

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: 10-9-2018 (11:20am)

Scientific name: Metrosideros Robusta

Common name: Northern Rata Tree

Street address: 1776 Vallejo Street

Cross streets: Gough Street

Rarity Yes Partially No

Rarity: Rare Uncommon Common Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: The Trees of San Francisco book by Mike Sullivan lists the tree as "very rare" and "a close relative of the much more common New Zealand Christmas Tree (Metrosideros excelsa)."

Physical Attributes Yes Partially No

Size: Large Medium Small

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

Comment: The tree appears to be the largest on the block.

Age: Yes No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: I am uncertain of the tree's age.

Distinguished form: Yes No

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

Describe: The tree does not appear have an especially unique form. It stands tall with a healthy canopy. The trunk appears as two trunks fused together.

Tree condition: Good Poor Hazard

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

Describe: The tree appears to be in a good condition with a healthy thick leafy canopy.

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: I am not aware of any connection of the tree to historic events, people or structures. The neighboring property and home at 1772 Vallejo (Burr House) is designated as a historic resource (Category A).

Profiled in a publication or other media: __X__ Yes ___ Unknown
Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: The tree is discussed in *The Trees of San Francisco* by Mike Sullivan.

Environmental __X__ Yes ___ Partially ___ No

Prominent landscape feature: __X__ Yes ___ No
A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: The tree stands out as the tallest tree on the block.

Low tree density: ___ Low __X__ Moderate ___ High
Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: Many street trees are visible nearby and on surrounding blocks including large canopy sycamores on Gough Street.

Interdependent group of trees: ___ Yes __X__ No
This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: The tree stands alone in the property's front setback.

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

Describe: The tree is highly visible from the public right-of-way.

High traffic area: ___ Yes __X__ 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: Moderate vehicle traffic and few pedestrians were seen at the time of visit.

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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.

Describe: No wildlife visible at time of visit. I am unaware of particular local wildlife with special connection to this species of tree.

Erosion control: Yes No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: I am unaware of any major erosion control function being performed by the tree.

Wind or sound barrier: Yes No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: The tree does not appear to provide a significant wind or sound barrier.

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 believe there has been some interest from the neighborhood in the tree. Perhaps Dept of the Environment staff can provide more information to the Committee .

Cultural appreciation: Yes None apparent

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

Describe nature of appreciation: I am not aware of particular cultural appreciated related to the tree.

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: The tree contributes to the neighborhood pattern of street trees and trees visible in the public right-of-way. It has the largest canopy of any tree on the block.

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: The tree is mentioned in the *Trees of San Francisco* book (page 118).

