

TREE CITY USA

Trees fill the city, like this reaching to the sky at Spruce and Harrison streets.

R.J. MARX PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

City celebrates tree designation at community potluck

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach is well-known for being dog-friendly, but it also wants to be known as tree-friendly. The city applied for a Tree City USA designation, expected to be awarded next spring.

Tree City USA status is shared by 3,400 communities throughout the country and represents a commitment to core standards of urban forestry management, maintaining a tree board, a community tree ordinance and a \$2 per capita commitment from residents. The designation was celebrated Thursday, Sept. 3 at the city's community potluck and grant awards, when an Arbor Day proclamation was read.

Friends of Cannon Beach Trees approached City Manager Brant Kucera about the designation earlier this year, and after reviewing the criteria, he said he realized Cannon Beach met each requirement except the Arbor Day proclamation and

observance. The city already has a street tree committee, a tree care ordinance and budgets \$5,000 annually for street tree care.

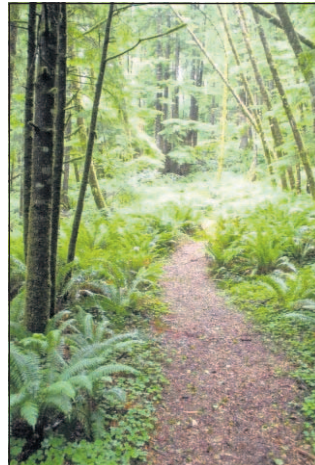
Friends of Cannon Beach Trees member Jan Siebert-Wahrmund said the city's Public Works Department, especially Kirk Anderson who oversees lawn work, does "a wonderful job" taking care of trees. The Friends of Cannon Beach and other volunteers will be contributing to that care.

"I think there's a certain amount of esteem that comes with this designation, number one, but also it truly shows you're putting something concrete behind urban forest health," Kucera said.

Last month, the City Council agreed to incorporate observance into the city's 12 Days of Earth.

Siebert-Wahrmund said the decision to go for Tree City USA designation solidifies the community's "conscious commitment to care for our trees."

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DAN HAAG/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Trees and ferns beckon along the new pedestrian-only trail in the Ecola Creek Forest Reserve. The winding trail offers great views of the North Fork of Ecola Creek and is an easy-to-moderate walk from the gated access at Elk Creek Road.

For tree-related commentary, see Cannon Shots, p. 4

WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE DUNES

Breakers Point dune grading gets a nod

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach Planning Commission approved a controversial application to grade dunes at Breakers Point Thursday, Aug. 27. In a 4-1 vote, planning commissioners granted Breakers Point permission to grade 13,700 cubic yards of sand west of the development, with the condition homeowners would not seek permission for further grading until the city finishes a sand management plan.

The grading will take place south of West Fifth Street and north of Ecola Creek, with graded material deposited onto the middle and upper beach area to the west.

The plan represented a drastically scaled-down revision from the 73,400-cubic-yard dune grading re-



R.J. MARX PHOTO

The Breakers in Cannon Beach.

jected by the city earlier this year.

Views, habitat at issue

Roughly 75,000 cubic yards of sand have accumulated in the Breakers Point area over 15 years, according to geologist Tom Horning,

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Ordinance will wait for dune grading study

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach City Council voted Tuesday, Sept. 1 to draft a new ordinance prohibiting dune grading while the city's sand management plan update is in development.

"I think it's imperative we hold off on accepting any other dune grading permit applications until we've had an opportunity to complete our dune grading study," Councilor Mike Benefield said, adding the city should have more sufficient data so it ensures there isn't any harm done in the littoral cell.

It could take up to 60 days to implement the ordinance, City Planner Mark Barnes said, estimating a time frame of roughly 18 months for adoption of the new sand management plan.

A request to prohibit all dune grading projects in the meantime was first made in 2014, when the Breakers Point Homeowners Association proposed an unprecedented 73,400-cubic-yard dune grading project.

The Oregon Coast Alliance made the 2014 request and in July again asked Breakers Point to wait until the city plan was finished.

The Cannon Beach Planning Commission approved

a smaller, 13,700-cubic-yard Breakers Point plan during its Aug. 27 meeting. As a condition, future dune grading permit applications will not be considered until the city sand plan is ready to go.

Because Breakers Point Homeowners Association representatives failed to abide by a "gentleman's request" for a similar delay earlier this year, council members asked for the agreement to be put in writing.

During the council meeting, Bill Kabeiseman, the city's land use attorney, said a moratorium is "fraught with uncertainty" in land use cases. The council rejected one on dune grading in May.

"An ordinance is probably the best way to go even if, in 18 months, we turn around and revise that ordinance to reflect whatever we learn from the consultant study," Benefield said.

The ordinance would not affect the Breakers Point Homeowners Association's recent dune grading approval or small projects administratively approved. Those, Barnes noted, are done for public access purposes rather than for views as Breakers Point and the presidential streets' were.

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Al fresco dining area leads to neighbor clash

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Wayfarer Restaurant's new outdoor patio is crowded with diners despite a Cannon Beach order to stop serving outside. Cannon Beach City Planner Mark Barnes sent a letter revoking the Wayfarer's outdoor dining approval on July 2, informing the restaurant that it "should not seat diners on the lower porch area."

In subsequent letters, officials levied a \$400 per day fine on the restaurant, yet to be collected.

Neighboring property owner Nick Sears said the restaurant continues to operate despite the city's order, failed to go through the Design Review Board

process and is violating the city's noise ordinance.

The Cannon Beach Municipal Code classifies family dwellings as "noise sensitive" areas and Sears said he was able to demonstrate to city officials with a sound-level meter that the Wayfarer exceeds those limits.

Martin Hospitality President Ryan Snyder said the Wayfarer did receive approval through the proper channels — city code allowing minor modifications without Design Review Board approval — and will not stop using the new patio.

Snyder said they're moving forward with initial approval — even with the threat of fines — because

the company has invested tens of thousands in outdoor patio upgrades.

Sears said he understands the restaurant owners' frustration after investing the money on patio improvements. Nevertheless, he said the Wayfarer is violating municipal code and "completely disregarding my property rights."

The letters

The city's letter to Martin Hospitality cited two factors for revocation of the outdoor patio license: the city's failure to review the proposal against screening requirements and Martin Hospitality's failure to implement the plans as approved.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

A view of the Wayfarer Restaurant and Lounge's new patio from neighboring property owner Nick Sears' duplex.