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HIGH RISK TREES TO BE REMOVED FROM BAGLEY PARK; REPLANTING PLANNED

A row of large incense cedar trees on the NE edge of Bagley Park are no longer healthy and are scheduled for removal for safety reasons between December 5th and 8th.

“These trees are an estimated 80 years old, and have been a beautiful part of the park’s landscape,” said Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Community Resources Manager Corinne Bloomfield, “We are very sad to see them go, but they will continue to deteriorate and pose a definite hazard to the safety of park visitors and to the adjacent dwellings.”

The trees have dropped some large branches recently and according to two different arborists are nearing the end of their lifespan. Arborists also reported that the trees were originally planted too close together and also had their root room cramped by construction of nearby buildings and park amenities years ago, further limiting their lifespan.

The City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department has an ongoing program of monitoring the health of trees in parks and around city facilities. Occasionally it is necessary to remove trees if they negatively impact the safety & welfare of the public.

“We only remove trees when it becomes absolutely necessary, and we have a very strong tree planting program in place which results in the addition of thousands of trees in parks and on city property each year,” said Bloomfield. In 2010, the City of Hillsboro planted around 30,000 trees.

The Parks & Recreation department will plant other suitable types of native trees or large shrubs in place of the trees soon. In addition, a local wood working artist will use wood from one of the trees to create wood art that will be displayed at the Walters Cultural Arts Center in the near future.

Originally opened in 1926 as a result of a land donation to the City, Bagley Park is Hillsboro’s second oldest park following Shute Park which opened in 1906. The park was most recently renovated in 2007 with a new restroom, a new picnic shelter, reconstructed pedestrian walkways, an improved playground, and new landscaping. It is located near downtown Hillsboro on Jackson Street and 2nd Avenue.

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