



Get involved in helping to develop the

PORTLAND

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN



What is a UFMP?

Portland is developing its first Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). A UFMP uses what we know about our urban forest (all the trees within the city) and what the community needs to improve Portland's tree cover in ways that will help people the most.

Why Trees?

It's hot! And getting hotter each year. And trees don't just cool the area around them by as much as 10 degrees, they also remove pollutants from the air. These two roles alone create a healthier and more livable Portland. But they don't stop there. Read the back to learn more about all the roles trees play here.

Preserving and growing tree canopy in Portland is essential to keeping our city livable over time, especially as temperatures continue to rise and weather becomes more severe.

THREE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED...

Invite us over!

Want to get involved but don't feel like going to yet another meeting? Let us come to you! If you are part of a group or club that meets regularly, invite us to your next event. Visit the UFMP project website to schedule.

Take the Survey.

Take the 12-question survey to let us know what you'd like to see in Portland. Survey is open until September 20, 2026.



Take the survey!

Come to the 2-hr workshop.

UFMP Workshop: Thursday, September 17, 2026, 5-7pm
Merrill Auditorium Rehearsal Hall, 20 Myrtle St, Portland, ME
This 2-hr workshop will include a presentation on findings so far, and group discussion about community priorities and goals.

No RSVP necessary. Just show up!



Learn more at

<https://engage.zencity.io/portland/en-US/projects/urban-forest-management-plan>



Urban Trees: Worth Every Leaf

Trees in Cities = Livable Cities

Beyond the significant human health impacts of trees (lower heat and air pollution), trees do even more. Here are just a few more roles trees play in Portland:

- **More Successful Shopping Districts.** It has been proven that people will shop longer and spend 11% more on goods in business districts with tree vs. without trees.
- **Less Water Pollution.** Tree intercept rainwater and slow polluted runoff before it ends up in Casco Bay.
- **Lower AC Costs.** Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce AC usage by 30%. This is a significant savings as energy prices rise, especially for residents with less resources.
- **Lower Noise Levels.** A thick planting of trees can reduce nearby highway noise by 50%.
- **Habitat.** Yes, even in cities wildlife need homes and the food web they depend on.
- **Safer & More Walkable Streets.** Tree canopy along streets have been proven to slow traffic speeds, while also providing much needed safety buffer and shade for pedestrians.

We know trees have challenges too.

Keep both sides of the coin in mind when making tree decisions.

Commonly heard: Trees are too expensive! Tree care can be expensive, no question. It is also important to understand the value and benefits trees provide for families - lower AC costs, improved health, reduced mental stress, less heat stress, safer streets, and more active and community-based neighborhoods.

Commonly heard: My allergies say no. Did you know that tree pollen only last 2-3 months per year? Pollen that affects people the rest of the year comes from other types of plants. Meanwhile, trees work hard all year long to lower heat stress, remove dust, dirt and chemicals from the air, all of which improve human health. ALSO, did you know there are very few species of trees that have separate male and female trees? The social media messaging going around about too many male trees producing too much pollen is inaccurate.

Common challenge: Trees damaging sidewalks and power lines. There is no question that there are many things vying for space in the right-of-way. This small area has to support cars, people, sidewalks, utilities and more. But can you image public areas without trees when it's 95 °F and 80% humidity? Finding the right tree for the right place will reduce the potential for sidewalk damage and cool our streets.

Share your thoughts with us by taking the survey!

