



Agenda Item C.1
DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM
Meeting Date: August 7, 2024

TO: Chair and Members of the Public Tree Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Luz "Nina" Buelna, Interim Public Works Director

PREPARED BY: George Thomson, Parks and Open Space Manager

SUBJECT: Heritage Tree Nominations

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and recommend to the contract City Arborist that the following trees be further investigated for Heritage Tree designation:

1. Australian willow (*Geijera parviflora*) at the Goleta Community Center (5679 Hollister Ave)
2. Spanish fir (*Abies pinsapo*) at the Rancho La Patera & Stow House (304 N. Los Carneros Road)
3. Brush cherry (*Syzygium australe*) at the Rancho La Patera & Stow House (304 N. Los Carneros Rd)
4. Moreton Bay chestnut (*Castanospermum australe*) at the Rancho La Patera & Stow House (304 N. Los Carneros Rd)
5. Western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) at San Jose Creek at Jonny D. Wallis Park (170 S. Kellogg Ave.)

BACKGROUND:

Heritage Tree Nominations

The City's Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) was adopted on June 7, 2011, amended on January 26, 2017, and amended and approved on February 21, 2017. UFMP section 4.15 addresses "Heritage Trees," including their significance, objectives, criteria for designation, nomination process, naming conventions, changing of Heritage Tree designation, and removal considerations. Attachment 1 to this report provides a summary of UFMP policies and procedures related to Heritage Trees, which will be reviewed during the PTAC meeting in advance of the discussion of the nominated trees.

DISCUSSION:

The Heritage Tree nomination process is as follows:

- 1) A Goleta resident or business nominates a tree for Heritage Designation by submitting a completed nomination form, pictures of the tree and its placement in the surrounding location, and a filing fee to Public Works.
- 2) Public Works submits the nomination to PTAC as an item on their next meeting agenda.
- 3) PTAC evaluates the nomination to determine if it qualifies for submission to the City Arborist for further investigation into whether the Heritage tree criteria are satisfied.
- 4) The City Arborist provides a botanical assessment report to PTAC.
- 5) PTAC makes a final recommendation to approve or deny based on these findings:
 - a. If approved by PTAC, a recommendation is provided to the City Council for the designation of the tree as a Heritage Tree. PTAC will also make a recommendation on the naming of the Heritage Tree per UFMP guidance.
 - b. If PTAC denies, 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.

The City received five Heritage Tree nominations from Ken Knight. The nomination forms and accompanying photographs are presented in Attachments 2-6. The City Parks and Open Space Manager will present each of the nominations and photographs to the PTAC during the public meeting.

Following PTAC's action, the contract City Arborist will conduct a botanical assessment on any trees recommended by the PTAC for further investigation. Upon completion of the assessment, staff will return to the PTAC for a final recommendation to City Council on Heritage Tree designation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Summary of City of Goleta Heritage Tree Policies and Procedures
2. Heritage Tree Nomination Form and photograph(s): Australian willow at Goleta Community Center
3. Heritage Tree Nomination Form and photograph(s): Spanish fir at Stow House
4. Heritage Tree Nomination Form and photograph(s): Brush cherry at Stow House
5. Heritage Tree Nomination Form and photograph(s): Moreton Bay chestnut at Stow House
6. Heritage Tree Nomination Form and photograph(s): Western sycamore (Sister Witness) at San Jose Creek at Hollister Avenue
7. PowerPoint Presentation Slides