# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report

**Project Name:** A Regional Strategy for Advancing Urban Forestry Programs

**Funding Year:** 2012

## Stakeholders

<u>Forest Service Region:</u> USDA Forest Service - R6

<u>Sponsoring Organization:</u> Oregon Dept. of Forestry

<u>State Project Contact:</u> Paul Ries | 503-945-7391 | paul.ries@state.or.us

<u>Participating Organizations:</u> Washington Forestry

<u>Grantee:</u> Oregon Dept. of Forestry

## Project Funding

<u>Agreement(s):</u> 12-DG-11062764-027

<u>Funding Sources</u>

## Project Design

<u>Project Purpose</u>
The purpose of the project is to create a regional urban forestry strategy that can foster an increase in tree canopy within the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area and improve the ecosystem services provided by a healthy urban forest.  This will be accomplished by developing a regional urban natural resource plan as a pilot to implement recommendation #6 from the Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force report, issued in November of 2011.

The intended outcomes of this project are to improve municipal staff and policy-makers' understanding of urban forestry best practices, increase regional coordination, and improve

implementation among jurisdictions, developers and stakeholders to further the use of those practices, which will ultimately lead to healthier urban forests and protected water quality even as the region's population continues to grow.

The project intends to create a regional urban natural resource plan for the Portland/Vancouver area that identifies successful strategies, as well as issues and barriers, to creating effective urban forestry programs in cities and counties and to help jurisdictions advance their urban forestry programs in the context of the plan.  Tools and processes will be developed to help jurisdictions solve problems that are similar across the region.  Using a combination of expert presenters and peer-to-peer discussions to allow jurisdictions to share experiences and strategies, the project will help cities learn from each other and share case studies and best practices from other areas.

Deliverables:  This project helps jurisdictions advance existing urban forestry programs or create new ones with the following activities and deliverables:

1. Needs assessment and ecosystem analysis:  The project partners will review results from a recent survey to identify issues and barriers to urban forestry activities, catalog existing resources and determine specific gaps and needs, and analyze the canopy cover and ecosystem services potential of the region.

2. Collaborative workshops:  Two or three workshops for cities and counties will be developed and held to learn about urban forestry best practices and effective codes, policies and programs, including policy coordination, guidance on setting goals and targets, funding mechanisms, mitigation, and right-of-way issues, among others.

3. Stakeholder Forums:  Two or three meetings will be facilitated between jurisdictions and urban forestry stakeholders, including those from the development and advocacy communities.

4. Local projects:  Recognizing that the level of urban forest management varies between cities, it is expected that the needs assessment may identify certain local projects that are necessary to bring some cities "up to speed" with others.

5. Model Plan:  A regional urban natural resource plan will be written and published to help cities achieve successful urban forestry programs that increase canopy cover, ensure future health of urban forests, and allow for balancing of density requirements and tree canopy targets.  This process will be documented and the plan template will be made available on appropriate websites including both states, partners, and other entities such as the Vibrant Cities homepage.  Thegoal is to disseminate the work to other US metropolitan areas so that this plan can be replicated and other states can use it in developing regional urban forestry programs.

Partnering Organizations:
The lead partners for this project include the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Washington

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Department of Natural Resources, the Metro regional government, the Intertwine Alliance, and Oregon State University.  Secondary partners include Oregon Community Trees, Audubon Society of Portland, Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland, the City of Vancouver, Washington, up to 27 Oregon & Washington Cities and 4 Counties, plus other non-governmental organizations.

## National Themes & Outcomes

**Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes**

**Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests**

## Strategic Issues

This project will result in jurisdictions in the region that better understand the importance of effective urban forestry planning, are well versed in urban forestry tools and are beginning to implement or build on existing programs, leading to a healthier urban forest in the Portland-Vancouver region. The model plan will be suitable for replication in other major metropolitan areas in the US and will be reported in the context of fulfilling recommendation #6 from the Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests report.

## Collaboration & Partners

The lead partners for this project include the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, the Metro regional government, the Intertwine Alliance, and Oregon State University. ODF and WADNR in partnership with the Intertwine Alliance have taken the lead role in convening meetings and gatherings that are part of this project. OSU has taken the lead role in the needs assessment portion.

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## Accomplishments

### Deliverables

This project helps jurisdictions advance existing urban forestry programs or create new ones with the following activities and deliverables: 1. Needs assessment and ecosystem analysis: We will review results from a recent survey to identify issues and barriers to urban forestry activities, catalog existing resources and determine specific gaps and needs, and analyze the canopy cover and ecosystem services potential of the region. 2. Collaborative workshops: We will develop and hold two or three workshops for cities and counties to learn about urban forestry best practices and effective codes, policies and programs, including policy coordination, guidance on setting goals and targets, funding mechanisms, mitigation, and right -of-way issues, among others. The number and locations of these workshops will be determined in cooperation with the Intertwine Alliance, one of the project partners. The number and locations will be selected based on geographical and political considerations, and we expect to attract 50-75 people representing at least half of the affected entities (36 – 4 counties and 32 cities). 3. Stakeholder Forums: We will facilitate two or three meetings between jurisdictions and urban forestry stakeholders, including those from the development and advocacy communities. The number and locations of these forums will be determined in cooperation with the Intertwine Alliance, one of the project partners. The number and locations will be selected based on geographical and political considerations, and we expect to attract 50-75 people representing at least half of the affected entities (36 – 4 counties and 32 cities). 4. Local projects: Recognizing that the level of urban forest management varies between cities, we expect that the needs assessment may identify certain local projects that are necessary to bring some cities "up to speed" with others. 5. Model Plan: We will write and publish a regional urban natural resource plan to help cities achieve successful urban forestry programs that increase canopy cover, ensure future health of urban forests, and allow for balancing of density requirements and tree canopy targets. We will document this process and make the plan template available on appropriate websites including both states, partners, and other entities such as the Vibrant Cities homepage. Our goal is to disseminate our work to other US metropolitan areas so that this plan can be replicated and other states can use it in developing regional urban forestry programs. A planning, implementation, and evaluation phase will be required for each of these deliverables. Work may be underway on multiple deliverables simultaneously.

### Accomplishments to Date

This project is complete. The needs assessment/ecosystem analysis, stakeholder forums, and collaborative workshops have been concluded. All of the local projects have been finished. The written strategy and guidebook are finalized.

### Deliverables in Progress

This project is fully complete.

### Challenges

No unexpected challenges or issues at present.

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**Information Last Updated**
12/29/2016