



## HERITAGE TREES

### MEMORANDUM

#### TREE BOARD DISCUSSION – November 7, 2022

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#### Background

Following adoption of the Urban Forestry Management Plan on March 2, 2021, the Tree Board reviewed the Tree Board's primary responsibilities in implementing the Plan, including the heritage tree program. The Tree Board asked staff to:

- Make sure that the City's designated heritage trees lists and maps are updated and current.
- Review opportunities to add memorial trees, such as the September 11, 2001 tree and Arbor Day trees such as those trees south of the library.
- Review the process for adding signage for the heritage trees.
- Seek new heritage tree nominations from the community.

#### Heritage Trees

TMC 16.08.075 *Heritage trees designated* states that "trees that are designated as heritage trees shall be classified as follows:

1. Historical – A tree which by virtue of its age, its association with or contribution to a historical structure or district, or its association with a noted citizen or historical event.
2. Specimen – Age, size, health, and quality factors combine to qualify the tree as unique among the species in Tumwater and Washington State.
3. Rare – One or very few of a kind, or is unusual in some form of growth or species.
4. Significant Grove – Outstanding rows or groups of trees that impact the city's landscape."

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As of August 1, 2022, the City of Tumwater has 11 designated Heritage Trees:

Location	Species	Date approved by City Council	Quantity
7525 Old Hwy 99	Garry Oak ( <i>Quercus garryana</i> )	May 15, 2001	1
5720 Capital Blvd	London Planetree ( <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> )	May 15, 2001	4
5750 Capital Blvd	Deodar Cedar ( <i>Cedrus deodara</i> )	May 15, 2001	1
4500 Cleveland Ave	Myrtlewood ( <i>Umbellularia californica</i> )	May 15, 2001	2
3146 Hoadly St	Acorn House Oak Tree ( <i>Quercus spp.</i> )	May 15, 2001	1
Isabella Bush Park	Butternut ( <i>Juglans cinerea</i> )	November 16, 2021	1
Glenwood Community Park	Douglas fir ( <i>Pseudotsuga menzesii</i> )	August 1, 2022	1

### Champion Trees

Additionally, the City has three trees which are listed on American Forest's Champion Tree Registry.

Location	Species	Quantity
This tree has died	Butternut ( <i>Juglans cinerea</i> )	1
Mills & Mills Cemetery	American Chestnut ( <i>Castanea dentata</i> )	2

American Forests accepts nominations for Champion Trees if they are an eligible species, a nominator measures the trunk circumference, tree height, average crown spread, and submits six photographs of the tree. Once nominated, a state coordinator from the National Cadre of Tree Measuring Experts visits, verifies measurements and species, and assesses tree health. If the nominated tree is approved it must be re-verified every 10 years to maintain its status as a Champion Tree.

The Champion Tree designation from American Forests is simply a designation and honor and does not provide any protections for the tree. The City's Sustainability Coordinator received property owner's approval to formally nominate the two American Chestnut trees at the Mills & Mills Cemetery property on October 21, 2022. After those trees have been assessed by the City's Tree Professional the Tree Board will be presented with an agenda item to consider the nomination, likely in December.

### Landmark Trees

Maps provided by the Tree Board and City in the past have also shown "Landmark Trees", which in the past have been mistakenly counted towards the total number of Heritage Trees designated in the City of Tumwater. It is the opinion of staff that this classification is vague and not supported by any Policy or Plan by the City. As such, staff intends for future maps of designated trees to not list or display these

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“landmark trees” unless they are deemed to be suitable as Heritage Trees and undergo the necessary steps for designation.

### **Updated Maps**

Item 9.B is an updated Heritage Tree Map and Item 9.C is a map showing Heritage, Champion, and Memorial Trees.

### **Next Steps**

Staff encourages the Tree Board to discuss if they would like to nominate any of the landmark or Champion trees to be Heritage Trees.

### **Staff Contact**

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