



Durham News Notes



Winter 2017

Durham's Tree Preservation Ordinance



One of Durham's most valuable legacies is the lush, tree-covered surroundings. Trees are an asset to the community for both their aesthetic value and their ecological benefits. Trees reduce the impact of stormwater runoff and improve air quality by releasing oxygen through photosynthesis and absorbing pollutants like ozone and nitrogen dioxide while intercepting particulate matter like dust, ash, and smoke. A mature tree can reduce atmospheric carbon at a rate of 186 pounds per year. Trees also moderate the effects of wind and temperature, provide a noise barrier from the freeway, and enhance the visual appearance of the community. When mature trees are removed and replaced with new saplings, it takes decades for the replacement tree to reach maturity and match the benefits of existing trees.

Like many cities in Oregon, Durham requires a permit to cut down trees on private property. The purpose of the Tree Ordinance is to preserve the wooded character of the City and to protect the environmental benefits. If you are considering removing trees on your property, you should review the City's regulations before you start cutting.

Do I need a permit? If you plan to cut down a tree with a trunk diameter of 5 inches or greater, measured at 4.5 feet above the ground, you will need a Tree Removal Permit.

How Do I apply? To apply for a permit, fill out and submit a complete application with photos of the proposed tree to be removed, and pay the \$25 fee. Permit applications can be downloaded from our website or picked up at City Hall. For trees that are obviously dead, diseased, or dangerous, removal permits may be approved administratively. For most tree removals, however, the Planning Commission will review and decide if the tree may be removed.

What is Mitigation? The City requires the applicant to plant a new tree on their property if removing the tree significantly affects the City's tree canopy. If a tree is proposed to be removed for purposes of landscaping or aesthetics only, mitigation will be required. The city prefers replacement with native conifers. The mitigation tree should be the same environmental and aesthetic value as the tree removed. Replacement trees must be planted within 6 months of removal. For deciduous trees, replacement trees must be at least 2" diameter when measured from the top of the root ball. For evergreen trees, replacement trees must be a minimum of 6' tall measured from the top of the root ball.

What About Hazard Trees Or Emergency Situations? A tree that presents an imminent danger should be immediately reported to the City. If a dangerous tree must be cut down to prevent loss of life or property outside the City's normal business hours, the property owner must report the tree removal to City Hall as soon as possible. The property owner must submit a tree permit application, photos, and fees to the City for retroactive approval. If the City determines that the emergency removal was not warranted, a fine may be imposed.

What Are The Penalties For Illegally Removing Trees? The Planning Commission will impose a fine of up to \$750 per tree for trees removed without a permit.

What Should I Do If I Think A Tree Is Being Removed Illegally? All approved tree removals are posted on the City's website. If a property owner is removing a tree and you suspect that a permit was not issued, first check the list of approved tree permits on the website. If the property owner does not have a permit, call City Hall. If the tree was cut down after hours, the City can still make a determination of an illegal tree removal and a fine will be imposed.

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Summary of Recent Activities

- The Council approved a resolution approving a 1.5% rate increase from Pride Disposal for 2017.
- The Council approved new flood regulations in the Durham Development Code.
- The City Council accepted a grant from ODOT to repave Thistlebrook and Brandyshire Courts.
- The City continues to negotiate the new water agreement with the City of Tigard.
- The Planning Commission approved 5 tree removal permits.
- Permanent signs were placed at Durham City Park delineating the dog off-leash area. Washington County Animal Services will enforce leash rules at the park.

Monthly Meetings
City Council—4th Tuesday of the Month

Planning Commission—1st Tuesday of the Month

Both meetings start at 7:30pm at Durham City Hall.

ELECTION RESULTS

In November, Durham residents reelected Leslie Gifford, Keith Jehnke, and Chuck Van Meter to 4-year terms on the City Council, beginning January 2017.

The Durham City Council consists of 5 Councilors who serve 4-year terms. Councilors select the City's mayor each year in January to serve a one-year term.

The City Council meets monthly at City Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The public is welcome to attend.

City to Repave Thistlebrook and Brandyshire Courts



The City was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Oregon Department of Transportation to replace failing asphalt pavement on Thistlebrook and Brandyshire Courts and to replace damaged sidewalk panels between the two cul-de-sacs. Pavement replacement is anticipated to begin in April. More information will be available in the spring.

Budget Committee Volunteer Needed

The City Council is seeking a resident to serve on the City's Budget Committee for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Residents interested in serving on the Budget Committee should contact City Hall. The Committee meets twice, once in April and once in May. Both meetings are held at 6:30pm. Committee appointments are made for 3-year terms.



Chehalem Ridge Nature Park

On January 12, 2017, Metro will unveil a draft recommended plan for the Chehalem Ridge Nature Park. A meeting will be held at the Community Auditorium in Forest Grove at 6 pm. This is the final in-person community event in the planning process. The Metro Council is expected to adopt the plan for the site by mid-2017.

Metro purchased Chehalem Ridge Nature Park with funds from a voter-approved natural areas bond measure. The property was formerly owned by a lumber company and before that, substantial areas were farms or orchards. Spanning more than 1,200 acres, Chehalem Ridge is being planned to serve as one of the largest nature parks on the west side of greater Portland. The park has sweeping vistas of the Tualatin River Valley, Wapato Lake, Cascade, and Coast Ranges.

When acquired in 2010, the land was overgrown with dense stands of Douglas Firs. Restoration work since 2010 has thinned the Douglas Fir trees to allow sunlight to reach the ground. While the majority of the wood is left on the site to help create habitat, some has been transported to stream restoration projects in the area. Invasive plants have been removed and native species planted. Areas have been opened up to give the Oak and Madrone woodland space to thrive.

As they work toward finalizing a master plan for Washington County's largest natural area park, Metro's parks department have rolled out options for the future. Proposed long-term plans for the site include hiking, picnicking, horseback riding and off-road cycling. Your comments are welcome. Contact Senior Regional Planner - Karen.Vitkay@oregonmetro.gov.



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Find out more on our website:
www.durham-oregon.us

Durham News Notes is written and published by City staff. We welcome information and contributions that may be of interest to Durham residents. The newsletter is published by the 15th day of the first month of each quarter. Deadline for inclusion is the 5th of the month. Archived newsletters are available online or at City Hall.

Map Your Neighborhood... Durham

Residents of Durham have partnered with the City of Tigard to offer free Map Your Neighborhood training to help neighbors prepare for disasters. The training identifies:

- How to secure your home and protect your neighborhood immediately following a disaster.
- Neighbors who have emergency response skills and equipment.
- Shut-off sites for natural gas, propane tanks, and water service.
- Neighbors who may require special assistance, like children and the elderly.
- A neighborhood gathering site and care center.

Residents are invited to the upcoming free class:
Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 6:45-8:30 pm at the Tualatin Public Library Community Meeting Room.

The City Council is seeking residents to serve on a new **Citizen Parks and Recreation Committee**. If you are interested, please contact City Hall by January 31, 2017. The Park Committee will help guide the update of the City's Comprehensive Park Plan. The Committee will meet monthly for 4 months beginning in February. Dates and time to be determined. Meeting times will be in the evening.



In April, bottle deposits will increase from 5 to 10 cents a bottle. Now it's easier than ever to redeem bottles

and cans at the BottleDrop Redemption Center on Hwy 99 in Tigard. BottleDrop Redemption Centers are an innovative new way for consumers to quickly and efficiently redeemed their bottle deposit in a spacious, fully staffed, indoor facility - open seven days a week from 9am to 6pm. There are three convenient ways to redeem your deposit:

- BottleDrop Account - Fill pre-labeled bags with bottles at home and drop them off 24 hours a day. BottleDrop staff will count and sort the containers. Customers can access the cash value from their account within 48 hours at participating grocery store kiosks or any BottleDrop location.
- Self-Serve - Automated machines will accept up to 350 containers per day.
- Hand Count - Staff will count up to 50 containers per person.

Tigard BottleDrop Redemption Center - 14411 SW Pacific Hwy.

For **Holiday Recycling Solutions**, go to www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/recycling-home/christmas-tree-recycling. A link is provided on the City's website. The 2017 recycling schedule is also posted.