

SAN LUIS OBISPO

HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM

INFORMATION PACKET

HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM

12.24.160 Heritage trees.

A. The city recognizes the important role trees have played in the history and development of San Luis Obispo and recognizes that a wide variety of trees can grow in its unique and temperate climate.

B. Any healthy tree within the city limits may be proposed as a heritage tree. The city arborist and tree committee review each proposed heritage tree and, with the owner's consent, recommend suitable candidates to the city council for official designation as heritage trees.

C. The city shall protect and maintain all designated heritage trees. Heritage trees shall be pruned according to a schedule developed and approved by the public works director. All interim maintenance shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

The Tree Committee proposes the following plan to formalize this Heritage Tree Program, so that citizens and groups may participate in this community program.

PROPOSE FOR DESIGNATION

- a. Proposed tree for designation – use form as provided by Public Works Tree Division
- b. Review by staff
- c. Review by Tree Committee
- d. Review by City Council – adopt resolution – designation as Heritage Tree

The following programs make up the Heritage Tree Program:

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

This tour will be taken by interested parties with the aid of a Heritage Tree brochure which may be obtained from Public Works.

HERITAGE TREE BROCHURE

This brochure shall include a map showing the location of each tree, photographs, description and information about the tree.

HERITAGE TREES OF SAN LUIS OBISPO – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

A PowerPoint presentation showing the Heritage Trees of San Luis Obispo, for promotion of the tree program.

MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP

Property owners will provide all regular maintenance: i.e., watering, raking leaves, etc. City will provide one inspection per year and will advise the property owner as to the care of their tree.

PROPERTY OWNERS – ADVANTAGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Trees will be inspected by the City annually at no charge to the property owner. Property owner is to notify the City if any noticeable changes take place with its health on or near the tree.
2. A botanical description and photographs of the tree and its history will be developed and shall be provided to the property owner.
3. An estimate of the worth of the tree shall be developed by the City and provided to the property owner.
4. The property owners may or may not, at their discretion, allow close-up viewing and enjoyment of the Heritage Tree on their property.
5. The tree may be included in the next printing of the brochure, “The Heritage Trees of San Luis Obispo” including a map showing the location of each tree, photographs, description and information about the tree.
6. A self – guided tour will be established using the brochure described above.
7. The City of San Luis Obispo will not be responsible for any tree that is injured or dies due to circumstances beyond our control; i.e., unforeseen natural occurrence, accidents, vandalism, life expectancy, etc., and the property owner may not look to the City for replacement or compensation.
8. This program involves no cost to the property owner.
9. A limited number of trees will be proposed.
10. There are three categories of Heritage Trees:
 - a. Public trees – parks, public buildings, playgrounds, etc.
 - b. Voluntary cooperation – privately owned trees.
 - c. Required cooperation – tree preservation in new developments, etc.

PHILOSOPHY

Because of San Luis Obispo’s heritage, where trees played an important part in the day to day life of our forefathers, and because of our unique and temperate climate in which a wide variety of trees can grow, it is appropriate to call attention to their part of our heritage and to illustrate their significant contributions.

PROPOSAL FOR HERITAGE TREE DESIGNATION
Criteria for Designation as San Luis Obispo Heritage Trees

Trees shall be accepted for consideration as Heritage Trees when they fall within the following classifications:

1. Historical Interest
2. Arboricultural Interest
 - a. Size
 - b. Age (one of the oldest in the community)
 - c. Rare or unusual species for this area
 - d. Outstanding specimens
 - e. Distinctive structural interest

The Committee shall judge the request for consideration of each tree with the following factors in mind:

1. Condition and state of health of the specimen
2. Permanence of site location
3. Visual accessibility

1. Address of tree and location on lot _____

2. Requesting party (individual or group) _____

3. Property Owner _____

4. Species _____

5. Age _____
Height _____ Spread _____
6. Trunk diameter at 24" above natural grade _____
7. Photographs (2) minimum at right angles to each other _____

8. Describe – Arboricultural or Historical Interest _____

HERITAGE TREE PROPERTY OWNER AGREEMENT

I _____ have read the City of San Luis Obispo's Heritage Tree Program with the City's Tree Division staff and understood its impact on my property at the following described address.

I agree that the City of San Luis Obispo may designate my _____
Located at

As a City of San Luis Obispo Heritage Tree, in accordance with the established program rules, regulations and guidelines.

Date Property Owner

_____ Do not include my tree in the next Heritage Tree brochure

Return to: City of San Luis Obispo
25 Prado Rd.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Attn: City Arborist or Urban Forest Supervisor