



Urban Forestry & Landscape Division Overview

Public Works Department

COMMISSION OF THE DEAF

April 10, 2024

WHAT WE DO

- Oversight of City-maintained trees and landscaping spread over 81 square miles throughout Riverside
- Riverside's urban forest
 - 150,000+ street trees with over 300 different species
 - Estimated value of over \$430 million
 - Countless private trees that provide canopy coverage that is beneficial for community quality of life



TREES NEAR UTILITIES

- Urban Forestry manages the Utility Line Clearance Vegetation Management program for the Public Utilities Department
 - 20,000+ private and public trees and vegetation
 - Helps ensure the safety and reliability of the electrical system
- 450+ acres of City-maintained landscaped right-of-way
 - Medians, parkways, and reverse frontages
 - 400+ water meters, backflows, and irrigation controllers that spread over Riverside Public Utilities, Western Municipal Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District



THE TEAM

- 3 Tree Maintenance Inspectors
 - All are certified arborists
- 2 Landscape Maintenance Inspectors
- 1 Downtown Custodian
- 1 Supervisor
- 1 Urban Forester
- Responsible for oversight of 15+ contractors that maintain trees, landscapes, water features, backflows, irrigation controllers and other equipment that keeps the City's trees and landscapes looking their best



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BUDGET

- Annual budget of approximately \$10 million
- Investment of Measure Z funds has shorted trimming cycle to 2 years for palm trees and to 4 years for canopy trees



URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

- The City of Riverside is known as a City of Trees, having been designated as a “Tree City, USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation every year since 1987
- Urban Forestry Policy Manual (Manual) provides guidelines for the preservation and protection of our tree heritage and the Urban Forest of Riverside



UPCOMING GRANT-FUNDED PROJECT

- USDA Forestry Service awarded Riverside \$1 million to develop a tree inventory and database
- Public Works Department will be working closely I.T., Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, Utilities, and General Services to provide support and input as to how the database should look.
- Community outreach to civic organizations, non-profits, and neighborhood groups



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 27, 2024 - Arbor Day
 - City Hall breezeway
- May 11, 2024 - Great American Cleanup Event
 - Coordinated by Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful



OPPORTUNITIES

- Volunteer tree plantings in partnership with Commission
- Partnership with CSDR for volunteer tree plantings near the campus



RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission of the Deaf receive an informational presentation about the Public Works Department, Urban Forestry and Landscape Division.