The Scotts Valley General Plan, which is the guiding planning policy document for the City, encourages the preservation of trees to the greatest extent possible.

The City’s Tree protection regulations define protected, Heritage Trees as:

“Trees which have been identified because of unique quality and/or size as the most significant and noteworthy in the City, and which have been listed in an adopted resolution of the City Council as to common name, location and the reason for listing”.

Any member of the public may petition the City Council in writing to designate a tree or group of trees for the Heritage Tree inventory and the Council shall consider the request. A tree or group of trees may be designated as Heritage by resolution of the Council upon their finding that the tree(s) is/are of outstanding value because of any of the following reasons: age, size, aesthetics, history, uniqueness, tradition or location. Trees designated as Heritage shall be included in the Heritage Tree Inventory list and afforded special protection.