

UPDATE ON THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

Public Works Department

**Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee
January 9, 2023**

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BACKGROUND

1. Designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City, USA" every year since 1987, the city strives to preserve and protect this tree heritage.
2. The purpose of the Urban Forestry Policy Manual (Manual) is to provide guidelines for the planting, pruning, preservation and removal of all trees in city right-of-ways based on industry standards and specs.



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BACKGROUND

1. Staff routinely review the Manual and bring proposed changes before the Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience (Committee) for feedback and approval – the most recent of which was shared with the Committee on January 11, 2021.



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LUSR COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

1. Research ways of providing advanced notice to area residents when trees are being removed;
2. Work with additional community, volunteer and environmental groups throughout the City;



Pictures courtesy of TreePeople.

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LUSR COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

3. Research ways of planting new trees before trees are removed to help maintain continuity of the urban forest in neighborhoods;
4. Provide public outreach on the benefits and assets of the urban forest; and
5. Establish the difference between public and private trees.



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AD HOC COMMITTEE

1. Four (4) Ad Hoc Committee meetings were held between April and July 2022.
2. Agendas included guest speakers (local SMEs), educational items, and a tour of historically significant trees in Riverside.



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AD HOC COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

1. Creating an in-house inventory database instead of relying on contractors;
2. Adding information regarding construction management when working around trees;
3. Adding a tree standards acknowledgment before businesses can obtain a Business Tax License for landscapers/tree workers;



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AD HOC COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

4. Working with the Planning Division on trimming standards for new developments;
5. Airing G-TV educational segments on trees;
6. Providing training for arborists working in the City;
7. Creating a flow chart of responsibilities and processes;
8. Adding more pictures to the Manual (less words);



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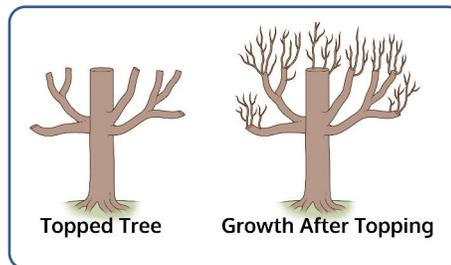
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AD HOC COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

9. Update in accordance with ANSI Standards every five years;

10. Creating a campaign for people to sign pledges on Anti-Topping;



11. Improving public outreach efforts.



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CALFIRE GRANT

During the update process, staff learned of a CalFire grant that (if awarded) will provide funding to assist with:

1. Updating the Manual;
2. Selecting tree species that maximize carbon sequestration;
3. Building energy reduction potential; and
4. Creating an in-house inventory database (with a user interface similar to the **sample** shown here).



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OUR URBAN FOREST

Our urban forest has an estimated value of more than **\$449,000,000!**



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



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DISCUSSION



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%.



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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



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee:

1. Receive and file the update on the Urban Forestry Policy Manual;
2. Allow additional time for updating the Manual with updates provided to the Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee as they come forward; and
3. Provide any additional recommendations on any desired modifications to the Urban Forestry Policy Manual.



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