

# FACT SHEET

## PETITIONING FOR “HERITAGE TREES” DESIGNATION

### FRIENDS OF LITHIA PARK | OCTOBER 2019

**Friends of Lithia Park**, an informal group of Ashland citizens, is seeking to better protect the Fir Grove (12 trees) next to the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park, by **calling for the City of Ashland to designate the Fir Grove as “Heritage Trees.”**

On January 28, 2019 the Ashland Parks Commission voted to expand the Japanese Garden and cut down two 4-foot diameter trees in the Fir Grove. This stirred significant citizen outcry, which caused the Commissioners to reconsider.

In October, the Parks Commission announced that they will **take a vote on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> to amend their plan and not cut down the two trees!**

The 12 trees in the historic Douglas fir grove were planted in 1916 as part of Lithia Park’s original design by renowned landscape architect, John McLaren.

In 2002 the City Council unanimously approved the Tree Protection and Preservation ordinance, part of which established the **Heritage Tree program**. The Heritage Tree language (AMC 18.4.5.060) states that, “The City recognizes that specific trees in Ashland are deserving of special status due to distinctive form, size, age, location, species, unique qualities, or historical significance.” **This hundred-year-old grove of 12 Douglas firs meets these criteria.**

To begin the process, Friends of Lithia Park has completed a draft application for Heritage Tree designation and **circulated a petition asking for endorsements.**

You can sign our petition online at **[tinyurl.com/firgrove](http://tinyurl.com/firgrove)** Please visit and like us on Facebook at **<https://fb.me/friendsofLithiaPark>**

**When appropriate, Friends of Lithia Park will submit the application along with petition signatures**, first to the Ashland Parks Commission, then to the Tree Commission, and finally to City Council.

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