



City of Coronado

Heritage Tree Program

This Heritage Tree Program has been adopted by the Coronado Street Tree Committee for the purpose of identifying, promoting awareness, maintaining and protecting designated Heritage Trees located within the City. This Program acknowledges that Heritage Trees, whether located on public or private property, are distinct and unique living resources of our community. It is the intent of this Heritage Tree Program to increase public awareness of Heritage Trees located in the City, as well as to provide reasonable assurance that Coronado's tree heritage will be preserved for future generations. The intent of this Program is not to be regulatory or punitive, but rather to heighten public consciousness by informing and educating the public of the benefits that not only Heritage Trees but trees in general provide to the community. The Program is not intended to be a means to obstruct or stop the development of private or public property, and the protection of a Heritage Tree shall not be a factor in preventing development on property that is contiguous or near to the tree's location.

Heritage Tree Program Goals:

The Coronado Heritage Tree Program has four major goals:

- To establish a process of designating Heritage Trees located on either public or private property.
- To encourage proper maintenance, care and protection of designated Heritage Trees.
- To inform and educate private property owners regarding the botanical resources they possess.
- To increase public awareness of the environmental benefit of Heritage Trees and trees in general.

Tree Definition:

- Tree: Shall mean a plant with a woody, self-supporting main stem or trunk that typically, at maturity, has a spreading canopy at a considerable height from the ground.
- Palm: Shall mean a single-stemmed plant producing large pinnately or palmately shaped fronds from the apex of the plant.

Criteria for Heritage Tree Nomination:

Any tree or palm as defined above growing on public or private property within the boundaries of the City of Coronado that meets the following criteria as described below can be considered for Heritage Tree nomination.

Any tree or palm that is being considered for nomination as a Heritage Tree must meet the following three criteria:

1. Must be structurally sound, without disease, true to its genetic form, and not topped or badly pruned.
2. Must have full potential to reach mature size and form, taking into consideration site constraints such as adjacent buildings, parkways, roadways, utilities, etc.
3. Must be visible from publicly accessible location(s).

Upon meeting the above three criteria, any tree or palm being considered for nomination as a Heritage Tree then must meet a minimum of two of the following four numbered criteria:

1. Any tree or palm that has historical significance, including but not limited to a specimen that is or was planted:
 - a. As a commemorative, memorial, or tribute; or
 - b. Planted by a person noteworthy in Coronado's history; or
 - c. Associated with or contributing to an historic structure; or
 - d. During an historical era significant to Coronado, and recognized as characteristic of the landscaping of that era.

2. Any tree or palm that has arboricultural significance, including but not limited to a specimen that is:
 - a. Distinctive in size, beauty, structure, or age, as compared to other individuals of the same species in the City; or
 - b. An unusual species for the Coronado area and/or seldom found growing in southern California urban areas; or
 - c. Identified as playing a significant role in the landscape or architecture of a specific location.
3. Any Southern California native tree that has a diameter at standard height (DSH) of at least 8 inches, as measured at 4.5 feet above grade. Trees with multiple trunks will be measured below the lowest crotch (point where tree forks into two or more trunks), at the location giving the smallest diameter.
4. Any tree NOT a Southern California native tree that is at least 24 inches in diameter at DSH. Trees with multiple trunks will be measured below the lowest crotch (point where tree forks into two or more trunks), at the location giving the smallest diameter.

Categories of Heritage Tree Designation:

- **Designated Heritage Tree** (Private Property); and
- **Protected Heritage Tree**

Designated Heritage Tree (Private Property)

The City shall provide the following incentives to encourage private property owners (Owner) to preserve and protect Designated Heritage Trees.

- The City will provide to the Owner recommendations regarding the proper care and maintenance of a Designated Heritage Tree.
- The City will provide an inspection of each Designated Heritage Tree every four years. The inspection shall be conducted by City staff and an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Standards certified arborist, with findings provided to the Owner.
- A Designated Heritage Tree may be pruned by the Owner. The Owner is encouraged to trim a Designated Heritage Tree in accordance with ISA standards so that the pruning would not reduce the tree's height or crown diameter, alter the tree's general appearance, increase the tree's susceptibility to insects or disease, or otherwise increase its risk of mortality. Upon request, the City will consult with the Owner regarding acceptable pruning methods and techniques.

- If considering removal or an action that would damage a Designated Heritage Tree, the City will, upon request, consult with the Owner regarding possible alternatives to address the condition(s) necessitating remove or potential damage to the tree.

Protected Heritage Tree

A Protected Heritage Tree is any Designated Heritage Tree located on public property or one located on private property where the property owner (Owner) has encumbered his/her property with an instrument provided by the City and recorded by the Owner with the County of San Diego. The purpose of the instrument is to inform future Owners that the property contains a Designated Heritage Tree. The recorded instrument shall reference the City of Coronado's Heritage Tree Program and include a statement that prior approval is required by the Owner from the City of Coronado for any act that may result in potential damage or removal of the Protected Heritage Tree. Such tree shall be classified as a Protected Heritage Tree. Said instrument cannot be revoked without consent of the Coronado Street Tree Committee and/or the City Council. In cases where the proposed Protected Heritage Tree is planted on or near the property line, the Owners of both properties must be in agreement as to the designation of the tree as a Protected Heritage Tree. The following are incentives or benefits, in addition to those listed under Designated Heritage Tree (Private Property), above, bestowed upon the Owners of those trees designated as Protected Heritage Trees.

- The City shall coordinate with the owner for the pruning of a Protected Heritage Tree every four years to ISA standards. The City shall pay for reasonable costs for pruning of a Protected Heritage Tree, as determined by the City's Certified Arborist.

The following incentives are in the process of development. Because of their greater fiscal impact, we will be bringing these back to Council for further review. As well, the possibility exists that, because of the financial impact, each proposed Protected Heritage Tree would be brought to Council for final approval.

- The City will provide an increase in the development credit given for a Protected Heritage Tree located on private property.
- Endowment funds for Protected Heritage Trees will be raised (through donations and through City sponsorship) to pay private property owners with Protected Heritage Trees an annual amount.
- The City will pay for the undergrounding of utilities in the area of the Protected Heritage Tree, to a maximum of \$1,500.

Protected Heritage Tree Procedure:

Protected Heritage Tree differs from a Designated Heritage Tree as it requires specific approval for any act that may result in its damage or removal. A Protected Heritage Tree shall not be a factor in preventing development on property that is contiguous to or near to the tree's location.

- A. Any person proposing any act which may result in potential damage to or removal of a Protected Heritage Tree shall submit written request to the Director of Public Services. Causes for submitting a written request include but is not limited to poor health of tree, architectural structural soundness of the tree, threat to property including adjacent properties and improvements, damage to tree from other sources and/or for public benefit. The request shall identify the Protected Heritage Tree(s) affected, the need for the proposed action and description of the proposed action. Requests which do not involve a hazardous situation shall be forward to the Street Tree Committee (Committee) for review. The Committee shall hold a public meeting to consider the request.
- B. After consideration of the written request and comments received at the public meeting, the Committee shall provide a recommendation regarding the request, which shall be forwarded to the City Council for action.
- C. All parties receiving notice of the public meeting and individuals attending the public meeting shall receive notice of the Committee's determination.
- D. When a final decision is made approving an act that may result in damage or removal of a Protected Heritage Tree, the Director of Public Services will issue a permit authorizing the approved action. The permit may include any terms and/or conditions determined to be necessary to protect the tree.
- E. In the case where an emergency condition exists, such as imminent threat, hazard or risk to life or property, the Director can issue a permit to allow the necessary action that would address the imminent condition including tree removal.

Heritage Tree Nomination:

Nominations for Heritage Tree designation, for trees located on either public or private property, may be made by any resident, property owner, business owner, or City staff member (Applicant) in Coronado, and shall be filed with the Director of Public Services

Public Property Heritage Tree Nomination:

Nominations for trees located on public property, such as street trees, park trees, median trees, etc., shall be submitted by the Applicant in writing, accompanied by a statement that clearly and concisely includes the following:

- A. Location of Nominated Tree(s)
Street address (nearest to tree), location within a park.
- B. Description of Nominated Tree(s)
Include species, diameter, height, crown width, and age, as well as any additional characteristics on which the nomination is based.
- C. Digital Photograph(s) of the Nominated Tree(s)
- D. Location Map
Clearly identify property location of the nominated tree(s) and the specific location of the tree(s) within the property.
- E. Justification
Using Criteria for Heritage Tree Nomination listed above provide rationalization and justification specific to the tree being nominated for Heritage Tree Designation.
- F. Contact Information
Provide the name, address and telephone number of the Applicant submitting the nomination.

Private Property Heritage Tree Nomination:

The City and the Street Tree Committee will work together to publicize the Heritage Tree Program, identify candidate trees, and promote the program to those property owners who may have a Heritage Tree on their property.

Nominations for trees located on private property shall be submitted by the Applicant in writing, accompanied by a statement that clearly and concisely includes the following:

- A. Street Address of Nominated Tree(s)
- B. Description of Nominated Tree(s)
Identify tree species and estimate diameter height, crown width, and age, as well as any additional characteristics on which the nomination is based.
- C. Digital Photograph(s) of the Nominated Tree(s)

- D. Location Map
Clearly identify property location of the nominated tree(s) and the specific location of the tree(s) within the property.
- E. Justification
Using Criteria for Heritage Tree Nomination listed above, provide rationalization and justification specific to the tree being nominated for Heritage Tree Designation.
- F. Contact Information
Provide the name, address and telephone number of the Applicant submitting the nomination.

Upon receipt of a nomination for a public or private property Heritage Tree designation, staff of the Department of Public Services shall review same for completeness. Those nominations being determined as complete shall be forwarded to the City's Street Tree Committee for consideration. Those nominations being determined as incomplete shall be returned to the Applicant with deficiencies noted. The Applicant can re-submit the nomination upon addressing the noted deficiencies.

Consideration of a Heritage Tree Nomination:

The Street Tree Committee shall meet twice annually specifically to consider each Heritage Tree Nomination forwarded by the Public Services Parks Supervisor.

As determined by the Committee, an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist may also assist the Committee in the review and consideration of nominated tree(s).

The Committee shall consider each Heritage Tree Nomination at a public meeting. A notice containing the date, time, location and purpose of the public meeting shall be posted with the City Clerk's office, in a location clearly visible from the adjacent public right-of-way, and on or immediately adjacent to the nominated tree. The Applicant, owner(s) of the property on which the tree is located, and contiguous property owners/residents within 75 feet of the nominated tree shall receive a notice of the public meeting.

At the public meeting, the Committee shall consider the Heritage Tree Nomination, including the written nomination forwarded by the Department of Public Services and related public comments. As a result of this consideration, the Committee shall make a determination:

- A tree nomination as determined by the Committee to be complete and meeting the intent, purpose, and spirit of the Heritage Tree Program shall be evaluated and a determination will be made as to whether the tree belongs in the Heritage Tree Program, and whether it meets the standards of a Designated Heritage Tree or a Protected Heritage Tree.
- A tree nomination as determined by the Committee not to be complete or not meeting the intent, purpose and spirit of the Heritage Tree Program shall be rejected.

All parties receiving notice of the public meeting and individuals attending the public meeting shall receive notice of the Committee's determination.

Any appeal of the Committee's determination will be submitted in writing to the Director of Public Services. Upon receipt, the Director shall forward the appeal to the Coronado City Council for consideration. The appeal will be considered at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. In addition to the required Agenda posting and noticing of the Council's meeting, the Committee's public meeting noticing process as previously described shall be followed, including noticing to the appellant. The decision of the Council shall be final.

Revocation of Heritage Tree Designation

A Designated Heritage Tree or a Protected Heritage Tree can be removed from the Heritage Tree Program if it is found that the tree has been damaged by human intervention, or if any of the criteria which caused the tree to qualify are no longer applicable. Once removed from the program, all benefits provided to the private property owner shall cease.

Public Awareness

A key goal of this program is promoting awareness by informing and educating the public of the benefits that Heritage Trees and trees in general provide to the community. This goal will be achieved by:

- Development of an information brochure that provides an overview of the Coronado Heritage Tree Program, as well as the importance and benefits that trees play in our environment, specifically in a densely populated urban environment. The brochure shall be available to the public at City facilities including City Hall, Community Center, Library, Public Services, and on the City's website.
- A Heritage Tree Nomination Form, for uniformity and consistency of application and consideration of nominated trees, shall be developed. The Form will also be

used as a tool in the historical recordkeeping of nominated as well as designated trees.

- Development of a Heritage Tree Plaque that would be placed at each designated Heritage Tree to promote public awareness. The Plaque would clearly identify the level of Heritage Tree designation (Designated Heritage Tree or Protected Heritage Tree), tree species, date of designation, reference number and other information as may be determined by the Committee.
- Members of the Street Tree Committee will act as “Heritage Tree Ambassadors”, to inform the community, including service organizations, Chambers and local schools of the Heritage Tree Program.
- Members of the Committee, in concert with City staff, will promote the Heritage Tree Program in City mailings, public service announcements, on the City’s website, and on the local cable channel, as well as providing periodic news releases to regional media.
- The City’s Department of Public Services shall prepare and maintain an inventory of all designated Heritage Trees. The Heritage Tree Inventory shall include a location map, brief description, photograph(s) and other relevant information regarding each designated Heritage Tree. The inventory will be available to the public and forwarded to the Community Development Department and other City departments as deemed appropriate by the Committee.
- The City’s Department of Public Services shall disseminate the Heritage Tree Program to appropriate City departments.