

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, October 4, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Community Rooms

Optional Virtual Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92140715051>
Call-in: (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 921 4071 5051

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** September 6, 2023
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Skansie Park Tree Recommendation
 - B. Ancich Park Sign Recommendation
- V. STAFF REPORTS**
 - A. Parks Division Update – Parks Manager Jennifer Haro
 - B. City Administration Update – City Clerk Josh Stecker
- VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS**
- VII. ADJOURN**

Next Regular Meeting: November 1, 2023

MINUTES FOR GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 - 5:30 PM
Community Rooms

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL Chair Ben Coronado called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners Louise Tieman, Doug Smith, Justin Teerlinck, and Stace Gordon were present. Les McCallum and Stephanie Life were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Parks Commission Minutes - August 2, 2023** Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Let's Play Downtown Presentation** Downtown Waterfront Executive Director Carianne Ekberg presented a proposal to install small playground features in downtown parks. The commission was supportive of the proposal and looked forward to opportunities to discuss it further.

STAFF REPORTS

1. **Parks Division Update – Parks Manager Jennifer Haro** Parks Manager Jennifer Haro reported on activities in the city's parks division.
2. **City Administration Update – City Clerk Josh Stecker** City Clerk Josh Stecker reported on activities by city administration.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS Commissioners discussed Cushman Trail vegetation maintenance and the use of quiet pickleball paddles.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Joshua Stecker, CMC
City Clerk

RECEIVED

By C. ANDREWS at 2:42 pm, Aug 21, 2023

Arborist Report

Tree Risk Assessment Report

Skansie Park Apple Tree



**Prepared
For:**

City of Gig Harbor

3510 Grandview St.
Gig Harbor, WA

**Prepared
By:**

Davey Resource Group Inc.

18809 10th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA, 98155
Contact: Todd Beals
todd.beals@davey.com
Local Office: 253.656.1650
Corporate Office: 800.828.8312



Notice of Disclaimer

Assessment data provided by Davey Resource Group is based on visual recording at the time of inspection. Visual records do not include testing or analysis and do not include aerial or subterranean inspection unless indicated. Davey Resource Group is not responsible for discovery or identification of hidden or otherwise non-observable risks. Records may not remain accurate after inspection due to variable deterioration of surveyed material. Risk ratings are based on observable defects and mitigation recommendations do not reduce potential liability to the owner. Davey Resource Group provides no warranty with respect to the fitness of the trees for any use or purpose whatsoever.

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Introduction

Davey Resource Group Inc. (DRG) was contracted by the City of Gig Harbor to perform a health and condition assessment of one large apple tree (*Malus spp.*) to the east of the building at 3207 Harborview Drive. A large diameter major scaffold branch recently failed into the lawn area beneath the tree warranting a Level 2 Tree Risk Assessment. The tree is growing in a public park which holds special events throughout the year.

The tree was assessed by its location, size, current condition, and overall health. The data was then used to guide the potential strategies for care. The purpose of this report is to provide the details of the current condition, health, and recommendations for maintenance. The findings in this report can be used to make decisions on whether the tree may need to be removed, or can be retained with restorative pruning and plant health care.

Methods

Data was collected by an ISA Certified Arborist (Todd Beals - NE-6913A) on August 2, 2023. A visual inspection was used to develop the findings, conclusions, and recommendations found in this report. No physical inspection of the upper canopy, root crown excavation, resistograph or other technologies were used in the evaluation of the trees. The following attributes were collected for each site:

Tree Number: Tree ID number was assigned

Location and Unique ID: An X and Y coordinate was generated for each tree site.

Species: Trees were identified by genus and species, cultivar if evident, and by common name.

Diameter at Standard Height (DsH): Trunk diameter was recorded to the nearest inch at 4.5 feet (standard height) above grade except where noted for each stem. When limbs or deformities occurred at standard height, measurement was taken below 4.5 ft. For trees with multiple stems, the DBH was recorded for each stem and calculated by taking the square root of the sum of each stem squared ($\sqrt{A^2+B^2+C^2}$).

Height: Tree Height estimated to the nearest <5ft.

Avg. Canopy Radius: Average dripline distance was measured.

Condition: Condition ratings were based on but not limited to: (1) the condition and environment of the tree's root crown; (2) the condition of the trunk, including decay, injury, callusing or presence of fungus sporophore; (3) the condition of the limbs, including strength of crotches, amount of dead wood, hollow areas, and whether there was excessive weight borne by them; (4) the condition and growth rate history of the twigs, including pest damage and diseases; (5) the leaf appearance, including abnormal size and density as well as pest and disease damage. Using an average of the above factors together with the arborist's best judgment, the general condition of the tree was recorded in one of the following categories

adapted from the rating system established by the International Society of Arboriculture and 10th Edition of the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) *Guide for Plant Appraisal*¹ :

- **Excellent (81%-100%):** High vigor and near-perfect health with little or no twig dieback, discoloration, or defoliation. Nearly ideal and free of structural defects. A nearly ideal form for the species and is generally symmetrical.
- **Good (61%-80%):** Vigor is normal for the species and has no significant damage due to disease or pests. Twig dieback, discoloration, or defoliation is minor. Well-developed structure with minor defects that can be corrected easily. Minor asymmetries/deviations from species norm. Function and aesthetics are not compromised.
- **Fair (41%-60%):** Reduced vigor. Damage due to insects or diseases may be significant and associated with defoliation but is not likely to be fatal. Twig dieback, defoliation, discoloration, and/or dead branches may comprise up to 50% of the canopy. A single structural defect of a significant nature or multiple moderate defects. Structural defects are not practical to correct or would require multiple treatments over several years. Major asymmetries/deviations from species norm. Function and aesthetics are compromised.
- **Poor (21%-40%):** Unhealthy and declining in appearance. Poor vigor and low foliage density and poor foliage color are present. Potentially fatal pest infestation. Extensive twig or branch dieback. A single serious structural defect or multiple significant defects. Observed structural problems cannot be corrected. Failure may occur at any time. Largely asymmetrical or abnormal form. Form detracts from aesthetics or intended use to a significant degree.
- **Very Poor (6%-20%):** Poor vigor and appears to be dying. Little live foliage. Single or multiple severe structural defects. Visually unappealing and provides little or no function in the landscape.
- **Critical (1-5%)** The tree is dying and/or presents an unacceptable risk which necessitates immediate removal.
- **Dead (0%)**

Limits of the Assignment

There are many factors that can limit specific and accurate data when performing evaluations of trees, their conditions, and values. The determinations and recommendations presented here are based on current data and conditions that existed at the time of the evaluation and cannot be a predictor of the ultimate outcomes for the trees. A visual inspection was used to develop the findings, conclusions, and recommendations found in this report. Values were assigned to grade the attributes of the trees, including structure and canopy health, and to obtain an overall condition rating. No physical inspection of the upper canopy, root crown excavation, and resistograph or other technologies were used in the evaluation of the trees.

¹ Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers. (2019). *Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th Edition, Second Printing*. Atlanta, GA: International Society of Arboriculture.

Tree Risk Assessment

Tree # 657 - Apple Tree (*Malus spp.*)

DBH (in)	Height (ft)	Avg. Canopy Radius (ft)	Condition
24	27	15	Poor

Crown and Branches - There was a recent large branch failure approximately ~10 feet up from the base. There are similar branches present to the one that failed. The canopy was very large and the foliage was prolific and healthy. Fruit production was significant, adding considerable gravitational force to the limbs. Many of the branches were poorly formed (watersprouts, crossing rubbing branches, & weak attachments). The remaining large scaffold branches were growing laterally. The failed branch revealed a hollow trunk that extended down to the ground.

Trunk - The trunk of the tree was completely hollow with only 2-3 inches of holding wood the trunk was ~8 feet tall.

Roots and Root Collar - The tree was growing in a heavily trafficked lawn area. Grass was growing up to the trunk. The soil was compacted in the root zone of the tree.

Risk Categorization

The likelihood of branch failure is **PROBABLE** with a **HIGH** risk of impacting people within the dripline. This event is **LIKELY** and the consequences of impact are **SIGNIFICANT**.

Overall Tree Risk Rating:

HIGH



Analysis & Recommendations

Branch failure was likely a result of extensive internal decay and a very heavy fruit crop. The likelihood of future branch failure is **probable**. Additionally, safety in the park is paramount due to the location and high traffic under the tree. The following recommendations are made to help reduce the risk associated with the tree through preservation. Risk thresholds are determined by the owner but it is important to understand that there is always some amount of risk associated with trees with valuable targets in close proximity.

Recommendations

1. Install support cables and/or branch crutches

Installation of support cabling and branch crutches should be installed after pruning to thin the canopy. Pruning goals should be focused on reducing fruit production and reducing weight on the branch unions. This would reduce the likelihood of failure from **probable to possible**, effectively reducing tree risk to **MODERATE**.

2. Restrict the area under the dripline

The highest likelihood of failure is within the dripline of the tree which has an average radius of 15 feet. A short fence could be installed at ~10ft from the trunk of the tree on all sides to restrict access directly under the canopy. This would reduce the likelihood of impact to **unlikely from likely** effectively reducing tree risk to **LOW**.

If the tree is to be retained, it is recommended that the grass be removed under the tree's dripline and replaced with wood chip mulch. Regular annual pruning and monitoring should be completed to help thin and reduce branch endweight. While the above recommendations are designed to stand alone to help reduce overall tree risk, it is encouraged that they be completed together to provide the best possible outcome for the tree.

3. Remove the tree

Once the tree is removed, replanting is recommended of a species better suited for the site. The newly planted tree should be protected from mechanical damage and a mulch ring installed at a 10ft. radius around the tree to allow for new root development and protect against soil compaction.

While the tree is a valuable and unique specimen, the amount of decay and structural defects is concerning, although not uncommon in old apple trees. It is likely that the tree is nearing the end of its useful and beneficial lifespan despite the best care. It is not likely that the tree will get much larger and a large shade tree would likely do well in the location. The benefits of replanting would likely surpass the benefits that this tree provides in a little as ten years, depending on the replacement species and the amount of aftercare.

Appendix A: Risk Rating & Likelihood

The technique used to define the risk of failure and the likelihood of failure involves a determination within two matrices. These matrices are reproduced here from the International Society of Arboriculture datasheets for Tree Risk Assessment, 2013. [Appendix 1 Using the ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form](#)

Matrix I. Likelihood Matrix

Likelihood Of Failure	Likelihood of Impacting Target			
	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

Matrix II. Risk Rating Matrix

Likelihood Of Failure & Impact	Consequences of Failure			
	Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low

Appendix B: Images

Image B1. The apple tree is one of two trees in the park, both of which have suffered recent large limb failures. Regular annual pruning helps to improve tree structure and reduce end weight on weak branch unions.



Image B2. The recent large limb failure revealed extensive internal decay that goes from the base of the tree up through the major scaffold branches. There is only a few inches, at most, of holding wood.



Image B3. The base of the tree is hollow where fruit has collected.





Planning Division
CLIENT ASSISTANCE MEMO

Directors Preferred Species for Planting

The Community Development Director maintains a preferred species list of native plants to be utilized for perimeter landscaping areas as is required in GHMC 17.78.060 and 17.78.070.

Evergreen Trees

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Grand fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>
Madrone	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>
Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>
Western hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>
Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>
Western white pine	<i>Pinus monticola</i>

Deciduous Trees

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Bigleaf maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>
Bitter cherry	<i>Prunus emarginata</i> v. <i>mollis</i>
Garry oak (Oregon white oak)	<i>Quercus garryana</i>
Oregon ash	<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>
Pacific crabapple	<i>Malus fusca</i> (<i>Pyrus fusca</i>)
Pacific willow	<i>Salix lucida</i> spp. <i>lasiandra</i>
Pacific dogwood	<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>

Additional Trees for Height Restriction Area or under Power Lines

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Shore pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>
Western yew	<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>
Alpine Fir	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>
Vine maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>

Evergreen Shrubs

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Evergreen huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>
Labrador tea	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>
Low Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>
Pacific rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>
Tall Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>

Planning Division
CLIENT ASSISTANCE MEMO

Deciduous Shrubs

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Baldhip rose	<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>
Beaked hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>
Black gooseberry	<i>Ribes lacustre</i>

Deciduous Shrubs (cont.)

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Black hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i> v. <i>suksdorfii</i>
Black twinberry	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>
Blue elderberry	<i>Sambucus caerulea</i>
Cascara	<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>
Clustered wild rose	<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>
Douglas maple	<i>Acer glabrum</i> v. <i>douglasii</i>
Hairy manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos columbiana</i>
Hardhack, Douglas spirea	<i>Spirea douglasii</i>
Highbush cranberry	<i>Viburnum edule</i>
Hookers willow	<i>Salix hookeriana</i>
Indian plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>
Mock orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>
Mountain ash	<i>Sorbus sitchensis</i>
Nootka rose	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>
Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>
Orange honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>
Oval-leaved blueberry	<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>
Pacific ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>
Red elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>
Red-flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>
Red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i> v. <i>stolonifera</i>
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>
Scouler willow	<i>Salix scouleriana</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Sitka willow	<i>Salix sitchensis</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>

Planning Division
CLIENT ASSISTANCE MEMO

Stink currant	<i>Ribes bracteosum</i>
Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>
Vine maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>

Groundcovers

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>
Camas	<i>Camassia quamash</i>
Coastal strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>
Creeping mahonia	<i>Mahonia repens</i>
Deer fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
Goat's beard	<i>Aruncus sylvestris</i>
False lily-of-the-valley	<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>
False Solomon's seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>
Kinnickinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Lady fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>

Groundcovers (cont.)

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Large leaf avens	<i>Geum macrophyllum</i>
Nodding onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>
Pacific bleeding heart	<i>Dicentra formosa</i>
Pearly everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>
Piggy-back plant	<i>Tolmiea menziesii</i>
Seathrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>
Sword fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>
Twinflower	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>
Western columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
Western trillium	<i>Trillium ovatum</i>
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum caudatum</i>
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>
Wood fern	<i>Dryopteris expansa</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>



"THE MARITIME CITY"

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

August 29, 2023

City of Gig Harbor
c/o Kyle Neiman
5118 89th Street
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

**Re: Request for tree risk assessment at 3207 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor, WA
Skansie Park Apple Tree**

Dear Kyle,

I have reviewed the report dated received August 21, 2023, prepared by Davey Resource Group Inc., Todd Beals, Consulting Arborist, titled "Skansie Park Apple Tree Report".

The report addresses 1 Apple Tree that requires a tree risk assessment. The Tree an Apple Tree (*Malus spp*) Tag #657 an approximately 24" DBH, located to the east of the structure at 3207 Harborview Dr., within the City of Gig Harbor Skansie Park. The tree recently suffered a large diameter major scaffold branch failure that resulted in the branch falling onto the lawn of the City of Gig Harbor, Skansie Park. The park is a heavily populated park that holds events throughout the year, thus warranting a Level 2 tree Risk Assessment. The tree has been assessed by Davey Resource Group by its location, size, current condition, and overall health. The information was then used to determine the steps necessary for care or replacement of the tree.

Davey Resource Groups rates the condition of the tree based on 7 categories; Excellent (81%-100%); Good (61%-80%); Fair (41%-60%); Poor (21%-60%) Very Poor (6%-20%, Critical (1% - 5%) and Dead (0%). Based on the ratings the Apple Tree was given a rating of "Poor". Please see Tree Assessment report included for ratings details.

Based on the Analysis recommendations provided by Davey Resource Group, branch failure was likely a result of extensive internal decay and a very heavy fruit crop, with the likelihood of future branch failure as probable. Davey Resource Group has made the following recommendations.

1. Install support cables and/or branch crutches

Installation of support cabling and branch crutches should be installed after pruning to thin the canopy. Pruning goals should be focused on reducing fruit production and reducing weight on the branch unions. This would reduce the likelihood of failure from probable to possible, effectively reducing tree risk to MODERATE.

2. Restrict the area under the dripline

The highest likelihood of failure is within the dripline of the tree which has an average radius of 15 feet. A short fence could be installed at ~10ft from the trunk of the tree on all sides to restrict access directly under the canopy. This would reduce the likelihood of impact to unlikely from likely effectively reducing tree risk to LOW.

3. Remove the tree

Once the tree is removed, replanting is recommended of a species better suited for the site. The newly planted tree should be protected from mechanical damage and a mulch ring installed at a 10ft. radius around the tree to allow for new root development and protect against soil compaction.

If the tree is to be retained, it is recommended that the grass be removed under the tree's dripline and replaced with wood chip mulch. Regular annual pruning and monitoring should be completed to help thin and reduce branch end-weight. While the above recommendations are designed to stand alone to help reduce overall tree risk, it is encouraged that they be completed together to provide the best possible outcome for the tree.

While the tree is a valuable and unique specimen, the amount of decay and structural defects is concerning, although not uncommon in old apple trees. It is likely that the tree is nearing the end of its useful and beneficial lifespan despite the best care. It is not likely that the tree will get much larger and a large shade tree would likely do well in the location. The benefits of replanting would likely surpass the benefits that this tree provides in a little as ten years, depending on the replacement species and the amount of aftercare.

Please review the Tree Risk Assessment Report, I have included a copy for you. Please follow up with me and let me know how you would like to move forward.

The [Shoreline Master Program](#), chapter 6.2.2.(2) Regulations – No Net Loss and Mitigation, discusses use and development within the shoreline. 6.2.2.(2) states, "All shoreline uses and development, including preferred uses and uses that are exempt from permit requirements, shall be located, designed, constructed, conducted, and maintained in a manner that maintains shoreline ecological process and functions. Chapter 6.2.2 (3) discusses appropriate mitigation measures for shoreline development. Chapter 6.2.2. (3c) states that, "Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment." As such, if the Apple Tree (*Malus* spp) Tag #657 is removed, replacement will be required. If the decision is to move forward with option 3, removal and replacement of the tree, please refer to the [Directors Preferred Species for Planting memo](#) for a selection of trees that are best suited for the Height Restriction Area. Please provide the city with a replanting plan that includes the location, species, diameter or size and a plan for irrigation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at (253)851-6170 or Candrews@gigharborwa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Andrews". The script is cursive and fluid.

Cindy Andrews
Planning Technician

In Tribute and Respect to the history of the fishermen of Gig Harbor, and close surrounding areas, these pavers represent the names of fishermen and various vessels they owned or operated during their fishing careers. It took great tenacity and effort for many of the early immigrants to establish themselves in the commercial fishing industry. The fishermen were strong of will, and did not yield when confronted with the many challenges of this profession.

Early in the 20th century, some of the vessels recognized on these pavers were built in Gig Harbor shipyards.



Paver Key:

VESSEL NAME
INAUGURAL YEAR *T/S/G/TR
CAPTAINS(S)

* This letter represents the vessel type and/or layout based on the desired seafood and gear used. Some vessels have been converted to accommodate multiple uses and types of nets. Below is a legend to identify the respective vessel type:

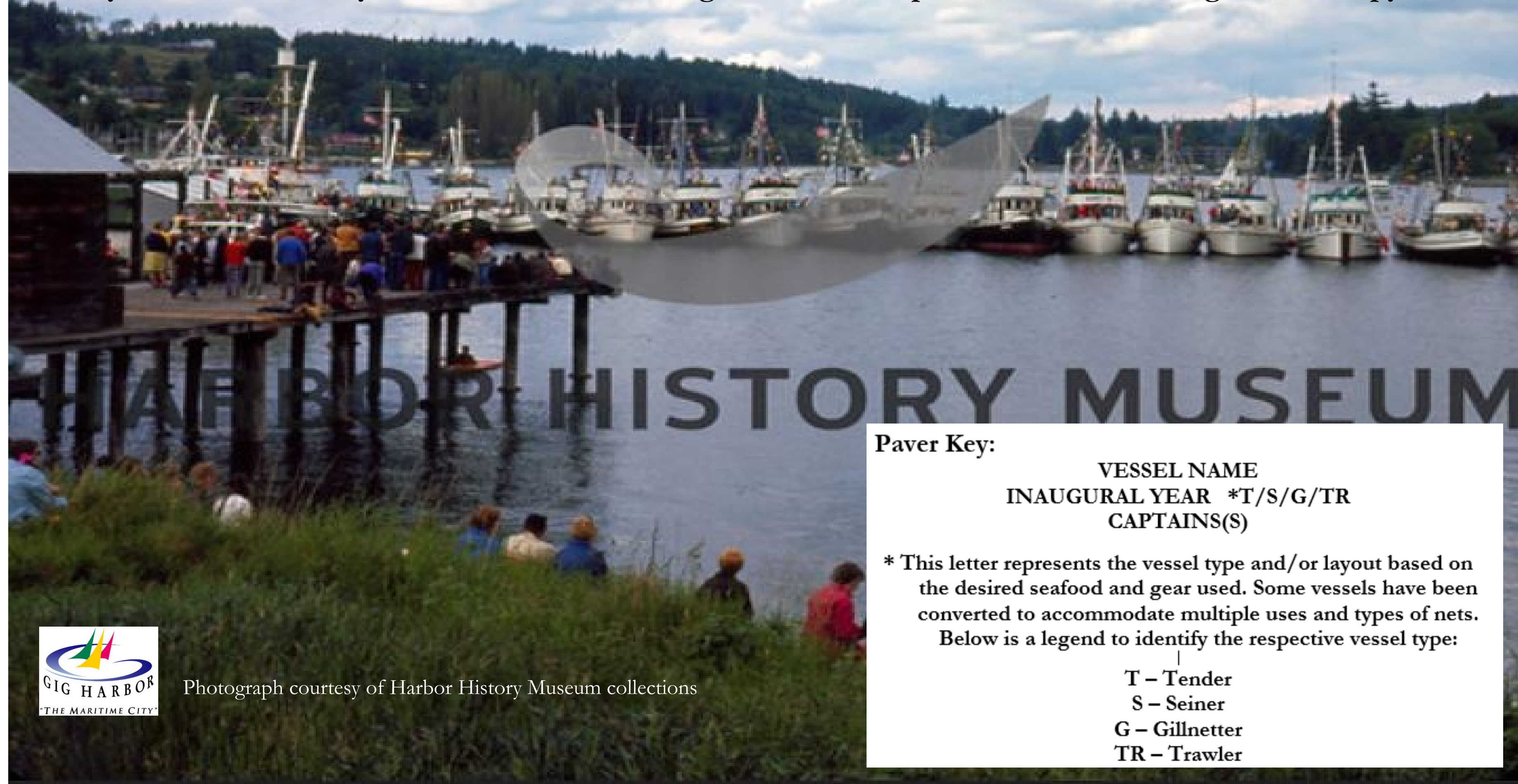
- T – Tender
- S – Seiner
- G – Gillnetter
- TR – Trawler



Gig Harbor Boat Works Photo (for illustrative purposes only)

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Photograph courtesy of Harbor History Museum collections

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PARKS COMMISSION

OCTOBER 2023

Parks Division Updates

Proposed Donations

Bench at the Skate Park in memory of Gig Harbor Firefighter Eliza Hoover

Lease Updates

Gig Harbor Sports Complex – The City and the YMCA are revising the lease in order to account for a longer construction window and city donation to the project. The parties will also need to discuss maintenance and operations for the bathroom/concession stand building that will be a part of Phase 1B.

Projects

Commercial Fishing Homeport Design/Permitting – Design and permit for a new float system for the commercial fishing homeport at Ancich Park.

- Commercial Fishermen have agreed to terms of a draft agreement to pay \$200,000 prior to bid award
- Council held a study session about it on Sept. 28. They would like more research into keeping it open to the public (our insurer says it should be closed), and renting slips out for transient moorage for recreational boats to help recover costs.

Crescent Creek Visioning/Master Plan – Close to executing an MOU with “Museum Group” to come up with floor plan, management plan and funding plan for the Masonic Lodge. It was discussed at the Sept. 21 study session, and will be on the agenda on Oct. 9.

Gig Harbor Sports Complex

Phase 1B – Getting very close to having permits issued. We will be having a plant salvage event of some kind at the site before Spring. The YMCA has agreed to let the Phase 1A site be part of that as well.

Phase 2 & 3 – There will be a stakeholder meeting on October 10 to consider the more detailed drawings of the site, another open house, and a city council study session. Final approval of a preferred alternative will be done at a regular city council meeting in December or January.

Skansie Netshed Reroof and Repaint – The project received approval from the first ever meeting of the Gig Harbor Historic Preservation Commission on Sept. 26. The interior work will likely begin in late winter or early spring, with the roof and painting to be completed during the dry summer months.

Cushman Trail Phase 5A Study – The city kicked off this project for a scoping and engineering study for Phase 5A, which will extend the trail from the trailhead on Borgen Blvd. to Baker Way, just north of St. Anthony's Hospital. The most expensive/important part is how to get over Borgen Blvd. Previous estimates said that a bridge would cost over \$3 million, so the consultants are looking at other options.

Other Park Updates

Finholm Stair Climb – The Finholm Stair Climb is still closed. A special order for a 6 x 12 beam was placed the second week of Sept. Delivery is expected by the end of October. Once the timber is received, the work will be scheduled and hopefully opened within a couple of weeks.

tx'waałqəł Conservation Area – Negotiations with the property owners are ongoing, but we are expecting a draft purchase and sale agreement within the next few weeks. Pierce County officially approved the Conservation Futures grant at their Sept. 19 meeting.



Birdhouses placed in parks – Students at Pioneer Elementary built a lot of birdhouses in June, and donated eight of them to be placed in our parks. We installed them at seven of our parks. Two of them are at Wilkinson, and one each at Soundview Forest, Grandview Forest, KLM Veterans Park, Crescent Creek Park, Donkey Creek and Shaw Parks. We also received five bee hotels that we'll install in the spring.

Pierce County Trails Conference – Jennifer attended the Pierce County Trails Conference on September 28 at the Pierce County Environmental building at Chambers Creek.