



## Neighborhood Association Urban Forest Committees

Lake Oswego has a diverse urban forest and has been a member of Tree City USA for over 30 years! Individual trees throughout the city connect to create an urban forest system that provides countless benefits, including (but not limited to!): wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, reductions in stormwater runoff, an increase in shade, as well as economic benefits. One of the results of the Tree Summit, held in October 2019, was finding a way of working together as neighbors to protect the trees we value. To that end the Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) is supporting the formation of an Urban Forest Committees within each Neighborhood Association. These committees will work with neighbors to support our urban forest.

Tree Summit outcomes suggested several ways Urban Forest Committees can work within their neighborhoods to protect our urban forest:

- Educating about tree care, and developing a deeper knowledge of the importance of interactions between trees
- Sharing the importance of trees with new neighbors - the Tree Welcome Wagon.
- Supporting neighbors with tree care such as removing ivy and resources for tree maintenance.
- Supporting the LOTrees Survey to inventory and monitor significant trees within each neighborhood.
- Organizing to minimize tree removal associated with infill and new development.
- Advocate for local policies to protect the Urban Forest

To ensure that each neighborhood is successful in the development of their Urban Forest Committee, OLWC will be able to support to each of the newly formed committees by:

- Facilitating the formation of Urban Forest committees throughout the City of Lake Oswego
- Providing technical assistance and information
- Providing training for the LOTrees Survey
- Developing educational materials and a website for easy access to information and references
- Providing training for ivy removal and tree inventory procedures
- Facilitating communication between Urban Forest Committees by keeping a calendar of all Urban Forest Committee activities and organizing quarterly meetings of committee chairs
- Organizing an annual Tree Summit to celebrate accomplishments and explore possibilities for future actions

We encourage anyone who has an interest in supporting our urban forest to be involved with their Neighborhood Association Urban Forest Committee. Each neighborhood will come up with their own priorities and action plan for their Urban Forest Committee based on feedback from neighbors. Stephanie Wagner is available to help. She can be reached at [stephanie@oswegowatershed.org](mailto:stephanie@oswegowatershed.org).

The *mission* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is to foster stewardship, education, participation, and financial support for the purpose of the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of watershed functions that achieve and sustain a healthy watershed.