

Bearing Witness to our Rich History

The Witness Tree stood witness to the rich history of our region for generations:

- ◆ Lewis & Clark are believed to have tied their canoe to the tree in 1805.
- ◆ The proud cottonwood overlooked the peace pipe meetings of local Native American chiefs in the early 1800's.
- ◆ It was known to be the landing point of the Hudson's Bay Company fur traders.
- ◆ In 1846 settlers Amos and Esther Short recorded their land claim with the Witness Tree marking the southeast corner.
- ◆ General O.O. Howard marked the military post's survey lines with the Witness Tree.
- ◆ Surveyors drove a copper stake into the tree as a survey post to map the southwestern portion of Washington State, anchoring it even more firmly into our history.

Reigning over the booming downtown section of Vancouver, the Witness Tree's trunk grew to be five feet in diameter and 75 feet tall. In 1909, with major portions of the river bank washed away by consecutive spring run-offs, the tree gradually leaned out over the water until it could no longer fully support itself. Anchored to the shore only by a portion of its trunk and root system, it managed to hold on for two more years.

Then on June 29, 1911, the tree tore loose and disappeared downstream. Up until this time, scores of sightseers visited the tree taking away branches and bark as mementoes. Pieces found their way into City Hall, the Public Record Library, the State Historical Society and were even carved into gavels. Many visitors planted branches in the ground that took root. It is assumed that 'children' of this historic tree abound throughout Vancouver, bearing true witness to our city's rich historical past.

Honor your friends and loved ones with the gift of trees

Plant a Witness Tree in Honor of:

Graduations

Births

Holiday Gifts

Mother's and Father's Day Gifts

Weddings

Anniversaries

Presents

In Memory of a Loved One

Special Occasions

VANCOUVER
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VANCOUVER
URBAN FORESTRY

Witness Tree Program

"Perhaps nature is our best assurance of immortality."

Eleanor Roosevelt



[www.cityofvancouver.us/
urbanforestry](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry)

Vancouver...The Legacy We Plant is Growing

Honor a special person or event in your life through the Witness Tree Program.

The Witness Tree Program offers you a unique way to honor a loved one or remember a special event by adopting an existing tree or planting a new tree.

It is both a memorial program and an adopt-a-tree program. For a minimum donation, you can commemorate births, anniversaries, graduations or honor a loved one with a tree planting or by adopting an existing tree. It is an enduring, living memorial that is accessible to all.

Your tree is a gift to the ages and will be catalogued into the future.

The city's Urban Forestry Program will help you select the location, note the special Occasion and uplink this information to the Witness Tree Register website. This will establish a living legacy for future generations who will be able to look up information about a particular tree. You can track the life span of your individual tree or grove via the website.

Trees can grow for several hundred years, making them an ideal memorial. Plaques or other signage are not needed because anyone can access the information from the website from anywhere in the world.

The choice of tree is yours.

You can request a shade, flowering or evergreen tree. Trees can be planted on city property, private property and right of way.

Urban Forestry will provide program participants with a donor acknowledgement commemorative certificate and map the exact GPS location. The specific tree information will be available to view on the Witness Tree Register website.

Please join us and be a part of living history.

The Witness Tree Program serves the dual purpose of preserving and planting trees in the City of Vancouver and satisfying the community need for a way to commemorate special occasions in a positive and beneficial manner. The gift of a tree keeps growing and giving to the community for a lifetime. For more Information or to participate, contact the Urban Forestry Program at cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry or call (360) 487-8308.

Orders received with payment between:

- ◆ January 1 and June 30 will be planted between November and January
- ◆ July 1 and December 31 will be planted between February and April.

Please note, the planting schedule may be affected by weather and availability of plant material.

Trees are the best monuments that man can erect to his own memory. They speak his praises without flattery, and they are blessings to children yet unborn.

-- John Boyle, Earl of Orrery, 1749

Dedication Information: This information will appear on your certificate and on the website. Please do not exceed more than 20 words for the occasion.

In Memory of _____

To Honor _____

Donor Information _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send Acknowledgement Certificate to _____

Address _____

Yes! I want to be part of living history.

Donations

\$100 Witness Tree (Private): Certificate and map with GPS coordinates to recognize existing tree.

\$250 Witness Tree (Public): Certificate and map with GPS coordinates. Tree of your choice planted on city property.

\$500 Settler: Certificate and map with GPS coordinates. Larger caliper tree of your choice planted on city property.

\$1000 Homesteader: Adopt-a-tree in a neighborhood park.

\$2500 Witness Grove: Sponsor and entire street median or boulevard or a natural area planting.

\$5000+ Witness Planting: Sponsor a neighborhood planting.

Your donation is tax-deductible. Please make donations payable to: City of Vancouver Urban Forestry.

Mail to: Urban Forestry, PO Box 1995 Vancouver, WA 98668