

October 26, 2011

PRESENTATION ON SIX PROPOSED HERITAGE TREES
to the
CITY COUNCIL

by Michael McCloskey, chair
Heritage Tree Committee
Urban Forestry Commission

SUMMARY:

Today, we are proposing that you designate six more trees in Portland as Heritage Trees. All of these trees are notable in some respect. Two of them will add new species to our system. Half of them are on private property, and half are on public property. They are scattered in many parts of the city: one is in southeast, one is in southwest, one of them is in northwest, while three are in northeast. All were nominated by members of the public. We have looked at them closely; and these nominations have been approved by the entire Urban Forestry Commission. The city forester and his staff join in making these recommendations to you.

1. *Metasequoia glyptroboides*, **Dawn redwoods**

These trees are on public property.

Twelve of them in upper Macleay Park are being nominated as a set; they are in a row in the parking lot near the access road.

Now there are already three of this distinctive species in the city's system. But, the average dimensions of this set exceeds or matches those of these we have. They match them in height, and exceed them in terms of their circumference and the spread of their crowns. Their height averages 75 feet, their circumference 11 feet, and their crown spread

35 feet.

Our Hoyt Arboretum was one of a limited number that received seeds when they were brought to the U.S. in 1948, having been discovered in central China in 1941. Before they were discovered, they were thought to be extinct.

In 1952, Hoyt was the first American institution to grow seeds from their cones. When these seeds were planted, these trees grew here. This was the first time that seeds of this species had been produced on this continent in six million years.

Because of this background, these trees can be viewed as having historic importance, as well as being large and of horticultural value. This status will help more of our citizens appreciate their value.

2. *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, **Giant sequoia**

This tree is located on private property at 5910 S.E Taylor Street; it was nominated by the owner.

There are now six of these species in our system, but this specimen compares well with them in terms of its measurements. It exceeds all of them in terms of its height, and its circumference exceeds that of half of them. It is 120 feet high, 12.7 feet in circumference, and has a crown spread of 77 feet. Over time, it should continue to gain size and distinction.

It is in the front yard and is easily observed.

The commission feels it deserves designation because of its size. It should also be noted that it is well formed, beautiful, and well cared for.

3. *Acer psuedoplatanus*, **Sycamore maple**

This maple is on a right-of-way at 2607 N.E. Wasco Street; it is publicly owned.

If designated, this would be the third tree of this species in our system. It would also be the specimen with the largest girth—having a circumference of 12.7 feet. However, it is not as high as the other two (its height is 65 feet), nor with as great a crown spread (its is 77 feet).

This species is not common in Portland and is a fine specimen. It is called a Sycamore maple because it has a leaf that resembles that of a Sycamore, as well as having a similar flaky bark.

This specimen is being proposed because of its size and type. It also has good form and is beautiful.

4. *Cedrus libani* ssp. *atlantica*, **Blue atlas cedar**

This specimen is located on private property at 7000 S.W. 63rd St. It was nominated by the owner, and the affected neighbor has been notified.

In various respects, the dimensions of this tree exceed those of the two trees of this type now in our system. Its circumference exceeds that of one of them, and the spread of the crown exceeds that of the other. Its dimensions are: height: 75 feet; circumference: 12.9 feet; and crown spread: 72 feet.

It is similar to the Cedar of Lebanon, but there are differences. The needles are a bit shorter, and its cones are more compact. It originated in the Atlas range in North Africa, where it was discovered in 1827. The blue form was discovered a few years later, and various cultivars of this sort are used in horticulture. It tolerates poor soils well.

We believe it deserves to be designated because of its size and type. It also has an unusual form, with its lower branches assuming an

octopus-like shape.

5. *Diospyrus virginiana*, **American persimmon**

This tree is located on the right-of-way at 6440 N.E. 36th Avenue. It was nominated by the abutting property owner.

Found naturally in the east, it is not common in Portland. This specimen is healthy, well-formed, and free of defects. Having been planted 65 years ago, it still has a lot of growing to do. Currently, we do not have this species in our system. It would be the first for us.

It is 45 feet high, has a circumference of 4.6 feet, and a crown spread of 30 feet. Our arborists felt it is of good size for Portland.

We feels it merits being designated because of its type and size. It is also quite beautiful.

6. *Larix kaempferi*, **Japanese larch**

This tree is in the front yard of the home at 4626 N.E. 37th Ave. It was nominated by the owner, and we have consent forms from both the prior and the new owners; ownership has changed while this proposal was being processed. The affected neighbor has been notified.

It is a healthy specimen, being about forty years old.

We propose designating it as a Heritage Tree because of its horticultural significance and its type. If designated, it would be the first of its type in our system. It has attractive fall foliage.

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Thank you.

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