



## **Public Comments for Urban Forestry Commission January 15, 2026 Meeting**

Subject: Delisting heritage tree on Kovel property

Date: January 14, 2026

Hello,

I live across the street from the fabulous oak and walk up to the Wildwood trail every day to walk and pass under its stunningly beautiful branches each day. My husband also walks under the branches each day as our dog meanders on his twice daily walks. Recently they were out under the branches when a monster branch impacted the ground, the Kovel garage and the street outside their perimeter. This has happened many times in the past 25 years. This seems to be happening more frequently, with bigger branches. Once a branch fell about 10 years back that was so big it closed off the street for a week. This time it narrowly missed my husband and dog. Imagine if I lost them to the oak. What a terror. Each time I walk under the tree I think "do I feel lucky?" If I don't feel lucky, I walk on the other side of the street. I imagine that I would be safer there, but really, with the size of the branches falling, perhaps that would not be true.

I am writing to say that though I love that tree as much as anybody, it is a danger to us. I will miss it. It has to come down to protect us. The last time the branches were examined by me that hit the earth. They were rotten as they could be. This happened after Jen and Jeff recently had the tree checked and reported out as "healthy". I think history should have something to say about the health of the tree. The branches are falling more frequently and they are rotten.

Please consider delisting the tree and letting Jen and Jeff Kovel take it down.

Thanks,  
Chris Bugas

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Subject: "Heritage Tree #314 Delisting Public Comment"

Date: January 7, 2026

Dear [Urban Forestry Commission],

I live near this tree, often walk by it and admire the old handsome tree and have stepped around the fallen limbs more than once. It seems it has run its life and recommend granting removal. I would love to see a new tree of the same type planted but that is up to the family who lives there.



Jane Beebe

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Subject: Heritage Tree #314 delisting public comment

Date: January 7, 2026

Hello—

I am a neighbor of Heritage Tree #314 and walk past it almost every day. I know that it dropped a big limb on the homeowners' garage last year and, obviously, requires some maintenance and care.

I am also aware of the steep drop off (into Balch Creek) and history of erosion/landslide directly across the street from Heritage Tree #314. If this tree and its deep and long-lived root ball is removed, I fear that the hillside will erode and endanger additional trees and houses on NW Quimby, 33rd and 32nd. The home owner does not maintain the yard on the Quimby side of the lot and it is currently overgrown with English Ivy, which is not only an invasive plant dangerously close to Forest Park but also endangers the health of Heritage Tree #314.

Thank you,  
Erika Schwartz

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Subject: Heritage Tree #314 Delisting Public Comment

Date: January 7, 2026

Hi [Urban Forestry Commission],

I'm not quite sure how this works, but I wanted to add comments regarding the delisting of the Pin oak that is heritage tree #314.

There is a hugely unstable slope that has been sliding into the canyon below NW Quimby (towards Lower Macleay Trail). It has had "temporary" traffic dividers up for a number of years now as the city hasn't had the funds to address the geotechnical issue. One of my concerns about taking out this large tree is the loss of its deep and widespread root mass that stabilizes this hillside. I do think that PBOT, or the relevant agency, should weigh in on this facet.

On a separate note, one of the homeowners who is asking to have this tree delisted has complained to me before about the expense of maintaining the large trees on their property. In this instance, they were referring to the horse chestnuts along NW Quimby between NW 32nd and 33rd. I'm concerned that the loss of this huge old tree would be for financial expediency, rather than its health. If the homeowners do not wish to be stewards of the property's historic trees, then I question why they elected to purchase this lot.

Thank you for your time.

Best,  
Claire Hill