



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

DATE: JULY 15, 2019

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT URBAN FORESTRY / LANDSCAPE DIVISION
QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

ISSUE:

Quarterly activity report for the Urban Forestry / Landscape Division of the Public Works Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive and file the quarterly activity report for the Urban Forestry / Landscape Division of the Public Works Department.

BACKGROUND:

The Urban Forestry / Landscape Division of the Public Works Department reports to the Park and Recreation Commission on a quarterly basis due to their connection to City trees as mentioned in the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 13.25 Tree and Shrub Supervision.

DISCUSSION:

The following report for the Public Works Department Urban Forestry / Landscape Division details accomplishments, claims against the City related to damages caused by City trees such as fallen limbs and root damages to private property, plan checks related to new developments and property upgrades such as new housing tracts, commercial/industrial buildings and expansion of existing properties that are required to plant new street trees within the public right of ways, tree removals, and tree plantings in the second quarter of 2019 and activities planned for the third quarter of 2019.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

On Saturday, April 27, 2019, the Public Works Work Department, working with Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF) in celebration of Arbor Day, held a tree planting event on Victoria Avenue at Villegas Park and at the Casa Blanca House of Neighborly Services. Volunteers from throughout the community, planted 10 Red Flowering Gums on Victoria Avenue between Jane and Maude Streets, five Bottle Brush trees between Myers and Harrison Streets, two Jacaranda's at Villegas Park and six citrus trees at the Casa Blanca House of Neighborly Services. The trees and supplies

were funded with grant funds that were secured and received by VAF through a 2016 Social Equity Tree Planting Grant provided by California ReLeaf and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire).

On Thursday, June 6, 2019, the Public Works Department, working with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful (KRCB), held a volunteer project in Ward 6. Volunteers from the Grove Community Church planted a total of 242 plants on Washington Street between Bradley Street and Overlook Parkway along a publically maintained and irrigated parkway. The species included purple, orange, red and yellow lantanas, purple verbena, and golden honeysuckle. The plants will grow and help to beautify the area.

On Saturday, September 28, 2019, the Public Works Department working with KRCB, will hold the Santa Ana River and City Waterways Cleanup in Ward 1. The meeting location will be at the Riverside County Flood Control District Office, 1995 Market Street, 92501. The project sites will include litter cleanup, graffiti abatement, and a community greening site.

CERTIFICATION

The Public Works Department is proud to announce that the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Riverside as a Tree City USA recipient. This is the 31st year that the City has received this distinctive honor. The Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, provides direction, technical assistance and national recognition by supporting the framework for a sustainable urban forest. Benefits of being a Tree City USA include reduced energy costs and consumption, increased property values, strong neighborhood ties, and demonstrated commitment to a healthier environment. To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters:

- A Tree Board or Department
- A Tree Care Ordinance
- A Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
- An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

TREE TRIMMING PROGRESS

With the help of an additional \$1,000,000 allocated by City Council through Measure Z funding, since March 6, 2019 to June 11, 2019 a total of 6,319 trees have been trimmed. Below is a break down by categories:

- Measure Z Funding: 6,042
- Service Requests: 266
- Resi-Pay: 11

Since the start of the fiscal year, July 1, 2018 to June 11, 2019 a total of 14,665 trees have been trimmed.

TREE MAINTENANCE

The following grids are currently underway:

- Grid 12 – Downtown Neighborhood

- Grid 27 – Victoria Neighborhood
- Grid 29 – Victoria Neighborhood

The following grids are scheduled:

- Grid 39 – Orangecrest Neighborhood
- Grid 46 – Arlington Heights Neighborhood
- Grid 59 – Arlanza Neighborhood

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director

Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. Tree Removal and Planting List
2. Plan Checks – 2nd Quarter 2019
3. Claims – 2nd Quarter 2019