The City of Vancouver’s Heritage Trees

Through December 31, 2011

Third Edition

“The Old Apple Tree”

The Heritage Tree Program was established to recognize, preserve and protect the trees in our community that possess a high level of historical, cultural and personal significance. By preserving our natural resources the City of Vancouver maintains “a colorful past and a bright future”.

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To the Citizens of Vancouver:

Under Vancouver Municipal Code 20.77.120, an inventory of the City’s Heritage Trees has been established through the Vancouver’s Urban Forestry Commission. The Heritage Tree program is a way for the City of Vancouver to give official recognition to those trees that are of special importance to the community because of their historical significance, age, beauty, size, or personal distinction. Vancouver is a community that highly values both the future and the past; the Heritage Tree Program is a way to both honor those trees that have played a role in our past and also preserve them for the enjoyment of future generations.

Trees are nominated for Heritage status by community members with the willing consent of the property owner. The City Forester then compiles these nominations and submits them to the Urban Forestry Commission for review. Those trees that meet the established criteria are then recommended for Heritage Tree designation and approved for official designation through a public hearing. According to the Tree Conservation Ordinance, no person may cut or remove a Heritage Tree without obtaining written approval from the Urban Forestry Commission, except under the provisions in Section 20.770.030. It is also unlawful for any person to willfully cause harm to a Heritage Tree. These protections ensure that no Heritage Tree will be unnecessarily removed or destroyed.

The Urban Forestry Commission is pleased to present The City of Vancouver’s Heritage Trees, Third Edition. Please use this guide to take a tour of Vancouver’s Heritage Trees and see for yourself what makes these trees so special.

While it is the responsibility of the City Forester to compile a list of potential Heritage Trees, it falls upon the community to first nominate these trees for Heritage status. I encourage any person who knows of a tree that they believe should be honored and preserved to contact the City’s Urban Forestry Program at 360-487-8332 for more information.

Sincerely,

Jim Wasden
Urban Forestry Commission Chair
Chair Heritage Tree Subcommittee
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THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

The Old Apple Tree

*Malus spp.*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 31”
- Height: 32ft
- Spread: 35ft
- Location: Old Apple Tree Park
- Heritage Tree ID # HT1

**History/Information:**

Vancouver’s Old Apple Tree is the greatest living symbol of the Pacific Northwest’s orchard industry. Its modest beginning has been traced to the whimsical flirtations of an English woman in 1825.

Historical detectives have learned from diary entries that Lt. Aemilius Simpson, an officer in the Royal Navy, was attending a formal dinner on the eve of his departure to the rugged Pacific Northwest. A young woman admirer collected some apple seeds left over from the fruit dessert that evening. She dropped the seeds in Lt. Simpson’s dinner jacket pocket and said, “Plant these when you reach your Northwest wilderness.” Simpson forgot about the seeds during his long sea voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, around Cape Horn and north through the Pacific to the Columbia River.

When he reached Fort Vancouver he donned the jacket for a formal dinner given in his honor by Dr. John McLoughlin. In 1826, under the direction of McLoughlin, the seeds were planted. One of the five original apple trees, the Old Apple Tree is the only one to survive. It has stoically withstood flood, wind and the steady encroachment of the railroad and Highway 14.

On October 19, 1984, the venerable Old Apple Tree was celebrated during the festive opening of Old Apple Tree Park located at 112 Columbia Way. The tree is now celebrated each fall at the Old Apple Tree Festival.
The beautiful trees that line Officers Row on Evergreen Boulevard were planted by the Army when the Barracks were still part of the active military base. The variety of trees creates a wonderful setting for a stroll or jog. Officer’s Row is a splendid example of the temperate Pacific Northwest’s ability to nurture a great diversity of tree species.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Red Oak
*Quercus rubra*

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 28”
- Height: 65ft
- Spread: 55ft
- Location: SW corner of Fourth Plain and Main St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT4

History/Information:
At the location of the old Fort Vancouver High School, this red oak was planted by the students of the high school on June 25, 1945, in honor of the first meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco. The high school is now gone, but the tree remains as a symbol for the creation of the United Nations.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Mayor’s Grove
(mixed tree species)

Statistics:
 Dbh (diameter at breast height): 30”+
 Height: 60ft+
 Spread: 45ft+
 Location: Southside Marshall Park
 Heritage Tree ID # HT5

History/Information:
The “Mayor’s Grove” of trees are located at the northwest corner of Mill Plain Boulevard and Fort Vancouver Way in Central Park. The grove was first planted in 1971-72 by and for the mayors of the City of Vancouver. In 1987 the grove was officially designated for the purpose of commemorating each individual mayor. Each new incoming mayor of Vancouver will add to the collection by choosing a tree species to plant on the first Arbor Day of their term.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Norway Maples
*Acer platanoides*

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 35” (average of four trees)
- Height: 42.5 (average)
- Spread: 47.5 (average)
- Location: 117-127 W 24th St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT8

History/Information:
This boulevard of maples was closely related to the old Fort Vancouver High School which was located on the north side of the street. An old photograph of the area (circa 1921) shows the row of trees planted on both sides of West 24th Street. Three out of four of the maples nominated are large enough to date back to the time of the photograph and are most likely the only remnant of the canopy along the street. With over 89 listed cultivars of Norway maple, it is one of the most widely planted trees in the United States.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Conifer Grove at Esther Short Park
(mixed tree species)

Statistics:
Dbh (diameter at breast height): 45”+
Height: 80ft+
Spread: 50ft+
Location: Esther Short Park
Heritage Tree ID # HT9

History/Information:
In the 1800’s the Esther Short family used the park for cattle and hogs. In 1853
the park became the first public park in the Pacific Northwest with small additions of
park amenities. Unfortunately, the Columbus Day storm in 1962 severely damaged a
large number of trees in the southeast corner resulting in their removal. The location and
cultivation of the existing trees imply that no formal landscape design was ever done for
Esther Short Park. The conifers in this grove, associated with the 1937 Grand Army of
the Republic, have been designated as Heritage Trees. The western red-cedar has a
plaque in honor of the past Department President Sarah Tomlinson Parker at the base of
the tree. An article in The Columbian also mentions the dedication of at least another tree
for past Department Commander George E. Hill; however, no plaque relating to this
honor is found in the park. Because of the relatively similar size of some adjacent cedars
and two significantly large giant sequoias, the trees are considered a "grove".
European Beech
*Fagus sylvatica*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 22”
- Height: 25ft
- Spread: 25ft
- Location: Esther Short Park
- Heritage Tree ID # HT10

**History/Information:**
The Slocum House, located at the corner of Esther St. and 6th St., was moved to the Esther Short Park site in 1966. The beech was planted in 1974 to mimic the landscape setting at the original location of the Slocum House.

With countless cultivated varieties, the European beech is one of the most versatile landscape trees. It offers a beautiful form and lustrous foliage in the summer, beautiful fall color and interesting bark in the winter. Its nuts are prized by wildlife in winter.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Black Locust
Robinia pseudoacacia

Statistics:
Dbh (diameter at breast height): 44”
Height: 55ft
Spread: 60ft
Location: Mill Plain Elementary
Heritage Tree ID # HT11

History/Information:
This tree was nominated by Ms. Treosti, a long time teacher at Mill Plain Elementary School. The tree was planted at the historic schoolyard as an Arbor Day project around 1910 or 1912 when it was Union High School. In 1982 the tree was slated to be removed for parking spaces. Ms. Treosti and her third grade students petitioned the School Board to save the tree. The tree was preserved and eventually received Heritage Tree designation. Seven of Ms. Treosti’s former students returned for the Heritage Tree Dedication ceremony on National Arbor Day in 2000.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Oregon White Oaks
Quercus garryana

Statistics:
Dbh (diameter at breast height): 48”
Height: 70ft
Spread: 60ft
Location: Headache Creek Wetlands (Bagely Downs)
Heritage Tree ID # HT12

History/Information:
In the open space that is utilized as an outdoor classroom by Lewis and Clark High School stand two large Oregon white oaks. The trees are fairly large for the species and have been a fixture in the neighborhood for many years.

Native to western British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and northwestern California, Oregon white oak is one of the most majestic of the Pacific Northwest’s deciduous trees.
Old Apple Tree Offspring
*Malus spp.*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 17”
- Height: 30ft
- Spread: 32ft
- Location: Clark Co. Historical Museum
- Heritage Tree ID # HT13

**History/Information:**
This tree is an offspring of the “Old Apple Tree” (HT1). Thus, this apple tree has a high historic value. The tree was planted as a scion through the efforts of Harley Mays in 1950. This tree was one of the only cuttings to survive.

As a part of the Old Apple Tree Festival each year, The City of Vancouver and its Urban Forestry Commission distribute cuttings of the Old Apple Tree so the public can also share in the history of the city and continue the legacy of the Old Apple Tree, much like Harley Mays.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Black Walnut
*Juglans nigra*

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 51"
- Height: 90ft
- Spread: 75ft
- Location: Arnada Park
- Heritage Tree ID # HT14

History/Information:
The black walnut tree sits on the south perimeter of Arnada Park at the dead-end of “G” street. It is a prominent landmark in the neighborhood.

Black walnut, a rapidly growing tree, is most common in moist bottomlands and open fields of the Midwest, but can be found everywhere due to squirrels burying its nuts. It’s beautiful, fine-grained, chocolate-brown, relatively lightweight heartwood is the ultimate choice for making solid wood furniture, interior trim, gunstocks, and high-quality veneer.
Oregon White Oak

*Quercus garryana*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 52”
- Height: 80ft
- Spread: 75ft
- Location: Oakbrook Park (next to the tennis courts)
- Heritage Tree ID # HT15

**History/Information:**
Located in Oakbrook Park, this tree is the largest of the remaining Oregon white oaks for which the park was named. It is also the most statuesque.

Native to western British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and northwestern California, Oregon white oak is one of the most majestic of the Pacific Northwest’s deciduous trees.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Oregon White Oak
Quercus garryana

Statistics:
Dbh (diameter at breast height): 57”
Height: 75ft
Spread: 70ft
Location: 2811 Stapleton Rd.
Heritage Tree ID # HT16

History/Information:
This tree represents the largest of the oaks that populated this area long before the area was developed. The area was then much more rural, but the tree was no less impressive.
Native to western British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and northwestern California, Oregon white oak is one of the most majestic of the Pacific Northwest’s deciduous trees.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

London Planetree
*Platanus x acerifolia*

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 47”
- Height: 80ft
- Spread: 70ft
- Location: 200 E 38th St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT17

History/Information:
Designated as a Heritage Tree in 2002, this tree serves the residents of the Lincoln neighborhood as a reminder of the value of preserving our city’s urban canopy and the legacy that old trees represent.

The London planetree, a hybrid of the Oriental planetree and the American sycamore, was bred to maintain the growth habit and exfoliating bark of the American sycamore while providing resistance to the diseases that traditionally afflict that species. Its relative disease resistance and drought tolerance make it a useful Pacific Northwest shade tree.
California Bay Tree
_Umbellularia californica_

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 36”
- Height: 45ft
- Spread: 40ft
- Location: 401 E 22\textsuperscript{nd} St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT18

History/Information:
This tree, which has been used as a meeting spot for the children of Arnada neighborhood for years, is also affectionately known as “Curmudgeon Park”. This is in reference to the previous homeowner’s periodic “notes from the neighborhood curmudgeon” that were included in the neighborhood newsletter.

The leaves from this very aromatic tree were used by native peoples in the treatment of headaches and poison oak rashes as well as to repel fleas. The leaves have also been used as a substitute for traditional bay leaves in cooking, but with a much stronger flavor.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Monkey Puzzle Tree
_Araucaria araucana_

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 29”
- Height: 140ft
- Spread: 45ft
- Location: 11418 SE Evergreen Hwy
- Heritage Tree ID # HT19, HT20

History/Information:
Thought to be well over 150 years old, one of two magnificent ancient trees were considered extremely large at first record, over 80 years ago!
The monkey puzzle, also known as a Chilean pine, received its common name from an Englishman in the 1800's, who thought it would certainly be a puzzle for a monkey to climb.
Western White Pine
*Pinus monticola*

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 54”
- Height: 175ft
- Spread: 50ft
- Location: 11418 SE Evergreen Hwy
- Heritage Tree ID # HT21

History/Information:
This beautiful specimen towers over SE Evergreen Highway, something this tree has done for over 150 years. This was threatened with removal years ago so a jogging trail could be built, but thanks to the efforts of local citizens the tree was spared and will be preserved.

The botanist David Douglas first identified western white pine on the slopes of Mount St. Helens. Also known as silver pine, it gets its common name from the light color of the wood. The Latin name *monticola* means "inhabiting mountains."
Big Leaf Maple
*Acer macrophyllum*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 55” & 54”
- Height: 80 & 65ft
- Spread: 65 & 50ft
- Location: Clearmeadows Park
- Heritage Tree ID # HT22 & HT 23

**History/Information:**
These two large Big Leaf Maples stand out in Clearmeadows Park and have been used as a gathering place and picnic spot by neighborhood residents for years. Their beautiful fall color adds character and distinction to both the park and the neighborhood. Loved by local residents and visitors alike, these two majestic native trees truly define the neighborhood and area.
Chestnut Oak
*Quercus prinus*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 34”
- Height: 85ft
- Spread: 80ft
- Location: Old City Cemetery 2700 Mill Plain Blvd
- Heritage Tree ID # HT24

**History/Information:**
Native to the Appalachian region of the US, this tree was sent as a seedling from George Washington’s Plantation, Mount Vernon, as a gift to the local Free and Accepted Mason’s Lodge #4 and planted in 1931 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the lodge. The tree is located in the Mason’s section of the Old City Cemetery on Mill Plain Blvd.

Also known as Rock Oak or Basket Oak, the tree is valued for its bark which is richer in tannin acid (11%) than any other of the oaks making it useful in the tanning of leather.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Tuliptree
*Liriodendron tulipifera*

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 34”
- Height: 78 ft
- Spread: 50 ft
- Location: St. John’s Blvd & 33rd St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT25

History/Information:
Also known as a Tulip Poplar or Yellow Poplar, Tuliptree is a large ornamental tree that is best suited for an open yard or boulevard. This tree stands out among the trees in Rose Village and has been prized by the neighborhood for many years. The tree’s name reflects both the shape of the leaves and the structure of the flower, which usually emerge in late May or early June. Tuliptree is very showy in the fall with bright yellow colors mottled with areas of brown.
Crimson King Maple
*Acer platanoides* ‘Crimson King’

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 30"
- Height: 60ft
- Spread: 45ft
- Location: 2003 SE 141st Pl.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT26

**History/Information:**
A cultivar of Norway Maple, Crimson King has probably the most consistent color of the red leafed maples and may be the most vigorous as well. Commonly planted throughout the United States, Crimson King adapts well to a multitude of environments and can tolerate a variety of soils, shade and drought. This tree illustrates why the Crimson King Maple is such a prized landscape tree.
White Ash x3
Fraxinus americana

Statistics:
Dbh (diameter at breast height): 33”, 35”, 28”
Height: 75ft
Spread: 40ft
Location: Old City Cemetery near the corner of Mill Plain and Grand Ave.
Heritage Tree ID # HT27, 28 & 29

History/Information:
Also known as American Biltmore, White Ash has been prized for years as the best wood to make baseball bats, hockey sticks and other sporting goods. White Ash is also known for its beautiful fall color which can vary from bright red to deep purple. Each fall these trees brighten up the intersection of Mill Plain and Grand Ave. Ash trees (both green and white) are under attack in the Midwest by an exotic pest, known as Emerald Ash Borer. Research is being done on how best to contain the pest, but this pest poses a grave danger to our nation’s ash populations.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Scarlet Oak
*Quercus cocciniea*

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 57"
- Height: 90ft
- Spread: 125ft
- Location: 511 W 21st St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT30

History/Information:
This mature tree is rather unique to this area and it is rare to find a specimen of this in our community. While the dry leaves persist on the tree through the winter, in the fall the tree turns a brilliant shade of red. This tree also serves as a landmark to the Hough Neighborhood as pilots landing at Pearson Airfield use this tree to mark where they need to initiate their turn in order to land.
Northern Catalpa
*Catalpa speciosa*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 44”
- Height: 55ft
- Spread: 60ft
- Location: 112 W 28th St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT31

**History/Information:**
Also known as Cigar Tree or Catawba-tree, Northern Catalpa is native to the midwestern states and therefore is not commonly found in our region. Catalpa wood is particularly rot resistance and therefore historically was used for fence posts and railroad ties, though given the striking nature of the grain it has more recently been used for furniture and cabinetry. This particular tree does an excellent job of framing this property that has applied for designation on Vancouver’s Historical Registry.
Japanese Snowbell

*Styrax japonicus*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 28”
- Height: 37ft
- Spread: 47ft
- Location: 112 W 28th St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT32

**History/Information:**
Nominated by a local Master Arborist, this is truly an exceptional representative of this lovely flowering tree. The tree’s showy white bell shaped flowers bloom in late April and cascade throughout the tree. This particular tree is very large for the species and is therefore is very rare. It is estimated that the tree is over 75 years old. Native to the far east, Japanese Snowbell was traditionally used to make prayer beads and umbrella handles.
HISTORY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

Giant Sequoia x2

*Sequoiadendron giganteum*

**Statistics:**
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 43” & 55”
- Height: 68ft & 75ft
- Spread: 32ft & 45ft
- Location: 512 SE Ellsworth Rd.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT33 & 34

**History/Information:**

Nominated by the Ellsworth Spring Neighborhood Association, these 2 trees are over 75 years old and highly valued by both the neighborhood and the elementary school that they sit on. Giant Sequoias are the largest trees in the world in terms of overall volume and can grow average heights of 250’ to 300’ and 20-25ft in diameter in the wild. Record trees have been measured at 311 ft high and 56 ft in diameter. The oldest Giant Sequoia by ring count is over 3500 years old.
THE CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE TREES

American Chestnut x2
Castanea dentata

Statistics:
- Dbh (diameter at breast height): 51” & 40”
- Height: 90ft & 62ft
- Spread: 70ft & 50ft
- Location: 750 Anderson St.
- Heritage Tree ID # HT35 & 36

History/Information:
These 2 trees sit on the west and east sides of the Howard House, located near the historic Officer’s Row and are very rare indeed. Until the early 20th century, The American Chestnut was the dominant forest tree in the eastern United States until an exotic disease, Chestnut Blight, was introduced in the early 1900’s. In what can be described as one of the most devastating environmental disasters in American history, Chestnut Blight destroyed the entire native range of American Chestnut and pushed them to the brink of extinction. There are an estimated 300-500 mature American Chestnuts remaining and based on historical photos, these 2 particular trees were likely grown from seed prior to 1890.