

City of Snoqualmie

2023 Stormwater and Urban Forestry Report



Philip Bennett, Stormwater and Urban Forestry Superintendent



Acknowledgements

Thanks to the elected officials, city staff, program partners, and citizens who maintain and contribute to the City's Stormwater and Urban Forestry Infrastructure.

Mayor Katherine Ross

City Council

Mayor Pro-tem, Bryan Holloway

Ethan Benson
Rob Wotton
Catherine (Cat) Cotton

Louis Washington
Cara Christensen
Jolyon Johnson

City Staff

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Kevin Halbert, Stormwater & Urban Forestry Maintenance Tech II
Kyle Markwardt, Stormwater and Urban Forestry Maintenance Tech II
Brendon Ecker, GIS Analyst

Program and Community Partners



Introduction

In 2023 a new division - the Stormwater and Urban Forestry Division - was created by the City Council within the Parks and Public Works Department. This division is comprised of 5 full-time staff, plus additional assistance from engineering and communications staff.



Stormwater and Urban Forestry

Assets Maintained:

45 stormwater detention ponds

3200 catch basins

Several miles of stormwater pipes

15 stormwater bioswales

8 stormwater vaults

The North High Flow Bypass line

10,000 Street and Park Trees

1149 acres of open space, divided into 335 forest management units, containing \approx 181,950 trees

12+ miles of trails

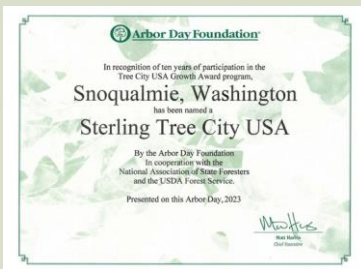


Tree City USA

In 2023, Snoqualmie recertified as a Tree City USA for the 14th consecutive year and received its 10th Growth Award. The Tree City USA designation is attained by meeting four standards for running an urban forestry program. The Tree City USA Growth Award is for communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement.



Additionally, Snoqualmie was recognized in 2023 for achieving 10 consecutive years of growth awards and achieved “Sterling Community” status.



City Receives Growth Award

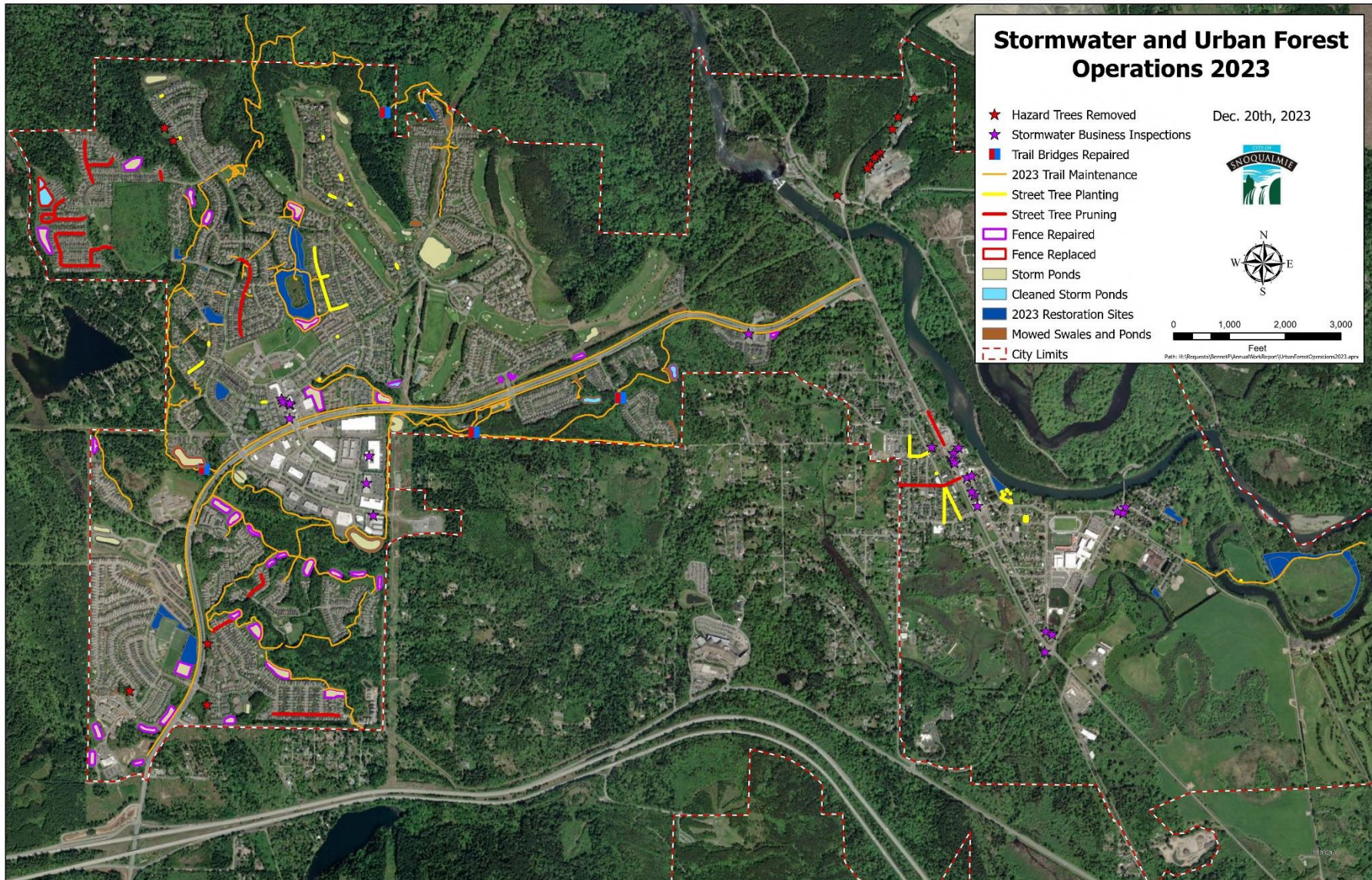
Snoqualmie received a Growth Award in 2023 for staff attaining professional credentials (technician Kyle Markwardt became an ISA Certified Arborist); for completing a proactive annual tree risk survey, and for generating an annual report for the previous year’s activities.



Arbor Day Celebration in Riverview Park - April 22, 2023



2023 Operations Map



Project Highlight: Autumn Street Tree Replacement

In 2020, the City established a new CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) program: The Urban Forestry Improvement Program. This program was designed to replace street trees that are not performing due to poor site conditions. These poor site conditions and inadequate soils caused dozens of trees to fail in windstorms during the winter of 2022-2023, as shown below.

In total, 126 trees were replaced along Autumn Ave, O'Neil St, Pratt St, Cottonwood Drive, and other streets on Snoqualmie Ridge.

This project prevents future infrastructure damage and adds decades to the working life of the new trees compared to the old.

Autumn Ave Urban Forestry Improvements Project Resident Fact Sheet

Project Description:
The project is part of the City-wide Urban Forestry Improvement Program which intends to provide residents with a healthier set of street trees. Healthy trees provide a wide range of benefits, including improved air quality, reduced stormwater runoff, and increased property values. The project will replace trees that are not performing due to poor site conditions and inadequate soils.

Project Location:
The project will replace trees along Autumn Ave, O'Neil St, Pratt St, Cottonwood Drive, and other streets on Snoqualmie Ridge.

Urban Forestry Improvement Program Background:
Snoqualmie Ridge is a residential area with a high density of trees. The trees in this area are not performing due to poor site conditions and inadequate soils. The project will replace trees that are not performing due to poor site conditions and inadequate soils.

Construction Timeline:
Aug 2023: City will remove existing trees.
Sept - Oct 2023: Construction will remove old trees and install new trees.
Nov 2023: Construction will install new trees and City will install new trees.

Frequently Asked Questions:
Will the project affect my property? The project will not affect your property. The project will only affect the trees along the street. The project will not affect your property. The project will only affect the trees along the street.

More info or questions:
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Failed tree on Autumn Ave. from December 2022 windstorm



Left: Installation of new topsoil on Autumn Ave.
Right: New planting - Forest green oak.



Project Highlight: Storm-water System Maintenance

In 2023 our team performed extensive inspections and maintenance on the City's stormwater system and met all NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit requirements.

Catchbasins inspected: 1510

Catchbasins cleaned: 237

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Inspections (IDDE) 362

Business Inspections: 27

Ponds cleaned: 5

Ponds mowed: 8

Vaults cleaned: 8

Bioswales maintained: 8

Pond fences replaced: 2

Pond Fence Repairs: Replaced 224 posts and 19,187 linear ft (3.64 miles) of rails.



Woody Creek Pond Before and After Cleaning



Forest St. Vault Before and After Cleaning



Gala Ct. bioswale Before and After Mowing



Program Highlight: Green Snoqualmie Partnership

As part of our forest management program, the Green Snoqualmie Partnership engages resident volunteers, agencies, businesses and non-profits to control invasive species and plant native trees and shrubs on City Forestland.



2023 Impacts

52.8 Acres in restoration

Work accomplished by volunteers and crews since 2016

893 Hours volunteered

18 separate volunteer events held, \$33,603 in volunteer value

2,420 Plants installed

1,467 trees planted in Snoqualmie's forests

16 Active Forest Stewards

Leading events in 2023

\$94,000 in partner funding

From non-profit and corporate partners.

Thank you to the volunteers, organizations, neighborhood associations, businesses, youth groups and City staff that support the **Green Snoqualmie Partnership** and allowed us to have a successful year in restoring Snoqualmie's forestland.



The Green Snoqualmie Partnership envisions a city with healthy forests that provide high value habitat for wildlife and access for residents and visitors to experience nature, supported by an aware and engaged community that is working together to restore and care for these lands.

www.GreenSnoqualmie.org

Green Snoqualmie Events 2023



Trail System Maintenance

In 2023, we focused on repair and replacement of trail bridges and boardwalks. This included:

- One entire boardwalk replacement
- Two entire bridge deck replacements
- Two other bridge repairs
- One safety rail replacement



Steller Boardwalk Replaced

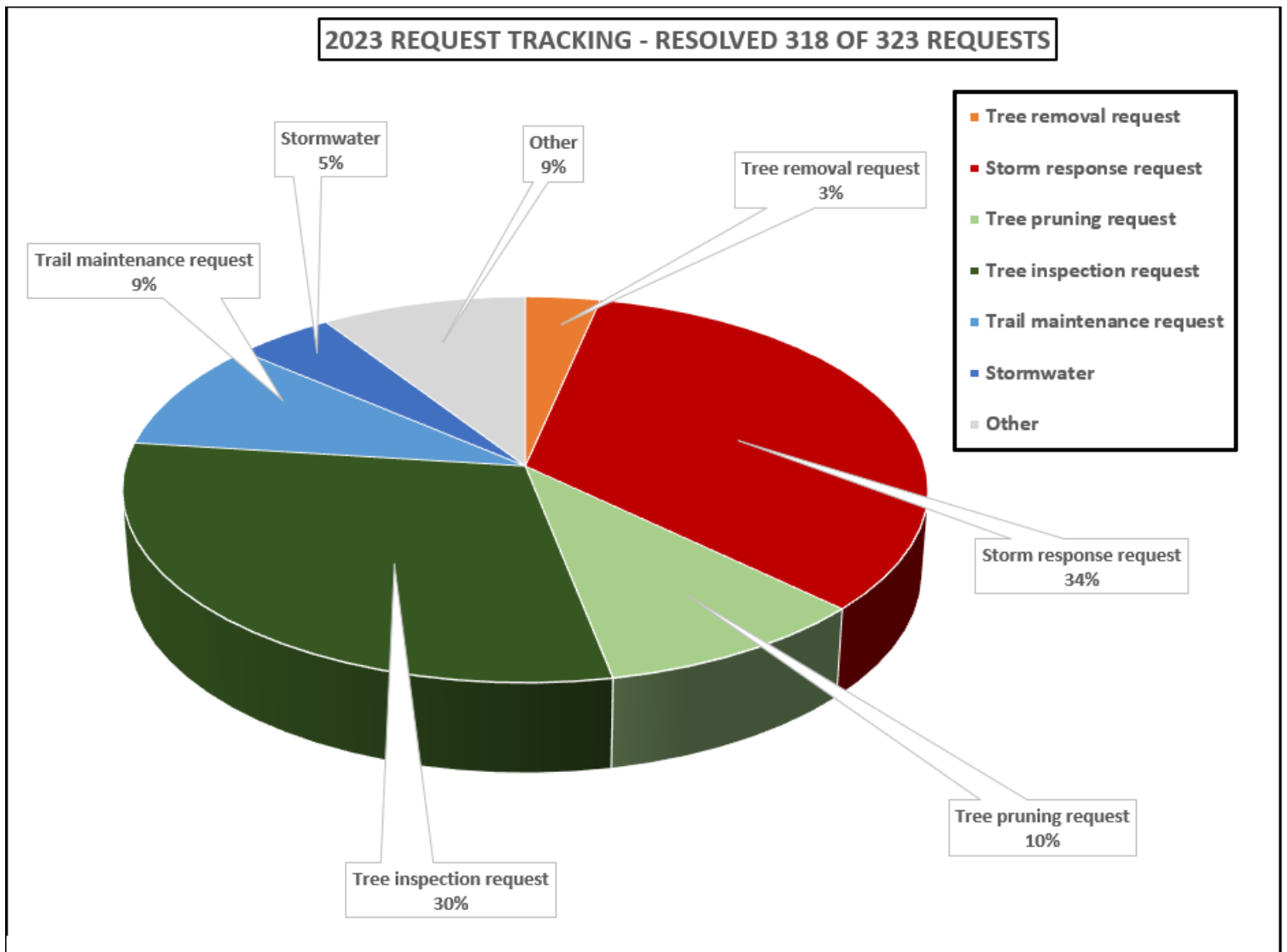


Deep Creek Bridge Deck Partially (left)
and Fully (above) Replaced



Orchard Bridge Deck Under Repair (left) and Fully Replaced (right)

Response to Resident Requests in 2023



Conclusion and Thank You

The accomplishments detailed in this report represent the efforts of hundreds of people. Thank you to the staff team, contractors, and the citizen volunteers who helped us maintain the City's gray and green stormwater infrastructure in 2023.

