

AGENDA
Three Rivers Community Plan Update
Community Meeting
Monday August 10, 2015 7:00 P.M.
Arts Building
Three Rivers, CA



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Resource Management Agency

1. Welcome and Introduction.
2. Project Status/Brief Review of Community Meeting #18 July 13, 2015 Oak Woodland Management Plan Summary Notes and Consolidated Summary Notes.
 - (a) Oak Woodland Management Plan Summary Notes (July 13, 2015 Three Rivers Community Plan Update Meeting).
 - (b) Consolidated Oak Woodland Management Plan Summary Notes (April 13, 2015, May 11, 2015, June 8, 2015, July 13, 2015 Three Rivers Community Plan Update Meetings).
3. Discussion of Oak Woodland Management Plan Draft Outline.
 - (a) Draft Oak Woodland Management Plan Outline.
4. Urban Forest Information Resources.
 - (a) California ReLeaf Information.
5. Other Topics as Related.
6. Topics for the Next Meeting.
7. Next Steps.
8. Adjournment: Next Meeting September 14, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

Three Rivers Community Plan Website address:
<http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning/three-rivers-community-plan-update/>



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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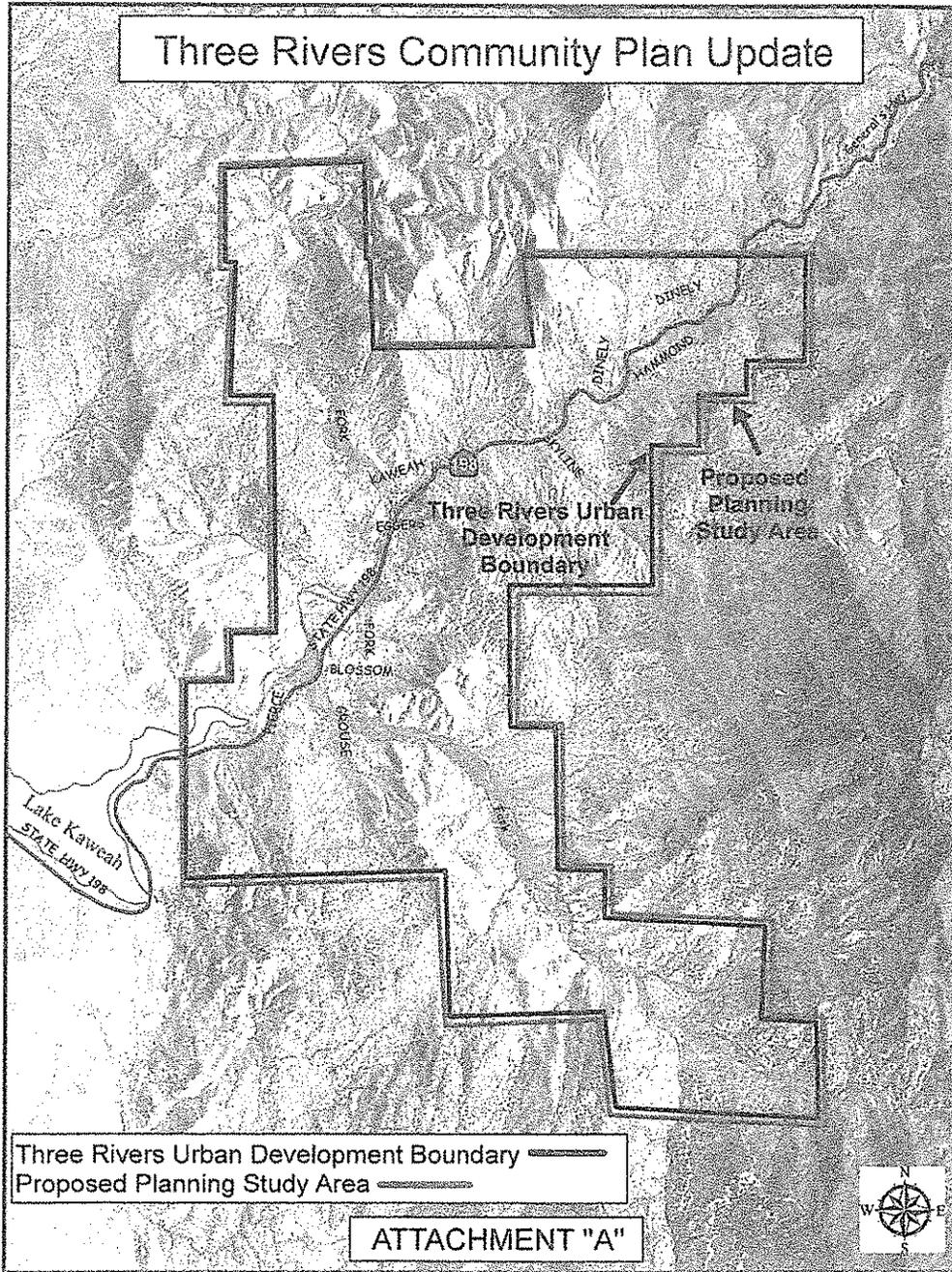
THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE Oak Woodland Management Plan Discussion Summary Notes (July 13, 2015)

- Scale is important
 - The Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP) should not be limited large oak woodland communities, small parcels containing oak trees or limited canopy cover should also be included in the OWMP (determine appropriate scale).
 - Include Urban Forestry practices in the OWMP.
 - Include Riparian Communities and Wetland areas in the OWMP.
- Include Values and Benefits of oak woodland communities in the OWMP.
 - Enhance Traditional Values that are important to the community as expressed in the Draft Three Rivers Community Plan (TRCP).
 - Include Economic and Scenic Values.
 - Include Unique Attributes.
 - Include the value of Blue Oak Woodlands.
 - Include Cultural Values.
 - Oak Woodland Biological Resources and Physical Resources are considered to be as important to ecosystem in addition to the importance of scenic values.
 - Incorporate Future Vision from the TRCP.
 - Include Natural Resource Values.
 - Include Environmental Values GHG (Sequestration)
- The OWMP is a Voluntary Plan.
 - Meet (as a minimum) or Exceed Minimum OWMP Elements as per the Wildlife Conservation Board Recommendations.
 - Yolo County has one of the best OWMPs, San Luis Obispo has recently prepared an OWMP.
 - Prepare the Best Possible OWMP.
 - Include the Best Practices Guidelines for oak tree care and preservation techniques from the City of Visalia, Fresno County, and Yolo County.
 - Include California Natural Diversity Data Base Data in the OWMP.
- Include Development Standards to promote and preserve Oak Woodlands.
 - Include a Development Checklist to determine the potential impacts of proposed development projects or the need for further study.

 - Develop appropriate policies and procedures including the requirement to prepare a canopy study and consideration of including a sensitive species list.

- Include a Public Education Component.
 - Include a Public Education information component regarding tree health and safety (checklist oriented component).
- Include Incentives to encourage the long term preservation of oak woodland communities.
 - Consolidating of Small Parcels (lot merger).
- Preservation techniques need to be significant and detailed.
- OWMP identifies future funding for implementation programs.
- Determine and include an approach regarding adjacent and contiguous Oak Woodland areas outside of the Three Rivers UDB (Utilize Foothill Growth Management Plan).
- Include Thresholds of Significance in the OWMP (CEQA PRC Section 21083.4 (SB 1334)).
 - Mitigation Trigger Level 10% Coverage per acre standard Canopy. 10% Canopy cover per acre is the minimum standard for Oak Woodland definition.
 - Exceedance of 15” DBH standard.
 - Include Heritage Trees and Individual Trees (where those trees may represent a significant portion of the population of that species, and removal impacts the recruitment and restoration potential for that species.
 - Replacement Ratio is determined by CEQA PRC Section 21083.4 SB 1334 (for replacement # of trees and size for mitigation (feasible and appropriate ratio)).
- Canopy survey could utilize the Spherical Density Method or acreages of physical canopy measurements.
 - More sample plots improves accuracy.
- Description of next steps, describe the relationship of the OWMP to the TRCP and DEIR.

Three Rivers Community Plan Update





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THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE Consolidated Oak Woodland Management Plan Discussion Summary Notes

(April 13, 2015) (May 11, 2015)

(June 8, 2015) (July 13, 2015)

I. Oak Woodland Management Plan Approach

- Scale is important
 - The Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP) should not be limited large oak woodland communities, small parcels containing oak trees or limited canopy cover should also be included in the OWMP (determine appropriate scale).
 - Include Urban Forestry practices in the OWMP.
 - Include Riparian Communities and Wetland areas in the OWMP.
- Include Values and Benefits of oak woodland communities in the OWMP.
 - Enhance Traditional Values that are important to the community as expressed in the Draft Three Rivers Community Plan (TRCP).
 - Include Economic and Scenic Values.
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 - Include the value of Blue Oak Woodlands.
 - Include Cultural Values.
 - Oak Woodland Biological Resources and Physical Resources are considered to be as important to ecosystem in addition to the importance of scenic values.
 - Incorporate Future Vision from the TRCP.
 - Include Natural Resource Values.
 - Include Environmental Values GHG (Sequestration)
- The OWMP is a Voluntary Plan.
 - Meet (as a minimum) or Exceed Minimum OWMP Elements as per the Wildlife Conservation Board Recommendations.
 - Yolo County has one of the best OWMPs, San Luis Obispo has recently prepared an OWMP.
 - Include the Best Practices Guidelines for oak tree care and preservation techniques from the City of Visalia, Fresno County, and Yolo County.
 - Include California Natural Diversity Data Base Data in the OWMP.
- Collect Background Materials Including Threats to Oak Woodland Communities.
- Mapping and Inventory Protocol/Strategy should be developed to Determine Baseline/Existing Conditions.

- Plan Strategy (Description of next steps, describe the relationship of the OWMP to the TRCP and DEIR).
- Degree of any proposed (Regulations) consistent with Threat of Harm.
- OWMP inventory should not be limited to areas planned for urban development, areas outside of urban land use and urban zoning districts should be included as scenic resources within the Three Rivers UDB. (Attachment A).
- (Narrow Scope), Specific focus on Oak Woodlands to include all species of Oaks including Valley Oaks and not strictly limited to Blue Oak Woodlands (Riparian communities that overlap Oak Woodlands would be included in OWMP. Riparian communities that do not overlap Oak Woodlands would be addressed as part of the CEQA process in the TRCP EIR, there is overlap with Oak Woodland areas).
- Need to determine and include an approach regarding adjacent and contiguous Oak Woodland areas outside of the Three Rivers UDB (Utilize Foothill Growth Management Plan).
- Utilize Applicable Materials from adopted Oak Woodland Management Plans.
- Consider City of Visalia and Fresno County Oak Woodland Management Guidelines.
- Voluntary Program (Implementation and Mitigation Program considerations would be identified as options for consideration as part of the implementation program).
 - Meet (as a minimum) or Exceed Minimum OWMP Elements as per the Wildlife Conservation Board Recommendations.
- Consideration of meeting Oak Woodlands Management Plan minimum elements as identified in the Wildlife Conservation Board, "The Oak Woodland Conservation Act of 2001. Program Application and Guidelines".
- Review of Draft OWMP Outline, consideration of adding Consistency with the TRCP Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Policies to the purpose and objectives statement in the outline.
- Include a Public Education Component.
 - Include a Public Education information component regarding tree health and safety (checklist oriented component).
 - Include the Best Practices Guidelines for oak tree care and preservation techniques from the City of Visalia, Fresno County, and Yolo County.

II. Focus on OWMP and then Implementation

- Focus on OWMP and then Implementation.
- Determine OWMP Elements, Components, Design Guidelines, and Incentives.
- Consider a description of native oak species, estimates of the current and historical distribution of oak woodlands, existing threats, and status of natural regeneration and growth trends. To the extent possible, prepare maps displaying the current distribution of oak woodlands.
- Review Importance of Oak Woodlands for economic value, natural resource values of oak woodlands, review importance of oak woodlands as benefits to wildlife habitat, retention of soil and water, aesthetics, and that planning decisions for oak woodlands should take into account potential effects of fragmentation of oak woodlands, support for landowners that participate in the Oak Woodlands Conservation Program, future funding, education and public

outreach programs, implementation and update of the plan.

III. Collect Background Materials Including Threats to Oak Woodland Communities

- Review existing studies and materials, National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Academic Studies, California Native Plant Society, Caltrans.
- Oak Woodland Conditions.
- Threats to Oak Woodland Communities, Fire, Disease, Climate Change, Urban Development including infrastructure, tree harvesting.
- Collect Samples of Existing OWMPs, Community to Review Materials and Provide recommendations.
- BLM Caliente Plan (Bakersfield Office).
- BLM Case Mountain South Sierra Management Area.
- Oaks 2040 California Oak Foundation.
- UCSB Report A Dynamic Strategy for Conserving Southern Sierra Blue Oak Woodland 2007.
- Include background information regarding the rationale that was utilized to determine the location of the existing UDB including a legal description.
- Climate Change Effects on Blue Oak Woodlands (Stevenson, Kueppers).

IV. Oak Woodland Definition and CEQA Thresholds of Significance

- Definition of Oak Woodlands. (Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2001) and (SB 1334) (Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21083.4) and PRC §4793(e).

-Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2001: Lands that contain 10 percent oak canopy cover are considered oak woodlands, per PRC §4793(e) the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has communicated to county planning departments that the term significant stand of oak trees means those acres of land with 10 percent oak canopy cover (January 2006).

-For a project site to be designated oak woodlands under SB 1334, all of the following must occur: (1) no commercial conifers are growing; (2) the majority of living trees are oaks; (3) the project site must average 10 percent oak canopy cover per acre.

-The 10 percent oak canopy cover standard determines whether oak woodland habitat exists and if SB 1334 mitigation standards apply. If significant oak woodland impacts occur, SB 1334 lists the CEQA mitigation alternatives available to counties to reduce impacts to less than significant (See number VI below). The 10 percent standard is unrelated to determining thresholds of significance or any other CEQA application beyond establishing the existence of oak woodlands.

-Regarding the 10 percent oak canopy cover per acre, are other percentages suitable or practical given unique circumstances of individual parcels?

- Include as applicable, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) thresholds of significance regarding oak woodlands. (SB 1334 (Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21083) (Oak Woodland Impact Decision Matrix—2008 UC Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program).

-The Guide to CEQA, 11th edition states: “In the absence of an impact necessarily deemed significant, the lead agency has discretion to adopt standards for determining whether an impact is significant. In recent years interest has focused on encouraging agencies to develop standardized “thresholds of significance”, rather than to continue making ad hoc determinations in the context of particular projects...” See CEQA Guidelines § 15064.7 for more on establishing thresholds.

-As with the determination of existing conditions, the evaluation of potential impacts of a project should be considered at three scales: (1) landscape, (2) site and (3) individual trees or groves.

- Establishing Site Condition (CEQA guidelines on establishing site condition §15125 and §15126): Site condition should evaluate either the oaks as individual trees, or the condition of the oaks as a component of a larger forest. Ascertain if the site represents an oak woodland whose ecological functions are still relatively “intact,” “moderately degraded,” or “severely degraded.”

Intact refers mainly to being free from destructive land use practices that inhibit or limit the oak woodland to naturally sustain itself and its associated flora and fauna.

Moderately Degraded woodlands, the canopy or understory may have been reduced or eliminated over all or part of the site; past grazing or soil disturbance may have impaired regeneration in some areas or it may be a situation due to urban type development.

Severely Degraded, it should be highly altered, fragmented or in such a state as to make it virtually unrecognizable as ever having been an oak woodland.

-Determination of Impacts:

Low Impact, Minimal disturbance to stand structure and composition and habitat features resulting in no increased edge habitat or fragmentation.

Moderate Impact, Detectable change or reduction in canopy, structure or composition; loss of some habitat features, subtle impacts increasing fragmentation, edge creation or loss of connectivity (roads, fences, other introduced artificial barriers or buffers).

High Impact, Obvious change or reduction or loss in canopy, structure or composition loss of most of the existing habitat features and services; fragmentation and or parcelization of contiguous ownerships; introduction of roads or stream crossings; creation of edge habitats previously absent; construction of barriers (fences).

- Include Development Standards to promote and preserve Oak Woodlands.

- Include a Development Checklist to determine the potential impacts of proposed development projects or the need for further study.

-Develop appropriate policies and procedures including the requirement to prepare a canopy study and consideration of including a sensitive species list.

- Include Incentives to encourage the long term preservation of oak woodland communities.

-Consolidating of Small Parcels (lot merger).

- Preservation techniques need to be significant and detailed.
- OWMP identifies future funding for implementation programs.

- Include Thresholds of Significance in the OWMP (CEQA PRC Section 21083.4 (SB 1334)).

-Mitigation Trigger Level 10% Coverage per acre standard Canopy. 10% Canopy cover per acre is the minimum standard for Oak Woodland definition.

-Exceedance of 15" DBH standard.

-Include Heritage Trees and Individual Trees (where those trees may represent a significant portion of the population of that species, and removal impacts the recruitment and restoration potential for that species).

-Replacement Ratio is determined by CEQA PRC Section 21083.4 SB 1334 (for replacement # of trees and size for mitigation (feasible and appropriate ratio)).

V. Mapping and Inventory Protocol/Strategy (Accurate, Reasonable, and Efficient)

- Determine Approach, consider Tree Canopy Study, use Large Scale Mapping and consider 10 acre plot sizes. More sample plots improves accuracy.
- Options Include GIS Data Aerial Photos/Landsat Satellite Imagery/Infrared Mapping, Fire Resource and Assessment Program (FRAP) Maps, California Natural Diversity Data Base Maps, California Native Plant Society Maps, GAP Analysis Maps, Spherical Density Mapping or acreages of physical canopy measurements, and other relevant GIS Data as applicable (fine grain vegetative mapping if available).
- Aerial Map of the Three Rivers Planning area with USGS Contours, Parcels, and Section/Township and Range. Add additional street names, identification of federal lands (Distinguish between County and Federal Jurisdiction), and major landmarks.
- GIS to contact National Park Service for available data.
- Utilize data forms for collection of information.
- Determine Baseline/Existing Conditions and Historical Trends and Patterns if possible. Identify Williamson Act Lands.

- Classification and Sub-Sampling, (Consider Ground Truthing Approach).
- Inventory should consider average geographical rainfall.
- Private Property Access Concerns.
- Model Scenic Viewsheds.

VI. Implementation and Mitigation Program Considerations

- Voluntary OWMP (Any regulatory policies, procedures or programs that require specified discretionary actions (Implementation and Mitigation Program considerations) would be identified as options for future consideration as part of the OWMP implementation program).
- Program should be Incentive Based (Compensation/Incentives).
- Consider Grants, Conservation Banks, Conservation Easements, Per Acre Impact Fees, and Transfer of Development Rights.
- Conservation Banks vs. Wetland Mitigation Banking

Conservation banking transferred the concept of wetland mitigation banking into endangered and threatened species conservation with a few slight differences. While in wetland mitigation banking the goal is to replace the exact function and values of the specific wetland habitats that will be adversely affected by a proposed project, in conservation banking the goal is to offset adverse impacts to a species. These different goals account for differences in the policies guiding operations of the two banks. In contrast to mitigation banks, an appropriate function of conservation banks is the preservation of existing habitat with long-term conservation value to mitigate loss of other isolated and fragmented habitat that has no long-term value to the species.

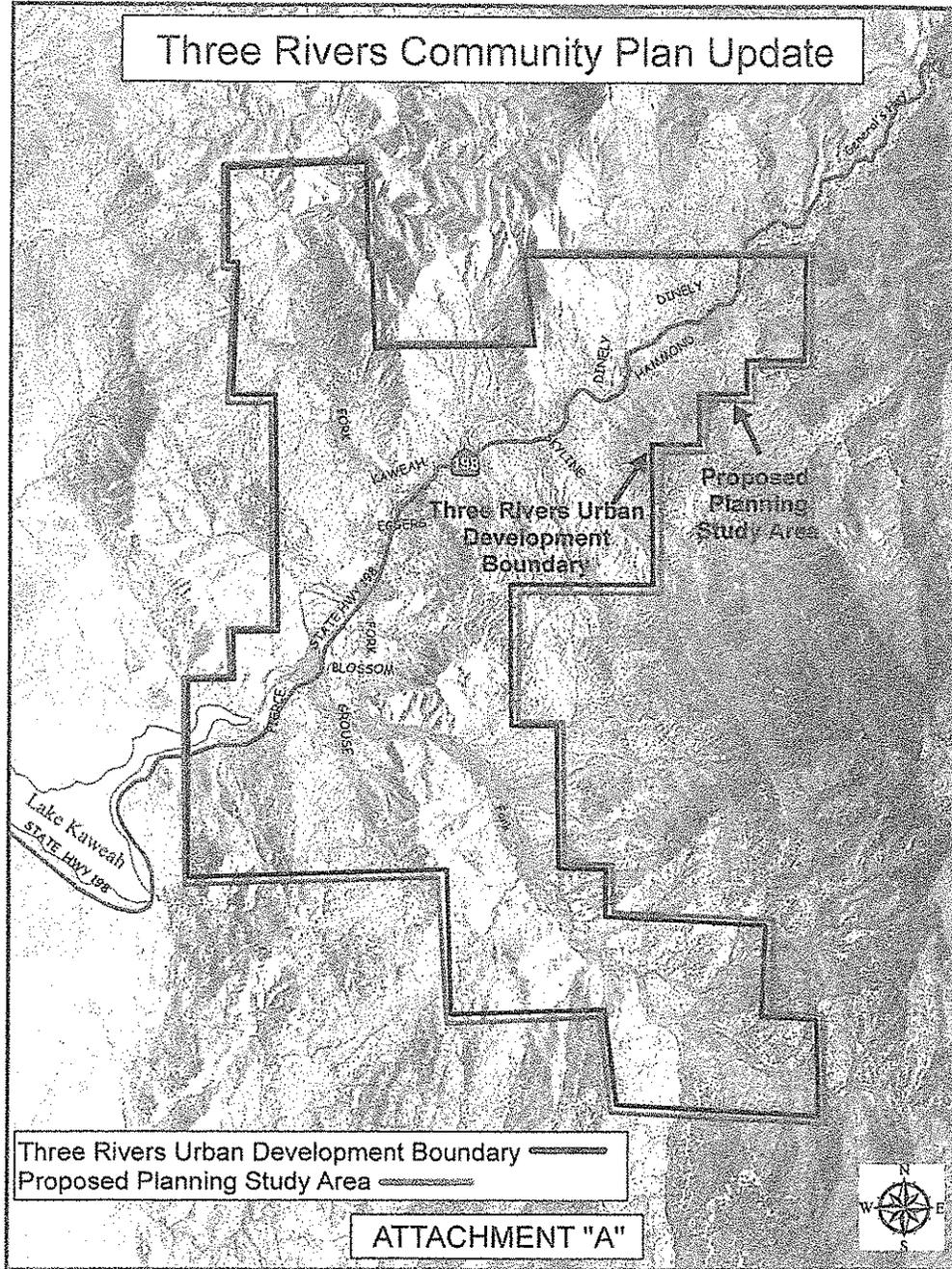
- Design Guidelines and Educational Programs.
- Mitigation should consider the Mitigation Options identified in SB 1334 (Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21083.4 (b) which provides that CEQA requires "feasible" and "proportional" mitigation for significant oak woodland habitat impacts.
 - (1) Conserve oak woodlands, through the use of conservation easements.
 - (2)
 - (A) Plant an appropriate number of trees, including maintaining plantings and replacing dead or diseased trees. (Determine Appropriate Ratios)
 - (B) The requirement to maintain trees pursuant to this paragraph terminates seven years after the trees are planted.
 - (C) Mitigation pursuant to this paragraph shall not fulfill more than one-half of the mitigation requirement for the project.
 - (D) The requirements imposed pursuant to this paragraph also may be used to restore former oak woodlands.
 - (3) Contribute funds to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund, as established under subdivision (a) of Section 1363 of the Fish and Game Code, for the purpose of purchasing

oak woodlands conservation easements, as specified under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of that section and the guidelines and criteria of the Wildlife Conservation Board. A project applicant that contributes funds under this paragraph shall not receive a grant from the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund as part of the mitigation for the project.

(4) Other mitigation measures developed by the county.

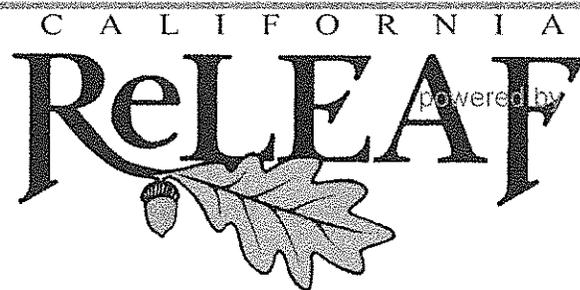
Reference: See Summary Meeting Notes from the April 13, 2015, May 11, 2015, June 8, 2015, and July 13, Agendas.

Three Rivers Community Plan Update



DRAFT OAK WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTLINE

- I. Purpose and Objectives of the OWMP
 - A. Purpose – Consistency with Three Rivers Community Plan and to Comply with 2012 County General Plan Requirements
 - B. Objectives
 - 1. Fulfill Requirements of California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act
 - 2. Provide Guidance to Landowners, Developers, and County Planners
 - 3. Qualify for Funding from Wildlife Conservation Board or other grants
 - 4. Consistency with Three Rivers Community Plan Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Policies.
- II. Conservation Goals of the OWMP
- III. Natural Resource Values of Oak Woodland Habitats
 - A. Grazing
 - B. Wildlife
 - C. Special-status Species
 - D. Recreation
 - E. Effects on Habitat from Loss of Oak Woodland Habitats
- IV. Oak Woodland Habitats in the Three Rivers UDB
 - A. Types of Oak Species in the Three Rivers UDB
 - B. Oak Communities in the Three Rivers UDB
- V. County Participation in Oak Woodland Habitats Conservation Program
 - A. Support for Private Landowner Participation in the OWCP
 - B. Support for Landowners
 - C. Education and Outreach
- VI. Best Management Practices for Oak Woodland Habitats
- VII. Mitigation for Loss of Oak Woodland Habitats
- VIII. Guidelines for Maintenance, Restoration, and Rehabilitation of Oak Woodlands
- IX. Monitoring and Reporting



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About ReLeaf

Mission & Goals

California ReLeaf was founded in 1989 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2004. Our mission is to empower grassroots efforts and build strategic partnerships that preserve, protect, and enhance California's urban and community forests.



California ReLeaf works statewide to promote alliances among community-based groups, individuals, industry, and government agencies, encouraging each to contribute to the livability of our cities and the protection of our environment by planting and caring for trees. California ReLeaf also serves as the State's volunteer coordinator for urban forestry in partnership with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Our goals include:

- Expanding delivery of services and resources to California ReLeaf Network groups.
- Broadening funding opportunities for urban and community forestry projects.

- Fostering involvement within the urban forestry movement throughout California's diverse communities.
- Improving legislative outreach and advocacy efforts on a state and federal level.

See our latest Annual Report here.

Sponsors

California ReLeaf's programs are possible because of generous support from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the USDA Forest Service.

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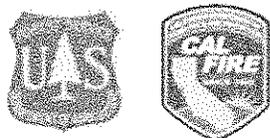
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Save Our Water and Our Trees!

Why you should save your trees

As you cut back on water use during this historic drought, you may not realize the impact this will have on your landscape trees.

Trees in irrigated landscapes become dependent on regular watering. When watering is reduced – and especially when it's stopped completely – trees will die.

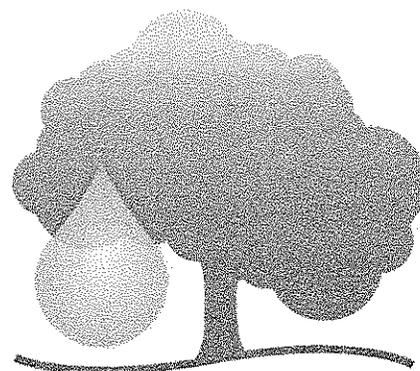
Tree loss is a very costly problem: not only in expensive tree removal, but also in the loss of all the benefits trees provide. Your trees provide an immense range of health, energy, environmental, and economic benefits:

- Trees improve air and water quality
- Trees provide shade to the landscape and reduce water needs
- Trees help keep your home cooler
- Trees slow stormwater runoff and help recharge groundwater
- Trees reduce soil erosion
- Trees add value – sometimes thousands of dollars' worth – to your home and neighborhood

Trees take a long time to grow. Without helping our trees through the drought, we risk losing these benefits. While the drought may not last long, it can harm or kill trees, and it will take 10, 20, or even 50+ years to grow trees and get back the benefits.

Frequently Asked Questions

Trees & Drought Information Flyer



**Save Our Water
and Our Trees!**

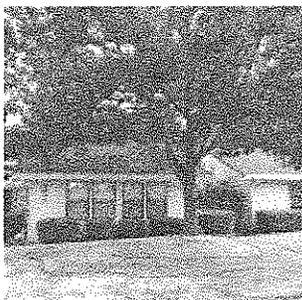
saveourwater.com/trees

SaveOurWater.com/trees

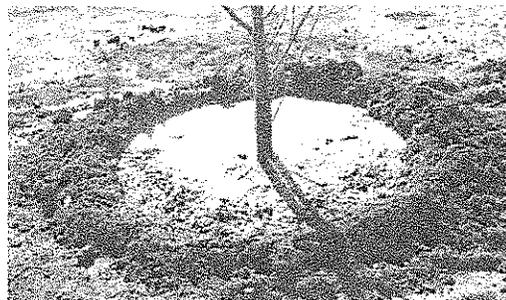
How to save your trees

Lawn trees can and must be saved during the drought. What you can do:

1. *Deeply and slowly water mature trees 1 – 2 times per month* with a simple soaker hose or drip system toward the edge of the tree canopy – NOT at the base of the tree. Use a Hose Faucet Timer (found at hardware stores) to prevent overwatering.
2. *Young trees need 5 gallons of water 2 – 4 times per week.* Create a small watering basin with a berm of dirt.
3. *Shower with a bucket* and use that water for your trees as long as it is free of non-biodegradable soaps or shampoos.
4. *Do not over-prune trees during drought.* Too much pruning and drought both stress your trees.
5. *Mulch, Mulch, MULCH!* 4 – 6 inches of mulch helps retain moisture, reducing water needs and protecting your trees.



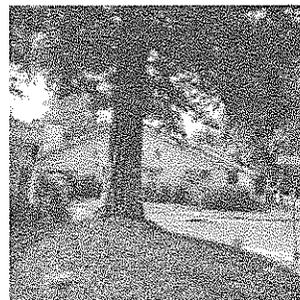
Place a soaker hose in a spiral pattern toward the edge of the tree canopy (the "drip line"). Check the soil by plunging a long screwdriver or similar tool into the soil.



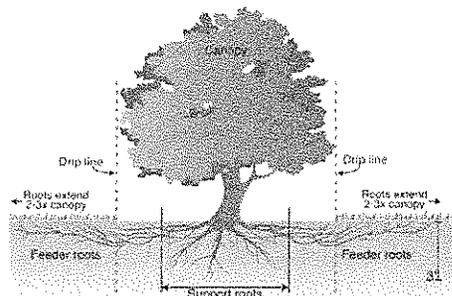
Watering basin for young tree.



Drought-stressed tree.



Mulching a mature tree.



Canopy and dripline graphic.

What else you can do to save water and your trees:

- If you prefer, instead of soaker hoses or drip lines, you can put out several 5 gallon buckets with 5 holes drilled into the bottom of the buckets.
 - Set the buckets under the tree toward the edge of the canopy area and use a hose to fill with water.
 - This water will then seep slowly into the ground. The number of buckets will depend on your soil type as well as the size and species of tree.
 - Trees in sandy soils need to be watered more frequently than trees in clay soils.
- Convert your spray irrigation system to a drip system so you do not have to depend on the manual hose timer. If you want help with converting your system, consult the manufacturer’s manuals and website for your irrigation system or talk to an irrigation specialist.
- Remove the lawn or sheet mulch the lawn underneath your tree. Trees actually prefer wood chip mulch and the “duff” created by their own leaves. Learn how here.

This information is brought to you with the support of the following organizations:

SaveOurWater.com, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection — Urban Forestry Division, California Department of Water Resources, California Urban Forests Council , Canopy , Davey Tree Expert Company , Friends of the Urban Forest, Governor’s Office of Planning & Research, Inland Empire Urban Forest Council , Local Government Commission , Oracle Oak Nursery, Sacramento Tree Foundation , TreePeople, University of California Cooperative Extension , Urban & Community Forestry, USDA Forest Service, Urban Tree Foundation , Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA) and West Coast Arborists.



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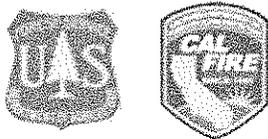
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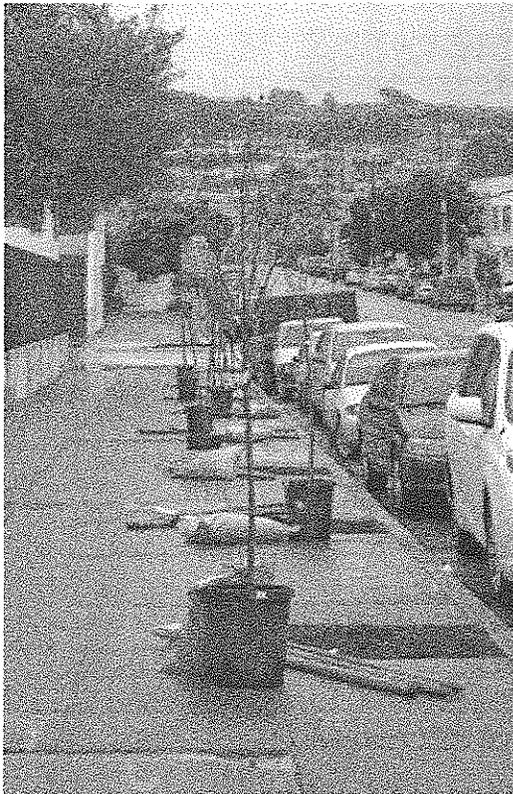
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Grants



Overview

California ReLeaf administers urban forestry grant programs on behalf of the State of California. Grant funding has been provided through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Region IX of the Environmental Protection Agency and the USDA Forest Service.

The purpose of these programs is to meet the critical need of creating and sustaining healthy communities in California by providing funding for an array of urban forestry efforts that range from education and outreach to tree-planting projects.

Since 1992, California ReLeaf has distributed more than \$9 million to nonprofits, local agencies and community-based groups throughout the state for the planting and care of trees on public property, education and outreach projects, green jobs training, and volunteer development. Grant recipients have involved thousands of volunteers in the planting and care of nearly 200,000

trees and have contributed more than \$9.8 million in donated goods and services, volunteer time, and matching funds.

Check back for more information on recent grants soon!



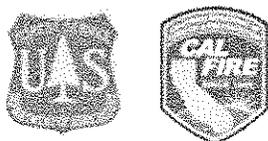
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California Trees

Spring/Summer 2015

Leading A Legacy

Diversity in Environmental Leadership

By Genoa Barrow

Leaves come in a myriad of shapes and shades, but those tasked with protecting and preserving them don't reflect the same diversity, according to a recent study.

"The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations: Mainstream NGOs, Foundations, Government Agencies" conducted by Dorceta E. Taylor, Ph. D. of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment was released in July 2014. It found that while some strides have been made in the past 50 years, most leadership roles in these organizations are still held by white males.

Dr. Taylor studied 191 conservation and preservation organizations, 74 government environmental agencies, and 28 environmental grant making foundations. Her report also includes information gleaned from confidential interviews with 21 environmental professionals who were asked about the state of diversity in their institutions.

According to the report, the largest gains have been seen by white women. The study found that women occupied more than half of the 1,714 leadership



positions studied in conservation and preservation organizations. Women also represent more than 60% of the new hires and interns in those organizations.

The numbers are promising, but the study found that there is still a "significant gender gap" when it comes to the most powerful positions in environmental organizations. For example, more than 70% of the presidents and chairs of the board of conservation and preservation organizations are male. Furthermore, over 76% of presidents of environmental grant making organizations are males.

The report also confirmed the existence of a "green ceiling," finding that only 12-16% of environmental organizations studied included minorities on their boards or general staff. Additionally, findings show that these employees are concentrated in the lower ranks.

PRIORITIZING DIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS

Ryan Allen, an Environmental Services Manager for the Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC) in Los Angeles, says it's no surprise that few people of color are represented in

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most mainstream agencies and organizations.

"Given the challenges minorities have faced in America, it's understandable that the environment hasn't been viewed as an urgent cause to take a stand on," Allen said.

Edgar Dymally — a Board Member of the non-profit TreePeople — agrees. He says many minorities focus has been on gaining equal access to social justice and overcoming housing and employment discrimination rather than environmental equity.

Dr. Taylor maintains that increased diversity would mean increased focus on issues and concerns facing people of color and other underrepresented groups.

"You need to have everyone's voice at the table, so you can fully understand the needs each community has," Allen concurred.

"Many environmental groups put a lot of effort into working in low income and minority communities, because that is typically where the largest environmental needs are," Allen continued. "I think the disconnect how to communicate the work you are doing with the population you are trying to serve. KYCC plants a lot of trees in South Los Angeles, a largely Hispanic and African-American, low income community.

We talk about the benefits of clean air, stormwater capture and energy savings, but maybe the thing people really care about is how the trees will help lower asthma rates."

What's being done by smaller groups, experts maintain, could be replicated by larger organizations for an even greater impact.

"I think the most vocal comes in not fully understanding how to communicate the work you are doing with the population you are trying to serve."

"KYCC works with a lot of recently immigrated families, and with that comes a lot of barriers in language and not understanding a new culture. Because of this we hire staff that can speak the language of the clients we serve — who understand the culture they are coming from. This allows us to keep our programming relevant to the communities we serve, and also keeps us connected.

"By letting the community tell us what they need, and then helping them to meet that need, we know the programs we run are making a positive impact on our clients," Allen said.

EMBRACING AN INTEGRATIVE APPROACH

His thoughts are shared by Mary E. Petit, Founder and Co-Executive Director of The Incredible Edible Community Garden, also based in Southern California.

"Diversity is a critical component to ensure the strength and longevity of not only environmental organizations but all organizations," Petit said.

"It ensures we evaluate our programs through a wide lens. It keeps us honest. If we look at nature, the healthiest and most balanced, robust natural environments are those that are most diverse.

"But in order to embrace diversity and the strength that it can give an organization, people must be open and unbiased, not just in words but in how people live their lives," she continued.

Eleanor Torres, Co-Executive Director of Incredible Edible Community Garden says she left the environmental arena in 2003 after becoming disillusioned. She returned in 2013, and while she was happy to see some "new blood" in the movement, she says there's still work to be done.

"It hasn't changed much. There has to be a huge shift in understanding," she continued. "In urban forestry, you're going to have to deal with people of color."

Torres, who is Latina and Native American, entered the field in 1993 and has had her share of being the "first" or "only" person of color in a leadership position. She says issues of racism, sexism and classism still need to be addressed before real change can be accomplished.

Dymally has been a member of TreePeople's Board for eight years. A civil engineer, his day job is as a Senior Environmental Specialist for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He says he's only come across a few people of color in higher leadership roles.

"There are some, but not a lot," he shared.

Dymally joined TreePeople at the request of the Board's only other member of color, who is Hispanic. He was urged to become more active and involved, largely because there weren't many people of color represented. That "each one, teach one" mentality, Dymally said, is encouraged by the organization's Founder and President Andy Lipkis, who is white.

Dymally said he'd like to see policymakers and lawmakers similarly embrace efforts to increase diversity.

"They can set the tone and bring energy to this struggle."

LIVING — AND LEAVING — A LEGACY

Dymally is the nephew of the former California Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, the first and only Black person to serve in that capacity. The younger Dymally points to his late uncle's past success in getting minorities represented on statewide Water Boards.

"I would certainly like to see the President, or someone of his profile, maybe the First Lady, get behind this effort," Dymally shared.

First Lady Michelle Obama, he added, has been a champion for nutrition and garden creation and can do the same for promoting the need for bringing different people and viewpoints to the proverbial environmental table.

The "State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations" report argues that the issue requires "priority attention" and makes recommendations for "aggressive efforts" in three areas— tracking and transparency, accountability, and resources.

"Diversity statements without a plan and rigorous data collection are just words on paper," reads the 187-page document.

"Organizations and associations should institute annual diversity and inclusion assessments. Disclosure should facilitate sharing

of strategies for addressing unconscious bias and overhauling recruiting beyond the green insiders' club," it continues.

The report also suggests that foundations, NGOs and government agencies integrate diversity goals into performance evaluations and grant making criteria, that increased resources be allocated for diversity initiatives to work, and that sustainable funding be provided for networking to reduce isolation and support existing leaders of color.

"You need to have everyone's voice at the table, so you can fully understand the needs each community has."

"I'm not sure what can be done that would immediately bring minorities into more leadership roles, but bringing more awareness and education to local youth, helping to inspire the next generation of leaders, would be a good first step," Allen said.

"It has to start at the school level," Dymally said, echoing the sentiment and pointing to TreePeople's outreach efforts.

The organization's environmental education programs encourage elementary and secondary school students and teachers in the Los Angeles area to "dig in," learn the benefits of growing the urban forest, and become lifelong caretakers of the environment.

"In 10, 15, 20 years, we'll see some of those young people cycle through (the organization and the movement)," Dymally said.

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Dymally says the lack of diversity

may be explained, in part, because there simply aren't a lot of people of color in the environmental arena to begin with.

"It might just reflect the numbers involved," he said. It has been said that when young minorities see professionals "who look like them" in a particular field, the more likely they are to want to be that "when they grow up." Seeing African American doctors can inspire African American children to think about medical school. Having prominent Latino lawyers in the community can motivate Latino youth to attend law school or pursue other legal professions. Exposure and access are key, Dymally shared.

Dymally says many people of color, African-Americans in particular, may not view the environmental arena as an attractive or lucrative career choice.

The environmental field is a "calling" for many, he says, and as such, it's just as important that the people of color taking on leadership roles be "people of passion," who will help bring resources to more people and drive California's urban forest movement into the future.

Chris Torres, KYCC founder, provides food to Southtown. People he helped are seen at the Sacramento Community, The Home, and Homeless Monthly meeting.



Over, the Harvard Edible Community Garden has a great success story. In February 2013, community engagement meeting.

Opposite: A meeting held in the community, from a range of communities.

Below: TreePeople's efforts at KYCC, Belmont District Center in February 2013.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Chuck Mills

BILLS, BUDGET BACK URBAN FORESTRY PRIORITIES FOR 2015

Urban forestry funding could be flowing through California at record levels later this year.

Governor Brown's proposed 2015-16 State Budget allocates \$37.8 million in cap-and-trade auction proceeds for CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program. Projects must reduce greenhouse gasses and meet the goals of AB 32.

The Administration has also included proposed language that would allow \$10 million of these funds to be distributed competitively statewide.

Momentum for funding urban forestry through the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) continues to build among environmental justice stakeholders, natural resources advocates, members of the

Legislature, and key agencies within Governor Brown's administration. CAL FIRE reports that they received \$107 million in applications for the \$15.5 million available for local assistance grants in the 2014-15 State Budget – making urban forestry a strong contender for additional funds in the years to come.

SENATE PRESIDENT INTRODUCES PARK BOND BILL

Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León (D – Los Angeles) introduced Senate Bill 317 this year, which would place the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, and Coastal Protection Bond Act on the 2016 ballot if successful.

Though the measure is certain to be amended many times over the next several months, the current version contains \$30 million for CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program.

The last park bond to be passed by voters was Proposition 40 in 2002 which provided \$10 million to CAL FIRE for these purposes.

SILICON VALLEY LEGISLATOR PROTECTING RIGHT TO VOLUNTEER

Assembly Member Rich Gordon (D – Menlo Park) has introduced Assembly Bill 327 this year which would extend by seven years state law exempting volunteers for specific projects from public works prevailing wage law. Gordon successfully carried the legislation that created a five-year extension of the exemption in 2011.

"Volunteers are the cornerstone of community

conservation efforts, and extending this important provision will allow California to tap into one of our greatest resources for healthy communities and the environment – volunteerism," noted Assembly Member Gordon.

California ReLeaf and its Network are part of a diverse coalition of nearly 200 organizations supporting this effort.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR URBAN FORESTRY AGAIN IN FLUX

Congress moved a continuing resolution in 2014 that extends the current annual funding level of \$28 million for the U.S. Forest Service's Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program through September 2015.

"The current version of the measure contains \$30 million for CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program."

However, the President's budget proposal for FY 2016 suggests slashing the U&CF Program by 15% down to \$24 million. Urban forestry advocates in DC, including American Forests, are working with Congress to try and get that funding level up to \$31.3 million, which is consistent with what was enacted in fiscal year 2012.

Chuck Mills is the Director, Policy and Grants at California ReLeaf.

RELEAF NETWORK LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP AUGUST 19-20, 2015

University of California Riverside

OPENING RECEPTION: AUGUST 19, 5:30-7:30 PM.
NETWORKING & EDUCATION: AUGUST 20 ALL DAY

Join us in Southern California for a full day of guest speakers, networking, and learning how to broaden the reach of urban forestry efforts in your region. Connect with some of our 93 California ReLeaf Network Members to share stories, successes, and an all-around good time as we navigate the next steps of urban forestry together.

For more information visit <http://californiareleaf.org/programs/workshops>

Guest speakers include:

José Gonzalez

FOUNDER, LATINO OUTDOORS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Facilitator
Diversifying the Conservation Movement: Approaches for Equity and Inclusion Through Story and Culture

José is an experienced educator in formal and informal education settings with an array of associated interests in the arts, education, conservation, and the environment. He has broad experience as a K-12 public education teacher, environmental education adviser, outdoor education instructor and coordinator, and university adjunct faculty. Currently he is leading Latino Outdoors and working on other bridging opportunities with Latino communities and conservation.

Bobby Peña

CO-FOUNDER, BFCUBED, INC.

Public Relations / Latino Outreach / Marketing Communications
Steps to Effective Media Communications

Bobby is a proven communications professional and a well-respected member of the Latino business community who has helped large and small for- and non-profit organizations and government agencies effectively reach Latino and other ethnic markets. Bobby has led public relations projects for the Sacramento, California and U.S. Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, and has served on the Board of Directors for the California Conservation Corps Foundation.

Kelaine Ravlin

OWNER & FOUNDER, URBAN ECOS

Urban Ecologist

Understanding GHG Sequestration & Trees

Kelaine offers ecological and technological consulting to make our cities greener, more sustainable, and more environmentally sound. She has a background in ecology and landscape architecture and has pursued research in these fields as a Fulbright Scholar in Berlin and with the U.S. Forest Service. Recent work includes the development of several OpenTreeMap projects in cities across California, fire training, and guidance for institutions to use urban forestry for greenhouse gas mitigation and energy conservation.

PLEASE CONTACT INFO@CALIFORNIARELEAF.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE RELEAF NETWORK LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP.

WANT TO HELP?

Support our efforts to protect and expand urban forestry by becoming a member of the ReLeaf Network. We are currently accepting applications for our 2015-16 Network Members. For more information, visit californiareleaf.org/donate.

Donate online at

californiareleaf.org/donate.

California ReLeaf is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are currently accepting applications for our 2015-16 Network Members. For more information, visit californiareleaf.org/donate.

Tree Lodi

Guardians of Our Urban Forest



28

by *Aracelia Oliver*

Lodi: this Central Valley city serves a unique and diverse community with a big influence on California. Though the City proper has a population of over 63,000 within just over 13 square miles, its services extend to an estimated 175,000 people. Its economy has a historical agricultural component and

is currently touted as the "Zinfandel Capital of the World."

LIKE CITY, LIKE CANOPY

Lodi's population spans a large range as well; demographic trends in the area reveal emerging populations of Hispanic, Hmong, and Sikh – more than 30% of Lodi speaks a language other than

English at home. Furthermore, the population is aging and many households are multi-generational.

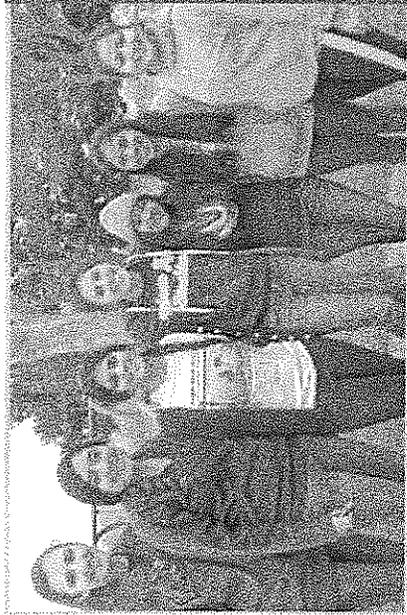
The Lodi tree canopy mirrors the City's population – diverse and mature. As with many municipalities across the state, funds for tree maintenance are scarce. Although benefit-abundant, a mature tree canopy requires a diligent Management Plan, one that addresses pest or disease issues and has a plan for hazard tree removal and replacement. If no such Plan exists, it often falls on the citizenry to become the Guardian of the Trees. This is the job of Tree Lodi.

THE GENESIS OF THE GUARDIANS

The Tree Lodi story begins with a mistletoe invasion in its mature tree population. Tree Lodi founder, Joyce Harmon, knew the fill of mistletoe and began a concerted effort to bring this to the City's attention; through civic action, letter writing and education, becoming known as the "Mistletoe Lady of Lodi."

Member Snapshot

YEAR FOUNDED: 2005
 JOINING WORK: 2009
 BOARD MEMBERS: 7
 BOARD PRESIDENT: STEVE DIURA
 STAFF: ALL VOLUNTEER
 WEBSITE: WWW.TREELODI.ORG
 CONTACT INFORMATION:
 INFO@TREELODI.ORG
 TREE LODI, INC.
 1040 W. ARTHUR LANE, #1040
 LODI, CA 95240



After realizing she could do no more as an individual and that the issues and needs went far beyond just mistletoe, she decided that an urban forest organization was needed. Joyce founded Tree Lodi in 2005; a diverse group of tree specialists, educators, local business owners, and individuals that came together, volunteering their time to improve Lodi's urban forest. (Now at 91, Joyce has reduced her responsibilities and serves as Treasurer.)

TREE LODI TODAY

Tree Lodi's most recent project involved the removal of 36 aged and hazardous Bradford pear trees and their replacement with more appropriate tree species. This proposal received mixed reviews when announced, but Tree Lodi continued to communicate the benefits of the project; the improved urban forest, decreased maintenance costs, safety issues due to limb failure, and a sense of pride and involvement. The project, which was scheduled to take up to five years, was completed in less than a year – thanks to the help of 124 volunteers and immense community support.

TRAINING TREE PEOPLE FOR TOMORROW

As suggested by their logo, a focal part of Tree Lodi's planning

involves increasing stewardship of Lodi through education and involvement of Lodi's youth.

"We are especially concerned about the future of Lodi's trees and the need to develop stewardship programs that involve the youth of our community," shares board President Steve Diura.

Committed to "preserving, protecting, and promoting Lodi's urban forest," Tree Lodi runs on powerful volunteer energy to retain the title, "Guardian" of their Urban Forest. If you ever find yourself "stuck in Lodi, again," you'll be sure to thank Tree Lodi for the healthy Lodi shade.

Aracelia Oliver is the Executive Director of Tree Lodi, a non-profit organization in Lodi, California.



Tree Lodi

guardian of our urban forest

"Though the City proper has a population of over 63,000 within just over 13 square miles, its services extend to an estimated 175,000 people."



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BIG CHANGES FOR CALIFORNIA RELEAF

It's been a bustling few months for California ReLeaf, but with plenty of good reason.

NEW DIGS

We've moved! Our new home at **2115 J Street, Suite 213** is in the heart of midtown Sacramento, in an old hair salon with plenty of natural lighting and – you guessed it – great views of the city's trees. Come say hi next time you're in town!



THE GANG'S ALL HERE

After a season of "musical chairs," the new California ReLeaf staff has finally settled in:

- **Cindy Blain**, *Executive Director*
- **Chuck Mills**, *Director of Public Policy & Grants*
- **Amelia Oliver**, *Network & Operations Program Manager*
- **Melissa Gutierrez**, *Education & Communications Program Manager*

Besides bringing on a new team member, we've also redefined roles for the entire organization in a way that allows each person to maximize his or her strengths. We're feeling strong and settled, and we're already diving in to rebooting and revamping the best resources California ReLeaf has to offer. The future of urban forestry is bright, and we're fortunate to have such a strong network made of people like you to help make a real difference with urban trees in California's communities.

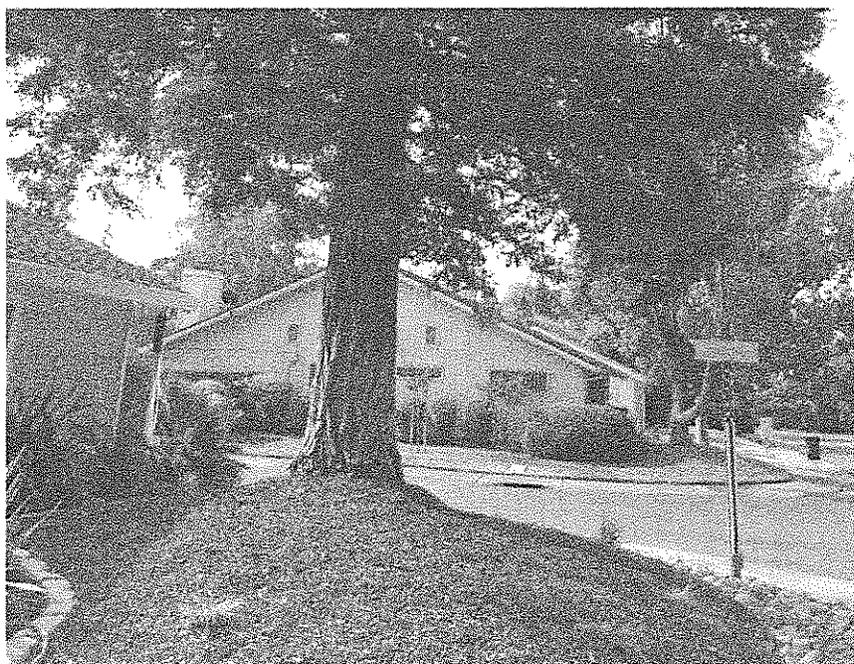


Frequently Asked Questions: Trees & Drought in California

1. Why do I need to take care of my tree during the drought?

Your trees provide an immense range of health, energy, environmental, and economic benefits:

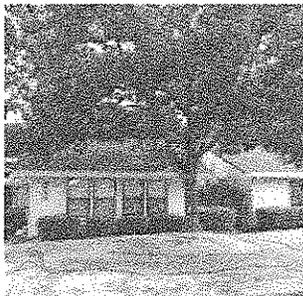
- Trees improve air and water quality
- Trees provide shade to the landscape and reduce water needs
- Trees help keep your home cooler
- Trees slow stormwater runoff and help recharge groundwater
- Trees reduce soil erosion
- Trees add value – sometimes thousands of dollars' worth – to your home & neighborhood



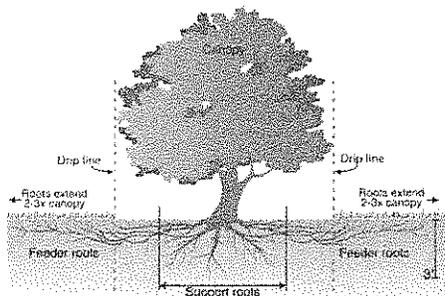
Trees take a long time to grow. Without helping our trees through the drought, we risk losing their benefits. While the drought may not last long, it can seriously damage or kill trees, and these benefits will take 10, 20, or even 50+ years to get back. Taking care of your trees during the drought ensures that we preserve and protect these life-giving benefits for ourselves, our families, our homes, and our communities.

2. How often should I water my large mature trees?

Mature trees in your lawn need to be closely monitored. With a generous layer of mulch and monitoring, these trees need to be gradually transitioned to a deep watering 1 – 2 times per month, depending on the number of hot days (over 95 degree F).



Soaker hose for mature tree



Drip line & canopy graphic

Place a soaker hose in a spiral pattern toward the edge of the tree canopy (drip line). Check the soil by plunging a long screwdriver or similar tool into the soil. The soil should be moist to at least 18 inches deep, but not soggy. Be sure not to concentrate the water at the base of tree, since that will cause rot.

Water-loving trees such as birch, redwoods, and certain maple will always require close attention. Other tree species, even drought-tolerant ones, planted in a lawn that was frequently watered will be affected when the irrigation is cut back or stopped, particularly if your soil type is heavy or compacted. Be sure not to concentrate the water at the base of tree, since that will cause rot.

3. How often should I water my mature native or drought-tolerant trees?

Trees that have matured in non-turf landscapes adapt the easiest, especially drought tolerant species. Native trees, such as our California oaks, need MUCH less water than most non-native trees. In fact, California oaks may only need one or two deep waterings over the summer, but no water within 1 to 2 feet from the trunk. They absolutely need the soil to dry out for a month or two before more water, if any, needs to be reapplied.

4. How often should I water my young trees?

A newly planted tree needs to be watered more often: 2 – 4 times per week in summer, depending on the soil type. More often for sandy soils and less often for clay soils.



Watering basin for young tree

Create a 4 – 5 feet diameter watering basin around the tree, using soil to create a small berm or ring of dirt around the tree. Fill the basin with water, allow it to soak in, then add more water. Give newly planted bare root or 5-gallon trees at least 10 gallons of water each time you water. Give newly planted 15-gallon trees about 15 -20 gallons of water each time you water.

Trees that are 1 – 2 years old have roots that are extending beyond the canopy width, so increase the

area being watered and avoid watering within 1 – 2 feet of the trunk. Trees of this age may require deep watering once a week in summer, and more than that where the soil is sandy.

5. Where can I get more info on how to care for my trees?

- Check back often at <http://SaveOurWater.com/trees> for new information on how to care for trees.
- To learn about programs in your neighborhood, you can check with:
 - Your local urban forest nonprofit. To locate an urban forest group near you, visit <http://californiareleaf.org/network/map/>
 - Your local UC Cooperative Extension. Visit http://ucanr.edu/County_Offices

6. How can I tell if my tree is not getting enough water?

Look at the tree leaves. Wilting leaves is the first indicator of lack of water to the roots. Wilting leaves can also mean too much water, but in this drought, that would be rare.



Drought-stressed tree

7. When should I water my trees?

Water early in the morning or after sunset, when the sun won't evaporate water as readily. Make sure you are watering the soil around the tree, not the leaves, branches or trunk.

8. Can I keep my sprinklers?

Sprinklers and spray irrigation are both very wasteful. It's best to convert irrigation systems to drip or low-flow stream rotator heads. If you use stream rotator heads, be sure the water does not hit the tree trunk. And don't forget to fix your leaks!

9. How is watering trees different than watering my lawn?

Your lawn sits on the surface of the ground and has shallow roots. It needs watering a few times a week, usually with a sprinkler.

Trees need to be watered less frequently, but with deeper soaking – because their roots grow deep in the earth – the majority of tree roots are 1½ -3 feet deep. Lawn irrigation does not water trees effectively. It generally reaches only the first few inches of soil, encouraging weak surface roots to grow.

10. How else can I help my tree survive the drought?

Stop watering your lawn this summer – let it “sleep” or go gold, or remove your lawn completely – to eliminate competition for water and nutrients. Replace with bark or mulch to help retain ground moisture. Consider sheet mulching to prepare your lawn for drought-tolerant turf and plants.

11. Should I mulch my trees?

Wood chip mulch is one of the best ways to save water and keep your trees healthy. A thick layer of mulch will keep moisture in the soil longer and protect the roots from summer heat, so you use less water and your trees stay happy. Mulching is great, because it:

- Reduces the amount of water needed in your yard by 10 – 25%
- Decomposes and releases nutrients into the soil
- Reduces soil compaction so roots can breathe
- Maintains soil temperature and protects roots from cold and heat
- Discourages grass & weeds – which compete for nutrients – from growing near the tree trunk

12. Where can I get mulch?

You can often get free wood chips from your local utility provider or purchase them from a local tree care company or garden store. You can also try a new service called Chip Drop – it's like Uber for mulch: connecting nearby residents with arborists who have wood chip mulch from pruning trees in the community. <http://www.Chipdrop.in>

13. How do I use the mulch?

Spread mulch in a 4- 6 inch layer around your tree – your tree would love the mulch to be as wide as the canopy of the tree. You will need to either remove the lawn underneath the mulch or “sheet mulch” with cardboard or newspaper to prevent the grass from growing up through the mulch. Keep mulch 2 – 3 inches away from the tree trunk to prevent rot around the base of the tree.

14. How does watering trees help the drought?

Keeping trees alive helps keep your home cooler, meaning less energy and resources spent on cooling systems and decreased water use in other areas. Deep watering of trees also helps replenish groundwater underneath your land.

15. What else can I do to save water and our trees?

Reusing greywater and non-potable water – for example, collecting shower water in buckets as you wait for it to warm up – is a great way to water your young trees that need about 10 – 20 gallons per week. Just be sure your greywater is free of non-biodegradable detergents, soaps, or shampoos or other harmful chemicals.

16. How much water does it take to keep my trees alive?

Keeping your trees alive is possible with minimal and proper use of water. More than half of outdoor water is used on lawns. By letting your lawn go brown and concentrating your water on your trees, you are maximizing your water's potential.

17. Why not just let my trees die?

Dead or dying trees can be dangerous and pose great risks to your property and your loved ones. Removal of dead or dying trees can cost thousands of dollars. In both cases, letting trees die also eliminates all the great health, home, economic, and environmental benefits that trees bring to your property.

18. What about the other plants in my yard?

Other plants – grass, shrubs, and scenic foliage – can, unfortunately, die fairly quickly. The good news is that your lawn will grow back easily once watered, while other plants cost much less to replace. Of course, it would be ideal if you replaced them with drought tolerant plants and/or more trees.

19. Won't trees just grow back after the drought?

No. Drought-stressed trees are vulnerable to disease and pests, which will finish off a tree once weakened by drought. And some drought-stressed trees, once too dried out, are unable to absorb water once the rains return or you finally begin watering them. Drought stress affects the long term health and vigor of trees. Your tree may look fine this summer, but die next summer if not watered now. Grass can grow back in just a few weeks, but it can take decades for a tree to grow to full size.

20. What about my neighborhood trees?

You can help take care of neighborhood trees the same way as you take care of your own! Get a group together and teach others proper watering techniques, then assign a rotation and let everyone take part in caring for the neighborhood trees together.

21. I heard El Niño is coming back – what if the drought ends and I don't need to care for my tree anymore?

We all hope that it rains this year! Recent weather trends, however, indicate hotter temperatures in general and the likelihood of more extreme weather events – such as potential flooding due to El Niño. We need to be prepared for periods of drought and other harsh weather. Trees are important as they can help with climate adaptation in the face of extreme weather. Caring for your trees will ensure a healthier, cleaner, more vital community – whatever the weather.



ADD A COMMENT

Name *

Email *

Website

Comment

Add Comment

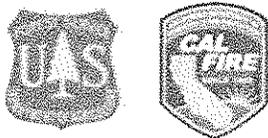
ABOUT CALIFORNIA RELEAF

California ReLeaf was founded in 1989 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2004. Our mission is to empower grassroots efforts and build strategic partnerships that preserve, protect, and enhance California's urban and community forests.

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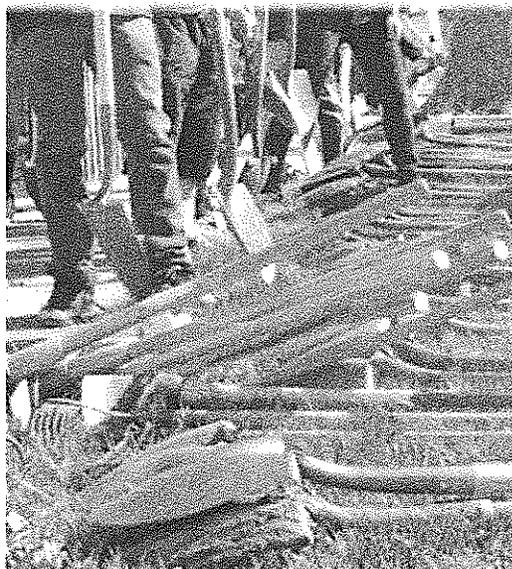
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Selecting, Planting & Caring for Your Trees



Before You Plant



Selecting Your Tree

You've heard it said before, planting a tree is a simple yet powerful act. While that's true, your commitment should make the biggest impact possible. So, before you plant, take a look at these important resources.

SelecTree – This program designed by the Urban Forestry Ecosystems Institute at Cal Poly is a tree selection database for California. You can find the best tree to plant by attribute or by zip code. Not every tree is suited to your city's climate or even to an urban environment.

Right Tree, Right Place – When you plant a tree, you hope to see it grow to maturity. Make sure that happens by planting the right tree in the right place. This site provides valuable resources to make sure that your plan to plant takes health and safety risks into account to help avoid future conflicts.

Tree Quality Cue Card – When you get to the nursery, the information on this cue card will help you choose the

best quality tree stock to plant. The card is available in English or Spanish.

Additional Resources – There are several books that can teach you more about the trees available in California. Check out [A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us](#) by Matt Ritter to learn more about California's most common street trees. The [Sunset Western Garden Book](#) can tell you more about your area's hardiness zone and appropriate plants for your climate.



Planting Your Tree



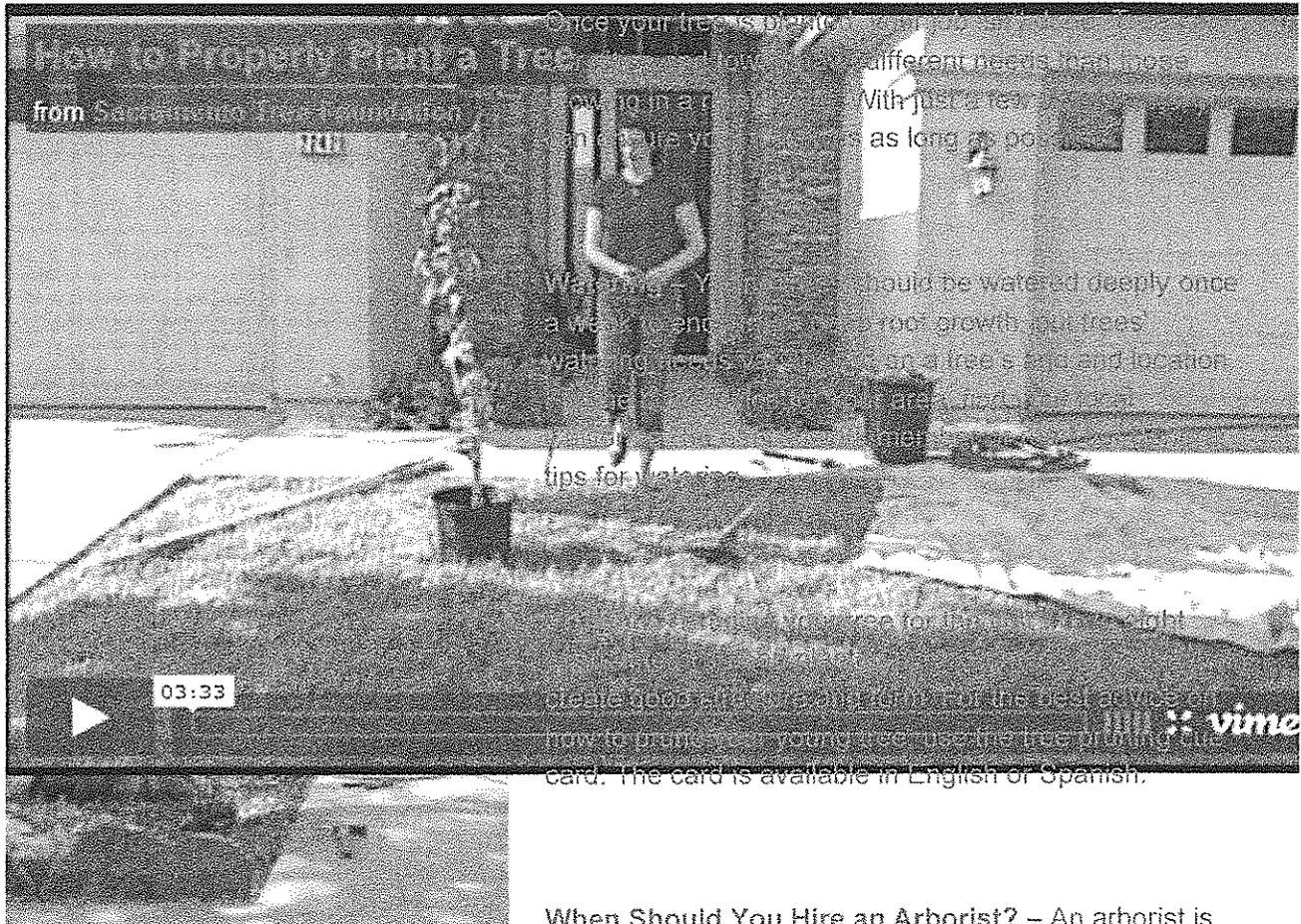
Planting Your Tree Correctly

By planting a tree, you're planting shade, fresh air, clean water, and a healthy community. To make sure your tree grows and provides all of its possible benefits, watch this quick video from the Sacramento Tree Foundation to ensure you're doing things correctly.

Tree Planting Cue Card – When you're ready to plant your tree, you can take this card with you to make sure you remember the important steps you can take to help your tree get the best start possible. The card is available in English or Spanish.



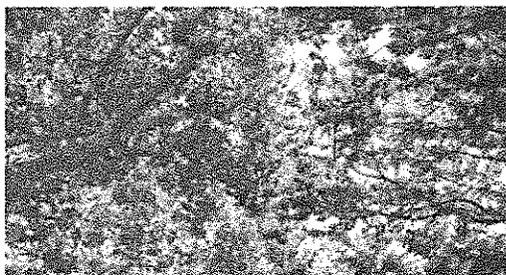
Caring for Your Tree



When Should You Hire an Arborist? – An arborist is basically a tree care specialist. For the same reasons you wouldn't trust the management of your health or of your retirement investments to just anyone, mature trees are best handled by the pros.

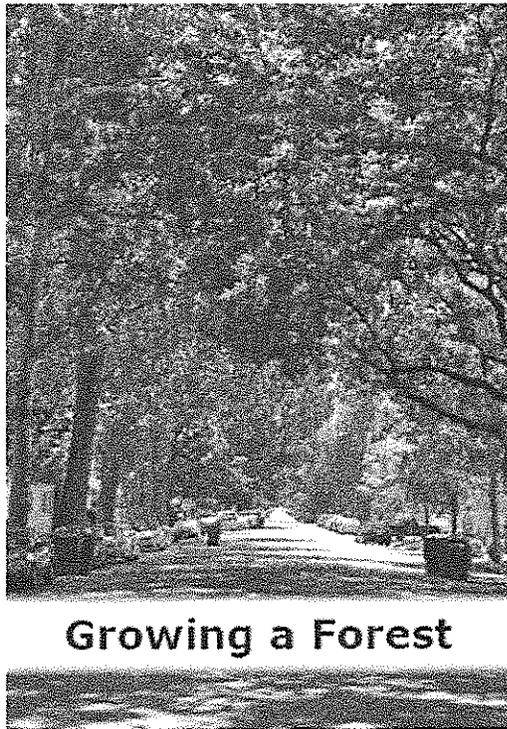
Tree work can be complex, and sometimes dangerous. Certified arborists will know the smartest and safest approach to caring for your tree. They are also skilled at preventing potential mistakes or hazards since they have a complete understanding of tree biology and structure.

To find an arborist you can trust, browse the listings on the International Society of Arboriculture's website.



Growing a Forest in Your Town

An urban or community forest is all of the trees, plants, and natural resources within a city or town. The trees, parks, trails, streams, and green spaces in your community – even the trees you're planting – are parts of the urban forest.



Why Trees? – Trees are an important part of any environment, but make a huge difference when they're planted and cared for in urban areas. Take a look at this infographic and explore our site to find out more about the benefit of planting trees in our cities and towns.

"Someone's sitting in the shade today, because someone planted a tree long ago." -Warren Buffet

Our Collective Impact – Planting a single tree can make a difference for your family, but planting a forest is an act of great compassion for your community. When you plant a forest, you plant clean air and water, shade, places to heal, and places to play. When you plant and care for an urban forest, you're growing community and connection.

Sound daunting? At California ReLeaf, we're working hard to grow forests in communities throughout California. You can join us in this effort by supporting California ReLeaf.

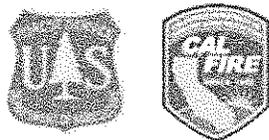


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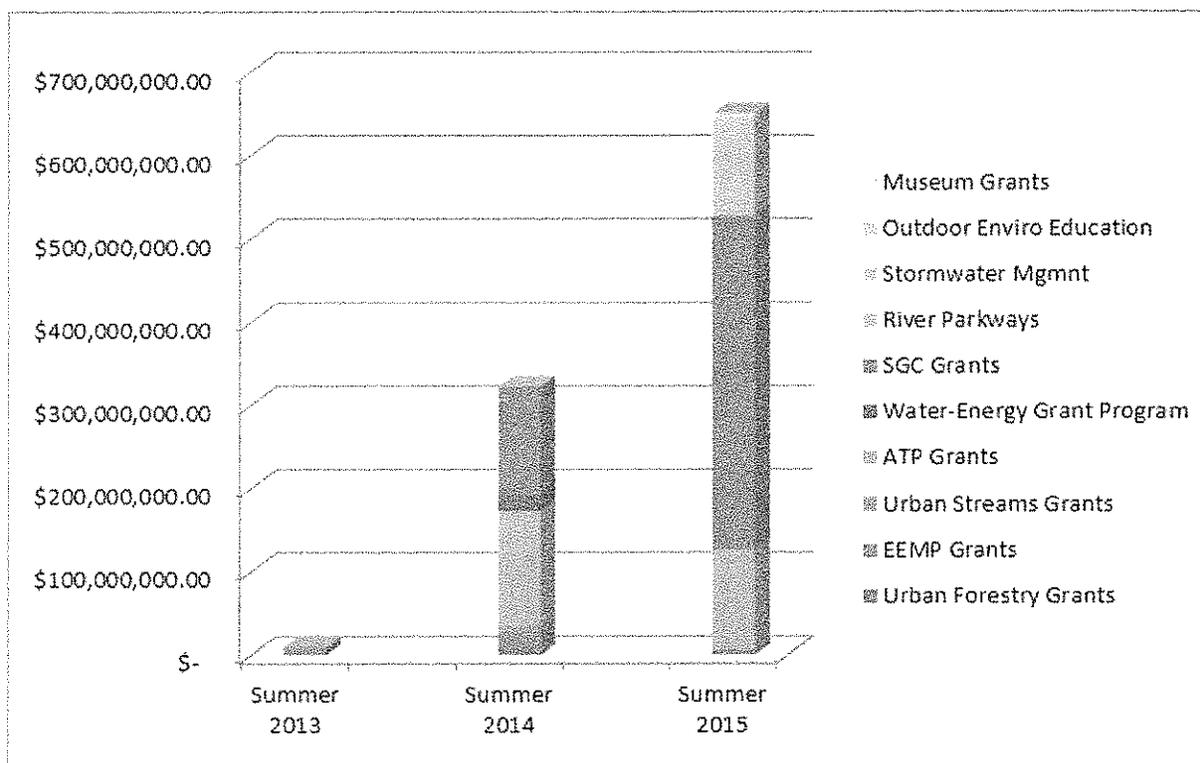


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Public Grants

There are more state dollars available now to support some or all aspects of urban forestry than there ever have been in California’s history. This unprecedented “Green Rush” opens numerous doors of opportunity for non-profits and community groups to secure significant public funds for urban forestry and tree planting projects connecting to greenhouse gas reductions, environmental mitigation, active transportation, sustainable communities, environmental justice, water, and energy conservation.

Available Public Grants 2013-2015



Urban and Community Forestry Program

Administrated by: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Synopsis: Multiple grant programs supported by the Urban and Community Forestry Program will fund tree planting, tree inventories, urban wood and biomass utilization, blighted urban lands improvements, and leading edge work that advances the goals and objectives of supporting healthy urban forests and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Connection to Urban Forestry: Urban forestry is the primary focus of this program.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$37.8 million (proposed, not approved)

Status of Program Guidelines: Completed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Fall 2015

Eligible Applicants: Cities, counties, non-profits, qualifying districts

Urban & Community Forestry Program Website

Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP)

Administrated by: California Natural Resources Agency

Synopsis: The EEMP encourages projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water use efficiency, reduce risks from climate change impacts, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state and community entities. Eligible projects must be directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of the modification of an existing transportation facility or construction of a new transportation facility.

Connection to Urban Forestry: One of two primary focal points of the EEMP

Available Funding (2015-16): \$6.7 million

Status of Program Guidelines: Completed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Applications must be postmarked by Monday, July 13, 2015

Eligible Applicants: Local, state, and federal governmental agencies, and nonprofit organizations

EEMP Website

Urban Streams Restoration Program

Administrated by: California Department of Water Resources

Synopsis: The Urban Streams Restoration Program provides grants to local communities for projects to reduce flooding and erosion and associated property damages; restore, enhance, or protect the natural ecological values of streams; and promote community involvement, education, and stewardship.

Connection to Urban Forestry: Previously funded proposals have included bank stabilization projects and revegetation efforts. As an example, one funded project implemented a program of planting low-maintenance native trees and riparian vegetation along Kern River frontage areas. Approximately 4,200 trees were planted along four miles of stream bank in several phases.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$0

Status of Program Guidelines: Completed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: When funding becomes available

Eligible Applicants: One applicant must be a local public agency and the other a citizen's group or non-profit organization. Either party may act as the sponsor who will be the lead for the project.

Urban Streams Restoration Program Website

Active Transportation Program (ATP)

Administrated by: California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS)

Synopsis: The ATP provides funding to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking.

Connection to Urban Forestry: Trees and other vegetation are significant components of several eligible projects under the ATP, including parks, trails, and safe-routes-to-schools.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$120 million (paired with other state appropriations for granting over a three-year cycle)

Status of Program Guidelines: Completed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Spring 2016

Eligible Applicants: Public agencies, transit agencies, school districts, tribal governments and non-profit organizations. Non-profits are eligible lead applicants for parks and recreational trails.

Active Transportation Program Website

Water-Energy Grant Program

Administrated by: California Department of Water Resources

Synopsis: The Water-Energy Grant Program provides funds to implement water efficiency programs or projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce water and energy use.

Connection to Urban Forestry: This is a new program with three primary goals that all connect directly to urban forestry, and creates a precedent-setting opportunity to integrate urban forestry into this field.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$TBD

Status of Program Guidelines: Completed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: TBD

Eligible Applicants: Local agencies, joint powers authorities, and non-profit organizations

Water-Energy Grant Program Website

Local Educational Agency Proposition 39 Award Program

Administrated by: State Superintendent of Public Instruction and California Energy Commission

Synopsis: Funds may be used by Local Educational Agencies for energy efficiency and clean energy projects, as well as related energy planning, energy training, energy management, and energy projects with related non-energy benefits.

Connection to Urban Forestry: Tree planting is an eligible energy efficiency upgrade under this Program.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$313 million

Status of Program Guidelines: Updated June 2015

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Ongoing

Eligible Applicants: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), which include county offices of education, school districts, charter schools, and state special schools. Non-profits and community groups would need to work directly with the LEA to integrate tree-planting into the LEA's application for funding.

Proposition 39 Website

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

Administrated by: Strategic Growth Council

Synopsis: The SGC is authorized to fund land-use, housing, transportation, and land preservation projects to support infill and compact development that reduce GHG emissions.

Connection to Urban Forestry: Eligible use of funds include, but are not limited to, rainwater recycling, flow and filtration systems including rain gardens, stormwater planters and filters, vegetated swales, bioretention basins, infiltration trenches and integration with riparian buffers, shade trees, community gardens, parks and open space.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$400 million

Status of Program Guidelines: Completed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Winter 2015

Eligible Applicants: Locality (e.g. local agencies), Developer (entity responsible for project construction), Program Operator (day-to-day operational project administrator).

AHSC Website

California River Parkway Grant Program (RP)

Administrated by: California Natural Resources Agency

Synopsis: The California River Parkway Grant Program funds the acquisition, restoration, protection, and development of river parkways in accordance with the California River Parkway Act of 2004.

Connection to Urban Forestry: Tree-planting is specifically listed as an eligible means of restoring and improving river parkways' biological habitats.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$7.6 million

Status of Program Guidelines: Completed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Applications must be postmarked on or before September 1, 2015

Eligible Applicants: Public agencies and qualified nonprofit organizations

California River Parkways Grant Program Website

Museum Grant Program

Administered by: California Cultural and Historical Endowment

Synopsis: The Museum Grant Program was established to assist and enhance the services provided by California's museums, and other groups and institutions that undertake cultural projects that are deeply rooted in and reflective of previously underserved communities.

Connection to Urban Forestry: Living collections such as arboreturns are eligible candidates under the Museum Grant Program. Eligible development projects may include permanent landscape/hardscape. Also eligible are permanent exhibits and exterior landscapes, gardens, and outdoor plazas.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$4 million

Status of Program Guidelines: Completed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Eligible Applicants: Public agencies and nonprofit organizations

Museum Grant Program Website

Stormwater Management Program

Administrated by: State Water Resources Control Board

Synopsis: The Stormwater Management Program will provide funds for multi-benefit stormwater management projects that also contribute to local water supplies.

Connection to Urban Forestry: This is a new program using funds from Proposition 1, which explicitly states eligible projects may include (but shall not be limited to) green infrastructure, rainwater and stormwater capture projects, and stormwater treatment facilities.

Available Funding (2015-16): \$101 million

Status of Program Guidelines: In development

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Unknown

Eligible Applicants: Unknown

More information coming soon.

Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Program

Administrated by: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Synopsis: Though funding for the Program has been approved, enabling legislation (AB 988) is still in progress. Ab 988 states the Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grants Program purposee is to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor recreation and educational experiences by awarding grants to public organizations, nonprofit organizations, or both.

Connection to Urban Forestry: See pending enabling legislation (AB 988).

Available Funding (2014-15): \$10 million

Status of Program Guidelines: To be developed

Next Expected Request for Proposals: Unknown

Eligible Applicants: Unknown

More information coming soon.



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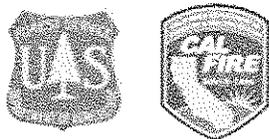
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Calculators and Measurement Tools

Calculate and understand the value of trees in your community.

i-Tree – A software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. Version 4.0 of i-Tree offers several urban forest assessment applications including i-Tree Eco, previously known as UFORE and i-Tree Streets, previously known as STRATUM. In addition, several new and enhanced assessment tools are now available including i-Tree Hydro (beta), i-Tree Vue, i-Tree Design (beta) and i-Tree Canopy. Based on years of US Forest Service research and development, these innovative applications provide urban forest managers and advocates with tools to quantify ecosystem services and benefit values of community trees at multiple scales.

National Tree Benefit Calculator – Make a simple estimation of the benefits that an individual street tree provides. This tool is based on i-Tree's street tree assessment tool called STREETS. With inputs of location, species and tree size, users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual basis.

Tree Carbon Calculator – The only tool approved by the Climate Action Reserve's Urban Forest Project Protocol for quantifying carbon dioxide sequestration from tree planting projects. This downloadable tool is programmed in an Excel spreadsheet and provides carbon-related information for a single tree located in one of 16 US climate zones.

ecoSmart Landscapes – A tree is more than just a landscape design feature. Planting trees on your property can lower energy costs and increase carbon storage, reducing your carbon footprint. A new online tool developed by the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)'s Urban and Community Forestry Program, and EcoLayers can help residential property owners estimate these tangible benefits.

Using a Google Maps interface, ecoSmart Landscapes allows homeowners to identify existing trees on their property or select where to place new planned trees; estimate and adjust tree growth based on current size or planting date; and calculate present and future carbon and energy impacts of existing and planned trees. After registration and login, Google Maps will zoom in to your property's location based on your street address. Use the tool's easy-to-use point and click functions to identify your parcel and building boundaries on the map. Next, input the size and type of trees on your

property. The tool will then calculate the energy effects and carbon storage that those trees provide now and into the future. Such information can help guide you on the selection and placement of new trees on your property.

Carbon calculations are based on the only methodology approved by the Climate Action Reserve's Urban Forest Project Protocol for quantifying carbon dioxide sequestration from tree planting projects. The program allows cities, utility companies, water districts, non-profits and other non-government organizations to integrate public tree planting programs into their carbon offset or urban forestry programs. The current beta release includes all California climate zones. Data for the remainder of the U.S. and an enterprise version designed for city planners and large-scale projects is due out the first quarter of 2013.



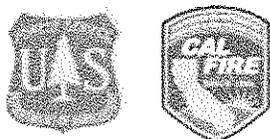
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Research and Reports

The many benefits of trees are science-based and backed by research.

Eureka! A Transformative Approach to Sustaining California's Urban Forests A report released by California ReLeaf in April 2014 which looks closely at viable funding options for urban forestry and how to ensure no net loss of urban tree canopies, despite continual growth and development in California. Because of the size of this document, the Executive Summary is linked from the title and the full report can be downloaded in Sections.

Eureka! Foreword, Sections 1 & 2

Eureka! Section 3

Eureka! Sections 4-7

Eureka! Section 8 and Appendixes

California Climate Action for Health: Integrating Public Health into Climate Action Planning A February 2012 report from the California Department of Public Health which provides an overview of climate change as an important health issue and reviews how many strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions can also improve the health of a community. Pages 25-27 of the report highlight the role of urban greening in climate action planning.

Environmental Scan of Urban Forest Opportunities in California Conservation Strategy Group (CSG) assisted California ReLeaf in the Environmental Scan of Urban Forest Opportunities in California project, funded by a grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Report completed May 2011.

Green Cities: Good Health, from the University of Washington, provides a wealth of scientific evidence that supports efforts to better plan, implement, and manage nature in cities. This site

contains research findings on a variety of themes including livable cities, community building, local economics, place attachment and meaning, crime and fear, safe streets, active living, reduced risk, wellness and physiology, healing and therapy, mental health and function, working and learning, and lifecycle and gender.

Human Dimensions of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening features research at the University of Washington on people's perceptions and behaviors regarding nature in cities. The site addresses the following topics: nature and consumer environments, trees and transportation, civic ecology, and policy and planning. Materials include fact sheets, professional publications, and scientific articles.

Landscape and Human Health Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a multidisciplinary research laboratory dedicated to studying the connection between greenery and human health. This web site contains multiple reports about the impacts of natural features—trees, grass, flowers, and green spaces—on public health issues such as safety, crime, violence, and aggression; strength of community; well-being, coping, and vitality; attention, executive-functions, self-control, and learning.

Northern California Coast Community Tree Guide An April 2010 report from the Center for Urban Forest Research that weights the benefits of trees against the costs of trees in the Northern California Coast region.

Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy and Community Development A 2009 report from the American Planning Association in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, American Forests, and the International Society of Arboriculture.

U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station. The Pacific Southwest Research Station is part of the USDA Forest Service Research and Design program, and conducts ecological and social science research to understand ecosystems, how humans influence those systems, and how to manage for sustained and enhanced benefits. Research program areas include Conservation of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Function and Health, Fire and Fuels, and Urban Ecosystems & Social Dynamics.

[Go Back to Resources](#)



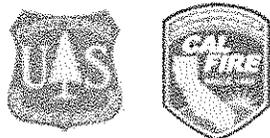
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Links

Find other resources and general urban and community forestry information.

50 Careers in Trees, created by the Tree Foundation of Kern, describes jobs ranging from accountant to utility arborist and includes interviews with professionals in the field.

Alliance for Community Trees creates a national support network for grassroots, citizen-based nonprofit organizations dedicated to urban and community tree planting, care, conservation, and education.

American Forests is the nation's oldest nonprofit citizen conservation organization, founded in 1875 and advocates for the protection and expansion of America's forests.

American Nursery and Landscape Association is the national trade association of the nursery and landscape industry. The site includes industry statistics, fact sheets, current research, and research grant and scholarship opportunities.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is California ReLeaf's state agency partner. CALFIRE's website highlights a number of programs that are of interest to urban and community foresters.

Children & Nature Network supports those who work to reconnect children with nature. One web page tracks recent research on the influence of nature on children, including social benefits. Study abstracts are also provided, with full text downloads.

Guideline Specifications for Nursery Tree Quality were developed by a team of municipal arborists, urban foresters, nursery managers, horticultural consultants, landscape architects, and nonprofit tree groups with the intent to ensure high quality landscape trees.

Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances is a comprehensive resource for anyone interested in developing, revising, or evaluating local tree ordinances. The site is housed on the International Society of Arboriculture's website.

How to Hire an Arborist is a handy resource developed by Canopy: Trees for Palo Alto to help residents select qualified professionals to care for their trees. It includes what qualifications to look for, what to ask when interviewing, and how to get a written bid.

International Society of Arboriculture is a worldwide professional organization working to foster a greater appreciation for trees and to promote research, technology, and the professional practice of arboriculture. The Western Chapter ISA encompasses California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Arizona.

Leafsnap is a free mobile app uses visual recognition software to help identify tree species from photographs of their leaves. Leafsnap contains high-resolution images of leaves, flowers, fruit, petiole, seeds, and bark. Leafsnap currently includes the trees of New York City and Washington, D.C., and will grow to include the trees of the entire continental United States.

Local Government Commission lists multiple benefits of city trees. A fact sheet about livable communities reports on a range of community benefits, from economic development to public health and safety. It is written for local government elected officials and decision makers.

Million Trees LA is a cooperative effort between the City of Los Angeles, community groups, businesses, and individuals working together to plant and provide long-term stewardship of one million trees planted where they're needed most.

California Master Gardeners Program, run by the University of California, is dedicated to facilitating excellence in County Master Gardener Programs by increasing the professionalism of coordinators and volunteers. Find a link to a Masters Gardeners program in your California County.

National Arbor Day Foundation promotes tree care and conservation and educates people about tree issues through the Tree City USA program, workshops and conferences, publications, and youth-oriented curriculum.

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is an appointed advisory council to the Secretary of Agriculture on urban forestry and related issues. NUCFAC brings a wide variety of voices about the present health and future preservation of America's urban forests. NUCFAC was founded to synthesize the full spectrum of views into a consistent vision, as a foundation for practical policy on urban forestry.

Pacific Southwest Research Station is part of the USDA Forest Service Research and Design program, and conducts ecological and social science research to understand ecosystems, how humans influence those systems, and how to manage for sustained and enhanced benefits. Research program areas include Conservation of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Function and Health, Fire and Fuels, and Urban Ecosystems & Social Dynamics. The Urban Ecosystems and Social Dynamics Program is the area of research mostly closely aligned with urban forestry issues.

Partnership Resource Center is a joint partnership of the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the USDA Forest Service to spotlight great work happening in forestry and to connect people, provide access to efforts that address emerging or pressing issues, and offer references for law and policy questions.

Pitch Canker Task Force offers photos and information that help identify pine pitch canker, a devastating disease affecting California's coastal pines. The site includes prevention and management strategies, research results and reports, and who to contact for assistance.

Specifications for Nursery Trees were created by the Urban Tree Foundation to help produce the most quality nursery trees possible. Links to the documents can be found at the bottom of the blog post.

The California Oak Mortality Task Force is dedicated to the issue of sudden oak death, a tree disease caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. The disease kills some oak species and has had devastating effects on forests in California and Oregon. COMTF provides information about the pathogen, diagnosis and management, regulations and more.

Sustainable Cities Institute is sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to affordable housing and to sustainable community development. A Green Infrastructure "classroom" includes information about the role of trees in healthy communities, including economics, community, education, and health.

Tales from Urban Forests is a 10-part radio documentary series on the value of urban forests and how trees are impacting a city near you. This series was produced by SOUNDPRINT Media, in collaboration with American Forests and the U.S. Forest Service.

TreeLink.org offers information, research and networking for people working in urban and community forestry. The site features a broad range of resources and educational materials.

Treesearch features an easy to navigate database that allows users to search the Forest Service's library of research publications by keyword, author, or title. This site is maintained by the USDA Forest Service.

The Trust for Public Land, Center for City Park Excellence is a national nonprofit that conserves built and natural places for people to enjoy, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. TPL shares white papers about why city parks are necessary assets.

UK Forest Research is the science division of the U.K. Forestry Commission, and informs policy on woodlands and forests, from wildland to urban settings. Their web site features current research (with publications) on the role of trees in human health and well-being.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Urban Forestry Community is a neutral forum for international food security issues. One project is an informational program on Forests and Trees for Healthy Cities, which brings together people from across the globe to promote urban greening. The website tracks international research on the social benefits of trees in cities.

United Voices for Healthier Communities is a coalition of individuals, agencies, and organizations formed to increase tree canopy cover to achieve benefits to air quality and to promote healthier communities through the use of science, research, public education, management and public agency support.

Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit is a free online resource designed to help you develop an urban forest management plan for your area of interest, whether it's a city, campus, business park, or any other urban forest setting.

Urban Forestry Ecosystems Institute, a program of the California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), includes a tree selection database for California (SelecTree), a link to California's Register of Big Trees, a homeowner's guide to California tree health (ForesTree), and an information and links about the utilization of urban wood in creating marketable products.

USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forest Program (U&CF Program) supports projects and research related to a diverse array of urban and community forestry issues. This website includes information related to climate change, urban sustainability, the benefits of urban trees and parks, biophysical and social science research, as well as national and local programs.

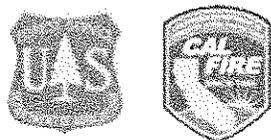


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