



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Proposed Heritage Trees

Heritage Tree Committee presentation to the Urban Forestry Commission



www.PortlandParks.org

Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Director Mike Abbaté

The Heritage Tree Committee is pleased to bring a list of 6 trees to Urban Forestry Commission for nomination into the City's Heritage Tree Program. Heritage Trees are of special importance to the city because of their age, size, type, historical association or horticultural value. These trees have been nominated by members of the public, and if privately owned, consent to designation was given by their property owners.

Only a few nominations make it through the rigorous selection process, which weighs the above factors along with the tree's health, available growing space, and distribution of trees throughout the city.

Once designated, it is against the law for any person to remove, destroy or injure a heritage tree. Of all the programs in Oregon celebrating significant trees, Portland has the only one with legal teeth. This program expresses the pride that Portlanders take in their significant trees and their determination to celebrate and protect them.



Dawn Redwood

*Metasequoia
glyptostroboides*

Privately owned tree at
4600 SW Maplewood Rd

Circumference: 7.1'
Height: 72'
Canopy spread: 41



Two magnificent dawn redwoods resides on land that is part of the history of Oregon's nursery industry. The trees are 7.1 and 9.0' in circumference, respectively, and both are over 70' tall.

Beginning in 1889, and continuing for the next 92 years, a small specialty nursery occupied a corner of the quiet Southwest Portland neighborhood of Maplewood.

The nursery property has been owned by two generations each of only two families for the past 125 years. The story of this nursery encapsulates the history of Oregon family nurseries. These family nurseries were the predecessors of the huge agri-business nurseries that now form such an important component of Oregon's economy.

In 1875, during the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant, a Donation Land Grant (homestead) of one half section of land (320 acres) was created in Maplewood, including the future nursery property. An 1889 deed confirms a 10 acre purchase of part of that original homestead by William Borsch. William and his son, Fred, ran the nursery as "William Borsch & Son" until 1945.

In 1941, Warren Wilson, came to work as a propagator for Fred Barsch, who then owned the nursery. In 1945, Warren and another nursery employee, Al Saxton, purchased the nursery from Fred, creating Saxton & Wilson Nursery. These two trees were nominated by Karen Hendrickson, the daughter of Warren who still lives at the property.



Dawn Redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides



Privately owned tree at 4600 SW Maplewood Rd

Circumference: 9.0'

Height: 76'

Canopy spread: 49'



In 1955, Warren changed the nursery's focus to growing his "first love," rare and choice trees and shrubs for collectors,.

The *Metasequoia* tree is native to China, and was thought to be extinct until the discovery of living specimens in China in 1941. Seeds of the tree became selectively available in the United States in 1948. Warren's records indicate that he planted these *Metasequoia* in 1955, 7 years later. His records also indicate that he obtained the *Metasequoia* from "Kozloff." Kozloff may be Eugene N. Kozloff, a well known botanist at the University of Washington, who Warren likely knew through their mutual interest in Northwest native plants. Exactly how Warren obtained seeds, or seedlings, remains a mystery, but as graduate of Cornell University in horticulture, Warren had many contacts and friends amongst the academic and horticultural communities across the country. His prices lists indicate he had *Metasequoia* available for commercial sale beginning 1965.



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Coast Redwood

Sequoia sempervirens

Publicly owned tree
between N. Princeton & N.
Syracuse

Circumference: 18'
Height: 114'
Canopy spread: 54'



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Nominated by the University Park Neighbors Association, this lovely coast redwood grows on the Peninsula Crossing Trail, the only north-south connector trail that extends from the Columbia to the Willamette across the North Portland Peninsula. Although it towers above other trees in the area at 114' tall, this tree is still a baby in sequoia time. It has a circumference of 18.0' and a canopy diameter of 54'.



Mt. Fuji Flowering Cherry

Prunus x 'Shirotae'

Privately owned tree at
221 NE 58th Ave.



Circumference: 4.7'
Height: 34'
Canopy spread: 39'

This large and beautiful flowering cherry tree is located in a front yard in the North Tabor neighborhood. The tree is 10'4" in circumference, 23' tall, and has a 47' crown spread. In the spring, when the cherry flowers it attracts the attention of the neighborhood. This vigorous tree puts on a spectacular show of delicate pink buds opening to white flowers that hang in clusters. Originally nominated in 2014, the tree was at first declined by the Heritage Tree Committee. However, in 2015 the property owners submitted a second nomination, this time with a signed petition from 37 neighbors.

Their letter was enough to convince the committee of the significance of the tree and speaks for itself "This cherry tree is a neighborhood landmark that brings passersby to a halt when it is blossoming in the spring, and brings shade, beauty and historical legacy to our neighborhood in the other seasons as well. We feel a special urgency to protect this tree in light of the fact that several large, older trees in North Tabor have fallen to the chain saw in recent years to make way for rapid in-fill development. Presently, of the nearly 200 Heritage Trees in Portland, only one is located in North Tabor, and there are only half a dozen in the poorer neighborhoods east of 82nd Avenue. It is time to make Portland's excellent Heritage Tree program accessible to all Portlanders, not just the privileged few."



Oregon White Oak

Quercus garryana



Publicly owned tree in Fernhill Park at NE 39th and NE Holman

Circumference: 12'

Height: 68'

Canopy spread: 60'



With a crown spread of 99', a circumference of 20'9" and a height of 86', this impressive Oregon white oak is a sight to behold. Located in Fernhill Park, this tree will be Concordia neighborhood's second heritage tree. The tree has an interesting multi-stemmed form, which may have originated from a seed cache from native squirrels or other rodents. As the acorns sprouted and grew, over time they grafted together and became one tree.



Madrone

Arbutus menziesii



Publicly owned tree at 8018 SE Bush St.

Circumference: 7.3'

Height: 41'

Canopy spread: 40'



When conducting a street tree inventory in Foster Powell neighborhood in 2014, volunteers were thrilled to find a large, healthy 7'3" circumference native madrone tree growing in the right of way. Imagine their surprise when the owner appeared and knew the planting history of the tree. Needless to say, owner Pat Bush loves her tree and upon learning about the Heritage Tree program she immediately nominated it.

In her own words: "I found the tree as a wee seedling when our family was camping in the Olympic Peninsula area in July 1957 and brought it home. It was about 3 inches tall and just a stick with roots. My dad let me plant it in front of the house telling me it probably wouldn't survive. This is the house I own and live in now. The tree has survived the Columbus Day storm, many silver thaws, ice storms, kids climbing it, the power company trimming out the top branches and still it thrives. It is a tree that many people stop to talk to me about because it is so different from anything they have ever seen."

This madrone will be the only madrone in the heritage tree program, and the only heritage tree in Foster Powell neighborhood.