

City of Temple Legacy Tree Program

What is a Legacy Tree?

A Legacy Tree is a tree or stand of trees that due to its age, size, species, quality or historic association, is of landmark importance and its retention as such will not unreasonably interfere with the use of the property it is located on. Trees designated through this program must be within the city limits of the City of Temple.

Legacy Trees are divided into the following five categories:

Heritage Tree

Naturally occurring or planted trees that are 50 years or older or have a connection to some historic event, building, district or were planted by a historically significant individual. Specific proof of age may be difficult to ascertain but research using aerial photographs or estimating based on the age of the adjacent development or estimating based on the size of the tree can be adequate for this designation.

- Trunk at least 8 inches in diameter
- 50 years or older
- Connection to a significant historic event, building, district
- Planted by a historically significant individual
- Unique or special in size and/or form

Landmark Tree

Trees that are unusual or have a very high aesthetic quality due to: large size for that species, special and intact aesthetic form, unusual shape not normally seen in most trees, interesting flower and/or branching patterns, or a species of tree that rarely occurs in Temple.

- Striking or unusual trees with high aesthetic value
- Large for the particular species
- Special or unusual form
- Interesting flowers or branching patterns
- Species rare to their location

Parkway Resource Trees

Groups of trees planted in public rights-of-way, public parking lots, or trails with a consistent design theme. Their overall size, health, and form should be relatively consistent. A consistent design theme usually requires that more than 50% of the parcels per block contain the same tree. Groups of different species that provide a consistent canopy over a portion of a street can also be considered.

- Groups of trees in public right-of-ways, public parking lots, or trails
- Consistent design themes with similar sizes, shapes, health, and forms
- Create a canopy over a public right-of-way

Preservation Grove

Naturally occurring trees in a grove consisting of at least 6 trees grouped in close proximity (within a ¼ acre area) with trunks closer together than 100 feet that are of the same species or are very similar in form. The trees shall be native, naturalized, or endemic and surviving without intervention or supplemental watering.

- 6 or more trees with trunks within 100 feet
- Same or similar species and forms
- Native, naturalized, or surviving without intervention

Champion Tree

The largest living tree of a species located within the city limits of Temple. The trees will be measured for height, circumference of the trunk, and the average width of the crown spread.

- Height can be measured by using a yardstick. First pace off or measure 100 feet from the base of the tree, preferably on the level. Next, hold the yardstick vertically 25 inches from your eye (about an arm's length). Site along the zero-inch mark to the base of the tree. Then, read the inch mark that aligns with the tree top. This reading in inches, multiplied by four, gives you the tree's height in feet.
- Circumference is measured around the trunk at a point 4 ½ feet above the ground. If the tree is on a slope, measure the tree from the average ground level. If a swelling, branch, flare or other obstruction occurs at 4 ½ feet, measure the smallest circumference below the obstruction. If the tree forks or branches below 4 ½ feet, measure the largest fork.
- Crown spread is the average width of the tree's crown. This measurement should be taken from edge of the crown, through the tree's trunk, to the opposite edge. Determine where the crown's edge is by hanging a weight from a string and sighting up the resulting vertical line. Move back and forth until the string lines up with the crown's edge. The tree's widest and narrowest crown spread should be measured to the nearest foot. Add these measurements and divide by two to get the average crown spread.
- Total Points: Champions are determined by assigning points based on height, circumference, and crown spread. One point is assigned for every foot of height, one point for every inch of stem circumference, and ¼ point for each foot of average crown spread. The tree with the most total points is the "Champion Tree" for that species. If two or more trees are within 2 percent of each other, they will be declared Co-Champions.

How to Nominate a Tree:

Anyone may nominate a tree for Legacy Tree status, as long as the property owner gives approval for the nomination.

Nominations are judged by the City of Temple Parks Advisory Board and recognition for Legacy Tree status will occur during normally scheduled monthly meetings.

A complete list and map of all City of Temple Legacy Trees is available at www.templetrees.org.

Legacy Tree Nomination Form

Person Nominating Tree	Property Owner (If other than nominator)
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone (day)	Phone (day)
Signature of property owner giving approval of nomination:	Date:

Tree Description

1. Check one: Single tree _____ Stand of trees _____ If stand of trees, how many: _____
2. Species of tree (common name, botanical name, or historical name): _____
3. Location (street address): _____

Use the space below to provide a description or sketch of the approximate location of the tree or stand of trees on the site.

4. Height _____
(Use your best estimate.)

5. Crown spread _____
(Measure the distance across from the outermost branch to outermost branch.)

6. Circumference _____
(The distance around the trunk of the tree at a point approximately 4 feet above the ground.)

7. Age of tree (in years): _____ Cite how you estimated age: _____

8. Are there any known problems with the tree (disease, structural conditions, requires corrective pruning?) No _____ Yes _____ If yes, please describe: _____

9. Which category are you nominating this tree for?

Heritage Tree _____

Landmark Tree _____

Parkway Resource Tree _____

Preservation Grove _____

Champion Tree _____

Why do you think it should be considered for this category?

10. Photograph: (Please attach a photograph of the tree or group of trees.)

The following form is a representation of a Legacy Tree Designation and Preservation Agreement which the property owner of a Legacy Tree will be asked to sign once a tree has been approved for designation. It is provided here for your information only.

LEGACY TREE DESIGNATION AND PRESERVATION AGREEMENT

Upon acceptance of a Legacy Tree Designation, we _____, the owners of the following described property, agree that a certain tree or trees thereon and more fully described herein shall be placed on the City of Temple's list of Legacy Trees and thereafter be preserved and protected. We recognize and agree that placement on this list is due to the age, size, species, quality, historic association, and/or landmark importance of such tree or trees and its retention will not interfere with the use of the property upon which it is located.

The property on which the tree is located is described on the records of the Bell County Department of Assessment and Taxation as:

The species of the tree to be preserved is:

The tree is more particularly located at:

As the owners of the property and the tree, we recognize and agree that this Legacy Tree designation does not affect our title and, therefore, we will indemnify and hold the City of Temple harmless from any claim, which challenges this designation. We also understand and agree that tree maintenance, care and/or pruning continues to be our responsibility as the property owners and not that of the City of Temple and that we will, to the best of our ability preserve the tree from disease and death.

Finally, we agree that if a Legacy Tree must be cut down we will notify the City of Temple Parks Advisory Board so it can be removed from the list of Legacy Trees.

By: _____ (Owners Name) Date: _____

Approved and accepted by the City of Temple Parks Advisory Board this _____ day of _____, 20__.

By: _____