



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT URBAN FORESTRY / LANDSCAPE DIVISION

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT URBAN FORESTRY / LANDSCAPE DIVISION
QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT: FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS
OF 2020**

ISSUE:

Receive a 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 (Urban Forestry) 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:

This report for Urban Forestry details the following accomplishments for the first, second and third quarters of 2020:

1. Claims against the City;
2. New street trees within the public right of ways;
3. Tree removals;
4. Activities planned for the fourth quarter of 2020;
5. Tree trimming progress; and
6. Tree maintenance schedules.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On Saturday, February 1, 2020, the Public Works Department, working with Keep Riverside

Clean and Beautiful (KRCB), held a beautification project in Ward 2. The meeting location was at Dario Vasquez Park, 2400 Fourteenth Street, 92506 and began at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers from throughout the community planted six Forest Pansy Redbud trees, two Pink Trumpet trees, and installed 10 yards of walk on bark mulch at the Jesus Carlos Memorial Garden located at the south/east corner of Fourteenth Street and Victoria Avenue. The trees will grow to help beautify and provide shade for visitors of the memorial garden.

On Saturday, February 22, 2020, the Public Works Department, working with Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF), held a tree planting project on Victoria Avenue between Van Buren Boulevard and La Sierra Avenue. The meeting location was held at the Hal Snyder Garden on Victoria Avenue and Harrison Street and began at 9:00 a.m. Board Members from VAF and volunteers from throughout the community, planted two Angel Trumpet trees, two Ginkgos, one Hong Kong Orchid, one Catalpa, one Brachychiton, and three Gold Medallion trees along the publically maintained parkways and medians. The trees are funded by VAF through donations collected by the non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that is dedicated to the preservation and beautification of Victoria Avenue.

On Saturday, March 7, 2020, the Public Works Department, working with KRCB, held a beautification project in Ward 7. The meeting location was at Rutland Park, 7000 Rutland Avenue, 92503 and began at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers from throughout the community planted eight Forest Pansy Redbud trees within the publically maintained parkways on Jurupa Avenue between Van Buren Boulevard and Rutland Avenue. The trees will grow to beautify and shade the street and pedestrian walkways.

On Saturday, March 14, 2020, the Public Works Department, working with VAF, was to hold a tree planting event in celebration of California Arbor Week. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the event was cancelled.

On Saturday, April 4, 2020, the Public Works Department, working with KRCB, was to hold a beautification project in Ward 5. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the event was cancelled.

On Saturday, May 9, 2020, the Public Works Department, working with KRCB, was to hold the Great American Cleanup event. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the event was cancelled.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY

Thirty-eight claims have been made against the City for Urban Forestry related items since the beginning of the Fiscal Year, July 1, 2020. The majority of these claims involved downed tree branches or displacement of tree roots (see Table 1 below).

Table 1. Claims Received FYTD

Claim Description	Number of Claims	Percentage
City Crews Damaged Property	1	2.6%
Sewer Backup	1	2.6%
Tree Branch Down	21	55.3%
Tree In Power Line	1	2.6%
Tree Root Displacement	11	28.9%
Tree Root Loss - Sewer	3	7.9%
Total	38	100.0%

NEW STREET TREES

Since the beginning of the Calendar Year, Urban Forestry has coordinated the planting of 268 new trees comprised of 50 different species at 136 different locations throughout the City.

TREE REMOVALS

Since the beginning of the Calendar Year, Urban Forestry has coordinated removal of 585 trees and 615 tree stumps at 728 locations throughout the City.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2020

Urban Forestry will be taking a report to the Land Use/Sustainability/Resilience Committee (Committee) to provide a report on how the Urban Forestry Policy Manual, that was updated and approved by City Council in 2015, has been performing and to provide an overall report of the Urban Forestry program. Urban Forestry will be looking for any recommendations that the Committee provides and will be providing a report and presentation to the Park and Recreation Commission for further review and action.

TREE TRIMMING PROGRESS

With the help of an additional \$1,000,000 allocated by City Council through Measure Z funding, from December 28, 2019 to October 19, 2020, a total of 23,931 trees have been trimmed.

TREE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES

The following grids are currently underway:

Grid 45 – Arlington Heights Neighborhood

Grid 20 – East Side Neighborhood

Grid 21 – East Side Neighborhood

The following grids are scheduled:

Grid 24 – Magnolia Center Neighborhood

Grid 26 – Victoria Neighborhood

Grid 31 – Canyon Crest 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: Claims
Planting - New Street Trees
Tree and Stump Removals