



City of Pacific Grove

PRESS RELEASE

300 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(831) 648-3106

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 17, 2021

Dan Gho, Deputy City Manager
City of Pacific Grove
(831) 648-5722 x4203
dgho@cityofpacificgrove.org

ELM TREE AT JEWELL PARK

Pacific Grove, California:

Over the course of several months, the City of Pacific Grove reviewed, analyzed and conducted scientific testing for an elm tree located at Jewell Park. The City Arborist and the Public Works Director / Deputy City Manager determined the tree was a threat to public health and safety, and in dangerous condition to continue to be maintained in the public park. In addition, the elm tree caused serious sidewalk and asphalt uplift creating pedestrian hazards.

During a permit appeal hearing, the City Council, approved the permit for removal in September. Due to public concern, City Council reopened the hearing to evaluate the results of the additional testing, to hear additional public comment and receive additional information regarding safety concerns. On November 17, 2021, City Council affirmed the September decision to allow for removal of the elm tree at Jewell Park.

Action for the tree removal was deferred to allow the Monterey County Superior Court to examine the City's proposed action. On December 16, 2021, the Court definitively ruled to deny a request to restrain the City from removing the tree.

Today, the elm tree was removed, and advanced decay with an extensive cavity was noted in the trunk and supporting roots.

Pursuant to City Council direction, the City will plant five (5) trees at Jewell Park to ensure a healthy urban forest. Park improvements, including the creation of a safe, ADA compliant sidewalk, will also be pursued.

In 2004, a falling tree in the Pacific Grove Monarch Sanctuary killed an 85-year-old woman who was strolling with her son and two grandchildren the day after

Thanksgiving. The City had previously identified the tree as dangerous prior to the incident, and paid \$1 million to settle the family's lawsuit.

###