



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION™

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Heritage Tree #26

Request for Removal of Designation

Presentation for Urban Forestry Commission 3/16/23

Nik Desai, Heritage Tree Program Manager

Jesse Nellis, Senior Tree Inspector





Agenda

- Program background 3 mins
- Process Overview 2 mins
- Tree Assessment 10 mins
- Requestor Testimony 10 mins
- Public Comment 10 mins
- UFC decision 25 mins

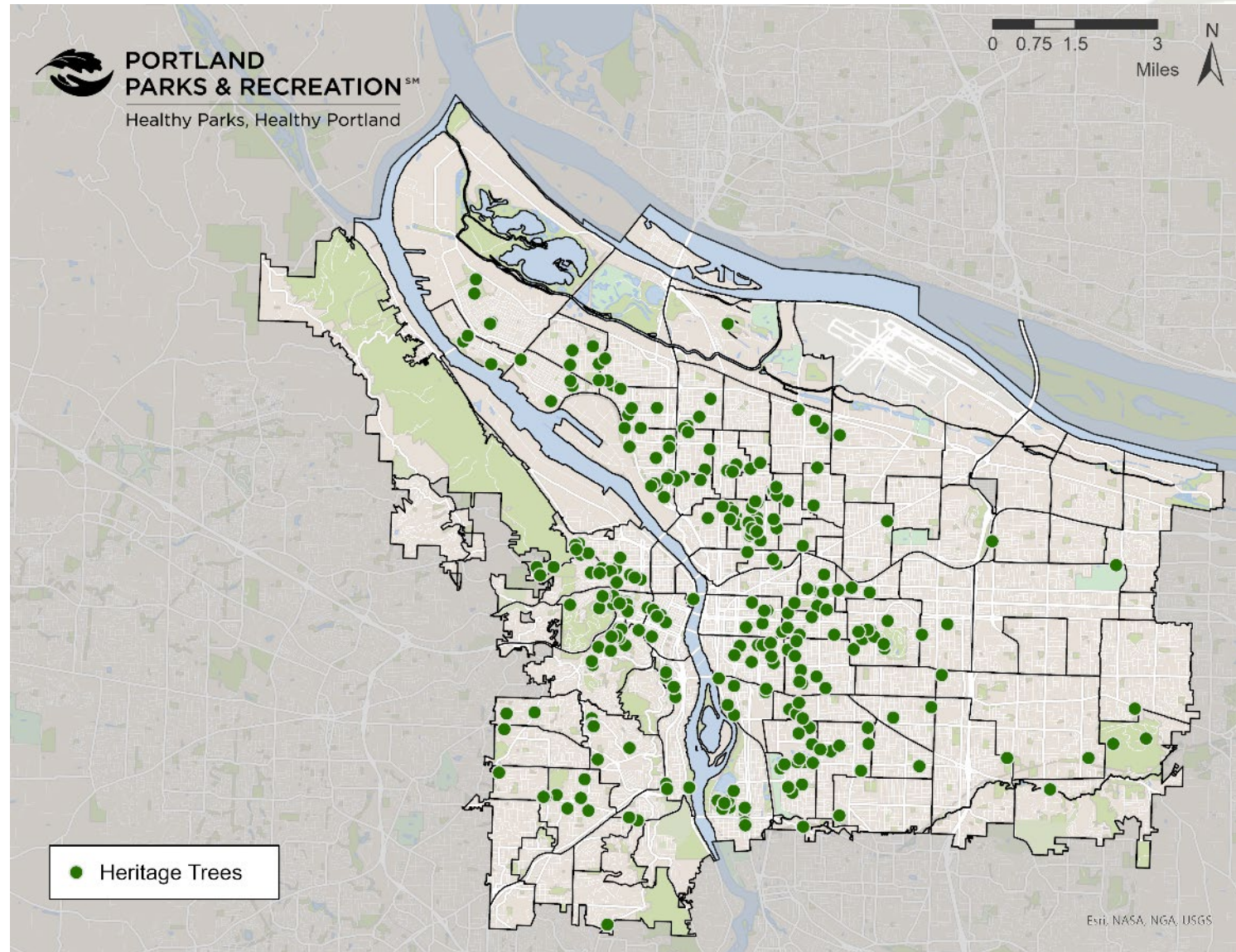
Photo by Steve Terrill





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Roles and Responsibilities

Urban Forestry:

- Implements program
- Permitting and Inspections

Heritage Tree Committee:

- Nominations review and recommendations to UFC
- Education and outreach



HTC at Leach Botanical Garden (2019) - photo by Gina Dake



Roles and Responsibilities

Urban Forestry Commission:

- Reviewing requests of removal
- Recommendations to Council for New Designations
- Recommendations to Council for Removals of Designation

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Roles and Responsibilities

City Council:

- Designates Heritage Trees
- Removes Designation



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Request for Removal of Designation

11.20.060.E Removal of Designation

The UFC makes a recommendation to City Council as to whether the Heritage Tree designation should be removed from a tree. A recommendation to remove the designation shall be supported by at least six members of the UFC. City Council may remove the designation if it finds that the designation is no longer appropriate.



Process Overview

Consider whether the designation is appropriate

- 1) Review assessment and recommendations
- 2) Review Requestor and Public comment
- 3) UFC Discussion/Q&A
- 4) UFC motion and vote

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Request for Removal of Designation

Heritage Tree #26

4124 N Mississippi Ave

English elm

Ulmus minor var. *vulgaris*

- 67.5" DBH
- Designated in 1994
- Nearly 130 years old

Heritage Tree #26





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Public and Environmental Health Services





Tree Assessment

- **Health Inspection on 2/17/23**
- **Tree condition is good**
- Naturally occurring deadwood, small amount of storm damage
- Minor cavities in mid-trunk and southern leader
- Minor utility wire pruning on the street side
- No pathogenic fungi observed
- History and evidence of elm leaf beetle
- Tree is 8' 3" from house
- The property owner recently repaired their front stairs and concrete pathways around the house due to reported conflict with tree roots

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Urban Forestry Recommendations

The Heritage Tree is in good condition and does not qualify for removal per Title 11

Tree care recommendations:

- Pruning to remove deadwood, for building clearance, and weight reduction on the southern limb
- Removal of planter/ soil that has been placed around the root flare

Heritage Tree #26





Options to address site concerns

- Airspading by private arborist to expose roots/determine if conflict with house
- Inspection by a structural engineer to determine root/foundation issues
- Application of insecticides to interrupt the life cycle of the Elm Leaf Beetle

Heritage Tree #26





Heritage Tree Committee (HTC) Statement

HT #26 is a significant community asset; HTC acknowledges financial concern but unanimously opposes removal of designation:

- One of the oldest and largest trees in Albina
- Provides vital public health and environmental services in an area with low canopy, higher air **pollution, and heat island effects**
- As an irreplaceable landmark in Albina, has witnessed the history of this neighborhood for the past 130 years
- In good health and structurally sound, removal of its designation would allow the tree to be removed without compensation, undermining the integrity of the Program and removing a valuable community asset



Next steps:

- Requestor Testimony 10 min
- Public Testimony 10 mins
- UFC Deliberation 25 mins
 - Discussion/questions
 - UFC Motion to either:
 - a) Recommend Removal of Designation
 - b) Not Recommend Removal of Designation



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**Vote to Recommend to Removal of Designation to City Council
requires at least 6 votes**