

Heritage Tree Program

City of Madison Parks Division

Forestry Section

Purpose

The city has been forested with a variety of healthy and valuable trees which they should be recognized and preserved because of their age, size, type or historical association. The Heritage Tree Program helps foster an appreciation of city park and street trees, and promotes public awareness that heritage trees are a living and distinct resource for the Madison community.

Criteria

- Heritage tree program recognizes trees located within a city park setting or street trees in a terrace or boulevard.
- City Trees can be nominated as an individual or a collection, but must meet criteria for health (Heritage Tree Evaluation Form) in addition to being selected according to one of the following categories:
- *Specimen*: A tree of exceptional size, form, or rarity.
- *Historic*: A tree recognized by virtue of its age, its association with or contribution to a historic structure or district, or its association with a noted person or historic event (local, state or national).
- *Landmark*: Trees that are landmarks of a community.
- *Collection*: Trees in a notable grove, avenue, or other planting.

Nomination

- Nomination form must be filled out.
- The nomination form is available from the City of Madison Parks Division office or can be filled out online from the City of Madison Parks Division website.
- Nominations must meet the previous listed criteria.
- Information needed for the nomination form includes location of the tree or collection of trees in Madison, name of tree, trees species or common name, measured or approximate size, and why is the tree special. Additional references in literature or historic photographs of the tree are helpful.
- Nominations are reviewed annually by the Heritage Tree Review Committee.
- Heritage Tree Review committee would forward the Heritage Tree Evaluation form to the Madison Tree Board for final consideration.

- After final review of nomination newly designated trees will be announced at the City's Arbor Day celebration.
- A historical biography sheet will be prepared for the accepted nomination and kept on file for reference.
- Map of heritage trees online would be available to the public.
- The Heritage Tree Evaluation Form contains the following:
 - Nominator (include phone number)
 - Date
 - Tree Species
 - Diameter at Breast Height
 - Crown spread
 - Location (name of park or street address)
 - Health and Condition Assessment (Rated 1 (low) – 5 (high) for each factor)
 - Crown and structural condition
 - Scaffold branches
 - Annual shoot growth
 - Foliage
 - Trunk Condition
 - Competition
 - Root flare/distribution
 - Pruning history
 - Location Value (indicate yes or no)
 - Specimen quality
 - Historic
 - Public visibility
 - Habitat value
 - Landscape value
 - Rare
 - Unusual form
 - Other
 - Risk Assessment (scored with 12 points maximum)
 - Probability of Failure (low to extreme)
 - Size of Defective Part (measured in inches)
 - Target area (low to high)
 - Recommended for Heritage Tree Status (yes or no)
 - Comments