

# LANDMARK TREE PROGRAM

## CITY OF COVINGTON TREE BOARD

A classification of trees known as "*Landmark Trees*" is hereby established, along with a program to designate trees as landmark trees. The Covington Tree Board shall administer the landmark tree program.

*Landmark Tree.* Individual trees, groups of trees, or forested areas that meet one or more criteria for age, size, species, form, character, history, location, or association with an historic event, person, or landmark, and which are officially designated by the Covington Tree Board.

*Criteria for designation.* Landmark trees shall be healthy trees located within Covington city limits that meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Age greater than 50 years as determined by planting records or the written opinion of an arborist, the City of Covington Arborist, or the community forester
2. Large canopy trees greater than 36 inches dbh, medium canopy trees greater than 24 inches dbh, and small canopy trees greater than 12 inches dbh
3. Live Oak Trees in excess of 12 inches dbh
4. National, state, or local Live Oak Society registered trees
5. Unique or rare species
6. Association with a documented historic event, person, or community landmark
7. Trees planted for Arbor Day celebrations and other community-wide public celebrations
8. Trees planted in honor or memory of an individual or an event

*Application Process.* Only the owner may apply for landmark tree status for a tree growing on their property. Applications are available from the Covington Tree Board. The Covington Tree Board shall review each application, conduct an inspection of the tree, and either approve or deny the application.

- a. *Landmark tree official record.* The Covington Tree Board shall keep an official record of the location and description of all designated landmark trees. Such record shall be maintained in the office of Covington Tree Board for public inspection.
- b. *Appeal of denial of landmark tree designation.* An appeal to approve an application for landmark tree designation may be made to the City Council in writing. A copy of the original application for landmark tree designation shall accompany the letter of appeal. The City Council shall act upon the request for approval for the landmark tree application at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- c. *Maintenance of landmark trees.* The pruning, maintenance, and protection of landmark trees shall be done in accordance with the International Society of Arborists technical standards. Failure to comply with these standards may result in the revocation of landmark tree status by the Tree Board. Landmark tree owners are encouraged to hire certified arborists experienced in the care of mature and special trees to assist in maintaining landmark trees.
- d. *Preservation of Landmark Live Oak Trees.* All live oaks shall be protected as per Covington Code, Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 4, Section 4.206. *Live oak protection requirements.*