

Date: June 3, 2022
To: Kevin Bagwell
From: Drew Foster
Project Name: Shoreline On-call T.O. 1 – Landmark Tree Evaluation
Project Number: 201236.1

Subject: Landmark Tree Evaluation – 19308 20th Ave NW

Dear Kevin,

I was happy to review the application for a Landmark Tree designation for the City of Shoreline and conduct a site visit on May 9, 2022. The subject tree in question was nominated by owners Kathy Kaye and Nancy Mohrman at 19308 20th Ave NW, Shoreline, WA. The tree had previously been identified as an American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) in several documents by ISA Certified® Arborists, and has a well-documented history of pruning and care. During the site visit, I made baseline measurements and assessed condition, general health, and site factors of the tree.

Background

It is our understanding that the City of Shoreline has not had any Landmark Trees officially designated to date, although several have been nominated. To determine Landmark Tree status, I followed the guidelines under Administrative Order #000068053107 (June 4, 2007) and Shoreline Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 20.50 – General Development Standards – which defines a Landmark Tree as, “30 inches or larger in diameter or particularly impressive or unusual due to species, size, shape, age, historical significance and/or are an outstanding row or group of trees.” To best understand how the subject tree may fit the status of a Landmark Tree, I referenced criteria for similar tree designations in nearby jurisdictions, researched traits and measurements typical for the species in question for the local region, as well as evaluation and assessment guidelines including the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) published by ISA¹ and American Forest’s Champion Tree program².

Tree Evaluation Findings and Recommendation

The subject tree measures 41.0 inches in diameter, measured four and a half feet above the ground, 68 feet in height, with an average crown spread of 22 feet. The tree is in good condition with normal vigor and well-developed structure, with one moderate wound on the trunk approximately five feet from the ground. The tree is located in the front yard of the property, easily visible from the street. The tree owners indicate the tree is at least 70 years old and mentioned that it is a prized tree in the neighborhood for fall fruit foraging. Tree

¹ Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers (CTLA). 2020. Guide for Plant Appraisal: 10th Edition, Revised. Atlanta (GA): International Society of Arboriculture.

² <https://www.americanforests.org/champion-trees/>

species identification was inconclusive as leaves were just emerging at the time of the site visit, so leaves and fruit from last year were used for reference, along with bark, tree growth habit, and reference to documents provided by the owner. Tree attributes (particularly leaf dimensions and shape) indicate this tree is likely a hybrid of *Castanea dentata* and *C. sativa*. According to *Trees of Seattle*³, a popular reference book for the region, authentic specimens of *C. dentata* are extremely rare in the region, whereas hybrids are more common and that intermediate characteristics between the two species indicate hybridity. The subject tree falls on the upper end of the average height, diameter and canopy spread for *C. dentata* and within the average range of measurements for *C. sativa*, typical for the region.

Based on my evaluation, I recommend this tree should be designated as a Landmark Tree. It meets the baseline measurement requirements per municipal regulations, and I feel it qualifies as a particularly impressive specimen due to its size, structure, and significance in the neighborhood. This is a large, well-cared for tree, which adds character and value to the City, prized for fall chestnut harvesting in the neighborhood.

³ Jacobson, Arthur Lee. 2006. *Trees of Seattle*, Second Edition. Seattle (WA): Arthur Lee Jacobson.



Figure 1. Subject tree in front yard clearly visible from 20th Ave NW.

Example Evaluation Form

Below is an example evaluation form that addresses a wide suite of characteristics which can be used to determine and document a potential Landmark Tree. While any Landmark Tree evaluation is subjective on some level, thorough and consistent documentation can help create a more robust program for the City moving forward with future nominations. The Watershed Company is happy to assist the City of Shoreline with further developing its Landmark Tree program and future urban forestry efforts.

Tree Metrics

Evaluator (Name, ISA Cert): Andrew Foster, PN-8213A		Date: May 9, 2022
Nominator/Owner: Kathy Kaye and Nancy Mohrman		
Address/Location: 19308 20 th Ave NW		
Tree Species (Common / Scientific): Chestnut / <i>Castanea</i> species (likely hybrid of <i>C. dentata</i> x <i>C. sativa</i>)		
DBH (in): 41.0	Height (ft): 68	Avg. Crown spread (ft): 22
Species Profile reference:	Coombes, A.J. 2002. <i>Smithsonian Handbooks: Trees. Second Edition.</i> New York (NY): Dorling Kindersley, Inc. Dirr, M.A. & Warren, K.S. 2019. <i>The Tree Book.</i> Portland (OR): Timber Press, Inc. Jacobson, Arthur Lee. 2006. <i>Trees of Seattle.</i> Second Edition. Seattle (WA): Arthur Lee Jacobson. Little, E.L. 1980. <i>National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees: Western Region.</i> New York (NY): Knopf.	

Tree Health and Condition

CTLA Condition:	Excellent Good Fair Poor Very Poor
Crown and Structure:	Good
Scaffold branches:	Good
Annual shoot growth:	Unknown
Foliage:	Seasonal, emerging at time of visit
Trunk condition:	Fair; wound on trunk 5 feet from ground, good response growth
Competition:	Moderate
Root flare / distribution:	Good, even
Pruning history:	Excellent, well-documented

Tree Location Attributes

Yard/Property location:	Front yard, good visibility from street with low traffic, frequented by walking pedestrians and cyclists
Specimen quality:	Excellent
Historic?	Unknown; 70+ years old

Public visibility?	Yes, High
Habitat value:	N/A
Landscape value:	High
Rare?	Uncommon
Unusual form?	No
Outstanding row or group?	No

Potential Risk⁴

Site Factors	History of failures Site Changes Soil conditions Prevailing wind Common weather Topography Average site conditions for private residence.	
Targets	N/A	
Tree part(s) of concern:	Trunk, some internal decay	
Pests / Biotic:	Potential for chestnut blight	
Abiotic:	Old trunk would	
Species failure profile:	Decline from chestnut blight	
Mitigation / Abatement:	Continue performing regular tree health care practices; prune only when necessary.	

Landmark Tree Recommendation

Recommend for Landmark Tree Designation?	YES NO FOLLOW-UP NEEDED
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⁴ This is not a substitute for a Level 2 Basic Risk Assessment as outlined in the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Manual.