

City of Austin Urban Forestry Program

FY 2013 Report



FY13 Highlights

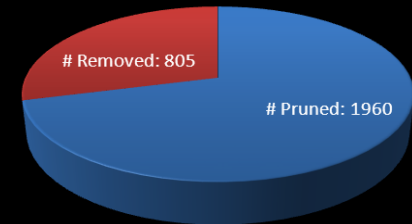
- 30th year of urban forestry
- Tree City USA designation for the 21st straight year
- Austin: One of the Top 10 Urban Forests in the US by American Forests
- Budget increased by \$1 million dollars by City Council for FY14
- Austin's Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan final draft completed after 2.5 years of board meetings, interdepartmental and public engagement meetings. First Plan in 20+ years.
- Developed bilingual training program for intradepartmental staff on the Standard of Care for Trees on Public Property
- Imagine Austin's Green Infrastructure Priority Program Implementation Team
- Along with other departments, implemented the Invasive Species Management Plan
- Issued 85 Public Tree Permits for tree care, a donated value of \$111,736

Maintenance & Inspections

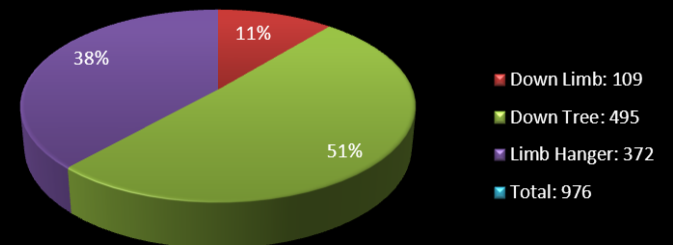
- Program certified arborists inspected 952 trees
- 811 public tree maintenance work requests. 1960 trees pruned, 805 trees removed
- Emergency response team addressed 976 emergency tree issues
- 5 ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) staff
- New citywide Tree Risk Assessment training provided
- 50 re-inspections of moderate risk trees on monitor list



**FY 13
Tree Maintenance Service Totals**



FY13 Emergency Calls



Planting

- Tree seedlings planted 8 parks along Grow Zone riparian areas
- Containerized trees in parks and rights of way
- Austin Community Trees Program focus: St. John/Coronado Hills Neighborhood
- Total trees: 10,474

FY2013 URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM TREE PLANTINGS

Programs Involved:

Seedling Plantings in Grow Zones

Container Plantings

NeighborWoods Program

Austin Community Trees Program

Large Shade Tree Contract

Size in Gallons	Tree Size in Caliper Inch	Tree Quantities	Estimated Caliper
Totals		10,474	4,320



Tree Preservation: Review & Permitting



- Issued 85 Public Tree Permits for tree care, a donated value of \$111,736
- Development Review; facilitated public tree preservation and replenishment by reviewing 239 commercial site plans and 71 parkland development projects
- Investigation of 34 damaged trees and several large encroachments in public natural areas
- Initiated rule change to include Standards of Care for Public Trees & Plants into Environmental Criteria Manual

Public Outreach



Austin Urban Forest Plan Pop-Up at Republic Park Farmers Market



Foresters teaching home-owners proper pruning techniques at Zilker Garden Fest



Over 20 media interviews for press, radio and television



Earth Day, Zilker Garden Fest, and Arbor Day

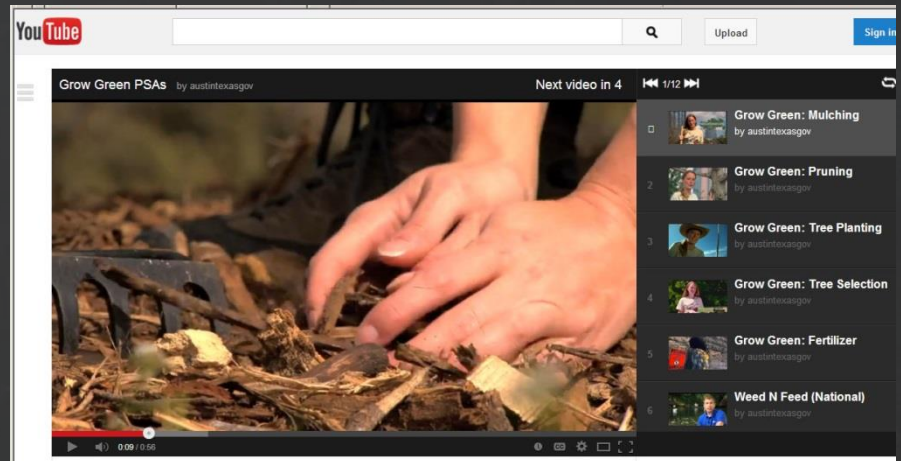
Public Outreach



664 Facebook fans



447 receive monthly newsletter subscriptions to "The Austin Treebune"



Grow Green Public Service Announcements

-Used to train tree care volunteers

- 5048 views

Austin's Urban Forest Plan

- Austin's Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan final draft completed after 2.5 years of board meetings, interdepartmental and public engagement meetings. First Plan in 20+ years.

Education campaign and public engagement process

- o 1,243 Online Survey Responses
- o 917 Public Comments Received



Public Engagement Meeting held at Ruiz Library August 2013

Awards

Named one of the top 10 Urban Forests in the US by American Forests, the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the country advocating the protection and expansion of America's forests.



Austin was designated Tree City USA for the 21st straight year! The award, granted by the Arbor Day Foundation, is given to cities that meet the standards for "best tree management."



Austin Urban Forestry Program Mission & Goals for the Future

Urban Forestry Mission Statement

The Urban Forestry Program collaborates with the community to grow, protect, and care for the public urban forest to support a safe, sustainable, and livable Austin.

Future Directions

- Proactive maintenance!!!
- 9 additional staff and additional equipment and operating budget
- Expanded interdepartmental and community partnerships and alliances
- Standardized tree data collection and management and field-based digital technology

