



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Date: 3/15/2016
To: Urban Forestry Commission
From: Angie DiSalvo, Outreach and Science Supervisor
Frank Krawczyk, Heritage Tree Inspector
Re: Removal request for Heritage Tree #12

Removal Request for Heritage Tree #12

The following information and materials document recent failures of Heritage Tree #12 and the subsequent decision reached by the Heritage Tree Committee on February 2, 2017, to recommend this tree for removal to the Urban Forestry Commission.

Heritage Tree #12, a 13.9' circumference American elm (*Ulmus americana*) at 7821 SE 30th Ave was designated a HT in 1994. Over the past 15 years, this right-of-way elm tree has suffered multiple failures of large limbs. In an attempt to retain the tree, Urban Forestry has actively monitored the health of the tree and existing decay, and pruning has been performed multiple times for end weight reduction (Attachment 1). On October 18, 2016, several codominant stems failed resulting in a loss of 30% of the crown. This failure left the tree with significant damage, with no feasible options for mitigation (Attachment 2). Additional pruning will only expose the remaining structure and increase the potential of additional failures.

On February 2nd, 2017 Urban Forestry requested that the Heritage Tree Committee support removal of this tree, and to later present this request to the Urban Forestry Commission. Removal will be completed by the Urban Forestry crew at no cost to the adjacent property owner.

Title 11 Trees 11.20.060.F allows for Heritage Tree removal as follows:

F. Heritage Tree removal. Heritage Trees may be removed only with the consent of the UFC, except as provided in Subsection I., below. The UFC shall hold a public hearing on a request to remove a Heritage Tree. Consent to remove the tree shall be supported by at least six members of the UFC.

I. Emergencies.

1. If the City Forester determines that a Heritage Tree is dangerous and is a threat to public safety, the City Forester may order the tree to be removed without prior consent from the UFC.

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Attachment 1: Urban Forestry Inspection and Work Order History for HT#12

| Date | Action |
|-------------|---|
| 8/29/78 | Pruning permit issued on this date and regularly thereafter. |
| 1/10/79 | Branches broken, hanging, and debris in street. City chipped brush and pruned to repair ice damage. |
| 1/25/94 | Permit to prune one 3" root 16' from the tree for concrete repair. |
| 1994 | Designated as a Heritage Tree. |
| 6/27/02 | Large limb failure on the west side of the tree and concern from owner and neighbor, stating two other limbs on the west side of the tree failed in the last two years. |
| 11/1/02 | Contractor pruned tree to reduce weight on lateral limbs at the direction of Urban Forestry. |
| 2/23/12 | One 3" hanging limb was removed. |
| 5/3/12 | A 24" diameter limb failed and was removed by an Urban Forestry crew. |
| 2/14/13 | Inspected for health. Resistograph testing and retrenchment pruning recommended. |
| 7/26/13 | Root pruning permit issued for removing 9 roots 1-4" dia. For driveway and walk repair. |
| 8/5/13 | Root pruning permit issued for removing 4 roots 1-2" dia. For driveway approach repair. |
| 10/14/16 | Over 30% of the canopy failed due to decay and included bark. |
| 10/31/16 | Inspected by Heritage Tree Inspector. Inspection noted evidence of significant decay at old wound in the main trunk 15' up at the junction of major scaffold limbs 30-40" in diameter. Tree has significant heavy end weight on a very wide crown. Removal recommended. |
| 11/1/16 | Second opinion by Tree Inspector. Removal recommended. |
| 12/14/16 | City Forester and Urban Forestry supervisors inspected tree. Management staff recommend removal within the next 12 months. |
| 2/2/17 | HT Committee meets on site to assess tree and later votes for removal during formal meeting at Woodstock Community Center in SE Portland. |

Attachment 2: Photos



Recent codominant limb failure
Photo taken in October 2016



Street side view of recent damage
Photo taken in December 2016



Sidewalk view of past failure
Photo taken in December 2016