

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: Mei Ling Hui

Date of evaluation: 3/3/10

Scientific name: sequoia sempervirens

Common name: Redwood Tree

Street address: 46 Stillings

Cross streets: Congo Street

Rarity Yes Partially No

Rarity: Rare Uncommon Common Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: Though not entirely unheard of in the City, this tree, due it's large stature is extremely uncommon, especially in good form, in private yards. Tree is located in a double-lot, which allows more room to grow successfully.

Physical Attributes Yes Partially No

Size: Large Medium Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: North stem approx 23" DBH, South stem, approximately 30" DBH. Approximately 60' tall. **Extremely** large tree for a private backyard area in this City.

Age: Yes No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: Owner reports that the tree was growing in place and of significant stature when they moved into the home more than 50 years ago.

Distinguished form: Yes No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: The tree is beautiful. The two stems have good separation with no bark inclusion. There is approximately 26" between the trunks at breast height. The branches are full to the outside, with more branch spacing to the interior section between the trunks. It has a nice conical form to each trunk, with lower branches slightly weeping. It's gorgeous.

Urban Forestry Council
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: Tree appears to be vigorous with well spaced branching structure and strong, well spaced trunks.

Historical ___ Yes ___ Partially ___ No

Historical Association: ___ Yes ___ None apparent

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

Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Profiled in a publication or other media: ___ Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: _____

Environmental Yes ___ Partially ___ No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes ___ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: Tree is quite large and lovely. It's located in a backyard garden area. There are many plants nearby, though this is by far the largest and most impressive.

Low tree density: ___ Low Moderate ___ High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: There are several other trees in the immediate area, within this yard and other adjacent yards, though in the larger neighborhood context, tree canopy coverage is moderate.

Interdependent group of trees: Yes ___ No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: This tree is absolutely a super-canopy in the garden.

Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way: Yes ___ No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: Tree can be seen from various points on the surrounding streets, as it is taller than the adjacent building on the property.

High traffic area: ___ Yes No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: It's located in a private back yard area.

Urban Forestry Council
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Important wildlife habitat: Yes No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals. Homeowner reports relationships with several bird species and other wild animals, in addition to it's importance to local wildlife as a coastal California native.

Erosion control: Yes No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: The root crown rests in a slightly elevated location in the garden.

Wind or sound barrier: Yes No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: Given the stature of the tree, coupled with it's location near the building on the property, it likely provides some wind and sound barrier to the buildings occupants.

Cultural Yes Partially No

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: Though staff did receive a few calls regarding the tree nomination, no emails or letters had been received.

Cultural appreciation: Yes None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation:

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: The quiet garden area is highly positively affected by the large, cooling canopy of this tree.

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage:

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: As described previously, the tree is large, beautiful, and appears to be healthy.

Additional comments

This is one of the nicest trees I've reviewed for this process in a long time. It's simply beautiful. Couple this with its size, apparent health, the property owner's love and care for the tree, relative rarity of this species within the City in general and especially as a privately owned tree, and status as a California native, I highly recommend this tree for landmark status.