

HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM GUIDE

GOAL

The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of DuPont as a Tree City since 2009. One way to build upon that legacy is with a Heritage Tree Program. The goal of the Heritage Tree Program is to find and give official recognition of trees that are significant within our community, whether on public or private property. Older, more mature trees are important elements in our tree canopy. By providing recognition of these trees, citizens stay connected to the important historical events that have shaped our past and that give the city its special character. The aesthetic and environmental benefit and the contribution of the trees in our urban forest is a notable element of that character. The designation of heritage status identifies individual trees that City Council may decide to protect in the future, in addition to those protections provided by the current tree owner.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the program is to:

- Increase public awareness of the environmental benefit of Heritage Trees, trees in general and tree canopy in the city's urban forest.
- Reinforce that trees are one of the key components of our city's unique character and sense of space.
- Draw attention to and educate the public about protecting unique and significant Heritage Trees.
- Encourage public participation in the identification and perpetuation of heritage trees throughout the city now and for generations to come.
- Establish a process of designating Heritage Trees located on either public or private property.
- Encourage proper maintenance, care and protection of Heritage Trees.
- Engage citizens with the purpose of being a Tree City.

DEFINITION AND CRITERIA

A "Heritage Tree" is a tree or collection of trees that is acknowledged and valued for unique characteristics that set it apart from other nearby trees. A Heritage Tree may be designated according to any of the following criteria:

- Has significance related to a person, place, event, culture, or time period.
- Has attained significant age or size (height, caliper, or canopy) for its species.
- Has special aesthetic or environmental qualities.
- Possesses rare horticultural value.

SPECIES & SPECIMEN

Special status may be given to certain species of tree or a tree specimen that serves a significant purpose. Special status trees may be important locally native species or trees that give the

community a special character. This status may also be given to tree species that serve a particular purpose, such as rare horticultural value, ecological or environmental value, climate adaptivity, habitat protection, canopy cover, aesthetic, or contribute to the overall health of the community.

AGE & SIZE

Although identifying the age of a living tree may be difficult, it is a common practice to link tree age with its size. Older trees are an important part of our past and our future. By finding the height and circumference of our community's largest trees we can protect and honor our oldest trees.

HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, MEMORIAL

A tree may be linked to a historical event, person, landscape, culture, or be commemorative in some way. Special status may also be given to trees that are dedicated or planted as public memorials.

NOMINATIONS

If a person has or knows of a special tree or collection of trees to be considered for historic or heritage status, they may nominate that tree using the Heritage Tree Nomination Form and submit it as directed on the form. Please view the current heritage tree inventory before submitting your nomination. Inclusion of a tree or collection of trees in the program will be the decision of the Tree Advisory Commission. Nominations will be reviewed and evaluated at each Tree Advisory Commission meeting (monthly). After review of the nomination the commission can then determine the tree's heritage status. If the nominated tree is deemed a heritage tree by the commission, it will then be documented and marked as a heritage tree.