

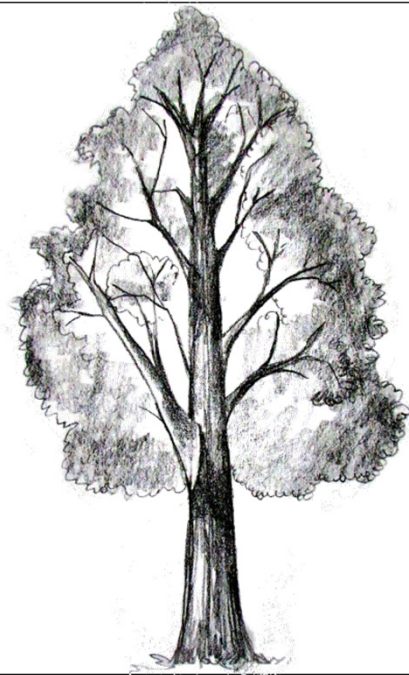
HERITAGE TREES

City Council Workshop

November 2018

*The questions
before us today
are...*

1. Does Camas need a heritage tree program?
2. What is a heritage tree program?



DOES CAMAS NEED A HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM?

Guidance from the
city's comprehensive
plan, **Camas 2035**

Natural Environment

Section 3.4.4, "The natural landscape and existing tree cover are important aspects of Camas' natural environment. Native, mature landscaping and trees contribute to the City's ecological health, supply valuable animal habitat, and enhance the community's natural beauty."



Guidance from the city's comprehensive plan, **Camas 2035**

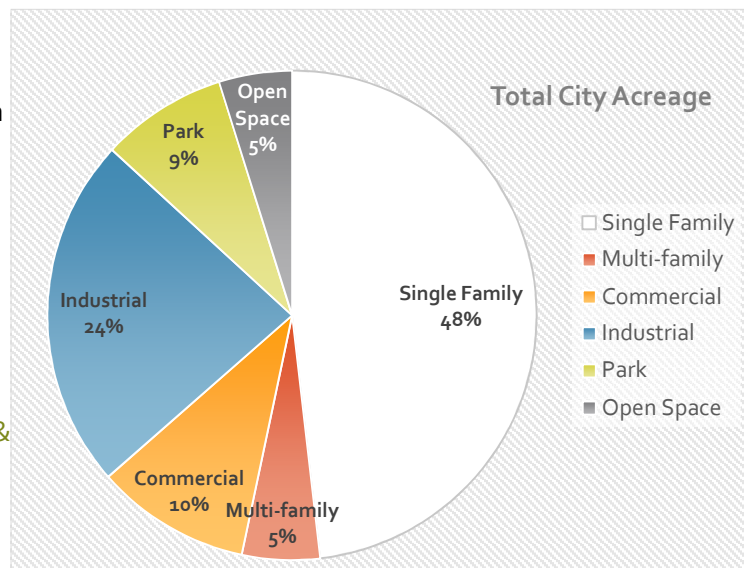
Landscape Enhancement and Tree Preservation Goal:

NE 4: *To protect Camas' native landscape and mature tree cover.*



Trees in Camas

- Trees in critical areas, public open spaces and public parks are protected.
 - 851 acres of public parks
 - 492 acres of open space
- Street trees are protected.
- No "heritage tree" regulations.
- Individual trees on private property are generally not protected---unless within tracts & noted on plats

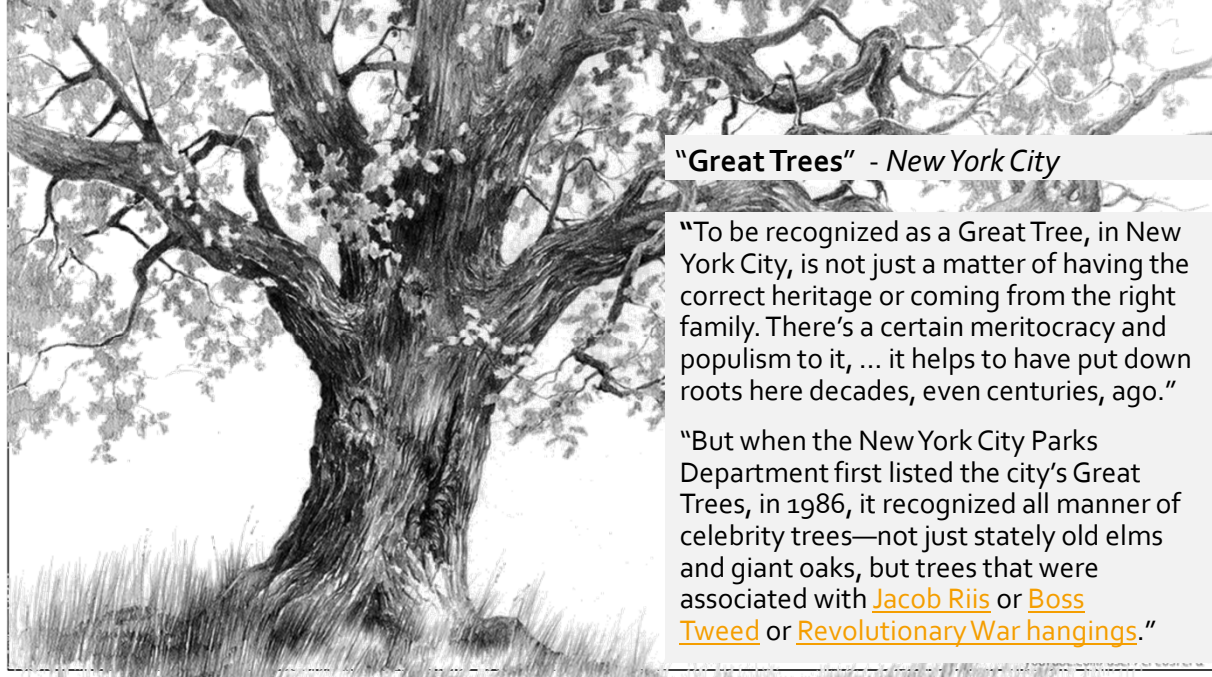


WHAT IS A HERITAGE TREE?



Heritage, Historic, Landmark, Great Tree

- Such trees are described in ordinances as **heritage, historic, landmark, legacy, special interest, significant, or specimen trees** or various permutations of these terms (e.g., heritage oak, exceptional specimen tree).
- Regardless of the name---These trees are considered important community resources because of unique or noteworthy characteristics or values.



"Great Trees" - New York City

"To be recognized as a Great Tree, in New York City, is not just a matter of having the correct heritage or coming from the right family. There's a certain meritocracy and populism to it, ... it helps to have put down roots here decades, even centuries, ago."

"But when the New York City Parks Department first listed the city's Great Trees, in 1986, it recognized all manner of celebrity trees—not just stately old elms and giant oaks, but trees that were associated with [Jacob Riis](#) or [Boss Tweed](#) or [Revolutionary War hangings](#)."

Definitions

"Monarch Tree" *APA Planning Advisory Report*

A tree that has been determined to be of high value because of its species, size, age, form, or historical significance.

"Landmark Trees" *Bainbridge Island*

Trees that are unique because of their age, size, species, historical significance, or aesthetic quality

"Heritage Trees" *City of Portland*

Trees that have been recognized by City Council for their unique size, age, historical or horticultural significance.

Definitions

"Heritage Tree" *City of Vancouver*

- Has a dbh of 36 inches or greater;
- Distinctive size, shape, or location,
- Distinctive species or age which warrants a Heritage Tree status
- Possesses exceptional beauty
- Distinctive due to a functional or aesthetic relationship to a natural resource
- Association with a historical figure, property, or significant historical event.

"Landmark Tree" *City of Olympia*

Means a tree or group of trees designated as such by the city because of its exceptional value to the residents of the city. Value is determined by factors such as:

- Association with historic figures, events, or properties,
- Rare or unusual species, or
- Exceptional aesthetic quality.

Heritage Tree Programs Common features

- Tree Board / Commission
- Registry
- Permission
- Protection
- Penalties

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Heritage Tree Programs Common features

Committee

- Typically heritage tree committees include experts from many fields, including forestry, parks service, geological and environmental studies and heritage programs.
- Volunteers
- Organized as a function of a parks department or parks commission

Registry

- Trees on registry are typically in locations that are visible to the public.
- Value to property & to environment is tracked
"Mature trees such as these heritage trees help cool the air, remove air pollution, capture rainfall, and save energy. In all, these trees are valued at more than \$24 million." **New York's Great Trees**
- Mapping
- Connection to Tourism (e.g. Walking Tours)

Heritage Tree Programs Common features

Permission

- No tree on private property can be designated without the consent of the property owner.
- This consent binds all successors, heirs, and assigns

Protection

- Plaques or signs posted on or near heritage tree
- No Heritage Tree can be removed without the consent of _____ (*fill in the blank*)
- Permit required to remove, destroy, cut, prune, break or injure a Heritage Tree
- Fines and penalties as deterrents

In summary

1. Does Camas need a heritage tree program?
2. What is a heritage tree program?
3. Next steps

