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# Standing in the shadows of history: The return of Mobi

by Darwin Singleton

Tue, May 18th 2021 at 6:50 PM

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*WPMI-Standing in the shadows of history: The return of Mobile's tree trail*

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MOBILE, Ala. (WPMI) — If you know your Mobile history, then you know Mobile back in 1702.. That's 319 years ago.

And about 20 years after that, experts believe, a little sapling sprung from what is now Caroline Street in Midtown.

Which means-

"This particular tree is over 300 years old. By all accounts it's the oldest in the city,"

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## Former church volunteer pleads no contest to sexual assault

He says the tree is known by many as The Duffie Oak, named in honor of former mayor George Duffie.

A tree like this deserves respect.... and it's about to get it, thanks to a series of events that will resurrect the Mobile Tree Trail.

"The tree trail has been around in kind of various ways since the early 80s, but I think people drive around town and see these old signs and don't know anything, and there's not a lot of information."

But as development threatens gobble up these living pieces of history, re-creating and putting them center stage will help protect them.

Jesse McDaniel is chairman of the Mobile Tree Commission.

"We have so many beautiful trees and the people here absolutely care about their trees," he says. "And, so, it was important for us at the Mobile Tree Commission to make an investment, especially in light of what we're trying to accomplish."

Which, in the case of the Duffie Oak, means trimming bad branches and removing trees trying to invade its space.

And these trees also reveal pieces of Mobile's past... pieces still being discovered.

"You've got sort of the folklore with the Boyington Oak," says Blejwas.

And according to McDaniel, "We're just now learning about something called the Old Downtown, which supposedly has significance to the civil war. And these are the things we want to discover through this process. And I think it's exciting."

Still to come?

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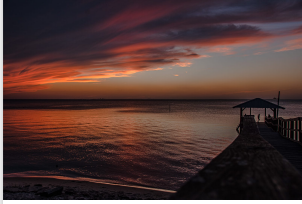
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