

Heritage Tree Nominations

Public Tree Advisory Commission

August 7, 2024

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What is a Heritage Tree?

➤ Urban Forest Management Plan Definition:

A tree* that, because of its size, age, species, rarity, or historical or horticultural significance, is of special importance to the City

*tree must be in public right of way or on public property

Some examples of other “heritage trees” around the world...



Sycamore Gap tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
Northumberland National Park, England



Árbol del Tule, Oaxaca, Mexico
Montezuma cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*)



giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)
Sequoia National Park, California

Heritage Tree Definition: Horticultural significance

Qualifying Reasons for Designation

- Size & Age - must be exceptional relative to same species in the City
- Rare – species, unique form, structure, unusual branch patterns, outstanding aesthetic
- Defining Landmark

Heritage Tree Definition: Historical Significance

- Documented history reflecting City's cultural heritage
 - Tree's association with or contribution to a historic structure, site, or street, or its connection to a person of historical note or some historic event

Nominating a Heritage Tree

- Any Goleta resident or business may nominate a tree in the public right of way or on public property
- Submit Nomination Form
 - Justification
 - Pictures of Tree & Surrounds
- Pay Fee (Not Currently Established)

Heritage Trees: PTAC's Role and Next Steps

1. PTAC determines if tree qualifies as Heritage status
2. If yes, City Arborist provides for further investigation into the satisfaction of Heritage tree criteria.
3. The City Arborist will provide a botanical assessment report to the PTAC
4. PTAC would then make a final recommendation to approve or deny based on these findings and if approved, direct staff to present a recommendation to the City Council for designation of the tree as a Heritage Tree.
5. If PTAC denies the designation, the nominating party may appeal the denial to the City Council within 10 days of notification that the request has been denied. Written appeals must be submitted to the City Clerk.

Naming a Heritage Tree

- PTAC recommends name to City Council for adoption
 - The name shall be informative:
 - a. Location
 - b. Tree's Common Name