

Tree Summit 2020 - Notes from Breakout Session #2

Tree Preservation and Advocacy - Leaders: Betsy, Kathleen, Mark, and Sharon G.

1. What comes to mind when you hear the title "Lake Oswego City of trees"?
2. Are you currently involved in tree preservation, or would you like to be?

Answers shared during the Summit:

Value of more neighborhoods involved Type 2

Another Natural Resources Board

New leadership in city

City of Trees - we can do better

Different standards for builders than individuals

Sense of urgency

Talk with neighbors

Support neighbors

DRC reviews

Get developers, citizens and city together to find common ground

Incentivize keeping trees

Notes from Group Leaders:

Kathleen:

What comes to mind when you hear the title "Lake Oswego City of trees"?

- People often move to and like living in Lake Oswego because of the schools and the trees
- Beautiful tree canopy
- Lake Oswego City of Trees not seen as much with the action of cutting down so many trees - a name but not the focus of tree preservation and taking care of trees
- Developers are able to cut down trees too easily, need to require that more home designs and alternatives are presented to save significant trees on lots

Are you currently involved in tree preservation or would you like to be?

- Increase the number of people and neighborhoods looking at and making comments type II tree removal applications
- Create a Natural Resources Advisory Board for the City
- Involve the School District and families in tree preservation and planting (include in curriculum)
- Create an Urban Forest Management Plan (a live and evolving document)
- Annual State of the Forest Report
- City - Incorporate tree preservation in the Development Code
- Hallinan Woods is a great example of efforts of the community
- The Backyard Habitat Certification is critical and does excellent work

Mark:

What makes up the Urban Forest and what do we need to care for this Urban Forest.

- We need to learn how climate changes (warming and drying) changes the care that the current forest needs
- Learn what resources are available for information regarding care of the Forest Canopy
- When should a piece of land stay wild and when should it be cleaned and cared for

What do you do to protect the trees in our community?

- Testify at DRC meetings
- Review trees applications and comment on them on the net.

What ideas do you have for tree protection?

- Incentivize keeping trees
- Meeting with developers, city, and neighbors to discuss common goals for tree preservation.
- Find people with common goals for trees preservation (tree committee, Backyard Habitat, Master Gardeners)
- Support the Sustainability Council.

Sharon G.

What comes to mind when you hear the title “Lake Oswego City of Trees”?

- Feelings of pride
- The urban forest is evident when driving into Lake Oswego from neighboring cities
- Vision of large significant Douglas firs
- The overuse of the phrase “City of Trees” when making comment to Type II Tree Removal Applications
- Trees are disappearing in the “City of Trees”

Are you currently involved in tree preservation , or would you like to be?

- Involvement in Save Cooks Butte and Save L.O. Parks
- Tree person in NA, who was a forester. Was helpful when looking at Type IIs
- Organized tree walks with tree identification
- Interest in a tree task force
- More information on Type II permits, pre-apps and development

Betsy:

What comes to mind when you hear the title, “Lake Oswego, City of Trees?”

- disappointed that different standards apply to develops than to individuals.
- Title is meaningless or misleading if we do not behave in a manner consistent with it. Where’s the “grove” in Lake Grove, anymore?
- Agrees that we would benefit from standardization of application of the tree code.
- 1500 type II apps in the past year.
- Of those 1500, the vast majority have been approved. Some are withdrawn after comments are submitted. Very few are approved and then the decision reversed.

Conclusion: “The moniker, “City of Trees” is more aspirational than accurate. We can and should do better.

Are you currently involved in tree preservation, or would you like to be?

- Worked in developing the Tree Code in 1972 and is active in Friends of Springbrook Park
- Would like to get involved. Is very sensitive to trees. Loves trees.
- Involved by talking with neighbors, commenting on type II tree apps, offering comments to DRC, writing letters, paying attention to plants in Freepons Park. Education should be

an integral part of advocacy. Not all negative; the process does sometimes serve to slow the progression of trees cut down.

- Involved by reviewing some type II tree apps, talking with neighbors about trees, -cides, and blowers. Leaf blowers should be limited to impermeable (concrete, pavement) surfaces only and even then limited to once per week for an hour and only when leaves fall and then only at a designated time or consigned to the 9th circle of Dante's Hell. Leaves should be left to mulch in place.

Conclusion: there are many ways to approach tree preservation, whether by education, commenting on type II tree apps, or being involved in code amendments and in Friends' groups.

Small Actions at Home (that have a big impact) - Mary and Sharon H.

1. What are ways we can landscape to help our urban forest?
2. How can we help the urban forest through our yard maintenance strategies?
3. Are there ways to help urban forest critters in our yard?

Answers shared during the Summit:

Landscaping - plant natives including trees

Arborists to check trees for safety

Understand rules with HOAs

Bring in bird feeders

Maintenance

Policies at Marylhurst

Problems - blacktop

No leaf blowers

Keep leaves in place

Notes from Group Leaders:

Sharon:

- Ways Landscaping can help our Urban Forest:
 - We didn't have much to say here, since no one had plans on new landscaping.
- Ways to help the UF with maintenance strategies:
 - Have arborists check the health of big trees periodically.
 - Let leaves remain where they fall under trees, or gather with rake, if necessary, and place under plants for mulching.
 - Everyone agreed that leaf blowers are not only noisy, but generally aren't used to "save" leaves for adding nutrients back into the soil.

Mary

- Landscaping
 - Plant native species
 - Add native trees - even if slow growing, benefits come after some years
 - Add bird feeders and help other critters
- Maintenance

- Make sure to consult with an arborist every few years if have large older trees (danger from trees failing)
- No blowing on property
- No herbicides or pesticides
- Leave leaves
- Understand watering needs for landscape (not too much or too little)
- Some ideas that came from the group
 - Provide more education for people coming into the community on caring for trees, etc.
 - Also what trees to plant and where, maintenance requirement - possible tutorials on pruning
 - Find native starts in areas that are being cleared for development
 - If you are living in an HOA, find or start a Friends group to care for common area

Community Action (iTree, Urban Forest Committees) - Kat and Stephanie

- How are you involved in protecting trees in LO?
- What ideas do you have for protecting trees?
- How would you like to be involved?

Answers shared during the Summit:

Backyard Habitat
 Urban forest committees
 ITree bring science to management
 Corvallis - Tree stewards help with tree maintenance
 Albany - Tree Commission

Need to develop metrics for an Urban Forest Management Plan and have an annual report to determine if the goals are being met
 Involve community, city and non-profit organizations to make the urban forest protection part of the culture of the community

Notes from Group Leaders:

Stephanie:

- Need to dust off the 2008 Community Forest Plan and develop a new Forest Management Plan
- Bring back the annual forest report started in 2009
- Implement the iTree tool to provide data for planning and reporting progress
- Involve community volunteers, local non-profit organizations and City in making tree management an active part of the culture of our community.

Kat: 4 participants (2 from outside LO - Clackamas(Corvallis?) and Albany)

How are you involved in protecting trees in LO?

- better care of trees and integration of data and science guiding management of healthy trees
- 2 from LO are concerned about improper tree care and removal in their neighborhoods

What ideas do you have for protecting trees?

- use community data collection to ensure that we are taking better care of the trees in LO (take a scientific approach to these decisions)
- Organize within neighborhoods and communities to use data collected and make efforts within the city to preserve trees more successful.
- City of Albany has a group of volunteer community members that meet regularly with the same 1-2 City Staff to ensure citizen concerns are heard and influence decisions at the city level. Anyone can attend these meetings, and they are held monthly.
- City of Corvallis has trained volunteer Tree Stewards that help with neighborhood tree maintenance (pruning, watering, etc) and program has had success.

How would you like to be involved?

- iTree program and how it will help collect data/monitor existing trees in our urban forest.
- excitement for the prospect of urban forest committees and how that can help neighborhoods organize and protect existing trees in LO

Restoration/Reforestation Efforts - Mike, Barb and Jim Fisher, Tom Bland

- What urban forest enhancement are you aware of?
- Where should focus urban forest enhancement in LO?
- Where should we focus efforts in the future?

Answers shared during the Summit:

Focus on natural areas and HOAs
Tree area in Springbrook for intensive study
Get young people involved - ethic

What is happening now

Make Urban Forest Management Plan development a city council goal for this year
Could include a Natural Resource Board and a forester
Data driven

Notes from Group Leaders:

Mike, Jim and Barbara:

Restoration/Reforestation Efforts:

- We see some areas being improved: Natural Areas, Friends Group efforts
- City Right of Ways need attention
- Place creation of Urban Forest Management Plan on 2021 City Council Goals
- Create a Natural Resources Board
- Full time city arborist
- Science/data required
- Check out Hillsboro's "Big Trees Today"
- Restoration needed on school campuses, railway
- Use lidar images to analyze tree canopy needs
- LOJH test area in Springbrook Park