

Appendix A: Heritage Trees Recognition Program

A. Purpose:

The Heritage Tree Recognition Program is intended to identify and celebrate trees and groves that contribute to the environmental, cultural, and historic character of the City of Sandpoint.

The program is voluntary and non-regulatory and is designed to promote community awareness, stewardship, and appreciation of the urban forest.

Information about the program, including nomination materials and recognized trees, is available on the City's website.

B. Definitions and Categories

1. Historical: A tree which by virtue of its association with or contribution to a historical structure or district, or its association with a historical event.
2. Specimen: Age, size, health, or aesthetic factors may qualify the tree as unique among the species in Sandpoint, Idaho.
3. Rare: One or very few of a kind, or is unusual in some form of growth or species.
4. Significant Grove: Outstanding or significant groups of trees that impact the city's landscape.
5. Ecological: A tree that provides a unique ecological benefit or service to the urban environment.

C. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria are used to evaluate whether a tree or grove may qualify for Heritage Tree recognition. Not all criteria must be met.

1. Historical

Does the tree have documented historical significance?

- Is the tree located on or immediately adjacent to a designated historic property, structure, or district?
- Is there credible documentation (historic records, photographs, maps, or local histories) demonstrating the tree's association with a historic structure, site, or landscape?

- Is the tree associated with a documented historic event, person, or period significant to the City of Sandpoint?
- Has the tree been intentionally preserved or referenced in historical plans, dedications, or commemorations?
- Does the estimated age of the tree reasonably align with the historic period or event it is associated with?

2. Specimen

Does the tree stand out as exceptional within its species locally?

- Is the tree significantly larger (height, canopy spread, or trunk diameter) than typical specimens of the same species in Sandpoint?
- Does the tree exhibit an advanced age relative to others of the same species in the city?
- Is the tree in good to excellent health considering its age and species?
- Does the tree possess exceptional form, symmetry, or visual presence compared to other local examples?

3. Rare

Is the tree uncommon or unusual within the local urban forest?

- Is the species uncommon or infrequently found within the City of Sandpoint?
- Are there few known specimens of this species within the city or region?
- Does the tree exhibit unusual growth characteristics, form, or genetic traits not commonly seen in the species?
- Is the tree a remnant of a historically significant or declining species in the local area?
- Has the species been identified by the City Forester as rare or notable within the city's tree inventory?

4. Significant Grove

Does the group of trees collectively contribute to the city's landscape character?

- Does the grove consist of a cohesive group of trees that function as a visual or ecological unit?
- Does the grove significantly contribute to neighborhood character, streetscape identity, or a public open space?

- Is the grove highly visible or experienced by the public (e.g., parks, trails, gateways, or prominent corridors)?
- Does the grove provide a measurable benefit such as shade, buffering, or scenic value at a scale not achievable by individual trees?
- Would removal or degradation of the grove result in a noticeable loss to the city's landscape or sense of place?

5. Ecological

Does the tree provide exceptional environmental benefits beyond typical urban trees?

- Does the tree provide critical habitat for wildlife, including nesting, roosting, or food sources?
- Does the tree play a significant role in stormwater management, erosion control, or shoreline stabilization?
- Does the tree contribute meaningfully to air quality improvement, urban cooling, or reduction of heat-island effects?
- Is the tree part of a connected ecological system or corridor within the urban environment?
- Would the loss of the tree result in a disproportionate ecological impact compared to removal of a typical urban tree?

D. Nomination and Review Process

1. Nomination: Trees or groves may be nominated by property owners, residents, or City staff

Property owner consent is required for privately owned trees

2. Review: Nominations are reviewed by the City Forester for completeness and eligibility. The Urban Forestry Commission may provide recommendations based on the criteria in this appendix

3. Recognition: Final recognition is issued by the City.

E. Administration

The program is administered by the City, with support from the Urban Forestry Commission. The City Forester is responsible for program coordination, evaluation, and recordkeeping.

