

# Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: Jon Swae

Date of evaluation: 9-30-16

Scientific name: Sequoia sempivirens

Common name: Coast Redwood

Street address: 4 Montclair Terrace

Cross streets: Lombard/Chestnut

**Rarity**     Yes     Partially     No

**Rarity:**  Rare     Uncommon     Common     Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment:  While redwoods can be found in locations throughout the city, it appears uncommon to find a redwood of this size and type on Russian Hill.

**Physical Attributes**     Yes     Partially     No

**Size:**     Large     Medium     Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment:  Was measured with a 61" diameter

**Age:**  Yes     No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment:  Approximately 40-50 years old. The species can live in natural settings 500-2,000 years.

**Distinguished form:**     Yes     No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

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Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ Large base with large burls and sprouts tapers upwards tapers. The tree appears with a healthy large and distinguished form.

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**Tree condition:**      Good    Poor    Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ Tree appears in overall good health. It looks well-watered and cared for and does not appear to be suffering from the long drought like many other local redwoods. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Historical**    Yes    Partially    No

**Historical Association:**        Yes        None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_ The tree has a very interesting history planted by a woman after losing her husband and children in a plane crash. According to her assistant, she was also an accomplished Naval Architect who designed 40+ warships during WWII? This story should be confirmed since it is quite remarkable. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Profiled in a publication or other media:**    Yes        Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.  
Describe coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Environmental**    Yes    Partially    No

**Prominent landscape feature:**    Yes        No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: \_\_\_\_\_ Tree is quite visible from street and nearby neighborhood. Further downhill it is not immediately visible but further way the tree can be seen dotting the hill.

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**Low tree density:**        Low        Moderate        High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ According to the Urban Forest Plan, Russian Hill as a 12.5% tree canopy.

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**Interdependent group of trees:**        Yes        No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

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Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ Another redwood can be seen further up Russian Hill but its form does not appear as in as good shape as the one located on Montclair

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**Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:**      Yes      No  
High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ The tree can be seen from streets within the immediate vicinity including parts of highly pedestrian trafficked Lombard Street (curvy part).\_\_\_\_\_

**High traffic area:**      Yes      No  
Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ The tree can be seen from streets within the immediate vicinity including parts of highly pedestrian trafficked Lombard Street (curvy part).\_\_\_\_\_

**Important wildlife habitat:**      Yes      No  
Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.      Coast redwoods are native to the SF Bay Area and California. Wild parrots were seen flying near the tree when we arrived but it wasn't clear if they were using the tree or not. Homeowner reports frequent wildlife use of tree. Photos requested.

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**Erosion control:**      Yes      No  
Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wind or sound barrier:**      Yes      No  
Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ Did not appear to provide this benefit during site visit. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cultural**      Yes      Partially      No

**Neighborhood appreciation:**      Yes      None apparent  
Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: I have not seen letters or other documentation of this. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cultural appreciation:**  Yes  None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: Coast redwoods are largely appreciated locally. It is unclear if there is larger neighborhood appreciation for the tree.

**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**  Yes  No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: There appears to be a character or pattern of large hilltop trees dotting Russian Hill and the nearby neighborhood visible from the street including Redwoods, Monterey Cypress and other large trees.

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**Profiled in a publication or other media:**  Yes  Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: No evidence of this confirmed.

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**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes  No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: The tree stands quite tall towering over nearby buildings and visible from Lombard Street- a popular tourist destination.

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**Additional comments**

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