



CERTIFIED ARBORIST REPORT

October 7, 2016

City of Sandy (Oregon)
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This report has been prepared to independently address suggested services of a trees located within the City of Sandy, Oregon as part of the annual assessment.

The report focuses on recommendations for pruning and/or removal as part of the continued annual maintenance services at each location.

As the techniques and terminology of the Arboriculture industry are continuously evolving, we have provided some brief descriptions to assist with the review and understanding of this report.

This report was completed, reviewed and approved by the undersigned Certified Arborist and owner of Earth Care Designs, LLC dba Oregon Tree Care.

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TERMINOLOGY

Co-dominant Tree: A tree that extends its crown into the canopy and receives direct sunlight from above but limited sunlight from the sides. One or more sides of a co-dominant tree are crowded by the crowns of dominant trees. This also commonly refers to trees with multiple trunks and/or tops.

Habitat Snag: Tree "snag" is a term referring to a standing, dead or dying tree. Maintaining a habitat snag can be very beneficial to both the animals that use it and the people who get to see nature at work. Standing dead trees provide an amazing range of microhabitats.

Pruning: The act of sawing or cutting branches from a living tree generally involving thinning, deadwood removal and weight reduction to improve the overall health of a tree. The species and size/age of the tree will determine the proper amount of reduction and type of cuts performed.

Target Rating: Areas within striking distance in the event of tree failure. This could include structures, vehicles, streets, walkways, trails, etc. Tree failure could include full tree, leader/branch, etc.

Vigor: A measure of the increase in plant growth or foliage volume through time after planting.

SITE REVIEW

1. Meinig Park

- a. General maintenance recommendations are to focus on the imminent needs and to mitigate risk of the trees around the park.

2. Galloway

- a. Fir Tree – declining, assessed in previous years
 - i. Recommendations: Reduction to the co-dominate leader reduced in past years; continues to decline but full removal of the co-dominate leader is not recommended at this time.

3. Cascadia Village

- a. Recommendation: Reduction of the dying Alder Trees

4. Tickle Creek

- a. Hemlock: Tree is leaning
 - i. Recommendations: Reduce height to minimize risk.
- b. West end of Creek
 - i. Recommendations: Proactive pruning to include selective reduction to minimize risk, pruning to remove existing hangers, hazardous deadwood, etc.

5. Across from Tickle Creek

- a. Hemlock
 - i. Recommendations: Reduce to create Habitat Tree

- b. Alder
 - i. Recommendations: Reduce height to minimize risk.
- c. Cedars (2 total): Damaged from fire
 - i. Recommendations: Reduce height to minimize risk.

6. Hamilton Ridge

- a. Maples (2 total): Declining
 - i. Recommendations: Reduce height to minimize risk.

As mentioned, this year's annual inspection and recommendations follow an approach to the continued maintenance of areas where services have been completed in past years. Some of the recommendations, this year, call for further reduction pruning to the trees to help mitigate the potential risk without fully removing the trees. Removal of a tree would be the recommendation if there was not sufficient vascular function present in the tree, many of these trees still show acceptable vigor while serving other roles in the immediate environment (i.e. hillside stabilization, etc.). Yet, the rate of decay for some trees may be progressing faster than the vascular function.

As has been shown over the past few years in monitoring several of these trees, their decline continues and could warrant removal if the City preferred along with a replanting plan. Though removal of several trees is not an immediate necessity, there are considerations to review when looking at the entire scenario for each tree (i.e. condition, location, target rating, etc). From an objective perspective, the following offers an approach to consider for prioritizing removals based on the target rating of each tree.

The following locations/trees are listed in order of highest target rating.

- **Galloway:** High target rating if the tree failed with potential damage to structures and potential harm to people.
- **Timberline Park Hemlock (near the basketball court):** High target rating if the tree failed with potential damage to structures and potential harm to people. *This location was not included as part of the annual inspection this year; however, would rank as one of the highest in terms of target rating with the exposure, size and history of Hemlock failures in that specific area. Though this tree appears healthy, the trend of failures in the Timberline Park area can warrant a proactive approach to risk mitigation coupled with this Hemlock being a lone tree open to exposure of the elements.*
- **Tickle Creek Cedars:** High target rating if the tree failed with potential damage to structures and potential harm to people.

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Unless stated otherwise: 1) Information contained in this report covers only those trees that were examined and reflects the condition of those trees at the time of inspection; and 2) The inspection is limited to visual examination of the subject trees without dissection, probing, or coring unless explicitly specified. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject trees may not arise in the future.

Methods

We used a Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method to evaluate tree health and structure. VTA is based on the outward indications of tree stress and growth, as indicated by the formation of new tree parts, the shape of the new wood and the amount of live tissue. Trees adapt to current and past stress by growing wood to support themselves in an upright condition. This type of assessment is facilitated by our personal knowledge of tree growth as it relates to structural integrity.

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