



# Urban Forestry & Landscape Division Overview

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**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.