

Wilsonville Heritage Tree Program 2025

Purpose:

The purpose of the Heritage Tree Program is to recognize, foster appreciation of, and inspire awareness of the contribution trees make to the community.

Goal:

The goal of the Heritage Tree Program is to annually designate individual trees or groves of trees within the city limits that have some significance to the community, link to history, heritage or uniqueness. The Heritage Tree Program's aim is to educate community members about the importance of trees through recognition and information about trees, and their role in our cultural and community history. The Heritage Tree Program celebrates the intrinsic value of trees for the community and the many benefits of preserving and protecting trees today and in the future.

Definition of Heritage Tree(s):

Heritage Trees shall be recognized due to their involvement or inclusion in the development of landscape architecture, forestry, city planning, and culture. They are recognized due to their species, unique features, age, size, setting, design placement, link to important events or activities, location, or persons associated with them.

Heritage Tree Committee:

In accordance with Resolution 2941, which created the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC), the Heritage Tree Committee shall be a subcommittee of the ACHC comprised of at least three ACHC members with an interest or expertise in trees. The entire ACHC may serve as the Heritage Tree Committee. Community members with relevant arboricultural, historical, or cultural experience may also be selected as advisors to the Heritage Tree Committee to provide historical, cultural, and other tree related knowledge to guide decision making. Advisors may contribute to the recommendation but will not be a part of the voting process.

Staff Advisors will support the work of the Heritage Tree Committee and shall be comprised of City staff from the Planning Division and Parks and Recreation Department.

Nomination:

This program is voluntary and carries no regulatory component. Nominations shall be submitted to the Planning Division and will be accepted throughout the year. Planning staff will review nominations at the time of submittal to determine if criteria can be met and shall be referred to the ACHC within two months of submittal. Recognized Heritage Trees will be celebrated and plaques placed as part of the annual Arbor Day celebration. As such,

nominations made after January 15th of any given year, and designated as a Heritage Tree, will be celebrated during the following year's celebration.

Any person may nominate a tree or trees as a Heritage Tree using a form prepared by the City and submitting it to the Planning Division. If the nominated tree is located on private property, the nomination form shall be submitted by the property owner or accompanied by the property owner's written consent, and the tree should be clearly visible from the public way. If the proposed Heritage Tree is on public property, the nomination shall be forwarded to the department responsible for use and/or maintenance of the property for review and recommendation prior to consideration.

Once the Planning Division and other relevant City Departments have reviewed the nomination and confirm it meets the Heritage Tree criteria, staff will prepare a Staff Report and Resolution of the recommendation to the Heritage Tree Committee. Staff will present any recommended Heritage Tree nominations to the Heritage Tree Committee in a public meeting and the person who nominated the tree(s) will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Committee.

Designation:

The Heritage Tree Committee shall meet in a public meeting, typically as part of or directly following an ACHC meeting, to review nominations as recommended by Staff Advisors and designate qualified trees as Heritage Trees.

Recognition:

Upon designation by the Heritage Tree Committee a small Heritage Tree plaque identifying the species and significance shall be furnished by the City to the property owner of a designated Heritage Tree. When possible, the Heritage Tree plaque shall be presented or unveiled at the City's Arbor Day Celebration. The plaque shall be posted at a location at or near the tree in public view.

The City Planning Staff shall maintain an inventory of the Heritage Trees in Wilsonville, including a map of Heritage Tree locations, photos, background information and updated condition and health information of the trees. The map of designated Heritage Trees shall be available on the City website. Other informational materials may also be provided such as a Heritage Tree brochure.

Removal of Heritage Tree Designation:

A Heritage Tree shall be removed from designation if it dies or is removed, however, the history of the tree, including the location and why it was previously designated a Heritage Tree, will be retained as a City record. Planning staff shall update the Heritage Tree Map to reflect the removal. The property owner of a Heritage Tree is asked to notify the Planning Division if the designated tree has died, falls or otherwise needs to be removed.

Staff Role:

The Planning Division shall continue to manage the Heritage Tree Program including, but not limited to, advertising for nominations in the Boones Ferry Messenger and other public outreach platforms, reviewing nominations to determine if Heritage Tree Criteria is met, recommending nominations to the ACHC which includes preparing Staff Reports, Resolutions and a presentation, procuring plaques, yearly goal setting, and maintaining the Heritage Tree inventory. Advertisements will be placed in the Boones Ferry Messenger as well as other media outlets.