

Breakout Discussion #1

What problems do you see with the health of trees in our urban forest? Which do you think are caused by humans and which by climate change?

Responses shared during the Summit

Problem	Cause
Soil compaction under trees	Human
Beetles in Eastern Oregon	Climate
Invasive species - stress	Human
Drought	Climate
Lack of management plan in Springbrook Park	Human
A place to learn about impacts need information	Human
Need education - soil health. Impacts of common gardening practices.	Human
Loss of large significant trees	Both
Landscaping practices that damage soil	Human
Dead cedars	Human

Notes from Group Leaders:

Sharon H. - 4 Participants

- Climate Change:
 - Pine tree limb bent over to ground - arborist says most likely drought-caused
 - Bark beetle infestation in Central OR (not local). Trees stressed by drought
 - Wildfires caused by extreme winds and drought
- Humans:
 - Sequoias with root area circumference covered over with pavement (he plans to have an arborist check them for health).
 - Huge doug fir had to be cut down in my neighbor's yard - all the roots on one side facing his house had been cut through 30 years ago when the house was built; cut up sections showed rot and moldy-like areas in center.
 - Trees taken out for development.

Mary - 4 Participants

- Climate caused
 - Drought affecting trees
- Human caused
 - Invasive Species were significant threats.
 - Ivy crowds out natives and stresses the trees. Human caused (neglect).
 - Blackberries also a hazard
 - Soil nutrition is poor due to landscaping actions

Betsy - 5 Participants

Participant active in Springbrook Park. More trees are falling over than ever before. Lack of rain, he thinks. Also, the City has been too slow in responding to funding for Friends of Springbrook Park. We all need to approach these issues with a sense of urgency.

We should have more education about trees and approach issues beginning with soil health.

There is too much over trimming of trees and doubts arborists understand what they are doing. With over trimming, we do not acknowledge the native intelligence of trees. Trimming a tree should not be done for purely cosmetic reasons. Trees should be trimmed only if there is a danger.

Pays close attention to trees and has noticed cedars beginning to die. The City plants trees but does not water them.

Pesticides, herbicides, insecticides kill the soil and its organisms and leaf blowers kill the organisms and also desiccate the soil. These habits adversely impact tree health.

Kathleen:

Climate:

- Long term drought- killing trees

Human:

- Soil compaction caused by not added compost/mulch (lack of ability to hold moisture) and caused by gas powered leaf blowers damaging the health of the soil and habitat
- Toxic herbicides (Round up, Crossbow) applied to kill ivy and weeds - damages soil and roots of trees
- Limbing up trees too high (human)
- Cutting down so many significant trees
- Unhealthy landscaping practices (gas powered leaf blowers, herbicides, pesticides, too much grass and not planting natives, not leaving leaves, weed and seed for lawns)

Mike: 4 Participants

Climate:

- Allows invasive species to proliferate
- different rain patterns, drought effects on trees especially cedars noted
- enhanced fire danger

Human:

- Loss of tree canopy, especially native trees, by removal (inferring not necessary but discretionary)

Barb and Jim: 6 Participants

Human:

- Large trees being cut down for development, etc.
- Severe pruning in trees due to power lines
- Compacted soil affecting tree health
- Landscaping, paving & leaf blowing affecting tree health

Stephanie: 3 Participants

Climate:

- Dead Cedars
- Leaves dropping later

- Madrones are struggling
- Step back and see impacts region wide

Human:

- Local impacts rather than regional
- Cedars - may be impacted by local management

Sharon G.

Climate:

- Die-off from drought

Human

- Heavy construction/demolition, trees die
- Loss of canopy by tree removal for development