

Significant Tree Evaluation Worksheet

Block: _____ Lot(s): _____ Street Location: _____

Part One: Initial Screening:

Complete Part One to determine if further assessment is warranted. Trees must pass all criteria in Part One to be considered significant or moderately significant.

A. Does the tree pose a significant risk to life and property?

Tree #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
YES												
NO												

Any tree with structural impairment likely to cause failure cannot qualify as significant or moderately significant. Such trees should be marked as unsafe and removed. Use page four of this worksheet to document the safety risk. Trees that have limited and specific defects that can be remedied with selective pruning or other mitigation should be marked as safe and specific recommendations should be given to the owner for tree care. Such trees may still be assessed for significance.

B. Is the tree one of the following native species on the Carmel-by-the-Sea recommended tree list?

Tree #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Species												
YES												
NO												

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| MP – Monterey pine | MC – Monterey cypress |
| BP – Bishop pine | CR – Coast redwood |
| CLO – Coast live oak | CI – Catalina Ironwood |
| CS – California sycamore | BLF – Big leaf maple |
| OT – Other (specify) _____ | |

(Note: Other species on the recommended tree list may be determined to be Significant Trees only if they are exceptional examples of the species. Such trees also must exhibit excellent health, form, vigor, and substantial size to rate an overall score of at least 8 points in Part Two of the assessment.)

C. Does the tree meet the minimum size criteria for significance?

Tree #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
YES												
NO												

	Diameter	Height
Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, Bishop pine, Coast redwood	4 inches @ dbh	15 Feet
Coast live oak – single trunk tree	6 inches @ dbh	N/A
Coast live oak – cluster or multi-trunk tree measured as an average diameter of all the trunks that reach breast height	6 inches @ dbh	N/A
California sycamore, Big leaf maple, Catalina ironwood	10 inches @ dbh	25 Feet

dbh = diameter at breast height or 4.5 feet above the adjacent ground surface

Part Two: Assessment For Tree Significance

For each of the criteria below assign points as shown to assess the tree. If any criteria score is zero the assessment may stop as the tree cannot qualify as significant or moderately significant.

D. What is the health and condition of the tree?

Tree #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points												

- 0 points:** The tree is heavily infested with pests or has advanced signs of disease that indicates the tree is declining and has very limited life expectancy.
- 1 point:** The tree shows some pests or disease that impair its condition, but which does not immediately threaten the health of the tree. The tree may recover on its own, or with appropriate intervention.
- 2 points:** The tree appears healthy and in good condition.
- 3 points:** The tree shows excellent health, is free of pests and disease and is in very strong condition.

E. What is the overall form and structure of the tree?

Tree #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points												

- 0 points:** Prior pruning, disease or growth habit have left the tree deformed or unsound to an extent that it cannot recover or will never be a visual asset to the neighborhood or will likely deteriorate into a structural hazard.
- 1 points:** The tree has poor form or structure but (a) can recover with proper maintenance or (b) it provides visual interest in its current form, and does not have structural defects that are likely to develop into a safety hazard.
- 2 point:** The tree has average form and structure for the species but does not exhibit all the qualities of excellent form and structure.
- 3 points:** The tree exhibits excellent form and structure. For all species there will be a good distribution of foliage on multiple branches with no defects. For conifers, the tree will have a single straight leader with balanced branching and with good taper. Oaks will exhibit a well-developed canopy with no suppressed branches. Oaks may be single-trunked or multi-trunked and will have a balanced distribution of foliage on each trunk/branch.

Part Two: Assessment For Tree Significance, continued

F. What is the age and vigor of the tree?

Tree #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points												

- 0 points:** The tree is over-mature or shows signs of poor or declining vigor such as die-back of major limbs or of the crown, small leaves/needles and/or minimal new growth.
- 1 point:** The tree is mature but retains normal vigor and is likely to continue as a forest asset for a substantial period into the future.
- 2 points:** The tree is young to middle age and shows normal vigor.
- 3 points:** The tree is young to middle age and shows exceptional vigor.

G. Are environmental conditions favorable to the tree?

Tree #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points												

- 0 points:** The tree is crowded or has no room for growth to maturity. The tree has poor access to light, air or has poor soil for the species.
- 1 point:** The tree has average environmental conditions including room for growth to maturity, access to light, air and soils suitable for the species.
- 2 points:** The tree has room for growth to maturity with no crowding from other significant trees or existing buildings nearby. The tree also has excellent access to light, air and excellent soils for root development.

