
The Tracking and Maintenance of Green Infrastructure - Asset Management of Trees

“To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.” - Theodore Roosevelt



Mike Rosen, Manager
Watershed Division

Grey to Green

- Increase watershed health improvement actions, using current science to set priorities
- Funding: \$50 million over 5 years (now in 2nd year)
 - *43 acres of ecoroof*
 - *920 green streets*
 - *83,000 trees*
 - *840 acres of invasive species*
 - *419 acres purchased*
 - *8 culverts replaced*



“A tree is a tree - how many more do you need to look at.”
- Ronald Reagan, California Governor

The Purpose of Asset Management

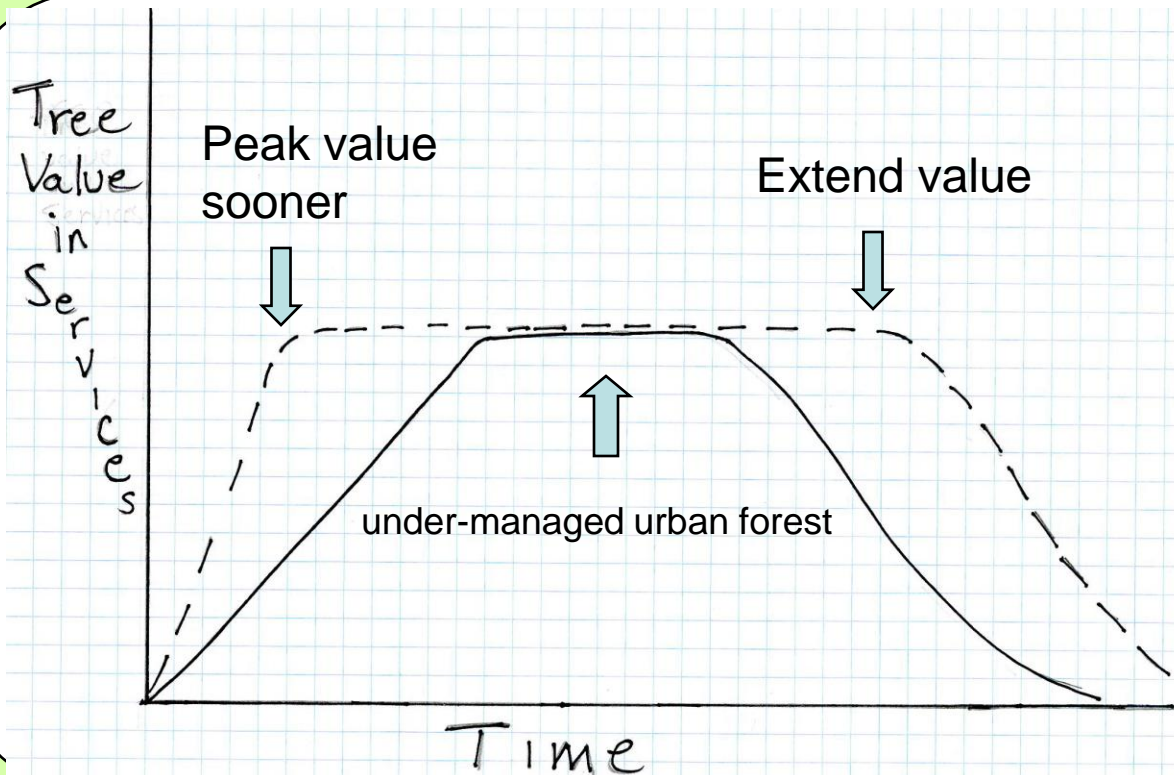
Maximize the life of the infrastructure investment through:

1. Tracking
2. Monitoring
3. Maintenance



“God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools.” - John Muir

The Benefits of Asset Management to the Urban Forest



“The best friend of earth, of man, is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on earth.” - Frank Lloyd Wright

Why Asset Management, Why Now?

- ❑ Increased investment though Grey to Green happening now
- ❑ Supports Capitalization
- ❑ Bureau effort underway for Grey Infrastructure
- ❑ More formal and comprehensive method for tracking and maintenance needed



“There was a handsome male mockingbird that sang his heart out every morning during the nesting season from the top of a tall Norfolk Pine tree. Last week the tree was cut down. The mockingbird and his song are gone. I can’t put a dollar value on the tree nor the song. But I know that I - and our whole neighborhood - have suffered a loss. I wouldn’t know how to count it in dollars.” - Jaquelyn Hiller

Tree Maintenance Options

1. Short term - warranty period maintenance for establishment - through Friends of Trees
2. Long term -
 - Bureau
 - Homeowner
 - Private contracts
 - Community based
 - NGO based



“...every tree near our house had a name of its own and a special identity. This was the beginning of my love for natural things, for earth and sky, for roads and fields and woods, for trees and grass and flowers;...” - Ellen Glasgow

Financing Options

\$ for Planting, tracking, and maintenance

- Calculating and leveraging “future avoided costs”
- Setting up “Tree Increment Financing” districts (TrIF) - concept of CNT
- Utilizing leaves as a commodity through community-wide composting



“A well maintained landscape with mature trees can increase property values up to 25%. A city lot with 30 percent plant cover provides the equivalent cooling necessary to air condition two moderately sized houses 12 hours a day in the summer.” - The Value of Trees Around Your Home.

Next Steps for Portland

- **Get tough, smart, serious and creative**
 - **Create green infrastructure capitalization programs**
 - **Collaborate more effectively with NGOs, locally and nationally**
 - **Create new financing strategies through better asset valuation**
 - **Invest in ecosystem services analysis**
 - **Collaborate with institutes such as Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) - a leader in promoting urban sustainability - for the more effective use of existing resources and community assets.**

“Trees provide me with a sense of place. They are a marker for where I am and where I’m meant to go.” Odinn, Mike’s dog.

Contact Information



Thank you
Jennifer and
Heather!

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“A tree exults me above those graceless, noisy and soil bound creatures that I find endless joy in mocking.” -The Squirrel in Mike’s neighborhood, that Odinn barks at EVERY morning.