

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: ROBERT G. WELLS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: VICKIE HARDIN WOODS, DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT;
TIM GERLING, DIRECTOR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT; AND
BARBARA ROBERTS, INTERIM DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION CASE STUDY

ISSUE:

The American Planning Association will be featuring the City of Salem in a forthcoming Planning Advisory Service Report, *Planning for Urban and Community Forestry*.

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only.

BACKGROUND:

The American Planning Association (APA) is a national professional organization for planners, citizens, and officials, with local chapters in every state. The APA provides leadership in the development of vital and sustainable communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. The APA provides its members with an extensive range of professional development services and opportunities, including conferences, publications and professional certification.

One of the APA's regular publications is the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Report, which is published 8 times each year. PAS Reports are a series of technical manuals that provide practical guidance on a broad range of issues and innovative practices from the experts at the APA Planning Advisory Service. Each PAS Report is between 50 and 200 pages and focuses on a specific topic.

In March 2007, the APA requested that the Community Development Department write an article to be used as a case study for an upcoming PAS Report, *Planning for Urban and Community Forestry*. The APA chose to highlight the City of Salem in this report based upon several of the city's innovative tree preservation and enhancement activities, including:

1. Periodic tree canopy review based on watershed boundaries and updated satellite imagery;
2. Establishment of a tree canopy preservation fund;
3. Revision of SRC Chapter 68 (Preservation of Trees and Vegetation) to prevent speculative clear cutting, and to protect heritage and significant trees, riparian vegetation and at least 25% of all trees within new residential subdivisions;
4. Revision of the Willamette Greenway Ordinance to protect a minimum riparian buffer area and implement one water quality mitigation measure from among 5 options, upon development or redevelopment;
5. Implementation of the Free Streamside Tree Program to promote riparian replanting;
6. Review of downtown and other complex tree issues by the Shade Tree Advisory Committee;
7. Installation and maintenance of wetland plantings by the City, in compliance with state and federal permit requirements;
8. Proactive enforcement of city tree preservation requirements;
9. Ongoing coordination among the various divisions of Community Development, Community Services and Public Works Departments.

The City of Salem APA case study has been authored by Planning, Urban Forestry and Stormwater Services staff. It is expected to be published as part of the PAS Report, *Planning for Urban and Community Forestry* in early 2008. Staff will provide copies of the case study to City Council members upon publication.



Glenn W. Gross, Urban Planning Administrator

Prepared by Florence Davis, Senior Planner

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