



A place where families and businesses thrive.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 15, 2023; 5:30 p.m.
Community Auditorium, 1915 Main Street

Michael Howell, Vice Chair	Mark Nakajima, Chair	Bruce Countryman
Shaun English		David Hunter
Justin Marble		Jeremy Sapp
	Council Liaison, Timothy Rippe	

ADA Notice: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Forest Grove will make reasonable accommodations for participation in the meeting. Requests for assistance can be made by contacting the staff liaison, driordan@forestgrove-or.gov, 503-992-3226, at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting.

A. Call to Order; Roll Call

B. Public Comment: Anyone wishing to speak to the Community Forestry Commission on an item not on the agenda or on the agenda and not scheduled for a public hearing may be heard. All testimony is electronically recorded. Written comments may be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to driordan@forestgrove-or.gov.

C. Action Items

1. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes; February 15, 2023

D. Discussion Items

1. 26th Avenue Widening Project Register Tree Removals Proposed at 2627 26th Ave.
2. Finalize Arbor Month 2023 Event – Confirm Date, Location and Tree Type to Plant
3. Annual Report to City Council and Arbor Month Proclamation, April 10, 2023
4. Emerald Ash Borer Update

E. Council Liaison Report: Councilor Rippe

F. Commissioner Reports: All

G. Staff Communications: Dan Riordan

H. Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn: April 19, 2023

Zoom Video Conferencing

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85692727663?pwd=dWwzWEtuQTQ4SmJObjEwUUU3VEZaZz09>

Meeting ID: 856 9272 7663

Passcode: 831578



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CFC Meeting Minutes February 15, 2023

Approved by CFC on

- A. **Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Nakajima at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bruce Countryman, Shaun English, Michael Howell, David Hunter, Justin Marble, Mark Nakajima

Members Absent:

Liaisons Present: Councilor Rippe, Dan Riordan, Senior Planner

- B. **Public Comment:** None

- C. **Action Items:**

1. **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes: February 15, 2023:** David made a motion, seconded by Michael, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Elect Officers for Calendar Year 2023:** Bruce made a motion seconded by Jeremy to elect Mark Chair and Michael Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. **Discussion Items**

1. **Approval to Remove one Oregon white oak listed on the Register of Significant Trees at 1827 17th Avenue:** Dan briefed the Commission on issuance of an emergency permit approving removal of an Oregon white oak listed on the Register of Significant Trees located at 1827 17th Avenue. A certified arborist prepared a Visual Tree Assessment to determine the tree's safety and health. The assessment shows the upper canopy has tip dieback and indicates the tree has disease internally. The assessment also indicates the tree is failing, gravity is pulling the tree over and the roots are likely rotten. The assessment finds the consequences of tree failure is severe. The report concludes the tree poses an extreme hazard and requires immediate removal. Dan noted the City's Development Code allows issuance of an emergency tree removal permit if an imminent danger exists. Given the findings contained in the tree assessment report and authority provided by the Development Code the City issued an emergency removal permit for the oak tree to allow immediate removal.

2. 2023 Arbor Month Event Planning: The Commission continued discussion about the 2023 Arbor Month event including planting a tree to honor the late-Ron Thompson long-time City Council liaison to the Commission. A magnolia tree was suggested for planting since Ron was from Louisiana. Councilor Rippe mentioned he discussed the idea with Donna Thompson. Donna Thompson suggested a tree that is hardy for the Northwest such as an evergreen tree. David suggested a lodge pole pine. Dan will check with City Parks Superintendent Tom Martin about planting an evergreen tree and possible location. Michael suggested Talisman Park as a location to consider. David mentioned he would still like to purchase a plaque honoring Ron to place at the tree that's planted. Dan will check with Tom about type of plaque or sign to place at the tree.
 3. Emerald Ash Borer Update: Dan briefed the Commission on the February 14th Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force Meeting lead by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Dan noted, that it was mentioned the Oregon Department of Forestry has someone now assigned full-time to the state's Emerald Ash Borer response. Dan also informed the Commission there's a new web portal, OregonEAB.com, with information pertaining to the EAB. The web portal includes news, videos, resources for property owners, reports of borer sightings and links to state agencies. Dan informed the Commission that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Forestry are "pre-testing" the mobile incinerator at the Clean Water Services property just outside the city limits on May 1st and 2nd. Main burning is scheduled to occur on May 22nd to May 25th. The Commission discussed the testing and burning schedule focusing on the long lead time. It was mentioned that the May timeframe could be due to the lack of ash material to burn at this time.
 4. City Council Boards and Commissions Discussion Commission members heard an update from Councilor Rippe and Dan on City Council's comprehensive review of boards and commissions. Councilor Rippe noted the purpose of the review is to increase the City's capacity to address current issues and make more effective and purposeful use of volunteer and staff time. City Council will be forming a subcommittee to get input from boards and commission prior to making recommendations to City Council. It was discussed that the subcommittee will meet three or four times before July 2023.
- F. Council Liaison Report: Councilor Rippe reported on his conversation with Donna Thompson about the tree planting, outreach to State Representative McLain about the status of using mobile incinerators for disposing ash tree materials infected by the Emerald Ash Borer and the Council's boards and commissions review process. Councilor Rippe also briefed the Commission on presentations provided to City Council on February 13th including an update from Metro on the TV Highway, bus rapid transit assessment project underway and update from Washington County on affordable housing programs.

- G. **Commissioner Communications:** David mentioned he attended an EPA webinar on the Asian Longhorn Beetle. David noted the Asian Longhorn Beetle could be bad since they affect maple trees. David also mentioned the ongoing problem and concerns with invasive Bradford pear trees.
- H. **Staff Communications:** Dan informed the Commission that City's Engineering Division is moving forward with the 26th Avenue improvement project. The Engineering Division indicated two Oregon white oak trees at 2627 26th Avenue need to be removed due to the project. Dan also mentioned an arborist prepared an analysis assessing project impacts on the trees for the Engineering Division. The Commission agreed to discuss this issue during the Commission's next meeting on March 15th.
- I. **Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn:** David made a motion, seconded by Michael to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Dan Riordan, Senior Planner
Staff Liaison to the CFC

Daniel Riordan

From: Derek J. Robbins
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 1:35 PM
To: Daniel Riordan
Subject: 2627 26th Avenue (Forest Grove) - Arborist Study
Attachments: 26th Avenue-File 51 Arborist Markup-2023-01-29.pdf; 2627 26th Ave - Tree Photographs 01-24-2023.pdf

Hello Dan,

Two white oaks need to come out for the City 26th Ave Improvement Project at Hawthorne & 26th. City already has a signed monetary agreement with owner to take them out. As you know we are putting new sidewalks, curb, gutter, storm drainage. Also, the power poles will be moved to the north 2'. This will impact many trees along the north side of road because of the overhead power clearance requirements. As discussed below the two oaks at Hawthorne will need to come out. Attached is a copy of the more detailed report from arborist. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. I am assuming you can take this to the City tree commission.

Thank you,
Derek

Derek J. Robbins, PE
djrobbins@forestgrove-or.gov

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Engineering Department
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From: Morgan Holen <morgan@mholen.com>
Date: January 29, 2023 at 2:18:00 PM PST
To: Fred Wismer <fwismer@kittelsohn.com>, Tony Roos <troos@kittelsohn.com>
Subject: 26th Avenue (Forest Grove) - Arborist Study

[External Sender]

Hi Fred and Tony,
This e-mail provides a summary of my January 24, 2023 assessment of two trees located at 2627 26th Avenue in Forest Grove (photo 1). My assignment was to document the existing condition of each tree and assess potential impacts from pruning that would be necessary with the proposed relocation of overhead power lines. During my site visit, I met with Rick Larson and Jason O'Dell from Forest Grove Light and Power, and they marked the location of the utility pole relocation on the ground and we

discussed how much crown clearance pruning would be necessary. Photographs and a site plan mark-up are attached.

Tree #5709 is an Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) measuring about 29-inches in diameter with a 22-foot crown radius (measured on the south side of the tree). It stands approximately 90-feet tall. Overall, this tree is in generally good condition, but with moderate structure including codominant stems and leaders with some included bark and small dead and broken branches. It has a relatively high live crown with poor lateral branch distribution which is likely due to power line pruning that has been performed over the years.

Tree #5710 is also an Oregon white oak. This tree measures about 39-inches in diameter with a 16-foot crown radius (measured on the south side of the tree). It stands approximately 75-feet tall. Overall, this tree is also in generally good condition, but with moderate to poor structure including codominant stems and leaders and decay hollows on the southernmost stem near the juncture of the codominant stem union and tremendous weight above these defects (photos 6 and 7). On the south face of the southern stem, there is an old wound, perhaps from a large old pruning cut that never compartmentalized. There is minimal wound wood around the edges, but the center is decaying and has large holes that may be from carpenter worm infestation. On the backside of this same stem, a little bit below the large wound, there is another smaller hollow. My assessment was limited to visual observations from the ground and the extent of decay versus sound wood is unknown. Advanced assessment is recommended if this tree will be retained, specifically the use of sonic tomography, to estimate the potential loss of structural integrity within various cross-sections of the trunk around the defects. Findings from an advanced assessment can help inform a hazard risk rating and management recommendations.

In regard to potential impacts from power line pruning with utility pole relocation closer to the trees, it is important to keep in mind that both trees have codominant stems that are naturally growing in opposing directions to the north and south, so the southern stems extend somewhat further to the south (closer to the utility lines) as they get higher. Also, although tree #5709 is located slightly further north than tree #5710, it has a larger crown radius. Both trees have already been pruned excessively for power line clearance and have produced numerous epicormic sprouts, particularly tree #5710 (photos 4 and 5). It is my understanding that the utility pole will be relocated approximately 3.5-feet to the north, closer to the trees. On top of the pole, there is an arm measuring 8-feet on center with power lines attached to the center and near the end of each side of the arm. This means that the closest power line is approximately 4-feet closer to the trees than the center of the pole itself. The relocation also proposes that the lines be 5-feet higher than they currently are.

Based on my discussions with Rick and Jason, Forest Grove Light and Power has a standard 10-foot clearance requirement for high voltage power lines. The National Electrical Safety Codes allows a minimum of 6-feet of clearance and the City could use that instead. Rick and Jason painted the proposed location of the relocated utility pole on the ground and marked 6-foot and 10-foot clearance lines adjacent to each tree (photos 2 and 3). The 10-foot line is at the center of the trunk of tree #5709 and beyond (north of) the trunk of tree #5710. The 6-foot line is just south of the trunk of tree #5709 and at the face of the trunk of tree #5710. I was able to stand at these markings and look up to assess the crown structure and approximate where pruning cuts would be required. In both cases, and even with the reduced 6-feet of clearance allowed, the amount of pruning needed is likely to greatly disfigure both trees, require large diameter pruning cuts, and leave little live tissue on the southern stems. The remaining trees are expected to be one-sided with crown weight in the direction of the home to the north.

Possible options include, but may not be limited to:

1. Remove both trees to relocate the utility pole and lines as proposed (the lower trunks could remain to carve as suggested by the property owner in correspondence with City staff);
2. Relocate the utility pole and lines, prune both trees to provide the minimum 6-foot of clearance allowed, then immediately reassess the condition and structure to determine if they are suitable for retention based on the owners tolerance for risk potential;

3. Leave the pole and lines where they are and realign the proposed sidewalk (this will still require some pruning as the epicormic sprouts are growing closer and closer to the lines, and could have root impacts depending on sidewalk construction);
4. Relocate the utility pole and lines to the opposite side of the street; or,
5. Underground the power lines by boring a minimum of 3' deep beneath the tree driplines or open trench and tunnel around roots larger than 2-inch diameter to leave them intact.

If tree #5710 is considered for retention, advanced assessment is highly recommended as it could have high hazard risk potential to the street, power lines and home. Tree #5709 would not be impacted by the removal of tree #5710 as long as the stump remains in the ground (okay to grind the stump face below ground level).

Please let me know if you have questions or need any additional information or further assistance.

Thank you,

Morgan

Consulting Arborists & Urban Forest Management

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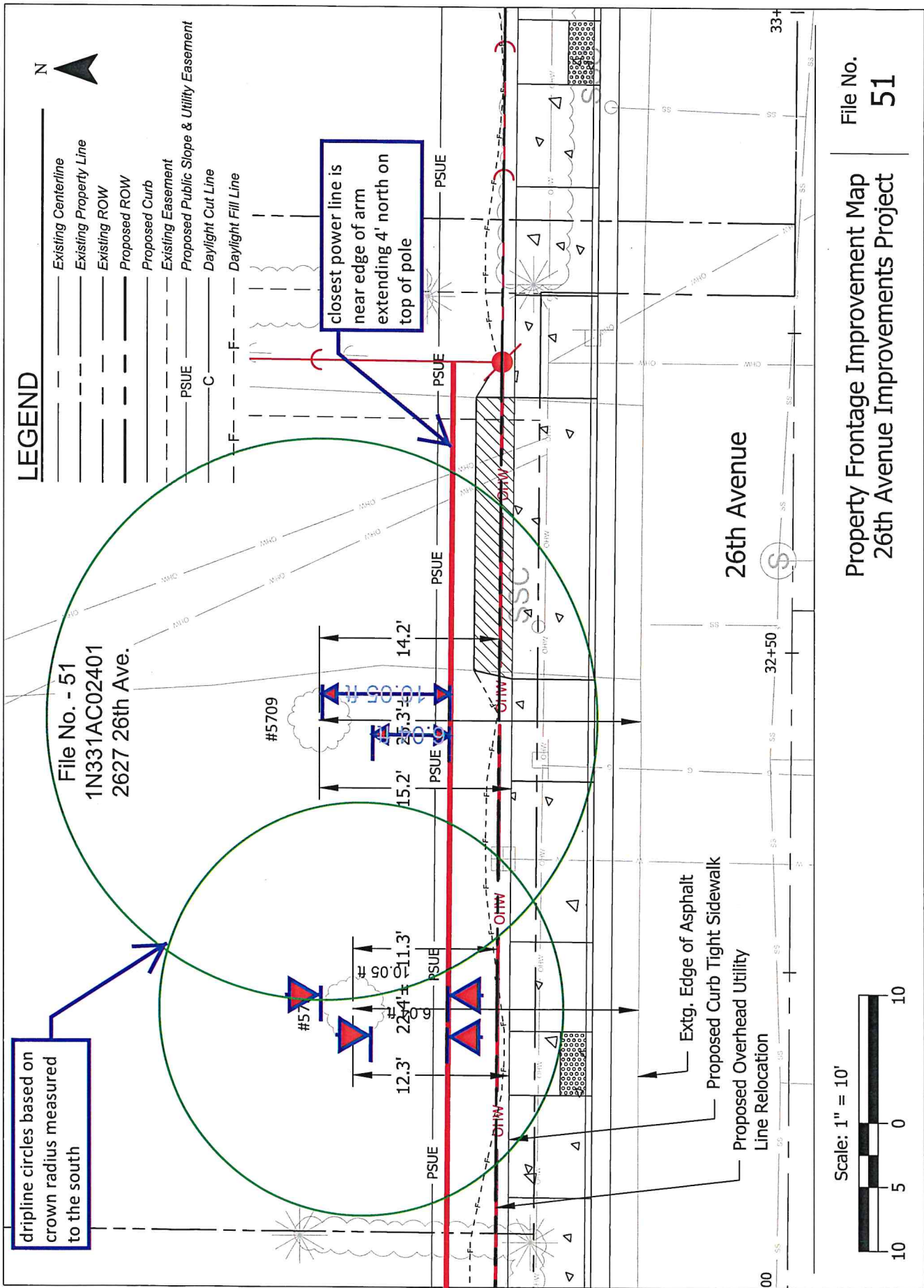




Photo 1. Oregon white oaks located at 2627 26th Avenue in Forest Grove (looking north).



Photo 2. Marking of required utility line clearance used to assess pruning needed for pole relocation.



Photo 3. Marking of required utility line clearance used to assess pruning needed for pole relocation.



Photo 4. Upper crown of tree #5709.

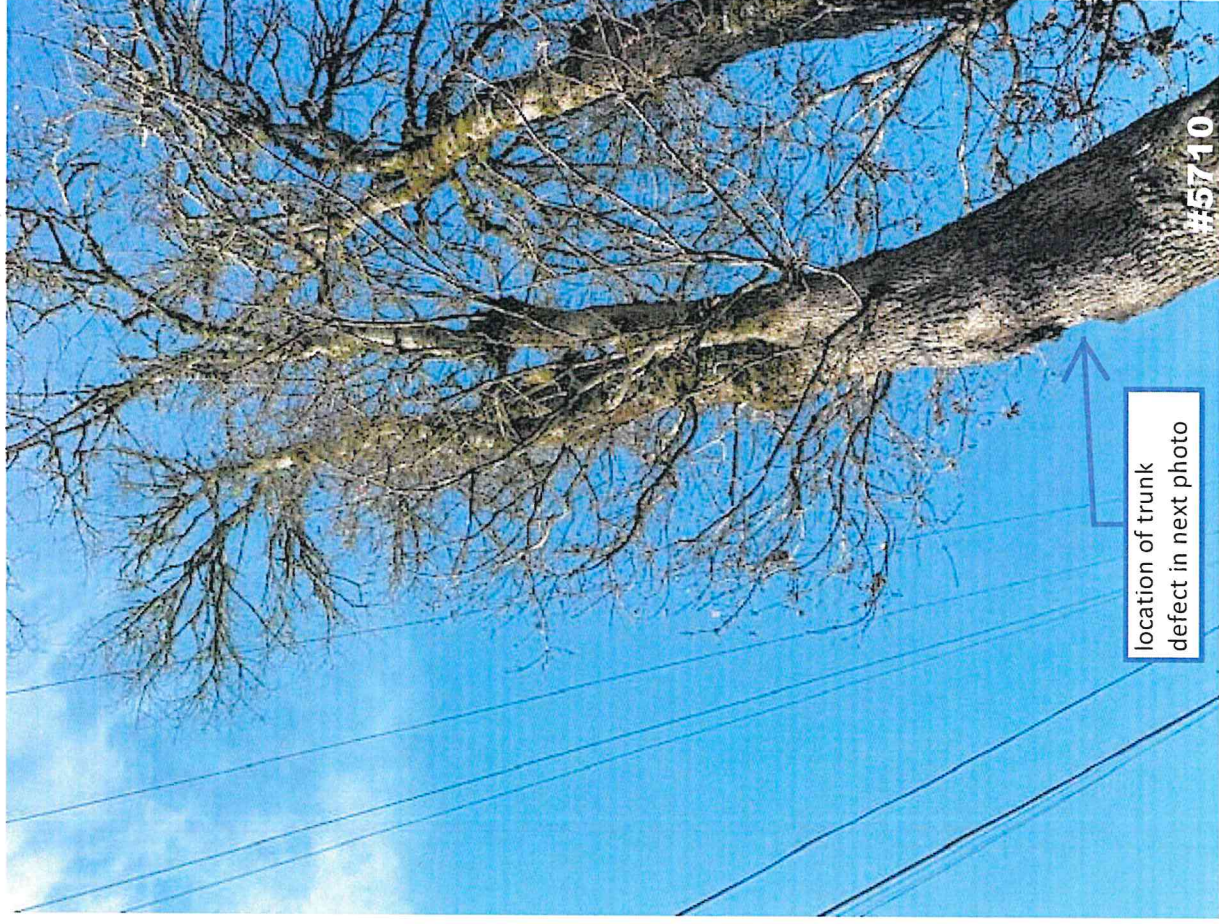


Photo 5. Upper crown of tree #5710.



Photo 6. Large decaying wound on south face of southern stem at tree #5710, with tremendous weight above defect.

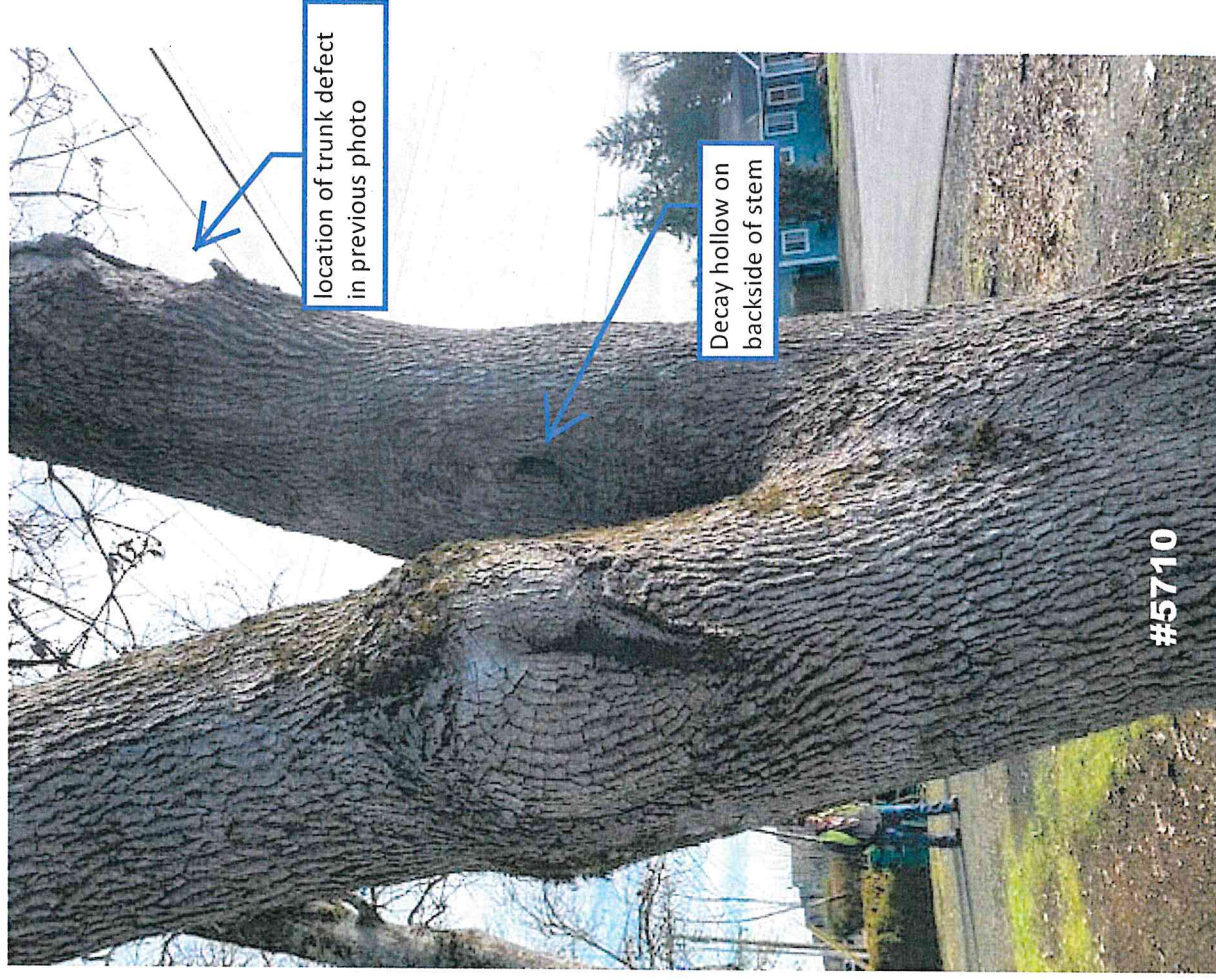


Photo 7. Small hollow on north face of southern stem at tree #5710.



Community Forestry Commission Annual Report to City Council (2023)

Mark Nakajima, Community
Forestry Commission Chair

4/10/2023



Community Forestry Commission Members

□ The following community members have graciously volunteered their time and provided their expertise to help support the City's urban forestry efforts:

- Mark Nakajima, Chair
- Michael Howell, Vice Chair
- Bruce Countryman
- Sean English, Student Liaison
- David Hunter
- Justin Marble
- Jeremy Sapp

2022 Urban Forestry Accomplishments

- ❑ The Arbor Day Foundation designation Forest Grove as a Tree City USA for the for the 33rd consecutive year in 2022!
- ❑ The CFC held the Arbor Day tree planting held on April 14, 2022, at Thatcher Park.
- ❑ City Council read the 2002 Arbor Day proclamation on April 11, 2022
- ❑ 139 Street trees were planted in new subdivisions during 2022
- ❑ Two tree tags were prepared and placed at the Giant Sequoia at Pacific Avenue and B Street planted c. 1870 for the City's sesquicentennial celebration

2023 Urban Forestry Work Program

- ☐ Hold community tree planting event for Arbor Day in April.
- ☐ Read annual Arbor Day proclamation during City Council meeting in April
- ☐ Present Commission annual report to City Council in April
- ☐ Develop a street tree inventory database to help with local Emerald Ash Borer infestation response.
- ☐ Work on a policy to proactively addressing tree/sidewalk conflicts for City Council consideration.
- ☐ Prepare annual Tree City USA recertification application for submittal to the Arbor Day Foundation.



The End