

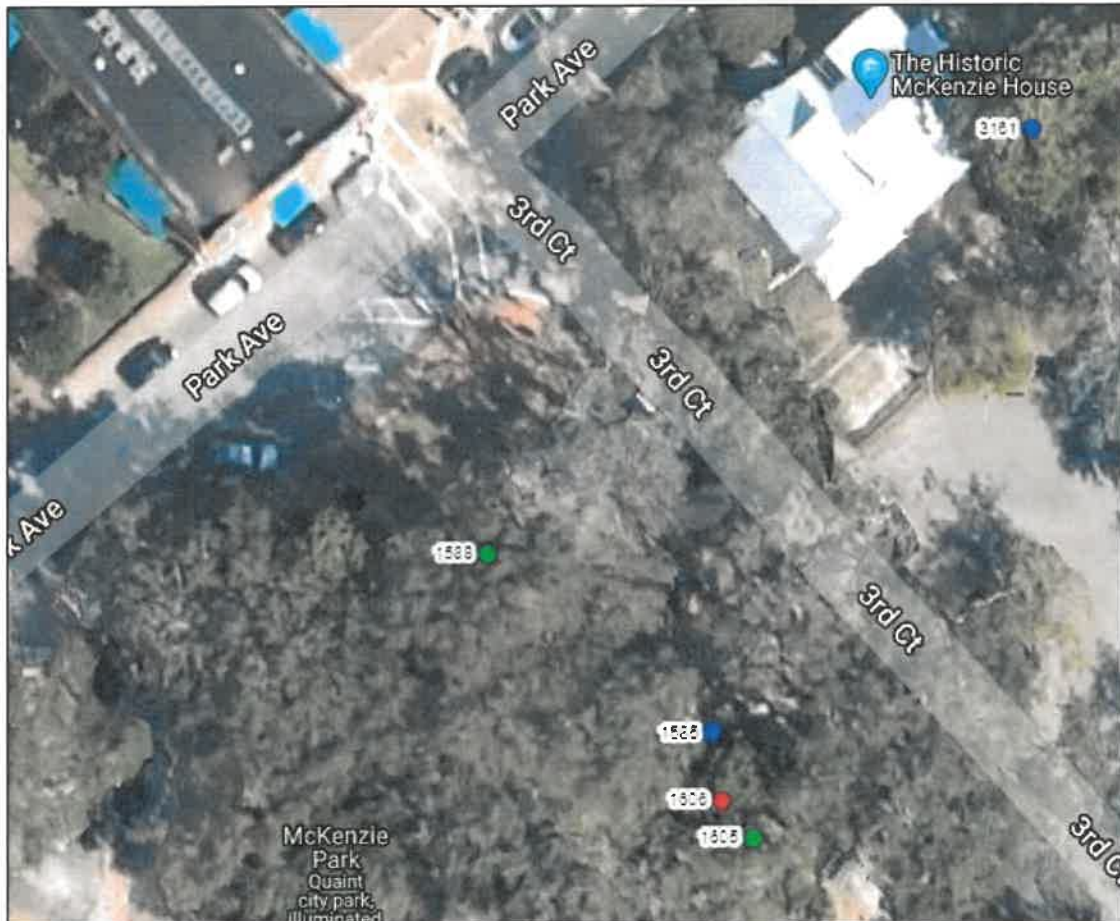


CONSULTING ARBORISTS — URBAN FORESTRY SPECIALISTS

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**McKenzie Park Tree Assessment Follow-Up
City of Panama City, FL
March 18, 2021**

Panama City officials have requested additional information regarding four trees that were recommended for removal in the report that I provided in February, evidently in response to public comment. In addition, they also requested an assessment of a large specimen Magnolia tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*) that resides directly behind the McKenzie House. The locations of these trees are indicated on the following map.



As stated in the previous report, my recommendations to remove trees from the park were based upon my perceptions of the potential longevity of the trees, especially in light of the planned park renovations. Goals included minimizing potential liability and maintenance issues that the city could incur by retaining these trees.



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Tree #1606: This is a Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) with a trunk diameter of 20 inches, a trunk length of 25 feet, and a crown spread of 15 feet. The trunk is leaning significantly. This is a non-native species that is growing outside of its recommended range. Although the tree poses minimal risk to park visitors, I would think that the city would want to remove a tree that is in such poor structural condition, particularly when they plan to undertake a comprehensive renovation of the park. They could utilize this space to plant a much more desirable specimen.



Tree #1588: This is a Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) with a trunk diameter of 38 inches, a height of 65 feet, and a crown spread of 50 feet. The trunk is hollow up to a height of at least six feet. Therefore, the ability of the trunk to support the substantial upper portion of the tree is compromised. In addition, park renovation plans call for refurbishment of a walkway that lies about 10-12 feet from the trunk of this tree. This is well within the tree's Critical Root Zone (CRZ). Site disturbance to renovate the sidewalk is likely to compromise the tree's root system to at least some extent. Even without the renovations, the long term longevity of this tree is questionable.



Tree #1585: This is a Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) with a trunk diameter of 21 inches, a trunk length of 60 feet and a crown spread of about 30 feet.

Tree #1605: This is a Live Oak tree with a trunk diameter of 17 inches, a trunk length of 55 feet, and a crown spread of about 25 feet.

Both trees are leaning significantly, have narrow limb structure, and are exhibiting foliage dieback beginning at the tops of their crowns. This indicates that the root systems are no longer providing adequate water and nutrients to reach throughout the entire trees. The prognosis for their long term longevity is not good and they do present some risk to park visitors. Once again, this space could be better utilized by more desirable specimen trees. A photo of these two trees is located on the following page.



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Once again, this report merely provides recommendations for managing these trees from a knowledgeable source. The decision on whether to remove the trees ultimately falls with city officials. Risk tolerance, compatibility with future park amenities, aesthetics, and other factors need to be considered when reaching a final decision.

Tree #3161: This is a Southern Magnolia tree with a trunk diameter of 51 inches, a height of 45 feet, and a crown spread of approximately 40 feet. The trunk forks into three vertical stems at a height of about 2.5 feet. This is a distinctive specimen tree residing behind the historic McKenzie House. City staff have expressed concern about the tree's condition.

The tree is currently exhibiting some crown dieback and a number of chlorotic leaves. Foliage at the top of the tree, however, appears to be in good shape. Even evergreen trees like the Magnolia shed their older leaves on a seasonal basis as new leaves grow in to take their place. Weather variations from one year to the next can make this process more apparent.





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I recommend waiting for another one to two months to see if this pattern comes to fruition or if we need to revisit the issue. Dead branches can be removed but they don't currently pose a significant risk.

Two cables support a limb on the southeast side of the tree. The cables appear to be well adjusted and performing their intended function. The limb contains some decay, but that appears to have been present for some time now. The junction of the three vertical limbs at the base of the tree appears to be sound. Overall, no structural problems appear to exist.

This tree could benefit from the addition of nutrients. In addition, the application of a Tree Growth Regulator (TGR) would transfer some carbohydrates from the above ground portion of the tree to the root system, improving the tree's health over time. This is a service that I am set up to perform and I can discuss with city officials upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Marcus
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Please Note: Trees are biological entities whose condition changes over time and in ways that are not apparent from the exterior. Structural defects may exist in the interior of a tree that cause all or part of the tree to fail without any external forewarnings. Observations contained in this report are based on external observations and the use of minor hand tools. The author provides no guarantee that external and/or internal forces may cause a tree to fail in whole or in part at a future time.