



URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL UPDATE

Public Works Department

City Council
February 6, 2024

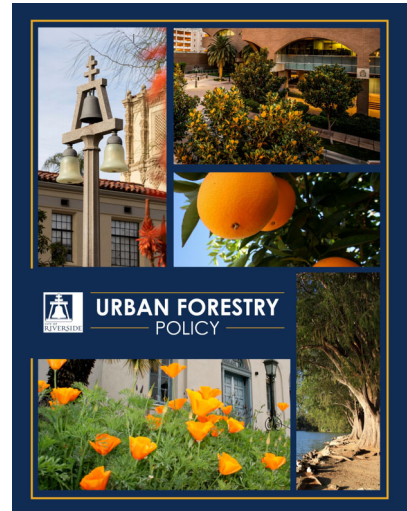
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BACKGROUND

Purpose of the Urban Forestry Policy Manual

- Preservation and protection of Riverside's tree heritage and urban forest
- Guidelines for planting, pruning, preservation, and removal of trees in City rights-of-way



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BACKGROUND

1. Recognized as a "Tree City, USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation since 1987
2. January 11, 2021 - Update Presented to Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee
 - Requested modifications
 - Requested recommendations from Park and Recreation Commission Ad Hoc Committee



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BACKGROUND

- Considerations Included:
 - Advanced notice for tree removal
 - Planting new trees before removal
 - Collaboration with community groups
 - Public outreach on urban forest benefits
 - Distinguishing public vs. private trees
- Subsequent Meetings and Discussions
 - April 2, 2022: Background, industry practices, and field trip
 - May 4, 2022: Guest speakers and Manual updates
 - June 15, 2022: Discussion with the Regional Urban Forester
 - July 13, 2022: Meeting at Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District



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BACKGROUND

- January 9, 2023 - Progress Update
 - Committee feedback and additional work time
 - Update Manual branding
 - Community notification for tree removals
 - Perpetual Tree Care and Planting Fund options
 - Periodic updates to the Committee
- March 3, 2023 - Updated Manual Draft to reflect City branding
- March 13, 2023 - Tree Removal Standard Operating Procedure including notification methods for non-hazardous tree removals
- Perpetual Tree Care and Planting Fund



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DISCUSSION

- May 8, 2023 – Staff presented final draft of Manual updates
 - Committee unanimously recommended City Council to approve Manual updates
- April 2023 - USDA-Forest Service released guidelines for multiyear, competitive grants for tree planting/related activities.
- September 2023 - Public Works notified of \$1 million grant award for comprehensive tree inventory and development of in-house database/inventory management system



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NOTEWORTHY ENDEAVORS

1. Feeding America Partnership
 - Gleaning fruit from public ROW orange trees on Victoria Avenue
2. Complete Streets Ordinance
 - Expanding tree planting opportunities in public roadway projects
 - Requiring street trees in participating development projects
3. Measure Z Allocation: Palm Tree Trimming
 - Additional \$2M for trimming all City palms on a two-year cycle
4. Measure Z Allocation: Tree Planting
 - Additional \$250,000 to plant more trees



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URBAN FOREST VALUE

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.



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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



RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the updated Urban Forestry Policy Manual.

