MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION

Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

David Schott
Staff Liaison

tree@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7098

Regular Meeting
~Agenda~

https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission

Tuesday **June 7, 2022**	**5:00 PM**	**Mayors Conference Room** **206 E 3rd Street**

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Approval of Moscow Tree Commission Minutes from May 3, 2022 (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert**

   Minutes presented for approval.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or take other such actions deemed appropriate.

2. **Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)**

   Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

3. **Consideration of the July Mature Tree Watering Utility Billing Newsletter (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott**

   The Tree Commission began discussing in September 2021 public messaging for supplemental water for mature trees in the hot summer months, typically July and August. The messaging was approved during their October 5, 2022 meeting. The Tree Commission will review the approved messaging prior to the June 19th submittal date for the July utility billing newsletter.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the final public messaging for the July utility billing newsletter; or provide staff with further direction.

4. **Consideration of Moscow Heritage Tree Program Nominations (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott**

   Moscow City Council approved Resolution 2021-21 in November, 2021, which authorized the creation of the Moscow Heritage Program. The program was launched in the spring of 2022. The Tree Commission will discuss nominations for inclusion in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of Moscow Heritage Program nominations; or provide staff with further direction.

5. **Consideration of the Fall and Early Winter Parks and Recreation Brochure Classes (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott**
   Submittals for tree classes and workshops are due mid-July for the fall and early winter Parks and Recreation Brochure. This brochure will cover September 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The Tree Commission will discuss potential classes and workshops for inclusion in the Parks and Recreation Brochure.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve classes and workshops for inclusion in the upcoming fall and early winter Parks and Recreation Brochure; or provide staff with further direction.

6. **Report: Public Right of Way Tree Systems – David Schott**
   Staff will report on the permit to plant, tree planting dedication fund, and current system to plant trees in the public right of way.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report.

7. **Report: May 7, 2022 Farmers Market – Ellis Eifert**
   The Tree Commission hosted a table at the May 7, 2022 Farmers Market. The commission will report on engagements with the public and the Arbor Day tree seedling giveaway.

   ACTION: No action, report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

IPAN Grant

2022 Idaho Recreation and Parks Association Award at City Council, August 1, 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: July 5, 2022

ADJOURN

NOTICE: Individuals attending the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the City Clerk, at (208) 883-7015 or TDD 883-7019, as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION

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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission

Tuesday **May 3, 2022**	**5:00 PM**	**Mayors Conference Room** **206 E 3rd Street**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

PRESENT: Pam Brunsfeld; Mary Jo Hamilton, Vice Chair; Jeanne Leffingwell; David Rauk.

STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott; Gina Taruscio.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Approval of Moscow Tree Commission Minutes from March 1, 2022 (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert**

   Minutes presented for approval.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or take other such actions deemed appropriate.

Brunsfeld moved to accept minutes as presented; Leffingwell seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

2. **Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)**

   Hamilton recognized Jill Kyeong of Moscow. Kyeong applied for a grant, will have an exhibition at the Pritchard Art Gallery and is working on an art installation using wood, trees and landscaping as the medium. Her projected completion date is 18 months or two years from now. Schott recommended Kyeong contact the City's Arts Programs Manager Megan Cherry for additional information. Kyeong will email Schott.

3. **Consideration of the Harvest Park Management Plan (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott**

   The Core Development Team for Harvest Park has been busy drafting a management plan for Harvest Park. The Tree Commission will review and discuss the draft management plan.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the Harvest Park Management Plan; or provide staff with further direction.

   Schott shared a PowerPoint about the draft plan. He gave a brief history of Harvest Park and the City's plans for its future. In addition to the management plan, Schott talked about the role of donors and volunteers; park planning and management; establishing a management subcommittee while the MTC will continue to be the lead supervisory commission; implementing harvest limits; only allowing dogs on leash on pathways, unless they are ADA animals; integrated pest management strategies to limit or not use pesticides; focusing on pollinator friendly plantings; the four park zones – bowl, dogleg, hillside and periphery; breaking up the zones into planting rooms; long term goals; soil improvement; how all of the plans will be fluid and adaptable to change. Rauk suggested increasing efforts toward soil improvement. Brunsfeld thought it was a thorough and comprehensive

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document. Schott will send it to the City's Legal Department and then it will need to be approved by City Council.

Leffingwell moved to approve the Harvest Park Management Plan notwithstanding any proofreading changes; Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

4. Consideration of the May 7, 2022 Moscow Farmers Market (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

The Tree Commission will discuss those who can attend and logistics for the May 7, 2022 Moscow Farmers Market.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve staffing and logistics for the Moscow Farmers Market; or provide staff with further direction.

Topics discussed included the plans to coordinate all of the supplies for the event; Rauk will pick up the items from staff; if the MTC members were allowed to only give out one seedling at a time or multiple; laminating larger, full-color signs for the seedlings explaining what they are; telling the public the dogwood seedlings are shrubs, not trees; and how people will volunteer. Rauk will set up at 9 am, Brunsfeld will attend from 9:30 – 10:30, Hamilton will arrive at 10 am, Taruscio will be there at 11 am.

Leffingwell made a motion to approve the plans as made. Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

5. Report: 2022 Arbor Day Celebration – Ellis Eifert

The Tree Commission will discuss the 2022 Arbor Day celebration.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report.

Schott went over the event; one hiccup was the remote location of Milton Arthur Park and how multiple people commented it was difficult to find. Otherwise, the event was well attended, two catalpa trees were planted, one northern and the other purple; the Idaho Department of Lands represented attended and presented the annual awards to Mayor Bettge; LeeAnne Eareckson and her students spoke and did a presentation on pollinator boxes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Schott said the City received a donation for three trees to be planted at Heron's Hideout Tree Donation, and the same family purchased a bench for Carol Ryrie Brink as a memorial.

Schott attended the 2022 Idaho Recreation and Parks Association Convention where he accepted an award on behalf of the City, recognizing the Heritage Tree Program as an Outstanding Innovative Program.

Rauk requested consideration of the City's right-of way (ROW) tree planting programs as a future agenda item and how to increase plantings in the ROW.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: June 7, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

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Mature Tree Supplemental Watering Public Messaging
Approved by MTC October 5, 2021

NOTE: Climate Change and Carbon Sequestration benefits. When messaging goes out may need to include some language along the lines of reduce water for turf but may have impacts to tree; thus, need supplemental water for trees.

Idaho's climate, which is prone to periods of drought, requires that homeowners and land managers care for their trees in a responsible water-wise manner. A drought, described as a prolonged period of time of below-average precipitation for a given area, is a serious health threat to new and mature trees.

Healthy landscapes featuring trees improve the quality of life and the environment. Landscaping:

- Increases the value of our homes and businesses aesthetically and monetarily.
- Improves air and water quality.
- Reduces home heating and cooling costs.
- Decreases carbon dioxide greenhouse gases.
- Provides noise abatement screening.
- Supplies wildlife with food and shelter.

To be proactive, during the summer months from June through September, water established trees once or twice monthly under normal conditions based on observation. If a persistent drought occurs, twice monthly is recommended.

Newly planted trees are still establishing their root systems and therefore need more water. Water newly planted trees once a day for the first couple of weeks after planting, and once a week after that during the growing season. Remember to check the soil to ensure you are not over watering. Once the roots begin to extend beyond the root ball, you can water on a normal schedule.

Choosing the right species is critical in regions where drought is typical. Choose drought-tolerant species when planting new trees. Drought-tolerant trees are adapted to dry climates and will not only grow better, but help you to conserve water as well.

Do not fertilize newly planted trees that are not root established in the soil or that are drought stressed. Fertilizer salts exacerbate stress when soil moisture is not available and may result in burned roots. Nutrients require a considerable amount of energy from the tree to capture and will result in further stress to the tree.

How can I tell when my established tree needs watering?
A root zone is the top 18” of soil within the root spread area.

- The best time to water a tree is when the top 6 to 9 inches of soil in the root zone is dry.
- Using a spade or hand trowel, dig a small hole under the tree canopy and feel the soil.
    - If the soil is cool and moist 6 to 9 inches below the surface, no water is needed.
    - If the soil is dry, it is time to water.

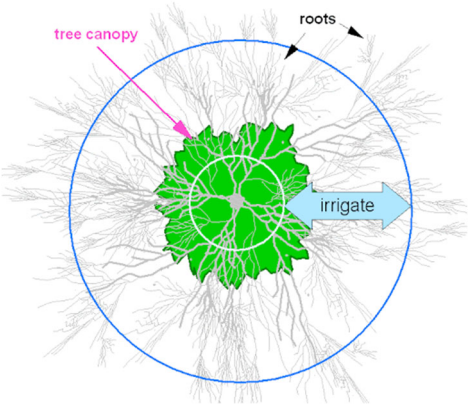
- Alternatively, to test the soil around your mature tree, poke into the soil with a long (over eight inches) screwdriver. If the screwdriver goes easily into the soil, your soil is moist enough for your tree. If it is more difficult to push the screwdriver in, then chances are good that your soil is dry. If you cannot push the screwdriver all the way in those eight inches, then it is safe to say you should be watering more.

Are there visible symptoms of water stress in trees that indicates a need to water?

- Yes, in newly planted trees and trees up to ten years old. Leaves will wilt and droop during the day but recover at night and appear normal again the following morning.
- Yes, in mature trees, wilting first occurs in the top center portion of an established tree. This is the first sign that indicates your established tree is thirsty. Leaves may begin to drop under water stress and dried leaves will be seen on the ground under the canopy. When this happens, a tree is in significant trouble, and decline or even death could soon occur. Your tree will need to be thoroughly watered as soon as possible.
- Conifers are typically more adapted to drought because many of the conifers are native to the area. To test, grab a branch with needles with your hand, squeeze gently and pull your hand down the branch. If the needles remain attached, it is likely the tree is not water stressed. If the needles come off, the tree may be under water stress and supplemental water is needed. Please wear gloves during this procedure.

Is Deeper Watering Better for Trees?

- Yes, the most important element of watering when it comes to trees is the “how.” Slow and deep is your best bet, which is why drip lines are the preferred method of watering; although, spray from a garden hose will certainly work. Drip irrigation also loses less water to evaporation compared with overhead watering or sprinkler systems. Supplemental watering systems include:
    - Drip system or a bucket with small holes in it.
    - Tree bags.
    - Soaker hose.



- The best time to water is in the morning or evening, so the roots have a chance to absorb most of the water.

- According to the Arbor Day Foundation, the most common watering mistake is actually too much water. Observation is key to supplemental watering of trees.

Consistency is Key

- Allowing the soil to completely dry out, or allowing it to stay soggy, will result in a tree that is stressed and therefore more prone to disease and infestation. Keeping the soil consistently moist is essential to healthy trees.
- Be mindful and look for changes to the landscape and ask, "How will this affect my tree?" In the Palouse Region, many residents reduce water usage to conserve water. This is great but if you have reduced water to your turf area, mature trees may need supplemental water due to the change.

Mulch is Your Best Friend

- Mulch is a highly effective way to keep the soil from drying out quickly, especially during excessive heat. Applying mulch 2-4 inches deep will help conserve moisture and regulate the soil temperature. Be mindful not to cover the root collar as this can be detrimental to the tree health.

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION

Moscow Heritage Tree Program Nomination Form

Nominator Information

Name: William Woolston

Address: 220 N. Van Buren St

Phone: (Day) 208 301 1082

(Eve)

Email Address bwoolston@gmail.com

(Property owner must agree to nomination)

Name: Willian Woolston

Address: 220 N. Van Buren
Moscow ID 83843

Phone: (Day) 208 301 1082

(Eve)

Property/Tree Owner Information *(For assistance please contact the Community Forestry Administrator)*

Location (Street Address): 220 N. VAN BUREN MOSCOW ID 83843

Species of Tree (Common or Botanical Name): Red Oak Quercus Rubra

Single/Collection of trees (If Collection, How Many Trees): 1

Size: Height (approx.) 75 feet (feet)

Crown (approx.) measure distance of total spread from one side to other: ≈ 50 feet (feet)

Circumference (distance around trunk at 4.5 feet from ground): ~~#2~~ 34 dbh (RS) (inches)

Age of Tree (If Known/Estimate): ≈ 95 yrs

Condition (check all that apply and explain any issues on back of page):

☒ Healthy ☐ Diseased ☐ Pruning/Structural problems

List any historical fact about the tree (Documented/Estimated):

Planted when the house was remodeled in about 1925
Original Owner Homer David (David Dept Store)

What is most noteworthy about the tree/trees that meets the criteria (check all that apply):

☒ Size ☒ Age ☒ Health / Form ☐ Rare Horticultural Value

☒ Aesthetic Qualities ☒ Historical ☐ Uncommon

☐ Other: Please Explain:

General health & The tree maintained by Rembrandt Tree Svc

Explain why you think the tree/trees should be nominated for heritage distinction - use another piece of paper, if necessary. Please include a photograph and a simple tree location map. Property owner agrees to allow City staff or designee with permission to photograph tree for inclusion in the online Moscow Heritage Tree Program Guide.

Submit Nomination Form and Property Owner Agreement Form to:
City of Moscow Community Forestry Administrator
PO Box 9203 · Moscow, ID 83843 · Or email to: tree@ci.moscow.id.us · Call (208) 883-7098 for assistance.

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION

Moscow Heritage Tree Program Property Owner Agreement Form

In exchange for the City's designation of the subject tree as a Moscow Heritage Tree, the Property Owner agrees to protect, maintain and care for the Moscow Heritage Tree located on his or her property.

Property Owner agrees to the following:

A. A Moscow Heritage Tree or collection of trees is retained by the property owner and does not become the property or responsibility of the City – unless the tree(s) are city owned.
B. The property owner is responsible for all maintenance and liability issues pertaining to the tree or trees.
C. Prior to removal of a Heritage Tree, a property owner must notify the City of Moscow Community Forestry Administrator at (208) 883-7098 or tree@ci.moscow.id.us. The City strongly encourages all Moscow Heritage Tree property owners to retain these significant tree(s).
D. Property owner acknowledges there might be some risk by participating in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program.
E. Property owner is participating voluntarily in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program.
F. Property owner is required to sign this form, including the release of liability holding the City of Moscow harmless from any damage related to participating in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program.
    a. Property owner hereby agrees to defend and indemnify, release, hold harmless, acquit and forever discharge the City of Moscow and its successors, assigns, agents, servants, employees and insurers of and from all legal and equitable claims, of every kind, action, amount, cause of action, related to or arising out of participating in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program.
G. It is the affirmative duty, legal obligation that requires some effort to satisfy, of the private property owner(s) to notify any subsequent property owner(s) that they have opted to participate in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program and request the property owner(s) to notify the City of any change in ownership. If the new property owner(s) wish to continue the participation, they will be asked to sign a new Moscow Heritage Tree Program Property Owner Agreement Form.
H. Property owner agrees to allow City staff or designee permission to photograph tree for inclusion in the online Moscow Heritage Tree Program Guide.

As owner of the Red Oak Quercus Rubra (species) tree now being considered for this distinction, the Property Owner hereby consents to its being designated a Moscow Heritage Tree by the Moscow Tree Commission of Moscow, Idaho.

Tree Location (Address): 220 N. VAN BUREN ST MOSCOW ID

Property Owner Signed: [signature] Date: 5/15/2022

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Received: [signature] Date: 5/23/22
Administrator Review and Recommendation: [signature] Date: 6/2/22
Moscow Tree Commission Consideration (Approved) or (Denied): _____ Date: _____
Uploaded to Moscow Heritage Tree Program Guide and Website: _____ Date: _____

Submit Nomination Form and Property Owner Agreement Form to:
City of Moscow Community Forestry Administrator
PO Box 9203 · Moscow, ID 83843 · Or email to: tree@ci.moscow.id.us · Call (208) 883-7098 for assistance.