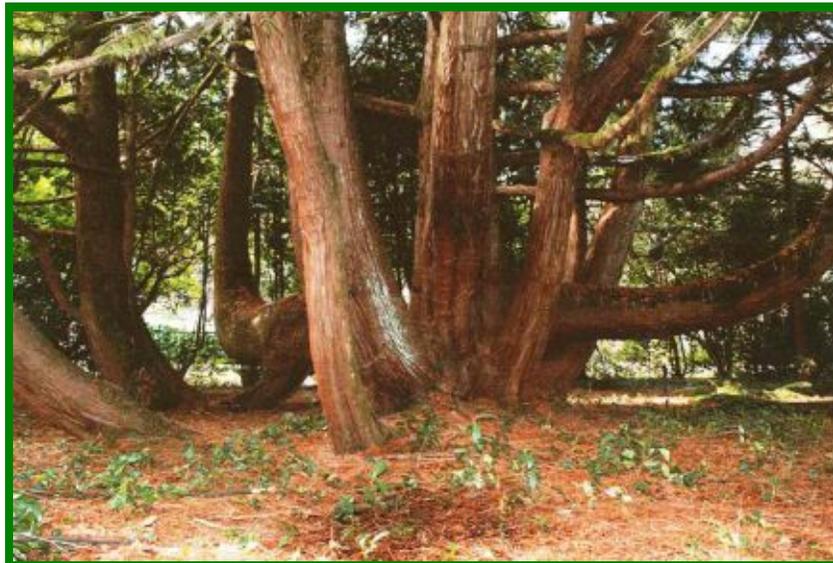


# Clackamas County Heritage Tree

Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

🌲 Location: 15361 S Clackamas River Road, Oregon City area



🌲 **Significance:** *Specimen* – a tree of exceptional size, form or rarity, or horticultural value. *Historic* – A tree recognized by virtue of its age, or its association with or contribution to a historic structure or district or with a noted person or historic event. *Landmark* – Trees that are a prominent identifying feature in a community.

🌲 **Measurements (approximate):**

- Height: **100+**
- Circumference (meas. at 4 ½’): **8’**
- Crown Spread: **60’**
- Age: ~ **400 years**

🌲 **Dedication Ceremony:** April 30, 2009

🌲 **Additional Information:** Numerous horizontal branches support this tree at ground level. The tree stands in an area that was logged between 1885-1900; currently surrounded by Douglas fir and Western red cedar that are approximately 120 years old. This tree stands adjacent to Clackamas River Drive which used to be Market Road 28 and before that a trail used by Native Americans. A similar tree stands adjacent to the road approximately 1 mile east along Clackamas River Drive.

🌲 Ray Carter, Manager General Tree Service and volunteer arborist to the Historic Review Board, believes that it is very possible that this tree could have been trained to this shape to mark the Native American trail along what is now Clackamas River Road. It was common for trails to be marked in this way. A Douglas fir tree was documented along the Barlow Road / Oregon Trail in the Oregon City area and the branches were similarly trained to touch the ground as a ‘marker tree’. Native Americans used trees for a variety of purposes: marker trees (trails, boat docks), turn-around trees (marking boundaries of hunting territories), counsel trees (where disputes were resolved--with the aid of the tree's wisdom), and trees such as the Pow Wow tree in Gladstone where pow wows were reportedly held for hundreds of years. If this tree was used by Native Americans as a marker tree, this adds additional cultural and pre-historic significance to this ancient Western red cedar tree.

Although the tree predates settlement in this area, it is on the grounds of the **Walter Rosenfeld Estate**, built 1930 in the Arts & Crafts / Craftsman style of architecture. It is a **Clackamas County Historic Landmark and National Register of Historic Properties**.

