

2023-2025 Commission Goals and Strategies

Job Category



March 2024 UPDATE

Department Contact:	Aquilla Hurd-Ravich	Date:	March 7, 2024
Percentage Complete:	25%	Target Completion:	June 30, 2025

**Goal 7 Protect and preserve our environmental and natural resources for a healthy, sustainable community;
7.1 Focus efforts on preserving and protecting the City's Tree Canopy**

IMPORTANT OR RELEVANT DATES/MILESTONES: (LOOKING AHEAD AT THE NEXT 3 MONTHS)

- The Arbor Day Foundation named the City of Oregon City a 2023 Tree City USA to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management for the 12th year in a row.
- The City also received a growth award for demonstrating environmental improvement and outstanding level of tree care for the fourth year in a row.
- Friends of Trees will host a planting event on April 6th, 2024 from 9am to 1pm in Chapin Park.
- The focus of FOT work over the next two years is to increase canopy coverage in the right-of-way and private yards

STATUS: (WHAT HAS BEEN DONE/IS BEING DONE)

Friend of Trees

- The City's contract with Friends of Trees helps to preserve and protect the City's tree canopy by offering education and volunteer events.
- Friends of Trees (FOT) is proposing to conduct community planting events between the months of October 2023 and April 2024. The first planting event was held on December 2, 2023. The next event will be on April 6, 2024.

Natural Resource Committee Activities:

- The NRC has discussed tree code and policies at their meetings since December. They are preparing to bring their considerations and recommendations to the City Commission.
- The Natural Resource Committee will discuss the initiation of a program to identify Ash Trees in City right-of-way or on City owned property. The purpose of this inventory is to devise a strategy in case the pest Emerald Ash Borer lands in Oregon City and begins to kill City trees.
- Staff has begun researching and collecting data to help facilitate this volunteer effort and will present the information to the NRC at their October meeting.
- The Natural Resource Committee identified several activities in their work plan that support a healthy tree canopy:
 - *Support and promote volunteer participation for a public tree inventory for city properties, parks, street trees, school properties and other public lands.*
 - *Communicate with Neighborhood Associations, Citizen Involvement Commission and the Business Community. NRC members will promote*

programs such as the heritage tree program, arbor day, etc. through presentations to other groups and boards.

- Community Development staff will continue to support the NRC and their efforts as a means to achieve the Commission's goal.