

# HB 3016

## The TREES (Trees Restoring Economic and Environmental Stability) Act

As summers get hotter and winter storms worsen, Oregonians need healthy tree canopy, better stormwater management, and parks to make their communities more livable.



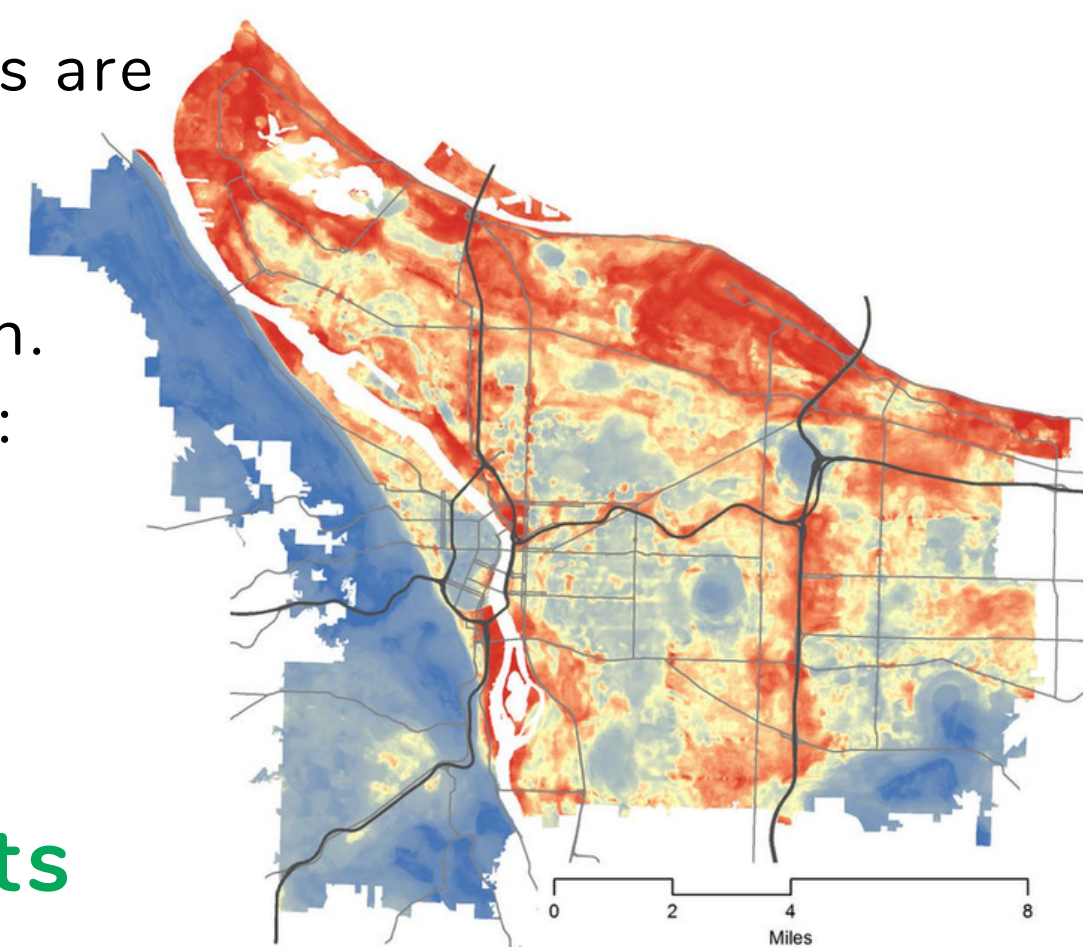
Green infrastructure projects mimic natural systems and provide community benefit. These projects are important in both urban and rural areas to sequester carbon and address resilience needs, like mitigating heat islands. To date, Oregon has not invested sufficiently as a state in the strategies that are needed to increase tree canopy, parks access, and the health of water systems and people. Simultaneously, diseases, pests, and drought threaten the green infrastructure that is in place across Oregon. We must better plan and respond in ways that protect, improve, and maintain the trees and plants that help our communities thrive.

**Heat islands:** areas or neighborhoods, typically lower income communities, with low tree canopy and lots of built infrastructure that absorbs heat. They are on average at least five degrees warmer than wealthier areas with more trees. Community members who are impacted by heat islands are more at risk for heat related illnesses and experience other physical and mental health impacts.

To help Oregon communities get green infrastructure benefits and ensure that our school campuses are shaded and safe, we must invest in the kinds of projects that will put people to work planting trees along rights of ways, developing parks and managing stormwater in ways that also promote ecological health. HB 3016 provides a comprehensive approach to address these needs:

### Funding for Communities, Faith Organizations, Tribal Governments, Public Bodies to Plan, Develop & Maintain Green infrastructure Projects

Creates a Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program at the Department of Land Conservation and Development to fund communities to develop projects that increase tree canopy, improve livability, and support water quality and conservation. Projects that are prioritized include school campuses, rights of way, projects with a workforce and economic development component, and projects in areas with low tree canopy or rural and remote areas.





## Support for Partnerships Between Nurseries and Communities on Green Infrastructure Projects

Creates a Community Green Nurseries designation for nurseries that help prevent pests and diseases, use good labor practices, and partner to provide non-invasive nursery stock for community projects. Community Green Infrastructure Program grant recipients are encouraged to partner with these nurseries in addition to reducing vehicle miles traveled in project development to support Oregon nurseries and reduce emissions.



## Analysis of where Tree Canopy Is and Who Benefits

Funds the Department of Forestry to develop a tree canopy assessment tool to evaluate where tree canopy is and is not, the health of existing canopy, benefiting communities, and interacting rights of way. The tool will be used to designate Green Infrastructure Improvement Zones that will be prioritized for funding through the Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program.

## Resources to Address Threats to Tree Canopy like Emerald Ash Borer and Sudden Oak Death

Establishes a technical and financial assistance program at the Department of Forestry to help communities proactively plan, mitigate, and recover from pests, diseases and both present and future threats.

## For More Information

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