



# Poway Oak Monument

THE POWAY OAK MONUMENT is a tribute to the tree that inspired the logo for the City of Poway.

A coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), the Poway Oak tree sprouted around 1790 when California was a province of Spain and the Native American Kumeyaay-Ipai lived here. Coast live oak trees were important to the Native Americans in this region as a resource for tools, medicine and food.

In the 1820s California was a province of Mexico. At that time the Poway Oak was about 30 years old and stood 25 feet tall. When California became a state in 1850 the tree was 60 years old.

For more than 200 years, the Poway Oak grew near Espola Road, south of Twin Peaks Road. In its maturity, the tree stood over 75 feet tall with a trunk circumference of 24 feet. During this time, Poway grew from a farming area to a residential community. After Poway became a city in 1980, the tree was named the Poway Oak and became the City's emblem in 1981. It was the City's first Heritage Tree. In 2002, the Poway Oak was removed due to natural decay. Some of the wood was transformed into art and furniture seen at Poway City Hall, as well as crafts and guitar inlays.

The monument to the Poway Oak was unveiled in 2006 at the 700-acre Blue Sky Ecological Reserve. A portion of the original trunk, four feet high by ten feet long, is preserved and mounted on a concrete replica of the trunk base. Interpretive signs describe the tree and the ecology of the region, which includes oaks, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral-covered hills.

The Poway Oak Monument was built by the City of Poway with a grant from California ReLeaf and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

**The City of Poway is honored to be a Tree City USA. This program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation. Cities across the United States are designated as "Tree Cities" once they:**

- 1) Establish a Tree Board or Department;**
- 2) Pass a Tree Care Ordinance;**
- 3) Establish a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita; and**
- 4) Organize an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.**



Top~Crews creating the base for the monument

Second from top~The finished monument

Third from top~One of the interpretive signs describing the Poway Oak

Bottom~Clocks made from the Poway Oak. Other items are on display at Poway City Hall.



The Poway Oak grew on a steep slope near Espola Road, south of Twin Peaks Road

**OAK TREE LIFE CYCLE**

A tree does not have a fixed lifespan, but generally passes through three main stages.

**Formation Stage**

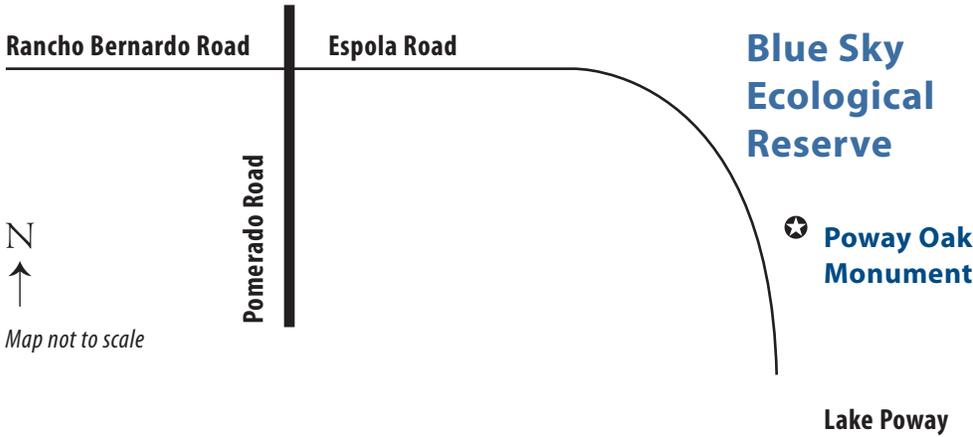
Oaks grow from acorns that fall to the ground or are perhaps buried by squirrels. Many acorns fall, but only a few ever take root. During the formative stage, the tree uses most of its energy for growth.

**Full to Late Maturity**

It can take 100 years for the coast live oak to become fully mature in height and width. There could be another 100 years of gradual change as it declines.

**Veteran Stage**

A new balance between the woody material and the leaves is reached. It can be very healthy in this stage despite decay. As a tree ages, its habitat value can increase as a home and shelter to many animals and plants. Eventually, the veteran tree declines and decays but still contributes to soil health and ecosystems.



The Poway Oak Monument is located at the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve on Espola Road, north of Lake Poway

**Blue Sky Ecological Reserve**

★ **Poway Oak Monument**

**Lake Poway**



**City of Poway**  
 13325 Civic Center Drive  
 Poway, CA 92064  
 858.668.4400  
[www.ci.poway.ca.us](http://www.ci.poway.ca.us)

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