



Arts, Culture & Heritage Commission Staff Report (Exhibit A)

Date: March 13, 2025

From: Georgia McAlister, Associate Planner

Subject: Heritage Tree Program Updates and “Holiday Leyland Cypress” Nomination.

Recommended Action:

Pass a Resolution that to resolve discrepancies between Resolution No. 1928 and Resolution No. 2941, updates the Heritage Tree Program and nomination process to fit with the new structure and goals of the City, acknowledges all Heritage Trees not recognized by Resolution, to recognize the “Holiday Leyland Cypress” as a Heritage Tree, confirms the Planning Division roles in the Heritage Tree Program, and confirm the intent to review existing Heritage Tree plaques/signs and possibly update the Heritage Tree Program plaques for consistency.

Background:

On April 4, 2005, Wilsonville City Council created the “Heritage Tree Program” with the adoption of Resolution No. 1928 (Exhibit B4.). This resolution also created the Heritage Tree Committee for the purpose of accepting nominations and making recommendations to City Council about the inclusion of trees or tree groves into the Heritage Tree Program. In 2022, Resolution No. 2941 (Exhibit B5.) designated the Heritage Tree Committee to be a subcommittee of the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Committee. Resolution No. 2941 states, “The original purpose of the Heritage Tree Committee continues to oversee a “heritage tree program [that] will recognize, foster appreciation of, and inspire awareness of the contribution trees make to the community” and advocate that “heritage tree recognition will promote awareness of our history as a community and provides important links to the past.” The Commission, however, may modify the name, purpose and other components of the Heritage Tree Committee as the Commission sees fit.” In response to the changes outlined in Resolution No. 2941 as well as the need to modernize the program, the Planning Department has undergone an overhaul of the program to update the nomination process under the ACHC and ensure the program is in line with City goals. The details of the program updates are outlined in the included attachments as Exhibit B1. Updates have been made to the Nomination Process, Heritage Tree Committee description, Designation process, Recognition process, Removal of Heritage Designation process, and Staff Role.

Nomination:

The Planning Department is recommending the approval of the “Holiday Leyland Cypress” Heritage Tree nomination, details of which are included in the attachments as Exhibits C1 and C2. If dedicated, this will be the first Heritage Tree dedicated since 2009. The tree was nominated on January 6, 2025, by resident Odessa Akervall. The tree is located within the City Right-of-Way at the intersection of Wilsonville Road and Boones Ferry Road.



Holiday Leyland Cypress Location.

Staff Recommends dedicating the Holiday Leyland Cypress Tree based on the following criteria:

- **Unique features** – Leyland cypress are not common trees within the City’s ROW. The well-manicured tree has a unique, nearly perfect, “Christmas tree” like shape.
- **Design placement** – The tree is incorporated within one of the most trafficked intersections of Wilsonville. The prominent location draws attention of those passing by and leaves a lasting impression. Surrounded by streets on all sides, the trees continued health and growth is a symbol of successful landscape design and represents Wilsonville commitment to integrating trees within our community. The tree represents how creative landscape design can enhance community spaces. The intersection could have been left barren but Wilsonville recognized both the aesthetic and green infrastructure benefits of integrating trees within development.
- **Culture** – Every holiday season the tree is adorned with lights and tinsel. It has become a staple feature of Wilsonville’s holiday display in the heart of the City. The tree is also a nod to the many nurseries that used to operate within Wilsonville as well as the long running status as a Tree City USA.
- **Associated persons** – The nomination of this tree is tied to the admiration of Wilsonville’s Public Works Department. This heritage tree is a monument to all Public Works employees, past and present, who work to keep the City functioning and beautiful.

Fiscal Impact: The cost of updating plaques will continue to be funded by the City Tree Fund managed by the Planning Division.

Next Steps: Review existing Heritage Tree Signs/Plaques and consider updated designs for consistency.

EXHIBITS:

Planning Staff Materials

- A1.** Staff Report (this document)

Heritage Tree Program Updates and Background

- B1.** Updated Heritage Tree Program
- B2.** Heritage Tree Map
- B3.** Plaque Inventory
- B4.** Resolution No. 1928
- B5.** Resolution No. 2941

Heritage Tree Nomination Materials

- C1.** "Holiday Leyland Cypress" Heritage Tree Nomination Form
- C2.** Staff Heritage Tree Recommendation