

HISTORIC TREE NOMINATION FORM GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

“HISTORIC TREE means a tree, or grove of trees, that has been recognized by resolution of the city council as having cultural or historical significance. “ – *Article X Definitions*

The Historic Tree Program is a result of the approval of Article X (10) urban forest conservation regulations on June 27, 2018 by the Dallas city council. The new city ordinance allows a person to nominate a tree, or a grove of trees, under the designation of ‘historic’ with a final approval to be given by the city council.

When proposing a tree for a historic designation, the owner and nominator must consider the following:

- The Historic Tree will be assessed by its status of cultural or historical significance to the community. An explanation of how this tree qualifies must be stated on the application or supplemental documents. Cultural and historical significant trees must have at least one of the following criteria to be considered:
 - Is located on an historic site or is adjacent to the historic site
 - Has a rare characteristic for its unique large size, age, or species for the region or state.
 - Regardless of age, was established in community recognition, or in memorial, to a person, place, or event
 - Is a community landmark and is recognized as a significant feature of the site.
- Complementary information may be provided to address the significant size and age of the tree, the uniqueness of the species, its importance in arboriculture, and other noted relevant history.
- The tree may be compared to State or National Champions to determine its status for its species.
- The private property owner must agree, on the nomination form, to have a tree designated as historic before the nomination can be approved by the city council. The nomination form will not be processed without the private property owner’s written approval.
- A certified copy of the city council resolution declaring the tree historic must be filed in the deed records of the county where the historic tree is located. The historic tree status will be binding on all future property owners.
- The historic tree may only be removed by authorization of city council, or to address a critically dangerous situation as provided for in Section 51A-10.140 of the Dallas Development Code. Otherwise, it is unlawful for any person to remove or seriously injure any Historic Tree without a written authorization by the city arborist. This preserved tree status is retained for the life of the tree for it to age and grow on the property where recorded.

Historic trees will be reviewed by the city arborist for its condition, standards of maintenance, and the growing environment. The tree should have sufficient space to grow roots and canopy, have a good health with good maintenance following nationally-recognized ANSI tree care and pruning methods, and not be an invasive species. If there are uncertain physiological or environmental conditions with the tree, additional tree assessment information by a professional consulting or certified arborist may be requested by the city arborist.

Fill out the approved nomination form and send it to the Chief Arborist. The status of the arborists recommendation of the tree nomination will be provided to the applicant within 30 days after submittal.