

Civic Center Landscape Features

Significant Trees

Since the first design of Civic Center was proposed before the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, trees have been an essential element in the vibrancy and iconic nature of Civic Center.

London Plane trees, a tree recognized for its gray bark and large leaves, is the most prevalent species in Civic Center, having first been planted in the 1910s. As with most trees in Civic Center, London Plane trees are pollarded – their upper branches are trimmed to achieve a denser bulb of green.

In 1950, Silver Dollar and Red Flowering Gum trees replaced the H Trolley Line in the Van Ness Avenue median, beautifying Civic Center in summer with white and red blooms.

At over 100 years of age, the oldest living tree in Civic Center is a Canary Island Date Palm that dates to 1912 and grows within the private courtyard on McAllister and Franklin.



MIG, Inc.

London plane in the turf outside of City Hall. Dates to 1957.



MIG, Inc.

London plane allée, or tree lined path, along the turf area of the Fulton Mall where the Pioneer Monument sits. Dates to 1936.



MIG, Inc.

Boxwood hedge and London plane trees at the War Memorial Court with City Hall in the background. Dates to 1936.



SF Planning Dept

Canary Island Date Palm, oldest living tree in Civic Center, at residential courtyard on McAllister and Franklin. Dates to 1912.