



# CITY OF CANNON BEACH

## Heritage Tree Program

### Purpose

Trees are important to Cannon Beach, and The City has established a Tree Board as a part of the Parks and Community Services committee to recommend specific trees within Cannon Beach to the city council for recognition as Heritage Trees because of their size, age, historical significance, or other salient characteristics.

### Process

Any Cannon Beach resident or organization may nominate a tree, on either private or public property, for Heritage Tree listing by submitting a nomination to the Tree Board. The Tree board with guidance from the city staff and city arborist shall either approve the nomination and submit it to the city council, or return it to with reasons for rejection or request for further information or justification.

Upon recommendation of the Tree Board, the City Council may designate a tree as a Heritage Tree provided the tree's health, aerial space, and open ground area for the root system have been certified as sufficient.

If the city council approves the nomination, the tree shall be added to the official list of Cannon Beach Heritage Trees on the City Web site.

### Maintenance of a Heritage Tree

It is recommended that the City Arborist or a practicing Certified Arborist carry out periodic visual tree inspections of Heritage Trees. If there are signs or areas of concern, diagnostic inspection can determine if any follow-up action is required.

A permit from the City of Cannon Beach is required before pruning, removing, inoculating, or doing any other tree work on a Heritage Tree, whether the tree is in the City right-of-way or on private property.

A Heritage Tree can only be approved for removal if it is dead, dying, or dangerous. The Tree Board and Cannon Beach City Council must formally decommission the tree before a permit can be issued for removal.

## Heritage Tree Criteria

Historical Value A tree may be associated with a notable local or regional historical event, person, structure, or landscape. Almost every tree that has been around for a while has some historical significance, whether it is recognized or not. Determining whether the historical significance of a given tree is sufficiently notable is therefore a subjective matter.

Cultural Value A huge variety of cultural values and symbolic functions are ascribed to the world's tree species. Particular trees have a sacred status, are used in rituals, provide ingredients for cultural dishes or have symbolic importance for ethnicity, identity and connection to a place. Ex., Trees that play a central role in stories, myths and histories; Certain trees mark the location for social gatherings and political meetings or provide ingredients for a number of food dishes of cultural importance.

Size Some component of tree size, most frequently trunk diameter, may be used to define a special status tree. Most commonly, a given diameter at 54 inches above grade (i.e., diameter at breast height or DBH) is used as the size standard. Additional rules may be needed to handle trees that are multi-trunked or branch below 4.5 ft. Other components of tree size, such as maximum canopy spread or height, may also be considered in conjunction with tree diameter. Because the relationships between DBH and canopy spread or DBH and tree age vary by species, different tree diameter standards may be applied to different species.

Age Especially old trees are a link to the past, so many definitions of special status trees include age as a criterion. In practice, tree age is fairly difficult to determine in standing trees unless documentation of tree age exists from historical accounts, photographs, or associations with historical structures. Tree age is sometimes inferred from tree size, especially DBH. However, the relationship between age and DBH varies with species, site quality, management history, and other factors, so DBH is usually only a crude estimator of tree age.

Botanical/Horticultural/Arboriculture/Biological Value Species - Special status may be conferred only to certain species of trees. Special status trees are often, but not always, important locally native species or trees that are associated with the character of a community. Certain species that are relatively rare in an area, whether native or not, may also be granted special status.

Ecological Value - All trees serve a variety of ecological functions. Certain trees or groups of trees may have especially high ecological value because of their location, size, species, and/or condition. For example, a given tree may be an important roost, nesting site, or food source for certain wildlife species; it may be situated in a site where it plays a critical role in stabilizing soil or providing shade needed by other plant or animal species; it may be an important genetic resource for a local tree population or the species as a whole.



# CITY OF CANNON BEACH

## Cannon Beach Heritage Tree Nomination Form

	Person Nominating Tree	Property Owner (if different)
Name		
Address		
Email		

Signature of property owner giving approval of nomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### TREE DESCRIPTION

1. Check one: Single tree \_\_\_\_ Stand of trees \_\_\_\_ If a stand, how many: \_\_\_\_

2. Species of tree (common or scientific name): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Location (street address): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is the tree on public or private property? \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. HERITAGE TREE CHARACTERISTICS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Attach at least one recent photo of the tree(s).

- For a tree to be designated "Heritage" it must have one or more of the following attributes.

Age: (In years)

0-20    21-50    51-75    76-100    101+

Size in Height: (In feet from ground to top of tree.) Please check box below

0-20    21-50    51-75    76-100    101+

Diameter of Trunk in Inches: (DBH measured at 54 inches above the ground) Please check box below

0-10    11-20    21-30    31-50    51-70    71+

Size of Canopy: (From edge to edge of tree canopy in feet) Please check box below

0-20    21-50    51-75    76-100    101+

Additional Heritage Qualities of this tree are: Please check all that apply.

Historic Value    Cultural Value    Botanical / Horticultural / Arboriculture / Biological Value

Please explain why this tree is worthy of Heritage Tree status. (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

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Return completed application forms to: CITY OF CANNON BEACH

PO Box 368 Cannon Beach, Oregon 97110 • (503) 436-1581 • TTY (503) 436-8097 • FAX (503) 436-2050

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