



MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission
From: Planning Commission
Re: Revised Heritage Tree Code
Date: January 26, 2016

Dear Mayor Holladay and City Commission:

On December 14, 2015 the Planning Commission recommended approval of revisions to the Heritage Tree standards in Chapter 12.08.040 of the Oregon City Municipal Code. The code language has been previously reviewed and recommended by the Natural Resources Committee.

The City Commission will review the Planning Commission's recommendation on February 3, 2016. A Heritage Tree designation is public recognition that such duly designated trees are valued by all residents of Oregon City and have special heritage status.

A primary concern for the Planning Commission is the lack of incentives for property owners to voluntarily designate heritage trees. Thus, the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval includes a strong recommendation that the Heritage Tree program provide incentives, including grants funded by the mitigation tree funds or other sources.

Since the cost of large tree maintenance can be considerable these incentives could be potentially be used for technical assistance and professional tree maintenance services to preserve and prolong the life of designated heritage trees, which in turn could incentivize the voluntary designation of heritage trees. The use of incentives is an important component of a complete program, however the adoption of the revised code is a first step in the process.

The City Commission agenda containing this item has been circulated to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), Natural Resources Committee (NRC) and Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC).