



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: 11/22/2024

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

FROM: Nathan Ullyot, Director
Matt Brezina, Parks Manager
Matt Basile, Urban Forester

DEPT: Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Wingfield Park Pine Tree Removal

The iconic pine tree near the amphitheater in East Wingfield Park has been declining for many years, and has now completely perished, requiring removal. Urban Forestry staff attribute the slow decline and death to anaerobic soil conditions due to compaction from the heavy use of the turf around the tree, and heavy irrigation to maintain the turf as the tree is in an area with poor drainage. Keeping the turf irrigated sufficiently is counterproductive to the health of this particular tree species, as Austrian Pines prefer sites that are well drained. The tree has been pruned of deadwood several times over the last ten years, and numerous additional efforts have been taken to extend the life of the tree for as long as possible.

Due to the long-term decline of the pine tree, Urban Forester Matt Basile decided to hold the 2018 Arbor Day Celebration in Wingfield Park. The idea was to begin to establish new tree canopy from more appropriate species to replace the pine once it is removed. Urban Forestry staff planted nine trees on April 27, 2018.

Because the pine tree became an iconic focal point in Wingfield Park, staff have reached out to local artists in an effort to repurpose some of the trunk to create an art piece or bench to memorialize the tree. Options for the trunk and art piece are still being determined by staff and will depend on the size and quality of the wood once removed from the park.

The removal of the pine tree is scheduled for early December 2024. Parks and Recreation Staff will work with the Communication Department to share awareness of the tree removal.

