

Agenda Item No.:	6
Work Plan:	Private Forests Work Plan
Topic:	Urban and Community Forestry Program
Presentation Title:	2015 Oregon Community Trees Urban and Community Forestry Awards
Date of Presentation:	January 06, 2016
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SUMMARY

The state’s urban forestry awards are a joint project of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Community Trees (OCT), a nonprofit organization that promotes healthy urban and community forests through leadership, education, awareness and advocacy. OCT serves in an advisory role to ODF’s Urban and Community Forestry program.

ODF Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager Paul Ries will provide some introductory remarks. OCT President Ruth Williams will be joining us to present and discuss the awards as well as the future of urban forestry in the state, resources statewide and how the Board can support urban forestry in the next two to three calendar years.

Award recipients for 2015 were:

Todd Prager (Individual Award): As planner and arborist for City of Tigard, Prager helped develop the city’s first Urban Forest section of its Comprehensive Plan, its Urban Forestry Master Plan and a major overhaul of its urban forestry codes including innovative “canopy based” requirements. As a consultant, Prager now advises cities and developers on urban forest planning issues.

Erik Burke (Individual Award): With the exception of Friends of Trees Portland, under Burke’s leadership the Eugene Friends of Trees has planted and taken care of more urban trees than any other place in the state. Burke also facilitated the transition from Eugene Tree Foundation to the Friends of Trees Eugene, and in the past worked with the City of Eugene in planting and caring for thousands of trees.

Mark Azevedo, Ed Hodney, Gary Rogowski (Partnership Award): The “Sawing for Schools” project is coordinated by Mark Azevedo (Albany Tree Commission) and staff of Albany Parks and Recreation Department with director Ed Hodney. For the last six years, donated fallen urban trees have been brought to Albany area high schools during Arbor Week – high school students then learn how to turn these logs into lumber. Gary

Rogowski, with Northwest Woodworking Studio, participated in the Lumber to Legacy program as an artisan, also mentoring high school students in the process.

City of Beaverton (Tree City USA Award): The City of Beaverton turned an empty, unused lot on SW Allen Blvd into an arboretum complete with informative signs, an educational native tree and plant retreat that will be enjoyed for generations to come. With help of the Mayor, Friends of Trees and about 100 volunteers, the City has planted more than 100 native trees and plants, each species accompanied with a plaque identifying features and facts.

CONTEXT

The Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Community Trees annually honor outstanding individuals and organizations for their leadership and accomplishments in advancing urban and community forestry projects and activities in the state of Oregon.

In November of 2014, the Board met in Portland to focus on the benefits of trees and other natural resources in cities, and joined local leaders in discussions about the board's and ODF's current and future urban forestry work. Discussion items included the importance of green infrastructure – trees, open space, waterways and other natural assets – in providing environmental, economic and social benefits to Oregon citizens.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Each year, ODF and OCT work jointly to solicit award nominations from Oregon cities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board of Forestry formally recognize the recipients and commend them for excellence in urban forestry.

NEXT STEPS

OCT members will remain for lunch and informal discussions with Board members about mutual urban forestry program goals as well as projects for 2016.