



**City of Grants Pass
Urban Forestry Plan
for the City of Grants Pass and Urbanizing Area**

**Technical Memorandum #3:
Existing Plans, Policies, Regulations, Programs, and Resources**



To: Urban Forestry Advisory Committee
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Date: August 21, 2006 with September 2006 revisions
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Introduction

This is the third of eleven Technical Memoranda that will comprise the Urban Forestry Plan for the City of Grants Pass and the Urbanizing Area. It identifies the existing local, state, and federal laws and programs, and other non-regulatory programs from agencies and non-profits that relate to an urban forestry plan in Grants Pass.

Purpose

In developing the urban forestry plan, it is necessary to identify the existing laws and programs. This memo will help identify whether the forestry plan requires minor adjustments or major changes to existing plans and programs or of existing programs. It will also help identify if there are new programs that don't exist in Grants Pass that should be implemented. This memo also identifies regulatory issues that may present fixed parameters for the urban forestry plan.

Technical Memo #4 will provide an opportunity to cross-examine and synthesize the data in technical memos 1, 2, 3, and 5, which are largely compilation documents. The review of existing plans and programs in this memo will be valuable when used in conjunction with Technical Memos #1, 2, and 5.

- Technical Memo #2 provides an inventory of existing conditions. Together, these documents will enable a comparison of those conditions to existing laws and programs to determine whether the laws and programs are accomplishing desired objectives, and to determine whether there are any problems with existing laws and programs that may be ineffective, have gaps, present obstacles, or lack adequate enforcement to accomplish the forestry objectives.
- Technical Memo #4 provides a review of attitudes, perceptions, threats, opportunities, and constraints. It identifies the legal, financial, physical, practical, and value-based parameters that will help guide development of and revisions to policy and alternatives for implementing the urban forestry plan. It helps summarize the findings of this memo and put it in the context of the findings from Memos 2, 3, and 4. While this Memo 5 is

largely an inventory, Memo #4 will include analysis to put the information from the other memos into context. It will help identify issues with existing laws and programs and consider changes to them, to accomplish desired objectives, in the context of other laws and programs that may be fixed parameters and can't be changed. It will also identify where urban forestry practices may be the most effective practices to accomplish related mandates in related law such as addressing non-point source pollution affecting air and water quality.

- Technical Memo #5 provides a review of recommended best practices and guidelines for urban forestry and provides examples of plans from other communities that have put best practices into place. Together with this memo, these documents will help identify whether the existing laws and programs that apply to Grants Pass have sufficient goals, policies, and objectives to accomplish best urban forestry practices, or whether there is a different model Grants Pass should consider, which models might be desirable, and whether it is necessary to establish or amend the laws and programs to accomplish new goals, policies, and objectives.

Executive Summary

The laws and programs affecting urban forestry in Grants Pass include local, state, and federal laws and programs and laws and programs of other agencies and nonprofit organizations. Some of these are regulatory and others are voluntary, and some include incentives. Some of the local laws and programs in Grants Pass are established to meet eligibility requirements for other state and federal programs.

In summary, there is substantial flexibility in approaching urban forestry planning in Grants Pass. Most of the governing regulatory documents are local ordinances which can be revised if the City Council chooses to do so. There are some elements of the City's current forestry program which are necessary for continued eligibility for participation in the Tree City USA program.

Upon review of state statutes pertaining to urban forestry and wildland/urban interface and discussions with agency representatives, it does not appear that there are substantial constraints or conflicts that would limit the city's discretion in developing an urban forestry plan.

There are several regulatory programs dealing with air quality, water quality, and stormwater management that don't directly have mandates related to the urban forest, but they involve issues where the urban forest can be a critical tool to help solve the issues addressed in these programs.

The Oregon Department of Forestry has a Department of Urban and Community Forestry which includes technical assistance and grant programs, but funding cuts have reduced the resources available to some of these programs which are of importance to local communities addressing urban forestry issues.

Several non-profits offer resources and grants that may be helpful in developing or implementing the urban forestry plan.

Listing of Plans, Laws, and Programs

The plans, laws, and programs reviewed for this document are listed below, and the key provisions of these laws and programs are summarized in this document. In some cases, the documents are attached when a more detailed understanding of their specific provisions is required. Exhibit A provides a more detailed summary and copies of the Grants Pass ordinances.

Local

1. Grants Pass Comprehensive Plan
2. Grants Pass Development Code (mainly Articles 13, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 24)
 - a. Article 13. Steep Slope Provisions (tree retention and replacement)
 - b. Article 17. Land Division (tree retention)
 - c. Article 18. Planned Unit Developments (tree retention)
 - d. Article 19. Site Plan Review (landscaping, preservation of significant natural resources)
 - e. Article 23. Landscaping requirements (mainly for yards and parking lots)
 - f. Article 24. Preservation of Riparian Vegetation
3. Chapter 6.42 (and partially 6.36) of the Grants Pass Municipal Code, recent draft developed by Urban Tree Advisory Committee
4. *(Building Code – No specific related provisions)*
5. *(Fire Code – No specific related provisions)*
6. *(City has not adopted ICC International Urban-Wildland Interface Code)*
7. “Joint Tree Planting Program”
8. Tree City USA Designation
9. Draft Stormwater Master Plan, Manual, and Ordinance
10. Mayor’s Landscaping Award
11. Memorial Tree Program
12. Redevelopment Agency
13. PP&L Franchise Agreement
14. Urban Tree Advisory Committee
15. Urban Forestry Advisory Committee
16. City of Grants Pass Parks, Tree, and Vegetation Management Policies

State

1. ORS 526 and 527. Forestry Statutes
 - a. ORS 526.500-526.515. Urban and Community Forestry.
 - b. ORS 526.780-526.789. Forestry Carbon Offsets.
 - c. ORS 527.722. Restrictions and local government adoption of rules regulating forest operations; exceptions.
 - d. ORS 530.600-530.628. Community Forest Authorities.
 - e. ORS 527.610-527.785. Oregon Forest Practices Act.
 - i. Reforestation exemptions for land use changes.
2. Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997
3. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).
4. Oregon Department of Forestry
5. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Federal

1. Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act
2. Clean Air Act
3. Bureau of Land Management

Other Agencies and Utilities

1. Josephine County
2. PP&L (Pacific Power and Light)

Nonprofits and Other Programs and Resources

1. National Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City USA Program
2. Oregon Community Trees
3. Middle Rogue Watershed Council

Summary of Plans, Laws, and Programs

Local

1. **Grants Pass Comprehensive Plan**. The 1982 *Comprehensive Community Development Plan* was written to guide the future development of the City of Grants Pass and urbanizing area. Contained within the Plan are references to the 19 Oregon Statewide Planning Goals; germane specifically to the urban forest are Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, which apply to natural resources. Chapter 3, Scenic Rogue River, Historic, and Natural Resources Index was adopted to inventory natural resources and identify land uses that may conflict with these resources, and to find the best ways to preserve them. Chapter 5, Areas Subject to Natural Hazards Index was written to identify areas subject to natural hazards, such as steep slope districts, and to describe measures that can be adopted to protect them. Chapter 7, Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Element was adopted to provide for open space within the urbanizing area.
2. **Grants Pass Development Code (mainly Articles 13, 17, 18, 19, 23, and 24)**. The Development Code establishes regulations for tree planting and retention requirements for new developments on private property and in planter strips, and requires owners to provide for their ongoing maintenance. Please see Exhibit A for a summary and the text of the relevant provisions of the Development Code.

Staff is working on an amendment to Steep Slope provisions in the Development Code, and the amendment may included revisions to tree retention provisions.

3. **Municipal Code (Chapter 6.42 and part of 6.36)**. Section 6.42 of the Municipal Code pertains to street trees, specifically the planting of trees public areas like parks or parking strips, prohibited species of trees, and maintenance of trees. Section 6.36 of the Development Code provides requirements for encroachment permits for work in the public right-of-way, and has some applicability to trees in the right-of-way. Please see Exhibit A for a summary and the text of the relevant provisions of the Municipal Code.

The city had a tree ordinance dating to 1947 when the Planning Commission recommended that adoption of a street tree plan would be beneficial to the City. The Council adopted an ordinance in 1948 (Ordinance 1433). The information referenced in the ordinance came from "Street Trees for Cities," published by the University of Oregon and the League of Oregon Cities in 1947.

This ordinance remained in effect until 1988, when Chapter 6.42 was amended, repealing provisions adopted by Ordinance 1433 with those contained in Ordinance 4633. Upon researching Council minutes, it appears that the new ordinance was adopted so that the City would meet eligibility requirements for designation as a "Tree City USA." Also in accordance with the Tree City USA requirements, the City formed a committee to study tree regulations in public and semipublic areas and budgets two dollars per citizen for tree maintenance (the previous requirement was one dollar per citizen).

4. **Building Code**. No specific provisions pertain to this plan.
5. **Fire Code**. No specific provisions pertain to this plan.
6. **ICC International Urban-Wildland Interface Code**. The City has not adopted this Code.
7. **"Joint Tree Planting Program"**. The Parks Division administers this program. There are no formal policy documents outlining this program. Each year, the Parks Division budgets for this program, with approximately \$2,500 for the program to plant trees. The Parks Division advertises the program, and citizens can purchase and have City crews plant a tree on a residential property for \$50. The trees are selected from a list, and crews ensure the location is adequate for survival of the tree. In short, it allows for "the right tree at the right location". The program used to be limited to planting of street trees, but has been expanded to allow any location between the front of the building and the street. There has been limited interest, with about 50-60 trees planted per year. This program is not a requirement of the Tree City USA program. More recently, the tree list has been limited to larger species trees to begin achieving more tree canopy.
8. **Tree City USA Program**. The City has been a Tree City USA for several years now. The program is a voluntary program of the National Arbor Day Foundation. To remain eligible, the City must meet four provisions:
 - a. Provide an investment of at least \$2.00 per capita
 - b. Have a tree ordinance
 - c. Have an Annual Arbor Day celebration
 - d. Have a tree committee
9. **Draft Stormwater Master Plan, Manual, and Ordinance**. The draft stormwater plan takes a different approach to stormwater management than the current plan. The

plan focuses on managing stormwater closer to the source. It also focuses on vegetated systems to perform stormwater treatment, infiltration, detention, and retention. Trees serve as both specific methods for managing stormwater as well as performing secondary roles in conjunction with other vegetated systems. This plan will include amendments to the Development Code provisions referenced above.

- 10. Mayor's Landscaping Award.** This award is made on an annual basis to recognize landscaping projects that provide beautification to neighborhoods. There is no formal policy for selecting the recipients and there are no specific categories for awards.
- 11. Memorial Tree Program.** The Urban Tree Advisory Committee administers this program. Individuals may make a contribution to the program to have a tree planted in a public park in honor of someone, whether to honor someone living or deceased. There are no formal written policy documents for this program.
- 12. Redevelopment Agency.** The redevelopment agency provides some financial incentives for properties within the Redevelopment District that provide landscaping in excess of the minimum requirements of the Development Code.
- 13. Urban Tree Advisory Committee.** This is a standing committee that advises City Council on issues related to urban trees. The Tree City USA program requires the City to have a committee for eligibility in the program.
- 14. Urban Forestry Plan Advisory Committee.** This is a temporary committee comprised of the members of the Urban Tree Advisory Committee plus one representative of the Homebuilders Association and one representative of Citizens for a Voice in Growth. It is charged with advising the Planning Commission and City Council regarding development of the Urban Forestry Plan.
- 15. PP&L and Other Franchise Agreements.** The City enters into franchise agreements with utilities, authorizing them to use the public right-of-way within City limits. These agreements specify terms of the agreement.

The PP&L agreement was renewed in 1988 for a 20-year term with provision for renegotiation every five years. The agreement will be up for renewal in 2008, providing a window of opportunity to address any issues that may be necessary. It may also be desirable to consider the franchise agreements for utilities that have overhead services such as phone and cable.

The current agreement specifies that they "shall have the right and privilege of trimming all trees which overhang said streets, in such a manner and to such an extent as will prevent the branches or limbs or other parts of such trees from touching or interfering with its facilities; providing no such trees are trimmed or cut back further than may be reasonably necessary to prevent such interference and to allow the proper operation and maintenance of said facilities. Nothing contained in this Section shall prevent Grantee, when necessary and with the approval of the owner of the

property on which they may be located, from cutting down and removing any trees which overhang said streets.”

The PP&L agreement doesn’t exempt them from City ordinances. These documents and any associated formal and informal agreements need to be reviewed to determine how encroachment permit requirements and work in the right-of-way are being addressed. These are likely handled through blanket encroachment permits that provide for on-going pruning and maintenance.

16. City of Grants Pass Parks, Tree, and Vegetation Management Policies. Most street trees are maintained by adjoining property owners; however, the City of Grants Pass maintains several areas of street trees, street wells, parking lots, and planter strip landscaping. The City contracts to maintain the downtown trees primarily extending from ‘C’ street to the Rogue River bridges and between 4th to 8th streets; through the Downtown Services Program. The center median strip including the street trees of Washington Boulevard, extending from Savage to Evelyn streets, are managed by the City’s Field Operations Department. The street trees along the Parkway Street sound wall are maintained by the Redevelopment Agency (see #12). There is currently no formal provision for ongoing maintenance once this redevelopment district expires. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) maintains the Parkway median street trees. Several parking lot trees are also maintained including: 5th and ‘I’; 5th and ‘H’; 7th; and ‘G’; 7th and ‘I’; 6th and ‘G’; Champion parking lot (‘I’ between 6th & 7th); Midtown parking lot & Alleyway (7th and ‘G’); Saturday Morning Growers’ Market (4th and ‘F’); 6th Street landscaped alleyways and rest area planters (2, east and west); and the pedestrian area south of post office including memorial garden.

The City’s Urban Tree Advisory Committee is working on an amendment to this ordinance and has completed a preliminary draft.

State Documents and Agencies

1. ORS 526 and 527.

- a. ORS 526.500-526.515. Urban and Community Forestry.
- b. ORS 526.780-526.789. Forestry Carbon Offsets.
- c. ORS 527.722. Restrictions and local government adoption of rules regulating forest operations; exceptions.
- d. ORS 530.600-530.628. Community Forest Authorities.
- e. ORS 527.610-527.785. Oregon Forest Practices Act.
 - i. Reforestation exemptions for land use changes.

The forest practices act has limited applicability within the UGB. The act covers commercial operations, which means any cutting for commercial purposes. It is possible that trees are being cut for new development and subsequently being sold without addressing the requirements of this act.

The act exempts properties from reforestation requirements for development that changes a land use from forestry to a different use. However, a plan may be required in order to address issues such as water quality while the property is deforested.

2. **Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997 (SB 360).** This bill became law in 1997, and the act is being implemented county by county. Josephine County has a committee that is currently in the process of classifying properties that will be designated as Forestland-Urban Interface, and the standards of SB 360 will apply upon adoption, affecting properties within the county, including properties they may be within or adjacent to municipal boundaries. SB 360 is implemented and codified in ORS Chapter 477. “Fire Protection of Forests and Vegetation”, and OAR Division 629-044-1000.

- a. ORS 477.015-477.061. Urban Interface Fire Protection. (Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997).

- b. OAR 629-044-1000. Wildland-Urban Interface

This act is administered through the Department of Forestry directly with property owners and contractors, so the City is not required to adopt regulations to administer or enforce the provisions of this act. The act deals with removal of “ladder fuels” and understory vegetation, and there are no provisions that prohibit planting trees or tree species on the property. There are requirements pertaining to the removal of dead limbs and pruning limbs to prevent the spread of wildfire.

3. **ODOT.** The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has standards for state highways in the community. These are some of the most visible corridors and can have a dramatic impact from an aesthetic standpoint. They can also present a substantial amount of impervious surface, becoming a critical issue for stormwater management.

ODOT addresses trees within the right-of-way from two perspectives: maintenance and safety. On new projects ODOT no longer provides maintenance of trees within medians. Their concern is the cost associated with maintaining the landscaping and irrigation and street sweeping. On new state highway projects with medians, they install concrete medians unless the local jurisdiction accepts maintenance responsibility for landscaping in the median. ODOT also considers trees to be obstacles that may increase the likelihood of injury or fatality if a vehicle leaves the roadway traveling at a high rate of speed. On one recent development adjacent to the state highway, ODOT initially informed the City that planting of street trees in the planter strip would not be permitted. That issue has since been resolved. ODOT is also interested in the safety of trees from the perspective of visibility, especially at intersections and driveways.

4. **Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).** ODF was established in 1911 and is under the direction of the State Forester, who is appointed by the State Board of Forestry.

The Department manages all aspects of Oregon's forests, from protecting forestlands and conservation of forest resources. Under the directive of the Director, ODF maintains several public programs, such as protection from fire, resources planning, and education for private forest owners pertaining to maintenance and conservation of woodlands.

- a. ODF administers the Oregon Forest Practices Act described above.
- b. ODF administers the urban-wildland interface program.
- c. **Urban and Community Forestry Division.** ODF has an Urban and Community Forestry Division that provides technical assistance and informational resources to communities and oversees grant programs.

The Urban and Community Forestry Division informs and educates the public about urban forests, and also provides some financial assistance to municipalities in the form of grants, which fall into two categories: Community Forestry Assistance Grants and Urban and Community Forestry Small Projects Fund. In both cases, ODF administers grant monies provided by various public and private sources. Selection is made with a complete grant application and a thorough review of proposed projects.

Community Forestry Assistance Grants are intended to improve the quality of life in Oregon communities as they're impacted by urban forestry issues, such as the health and maintenance of the urban forest, or the implementation of forestry programs at the city level

The Urban and Community Forestry Small Projects Fund is intended to provide for smaller amounts of assistance directly related to expenses for the operation of city forestry programs.

It is important to note, however, that ODF receives a substantial amount of funding from the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Services Division (Forest Service), which as been faced with budget cuts in recent years. This has an influence on the amount of funding available for community forestry assistance programs and has effectively eliminated both categories of grant assistance that ODF was able to provide. However, the City of Grants Pass has worked with ODF in recent years on grants, and ODF will serve as a reference for any applications for grants the city may make with other organizations.

5. **DEQ.** DEQ is the state agency responsible for administering certain federal EPA programs for Oregon such as the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, and manages other related environmental programs. (See provisions described below under federal programs).

Federal

1. **Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.** These acts provide standards for maximum pollutant loads to certain water bodies. Currently, TMDL's (total maximum daily load) standards have not been established for the Middle Rogue in the Grants Pass area; however, TMDL's are being developed, and are expected to be completed in 2006. It is anticipated that TMDL's may be established for bacteria and temperature.

2. **Clean Air Act.** In accordance with the Clean Air Act, EPA designates areas that exceed thresholds for certain air pollutants. These areas are designated as "non-attainment" or "maintenance" areas. Areas are designated for pollutants such as carbon monoxide, ozone, and PM-10 (particulate matter of 10 microns and smaller). EPA designates "isolated rural" areas as well as other more urban areas. Oregon DEQ is responsible for administering these programs. Non-attainment and maintenance designations are listed in OAR 340-204-0010. The following exhibit identifies the number of isolated rural areas with air quality issues:

Exhibit II-1: Number of Isolated Rural Nonattainment or Maintenance Areas Relative to Total Nonattainment or Maintenance Areas in 2001			
Pollutant	Isolated Rural Areas	Total areas	Percent Isolated Rural
Carbon Monoxide	3	121	2
Ozone	31	420	7
PM-10	37	106	35

Source: FHWA, 2003

- Grants Pass is one of only three of the Isolated Rural Areas nationwide with Non-attainment or Maintenance Status for Carbon Monoxide. Grants Pass previously had 'Non-attainment' status, but has an approved plan for Carbon Monoxide and now has 'Maintenance' status for Carbon Monoxide, where the boundary corresponds to the CBD.
- Grants Pass is one of 37 of the Isolated Rural Areas nationwide with Non-attainment or Maintenance Status for PM-10. Grants Pass previously had 'Non-attainment' status, but has an approved plan for PM-10, and now has 'Maintenance' status for PM-10, where the boundary corresponds to the Urban Growth Boundary.
- The maintenance plans were adopted by the State Environmental Quality Commission and the US EPA. Therefore, the non-attainment status was removed, and the maintenance status is official. The City must continue to comply with the plan to retain the maintenance status. The plan provides background on point- and non-point sources of these pollutants.
- Grants Pass has never had a non-attainment or maintenance designation for ozone.

- Currently, there is no limit established for PM-2.5 (2.5 microns and smaller). Therefore, Grants Pass has no designation yet, but we are considered an at-risk area, and may exceed standards once they are established. It is anticipated that EPA will establish standards and designations in 2008. Therefore, there have been some efforts for prevention planning for PM-2.5.
 - Oregon DEQ is evaluating toxics assessments statewide, but this is occurring at the state level and isn't driven by the federal Clean Air Act or EPA.
3. **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**. This agency, under the Department of Interior, manages a wide variety of resources and uses, including energy and minerals; timber; forage; wild horse and burro populations; fish and wildlife habitat; wilderness areas; archaeological, paleontological, and historical sites; and other natural heritage values. The Medford District of the BLM borders portions of the Urban Growth Boundary of Grants Pass. This district oversees approximately 862,000 acres of scattered public lands between the Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges and from the Oregon/California border to Canyon Creek and southern Douglas County.

The relevant activities to the City are forest management and hazardous fuels reduction along resident interfaces along federal lands. Communities in Oregon and Washington including Grants Pass may apply for National Fire Plan Community Assistance Grants to receive funding and technical assistance to reduce hazardous fuels within their communities. This federal multi-agency community assistance program is designed to reduce threats from wildfire and enhance local economies.

Other Agencies and Utilities

1. **Josephine County**. The City of Grants Pass administers the City land use regulations outside City limits within the Urban Growth Boundary. This is accomplished through a 1998 Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and County. The agreement also specifies when the City or County is responsible for streets within the UGB. As part of this planning effort, the provisions of the Municipal Code should be reviewed to determine if they can be applied outside City limits on roadways that are under City jurisdiction.

Urban Wildland Interface. The County is involved in the Urban Wildland Interface area mapping, but will not be involved in administering the program once the boundaries for the interface areas have been designated.

Forestry Department. The County has a forestry department, but their responsibilities are managing the County-owned forest lands.

Youth Tree Plant. The Josephine County Forestry Department along with other participants and contributors, such as Roe Motors GM and the Bureau of Land Management established an annual event called the Youth Tree Plant held in February. This event hosts over a thousand local youth from area schools, local scouts, Young Marines, and adult volunteers on Josephine County forest land to

provide an educational hands-on planting of tree seedlings. The event resulted in over 5,000 trees planted in 2006 and a total of 50,000 trees planted over the 17 years the program has existed. The children are broken out into smaller groups and given an orientation on the contributions of trees and how to plant the trees for successful establishment. The trees are purchased through the county's standard budget for tree planting.

2. **Pacific Power & Light (PP&L).** PP&L has an interest in avoiding conflicts between trees and overhead powerlines and has programs related to accomplishing this objective. They provide a tree planting guide to help with selection of trees that avoid these conflicts. They also have a program for replanting trees when they are removed from locations under powerlines. Their franchise agreement requires them to comply with all city ordinances.

Non-Profits and Other Programs and Resources

1. **National Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City, USA Program.** Tree City, USA is an honorary program maintained by the National Arbor Day Foundation based in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Eligibility requirements for cities include the adoption of a tree ordinance, appointment of a tree task force committee, the appropriation of \$2.00 per citizen allocated to community forestry issues, and the annual celebration of Arbor Day. Any cities that go above and beyond these requirements are eligible to receive the Tree City USA Growth Award.
2. **Oregon Community Trees.** Urban forestry leaders from around the state formed the Oregon Urban and Community Forest Council (now referred to as Oregon Community Trees) in 1991. The 501(c) non-profit organization was established to promote urban and community forestry in Oregon.

The mission of Oregon Community Trees is to promote healthy urban and community forests through leadership, education, awareness, and advocacy.

With the support of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Community Trees (OCT) provides a forum for members to share ideas, develop new programs, and offer or seek advice and assistance to improve the care of community trees.

Oregon Community Trees produces a newsletter, Oregon CommuniTree News hold quarterly and annual meetings, provides leadership in urban forestry planning, and conducts a wide range of community forestry related projects. Oregon Community Trees is a statewide resource for Oregon Arbor Week events; and annually sponsors the Governor's Grove tree planting with the incumbent governor. It also serves as an advisory body to the ODF's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. Membership is open to all individuals, businesses and organizations.

3. **Middle Rogue Watershed Council.** Grants Pass is contained within the boundaries of the Middle Rogue Watershed Council. Though the mission of this council is

broader than the application of the Urban Forestry Plan, two of its biggest programs are directly applicable, the Riparian Tree Planting Program, in which more than 50 landowners have participated, and the Watershed Council's Outreach/Education program, which, through community events, workshops and educational talks, has reached an estimated 30,000 people in Josephine County.

Watershed councils were created by Oregon state statute, ORS 541.350, and provide the following guidelines: councils are to be voluntary, local groups, and the council represents a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed. Within Oregon there are 89 watershed councils. Watershed Councils are made up of people from the local communities. They represent local knowledge and have ties to the existing community in all its complexity. Watershed councils work across jurisdictional boundaries and across agency mandates to look at the watershed as a whole. The council can be a forum to bring local, state and federal land management agencies and plans together with local property owners and private land managers. The council forum provides local people a voice in natural resource management that can substantially influence watershed management decisions.

The mission of watershed councils is to facilitate information sharing with surrounding fourth and fifth-field scale watersheds and collaborate with watershed council partners: such as Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Association Conservation Districts, Oregon Plan Liaisons, River Network, Oregon State University Extension and other organizations in the state to fund and implement various watershed restoration projects and programs such as planting trees, removing noxious weeds, and cleaning up debris from roads and creeks.

Attachments

Exhibit A. Cover memo summarizing City of Grants Pass Ordinances with ordinances attached.