



Our Mission: *To foster an environment of economic growth and opportunity through effective partnerships with our citizens, businesses, and visitors while maintaining a high standard for quality of life in a progressive community which embraces its heritage.*

**City of Oregon
Tree Board Agenda
Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026 @ 4:00 pm.**

**115 N 3rd Street
City Hall City Council Chambers**

Public Option to Join Meeting

Meeting ID: 897 3224 1414

Passcode: 578174

**One tap mobile
+13092053325**

Public Comment

1. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of May 20th, 2026
2. Discuss Official City Tree
3. Discuss Ideas for cost sharing or discount pricing for approved tree removals or pruning using the cities contracted tree removal contractor
4. Discuss Guidelines for Bidding out Tree removal contract, pricing ideas, discount producing for right of way trees for homeowners
5. Legacy Tree Program
6. New Business
7. Adjournment
8. Next Meeting Date: September 16th, at 4 p.m.

The City of Oregon, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities, who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in the meeting(s) or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting(s) or facilities, contact the City Manager Darin DeHaan at 815-732-6321 at least 24 hours before a scheduled meeting to allow the city to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

**Chairperson: Mark Herman
Darin DeHaan, City Manager (Ex-officio)
Jordan Plock, Street Foreman (Ex-officio)**

**Tyler Hagemann
Grant Afflerbaugh
Steve Rypkema**

Tree Board Minutes
Wednesday May 20th, 2026
115 N 3rd Street
City Hall City Council Room

Attendees: Grant Afflerbaugh, Darin DeHaan, Mark Herman, Steve Rypkema, and Josh Pickering.

Mark Herman called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

No public comment.

Grant Afflerbaugh moved to approve March 18th, 2026 minutes, Seconded by Mark Herman.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Introductions: The committee welcomed Steve Rypkema to the Tree Board.

Arbor Day Event: Planted a willow tree behind the welcome sign on RT 2 coming into Oregon.

Official City Tree: Josh Pickering said the Black-Eyed Susan is the official city flower, he asked if the city wanted to consider an official city tree. They discussed different tree species, how to proceed, and asking residents to vote for the species they prefer.

Ideas for cost sharing or discount pricing for approved tree removals or pruning using the city's contracted tree removal contractor & Guidelines for bidding out tree removal contracts, pricing ideas, discount pricing for right-of-way trees for homeowners: Josh Pickering said there are communities that have a cost sharing or contracted bid process for tree removal. He said the city has an aging tree canopy and the impact on the trees from the recent winds and rainstorms. He stated the city budget for tree removal is limited. The board discussed the current budget for tree removal, funding opportunities, resident concerns, and special pricing.

New Business: Josh said the trees to be planted this year were purchased from Hidden Timbers Gardens. Almost ten trees that have been planted were part of the cost sharing program. Steve said the Living Lands and Waters program has saplings available if the city has a place to plant them until they are established. They also discussed the time it takes to water the trees. Next meeting is July 22nd.

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Proposal for the Prairie Crabapple as the Official City Tree of Oregon, Illinois



Introduction

The Prairie Crabapple (*Malus ioensis*) is a native Illinois tree that represents beauty, resilience, and a strong connection to the natural heritage of the Midwest. Selecting the Prairie Crabapple as the official city tree of Oregon, Illinois would recognize the community's appreciation for native landscapes and environmental stewardship.

Native Heritage and Adaptability

The Prairie Crabapple is naturally suited to Midwestern conditions. It is known for its ability to tolerate challenging growing environments, including poor and alkaline soils, making it a practical choice for municipal landscapes.

Symbolism

The Prairie Crabapple symbolizes resilience, renewal, and community connection. Its spring blossoms represent new beginnings and the continued growth of Oregon as a vibrant community.

Environmental Benefits

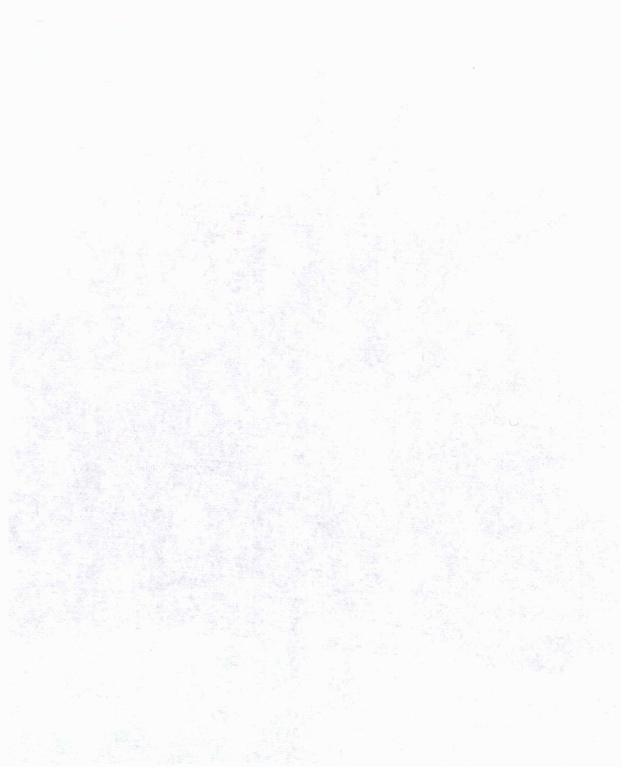
This tree provides valuable habitat for birds and wildlife. Its dense branching structure offers shelter and nesting areas, while its flowers support pollinators. The fruit can also provide seasonal food sources for wildlife.

Beautification of Oregon

With its showy pink blossoms and distinctive character, the Prairie Crabapple can enhance parks, public spaces, and streetscapes while highlighting Oregon's identity as a community connected to the surrounding prairie landscape.

Recommendation

For its native importance, durability, ecological value, and visual appeal, the Prairie Crabapple is recommended as the official city tree of Oregon, Illinois.



The Prairie Crabapple is a native tree of the central United States, particularly common in the Illinois and Indiana region. It is a small, deciduous tree that grows to a height of 10-15 feet. The leaves are alternate, ovate, and have serrated margins. The flowers are small, white, and fragrant. The fruit is a small, round, red berry that is eaten by birds and other animals.

The tree is valued for its ecological importance, as it provides food and shelter for many native species. It is also appreciated for its visual appeal, particularly in the spring when the flowers are in bloom. The tree is well-suited for urban and suburban landscapes, as it is relatively small and has a compact growth habit.

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Proposal for the Eastern Redbud as the Official City Tree of Oregon, Illinois



Introduction

The Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a native Illinois tree representing spring, renewal, resilience, and community pride. Choosing the Redbud as the official city tree of Oregon, Illinois would recognize the importance of native trees and responsible urban forestry.

Symbolism

The Redbud is known as a symbol of new beginnings and hope. Its brilliant pink blossoms appear in early spring, creating a reminder of growth and renewal.

Native Heritage and Adaptability

The Eastern Redbud is native to the Midwest and performs well in Illinois landscapes. It is suitable for parks, streets, and public spaces while providing strong ornamental appeal.

Environmental Benefits

Redbuds support pollinators and contribute to urban wildlife habitat, helping strengthen the ecological value of Oregon's community tree canopy.

Recommendation

Because of its beauty, native heritage, symbolism, and environmental benefits, the Eastern Redbud is recommended as the official city tree of Oregon, Illinois.

Serviceberry



The serviceberry (*Amelanchier* species), a native Illinois tree, represents values that reflect a strong community: generosity, resilience, renewal, and connection.

The serviceberry is often associated with the idea of a “gift economy.” The tree provides its flowers, fruit, and habitat freely to birds, insects, wildlife, and people. This natural cycle represents the importance of sharing, cooperation, and mutual support—qualities that help a community grow.

From an environmental standpoint, the serviceberry is an excellent choice for Oregon. As a native tree, it is well adapted to local conditions and supports the local ecosystem. Its early spring flowers provide an important food source for pollinators after winter, while its berries support birds and wildlife. It also provides attractive spring blooms, summer fruit, fall color, and a manageable size for parks, streetscapes, and public spaces.

The serviceberry also carries cultural significance. For many Indigenous communities, it has represented survival, nourishment, and renewal because it was one of the first fresh foods available after winter. The tree’s ability to provide abundance when it is needed most has made it a symbol of gratitude and respect for the natural world.

Adopting the serviceberry as Oregon’s official tree would support city beautification efforts, encourage the use of native species, provide educational opportunities, and promote long-term environmental stewardship. It would serve as a living symbol of Oregon’s commitment to protecting nature while investing in future generations.

The serviceberry is more than a tree—it is a reminder that communities thrive when they support and strengthen everything around them.



City of Oregon, Illinois

Legacy Tree Program

Program Overview

The City of Oregon Legacy Tree Program provides residents, families, organizations, and businesses the opportunity to sponsor a tree planted on approved City property as a lasting tribute, memorial, or celebration.

Purpose

Legacy Trees enhance Oregon's urban forest while creating meaningful landmarks that recognize important people, events, and milestones.

Eligible Dedications

Legacy Trees may be dedicated for memorials, birthdays, births, weddings, anniversaries, retirements, graduations, community contributions, or other meaningful occasions.

Tree Selection

Tree species and locations will be reviewed and approved by the City of Oregon Public Works Department based on available space, site conditions, and long-term tree health.

What Is Included

Each Legacy Tree includes tree selection, professional installation, initial establishment care, identification plaque, and inclusion in City records.

Plaque Information

Plaque wording will follow City guidelines and must be reviewed and approved before installation.

Maintenance

The City of Oregon Public Works Department will provide reasonable maintenance including watering during establishment, mulching, pruning, and monitoring.

Tree Replacement

The City will determine replacement needs if a tree is lost due to weather, disease, or other unforeseen conditions.

Participation

Residents may apply for a Legacy Tree and work with Public Works staff to select an appropriate tree and location.