



SDOT Urban Forestry



Division Mission

The Street Use and Urban Forestry Division manages the City's rights-of-way, operating under the authority of Seattle Municipal Code, Title 15. This is done through the review, permit issuance, inspection and enforcement of non-traffic-related activities in the public right-of-way.



Core Business

- Regulate tree planting, pruning and removal in public rights-of-way
- Maintain appx. 40,000 SDOT owned trees
- Maintain 123 acres of landscapes and irrigation systems
- Manage Bridging the Gap funded tree planting & establishment period
- Provide landscape architectural design and inspection services for capital projects
- Review landscape design plans and inspections for private development projects
- Conduct inspections during landscape construction





Arborist Services

- Urban Forest Management Plan
- Planting, Pruning & Removal Permits
- Utility & Hazard Tree Inspections
- Administer Citywide 684-TREE Line
- Maintain Master Street Tree List
- Coordinate Volunteer Efforts

Performance Measures

Trees Planted (BTG)	600 (2013)
To Date	4843
Phone calls	4000 annually
Customer Response	48 hour response
to 684-TREE line	





Landscape Architectural Services

- Landscape Architectural Design and Plan Review
- Tree Protection Inspections
- Landscape Construction Inspections for SDOT Capital Projects

Performance Measures

SIP Review Times 2 weeks turnaround

CIP Project Review 3 weeks turnaround

Landscape Architect Office plan review and inspection activities are funded from fees collected from SIP permits; from Capital Project funding and from DPD Building permits fees.





Field Operations

- Installation & Maintenance of Trees, Landscapes and Irrigation Systems
- Three-Year Establishment of BTG & CIP funded Trees and Landscapes
- Storm and Emergency Hazard Response



Performance Measures

Trees Pruned	3,000
Landscape Maintenance	840 events
Tree pits restored	50
Irrigation Systems Maintenance	Backflow Testing of active systems



Shoreline Street Ends

- Partner with communities and SDOT Street Use to plan for and maintain 149 shoreline street ends
- Funding supported two additional gardeners in 2013 budget
- Inventory of all 149 SSEs completed and management plan underway
- 2013 Budget—\$304,000 for 2 gardeners and a work truck





Prioritization of Customer Requests

SDOT Urban Forestry prioritizes customer requests for pruning and removal **in the right-of-way** based on the following priorities:

Priority 1

A tree or landscape presents an imminent hazard to public safety

Priority 2

Tree trunk or limbs or landscape block visibility to a traffic control device

Priority 3

Time-sensitive development projects that require alteration of the existing tree canopy or SDOT Street paving projects that require the normal 14' of clearances

Priority 4

- An SDOT maintained tree that impacts the clear zone (less than 14' feet above the street or 8' above the sidewalk) or is damaging public property
- Tree growth that blocks visibility of reasonably placed business signage
- All other requests for pruning by the public



Urban Forestry Budget--2013

Function	General Fund and Bridging the Gap (\$ 000)	Reimbursable (\$ 000)	Shoreline Street End Fees (\$ 000)
Arborists Office	\$831	N/A	N/A
Landscape Architecture	\$24	\$156	N/A
Field Operations	\$3,285	\$140	N/A
Shoreline Street Ends	N/A	N/A	\$304
Mgmt/admin	\$172	N/A	N/A
Total BTG/GF Budget	\$4,312	\$296	\$304



Asset Management--Trees

- Completed inventory of all SDOT owned trees and landscapes and established level of service (LOS) measures
- Increased tree inventory has helped move us towards canopy coverage goals, but has also reduced LOS



	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual
SDOT Tree Inventory	32,588	33,980	35,138	36,282	37,611	38,558
SDOT Trees Planted	1,392	1,158	1,144	1,329	947	1,111
Tree Maintenance LOS (Pruning Cycle in years)	24.3	11.3	11.7	12.1	12.5	12.8



Asset Management--Landscapes

- Completed inventory of SDOT owns landscapes and irrigation systems and established LOS (good/poor condition)
- Urban Forestry field crews are not able to focus maintenance efforts on all SDOT owned landscapes due to staffing levels and increasing inventory



Good Condition



Poor Condition



2013 Next Steps

- Operational Plan to assess and address tree and sidewalk conflicts
- Adoption and rollout of 2013 Street Tree Ordinance
- Updating asset inventories
- Update and manage long term Urban Forestry Stewardship Plan goals
- Continued efforts to educate and inform the public about the benefits and responsibilities related to Seattle's Urban Forest

