



## CITY OF PHILOMATH RESOLUTION 22-09

### A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF PHILOMATH.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Philomath is fortunate to contain many incredible trees. For millennia humans have been shaping the forest in this part of the Willamette Valley and as a result, we have great examples of old and unique trees in and around the City, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Philomath has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue to raise awareness of the benefits trees bring to a community, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Philomath desires to establish a heritage tree program to recognize trees based on the specimen's characteristics, historic value, landmark affiliation, and collection situation.

#### **NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILOMATH HEREBY RESOLVES:**

The Philomath Heritage Tree Program is established to recognize, foster appreciation of, and honor particular trees of significance in our community. These are trees that tell a story; confound and astound; educate locals and visitors about significant people or events from the past; have survived natural disasters; and stand as silent sentries to the passage of time. Trees cool our city, clean our air and water, beautify our neighborhoods, provide habitat for wildlife, and generally create a more livable community. The Creation of the Philomath Heritage Tree Program is established under the following provisions:

- 1) **QUALIFICATION:** In order to qualify as a Heritage Tree, a tree must meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - Specimen -- exceptional size, form, beauty, rarity, or horticultural value
  - Historic -- recognized by virtue of age, or associated with noted person or historical event
  - Landmark -- recognizable landmark in the community
  - Collection -- notable grove, avenue, or planting
  
- 2) **PROMOTION OF PROGRAM/SOLICITATION OF PARTICIPATION:** The City will promote the Heritage Tree Program through all currently utilized means of disseminating information to the public, .i.e. notice in weekly emails, monthly newsletter, social media, and its own page on City website (with overview, link to application, map of heritage trees, etc.). The program will be promoted annually, with nomination forms accepted by 5 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of

March in order for annual approvals to coincide with the City's Arbor Day recognition(s).

- 3) INITIAL LAUNCH OF THE HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM:
  - a. Encourage community involvement by soliciting volunteers for species verification and measurements, photography, local history, etc. Volunteers will be selected by the Tree Board and should be arborists or otherwise interested in and familiar with trees.
  - b. Encourage youth involvement by soliciting volunteers from the Philomath High Forestry Club
  - c. City staff will create webpage, map, plaques, application form, certificates of recognition, etc. The Tree Board will assist with providing text for the website and certificates.
- 4) GEOGRAPHIC AREA: Trees within the greater Philomath area (within two miles of the urban growth boundary) are eligible to be nominated for Philomath Heritage Tree status.
- 5) TREES ON PUBLIC and PRIVATE PROPERTY: Anyone can nominate a tree on public or private property, but the Public Works Director must sign the nomination form for publically owned trees, including those within the right-of-way and parks, and the private property owner must sign the nomination form for trees on private lands.
- 6) APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION: City staff will prepare a nomination form requiring the necessary information and explaining the program.
- 7) ADMINISTRATION OF NOMINATIONS: Review of nominating applications and conferring of heritage tree status will be done by a Heritage Tree Committee, consisting of the members of the Tree Board and at least two additional volunteers. The Heritage Tree Committee will meet on or around April 1 each year to review nomination forms and recommend trees to admit to the Heritage Tree Program to the City Council by way of resolution for consideration.
- 8) ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE HARITAGE TREE PROGRAM: The City will sponsor an annual Saturday morning activity, i.e. a bike ride, walk, or virtual tour, on or around Arbor Day to promote the Heritage Tree Program.
- 9) MARKER PLAQUES: The City will install identifying markers of heritage trees with the donation of \$50 toward the Heritage Tree Program. Individuals, organizations, or the City Council may elect to make the donation. Tree owners will be given a certificate of recognition from the City indicating the tree's status as a heritage tree at no charge.

10) REMOVAL OF HERITAGE TREES: Participation in the Heritage Tree Program is voluntary and tree owners maintain rights of removal consistent with City Municipal Code. However, in recognition of their unique status and value to the community, property owners are strongly encouraged to inform the Tree Board of their intention to remove a heritage tree prior to taking action. For public trees, the Public Works Director will review the need for tree removal with the Tree Board prior to taking action.

PASSED by the Council this 11th day of July 2022.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 11th day of July 2022.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

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Chas Jones, Mayor

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Ruth Post, MMC, City Recorder