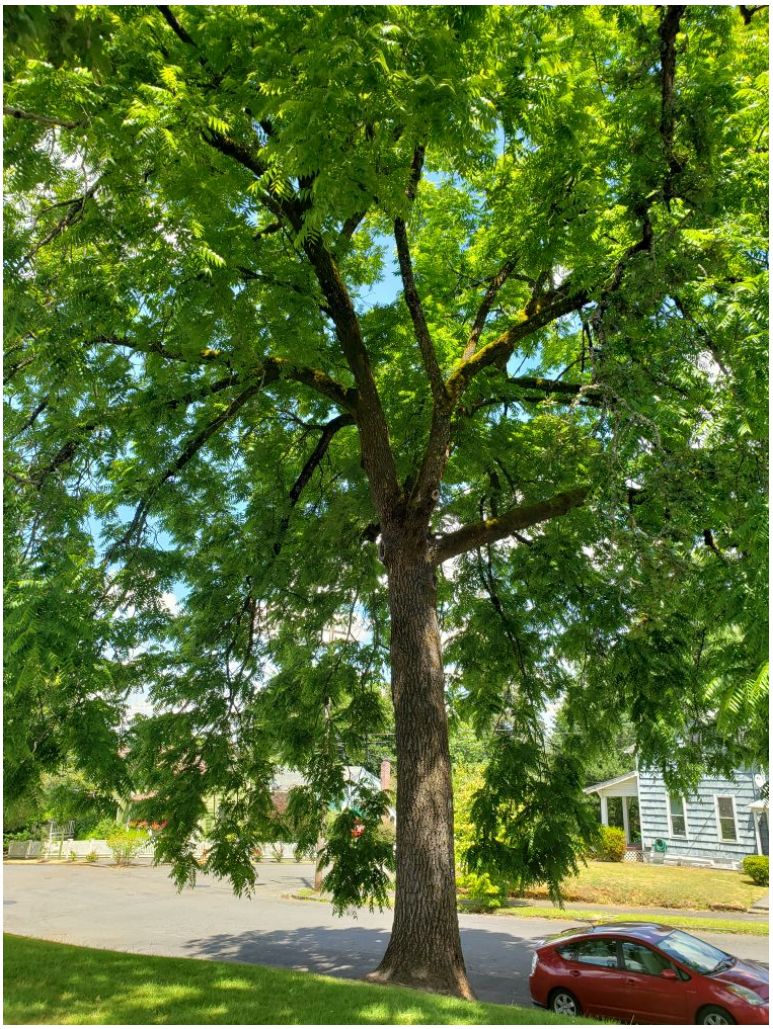
Arborist Report

July 18, 2019



Prepared for:
City of Oregon City
Oregon City Swimming Pool
1211 Jackson St.

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Introduction

A tree assessment was performed for Black walnut (Juglans hindsii) in front of 1211 Jackson St, near the sidewalk. Concerns were raised about the potential for the tree to be preserved during sidewalk reconstruction. Oregon City urban forest managers requested a qualified arborist perform a tree risk assessment to determine the preservation potential based on the current health and the potential site impacts. The assessment was conducted by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Board Certified Master Arborist (#WE-7317-BM) and Qualified Tree Risk Assessor on June 29, 2019. The evaluation is summarized in the following report, which provides recommendations.

Methods

A visual inspection of the tree was used to develop the findings, conclusions, and recommendations found in this report. Data collection included estimating the diameter of the tree at approximately 54 inches above grade (DBH), height estimation, canopy radius estimation, a visual assessment of tree condition, structure and health, and a photographic record. No physical inspection of the upper canopy, sounding, root crown excavation, resistance drilling, or other technologies were used in the evaluation of the tree.

The sidewalk upheaval was evaluated along with the limits of disturbance described by personnel on site. Typical sidewalk reconstruction methods are assumed, including excavation, but site design drawings or technical specifications were not provided or reviewed.

Limits and Assumptions

Many factors can limit specific and accurate data when performing evaluations of trees and their potential for failure. No soil or tissue testing was performed. All observations were made from the ground and no soil excavation to expose roots was performed. The determinations and recommendations presented here are based on current data and conditions that existed at the time of the evaluation and cannot be a predictor of the ultimate outcome for the evaluated tree in the future. Arborist assessments should be used as guidelines and the tree owner assumes all liability and risks.

Site Observations

The tree is located the pool facility at 1211 Jackson St., near the intersection of John Quincy Adams St. and 13th St., in Oregon City, Oregon. The tree is on a slope down toward 13th St. The area is not irrigated but has maintained turf. The adjacent public sidewalk, parking lane and road are within the dripline of the tree. The sidewalk has multiple 1" disruptions likely caused by tree roots. The tree trunk is within 4' of the adjacent sidewalk.

Aerial overview illustration of the site and the tree (circled red)

Adjacent sidewalk

Tree Observations

The mature Black walnut (Juglans hindsii) tree was inspected and assessed for health and structure on June 29, 2018. The trunk measures 30.2 inches DBH (diameter at breast height), and the tree is approximately 65 feet tall with an average canopy radius of 33 feet (diameter 66 feet). The live crown ratio is 80%. The tree appears to have been well maintained over many years.

The tree has one trunk wound that is sealing, and one surface root in the lawn that has had mower damage. The health and structure of the roots, trunk, scaffold branches, and foliage is good.

Tree Preservation Potential

The tree is a good candidate for preservation. If necessary, some root pruning is acceptable to install new sidewalk. If root pruning is conducted, it should be scheduled by a Certified Arborist and photo documented. The following design options should be considered to increase preservation potential:

1. Sidewalk re-routing closer to the road in the vicinity of the tree
2. Ramping the sidewalk slightly to allow reconstruction with minimal root pruning
3. Installation of a 2” construction-grade styrofoam layer between the gravel pad and concrete pour
4. Trip-stop sidewalk hinges that allow sidewalk to bend horizontally but not become displaced vertically or at an angle

Tree Preservation Methods

1. Throughout construction, protect trunk with straw waddle to root flare and trunk up to 6’ above sidewalk grade.
2. Install tree protection fencing one foot back from the sidewalk and do not allow construction equipment on the soil area to avoid soil compaction. For this case, orange plastic mesh attached at 10’ intervals to t-stakes is acceptable.
3. Carefully remove 15’ of pavement with pri-bars and hand tools, rather than jackhammers. Heavy equipment is not recommended as it can crack, compact, and break roots, and resulting injury can be sites of infection and promote decay.
4. Root pruning (if necessary) should be conducted by an arborist or with arborist supervision with a sharp saw and at an angle that minimizes wound size.

Summary and Recommendations

The inspection revealed the walnut tree to be in good condition with high preservation potential. The tree has minor visible defects in the trunk and branches. The species is relatively tolerant of construction impacts. The construction may impact 10-40% of the critical root zone, but are unlikely to destabilize the tree unless significant root pruning occurs. Supervision of construction is recommended and the tree may be recommended for removal if roots are found to be decayed, or significant root pruning occurs. The species is a locally adapted tree that can live for hundreds of years.

Appendix B – Photo Documentation

Photo 1. Good root flare, no evidence of decay

Photo 2. Surface root in lawn

Photo 3. Minor wounds sealing after prior pruning, foliage in very good condition