



UPDATE ON THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

Public Works Department

**Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee
May 8, 2023**

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BACKGROUND

1. Designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City, USA" every year since 1987, the City strives to preserve and protect this tree heritage.
2. The purpose of the Urban Forestry Policy Manual (Manual) is to provide guidelines for the planting, pruning, preservation and removal of all trees in city rights-of-ways based on industry standards and specs.



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BACKGROUND

1. Staff provided a progress update on the Manual before the Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee for feedback and approval
 - The most recent of which was shared with the Committee on January 9, 2023.



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COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

1. Update the branding of the Manual so it has a City of Riverside look and is consistent with City branding;
2. Provide a clear method on notification of removals to the community;



Pictures courtesy of TreePeople.

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COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

3. Provide options relative to a Perpetual Tree Care and Planting Fund for the City of Riverside; and
4. Bring updates to the Committee on the Manual periodically.



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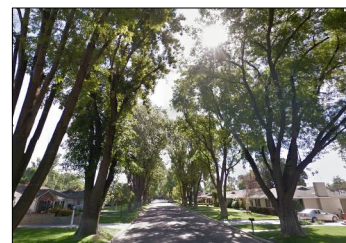


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DISCUSSION

1. On March 3, 2023, an updated draft of the Manual was received that incorporated the look of the City and is consistent with the branding of the City amongst other revisions by Staff.
2. On March 13, 2023, a Standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P.) came into effect for tree removal notifications.
3. Staff is currently researching options on the most effective method on hosting a Perpetual Tree Care and Planting Fund.



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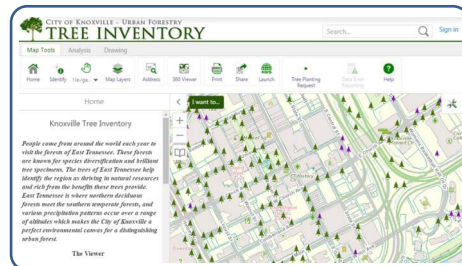


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CALFIRE GRANT

1. Not yet accepting applications due to funding restrictions.
2. Currently looking for funding for operations.
3. Staff would like to proceed with the current draft Manual, with any potential grant funds going towards future updates and Manual revisions.



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OUR URBAN FOREST

Our urban forest has an estimated value
of more than **\$449,000,000!**




It is more important than ever to continue pursuing funding opportunities that will augment and care for our urban forest.



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DISCUSSION



The City's Urban Forest provides social, communal, environmental, and economic benefits to the entire community.

The Benefit of Trees

Trees help improve the quality of air by capturing pollutants like ash and gases.


Trees help prevent flooding. One tree can absorb 2,000 gallons each year.

Trees are known to promote feelings of relaxation and well-being.


Trees provide shade that help cool down buildings, parks and pathways.

Shade provided by trees can reduce the use of air conditioning, saving people money.

Trees are known to increase property values by as much as 10%.


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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


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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee:

1. Provide recommendations on desired modifications, if any, to the Urban Forestry Policy Manual; and
2. Recommend that the City Council approve the Urban Forestry Policy Manual.

