Abraham Lincoln once said, “Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed.” This wise insight applies well to the protection of urban tree resources. If residents support a strong tree ordinance and insist on it being enforced, it portends well for the community forest.

One way to gain public support is to highlight heritage trees. These are trees of particular importance due to their great size, historic value, or some unusual feature. Each has a story that can attract media attention and develop public support for the tree’s protection. When mapped and publicized – often in the form of a booklet – heritage trees can be the foundation for broader support for a comprehensive urban forestry program.

Ordinances must reflect the will of the people. Awareness through heritage programs, Arbor Day celebrations, and other activities that draw attention to trees is the first step toward the foundation for broader support for a comprehensive urban forestry program.

Heritage trees and other significant trees can be protected when a strong ordinance is in effect and is enforced.

### Tree Protection Ordinances Need Public Support

For more information, please visit arborday.org/bulletins.