



City of Salem
Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

July 13, 2023

5:30 p.m.

Online ([Zoom](#))

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-588-6211.
Para asistencia en español, llame al 503-540-2489.

PARTICIPANTS

Board Members

Dylan McDowell, Chair; Keith Norris, Vice-Chair; Alan Alexander; Woody Dukes; Rick Hartwig; Alan Holland; Joan Lloyd; Debbie Miller

Staff

Jennifer Kellar, Parks and Recreation Division Manager; Rob Romanek, Parks Planning Manager; Becky George, Recreation Supervisor; Milan Davis, City Urban Forester/Parks Supervisor III

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of June 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comment – Appearance of persons wishing to address the board on any matter other than those which appear on this agenda.
4. Council Liaison Updates
5. Board Items/Presentations
 - a. Mission Street Parks Conservancy
 - b. Neighborhood Association Engagement
6. Board Member Updates
7. Information Reports – written
 - a. Parks Planning & Natural Resources Update
 - b. Parks Operations Update
 - c. Recreation Services Update
 - d. Urban Forestry Update

- e. Parks Damage Report
- 8. New Business
- 9. Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 10, 2023

This meeting is being conducted virtually, with remote attendance by the governing body. No in-person attendance is possible. Interested persons may view the meeting online on [YouTube](#). Please submit written comments on agenda items, or pre-register to provide Public Comment on items not on the agenda, by 5 p.m. or earlier one day prior to the day of the meeting at rromanek@cityofsalem.net.

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City of Salem

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

June 8, 2023

[Online Meeting](#)

Minutes - Draft

Members Present

Dylan McDowell
Keith Norris
Alan Alexander
Rick Hartwig
Alan Holland
Joan Lloyd
Woody Dukes

Members Absent

David Fridenmaker
Debbie Miller

Staff Present

Rob Romanek
Milan Davis
Becky George
Ray Joseph
Mitchell Jones

1. **Call to Order**

Welcome and call to order by Chair McDowell at 5:32 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Debbie Miller and Dave Fridenmaker were marked absent. All other members were present. Chair McDowell informed the group that Dave Fridenmaker will be leaving SPRAB and thanked him for his many years of service on the board, representing the Salem-Keizer School District.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Member Hartwig moved to approve the May 11, 2023 minutes. Vice-Chair Norris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**

On behalf of the Salem Parks Foundation, Carol Snyder greeted Deputy City Manager of Community Services Scott Archer and welcomed him to Salem. SPF is looking forward to working with him.

5. SPRAB's City Council liaison, Councilor Micki Varney, was not present.

6. **Board Items/Presentations**

a. Deputy City Manager of Community Services Scott Archer fills a new position that combined some vacant positions in the newly reorganized staffing structure. He started on May 22 and is enjoying meeting people within the organization, the community, and on boards and committees. His background includes 32 years of experience in local government and leadership with the majority in community services. He enjoys the process of working with boards and committees and appreciates the time given to the City by the members. The idea is for the Community Services Department to bring together services that can get lost and be disconnected from each other. Individually, they each have great value, but together, there are significant opportunities to work as a team across divisions to

create new ideas and generate new energy. He's interested in how SPRAB thinks their role supports the City and connects to the other services. Our community wants more, and he wants to hear from the board.

Chair McDowell responded to the question about SPRAB's role and mentioned the October in-person retreat. SPRAB would like to be more proactive to help City staff instead of waiting for master plans to come to the board for review. Two examples include outreach to neighborhoods via presentations to neighborhood associations and research on micromobility opportunities. SPRAB provides experience and value to staff and can offer that to Scott, also, in his leadership role. Board members introduced themselves and Chair McDowell encouraged Scott to look at SPRAB as a valuable resource.

b. Rob Romanek requested that board members let him know as soon as possible when they will attend neighborhood association meetings so he can customize their presentation packet. He can also provide the assignment sheet for who is going to which neighborhood association. Chair McDowell recommended that Scott Archer read over the packet to learn more about the core points that the neighborhood associations will hear.

Chair McDowell reached out to his assigned neighborhood associations and will schedule his presentations. Member Alexander has reached out to his two assigned associations. Vice-Chair Norris asked if the presentation materials can be downloaded. Rob can provide whatever method is easiest for board members to use. Chair McDowell reminded the group that they might get questions that they can't answer, but other board members and staff can help provide answers. He also asked members to include the SPIF timeline requirements when presenting to the associations.

7. Board Member Updates

Chair McDowell anticipates moving forward with members Miller and Holland on the micromobility topic. Member Hartwig noted that the Salem Parks Foundation does a great job of recognizing City staff and volunteers, so there's no need for SPRAB to duplicate their efforts. He wondered about the frequency of the recognitions, though, and if it's a possibility for SPRAB to make recommendations that the foundation can pick up and put in their newsletter. Also, he'd like the Salem Parks Foundation to get more publicity/press. Member Alexander responded that the feature is based on the foundation's recommendations for employees and volunteers. Visitor SPF President Carol Snyder said that the newsletter goes out quarterly and the park hero feature is included when available. She welcomes ideas for ways to publicize beyond the newsletter mailing list and Facebook. Member Holland asked about tracking which trails at Minto-Brown Island Park are covered by the trail patrol and when. Organizing good coverage would be nice.

8. Information Reports

(Information reports are provided as written reports ahead of the meeting.)

a. Parks & Natural Resources Planning Update

Vice-Chair Norris asked about the forest service grant decision. Rob Romanek said updates might be available in September or October. Vice-Chair Norris also wondered about the beaver management situation, particularly around Riverfront

Park. Rob said the beaver strategy is still in draft form but is being referenced. The City might need to intervene to protect life and property. Rob asked Raymond Joseph to introduce himself to the group. Ray serves as a City park planner. He worked in building trades for 12 years then returned to school for a degree in urban planning and has been in Oregon for about 20 years. Willamette University student, Emily Embleton, will be interning with Rob and Ray.

b. Parks Operations Update

Member Holland asked about trash pickup along the riverbed under the Peter Courtney Minto Island Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge. Milan Davis said that Willamette Riverkeeper will be working there on June 14. Volunteer coordinator, Amanda Sitter, can provide information on volunteer trash pickup opportunities.

c. Urban Forestry Update

Chair McDowell appreciated the comprehensive report and pictures from the Urban Forestry teambuilding trip. Milan Davis reported that stormwater money will pay for some summer interns who will be helping with park tree inventory. Interviews are scheduled for seasonal park employees, a project coordinator position, and the third supervisor.

d. Recreation Services Update

Chair McDowell is looking forward to participating in a Stride event. Becky George reminded the group of the free Fourth of July event at the Oregon State Fairgrounds with music and 20-minute fireworks show. Hopefully, the fairgrounds will be the permanent venue for this event.

e. Parks Damage Report

No comments or questions.

9. New Business

Chair McDowell discussed the desire for SPRAB to do some prep work for the Comprehensive System Plan and he asked Rob Romanek if SPRAB members might be able to do some advanced research work for the Transportation System Plan also. Rob said that there will be a lot of opportunities for SPRAB to assist with the park's plan relating to equity. For example, researching how other cities have addressed the issue. Member Holland agrees that equity is an important issue, but believes that inequity is killing city residents by the lack of a free public swimming pool and the opportunity for residents to learn to swim. Private facilities are good, but not the same as a public facility. He suggests that financing the pool might involve creating a tax district.

10. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 13, 2023.

11. Adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY

TO: Members
Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Mission Street Parks Conservancy

DATE: June 27, 2023

RE: MSPC Report on Activities for the Period April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023

The Mission Street Parks Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving, maintaining, enhancing, and interpreting Bush’s Pasture Park and other iconic landscapes on and near Mission Street.

Preserve

Work by the Rose Committee continues as they add new signage identifying all varieties of Old Roses in the Mae Tarter Old Rose Collection, and work to add new Old Roses to fill in gaps in the collection and gaps in the beds.

We are coordinating with the Salem Central Association of Neighbors (SCAN), who has been awarded a generous \$3,500 grant from the Salem Parks Improvement Fund (SPIF) to cover the cost of this work.

Maintain

The Tuesday Gardeners have been hard at work each week this spring on projects large and small throughout the gardens. These tasks have included, just to name a few, weeding in the Old Rose Garden, edging and mulching in various gardens, pruning deadwood in the rhododendrons, clearing ivy, digging the tulips after they bloomed, and weeding crabgrass from the ravine.

Tuesday Gardeners were also treated to several field trips this spring, including guided tours of the Lan Su Chinese Garden and Portland Japanese Gardens in April, and a trip to Leach Garden in Portland in late May.

In mid-May, Brian Smith gave the Tuesday Gardeners a short demonstration and workshop for sharpening garden tools.

Enhance

On May 9, Salem Mayor Chris Hoy joined the Tuesday Gardeners to plant several Lord & Schryver crabapples and to join the gardeners afterward for coffee and treats. The trees started their lives as cuttings taken from L & S crabapples in the park several years ago. This event had previously been scheduled to occur in March but was pushed back to let the soil dry out more before planting.

Work on the Woodland Garden project near the Bush Conservatory continues. Planning and fundraising are well underway, and the current schedule continues to project installation beginning in summer of 2023 through spring of 2024. MSPC held a Donor Appreciation Party on June 4 to thank our supporters and show what we have been up to in the park. The party was held under the Willow Oak and served as an opportunity to share plans for the Woodland Garden project.



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY

Interpret

In early April, the Mission Street Parks Conservancy submitted a letter to nominate several trees in Bush's Pasture Park for inclusion in the City's Heritage Tree program. The nomination was the result of a small work group consisting of arborists, knowledgeable park lovers, a Bush House Museum representative, and a Willamette professor and two students. The work group made recommendations to MSPC's board, which the board adopted and incorporated into the nomination letter.

Plant Sales

The MSPC Spring plant sale on April 28-29 at the Bush's Pasture Park Soapbox Derby Track was an enormous success! After weeks of rain, MSPC was gifted with clear, hot weather for the sale, inspiring people to get out and garden. Sharing the park on Saturday with kids and families from the Awesome 3000 event was a joyful addition to the sale festivities. MSPC appreciated the pre-event collaboration with Awesome 3000 planners to address parking and other logistics. Proceeds from this year's sale totaled just over \$8,500, which was back in line with pre-pandemic levels and a significant increase from 2022 spring plant sale fundraising.

MSPC gives our sincere thanks to all of the hardworking volunteers who helped to plan and run the April event, as well as to our amazing growers and vendors: Egan Gardens, Fessler Nursery, Van Hevelingen Herb Nursery, Garden Thyme Nursery, Perennial Obsessions, Sea Dance Nursery (native plants only), Garden Gallery Ironworks and Aislinn Adams Design.

The spring plant sale is a major fundraiser for MSPC and is one of two plant sales we do annually. Planning is well underway for our next plant sale which will be held on July 21 through the 23rd, in coordination with the Salem Art Fair & Festival.

Attachments: Four Photos:



Tulips blooming off the main parking lot from High Street in early May. Photo by Jim Schomaker



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Rhododendron Hillside Garden in mid-June. Photo by Jim Schomaker.



Bush Park rose garden and gazebo in mid-June. Photo by Jim Schomaker.



MISSION STREET PARKS
CONSERVANCY



Brian Smith giving the Tuesday Gardeners a tutorial on sharpening garden tools in mid-May. Photo credit unknown.



Board Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2023

In Attendance

Gretchen Carnaby
Christine Chute
Gary McKuen
Kathy Savicki
Michael Slater
Emily Standish

1. **Agenda:** Christine called the meeting to order via Zoom. Gretchen moved and Kathy seconded acceptance of the amended agenda. Motion approved.
 2. **Minutes:** Minutes for the March meeting were approved unanimously as written.
 3. **Financial:** Gary reviewed the end of March financial reports. There was clarification of accounting for the income and expenses for the Woodland Garden and the Old Rose Project.
 4. **Volunteer Coordinator:** Emily reported that even with the cold, wet weather we've had good turnout for Tuesday gardening. The Board agreed to use volunteer appreciation funds to pay for any unused slots for the volunteers' tour of Portland gardens on April 20.
 5. **Garden Manager:** Mike reported that our area of the Park is in great condition compared to its state when we began work: weeds are under control, many trees, shrubs and perennials have been added. Next fall we will rehab the south end of the south island bed south of Bush Barn. Salem's Mayor will join us to mark planting of the trees propagated from aging Lord and Schryver trees on May 9. Several of the tulip beds are being badly damaged by ground squirrels and will need a new planting plan.
- 4. Old Business**
- **NEON:** Emily is taking on management of the mailing list in the database. Mike clarified that while the mailing list option in NEON will generate a list without those we no longer want to contact, that list doesn't work for Mailchimp mailings. He will explore how we can reconcile the two lists.
 - **Website:** Christine is still looking for someone who can do the updates. Gretchen volunteered to do it later this year.
 - **Woodland Garden:** So far the letter sent to former FOBG supporters has yielded \$2500.
 - **Old Rose Garden:** Gretchen has sourced 30 roses from 7 growers around the country and is planting them as available. Work on the identification plaques is underway, at a great price because we have a volunteer with a forge.

- **Heritage Trees:** The City Arborist has reviewed and approved our list of recommended trees, and the Heritage review will start with the lower oak grove due to its significance to the Kalapuya.
- **Weekend Work Parties:** Melissa is managing the Salem Hospital work party on April 22, and we will postpone the legal group until fall.
- **Garden Tour:** Publicity is out for the 3 garden tour, with Gretchen sharing the Bush Park flowering orchard collection.
- **Events Committee:** The invitation is ready for the committee to send to 180 previous donors.
- **Plant Sale:** Planning is on track. Board members will provide snacks for volunteers.

5. New Business

- **Board recruitment:** We brainstormed potential recruits for the Board.
- **FOBG materials:** Gretchen will load historic documents onto a thumb drive for preservation.
- **Rose Garden Focal Point:** It has been suggested that we commission a sculpture to take the place of the broken sundial. This provides an opportunity for partnerships with Salem Art Association, the Salem Arts Commission and other arts groups. This will be added to our 2024 work plan.

Next meetings: No May meeting. June 14, noon

SPRAB Information Reports Packet

July 13, 2023

- 1) Parks Planning & Natural Resources Update**
- 2) Parks Operations Update**
- 3) Recreation Services Update**
- 4) Urban Forestry Update**
- 5) Parks Damage Report**

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Parks Planning and Natural Resources Update – July 2023

Fairview Park Master Plan Refinement and Phase 1 Development Concept – Fairview Park is a mostly undeveloped community park property located at 2220 Strong Road SE. It is approximately 27 acres in size. Park Planning is negotiating the details of a project assignment with a landscape architecture firm, Cameron McCarty for planning, design, and community engagement support to refine the master plan and prepare a “Phase 1” park development concept. The project is expected to begin no later than September 1.

Geer Park Skate Park and Pathways Grant – In April, staff submitted a \$500,000 funding request to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Local Government Grant Program. As a final requirement of the application, staff and a project design consultant presented the project to the OPRD Local Government Grant Advisory Committee on June 27.

Award notifications are expected prior to the end of September 2023. The funding, if awarded, will contribute to the following: construction of a skate park; improvements to pedestrian and bicycle circulation and access through the park; interpretive elements about the historic natural landscape; expanded access to natural features, and (5) a new picnic shelter.

Additionally, while not part of the funding request, several park improvements funded by the Safety and Livability Bond will begin design in the 2024 Fiscal Year. These upgrades include a fenced dog park, a second picnic shelter, and rehabilitation of four existing sports fields.

Fisher Road Park Master Plan – The City is initiating a master plan project, for Fisher Road Park, an approximately 6.8-acre undeveloped neighborhood park property, located at 4350 Fisher Road NE. The site-specific master plan will be developed through a vibrant public process involving neighbors, internal and community stakeholders, and the Northgate Neighborhood Association. Parks Planning staff have finished scoping the project and a landscape architecture consultant, Greenworks, has been selected. Their scope of work is currently being negotiated.

Bailey Ridge Park Phase 1 Development – Bailey Ridge Park is a 5.5-acre Neighborhood Park, located at 3801 Tayside Street S. in the Illahe Hills area, north of the intersection of Rogue Avenue S. and River Road S. The Master Plan for Bailey Ridge Park was approved in 2022, following a neighborhood engagement process.

As a first step toward implementing the master plan, Park Planning staff are scoping a Phase 1 project. This initial park development phase may include the development of park pathways and other work to address soil erosion and restore habitat along Chamber's Swale. A project design consultant will be selected in the coming months with the project kick-off anticipated in Fall 2023.

USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Grant Application – On June 1, the City submitted a funding application seeking approximately \$8.8 million for a tree equity and resilience program. The proposed program includes two interrelated components, a community institution and school planting program and an urban and community forestry apprenticeship program, which serve to support and enhance existing plans and programs. These programs, if funded, will focus 100 percent in disadvantaged communities, as mapped using specified tools in the grant guidance documents, which qualified the City's proposal for a full waiver of match requirements.

Staff expects the competitive grant selection process to conclude prior to the end of September 2023.

Riverbend (Walling) Property Opportunity – In April, the City submitted a nearly \$3 million funding request to the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP) to acquire approximately 373 acres directly north of Wallace Marine Park and Natural Area. The overall vision for the Riverbend Property is to establish a multi-function resource site that balances public use and municipal water supply needs while creating, enhancing, and preserving valuable floodplain habitat.

The WWMP Technical Review Team (TRT) has completed its review of the Riverbend Project and City staff recently reviewed TRT notes and comments specific to the project. Unfortunately, the TRT did not reach consensus for how to proceed, citing concerns about site restoration uncertainties and implications of a multi-functional resource site. Of

the nine TRT members present for a vote on how to proceed with a funding recommendation, five supported a do not fund recommendation, three supported a funding recommendation and one abstained.

Although there was not consensus, the majority of the TRT would like to see the City submit the Riverbend Project to the next WWMP funding cycle if not recommended for funding this cycle.

As an important next step, the WWMP Wildlife Advisory Group (WAG) will meet on July 13 at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters. At this meeting the WAG will consider the funding recommendations from the TRT and will make a final recommendation to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Director for project funding. In preparation for this meeting, City staff provided a responded to the TRT comments and concerns. Staff also plans to attend the WAG meeting.

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Recreation Update—July 2023

1. Events/Facility Use

- Riverfront Park continues to be our most sought-after facility for public and private activities! Each week through September there are multiple events scheduled. Currently there are thirty-three events in July, thirty-two in August, and sixteen in September. Some of the upcoming large events include Ironman on July 23, Family Building Blocks Family Fest on August 5, and the Fish and El Rey Radio station concerts on August 19 and 20.
- The July 4th fireworks at the Oregon State Fairgrounds truly was a spectacular show. Thousands of families enjoyed an amazing show lasting more than 20 minutes!
- We have weekly vendors in the new Vendor Plaza at Riverfront Park. Each Tuesday Kona Ice, Rudy's Curbside Bacon, and JR's Tacos are on hand serving great treats to park goers.
- The First Friday Concert of the season was a success! These concerts cap off the Salem Art Walk efforts downtown and occur from 8-10 pm in the Gerry Frank I Salem Rotary Amphitheater. The next concert is this Friday, July 7 and the performer is Don Edwards. Jake and the Hill People are the final performer of the season and will play on Friday, August 4th.

2. Youth Recreation Programs

- Summer programming has begun! The parks are busy with soccer, basketball, cheerleading, Summer Parks Program, and more!
- We added a second night to adult Pickleball which is proving to be successful. We also hosted a Try It Pickleball on July 1 on the newly renovated courts in Woodmansee Park and had all 4 Pickleball courts filled. We also had a table to promote programming and talk up the Fairview master planning taking place around the corner.
- Attendance at the first Movies in the Park exceeded expectations with roughly 1,000 people in attendance to see Strange World. Our next movie is Puss in Boots on July 14. Attendees can purchase items from the 4 food vendors selling a variety of food from popcorn to street tacos and custom sodas. Many families enjoyed a picnic in the GF Amphitheater before the show even began!

3. Softball and Kickball Leagues/Tournaments

- We started our summer leagues the third weekend of June and have caught up almost all the Spring/Summer league schedule from the early season rain outs.
- We hosted our Reach for the Stars Tournament, the second of three Play for a Cure Oregon Fundraisers this year, on June 16, 17, and 18th. We had twenty-eight 10U, 12U, and 14U teams from Oregon and Washington. On top of playing their fastpitch games the girls and their families donated \$4,580 toward the Linda L. Vladka Breast Wellness Foundation.
- The first week of July we will be closed to have the asphalt resealed.
- July will be a very busy month with big tournaments! We just finished hosting the Stars and Stripes Play for a Cure Tournament, June 30-July 1. The USA Softball 16A Girl's Fast Pitch State Tournament will occur July 7-9. The Senior Softball USA Jim Sherman Memorial Tournament (over 80 teams) will be held July 11-16, and the USA Softball 16A Girl's Fast Pitch Western National Tournament will occur July 24-30.

Urban Forestry Update

City of Salem Heritage Tree nominations-

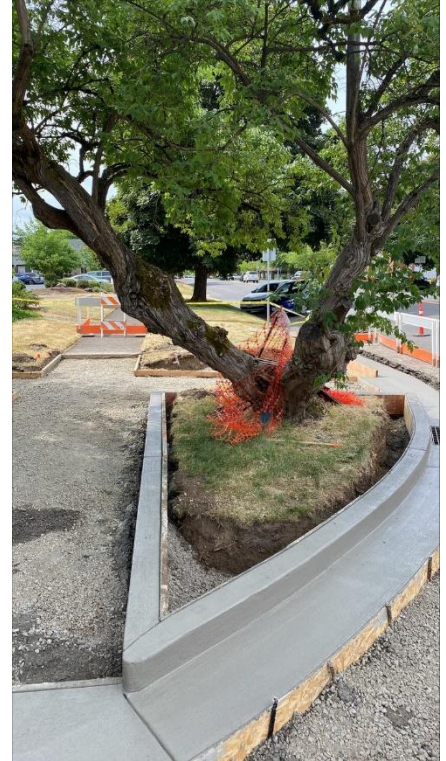
We will be moving forward with nominating multiple trees in Bush Park for Heritage designation in the August meeting. We should talk about the process and how this should be voted on.



On March 15th we received a letter from Mission Streets Parks Conservancy with multiple considerations for trees to add to our Heritage Tree list. Below is a description about the oak grove near lower Leffelle and adjacent to the baseball field. Urban Forestry and Parks staff agree this is a very significant and extraordinary grove of native white trees. We want to create a basic maintenance program while setting some goals for management of the grove before we write an official letter to SPRAB for the addition of this grove to Heritage Designation.

1. A substantial portion, if not all, of the lower oak grove that is covered with camas. We are nominating the grove because of its obvious significance to the Kalapuya, and as a way to honor and preserve Salem's Kalapuya heritage. Moreover, according to the CLMP the trees growing in this grove are very likely direct genetic descendants of oaks growing in this location since the end of the Ice Age. The grove is unique, well-loved, and very special. In making this nomination, we are mindful that some existing trees may need to be removed to preserve the camas and other wildflowers by allowing more sun to reach the ground. We are not sure what the City's process would be to add the grove as a Heritage Grove while allowing for removal of trees, if needed, but we think the significance of the grove is greatly enhanced by the presence of camas.

We agree with this designation and the relationship to the Kalapuya makes this so much more significant. We look forward to bringing this in front of council for the August meeting.



It was brought to my attention by many constituents that multiple city street improvement projects were not receiving proper tree protection. Most recently Laura Buhl and Woody Dukes sent me multiple pictures with concerns about lack of tree protection on projects on Union St NE.

The Heritage Tree at the corner of Union & Cottage was affected during recent construction and the CRZ was decreased. PW Inspectors failed to inform UF of construction. Basic PW standards were not followed, and we were not advised on this project even though they were aware this was a Heritage Tree. Some facts about this Heritage Tree below, we have watered this tree with over 500 gallons of water since we found out about the construction.

Facts:

Species: Honeysuckle, *Lonicera* sp.

Dimensions:

- Height: 20'
- DBH: 14" and 10" (two stems)
- Crown Spread: 24'

Owner: City of Salem

Location: Southeast corner of Union and Cottage streets in the parking strip.

Significance: This large honeysuckle is the last remaining tree from a planting done in the later part of the 19th century as part of a federal beautification project. It is arguably the largest known honeysuckle in Oregon.

Species Background: Honeysuckles are usually thought of as vines, but there are several species that grow as upright shrubs. This is one of them, though the exact species of this tree is unclear.

Condition: The tree has several condition issues. It has suffered from past storm damage as well as heavy pruning for right-of-way clearance. There is also tip die-back, trunk cavities, and portions of dead cambium.

Important notes: What species? The best guess so far is *Lonicera maackii* though the flowers seem a bit too pink. Another possibility is *Lonicera korolkowii*.