Trees in the Curb Zone

Project Goal:
The goal of this project is for the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to develop a framework for tree planting in the curb zone, in collaboration with Portland Parks & Recreation’s Urban Forestry team, Bureau of Environmental Services, and others, with the end goal of constructing tree space in the curb/parking zone.

Criteria for Planting Trees in the Curb Zone
- Existing on-street parking
- Curb tight sidewalk or narrow Furnishing Zone with no existing street trees
- Lack of underground utilities along curb line
- Lack of overhead high voltage wires
- Movement of emergency response vehicles is not negatively impacted
- Not on curb extension policy exemption map

Benefits of Street Trees
- Provide green stormwater management
- Can mitigate urban heat island effect, urban air pollution
- Can be used as a traffic calming enhancement
- Can extend street’s livability (slower pavement deterioration)

We often don’t have enough right of way behind the curb, so going into the parking zone may be our only option

Analysis
A city wide analysis was conducted, which looked at the urban heat index, tree canopy coverage, equity, and street characteristics.

Additional Info
https://www.portland.gov/curb-trees