

**CITY OF PIEDMONT**  
**Policy & Procedure**

**Policy No. 7**  
**Section: Parks**

**SUBJECT:** Designation of Heritage Trees on City Property

**Policy**

It is the policy of the City of Piedmont to recognize and celebrate noteworthy and distinctive trees on City owned property. This Heritage Tree Policy underscores the important benefits that trees, and the greater urban forest, make to our community such as clean air, carbon sequestration, their ecological role, wildlife benefits, and improved storm water control.

**Procedure**

1. Each year, the Park Commission may solicit nominations for trees on City owned property to be designated as Heritage Trees. The Commission and Department of Public Works staff will solicit nominations from individuals and community groups including, but not limited to, the Piedmont Beautification Foundation, Garden Clubs, Scouting Organizations, and Piedmont High School AP Environmental Science students.
2. Nominations for designation may be for an individual tree or a group of trees of the same species in a small, defined area on City owned property where an individual tree alone may not merit such status, but the collective import of a group or association is greater than the individual tree. Nominations for a group of trees shall be considered a single nomination.
3. Trees nominated for designation as Heritage Trees shall be on City property, should be in good health, not pose a hazard to pedestrians, automobiles, buildings, or utilities and shall have one or more of the following qualities:
  - a) **Aesthetics:** The tree is an integral part of an architectural theme, or plays an important role in framing or screening a building or other civic feature.
  - b) **Historical:** The tree is recognized as part of a memorial or is an outstanding remnant of early civic plantings. The tree may already have landmark status, named with a plaque, or identified as a contributing or character-defining feature in a historic structures or landscape report.

- c) **Educational:** The tree represents an outstanding example of the species, in its age, size and form, is unique to the City, or is an outstanding example of California flora.
4. Upon receiving the nominations, Department of Public Works staff shall evaluate nominated tree(s) to determine whether the nominated tree(s) meet the criteria for the designation as a Heritage Tree. Staff will present their report on the nominated trees to the Park Commission.
  5. The Park Commission will consider staff's report on the nominated trees and may designate a maximum of five trees as Heritage Trees per year. The designations will be formally announced at the City's annual Arbor Day celebration.
  6. The Department of Public Works will develop signage to be placed on or near each designated Heritage Tree. In addition, staff shall create a map of designated Heritage Trees which will be made available to the public at City Hall and on the City's web site.
  7. The Park Commission and Department of Public Works will work with interested community groups to obtain possible funding for the operation and maintenance of the Heritage Tree program.
  8. Designation as a Heritage Tree is intended to celebrate noteworthy and distinctive trees in the community. However, designation as a Heritage Tree does not provide any special protection to trees so designated.
  9. Should a designated Heritage Tree become diseased, malformed, or otherwise no longer meet the designating criteria, it may be removed from the program by vote of the Park Commission. Should a designated Heritage Tree pose an imminent hazard to persons or property, the Director of Public Works may immediately take action to remove the designated tree, upon written determination of the hazard.

Initiated by: Park Commission

Approved by: City Council

Date: 01/16/2018 (Resolution 3-18)