



Heritage Tree of the Year Selection Criteria

Aesthetic Appeal

Consider the tree's visual appearance and its contribution to the surrounding landscape. Rate how much the tree enhances the area's beauty and scenery.

Ecological Impact

Evaluate the tree's contribution to biodiversity, its role as a wildlife habitat, and its overall impact on environmental health.

Resilience

Determine the tree's ability to withstand adverse conditions such as storms, disease, or human impact.

Historical Significance

Judge the tree's connection to local history, cultural events, or notable individuals and/or what makes the tree important to the local community or to the state of South Carolina.

Health & Condition & Size

Review the general health, vitality, and structural integrity of the tree. Measure the overall height, trunk circumference, and canopy spread of the tree.

Community Value

Evaluate the tree's importance to the local community, including recreational use and accessibility.

Educational Value

Consider the usefulness of the tree as a resource for learning about nature, ecology, or local heritage.

Longevity

Assess the expected life span of the tree and its potential contribution to future generations.

Unique or special characteristics or qualities

Assess whether the tree is an uncommon species and/or possesses unique characteristics.



2026 Heritage Tree Award

Entry Deadline: Postmarked by July 31, 2026

To submit a nomination for the Heritage Tree Award, please complete the following information and send it to Trees SC. All nominations will be reviewed by the Trees SC Awards Committee and will be judged based on the criteria outlined in the award guidelines.

Date: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Tree Common Name: _____

Genus and species (if known): _____

Land Proprietor's Name: _____

Land Proprietor's Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Nominator's Name: _____



In 300 words or less, describe the historical significance of the tree to the community. How does the community celebrate, value, or honor the tree (s)? Why is this tree special to the community? Please attach any news clippings or other items that help illustrate the importance of this tree or group of trees.

In 200 words or less, please describe the current maintenance or care the nominated tree or group of trees receives. Who maintains the tree or trees and on what frequency, i.e. every 2-3 years, yearly, twice per year, once per month, etc.? Maintenance items to mention may include, but are not limited to the following: mulching, inspecting for dead branches, methods of restricting foot or vehicular traffic away from root zones, employing certified arborists for pruning jobs; etc.

Please include a photo taken within the last year. All photographs become the property of Trees SC and may be used by them in publications and promotional materials.

Please include a map/drawing of the tree's exact location, including street names and written directions from a main thoroughfare to the site.

Scorecard (for use by Trees SC awards committee)

Tree(s)' historical significance (50%)

Demonstrated community value/appreciation of tree(s) 25%

Landscape maintenance of tree (25%)

Mail completed entry to:

Trees SC

PO Box 155

Blacksburg, SC 29702

Or email a pdf version by 5:00 pm on July 31, 2026 to: sarah@treessc.org

For more information, contact Sarah Morris at sarah@treessc.org