

# EUGENE LEGACY TREES

## Legacy Tree Number 5 *Owen Cherry*

*Prunus avium*

**Location:** Owen Rose Garden

**Height:** 51 feet

**Crown Spread:** 80 feet

**Trunk Circumference:** 21 feet

**Age:** 140-155 years

Although the Owen Cherry (*Prunus avium*) is extremely old for a cherry and stands within the bounds of Skinner's Donation Land Claim, the tree's age is not certain nor the person who planted it. It is believed, by some, to have been planted in 1847 by Eugene Skinner, one of the first settlers in Lane County and the man for whom the City of Eugene is named. George Owen, a former Eugene City Councilor, owned the land on which the tree stood in 1950, and donated the site to the City for use as a rose garden.

The tree is most likely of the variety "Black Tartarian." It still flowers profusely. It is considered the largest cherry tree in Oregon, and possibly the entire United States. Cables and braces in the tree today testify to advanced age and great affection Eugenians have for the tree. Cuttings from the tree have been propagated, planted in City parks, and sold to individuals.

Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey dedicated the Owen Cherry as an Oregon State Heritage Tree during Arbor Week in April of 1999. It is the only State Heritage Tree in Lane County. A young cherry grown from a cutting was planted next to the venerable tree following the ceremony.



Photo: City of Eugene Parks and Open Space

*The Owen Cherry in flower.*



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