

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 11, 2023
TO Honorable Mayor Eric Johnson and Members of the City Council
SUBJECT **Historic Tree Nominations**

The City Forestry Task Force has received 8 Historic Tree Nomination applications, in accordance with SEC.51A-10.133, from The Texas Historic Tree Coalition (TxHTC) Board of Trustees, 5 of which are located on Park and Recreation properties, and further summarized below.

- Staff has reviewed and approved the application for the Dealey Plaza Grove, a grove of Live Oak trees that serve as witness to history as it happened on November 22, 1963. In conjunction with Arbor Day on November 6, 1999, the grove was declared “Historic” by the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition (now known as the Texas Historic Tree Coalition).
- Staff has reviewed and approved the application for the Post Oak Grove at Pioneer Plaza Park. This grove is a remnant of a Post Oak forest that stretches from Oklahoma into sections of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. These trees shade the graves of many of Dallas’ founders and early settlers. These post oaks are some of the oldest in the city with some pre-dating the signing of the US Constitution, many of which date back to the mid-1700s. This grove has witnessed Dallas grow from a small cluster of cabins to one of the largest cities in the United States.
- Staff has reviewed and approved the application for the Cherokee Oak Tree at Dallas Heritage Village. Due to the numerous springs in the area, Native Americans likely camped under this tree. It is also on the site of Dallas’ first park. Considering the history on display at Dallas Heritage Village at City Park, recognizing this tree simply adds to the history of this site.
- Staff has reviewed and approved the California Crossing Comanche Marker Tree. This tree was estimated to be over 150 years old in May 1997. It has been recognized by the Comanche Nation as an early Comanche Marker tree. It likely marked the low water crossing on the nearby Trinity River which was used by Native Americans and early settlers. Additionally, this tree has been featured in several publications as an authentic Indian Marker Tree.
- Staff has reviewed and approved the Moore Park Big Tree Grove. These trees sit on a park that was originally designated for the African American communities of Dallas. As such, this park was one of only a few parks where the community could meet, gather, barbeque, celebrate, or simply lie in the shade of a large tree. When the park was dedicated, these trees were already mature, making them well over 100 years old. They are witness to the history of this park and the African American community, and preservation for future generations is recommended.

Trees provide so many benefits to our city, communities, and wildlife. Our historic trees should be protected and celebrated. It is my recommendation that each of these trees/groves receive the approval of the City Council for consideration to be designated as historic trees.


John Jenkins, Director
Park and Recreation Department

c: M. Renee Johnson, Assistant Director PKR