

**MOBILE TREE COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT****Date: December 17, 2019**

<u>APPLICANT NAME</u>	Downtown Mobile Alliance / Top Notch Tree Care
<u>LOCATION</u>	Across from 20 South Royal Street (East side of South Royal Street, 150 + feet south of Dauphin Street)
<u>REQUEST</u>	Removal of two maple trees.
<u>CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT</u>	District 2
<u>PRESENT ZONING</u>	T-6, Mixed Use - High Intensity
<u>HEALTH OF TREE</u>	The trees appear to have structural defects and extensive limb die-back.
<u>CONTRIBUTING FACTORS</u>	Urban condition of a street tree, with limited root area.
<u>HISTORIC DISTRICT</u>	Not within a district.
<u>ENGINEERING COMMENTS</u>	None
<u>TRAFFIC ENGINEERING COMMENTS</u>	None
<u>URBAN FORESTRY COMMENTS</u>	Removal of both trees is recommended for approval by Urban Forestry as they appear to be in decline.
<u>PLANNING COMMENTS</u>	None
<u>ANALYSIS</u>	The applicant is requesting approval remove two (2) maple trees from the right-of-way along South Royal Street.

The applicant states that “Trees are declining and a hazard to pedestrians.”

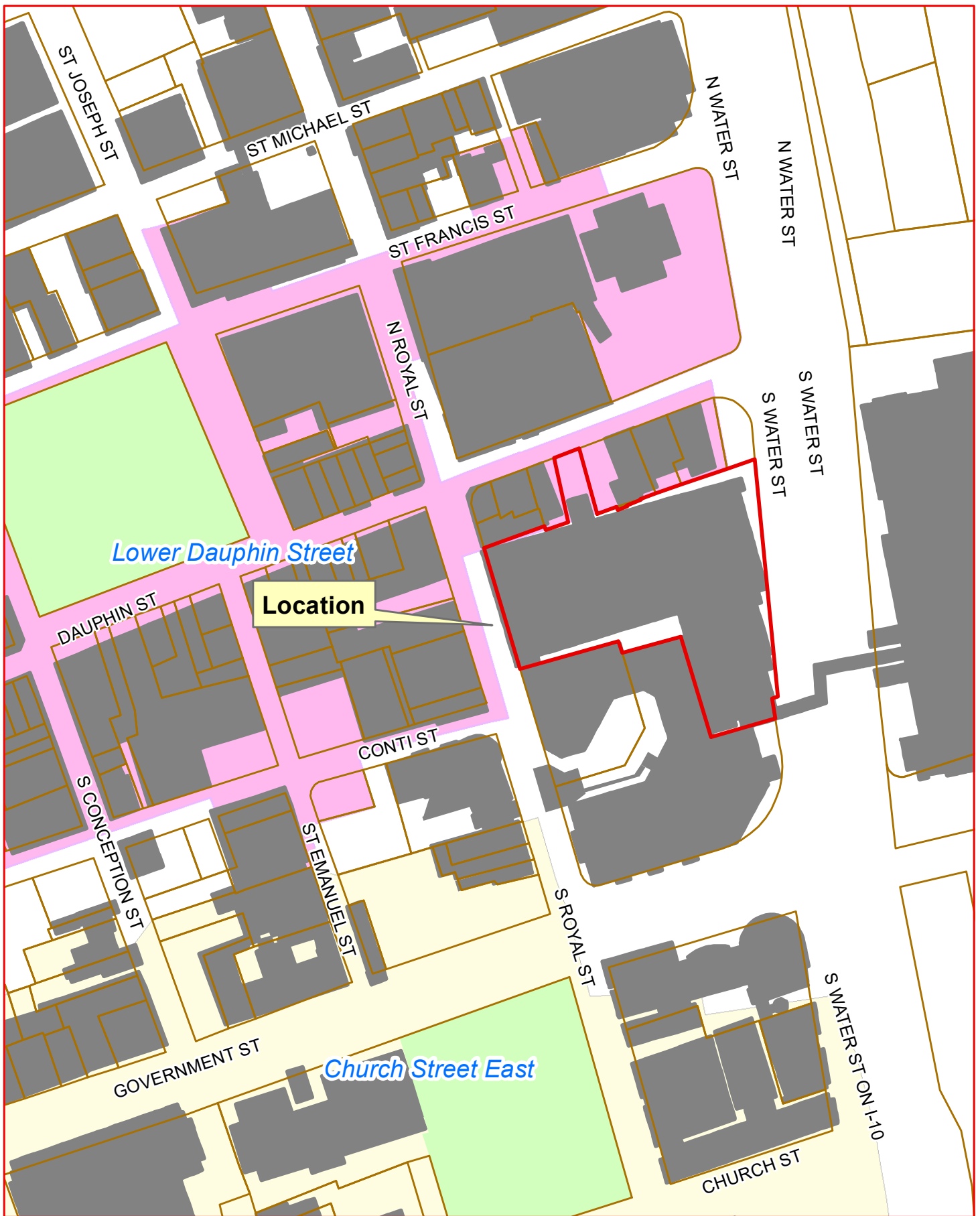
The applicant has not indicated if they intend to plant new trees.

The trees are located in front of a multi-story parking garage, in tree grates located in the sidewalk. The trees were planted as part of a tree planting plan developed for the downtown area several decades ago. The maple trees selected for the planting program, Florida Maples (*Acer floridanum*), do not appear to be well suited to very urban street tree situations, as many of the trees originally planted have shown similar levels of decline and have been removed elsewhere downtown. That being said, these trees may be over 30 years old, and many trees planted in extreme urban conditions do not have a long life, regardless of the species.

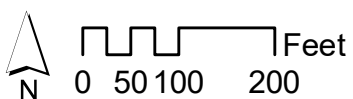
RECOMMENDATION

Based on the preceding, this request for removal is recommended for APPROVAL, subject to the following conditions:

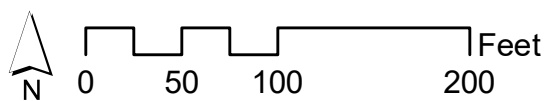
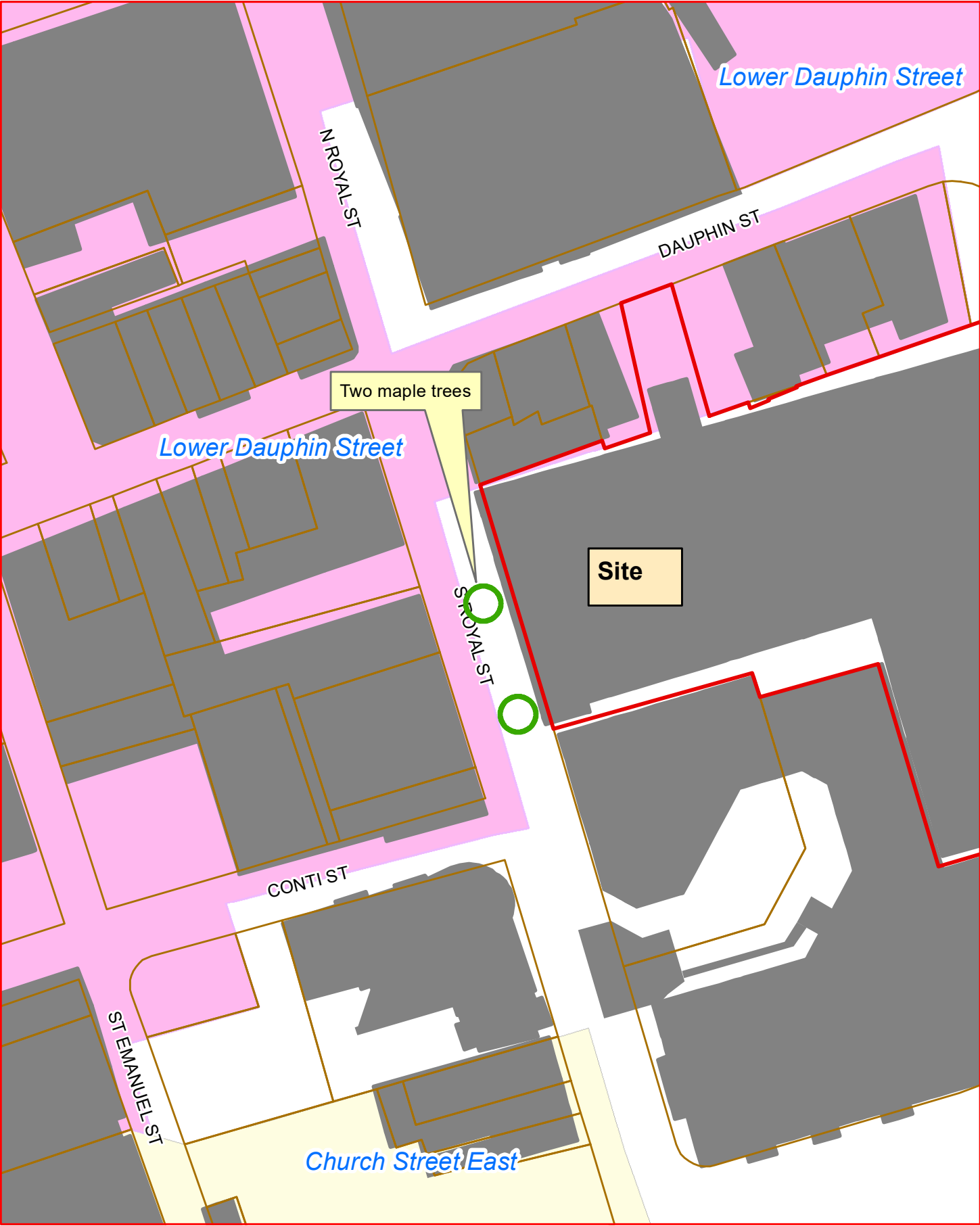
1. Replacement tree species and size to be approved by the Urban Forester;
2. Tree removal permit be issued to a certified arborist who is licensed and bonded to work in the City of Mobile; and
3. All work in the right-of-way, including tree removal and tree replanting, to be coordinated with Urban Forestry and the Permitting/Right-of-Way Division.



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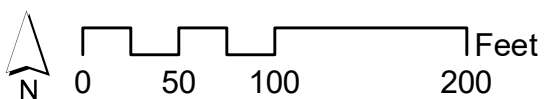


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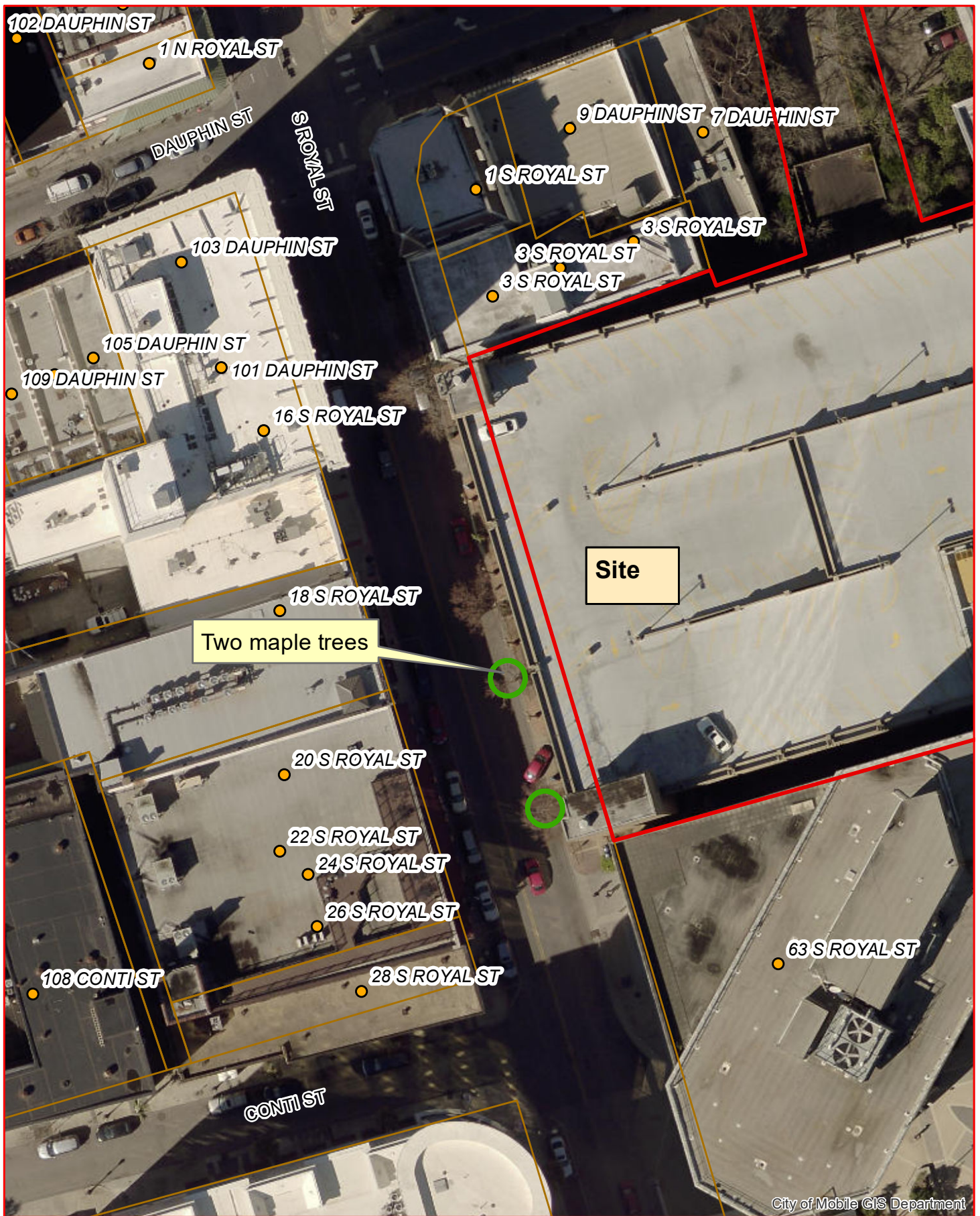
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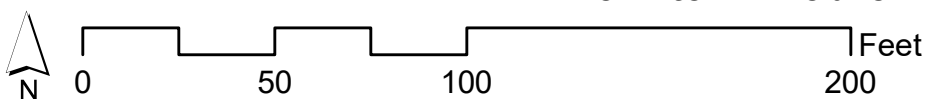
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