

The Douglas Firs of Clyde Hill— by Phil Bennett, City Arborist

Clyde Hill is home to one of the great conifer species of the world: The Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. In 2017, the City began a program to preserve these trees because of their value aesthetically and environmentally, and especially because of their ability to reduce storm water runoff.

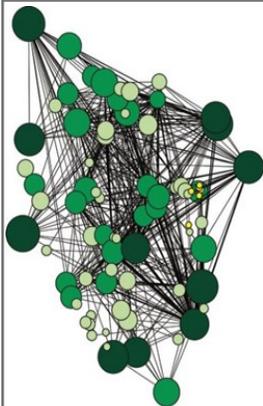
What's in a name? "*Pseudotsuga*" means "false hemlock", which speaks to some botanical confusion with this tree. Although it is called a fir, it is not in the same group of trees as the true firs (the genus *Abies*). "Menziesii" refers to Archibald Menzies, an English naturalist and surgeon who collected specimens of this tree in 1792, while aboard *HMS Discovery* with Captain George Vancouver. "Douglas" refers to David Douglas, a Scottish botanist who collected seeds and transported them to England where they were successfully cultivated in 1830. Botanists argued about the name of this tree from 1791 until it was finally accepted without challenge in 1953!

What's so great about Douglas firs, anyway?

They are big: Douglas firs can grow to 17 feet in diameter. The tallest known Douglas fir measures 327 feet tall, and the oldest is over 1200 years. The only taller tree species on the planet is the coastal redwood of California.

They are important environmentally:

This species has an extraordinary ability to intercept rainwater with its needle-like foliage, which remains on the tree year-round. Each mature tree can intercept and slow down hundreds of gallons of rainwater, taking pressure off City infrastructure, such as storm drains. Additionally, Douglas firs filter the air and water, sequester carbon from the atmosphere, and provide shade and cooler temperatures during the summer months.



Map of the fungal network connections between Douglas firs. The large circles indicate "Mother" trees.

They demonstrate exemplary community values:

A Canadian forest researcher, Dr. Suzanne Simard, studies Douglas fir root systems. By injecting radioactive carbon gas into the roots, and tracing its movement, she confirmed that Douglas firs share resources (basically sugars, the product of photosynthesis) they make with others of their own species, and *even other species* such as paper birch. Furthermore, she found that although older Douglas firs share resources with many young trees within a forest, they recognize their own genetic progeny, and give them a bigger share! Simard has also identified "Hub" or "Mother" trees that are the resource-masters within a forest. They have more connections underground than other trees and distribute resources widely.

And, what about Douglas firs in Clyde Hill?

Historically, Clyde Hill was dominated by Douglas firs. The sun exposure on the south and west facing slopes of the hill are perfect for the needs of this species. Although the old-growth trees were entirely removed by logging in the 1880's, since then, Douglas firs have regrown, and despite continued development, we are lucky to have a remnant of this great species, mostly on top of Clyde Hill, in Clyde Manor and Clydewood.



View from Mercia towards Clydewood: The old Douglas firs of Clyde Hill

Welcome Ian Jennings Police Officer

We are proud to announce a new officer with the Police Department. Officer Ian Jennings finished up the basic academy in March and is currently in Field Training.



Ian grew up in the Pierce County area and is excited to begin his law enforcement career here in the City of Clyde Hill.

If you see Officer Jennings, please welcome him to the community!

Left:
Chief Archer and Officer Jennings

A Fond Farewell to John Gagan, a Warm Welcome to Dean Rohla Finance Manager

As some of you already know, the City's Finance Manager of 18 years, John Gagan, retired last month. We wish him well on his new journey!

Our new Finance Manager is Dean Rohla.



He has worked at various cities and schools in Washington State for a number of years.

Dean is a self-professed "accountant with a personality" and we agree!

Please feel free to stop by City Hall and welcome him to the City.

Construction Hours

Construction and other noisy activities, such as leaf blowing, may be conducted during the following hours.

Monday through Friday: 7am - 6pm
Sat, Sun, and Holidays: 10am - 4pm



Living Fences

Hedges that qualify as a living fence must be trimmed to eight feet or lower per City Code. Please plan to regularly maintain your hedges and trees.



Clyde Hill Views ◇ June 2018

Clyde Hill City Hall: 9605 NE 24th Street
Clyde Hill, WA 98004

City Hall Phone: 425-453-7800

City Hall Fax: 425-462-1936

City Hall email: cityhall@clydehill.org

Hours: 8am - 5pm

Police Department:

Administrative: 425-454-7187

After office hours: 911

Emergency: 911

Mayor: George Martin

City Council Members:

Chris Baker, Bruce Dodds, Marianne Klaas,
Scott Moore, Barre Seibert

City Administrator:

Mitch Wasserman

Police Chief:

William Archer

Public Works Director : Arnie Clark

Assistant City Administrator: John Greenwood

Finance Director: Dean Rohla

Building Official: Rich Soloski

Inspection Request Line: 425-462-1936

Website: www.clydehill.org

Clyde Hill TV: Channel #21

The Sentinel

Sign up to receive the Police Department's free e-newsletter, *The Sentinel*.

To sign up for *The Sentinel*:

Go to www.clydehill.org, click the button that says "Police Sentinel Newsletter" and fill out/submit your information.

Save the Date - 2018 City Celebration August 17th and 18th

This year, the City's Summer Celebration is scheduled for August 17th and 18th.



The Celebration will be held at the Chinook Middle School track/field, as the Elementary School will be under construction.

On Friday night, at dusk, join us for a family-friendly movie shown on a giant outdoor screen.

On Saturday, 11am—3pm, there will be something for everyone: giant bouncy toys, a zip-line, a clown, a face painter and a DJ with up-beat music. For lunch we'll serve hotdogs, chips, pop and ice cream for \$.50 each.

Please plan to join us to see your neighbors, meet City Staff, talk to the Police Officers, and have fun!

Boats, Trailers and RVs

You may not have thought about it, but one of the many reasons that Clyde Hill is such a beautiful place to live is due of the rules regarding parking of recreational vehicles.

Remember that you cannot park or store any boat, RV or trailer on your property unless it is wholly enclosed within a garage or it is completely and legally screened from view.



These types of vehicles may be parked on your property for up to 48 hours for loading/unloading and maintenance purposes.

If you want more information about the rules or ideas for storage options, please call City Hall.



CLYDE HILL VIEWS

9605 NE 24th Street
Clyde Hill, WA 98004

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