



**UPDATES ON THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY
MANUAL, USDA–FOREST SERVICE INFLATION
REDUCTION ACT GRANT AWARD, TREE PLANTINGS,
REMOVALS AND TRIMMINGS FOR 2023**

Public Works Department

Park and Recreation Commission

December 18, 2023

URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

1. Designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a “Tree City, USA” every year since 1987
2. The City strives to preserve and protect its tree heritage.
2. Urban Forestry Policy Manual (Manual) provides guidelines for planting, pruning, preservation and removal of trees in City rights-of-way based on industry standards and specs



URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

- January 9, 2023 – Update on Manual presented to Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee
- January 30, 2023 – Update presented to Park and Recreation Commission



COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

1. Update the branding of the Manual so it has a City of Riverside look and is consistent with City branding;
2. Provide a clear method on notification of removals to the community;



Pictures courtesy of TreePeople.

COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

3. Provide options relative to a Perpetual Tree Care and Planting Fund for the City of Riverside; and
4. Bring updates to the Committee on the Manual periodically.



URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

- March 3, 2023 - updated draft of Manual incorporating consistent City branding and other changes
- March 13, 2023 - Standard Operating Procedure came into effect for tree removal notifications
- Staff is researching effective methods to host a Perpetual Tree Care and Planting Fund
- Staff will bring updates to the Committee and Commission as they come forward



URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

- May 8, 2023 – Manual progress update to Committee for any further modifications and recommend that City Council approve the Manual
 - Committee unanimously approved the Manual with no further modifications and recommended Council approval
- October 10, 2023 - City Attorney's Office (CAO) provided a workshop to City Council on an Overview of Legal Analysis for Sidewalks and Trees
 - Council recommended that CAO present this item to the Committee for further review
- CAO is scheduled to provide a workshop to the Committee on December 11, 2023
- Until further information and discussions are held regarding fee simple, Manual is delayed before going to Council for approval.



USDA-FOREST SERVICE GRANT

- September 2023 - Public Works notified of \$1 million grant award
- USDA-FS received 842 applications seeking over \$6 billion
- 385 grants awarded totaling \$1.13 billion
 - Increase equitable access to trees and green spaces
 - All funds will flow to disadvantaged communities
 - Funded proposals located in all 50 states



USDA-FOREST SERVICE GRANT

- Staff met USDA-FS grant administrators
 - November 2023 - revised project narrative and budget required to fit awarded amount of \$1 million
 - Project narrative modified to include comprehensive tree inventory and development of in-house database/inventory management system
 - In-kind match of City funds of \$1 million required
 - Leverage existing budget and volunteer hours for tree plantings
 - Personnel costs to implement grant-funded projects



GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

- 5-year grant performance period
- Project will be a collaboration of Public Works and IT, Park & Rec, RPU, and General Services
- Community engagement
 - Non-profits
 - Civic organizations
 - Neighborhood groups
 - Public education



TEAMWORK!

- Grant award was a team effort!
 - City Council
 - City Manager's Office, RPU, Parks, IT, General Services
 - Letters of support
 - The Inland Empire Community Foundation
 - The Riverwalk Community
 - Victoria Avenue Forever
 - Rivers and Lands Conservancy



ON GOING ACTIONS

1. 2020 Transformative Climate Communities grant program - 1,000 trees on city rights-of-way and 1,000 trees on private property in the Eastside Neighborhood.
2. 2019 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program grant - hundreds of trees across the right-of-way and surrounding upcoming Vine Street Mobility Hub
3. 2019 Urban Greening Grant - trees along a 2-mile stretch of planned Gage Canal Trail
4. 2018 Urban Greening Grant - 453 trees at new urban farmland resource & training center
5. 2022 CaliforniaforAll Grant - Fellows assigned to TreePeople non-profit organization, and Landscape and Urban Forestry Division to assist with planting, caring for and assessing trees throughout city



NOTEWORTHY ENDEAVORS

- Partnering with Feeding America to glean fruit from public ROW City-maintained orange trees along Victoria Avenue, to stock local food pantries and feed the hungry
- Complete Streets Ordinance
 - Increases opportunities for tree plantings with public roadway projects
 - Requires that all participating development projects provide street trees
- Additional Measure Z funding:
 - \$2 million to trim all City palms on a two-year cycle
- \$250,000 to plant additional trees throughout the city



OUR URBAN FOREST

The City's Urban Forest provides social, communal, environmental, and economic benefits to the entire community.



The Benefit of Trees



Trees help improve the quality of air by capturing pollutants like ash and gases.



Trees help prevent flooding. One tree can absorb 2,000 gallons each year.



Trees are known to promote feelings of relaxation and well-being.



Trees provide shade that help cool down buildings, parks and pathways.



Shade provided by trees can reduce the use of air conditioning, saving people money.



Trees are known to increase property values by as much as 10%.

FUN FACT!!!

Our urban forest has an estimated value of more than **\$449 million!**



It is more important than ever to continue pursuing funding opportunities that will augment and care for our urban forest.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Strategic Priority 4 – Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.5: Maintain and conserve 30% of Riverside’s natural lands in green space including, but not limited to, agricultural lands and urban forests in order to protect and restore Riverside’s rich biodiversity and accelerate the natural removal of carbon, furthering our community’s climate resilience.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability &
Resiliency



Equity



Innovation

RECOMMENDATION

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive an update on the Urban Forestry Policy Manual, United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant Award, Tree Plantings, Removals and Trimmings for 2023, and provide input and/or recommendations.