offered through The Oregon Department of Forestry’s Urban and Forestry Assistance Program presented by Forester Kristin Ramstad. Cottage Grove was one of nine communities to offer this seminar. The Urban Forestry Advisory Committee extended the invitation to our neighboring communities.
- December 1, 2015 was a tree planting on the west side of Bohemia Park. Eighteen trees were planted to replace dead trees and to create a future barrier near the railroad tracks.
- Fall of 2015 the Urban Forestry Committee conducted an evaluation of the downtown trees. A report was submitted with recommendations to Cottage Grove City Planner, Amanda Ferguson for Main Street Refinement Plan.
- Spring, 2015 a stringer of red alder trees were planted along the railroad in Trailhead Park for future shading.
- April 22, 2016 (Earth Day) was a tree planting on the south side of Bohemia Park to replace dead trees with native white oak.
- April 23, 2016 at Coiner Park the Urban Forest Advisory Committee co-sponsored, with the Presbyterian Church Earth Social Justice Committee and the Coast Fork Watershed Council, an Earth Day Celebration. Nearly sixty various vendors participated in this event despite the dreary weather day. A busy day of steady citizen participation was evident. This event took an enormous amount of time and effort but the reviews and critiques have

indicated that the community would like to continue this as an annual happening.

- Earth Day Urban Forestry Committee hosted a booth. Committee members answered questions, gave out information on tree planting, and shared the importance of trees.
- June, 2016 - Jim Brownson and Jan Wellman will attend the "Maintaining Magnificence: Tree Preservation in Urban Areas" seminar at the World Forestry Center in Portland.
- Received the Tree City USA Award for the 22nd year.
- Received Tree City USA Growth Award for the first time. This award is presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. The award highlights innovative programs and projects and increases commitment of resources for urban forestry.
- Currently reviewing approved street tree list from the City of Eugene to compare with our list. The plan is to make needed changes and then submit to council for approval in the future.

We believe our organizational position with the city is to converse and coordinate closely with Jan Wellman, Public Works Director and Teresa Cowan, Community Coordinator. They have both been valuable assets for our committee.

A closing comment we would like to mention as a communication concern is how we are in fact utilized as an "Advisory Committee". There seems to be situations that come up in regard to City trees where we have no knowledge until the acts are completed or near completion. One example is how and when downtown trees are managed. If we are truly an "Advisory Committee", we feel we should be informed and given an opportunity to discuss with the appropriate City staff when requests are made in regard to management of the trees. We may be able to make recommendations that others might not think about.

We realize we are not the decision makers but we also believe our input might help come up with different and creative solutions for trees within our community.

Trees clean air and water, slow climate change, ease poverty and hunger, prevent species loss, and feed the human soul. All we need to do is plant and care for them. Let's work together to make it happen here in Cottage Grove and around the world.

Thank you for this time so we could share our accomplishments. We invite any feedback and

suggestions you may have so we can continue to educate and promote the value and importance of trees.