

Received January 16, 2019 via email



Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Tony Whittler, Public Works Department
555 Liberty Street SE, Rm 325
Salem, OR 97301

January 16, 2019

On behalf of the CANDO Board of Directors, I am writing to express the Board's concern about the proposal to remove trees on Division Street to increase parking.

I am sure you all are aware of the tremendous health benefits associated with urban trees. They help reduce heat, provide cleaner air and water and reduce flooding. This is in addition to the well-documented psychological benefits associated with trees.

Here is one article explaining the importance of trees in the urban environment.

<http://www.urbanreleaf.org/get-educated/benefits-of-trees>

Parking for automobiles on the other hand, provides more heat, impairs drainage, and encourages more driving, which results in more pollution, including more CO₂, the major greenhouse gas.

The City has taken some steps to ensure that the natural environment is given due consideration in its decision making. I hope the City will continue to move in that direction by reconsidering the proposal to remove the Division Street trees.

Sincerely,

CANDO Chair

Toni Whitler

From: Toni Whitler
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Toni Whitler
Subject: FW: Contact Public Works Department
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net [<mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net>] **On Behalf Of** lvworms@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:58 AM
To: Development Services <developmentservices@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Contact Public Works Department

Your Name	Sally White
Your Email	lvworms@yahoo.com
Your Phone	5038849374
Street	3190 Wallace Rd. NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>Downtown tree removal Unable to attend last night's meeting on citizen input regarding the removal of trees downtown, I wish to add my two cents worth. If you are concerned about stemming climate change at the local level, removing old trees is counter productive as it is now known that the root system of large old trees are much larger than previously assumed and therefore able to sequester a greater amount of carbon. If you are into enticing more folks to either move here or at least buy here, you must know that tree lined avenues are more likely to do so...especially if you are looking for a higher end clientele. If you are into ugly, drive over the bridge and see what has happened on Wallace with the replacement of historic trees replaced by pavement and in some places a few spindly nursery stock that are not doing well as the planters did not plant for life, but for the appearance of being green. The removal of the huge old growth tree in front of one of the businesses on Wallace was done because it was cheaper to do so than preserve it. If the sequioa in tiny Waldo Park downtown could be saved way back when as the city grew around it, then surely the trees that were removed on Wallace could have been saved..if wanted. The west Salem area connected with Wallace Rd. is the old way of the term "progress" and is not what hundreds of us stated at a meeting that took place above the Broadway Cafe a few years ago. The trees removed from River Front Park have made it less park minded and more venue minded as if events couldn't be held with trees left in place - think Bush Park. As always, follow the money is most likely the real reason for making our touted "tree city" a joke. Now with the known fiscal issue happening in Salem, stop the removal of more trees and embrace a more inviting future.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/11/2019.

Toni Whitler

From: Woody Dukes <woodydukes@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Toni Whitler
Subject: Inspection of trees in the 400 block of Division St NE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

On Feb 21, 2019, an Inspection was made of the trees in the 400 block of Division St. that are slated for removal to allow for modifications to the block to accommodate more parking spaces.

Identification of trees for this report:



Note: trees A through D are growing in irrigated turf. Trees E through J are growing in mostly old bark dust without irrigation. Trees K through O are growing in an unirrigated strip that is mostly covered with ivy that is growing 3 to 10 feet up into the trees and shows remnants of being covered by impervious plastic sheeting on the ground. Trees P through T are in turf with relatively new sprinkler heads evident. Unknown whether this system is active. The above image is from July 27, 2018 from Google Earth Pro. It shows that these trees, in general, have good color and leaf density including A through D where their conditions today can't be determined. However, Tree J has significant dead.

Tree A:

12" diameter zelcova (*Zelcova Seratta*). Cultivar is not known but they were installed when MAPS Credit Union was built so their original plans should show these trees.

Condition: difficult to determine visually. Buds are still dormant. Minor thinning needed - no more than 20%.

Tree B:

10" dia flame ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa* 'Flame'). This tree appears to be a remnant that was already planted there when the three zelcovas were planted.

It is recommended that this tree be removed because it violates Salem Revised Code Chapter 86 under:

86.090 City Tree Removal Criteria (6) *When City trees have been planted too close to each other based on administrative rules and the spacing causes an adverse effect on neighboring trees. The tree with the greatest vigor will remain unless it meets other criteria for removal.*

the Zelcova trees on either side of this ash are more vigorous and desirable. Initially this will show that a percentage of each crown will be stunted because of the ash being inside them but they should fill these areas back in over time.

Also, this tree is badly misshapen due to heavy pruning to clear overhead power lines. Another reason why it should be removed.



Condition: Difficult to determine visually. Buds are still dormant.

Tree C:

12" dia zelcova similar to Trees A and D.

Surfacing roots evident from this tree

Condition: Difficult to determine visually. Buds are still dormant. Minor thinning needed - no more than 20%

Tree D:

12" dia zelcova similar to Trees A & B. This tree has been growing without the encumbrances that trees A and B are under with the ash tree.

Condition: difficult to determine visually. Buds are still dormant. Minor thinning needed - no more than 20%.

Note: The following trees, E through T, are all pyramidal european hornbeams (*Carpinus betulus* ‘*fastigiata*’). Their proper diameters may not be determinable because most have stems attached close to the ground. These trees have been growing in an unusually wide planting strip receiving little attention for decades except where some were pruned for power lines and clearances back from buildings. These will be indicated later in the report. The sun was bright shining low on the trees which made observations of the branches very clear. There are varying amounts of dead wood inside many of the trees, some more than others. This is generally from shading of inner buds and natural shedding. Virtually all of these trees (except tree J) showed that their buds have been swelling in preparation for leaf emergence. These buds are in the right numbers and present at most all of the terminals. Except where indicated, these are healthy indicators giving these trees a condition rating of “Good”. There are no pruning deformities like trees B & P.

Tree E:

24" dia hornbeam (measured 30" above ground).

Note: Trees F, G, H & I are planted close enough together that their crowns are blended. They are OK if left alone but the removal of any exposing one or more that may remain will leave misshaped trees. This is also the case with trees K, L, M and N as well as P, Q, & R. S & T are less affected in this way.

Tree F:

22" dia hornbeam (measured 12" above ground).

Roots have lifted one abutting edge of one sidewalk panel 2".



Tree G:

24" dia hornbeam (measured at 12" above ground)

Roots have lifted one abutting edge of one sidewalk panel 1".

Tree H:

20" dia hornbeam (measured 12" above the ground)

Tree I:

23" dia hornbeam (measured 12" above the ground)

Tree J:

18" dia hornbeam (measured 18" above the ground)

This tree is near 90% dead. Almost no live buds are evident and there are stems that have broken off and bark is being shed. There is no indication as to why this tree died.

Tree K:

20" dia hornbeam (measured 18" above the ground)

Tree L:

Unable to measure diameter due to ivy. hornbeam

Dead wood to 5" dia in upper center of tree with no central leaders affected

Tree M:

21" dia hornbeam (measured at 24" above the ground)

Many areas of dead bark and stem injuries of unknown causes with dead wood in the center-north portion of the crown with broken stubs and missing bark. This tree is the second-worst condition tree on the block. Tree condition is fair with 40% affected by these problems.

Tree N:

Unable to measure diameter due to ivy. hornbeam

Tree O:

Unable to measure diameter due to ivy. hornbeam

Tree P:

20" dia hornbeam (measured 30" above the ground)

This tree has been severely pruned for clearance of power lines.



This tree should be retained even though it has been pruned this way

Tree Q:

25" dia (measured at 36" above the ground) hornbeam.

Many inside dead stems to 4" but no major stems are negatively affected.

Tree R:

21" dia (measured at 36" above the ground)

Many inside dead stems to 3" but no major stems are negatively affected.

Tree S:

26" dia (measured at 36" above the ground) hornbeam

Many inside dead stems to 3" but no major stems are negatively affected.

Tree T:

22" dia (measured 36" above the ground)

A small center stem 7" dia is dead but the rest of the tree unaffected. This is likely due to natural shedding.

Note: In keeping with the City of Salem's "Migratory Bird Conservation Strategy" (Jan 2017), trees were inspected for evidence that any birds nested in them. No nests were observed.

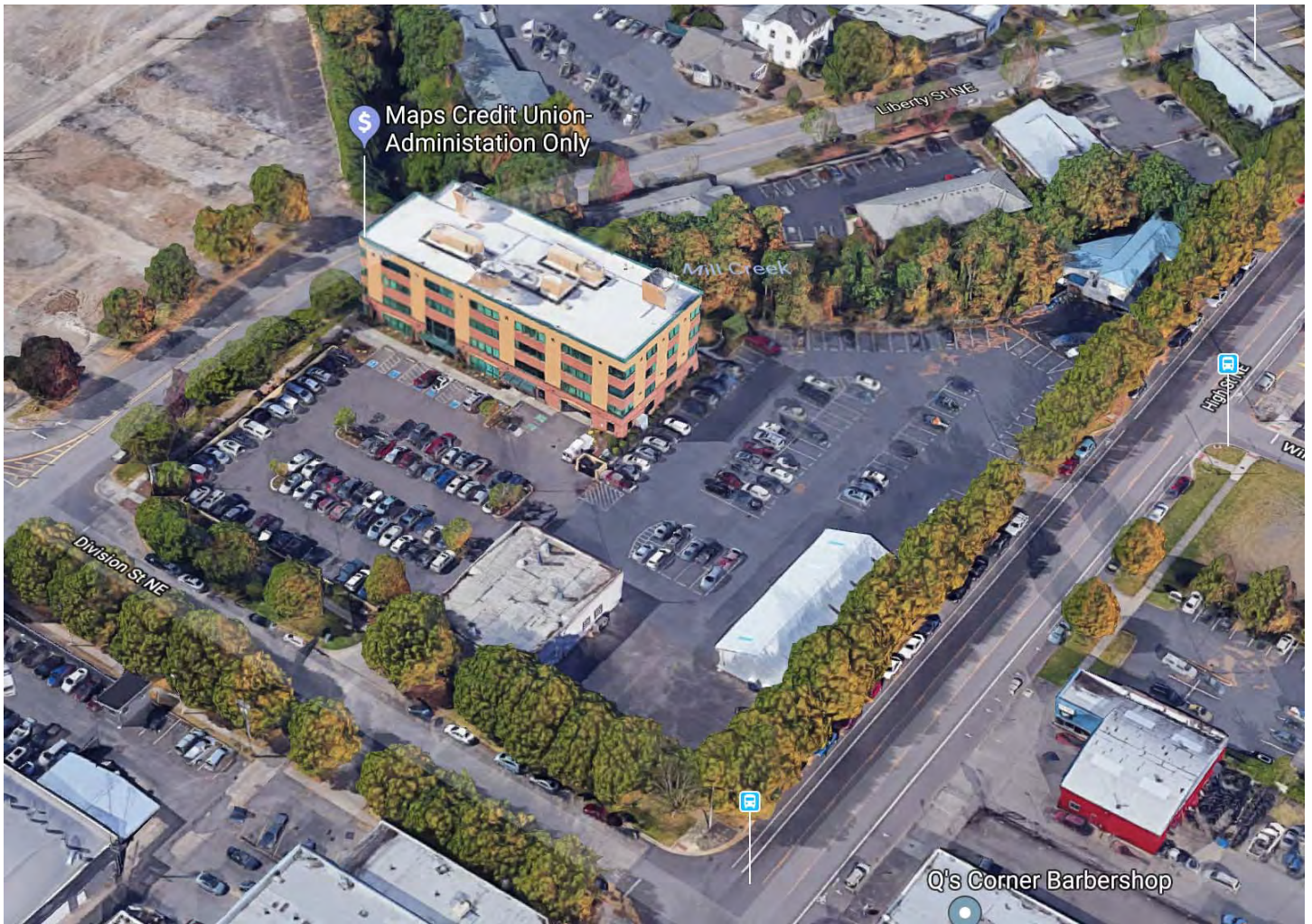
Recommendations: 16 of these trees are in good health and should be retained. Tree B should be removed due to its non-compliance with Salem's tree code. Trees J and M should be removed and replanted due to their poor (J) and declining (M) health. Tree P can either (a) be retained where it will continue to be severely pruned by the power company or (b) be removed and not replanted. The remaining hornbeams need careful deadwooding with careful thinning not removing more than 20%. Carefully remove the ivy from trees K through O including from the soil surface without damaging tree roots.

Other considerations:

1. If it is determined that the ivy on the ground around trees K through O is to be removed, great care must be taken to not damage surface roots that have resulted from the use of the impervious plastic ground cover.
2. Pruning should be restricted to carefully removing deadwood and some moderate thinning. Care must also be taken to not injure the tree by pruning equipment including chain saws that provides entry points for decay into the parts to be retained.
3. Fertilization may be considered but it must be low in nitrogen so as not to stimulate new growth that would require continued follow-up fertilizations.
4. Soil coring should be one of a few strategies to consider that could improve drainage. This should improve the exchange of gasses in soil and improve drainage as well as stormwater management.
5. Two 5' x 5' sidewalk panels need to be replaced due to lifting by tree roots.

Pertinent images:

From August 2017. The trees are showing stress (yellow leaves) from a severe drought that was experienced that year. This did mean that the trees were dying. Google Earth images the following year show the trees looking normal as seen in the image below this one:





Bud break in the top of one of the hornbeams is typical of the others on the block recommended to be retained:



Woody Dukes

Arborist

To: Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
From: E.M. Easterly
Date: March 4, 2019
Re: Division Street street tree removal hearing

The Director of Public Works has asked the Salem Park and Recreation Board (SPRAB) to act upon the street tree removal application¹ as provided under SRC 86.095. To the extent that a SPRAB decision is final² Director Fernandez has passed to the SPRAB a rather awesome responsibility.

As you prepare to act upon this request, I invite you consider the following analysis.

Division Street City Street Tree SPRAB Appeal

The latitude given the Public Works Director by SRC 86.090 (a)(8)³ appears to contradict City Trees Administrative Rule 109-500-2.8 because SRC 86.090 (a)(8) provides no definition of “reasonable alternative.” In essence, an appellant decision by SPRAB pursuant SRC 86.095 will potentially supersede a street design project previously proposed and adopted by the applicant who in this instance is the City of Salem Public Works Department.⁴ The core question then becomes does the preservation of existing street trees have a higher priority than parking spaces along Division Street?

Street Trees in Salem governed by SRC Chapter 86

“Sec. 86.005. - Purpose. ... It is hereby declared that the public interest and welfare requires that the City conduct a program for the planting, maintenance, preservation, and removal of city trees, and that the City promote the development of *tree* canopy cover of all *trees* on city property.”

Commentary: This purpose statement ends by stating “that the City promote the development of tree canopy cover.” How does removal of street trees allowed under SRC 86.090(a)(8) promote tree canopy cover? SRC

1 Whether an actual permit application was filed is not clear. Indeed, it is unclear whether the Public Works Director believes his department is obligated to follow the requirements of SRC Chapter 86 when the City authorizes a street modification/improvement project. See footnote #4.

2 Sec. 86.095. - Appeal of decisions or orders. (a)
... The appeal decision by the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is final; no further appeal or review shall be available.

3 Sec. 86.090. - City tree removal criteria. (a)(8) The Director may permit the removal of a City tree due to construction if there is no reasonable alternative.

4 “No street tree variance was required for Division Street because the removals are associated with the separately-funded street improvements. While these improvements support the police station, they are not a requirement of the development.” City Manager Steve Powers 1/17/2019

Chapter 86 also provides that the Public Works Director may remove street trees as follows:

“Sec. 86.015. - Administration; rule making; responsibilities.

(a) **General.** The Director shall have jurisdiction over all City trees, including the planting, removal, care, maintenance, and protection thereof. ...

(b) **Removal or treatment of City trees.** The Director may remove or permit the removal of any City tree, or plant or part thereof that is in an unsafe condition or is causing damage to City property, when the condition of the tree cannot otherwise be remedied by accepted arboricultural practices. The Director may, or permit another to, remove, treat, or cause to be treated any City tree or plant or part thereof that is currently infected with a fungus, disease, insect, or other pest such that it becomes a risk, as authorized by this chapter and administrative rules.”

Commentary: The two conditions allowing the removal of City trees are “an unsafe condition or is causing damage to City property”
Any other tree removal approval requires a variance as detailed under Sec. 86.055. - Variances.

“Sec. 86.055. - Variances. A variance to the requirements of this chapter may be permitted where it is necessary to prevent unreasonable hardship⁵. A permit application which includes a request for a variance shall be submitted to the Director for review and decision, along with any applicable fee.

(a) **Director's determination.** A variance to the requirements of this chapter may be permitted if the Director determines that:

(1) There is an unreasonable hardship or practical difficulty created by the physical characteristics of the land;

(2) The variance will not result in adverse effects that are unreasonably detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare or to property or improvements in the vicinity; and

(3) The proposed variance is narrowly tailored to alleviate the unreasonable hardship on the applicant while preventing injury to City trees to the greatest extent practicable.

Commentary: What defines “an unreasonable hardship or practical difficulty”?
What are “unreasonably detrimental” “adverse effects” “to public health, safety, and welfare” that would curtail the issuance of tree removal variance? If SRC Chapter 86 does not provide these

⁵ There is no definition within the code for the phrase “unreasonable hardship.” Subsequently under subsection (a)(1) “physical characteristics of the land” is cited specifically as the source of an “unreasonable hardship.” No other “hardship” source is mentioned.

answers, then does Salem Administrative Rules 109-006 Street Design Standards provide tree retention guidance?

“SAR 109-006.29—Street Trees

(a) General The requirements for providing City trees in the ROW are contained within SRC Chapter 86. Trees shall be incorporated in the street cross section to the maximum extent feasible in accordance with these Design Standards.

(c) Protection of Existing City Trees

(1). Existing City trees that are not permitted for removal must be protected in accordance with Standard Plan 820 and Administrative Rule (AR) 109-500-2. The City’s Urban Forester shall make the final determination regarding the location of the Tree Protection area based on the type of work being performed and the existing site constraints.”

Commentary: Administrative rules governing street design acknowledges that existing street trees may be removed, but that determination is linked to the City Trees Administrative Rule 109-500-2. That AR provides no “healthy tree” removal standard.

“SAR 109-006.34—Streetscape

(e) Trees

(2). Pre-existing Trees. The Urban Forester shall review and approve all existing trees to be removed or saved in tree wells that are in areas of new streetscape development, prior to final plan approval.

Commentary: The “shall review and approve” places the save or removed obligation directly upon the Urban Forester, but this rule offers no criteria for making that decision. Salem Administrative Rule 109-500-2 City Trees Administrative Rule includes the following obligations.

“SAR 109-500-2.8 Street Tree Removal and Replacement Standards

(a) Arborist Report. With the exception of Single Family Residential projects, the City may require an Arborist report detailing tree health, condition, and recommendations for or against retention.”

Commentary: “May require” is not a standard.
Other than “tree health and tree condition” what other standard, if any, is the Arborist to base his/her recommendation “for or against retention”? Please note: “an unreasonable hardship or practical difficulty” are not standards to be judged by an Arborist. Yet the City Arborist is charged with recommending “for or against retention.” Nor does Rule 2.8 define what are “unreasonably detrimental” “adverse

effects” “to public health, safety, and welfare”⁶ that would curtail the issuance of tree removal variance. Finally, how is the Arborist's recommendation against retention of healthy trees in good condition compatible with the Chapter 86 purpose statement to “promote the development of tree canopy“?

Of course, the Salem Urban Forester is subordinate to the Director of Public Works and given that latitude allowed under SRC 86.055 and SRC 86.090 Dir. Fernandez could have issued a variance allowing the City to remove street trees along Division Street or declared there is “no reasonable alternative” in conjunction with proposed changes to that roadway. He did not.

Instead he asked the Salem Park and Recreation Board to act upon the street tree removal application as provided under SRC 86.090. To the extent that a SPRAB decision is final⁷ Director Fernandez has passed to the SPRAB a rather awesome responsibility.

In the end it is you, the members of SPRAB, will decide whether the preservation of existing street trees on Division Street has a higher priority than parking spaces along Division Street by answering two questions. (1) Does this tree removal request conform to the purpose, language, and intent of the Salem tree ordinance? (2) Is this tree removal request “unreasonably detrimental” to future Salem “public health, safety, and welfare?”

Your decision will also impact future Salem street modification/improvement projects by clarifying whether street improvement projects initiated by the Public Works Department are subject to the requirements of SRC Chapter 86. According to the City Manager that apparently is not the current view of City staff.

6 Sec. 86.055. - Variances. (a)

Director's determination. A variance to the requirements of this chapter may be permitted if the Director determines that:

(2) The variance will not result in adverse effects that are unreasonably detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare or to property or improvements in the vicinity; and

7 Sec. 86.095. - Appeal of decisions or orders. (a)

... The appeal decision by the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is final; no further appeal or review shall be available.

Toni Whitler

From: Nancy McDaniel <nanmcdann@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 10:13 AM
To: Toni Whitler
Subject: Removal of trees on Division Street

To the members of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the removal of trees along Division Street NE, based on one clear fact: The city has not demonstrated that the removal meets any of the city code's criteria for tree removal.

SRC Section 86.090(a) lists the criteria for removing city trees: for example, if they are in an advanced state of decline, pose an imminent risk, have a fatal disease or are infested with insects. However, the Tree Assessment (attachment 3) in the Engineering Staff Report describes all but one of the trees to be removed as in good or fair condition. The arborist recommends removing only one tree, which is in poor condition. Two others are recommended for removal "if pruning is insufficient."

Nor does the report demonstrate that removal is "due to construction if there is no reasonable alternative." It projects an increase in parking demands, but doesn't provide any data or analysis to support this assertion. In fact, the report states that without the proposed addition in parking, there will be a net loss of *one* parking space in the vicinity of the new police station. It's hard to believe this constitutes a reasonable case for removing the trees. Furthermore, there is no discussion of feasible alternatives such as joint parking agreements or leased parking.

This case is an important test of the tree ordinance. I urge you to uphold its integrity.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Nancy McDaniel
Ward 1, Salem

Toni Whitler

From: Joan Lloyd <jello879@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 12:23 PM
To: Toni Whitler
Subject: testimony re: Division St. trees, March 14, 2019 SPRAB meeting

To the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

The following comments in green are the reasons I oppose removal of 16 trees on Division Street between High and Liberty Streets.

Sec. 86.015. - Administration; rule making; responsibilities.

--

(b)

Removal or treatment of City trees. **The Director may remove or permit the removal of any City tree, or plant or part thereof that is in an unsafe condition or is causing damage to City property, when the condition of the tree cannot otherwise be remedied by accepted arboricultural practices.** The Director may, or permit another to, remove, treat, or cause to be treated any City tree or plant or part thereof that is currently infected with a fungus, disease, insect, or other pest such that it becomes a risk, as authorized by this chapter and administrative rules.

The existing trees can be pruned.

Sec. 86.035. - Certain trees prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to plant any prohibited tree on City property. Established prohibited trees may be allowed to remain until the tree becomes dead, diseased, or a risk tree.

If prohibited trees are allowed to remain until they are dead, diseased or become risk trees, established acceptable trees that are in fair/poor condition should be under the same protection.

Sec. 86.090. - City tree removal criteria.

None of these criteria have been met regarding the Division Street trees. They are not an imminent risk.

(a)

A permit to remove a City tree may be granted if one or more of the following criteria are met, as determined by the Director:

(1)

The tree is dead.

(2)

The tree is in an advanced state of decline.

The tree is structurally unsound and poses an **imminent risk** to person or property, as determined by a tree risk assessment, and when the risk cannot be mitigated or the tree cannot be made sound by accepted arboricultural practices.

The Community Forestry Strategic Plan's goals and objectives were adopted by City Council in 2013.

Goal 1: Protect, increase, and enhance Salem's tree canopy;

One of the key goals of the Strategic Plan is to set a goal of 23% canopy and to focus efforts on City properties and low canopy neighborhoods.

Removing 16 mature trees and their canopies does not meet Goal 1. New trees will have a canopy in about 20 years according to City of Salem's Urban Forester Jan Staszewski.

This project to add 10 parking spaces that may cost thousands of dollars apiece and tear up good sidewalks on both sides of Division between High and Liberty Streets will remove 16 trees that are beneficial to the environment and are planted in a 23 feet wide ROW of permeable surface that keeps rainwater from going to the storm drains is violating The SRC 86 in several ways and is adverse to the Community Forestry Strategic Plan.

I am opposed to the removal of the aforementioned trees and urge that SPRAB will oppose their removal.

**Joan Lloyd
Salem resident**

March 12, 2019

Members of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board,

My name is Sarah Rohrs. I live at 260 23rd St. NE in Salem. I am writing on behalf of myself, a lifelong tree lover. I apologize for not being able to attend the Thursday March 14 night meeting to deliver my remarks in person. I must attend a mandatory staff meeting. I hope you will consider my remarks as you decide the fate of the hornbeam trees in the 400 block of Division Street.

I strongly oppose the city staff's proposal to cut down 16 of the 20 mature hornbeam trees in the 400 block of Division Street to make way for parallel parking. I strongly favor saving the trees and strongly urge the city of Salem to take a more proactive and creative approach in protecting the trees we live with in our neighborhoods, parks and commercial areas. I decry the city's overall current attitude and approach of cutting down whenever they are "in the way" and treating them as commodities that can be easily replaced.

I wish to speak to the parking issue. An increased demand for parking for the new police station is one of staff's arguments in favor of eliminating the trees. However, this is not a valid one. People visiting the new station will have plenty of diagonal street parking spots in the 300 block of Division Street directly in front of the new station. The trees in that block have already been sacrificed for those parking spots. We do not need to cut down more trees to accommodate more parking for the police station.

When it's all said and done what do we get for cutting down 16 mature trees in the 400 block of Division Street? Your own staff report for the March 14 meeting says the city will have a net gain of 10 additional parking spots. Just 10 spots. Is it really worth cutting down 16 trees for a net gain of just 10 parking spots?

In the world we now inhabit, faced with climate change and loss of natural habitat, the choice over trees and parking should be a no-brainer. We need creative urban development plans that provide for parking while incorporating mature trees that have been growing in those areas for decades. We need to get away from knee-jerk reactions to cut down trees whenever it's convenient. We need to try harder to save trees.

The city says that there will be more trees as new trees are planted around the new police station and adjacent area. That may be true but those trees will not be mature trees and it will take decades for the new trees to achieve the size and stature of the trees there now. None of us will be around to see that, and the young trees won't provide the benefits of mature trees we now enjoy.

Mature trees provide a host of environmental, social and economic benefits. The U.S. Forest Service reports a \$2.70 return on every \$1 invested into trees. Mature trees provide shade, they cool and preserve pavement and they create more inviting and livable areas. Mature trees remove

pollution from the air, and help prevent runoff and erosion. As we deal with the effects of climate change, we need more trees than ever before.

Eliminating mature trees also undermines the city's own efforts to increase tree canopy and improve the downtown with more landscaping, trees and other amenities. According to the 2010 city tree survey, Salem's tree canopy is a depressingly low 18 percent. Efforts are now underway to bolster that to 23 percent. To achieve that goal the city should be planting and preserving trees, not cutting them down.

I moved to Salem sight unseen. The day I rode into my new home town I was delighted by the canopy of trees I saw as I crossed the Center Street bridge. I was overjoyed by the many mature trees in our neighborhood. Please note I did not take any notice of the parking. In fact, the downtown seemed rather quiet, not much traffic and few cars, if any, circling and vying for an elusive parking spot. Those quiet conditions exist today. Downtown Salem does not have a parking problem and does not need more parking.

But Salem does need more trees. As you all know Salem was the first city in Oregon to be named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Foundation more than two decades ago. And while Salem may be living up to the letter of the law in terms of the designation it falls short in living up to its spirit. This current proposal to cut down mature trees to make way for parking is a case in point. A city that truly appreciates trees and strives to protect them would not eliminate them due to a parking demand that does not exist now and may not even materialize in the future.

You are in a unique and powerful position to save these trees, and send a message to city staff that trees do matter, and they deserve our care and stewardship. Please vote in favor of saving the trees, and reject staff's plan to cut them down for parking. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Rohrs

Toni Whitler

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of brian@trachselaautobody.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Toni Whitler
Subject: Contact Toni Whitler
Attachments: DSC04002.JPG

Your Name	Brian A Frazier
Your Email	brian@trachselaautobody.com
Your Phone	503-581-4242
Street	660 Liberty Street NE
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	<p>Thank you Toni for the email. Unfortunately I will be out of town on Thursday night. So I can't make the meeting. I would like to give you my opinion on the plans that the city of Salem has to remove the trees on Division Street NE. I think it's a 'terrible' idea. All these years of protecting our environment against people hacking down our forest and destroying our wet lands, the city just decides to wipe out these trees... It's really hard for me to believe that the people at the city would think this is just okay as long as we can get some more parking. These trees have been here since I started work at Trachsel Buick GMC in 1990. They are beautiful in the summer months and lots of Bees get the pollen from the flowers on the trees. How can who ever makes these decision feel this is the right thing to do. That real blows me away. I would think they are smarter than that... The city can do something else besides destroy these beautiful healthy trees for a few additional parking spot. Please pass this Email on to who ever make these decision I would love to talk to them. Brian Frazier, owner of Trachsel Body and Paint 503-581-4242</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 3/13/2019.

Leslie Polson, 930 Garnet St. NE, Slaem, Oregon March 14, 2019

To Peter Fernandez

RE: Division Street Trees Slated for Removal

More asphalt, less cars. This seems to be a city mantra that is heard over and over again. There are some very mature hornbeams on Division which are slated for removal to create 10 more diagonal parking places on Division.



These trees have circumferences ranging from 85 inches to 63 inches Each of these hornbeams sequesters about 41 tons of carbon each year in their current condition. A quick online calculator estimates that they provide \$12.45 apiece in storm water savings to the city. This is an area that is near Mill Creek which runs into the Willamette.



These Hornbeams are considered an excellent group of trees, with few insect and disease problems. They tolerate most soils and most soil conditions. They transplant well and seldom show any dieback from stress. They are considered to cause little sidewalk damage and on close inspection they are planted apart so that they are able to provide a great canopy. They are considered "Bullet Proof Trees" and in this area they are the only source of greenery. Most of the block around 645 Division is covered with parking spaces. MAPS uses most of the block for parking.



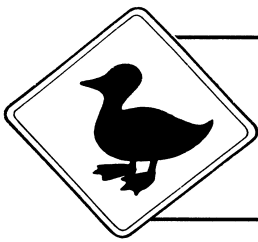
Aside from the observation that they have not been maintained they have the appearance of mature trees which have survived a lot of neglect. They are in compacted soil and the trees have some galls and included bark from lack of pruning and regular maintenance. But they are not showing any signs of disease other than the parking plan. Someone has started to prune the trees into the collar and there was a lot of sap dripping on March 13 when I observed the trees. The city staff would benefit from a pruning class where they learn how to prune trees so

that they do not damage them.



I urge you to preserve these trees and keep the shaded area in this block. These trees are mature and have a replacement value of around \$3,000 to \$4,000 per tree. The sidewalks are in good condition and during the summer the shade that they provide is dense to walkers.

Leslie Polson



NEN

NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS
555 Liberty Street SE, Rm 305
Salem, OREGON 97301

(503) 588-6207
www.salemnen.org

March 12, 2019

"The right to have access to every building in the city by private motorcar in an age when everyone possesses such a vehicle is actually the right to destroy the city."

- Lewis Mumford

Dear Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board,

The Board of Directors of the Northeast Neighbors (NEN) neighborhood association voted on February 19, 2019 to express its strong opposition to the removal of street trees on Division Street, between Liberty and High Streets, for the purpose of adding on-street parking. NEN opposes the replacement of the street trees with parking spaces because it would be detrimental for our downtown to both lose trees and to add parking. In addition, the number of spaces proposed to be added (10) does not justify the loss of trees and canopy coverage.

Downtown Salem needs trees more than it needs more parking spaces. If we want a vibrant downtown with more people, businesses, and apartments, then we cannot expect every person to arrive by private automobile. The inevitable result of development that is accompanied by more parking is more traffic congestion. Transit and non-motorized modes of transportation will never gain a large following in Salem if the easiest way to get around continues to be the automobile. When the City makes decisions like adding parking for cars and taking out mature street trees, it is choosing to degrade the pedestrian environment, leading more people to drive and fewer to walk (or bike).

Preserving the street trees on Division will allow Salem to continue to reap the social, environmental, and economic benefits that urban trees provide:

- For example, street trees have been found to slow automobile traffic. Shade from trees provides a more hospitable walking environment, especially in our ever-hotter summers. Seeing trees and walking amongst them improves people's moods and mental health.
- The environmental benefits of trees are well documented, from producing oxygen and removing pollution from the air, to reducing stormwater runoff. Experts agree: the environmental benefits of large, mature trees are much more valuable than those provided by small, young trees. Large trees absorb more carbon, take up more water, and mitigate urban heat island effect to a greater degree. Those benefits decrease when mature trees are removed, even if small, young trees are planted elsewhere to replace them.

- Urban trees also provide numerous economic benefits in downtown settings. Large trees that provide shade help protect asphalt, so repaving is not needed as often. Researchers have found that people stay longer and spend more money in commercial areas with trees.

The benefits discussed here are just a few of the many that urban trees provide. To read about these benefits and more, one can go to the City of Salem's very own Community Forestry Strategic Plan, which gives a very comprehensive listing of the benefits of urban trees (pp. 7-8).

If the trees on Division Street are removed, even if they're replaced with newly planted trees nearby, the City will be undermining the goals of Salem's Community Forestry Strategic Plan, which was adopted by the Salem City Council in 2013. The Plan calls for Salem's Central Area (which includes downtown) to have a tree canopy of 21.8%. However, the current canopy coverage for the Central Area is listed at 17.7%. That means, in order to achieve the Plan's goal, the City should be planting more trees, not removing them. It would be a big step backwards to remove mature trees, which are the trees that contribute the most to downtown's existing canopy coverage. In the interests of our environment and livability for the citizens of Salem, the NEN Board expects Oregon's oldest Tree City USA to be a champion of our urban forest. Please preserve the street trees on Division Street.

Sincerely,



Laura Buhl
NEN Land Use Committee, Co-chair