

Urban Forestry Council Criteria for Landmark Tree Evaluation

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the Urban Forestry Council has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco.

When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would.

Rare: Unusual species in San Francisco. Also consider rarity in California, North America, world.

Size: Notable size compared to other trees of the same species.

Age: Significantly advanced age (known or estimated).

Historical association: Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Ethnic appreciation: Particular value to certain ethnic groups in neighborhood or city.

Neighborhood appreciation: Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc.

Planting defines neighborhood character: Contributes to neighborhood aesthetic.

Profiled in a publication or other media: Tree has received print, internet, video media coverage.

High traffic area: High visibility, possible traffic calming effect.

Low tree density: Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Extends between multiple properties: High visibility, multiple neighbors share tree.

Accessible from public right-of-way: High visibility.

Important wildlife habitat: Wildlife shelter and/or food (observed or potential).

Interdependent group of trees: This tree forms a supercanopy and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Erosion control: Tree prevents soil erosion.

Wind or sound barrier: Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise

Prominent landscape feature: A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Character defining form: Tree is an example of good form for its particular species.

Tree condition: Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard.

Urban Forestry Council

Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: _____

Date of evaluation: _____

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Street address: _____

Cross streets: _____

Rare: ___ Rare ___ Uncommon ___ Common ___ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco. Also consider rarity in California, North America, world.

Comment: _____

Size: ___ Large ___ Medium ___ Small

Notable size (height, diameter, canopy width) compared to other trees of the same species.

Comment: _____

Age: ___ Significantly advanced ___ Not significantly advanced

Significantly advanced age for this species (known or estimated).

Comment: _____

Historical Association: ___ Yes ___ None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: _____

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Ethnic appreciation: ___ Yes ___ None apparent

Particular value to certain ethnic groups in neighborhood or city.

Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Neighborhood appreciation: ___ Yes ___ None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. **Attach documentation:**

Describe: _____

Planting defines neighborhood character: ___ Yes ___ No

Contributes to neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: _____

Profiled in a publication or other media: ___ Yes ___ Unknown

Tree has received print, internet, and/or video media coverage. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: _____

High traffic area: ___ Yes ___ No

High visibility, possible traffic calming effect.

Describe: _____

Low tree density: ___ Low ___ Moderate ___ High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: _____

Extends between multiple properties: ___ Yes ___ No

High visibility, multiple neighbors share tree.

Describe: _____

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Accessible from public right-of-way: Yes No

High visibility.

Describe: _____

Important wildlife habitat: Yes No

Wildlife shelter and/or food (observed or potential). Describe and be as specific as possible.

Interdependent group of trees: Yes No

This tree forms a supercanopy and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: _____

Erosion control: Yes No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: _____

Wind or sound barrier: Yes No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: _____

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: _____

Character-defining form: Yes No

Tree is an example of good form for its particular species.

Describe: _____

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Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

Tree condition: ___ Good ___ Poor ___ Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: _____

Additional comments

SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Landmark Tree Nomination Form

Disclaimer: Any information you include on this form will be part of the public record. Anyone may request to see the information you submit for a landmark tree nomination. For more legal information, see the last page of this form.

Who can nominate a landmark tree?

- An authorized nominator is a Supervisor, head of a City department or agency, Planning Commissioner, Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board member, or property owner.
- The Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and the head of a City department or agency may nominate a tree.
- The head of a City department or agency may nominate a tree on property under their jurisdiction. City departments and agencies should conduct an internal approval process before nominating a tree.
- A property owner may nominate a tree on his or her property.
- A member of the public may ask an authorized nominator to nominate a tree.

I am one of the following authorized nominators

- Property owner
- Board of Supervisor member
- Head of a city department or agency
- Planning Commission member
- Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board member

Please note that a permit will be required for any future removal of a landmark tree.

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code 810, the Urban Forestry Council requests the following information.

Authorized nominator (Supervisor, Planning Commission, Landmarks Advisory Board, Head of City Department, Property Owner):

Property owner:

Name

Address

Address

Phone (day)

Fax #

Email

Name

Address

Address

Phone (day)

Fax #

Email

Member of the public who initiated nomination
(if applicable):

Name

Address

Address

Phone (day)

Fax #

Email

I am an authorized nominator and I support this nomination.

_____ Signature

_____ Date

I am the property owner and I grant permission for city staff to evaluate the nominated tree on the property with advance notice.

_____ Signature

_____ Date

TREE DESCRIPTION

Tree name (species and common name): _____

Number of trees: _____

Street address: _____

Location of Tree: Front yard Rear yard Side yard Corner-side yard

Public right-of-way Public lands Not sure

Other: _____

GPS units (OPTIONAL): _____

Height _____ feet

Average canopy width¹ _____ feet

Circumference at chest level² _____ inches

Circumference at ground level³ _____ inches

1 Distance from one edge to opposite edge of tree canopy

2 Distance around trunk at 4.5 ft off the ground. <http://www.isa-arbor.com/publications/tree-ord/heritage.aspx>

3 Distance around trunk on the ground where the trunk meets the soil.

The Urban Forestry Council will use the following criteria to evaluate each potential landmark tree. If you need more space to describe the tree, please attach additional sheets.

Rarity: ___ Rare ___ Uncommon ___ Common ___ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco. Also consider rarity in California, North America, world.

Comment: _____

Size: ___ Large ___ Medium ___ Small

Notable size (height, diameter, canopy width) compared to other trees of the same species.

Comment: _____

Age: Significantly advanced age for this species (known or estimated).

Comment: _____

Historical Association: ___ Yes ___ None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Ethnic appreciation: ___ Yes ___ None apparent

Particular value to certain ethnic groups in neighborhood or city.

Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Neighborhood appreciation: ___ Yes ___ None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: _____

Planting defines neighborhood character: ___ Yes ___ No

Contributes to neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: _____

Profiled in a publication or other media: ___ Yes ___ Unknown

Tree has received print, internet, and/or video media coverage. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: _____

High traffic area: ___Yes ___No

High visibility, possible traffic calming effect.

Describe: _____

Low tree density: ___Low ___Moderate ___High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: _____

Extends between multiple properties: ___Yes ___No

High visibility, multiple neighbors share tree.

Describe: _____

Accessible from public right-of-way: ___Yes ___No

High visibility.

Describe: _____

Important wildlife habitat: ___Yes ___No

Wildlife shelter and/or food (observed or potential). Describe and be as specific as possible.

Interdependent group of trees: ___Yes ___No

This tree forms a supercanopy and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: _____

Erosion control: ___Yes ___No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: _____

Wind or sound barrier: ___Yes ___No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: _____

Prominent landscape feature: ___ Yes ___ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: _____

Character-defining form: ___ Yes ___ No

Tree is an example of good form for its particular species.

Describe: _____

Tree condition: ___ Good ___ Poor ___ Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: _____

Additional comments

If you have any questions about this form, tree terms or tree concepts, please contact the Urban Forestry Council staff (below). It is acceptable if you cannot provide some of the information requested on this form.

A photograph of the tree must be submitted with this form.

Please attach **optional** supporting documents such as letters, arborist report, etc.

Send to: Urban Forestry Council, c/o Mei Ling Hui, 11 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
OR meiling.hui@sfgov.org

Any information you submit will be part of the public record.

The Public Records Act defines a "public record" broadly to include "any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency, regardless of the physical form or characteristics." Govt. Code § 6252(e). The Sunshine Ordinance defines "public information" as the content of "public records" as defined in the Public Records Act. Admin Code § 67.20(b). Pursuant to the Public Records Act and Sunshine Ordinance, this document is a public record and will be available to the public upon request, at the hearing site, at the San Francisco Main Library, and on the Urban Forestry Council's website. Admin Code §§ 8.16, 67.7 (b), and 67.21(a).

Application received date _____	Received by _____
Tree evaluation form _____	UFC recommendation date _____
Board of Supervisors Decision _____	_____
Landmark Tree # _____	Title recorded date _____

