

Ordinance Restores Street Tree Planting

City-Wide Plan Being Developed For Beautification

Most Medford residents will agree that a street lined with well-shaped, healthy trees is an asset to that street, providing the trees do not damage the sidewalk, curb, or the roots do not clog drains and sewers.

Until recently, however, planting trees between property lines and streets has been prohibited, chiefly to prevent trees from damaging public property, to protect residents from undue hazards, and to protect utility facilities both above and below the streets.

But action by the city council Feb. 19 restored to Medford residents the privilege of planting trees in parking strips or on other public property according to a tree planting plan being developed.

Street Tree Ordinance

The street tree ordinance, which was based on an ordinance recommended by the bureau of municipal research and service, University of Oregon, was adopted after an extensive study by a subcommittee of the city planning commission. The subcommittee was made up of members of the commission, landscape architects, and others interested in beautifying Medford's streets.

Although the city-wide street planting plan is not yet complete, several new sections of the city have been planned.

In formulating and adopting street tree plans, public safety in the use of streets, sidewalks, and public places, the protection and preservation of public improvements, and beautification are taken into consideration by two methods, as provided by the ordinance. They are:

Species of Tree

"1. Species of trees and shrubs shall be chosen with due regard to their size, appearance, rate and manner of growth and other characteristics, and to the size, nature and construction, and traffic volume on, the street or other public place involved; and

"2. Regulations regarding location and set-back of trees permitted in public parking strips and other public places shall be adopted with due regard to traffic visibility, utility line clearance, and relative location of public paving and other facilities."

All trees and shrubs planted in any public parking strip or other public place will conform to species and location to the street tree plan. The plan consists of maps indicating where trees are planted, giving the species and other pertinent data concerning planting in that area.

Consider Aspects

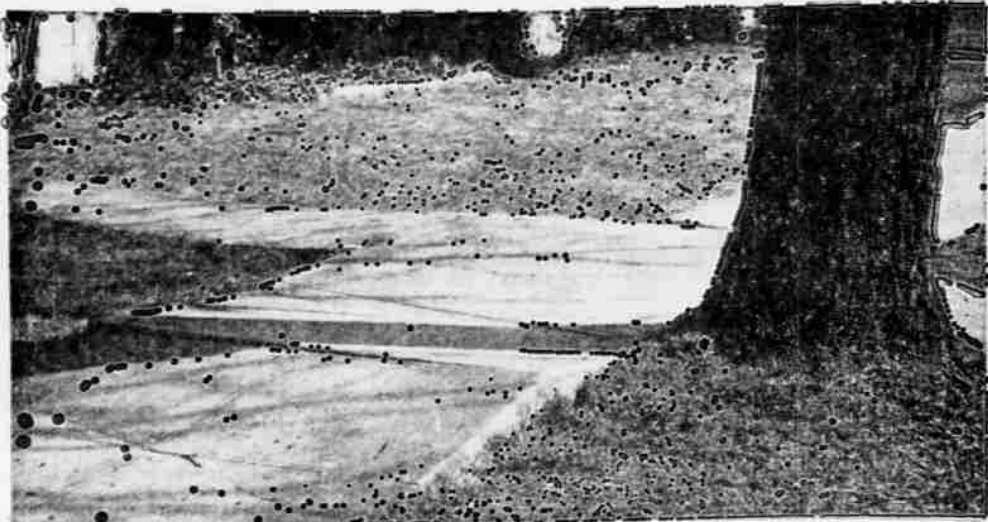
Several aspects have been taken into consideration in determining what trees would be most desirable for a particular area. Among aspects considered are longevity, cleanliness, good growth habit, disease and pest resistance, deep roots, and adaptability to soil and climate.

Longevity is considered because trees likely to die early or to weaken until they have to be destroyed because of the safety hazard they create are generally undesirable.

Dropping leaves, fruits and flowers of some trees create a cleanliness problem, and the subcommittee took into consideration the desirability that a deciduous tree drop its leaves as quickly as possible or all at once so they may be cleaned up in a few or even one operation.

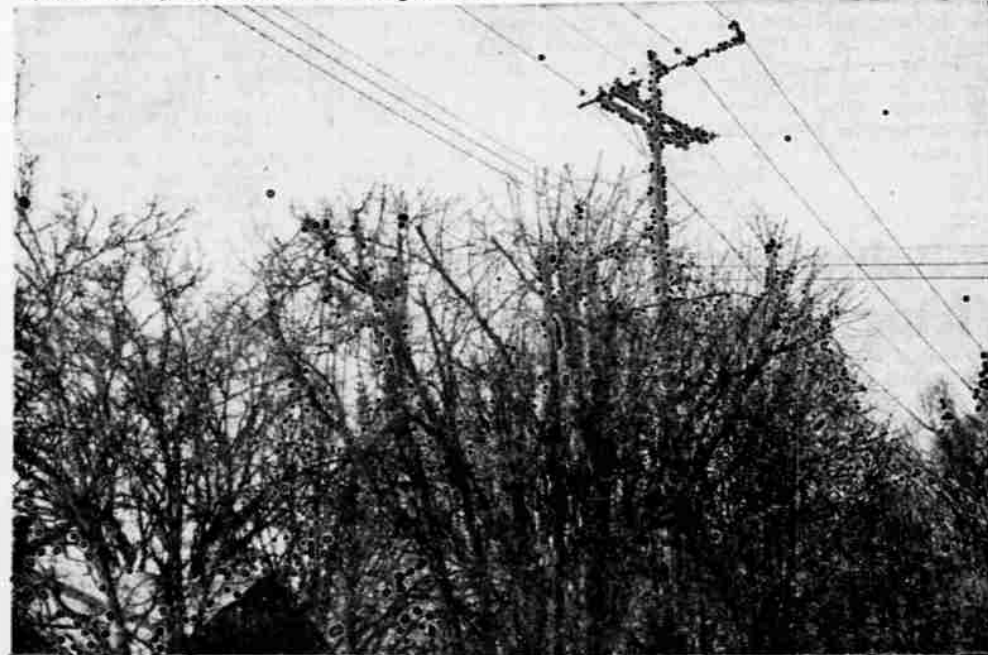
Pleasing Shape

A pleasing shape and mass are probably most important in planting trees along a street, the subcommittee noted. A tree which grows rapidly, if growth is not too rank, can be enjoyed sooner, and a tree which does not have to be trimmed over-



DAMAGED SIDEWALK—Illustrated above is a hazard which the street tree ordinance was adopted to prevent. The maple tree on the Phoenix-Jacksonway highway was planted too close to the sidewalk, resulting in the root system raising the sidewalk, creating a hazard to pedestrians.

due to pedimentation. The ordinance provides that trees shall be planted a certain distance from the property line and curb, depending upon circumstances of the street and location of utility facilities.



TOPPED TREES—Trees which grow too tall endanger power lines and have to be trimmed, as illustrated in the above picture taken of silver maple trees on Oakdale ave. to allow room for lines. Such trimming results in heavy tops. The recently adopted street tree ordinance attempts to eliminate trees being cut, either off the top or in the middle, to maintain the beauty of the tree without damaging it.

for growth.



IDEAL SHAPE—This European little leaf Linden tree on Oakdale ave. is an example of a well-shaped, healthy tree planted in a desirable location. Factors considered in selecting trees for the street tree plan include shape, and ascending growth, an example of good shape is the European little leaf Linden.

head to let wires pass, and which naturally branches high enough to allow sidewalk clearance, is desirable. In a majority of the cases, the subcommittee considered trees with ascending growth habits rather than those with weeping or descending branches.

Few trees are never attacked by some type of fungus, rot, blight, scale, beetle, or fly. The best street trees are subject to the fewest diseases, the least serious, and those least likely to assume epidemic proportions, the subcommittee noted. Shallow-rooted trees steal

nourishment and moisture from other plants, break sidewalks, curbs, walls and water mains. With less support than deep-rooted trees, they sometimes blow down in high wind, and cause considerable damage to public and private property. However, some shallow-rooted trees, the committee noted, are beautiful and otherwise desirable if they have sufficient room

for growth.



POCKETED CURB—This long time on Kelly st. illustrates what the street tree ordinance attempts to prevent. Damage to curb, and other public property, including utility facilities, is done in this case by the trunk and root system of a tree planted too close to the curb. Such planting results in the pocketing of the curb.

Three trees have been chosen for planting along parking strips

Verde Hills Area

Another section for which plans have been developed is the Verde Hills section, where six varieties are planned. They are red horsechestnut on Highland ave. in the Verde Hills area; Norway maple on Roxy Ann place, Lynnwood ave., and Ardmore ave.; schweider maple on Groveland ave.; red oak on Delwood ave.; European birch on Windsor and Modoc aces; and sweet gum on Siskiyou boulevard.

The ordinance provides that willow, cottonwood or poplar trees shall not be planted anywhere in the city unless the city manager or his authorized representative approves the site as one where the tree roots will not interfere with a sewer line.

Provisions are also made for protecting trees in parking strips as well as caring for them.

The ordinance reads:

Trimming Trees

The city manager, or his duly authorized representative, may cause to be trimmed, pruned or removed any tree, shrub, plant or vegetation in any parking strip or other public place, or may require any property owner to trim, prune, or remove any tree, shrub, plant, or vegetation in a parking strip abutting upon said owners' property, and failure to comply therewith, after thirty days' notice by the city recorder, shall be deemed a violation of this ordinance."

The provision was included to prevent trees from becoming detrimental to public safety and property, the subcommittee noted.

Mrs. O. E. Eden, former member of the planning commission, is general chairman of the subcommittee developing the street tree plan. Mrs. Fred Lorch, landscape architect, is chairman of the inventory committee, which

has been located by Finch and Columbia ave. and Stewart and Dakota aces. In southwest Medford, the trees are tall near Hawthorn on Winchester, Mt. Pitt, and Murray aces; Washington thorn on Peach and Hamilton aces; and purple leafed plum on Plum st.

Claude and Robert McIntyre, developers of the Country Club Manor subdivision, have agreed to plant trees in that area. Trees planned for the area include sweet gum on Country Club drive and Black Oak drive, ascending aim on Wenden place, Lindero ave. and Stanley ave.; magnolia (Ginkgo) tree on Sutter st. and Havens ave.; and schweider maple on Sandy terrace and Carrington ave.

Provisions Made

Subcommittee members point out that trees designated in the street tree plan are the only ones which may be planted between the property line and the curb or on other public property. Residents may plant any species of tree on private property, with the exception of willow, cottonwood or poplar, for which provisions have been made in the ordinance.

In some instances, trees will be planted on private property rather than in the parking strips because of location of wires or underground utilities, subcommittee members noted. In those cases, however, the property owner will be urged, not required, to plant a species of tree conforming to the city tree plan.

Residents are not required to plant trees between property lines and the curb, or on any other public property, if they do not wish. The street tree ordinance provides regulations for those residents who wish to plant trees along parking strips.

Expansion of Plan

The street tree plan, which has started in the Eastwood, Verde Hills, Country Club Manor and southwest Medford areas, will be expanded as soon as possible, the subcommittee pointed out.

Planning tree planting in new areas is considerably easier than in older sections of a city, subcommittee members noted. If a plan is carefully made and carried out, the desired effect can be obtained over a period of years.

If existing trees are of a good variety and in a healthy condition, the bureau of municipal research noted, it is advisable to retain them and to plan future plantings along the street to conform with that variety. "Where several desirable varieties in good condition exist," the bureau noted, "the sensible thing is to retain the good trees and after careful study decide on one of the varieties for future plantings on that street."

Several Species

There are several species of trees which are not desirable for planting along streets, although they make beautiful shade trees for planting in proper settings, the subcommittee noted.

The street tree ordinance prohibits planting poplar, willow, conifer, cottonwood, fruit trees, nut trees and alantulus because of their undesirability along public parking strips.

The trees are undesirable because root systems clog drains and sewers, they are brittle and break easily, or they create excessive debris and street cleaning is difficult. Some trees, such as the alantulus, have undesirable odors. Evergreens, such as pine, spruce and fir, are not suitable street trees because of their brittle wood, spreading habit, and dense shade.

Susceptible to Breakage

Trees with brittle wood are susceptible to breakage during high wind or ice storms, and could cause considerable damage to power lines, private homes and other property. Storms also may uproot shallow-rooted trees causing considerable damage.

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includes Cliff Cordy, county horticulture agent; Claude McIntyre, Mrs. Minnie G. Ball, representing the Medford Garden club; Vern Thorpe, public works director; and Chet E. Corry, Ashland, well-known landscape architect.

On the inventory committee are Mrs. William Tucker, who will prepare maps for the plan, and John Gribble, who will assist in map preparations.

The inventory will be made of all trees now growing between property lines and streets and on other public property. Medford firemen, in their spare time, will assist in the inventory, which will include species, size of tree, location and other pertinent data.

Those on the subcommittee are all volunteers with the exception of Cordy, who was retained as a consultant for a small fee.

Talent Man Receives Labrador Guide Dog

Ever tempted to take a blind person's arm as he starts across the street with his guide dog? (Don't do it! You'll hurt the dog's feelings!)

This advice comes from Alvin Kinser, totally blind resident of Talent, who has just acquired a black Labrador guide dog from Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc., San Rafael, Calif.

Two weeks ago, Kinser completed a 30-day course on how to care for, understand and get along with Timmy, the 18-month-old, 62-pound guide dog. He claims he once again made him feel free and independent.

Trained to Protect

Timmy has been trained since early puppyhood to protect and guide his blind master. He has learned to like people and get along with them, but at the same time follow only the commands of his master. Timmy has been trained to obey certain signals and commands while exercising judgement and responsibility.

For instance, when Kinser wants to go straight ahead, he holds the dog's leash straight out and says in a gentle voice (one should never shout at a guide dog), "Forward . . . steady, now, steady." The dog surveys traffic conditions. If the "coast is clear", he immediately leads his master in a forward direction. If there are cars coming or congested pedestrian traffic, he waits until the way is clear before starting ahead. There are corresponding signals for right or left.

Timmy seems to know he is proficient in serving as "eyes" for his master and takes pride in the confidence his master places in him. Thus, when a well-meaning citizen indicates doubt in his ability by taking Kinser's arm and offering help, Timmy's feelings are hurt.

Stands Still

According to Kinser, the dog will simply stand still while the individual offering aid proceeds ahead. Then, when the individual turns around to see if Kinser is following, the dog will dart ahead and pass him with Kinser in tow. This is Timmy's way of getting even.

Kinser first heard of Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc., from a welfare worker. It was explained to him that the corporation breeds its own dogs.

As puppies, the dogs are placed in homes of individuals, preferably where there are children, to be raised under supervision of the corporation. Many Jackson county 4-H club members are now raising dogs for Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc.

Further Training

The dogs are later returned to the corporation at San Rafael for further training. Then a master is selected for each dog. The dog and the master are matched as to personality, size, weight and other factors. The master also undergoes training even before he is introduced to the dog.

Kinser and Timmy met in a large, comfortable room where they were left alone with a trainer watching in a chair. Then Timmy entered the room. He looked around the room, walked around and finally walked over to Kinser. He sniffed him all over and from that time on, the two of them have gotten along famously.

There was no training on the day the dog and his master were introduced. It is a policy of Guide Dogs for the Blind to have the dog and master well acquainted and liking each other before training begins.

Harness Placed

Later, the harness was placed on Timmy and Kinser led him around the premises. In the more advanced stages of their training, Kinser and Timmy walked together in San Rafael, Golden Gate, San Francisco, Van Ness, the San Francisco civic center and Market street areas during

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FEELS FREE AGAIN—Alvin Kinser, totally blind resident of Talent, claims he has known new freedom and independence since acquiring his black Labrador guide dog, Timmy, from Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., San Rafael, Calif. Timmy leads him wherever he wants to go and is on constant guard against possible danger to his master. Kinser has a card, presented to him by the San Rafael concern, which entitles Timmy to accompany him anywhere.

bargain sale days.

Kinser said there were "mobs of pedestrians" but the crowds did not bother Timmy. He calmly followed Kinser's directions. Kinser was unfamiliar with the area and his only help in finding his way around came from a trainer, who walked behind him and Timmy and advised Kinser when to turn and how many blocks to proceed.

Formally Presented

Before Kinser and Timmy left San Rafael, they were formally presented to each other at a banquet. Kinser was also introduced to the girl who had raised the dog, a girl named Janice.

"I know her voice was a little unsteady," Kinser said, "and lots of the kids who raise the dogs halfway hope they won't pass the final tests."

Many dogs do not pass the tests for a multitude of reasons. Those which are not graduated as guide dogs are usually returned to the individuals who raised them.

Timmy is "all business" while his harness is on, Kinser commented. He will do anything his master asks. In the Mail Tribune newsroom, Timmy was asked to pick up a half-dollar that had been dropped to the floor. He had a little trouble gripping the coin in his teeth, but finally succeeded—to the great pride of his master. He is equally adept at picking up keys or anything else his master might happen to drop. Also while harnessed, Timmy pays no attention to other dogs.

In San Francisco

There's no telling what fate might befall anyone who harnessed Kinser in Timmy's presence, he pointed out. He told of a time in San Francisco when a "drunk" approached him and Timmy.

"He hung over us for a time," Kinser said. "And Timmy didn't let him. The dog stood on his hind legs and growled. The man apparently decided that was no place for him to be because he disappeared in a hurry."

Timmy seems to have a special dislike for liquor, Kinser commented, and acts uneasy whenever he's around anyone who has been drinking.

At home, when the harness is off, Timmy is "just like a big baby," Kinser said. The four Kinser children, two boys and two girls ranging in ages from 2½ to 12 years, romp and play with him and they all, including the dog, have a fine time.

Timmy daily consumes one pound of horse meat, one pound of dog meal and eight ounces of water. Kinser feeds him and assumes all responsibility in taking care of him. "Timmy won't pay any attention to anyone else," he commented.

Private Contributions

Guide Dogs for the Blind is a non-profit corporation. Kinser noted. Operations of the corporation, the dogs, training of the

masters and room for the masters and training of the dogs are all financed by private contributions. Most of the trainers are university graduates, he added.

Kinser advises anyone needing a guide dog to apply directly to Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc., San Rafael, Calif. There is no discrimination as to who receives the dogs, other than assurance that the potential masters will treat the dogs with kindness, he noted.

There is a considerable waiting list for dogs at the school, but veterans receive preference. Kinser is an Army veteran and was stationed at Camp White during World War II.

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