

Press Release for immediate publication

Lou Mac Park is about to lose one of its veteran trees. In 1929 L. F. McCabe and Louis B. Midyette gave a plot of land to the town to be used as a public park, which eventually became known as Lou Mac Park. There were no trees for shade so the park wasn't used much in the hot summer months. A Mrs. Moore, the Home Demonstration Club Agent, established a fund to purchase trees. Eventually the fund grew to \$27.00 and that was used to plant six oak trees and three umbrella China trees (chinaberry). Over the years, storms, decay and other misfortunes reduced this planting to two remaining trees today, one live oak and one water oak. The live oak is healthy and thriving with a ripe old age of 95. The history of this tree is documented in the book "I Remember When Oriental" by Marian W. Hardy.

Unfortunately, the water oak is decayed and has other structural defects that makes it a high-risk tree for a public park. The Tree Board has recommended its removal to the Town Manager in the interest of public safety. The good news is the park will remain well shaded as the Tree Board has been planting replacements over the past decades in anticipation of losses such as the water oak.

Oriental Tree Board, May 1, 2024: Note, the tallest tree on the far left is the water oak to be removed, the large live oak over the red chair will remain.

