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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trees Planted (BTG)</td>
<td>600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Date</td>
<td>4843</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone calls</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Response</td>
<td>48 hour response</td>
<td>to 684-TREE line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trees Pruned</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Maintenance</td>
<td>840 events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree pits restored</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation Systems Backflow</td>
<td>Testing of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>active systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDOT Tree Inventory</td>
<td>32,588</td>
<td>33,980</td>
<td>35,138</td>
<td>36,282</td>
<td>37,611</td>
<td>38,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDOT Trees Planted</td>
<td>1,392</td>
<td>1,158</td>
<td>1,144</td>
<td>1,329</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>1,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Maintenance LOS</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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