

## MOTION

The City is in the process of compiling an inventory of all of the street trees in the City. The inventory will include information on a tree's location, species, size, and distance from other infrastructure and will be used to guide how the City plans and manages its urban forest. Currently, the City protects certain trees based on a tree's species through the Protected Tree Ordinance to preserve significant trees native to Southern California. Additionally, park trees can be designated as Heritage Trees based on a tree's historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. However, the City should be taking a more holistic approach to its urban forestry management and protection of trees by taking into consideration not only the species of a tree, but also the historic, cultural, and landmark value.

The City and County of San Francisco launched its Landmark Tree Program in 2006, which has streamlined the process by which trees are protected for environmental, cultural, historical, and botanical significance and could serve as a model for our City. San Francisco's program allows property owners and local public agencies to nominate trees for landmark designation, which are vetted for specific eligibility criteria by San Francisco's Urban Forestry Council, and ultimately approved or denied by the Board of Supervisors.

As our City is currently inventorying its own trees, it is imperative that we take this opportunity to re-examine how we identify trees that merit special protection. The City should develop its own Landmark Trees Program to identify trees for public enjoyment and special protection. The Landmark Trees Program should include not only street trees but also trees located on private property for inclusion in the Program. The Program should also have a clear process for the nomination and evaluation of trees for protection and inclusion in the Program through the Community Forest Advisory Committee or through another appropriate agency or entity that allows for robust public input and participation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Office of City Forest Management, with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services' Urban Forestry Division and any other relevant departments or bureaus, be instructed to report with recommendations to develop a Landmark Trees Program to designate and protect trees identified as Landmark trees; including recommendations on criteria for the inclusion of trees within the Program, ways for the public to learn about the historical and biological value of these trees, what protections for these trees can be provided, and on the implementation of these protections including the costs and staffing necessary.

PRESENTED BY:

  
BOB BLUMENFIELD  
Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

HERB WESSON (verbal)  
Councilmember, 10th District

JUN 9 2020

majs