



# City of Westlake Village Heritage Tree Program

## Purpose

To facilitate the voluntary designation of non-oak species of trees within the City that have special community value as exceptional specimens with aesthetic, ecological, and/or historical significance as heritage trees in order to identify these important resources and ensure their lifelong protection. The intent of this program is to celebrate, protect, and preserve outstanding trees within the community and to assist residents in obtaining information on the proper care and maintenance of these trees.

## Program

Heritage trees may be on either City or private property. The designation process for a heritage tree on private property is entirely voluntary and involves no cost to the property owner. Property owners can apply for designation by submitting the attached application and photographs of the tree (minimum of two) via email to [planning@wlv.org](mailto:planning@wlv.org). All requests shall be reviewed by the Land Use Committee and then the City Council at a public hearing, and the findings supporting a heritage tree designation, and any special care or protection requirements, shall be set forth in the resolution making the designation.

## Criteria

In order for the City Council to make the findings to support the designation of a heritage tree, the subject tree must be a healthy, non-invasive<sup>1</sup> non-oak species that meets the criteria of one or more of the three resource categories defined below:

- (1) Aesthetic Resource – The physical presence of the tree is an integral part of the landscape and/or a landmark of the community, and the tree is an exceptional specimen in regards to size, form (e.g., structural interest), rarity, and/or uniqueness.
- (2) Ecological Resource – The tree provides habitat for an animal species that has a designated protected status (e.g., rare, threatened, endangered, Fully Protected, or Species of Special Concern) under State or Federal law, protects water quality, and/or provides essential corridors linking habitats.
- (3) Historical Resource – The tree is recognized by virtue of age, cultural significance, and/or an association with a notable local or regional historical event, person, structure, or landscape.

## Designation

Property owners of designated trees will have the option to be included as part of the “Heritage Trees of Westlake Village” self-guided tour map that will provide the location, photographs, and a description of the heritage tree on the City’s website. Additionally, property owners of designated trees will receive a plaque commemorating the designation of their heritage tree and one assessment of the tree’s health by an ISA certified arborist at the City’s expense. All designated heritage trees shall be subject to the City’s Heritage Tree Preservation Standards in Chapter 9.21 of Article 9 of the Municipal Code ([available here](#)), and property owners maintain full responsibility for all heritage tree care and maintenance.

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<sup>1</sup> Cal-IPC maintains a complete list of California’s invasive plant species that is available [here](#).

# Application for Heritage Tree Designation

**Property Owner Contact Information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email



Sycamore Trees, Three Springs Park

**Description of Location of Tree (or attach site plan or labeled aerial photograph to application):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Tree:**

Tree Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Age (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Width of Canopy: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Trunk Diameter (as measured 4.5 ft. above mean natural grade): \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

**Please select one or more of the three resource categories below as applicable:**

- Aesthetic Resource – The physical presence of the tree is an integral part of the landscape and/or a landmark of the community, and the tree is an exceptional specimen in regards to size, form (e.g., structural interest), rarity, and/or uniqueness.
- Ecological Resource – The tree provides habitat for an animal species that has a designated protected status (e.g., rare, threatened, endangered, Fully Protected, or Species of Special Concern) under State or Federal law, protects water quality, or provides essential corridors linking habitats.
- Historical Resource – The tree is recognized by virtue of age, cultural significance, and/or an association with a notable local or regional historical event, person, structure, or landscape.

**Please describe why the tree meets one or more of criteria listed in the three resource categories above:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Heritage Tree Property Owner Agreement

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the City of Westlake Village (City) Heritage Tree Program and the Heritage Tree Preservation Standards in Chapter 9.21 of Article 9 of the Westlake Village Municipal Code. I understand the impact of designating a heritage tree on my property located at \_\_\_\_\_.

I voluntarily agree that the City may designate my (tree species) \_\_\_\_\_ tree as a heritage tree. I understand that the ongoing maintenance and care of such tree will continue to be exclusively my responsibility, and that the City does not share any of the costs of this responsibility if a heritage tree designation is made by the City Council. I also understand that the City has no obligation to replace such tree or to provide compensation for damage, disease, or death of such tree.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to have my heritage tree included as part of the “Heritage Trees of Westlake Village” self-guided tour map that will provide the location, photographs, and a description of the heritage tree on the City’s website.

**Submittal Instructions:** Please submit a completed application for heritage tree designation and heritage tree property owner agreement along with a minimum of two photographs of the proposed heritage tree via email to [planning@wlv.org](mailto:planning@wlv.org). Staff will review all applications and if the tree meets one or more of the criteria listed on Page 1 of the Heritage Tree Program, the request for designation will be scheduled for review by the Land Use Committee and the City Council at a public hearing.